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Valdosta High School

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Registration Changed, New Classes For PRD

Registration procedures have been changed and eight new courses added to the spring class schedule of some 20 courses offered by the Valdosta Parks and Recreation Department.

In the past, participants have registered and paid at the first class session, according to Tracy Ash of the PRD, but this has been changed.

"This quarter registration will be different," she said. "You must pay before the first class meeting."

"To register, come to City Hall and pay at the Collection Window where your water bill is paid, or fill out the form on the back of our brochure (available at City Hall and from various merchants), mail it in with your money and the city will mail you back a receipt. You must have your receipt before you will be admitted into class," Miss Ash said.

Registration is to continue through April 1, she added.

The following is a list of the eight new classes to be offered:

— Furniture Refinishing, J.Y. Brooks instructor, is to be Mondays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. for four weeks at Mathis city auditorium. Cost is \$25. Participants are to

features PEOPLE and PLACES

By Virginia Culpepper & Marcia McRae

arrangement in a room.

— Beginning Magic, Dr. David Goodsell instructor, is to be offered on Wednesdays from 4:30-6 p.m. for six weeks at Mathis auditorium. Cost is \$15 and the class is designed for students ages 8-14. Fundamentals of magic and basic tricks with a minimum of difficulty are to be taught.

— Practical Landscape and Yard Care, Jim Kincaid, instructor, is to be offered on Thursdays from 7-8:30 p.m. for six weeks at Valdosta Junior High. Fee is \$7. The course is to be a practical approach in learning to plan, landscape and maintain yards and exterior grounds for the homeowner and apartment dweller.

— Total Communication; Sign Language for the Deaf, is to be taught by Susan Tjarkes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. for eight weeks at Valdosta Junior High. Cost is \$25. Participants are to

back drops, flips and twirls.

— Budget Home Decorating, Brenda Ivey instructor, is to be offered on Mondays from 7-9 p.m. for six weeks at Valdosta Junior High. Cost is \$12. The course is to include decorating with unique materials and objects.

In addition to the new courses, the following core classes, already offered, are scheduled: Slimnastics; Belly Dance; Karate; Beginning Tumbling; Baton; Yoga; Beginning Gymnastics; Intermediate Gymnastics;

Also: Beginning Drawing; Macramé; Bowling; Guitar; Arts and Crafts; Photography; Square Dance; After-school Recreation; Pre-School Recreation; Valdosta Chess Club.

For complete information on times, dates and fees of the core courses, contact the



Miss Billie Michele Folsom

Miss Folsom, Mr. Cation Plan To Wed At Douglas

Mrs. Billie L. Grantham of Valdosta and Mr. M.B. Folsom Jr. of Barney announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Billie Michele Folsom, to Mr. M.B. Folsom Jr. The couple are members of Phi Mu Fraternity. She was graduated summa cum laude from the



— Times Staff Photo

Queen Cheryl, the New Miss VHS Is All Smiles

Miss VHS Almost Skipped Contest

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

A 16-year-old junior who almost backed out of the contest has been chosen Miss Valdosta High School.

Cheryl Lester was selected the new queen from a field of 34 contestants at the annual pageant Saturday night at Mathis City Auditorium.

Ann Powell, a Valdosta High teacher and director of the pageant, said Miss Lester wanted to drop out of the contest but "I wouldn't let her."

"A lot of people asked me to enter," Miss Lester said, "but after I signed up, I had second thoughts. I had never been in a beauty contest before."

"I was really surprised when they announced me as the winner," she said. "I guess 'shocked' is the best word to describe the way I felt."

First runnerup in the contest was Mary Louise Williams, and second runnerup was Peggy Bernard.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Lester Jr. of 1109 Lake Drive, Cheryl has light brown hair and blue eyes. She is 5-1 and weighs 105 pounds.

Miss Lester wore a plain white eyelet dress in the evening gown competition and chose high rise pants and a plain blouse for the sportswear event.

A member of the Beta Club and the flag corps of the Marchin' Cats, Cheryl enjoys cooking, listening to music and "most anything" for relaxation.

After graduation, the new VHS queen plans to attend Valdosta State College "first" and major in sociology.

The contest drew a capacity crowd, and proceeds are to help pay for the VHS junior-senior banquet and dance May 19.



Two Who Came To I

Eight lucky people received surprise invitations to a buffet dinner on stage Thursday at Mathis city auditorium. It was all part of the fun at the Southern Kitchens

Cooking School Daily Times Magazine. He peanut chocolates

Locally In Brief

Times Nov 8, 1977

VHS Band, McDonald's Team Up

From Staff Reports

Valdosta High School's Marchin' Cats have teamed up with McDonald's Restaurant on a pancake-pushing campaign to help buy new uniforms.

The restaurant at 1840 W. Hill Ave., near Interstate 75, has agreed to give half the money taken in during pancake suppers for the next four weeks to the Marchin' Cats for their new uniforms.

The suppers are to be held from 6-9 p.m. each remaining Wednesday in November, according to an announcement.

Officials noted the suppers are only to be held on Wednesdays and at the McDonald's on Hill Avenue.

Noteworthy K Of C Gives \$900 Check To Center

A check for \$900, from the Knights of Columbus at Valdosta, gave a strong start to the 1977 membership and fund raising campaign of the Lowndes-Echols Association

Ware, Waycross Times 11-9-77 Top AA Ranks

ATLANTA (AP) — Ware County and Waycross, identical in season records and geographical locations, claimed the No. 1 and No. 2 spots in Class AA today in an Associated Press poll of high school football teams.

The two south Georgia teams moved into the top spots after Fayette County upset previously top-ranked and undefeated Woodward Academy 6-0, dropping the War Eagles into a tie with Dalton for fourth place.

In the other three classifications, an AP panel of sportswriters and broadcasters selected Warner Robins, East Rome and Lincoln County the top teams in Classes AAA, A and B.

Here is a complete listing of the top 10 teams in all classifications, their records, points received on a scale of 10-10-1 from 10 members of the AP board and other teams nominated for the poll:

Others nominated: Campbell-Smy. (9-1), Dougherty (7-2), Kendrick (9-1), Laney (7-1-1), Lowndes (7-2), Richmond Acad. (6-2-1), Statesboro (7-2) and Westside (7-1-1).

Class AA	
1. Ware Co. (9-0)	93
2. Waycross (9-0)	88
3. Americus (8-1)	74
4. Dalton (9-1)	67
5. Woodward Acad. (9-1)	67
6. Gordon (8-1)	47
7. Swainsboro (8-1)	40
8. Stephens Co. (9-1)	32
9. Fayette Co. (8-2)	14
10. Lakeshore (8-2)	12

Class A	
1. E. Rome (10-0)	99
2. Early Co. (9-0)	88
3. Commerce (9-1)	82
4. N. Springs (8-0-1)	64
5. Vidalia (8-1)	56
6. Seminole Co. (8-1)	51
7. Many Persons (8-1)	43
8. Wilkinson Co. (7-1-1)	23
9. Jeff Davis (7-2)	19
10. George (8-1)	12

Others nominated: College Park (7-2), Darlington (8-2), Morgan Co. (6-2-1) and Oconee Co. (7-1-1).

Class B	
1. Lincoln Co. (9-0)	100
2. Bremen (8-1-1)	83
3. Pehlam (8-1)	70
4. Buford (7-1-2)	60
5. Gordon Lee (9-1)	56
6. Rabun Co. (8-1-1)	56
7. W. Point (8-2)	38
8. Metter (8-1)	36
9. Atkinson Co. (7-2-1)	15
10. Macon Co. (7-2)	14

Others nominated: Brookstone (7-3), Jefferson (6-3-1), Reidsville (6-2-1) and Savannah City Day (7-2).

Cats Over Pack, Vikings Over Pats

You can take your average Texas-Oklahoma, USC-UCLA or Georgia-Florida and stack Valdosta-Moultrie right there alongside every one of them.

It has been that kind of rivalry.

Over the last decade or two, Valdosta's Wildcats hold a definite edge in the series but that little fact doesn't keep Moultrie Coach Bud Willis from saying he's "rarin' to go" for another matchup of the two south Georgia high school football powers. Tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Cleveland Field here, Willis gets his chance.

The Packers enter the game with a surprising 2-3 record. It's surprising because a lot of folks had Moultrie on the comeback trail this year after a 4-6 campaign last season.

But injuries have taken their toll, and the Pack won't be at full strength tonight. That makes Valdosta the favorite in the game, but when you're 5-0, there aren't many games you aren't favored in.

Here's a vote for the 'Cats to take their sixth straight and raise this writer's 95-25 overall pick record after last week's 16-4 mark. Valdosta, 27-1.

LOWNDES AT WESTOVER
A Saturday night in Albany doesn't compare with a Saturday night in Baton Rouge, and Westover's Patriots aren't LSU's Bayou Bengals.

In six games, Westover hasn't averaged a touchdown a game. Needless to say, the Patriots have lost all six.

Lowndes' Vikings are 4-1 and just off a 42-6 walloping of Albany's Indians last week. Lowndes has got to be looking ahead to Valdosta a week from tonight, but against Westover, that shouldn't make much difference.

The Viking air game got untracked against Albany after a dismal showing against Central. Quarterback Kenny Luke was on target, and Nate Burks had the soft hands to go along with him. All-purpose back Terry Cooper had himself quite a night against the Indians and needs to continue that type effort to replace all the injured players



Mike
Chason
Times Sports Editor

Lowndes has come up with. Lowndes in a landslide, 36-6.

COFFEE AT BROOKS
Let's see now. Brooks beat Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald beat Camden and Camden beat Coffee. Does that equal Brooks over Coffee? In normal times, no.

But evidently, this Coffee team is missing some of those freshly picked Colombian beans. This may be hard to swallow later, but here's a shaky nod to Brooks, 14-7.

IRWIN AT CLINCH
From now on out, Clinch County's Panthers are putting their skins on the line every Friday night. There's nothing but Region 2-A (South) subregion games left. Either win or start shooting the hoop.

Irwin's Indians aren't the team they were last season but neither are the Panthers. Following the same win-lose-win-lose formula Clinch has used all season, the vote goes to Irwin, 15-14.

COOK AT CAMDEN
Cook's Hornets took a week off to think about the first

half of the season and get mentally prepared for the second half.

This game could be the closest of the season for Tom Bailey's club, but playing in the Camden camp, it's hard to see it Cook's way. Camden, 14-0.

HAMILTON AT INTERLACHEN
Finally, a district game for Hamilton's Trojans. Coach Coy Whitener's team is 3-1 on the season but hasn't made one step toward the post-season playoffs.

Tonight, the Trojans will make that step, and it should be an easy one. Hamilton, 28-6.

MADISON AT TAYLOR
Madison's Cougars have won a high school football game. Yep, there it is right down there in black and white ... Madison 22, Florida High 8. With that victory, the Cougars have already accomplished a feat they didn't manage all last season.

It's too bad Taylor County has to spoil the string. Taylor, 24-10.

WESTBROOK AT WESTWOOD
Westwood is tough. Westbrook is not. Westwood is playing on its home field. Westbrook is not. Enough said. Westwood, 21-0.

OTHER GAMES
If Lowndes Head Coach Joe Wilson is sitting on the Thomasville side of the field, cheering on the Bulldogs against Central of Thomasville tonight, don't anybody cart him off to the loony bin.

For Wilson's Vikings to have a shot at the Region 1-AAA (South) title, it is almost absolutely necessary for somebody to knock off Central. Unfortunately, Thomasville does not look like that team. Central, 21-17.

Also, Dougherty over Bainbridge, Tift over Albany, Crisp over Monroe, Appling over Worth, Waycross over Fitzgerald, Americus over Peach, Early over Calhoun, Turner over Lee, Seminole over Randolph, Atkinson over Charlton and Bowdon over Villa Rica.

Sports In Brief Times 10-11-77

Players Of The Week To Be Honored By Civitans

By Times Staff Writer

Andy Chapman and Jimmy Hartman have been named the offensive and defensive players of the week by the Valdosta High School coaching staff.

The Lowndes coaching staff has selected Terry Cooper and Dennis McDonald as the Vikings' offensive and defensive players of the week.

The players are to be presented trophies by the Valdosta Civitan Club.

VHS Homecoming Parade Friday

From Staff Reports

The Valdosta High School Homecoming Parade, billed as "bigger and better than ever before" is to begin at 4 p.m. Friday. According to Susan McDonald, director of the parade, there are to be eight floats, three bands, three sets of cheerleaders, several cars with club sweethearts and the VHS Homecoming Queen, Peggy Perry.

The parade is to begin at Pic-N-Sav on North Patterson Street and go south to W. Hill Avenue, then turn east to Ashley Street and continue on Ashley to Magnolia Street where the parade is to end.

Bands to perform are the VHS Marching and spirit bands and the Valdosta Junior High School band, and cheerleaders to march in the parade are the varsity, ninth grade and junior high groups.

Defense! Defense! Defense!

Lowndes Knocks Off Valdosta



The End Of The Line: Lowndes' Linebacker Ronnie Adkins (55) Closes The Door On Ernest King

By MIKE CHASON
"The king is dead."
The man who hollered it shot a big number one in the air with one hand and waved his genuine straw Plowboy hat with the other.

It was that kind of night for Lowndes High School football fans.

Again and again, they looked toward the scoreboard, hoping the

YARDSTICK		Lowndes	Valdosta
First Downs		6	12
Yards Rushing		0	74
Yards Passing		90	87
Passes		7-16	15-29
Passes Intc. By		3	1
Fumbles Lost		2	0
Running		8-26.8	9-40.8
Penalties		3-45	4-40

numbers they saw weren't a mirage. But the lights never flickered.

Lowndes had indeed topped Valdosta, the football king of south Georgia, 7-2.

On a warm fall evening when a crowd of 10,000 standing room only fans jammed their way into Martin Stadium to see the two highest scoring teams in Region 1-AAA engage in a toned down version of Star Wars, the two defenses stole the spotlight.

Neither offense put a point on the scoreboard.

Lowndes, now 6-1, scored on a magnificent 80-yard interception return by junior safety Bill Schreffler, and Valdosta picked up its points when LHS quarterback Kenny Luke was forced to his knees in his own end zone for a safety.

"All I could think of was touchdown, touchdown," Schreffler, a 150-pounder, said. "I was talking to myself all the way to the end zone. I just knew somebody was going to get me."

Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue, who threw the ball for the first of three interceptions he suffered, seemed to have a chance but got pushed out of the way by Ronnie Adkins.

"The seniors wanted this game bad," Schreffler said. "Everybody had gotten tired of losing to Valdosta every year. We were getting tired there at the end, and we had to keep getting each other up."

"It's the biggest thrill I've ever had. It's always a defensive back's dream to run one back."

Just as it has probably always been the dream of every Viking, who has ever passed through the doors of Lowndes High School, to beat Valdosta. And for the first time in the 10-year rivalry of the two schools, it happened Friday night.

"They beat us, they earned it, and I don't have any excuses," Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said as fan after fan offered solemn handshakes.

"I thought our defense played well. I think our kids played well enough to win. I guess I have to take the blame for it."

"I think (Lowndes) Coach (Joe) Wilson's philosophy was great. He played down the game to the people, but got his boys up for it."

Hyder, whose second-rated team in the state fell to 6-1, never really thought his offense would be shut out, even in the late stages of the game.

Valdosta opened on offense inside the Lowndes' 50-yard-line three times in the fourth quarter but could never crack the Viking rubber-band defense, which bent some but never broke.

"I sure did (think Valdosta



Schreffler (6) Begins 80-Yard Gallop

would score), Hyder said. "Our defense kept getting it back, and we kept throwing it back to them. Their defense is just as tough if not tougher than I thought it was."

"They are the number one defense in the region."

The Wildcats, who were held to two first downs in the first half, made their deepest penetration of the game with only seconds left in the second quarter.

Robert Baldwin, who had intercepted a pass to key the drive to the LHS 17-yard stripe, missed a 35-yard field as time ran out before the intermission.

"It might have made a difference," Hyder said. "A score always gives you a boost. It just wasn't meant for us to push it across."

"I tell you, it doesn't taste good to lose."

But just as the first taste of defeat soured in the mouths of Wildcat fans, the Viking side of the stadium exploded when the final horn sounded. All the Plowboys then reaped the benefits of their sweetest win ever.

"I've been waiting 18 years for this," one old fellow said. The same guy had helped lead LHS fans in a deep-throated chant of "defense, defense, defense" only seconds before.

Adkins and Co. dutifully noted the message.

Adkins, Lowndes' junior linebacker who Wilson calls the "best in the state" without a pause for breath, was absolutely superb throughout the tension-packed thriller.

Registering nine tackles, he seemed to be hooked to the ball by a magnet. But just as Adkins stayed around the ball, Burzman never lost sight of Belue.

"Charles Burzman made the football game for us," Lowndes' defensive coordinator Brad Almon said. "But the whole bunch of them just wanted to win the football game."

Burzman had six tackles on the night and seemed to shadow Belue wherever he stepped. With 1:01 left in the first quarter, he ripped the Valdosta quarterback's number 7 jersey clean off his shoulders.

For the first time in his four-year Valdosta career, Belue was without lucky 7. He wore number 1 for the rest of the game.

"We were physically tough," Almon said. "I believe if you'll ask those folks on the other side of the field, they'll tell you they've been hit."

Cornerback Dennis McDonald also had eight tackles to go along with five

apiece by Tim Yorkey and Ben Washington.

But the Valdosta defense was equally as tough. In fact, it completely muffled the Viking offense the second half.

Lowndes was held to one first down the second half and zero yards rushing for the game. Fullback Steve Thomas gained 42 yards but Luke lost 42 in sack yardage.

VHS defensive end Lynn Roberts led the charge with five tackles along with safety Carl Roe, who also had five. Roe played almost the entire game for regular safety Allen Worthy, who apparently wasn't able to play on a sore ankle.

Curtis Wright, Ray Lloyd and Rodney Gordon also had four tackles each.

Belue, who threw for only 87 yards on 15 of 29 passes, praised the VHS defense.

"I thought the defense played good," he said. "They gave us a couple of breaks we didn't cash in on. I threw a couple of balls I shouldn't have."

"But we just didn't play up to our potential. It's got to be a letdown. I guess we'll find out how it affects us next week."

Belue, who punted nine times for a 40.8 yard average, watched his sophomore counterpart, Jeff Stokes, back the 'Cats up to their own 11-yard-line with a 40-yarder with 2:05 left to play.

With no Valdosta rush in his direction, Stokes calmly held the ball on the play until the LHS coverage raced downfield. Finally, he put shoe to pigskin in a move which really sealed Valdosta's fate.

Belue directed a drive to the Lowndes 41, but the clock ran out on Valdosta's hope for an undefeated season.

"I thought we were going to score," Belue said. "I kept thinking that until there wasn't anything left."

For Belue and Valdosta, it was over. For Lowndes, it was just beginning.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
Rushing:	Lowndes — Thomas 14, 42, Luke 13, minus 42; Valdosta — Gaskins 7-16, Belue 12-1, King 4-11, Council 10-36, Smith 2-3, Hunter 1-7.
Passing:	Lowndes — Luke 7-16-190; Valdosta — Belue 15-29-387.
Pass Receiving:	Lowndes — Thomas 3-30, Burke 1-5, Coker 1-14, Mashburn 1-34, Foster 1-7; Valdosta — Council 3-22, Hunter 7-38, Smith 2-19, Lastinger 2-8, Wilson 1-0.
Punt Returns:	Lowndes — Sprengle 3-23; Valdosta — Thomas 3-26, Gaskins 1-9.
Kickoff Returns:	Lowndes — No returns; Valdosta — Council 2-41, Hunter 1-25.
Defense (Number of Tackles):	Lowndes — Adkins 9, McDonald 8, Burzman 6, Washington 5, Yorkey 5, Schreffler 4, Reese 3, Hitchcock 3; Valdosta — Roberts 5, Roe 5, Wright 4, Lloyd 4, Gordon 4, Corway 3, Simmons 3.

Score by Quarters:	
Lowndes	0 0 7 0-7
Valdosta	0 0 2 0-2

Score by Quarters:
Lowndes 0 0 7 0-7
Valdosta 0 0 2 0-2
Scoring:
Low — Schreffler 80 interception return (Stokes Kick)
Val. — safety on Luke

Are Nick Hyder's Feet On Shaky Soil?



Happier Times: Hyder Was Given Car At Last TD Club Banquet

Is Nick Hyder on his way out as head coach of the Valdosta High School football team?

In a year when Valdosta's Wildcats weren't supposed to lose a game and state championship talk has flowed as freely as wine at a Mafioso wedding, Hyder's Wildcats committed the cardinal sin last Friday night. They lost much more than a 7-2 game... they lost to cross-county rival Lowndes for the first time in the school's history.

In their 10-year rivalry, the Plowboys have never stuck it to the Wildcats... until Friday night. As Viking fans whooped it up and let the delicious numbness of victory go to their heads, Hyder's insides had to be tearing him apart. Just as the win meant new life for Lowndes, it might have meant the end of Hyder's four-year stay in a city where he had indeed become a stranger to many.

Across town, Lowndes' Coach Joe Wilson probably replayed his greatest victory ever over and over to breathless Viking followers. The accolades and praises for the man who has turned around the Lowndes' football program probably stretched far into the night.

But at Hyder's apartment, there was no celebration. The phone calls began almost as soon as he walked in the door. In Hyder's words, "they cursed, chewed and just generally expressed their opinion." That opinion was not favorable. At 4 a.m., the calls finally ended. It was a long night for a man who walks endlessly to relieve the tension that builds on him every time he puts a Valdosta team on the field.

"I had security in Rome, but I don't have it here," a tired-looking Hyder said early Monday afternoon as an assistant coach briefed the offensive unit on the mistakes it had made against the never-give-an-inch Viking defense. "I don't think losing this game has strengthened me any."

"I know there are some carnivorous people here. Losing to Lowndes could be the death bell. But I'm still giving 100 percent everyday. Win or lose, Friday night is still ahead of us. When people lose money on a game, they get a little upset sometimes."

Hyder realized a lot of Valdosta fans lost more than money Friday night. Their pride was dented. After all, wasn't Lowndes the county school which didn't even used to be in Class AAA while Valdosta was parading out a new state champion every year? Every Valdosta team loses occasionally but no Wildcat team had ever lost to Lowndes... until Friday night.

"Let's face it," Hyder said. "Joe has made Lowndes one of the top teams in the state of Georgia. It's hard for folks to accept that. The quicker everybody does... It's good football being played here, the best in the state. It's not like it was years ago."

"The fact of the matter is that we've got a good football team and so does Joe Wilson. But neither one of us has the athletes that Dougherty does."

Hyder's point hammers home the nail. Lowndes is an excellent football team and on one night in October, it was better than Valdosta. In the Region 1-AAA playoff, the Vikings might get a chance to again prove they're the best team. But Valdosta might get its chance for revenge.

However, Hyder knows as well as anybody that Valdosta will never lose the image Wright Bazemore carved for it with 15 state championships and three national titles for some people. These are the folks who'll never forgive Hyder for losing to Lowndes. These are the folks after his job.

"There's been so many firsts since I've been coach I can't keep up with them," Hyder said. "Valdosta's never gone six years without winning a championship. Valdosta

Mike
Chason
Times Sports Editor

had never lost to Monroe. Valdosta had never lost to Dougherty.

"The only thing I know is that I've faced Joe Wilson four times (including two spring games) and beat him three. They were crying about the referees in our game last year (a 14-3 Valdosta win) but I can say now that I think we just crammed it down their throats in the last five minutes."

"But this year, they stopped us. And let's give them credit. Let's give the officials credit too. They did a good job."

Since Wilson left his position as VHS offensive coordinator to become the Lowndes' coach after the '75 season, Hyder's play calling ability has been questioned at every coffee shop in town. Friday night's game did not escape scrutiny.

"I made a couple or three bad calls," Hyder said. "But part of play-calling is execution. And I think it's a little bit more execution than it is play-calling."

"I'm well aware of the situation here. I don't really feel like a bank president or store owner or anything. But when I came here this program was flat down and dead. People were heading toward basketball. Whatever's been done, win-lose-or-draw, is my fault."

"Joe stepped into a better situation than I did. Those people out there were hungry for a winner. The situation here has changed though. When you don't have a winning atmosphere, people don't care. But it matters very much to these people."

With a hard smile on his face, Hyder says he's been named head coach at Valdosta six times. The first time was when he came here in '74 and was credited with the entire 3-7 season. In 1975, the 'Cats lost two games. He says he was named the head coach again after both. Last season, there were two more losses. Again, he says he was named head coach. And then there was Friday night.

"A lot of people take the credit when we win," Hyder said. "I saw a sign out at the game Friday night with about four names on it. The question asked 'who is the real Valdosta coach?' I always liked multiple choice questions, but I didn't see my name on it."

The real question in most people's minds wasn't on that poster. Why does Hyder want to be the Valdosta coach?

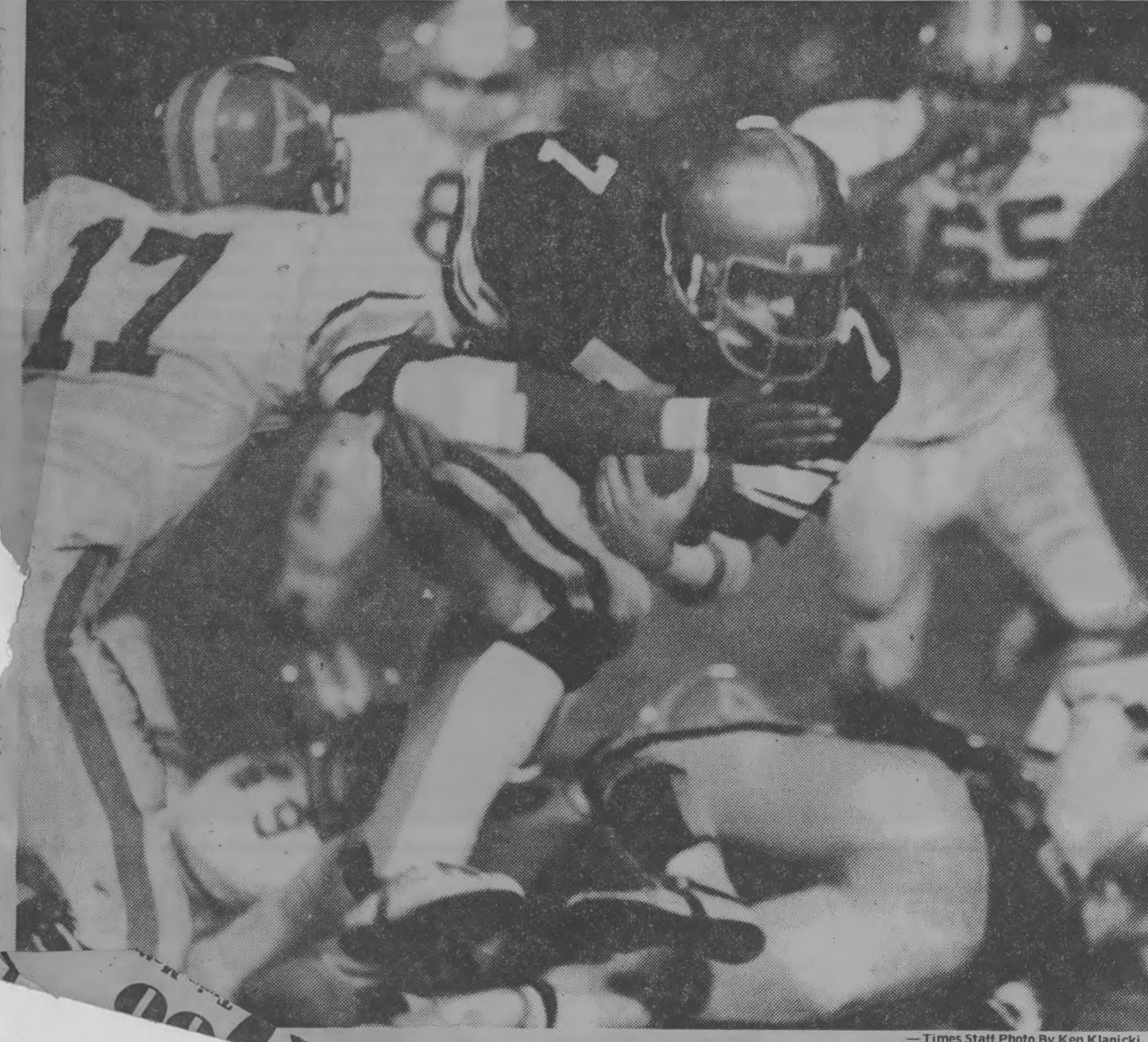
"It's a challenge," he said. "It's nice when you win. It's mighty sweet when you beat Dougherty. It's mighty sweet when you beat Thomasville when they were undefeated. A lot of good things have happened."

"The kids deserve a fair treatment. They're instructed to play, and we're playing for a championship. And we hope to get it."

Some people believe that championship may be the only thing that can keep Nick Hyder on the Valdosta sideline next fall.

'Cats Wrap Up Title In North Subregion

11-6-77



Buck Belue Slides Through Indians' Defense

By MARTIN REGISTER
ALBANY — Valdosta's Wildcats capitalized on a rash of first-half errors by Albany's Indians and rolled to a 41-6 romp over the Tribe in a Region 1-AAA high school football game here Saturday night.

The victory earned Coach Nick Hyder's 'Cats the championship of the

YARDSTICK	
	Valdosta Albany
First Downs	16 3
Yards Rushing	200 26
Yards Passing	73 27
Passes	5-17 3-10
Passes Inct. By	3 0
Fumbles Lost	1 4
Punting	3-42.0 4-45.3
Penalties	6-40 7-57

league's northern division, while improving their season record to 8-1.

Senior quarterback Buck Belue piled up 63 yards rushing, scored three touchdowns and struck for 73 yards through the air, despite playing slightly more than two quarters on a rainy, dreary Georgia night.

Albany's comedy began on the opening kickoff, when its quarterback, Jim Lightle, bobbled a handoff attempt on his own 17 yard-line.

Belue scored his first touchdown minutes later on a 3-yard run. Robert Baldwin's PAT split the uprights, and Valdosta had a 7-0 lead.

But the rain began shortly afterwards, and Albany added new meaning to the old proverb "when it rains, it pours."

Before the first quarter was over, Albany had given up four fumbles and a pass

interception. At the half, the Tribe had presented the Wildcats the pigskin seven times via mistakes.

Valdosta didn't argue, and turned four of the turnovers into scores.

Lightle again mishandled a handoff attempt late in the first quarter, this time deep in Indian territory at the 5-yard line.

Two plays later, Frank Council zipped up the middle from 2 yards out for a Wildcat touchdown.

There was no lightning in the sky, but the Indians may have been difficult to convince after they fumbled the following kickoff.

It took Belue just one play to find Melvin Hunter 12 yards away in the end zone, and Valdosta took a commanding 21-0 lead at the end of the quarter.

Two other short Valdosta drives following turnovers fizzled short of paydirt, but the Wildcats proved they could, after all, move on their own when they launched a sustained 78-yard scoring drive midway the second period.

Passes from Belue to Robert Smith, of 30 and 17

on the next play. The Indians' Jeff Stansell gathered in the kickoff and romped 90 yards through the Valdosta defense to score.

But Baldwin came back for Valdosta, intercepting another Lightle pass and racing 32 yards to score shortly before the half.

That made the score 34-6, and for all practical purposes, the game was over.

Valdosta scored once more in the second half, grinding out 67 yards early in the third quarter.

Belue turned a busted play into a touchdown, finding daylight and sliding 22 yards to stumble into the end zone on fourth down.

Hyder substituted freely after that, saying later that he "wanted to give everybody a chance to play."

"The boys got fired up," said an obviously pleased Hyder after the game.

"Some of the seniors said that this would be the last time they got to come up here, unless they came to watch.

"The youngsters were just ready to play. I think it's a step in the right direction, but we've still

negated any effect Tuesday's meeting of the Georgia High School Association's Executive committee might have on the league title.

If an earlier decision by the GHSA Appeals board is overturned and the Wildcats must forfeit wins over Crisp County and Bainbridge, they would still win the north subregion crown.

In that event, Valdosta and Dougherty would have matching 4-1 division records. Since Valdosta defeated Dougherty in their regular season matchup, the Wildcats would retain the title.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Valdosta — Belue 13-63, Council 10-30, Smith 3-25, Gaskins 7-21, Bond 5-20, Lastinger 2-14, Hunter 2-12, Welch 5-10, Wilcox 2-5, King 1-4, Washington 1-1, Fletcher 1 minus 2, Warrs 1 minus 3, Albany — Williams 5-18, Montgomery 5-14, Ducksworth 5-3, Mackson 1-3, Lightle 1 minus 4, Anderson 3 minus 8.

Passing: Valdosta — Belue 5-100-73, Bond 0-7-0-0, Albany — Lightle 3-10-3-29.

Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Smith 2-07, Lastinger 1-14, Hunter 1-12, Albany — Williams 1-20, Washington 1-12, Montgomery 1-3.

Punt Returns: Valdosta — no returns, Albany — Montgomery 1-0.

Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — Council 2-42, Albany — Stansell 3-131, Lippitt 1-16, Montgomery 1-9, Williams 1-1.

Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Rickman 3, Hartman 3, Thomas 2, C. Johnson 2, Skelton 2.

Valdosta 50, Westover 0

Veteran Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue rushed for 99 yards and two touchdowns and passed for 64 yards and two more scores as Valdosta closed out its regular season with a homecoming rout. Split end John Lastinger caught two scoring passes, then took over at quarterback and heaved a scoring toss to Kenny Washington in one of his best performances of the season. For coach Nick Hyder's 9-1 Wildcats, champions of the northern division of Region 1-AAA, the game was little more than a tune-up for next week's playoff confrontation with southern division champ Thomasville. The hapless Patriots from Albany ended a disastrous 0-10 season.

Times 11-14-77

Wildcats

Time 10-8-77

thing. "I'm delighted with the decision."

There was no word as to where the \$1,000 to pay the fine is coming from and even Valdosta City School System Finance Director Jack Kent was still in the dark this morning.

"I am of the opinion it can not come out of any funds we have now since it is a fine," Kent said. "I've got to call the State Auditing Office to make sure."

"Ordinarily, one might think it wouldn't be any problem... just take it out of the Athletic Association. What people don't realize is that when money of any kind becomes our property, it takes the same shape as tax money whether it is football money or not."

"I just don't believe we'll be able to do it out of our existing funds. But I have already been assured by two very prominent citizens in town that the money could and would be raised if we had to raise it."

"They're not talking about putting their own money in. They're talking about getting out and making sure the money is raised."

Martin Stadium Stands Held The Faithful

Valdosta, Georgia, Saturday Afternoon, October 22, 1977

By TERRY SMITH
 "If we're ranked second in the state, Dad. Will this mean the Vikings will be ranked first?"

The youngster's father kept walking. His jaw was set, and the blonde walking nearby told her son, "Don't bother your daddy now. He's not in a talking mood."

And what Valdosta High football faithful was after that 7-2 upset at the hands of cross-town rival Lowndes Friday night at Martin Stadium?

"You love to win, but you don't like to lose," said former VHS Coach Wright Bazemore. "It was a well-played high school football game. I just hate it we had to lose."

"We just got beat by a

Valdosta View

better football team," said Mayor Gil Harbin, resident in his gold jacket.

"I think they just wanted it more than our boys did," added his wife Glen Ann.

Other VHS faithful repeated the comments.

"I'm just glad it was Lowndes and not somebody else," said Rodney Lowery, a city employee who yelled himself hoarse. "I think I'll take my (gold and black) hat off so I can get out of here."

But Bill Furlong of 1212 Kimberly Drive and a LHS graduate pulled just as hard for the Vikes.

"I knew it," Furlong said.

Finally, the home team ran onto the field.

"Ya better go back," warned VHS fans, laughing at their joke.

When LHS students paraded a sign asking, "Who's Coaching Tonight? Baze (with a check), Mimbs (sic), Brandon, H. Smith,?" one woman with a black and gold ribbon on said, "That's not very nice."

"I always count the numbers of seniors on both squads," said Michael Carsello. "They (LHS) have 16 and we (VHS) have 26. We'll win. That's always the way to tell."

After a scoreless first quarter in which fans for both teams agreed and disagreed with strategy, play halted (See Valdosta View on Page 2)

By JULIAN MILLER

It was bedlam. It was chaos. It was ecstasy. And it was 10 years in the making.

But Lowndes High School fans knew it had been a much longer time coming than that year a decade ago when Lowndes High was formed.

It had been since the late 1950's when Lowndes' predecessor, Lowndes County High, was formed that the county football team had been chasing their city counterparts.

Friday night it all came to an end when Lowndes Vikings finally caught and passed Valdosta's Wildcats in a 7-0 victory.

They had started out booing Valdosta and cheering their Vikings, most with the phrase "We're proud of you," in the

Lowndes View

Lowndes student section. Through it all they seldom seemed to doubt their classmates. Only once did the doubt appear... midway the fourth quarter when the Wildcats advanced deep into Lowndes territory.

But the Vikings pulled off their third interception of the night and the students realized their dream was coming a year earlier than anyone had predicted.

Even when Valdosta buried LHS quarterback Kenny Luke deep in his own endzone for a safety, they didn't reveal any fear.

"They ain't gonna score," one student shouted to appease his classmates. And the cheers "Boo, boo Be-lue," drowned him out.

With four minutes remaining they broke into the familiar "We're number 1," chant. With three minutes left they had finally realized the meaning behind it all.

Soul handshakes and hand slaps started appearing with two and a half minutes left and strangers started hugging strangers when with two minutes left.

The last 90 seconds were sheer bedlam and they watched Valdosta trying desperately to score while the bend-but-never-break Viking defense lived up to its name.



'Ringside' Seats

These fans at the football game Friday night at Martin Stadium had the best seat they could find. Which, in this case was none. The more than sellout crowd came early and stayed

late. These fans had it better than some who never made it to watch Lowndes High defeat Valdosta High. — Times Staff Photo By Ken Klanicki.

Tift Co. Wins, VHS Plays Tonight

By Times Staff Writer
 Tift County's Blue Devils rolled up 383 yards along the ground Friday night, and went from there to a 21-14 win over Crisp County in a Region 1-AAA high school football game.

Quarterback Clark Carmichael scored twice and passed to Robert Jones for another touchdown as the Tifton team edged the Cougars from Cordele.

Crisp, which entered the game fresh from last week's upset of Lowndes, got touchdowns from Bobby Roche and Greg Walker.

In other 1-AAA action, Dougherty lowered the boom on Monroe 35-3 in a battle of Albany schools and Central of Thomasville blasted winless Westover (Albany) 43-0.

Thomasville scuttled Moultrie 35-7, and Lowndes trounced Bainbridge 44-14 in a battle of southern division leaders.

Hewlette Boone scored twice, and quarterback Jerry Aubin scored one touchdown and passed for two more, to Ronnie Gardner and Tom Jones, as Dougherty crushed its cross-city rival.

Central quarterback Ben Carter took to the air, passing for two touchdowns to Horace Smith and another to Willie Hopkins.

The Yellow Jackets also got short scoring runs from Barney Jackson, David Harris and Willie Robinson.

Thomasville pulled away from a 14-7 lead with three fourth-quarter touchdowns in its win over

Moultrie. Roosevelt Andrews rushed for 144 yards and two touchdowns for the Bulldogs, who kept pace with Lowndes in the hectic race for a berth in postseason action.

Karl Abrams, Jerry Marria and Charles Bates also scored for Thomasville.

Valdosta carries its 7-1 overall record and 4-0 subregion mark to Albany tonight for its final Region 1-AAA (South) game of the season, against Albany's Indians.

A victory over the Tribe, 2-6 overall and 0-3 in subregion play, would sew up the league championship for coach Nick Hyder's Valdosta team.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Nov. 5, 1977-7-

Southern Open Nets \$8,000 For Marchin' Cats

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School's Southern Open band festival has brought in about \$8,000 in profits and left the man in charge of it "tickled to death."
That's the report from Mike Chapman, director of the VHS Marchin' Cats who sponsored the 25-band event at Cleveland Field a week ago.
The Largo, Fla., Band of Gold won the overall championship, with Nathan B. Forest of Jacksonville, Fla., taking second.
Third was Hardaway of Columbus, only three-tenths of

a point behind. Sprayberry was fourth and Tift County of Tifton, fifth.
Chapman said the second annual edition of the event grossed \$18,000 in ticket sales and concessions which should leave about \$8,000 in the band's treasury.
"But even if we just broke even it would have been worth it," said Chapman.
"Quite a few directors called back to tell us how much they enjoyed it. And one director who came down just to watch told me it is becoming one of the most prestigious competitions in the South."

Chapman said such a meet demands a lot of work from a lot of volunteers to pull off but added, "it's worth it."
"It brings something to Valdosta that we've never had before and a lot of people here have never seen," he said.
"Each year we get more and more out. I wish more people would have come out to see what it was really like."
The 1977 edition was not a sellout, Chapman said, but was fairly close to it. The only problem encountered came from a peat moss fire in Cook County which forced lawmen to reroute traffic on the highways.

The competition schedule demanded a different band be marching onto the field every 15 minutes and some of the bands hadn't even arrived when their time had come up.
"But other bands were early and we just had to do some switching around," said Chapman.
The VHS band director pointed out about 3,000 band students competed in the event and many of them brought parents and family members into town with them.
He said from all indications, the Southern Open will continue to be an annual event with a steady increase in popularity.

Letters To The Editor

Grid Attitude Unhealthy

Sir: Reading "Are Nick Hyder's Feet on Shaky Soil?" (Oct. 27) has brought me to realize that the atmosphere in Valdosta regarding football is neither healthy nor competitive.
The Valdosta fans do not want to compete, they want to monopolize. A competition between schools requires that there be some degree of uncertainty as to the outcome. Must Valdosta always win? If the result is a foregone conclusion, then there is no contest and no reason to even begin.
Are the Valdosta fans so greedy, so grasping, so small that they cannot accept defeat? Are they so childish that they must blame the coach for the loss instead of commending those that won? If they not say

"congratulations," and hope for a win next time?
No. They cannot. The Valdosta fans must blame, malign, abuse and threaten their coach. They are not gracious in defeat or sportsmanlike in their conduct. They are too narrow to recognize the worth of another team, or give credit where it is due. They are too backward to accept present situations rather than cling to those of the past. And they are too ignorant to realize that football is a game; not a religion.
Arguments, brawls, threats, and bets seem to go hand-in-hand with this "sport" in Valdosta. These bloodthirsty attitudes seem to permeate all areas of the community. And so, in some degree, everything is spoiled.

How has this happened? How has a game meant for the students evolved into a nightmare of hate and vindictiveness on the parts of both fans and students? I find it incomprehensible. But one thing is clear... when football is played with such violent and destructive emotions, then perhaps football should cease. Such "fans" do not support the game; they destroy it. And they will destroy the team.
How many coaches will they drive away? And how many spectators will stay away to avoid the unwholesome, almost unbalanced, element that transforms a game into a war?
Sharon Van Horn
912 Brookhaven
Dr.

Article Brings Back Memories

Sir: Your Oct. 27 article: "Are Nick Hyder's Feet on Shaky Soil?" caused thoughts and memories to stir in me as remembered yesteryear.
The school year was 1959-60, the birth year of Lowndes County High School (called OCO by the Valdosta High crowd) which was the result of controversial consolidation of small county high schools.
However, not all county students went there. Some ambitious moms and dads fed their husky sons steak for breakfast and drove them to Valdosta High to play for Wright) Bazemore where they could really shine.

Times have changed, and 17 years have passed. Now in 1977, there are 2 fairly equal football powers in this county. And as Friday, Oct. 21, showed, football is no less a passion in Valdosta and the enthusiasm has now spread countywide. At least now plowboys are proud to be plowboys.
But oh — those moms and dads — if only they instead of threatening, bribing, and gifting coaches to produce wins at all cost — if only they would send those husky sons (and daughters) to school with the goals of academic excellence in preparation for

useful honorable lives. If only those moms and dads prayed for the safety and guidance of their offspring and sent them off in love and faith to give their best first to God, then the classroom, then the athletic field.
There have been not a few lives blighted by the idea that the glory of VHS football would last forever. The star of today may wake up 6 years from now a has-been if adults who are responsible for their rearing and training do not have their priorities straight.
Georgia Smith
P.O. Box 2748

Hyder Not Blamed By VHS Students

Sir: There has been much talk about "getting rid of" Valdosta High School's head coach, Nick Hyder. But what I really can't understand is who started such talk. Was it the students, the faculty, the board of education, or was it concerned people that just wouldn't take defeat?
To whomever it was that started talking about firing our coach, please consider the feelings of not only Coach Hyder but of over 2,300 students at VHS.

If there is any doubt in anyone's mind about how the students or football players feel about Coach Hyder, I challenge you to attend our next pep rally. The one loss to the Vikings has not killed the season for the Wildcats.
They took the defeat like real winners. Did they blame anyone? No. They certainly didn't blame a man who has helped them win, not only on the field, but who has also helped them build a winning

character.
It is easy to "tell" someone how to do their job, but "doing" the job is another story. Coach Hyder is not only a great coach but a good math teacher as well.
For those who were so greatly disturbed by the loss to the Vikings, just keep in mind it's only a game.
Susan McDonald
VHS Student Council
Vice President

VHS Keeps Disputed Wins, Sets Sights On Westover

By MARTIN REGISTER
Valdosta's Wildcats, bolstered by the news they will keep two disputed early-season wins, carry their 8-1 record into battle here Friday with Westover's win-starved Patriots.

It seems the Albany team, winless in nine games, could have picked a different opponent against which to try for win number one.
The hapless Patriots, with the exception of one contest, have been blown out by Region 1-AAA foes this season.
Valdosta, meanwhile, has lost only to its cross-county rival, Lowndes, and is ranked fifth in the state in the latest Associated Press poll.
The Wildcats clinched the championship of the region's northern subdivision with a 41-6 drubbing of Albany Saturday night.
For awhile, it appeared coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats would be forced to forfeit a 40-14 win over Crisp County (Cordele) and a 50-13 triumph

The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

over Bainbridge.
When it was discovered that an ineligible player had participated in the contests for Valdosta, Georgia High School Association Executive Secretary Bill Fordham ordered the team to forfeit both games.
An appeal to the GHSA Appeal Board overturned that decision, levying instead a \$1,000 fine against the Valdosta school.
However, the matter remained in question until Tuesday's meeting of the GHSA's Executive Committee upheld the decision of the Appeal Board.
Crisp had protested the earlier decision, saying "the GHSA gets \$1,000, and Valdosta gets its two wins,

but what does Crisp get?"
Hyder, VHS Principal Lloyd Mims, City School Superintendent Ralph Brandon and City Athletic Director Wright Bazemore made the trip to Thomaston to attend Tuesday's meeting.
Mims presented the Valdosta case, as he did earlier at the meeting of the Appeal Board.
Hyder said Mims "did a good job as he usually does. He presented our case (after Fordham had talked for the other side), and then we went out."
"I understand it (the vote of the Executive Committee) was close. I hope now this is the end of it."
Hyder played down the wide variance in the play thus

far between Valdosta and Westover.
"The way I approach any game," he said, "is that, regardless of records, the score now is 0-0."
"They (Westover) are capable of winning this ballgame. They've got a lot of seniors, and they can say 'what the heck, get out there and go all out and win this last one.'"
The game isn't critical, since the teams campaign in opposite sides of the region (Valdosta in the northern division and Westover in the southern), but Hyder isn't de-emphasizing it.
"We've prepared for it just as we would if we were playing an undefeatable team," he said.
"They haven't won any ball games, but they scored two times against Lowndes (in a 34-14 loss), and that's two more times than we scored against Lowndes."
The Vikings defeated Valdosta in a regular-season game 7-2. If Lowndes defeats Thomasville Friday night, the Vikings will meet Valdosta in a playoff to decide the champion of the entire region.
But Hyder, whose team includes a number of "walking wounded" but no player who is definitely out for Friday, vowed he was "not looking anywhere except to Friday."

Wildcats End Subregion Play In Albany Saturday

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta's Wildcats hope sibling rivalry won't be their downfall when they hit the road Saturday night for a Region 1-AAA (North) football game at Albany.
The sibling in question, Albany High School, has been a weak sister in the league this season, winning only two of eight games overall and going winless in three subregion outings.
Coach Nick Hyder and his Wildcats, 7-1 overall and 4-0 in the subregion, tops in the loop, can possibly sew up the division title with a Saturday night victory.

The word "possibly" applies rather than "definitely," since the Georgia High School Association has yet to make a final ruling on the standing of two apparent Valdosta victories.
The Wildcats crushed Crisp County (Cordele) 40-14, and Bainbridge, 50-13, in two early-season encounters before discovering they had played an ineligible griddier, senior tight end Alvin Thomas in both contests.
The two games were ordered forfeited by Bill Fordham, Executive Secretary of the GHSA, but that punishment was later reduced to a fine by the Appeal Board of the organization.
However, the matter was brought into question again, and is to be decided Tuesday

during a meeting of the Executive Committee of the GHSA.
The Executive Committee is made up of one representative from each region of each classification in the state.
Should the Committee rule that the Wildcats must forfeit their games, it would leave the way open for a possible three-way tie for the regular season championship between Dougherty, Valdosta, and Crisp.
In that event, if Dougherty had a better overall record than the 'Cats, it would win the league crown.
But the Wildcats must win on the field against Albany before they worry about what transpires off the field behind closed doors.
Customarily, Hyder is taking nothing for granted.
"They (Albany) will be ready," said Hyder. "They've got two good runners. I've just talked with Albany coach (Cardon) Dalley, and he said they were getting more confidence in their younger quarterback, Gary Anderson.
"They've got four offensive linemen who started against us last year. And they may have a couple of the better defensive linemen in the region."
"You've got to say they're capable of playing good football. This is the kind of game, late in the season, at

home on Saturday night, when Albany can come in and say 'why not?'"
He pointed out the fact that "every subregion game is important," and said he hoped his team wouldn't have a letdown after scorching Tift County last week.
Valdosta whitewashed the potentially powerful Blue Devils from Tifton, 31-0.
Hyder said things "turned our way" in the win over Tift, calling the Blue Devils "a fine football team."

Valdosta Takes On Albany Sat.

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Valdosta whitewashed the potentially powerful Blue Devils from Tifton, 31-0.
Hyder said things "turned our way" in the win over Tift, calling the Blue Devils "a fine football team."
He said sophomore running back Ernest King, whom he called "one of the better runners I've worked with in eight or 10 years as far as potential is concerned" was hampered with a bruised shoulder.
"The X-rays showed no fractures," he said, "but he hurt it a couple of times in practice."
However, he said junior offensive tackle Scott Griffin, who missed several games with an ankle injury, might return to action in time for Saturday's game.

Area Grid Teams Eyeing Playoffs

It hardly seems possible, but at many area schools, the time has come for the sports-minded to move indoors to the basketball courts and leave darkened football fields silent and untrod as the sports year moves into another cycle.
For most grid teams, Friday will mark the last game, ending in the chill autumn air a season which began with labored windsprints and aching muscles in the heat of August training camps.
For a select few, it will signal the end of a season of preliminaries, and the start of the "real" — the playoff — season.
Three area teams — Valdosta, Lowndes and Hamilton County (Jasper, Fla.) — are still in the running for what every team aspires to from the moment it assembles on that lonely football field on oppressive summer days — subregion, region, and finally, state supremacy.
For Valdosta's Wildcats, a place is already assured in post-season action.

Lowndes' and Hamilton's hopes ride on what transpires Friday night in their respective regular season finales.
Valdosta sewed up the Region 1-AAA (North) crown with a 41-6 blasting of Albany's Indians last Friday.
Coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats had been tabbed, along with Tift County's Blue Devils, as the most probable contenders for region laurels before the season began.
Tift fizzled early, but Valdosta established itself from the early going, and raced to an 8-1 record through last Friday night — the loss coming, in a first-time occurrence, by a 7-2 count to former doormat Lowndes.
It was a strange season for the Wildcats, who encountered more trouble off the field than on it.
The discovery that an ineligible player had taken part in shellackings of Crisp County (Cordele) and Bainbridge led to VHS being instructed to forfeit those two wins.
That was potentially damaging, since the loss to Crisp would handicap the Wildcats in the subregion race.

Surprising Vikings

There was an appeal which resulted in a ruling in favor of Valdosta. But, in what seems to be par for the course in matters concerning rulemakers, confusion set in, and the matter was thrown into question again when it was announced that the victory might be overturned at a Georgia High School Association meeting set for today.
But Valdosta ended all questions when it defeated all contenders to assure that, whatever happens in the meeting room, it will win its division crown.

Decision on Wildcat Forfeited Games Appeal

By MIKE CHASON
ALBANY — At noon today, the Georgia High School Association appeal board had not made a decision on Valdosta High School's appeal of the forfeitures of its first two football games.

The four-man board went into executive session with the GHSA attorney at 11:15 a.m.

Valdosta was forced to forfeit a 40-14 win over Crisp County and a 50-13

victory over Bainbridge because of playing tight end Alvin Thomas.

Thomas was found to be over the GHSA age limit.

After a five-minute opening statement by Georgia High School Association Executive Secretary Bill Fordham in which he presented the facts of the case, Valdosta principal Lloyd Mims delivered in 16 straight-to-the-point minutes the Valdosta side of the story.

Reading the majority of his statement, Mims said he "was concerned with the welfare of the students" and that the "penalty was too severe."

"We're not here begging," Mims said. "Valdosta High School and the Georgia High School Association made the same clerical mistake, using the same correct information."

Mims emphasized Valdosta had sent in the correct birthday for Thomas.

That February 16 birthdate turned out to be over two months before the May 1 cut-off point for GHSA eligibility.

"This is just not right," Mims said. "Our boys should not be the scapegoats for this mistake."

Mims pointed out at three different times that Valdosta had sent in the correct birthday. He called it the GHSA's responsibility to determine if the player was eligible.

"Does the GHSA have any respon-

sibility for its errors?" Mims asked. "Is the GHSA immune, or do the member schools have to be scapegoats? If both parties made mistakes, who shoulders the heavier burden?"

"This was certainly not deliberate on our part. There was certainly no attempt to cover up the violation. We reported our ineligible player. Now we're willing to do what's right."

Mims pointed out that the member schools of the GHSA "pay his (For-

dham's) salary to tell us whether the boy is eligible or not."

Coach Nick Hyder questioned what the penalty would have been if Valdosta had lost the two games. Fordham said there would have been no penalty, "only a slap on the wrist."

"You mean the only punishment is if you win?" Hyder asked.

"Historically, that has been the case," Fordham said.



Valdosta Cheerleaders Mourn Loss

HIGH SCHOOLS/Steve Figueroa

Valdosta Faces Difficult Week

Valdosta's Nick Hyder is faced with a rather difficult coaching assignment this week.

He must somehow get his players to forget last Friday's first-ever loss to county rival Lowndes and get them ready to play what is actually a more important game with Tift County.



Figueroa

"Regardless of what we did last Friday, even if we had beaten Lowndes 40-0, this game with Tifton is the big one for us," says Hyder, who like most coaches in South Georgia refers to his opponent by the name of the town instead of the name of the school. "This is the biggest game of the year for us if we plan to make the playoffs."

Hyder's hypothesis is correct, although there are thousands of Valdosta fans trying to get over the 7-2 defeat.

Since Region 1-AAA is sub-divided for the first time this season, the Lowndes loss actually didn't hurt Valdosta's playoff chances. Valdosta is still leading 1-AAA North, while Lowndes is currently in a four-way tie with Bainbridge, Moultrie and Thomasville for the lead in 1-AAA South.

Valdosta can wrap up the sub-region title with a victory over Tift, a victory Hyder thinks will be hard-earned.

"Tifton is physical and well-coached," says Hyder. "They're bigger than we are and their two linebackers are as fine a pair as I've seen this year. We'll have our hands full for sure."

Morale is Hyder's biggest worry. "The Lowndes game definitely left some damaging scars," sighed Hyder. "But, we've just got to forget that game and get ready for this one."

"Nobody quit the team, anyway," said Hyder with a laugh. "That's one good thing."

"You know something, though," said Hyder is a low voice. "We really weren't up for Lowndes. That's the surprising thing. I don't want to take anything away from Lowndes, because they played a great defensive game, but we just haven't really put things together yet."

"I hope we can do it this week."

Belue, Atkins Repeat as Top Prep Players

By KEVIN BROWN
Times-Union Sports Writer

The two players selected as The Times-Union's South Georgia Players of the Week are a formidable duo.

As a matter of fact they are the first players to be chosen twice for the honor in the 1977 season.

The pair probably used this past weekend's big wins as a warmup for their head-to-head confrontation this Friday night.

Burks made five catches for 166 yards and two TDs (60 and 61 yarders), Mackey rushed for 125 yards on 31 carries in the Bearcats' 21-20 upset of Dougherty, Orange raced for 95 yards on 19 carries and one touchdown in the Gators' 24-0 blanking of Starke.

Morris rushed for three scores on runs of two, 67 and four while amassing

174 yards on 17 carries in the Blue Devils' 40-7 victory over Albany. Turner rushed for 101 yards on 17 carries, passed for 92 yards on 4-6 accuracy and one TD in the 'Cats 34-0 blasting of Cook. Scott ran back the second half kickoff 79 yards for a score and also returned a punt 57 yards for a touchdown in the Yellow Jackets 43-7 win over Beach.

Strickland played quarterback and defensive back in the Rebels' big 8-7 win over Charlton County. The

junior rushed for 46 yards, completed five of six passes for 46 yards, had six solo and four assisted tack-

les and four interceptions. He also threw the two-point conversion that won the ball game.



Former Valdosta Star Lawrence Lowe (24) Makes Tackle

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Prep Upsets Take Their Tolls on Polls

By STEVE FIGUEROA
Constitution Prep Editor

Murray County's stunning upset of top-rated AA power Dalton highlighted what otherwise would have been a normal week in the high school polls.

The Indians blanked their 6-AA foe, 9-0, and knocked them from atop the ratings. Dalton, still picked to win the region title, fell to fifth in the latest poll, making room at the top for Fayette County, 3-0, with two straight shutouts to its credit.

Dalton was the only ranked AA team to lose, but there were several upsets in the other three polls.

In AAA, Moultrie clipped Central of Thomasville, 14-7, to send their 1-AAA opponent from fifth to eighth, while Wayne County and Lakeside both lost and dropped from the elite.

Wayne County, eighth last week, was shocked by Statesboro, 36-14, while Lakeside, ninth a week ago, was nipped by Tucker, 15-14, in very competitive region 8-AAA. Benedictine, coming off a 49-8 win over Beach, and Kendrick, which dumped a previously unbeaten Spencer team to go 3-0, took the vacant spots in the AAA poll.

The only change in Class A saw Irwin County, winless in three tries, slip from the top 10 to be replaced by unbeaten Claiton.

East Hall nipped a slow-starting Buford team, 7-6, to provide Class B with its biggest surprise, thus dropping the highly-regarded Wolves from second to fourth in the poll.

Reidsville, No. 5 last week, was tied by Lyons, 20-20, and slipped to seventh, while Savannah Country Day lost to AA foe Effingham County, 15-6, and dropped to ninth. Hogansville, No. 10 last week, was blanked 16-0 by Jackson and fell dropped from the elite, making room for unbeaten Charlton County, fresh from a 47-0 rout of Brantley County.

The Top Ten Teams by Class

CLASS AAA		CLASS AA	
1. Griffin (2-0)	1. Fayette County (3-0)	1. East Rome (2-1)	1. Lincoln County (1-0)
2. Valdosta (1-0)	2. Woodward (2-0)	2. Commerce (2-1)	2. Jefferson (3-0)
3. Wheeler (3-0)	3. Americus (2-0)	3. Seminole County (2-0)	3. Bremen (2-0)
4. Clarke Central (2-0)	4. Ware County (1-0)	4. North Springs (2-0)	4. Buford (1-1)
5. Warner Robins (2-0)	5. Dalton (1-1)	5. Early County (2-0)	5. West Point (2-1)
6. Richmond Academy (2-0)	6. Stephens County (2-0)	6. Bowdon (1-1)	6. Palham (2-0)
7. Southwest DeKalb (0-1)	7. Avondale (2-0)	7. Lamar County (2-0)	7. Reidsville (1-0-1)
8. Central, Thomasville (0-1)	8. Lakeshore (2-0)	8. Early County (2-0)	8. Macon County (1-1)
9. Benedictine (2-0)	9. Swainsboro (2-0)	9. Claiton (2-0)	9. Sav. Country Day (1-1)
10. Kendrick (2-0)	10. Dodge County (2-0)	10. Charlton County (2-0)	10. Charlton County (2-0)

Also receiving consideration (in alphabetical order): Butler (1-0), Dougherty (1-0), Lakeside (1-1), Laney (2-0), Lowndes (2-0), Moultrie (1-0), Newnan (1-0), Peachtree (2-0), R.E. Lee (2-0), Spauldery (2-1), Statesboro (2-0), Wayne County (0-1).

Their names are Buck Belue of Valdosta and Ronnie Atkins of Lowndes.

The 6-foot-1, 195-pound Belue did it all in Valdosta's 46-20 blasting of traditional rival Moultrie.

Belue rushed for 160 yards on 16 carries for a 10-yard per carry average. He ran for three touchdowns. He passed for 146 yards, completing nine of 20 and two touchdowns. He accounted for five scores and demonstrated the wares that have continually kept him around the top of the individual offensive categories in Region 1-AAA.

The signalcaller is also the punter and against Moultrie, Belue punted four times for 40.1 average. His touchdown runs were of the 40, five and two-yard varieties. His TD tosses were of nine and 11 yards to wide receiver John Lastinger.

"This is probably the best game Buck has played for Valdosta," said "Cat" Coach Nick Hyder. "But he always plays well. His running, passing, ball handling and leadership is consistent and that what makes him tough."

Atkins had his typical game Saturday in Westover. In the Vikings' 34-14 win, the junior linebacker made 17 tackles, 11 individual and six assists. He made one fumble recovery, which he picked up and ran eight yards for the touchdown.

Lowndes' Joe Wilson has said that the 6-0, 190-pounder is the toughest and best there is in the entire state and Atkins tries to leave little doubt in the minds of opposing players when he makes his crunching tackles.

Atkins is only a junior and he was the only player to make the All-Region team as a sophomore last year.

Other players that challenged for the honor were Nathaniel Burks of Lowndes, Clyde Mackey of Bainbridge, Jimmy Orange of Ware County, Danny Morris of Tift, Art Turner of Camden County, Lindsay Scott of Wayne County and Sid Strickland of Atkinson.

Valdosta Officials Say GHSAA Penalty Too Harsh

Does the penalty fit the crime?

That's the issue at stake Friday when Valdosta High School officials get a chance to argue their case before the Georgia High School Association State Appeal Board.

The 10 a.m. meeting in Albany could give Valdosta's Wildcats the perfect 4-0 record they've carved out on the football field this year or it could leave them with the 2-2 mark GHSAA Executive Secretary Bill Fordham has given them. It was Fordham who said Valdosta must forfeit the two games tight end Alvin Thomas played in at the beginning of the season. Thomas was found to be over the age limit to participate in high school athletics.

Ironically, it was VHS principal Lloyd Mims with turned in Thomas' ineligibility after the GHSAA discovered the 6-3 senior was ineligible to play basketball. When Mims found out Thomas was not certified to play basketball, he immediately informed the state office that the player had been a member of the football team for the opening two Valdosta games, both victories.

Last Friday, Fordham imposed the penalty for playing Thomas in those games. That penalty was forfeiture of both contests. They go down in the book as 1-0 wins for Crisp County and Bainbridge ... unless the appeal reverses Fordham's decision.

"The main thing is that we feel our boys have been done an injustice," Mims, who is to represent the school, said. "We turned ourselves in. He could have played the entire year. Our error was also certified by Mr. Fordham. We feel he should share in the responsibility."

"He had the jurisdiction to fine us or not to do anything at all. They treated this violation the same as a deliberate one. We just feel the punishment is too severe."

If you want to continue to count the ironies in this tragic incident, here's another one for you.

On page 37 of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Georgia High School Association, also known as the "white Bible", it states that "once a pupil has been certified by a school during the school year and has been cleared by the State Office, no further eligibility report is necessary for that pupil during the school year. Eligibility is assumed to be continuing."

Thomas was cleared by the school and the GHSAA for football. Both missed his 19th birthday, which was two months before the May 1 deadline. His name did not even have to be included on the basketball eligibility sheet. If it hadn't been, he would have been cleared anyway since "eligibility is assumed to be continuing."

The school was just double-checking itself by sending in Thomas' name again. This time the GHSAA didn't miss. The state office told Mims that Thomas was ineligible for basketball, and the fuse was lit to the controversy.

The "white Bible" also has a word as to what penalty a



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

school violating an eligibility rule shall suffer.

On page 35, "a school violating an eligibility rule, whether it be due to carelessness, willfulness, ignorance or any other cause, shall be subject to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each offense and/or suspension from the Association for a period up to a full calendar year and/or forfeiture of games and/or contests involved."

The Executive Secretary has the power to impose that penalty, and it is left up to him to choose the punishment.

Fordham chose forfeiture of the two games. "I would prefer not to say too much about it right now," Fordham said Tuesday. "Anytime there is a decision, a school has the right to appeal it. Anything I say now would be superfluous."

Notice the "and-or" in the penalty clause. Valdosta did not necessarily have to forfeit the two games unless Fordham so decreed. And he did. However, he could have chosen either a fine or suspension from the Association. Valdosta would gladly pay the fine but suspension would be worse than forfeiting the two games.

From this angle, the case Mims is to present to the four-man board Friday rests on one solid leg. That is, Fordham and the GHSAA did make a mistake when they certified Thomas to play football. Had they said he was ineligible, he would have never played a game. Valdosta officials are saying the GHSAA had the ultimate responsibility as to whether the player was able to play, and they are right.

The GHSAA does own the bottom line in this case. It should take some of the heat for missing Thomas' birthday.

The mistake was one the GHSAA should never have made. But it was also one VHS officials should never have made.

It is up to the Appeal Board to decide who really shouldered the heavier burden.

Wildcats Regain Forfeited Wins

BY MIKE CHASON
ALBANY — Valdosta's Wildcats have always possessed legendary high school football talents, but never have they won three games in one day ... until Friday.

When the Georgia High School Association Appeal Board overturned Valdosta's forfeiture of its first two games and the Wildcats carved out a 13-7 decision over Monroe on the field, Valdosta found itself with a 5-0 record.

And VHS Coach Nick Hyder couldn't be happier about it.

"It feels good," Hyder said minutes after the four-man Appeal Board had slapped Valdosta with a \$1,000 fine instead of the forfeiture of a 40-14 win over Crisp County (Cordele) and a 50-13 victory over Bainbridge.

"This is just an un-

precedented thing for the Georgia High School Association. This was a tough thing for the members of that board to do. I don't have any complaints about it at all."

Hyder credited VHS principal Lloyd Mims with doing a "beautiful job" of his presentation of Valdosta's appeal. Mims wasted no words in his plea, which was centered on the fact that Valdosta officials had sent in the correct birthday for tight end Alvin Thomas.

Thomas was declared ineligible by the GHSAA when his name was sent in on the VHS preseason basketball roster. His Feb. 16, 1958 birthday made him just over two months too old to participate in athletics this season.

However, his ineligibility was not caught by Valdosta officials or by the GHSAA when Thomas' name was submitted on the preseason football roster. He was cleared to play by the GHSAA.

When Mims found out the 6-3 senior was ineligible for basketball, he immediately informed the GHSAA. Thomas had played in two football games. GHSAA Executive Secretary Bill Fordham said Valdosta would have to forfeit those two games.

But the Appeal Board decided that punishment was "too severe" after a two-hour and 11-minute closed-door debate on the subject here Friday.

"I have no reaction to it good or bad," Fordham said after the meeting. "They have the right to appeal. I didn't write the rule book."

Naturally, Mims was elated.

"This is what I was hoping for when we came up here," he said. "It just proves honesty will win for you every time. My whole purpose was to get the Georgia High School Association to share the responsibility for this

(See Wildcats on Page 2)

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Oct. 22, 1977-9-



Schreffler (6) Begins 80-Yard Gallop

By MIKE CHASON
"The king is dead."

The man who hollered it shot a big number one in the air with one hand and waved his genuine straw Plowboy hat with the other.

It was that kind of night for Lowndes High School football fans.

Again and again, they looked toward the scoreboard, hoping the

YARDSTICK	
	Lowndes Valdosta
First Downs	6 12
Yards Rushing	0 74
Yards Passing	90 87
Passes	7-16 15-29
Passes Int. By	3 1
Fumbles Lost	2 0
Punting	8-30.8 9-40.8
Penalties	3-45 4-40

numbers they saw weren't a mirage. But the lights never flickered.

Lowndes had indeed topped Valdosta, the football king of south Georgia, 7-2.

On a warm fall evening under a crowd of 10,000 standing room only fans jammed their way into Martin Stadium to see the two highest scoring teams in Region 1-AAA engage in a toned down version of Star Wars, the two defenses stole the spotlight.

Neither offense put a point on the scoreboard. Lowndes, now 6-1, scored on a magnificent 80-yard interception return by junior safety Bill Schreffler, and Valdosta picked up its points when LHS quarterback Kenny Luke was forced to his knees in his own end zone for a safety.

"All I could think of was touchdown, touchdown, touchdown," Schreffler, a 150-pounder, said. "I was talking to myself all the way to the end zone. I just knew somebody was going to get me."

Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue, who threw the ball for the first of three interceptions he suffered, seemed to have a chance but got pushed out of the way by Ronnie Adkins.

"The seniors wanted this game bad," Schreffler said. "Everybody had gotten tired of losing to Valdosta every year. We were getting tired there at the end, and we had to keep getting each other up."

"It's the biggest thrill I've ever had. It's always a defensive back's dream to run one back."

Just as it has probably always been the dream of every Viking, who has ever passed through the doors of Lowndes High School, to beat Valdosta. And for the first time in the 10-year rivalry of the two schools, it happened Friday night.

"They beat us, they earned it, and I don't have any excuses," Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said as fan after fan offered solemn handshakes.

"I thought our defense played well. I think our kids played well enough to win. I guess I have to take the blame for it."

"I think (Lowndes) Coach (Joe) Wilson's philosophy was great. He played down the game to the people, but got his boys up for it."

Hyder, whose second-rated team in the state fell to 6-1, never really thought his offense would be shut out, even in the late stages of the game.

Valdosta opened on offense inside the Lowndes' 50-yard-line three times in the fourth quarter but could never crack the Viking rubber-band defense, which bent some but never broke.

"I sure did (think Valdosta

would score), Hyder said. "Our defense kept getting it back, and we kept throwing it back to them. Their defense is just as tough if not tougher than I thought it was."

"They are the number one defense in the region."

The Wildcats, who were held to two first downs in the first half, made their deepest penetration of the game with only seconds left in the second quarter.

Robert Baldwin, who had intercepted a pass to key the drive to the LHS 17-yard stripe, missed a 35-yard field as time ran out before the intermission.

"It might have made a difference," Hyder said. "A score always gives you a boost. It just wasn't meant for us to push it across."

"I tell you, it doesn't taste good to lose."

But just as the first taste of defeat soured in the mouths of Wildcat fans, the Viking side of the stadium exploded when the final horn sounded. All the Plowboys then reaped the benefits of their sweetest win ever.

"I've been waiting 18 years for this," one old fellow said. The same guy had helped lead LHS fans in a deep-throated chant of "defense, defense, defense" only seconds before.

Adkins and Co. dutifully noted the message.

Adkins, Lowndes' junior linebacker who Wilson calls the "best in the state" without a pause for breath, was absolutely superb throughout the tension-packed thriller.

Registering nine tackles, he seemed to be hooked to the ball by a magnet. But just as Adkins stayed around the ball, Burgman never lost sight of Belue.

"Charles Burgman made the football game for us," Lowndes' defensive coordinator Brad Almon said. "But the whole bunch of them just wanted to win the football game."

Burgman had six tackles on the night and seemed to shadow Belue wherever he stepped. With 1:01 left in the first quarter, he ripped the Valdosta quarterback's number 7 jersey clean off his shoulders.

For the first time in his four-year Valdosta career, Belue was without lucky 7. He wore number 1 for the rest of the game.

"We were physically tough," Almon said. "I believe if you'll ask those folks on the other side of the field, they'll tell you they've been hit."

Cornerback Dennis McDonald also had eight tackles to go along with five

apiece by Tim Yorkey and Ben Washington.

But the Valdosta defense was equally as tough. In fact, it completely muffled the Viking offense the second half.

Lowndes was held to one first down the second half and zero yards rushing for the game. Fullback Steve Thomas gained 42 yards but Luke lost 42 in sack yardage.

VHS defensive end Lynn Roberts led the charge with five tackles along with safety Carl Roe, who also had five. Roe played almost the entire game for regular safety Allen Worthy, who apparently wasn't able to play on a sore ankle.

Curtis Wright, Ray Lloyd and Rodney Gordon also had four tackles each.

Belue, who threw for only 87 yards on 15 of 29 passes, praised the VHS defense.

"I thought the defense played good," he said. "They gave us a couple of breaks we didn't cash in on. I threw a couple of balls I shouldn't have."

"But we just didn't play up to our potential. It's got to be a letdown. I guess we'll find out how it affects us next week."

Belue, who punted nine times for a 40.8 yard average, watched his sophomore counterpart, Jeff Stokes, back the 'Cats up to their own 11-yard-line with a 40-yarder with 2:05 left to play.

With no Valdosta rush in his direction, Stokes calmly held the ball on the play until the LHS coverage raced downfield. Finally, he put shoe to pigskin in a move which really sealed Valdosta's fate.

Belue directed a drive to the Lowndes 41, but the clock ran out on Valdosta's hope for an undefeated season.

"I thought we were going to score," Belue said. "I kept thinking that until there wasn't anything left."

For Belue and Valdosta, it was over. For Lowndes, it was just beginning.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Lowndes — Thomas 14-42, Luke 13 minus 42; Valdosta — Gaskins 7-16, Belue 12-1, King 4-11, Edwards 30-46, Davis 4-8, Hunter 17.

Passing: Lowndes — Luke 7-16-190; Valdosta — Belue 15-29-187.

Pass Receiving: Lowndes — Thomas 3-30, Burks 1-5, Coker 1-4, Washburn 1-34, Foster 17; Valdosta — Council 3-22, Hunter 7-38, Smith 2-19, Lastinger 2-8, Wilson 1-0.

Punt Returns: Lowndes — Sprengle 3-23; Valdosta — Thomas 3-26, Gaskins 1-9.

Kickoff Returns: Lowndes — No returns; Valdosta — Council 2-41, Hunter 1-25.

Defense (Number of Tackles): Lowndes — Adkins 9, McDonald 8, Burgman 6, Washington 5, Yorkey 5, Schreffler 4, Reese 3, Hitchcock 3; Valdosta — Roberts 5, Roe 5, Wright 4, Lloyd 4, Gordon 4, Conway 3, Simmons 3.

Score by Quarters:

Lowndes	0	0	7	0-7
Valdosta	0	0	2	0-2

Scoring: Schreffler 80 interception return (Stokes kick). Val. — safety on Luke

The Magic Man

It's Another First For Joe Wilson

By Times Staff Writer

Lowndes High School's Magic Man has performed another miracle.

Joe Wilson paused just a second before Friday night's Valdosta-Lowndes high school football game and took a careful look at the stands. They were packed with 10,000 fans, more than had ever attended Martin Stadium before.

It was a first. But Wilson has had a knack for doing things for the first time ever since he took charge of the Lowndes' program in January of 1976.

Last year, he guided the Vikings to their first wins ever over Moultrie and Thomasville. When the season was over, the 8-2 Vikings had their first winning season ever.

And now Lowndes has accomplished a feat many thought to be absolutely impossible. The Vikings have

defeated bitter cross-county rival Valdosta on the football field by a 7-2 margin.

"I thought it was a good football game," Wilson said in a classic understatement. "This may be the best thing that could happen to Valdosta. It takes a lot of pressure off them."

"We got a lot of pressure off us when we lost to Central of Thomasville. They'll get over the anguish of defeat. They'll get to work next week and be the great football team they are."

"The players will get over it a lot quicker than their fans will. Now all their mamas and daddies can cuss and discuss about me over the dinner table instead of among themselves."

"I always said high school football keeps families together."

What held Lowndes together Friday night was a brash defense, which refused

The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

to believe it was tired. It picked off three of Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue's passes, including two by Bill Schreffler. The 150-pound junior ran one back 80 yards for the Vikings' only score.

"Spell that defense with a capital D," Wilson said. "The key to the game was when we got them in a hole that first half, and then moved the ball enough to give our defense some rest."

"Missing that field goal had to take a great deal out of them. We stopped their runs up the middle, and we were able to play five deep in the

secondary."

Wilson said the victory, which raised his team's record to 6-1, was his "biggest" ever as a head coach.

"I know this is the biggest one ever for Lowndes High School too," he said. "I just hope it doesn't work against us. We've got to come down a little bit."

"But I'll bet you right now, that 90 percent of our people don't care if we win another game."

Wilson has his eye on winning at least two of his remaining three games. If Lowndes beats Bainbridge and Thomasville in its last two games of the season, the Vikings can claim the Region 1-AAA (South) subregion title.

And maybe get another shot at Valdosta, who's leading the north half of the region.

"To get in the playoffs, we'd be willing to play the Oakland Raiders," Wilson said. "If we wind up playing Valdosta, I know they'd come at us with fire and brimstone."

Due to injuries, Lowndes starting starters Terry

Cooper, Robin McElroy, Jody Wilson and Chuck Jones in Friday night's game.

If the Vikings and the Wildcats do tangle again, only Jones and McElroy might be in the lineup.

"Jody hurt his knee warming up," Wilson said of his son. "The only reason we dressed him out was because he was a captain. We've probably lost him now."

"The doctor said Cooper couldn't play anymore this year. His shoulder is such that it has to be in a stationery position."

Wilson said McElroy has removed the cast from his broken leg and is scheduled to start jogging Monday. Jones is nearly recovered from torn ligaments in his knee and possibly could have played Friday night.

But in the end, the Magic Man didn't need him.

Braves Hire

Clete Boyer

ATLANTA (AP) — Former golden-glove-winning third baseman Clete Boyer has been hired by the Atlanta Braves to instruct the National League club's minor league infielders next season.

The Braves said Friday they had hired Boyer, 40, who played in five World Series with the New York Yankees, was on Atlanta's Western Division championship team in 1969 and also played in Japan.

Now Or Never For Vikings, Wildcats In A Romp

Since Bainbridge entered the exalted ranks of Class AAA, the Bearcats have never been involved in any kind of postseason playoff. Since Lowndes was rudely initiated into that same category, the Vikings have had just as much bad luck as far as any postseason parties.

Something has to give tonight at 7:30 p.m. on the Martin Stadium turf.

Either Bainbridge will glide into the Region 1-AAA championship or Lowndes will keep its hopes alive and send the season down to next week's finale in Thomasville. Valdosta is more than likely going to be the foe waiting on either one or anybody else who gets out of the south subregion.

But that's later.

Tonight is the game Joe Wilson has been waiting for, yet dreading all week. He's piled mountains of praise on a Bainbridge team which has won four consecutive games and seems to riding toward the Cinderella story of the year. He's warned his team that it's going to take "an effort like the Valdosta game" to win.

For the first time in years, nobody's taking the Bearcats lightly on the football field. Never has a Bainbridge coach talked with so much confidence about his team as Miller Shealy. Look for some surprises from both sides tonight, particularly if Robin McElroy suits up for the Vikings. Lowndes, 14-13.

Last week's pick record was 18-2, which pushed the overall record to an 81 percent mark of 146-34.

VALDOSTA AT ALBANY

The only thing Albany's Indians have going for them in

this game is the fact they've had a week off to get ready for it. Albany has two capable running backs, a whole lot of heart and a 2-6 season record. That's not going to be near enough against a Valdosta team which put together its best overall performance of the season against Tift a week ago.

The Wildcats need this game to finish their north subregion play with a perfect 5-0 mark. That could slip to 4-1 if Tuesday's appeal goes against them but unless Crisp upsets Tift tonight, that appeal isn't going to make a whole lot of difference.

If Crisp does beat Tift, that could set up a three-way tie for the subregion crown between Valdosta, Crisp and Dougherty, all with 4-1 records. Again, that's if the appeal overturns Valdosta's first two wins of the season.

Dougherty would probably end up with the best regular season record of the three and could slip right into the region championship game.

Whether the appeal goes against them or not, the 'Cats have won more games on the field than any team in the region this year. And it looks like they're going to win another one Saturday night. Valdosta, 42-14.

BERRIEN AT IRWIN

Irwin's Indians have won three straight games, and Berrien's Rebels have lost three straight. Irwin may still have a slight chance to catch Jeff Davis in the Region 2-A (South) race but the Rebels have a chance for nothing more than two wins to round out their season.

A 5-5 year wouldn't be a total loss for Foy Norwood but Irwin's going to spoil the chances of that tonight. Irwin, 24-14.



Mike Chason
Times Sports Editor

CAIRO AT BROOKS

Cairo's Syrupmakers have had their problems this year but nobody needs to tell Ed Hayes about problems. In eight games, he's had seven Excedrin headaches. Cairo comes to Quitman with two wins on the season, including a narrow decision over Cook last week. Here's a cure for Ed's headache, Brooks 14-7.

CLINCH AT BACON

A win tonight would guarantee Donald Tison of his third straight winning season at Clinch County. His Panthers have been a roller-coaster type club all year long and I'm betting they're going to roll up against Jeff Davis next week with a 6-3 record. Clinch, 22-20.

FITZGERALD AT COOK

What can I say? For the second year in a row, Cook is 0-8 at this point in the season. But the Hornets did put two

touchdowns on the board against Cairo and have a definite chance to beat Fitzgerald tonight. But the Hurricane wants a win too. Fitzgerald, 10-7.

WAKULLA AT HAMILTON

Hamilton County's Trojans set off an avalanche of points against Keystone last week. Coy Whitener just hopes there's at least a small landslide left for Wakulla tonight. The Trojans are really pointing toward Lake Butler next week. Don't look ahead Wakulla, 20-14.

MADISON AT SANTA FE

It wouldn't be out of the question for Madison to win its second game of the season tonight. But playing on the road is never conducive to victory for anybody. And when you're 1-6, you need everything you can get. Santa Fe, 27-21.

BROOKWOOD AT WESTBROOK

Brookwood's not headed for any state championship this year but neither is Westbrook. It's the Cougars' last game of a long 2-7 season, and Buddy Ethridge would like nothing better than to set the wheels in motion for next year. He's going to have to wait six months however. Brookwood, 21-10.

OTHER GAMES

Lowndes' fans will have an ear out for the Thomasville-Moultrie score tonight while Valdosta followers have their eye on the Crisp-Tift matchup. Upsets may be in the November wind, but I'm picking Thomasville and Tift.

Also, Central over Westover, Dougherty over Monroe, Appling over Coffee, Waycross over Camden, Ware over Worth, Early over Seminole, Charlton over Atkinson, Blackshear over Brantley and Darlington over Villa Rica.

LHS, VHS Home Slates Attractive

Times 5-24-77

By MIKE CHASON

Valdosta and Lowndes feature attractive home slates according to the Georgia High School Association 1977 football schedule released Monday.

Both teams are to campaign in Region 1-AAA again although the region is to be sub-divided for the first time this year.

Valdosta's Wildcats are included in the north subregion along with Albany, Crisp County (Cordele), Dougherty (Albany), Tift County (Tifton) and Monroe (Albany).

Lowndes' Vikings are to compete in the south subregion against Bainbridge, Central of Thomasville, Moultrie, Thomasville, and Westover (Albany).

At the end of the season, the two subregion winners meet in a game to decide the region champion. The winner of that game moves on to the state playoffs.

Valdosta meets Bainbridge, Dougherty, Moultrie, Tift and Westover at home while Lowndes hosts Moultrie, Central of Thomasville, Albany, Valdosta and Bainbridge.

Valdosta's Wildcats, 9-2 last year, open their season Sept. 9 in Cordele against Crisp County.

On Sept. 16, Valdosta returns to Cleveland Field here for its home opener against Bainbridge. The 'Cats hit the road to always tough Thomasville Sept. 23 before another rugged contest at home on Sept. 30 against Dougherty.

Valdosta travels to Albany Oct. 7 to face Monroe's Golden Tornadoes. On Oct. 14, Moultrie's Packers, expected to be fully recovered from a rebuilding year, visit Cleveland Field for what might be one of the top games of the season.

On Oct. 21, the annual intra-county rivalry between Lowndes and Valdosta is to be staged at LHS's Martin Stadium. Tift County invades Cleveland Field for an Oct. 28 matchup before the 'Cats travel to Albany for a Saturday night game against Albany High on Nov. 5.

Valdosta closes out its season at home against Westover on Nov. 11.

Under first year head coach Joe Wilson, Lowndes' Vikings piled up eight wins against two losses last season. The record was the best in the school's football history.

The Vikes open their season on Sept. 2 against Tift County

on the road in the top attraction of the first week.

Lowndes stays on the road for a Sept. 9 game against Monroe before returning to Martin Stadium for its first subregion game Sept. 16 against Moultrie.

If preseason predictions hold up, that game could go a long way toward deciding the eventual subregion champ.

The Vikings host another subregion power, Central of Thomasville, on Sept. 23 before taking a week off.

On Oct. 7, Lowndes plays its third straight home game against Albany. On Saturday, Oct. 15, the Vikes battle Westover in Albany.

After taking Valdosta right down to the final gun in a 14-3 game last season, Lowndes is undoubtedly looking forward to the Oct. 21 game on its own turf against those same Wildcats.

The Vikings wind down their season with a game on Oct. 28 in Cordele against Crisp, a game on Nov. 4 at home against Bainbridge, and what promises to be a real test against Thomasville on the road Nov. 11.

The first round of the state playoffs is scheduled for Nov. 25-26. The semifinal playoff games are set for Dec. 2-3.

State championships are slated for Dec. 10.

'Cats Wrap Up Title In North Subregion



Valdosta's Buck Belue Slides Through Indians' Defense

By MARTIN REGISTER

ALBANY — Valdosta's Wildcats capitalized on a rash of first-half errors by Albany's Indians and rolled to a 41-6 romp over the Tribe in a Region 1-AAA high school football game here Saturday night.

The victory earned Coach Nick Hyder's 'Cats the championship of the

YARDSTICK

	Valdosta	Albany
First Downs	16	3
Yards Rushing	200	26
Yards Passing	73	29
Passes	5-17	3-10
Passes Incl. By	3	0
Fumbles Lost	1	4
Punting	3-42.0	4-45.3
Penalties	6-40	7-57

league's northern division, while improving their season record to 8-1.

Senior quarterback Buck Belue piled up 63 yards rushing, scored three touchdowns and struck for 73 yards through the air, despite playing slightly more than two quarters on a rainy, dreary Georgia night.

Albany's comedy began on the opening kickoff, when its quarterback, Jim Lightle, bobbled a handoff attempt on his own 17 yard-line.

Belue scored his first touchdown minutes later on a 3-yard run. Robert Baldwin's PAT split the uprights, and Valdosta had a 7-0 lead.

But the rain began shortly afterwards, and Albany added new meaning to the old proverb "when it rains, it pours."

Before the first quarter was over, Albany had given up four fumbles and a pass

interception.

At the half, the Tribe had presented the Wildcats the pigskin seven times via mistakes.

Valdosta didn't argue, and turned four of the turnovers into scores.

Lightle again mishandled a handoff attempt late in the first quarter, this time deep in Indian territory at the 5-yard line.

Two plays later, Frank Council zipped up the middle from 2 yards out for a Wildcat touchdown.

There was no lightning in the sky, but the Indians may have been difficult to convince after they fumbled the following kickoff.

It took Belue just one play to find Melvin Hunter 12 yards away in the end zone, and Valdosta took a commanding 21-0 lead at the end of the quarter.

Two other short Valdosta drives following turnovers fizzled short of paydirt, but the Wildcats proved they could, after all, move on their own when they launched a sustained 78-yard scoring drive midway the second period.

Passes from Belue to Robert Smith, of 30 and 17

on the next play.

The Indians' Jeff Stansell gathered in the kickoff and romped 90 yards through the Valdosta defense to score.

But Baldwin came back for Valdosta, intercepting another Lightle pass and racing 32 yards to score shortly before the half.

That made the score 34-6, and for all practical purposes, the game was over.

Valdosta scored once more in the second half, grinding out 67 yards early in the third quarter.

Belue turned a busted play into a touchdown, finding daylight and sliding 22 yards to stumble into the end zone on fourth down.

Hyder substituted freely after that, saying later that he "wanted to give everybody a chance to play."

"The boys got fired up," said an obviously pleased Hyder after the game. "Some of the seniors said that this would be the last time they got to come up here, unless they came to watch."

"The youngsters were just ready to play. I think it's a step in the right direction."

negated any effect Tuesday's meeting of the Georgia High School Association's Executive committee might have on the league title.

If an earlier decision by the GHSA Appeals board is overturned and the Wildcats must forfeit wins over Crisp County and Bainbridge, they would still win the north subregion crown.

In that event, Valdosta and Dougherty would have matching 4-1 division records. Since Valdosta defeated Dougherty in their regular season matchup, the Wildcats would retain the title.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Valdosta — Belue 13-63, Council 10-30, Smith 3-25, Gaskins 7-21, Bond 5-20, Lastinger 2-14, Hunter 2-12, Welch 5-10, Wilcox 2-5, Kind 1-4, Washington 1-1, Fletcher 1 minus 2, Morris 1 minus 3, Albany — Williams 5-18, Montgomery 5-14, Duckworth 5-3, Mackson 1-3, Lightle 1 minus 4, Anderson 3 minus 8.
Passing: Valdosta — Belue 5-10-73, Bond 0-7-0-0, Albany — Lightle 3-10-3-29.
Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Smith 2-47, Lastinger 1-14, Hunter 1-12, Albany — Williams 1-20, Washington 1-12, Montgomery 1-3.
Punt Returns: Valdosta — no returns; Albany — Montgomery 1-0.
Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — Council 2-42; Albany — Stansell 3-131, Lippitt 1-16, Montgomery 1-9, Williams 1-1.
Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Rickman 3, Harrison 3, Thomas 2, C. Johnson 2, Skelton 3.

Valdosta Comeback Nips Dougherty, 15-14

Fla. Times 10-1-77

By DAVE RONNINGEN Times-Union Staff Writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Valdosta's Wildcats took advantage of an alert defense, a well-portioned mix of running and passing and enemy miscues to parlay the formula into a second-half comeback and a 15-14 victory over the Albany Dougherty Trojans at Cleveland Field Friday night.

The win propelled Valdosta back into the Region 1-AAA North subregion title chase. The Wildcats are 1-1 and 2-2 overall while Dougherty is 2-1 in the subregion and 3-1 in all games.

The winning points were tallied with 1:35 remaining in the game on a 23-yard field goal by Robert Baldwin, who redeemed himself after missing

an extra point try in the third quarter. The score was set up when Allen Worthy intercepted a Dougherty pass on the visitors' 38-yard line. The Valdosta offensive push was highlighted by a 15-yard pass from quarterback Buck Belue to John Lastinger, which ended at the 13-yard stripe with a fourth-and-two situation staring at the 'Cats. Baldwin then kicked the

field goal.

Another scoring opportunity was handed Valdosta earlier in the quarter when Frank Council recovered a Dougherty fumble by Randy Jenkins on the Trojan seven-yard line. William Gaskins went the seven yards on the next play to score. A two-point pass try failed and the score was 14-12, Dougherty.

The Trojans held a 14-0 halftime lead, sparked by several long runs by halfback Seedric Moss. Dougherty put together drives of 78 and 84 yards for both scores in the first half.

The first touchdown came on a one-yard plunge by quarterback Jerry Aubin. The play was set up by Aubin's 37-yard pass to Tom Jones. Moss had runs of 12 and 13 yards in

the drive. He scampered 34, 27, 16 and 10 yards in the second drive, which was capped by Aubin's four-yard pass to Jones.

Valdosta came back on the first series in the second half to score its initial touchdown, driving 72 yards with Belue connecting with Council on a seven-yard pass play.

Times 10-7-77

Valdosta, Lowndes Are Among Predicted Winners

Valdosta's Wildcats face two critical situations in Albany today. The first was probably decided sometime this morning when the Georgia High School Association Appeal Board ruled on Valdosta's appeal of the forfeiture of its first two games.

If the Wildcats gain the affirmative nod from that board and have the two forfeits erased, Monroe's Tornados can expect to get blown off the field tonight. Valdosta will again have the number one ranking in the state on its mind when it touches the turf at Mills Stadium.

If the board votes to uphold the forfeits and leave the Cats with a 2-2 record, Monroe can still expect to get the axe, but by a gentler executioner. It's just not as much fun being 3-2 as it is 5-0.

But no matter which way the board leans, Valdosta needs the Region 1-AAA (North) victory. More and more folks are talking about the possibility of Crisp County upsetting either Tift or Dougherty and winning the rest of its subregion games, leaving the Cougars with a 4-1 subregion record.

Provided Dougherty and Valdosta win the rest of their subregion games, that would leave all three with matching 4-1 records. The next criteria for deciding the subregion champion would be season records. Dougherty could go 9-1, Valdosta could go 8-2 and Crisp should go something short of either one. That situation could elevate Dougherty into the region championship game.

But there's another half to this season, and nobody's sure of anything yet.

One sure bet is that Valdosta is going to win tonight... by a 35-0 margin without the forfeits and by a 28-3 margin with the forfeits.

ALBANY AT LOWNDES

Joe Wilson has cried wolf so often a lot of people don't listen anymore. Tonight is a night when Wilson's words of woe might have some foundation.

Lowndes is a banged-up football team that can be beaten. Central proved that rather convincingly. The "never-give-an-inch" defense gave up miles of Martin Stadium turf in that 42-8 rout.

But the time is two weeks later. The opponent is a 2-3 Albany team instead of an explosive Central outfit, and the Vikings are determined to regain some of their battered pride.

But it won't be easy. Albany's coming down here with war paint and battle feathers flying high after a shocking win over Moultrie last week. The Indians aren't supposed to throw much, but they do run... and run... and run.

The Vikings have something to prove tonight, and they should by a 24-10 margin.

JEFF DAVIS AT BERRIEN

This writer's 13-7 pick record was bad enough last week without a certain TV station giving the wrong score on the Berrien-Brantley game. The guy had me believing the Herons had upset Foy Norwood's Rebels.

But the truth came out, and Berrien's win raised my



overall record to 79-21 for an easy-to-figure 79 per cent. Berrien could take a giant step toward the Region 2-A (South) subregion title tonight if Jeff Davis cooperates. But the Yellow Jackets have been known to give nasty bites. The Rebs don't have enough 6-12. Jeff Davis, 20-17.

BROOKS AT WAYCROSS

Waycross is 4-0 this season and marching toward a big game with Appling in two weeks.

Brooks is 1-3 and about to march into a Bulldog doghouse where just the bark might be enough to post a touchdown or two on the board.

Waycross gets the nod, 36-6.

BRANTLEY AT CLINCH

Clinch County's Panthers have won, lost, won and lost. Brantley has lost, lost, tied and lost.

It's time for a Panther victory and a you-know-what for the Herons. Clinch, 21-0.

FLORIDA HIGH AT MADISON

It would be nice to predict a win for winless Madison, and tonight would probably be as good a time as any to put one in the "W" column.

But until the Cougars prove they can win, it doesn't do a forecaster's average any good to put them on the high side of the scoreboard. Florida High, 18-6.

TIFTAREA AT WESTBROOK

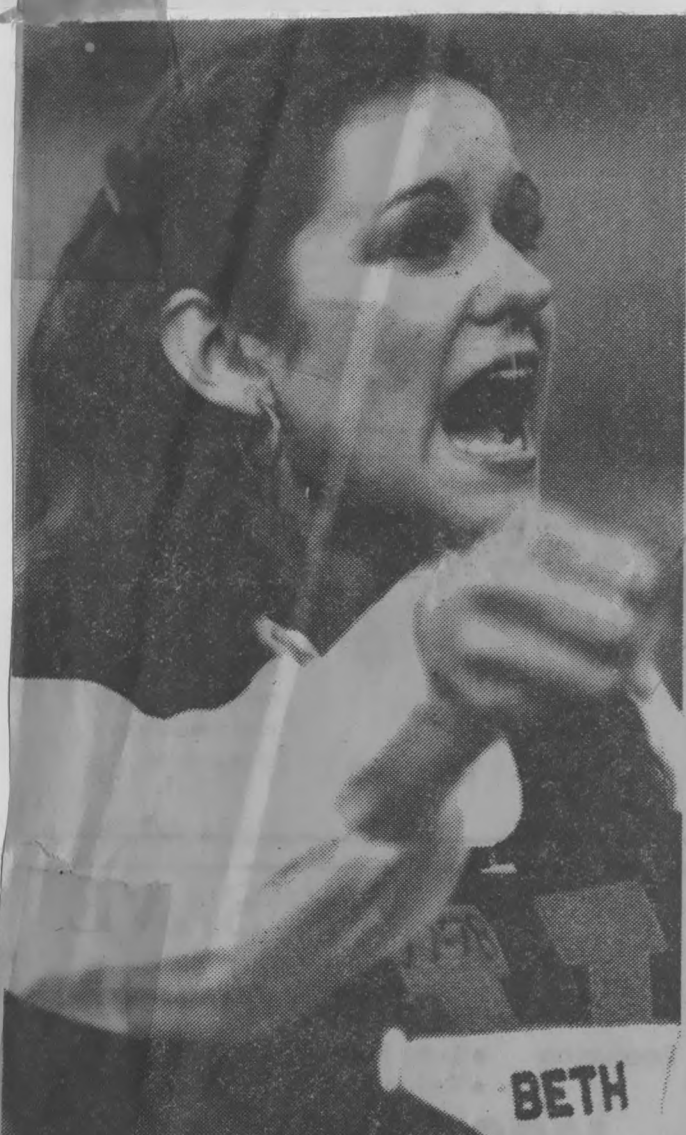
Westbrook's Cougars destroyed Tiftarea 47-0 a year ago. But that was last year. This season the Cougars are struggling to a 1-5 tune.

Sad to say it could very well be 1-6 after tonight. Maybe, Tiftarea, 15-14.

OTHER GAMES

Central of Thomasville meets Tift County in Tifton tonight in what could be a whale of a game. Both teams have been winning as of late, but the Yellow Jackets have been more impressive. Central, 20-17.

Also, Thomasville over Bainbridge, Moultrie over Westover, Dougherty over Crisp, Ware over Cairo, Coffee over Camden, Worth over Turner, Americus over Dublin, Seminole over Lee, Irwin over Blackshear, Charlton over Bacon, Atkinson over Patterson and East Rome over Villa Rica.



High School Football More Than A Game

On a hot, Indian summer night in September, over 15,000 persons in Lowndes County braved the humidity and the chance of a thunderstorm to watch high school-age boys sock it to each other on a 100-yard long expanse of soft, green turf.

Just under 9,000 of that number were sitting not 100 yards from the Georgia pipeline to Florida, Interstate 75. They came to see a former loser get its revenge on a former winner for the second year in a row.

Not five miles away in a city where there are no strangers, two more solidly built groups of youngsters matched their skills before a faithful band of over 6,000.

The name of the game is high school football but in this slice of the Old South, don't tell anybody it's just a game.

To those two crowds of 15,000-plus fans, it's more than that... much, much more.

"Football keeps families together," Lowndes High School head coach Joe Wilson said. "They can't be fussin' and fighting on Friday nights if they're at the football game. And they know where their kids are besides."

"People in Valdosta love their high school football, and I like that," Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said. "People

just don't realize how much their support means to

To Valdosta, in particular, what that support means is enough dollars in the bank to boost the athletic program through the entire school year.

Football pays the bills.

In a tradition as deep-rooted as azaleas in the South, Valdosta has always had good high school football. And the people of Valdosta have always turned out those teams.

Lowndes is a relative newcomer to prep football, but in the last two years, it too has seen wins on the field equal fans in the stands and cash in the register.

But football is more.

The game would just not be the same without the band. Most Valdosta and Lowndes fans would as soon fetch popcorn during the action on the field as miss the performance of their bands at halftime.

The Valdosta fight song is one that carves itself in the minds of visiting opponents and never allows them to forget their trip to Cleveland Field, formerly called "Death Valley" and known to be inhabited by a ghost. Regularly makes good things happen for the Wildcats.

When the Marching Vikings strike up with "That Good Old Mountain Dew," the Lowndes' side of Martin Stadium erupts into a welcoming roar of approval for the crimson and silver-clad team which follows it on the field.

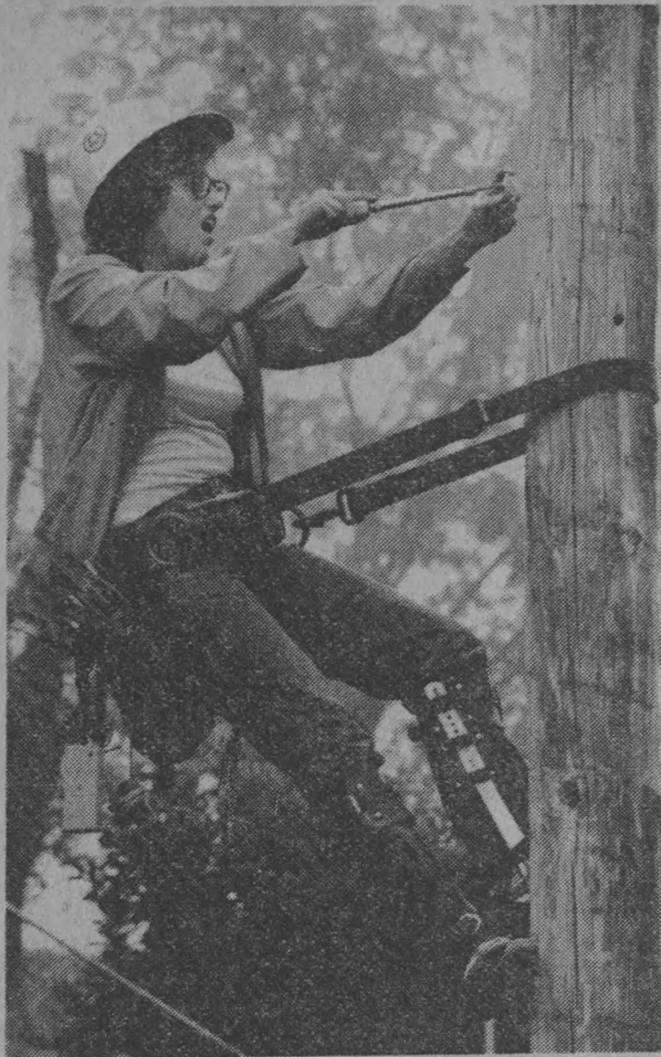
But football is more.

Each school features flag girls and baton twirlers who don't wear white boots and tassels anymore, but still

Story By Mike Chason
Photos By Ken Klanicki
And Robert Winter III

(See High School on Page 1b)





Vickie Mathis: 'Got To Want To'

Girls Club Tells Program For Fall

The Valdosta Girls Club has planned a full schedule of clubs for the fall program, according to Suzanne Ballard, executive director. Club hours are 3-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. "Each girl is expected to sign up for three activities per quarter," said Mrs. Ballard.

Audrey Haire: — 4:30-5:30 p.m. Karate, Roy Davis: — 6-7 p.m., Karate, all ages, Ron Meadows.

TUESDAY: 4-5 p.m. Cooking, ages 6,7,8, Audrey Haire: 3-5:30 p.m. Recreation, all ages, Liz Smith: 3-5:30 p.m. G

Redhead Climbs Poles To Earn Bread

By VIRGINIA CULPEPPER

Some women climb the social ladder and others climb mountains but a left-handed redhead young Valdosta woman climbs poles to put bread on the table for herself and her daughter.

She's Vickie Mathis, 26, and she's employed by Southern Bell Telephone Company as an installer.

Lithe and limber, the five-foot-six redhead adds an extra score of pounds when she straps on all her gear before she goes up on a telephone pole.

It's hot in summer, cold in winter and wet during a rain, she admits, with a grin. But for Vickie, it's a way of earning a living for 7-year-old Bobbi Jo and herself.

"For a year," said Mrs. Mathis, "my legs would shake when I climbed up and down a pole. And that's in spite of the fact my Daddy used to call me a tomboy because I liked to climb trees when I was growing up."

She got her training in Atlanta where there were a few other women in the telephone company's school.

"One of them couldn't hack it," said she, "and quit before the program was over. But one was 36 and still going strong, so I wouldn't say that older women can't make it in this kind of job."

"Of course, you've got to want to do it. I have to earn a living for us and I like it. It's

features PEOPLE and PLACES

Virginia Culpepper, Editor

got disadvantages, but what job doesn't.

"The heat is tremendous in summer and last winter when it snowed I like to have frozen, in spite of my thermal underwear," she continued.

"And, yes, it's kinda dangerous. I lost the end of my finger to a German shepherd," she said, extending a hand to show it. "And I've had creosote burns on my hands. I've been stung by wasps and I'm a target for gnats."

"It's wet when it rains, but unless it's thundering or lightning, we keep on working. The reason we come down during a thunderstorm is for fear of our hair getting redder and frizzier," she grinned.

But being up in the air over her job isn't the only hazard she experiences. There's also a lot of crawling under houses she has to do.

"I've found snakes and frogs under the houses, and once I nearly made a new exit hole getting out when I saw a snake."

"If there's anything to get into, I seem to do it. Once some kids were playing a game something like cops and robbers and they saw me under the house. They said they'd 'arrested' me and had me in jail."

"But when I got through doing my work, they wouldn't let me out. They had closed up the crawl hole from the outside and I couldn't get it open. I yelled and banged for the longest time before someone came along and let me out."

"I guess part of my job is just plain being able to survive."

There are other aspects to her job than climbing poles or crawling under houses.

She installs one and two-line phones in new houses (much easier) as well as in older houses, puts in radio loops for broadcasting ball games, etc., provides lines for alarm systems and wires in small switchboard installations in offices.

When there's a sales contest on, she has an op-

portunity to sell additional telephones to householders.

She likes working with "this great bunch of guys. They say do it like this and if you don't..."

"We go wherever the work sheet calls for us to go. Some days it may be Naylor or Clyattville or Troupville and another day it might be here in Valdosta or out in the county."

"I intend to keep on with my job, I like it and it isn't causing any physical problems. A lot of females could do this job — but you have to be kinda bouncy," she grinned.

"And my boss, whose hair used to be black, does have some gray hairs now," she said, putting on her safety glasses and hard hat.

When she's at home in her new house, where her brother also lives, she's apt to be

doing embroidery or quilting, typically feminine, or making plans for attending the next Parent-Teacher Organization meeting, in typical mother

Injury Rate High For Kids

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Accidents involving motor vehicles accounted for 82 percent of pelvic fractures in children, according to an X-ray and patients' chart survey conducted by a radiologist in this Canadian city.

The study, conducted between 1966 and 1974, found that in nearly two-thirds of the accidents, the child was a pedestrian. Other studies already show that adults have fewer pedestrian injuries than children.

In his study, Dr. Martin H. Reed of the Health Sciences Children's Center reviewed

the radiographs and charts of all patients 16 years of age and younger that were seen with pelvic fractures at the hospital. During the nine-year study period, Dr. Reed found 84 vehicle-related pelvic fractures. Although pelvic fractures represent less than five percent of all children's injuries at the hospital, Dr. Reed says, "they are important because they contribute significantly to morbidity and mortality in severe trauma and are often associated with other serious injuries."

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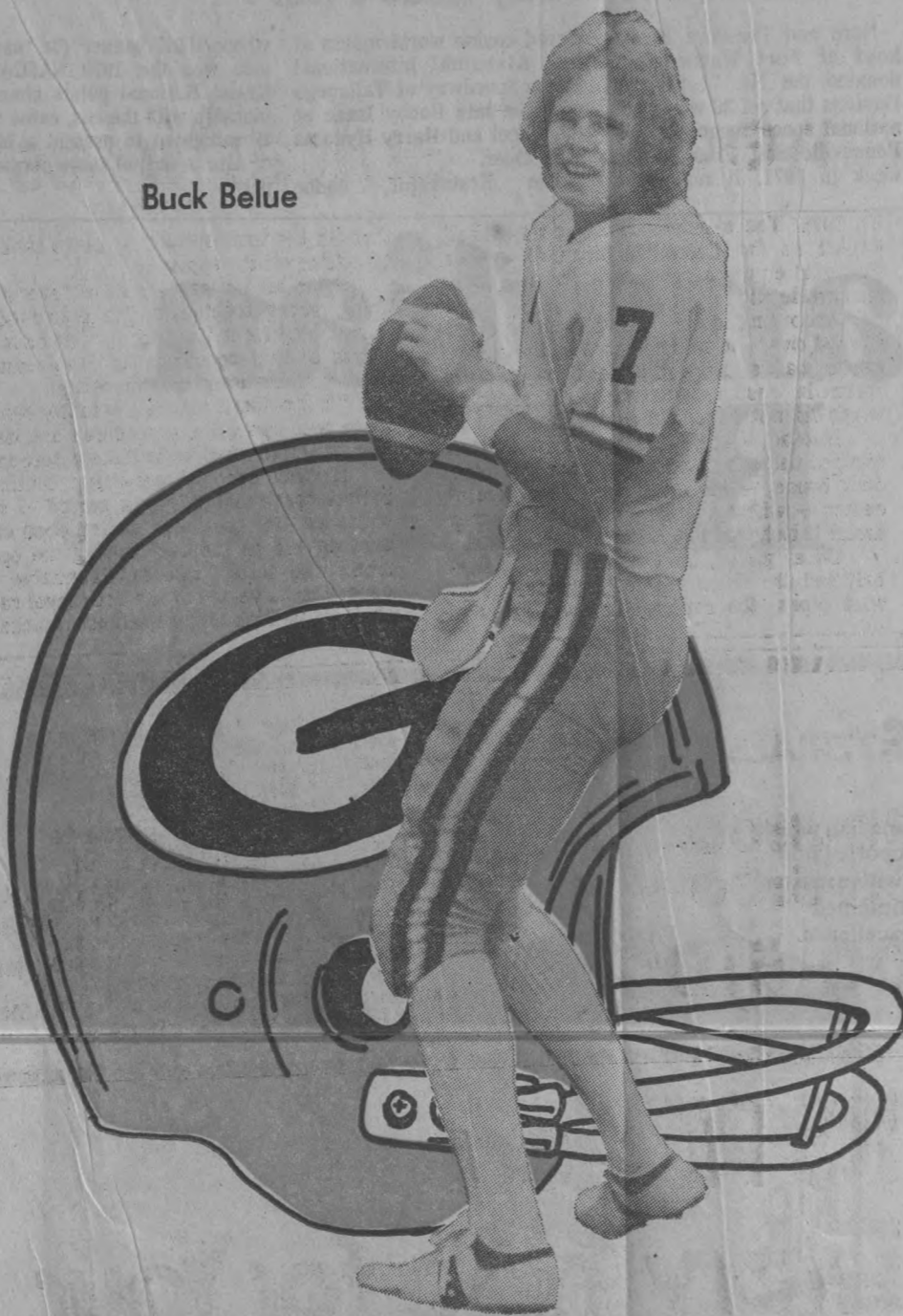
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Buck Belue



The Quest

The recruiting battle for Valdosta's star quarterback Buck Belue is apparently over. The youngster will sign with the University of Georgia this week to end it all. However, it won't end the stories about the efforts to sign him. But why didn't Farrah Fawcett-Majors really call?

By BILL BRYANT

Some of the stories that have been told and will be told about the recruiting of Valdosta quarterback Benjamin Franklin "Buck" Belue are simply hard to believe.

That's because some of them don't have a shred of truth to them.

But some, equally as incredulous, are the plain gospel.

Belue has said he will end one of the most intensive recruiting efforts ever staged in the state for a high school football star by signing a Southeastern Conference letter of intent with Georgia on Saturday. The quest for the 6-1, 185-pound youngster who accounted for 6,164 yards in his 47 games at Valdosta, will be over.

Just as the recruiting from schools outside the South that do not honor the SEC letter of intent will likely continue, so will the tales go on of what some have done in the last four months in order to get his name on a piece of paper.

One of the stories circulating goes so far as to suggest a business deal coincidentally swung the way of Buck's father by the Georgia athletic department was highly influential in swaying Belue's decision. Supposedly, Ben Belue, a representative for the Josten ring company in Valdosta, was given the ring order Georgia placed for its players in last year's Sugar Bowl. The commission on an order like that would, of course, be a sizeable one.

Complete fabrication. That's what Georgia Athletic Director Joel Eaves said to that story, explaining the order went to Herff-Jones, not Josten. Nonsense, says Bobby Carrell, who is Josten's agent in Northeast Georgia and whose bid was turned down by Eaves.

Then there is the one prominent

The Atlanta Journal SPORTS

**** 1-D

Valdosta businessman passed along about Buck being promised in no uncertain terms by one head coach the Heisman Trophy by his junior season should he decide to cast his lot with his institution. Others promised to change their offense to accommodate Belue's style. Both probably true.

They say Farrah Fawcett-Majors was even lending her charms to the Belue sale on behalf of husband Lee Majors and the University of Tennessee. It seems that Lee is a friend of Volunteer Coach Johnny Majors, and even took his acting name from his boyhood idol when he went to Hollywood. Buck does have one of those Farrah posters on his bedroom wall and says, "I would have sure listened to her if she had called." But she didn't.

Gov. George Busbee and U.S. Sen. Herman Talmadge may not have the sex appeal of FF-M, but they, too, are said to have lobbied for Belue's enrollment—at Georgia, of course. True.

When Belue arrived in Athens Saturday for the Class AAA state championship, he picked up

a six inch high stack of letters, cards and telegrams, along with his hotel room key. Included were messages from Busbee and Talmadge. There was also one from Athens Mayor Upshaw Bentley, who said he hoped Valdosta lost to Clarke Central later that night, but that he also hoped Buck would decide on Georgia.

The Wildcats did and Buck has. He says he will make it official Saturday at his home on Wendover Drive.

It's a comfortable house, one filled with reminders of Belue's football and baseball accomplishments, and with three other little Belues—a younger sister, and two younger brothers.

For the last four months it has also been filled with college recruiters after a handsome, golden-haired quarterback with the arm of a Gatling gun.

"We have two separate phone lines here, and some of the recruiters had both numbers," Mrs. Sandra Belue said. "Sometimes Ben would be talking to a recruiter on one line and Buck would be on the other phone and the door bell would ring and there would be another one. It's been a little hectic around here."

"It's been a long time since we had any family life," she said. "I don't think you can anticipate it. We had been told how it would be, but until you go through it you never realize how it will be."

Occasionally, all the ringing of telephones and doorbells drove Buck away from his own house. "Sometimes at night I'd just leave if I got tired," he said. Sometimes he'd sneak away to his girlfriend's farm outside of town and they would go horseback riding. "Gretchen (Scruggs)

See BELUE, Page 6-D

Noteworthy Lindbergh's 'Spirit' To Land In T'ville

THOMASVILLE — Thomasville is to be one of three Georgia cities on the national Charles A. Lindbergh's "Spirit of St. Louis" commemorative tour this month.

The tour, which includes 104 cities in the 49 continental United States, comes to Thomasville at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 11 when a replica of Lindbergh's "Spirit" lands at Thomasville Municipal Airport.

The airplane is to remain in Thomasville for several hours, open to public view, before taking off for Tampa, Fla.

The replica being flown on the commemorative tour was built and is owned by the Experimental Aircraft Association Foundation of Franklin, Wis.

Purpose of the tour is to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Lindbergh's historic solo flight from New York to Paris in May, 1927.

The airplane was certificated by the Federal Aviation Administration and first flown on this year March 22. Its first stop in the four-month nationwide tour was Hartford, Conn., on June 15.

James Dekle is in charge of local arrangements for the flight.

The tour is free and totally non-commercial.

Park Plays

Thursday at 6 p.m. at McKey Park the Lowndes County Arts Commission is to perform two one-act plays by Anton Chekhov: "The Bear" and "The Proposal." Admission is free, according to Steve Wise, director.

The plays are to be performed later for various high schools in the South Georgia area.

Hygienist Honored

ALBANY — Christy Elizabeth (Beth) Martin was recently elected by her classmates to serve as president of the Albany Junior College Junior American Dental Hygienists' Association.

Miss Martin is in her fifth quarter at A.J.C. She was graduated from Lowndes High School with honors.

She is the daughter of Mrs. C.F. Martin of Hahira.

Art Student Wins

WAYCROSS — David Jackson, senior art major from Albany, won first place in sculpture for his marble whale relief sculpture at the Waycross Art Association Annual

Southern Leisure: Seasoned Park Weekend Planned

EDITOR'S NOTE: Of special interest to area residents are the following events which are to take place within a driving radius of Valdosta.

CHATSWORTH — Seasonal change will highlight a special weekend, Oct. 14-16, at Fort Mountain State Park near Chatsworth, says Henry D. Struble, Director of the Parks and Historic Sites Division of Georgia's Department of Natural Resources.

Programs dealing with bird migration, wildflowers of the fall season and photographic techniques are to be offered.

The park is seven miles southeast of Chatsworth, by way of U.S. Highway 76 and Georgia Highway 52. For a schedule of events contact the Office of Information and Education and ask about the "Time for Change" special weekend.

PLAINS — Original artistic creations are to be the main attraction during the Plains Arts 'n Crafts Festival scheduled to take place in this Southwest Georgia town on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 15-16.

All of the arts and crafts on display at the Williams Peanut Trailer Yard adjacent to Plains High School are to be offered for sale, according to festival chairman, Henry Coleman.

Hours are 10 a.m. until dark Oct. 15, and 12 noon until dark on Oct. 16. Admission to the show is to be \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children under 12. All children under 6 years of age admitted free of charge.

Special features planned for the two-day festival in-

features PEOPLE and PLACES Virginia Culpepper, Editor

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. — The 1977 Designers' Show House and Gardens, sponsored by The Guild of the Jacksonville Symphony Association, is to take place at 2252 River Road in Jacksonville.

The Swisher Estate, home of the late Carl Swisher, has been made available to The Guild through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wilcox.

The house is said to be one of Jacksonville's most beautiful landmarks. Built in 1929, it is traditionally Spanish in style, and overlooks the St. Johns River. Many designers and volunteers have donated their time, talent and services to redecorate, furnish and landscape the house and gardens.

The Show House is to be open to the public beginning today, for three weeks through Oct. 30. Hours are to be 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on weekdays, 12 noon-5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, and 4 p.m.-9 p.m. on Thursday evenings.

Tickets are available at the door for \$3.50. Group ticket prices are available upon request.

Special features of the Show House are Symphony Ensemble Tea Concerts on Monday and Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 4

for the workshops, and space is limited. Call the Show House to reserve a spot.

DOUGLAS — Grand Ole Opry stars are to come to South Georgia Oct. 14-16 for a "Bluegrass Festival."

According to Ivan Williams, manager, Holiday Beach, included are to be: Bill Monroe and Bluegrass Boys; Lester Flatt and Nashville Grass; The Osborne Brothers; and Jim and Jessie and the Virginia Boys.

Other entertainers include: The Blue Ridge Gentlemen, The Byrd Family, J.D. Setzer and Lincoln County Partners, The East Coast Boys and Charlie D. Edge and Dixie Bluegrass.

The Bluegrass Festival is to run Oct. 14, 6 p.m.-midnight; Oct. 15, noon-midnight; and Oct. 16, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Tickets for the weekend are to be \$10 for adults and \$2 for children. Tickets for Oct. 14 are \$4 for adults; Oct. 15, \$6; Oct. 16, \$6. Tickets each day for children 4-12 are \$1.

Cook Pot To Flower Pot

Her Bouquets Can Be Eaten

TOKYO (AP) — Naoko Hatta likes pasta. But four years ago the oil crunch sent alarmed Japanese



Monday Night Performance

The Carl Ratcliff Dance Theatre of Atlanta is to perform here Monday at 8:15 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium at Valdosta State College. Sponsored by the VSC Concerts and Lectures Committee, it is open to the public at no charge. The six modern dance

professionals, organized in 1969, "believe that dance should communicate, through movement," and the performance should depend on form rather than elaborate costumes and scenery. — Special Photo.

Girl Scouts Are In Need Of Leaders

Girl Scouts are on the "ready" signal for fall activities but there's a lack of leaders to call the "go" signal.

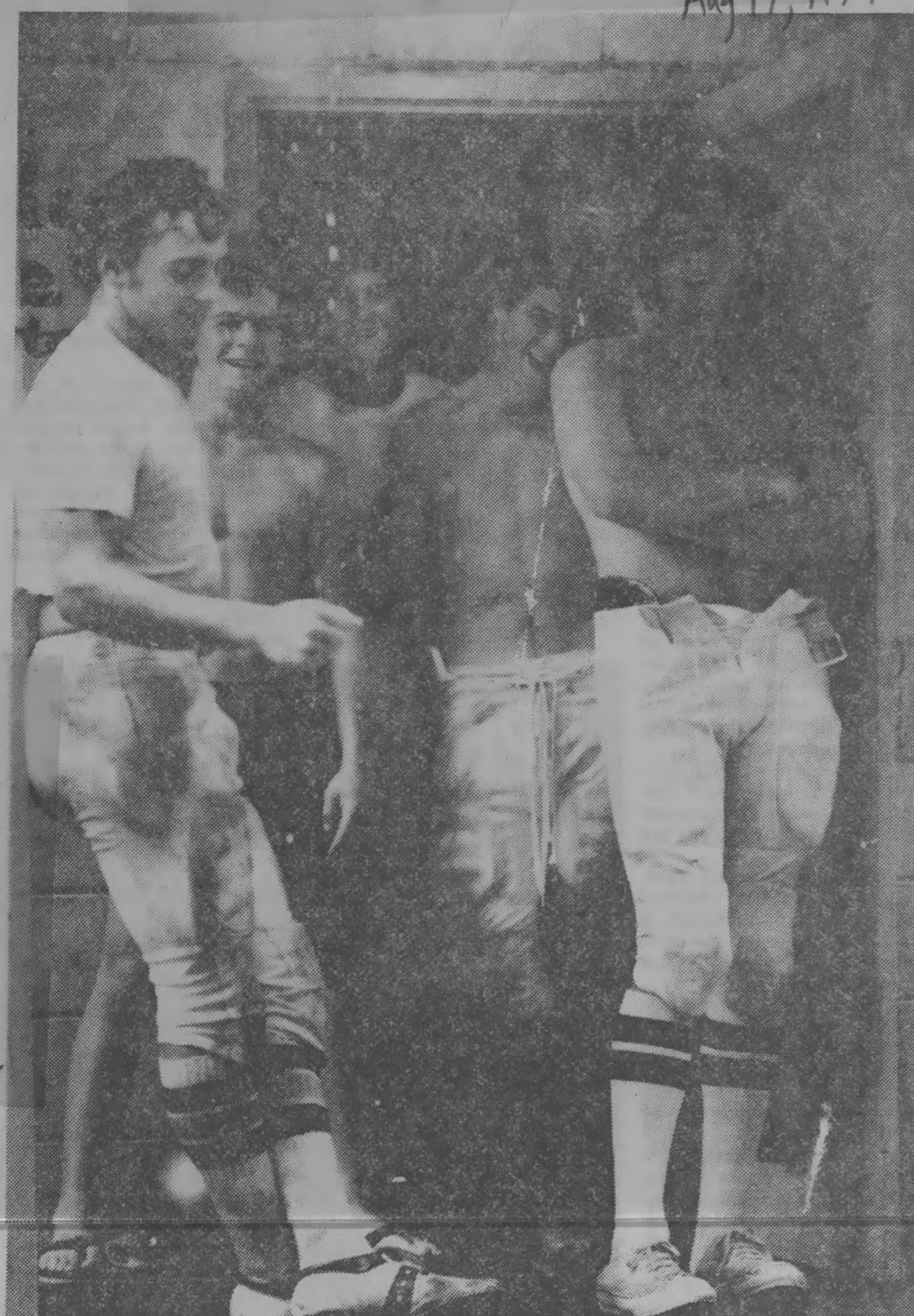
Virginia Roberts of Albany, Field Executive of the Flint River Girl Scout Council, was in Valdosta this week to help recruit leaders and assistant leaders.

"We are looking for women who are interested in girls," said Mrs. Roberts, speaking of the qualifications of leaders. "I guess the next most important attribute would be to have patience and to have a sense of humor

"But the main thing is to take an interest in girls and enjoy being with them."

"We need adults to work with girls ages 6-17. It's

Aug 17, 1977



And The Rains Came

Members of Valdosta High School's football team gather on the front porch of their barracks at the Lowndes County 4-H Camp to await some sunshine as they prepare for the 1977 high school football

season. The Wildcats annually hold their preseason training camp at the Twin Lakes facility. They are to hold another week of scrimmages next week before returning for the opening of school. — Times Staff Photo.

Lowndes' Thomas, Luke Sitting Atop Region 1-AAA Statistics

By Times Staff Writer
Lowndes' Steve Thomas took over the rushing lead in the latest Region 1-AAA football statistics, edging past former leader Roosevelt Andrews of Thomasville.

Meanwhile, Kenny Luke, the Lowndes quarterback, held onto the region passing lead despite having an off night against Central of Thomasville a week ago.

Thomas rushed for 77 yards in the Vikings' 42-8 loss to Central, giving him a total of 252 yards in four games. Andrews was held to 50 yards against Valdosta, and is in second place with 238 yards. However, Andrews has played in only three games.

Luke passed for just 43 yards against Central, giving him 447 yards for the year. Central quarterback Bernard Jackson slung the pigskin for 251 passing yards against Lowndes and moved into second place with 390 yards.

Valdosta's Buck Belue is fourth, with 298 yards. Lowndes' Nathaniel Burks still tops the league in pass receiving, with 253 yards worth of catches. Horace Smith of Central is second with 197 yards, 144 of them against Lowndes.

Jody Wilson of Lowndes, who did not play last week,

slipped from second to third, with 164 yards in pass receptions.

Belue tops the region in punting with a 38.25 average, followed by Lwondes' Jeff Stokes at 37.13.

Valdosta's Troy Thomas has a wide lead in punt returning, with seven returns for 177 yards.

RUSHING		
No.	Yds.	Avg.
1. Thomas, Lowndes	54	252 4.67
2. Andrews, Thomasville	42	238 5.67
3. Barney Jackson, Central	53	235 4.43
4. Williams, Albany	59	236 4.54
5. Ford, Crisp	31	234 7.55
6. Morris, Tift	47	216 4.59
7. Hudson, Westover	35	214 6.11
8. Moss, Dougherty	34	199 5.85
9. Mackey, Bainbridge	35	190 5.42
10. Hollis, Monroe	35	185 5.29
11. Sands, Moultrie	35	184 5.26
12. Duckworth, Albany	43	168 3.91
13. Montgomery, Albany	42	153 3.64
14. Close, Bainbridge	18	150 8.33
15. Boone, Dougherty	33	146 4.46
16. Harris, Central	29	141 4.86
17. Phillips, Moultrie	23	139 6.04
18. Fletcher, Valdosta	18	137 7.61
19. Crumley, Thomasville	23	130 5.65
20. King, Valdosta	9	118 13.11
21. Belue, Valdosta	23	109 4.74
22. Gaskins, Valdosta	23	106 4.24
23. Council, Valdosta	26	105 2.92
27. McElroy, Lowndes	19	99 5.21
41. Mashburn, Lowndes	8	40 5.00
43. Luke, Lowndes	43	32 0.74
46. Bond, Valdosta	9	24 2.67

PASSING		
Ath.	Comp.	Yds.
1. Luke, Lowndes	90	36 447
2. Bernard Jackson, Central	39	19 390
3. Carmichael, Tift	52	17 337
4. Belue, Valdosta	47	24 298
5. Shealy, Bainbridge	38	19 296
6. Aubin, Dougherty	35	17 281
7. Roche, Crisp	30	8 157
8. Johnson, Monroe	49	10 156
9. Best, Westover	18	8 131
10. Harris, Thomasville	24	9 113
13. Mashburn, Lowndes	1	1 58
15. Cooper, Lowndes	5	1 37

PASS RECEIVING		
Catches	Yds.	Td's
1. Burks, Lowndes	11	253 4
2. Smith, Central	8	197 1
3. Wilson, Lowndes	13	164 3
4. Terry, Tift	5	157 1
5. Walker, Bainbridge	5	119 0
6. Hopkins, Central	3	99 0
7. T. Jones, Dougherty	4	91 1
8. Smith, Valdosta	5	88 0
9. J. Jones, Dougherty	5	81 2
10. Strickland, Westover	6	79 0
15. Council, Valdosta	6	66 0

PASS INTERCEPTIONS		
Inter.	Yds.	
1. Bryant, Thomasville	1	97
2. Hagan, Central	1	52
3. Kirksey, Albany	1	50
4. Fuller, Monroe	2	49
5. Guyton, Central	1	44
8. Caesar, Valdosta	1	21

PUNTING		
No.	Yds.	Avg.
1. Belue, Valdosta	12	457 38.25
2. Stokes, Lowndes	15	557 37.13
3. Roche, Crisp	16	590 36.88
4. Close, Bainbridge	11	403 36.64
5. Thomson, Tift	22	762 34.64

PUNT RETURNS		
Ret.	Yds.	
1. Thomas, Valdosta	7	177
2. Hudson, Westover	3	77
3. Mackey, Bainbridge	3	62
4. Montgomery, Albany	3	61
5. McElroy, Lowndes	8	54
10. Jones, Lowndes	1	18

KICK-OFF RETURNS		
Ret.	Yds.	
1. Jackson, Crisp	11	340
2. Moss, Dougherty	5	184
3. Walker, Moultrie	5	134
4. Smith, Central	6	96

SCORING		
Td's	PAT's	Pts.
1. Barney Jackson, Central	5	0 30
2. Burks, Lowndes	4	2 26
3. Carmichael, Tift	4	0 24
4. Mackey, Bainbridge	4	0 24
5. Montgomery, Albany	3	0 18
6. Moss, Dougherty	3	0 18
7. Thomas, Valdosta	3	0 18
8. Harris, Central	3	0 18
9. Wilson, Lowndes	3	0 18
10. Boone, Dougherty	2	2 14
11. Belue, Valdosta	2	2 14
12. Bond, Valdosta	2	2 14
18. Fletcher, Valdosta	2	0 12
20. Luke, Lowndes	2	0 12
21. McElroy, Lowndes	2	0 12
24. Baldwin, Valdosta	0	8 11
26. Cooper, Lowndes	1	2 7

The Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., Sept. 30, 1977-15-



— Times Staff Photo.

VHS Gridders Get In The Mood As Camp Begins

'Dosta Starts Grid Camp In 'Typical' Fashion

Times 8-16-77

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta High School's Wildcats initiated their summer football camp in what head coach Nick Hyder called "typical" fashion near here Monday.

"It was just a typical first practice," Hyder said at the 4-H Club camp at Twin Lakes where the Wildcats retire annually for their two-week retreat. "The kids want to do it, but wearing equipment for the first time since March just makes it tough to adjust."

Relaxing at a picnic table only 100 yards from the lake's edge, Hyder reported 85 boys are on the Wildcat roster at present. For the first time in Hyder's four years as head coach, not a single freshman is included among that number.

"We've got about 60 freshmen working out back at the high school," Hyder pointed out, "but we just decided not to bring any of them to camp with us."

In 1974, Hyder brought a young freshman to camp who turned into his starting quarterback. Buck Belue is now a senior and working toward his final season in a Valdosta uniform.

Belue and his entire offensive backfield with the exception of fullback Bobby Johnson return this season. Hyder said Johnson had been declared academically ineligible.

Hyder said nine starters are back from last season's 9-2 team including Belue, halfback William Gaskins, tight end Alvin Thomas, offensive tackle Gary Guthrie, linebacker Robert Baldwin, defensive tackle Curtis Wright, defensive backs Troy Thomas and Lynn Roberts, and safety Allen Worth.

"Of course, we did play a lot of boys last year," Hyder said, "and that's why people expect us to have a good program. Some boys have started, but a lot of them haven't. I'll complete roster to date

follows:

Offense — ends Alvin Thomas (180, sr.), Mike Cross (160, sr.), Fredrick Blair (153, jr.), Bart Baggett (123, soph.), Craig Loftin (130, jr.), Mark Lampert (136, jr.), Kenny Washington (156, sr.), Greg Turner (161, sr.), Willie Hankins (174, soph.), tackles Cass Burch (205, jr.), Scott Griffin (190, jr.), Homer Hardin (220, sr.), Harvey Carter (177, soph.), Doug McQuig (240, jr.), Gary Guthrie (220, sr.).

Guards Randy Jones (160, jr.), Frank Beacham (170, jr.), Tim Townsend (148, soph.), Billy Harvey (165, jr.), Darcy Blow (151, soph.), Kevin Pittman (140, jr.), Rob Register (167, jr.), Russ Scruggs (150, sr.), Andy Chapman (180, jr.), Bubba Hardin (170, jr.), Bobby Horne (140, soph.), centers Tony Blasetti (210, soph.), Bobby McCall (180, soph.), Darrell Sirmans (160, sr.), Darrell Swindle (190, jr.), Mike Rose (170, jr.).

Fullbacks Carl Wilcox (142, soph.), Sam Fletcher (185, jr.), Tag Welch (155, jr.), Chad Wilson (172, sr.), halfbacks Kenneth King (135, soph.), Melvin Hunter (147, sr.), Irvin Roe (141, soph.), Robert Smith (155, jr.), Frank Council (182, sr.), William Gaskins (150, jr.), Ernest King (170, soph.), quarterbacks Troy Black (152, soph.), Buck Belue (185, sr.), John Lastinger (174, jr.), John Bond (170, soph.).

Defense — ends Martin Beaudrot (174, jr.), James Conaway (135, jr.), Dennis Evans (138, soph.), Alec Greene (175, sr.), Doug Conway (185, sr.), Jim Hancock (175, soph.), David Reaves (175, jr.), Jim McKinney (165, jr.), tackles Ray Lloyd (235, sr.), Hal Dixon (190, soph.), Craig Simmons (190, sr.), Marcus Campbell (150, jr.), Carroll Johnson (201, jr.), Danny Hunter (180, jr.).

Midline guards Larry Henry (155, soph.), Robert Lynch (175, sr.), Clifford Johnson (182, jr.), linebackers Bubba Johnson (165, soph.), Robert Baldwin (205, sr.), John Branan (182, jr.), Tommy Clifton (160, jr.), Danny Rickman (178, sr.), Buddy Morris (155, soph.).

Backs Nathaniel Caesar (160, soph.), Allen Worth (170, sr.), Jimmy Hartman (178, sr.), Carl Roe (165, jr.), Rodney Gordon (162, jr.), Bubba Skelton (140, jr.), Gary Curtis (120, jr.), Mark Toth (132, soph.), Steve Harden (136, jr.), Monte Richardson (155, jr.), David Durham (161, sr.), Charles Scott (145, jr.), Henry Sanders (141, sr.), Troy Thomas (172, jr.), Lynn Roberts (165, jr.).

The Real Reason

Mims' Statement Turned The Tide For Valdosta

It was not what it may seem. By now everybody from Willacoochee to Waycross has formed his own opinion on the reversal of Valdosta's forced forfeiture of its first two wins on the high school football field.

The most dominant opinion heard so far is that the Wildcats "bought" themselves two wins by taking the \$1,000 fine in lieu of the forfeits. Let these folks forget, the Wildcats beat Crisp County 40-14 and slugged Bainbridge 50-13. They didn't buy anything. They just got back what was theirs in the first place.

Another story going around is that if it had been anybody but Valdosta, the Georgia High School Association Appeal Board would have let the forfeits stand. These people are reasoning that the longtime tradition of one of the winningest prep football teams in the state during the last 37 years had an effect on the four men who decided Valdosta should get the games back.

Well, nobody really knows what went on in the minds of Plains High School's Carlton Walton, Worth County's Frank King, Ralph Parsons of Vidalia and Tom White of Moultrie.

Maybe the presence of Wright Bazemore sitting with the Valdosta delegation and adding his own thoughts to the discussion did play a part in their decision. But if it did, it was a small part.

The key figure in the whole appeal was Valdosta principal Lloyd Mims. Those who think the reversal was good can thank him. Those who think it was bad can blame him. He was the little Dutch boy who stuck his finger in the dyke.

In a moving 16-minute talk, Mims outlined the Valdosta appeal in as direct an approach as the proceedings would allow. He came loaded for bear and never quit until he had the rug in front of his fireplace.

Quoting numerous passages from the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws or "white Bible" as it is called, Mims wasted no words. He took the fight directly to GHSA Executive Secretary Bill Fordham, pointing out that "we pay his salary to tell us whether the boy is eligible or not. We submitted this eligibility sheet in June so his



secretaries would have plenty of time to go over it. "We violated no rule. The GHSA asks us to send in correct and accurate information. We did that. We sent in the correct birthday for Alvin Thomas. That's all the Georgia High School Association asked us to do."

Mims emphasized that Thomas played on the Valdosta football team because "of information given us by the Georgia High School Association." The GHSA missed Thomas' ineligibility as did local school officials and reported that the big tight end could play for the Wildcats this season.

"The guilty party is not being punished here," Mims said, "only the innocent. This is not right that our boys should be the scapegoats for the mistakes of adults. I think the GHSA could be strengthened by a reversal."

Obviously worried that the members of the Appeal Board would be afraid they would set precedent by their decision, Mims pleaded for the Board to "accept this case as an individual one, but not as a blanket ruling."

In the short question-and-answer period which followed Mims' presentation, the GHSA's strength seemed to wane a bit when Fordham replied to a question by Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder.

"What would the punishment have been if we had lost the two games?" Hyder asked. "There would have been no penalty, only a slap on the

wrist," Fordham replied. "You mean the only punishment is if you win?" Hyder asked.

"Historically, that has been the case," Fordham said. "Mr. Fordham, I'm glad you said that," Mims said sharply.

Soon after, the Appeal Board closed the doors to everyone but the GHSA attorney, Richard Bridges. For two hours and 11 minutes, the five men mulled over the decision. The Valdosta foursome of Mims, Hyder, Bazemore and City School Superintendent Ralph Brandon became quite edgy during the interlude because Bridges was in the room. They figured and rightly so, that they should have their own legal representative present.

Brandon protested Bridges staying in the room before the final decision was read. As chairman of the Board, Walton said Bridges' advice was asked only on legal points of the case.

The statement of the Board was masterfully constructed. First, the forfeits seemed about to be upheld and then they seemed to be erased before finally Walton read "Valdosta shall be fined \$1,000 in lieu of the forfeited games."

Handshakes and thank-yous were the immediate reaction of the Valdosta men. Fordham had no reaction. He could have fined Valdosta in the first place instead of awarding the forfeits, but he didn't. One wonders if this reversal does not take away a little of his punch, and that idea might have been in his mind when the meeting adjourned.

If Fordham made an error in this case, it was in dealing Valdosta a punishment which probably would have been the same penalty dealt a team which wasn't quite so straightforward in admitting it had played an ineligible player. Fordham had three choices — suspension, forfeiture or fine. He chose forfeiture, the harshest penalty next to suspension.

The Appeal Board felt he should have chosen a fine and reversed his ruling. The four men did it not because it was Valdosta doing the appealing, and not because one of the most famous high school football coaches in the nation was sitting at the table. They did it because Mims presented a convincing, truthful argument.

And that's the way it was Friday, Oct. 7.

Bazemore Book To Hit The Streets

Notes, quotes, and assorted trivia:

— The book on former Valdosta High School football coach Wright Bazemore is finally to be made available to the public Saturday ... maybe. Tapley Newton, who put the book together, said Thursday that Delta Chi fraternity members are to be selling the \$7.95 book in Valdosta Saturday.

A delay would not be surprising however. The first word on the book was that it would be in print late last year. The next notice said the book would be ready two weeks ago. Newton said just over 5,000 copies of the book had been printed.

— Jean Griffin is to return as assistant coach of the Lowndes High School girls' basketball team next year. Mrs. Griffin was not originally offered a coaching contract by the Lowndes Board of Education for next year.

However, Lowndes County School Superintendent A.B. "Sonny" Martin said Thursday afternoon that Mrs. Griffin is to return as head coach Charles Cooper's assistant.

— Former Madison, Fla. high school star Alec Studstill cracked the Bernie Moore Stadium record with a time of 50.72 in the 400-meter hurdles at a college track meet at Louisiana State University last weekend. Studstill's University of Texas team finished second behind Florida State in the four-team meet.

Studstill also ran on the winning mile relay team along with Olympic gold medalist Johnny "Lam" Jones.

— Pepperdine University head basketball coach Gary Colson is to stay in the coaching ranks despite a heart attack he had last week. Colson was the head coach at Valdosta State before moving to the California school. Colson was released from Santa Monica hospital after having a heart bypass operation.

— Central of Thomasville's 6-7 basketball wizard, Daryl Cleveland, has signed a scholarship to play for the University of Louisville. Coach Denny Crum's Cardinals had one of the top clubs in the nation last season.

Cleveland was the guy who personally took apart one of Valdosta's best basketball teams ever in the Region I-AAA (South) tournament this year.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., Apr. 22, 1977-10-



— The Kingdome, home of Seattle's Mariners, has been a slugger's paradise this year. Nearly two home runs a game have been hit in the domed stadium which features a left field line of 314 feet, six inches and power alleys of just over 357 feet.

— The latest report on Kip McLeod has the former Lowndes High school pitcher with a 3-0 record and an 0.90 earned run average. McLeod now throws for the David Lipscomb College Bisons, who are 23-6 on the year.

McLeod also saw some pinch running duty in an 8-6 David Lipscomb victory over Vanderbilt. He scored the winning run in the game.

— The Georgia Women's Golf Association is to hold its Spring Fourball Tournament at the Dalton Golf and Country Club April 26-27. Seventy-two teams are entered in the event.

Mrs. Paul Moran of Valdosta is the chairman of the GWGA Directors, who also include Mrs. C.S. Parker of Valdosta.

— West Georgia College's Braves picked up real gem the other day with the signing of Jarvis Reynolds. He's a former junior college basketball player who has a superb tough reputation.

— Stan Rome was named the best defensive player for the Clemson University basketball team this season.

Rome is a former Valdosta High School All-America selectee. Cordele's Wayne "Tree" Rollins was named the best rebounder and most valuable player. Rollins also received the Frank Howard Award for "achievement bringing honor to Clemson."

— Mississippi State women's basketball coach Peggy Collins has returned to Georgia to sign Unadilla native Carla Cross to a scholarship. Collins resigned as coach of Mercer's Teddy Bears at the end of this season to take the Mississippi State job.

Collins said Cross had the potential to be one of the top guards in the nation in the mold of UCLA's Ann Meyers and Valdosta State's Carol Chason. Collins has always figured Chason to be the key to VSC's attack.

— To the surprise of no one, Mercer's Cindy Brogdon was the top scorer in the Georgia Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women this season. The final stats were released this week, and the Teddy Bear sophomore finished with a 30.1 average.

VSC's Susan Taylor was fourth at 21.1. VSC's Sue Ann Christie was sixth at 19.6 and Chason was seventh at 18.9. Taylor was also the fourth leading rebounder in the league with a 12.6 average.

— Georgia's Red and Black squads stage their annual G-day football game at Sanford Stadium Saturday. Atlanta Braves' owner Ted Turner and Atlanta sportscaster Jim Viondi have been named the coaches for the game.

— The latest rumor on Tony Dorsett says the Pittsburgh running back is talking with the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League. It is doubtful Dorsett will make any kind of commitment toward the CFL until after the National Football League draft scheduled for May 3-4. Dorsett might have to compare the Argos' offer with that of Tampa Bay's.

— The Sporting News picked up one of many colorful quotes from Minnesota Twins' scout Ellis Clary last week. Clary said "you think Cal Griffith (Twins owner) is trying to give me a message? He sent me to scout a kid in the Bermuda Triangle." Ellis lives in Valdosta during the off-season.



Bazemore Takes It Easy At Valdosta Summer Camp

—Times Staff Photo By Ken Kianicki

'Baze'

Football Has Changed But Bazemore Hasn't

By MIKE CHASON

Forty-five years ago, Paul Bryant wasn't the "Bear," O.J. was still a breakfast drink, and Fitzgerald High School had a football player by the name of Wright Bazemore.

The game has changed a lot since then, but Bazemore hasn't.

The legendary Valdosta High School football coach for 31 years thought he was a "tough cookie" back then and proved it. He scored 10 touchdowns in a game on two separate occasions.

Bazemore's not a player anymore. He's not even a coach and after this year, he won't be associated with the Georgia high school system for the first time in 40 years.

But he's still a "tough cookie." Bazemore turned 61 years old earlier this month, but he believes he could end his six-year retirement right this minute and make a contender out of any football team in Region 1-AAA.

"I know I could," Bazemore said recently, soon after he announced he was leaving the teaching profession after this year. "I don't have any magical power or anything, but I can get more out of the average boy than most people."

"I can talk with them and deal with them. I've always been able to work a boy real hard. I think I could take any team and make a pretty good contender out of them right now."

Bazemore didn't back down from that statement even with such perennial also-rans as Westover and Bainbridge. The man is absolutely sure of his ability.

But then, he always has been. "I don't take credit for being all that good a football player, but I always thought I was a tough little cookie," Bazemore said. "Scoring 10 touchdowns is really not as great as it sounds."

"We didn't have but about 25 boys on the team then. We got ahead, and the coach put in some substitutes and left me back there as safety. I'd intercept some and run them all the way back."

"We always scored a lot of points. I remember we beat Waycross 96-6 one time. We only lost

three games and tied one while I was playing." Like everybody else, Fitzgerald played one-plateon football. Bazemore said that's the main difference in the prep game today.

"Now they play wide open games," he said. "Back then, you had to pace yourself. We played three yards and a cloud of dust."

"We didn't do an awful lot of passing. We threw the ball a little, but if you ran one long route you couldn't go out and rest like you can today."

The athletes were made out of different stuff too. In those days, football wasn't just a sport, it was your lifeblood for four months out of the year.

"It was practically the only thing we had to do," Bazemore said. "That was life or death for us. We didn't have a bunch of cars or anything."

"Nowadays, kids have so much to do. They're not as enthused about it ... or maybe, it's just a different kind of enthusiasm."

When Bazemore went off to college at Mercer, he found out he knew just as much about football as his college coach did. He tutored under his high school coach, Bill Alderman, whom he credits with teaching him how to see what each player on offense and defense is supposed to do on every play.

After college, Bazemore figured there was no use to waste this knowledge he had locked in the back of his head, so he went into coaching.

"When I went to college, I made up my mind I wanted to be a coach," Bazemore said. "Of course, it was always in the back of my mind to coach for a few years and then get out."

Bazemore recognized the coaching field wasn't one of the most lucrative professions financially, but he decided to coach a few years and rid his system of the bug.

But the bug wouldn't leave. In fact, it grew. Coaching became so much a part of Bazemore's life that he lived to go to the football field every day.

"If I had a talent, it was coaching," Bazemore said. "I knew the only way to make any money at

it was to move around, but I only moved once (from Waycross to Valdosta)."

But Bazemore doesn't regret his 31 years of service to the Wildcats. With a 290-43-6 record, 15 state titles and three national championships, he doesn't have to.

But after achieving all that success, wasn't there a time when Bazemore would have liked to shuck the whole thing and start all over somewhere else ... just to prove he could do it?

"There were several times I was tempted," he said. "I had the feeling I would like to start somewhere else. But I decided if I was going to coach, Valdosta was the best place in the world to do it."

How about two years after he retired when Charlie Greene left the job as Valdosta's head coach?

Did the juices start flowing freely enough for him to want to return to the game? "I didn't let that tempt me either," Bazemore said. "I didn't let myself be tempted. I never would have quit if I was going back."

"People just can't realize what coaching does to you. I got to where I couldn't even drink water on the day of a game."

"I had sense enough to know it wasn't good for me. I felt like the last 10 years I coached took 10 years off my life. And I was coaching at a place where I knew I didn't have to win to hold my job."

Bazemore agonized through those fall Friday nights more than anyone ever realized.

If Valdosta won the game, he finally unwound late Saturday afternoon to sleep. If the Wildcats lost, there was no sleep until Sunday night.

For weeks after, that was the only thing he could think about. He kept his public face but he died just a little inside when he thought back to the game.

But it's been six years since Bazemore coached and as football camp approached this season, he had the old fire in his eyes.

The game has changed, but Wright Bazemore never will.

Marchin' Cats Band Wins Competition At Festival

3-30-77

By JULIAN MILLER
ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Valdosta High School's Marchin' Cats band won the drawing they wanted least and the contest they wanted most Wednesday in the Festival of States band competition being held here. And now they're going after the whole ball of wax.

The Marchin' Cats, under the direction of Frank Butenschon, took first place in the field competition of the prestigious 18-band contest Wednesday, edging out the band considered the best in the nation, Wilson Senior High of West Long, Pa., by less than a point.

And by 7 a.m. this morning, despite having to perform at a special ceremony in their honor Wednesday, Butenschon and his 220-member band were back on the field preparing for Saturday's parade competition.

Valdosta's band, appointed by Gov. George Busbee to represent Georgia in the competition, was the first to perform Wednesday after drawing the first position in the field competition. During the next three hours they had to wait in formation while the other 17 bands performed.

"I died for about three hours," the 39-year-old Butenschon, in his last year as director of the band, said. "Every band that came on after us ... I said 'Good Lord, look at them.' One right after another."

When the competition was over the Marchin' Cats had accumulated 87.16 points, edging Wilson, rated the number one band in the nation by Ruffles and Flourishes, a national band magazine. The number two band had 86.46 points.

"I have never seen field

competition like it was last night," Butenschon said this morning. "It was the toughest I have ever judged or been involved in. I believe all the top bands from the eastern part of the United

States were in it." Less than five points separated the top five finishers in Wednesday's competition. The Cicero Golden Eagle band from Cicero, N.Y. was third with

84.82 points followed by the Abbeville, S.C. Grenadier Band, 84.03, and the Governor Livingston Band from New Jersey, 82.19.

To win the title they also claimed in the 1974 competition, the Marchin' Cats presented a seven-minute program starting with "Ghost Riders in the Sky" and following with "Pagliachi," "Shaft," a short gimmick on an Alka-Seltzer commercial jingle, "Wabash Cannonball" and a medley of "Dream" and "I'll See You in My Dreams" and finishing with "The Party's Over."

"It (the program) did the job," Butenschon said with a grin. "It was one of those things you can't really explain," he added. "When they hit the field they turned on like a neon light. They were really serious about it and you could tell they really wanted it. We had lost two contests this year and the Cats aren't used to losing."

Butenschon explained the bands are judged in three areas: marching, music and general effect. He thought the strongest point Wednesday came in the marching aspect.

Butenschon several years ago enlarged his band to help appearances in such competitions. However, he has pointed out all along that a larger band offers more of a chance for a slip up that could ruin the entire group's chances. Wednesday's performance, he said, was perfect.

Of the top five bands, the Valdostans were the largest in number. Only one other band in the entire contest has more members.

As winners of the com- (See Marchin' Cats Page 2)

It's Last Year For Butenschon

By Times Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Frank Butenschon feared the big "Number 1" would be a jinx when he drew it out of the hat to give his Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats band the starting position in the Festival of States field competition here Wednesday.

And by the time he had listened to the other 17 bands compete, each with its own style and flair, he was sure it would be ... until officials called his name to accept the trophy for the number one band in the show.

It was actually one of many prestigious awards the Marchin' Cats have accumulated in 17 years under his direction. But it was the sweetest ever for the director because this is Frank Butenschon's last year.

The familiar red-haired Oxford, Ala. native has already told his 220-member band he won't be with them after this school year. And that may have been one reason they worked so hard for him Wednesday.

"It's one of those things you just can't explain," the talkative 39-year-old band director said. "When they hit that field they turned on like a neon light. They really got serious about it when they came into the stadium. You could tell they really wanted it."

It was just as easy to tell that the band director "really wanted it" as well, according to Susan Butenschon, his wife, who said she had to "half carry him" to the platform to receive the trophy.

"It's the most thrilling thing that has happened since we've been here," the still choked Mrs. Butenschon said this morning. "I still get teary-eyed everytime I think about it."

Friends of the band said the director told his band members several weeks ago he would no longer be with them after this school year.

It was thought at that time that he would be entering private business but both Butenschon and his wife this morning said that might not be so.

When asked what was next in store for him, Butenschon dodged the question, moving back to talking about his band members.

"Uh, I don't know about that," he said. "I'm just super happy for the kids. They worked hard and they got it. That's what I'm so happy about now. It was just fantastic."

—Marchin' Cats 3-30-77

petition the band was the guest of honor at a party given by the Suncoasters Yacht Club Wednesday night. Tonight they are to play at the Coronation Ball. Saturday, they are the second band to perform in the contest's parade marching competition to get underway at 11 a.m.

They hope to be back in Valdosta by 9 p.m. Saturday.

The field competition Wednesday and the same title they won in 1974 are only two of the six national titles the VHS band has won since 1969. Other national titles include the National Cherry Blossom Parade Championship in Washington D.C. in 1967; the Greatest Band in Dixie Marching Championships in New Orleans, La.'s Mardi Gras in 1969 and 1972 and the Golden Invitational Marching Championship in Largo, Fla., in 1975.

Other prestigious victories include the Inaugural Peach Bowl Parade of Champions in Atlanta, in 1968; the honor band of the Blue-Gray Football Classic in Mon-

tgomery, Ala., 1969; Superior rating at the Mid-South Marching Festival in Gadsden, Ala., 1970; Superior rating in the Southeastern Marching contest in Troy, Ala., 1971; East Georgia Sweepstakes Championship in Statesboro, 1974; and All-Superior Rating in the Georgia Music Educators Association Concert Festival in Waycross, 1975.

The band also finished third in the Winternationals in Miami earlier this school year and second in the Columbus Band Festival.

They were selected to perform at halftime shows for the New Orleans Saints in New Orleans, in 1969; the Atlanta Falcons in Atlanta, 1970; the Miami Dolphins in Miami, 1972; and the New York Jets in Miami, 1973.

I-AAA

Times 8-28-77

Valdosta Opens Season Against Crisp Sept. 9

Special To The Times

CORDELE — With the start of the 1977 football season just around the proverbial corner, Crisp County High coach Ferrell Henry feels there's only one way the Cougars' grid program can go.

"I definitely feel like we're on the way up," says Henry, who joined his troops in suffering through a 2-8 campaign in 1976 following a winless year in 1975.

"Improved facilities, the addition of some excellent coaches to our staff, an organized weight program and increased player participation just have to make us better than we've been in the past."

Henry and his assistants have already begun to find out how far they can expect to climb in the next few months. Workouts began in shorts on Aug. 8 and pads went on Aug. 15 as the Cougars labored in preparation for their Sept. 9 opener at home against Valdosta.

Henry and offensive coordinator Al Woodham, former head coach at Mitchell and Terrell County, are seeking a balanced go-team attack. The big problem is there's not much experience around to provide it.

"We've only got two offensive starters back from a year ago," notes Henry. "This means we've got an ob-

vious rebuilding job ahead of us in this respect. The greatest task we face is replacing quarterback Jimmy Hughes, who signed with Georgia Tech and who played in the North-South all-star game."

"Based upon last spring, either Bobby Roche (175, sr.) or Skeebo Musselwhite (170, soph.) will be our regular quarterback. Both have strong arms and are capable runners."

"Another big question mark," continued Henry, "lies at running back where we have six people competing for the two starting jobs."

Included in that group are fullbacks Johnny B. Mason (175, jr.), Roger Barte (185, sr.) and Alton Harvey (170, soph.) and tailbacks Eddie Ford (150, soph.), Alvin Jackson (175, sr.) and Douglas Parham (165, soph.).

Wide receiver candidates are Greg Walker (175, sr.), Buford Shivers (160, jr.), Dwaine Slade (155, sr.) and Stanley Barner (165, jr.).

Again using spring training performances as the basis for naming his most promising linemen, Henry said Lige Wallace (185, sr.) or David Cushman (175, jr.) will start at center.

Kirby Wood (205, sr.), George Holmes (175, jr.) and Lawrence Jones (180, sr.) are the top guard candidates. Bidding for starting positions at tackle

will be John Lane (220, sr.), Bob Ward (205, sr.), Jeff Calhoun (185, jr.) and Mike King (175, soph.).

Jess Hobby (180, sr.) is a returning starter at tight end. He'll likely be backed by Mark Crenshaw (165, jr.) and Mike Oliver (185, jr.).

Defense was the area in which Crisp experienced its most pressing problems last year. It's also the area in which Henry says the most improvement must come if the Cougars are going to be able to compete in Region 1-AAA.

"We gave up an average of 32.2 points and 334.7 yards per game last year, and we simply can't afford to do that again," Henry said. "Our problems last year stemmed from lack of size and experience."

"This season, we've got six returning starters back. We aren't much bigger, though. We're going to have to stress quickness in an effort to compensate for being so small."

Calvin Lewis (180, sr.) figures to be the starter at nose guard, with Charles Childers (180, jr.) also being counted upon at that spot. Jerome Brinson (180, jr.), Steve Lamb (175, jr.), Casey Lewis (190, sr.) and Lawrence Jones (180, sr.) are considered the top tackles.



Marchin' Cats At Work

Valdosta High School's Marchin' Cats strut across the field while showing off their winning routines in the Champions On Parade at Al Lang Stadium. The

band, in St. Petersburg, Fla., for the annual Festival of States competition, won the Mayor's Trophy, among other awards. — Times Special Photo.

April 9 1977

LHS, VHS Split Pair

By Times Staff Writer
Lowndes and Valdosta split a high school doubleheader in tennis action here Thursday.

Lowndes' girls took a 5-4 win, but the Valdosta boys blasted the Vikings 10-0.

Individual results follow:

Daily Times 7/18/77

GIRLS
Singles — Lisa Felix (V) beat Jodie Getrge 6-1, 6-2; Linda Hall (V) beat Leslie Page 4-6, 6-4, 7-5; Jan Pendleton (V) beat Ellen Hardy 8-6; Susie Snider (L) beat Debbie Mink 8-5; Beverly Cowart (L) beat Maggie Powell 10-9 with tie breaker; Abbie Hayes (L) beat Flores Rodriguez 8-4.
Doubles — Flex Allison Reddick beat Beverly Moore-Susan Ivey 6-0, 6-1; Mink-Hall (V) beat Page-Cowart 9-7; Snider-Hardy (L) beat Powell-Rodriguez 8-6.

BOYS
Singles — Buck Blanton (V) beat Steve McBrite 6-3, 10-8; Ricky Darnell (V) beat Chris O'Neal 4-2, 6-3; Steve Connor (V) beat Sam Matchett 6-0, 6-3; Brad Skinner (V) beat Dan Waters 6-4, 6-3; Richard Clayton (V) beat Rick Burkes 6-3, 6-2; Rodney Childree (V) beat Bulch Churman 6-1, 6-1; Edwin Weatherington (V) beat Ken Leggett 6-3, 6-3.
Doubles — Blanton-Art Reddick (V) beat McBrite-Waters 10-6, 6-2; Darrell Clayton (V) beat Leggett-O'Neal 6-1, 6-4; Connor-Skinner (V) beat Brooks-Matchett 6-2, 6-3.

Has-Been Coach Sees Troubled Water Ahead

Times, March 17, 1977

By Times Staff Writer
For the third time in the long history of the Valdosta Has-Been spring football game, Bill Aldrich takes command of the graduating seniors at Cleveland Field Friday night.
But in Aldrich's way of

thinking, the third time is definitely not going to be the charm.

Aldrich, a former VHS assistant coach and now assistant principal at the school, is to match his dwindling team of some 15-20 seniors against the 100-plus squad of coach Nick Hyder at 8 p.m. here Friday.

It's a game Aldrich is not looking forward to with a great deal of enthusiasm.

"We're going to keep it very simple," Aldrich said. "If we can get the snap off, we'll feel like we've accomplished something. We'll probably get whipped."

The Has-Beens lost the other two times Aldrich was head coach, and he can't see a much brighter forecast this time out.

"We're going to be hurting all the way around," he said. "We haven't practiced but about 30 minutes together. I think we've got about 15 who are supposed to play now. Some more of them might show up Friday night."

Aldrich won't have the services of a single backfield player from last season. Hyder returns each of them to his 1977 lineup.

"We're going to be all moved around," Aldrich said. "Most of them are going to have to play both ways. It will most likely tell on us by the end of the first quarter. There's no way we can go 48

minutes with our 15 against their 100."

Hyder was quick to recall his first season at Valdosta when his team was defeated by the graduating seniors. The 'Cats have won both the last two years, but Billy Berrian and Akton Battles kept it close for awhile in last season's game.

"On defense, we'll probably be a little weak in the secondary," Aldrich said. "With (Keith) Middleton and (O'Keefe) Hunter out, there's going to be some problems in the defensive interior too."

The probable starting lineup for the Wildcats and the Has-Beens' roster to date follow:

VALDOSTA
Offense — ends Willie Hinkins (180, soph.) or Sam Fletcher (180, jr.) and Alvin Thomas (190, sr.) or Frederick Blair (145

jr.), tackles Scott Griffin (190, jr.) and Gary Cuhrie (220, sr.), guards Andy Chapman (190, jr.) or Darrell Sirmans (165, sr.) and Bubba Hardin (175, jr.) or Frank Beacham (165, jr.), center Tony Blasch (210, soph.) or Mike Rose (175, jr.), quarterback Buck Belue (195, sr.), fullback William Gaskins (160, jr.) or Ernest King (175, soph.), halfbacks Frank Council (185, sr.) or Robert Smith (160, jr.) and John Lastinger (165, jr.).

Defense — ends Doug Conway (195, sr.) or Kenny Evans (175, jr.) and Alec Greene (180, sr.) or Wayne Fuggett (175, jr.), tackles Ray Lloyd (220, sr.) or Carroll Johnson (195, jr.) and Robert Lynch (195, sr.) or Craig Simmons (190, sr.), middle guard Curtis Wright (190, sr.) or Danny Hunter (185, jr.), linebackers Robert Baldwin (205, sr.) and John Branam (185, jr.) or Danny Rickman (170, jr.) or Dussa Skelton (160, jr.) and Lynn Roberts (170, jr.) or David Durham (175, sr.), safeties Allen Worthy (180, sr.) and Jimmy Harlman (190, sr.) or Carl Roe (170, jr.).

HAS-BEENS
Tom Copeland (185, sr.), David Cooper (195, sr.), Charlie Warren (165, sr.), Ben Blanton (200, sr.), Curtis Williams (185, sr.), Carl Demps (145, sr.), Brad Cohen (175, sr.), Lawrence Lowe (195, sr.), Wilbur Scott (155, sr.), Larry Johnson (180, sr.), Jerry Bailey (185, sr.), Billy Dykeman (175, sr.), Eddie Donard (200, sr.), Jack Cain (190, sr.), Leon Johnson (165, sr.).

Chapman Named Band Director

3-31-77

By JULIAN MILLER
A 1968 graduate of Valdosta High School has been named director of the school's award-winning Marchin' Cats band but he may only have the job for one year.

Principal Lloyd Mims told the Times today Valdosta Junior High School band director and VHS assistant director Mike Chapman has been named interim director of the band which is now competing for national honors at the Festival of States band competition in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Chapman is to replace Frank Butenschon, a 39-year-old Oxford, Ala. native who has directed the 220-member band to dozens of awards in the past 17 years.

Butenschon, Mims said, asked the Valdosta Board of Education two weeks ago for a year's leave of absence to attend Troy State University, his Alma Mater, to obtain his Master's degree in music.

The board usually grants such requests for teachers who plan to use their leave of absence to further their

education or for health reasons, Mims explained.

A story in the Times Thursday reported Butenschon was ending his career at Valdosta with this school year. Mims, however, said that may not be so. The familiar red haired figure may decide to return to the job after obtaining his M.A. degree.

If not, Mims continued, then the job would probably be given to the 26-year-old Chapman on a permanent basis.

Both Butenschon and Chapman were with the band in St. Petersburg today preparing for the parade competition of the prestigious event.

The Valdosta band already copped half the honors in the 18-band event by winning the field competition Wednesday.

The Marchin' Cats, selected by Gov. George Busbee to represent Georgia in the contest, were also selected by Festival of States officials to entertain at the Coronation Ball Thursday night.

Mar. 11, 1977

More Honors For VHS Band

Gov. George Busbee pointed his finger at Valdosta and told Frank Butenschon to pack up his Marchin' Cats and go to St. Petersburg.

The Valdosta High School band has a very important assignment in St. Pete: to again represent the State of Georgia in the Florida Festival of States.

Gov. Busbee couldn't have made a better choice, and for two reasons. One is geography. Our band is about as close to St. Pete as any other band in Georgia.

More important, however, is that the VHS Marchin' Cats are one of the finest high school bands in the land. That they've demonstrated many times over the years by winning state, regional and national contests in high school band competition.

In fact, when director Butenschon packs up his Marchin' Cats and takes off for St. Pete, he'll be off for familiar ground. The VHS band three years ago won the competition in the St. Pete festival.

The assignment to return once again to the Florida festival is just another in a long

string of honors to come the VHS band's way. Why all the honors? It is because Butenschon and his kids have worked so hard over the years to earn them.



— Times Staff Photo By Ken Klanicki

VHS Assistant Coach Freddie Waters Gives Some Instructions

Times 8-14-77

Hyder Knows VHS Marked In 1-AAA

By MIKE CHASON

The war of words has begun.

Praise the opposition and point out the deficiencies of your own team. It's a creed followed by every high school coach worth his monogrammed white pullover and gray coaching shorts.

Nick Hyder is a master at it... but he needs to be.

As coach of Valdosta's Wildcats, onetime perennial champions of Region 1-AAA, Hyder knows every coach and player in the league is out to get him.

And less than four weeks from now on Sept. 9, Crisp County's Cougars are to get the first shot on their own home field in Cordele.

With two weeks of summer camp beginning Monday and then two more weeks of work at the school, does Hyder believe his black and gold troops will be ready?

"We've got to be. I've already signed the contract," Hyder said with a straight face late Friday afternoon. "I've signed the contract, and we've got to be there."

"They (the Cougars) have worked hard all summer, and they want us bad."

"Our problem right now is depth at several positions. We lost 14 starters, and that includes people like (Keith) Middleton, (Lawrence) Lowe and David Cooper off the offensive line. All our receivers are gone except for Alvin Thomas."

"Our offensive line has played some, but it has not to get some experience."

The way Hyder figures it, the region is stocked with some quality football teams this year. And the teams have what he calls "proven" coaches to go along with them.

"We've got a lot of proven situations in this region," Hyder said. "Joe Wilson (Lowndes) has proven he can coach."

"Jim Hughes at Thomasville has won two state championships... he's a proven coach. Gene Brodie at Tift County has won a state championship."

"Bud Willis at Moultrie has experienced great success. Will Roy Cooley at Central of

Thomasville is another one.

"That's something that coach (Wright) Bazemore (former Valdosta coach who won 15 state titles) seldom had to face. He had that kind of situation with LaGrange and the Macon schools I guess."

Valdosta has won only one region title since Bazemore retired from coaching in 1971. That was in 1975 in Hyder's second season. Last year, the 'Cats rolled to nine regular season wins against one loss to the Central of Thomasville and Dougherty (Albany) for the championship.

Dougherty won the resulting playoff. After two weeks of conditioning work in shorts in the late afternoon at the high school, Hyder believes this year's team is similar to the one of a year ago.

"In some respects, I'd judge them similar," Hyder said. "What worries me is that all the other teams are further along."

"Monroe (Albany) and Albany both have already served notice they're coming after us. Monroe returns seven starters on offense and five on defense."

"Moultrie has nine back, Westover has seven, Albany has 10, and Tifton has 10. Tifton returns eight on defense. That tops anything in the region, platoon-wise."

"Lowndes has nine coming back. I'd say Joe is sitting about as well offensively as anybody."

Valdosta's first session at its camp at the 4-H Club camp at Twin Lakes is scheduled for 9 a.m. The Wildcats are slated for another workout around 4 p.m. Both sessions are to be in full pads and headgear.

Hyder said the team would stick fairly close to that schedule for the two weeks of camp. On Friday night at the end of each week, the Wildcats are to return to Cleveland Field here for workouts under the lights.

As it has been in the past, the summer camp is sponsored by the Valdosta Touch-down Club.

Hyder said he expects 86 boys out for Monday's opening round.

Valdosta Gridders Storm Past Lowndes

Times, March 26, 1977



In And Out: Pigskin Scoots Out Of Outstretched Arms Of Valdosta's Willie Hankins

By MIKE CHASON
Valdosta's Wildcats made enough right moves, and Lowndes' Vikings made enough wrong ones for the Wildcats to grab a 30-20 victory in a high school football spring jamboree game here Friday night.

To use the oldest cliché in the book, the game was by no

YARDSTICK		Valdosta	Lowndes
First Downs		12	12
Yards Rushing		192	94
Yards Passing		126	109
Passes		5-13	8-18
Passes Inct. By		0	1
Fumbles Lost		2	4
Punting		5-30.2	5-38.8
Penalties		9-105	1-9

means indicative of the final score as some 7,000 fans on a windy March night at Cleveland Field will attest to. Leading only 9-0 at half-time, coach Nick Hyder's 'Cats took advantage of two Viking fumbles and the speed of Troy Thomas on a 72-yard punt return to post three quick touchdowns in the third quarter and put the game out of reach.

Lowndes scored all of its points in the fourth period, mostly on Valdosta substitutes. Viking coach Joe Wilson had said before the game that the team which got the most breaks early would take the second annual meeting between the archrivals.

There were not a lot of breaks to be had in the first half, but Valdosta got the biggest one when Wilson's son, Jody, dropped a sure touchdown pass with just over two minutes to play in the first quarter.

Jody, who transferred to Lowndes from Valdosta after last football season, was on the tail end of a perfect halfback pass from Terry Cooper. LHS quarterback Kenny Luke had tossed the ball over to Cooper, standing alone on the Lowndes' side of the field.

Wilson streaked down the sideline and had Valdosta safety Allen Worthy beat to death. Cooper took his time throwing the ball and lofted it perfectly into Wilson's hands on about the five-yard line.

Wilson bobbled it once, and it was gone. His only recourse was to sink to the ground with his head in his hands.

The Lowndes side of the field applauded Wilson gamely after the effort, but it was apparent the Vikings had momentarily had the breath knocked out of them.

As it turned out, Lowndes didn't even get another first down until midway the third quarter and didn't come close to scoring again until the final period opened and the 'Cats led, 30-0.

Valdosta ignited its scoring machine with 10:16 to play in the first quarter on a lightning-quick 57-yard drive in three plays.

On Valdosta's first offensive play, quarterback Buck Belue lofted a beautiful 35-yard spiral to John Lastinger down to the LHS 22-

yard line. A 16-yard sprint to the outside by Frank Council left Belue with only six yards left to waltz into the end zone standing up on the next play.

Robert Baldwin kicked the first of four perfect extra points, and the 'Cats looked to be enroute to a repeat of last season when they blasted the Vikes 35-7 in this same game.

But then Lowndes started making offensive noises of its own when Luke, playing with more confidence than he showed the rest of the game, engineered a 50-yard drive down to the Valdosta 11-yard line.

On fourth down and one at that point, Viking fullback Steve Thomas ran right into Valdosta's Ray Lloyd, who stopped him for one of his seven individual tackles on the night.

But the Lowndes defense, keyed by 10 individual stops by linebacker Ronnie Adkins and seven by nose guard Tim Yorkey, held on the next series.

Belue punted down to the LHS 19, and a holding penalty on the first play pushed it back to the 10. Luke saw nothing but white and gold jerseys after that, and two plays later, was tackled in his own end zone for a safety.

Hyder inserted Lastinger at quarterback for most of the rest of the half. Wilson stuck with Luke, but neither managed to accomplish much. The Wildcats did have a chance at a last second field goal before intermission, but Lowndes blocked it.

And then came a third quarter that Luke and the Lowndes fans will have a hard time forgetting.

The first two times the Vikings touched the ball, they fumbled inside their 25-yard line. Belue converted those turnovers into Valdosta six-pointers on each occasion on runs of two and three yards.

Meanwhile, Luke was having his troubles with Valdosta's Curtis Wright, who seemed to find a home in the LHS backfield the third quarter.

Lowndes didn't fumble on its third possession, but neither did Troy Thomas, who returned Ronnie Mashburn's punt 72 yards down the hometown sidelines for a touchdown.

Lynn Roberts held off the only interference in Thomas' way.

On that note, many members of the crowd decided they had seen enough and gave up on fighting the chilly breeze any longer.

They should have stayed around to see the Vikes score three times in the final quarter on a four-yard run by Luke, a 41-yard dash to glory by Robin McElroy, and a picture perfect 49-yard touchdown bomb from Luke to Nathaniel Burks.

Hal Sprenkle connected on two of three extra points.

The early departures also missed a 27-yard scamper by Belue in which he showed more speed than he has in three years of playing football for Valdosta.

Belue wound up with 74

yards on the ground to cop the top rushing stats in the game. Council had 67 yards in 10 carries, and McElroy totaled 71 yards in seven tries for Lowndes. Thomas also had 62 yards in 13 cracks for Lowndes.

The game wound up four weeks of spring practice for both schools, and the pigskin can now be retired until summer camp in August.

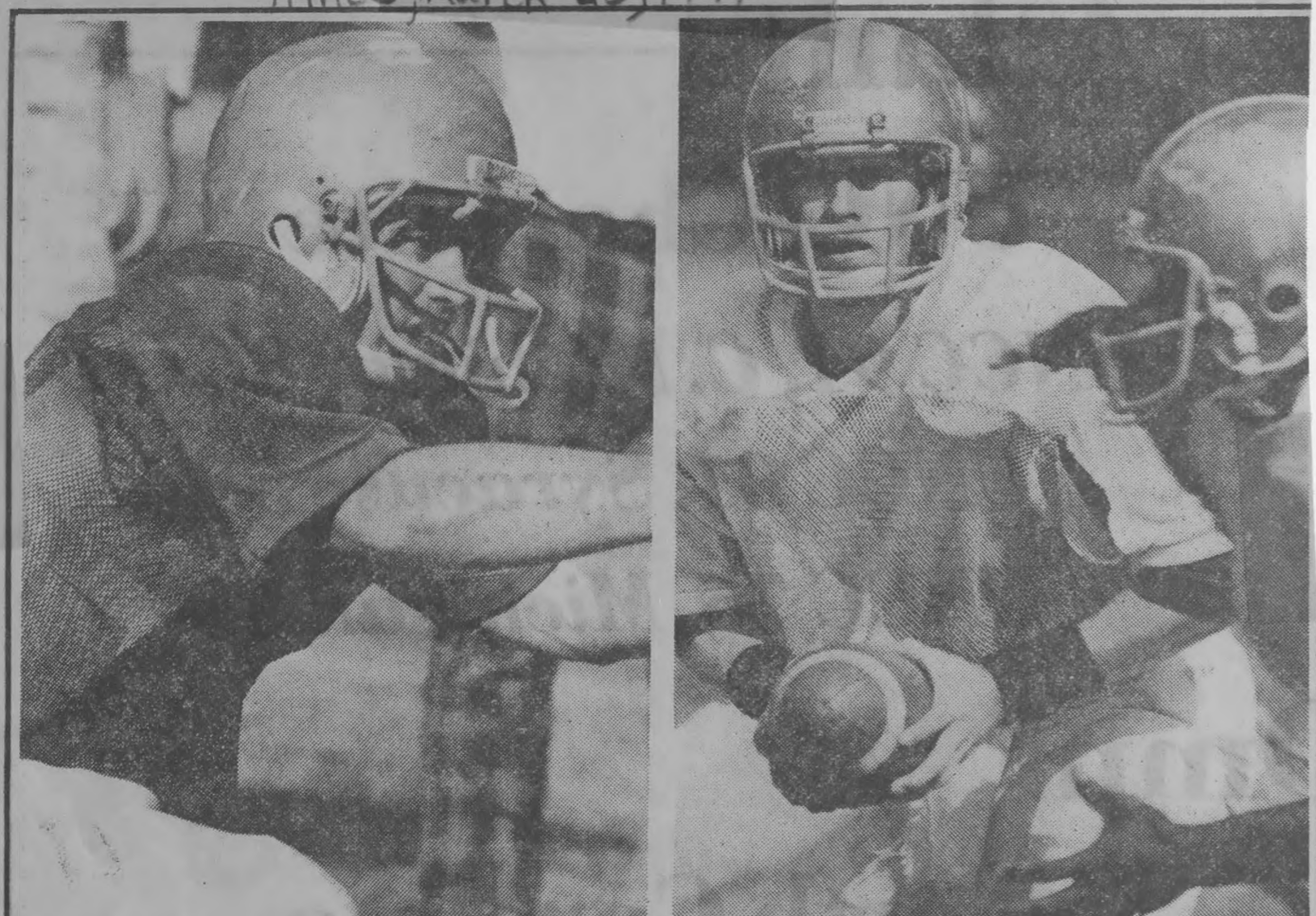
In other spring game action Friday night, Moultrie held off Thomasville 21-14, Bainbridge bombed Cairo 26-7, Tift County (Tifton) blanked Crisp County (Cordele) 14-0, and Central of Thomasville blew out Coffee County (Douglas) 54-12.

Score by Quarters:

Valdosta	Lowndes
7	21
0	0
0	0
20	20

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing: Valdosta — Belue 11-74, Council 10-67, Smith 4-19, King 2-12, Bond 2-12, Gaskins 7-10, Row 1-1; Lowndes — McElroy 7-71, Thomas 13-62, Burks 1 minus 5, Luke 12 minus 34.
Passing: Valdosta — Belue 3-6-41, Bond 2-5-65, Lastinger 0-2-0; Lowndes — Luke 7-16-92, Cooper 1-2-17.
Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Lastinger 2-55, King 1-24, Blair 1-41, Smith 1-6; Lowndes — Burks 4-85, Wilson 2-10, Foster 1-14, Cooper 1 minus 2.
Punt Returns: Valdosta — T. Thomas 3-88, Council 1-13; Lowndes — none.
Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — Council 1-16, Smith 1-15, Gaskins 1-5; Lowndes — McElroy 3-83, Wilson 1-23.
Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Lloyd 7, Skelton 3, Branam 3, Wright 3, Row 2, Worthy 2, Simmons 2, Gordon 2, Roberts 2, Lynch 2, Baldwin 2, Caesar 2; Lowndes — Adkins 10, Yorkey 7, Savage 4, Hitchcock 4, Flythe 3, Mashburn 3, Washington 3, Sprenkle 2, Schreffler 2.
Scoring:
Val. — Belue 6 run (Baldwin kick).
Val. — Safety.
Val. — Belue 2 run (Baldwin kick).
Val. — Belue 3 run (Baldwin kick).
Val. — Belue 3 run (Baldwin kick).
Val. — Troy Thomas 72 punt return (Baldwin kick).
Low. — Luke 4 run (Sprenkle kick).
Low. — McElroy 41 run (kick blocked).
Low. — Burks 49 pass from Luke (Sprenkle kick).

Times, March 25, 1977



Kenny Luke, Left, Eyes First Test While Buck Belue Gets Ready For Final Spring Game



A DEAD BEAT—While his fellow band members whoop it up, this retiring senior drummer takes it lying down during halftime festivities at the Valdosta (Ga.) High School Has-Been vs. Will Be spring football game. Show was put on graduating members of Marchin' Cats b



Daily Times 3/19/77

The Dead Beat

While his fellow band members whoop it up, this senior drummer takes a nap during halftime festivities at the annual Valdosta High School Has-Been-Will Be spring football game held here Friday night. The halftime show is annually put on

by graduating senior members of the VHS Marchin' 'Cats band. Details of the game can be found on page 6. — Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III.

Meets Valdosta's Veteran

For Buck Belue, it's an important game. For Kenny Luke, it may be the most important game he's ever played.

Belue and Luke will have thousands of eyes focused upon them tonight when they try to take their respective high school football teams to victory in the annual Lowndes-Valdosta spring jamboree contest.

The 8 p.m. game at Valdosta's Cleveland Field features the strong throwing arm of Belue against the as yet unknown passing power of Luke, who's starting his first varsity game ever at quarterback against outside competition.

Luke was at the Lowndes' controls two weeks ago when the Vikings squeaked past their graduating seniors, 27-22. Other than that, his only varsity experience has been in the LHS secondary where he has been a two-year starter.

Both boys are rising seniors, but with one tremendous difference. Belue has been the Valdosta quarterback ever since he was a freshman. Luke has been the Lowndes quarterback for only the Has-Been game and for limited amounts of action last season in runaway games. With Lynn Pattillo, the Region 1-AAA offensive player of the year at quarterback, Luke was more valuable to the Vikes at another position.

"One of Kenny's problems is that he's got to realize he's not Lynn Pattillo," Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson said. "He's got a lot of pressure on him going into a fast football league with some good quarterbacks."

"He's played a lot of football, but he just hasn't played it at quarterback. But you look at last year's jamboree film, and you'll see that by the middle of the third quarter, we had completed three passes and Kenny had two of those from the halfback position."

"He's throwing with more accuracy every day. He's stronger than Lynn was, and he's faster than Lynn was. And once he gains confidence in himself, he's going to be all right. But he has to be himself."

Even Pattillo, with two years of varsity experience, didn't distinguish himself in last year's 35-7 spring jamboree loss to Valdosta. As Wilson was quick to point out, Pattillo never really found himself until the regular season began.

"Kenny's going to be a bigger threat running the football than Lynn was," Wilson said. "Lynn was a great scrambler, but Kenny's going to be better on set running plays."

Luke was an outstanding junior high quarterback at Hahira where he hooked up with Nathaniel Burks for a deadly passing combination. Tonight, the two of them get a chance to renew their junior high relationship. Burks

was one of the top receivers in the league last year, and is slated to start at halfback for the Vikes tonight.

But just as Luke's ability to play quarterback in high school is a question mark at this stage, Belue's ability has to be an exclamation point.

The 6-1, 195-pounder has started every game for Valdosta since he entered the ninth grade, one of the few freshmen ever to call signals for the famed Wildcat machine.

Belue was the offensive player of the year in the region as a sophomore when he topped the league in passing. Last season, he was third in passing but ran for 410 yards in addition to throwing for 1,094.

Sure to be one of the most highly recruited prep players in the state this season, Belue ran for one touchdown and threw for another in last week's 20-0 Valdosta victory over its Has-Beens.

"It's definitely a big game," Belue said, dispelling any notion he might not be too fired up for football in the spring. "I'm looking for a win. I saw Lowndes play against their Has-Beens, and they looked pretty good."

Belue didn't have much of a chance to loosen up his throwing arm last week, but Wilson is looking for his former student to put it up tonight.

"I think they'll throw it," Wilson, former offensive coordinator at Valdosta, said. "If I had him (Belue), I'd sure throw it."

Valdosta coach Nick Hyder's philosophy has always been to "take what the other team gives us." He never predicts the Wildcats will go into a game with emphasis on their throwing or running attack.

But against the Has-Beens, it was obvious he wasn't putting the spotlight on the aerial game.

"We really didn't mean to throw it," Hyder said after his team passed for only 63 yards on eight of 12 attempts. "Everybody knows we can throw. We wanted to establish our running game."

Hyder doesn't try to hide his respect for Belue's ability. "The thing which really impresses you is his versatility," Hyder said. "He can play quarterback and punt, and he even holds for us on extra point kicks and field goals. And that's 40 per cent of it right there."

Neither Belue nor Luke may turn out to be factors in tonight's game, but if there was ever a game where they could afford not to be noticed, tonight is it. After all, this is not the "big one." This is not the city championship or the region title or even a regular season game.

But as gametime approaches, don't try to tell Luke or Belue that tale.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Mar. 13, 1977-18-B-

Important Line Positions Are Almost Filled At VHS

By MIKE CHASON

The less glamorous positions are always the hardest to fill, but Valdosta High School head football coach Nick Hyder believes he's about got those all important offensive linemen where he wants them after two weeks of spring drills.

The Wildcats staged a workout under the lights at Cleveland Field last week in preparation for Friday night's game against the Has-Beens in that same stadium.

And the line play was where Hyder focused much of his attention.

"We were really looking at both fronts going into spring practice," Hyder said. "We've got a few experienced boys in those areas, but for the most part we've had to find those people."

On that note, Hyder proceeded to reel off the names of Scott Griffin, Tony Blasetti, Gary Guthrie, Daryl Swindle, David Reeves, Harvey Carter, Bubba Hardin, and Andy Chapman.

Out of that group, Hyder's looking for somebody to block for a veteran backfield which includes quarterback Buck Belue, fullback William Gaskins, and halfback Frank Council. Ernest King and Sam Fletcher are also among the returnees.

Bobby Johnson had several outstanding games running out of the fullback slot last season but has decided to drop out of the football program.

"There was some discipline," Hyder said. "The decision was strictly his own."

Since the entire backfield is returning next season with the exception of Jody Wilson, who transferred across town to Lowndes, it stands to reason the Has-Beens need some offensive punch.

"They'll scratch up something," Hyder said. "They've got a fairly good line with (Ben) Blanton, (David) Cooper, and Charlie Warren. (Steve) Jennings probably won't play with them because

of the injuries he's received."

Hyder said his own team would be a bit bruised up going into the game and no would not really be ready to play.

"We won't be ready," Hyder said. "We'll be pretty rough and bruised up, but we'll be eager to play. To be polished and really ready is just about impossible in the spring."

"What we're really interested in is the mental toughness aspect of football and kids learning to endure the physical pain. We've tried to put our objectives of character and toughness into this team, and they have responded."

"If we want to practice long, we practice long. If we punish somebody, he takes it without complaints."

Hyder had compliments for many members of the 105-man squad which is down five from the original number. Valdosta usually takes around 90 boys to camp in the summer.

Tickets for the Has-Been game are available from the football players.

After Friday's contest, the 'Cats have one more week to prepare for their annual end-of-spring bout with Lowndes. That March 25th game was originally set for Martin Stadium on the Lowndes' campus, but has been moved to Cleveland Field because of construction work on the LHS stadium.



Hard At It: Valdosta High School Gridders Mix It Up At Spring Practice

—Times Staff Photo.

Wildcats Meet Has-Beens

By Times Staff Writer

It's likely to be the offense of the Will-Bes against the defense of the Has-Beens when Valdosta High School stages its annual spring game at Cleveland Field tonight.

Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder brings more than 100 players into the 8 p.m. fray against some 15 or 20 seniors playing their last game in the stadium.

Hyder returns an experienced backfield headed by quarterback Buck Belue. The rising senior, a starter for three years, was one reason behind Valdosta's 9-1 record and tie for the regular season region 1-AAA championship.

VHS assistant principal Bill Aldrich appears to have a fairly strong team defensively, but almost no offense. The 'Cats return their entire offensive backfield.

The game climaxes some three weeks of practice by the Wildcats and serves as a warmup for next Friday's clash with archrival Lowndes.

(Hoagie's) faces the Nashville, Ga., "B" team at 7:15 p.m. to start things off.

At 8:30 p.m., Thomasville takes on Cairo, and at 9:45 p.m., the Valdosta-Nashville winner tackles Fitzgerald.

Winners of tonight's games clash in the semifinal round Saturday at 7 p.m. at the college.

At Valdosta Junior High tonight, Tifton opposes Nashville's "A" team at 7:15 p.m., followed at 8:30 p.m. by a meeting between the Valdosta "B" team (Boss Players) and Moultrie.

Crisp takes on the Tifton-Nashville winner at 9:45 p.m.

Saturday, winners of the games played at VJHS tangle at the school gymnasium at 7 p.m.

Then, at 9:15 p.m., the survivors from VSC and VJHS lock horns at the college gym in the championship game.

beat Denise Beadle 6-2, 6-1; Diane Praelletti (V) beat Susan Lassiter 6-1, 6-0; Kay Stewart (V) beat Vanessa Hoffer 6-2, 6-0.

Doubles—S. Stewart/McTurk (V) beat Jones-Shiver 6-1, 6-2; Schroer-Dede Tillman (V) beat Beadle-Stocum 6-4, 6-4.

BOYS
Singles—Tim Pitts (V) beat Herbert Short 6-3, 6-4; Tom Newbern (V) beat Clint Chafin 6-2, 6-2; Ken Hawkins (P) beat Howard Stocum 6-2, 4-6, 6-4; Wally Kennedy (P) beat Bill Elliott 6-2, 5-7, 6-3; David Griffith (V) beat Bobby Blank 7-5, 5-7, 6-2.

Doubles—Short-Chafin (P) beat Pitts-Newbern 7-5, 1-6, 7-6; Hawkins-Kennedy beat John Peoples-Miles Webster 8-1.

Tickets On Sale

Tickets for the Lowndes-Valdosta spring football game are to go on sale Saturday at 9 a.m. at Barnes Drug Store in Brookwood Plaza.

Prices are \$2 in advance and \$2.50 at the gate.

The game is scheduled for next Friday at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field.

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Hard At It: Valdosta High School Gridders Mix It Up At Spring Practice

—Times Staff Photo

Mike
Chason
Times Sports Editor

Prep Football Is Back In Spotlight

Basketball shoved it into a corner for awhile, but now south Georgia's favorite athletic pastime is about to take center stage in the minds of area sports fans.

High school football is back.

Last season ended on a cold rainy night in November for Valdosta followers against Central of Thomasville. For Lowndes' fans, the season ended just when they were beginning to really catch on to how good the Vikings really were. Lowndes probably never played any better than it did in a final game win over Thomasville.

But now, King Pigskin is back, and he's going to hang around for four weeks of spring practice. Football takes another breather after March 25 when the annual spring game is to be held between Lowndes and Valdosta. But between now and then, that little hard-to-hold ball is going to evoke more gossip than the winter of '77.

Both Valdosta coach Nick Hyder and Lowndes' coach Joe Wilson are already chomping at the bit, anxious to see their clubs deliver their first licks in the warm, spring air.

Undoubtedly, both men have different objectives they would like to accomplish in the next four weeks, but what's the real reason for their particular spring practice?

"Mental toughness," Hyder said without a second thought. "We've got some mama's boys that we have to get mentally tough. A lot of mamas don't understand this. It's as hard for them to understand blocking and tackling as it is for a male to understand the pain of childbirth."

"We feel like that was our biggest downfall last year ... mental toughness. It keeps you in condition. It's self-discipline. It's a desire to play the game with everything you've got. And I think we've got some boys who are going to have that mental toughness that we're looking for."

VHS Suits Out 111

Hyder said he had issued 111 uniforms for spring drills and each boy of that number has at some time or another, participated in the early morning workouts which have become a part of the Valdosta system.

The pre-school sessions were initiated by Hyder in his first spring here three seasons ago, and the attendance at them has grown every year since.

But now, under Georgia High School Association rules, his club can don pads and work head-to-head for four weeks. During that time, Hyder's chief objective is to find an offensive line to protect quarterback Buck Belue and a stable of young running backs.

Valdosta returns its entire starting backfield and 13 starters overall, but a few new faces are to be featured down in the trenches. Hyder said those 13 returnees represent more veterans than any other team in Region 1-AAA.

And while Valdosta is looking for an offensive line, Lowndes is trying to cast a starting quarterback.

According to Wilson, no one has the job sewed up yet.

"The quarterback position is open just like all the other positions," Wilson said. "We're going to try Kenny Luke, Ronnie Mashburn, Terry Cooper, Jeff Stokes, Chuck DeVane and maybe even Jody (Wilson, Joe's son) will take a turn in there. It's going to take six or seven of them to fill (Lynn) Pattillo's shoes."

Pattillo had the kind of year in his senior campaign that every youngster who ever kicked, passed and punted a football dreams about. He was named the region's offensive player of the year after leading the Vikes to an 8-2 record, the best in the school's history. He has now signed a scholarship to play college football with The Citadel.

The Vikes lost 16 starters via the graduation route, and Wilson is switching two of the returnees to different positions. Luke is to move from the defensive secondary to offense, and Charles Burgman is to change from the offensive line to the defensive line.

Lowndes gets to find out early just how much improvement it needs to make before next season when the 85-man Viking squad matches up against its seniors on March 11 at Martin Stadium. Two weeks later, they host Valdosta in the spring game.

But between now and then, Wilson has some goals he would like to reach.

Fill Some Holes

"The purpose of our spring practice is to bring along the new kids and polish the old ones," Wilson said. "You try to fill up your holes created by graduation that you don't have time to fill in three weeks in August."

"We'll do everything normally associated with football except for conditioning. There's not enough time to do everything, and you have to do your running and conditioning for your fall season."

In recent years, some schools have questioned the actual benefit of spring practice, and others have abandoned it entirely.

But Hyder believes in it 100 per cent.

"States that have spring practice have a better quality of football," Hyder said. "Spring practice is all I've ever known. I'm going into my 30th year of football, and I've had spring practice every year. That includes 10 years as a player and 20 as a coach."

Valdosta's Has-Been game is slated for March 10 and in the next three weeks Hyder figures to whip his 'Cats into a some kind of unit which will give the oldtimers a battle.

One thing both coaches can now almost count on for sure ... the region subdivision plan drawn up last week in Moultrie will probably stand.

Region president Ike Aultman was to protest the 9-3 decision to subdivide, but in a Times' telephone interview with GHSA executive secretary Bill Fordham Friday, he said no written or verbal protest had been filed with his office.

"I did have a phone conversation, but from what I understand, they've had their say and that's all there is to it," Fordham said. "I haven't even seen anything from that region's secretary on what their plans are."

Subregion football titles may not be won or lost in spring practice, but starting Monday, both Lowndes and Valdosta are going to make their opening move toward post-season glory in November.

Wildcats Used Up Their Nine Lives

The Wildcats just ran out of lives. Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson said on a pre-game radio show Friday he hoped the 'Cats had used up their nine lives in the nine-year rivalry between Valdosta and Lowndes. By a 7-2 margin Friday night, Wilson's hope turned into fact on the Martin Stadium turf.

It all happened so fast. Just two years ago on the same field, Valdosta trampled Lowndes 41-7. Nobody thought much about it. After all, wasn't Valdosta the football power of the state? Wasn't this the same Wildcat breed which had hatched 15 state titles and three national championships under Wright Bazemore? Just those two short autumns ago, people still thought Valdosta was supposed to beat Lowndes every time they played. It was like leaves falling, it just happened every year about this time.

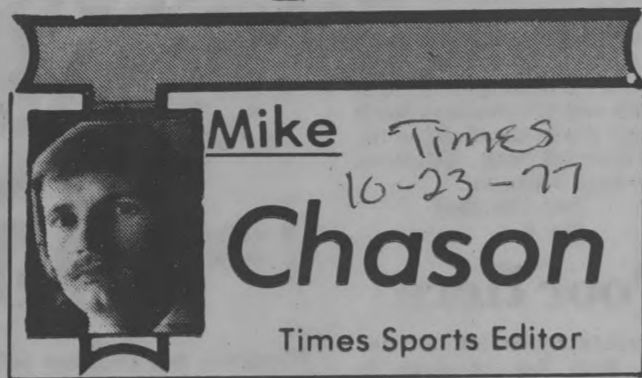
But Joe Wilson changed all that. Like a well-paid tailor, he came in and sewed up all the loose ends of the Lowndes football program. He told the Vikings they could do things they never thought possible. Riding the golden arm of Lynn Pattillo, Wilson's new-look Vikes carved out an 8-2 record last year.

Lowndes still lost 14-3 to Valdosta, but as Wilson would say, "Rome (neither Roger nor Stanford) wasn't built in a day." He predicted it would take three or four years to put the Vikings on top of Region 1-AAA.

But now Lowndes has beaten the King. Wilson was probably right when he said "90 percent of our fans don't care now if we win another game or not." Beating Valdosta was the ultimate for most of them. They just couldn't conceive of anything better.

But there is something better, and Wilson knows what it is.

"Our goal is to get Lowndes High School into the playoffs," Wilson said last week. "We want to beat Valdosta but we want to beat Bainbridge and Thomasville more." Those are the two teams keeping the Vikings from the Region 1-AAA (South) title.



Since beating Valdosta and thinking about being in the playoffs is probably a bit much for Lowndes fans to swallow on the same weekend, let's get back to Friday night.

By now, I've heard every reason in the world why Valdosta didn't win. Some contend Lowndes' quarterback Kenny Luke was not down in the end zone when he was tagged with a safety. Luke threw the ball anyway, and the Wildcats intercepted. The referees didn't think twice about calling it a safety . . . not an interception and a touchdown.

Or it could have been Valdosta wearing its black jerseys for the first time this year. Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said his team wore white for the other six games because the white jerseys were made out of mesh material and therefore cooler. But as the home team, Lowndes chose to wear white Friday night.

Others contend that Wildcat quarterback Buck Belue lost his lucky charm when he was forced to give up his fabled number 7 jersey. Lowndes' defensive end Charles Burgman ripped the jersey from Belue's shoulders late in

the first quarter. Belue had to step out of the shredded jersey before he even got off the field. He wore a symbolic number 1 the rest of the way.

Or maybe it was the lights in the center section on the Valdosta side of the field going out for 10 minutes. Some jokers in the pressbox ordered Bazemore to turn them back on immediately.

But how about this reason . . . the Lowndes' defense. Ronnie Adkins, Dennis McDonald, Burgman and the gang were fired up from the time they stopped Valdosta's first drive. After Jeff Stokes pinned the Wildcats down on their 11-yard line with 2:05 left, the Viking defenders were jumping up and down between every play.

But don't take anything away from the Valdosta defense. They didn't have a point scored on them either. Bill Schreffler's 80-yard interception return was against the VHS offense. It was a thing of beauty as the junior safety maneuvered his way down the sideline but it was a bit of a break too. You just don't see 80-yard runbacks every day.

Lynn Roberts, Carl Roe and Co. stopped Lowndes' celebrated "Hahira Connection" cold. The Luke-to-Nate Burks combination worked only once for 5 yards. Lowndes didn't complete a pass the second half and made only one first down.

But Hal Sprengle and Schreffler kept Valdosta's dice-rolling, 7-to-11 due of Belue-to-John Lastinger well under wraps also. Lastinger dropped one pass on the Lowndes' 5-yard-line and caught two more for eight yards.

Despite the low score, it was as good a high school game as you could ask for. When it was over, the Valdosta people stood for several long minutes in silent suffering while the Lowndes' side of the field began a wild celebration it had been waiting for a long time.

And it could happen again on the night of Nov. 18 when the Region title game is scheduled. The people of Valdosta, Lowndes County and one neutral writer would like nothing better.

Letters To The Editor

Nov 20, 1977

Time To Quit Bickering

Sir: Isn't it about time we ended the "I hate Valdosta — I hate Lowndes" war that is being waged on the editorial pages of the Valdosta Daily Times?

There seems to be no end to the barrage of "Valdosta fans are jerks" and "Lowndes fans are bums" attacks that are being made between supporters of these two equally fineschools.

Valdosta has a great tradition and Wildcat boosters have a right to be proud of it. And Lowndes has seen the dawn of a new era in football with a tremendous victory over Valdosta High and two back-to-back winning seasons.

Let's not let the actions of a few narrow-minded "fans" spoil the athletic programs that Lowndes and Valdosta have worked so very hard to build. Unfounded accusations of cheating and wishes for failure to the teams of either school don't hurt the fans, they hurt the students and players.

People are going to be people and as long as we have sports there will be bad fans to go along with them, whether it's a Little League football team or the Atlanta Falcons.

But disgust with the attitudes and actions of a few should not turn us away from sports. Instead, let these few

cause the majority to rise up and make our high school athletics what they should be . . . tools to build character and responsibility in young men and women.

Feelings of hate and animosity have no place in high school sports. Let's keep the VHS-LHS rivalry one of good sportsmanship. And when the game is over, let's all support the winners regardless of which school they represent.

I want to keep that state AAA championship here in Valdosta and Lowndes County.

Bill Malone
Knox Drive

'Dedicated Fan's' Letter Was Unfair

Sir: This letter is primarily addressed to the writer of a recent letter in the Times who claimed to be a former dedicated Wildcat fan and to any others who share his viewpoint.

Four weeks ago the Lowndes Vikings beat the Valdosta Wildcats in a tough battle at Martin Stadium for the first time in the ten years of their rivalry. This fact will never be changed! Naturally it was an upset for the 'Cats and their supporters but who can blame the Lowndes folks for feeling high and mighty and "rubbing it in."

But it did not stop there. The following week they spent so much time with their heads in the clouds they didn't have time to buckle down to meet the Crisp County Cougars. It was a sort of intangible victory for us to see the Vikings whipped by the same team we slaughtered at the beginning of the season. Nevertheless,

Lowndes has beaten Valdosta and no one can claim otherwise.

The part of the letter written by the "former Wildcat fan" that was most upsetting was his or her uninformed attack on the Southern Open field competition sponsored by the Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats here two weeks ago. I am a member of the Marchin' Cats and I have observed how the relationship between the Lowndes and Valdosta bands has improved this year especially between directors.

I attended the contest and saw Lowndes perform. They did a good job; they always do. But I also saw the bands who beat them. I had hopes that Lowndes would place in the top five but anyone who saw the contest, watched the tough bands they were up against. My personal rating placed the Marching Vikings fifth from the top. But the

judges score the bands, not the observers or supporters. All of the judges were from out of state and I seriously doubt that their main concern was to get back at a team they did not know by punishing the band associated with it.

I cannot hold a grudge against Lowndes High School, their football team, or especially their band and fine director Billy Martin with so many friends that are Vikings. But I find it very easy not to be fond of those who do not have enough guts to sign his or her name to an article attacking an organization such as the Marchin' Cats without any basis. I do not believe the lack of patronage from such people will hurt the 'Cats at all.

Robin Dinkins
Valdosta High
School Senior

'Cats Can Do Without Some Fans

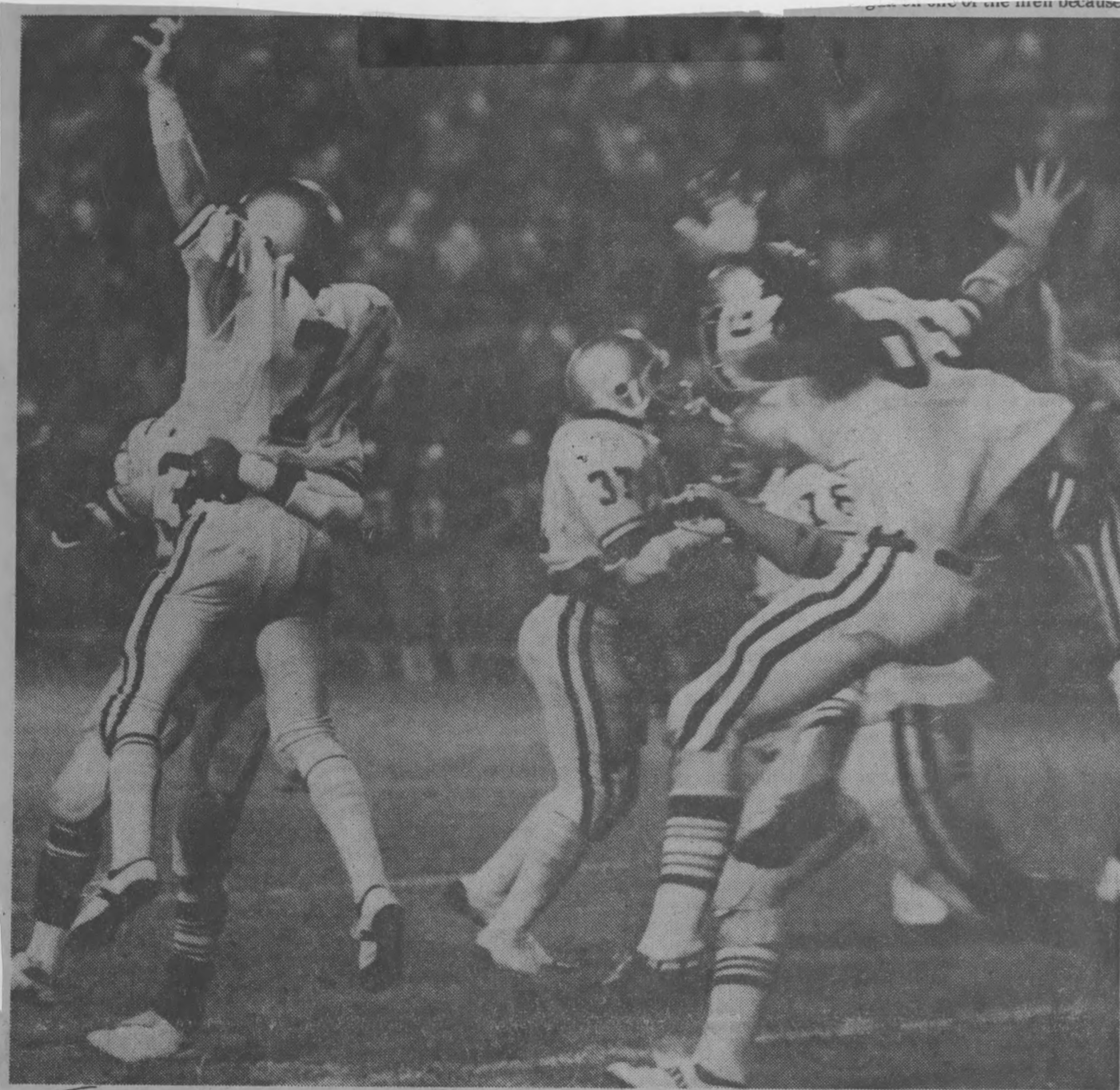
Sir: I will be pleased when all of the so-called Valdosta fans quit coming and leave room for true Wildcat fans. As for the "get Hyder" talk, it's just such idle unfounded accusations about judges of the band contest taking out revenge on the Lowndes band that starts

such rumors as the "get Hyder" talk.

As for the 10,000 men and women cheering when Crisp beat Lowndes, I was at Martin Stadium when about 8,000 men and women cheered when they thought Monroe would beat the Wildcats. That's called

crosstown rivalry. The 'Cats can do without those kinds of "fans." A Dedicated Wildcat Fan.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Times received several other letters which conveyed the same sentiments as those printed above.



Times 10-1-77 And The Winner Is ...

Valdosta High School football players take a moment or two out to celebrate a 30-yard field goal which put them out front to stay in a 15-14 victory over Dougherty of Albany here Friday

night. The game, billed as a battle for the Region 1-AAA (North) title was a sellout. — Times Staff Photo by Ken Klanicki.

Leaving Stadium Normal Reaction

Sir: I'd like to commend Times Sports Writer Martin Register on his recent column Win Worshipers Too Numerous.

There's just one thing wrong with the article. Ever since Lowndes High lost the football game to Central of Thomasville all I've heard is that LHS fans aren't loyal to their team. And you're certainly no different.

Believe it or not, most of the people I heard those words from are Valdosta High fans. Let's not forget that only two years ago when VHS had a losing season anyone could buy a general admission ticket and sit just about anywhere they wanted to at Cleveland Field. I know, I've done it myself.

All I'm really trying to say is that it's a natural reaction for fans in every sport, as you stated, to depart the stadium before the final gun if their team is losing badly. So why don't you stop pinning names of Lowndes or Valdosta fans and just call us football fans. Because if we weren't loyal to our teams we wouldn't have a football program in Valdosta or Lowndes.

Football Fan.

High School Football

Times, Nov 17, 1977

Region Playoff Games Slated

By The Associated Press Newnan, Waycross and Swainsboro hope for instant replays of last weekend's triumphs when the three schools meet the same opponents Friday night in Georgia high school football playoff action.

In all, 24 region playoff games are scheduled for the weekend, 22 Friday night and two Saturday night.

Undefeated Lincoln County, 10-0, ranked No. 1 in Class B, and top-ranked AAA powerhouse Warner Robins, also 10-0, return to defend their state championships of 1 year ago.

The two other 1976 winners, Turner in Class A and Avondale in AA, failed to qualify and were eliminated during regular season play.

Newnan, 9-1, No. 6 in AAA, ended its regular season last

Friday with a 13-6 triumph over R. E. Lee, 7-3, but will have to do it again Friday night or its football season will end.

No. 1 Waycross and seventh-rated Swainsboro of Class AA were in identical situations.

Waycross, 10-0, nudged Ware County 3-0 last Friday to knock its cross-city rival from the top spot to No. 4 in Class AA, also pinning Ware

with a loss after nine consecutive victories.

Other key AAA games have Washington, 8-2, at No. 3 Southwest DeKalb, 10-0; Thomasville, 7-3, at No. 5 Valdosta, and Campbell of Smyrna, 10-1, facing Wheeler, 10-1. They all met previously during the regular season, when Valdosta defeated Thomasville 26-0 and DeKalb trimmed Washington 28-6.

Wheeler, however, suffered its only loss of the season to the Smyrna school, dropping a 27-10 decision.

No. 2 Clarke Central, 10-0, faces No. 8 Lakeside, 9-1, in what is expected to be a defensive battle in Athens.

In other Class AA contests, second-ranked Americus, 9-1, faces Peach County, 7-3; No. 2 Woodward Academy, 9-1, meets Marist, 7-2-1, and No. 8 Stephens County, 9-1, hosts Gainesville, 7-2-1.

Marchin' Cats Coverage Lacking

Sir: It was disappointing that the Valdosta Daily Times devoted only a small article on page 9 of Tuesday's paper to the Marchin' Cats valiant effort last Saturday night. There are 220 Valdosta young people in the band, all

worked extremely hard to prepare for this competition. They performed in rain and mud with no visible guidelines.

They placed second overall and won superior ratings in every category. Mike Chapman and his band deserve recognition and

praise for this fine accomplishment.

I, for one, would have enjoyed seeing a picture on the front page, in preference to a scene from some forthcoming motion picture.

Harriet Blasetti
113 Starmount Drive

Civitan Honors Three Wildcats

By Times Staff Writer
John Lastinger, Robert Baldwin and Curtis Wright have been named outstanding football players of the week for Valdosta High School by the Valdosta Civitan Club. Lastinger was named the offensive player of the week for his efforts in the Wildcats' 15-14 victory over Dougherty. Lastinger pulled down nine passes for 69 yards. Wright and Baldwin tied for the defensive honors. Wright was credited with seven individual tackles, while Baldwin was credited with 11.

Belue Lights Fuse For Valdosta Victory



It Won't Come Back: Moultrie's James Pullins (3) Loses Football

By MIKE CHASON
Buck Belue cracked up his car Friday morning, and Moultrie's Packers paid for the damages Friday night. After the Valdosta senior quarterback ran for 160 yards, passed for 146 more and punted for a 39-yard average, it seems a sure bet

YARDSTICK

	Valdosta	Moultrie
First Downs	29	11
Yards Rushing	260	124
Yards Passing	146	124
Passes Inct. By	9:20	8:18
Fumbles Lost	0	2
Punting	5:39.8	8:36.8
Penalties	5:32	2:30

Moultrie's never coming back to Cleveland Field without a big piece of the Rock and a good chunk of Blue Cross, Blue Shield. Both must be equipped with fine print clauses designed to protect against natural disasters named Belue.

Valdosta won the high school football game, 46-20 and to no one's surprise, Belue had a hand in the point-making. He scored on runs of 47, 3 and 3 yards as well as throwing TD passes of 8 and 9 yards to John Lastinger.

The 6-2, 185-pound four-year starter didn't sell any popcorn at halftime, but if anyone had asked... "That's about as good as he's ever played," Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said. "I don't ever recall a better effort, and you knew he had a wreck this morning."

If anybody should be familiar with the antics of Belue, it's Hyder. He thrust the then wet-behind-the-ears 13-year-old Belue into the quarterback position when he became head coach at Valdosta in 1974.

A freshman had never quarterbacked the famed Valdosta black-and-gold before, and Hyder took his lumps in a 3-7 season.

But three years later, the Wildcats are the number three rated class AAA team in the state with a perfect 6-0 record, and Belue is one of the top college prospects around.

"It just looked like everybody was playing back for the pass," Belue said of the top rushing effort of his career. "We wanted to open it up a little bit more."

Belue, who led the league in passing as a sophomore, came out throwing but wound up empty on his first three tosses. He settled down to complete 9 of 20 passes as well as carrying the ball 16 times on the ground.



Good Guys Everywhere: Buck Belue (7) Got This Kind Of Protection All Night Long

On a 9-play, 92-yard drive late in the first quarter, he turned on his afterburners to find paydirt on a 47-yard scramble. In that one spurt, he showed more quickness than he's ever displayed with the VHS number 7 on his back.

"That's by far the longest run I've ever had," Belue said. "I just followed the bodies falling down in front of me. It's not too hard to run when your blocking knocks everybody out of the way."

"I thought our offensive line really did a great job. That one pass to John, I just looked all over the field before I found him. I had all the time I needed."

Hyder also had praise for the VHS offensive line, which was composed most of the cool night by Scott Griffin, Andy Chapman, Tony Blasetti, Fomby Hardin, Gary Guthrie and Darrell Sirmans.

Belue picked up most of his yardage rolling to the corners and beating the Moultrie defenders to the punch. But nobody had to tell Moultrie Coach Bud Willis that.

"He (Belue) just picked up apart with his passing," Willis said. "They're hard to defend against, particularly when you've got somebody like Belue back there. He's been doing it to us for

four years now." After falling behind 13-0 on a 2-yard run by Frank Council and Belue's 47-yarder, the now 2-4 Packers rallied to tie the game at 13 apiece on a 1-yard run by Larry Phillips and a 20-yard dash by Tyrone Sands.

Robert Smith fumbled the resulting kickoff after Phillips' score to set up the 6-pointer by Sands. Phillips, just back to action after an injury, picked up 36 yards in 12 carries and Sands ripped off 95 yards in 19 tries.

Both gained the respect of Valdosta's senior linebacker, Robert Baldwin, who had six tackles.

"Both those running backs were good, hard runners," Baldwin said. "I'd say they were the best two we've faced this year."

Troy Thomas had seven tackles for the VHS defense, which was hampered somewhat by injuries to senior safety Allen Worthy and end Lynn Roberts.

VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said Worthy had a badly sprained ankle and Roberts had a pinched nerve in his neck.

Seconds after Moultrie tied the score, Council delivered what Hyder and Willis pointed out as the tide-changer of the game. Most of the 9,000 fans at Cleveland

Field would probably agree. Council hauled in the Moultrie kickoff while straddling his own 5-yard line. One mad dash down the home sideline later, he was doing a Billy "White Shoes" Johnson limp-leg imitation in the end zone.

"That was a back-breaking play," Hyder said. "You just don't see many of those days." "That was the thing that hurt us," Willis said. "That probably broke our backs a little and then they got that one just before the half."

With the ease of a school-marm teaching ABC's, Belue engineered Valdosta's fourth touchdown of the half with a 6-play 93-yard drive. Passes to Melvin Hunter and Council ate up huge chunks of yardage and with 36 seconds left before intermission, Belue rolled in from three yards out.

Before the Moultrie Band of Gold had even paraded back into the stands for the second half, Valdosta had scored again.

Sands fumbled the opening kickoff, Baldwin recovered, and the Wildcats scored three plays later when the Belue-to-Lastinger patented 7-to-11 combination clicked for six.

Those same dice rolled again five seconds into the fourth quarter and the crowd

headed for the exits. They had already seen an endlessly rolling 77-yard punt by Moultrie's Mike Payne but missed another touchdown by Belue and Phillips' 7-yard scoring run on the VHS second team.

"It really hurts when high school players get down by two or three touchdowns," Willis said. "Especially when you don't have a superstar who can get you back in business."

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing: Valdosta — Belue 160, King 54, Council 62, Gaskins 52, Smith 42, Welch 27, Bond 10; Moultrie — Sands 19.5, Phillips 12.36, Pullins 3.4, Hanna 1.3, Mock 2.1, Hall 1 minus 14.

Passing: Valdosta — Belue 9:20-146; Moultrie — Pullins 4:9-45, Mock 3:8-62; Robinson 1:0-17.

Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Lastinger 5-54, Blair 1-23, Hunter 2-32, Council 1-37; Moultrie — Williford 4-55, Hall 1-35, Thompson 1-21, Phillips 1-11.

Punt Returns: Valdosta — Thomas 1 minus 3; Moultrie — Williford 3-51.
Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — Smith 1-22, Council 1-25; Moultrie — Sands 6-122, Brown 1-8, Phillips 1-7.
Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Thomas 7, Baldwin's, Rickman's 5, Branon 5, Conway 4, Roe 3, Wright 3, Simmons 3, Lloyd 3, Hartman 2; Moultrie — Billings 8, Hayes 8, Fye 6, French 4, Dixon 4, Hall 3, Jones 3, Williford 3.

Score by Quarters
Valdosta 12 15 6 12—45
Moultrie 0 13 0 7—20

Scoring:
Val. — Council 12 run (Baldwin kick)
Val. — Belue 47 run (kick failed)
Mou. — Phillips 1 run (kick failed)
Mou. — Sands 20 run (Thompson kick)
Val. — Council 45 kickoff return (Baldwin kick)
Val. — Belue 3 run (Wilson pass from Belue)
Val. — Lastinger 8 pass from Belue (kick blocked)
Val. — Lastinger 9 pass from Belue (kick failed)
Val. — Belue 3 run (kick failed)
Mou. — Phillips 7 run (Thompson kick)

Marchin' Cats Take 4 Trophies

By Times Staff Writer
The show must go on and that's just the philosophy the Marchin' Cats of Valdosta High School adopted for the rainy, muddy competition which brought them four trophies.

The Marchin' Cats won second place, behind South Cobb High School, in the Atlantic States Marching Festival held Saturday in Dalton.

They also won superior ratings in every category, for the band, drum majors, drum majorettes, and color guard. "It rained the entire time during the contest," said Mike Chapman, Band director. "and the field conditions were very muddy. But we're super pleased with the kids."

There were 25 bands competing, eight in the VHS classification.

Valdosta Third In AAA

Woodward Atop AA Rankings

ATLANTA (AP) — Woodward Academy's 27-7 victory over Henry County moved the War Eagles into a tie for No. 1 in Class AA, but the loss of quarterback David Archer may haunt Woodward the rest of the year.

Archer suffered a separated shoulder and is expected to be out for four to six weeks.

The loss will be felt Friday night when Woodward takes on Lakeshore, which upset previously third-ranked Fayette County 28-0 during the weekend and moved into 10th place in Class AA.

In other voting, an Associated Press panel of sportswriters and broadcasters easily chose Warner Robins, East Rome and

- Lincoln County as No. 1 in Classes AAA, A and B this week.
- All three teams were victorious last weekend, with Warner Robins bombing Spencer 42-8, East Rome upending Pepperell 28-7 and Lincoln County blanking Warren County 26-0.
- Class AAA**
- Warner Robins (5-0) 93
 - Clarke Central (4-0) 81
 - Valdosta (2-2) 74
 - Richmond Acad. (4-0) 70
 - Benedictine (5-0) 52
 - S.W. DeKalb (5-0) 37
 - He Butler (5-0) 36
 - Griffin (4-1) 7
 - Peachtree (4-0) 11
 - Newman (4-0) 11
- Others nominated: Cedar Shoals (4-1), Cent. Thomasville (3-1), Dougherty (3-1), Lakeside (4-1), Laney (4-1), R. E. Lee (4-1), Springberry (5-1), Washington (4-0) and Wheeler (5-1).
- Class AA**
- Americus (5-0) 93

- Class A**
- East Rome (5-0) 100
 - Early Co. (4-0) 77
 - Seminole Co. (4-0) 67
 - Commerce (5-1) 62
 - Wilkinson Co. (4-0) 61
 - North Springs (3-0-1) 42
 - Vidalia (3-1) 21
 - Many Persons (4-1) 12
 - George (4-0) 12
- Class B**
- Lincoln Co. (5-0) 100
 - Bremen (5-0) 85
 - Bufford (3-1-1) 65
 - Gordon Lee (4-0) 65
 - Pelham (4-1) 41
 - Charlton Co. (4-1) 41
 - Geisville (2-1-1) 35
 - Jefferson (3-2) 23
 - West Point (4-2) 16
 - Alkinson Co. (3-1-1) 14
- Others nominated: Brookstone (3-2), Dacula (3-2), Hogansville (2-2-1), Macon Co. (3-2), Metter (3-1), Mt. de Sales (3-1-3), Rabun Co. (4-1-1), Savannah Ctrv. Day (3-2), Treutlen (3-2), Union Co. (4-1-1) and Wheeler Co. 12-0-7.
- 10 Gilmer Co. (5-0) 11
Others nominated: Bowdon (3-2), Cent. Gwinnett (4-1), Claxton (4-1), Darlington (4-1), Harlem (3-1), Johnson Co. (4-1), Irwin Co. (1-3-1), Milton (4-1), Oconee Co. (3-0-1) and Russell (2-2).

Marchin' Cats Add Trophies

The Times-Union Bureau
VALDOSTA — The Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats have four more trophies to add to their collection after wins in a band festival in Dalton.

The 'Cats won second place in their class behind South Cobb High School during competition Saturday.

South Cobb won Valdosta's Southern Open Band Festival here last year.

The 'Cats won a trophy for superior band, drum major and majorettes and second overall rating.

Eight bands were in competition in the 'Cats' classification and a total of about 20 bands attended the one-day event.

The 'Cats are under the directorship of Mike Chapman this year, who is in his first year with the famous marching band.

Chapman replaced Frank Butenschon, who is on leave of absence. Valdosta is to hold its second annual band festival here Oct. 29.

Lowndes Trims Valdosta

By Times Staff Writer
Lowndes took a pair of wins over Valdosta in ninth grade basketball action here Monday.

In the boys' game, Steve Player hit for 16 points to lead Lowndes to a 56-53 overtime victory. The score was tied at 50-all at the end of regulation play.

Joe Tillman scored 14 points for Valdosta, now 2-2. Lowndes is 4-0.

Bernette Vickers threw in 10 points for the Lowndes girls in a 33-29 win over the Valdostans, who were led by 10 points by Tracy Irvin.

Lowndes raised its record to 2-1. Valdosta fell to 0-4.

Valdosta 15 Dougherty 14

Dougherty's Trojans rolled to a 14-0 halftime lead over Valdosta, and it took a 30-yard field goal by the Wildcats' Robert Baldwin in the fourth quarter to finally put 'Dosta ahead and give it the win in the important Region 1-AAA (North) contest. Buck Belue and William Gaskins punched across the goal line with two second half scores as Valdosta pulled to within 11-12 and into striking distance.

Valdosta-Lowndes Already Sellout

By Times Staff Writer
Sellout!

That's the name of the ticket tune for Friday night's Lowndes-Valdosta high school football game here.

A ticket to the 7:30 p.m. game at Martin Stadium has become as rare as spots on a zebra.

And Lowndes Head Coach Joe Wilson knows it better than anyone.

"I've lost more friends this week than most people have," Wilson said. "People want to get tickets for Uncle

Sam or Aunt Bessie, but I can't take X number of tickets and stretch them into 2X.

"I've heard a lot of talk about the tickets we've sent Valdosta, and they're blaming me for that.

"We sent them more tickets this year than they sent us for their 11,000 seat stadium last year. We sent Valdosta 130 more tickets than they sent us."

The intra-county rivalry alternates each year between Valdosta's Cleveland Field

and Martin Stadium. Wilson said 2,930 tickets were sent to Valdosta as compared to the 2,800 Lowndes received last season.

"I'm saying this as a truism, not as criticism," Wilson said, "because I'm not criticizing them."

With a 1,500 seat addition to Martin Stadium over the summer, Wilson said 9,365 tickets had been sold for the game including 700 end zone seats.

"That's not including the band or the pressbox, and we

might have to put our band in the pressbox," Wilson said. "I understand they've put up end zone seats before but never used them.

"I'd say there's going to be 10,000 people here."

Wilson said no tickets would be sold at the gate. He said the yellow student tickets are on the Valdosta side of the field, the blue tickets are end zone seats and the silver tickets are on the Lowndes side.

Luke Still Leads 1-AAA Pass Stats

By Times Staff Writer
Thomasville's Roosevelt Andrews leads a wide-open race to determine the region rushing champion, and Kenny Luke continues to hold the top spot in passing statistics in the latest Region 1-AAA stats released today by Ellwood Moyer.

Andrews' nine-game total of 871 yards is just 36 in front of Dougherty's Cedric Moss, who has rushed for 835 yards in eight games.

Dougherty's game last week with Monroe was not reported in the statistics.

Other players within striking distance of the rushing title are Moultrie's Tyrone Sands, with 831 yards, and Clyde Mackey of Bainbridge, who has rushed for 772 yards.

Luke, meanwhile, increased his passing total to 1,055 yards last week. Dougherty's Jerry Aubin is second with 896 yards, and Buck Belue of Valdosta is third with 850.

Belue's .544 completion average is by far the best in the league.

Central of Thomasville's Horace Smith has moved into the top spot in pass receiving with 31 catches for 671 yards. Lowndes' Nathaniel Burks is second with 30 receptions for 605 yards.

Lowndes' Bill Schreffler has intercepted more passes, seven, for more return yardage, 182, than any other player in the league.

Belue leads all punters with a 39.88 average. Jeff Stokes of Lowndes is second with an average of 36.48.

Valdosta's Troy Thomas continues to lead in punt returns with 220 yards on 16 tries, while Crisp County's Alvin Jackson tops the kick-off return department with

652 yards on 25 returns.

Mackey tops the region scorers with 13 touchdowns and one two-point conversion for 80 points. Belue is second with 11 touchdowns and two two-point conversions for 70 points.

RUSHING		
No.	Yds.	Avg.
1. Andrews, Thomasville	148	871 5.89
2. Moss, Dougherty	103	831 8.11
3. Sands, Moultrie	133	831 5.33
4. Mackey, Bainbridge	133	772 5.80
5. Ford, Crisp	107	693 6.48
6. Thomas, Lowndes	127	661 5.20
7. Morris, Tift	120	660 5.50
8. Barney Jackson, Central	132	640 4.84
9. Duckworth, Albany	129	472 3.64
10. Phillips, Moultrie	95	455 4.79
11. Belue, Valdosta	107	450 4.21
12. Harris, Central	100	438 4.38
13. Council, Valdosta	87	418 4.80
14. Phillips, Tift	80	377 4.71
15. Williams, Albany	95	369 3.89
16. Jackson, Crisp	67	466 6.96
17. Carmichael, Tift	102	355 3.48
18. Boone, Dougherty	79	323 4.09
19. Hollis, Monroe	79	303 3.83
20. Marris, Thomasville	69	289 4.19
21. Gaskins, Valdosta	61	224 3.67
22. King, Valdosta	29	202 6.96
23. Fletcher, Valdosta	29	166 5.72
24. Cooper, Lowndes	15	107 7.13
25. McElroy, Lowndes	22	96 4.36
26. DeVane, Lowndes	7	52 7.42
27. Washburn, Lowndes	26	86 3.31
28. Luke, Lowndes	86	6 0.07

PASSING		
Att.	Comp.	Yds.
1. Luke, Lowndes	185	81 1,055
2. Aubin, Dougherty	103	43 896
3. Belue, Valdosta	147	80 850
4. Bernard Jackson, Central	87	41 764
5. Shealy, Bainbridge	121	51 711
6. Johnson, Monroe	116	38 616
7. Carmichael, Tift	100	37 606
8. Carter, Central	67	21 425
9. Whatley, Westover	71	22 328
10. Roche, Crisp	62	16 324

SCORING		
Td's	FG's	PAT's Total
1. Mackey, Bainbridge	13	2 80
2. Belue, Valdosta	11	4 70
3. Carmichael, Tift	10	0 60
4. Bernard Jackson, Central	9	0 54
5. Burks, Lowndes	8	4 92
6. Boone, Dougherty	8	4 52
7. Phillips, Moultrie	8	0 56
8. Sands, Moultrie	8	0 48
9. Marris, Thomasville	8	0 48
10. Smith, Central	7	4 46
11. Moss, Dougherty	7	0 38
12. Harris, Central	6	0 36
13. Ford, Crisp	6	0 36
14. Council, Valdosta	6	0 36
15. Andrews, Thomasville	5	0 30
16. Balokwin, Valdosta	1	24 33
17. Harvey, Crisp	2	16 31
18. Morris, Tift	5	0 30
19. Luke, Lowndes	5	0 30
20. Thomas, Lowndes	5	0 30
21. Barber, Bainbridge	4	2 26
22. Stokes, Lowndes	4	0 24
23. Thomas, Valdosta	4	0 24
24. Duckworth, Albany	4	0 24
25. Aubin, Dougherty	0	15 24
26. Wilson, Lowndes	4	0 24
27. Walker, Crisp	3	2 20
28. Voyles, Central	0	23 23

PASS RECEIVING		
No.	Yds.	Td's
1. Smith, Central	31	671 7
2. Burks, Lowndes	30	605 9
3. Hopkins, Central	13	220 1
4. T. Jones, Dougherty	11	317 0
5. Lastinger, Valdosta	27	262 3
6. Cooper, Lowndes	16	222 2
12. Wilson, Lowndes	14	199 4
14. Council, Valdosta	14	178 1

PASS INTERCEPTIONS		
No.	Yds.	Td's
1. Schreffler, Lowndes	7	182
2. Bryant, Thomasville	2	97
3. Mashburn, Lowndes	3	33
4. Haggan, Central	1	52
5. Kirksey, Albany	1	50
10. Washington, Lowndes	1	42

PUNTS		
No.	Yds.	Avg.
1. Belue, Valdosta	41	1615 39.38
2. Stokes, Lowndes	37	1350 36.48
3. Roche, Crisp	38	1319 35.64
4. Close, Bainbridge	23	813 35.35
5. Lammam, Monroe	28	935 34.63

PUNT RETURNS		
No.	Yds.	Td's
1. Thomas, Valdosta	16	220
2. Smith, Central	11	140
3. Willford, Moultrie	5	85
4. Mackey, Bainbridge	4	75
5. Montgomery, Albany	4	61
6. McElroy, Lowndes	8	54

KICK-OFF RETURNS		
No.	Yds.	Td's
1. Jackson, Crisp	25	652
2. Moss, Dougherty	14	409
3. Sands, Moultrie	18	359
4. Council, Valdosta	11	294
5. Close, Bainbridge	7	237

Valdosta Appeals Forfeits

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta is asking for an appeal of a Georgia High School Association ruling which states the high school must forfeit its first two football games of the season.

VHS principal Lloyd Mims said he was to mail the letter requesting the appeal early today, following the reception of a letter from the GHSA Friday.

Mims said the letter definitely instructed the school to forfeit wins over Crisp County (Cordele), 40-14, and Bainbridge, 50-13.

Valdosta had indicated earlier in the week it would appeal the decision when it was handed down, but waited until Friday for definite word from GHSA Executive Secretary Bill Fordham.

"I don't know right now where or when the appeal will be," Mims said. The VHS principal is to go before a special four-man appeal board to state the Valdosta case.

The issue started when it was discovered that tight end Alvin Thomas, who played in the Wildcats' first two games, was over the age allowed for athletic participation in GHSA activities.

Thomas' play apparently was the result of a clerical error at both the high school and the GHSA.

Mims and other school officials contend the forfeits are too severe a penalty for Thomas' apparently unintentional participation.

They say Fordham should have fined the school instead.

One of the games forfeited, to Crisp, gave coach Nick Hyder's 'Cats a subregion loss.

The Week's Best

State Backs of the Week		State Linemen of the Week	
AAA Buck Belue Valdosta	AA Bobby King Harper	AAA Nathaniel Burks Lowndes	AA Ernie Wise Henry County
A Ronnie Hinson Lamar County	B Sid Strickland Atkinson County	A Tim Chambliss Mary Persons	B Wesley Speed Rabun County



Belue: Best Night Ever As Wildcat

Belue: 5 TDs And 306 Yds.

By STEVE FIGUEROA
Constitution Prep Editor

Two years ago, then-sophomore quarterback Buck Belue of Valdosta led Region 1-AAA in passing, a feat that prompted many to proclaim he would become the best ever to call signals at hallowed Cleveland Field.

Then came a junior year when Belue was asked to run as well as throw, resulting in a disappointing season that had those same observers wondering if the young quarterback would ever reach the heights that were predicted for him.

Friday night, Belue set to rest any doubts that he has matured into the All-America candidate Valdosta rooters have been searching for since Stan Bounds graduated in 1972.

In leading the top-ranked Wildcats to a 46-20 trouncing of traditional rival Moultrie, the 6-foot-2, 190-pound senior completed nine of 20 passes for 146 yards and touchdowns of nine and 11 yards, while running 11 times for 160 yards and three more scores of one, three and 42 yards.

And, besides the 306 total yards and five TDs, Belue punted four times for a 40-yard average.

"He also sold popcorn at the half," said Valdosta coach Nick Hyder with a very satisfied laugh.

"Seriously, Buck had his very best night since he's been a Wildcat. And, that was the 39th game he's started for us."

Joining Belue as "Back" winners are Bobby King of Harper, AA, Ronnie Hinson of Lamar County, A, and Sid Strickland of Atkinson County, B.

King, a 6-3, 185-pound senior quarterback, was almost as effective as Belue in Harper's 31-0 win over Southwest Atlanta. He ran four times for 43 yards, scoring touchdowns of two, four and six yards, while completing eight of 15 passes for 110 yards and a 35-yard TD.

The talented senior also threw for a pair of two-point conversions and punted twice for a 33-yard average.

Hinson literally passed Lamar County to a 37-28 win over Jackson. The 6-3, 210-pound junior completed 13 of 26 throws for 286 yards and TDs of 31 and 38 yards. He also kicked a 23-yard field goal and four extra points.

Strickland, a 5-10, 170-pound junior, had a great all-around effort in Atkinson County's key, 8-7, region win over Charlton County. As a defensive back, Strickland made eight tackles and intercepted four passes, returning them for a total of 62 yards.

On offense, playing quarterback, he completed five of six passes for 87 yards, including the winning two-point conversion pass with 7:00 to play, and rushed six times for 67 yards.

Martin Register
Times Sports Writer

Area Grid Teams Eyeing Playoffs

It hardly seems possible, but at many area schools, the time has come for the sports-minded to move indoors to the basketball courts and leave darkened football fields silent and untrud as the sports year moves into another cycle.

For most grid teams, Friday will mark the last game, ending in the chill autumn air a season which began with labored windsprints and aching muscles in the heat of August training camps.

For a select few, it will signal the end of a season of preliminaries, and the start of the "real" — the playoff — season.

Three area teams — Valdosta, Lowndes and Hamilton County (Jasper, Fla.) — are still in the running for what every team aspires to from the moment it assembles on that lonely football field on oppressive summer days — subregion, region, and finally, state supremacy.

For Valdosta's Wildcats, a place is already assured in post-season action.

Lowndes' and Hamilton's hopes ride on what transpires Friday night in their respective regular season finales.

Valdosta sewed up the Region 1-AAA (North) crown with a 41-6 blasting of Albany's Indians last Friday.

Coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats had been tabbed, along with Tift County's Blue Devils, as the most probable contenders for region laurels before the season began.

Tift fizzled early, but Valdosta established itself from the early going, and raced to an 8-1 record through last Friday night — the loss coming, in a first-time occurrence, by a 7-2 count to former doormat Lowndes.

It was a strange season for the Wildcats, who encountered more trouble off the field than on it.

The discovery that an ineligible player had taken part in shellackings of Crisp County (Cordele) and Bainbridge led to VHS being instructed to forfeit those two wins.

That was potentially damaging, since the loss to Crisp would handicap the Wildcats in the subregion race.

Surprising Vikings

There was an appeal which resulted in a ruling in favor of Valdosta. But, in what seems to be par for the course in matters concerning rulemakers, confusion set in, and the matter was thrown into question again when it was announced that the victory might be overturned at a Georgia High School Association meeting set for today.

But Valdosta ended all questions when it defeated all contenders to assure that, whatever happens in the meeting room, it will win its division crown.

One of the big surprises was Lowndes' Vikings, who stunned Tift 20-0 in the season opener and swept into the leader's spot in a wild race for the region's southern division crown.

Their Friday match with co-leader Thomasville amounts to a championship battle with the winner acquiring a playoff spot and the loser hanging it up until next year.

What must be especially pleasing to Lowndes followers is a preseason poll by area sportswriters in which no one predicted a better than fifth-place finish for the Vikes.

Hamilton's Trojans, touted before the season began as a District III Class AA contender, lived up to its billing, going unbeaten in two league games to set up a Friday night clash with Union County (Lake Butler) also unbeaten in league play.

But Hamilton, 5-3 overall, will be rated as the underdog when it tackles the 7-1 Union team, ranked sixth in the state in class AA.

Future Is Now

Of course, there are those teams which will definitely be sitting home when playoff action begins.

Clinch County's Panthers from Homerville made a run for the Region 2-A (South) title, but fell from competition last week when they suffered their second league loss, by an 18-6 count to Bacon County (Alma).

Berrien (Nashville, Ga.), also a member of 2-A (South) looked promising with 34 returning lettermen, but never reached the pinnacle predicted for it before the season started. Injuries and turnovers were major banes for the Rebs.

Then there were those who were out of it before the season got well underway. Brooks County (Quitman), has won two games, while Madison, Fla. has won only once.

Westbrook (Dixie) finished its season last week with two victories in ten games.

For Cook (Adel), which has skidded into a 20-game losing skid spanning three seasons, the closest thing to success has been a 21-14 loss to Cairo in which the Syrupmakers scored in the final minutes of the game to pull out the victory.

Just as the sports year follows cycles, so does the success of its various competitors. One can't help but wonder who will be the winners and who will be the losers when this column is written next year.

No doubt there'll be a lot of "wait until next years" uttered Friday when most of the area grid teams bring down the curtain on their seasons.

Those who have earned post-season berths realize that the cycles of change dictate that their stay at the top may be short-lived. For them, the future is now.

LHS, DHS Cindermen Win Crown

By MARTIN REGISTER
Dougherty's Trojans, runaway winners in Region 1-AAA (North), and Lowndes' Vikings, third place finishers in the region's southern division, finished as Region-co-champs in the 1-AAA track meet held Wednesday at Lowndes High School.

Rocket Victory Cuts 76er Lead

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Rockets guard John Lucas sat in front of his

Vikings, who turned in a somewhat disappointing performance in the subregion meet held last week, came on to take the lead in Wednesday's meet, mostly on the efforts of their runners.

Lowndes led the Trojans from Albany by eight points, 77-69, going into the meet's final event, the mile relay.

Dougherty's number 1 team took first place in the relay, while its number 2 team copped fourth, giving the school 14 points for that event and 83 overall.

Lowndes' third place finish in the relay gave it six points, good for a tie for the region championship.

Thomasville, which went into the relay with 73 previous points, placed second in that competition and wound up third at 81.

Central of Thomasville, winners of the Region 1-AAA (South) meet last week, finished last in the mile relay and received only one other point to add to its 74 total.

Bobick Remembers All 58 Seconds Of Norton's Fury

NEW YORK (AP) — Fifty-eight seconds isn't a terribly long time but that was all the time it took for Ken Norton's battering fists to shatter Duane Bobick's dream of an October bid for Muhammad Ali's heavyweight championship.

And Bobick, belted into submission in less than a minute by Norton Wednesday night, remembered every terrible tick of the clock.

"I remember everything — but there isn't much to remember," he said, rasping out the words as his voice tried to overcome the effect of one of Norton's punishing punches that had

What Bobick recalled best was the devastating punch to the throat.

"He came barreling out to get me," said the red-head from Bowlus, Minn., who had been undefeated in 38 fights until Norton decked him. "I was ready, but I got hit in the throat and it brought tears to my eyes. I couldn't do anything after that."

The blow to the throat was one of the first punches Norton threw.

"It stunned me," said Bobick. "I didn't have a chance to get loose and do anything."

After connecting to the Adam's apple, Norton jolted Bobick with some heavy

rockets before sending him to the canvas.

"I beat the count," Bobick continued. "I got up between eight and nine. I was wobbling a little but my mind was clear."

The wobble, however, was telltale and referee Petey Della halted the fight before Norton could administer any more punishment.

Dr. A. Harry Kleinman, New York State Athletic Commission physician, diagnosed the damage Bobick had suffered. "The punch to the Adam's apple sent a shock to the brain," said Dr. Kleinman. "He suffered some hemorrhaging of the voice box."



Region 1-AAA Crown On Line

By MIKE CHASON
Despite having a top-sided regular season victory over Thomasville on the field this year, Valdosta High School head football coach Nick Hyder has given the psychological edge for Friday night's Region 1-AAA championship to the Bulldogs.

In fact, it's that 26-0 Valdosta win over Thomasville in the third game of the season that Hyder says is giving Coach Jim Hughes' team an extra incentive for victory at Cleveland Field here Friday night.

"In a situation like that, it usually gives the other team confidence," Hyder said Tuesday. "They have a tremendous advantage."

"I like you the spring game between Valdosta and Lowndes (Valdosta won 30-20). That loss gave them a tremendous incentive to come back and play us. That's been the same situation for two years."

Lowndes came back to defeat Valdosta 7-2 during the regular season for the only loss on the Wildcats' 9-1 slate.

"Thomasville should be geared to a fine edge because of coming off the Lowndes game," Hyder said. "That was a mighty big win for them. They'll be ready for Valdosta."

"Of course, we thought they were a fine team in the other game we played

them. Our youngsters say they were the hardest-hitting team we faced and that includes Lowndes and Dougherty."

Thomasville beat Lowndes, Valdosta's cross-county rival, 28-20 Friday night to win the south half of the region with a 4-1 league record and 7-3 overall mark.

Had Lowndes won the game, the Wildcats and the Vikings would have re-staged their mammoth tussle of Oct. 21st.

"I felt like that game (Lowndes-Thomasville) was a toss-up," Hyder said. "Playing in Thomasville was definitely an advantage for Thomasville. The ankle injury to (Steve) Thomas (Lowndes' fullback) was also a big problem."

"Another game with Lowndes would have been an interesting situation for Valdosta and Lowndes County. But we were just glad to be in a situation where we were assured of a chance to be in the region playoff."

"We're just mighty proud to be here. We probably had more adversity getting there than any team in region history."

Hyder could have been referring to the fact Valdosta had to spend about as much time in the meeting room as it did on the football field this year. After it was learned tight

end Alvin Thomas had played in the first two games, despite being over the Georgia High School Association age limit, GHSA Executive Secretary Bill Fordham ordered Valdosta to forfeit those two wins.

Valdosta officials appealed and had the forfeits lifted in lieu of a \$1,000 fine. Crisp County (Cordele), a 49-14 loser in one of the games, appealed the decision to the GHSA Executive Committee.

Last week that committee upheld the Appeal Board's earlier decision, and VHS won the north subregion with a 5-0 record.

But come Friday night at 7:20 p.m., Hyder can forget all the controversy and concentrate on stopping Thomasville tailback Roosevelt Andrews.

"I guess when everything is written up, Andrews is going to be either first or second in total rushing yardage in the region," Hyder said. "He's right there with Thomas as two of the best in the region."

"Our scouting report shows they have a very powerful ground game. But they can throw too. The (Jerry) Marria (Thomasville quarterback) boy is a good athlete. They've put some emphasis on throwing it, but he lives on the ground."

Led by the antics of four-year starting quarterback



Nick Hyder Eyes Region 1-AAA Title

Buck Belue, Valdosta scored more points (314) than any team in the region this year. The Wildcat defense gave up fewer points (81) than any school in the 12-team league.

Thomasville scored 223 points during the regular season, while giving up 171.

Hyder didn't try to prognosticate those figures 10 games ago.

"I just think about the next ballgame," Hyder said. "That's an honest answer, and you're talking to a guy who's been in this

business a long time (20 years)."

Injury-wise, the Wildcats seem to be in excellent shape with only defensive tackle Ray Lloyd bothered by a sore shoulder. He may still start.

The winner of Friday night's game moves on to Savannah next Friday to face Benedictine, a team which rolled up a 10-0 record during the regular season. That game would mark the first round of the state playoffs.

Vikes In Close One, 'Cats To Win Ninth

Two years worth of Friday nights ago, I attended the Lowndes-Thomasville game in Veterans Memorial Stadium expecting exactly what I saw. The end result was a 41-0 Thomasville victory over the Vikings, who fought right to the very end but just couldn't match the Bulldog offensive fireworks.

Thomasville knew it had a date with Valdosta in the Region 1-AAA playoff. All Lowndes knew was that it was the last game of another long and dreary season.

But times have changed.

Tonight, the two teams meet again, and this time both of them know a victory means a spot in the region title game against those same Valdosta Wildcats.

Never has a Lowndes-Thomasville game meant so much.

The Vikings' never-give-an-inch defense has had a lot of success against teams which don't feature much of a passing attack. The Bulldogs are such a team but they do have in uniform one individual, Roosevelt Andrews, who's capable of cracking the long one anytime. If Andrews is contained, Lowndes should win the game.

That is, if Kenny Luke has his throwing arm warmed up the minute the Vikings take the field. If Steve Thomas is hobbled by his ankle injury, Luke may be forced to go to the air more than he has in the last three games. But as Joe Wilson says, Lowndes "makes its living throwing the ball."

Here's a 14-10 Lowndes' win to set up the showdown of showdowns against Valdosta next week.

Last week's record was 18-2 to push the overall 82 percent mark to 164-36.

WESTOVER AT VALDOSTA

At Cleveland Field here tonight, fans are going to get a chance to watch the team with the best record in Region 1-AAA going against the team with the worst record in the same league. Valdosta is the only team with just one loss, and Westover is the only team without a win.

It should make for a long night for the Patriots, and a chance for the Valdosta band to blow its heart out with numerous instant replays of the Valdosta Fight Song. Look for the Valdosta defense, which seems to be getting better and better, to hold the Patriots out of the end zone and the Wildcat offense to find the goal line at its leisure.

If you want to catch the Buck Belue show, come early. The talented senior quarterback could be playing no more than the first three quarters in what might be his last game over at Cleveland Field. The site of the region championship game is to be decided by a coin flip and all possible state playoff games are to be out of town.

Valdosta in a romp, 42-0.

COOK AT BROOKS

If you are looking for an emotion-charged game with no holds barred, this one might rank right up there with Lowndes at Thomasville. Neither Cook nor Brooks is going to win any subregion or region titles this season. All either is interested in is a win, any kind of win.

Cook's Hornets have lost 20 consecutive game over three seasons. Brooks won one game (against Cook) last season and has won only two this season. The Trojans nipped Cairo 26-21 at the final gun last week.

Make that a two-game win streak. Brooks, 21-14.

BERRIEN AT BLACKSHEAR

For a season that started out with so much hope, things just haven't fallen into place for Berrien's Rebels. With a



Mike Chason
Times Sports Editor

boxcar load of returning lettermen, it looked to be a promising year for the Rebels on the football field.

But the best laid plans of mice and men...

Both teams are 3-6 heading into tonight's game. However, Blackshear has won two of its last three. Berrien has lost four straight. Blackshear, 17-14.

UNION AT HAMILTON

On paper, Hamilton's Trojans don't have the numbers in their favor. The Union team from Lake Butler is 7-1 and rated in the state's 10 best. Hamilton is 5-3 and has followed a win-lose, win-lose formula in its last six games.

But Ellis Singletary returns to the Trojan lineup tonight, and Coach Coy Whitener sees no reason why he shouldn't be at nearly full speed. That's bad news for Union, and good news for Hamilton backers.

Except for Lowndes' Ronnie Adkins, Singletary may be the best junior linebacker in these parts. Ellis also carries the ball and going against all the oddsmakers, here's a vote for him to carry the Trojans right into the state playoffs. Hamilton, 21-17.

CLINCH AT JEFF DAVIS

If Clinch had fried Bacon last week, this game might have meant something. But now it has added significance only for Jeff Davis. For the first time in three years, the Panthers are out of the running for a post-season playoff berth.

That's not going to stop Clinch from trying to make a game of it but Jeff Davis has bigger and better things planned for the future. Jeff Davis, 34-14.

JEFFERSON AT MADISON

Madison's Cougars have only two more chances at victory this season. One is tonight against Jefferson, and the other is next week against Hamilton.

With only one victory in eight games, Lavaughn Bell would like nothing better than to wind up the 1977 campaign on a high note. But Jefferson's going to do all the singing tonight. Jefferson, 24-7.

OTHER GAMES

As far as playoff spots go, only the Lowndes-Thomasville game means anything in Region 1-AAA tonight. That's right. No 3-way tie this year. The Titt-Bainbridge game might be the best of the rest. The nod goes to Tift to get its second 6-4 record under Gene Brodie.

Also, Crisp over Albany, Central over Monroe, Dougherty over Moultrie, Appling over Camden, Worth over Cairo, Fitzgerald over Coffee, Waycross over Ware, Early over Randolph, Seminole over Miller, Irwin over Bacon, Charlton over Patterson, and Turner over Terrell.

Waycross First In AA Standings

ATLANTA (AP) — There was a little shuffling but no major changes in the Associated Press Georgia High School football rankings this week with the exception of Class AA, where Waycross took over the top spot.

Waycross moved from second to No. 1 by blanking previously top-ranked Ware County 3-0 last weekend to remain unbeaten with a 10-0 record. Ware is 9-1 and fell to fourth. The two schools meet Friday night in a rematch for the Region 1AA title.

Americus and Dalton, both winners last weekend, moved ahead of Ware County into the No. 2 and 3 spots respectively.

The AP panel of sportswriters and sportscasters again selected Warner Robins as the top school in Class AA, East Rome in A and Lincoln County in B.

Four undefeated schools, with identical 10-0 records, retained their spots in Class AAA. Behind Warner Robins were Clarke Central, Southwest DeKalb and Benedictine. Valdosta, 9-1, a 50-0 winner over Westover, remained in the No. 5 spot.

Class AAA	
1. Warner Robins (10-0)	99
2. Clarke Central (10-0)	86
3. SW DeKalb (10-0)	78
4. Benedictine (10-0)	75
5. Valdosta (9-1)	60
6. Newton (9-1)	42
7. Wheeler (10-1)	34
8. Lakeside (9-1)	21
9. Westside (8-1-1)	15
10. Butler (8-2)	8

Others nominated: Campbell-Smyrna, Cedar Shoals, Dougherty, Kendrick, LaGrange, Laney, R. E. Lee, Thomasville.

Class AA	
1. Waycross (10-0)	95
2. Americus (9-1)	81
3. Dalton (10-1)	76
4. Ware Co. (9-1)	71
5. Woodward Acad. (9-1)	66
6. Swainsboro (9-1)	45
7. Gordon (9-1)	45
8. Stephens Co. (9-1)	36
9. Fayette Co. (8-2)	12
10. Lakeshore (8-2)	7

Others nominated: Appling Co., Avondale, Cedartown, Chattooga, Dublin, Gainesville, Peach Co., Worth Co.

Class A	
1. E. Rome (11-0)	100
2. Early Co. (9-1)	87
3. Commerce (9-1)	82
4. Vidalia (9-1)	58
5. The North Springs (9-0-1)	58
6. Seminole Co. (9-1)	53
7. Mary Persons (9-1)	43
8. Wilkinson Co. (8-1-1)	26
9. Jeff Davis (8-2)	23
10. Morgan Co. (7-2-1)	8

Others nominated: Cartersville, Darlington, George, Lamar Co., Oconee Co.

Class B	
1. Lincoln Co. (10-0)	100
2. Bremen (8-1-1)	83
3. Gordon Lee (9-1)	66
4. Rabun Co. (8-1-1)	61
5. West Point (8-2)	47
6. Pelham (8-2)	45
7. Alacon Co. (8-2)	33
8. Atkinson Co. (7-2-1)	30
9. Jefferson (7-3-1)	24
10. Buford (7-3-1)	24

Others nominated: Brookstone, Metter, Savannah Country Day.

Season Opener

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta High School football season ticket-holders have until 9 p.m. tonight to purchase their tickets for Friday's Region 1-AAA championship game between Valdosta and Thomasville.

Valdosta City School System Finance Director Jack Kent said this morning the Valdosta Board of Education offices are to be open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. today to sell the tickets to the VHS season ticket-holders.

General admission tickets

as well as any reserved seat tickets which might be left over are to be on sale at the Board of Education offices from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Thursday.

Any tickets left after Thursday's sale are to be available for purchase at Barnes Drug Store in Brookwood Plaza from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Friday.

If any tickets remain, they are to be sold at the Cleveland Field game, beginning at 4 p.m. The game is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

Adding To Our Handicap

WASHINGTON — Joe Califano, the ex-Coca-Cola lawyer who functions as President Carter's HEW Secretary, has signed a decree prohibiting discrimination against the handicapped institutions receiving Federal money.

Neither Califano nor anyone else has a clear idea of how many billions the abolition of "discrimination" against the handicapped is going to cost. Not that the man can be blamed for signing the order.

For weeks he and-or HEW's offices had been under siege by piteously deformed, diseased and disabled persons in wheelchairs, walkers and prosthetic devices. Mr. Califano is a politician, and a politician doesn't like to be depicted on television night after night as a kicker of cripples.

Moreover it was Congress, which without any hearings whatsoever, passed the law requiring Califano to sign this order. Congresspeople also prefer to be kind to the handicapped.

Nevertheless, since it sounds as though very large, new expenditures have been dumped on the none-too-solvent school boards of America, some questions must be asked. Does this mean, as it appears to, that every classroom, every school facility must be remodeled to accommodate pupils with every sort of handicap ranging from blindness to spastic brain



By
NICHOLAS
Von
HOFFMAN

looking for mistreated minorities to close off the books. The Indians might be candidates for elimination as a special, legal entity with own set of laws, federal programs and bureaucracy.

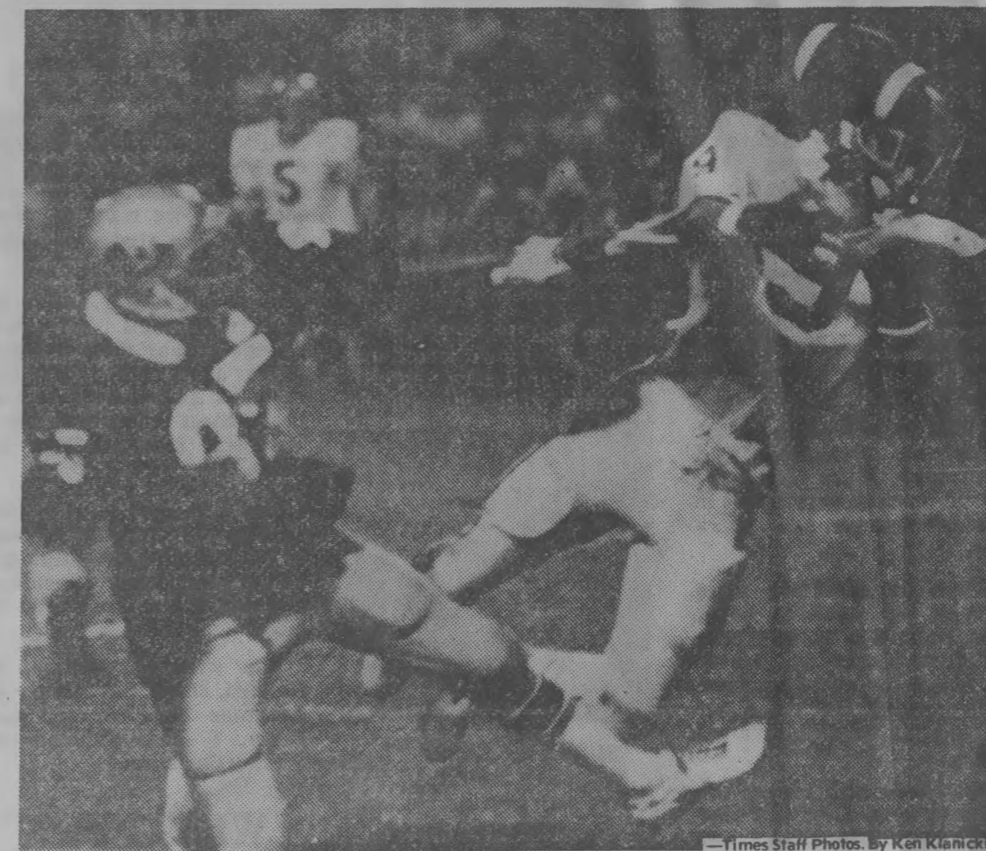
This would, of course, involve doing what the Indians have quite accurately accused the white man of doing so often: breaking our treaty obligations.

In this case, however, we wouldn't be breaking the treaties, we would be abrogating them, formally calling them null, void and of no effect after some date certain in the future.

With the abrogation of the Indians treaties would have to come one, large lump sum payment. A buy-out ending all future claims.

With the buy-out and treaty abrogation Indians would become American citizens just like everybody else, entitled to the same benefits and obliged to shoulder the same responsibilities.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs would at last, tra-la, be closed; the reservations would be shut down as far as the government is concerned, although their owners, the



Defensive Manuevers: Dougherty Harasses Valdosta Quarterback Buck Belue (7); Wildcat Defender Carl Roe (9) Blows In To Kayo Trojan Pass Play

'Cats Storm From Behind To Nip Trojans

By MIKE CHASON
Just as Super Bowls are very rarely ever super, pre-billed thrillers are very rarely ever thrilling.
But as over 11,000 foot-stompin', hand-clappin', high school football fans can attest to, Friday night's Cleveland Field chiller here between Valdosta and Dougherty was everything everybody said it was going to be.
The 15-14 Valdosta victory was one of those that provoked mild-mannered bank clerks into the likes of

YARDSTICK		Valdosta	Dougherty
First Downs		14	11
Yards Rushing		128	167
Yards Passing		94	115
Passes		12-17	5-16
Passes Inct. By		1	0
Fumbles Lost		1	1
Punting		7-38.2	7-31.2
Penalties		6-40	8-76

sideline cheerleaders, screaming "go, go, go" every time either the maroon-shirted Trojans from Albany or the white-and-gold clad Wildcats of Valdosta pointed the pigskin goalward.

The whole stadium seemed to lean forward in breathless anticipation of every move made on the pool-table-like green carpet, which provided the battleground for the suddenly larger than life 16-18 year-old boys.

After the final seconds had ticked off and Valdosta's players and school chums were boogeying to the strains of the theme from "Rocky," many members of the older generation breathed a sign of relief and wiped the final drop of sweat from their brows.

It was that kind of game.
Dougherty, now 3-1, sparked all the excitement with two second quarter scores on a one-yard run by quarterback Jerry Aubin and a 10-yard gallop by tricky halfback Seedric Moss.

Aubin added both extra point kicks and for the first time all season, Valdosta found itself with a goose egg on the scoreboard heading into the halftime rest stop.

But it wasn't a lack of trying that kept the Wildcats from sharing the mysterious riches of the land beyond the goal line stripe.

It was a Dougherty defense led by 11 individual tackles by linebacker Larry Spurlin and just a touch of bad luck.

Troy Thomas ran back the Trojans' first punt 68 yards for what looked to be a repeat of a touchdown feat he's accomplished on two other occasions this season.

But Region 1-AAA's leading punt returner was denied the glory on this night as a clip nullified the brilliant piece of individual effort.

A second quarter Valdosta drive turned bottoms-up when halfback Frank Council fumbled 23 yards from his final destination.

Helped along by a beautiful 37-yard pass from Aubin to Tom Jones, which split the Valdosta secondary, Dougherty scored on Aubin's run eight plays later.

Jones' only other catch was a 40-yard touchdown pass

The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

called back because of a holding penalty. The Trojans scored anyway on Moss' run, which was only a small part of the 147 yards he picked up in 15 carries.

Amazingly, he carried the ball only three times for 23 yards in the second half.

"No, he wasn't hurt," Dougherty head coach Luther Welsh said in reply to the obvious question.

Valdosta almost made a dent in the scoring column with no time on the clock at the end of the first half, but Council came up one yard short of paydirt.

"No sir, a field goal was suggested but we were going for the six," Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said of a move which he knew thousands of persons would have second-guessed him on had the 'Cats lost the game.

"But that momentum we established on the last drive on the first half was what turned the game around," Hyder said. "We came in at halftime and built on that momentum."

Welsh's Glimpse Of Paradise Fades Away

By Times Staff Writer
Luther Welsh caught a glimpse of Paradise Friday night. But fame is fleeting and so are Region 1-AAA titles.

Welsh's Dougherty Trojans captured the league crown last season and if they had beaten Valdosta's Wildcats here Friday night, they would have at least had the north half of the region almost sewed up again.

But Valdosta took a 15-14 decision.

"We had our chance and didn't take advantage of it," a very realistic Welsh said after the game.

"You've got to win your big games. If you don't, you don't deserve to win."

"We have no excuses. Hell, they beat us. They scored more points than us, and they won the game."

Because Valdosta had to forfeit its first two wins of the season because of playing an ineligible player, the Wildcats are now 2-2 overall and 1-1 in the north subregion.

Dougherty is 3-1 overall and 2-1 in the same subregion.

"You just can't sit around and think Tifton will beat Valdosta," Welsh said. "You can't depend on

"If I had that play just before the half to do over again, I'd do it the same way except I'd change the set."

On the first drive of the second half, Valdosta played like a team possessed with an insatiable urge which could only be filled by a touchdown.

With 10:08 left in the third quarter, quarterback Buck Belue satisfied that longing with a one-yard run, following the right side of his line to six points.

Robert Baldwin missed the PAT kick, wide to the right. "I just hit it off to the side," Baldwin said.

Paced by 11 tackles by Baldwin from his linebacker spot and seven by tackle Curtis Wright, the Valdosta defense and Belue's punting kept the Trojans from sniffing TD-land in the second half.

But in the end, it took two Dougherty mistakes for Valdosta to raise its record to 2-2 overall and 1-1 in the north subregion of 1-AAA.

The first was a dropped punt by Randy Jenkins in the opening seconds of the fourth quarter.

Ironically, the player who previously fumbled for Valdosta now recovered. Council smothered the ball only six yards from the Trojan goal line.

William Gaskins bowled into the end zone standing up for the score, but Belue's run for the two-point conversion failed.

With the clock falling under 10 minutes to play and the crowd standing at the slightest indication anything might be happening, Valdosta safety Allen Worthy plucked an Aubin pass inches from the ground to give the Wildcats

possession at the 38.

Belue found split end John Lastinger over the middle for 15 yards, and Valdosta looked to be rolling again. Lastinger made two almost unbelievable catches before the game was over and wound up with nine receptions for 69 yards.

But the drive stalled and Valdosta was faced with a fourth-and-four at the 13-yard-line.

"I thought at first it was only about two yards," Hyder said. "We thought about going for the first, but then I saw it was really about four yards. I didn't feel like Baldwin would miss two in a row."

And he didn't.
With 7:10 left in the game, the senior defensive captain booted the 30-yard field goal to send the Valdosta side of the field into a sea of pandemonium.

"After it left, I knew it was good," Baldwin said. "Give Buck the credit. He sat it down perfectly. I just wanted to keep my head down and kick it."

Interestingly enough, Baldwin doesn't consider this field goal the top one of his career. He kicked one against Thomasville two years ago to beat the Bulldogs 3-0 in a playoff for the region title.

But he does rank Friday night's as a close second.

"It started off right through the middle and then it started slicing a little," Belue said. "But I really didn't think that would be enough to win."

"I thought we'd have to score again. The defense came on and just did a great job though."

After that defense held Dougherty two more times, Belue played tag with Trojan defenders for the last 12 seconds of the game. He sliced 42 yards off his rushing total in the process, but if ever there was a better cause, he couldn't think of it.

"We came through when we needed it most," the four-year starter at the most pressure-packed position on the field said. "We'd heard some talk about how they said we were overrated."

"But we beat the defending Region 1-AAA champions. We're on our way now."

Somewhere, in the background, the "Rocky" theme just had to fit in there somewhere.

Score by Quarters:		0	14	0	14
Dougherty	Valdosta	0	0	6	9-13

Scoring:
Dou. — Aubin 1 run (Aubin kick)
Dou. — Moss 10 run (Aubin kick)
Val. — Belue 1 run (kick failed)
Val. — Gaskins 6 run (run failed)
Val. — Baldwin 30 field goal

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing: Valdosta — Council 11-68, Gaskins 8-23, Belue 17-15, Fletcher 4-11, King 2-10, Hankins 1-1; Dougherty — Moss 15-107, Wallace 1-13, Boone 9-8, Aubin 7 minus 1.
Passing: Valdosta — Belue 11-16-82, Hunter 1-1-12; Dougherty — Aubin 5-16-115.
Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Lastinger 9-69, Council 2-16, Smith 1-9; Dougherty — Gardner 1-46, Jones 1-37, Mitchell 1-23, Moss 1-6, Boone 1-3.
Punt Returns: Valdosta — Thomas 2-16; Dougherty — Jenkins 10 minus 3.
Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — Smith 2-51, Council 1-24; Dougherty — Moss 1-16, Boone 2-11.
Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Baldwin 11, Wright 7, Brannan 4, Thomas 4, Worthy 3, Gordon 3, Wilson 2, Roe 2; Dougherty — Spurlin 11, Holloway 9, Jenkins 7, Laster 6, Smith 6, Fallaw 5, Rush 3, White 3, Street 3, Blackmon 3.



—Times Staff Photo.
Jack Rudolph: Man Behind VHS Defense

Belue Injury, Defense Are Keys

Two keys will either unlock the door to the Region 1-AAA high school football championship for Valdosta's Wildcats tonight or slam the same door on the 1977 season shut for good.

The first is the injury to VHS senior quarterback Buck Belue. A four-year starter for the best known prep football team in the state, Belue has deservedly received a small mountain of accolades during his Wildcat career. But missing tonight's game against Thomasville would leave all those words of praise with a hollow ring to them.

But he says he's going to play. "I'm going to give it a try," Belue said early Thursday afternoon. "I strained some ligaments in my knee at practice Wednesday but nothing's torn or anything. I can move around on it, and I had ice on it all last (Wednesday) night."

Like most other observers, Belue believes it will be a better Thomasville team that takes the Cleveland Field turf at 7:30 p.m. tonight than the one the 'Cats destroyed 26-0 seven games ago.

"They've definitely improved ... everybody can see that," Belue said. "But I think if we play like we're capable of playing, we can win out. It's going to be a tough one."

It'll be even tougher without Belue. Probably either John Lastinger or John Bond would step in at quarterback. Both can play the position but neither has the experience going into the biggest game of the year for the 9-1 Wildcats.

But even if the offense doesn't click with its usual intensity, Valdosta has a saving grace ... the Wildcat defense.



And that's the other key. Led by Troy Thomas, Lynn Roberts, Curtis Wright, Robert Baldwin, Doug Conway, Allen Worthy and a half dozen others, the VHS defense gave up only 81 points this year. That was less than any other team in the league.

But past statistics aren't going to influence Thomasville tailback Roosevelt Andrews tonight. He has eyes only for the goal line and doesn't care how he gets there.

VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph is only too well aware of the fact.

"We know first of all they've got the best runner in the region statistically in Andrews," Rudolph said. "You know you've got to stop him. If the quarterback (Jerry Marria) gets outside, you know he can hurt you too."

"But then they run Andrews and they run the quarterback and then they hand it off to (William) Crumidy (THS fullback). Probably the person you have to con-

centrate on is Andrews, but don't overlook Marria and Crumidy."

Under Jim Hughes, Thomasville has never been much of a passing team. Against Lowndes in the final game of the regular season last week, Marria completed only two passes. One was a big gainer for a key first down however. That one play has given Rudolph some worry.

"Any time you play somebody, you worry about their passing game," Rudolph said. "Those four guys back there (defensive backfield) are just like outfielders. Somebody can run and run and run and all of a sudden they throw and pick up a bunch of yards."

"Marria is a good passer. And he's got kids who can catch the ball. You can't just say 'all right, the pass is non-existent.' They'll more or less lull you to sleep like that."

With a healthy Belue, it might not be so close. Nobody but that 6-1, 185-pounder with number 7 on his back knows how his knee feels. If he can do his thing tonight, here's a 21-10 Valdosta victory.

Last week's record was 16-4 for an overall 81 percent total of 180-40.

MADISON AT HAMILTON

It's the last game of the season for both teams. It should be a time for the seniors to get their one last chance at the limelight and for some little known younger players to get in a few licks of their own. It should be a relaxed atmosphere for both sides with only pride at stake. Both teams have plenty of that but Hamilton has a little more talent too. Hamilton, 24-14.

VHS Gets \$30,000 Grant

By ARCHIE McKAY

A \$30,000 state grant has been received to help the driver education program at Valdosta High School and is to be used in construction of housing for some equipment, the board of education was told Monday night.

Superintendent-designate Ralph Brandon said the money, from the state Department of Transportation, is being put into the program which already has received money from the state.

He said the new money would be used to build housing for "simulators," devices used to simulate actual driving conditions.

"We hope to get more money next year and this would be used to resurface the driving area and perhaps build a tower for direction,"

Brandon told the board.

In other activity the board:
— Learned of the illness of William Eanes (see story page 1).

— Agreed to hold bid openings for work at W.G. Nunn Elementary School Feb. 25, 2:30 p.m. at the board office.

— Heard a report from Reuben Yancey, board attorney, who said property adjacent to Leila Ellis Elementary School, sought by the board, has gone through negotiations and the contract is ready.

— Received a report from Brandon on plans for upgrading structurally Leila Ellis, Valdosta Junior High School and West Gordon Street School. These include insulation at Leila Ellis, adding six to eight classrooms at junior high to

replace mobile classrooms and a library at West Gordon.

— Announced the school year would be extended three days to make up days when school was dismissed because of the cold weather. Administrative officials said the post-planning week for teachers would also be extended by three days. Brandon said school was to have been dismissed on a Friday, June 3, but would run through the next Wednesday. Teachers are to stay in session through June 12.

— Agreed to a policy on cooperation with programs of the Lowndes County Arts Commission and Arts Inc., which allows students to be excused when their parents pick them up, to attend a function, and allows the group to use school facilities before and after school for

educational programs, all of the above after approval of the superintendent, principal and teacher involved.

— Referred to committee a request by the arts commission for a 25-year lease on the old high school building, which is under lease to Lowndes County until next year.

— Agreed in principle to a block parent program which, in effect, would have volunteer parents along school routes designated with a window-sign where children may go for help if and when it is needed.

— Commended Becky Vail, former education writer for the Times, for her work. She has resigned and leaves for a new position in Virginia.

— Delayed a request by radio station WGOV for permission to broadcast road games of the high school football team, because a committee had not completed research on the request.

— Agreed to discuss a proposed change in the field trip policies of the school system to include out-of-town trips by teachers and students on non-school days with permission of all administrative officials in the chain of command. Supt. Goolsby had some mild objections but did not object to the policy change. Because it involves policy, it must be held for a month before a vote is taken.

— Re-elected Joella Blackburn chairman of the board, Dr. Jeo Crance vice chairman and Lamar Newburn treasurer. Under board practice, the superintendent is always named secretary of the board.

— Heard a short report from John Bloodworth of the Georgia School Boards Association, who told of an upcoming Governor's Conference on Education with several board members indicating they would attend, and take four high school students to participate.

— Agreed to replace \$30,000 from the VHS building fund in the athletic fund, from which it was borrowed. Brandon said it is not the total amount borrowed and said in the past the general fund has borrowed from the athletic fund and never replaced the money.

He said the athletic fund, while not suffering badly, is not doing as well as in some years when the athletic teams were involved in playoffs and generated more revenue.



Miss Brown: VHS Pageant Winner

She Talked Self Out Of Tension

The new Miss Valdosta High School decided she had to do something about her nerves the day before the pageant. She decided to "forget all the people were there and just enjoy being in front of them."

Apparently it worked, as Leslie Brown, 16, was crowned Miss VHS recently over contestants.

"I had planned to be in the pageant. But I get really nervous before I get in front of a crowd. I have to kind of talk myself into not being nervous," she said, laughing.

"I would enjoy being in another pageant."

Miss Brown is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Brown. She is drum major for the VHS band and a flutist in the concert band.

Of all her classes, Miss Brown enjoys German the most.

"I like learning a new language. It's fun," she said.

Miss Brown is also "pretty much" a straight A student, a member of Beta Club and attends Park Avenue United Methodist Church.

She has plans to attend Valdosta State College for two years after she graduates.

"Once I get used to college life here and change my study habits then I would like to move off and attend another college for two years," she said.

She's not sure what she'll study. Modeling is something she's always liked but "never gotten involved in," she said.

For now, Miss Brown is just thinking ahead one year, her year as Miss VHS.

City Attendance Policy Pays Off

By Times Staff Writer

A hard-nosed school attendance policy has paid off in two ways for Valdosta, a high average daily attendance and a windfall of state money, according to a report at the school board meeting Monday night.

Superintendent-designate Ralph Brandon reported the ADA, a figure used by the state to allocate money for teaching and administrative positions, was about 95 per cent for the first four months of this school year, the time span on which the annual ADA is projected.

Brandon said this gives the system seven more regular classroom teachers and two positions for either counselors or librarians.

School officials said this meant about \$105,000 in savings to the local board.

"We have about 28 or 29 people on the local payroll (no state money involved) so now we can reduce that to 20 ... and we always have a few more employed than are allocated so this helps pay for those already on the payroll too," Brandon said today.

When his report was made Monday night board member Hulyn Smith, a former chairman of the group commended the administration for the attendance policy.

"I hope the people will understand now why we have a strict attendance policy and why it was hard-nosed ... you can see that policy paying off now," said Smith.

Professional educators at the local level are paid largely through statewide funds with only a minimal amount coming from local property taxes.

Each system is allocated slots, through money, for a number of teachers which is determined by the student-teacher ratio and the total is taken from the ADA figures.

Schools here report absences to parents, especially at the junior high and high school level, and also have strict rules about unexcused absences, and even excused absences.

Brandon said today the system has always had more administrative positions than were paid for by the state and this ADA-related money would help take the financial burden for these jobs off the local tax sources.

The ADA, for financial purposes, is figured and audited by the state for the first four months of each school year.

What is called the "mid-term adjustment" is then made and the ADA for the entire year is projected from those first four months' actual attendance figures.

The midterm adjustments, ie, when more positions are added or some taken away, are retroactive to the beginning of the school year.

Brandon said this meant those positions which had been paid strictly with local funds could now be picked up on state money.

Mar. 1, 1977



George Smart



Ricky Christie



Stuart McRae

Merit Finalists Named

By Times Staff Writer

Three Valdosta High School students have been named National Merit Finalists and qualify now for possible college scholarships.

George Smart, Stuart McRae and Ricky Christie are among 14,000 of about a million students nationwide who have scored highest on a college entrance test while juniors last year and then again scored among the highest on their Scholastic Aptitude Test last fall, according to VHS guidance counselor

Virginia Wisenbaker.

"They're the cream of the crop," Mrs. Wisenbaker said, noting each was in the top one-half of one per cent nationally.

"We've had one or two the past three years," she added, "but it's been awhile since we've had three. It's quite an honor for the school."

The three seniors are now in competition for college scholarships, including about 1,000 from the national merit organization, various companies and some colleges and universities.

Sunnie O'Neal: Loves All Sports



—Times Staff Photo.

Sunnie Shows 'Em Valdosta Has Its First Female Baseball Player

A 16-year-old Valdosta High School sophomore, who says she'd try out for the football team if she had a little more size, has made the Wildcat baseball squad.

She's not a bat girl, she's not the scorekeeper, and she's not a manager. Sunnie O'Neal is a genuine VHS baseball team member.

At the urging of some of her friends, Miss O'Neal tried out for coach Butch Brooks' squad several weeks ago. She didn't do it as a joke ... she did it because she wanted to play baseball ... and she made the team.

"Several people told me I ought to try out," Miss O'Neal said, "so I said 'what the heck' and went out for the team. The coach told me I had just as good a chance of making it as anybody else. I wanted to make it too or else I wouldn't have tried out."

"I expect from her the same thing I expect from the rest of the team," Brooks said. "I don't want to segregate her as far as being a female. If she doesn't do the job on the field, she won't play. But she does have the potential to play some for us."


"I'm not saying I'm going to start or anything, but I am just a sophomore now," Miss O'Neal said. "This is just my first year playing."

By her tone of voice, Sunnie indicated she didn't think it would be her last.

"Hitting has been a little problem for me," she said. "We had a scrimmage game the other day, and my hitting wasn't that good. It's a lot different than softball."

Miss O'Neal has been a standout softball player for the past several years. That's during the spring and summer of course. During the cold months, she's usually inside a

The Valdosta Daily Times, Thurs., Mar. 3, 1977-21



Mike Chason
Times Sports Editor

gym somewhere shooting baskets. As a result, she's been a two-year starter for the VHS girls' basketball team.

"I like all sports," Miss O'Neal said. "If I was big enough and strong enough, I might even go out for football."

Women's lib has advanced quite a ways since it burst into national prominence, but a female on the football team, particularly a Valdosta team, is stretching the point.

But Sunnie is quite satisfied with the bat and ball routine at the present.

"I tried out for second base because some of the guys that graduated said that would be a good place," Sunnie said. "I never played there before. I play shortstop and

left field in softball. Really though, if you can play one position, you can play them all."

"Playing them all" has been characteristic of the 5-5 daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn O'Neal in basketball too. She switched to forward this season from the guard spot. She occupied a year ago.

Playing both basketball and baseball has kept her on the go for the past month. Basketball lasts for one period during school, then it's baseball for a half-hour after school, and then back to basketball practice at 4 p.m. If there's any daylight left, she's back on the diamond after that.

"I usually get home about 6:30," she said. "After I eat, boom, it just hits me."

Any spare moments during the winter are devoted to helping Mrs. Ann Baldwin's Valdosta Junior High School girls' basketball team. Miss O'Neal credits Mrs. Baldwin as having "a very high influence" on her life in "ways that no one would ever understand."

With five brothers, Sunnie has long since grown accustomed to the notorious male ego. But what do the rest of the Wildcats think of a Kitten joining their ranks?

"Oh, they're just super," she said. "A couple of times I really started thinking I was making a fool of myself, but they kept encouraging me. We've all kidded around about lockerroom problems, but I don't think there's going to be any."

She'll never be "one of the guys" in the physical sense, but judging by the reaction of some members of the team, Miss O'Neal has proven she can play the grandest old game of all.

VHS STAR Wins At District Level

By Times Staff Writer
ALBANY—Valdosta High School's George Smart was named District 2 STAR Student of the Year here Wednesday night.

Smart, a 17-year-old senior who "will probably study mechanical engineering" in college, chose his mother, Martha Smart, as his STAR teacher.

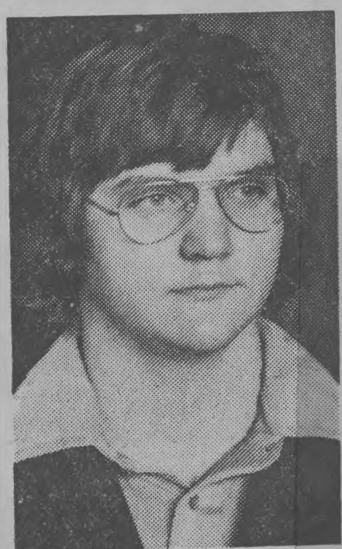
Mrs. Smart taught her son in a 10th grade biology class. They live at 2304 Oakridge Drive.

By winning the 29-school district competition, Smart now advances to the district state competition April 21 in Atlanta. District winners are to also take a one-week Chamber of Commerce tour of the state beginning April 22.

Smart received a plaque, silver tray and check for \$500 Wednesday during a banquet. A.L. Feldman, the first STAR state chairman, donated the money.

John E. Calhoun of Calhoun County was runnerup.

The STAR student is the senior who scored the highest on last fall's Scholastic Aptitude Test and Smart's



GEORGE SMART District 2 Winner

undisclosed score is one of the highest at VHS in years, according to VHS guidance counselor Virginia Wisenbaker. STAR is Student, Teacher Achievement Recognition begun about 20 years ago by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

Smart's local sponsor is the Kiwanis Club, and Carl Funderburk of the club accompanied him and his mother here Wednesday night.

Mary April Giddens was ... April 20 at South ... of ... Medical Center ... in ... in the William ... unding ... bruary

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Mar. 6, 1977

Valdosta, Hyder Seeking Depth

By MARTIN REGISTER

Depth is the key word around the Valdosta High School spring football training sessions these days.

"We've been trying to develop some depth," especially on defense," said head coach Nick Hyder.

"So far, every position has been competitive. By that, I mean we have three to five boys fighting it out for every starting place.

"I like that. Of course, any coach would."

Returning for his senior season is Buck Belue, a 195-pounder who led the region in scoring last year.

Belue has been a three year starter for the Wildcats. But Belue isn't alone. More than 110 men are participating at the spring practices.

"We've had a good turnout," Hyder said. "And almost everyone who came out has stayed out. Only one player didn't stick with it."

Linebacker Robert Baldwin is expected to key the defense and contribute as well with his placekicking talents.

"He's a good one," Hyder said. "He's one of the finest linebackers in the region."

Senior cornerback David Durham has shown "considerable improvement" according to Hyder.

Alec Green, a starting defensive end last season, returns, as does three year starter Allen Worthy.

Safety Jimmy Hartman, a 175-pound senior, had what Hyder called "a real fine first week of practice," as did two year letterman Ray Lloyd, a 230-pound defensive tackle.

"We've moved Danny Rickman (160, sr.) from cornerback to defensive end," Hyder said, "and it looks like a good move.

"Henry Sanders at safety really hustles and Craig Simmons (defensive tackle)

is competing very well."

Gary Guthrie, an offensive tackle, joins Belue on the offensive team. "Guthrie started last year," Hyder said, "and he's a real college prospect."

Fullback Alvin Thomas, who Hyder calls "an all around performer" also may help shore up Valdosta's offensive crew.

Split end Mike Cross and runningback Frank Council add further experience to the Wildcat offense.

Two first-year players, senior split end Kenny Washington and junior defensive end Wayne Fugatt, have showed promise, according to Hyder.

"I feel like we're further along this year than we were at this time last season," Hyder said.

"I think maybe the subdivision of the league has given everybody a little incentive. Everybody's fighting a little bit harder."

Hyder had praise for his coaching staff. "Jack Rudolph (defensive coordinator) is doing a real fine job with the defensive secondary," he said.

"We're looking to Freddie Waters to produce us some interior lineman. He's developed a lot of outstanding players in the past.

Hyder cited Charles Tarpley, linebacker coach, as a "real asset. He's had all-star performers under him for the last ten years," he said.

"And Butch Brooks (offensive coordinator) does a real fine job, especially with the offensive line.

"We've got so many real fine coaches. Jerry Baker played for Valdosta, and he's a real hard worker. Ed Jones (wide receiver coach) also does a good job.

"We had a lot of good players to come up ninth

grade team this year, and it's really helping us out.

"Bob (Bolton) has been working with next year's ninth graders for the past three weeks. And Norman (Sainz) and Jack (Hart) really help us out in that department, too."

The 'Cats meet this year's seniors March 18 at Cleveland Field in the annual Has Been-Will Be game.

OFFENSE

Ends— Mike Cross (170, sr.), Alvin Thomas (160, sr.), Greg Turner (175, sr.), Fred Blair (160, jr.), John Lastinger (160, jr.), Craig Lofton (145, jr.), Bart Baggett (145, soph.), Jerry Evans (140, soph.), Willie Hankins (180, soph.), Kenny Washington (175, sr.); tackles — Gary Guthrie (230, sr.), Homer Harden (215, sr.), Scott Griffin (190, sr.), David Reaves (180, sr.), Darsey Blow (155, soph.), Harvey Carter (175, soph.), Danny Hall (160, soph.), Tony Blasetti (210, soph.), Tim Townsend (150, soph.), Cass Burch (210, jr.); guards — Russ Scruggs (150, sr.), Frank Beacham (165, jr.), Andy Chapman (185, jr.), Bubba Harden (170, jr.), Billy Harvey (170, jr.), Kevin Pittman (150, jr.), Bobby Horne (145, soph.), John Lampert (155, soph.), Randy Jones (165, jr.), Darrell Sirmans (165, sr.); centers — Rob Register (155, jr.), Mike Ross (175, jr.), Darrell Swindle (190, jr.), Bobby McCall (175, soph.); halfbacks — Frank Council (185, sr.), Carroll Wilcox (155, soph.), Melvin Hunter (160, sr.), Robert Smith (155, jr.), Tony Daniels (160, soph.), Ernest King (175, soph.), Kenneth King (150, soph.); fullbacks — Sam Fletcher (185, jr.), William Gaskins (155, jr.), Ervin Rowe (155, soph.), Tag Welch (165, jr.); quarterbacks — Buck Belue (195, sr.), John Bond (165, soph.), Troy Black (165, soph.).

DEFENSE

Ends — Doug Conaway (195, sr.), Alec Green (170, sr.), Danny Rickman (160, sr.), Jamie Welch (155, sr.), Allen Worthy (180, sr.), Marlin Beaufort (175, jr.), Kenny Evans (165, jr.), Cagus Barron (160, soph.), Dennis Evans (150, soph.), Jim Hancock (170, soph.), Lonnie Williams (170, soph.), Wayne Fugatt (170, jr.), James Conaway (155, jr.), Lonnie Johnson (180, jr.), John Larry (175, jr.), Dale McBurrough (155, soph.); middle guards — Curtis Wright (190, sr.), Robert Lynch (195, sr.), Demps Johnson (165, jr.), Doug McQuaig (240, jr.), Ernest Duncan (210, soph.), Larry Henry (160, soph.); linebackers — Robert Baldwin (205, sr.), John Brannon (180, jr.), Tommy Clifton (165, jr.), Wesley Brookline (165, soph.), Bubba Johnson (160, soph.), Buddy Morris (155, soph.), Mike Ruff (160, soph.); cornerbacks — David Durham (165, sr.), Gary Curtis (135, jr.), Steve Harden (150, sr.), Lynn Roberts (160, jr.), Bubba Skelton (145, jr.), Foy Thomas (165, jr.), Charles Scott (150, jr.), Mickey Woods (150, soph.), Eddie Curry (155, sr.), Monty Richardson (165, jr.), Mark Toth (150, soph.); tackles — Ray Lloyd (230, sr.), Craig Simmons (180, sr.), Marcus Campbell (165, jr.), Danny Hunter (180, jr.), Carroll Johnson (200, jr.), Hal Dixon (190, soph.), Kenneth Hope (150, sr.); safeties — Jimmy Hartman (150, sr.), Henry Sanders (150, sr.), R Gordon (170, jr.), Rufus Nelson (170, sr.), Carroll Rowe (165, jr.), Nathaniel (170, soph.).

Valdosta, Lowndes VICA Winners Told

By Times Staff Writer
A Valdosta High School senior was named the outstanding student in the 15-school district Vocational and Industrial Clubs of America competition Monday at Thomasville.

Bryan Strickland, a Diversified Cooperative Training student, received the honor and also was a member of the opening and closing ceremonies VHS team which placed first.

Several VHS and Lowndes High School students placed first, second and third in the competition:

First place winners: Greg Davis, air conditioning and refrigeration; Carl Fillyaw, carpentry; Thad Heaney, heavy duty equipment mechanics; Allen Byington, auto body; Kenny Hardy, architectural drafting; Sherry Davis, dental assistant; of Lowndes High. Strickland, Becky Williams, Greg Harbin, Natasha Mathews, Tim King, Howard Moore, Robbie Hopkins, opening and closing ceremonies; Indy Deshong, small engine repair; Franklin Brown, safety contest; of Valdosta High.

Second place winners: Jan Brogdon, job interview; Sally Chadwick, nursing aide; Bryan Johnson, auto mechanics; Joey Ivansco, machine shop; Winston Williams, building construction; Valdosta High. Larry Bragg, mechanical drafting; Solomon Kersey, radio and television; Lowndes High.

Third place winners: Kenneth Ridley, electro mechanics; Jackie Johnson, mechanical drafting; Valdosta High. Eric Mathis, brick laying; Lowndes High.

First place winners are to attend state competition in Atlanta April 21-24.

Ledy Taylor is the VHS DCT advisor; Jim Horn is the LHS DCT coordinator.

Mar. 11, 1977

LHS Girls Top All-Region Team



GEORGE ROBINSON
6-7 Senior Pivot



LISA FEIX
Top Kitten Scorer



LAWRENCE LOWE
Tough Rebounder



CHARLES COOPER
Coach Of Year



KAREN PARKER
LHS Point Guard



FAYE HART
Long Range Shooter



RHONDA ROWELL
Just A Soph.



ROSALYN WILLIAMS
14-Point Avera ge

By Times Staff Writer
Lowndes' Vikettes dominated the high school girls' basketball All Region-1-AAA team announced this week.

Lowndes placed all five starters on the honor team, selected by a poll of sportswriters covering the region teams.

Vikette pivot Marcia Player was chosen Player of the Year.

In addition, Vikette head coach Charles Cooper was named girls' Coach of the Year.

Three Valdosta High cagers were named, Lisa Feix to the girls' team and Lawrence Lowe and George Robinson to the all-region boys' squad.

Player, guards Faye Hart and Karen Parker, and forwards Rosalyn Williams and Rhonda Rowell all made the girls' team from Lowndes.

They were joined by Thomasville's Darlene Shannon, Bainbridge's Leann Harrell, Martha Howard of Dougherty (Albany), Darby Cottle of Tift County (Tifton) and Feix.

Frankie Lemmons of Crisp County (Cordale) was named Player of the Year among the boys, barely nosing out Bainbridge's Gene Fountain.

Also making the all-Region boys' team were Thomasville Central's 6-7 pivot Daryl Cleveland, Calvin Richardson of Moultrie and Tim James of Dougherty.

C.C. Thomas of Albany, Crisp's Tommy Lewis, Tift's Jeff Gill, Lowe and Robinson rounded out the 10-man team.

Bainbridge coach Charles Bess was the unanimous choice for boys' Coach of the Year.

Cooper led his Lowndes girls' team to 30 victories without a loss and the state AAA championship.

The state title was the first ever won by an athletic team at the school. Cooper's girls' teams have won five Region 1-AAA crowns in a row.

Player and Shannon far outdistanced the others in the voting. Player collected 67 points from the panel of sportswriters while Shannon had 57. Hart was third with 41.

Player, a 5-11 junior, fired in an average of 14 points and claimed 12 rebounds per game during the season, while Shannon, a 5-7 junior, dominated play by Thomasville, pumping in 24 points per game.

Hart averaged 15 points and eight rebounds per game, while Williams hit for 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Parker averaged eight points and three rebounds from her point guard position. Rowell finished with a 12 point average and pulled down an average of 10 rebounds.

Feix, a junior, led coach Jerry Baker's Valdosta girls' team in scoring with an average of 15 points per game.

Hart and Williams are seniors, while Howard and Parker are juniors. Harrell, Cottle, Feix and Rowell are sophomores.

"She's a tremendous basketball player," Cooper said of Player. "She's worked extremely hard, but she



Marcia Player: Top Player In Region

probably helped us most with her enthusiasm."

Lemmons, a 6-5 senior, garnered 61 points from the votes cast to nudge Fountain, who had 60, for Player of the Year honors.

The Crisp County cager hit for 20 points per game and pulled down nine rebounds, while Fountain had a 20.4

average and collected an average of 11 rebounds per game.

Lowe, a 6-3 senior, averaged 15 points and 14 rebounds for Coach Norman Sainz's 18-3 Wildcats, while Robinson hit for 14 points and claimed an equal number of rebounds.

Daily Times 3/18/77

Lowndes High Wins Another Region Meet

By Times Staff Writer
AMERICUS — Another Region 1-AAA Literary meet and another Lowndes High School victory.

For the 11th consecutive year — the ninth straight as an AAA school — LHS won region honors here Thursday.

And Lowndes won with ease, too, with 64 points compared to 46 for second-place Crisp County High and 44 for third-place Valdosta High.

First-place winners Thursday advance to the state contest at Mercer University in Macon April 1. Lowndes High and VHS

results:

First place: Girls trio: Vicki Slocumb, Anita Osburn, Cathy Culpepper; boys quartet: Cleve Moore, Edwin Williams, Brian Ward, Ken Ellenberg; boys solo: Edwin Williams; boys spelling: John Young; girls spelling: Kathy Nausbaum; one act play: all of Lowndes High. Girls typing: Jackie Patten; boys essay: Matt Harrington; both of Valdosta High.

Second place: Extemporaneous speaking: Robert Woodward; Lowndes High. girls solo: Donna McCloud; girls trio: Wilma Rose, Margie Waters, Donna McCloud; boys quartet: Michael Love, Dwayne Gibbs, Earl Williams, Michael Willis; girls essay: Gil Garrett; oral interpretation: Bart Bullock of Valdosta High.

Third place: Shorthand: Kathy Nausbaum; home economics: Shirley Register; oral interpretation: Lynne Partin; all of Lowndes High.

Fourth place: girls typing: Toni Schaurman; girls solo: Lynne Partin; both of Lowndes High. Extemporaneous speaking: Davis Pulliam.

Takes Second Win

Times 3-20-77

Wildcat Nine Edges Past Savannah

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta's Wildcats pushed across two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning and took a 7-6 come-from behind high school baseball victory over Savannah here Saturday afternoon.

Coach Butch Brooks' 'Cats banged out 11 hits to seven for Savannah, but needed the sixth inning outburst to send them to their second win in as many outings.

Valdosta took a 3-0 lead in the first inning, but saw the defending state AAA champion Savannah team go ahead with two runs in the third inning and three more in the fourth.

Valdosta tied matters up again with two runs in the bottom of the fourth, only to see Savannah sneak back into

a 6-5 lead in with a fifth inning run.

That set the stage for the two-run sixth inning which gave the Wildcats the victory. Valdosta opened its season a month ago with a win over Suwannee County (Live Oak, Fla.), but had not played since that time.

Wayne Fuggett, who relieved starter Buck Belue

in the fifth inning, took the win, while Bob McNear absorbed the loss for Savannah. McNear went the distance for the visitors, striking out two.

Belue and Pete Leduc led Wildcat batters with a single and a double apiece. Ken Forehand had a single and a double for Savannah.

SAV	abr h bi	VAL	abr h bi
Stnly lb	5 1 1 0	Jenigs lf	2 2 2 2
Jenny lf	3 1 1 0	B. Whit c	4 0 1 0
Frhnd ss	4 0 2 3	Belue p, cf	3 1 2 2
MNear p	4 0 0 0	D. Whit 3b	3 1 2 2
Laner rf	0 1 0 0	Fugt p, lb	3 0 1 0
Stvns 3b	4 0 0 0	Lstnrg lb	1 0 1 0
Ovstrl cf	2 1 1 1	Powel ss	2 1 1 0
Stnfd 2b	1 2 1 0	Danls 2b	3 0 0 0
		Leduc cf	3 2 2 1
		Chpmnrf	2 0 0 0

Totals	28 6 7 5	Totals	26 7 11 6
Savannah	002 310 0-6-7-1		
Valdosta	300 202 x-7-11-1		
E—Jenny, Jennings; LOB—Sav 9, Vald 7;			
2B—Forehand, Belue, White, Fuggett, Leduc;			
SB—B. White, Belue, Leduc 2.			

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Bob McNear (L)	6	11	7	3	3	2
Belue	4	6	5	2	3	2
W. Fuggett	3	1	1	1	4	2

HBP—Powell by McNear; WP—Fuggett, McNeal.

Times
march 16, 1977

Hyder Gives 'Cats First Test Friday

By MIKE CHASON

Nick Hyder puts his 1977 Valdosta High School football team to its first test Friday night, and there's no reason why he shouldn't be optimistic about the Wildcats passing with flying colors.

The 'Cats conclude the third week of their spring practice with an 8 p.m. game under the lights at Cleveland Field Friday against the graduating seniors from last season's team.

The game marks the farewell performance for some 20-odd seniors and hails the coming of a brand new breed of the famed Black and Gold Wildcats.

"It's kinda' like taking a test," Hyder, entering his fourth year as VHS head coach, said "You get them out there under the lights against some real competition and see if they respond to the pressure.

"Who can react the best is the player who's going to show up the best. We're going to try to play a lot of people."

Hyder said his team averaged playing 50 men in each game of the season anyway, but he expected even more than that to get in some licks Friday night. He plans to dress out around 100 players.

Thirteen of those players started at one time or another last season. Hyder said that represents the most returning starters of any team in Region 1-AAA.

It's quite a welcome relief for the likable head coach, who was faced with only seven veterans this time last season. But those seven joined with some new faces to produce a 9-1 regular season and a tie for the region title.

"I'd say we may pass a little more this year," Hyder said, "but basically, our defense will be about like it was last year. It is a year older, and that should make it more mature."

The 'Cats went to the running game more than anyone ever thought they would last season, employing a talented stable of young backs including Williams Gaskins, Sam Fletcher, Ernest King and Bobby Johnson.

Johnson has decided not to play football, but the others return along with quarterback Buck Belue, who's all set for his fourth year as a starter.

It stands to reason Belue should be looked to as one of the team leaders after starting 33 games as quarterback during his three-year career.

"He ought to be one of our leaders," Hyder said. "Of course, I think he took over some leadership responsibility for us last year.

"He's also developed himself into a real fine punter, and our kicking game has looked real good this spring. He also holds for our placement kicks, and that's 40 per cent of it right there."

Hyder lost his first Has-Been game at Valdosta, but has taken two hard fought decisions in the past two years. He's aiming for another win Friday.

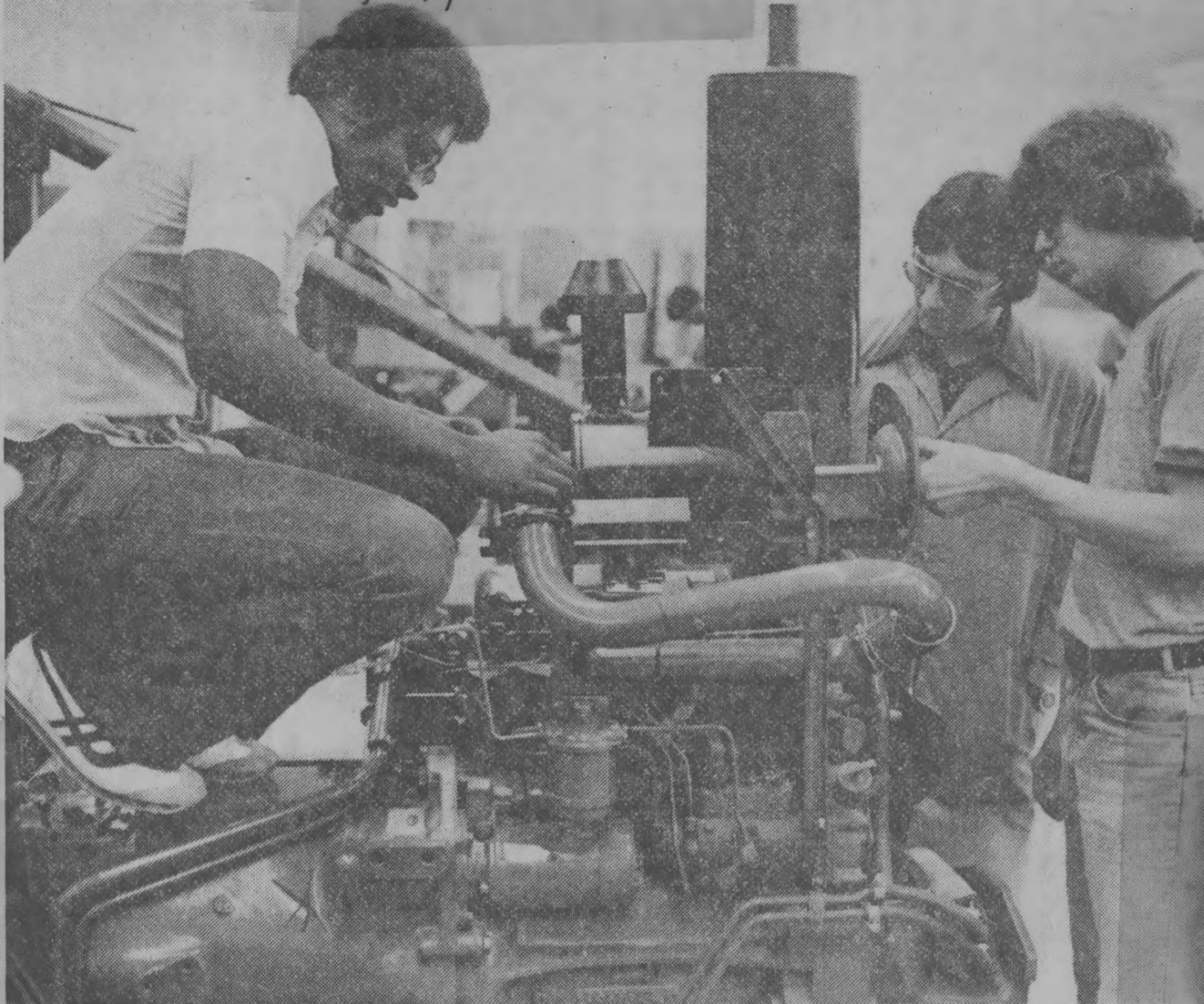
"Every one of these games has been tough," Hyder said. "Last year we had to fight for our lives against Billy Berrian and those guys.

"This is really the last fling for those seniors. They've got a good football team. Like most Has-Been teams, they've got some problems, but they're particularly strong defensive-wise."

Former VHS assistant coach and present assistant principal at the school, Bill Aldrich, is to coach the Has-Beens.

His team does appear strong defensively with such standouts as Lawrence Lowe, Eddie Denard and Curtis Williams. However, since Hyder returns his entire backfield, Aldrich is going to have to fill some holes offensively.

Times March 20, 1977



—Times Staff PH

Instructor Ellington (In Coat), Two Students Inspect New Diesel Engine At VHS

He'll Learn The Diesel

By TERRY SMITH

Although some of his Valdosta High School students may not know what they'll be doing this summer, Byron Ellington does.

"I'm going to learn more about the diesel engine," the vocational education automotive instructor said last week, "and prepare study packets on the diesel."

Ellington is going to prepare study guides and class outlines on diesel engines because there in the middle of the VHS automotive shop is a shiny new blue tractor power train, compliments of Ford Motor Co.

The \$6,738 three-cylinder engine, which arrived during the Christmas holidays with snow on its crate, can be disassembled and reassembled so students can learn how to work on a tractor.

"But I'm limited in experience with a diesel," Ellington explained, "and I don't have any material on it, either."

Ellington, though, says he is experienced in various gasoline engines, and the VHS shop has several available for student-mechanics to tinker with, including a 1974 Pontiac, damaged by General Motors; a 1965 Plymouth stationwagon from Abe Clemons; five short blocks from Rogers Re-Manufacturing; a Dodge Colt from Oliver Motors; the front portion of a Mustang II, also donated by Ford; and Ellington's own 1966 Chevy II "that they keep going," he

said.

"After a student completes a course in, say, tune-ups," Ellington explained, "I let him bring in and work on his or her parents' car."

Also in the shop are wheel alignment and brake systems equipment, two filmstrip slide projectors and a small library of various study packets.

Students bring in necessary parts for their personal use.

Ellington, who's been at VHS for two years, teaches three two-hour classes open to all students.

"In a class of 20, though," he said, "I may only get three or four who're motivated. It's like when I was in school — they don't take advantage of what's here."

The automotive class is one of several vocational education areas available to VHS students, according to department supervisor James Bridges.

"We have 20 teachers and about 1,450 students per quarter in home economics, business education, office training, or one of the trade-industry programs such as automotives, industrial arts, electromechanics, metals, graphics, drafting and design, construction and cosmetology, plus students in the distributive education and diversified cooperative training programs, too," Bridges said.

March 17, 1977
VHS Netters

Wallop Cook

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta whitewashed Cook (Adel) in boys' and girls' high school tennis matches held here Wednesday.

The Kittens romped to a 5-0 win to lift their record to 4-1 on the year. Then the Valdosta boys improved their record to 3-2 with a 13-0 romp over the Hornets.

Individual results follow:

GIRLS

Singles — Chris Gorby (V) beat Cindy Parrish 8-4; Jan Pendleton (V) beat Cheryl Barker 8-1; Debbie Meek (V) beat Cynthia Register 8-1; Gretchen Scruggs (V) beat Lydia Allen 8-0.
Doubles — Lisa Feix-Linda Hall (V) beat Barker-Register 6-1, 6-1.

BOYS

Singles — Ricky Darnell (V) beat Ricky Lawlor 8-7, 6-1; Buck Blanton (V) beat Jerry Ashley 6-2, 6-2; Art Reddick (V) beat Harvey Shaw 6-2, 6-2; Steve Connor (V) beat Trent Sumner 8-0; Brad Skinner (V) beat Troy Tanner 8-4; Richard Clayton (V) beat J.J. Whitaker 8-0; Rodney Childree (V) beat Todd Register 8-1; Edmond Wetherington (V) beat Trey Faucette 8-0; Davis Turner (V) beat Peter Sundler 8-2.
Doubles — Blanton-Reddick (V) beat Lawlor-Ashley 6-0, 6-1; Clayton-Skinner (V) beat Shaw-Sumner 8-2; Mike Enfinger-Greg Daniels (V) beat Troy Taylor-Whitaker 8-0; Andy Worthom-Joev Bass beat Trey Faucette-Peter Sundler 8-3.

Valdosta Student Is STAR Winner

The Times-Union Bureau

VALDOSTA, Ga. — A Valdosta High School student is headed for Atlanta for state competition as the District 2 Student Teacher Achievement Recognition winner.

George Smart, a VHS senior interested in studying engineering, was named the STAR Student of the Year in competition with 28 other schools in Albany Wednesday.

Smart, 17, named his mother as his STAR teacher after he was chosen for the honor at VHS. His mother, Mrs. Martha Smart, was her son's 10th grade biology teacher.

As a district winner, Smart will take a tour of Georgia after the state competition April 21.

The VHS student was awarded a plaque and \$500 during a banquet in Albany Wednesday.

Smart scored the highest grade on a Scholastic Aptitude Test last fall. The grade was also one of the highest scored at VHS in several years.

John E. Calhoun was runnerup.

Smart is being sponsored by the Valdosta Kiwanis Club.

VHS STAR Wins At District Level

By Times Staff Writer
ALBANY—Valdosta High School's George Smart was named District 2 STAR Student of the Year here Wednesday night.

Smart, a 17-year-old senior who "will probably study mechanical engineering" in college, chose his mother, Martha Smart, as his STAR teacher.

Mrs. Smart taught her son in a 10th grade biology class. They live at 2304 Oakridge Drive.

By winning the 29-school district competition, Smart now advances to the district state competition April 21 in Atlanta. District winners are to also take a one-week Chamber of Commerce tour of the state beginning April 22.

Smart received a plaque, silver tray and check for \$500 Wednesday during a banquet. A.L. Feldman, the first STAR state chairman, donated the money.

John E. Calhoun of Calhoun County was runnerup.

The STAR student is the senior who scored the highest on last fall's Scholastic Aptitude Test and Smart's



GEORGE SMART
District 2 Winner

undisclosed score is one of the highest at VHS in years, according to VHS guidance counselor Virginia Wisenbaker. STAR is Student, Teacher Achievement Recognition begun about 20 years ago by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

Smart's local sponsor is the Kiwanis Club, and Carl Funderburk of the club accompanied him and his mother here Wednesday night.

Times, March 22, 1977
'Dosta Dumps Brooks

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta made short work of Brooks County's Trojans and Trojanettes in a high school tennis matchup here Monday.

The VHS boys bombed the visiting Trojans from Quitman 16-0, and the Valdosta girls romped to an 8-0 win.

Both Valdosta teams are now 5-2 heading into Thursday's road match with Madison, Fla.

GIRLS
Singles — Lisa Feix (V) beat Debbie Platt 6-1, 6-0; Chris Gorby (V) beat Regina Cox 6-1, 6-0; Jan Pendleton (V) beat Suzanne Tillman 8-0; Gretchen Scruggs (V) beat Jackie Keef 8-1; Jennifer Youles (V) beat Pat Jordan 8-0.
Doubles — Debbie Mink-Linda Hall (V) beat Platt-Tillman 8-0; Maggie Powell-Lourdes Rodriguez (V) beat Cox-Platt 8-0.

Lisa Holland-Sharon Gorby (V) beat Keef-Jordan 8-6.

BOYS

Singles — Buck Blanton (V) beat Sammy Folsom 6-2, 6-3; Ricky Darnell (V) beat David Mann 6-3, 6-1; Steve Conner (V) beat Keith Delk 8-0; Fred Sinner (V) beat Buckley Moore 8-1; Richard Clayton (V) beat Ralph Denson 8-1; Rodney Childre (V) beat Dennis Monroe 8-1; Edward Weatherington (V) beat Darrell Berman 8-0; David Turner (V) beat Chip Turner 8-4; Mike Einfinger (V) beat Earl Lacey 8-0; Biff Taylor (V) beat David Hurst 8-2; Andy Worthon (V) beat Steve Mock 8-0.

Doubles — Clayton-Darnell (V) beat Folsom-Mann 6-3, 7-5; Conner-Skinner (V) beat Moore-Denson 8-1; Childre-Weatherington (V) beat Berman-Turner 8-2; Einfinger-Greg Daniels (V) beat Hurst-Delk 8-2; Worthon-Bass (V) beat Lacey-Monroe 8-2.

March 23, 1977
VHS SAT Scores Top State Average

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta High School students who took a standard test for college admission scored above the state average in both verbal and mathematics skills.

And Lowndes High seniors who took the same test scored above the state average in verbal skills but were five points below the state mark in math.

Both of the county's public

school seniors' averages were below the national average as were 53 per cent of the about 32,500 state seniors who took the Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT), according to Titus Singletary, assistant state school superintendent for instruction.

The national average SAT scores were 431 on the verbal section and 472 on the math, according to the College

Entrance Examination Board.

Singletary said the state averages were 393 for the verbal and 424 on the math.

Around 200 VHS students took the SAT and managed a 409 average on the verbal portion and 448 on the math, VHS guidance counselor Virginia Wisenbaker told the Times.

"We had students score from 200 to almost 1,500

(combined)," she said, "and it bothers me that the scores are lower than they have been. "But," Mrs. Wisenbaker explained, "if you look at who took the test and look at the courses they've had, and, yes, they're bound to score lower because we have more students taking the test now who haven't been taking the traditionally college-prep courses."

"If you just sign your name," she said, "you're supposed to make 200. Eight hundred on either section is the highest possible score."

Lowndes High Principal Carlton Adams said about 100 of his students took the SAT and averaged 398 on the verbal and 415 on the math.

Singletary blamed the below-average statewide scores on a lack of study, but Adams didn't blame his students' scores on anything — he just pointed to "unfair

comparisons."

"If you're comparing students in Los Angeles or even DeKalb County, it just isn't comparable," Adams said. "I don't think it's fair to compare school systems."

The SAT isn't an achievement test, but rather

"a 2½-hour multiple-choice test that measures verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities. It is intended to supplement the secondary school record and other information about the student in assessing competence for college work," the CEEB Guide says.

Times, Mar. 23, 1977
Honors Program Students Chosen

By Times Staff Writer
Six Valdosta High School and two Lowndes High students have been chosen for the Governor's Honors Program this summer.

Richard Clayton and Rusty Overby, both 10th graders, and David Curtis, an 11th grader, are to participate in the mathematics program; 11th grader Elizabeth Reddick in Spanish; and 11th graders Laura Farley and Douglas Black, both in visual arts, have been chosen from VHS, according to guidance counselor Virginia Wisenbaker.

And Leigh Touchton in French, and Debra Ann Wooley in math, both 10th graders, have been chosen from LHS, according to Hilda McElvey, supervisor of the gifted student program in the county.

These students were chosen from about 1,600 nominated by teachers around the state with the number of nominations from each school determined by the average daily attendance in the 10th and 11th grades.

Twelve students were nominated from VHS, including eight in the academic areas of math, science, English, history or foreign language. LHS students were nominated, including five in the fine arts areas of drama, visual arts or music.

The nominees were interviewed by high school and college faculty and state consultants last month.

Then this week 600 students were notified they'll either be

guests of the state legislature from June 16-July 27 at Wesleyan College in Macon, or at North Georgia College in Dahlonega June 19-July 30.

The student's only expense is travel to and from the college where he is to attend.

Michael Coolidge, a 10th grader in math; Edwin Williams, a 10th grader in music (voice); and Loretta Rozier, a ninth-grader in math, are alternates from LHS.

And Eric Kachelhofer, an 11th grader in drama, and Ellen Eanes, an 11th grader in history, are alternates from VHS.

Etienne...

Hyder Expects Tough Contest

By MARTIN REGISTER
Valdosta High School's Wildcats are certain to try to maintain their dominance over Lowndes' Vikings when the two football teams meet in their spring game Friday at Cleveland Field.

But coach Nick Hyder, who guided Valdosta to a 25-7 romp in last season's spring game then sweated out a 14-3 Wildcat victory in the regular season, certainly isn't taking anything for granted.

Lowndes has never beaten Valdosta on the gridiron, and Hyder and his 'Cats are feeling the pressure commanded by the school's long string of victories over its cross-town rival.

"Lowndes has everything to gain," Hyder said. "It wouldn't really be news if Valdosta won, but the possibility of Lowndes beating Valdosta for the first time really gives them some incentive."

Hyder seems sufficiently impressed with Lowndes and its head coach Joe Wilson, formerly an assistant coach at Valdosta.

"Coach Wilson has done a great job of getting the team and the program ready for this game," he said.

"They've made more progress in football in a short period of time than any other team I know of in the state."

"They're certainly a worthy opponent to be highly respected. I've spent a lot of sleepless nights over this game."

"We're just going to have to get out there and do the very best we can if we are to play a respectable game against Lowndes."

"It's not like it used to be over there (at Lowndes). Now they've got the winning

tradition of last year behind them, and they're very well-coached.

"You've got to put Lowndes right up there with the very elite in high school football."

While praising Lowndes, Hyder pointed to areas which could stand improvement on his own team.

"We need an awful lot of work with coordinating our offensive running game," he said.

"We need to work at getting the ball wide. And our pass blocking. I'm just never satisfied with it."

"On defense, we still have a great deal of work to do. We need to get the right player in the right position. Of course, playing this game will help us a lot in that department for next season."

Last season's contests between the two schools focused largely on the duel between quarterbacks Buck Belue of Valdosta and Lynn Pattillo of Lowndes, widely considered to be among the state's best.

Pattillo graduated, but Belue returns for his fourth season with the Wildcats.

Lowndes displayed an impressive running attack in its Has Been-Will Be game two weeks ago but virtually no passing game.

Hyder, however, feels the Vikings' aerial game will improve.

"We know they have a really fine running game," he said. "(Robin) McElroy and (Steve) Thomas are probably the most explosive pair of running backs in the region."

"But knowing Joe Wilson the way I do, I have to feel like Lowndes also will have a very active passing game. They'll probably throw a balanced offense at us."

"(Nathaniel) Burks and (Jody) Wilson were both real high in receiving statistics last season, so we know they have very capable receivers. And Terry Cooper is a real fine receiver, too."

Jody Wilson, son of the Lowndes head coach, formerly played for Valdosta but transferred to play under his father last season.

Hyder said he would really rather play a team not on the regular season schedule in the spring game.

"There's a lot of tradition riding on this game," he said. "I really feel like it would be better not to play an arch-rival in the spring game."

"For one thing, the team which loses has the incentive for next season. It puts the winner at a disadvantage."

Hyder cited the example of last season, when Lowndes came on after being annihilated in the spring game by Valdosta and threatened to break the Wildcats' long string of victories in their regular season game.

Two final quarter touchdowns pulled that game out of fire for the 'Cats, and the Vikings would like nothing better than to improve on that showing this time out.

The game, which climaxes four weeks of spring practice at both schools, is set to begin Friday at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field.

Jack Kent, Finance Director for the city school system, said early today that ticket sales had almost completely dropped off after good weekend sales.

"We figured Monday we had sold about 1,500 of them," he said, "and we have not sold hardly any since then. People just aren't buying them."

Tickets are \$2 in advance and \$2.50 at the gate. Probably starting lineups follow:

VALDOSTA

Offense — Ends — Willie Hankins (180, soph.) or Sam Fletcher (180, jr.) and Alvin Thomas (160, sr.) or Fred Blair (160, sr.), tackles Gary Guthrie (230, sr.) and Scott Griffin (190, sr.) or Harvey Carter (175, soph.), guards Andy Chapman (185, jr.) and Bubba Hardin (170, jr.) or Frank Beacham (165, jr.), center Tony Blasetti (210, soph.) or Darrell Swindle (190, jr.), quarterback Buck Belue (195, sr.), fullback William Gaskins (155, jr.) or Ernest King (150, soph.), tailback Frank Council (185, sr.) or Robert Smith (155, sr.), flankerback John Lastinger (165, jr.).

Defense — ends — Lynn Roberts (170, jr.) and Doug Conaway (195, sr.), tackles Ray Lloyd (230, sr.) and Curtis Wright (190, sr.), middle guard Robert Baldwin (205, sr.), linebackers Troy Thomas (170, sr.) and John Branan (185, jr.), cornerbacks Carl Roe (170, jr.) and Rodney Gordon (170, jr.), safeties Allen Worthy (180, sr.) and Jimmy Hartman (180, sr.).

LOWNDES

Offense — ends Terry Cooper (171, jr.) and Jody Wilson (170, sr.), tackles Daniel Day (195, sr.) and Joe Harris (190, sr.), guards Bobby Kovach (178, sr.) and Frankie Tyson (170, jr.), center James Yarbrough (155, sr.), quarterback Kenny Luke (175, sr.), halfbacks Robin McElroy (168, jr.) and Nathaniel Burks (175, sr.), fullback Steve Thomas (190, jr.).

Defense — ends Ben Washington (195, sr.) and Tony Savage (180, jr.), tackles John Flythe (215, jr.) and Keith Hitchcock (181, jr.), nose guard Tim Yorkey (170, sr.), linebackers Ronnie Adkins (200, jr.) and Judge Burks (190, soph.), cornerbacks Dennis McDonald (140, jr.) and Kevin McNeal (160, sr.), safeties Bill Schreffler (145, jr.) and Ronnie Mashburn (165, jr.) or Hal Sorenkle (160, jr.).

VHS DE'ers

Leave For State Meet

By Times Staff Writer

Thirteen Valdosta High School students left today for Atlanta and the Distributive Education Clubs of America State Leadership Conference through Sunday.

Two of the students, Ellen Eanes and Joey Ivansco, are running for state office, secretary and vice president, respectively, Norman Greene, DE coordinator at VHS, said.

"This conference is to allow DE students to compete in events which are designed around classroom-curriculum, to develop leadership skills and to participate in career workshops."

Students and their competitive events include Judy Eanes, student of the year and merchandise information manual; Ellen Eanes, spelling; Debbie Bruck, job interview; Desiree Smith, area of distribution manual; Cathy Dowling, jewelry marketing studies; Gail McCrary, advertising; Cheryl Gray, math; Cheryl Gatewood, display; Alice George, apparel and accessories; Marie Eunice, promotion project, free enterprise project; Elizabeth Reddick, reporter of the year; and Rex Taylor, student of the year.

Greene said the VHS club is to also enter the chapter of the year and free enterprise project contests.

Previously the club won District Eight competition in Albany.

Madison, VHS Split

By Times Staff Writer

MADISON, Fla. — Madison split a high school tennis doubleheader with Valdosta, Ga., here Thursday.

Madison took a 5-2 win in girls' matches, but Valdosta came back to claim a 7-1 triumph in boys' play.

The Valdosta girls saw their record dip to 5-3 with the loss, while the boys improved their record to 6-2.

Valdosta travels to Quitman Tuesday for matches with Brooks County.

Individual results follow:

GIRLS

Singles — Karen Anderson (M) beat Allison Reddick 6-3, 6-3; Suzie Smith (M) beat Chris Gorby 6-1, 6-1; Lisa Feix (V) beat Bridget Waters 6-0, 6-1; Sharon Hidy (M) beat Linda Hall 6-2, 5-7, 6-4; Jan Pendleton (V) beat Rosie Knox 6-4, 6-3.

Doubles — Anderson-Smith (M) beat Reddick-Feix 6-0, 6-7, 6-4; Waters-Sharon Sanders (M) beat Hall-Debbie Mink 8-6.

BOYS

Singles — Mike Sasnett (M) beat Buck Blanton 5-7, 6-1, 6-3; Ricky Darnell (V) beat Mike Norfleet 6-3, 6-2; Steve Conner (V) beat Jeff Russell 6-1, 6-1; Fred Skinner (V) beat Mark Schnitker 6-0, 6-2; Richard Clayton (V) beat Robin Peavy 6-1, 6-2; Edwin Weatherington (V) beat William Edwards 8-3.

Doubles — Darnell-Clayton (V) beat Sasnett-Norfleet 8-3; Conner-Rodney Childre (V) beat Russell-Schnitker 8-3.

Honors For Students, S

Our two high schools have something to crow about, and we think they shouldn't hide their lights under bushels.

Valdosta High is sending six of its students to the Governor's Honors Program. Lowndes High has had two of its pupils selected for the program.

The students selected from VHS are Richard Clayton, Rusty Overby, David Curtis, Elizabeth Reddick, Laura Farley and Douglas Black. From Lowndes High the students are Leigh Touchton and Debra Ann Wooley.

These youngsters bring credit to themselves and their schools. That's because there were competing with high school pupils from across the state for slots in the honors' program.

Being selected for the Governor's honors program in academics can be compared with being selected to an all-state team in football or basketball. Only the best are chosen. And they are chosen for their abilities in the classroom, their records in school in all areas and on the basis of interviews with the program's selection committee.

Governor's honors is designed not only to honor outstanding high school students in Georgia, but to provide an additional incentive in their continuing learning process. These youngsters go to the program for

several weeks in the Dahlonaga where intense work in their Governor's honor achievement for the selection reflects on great honor to their s



Poetry In Motion

At halftime of Friday night's football jamboree at Cleveland Field between Lowndes and Valdosta High Schools, the VHS Marchin' Cats performed the same show which they will present at the 56th Florida Festival of States when they represent Georgia in the band competition. Among the 240-member band, it was 16-year-

old Jamie Tootle who caught the photographer's eye with her acrobatic twirling routines. And Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue caught the attention of plenty of eyes as he sparked the Wildcats to a 30-20 win over the Vikings of Coach Joe Wilson. For complete details of the game, turn to Page 6. — Times Staff Photo by Ken Klanicki.

Valdosta Edges Dougherty, 3-2

ALBANY — What began on a cloudy, overcast drizzling rainy afternoon at Albany's Satterfield Park turned into a bright, sunshining day for Valdosta's Wildcats Tuesday.

A brief shower fell on the patchy-sodded infield just before the opening pitch in the 1-AAAA playoff series. It wasn't enough to stop the contest and Coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats responded with a heart-stopping 3-2 victory over Dougherty, the 1-AAAA (North) champions. Senior righthander Wayne Fugett battled Dougherty ace Chris Norman pitch-for-pitch en route to the victory. However, it almost got away from the 'Cats in the bottom of the seventh.

With one out, Phil Brooks lofted a pop fly single to left, the Trojans' first safety since the third. Bruce Pollock flied to right, but John Bond misjudged the ball, turning the game into a crucial second and third situation.

Dougherty attempted a suicide squeeze twice, but Chris Johnson fouled out both chances. Incredibly, the Trojans tried the same play on strike three.

Fugett threw the ball past Johnson to record his 10th strikeout. However, Wildcat cheers turned to groans when catcher Mike Ruff's throw to third sailed into leftfield. VHS leftfielder David Berryhill was in perfect position and his relay to Fugett at the plate nailed Brooks for a wierd, game-ending double play.

"We'd picked up their bunt sign. I was trying to keep it outside," Fugett said with a big smile. "It's really a great feeling to win a playoff game."

The Wildcat ace improved his record to 5-4 and also proved a thorn in the Trojans' side going 2-3 at the plate. He was superb in the middle innings, retiring 11 of 12 batters at one stretch.

"I was a little nervous at first. I decided to bear down and just go with my fast ball," Fugett said. "I felt

stronger and more confident as the game progressed. The wind was blowing in and that was also in my favor."

Flashing his biggest smile since guiding the Wildcats to the state title last spring, Brooks praised his squad for battling back.

"We made some mistakes, but we didn't quit when they went ahead in the third," Brooks said. "I know we can do a better job defensively. We stunk up the place, but David was in the right place at the right time."

"Wayne was sensational. He didn't give them anything," Brooks said. "We could have caught all of their base hits."

Fugett and Norman both allowed four hits and they each had triples to spark their club's hitting attack.

VHS broke on top with one run in the first. John Lastinger beat out an infield roller that Norman gloved, but couldn't throw him out.

On a perfect hit-and-run, Fugett grounded a single to center through the hole vacated by second baseman Johnson. Lastinger never stopped running, crossing the plate on a boot by the centerfielder.

Dougherty threatened in the first on Johnson's wind-blown double to right. Don Clark grounded to Ashley DeLoach at third, but Spencer Feix dropped his throw at second. The runners advanced on a wild pitch before Fugett fanned two and retired the Trojans on a grounder to second.

At Tifton

Times, March 27, 1977

Valdosta, Tift Split Doubleheader

By Times Staff Writer
TIFTON — Valdosta's Wildcats split a high school baseball doubleheader with Tift County's Blue Devils here Saturday.

Coach Butch Brooks' 'Cats notched a 5-3 win in the first game, but dropped a 4-3 decision in the second con-

test. Valdosta was forced to go an extra inning in the first contest after Tift scored a run in the bottom of the seventh frame to knot things up at 3-3.

But VSC pushed across two runs in the extra inning to win the game for relief pitcher Buck Belue.

Belue switched from centerfielder to pitcher in the seventh inning after the Blue Devils and scored two runs on six hits off starter Keith Mayne.

Catcher Bob White collected two of Valdosta's hits during the game.

Valdosta came roaring back in the second game to score two runs in the seventh inning and close a three-run deficit to 4-3, but could come no closer.

Both teams collected only

three hits in the game, but Tift took advantage of some early Wildcat errors to go ahead 4-0 after two frames.

Starting Wildcat pitcher Wayne Fugett allowed eight walks and threw four wild pitches in the first two innings before being relieved by Mayne in the third frame.

Same

Wildcat Boxes

TIFT	abr	h	r	b	bi	VAL	abr	h	b	bi
R. Smith cf	4	0	0	0		Lstgr 2b	4	1	1	0
S. Keith 2b	3	0	0	0		Ganas 3b	3	0	1	0
Pirck 1b	4	1	1	0		Belue cf,p	4	2	0	0
Troxl 3b	3	1	2	0		Chpmn lf	3	1	0	0
MAItr lf	4	0	2	0		Whit lf	0	1	0	0
M. Keith p	4	0	2	0		Fuget 1b	2	0	0	0
Both c	3	0	0	0		Gordn rf	3	0	0	1
Hndsrn rf	3	0	0	0		Leduc rf	1	0	0	0
Willss	3	1	1	0		Powl ss	4	0	1	1
Totals	31	3	8	0		B. Wit c	4	1	2	0
						C. Dnl dh	3	0	0	0
						Mayne	0	0	0	0
						Totals	28	5	4	2

TIFT	abr	h	r	b	bi	VAL	abr	h	b	bi
R. Smith cf	1	2	0	0		Jengs lf, 1b	3	0	0	0
S. Keith 2b	1	1	0	0		D. White 3b	2	0	1	0
Patik 1b	0	0	0	0		Belue cf	3	1	0	0
Willis 1b	2	0	1	0		B. White c	3	0	0	0
Troxl ss	1	0	0	0		Powl ss	1	1	1	0
MAItr lf	3	0	0	0		Lstgr 2b	2	1	0	0
R. Both c	2	0	1	0		Danis 1b	3	0	0	0
Hndsrn dh	3	0	1	0		Leduc 1b	1	0	0	0
Crmlh 3b	2	1	0	0		Hodge rf	1	0	0	0
Greer rf	3	0	0	0		Weldn rf	1	0	0	0
Brown p	0	0	0	0		Fuget p	0	0	0	0
Totals	18	4	3	0		Hunt dh	3	0	1	2
						Mayne p	0	0	0	0
						Totals	21	3	3	2

Valdosta	000	100	2-3-3-1			
Tift	220	000	x-4-3-1			
E - Fugett, S. Keith; DP - Val 1, Tift 1;						
LOB Val 3, Tift 4;						
2B - D. White, Powell, Hunt; SB - D. White, Powell, Hunt.						
ip	h	r	er	bb	so	
Fugett (L, 1 1)	2	0	4	3	8	2
Mayne	4	3	0	0	1	0
Brown	7	3	3	1	7	3
WP - Fugett 4.						

VHS DE Club Tops In Ga.

By Times Staff Writer
ATLANTA — Valdosta High School's Distributive Education club was named Chapter of the Year here Saturday night during the Distributive Education State Leadership Conference.

Lowndes High was first runnerup, and Valdosta Area Vocational Technical School took first place honors among junior colleges.

Senior Judy Eanes of VHS was named girl student of the year while senior Gerald Hail of Lowndes was named boy student of the year.

"I'm very proud of this hardworking group," said VHS DE coordinator Norman Greene. "They did a fantastic

job. "Not just the ones here tonight," Greene said, "but the kids back home who did a lot of work on club projects, too.

"We couldn't have done it without a lot of effort by the students and the help of the school, parents and businesses."

First and second place winners here qualified for national competition at Anaheim, Calif., in May.

"If we can raise the money," Greene said.

Of the 12 VHS students entered in competition here, seven took first places while four LHS students finished first.

"Fantastic," LHS club advisor Phil Walden said.

Val-Tech club advisor Mike Bass brought five students here and managed three first places.

"We're the only vocational in the state that competes on the collegiate level," Bass added.

Complete results follow:

High School Results

FIRST PLACE: Judy Eanes, girl student of the year; Debbie Bruck, job interview; Desiree Smith, area of distribution manual; Cathy Dowling, jewelry marketing studies; Gail McCrary, advertising; Marie Eunice, promotion project, free enterprise project; all of Valdosta High. Gerald Hail, boy student of the year; Robert Woodward, public speaking; Debbie Mueller, creative marketing project; Brenda Garner, chapter free enterprise project; Lowndes High.
SECOND PLACE: Elizabeth Reddick, reporter of the year; Cheryl Gray, math; Judy Eanes, merchandise information

manual; chapter free enterprise project; all of Valdosta High. Robert Woodward, free enterprise project; Debbie Mueller, promotional project; Lowndes High.

THIRD PLACE: Debbie Bruck, creative marketing project.

PLACED AMONG TOP EIGHT: Cheryl Gatewood, display; Ellen Eanes, spelling; Rex Taylor, boy student of the year; all of Valdosta High. Gerald Hail, area distribution manual; Brenda Garner, girl student of the year; Tina Dasher, reporter of the year; Jerry Evans, jewelry retail industry; Lowndes High.

Val-Tech Results

FIRST PLACE: Debbi Rowe, chapter activities; Bill Bullard, management decision making; Anita Jernigan, employment training manual contest.

SECOND PLACE: Cindy Boykin, employment training manual and student of the year.

THIRD PLACE: Grady Folsom, student of the year.



—AP WIREPHOTO

Wistful Beauties Together

The wisteria is a native vine of the Far East and 15-year-old Carol Davis is a native of Valdosta, Ga. Together they form a pleasant composition as the late afternoon sun highlights the subtle loveliness of both. Carol is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Davis and is a freshman at Valdosta High School.

White Brothers Spark Valdosta Past T'ville

By MIKE CHASON

The White brothers teamed up to ignite a Valdosta offensive attack which completely buried Thomasville in a 14-1 Wildcat high school baseball win here Tuesday.

Bob White, a senior catcher, accounted for six RBI on a single and a 370-foot home run to dead center field. White's blast became the first home run ever in a regular season game off the green wall placed in center field at Bazemore Field for the first time this season.

David White, a junior third baseman, punched out four hits in five trips, scored four runs, and knocked in another. He also had a long triple down the line in left field.

Valdosta, now 4-1, racked two Thomasville pitchers for 13 hits and backed by the superb pitching of sophomore Wayne Fugett, that was plenty enough.

Fugett turned in a route-going performance for coach Butch Brooks' VHS nine to raise his season record to 2-1.

Looking quicker as the innings passed, Fugett struck out eight and walked only three. He wound up the game in fine style, striking out all three Bulldog batters he faced in the final frame.

"Compared to last Saturday, he did an excellent job," Brooks said of his fireballing righthander. "Saturday, he walked nine batters and had two wild pitches. But he settled down today and did an excellent job."

Brooks said Fugett would probably get the nod to start Friday's contest against cross-county rival Lowndes if his arm wasn't too sore.



DAVID WHITE
Four Hits



BOB WHITE
Long Homer

The Wildcats jumped on Thomasville starter Mike Posey for six runs in the first inning and spent the rest of the game building on that lead.

Posey walked three of the first four batters he faced, and the Wildcats seemed content to sit back and wait for the lanky righthander to throw one over the plate.

Bob White and Mark Powell got tired of waiting however, and lined out back-to-back singles. After Posey hit Peter LeDuc with a pitch, his stint on the mound was over, and Willie Peoples came in to take over the pitching duties the rest of the way.

He didn't have much more success against the 'Cats, who also got two hits from Buck Beue and Powell. Powell added an excellent defensive game at shortstop.

"We got outhit, outpitched, outhustled, and outcoached," Thomasville coach Jack Johnson said. "There's just nothing else you can say about it."

Wildcat Box

THIS	abr	h	tb	VHS	abr	h	tb
Clay Jr	3	0	0	Jrns Jr	2	1	0
Pepls 2b-p	3	0	0	Hodgert	2	1	0
Nurly 1b	3	0	0	Ltjtr 2b	3	0	0
Posey p-ss	3	0	0	Orvis 2b	1	0	0
York c	3	1	0	D. White 3b	5	4	1
Hines 3b	3	0	0	Beue cf	4	2	0
Morris cf	1	0	0	Garos 1b	1	0	0
Celan ph	0	0	0	B. White c	3	2	0
Hain 2b	2	0	0	Pewl ss	4	2	0
Hrtm rf	3	0	0	LeDuc lf	1	0	0
				Cham p	1	0	0
				Fugett	3	0	7
				Hart ph	1	0	0
TOTALS	24	13	0	TOTALS	31	14	17

Thomasville
 Valdosta
 E — Hines, J. Posey, D. White; DP — VHS
 1; LOB — THIS 4, VHS 8
 3B — D. White; HR — B. White; SB — Clay, Chastain, Jennings, B. White, Powell, LeDuc; JS — Garas.
 up h r of sb po
 Posey (L) 1 3 3 4 3 0
 Peoples 5 2 3 0 8 3 4 1
 Fugett (W, 2:1) 7 3 1 1 3 8
 HBP — LeDuc by Posey.

march
31

romans 8:32

Youngsters Bring Us Honor

The cry used to be "Break up the Yankees," or "Break up the Wildcats." Now the shout is going out to break up Valdosta DE.

That's because the Valdosta High School Distributive Education Club has just won another best club of the year title in state competition. That makes it 14 times in the past 21 years the VHS DE Club has been judged best in Georgia.

What is especially sweet for the home folks in this year's contest is not only the VHS results, but those of two other DE clubs here.

The Lowndes High DE Club was runnerup to VHS as the state's top club. And the club at the Valdosta Area Vocational Technical School won first place honors on the junior college level.

If someone had had the chance, he couldn't have stacked the deck better for the home folks.

But there was no stacked deck. The clubs won because of the competence and dedication of the youngsters in the DE programs at the high schools and the technical school.

Distributive education is a program by

which the students attend classes at the school and gain some of their education also through outside jobs. It isn't merely a matter of holding a part time job. It is some of that, plus meeting the criteria of the highly effective distributive education program.

VHS DE coordinator Norman Greene along with Phil Walden of Lowndes High and Mike Bass of the vo-tech school are to be congratulated for the fine showing of their students, the clubs, in the state competition last weekend.

Excuse us for being personal, but we'd especially like to congratulate three young women for their first place awards in the state DE competition. They are Debbie-Bruck, Debbie Mueller and Desiree Smith.

See, these three DE students are employes of The Valdosta Daily Times and we can't help but point out that their fine efforts not only bring honor to themselves, their school, and their DE club, but also to the Times. And we appreciate it.

In fact, we appreciate the fine efforts of all our area students involved in the state competition. They bring honor to all of us.

4-2-77

'Cats Deliver In Clutch, Top Vikes, 6-2

By MARK CRAWFORD
 Taking advantage of scoring opportunities in often the name of the game in his sport, Valdosta's Mark Budge had hit off string, and he had a high school baseball victory over Lowndes' Vikings here Friday.

In two clutch situations, Valdosta's Mark Budge and Buck Belue delivered big hits which scored four of the Wildcat runs.

Backed by the 11-strikeout pitching of Belue, that was enough VHS offense to send the Vikes to their second defeat in six games and level their Region 1-AAA (South) record at 1-1.

Valdosta is now 3-1 overall and 2-0 in league action. The 'Cats hosted Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.) in a doubleheader this afternoon while Lowndes traveled to Nashville, Ga. to take on Berrien.

Surprisingly, VHS head coach Butch Brooks didn't seem too satisfied with the win over Valdosta's intra-county rival.

"Except for the second game against Tifton (the Wildcats' only other loss), that was the worst game we've played this year," Brooks said. "We left the bases loaded one time, and we just made a lot of mistakes."

"All in all though, the boys hung in there and came through after they were behind, and you've got to be proud of that."

Brooks had earlier announced that sophomore righthander Wayne Fugett would pitch the game, but confirmed Friday that his statement was merely a propaganda move.

"We planned to go with Buck all the time," Brooks said. "He's been there before, and he knows what a pressure game it is. But then, we did warm both of them up before the game."

Viking coach Noel George also had two pitchers ready to toe the mark and before the



—Times Staff photos by Ken Kinnick

Out But Injured: Vikings' James Marshall Is Tagged Out By VHS' s Mark Powell (19), But Powell Gets Slightly Cut Hand

and scored on a single by Wainwright. That cut the score to 3-1 since Wainwright had already come up with one run in the second inning on a single, a throwing error by VHS catcher Bob Wynn, and a wild pitch by Belue.

George decided to switch pitchers in the top of the fifth, despite the warning that Lowndes had working.

"I feel like a change might bother them a little," George said. "They were starting to get to Lowndes a little bit, and we had Lynn (Faulkner) ready. He didn't do a bad job, but we just made some crucial mistakes."

George credited the craftiness of Belue with some of the Vikings' failures. He pointed out how the strong-armed junior struck out the first three men in the LHS lineup in the fifth inning after Pattiño had reached on a walk.

Belue's bat terrorized the Vikes in the sixth when he knocked in two runs with a single in a bases-loaded, two-out situation. Belue's other hit was a double in the fifth which landed at the bottom of the centerfield fence 400 feet from the plate.

That was the inning Valdosta left the bases loaded, much to the chagrin of Brooks.

Lowndes had the tying run at bat in the bottom of the sixth after Kelly and Plair opened the inning with singles for two of the seven hits off Belue.

But then the Vikings muffed a double steal, and Plair was tagged out between first and second. Kelly was left on third and never did make it home as Belue again reached back and struck out the final two batters.

"We just didn't play good enough," George said. "But you never know how kids are going to react. If we would have tied it up there that time, the whole complex of the game might have changed."

VHS LUCID

Progress Made By Wildcats And Vikes

With another year of spring practice behind them, Nick Hyder and Joe Wilson have turned their football players back over to the baseball, track, tennis and golf coaches.

Just about every boy on both Hyder's Valdosta High School Wildcats, and Wilson's Lowndes High School Vikings will undoubtedly be involved in some type of off-season program from now until August, but for the next two months anyway, football may not be the number one thing on their minds.

But for Hyder and Wilson, it's a subject which never leaves the tips of their tongues.

The cross-county rivals culminated four weeks of spring practice a week ago in a spring jamboree game which Valdosta won 30-20. After leading 9-0 at halftime, the Wildcats took control of the contest with a 21-point third quarter to surge into a 30-0 lead. Lowndes scored most of its points on VHS second stringers in the fourth period.

The game and a month of pad work had to tell both coaches something about the shape of things to come in the fall.

"We're satisfied with everything except for certain phases of the kicking game, the speed in the offensive backfield and we need more depth," Hyder said. "We've got to have more speed, and some of these other players are just going to have to come through for us."

"We're most pleased with our offensive line. We knew they were going to give us a good effort, and they did. By and large, we had some pretty good holes (to run through)."

Valdosta didn't throw much in either the Lowndes game or a victory over its graduating seniors a week earlier. It seemed kind of surprising since in Buck Belue, the Wildcats have probably the best passer in Region 1-AAA. As a sophomore, Belue led the league in passing, and Valdosta won the region title in a playoff with Thomasville.

Last season, Belue was third in passing but led the region in scoring. Belue, along with a host of young running backs, stayed on the ground more. However, Valdosta stayed at home after losing a playoff for the region title to Central of Thomasville. The Wildcats didn't necessarily lose that game just because Belue wasn't throwing it, because on that particular Tuesday night in



Mike Chason
Times Sports Editor

November, neither the running nor passing game made much of a dent in the Yellow Jackets.

However, judging by Hyder's tone, he doesn't plan to let Belue fill up the Cleveland Field atmosphere with passes come September.

"Our idea is to try to establish a ground game," Hyder said. "The teams that are winning have the ability to pass, but they have a sound ground game too. They have a sound defense too, and that's what we set out to do along with improving the kicking game."

Hyder credited Valdosta's defense with 23 of the 30 points the Wildcats scored on Lowndes last week. He pointed to a safety, a punt return for a TD, and two fumbles which eventually wound up over the goal line after short drives.

"We were aggressive in the game, and we seemed to be a little meaner," Hyder said. "We're on schedule right now, but we're not satisfied enough to relax. But we do have a positive feeling going into the next phase of our program."

Wilson is the type coach who tries to turn every situation to his team's advantage. After getting whipped 35-7 in the same spring game last season, he worked his Vikings almost round-the-clock in summer camp. He knew they had a long way to go, and after that game, so did they. But the Vikes met the challenge with an 8-2 season, the best in the school's history.

And now, after again losing to Valdosta in the spring game in a contest which wasn't really close, does Wilson feel like he's watching an instant replay of last season?

"Overall, we're satisfied with where we are right now," Wilson said. "Nobody's watching us. They're not worried about little old Lowndes. Maybe we'll slip up on some of them. We really might be a little ahead of where we were last year. They (Valdosta) beat us by 28 points last year, and this year they only beat us by 10."

"I think they (Valdosta) have one of the best football teams they've had in a long time. They've got all that talent and all that tradition. We had some early opportunities in the game, but we made some coaching mistakes and our timing and execution were a little off."

Wilson said the Vikes didn't work a whole lot on conditioning in the spring and the boys he played in the game became more tired as the game wore on. Hyder, meanwhile, was substituting freely. He wound up playing over 90 boys.

"Valdosta prepared hard for us in the spring," Wilson said. "The aim of their spring was to beat Lowndes. They may not say that, but that's what I believe. We want to win every time we get on the field too, but we've got some other things we want to get accomplished."

One of those "other things" was to give quarterback Kenny Luke some playing experience. Luke played the whole game at quarterback, his first time doing so against outside competition since junior high school. He didn't look anything close to spectacular, but as Wilson has pointed out time and again, neither did 1976 1-AAA Offensive player of the year Lynn Pattillo in the same game last year. Pattillo was the Lowndes quarterback last year.

Both coaches had scouts at other spring games in the region, and all had glowing reports about Tift County (Tifton). Lowndes opens with Tift on the road, and Valdosta must play the Blue Devils as one of its subregion contests.

But the first crack of the pads in the 1977 season is still five months away. For football players aiming at stardom next year, that five months will pass slowly. For Hyder and Wilson, it may seem like an eternity.

White Brothers Spark Valdosta Past T'ville

By MIKE CHASON

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THS	abr	h	bi	VHS	abr	h	bi		
Clay lf	3	0	0	Jngs rf	2	1	1		
Pepls 2b-p	3	0	0	Hodge rf	2	1	1		
Nunly lb	3	0	0	Lstrg 2b	3	0	0		
Posey p-ss	3	0	0	Dnls 2b	1	1	0		
Yorkc	3	1	1	D. White 3b	5	4	4		
Hines 3b	3	0	2	Belue cf	4	2	2		
Morris cf	1	0	0	Ganas 1b	1	2	0		
Cstan ph	0	0	0	B. White c	3	2	2		
Hrn 2b	2	0	0	Pwell ss	4	1	2		
Hrtn rf	3	0	0	LeDuc lf	1	0	0		
				Chpmn lf	1	0	0		
				Fugett p	3	0	1		
				Hunt ph	1	0	0		
TOTALS	24	1	3						
				TOTALS	31	14	13		
Thomasville				010	000	0	1-3-3		
Valdosta				610	241	x	14-13-1		
E—Hines 2, Posey, D. White; DP—VHS									
1; LOB—THS 4, VHS 8.									
3B—D. White; HR—B. White; SB—									
Clay, Chastain, Jennings, B. White, Powell,									
LeDuc; S—Ganas.									
				ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Posey (L)				1.3	3	6	6	3	0
Peoples				5.2	3	10	8	3	4
Fugett (W, 2-1)				7	3	1	1	3	8
HBP—LeDuc by Posey.									

VHS FBLA Chapter Cited

ATLANTA — Valdosta High School's Future Business Leaders of America Club received an outstanding chapter award and superior rating here this weekend during the FBLA State Leadership Conference.

Elbert County High received the Chapter of the Year award.

Two VHS students also were named to Who's Who in the Georgia FBLA: senior Sandy Maples, the club secretary, and junior Steve Shapiro, Region 1 and club vice president.

Miss Maples also helped Jackie Patten prepare the VHS annual activities report which received a fifth place award.

Paul Purcell of VHS placed fourth in public speaking competition; Lowndes High's Julia McElwain placed fifth in business law competition.

The Lowndes High Swing Choir provided entertainment Friday night.

VHS Netters Romp

THOMASVILLE — Valdosta swept a high school tennis doubleheader from Central in action here Tuesday.

The Valdosta girls swept to a 5-1 win in their matches, then watched as their male counterparts breezed to an 11-2 victory.

The win improved the 'Dosta girls record to 8-3, while the boys now stand 9-2. Valdosta plays host to Thomasville Thursday, then entertains Madison, Fla., Friday.

Individual results follow:

- GIRLS**
- Singles — Allison Reddick (V) beat Martha Carnahan 8-0; Lisa Feix (V) beat Sherry Suber 8-0; Jan Pendleton (V) beat Donna Croft 8-0; Gretchen Scuggs (V) beat Jane Rivers 8-1;
 - Doubles — Chris Gorby/Maggie Powell (V) beat Carnahan-Suber 8-1; Croft/Rivers (C) beat Sharon Gorby/Lisa Holland 8-3.
- BOYS**
- Singles — Buck Blanton (V) beat Brandon Finch 8-4; Steve Connor (V) beat Howard Smith 9-7; Brad Skinner (V) beat Jeff Wilson 8-5; Ricky Darnell (V) beat Travis Sheppard 8-0; Charlie Miller (C) beat Art Reddick 8-3; Richard Clayton (V) beat Jody Renfro 8-2; Edwin Weatherington (V) beat Mike Griffin 8-5; David Turner (V) beat Jamie Day 8-5; Mike Enfinger (V) beat Robert Donovan 8-3;
 - Doubles — Blanton-Reddick (V) beat Finch-Smith 8-0; Darnell-Clayton (V) beat Griffin-Miller 8-2; Connor-Skinner (V) beat Sheppard-Wilson 8-2; Renfro-Donovan (C) beat John Branon-Weatherington 8-5.

LHS B-Team Nips 'Dosta

By Times Staff Writer

Tony Bowden lined a drive between first and second base in the bottom of the 12th inning, bringing home Chuck DeVane and lifting Lowndes to a 7-6 high school B-team baseball win over Valdosta here Wednesday.

Valdosta jumped into an early 3-0 lead, saw Lowndes tie things up, then went ahead again 6-3 in the fifth inning.

But the Vikings came back to tie matters up again, stretching the game, scheduled for nine frames, into three extra innings.

Bowden's bases-loaded blast brought home the winning run, giving Viking pitcher Vill Schreffler the victory.

Times 4-7-77

'Cats Calm Packers, 4-1

Times 4-6-77

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta's usually loud bats fell silent here Tuesday, but the Wildcats took advantage of some key Moultrie errors to register a 4-1 high school baseball win over the visiting Packers.

Now 8-1 overall and the only undefeated team in Region 1-AAA (South) with a 3-0 mark, the 'Cats of head coach Butch Brooks could manage only two hits off Packer pitcher James Pullins.

Moultrie slipped out to a 1-0 lead after one inning when Allen Clark reached on an error by Wildcat shortstop Mark Powell and scored on a

passed ball by catcher Bob White. Steve Jennings tied it up in the bottom of the first when he walked, reached second on an error, went to third on a David White single, and scored on Buck Belue's fielder's choice to Clark at second base.

By scoring Moultrie's only run, Clark had already proven to be a factor in the game, but in the third inning, he became the absolute key figure.

Valdosta scored three runs in that inning off three consecutive errors by the MHS second-sacker.

Barry Ganas initiated the action when he drew a walk off Pullins. Chris Daniels then hit a chopper which got by Clark, moving Ganas to third and sending Daniels to second.

Mark Hodge then popped up to Clark, who dropped the ball. Both runners scored.

Not about to pass up a good thing, Powell hit another ball to Clark, and the by now frustrated second baseman again mishandled the ball, allowing Hodge to score.

Bob White had a home run taken away from him in the

fourth inning when Moultrie centerfielder Mike Paine reached over the fence and caught the ball.

The Packers mounted something of a rally in the fifth, but a double play from Daniels to Powell to Ganas wiped out the threat.

Sophomore Wayne Fugett picked up the hill win for the 'Cats, his third in four starts. He allowed five hits and struck out eight batters. He also had the only other hit off Pullins.

Valdosta travels to Bainbridge Friday.

Wildcat Box

MHS	abr	h	bi	VHS	abr	h	bi
Paine cf	3	0	0	Jnngs rf	1	1	0
Aln. Clk 2b	3	1	2	B. Whit c	3	0	0
Tyus 3b	3	0	0	D. Whit 3b	3	0	1
Hart c	2	0	0	Belue cf	3	0	1
Pullins p	3	0	1	Gnas 1b	2	1	0
Soars ss	3	0	0	Onis 2b	3	1	0
Kliger lf	3	0	0	Hdge dh	2	1	0
Cris rf	0	0	0	Pwill ss	3	0	0
Kola dh	2	0	1	Fgff p	3	0	1
Beard lb	2	0	1	Lstngr 2b	0	0	0
Dfth ph	1	0	0	LDuc lf	0	0	0

TOTALS	25	15	0	TOTALS	23	4	2
Moultrie	100	000	0-1-5	4			
Valdosta	103	000	x-4-2	1			

E - Clark 3, Pullins, Powell; DP - VHS 1; LOB - MHS 3, VHS 2; SB - B. White, Hodge

ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Pullins (L)	6	2	4	2	4
Fugett (W, 3-1)	7	5	1	0	2

PB - B. White

Miss VHS April 9, '77

The annual Miss Valdosta High School Pageant is to be on Saturday at 8 p.m. at Mathis city auditorium, according to an announcement.

Tickets are on sale for \$1.50 in advance at Barnes Drug Store at Brookwood Plaza. Tickets purchased at the door are to cost \$2.

Proceeds from the pageant, sponsored by the junior class, are to be used for the annual junior-senior dance which is planned for May 14.

'Cats Are 9-1 April 9, 1977

Belue Shuts Out Bainbridge, 3-0

By Times Staff Writer
BAINBRIDGE — Buck Belue twirled a one-hit shutout here Friday to send Valdosta's Wildcats to a 3-0 Region 1-AAA (South) high school baseball win over Bainbridge's Bearcats.

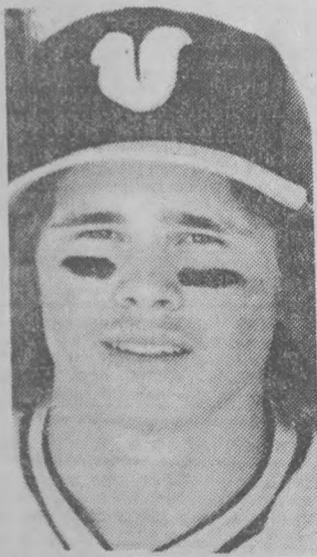
Belue, a junior righthander, raised his season record to 4-0 with the six-strikeout, seven-inning performance. He issued only one walk and gave up the only hit to Robert Linton.

With the victory, coach Butch Brooks' team pushed its overall record to 9-1 and its league mark to a perfect 4-0. Valdosta is the only unbeaten team in the subregion.

The 'Cats got on the board in the second inning when designated hitter Andy Chapman connected for a home run to give Belue all the offensive support he needed.

In the fourth inning, Belue rounded the bases on a speedy trip of his own, but only because Bainbridge second baseman Sam Smith allowed the ball to get by him and roll unhindered far into the outfield.

Barry Ganas then reached base on a fielder's choice, and scored on a clutch single by



BUCK BELUE Still Unbeaten

Chapman. Valdosta was to host Monroe (Albany) in a single game here today.

Valdosta Buries Monroe, 21-0

Times 4-10-77

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta's Wildcats exploded for 16 runs in the third inning enroute to a 21-0 rout of Monroe's Tornadoes in a Region 1-AAA high school baseball game here Saturday.

The now 10-1 'Cats of head coach Butch Brooks were tied with the visiting Tornadoes from Albany until the bottom of the third.

That's when Valdosta unloaded on the Monroe pitching staff.

David White led the charge with two home runs, one in the third and another in a five-run Valdosta fourth.

Buck Belue had three hits including two doubles, Wayne Fugett had two hits including a double, and Mark Powell had a pair of hits.

On the other side of the scoreboard, VHS pitcher Chuck Mayne stopped the Tornadoes on only one hit while striking out three and walking only one.

The game was called in the bottom of the fifth after the 'Cats zoomed so far ahead. The hapless Tornadoes

committed nine errors and gave up 12 free passes via the four-ball route.

The Wildcats host Central of Thomasville here Tuesday before hitting the road to Lakeland, Ga. Wednesday night for a bout with Lanier County.

Valdosta travels to Thomasville Friday and then to Albany Saturday for a game with Dougherty.

Wildcat Box

MHS	abr	h	bi	VHS	abr	h	bi
Railly cf	3	0	0	Jnngs rf	2	1	1
Reding ss	2	0	0	Dame rf	0	0	0
Lamar rf	1	0	0	Belue cf	3	3	1
Feret lb	2	0	0	Hodge cf	0	0	0
Lemon c	2	0	0	Mayne p	2	3	0
Fulley lf	2	0	0	D. Whit 3b	3	2	4
ADnl 2b	2	0	0	Dnls 2b	2	0	1
Thoms 3b	2	0	0	Fugett lf	4	2	0
Salters p	2	0	0	B. Whit c	3	1	3
Totals	18	0	1	Powell ss	3	2	4
				Hunt ss	0	0	0
				LeDc lf	2	1	0

TOTALS	26	21	12	14
Monroe	90	0	00-0-14	
Valdosta	90	16	00-21-12-1	

E - Thomas 2, McDowell 4, Sellers, Lamar, Fuller, Mayne; LOB - MHS 3, VHS 5.

2B - Fugett, Belue 2; HR - D. White 2; SB - Jennings 2, LeDuc, B. White, Celue; SF - Powell.

ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Salters (L)	4	12	21	11	12
Mayne (W, 2-0)	5	1	0	0	13

HBP - Railley, Hamarr by Mayne; PB - Lemona

VHS B-Team Cuts Lanier

By Times Staff Writer

LAKELAND, Ga. — John Lastinger banged out a double and two singles, leading Valdosta High School's B-team to a 21-2 rout of Lanier County in a baseball game played here Wednesday.

Harold Southers, Darrell Swindle and Nathan Hunt each added a single and a double to the Valdosta attack off Lanier hurler Donnie Patten.

Southers led the team in scoring with four runs while Swindle knocked in five more, three with his double.

Chuck May pitched three innings for Valdosta and earned the win, which boosted the 'Cats record to 7-5 on the year.

A scheduled varsity game between the two schools was cancelled because Valdosta had the maximum number of regular season games allowed by the Georgia high School Association on its schedule.

The Lanier game was originally part of Valdosta's 20-game schedule, but the team was forced to drop one game from its slate when it added a game against Southwest Macon.

The Valdosta B-team is to play Moultrie in a doubleheader today. Starting time is 4:30 p.m. at Pendleton Park.

Valdosta Powers Past CHS, 9-2

April 13,
1977

By MARTIN REGISTER

Solid pitching performances by Valdosta's Wayne Fugett and Buck Belue paved the way for a 9-2 Wildcat win over Central of Thomasville in a Region 1-AAA (South) high school baseball game here Tuesday.

The two pitchers scattered four hits, and participated in a batting attack which battered Randy Bozeman, Central pitching ace, for 11 hits.

Coach Butch Brooks' Valdosta team moved out in front in the first inning and stayed there enroute to its 11th win in 12 starts. VHS is now 5-0 in league play.

Fugett pitched four innings, allowing both Central runs, before tiring in the top of the fifth frame and being replaced by Belue.

Belue allowed only one hit the rest of the way, saving for Fugett his fourth win of the year against one loss.

Catcher Bob White led the Dosta attack with two

singles, but Fugett had the team's only extra-base hit, a fourth inning homer which sailed over the left field fence.

Bozeman had two of the visiting Yellow Jackets' hits, including a double.

Valdosta wrapped the game up in the sixth inning, when it pushed across three runs, expanding a 6-2 lead into the final 9-2 bulge.

"I thought Wayne did a real good job of pitching, considering he had a sore arm," Brooks said.

"We knew his arm was hurting him, and I told him before the game to tell me when he got tired. He pitched real well until he tired out in the fifth inning."

Brooks also had praise for Belue, second baseman Chris Daniels, who had an excellent fielding day, and White, in addition to Central's Bozeman.

"Bozeman is a fine pitcher," he said, "and I was really proud of the way we

hung in there and hit against him."

Valdosta took an 8-2 win in a B-team game behind the solid pitching of David New. Harold Southers led Valdosta in that game with two doubles.

Valdosta travels to Lakeland, Ga., today for a bout with Lanier County's Bulldogs.

'Cats Win, Lose

4/15

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta and Moultrie split a high school B-team baseball doubleheader in action here Thursday.

The Wildcats romped to a 15-4 win in the first game, but saw their fortunes do an about-face in the finale as Moultrie romped to a 23-10 triumph.

Wild Third Inning

Times 4-16-77

Valdosta Rally Guns Down T'Ville

By Times Staff Writer
THOMASVILLE — Valdosta's Wildcats spotted Thomasville a two-run lead, then came roaring back with eight runs in the third inning to claim a 10-4 high school baseball win here Friday.
 Coach Butch Brooks' Valdosta team battered Bulldog pitchers for 16 hits, 12 of them off loser Mike Posey, who went to the dugout after 'Dosta's third-inning blitz. Valdosta pulled into a 1-0

lead in the initial frame, but saw Thomasville come back to score three of its runs in the bottom of that inning and take the lead.
 But the eight run outburst sealed the 'Dogs' doom and sent Valdosta to its 12th win in 13 outings.
 Buck Belue took the win for the 'Cats, raising his record to 5-0 on the year.

Belue also led the team in batting, banging out three hits, including a double. Third baseman David White added three singles to the Wildcat attack.
 Mike Posey topped the Bulldogs at the plate with two hits, one of them a triple. Left fielder Phil Clay had two singles for Thomasville.
 Valdosta was to swing back into action today, traveling to Albany for a bout with Dougherty.

Wildcat Box

VHS	abr	h	b	i	TMS	abr	h	b	i
LeDuc cf	5	1	2	2	Andws cf	3	1	1	0
D. White 3b	5	0	3	0	Clay lf	3	2	2	0
Belue p	4	2	3	1	York c	3	0	1	0
B. White c	4	2	1	1	Nnnly 1b	3	0	0	0
Dnls 2b	4	1	1	0	Ppls ss	2	1	0	0
Ganas 1b	3	2	1	2	Posey p	3	0	2	0
Jnns cf	3	0	0	0	Chsn 3b	3	0	0	0
Mayne p	1	0	1	1	S. Hrtm rf	0	0	0	0
Pwill ss	4	1	2	2	J. Hrtm dh	3	0	0	0
Hodge rf	0	0	0	0	Lsstr 2b	3	0	0	0
Chpmndh	4	1	2	1					
TOTALS 37 10 16 10					TOTALS 26 4 6 0				

108 001 0-10-16-2
 Vald. 301 000 0-4-6-3
 T'rsville
 E - Chastain 2, Posey, B. White, D.
 White: LOB - TMS 4, VHS 8
 2B - Andrews, Clay, Belue, LeDuc, 3B -
 Posey.
 ip h r er bb so
 Posey (L) 3 12 9 8 2 1
 Peoples 4 4 1 1 1 1
 Belue (W, 5-0) 3 5 4 1 3 4
 Mayne 4 1 0 0 1 2

April 17 1977
LHS B-Team Nips 'Dosta

By Times Staff Writer
 Tony Bowden lined a drive between first and second base in the bottom of the 12th inning, bringing home Chuck DeVane and lifting Lowndes to a 7-6 high school B-team baseball win over Valdosta here Wednesday.
 Valdosta jumped into an early 3-0 lead, saw Lowndes tie things up, then went ahead again 6-3 in the fifth inning.
 But the Vikings came back to tie matters up again, stretching the game, scheduled for nine frames, into three extra innings.

Bowden's bases-loaded blast brought home the winning run, giving Viking pitcher Will Schreffler the victory.

April 20 1977
'Dosta Wins Big, White Boys Hurt

By Times Staff Writer
MOULTRIE — Valdosta's Wildcats found how costly a victory can be here Tuesday when they whipped Moultrie 14-6, but may have lost two front-line performers in the process.
 The White brothers, senior catcher Bob, and junior third baseman David, were both injured in the Region 1-AAA (South) high school baseball matchup and may not be ready for a game Friday against crosstown rival Lowndes.

VHS head coach Butch Brooks said David received a fractured arm when he was hit by a pitch in the second inning, and Bob came very close to serious injury when he was hit in the throat by a pitch while catching only one out from the end on the

contest.
 "That knocks a hole in me right there," Brooks said. "I don't know if they're going to be able to play or not. We'll just have to wait and see."
 "I will probably start getting some other people ready though."
 With the win, Valdosta raised its season record to 14-1 and its subregion record to 7-0.

Lowndes is the only team with any real hope of catching the 'Cats. The Vikings bumped Central of Thomasville 3-1 Tuesday to set their subregion mark at 5-2. Valdosta took a 6-2 win when the two teams met earlier in the year at the Lowndes field.

Friday's game is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. at Valdosta's Wright Bazemore Field behind the school.

The Wildcats established their dominance early Tuesday with an eight-run second inning. The big blows were doubles by Chris Daniels and Buck Belue, which scored two runs each.
 Belue also homered in the fifth inning with Steve Jennings aboard for another of his three hits on the afternoon.

Mike Payne blasted a two-run round-tripper for Moultrie in the fifth to spark a five-run Packer outburst.
 VHS sophomore Wayne Fugett raised his hill record to 6-1 with a five-hit job. He struck out nine and walked five.

5-3-77
Two Valdosta High Girls Make It to DE Finals
 Fla. Times Union

The Times-Union Bureau
 VALDOSTA, Ga. — They didn't come out on top, but Valdosta High School's Judy Eanes and Debbie Bruck made it to the finals in national District Education Club competition in Anaheim, Calif., this weekend.
 The girls reached the top eight in job interview competition, while Hanes finished 12 in the girl student-of-the-year contest. A girl from a Texas school was named national girl student of the year.
 Valdosta's club, 1977 State Chapter of the Year competed against the next-runner up in the same state contest, in the national club competition won by a DE Club from Ohio.
 Delegates to the convention were Brenda Garner, Woodward, and Gerald Hail. Valdosta High's other delegates were Disiree Smith, Gail McCrary and Cathy Dowling.

April 21 1977
Miss VHS

The annual Miss Valdosta High School Pageant is to be on Saturday at 8 p.m. at Mathis city auditorium, according to an announcement.
 Tickets are on sale for \$1.50 in advance at Barnes Drug Store at Brookwood Plaza. Tickets purchased at the door are to cost \$2.
 Proceeds from the pageant, sponsored by the junior class, are to be used for the annual junior-senior dance which is planned for May 14.

Viking Cindermen Cop First Place

April 21, 1977

By Times Staff Writer
Lowndes followed strong performances by its runners to finish atop a four-team high school track meet here Wednesday.

The Vikings won seven of ten running events and wound up with 93 points, far ahead of second-place Bainbridge, which wound up with 65.

Valdosta ended up in third place with a total of 49 points. Moultrie finished last, far behind the rest of the field, with 12.

Bruce Register led the Lowndes effort, winning first place in two events, the 100-yard and 220-yard dashes, as well as being a member of the Viking 440-yard relay team, which copped another top spot.

Valdosta's Kenny Galligher was also a double winner, taking the mile and two mile runs.

Individual results follow:

Pole vault — Schealy (B), Waters (L), Brucker (V), H—9'6".
Shot put — Day (L), Jones (B), Turner (M), Baker (M), D—41'10 3/4".
Long jump — Peterson (B), Fountain (B), Bradley (L), Worthy (V), D—21'9 3/4".
High jump — Schealy (B), Worthy (V) and Montgomery (L) (tie), Holt (M), H—5'6".
Discus throw — Baker (M), Crider (L), Shiver (L), Turner (M), D—120'3".
Triple jump — Fountain (B), Hargett (L), Peterson (B), Bradley (L), D—43'3".
440-yard relay — Lowndes (Burgman, Marshall, Carter, Register), Bainbridge, Valdosta, T—44.9.
1-mile run — Galligher (V), Durham (V), Penhallegon (B), Everett (V), T—5:08.
440-yard dash — Greene (V), Hunter (V), Bradley (L), Copeland (L), T—53.5.
100-yard dash — Register (L), Peterson (B), Fountain (B), Walker (B), T—10.4.
120-yard high hurdles — Montgomery (L), Orr (L), Kirkland (B), Greene (B), T—16.9.
880-yard run — Vankinscott (L), Cooley (L), Ford (B), Shiver (L), T—2:07.4.
220-yard dash — Register (L), Burgman (L) tied Peterson (B) tied Walker (B), T—23.0.
330-yard intermediate hurdles — Orr (L), Montgomery (L), Worthy (V), Kirkland (B) tied Washington (V), T—43.5.
Two-mile run — Galligher (V), Durham (V), Moran (B), Reed (L), T—11:19.2.
5-mile relay — Lowndes (Copeland, Hargett, Bradley, Vankinscott), Valdosta, Lowndes—2, T—3:35.8.

VHS B-Team Wins

MOULTRIE — Darrell Swindle swatted a grand slam home run to send Valdosta's Wildcats to a 12-1 B-team baseball victory over

Moultrie here Wednesday. Swindle also collected a single as the Valdostans raised their record to 9-7 on the season.

David New captured the mound decision, striking out 10 batters and giving up six hits.

State's VALDOSTA STARS Honored

By Times Staff Writer
ATLANTA — Valdosta High School's George Smart is among STAR students from around the state to be recognized here tonight at the annual Georgia Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Marriott Motor Hotel.

Smart, a 17-year-old senior, is District 2 STAR Student of the Year. He chose his mother, Martha Smart, as his STAR teacher.

Mrs. Smart taught her son in a 10th grade biology class. They live at 2304 Oakridge Drive in Valdosta.

Following today's conference and tonight's banquet, Smart, his mother and about 30 STAR students and teachers are to leave on a Chamber-sponsored one-week tour of the state.

Accompanying the Smarts here is Carl Funderburk of the Valdosta Kiwanis Club, Smart's sponsor.

The STAR student is the senior who scored the highest on last fall's Scholastic Aptitude Test. According to VHS guidance counselor Virginia Wisenbaker, Smart's undisclosed score is one of the highest at the south Georgia school in years.

Robert W. Scherer, president of Georgia Power Co., is to be tonight's keynote speaker. More than 1,000 are expected to attend.

Subregion Title At Stake In Viking-Wildcat Contest

April 21, 1977

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta's Wildcats toe the mark for a try at their second straight Region 1-AAA (South) high school baseball championship here Friday against a foe they know only too well.

Cross-county rival Lowndes provides the op-

position for the 14-1 'Cats in the two teams' 4 p.m. battle at Valdosta's Wright Bazemore field.

With a 7-0 subregion record, coach Butch Brooks' Valdostans can take the title they won in a playoff with Lowndes last season.

The Vikings are 11-2 overall and 5-2 in league play. They

still have a shot at the crown they took two years ago.

If Valdosta wins, the Wildcats would clinch the south flag no matter what the outcome in their two games with Central of Thomasville and Bainbridge next week.

If coach Noel George's Vikings win, they would have to win their remaining two league games with Bainbridge and Thomasville next week and hope for the 'Cats to stumble in at least one of their last two games.

Brooks has tabbed junior righthander Buck Belue as his starting pitcher. Belue was on the mound earlier in the year when Valdosta took a 6-2 decision.

George was unsure of his starter at presstime, but did say it would come from the trio of Lynn Pattillo, Richard Landrum or Jody Wilson.

In Saturday games, Lowndes hosts Tift County (Tifton), and Valdosta welcomes Suwannee County (Live Oak, Fla.).

VHSCuts LHS

Valdosta surged past Lowndes in a Region 1-AAA (South) high school tennis

match here Thursday. The Valdosta girls raised their record to 13-3 with a 6-3 triumph, and the VHS boys took an 8-2 win to set their season record at 14-2.

Valdosta winds up its regular season schedule here today against Moultrie.

Individual results follow:

GIRLS

Singles — Leslie Page (L) beat Allison Reddick 6-4, 5-7, 6-2; Chris Gorby (V) beat Jodie George 6-2, 6-3; Lisa Feix (V) beat Beverly Cowart 8-0; Ellen Hardy (L) beat Linda Hall 9-8; Jan Pendleton (V) beat Susie Snider 8-1; Mary Ann Ivey (L) beat Debbie Mink 8-4.

Doubles — Feix-Reddick (V) beat Abbie Haynes-Lydia Moore 6-0, 6-0; Mink-Hall (V) beat Ivey-Cowart 6-4, 6-2; Lourdes Rodriguez-Maggie Powell (V) beat Hardy-Snider 8-2.

BOYS

Singles — Steve Connor (V) beat Ricky Brooks 6-1, 6-0; Sammy Matchett (L) beat Fred Skinner 2-6, 6-3, 7-5; Buck Blanton (V) beat Steve McBrite 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Chris O'Neal (L) beat Richard Clayton 4-6, 6-3, 7-6; Art Reddick (V) beat Butch Chessman 6-3, 6-4; Rodney Childree (V) beat Dan Walters 7-5, 6-3; Edwin Wetherington (V) beat Ken Leggett 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

Doubles — Blanton-Reddick (V) beat O'Neal-Leggett 6-4, 7-5; Clayton-Darnell (V) beat Walters-McBrite 7-5, 6-3; Mike Enfinger-John Branin (V) beat Chessman-Matchett 6-1, 5-7, 7-5.

Stubborn Vikes Ease Past Wildcats, 6-4

By MIKE CHASON

Two old friends matched wits and pitches for seven innings here Friday and when the battle of brains and brawn was over, Lowndes' Vikings had taken a 6-4 high school baseball victory over Valdosta's Wildcats.

Viking pitcher Jody Wilson muffled his former teammates' usually clamoring bats with a five-hitter which drew praise from both head coaches.

Wilson played for Valdosta last season before transferring to Lowndes in the fall. He still remains a friend of many of the Wildcats including VHS pitcher Buck Belue, who had a six-hitter of his own.

Belue blasted a homer off his pal in the third inning and came to the plate in the final frame with the tying run on base.

But this time, Wilson had his number.

Belue filed out to leftfielder Richard Landrum, Wilson struck out Andy Chapman, and the LHS junior had his third win against no defeats under his belt.

"I was shaking there at the end," Wilson said. "But I

really felt pretty good all day except for the home run balls."

Junior third-sacker David White also homered for the Valdostans in the third inning in exactly the same spot Belue hit his down the left field line. Both balls traveled about 330 feet and landed just inside fair territory.

White was hit on the left arm with a pitch in a game Tuesday and played with a bandage on it as a result. His brother, Bob, was hit in the throat by a pitch in the same game, but showed no ill effects while handling the VHS catching duties.

The back-to-back round-trippers put Lowndes in a 3-1 hole which became 4-1 in the fourth inning when Chris Daniels reached on an error by Ronnie Christy and scored on a Mark Powell single.

But the now 12-2 Vikings put together a four-run fifth and added one in the seventh to take an important Region 1-AAA (South) win.

Now 6-2 in league play, the Vikings still have an outside chance of sneaking into a playoff with the Wildcats for the subregion crown.

Valdosta is 7-1 in subregion action and 14-2 on the year. The Wildcats had already whipped the Vikes 6-2 earlier this season at the Lowndes' field.

Lowndes hosts league foes Bainbridge and Thomasville next week while the 'Cats travel to Central of Thomasville Tuesday before a Friday game here against Bainbridge.

The Wildcats can win the subregion outright by winning both games. Lowndes must win both its games and then depend on one of the other teams to defeat Valdosta.

It's a position LHS coach Noel George isn't par-



The Power And The Prize: Valdosta's Buck Belue Slugs A Home Run And Then Receives Congratulations Of Teammates

—Times Staff Photos By Ken Kianicki

particularly happy to be in.

"You never want to have to count on somebody else," George said, "but that's what we've got to do. You can hope, but you can't count on it."

"But it's always good to beat them (the Wildcats). We finally put it together. If we just hadn't lost (the other subregion game) to Bainbridge, we'd be all right."

"Jody did a real good job. They hit those two home runs off him just like it was the fourth of July or something. But he came back."

Lowndes scored its first run on a misplayed ball in the outfield by VHS's Steve Jennings on what was a catchable but rapidly sinking liner off the bat of Greg Wormsby.

Jennings started in for the ball, but then slowed his progress only to make a last second dive and watch it roll under his glove.

Showing brilliant speed, Wormsby was beating it around the bases with no sign of stopping. And he didn't until he crossed home plate. VHS head coach Butch Brooks removed Jennings from the game soon after.

After the Valdosta fireworks in the third and fourth, the Vikings started making noises of their own in the fifth.

Christy, another former Valdosta player, led off with a single and scored on Wormsby's double down the left field line.

Wilson then reached on a high infield chopper which never seemed to come down. Blake Reed followed Wilson's single with a bounce to Daniels at second base. Daniels was leaning the wrong way on the play but still appeared to have the ball in his glove before dropping

it.

Wormsby scored on the error and was followed a minute later by Wilson when Belue fell down coming off the mound, trying to field Joe Griffin's bunt.

Reed crossed the plate on Andy Plair's fielder's choice, and the Vikes had the lead for good.

A perfect sacrifice bunt by Bill Love scored Reed with another run in the seventh.

"I think the whole thing in a nutshell was Jody's pitching and our defense," Brooks said, referring to four errors

by his team. "We let them get the momentum going, and you just can't afford to do that."

"Now we've got to beat Central and Bainbridge, and they'll probably throw the two best pitchers in the region at us ... everybody goes with their best against Valdosta."

Because of Valdosta's past history of high quality teams in almost every sport, Brooks is no doubt fairly accurate in his statement.

However, George's Vikings were a bit less than full

strength Friday.

Outfielder James Marshall missed the game with a pulled muscle, and catcher Buddy Moor is no longer on the team.

George said the three-year starter behind the plate had been ruled off the team for the rest of the season because of disciplinary reasons.

Lowndes was to host Tift County (Tifton) in a twin-bill today while Valdosta welcomed Southwest of Macon. The 'Cats were scheduled to play Suwannee County but the Live Oak, Fla. school canceled the game.

VHS-LHS Box

LHS	ab-r-h-bi	VHS	ab-r-h-bi
Wormsby	3 2 1 1	Jones	1 0 0 0
Wilson	3 1 1 0	Hunter	1 0 0 0
Reed	4 2 0 0	Hodder	2 0 0 0
Kelly	2 0 0 0	D. White	3 1 2 2
Griffin	2 0 1 1	Belue	4 1 1 1
Plair	3 0 1 1	Christy	4 0 0 0
Landrum	2 0 0 1	Driscoll	2 1 0 0
Lowndes	2 0 0 1	B. White	3 0 0 0
Slair	1 0 0 0	Lisgr	3 0 0 0
Chris Pl	2 1 1 0	Powell	3 0 1 1
Chav	3 0 0 0	Gannsb	3 1 1 0
Bowl	0 0 0 0	LeDuc	0 0 0 0
Cobb	0 0 0 0		
TOTALS	29 6 6 4	TOTALS	28 4 5 4
Lowndes	001 000	1-4-6-4	
Valdosta	003 100	0-4-5-4	
D. White, Jennings, Christy, Reed, VHS	2	Wormsby, Wilson, LOB—LHS	8
3B—Wormsby; Belue; S—Love; 5B—Wormsby; Belue; S—Love; 1P—R, F, C, 3B, SS, Wilson (W, J, O) 7 2 4 3 3 3 Belue (L, S, J) 7 2 4 3 3 3 HBP—Wormsby by Belue; WP—Belue			

VHS Slates 10th Annual Art Show

Ten years ago a part-time art instructor at Valdosta High School and his 47 students were rained out at Valdosta's first sidewalk art show but not before they had sold two of the 20 paintings being shown.

Now 100-150 students at VHS are preparing to exhibit paintings, textiles, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry and even plants at the 10th annual Spring Art Show at Valdosta High.

There are many changes this year compared to the 1967 show, according to Jerry Pilcher, head of the art department. The show, set for Sunday from 1-5 p.m. is to be at the high school around the pond (indoors if it rains) instead of at Brookwood Park, the traditional location.

"Ten years ago we got rained out at Brookwood Park," said Pilcher who started the show when he was a part-time art instructor at VHS and had a limited

facility "and an even more limited budget."

"We had maybe 15-20 students there and sold maybe one or two paintings.

"One thing we've done especially for this show is to get in touch with a lot of the students from the first graduating class. A lot of them are either practicing professional artists or are teachers. A few are coming for sure," said Pilcher, adding he had only 47 students that year.

"Now we teach about 1,100 students per year and have four instructors — three full time and one part-time. This year is a kind of celebration of what we've done in the past 10 years," he said.

"One of the biggest things we're trying to show is more what we're doing. We're having demonstrations in matting and framing, glass blowing, ceramics, macrame and weaving. More people are involved than ever before."

The demonstrations, Pilcher said, are a preview of what is to be offered at a workshop his students are planning for May 14. The workshop is to be for any interested person and is to cover a variety of art fields.

Another first for the show is to be the presentation of awards. "We hope this will build incentive and not so much competition. And there will be a school purchase award. A committee is to select the painting they think best demonstrates the quality of work produced by the students. It is to be purchased by the school and be a part of the permanent collection. We have wanted to do this for some time."



'Clothesline Art': Angela Hall Hangs Batik

—Times Staff Photos.

Valdosta High Beauty Pageant Set Tonight

By Times Staff Writer

Tonight's the night for one of 28 girls entered in the 35th annual Miss Valdosta High School beauty pageant.

The contest begins at 8 p.m. in the Mathis city auditorium with VHS junior class president Greg Harbin as master of ceremonies.

Janis Harpe won last year. Advance tickets are on sale at Barnes Drug Store in Brookwood Plaza. Advance tickets are \$1.50; tickets at the door are to be \$2. Proceeds go to the junior-senior dance May 14.

DE'ers Hope For California Gold

By TERRY SMITH

Ready or not, California, here they come ...

Georgia's best distributive education students — including seven from Valdosta High School and four more from Lowndes High, plus club coordinators — are headed west this week for national competition at Anaheim.

The VHS DE Club, under the direction of Norman Greene, was named state Chapter of the Year last month; the LHS Club, under the direction of Phil Walden, who initiated the program there, was first runnerup.

Both clubs are familiar with national competition. Indeed, the VHS club, which has won the top state honor 14 times in the past 21 years, was national Chapter of the Year in 1960; placed fourth nationally in Greene's first year, 1970; and has had several students finish among the top eight nationally over the years.

The LHS club won the state in 1975 and placed among the top 10 nationally that year.

Leaving Tuesday by car for Atlanta and a flight to the coast Wednesday, Walden likes his club's chances this time, too.

"I feel Gerald Hail has a great chance at boys student of the year honors. He's the best representative ever in the 30-something year history of the state," Walden said.

"If Gerald wins and some of the others come through," he explained, "we'll be in the top 10."



JUDY EANES
Girl Student Of Year

Hail, a senior National Merit Finalist for Outstanding Negro Students who's already been accepted for admission to Harvard University next fall, is to be in the boys student of the year competition he won in the state.

In addition to Hail, other LHS national entries are Robert Woodward in public speaking and individual free enterprise project; Brenda Garner in chapter free enterprise project; and Joy Grice in chapter creative marketing project.

Woodward placed first in



GERALD HAIL
Boy Student Of Year

the state in public speaking and second with his free enterprise project. Miss Garner took first place state honors in the chapter creative marketing project.

Woodward and Miss Garner are seniors; Miss Grice is a junior.

Walden added his club is "still in the hole from the trip to state" and still trying to raise money for the national trip.

The VHS club departs Wednesday via plane to Atlanta and Los Angeles and then chartered bus to Anaheim where the students

are to stay at the Disneyland complex.

"It's difficult to say how we'll do," Greene said, "because this will be separating cream from cream. The competition is rough.

"These students have worked hard, though," he said, "and I expect them to do their best. They've prepared well.

"We are optimistic."

The VHS students and their competitive events are: Debbie Bruck in job interview; Desiree Smith, area of distribution manual; Cathy Dowling, jewelry marketing studies; Gail McCrary, advertising; Marie Eunice, free enterprise project; Ellen Eanes, promotion project; and Judy Eanes, girl student of the year.

Misses Bruck, Smith, Dowling, McCrary, Eunice and Judy Eanes each won in state competition. Each of the VHS entries is a senior

except Miss Dowling and Ellen Eanes, who are juniors.

The VHS club raised expense money through various projects and also received \$1,500 in travel funds from the City Board of Education.

More than 5,000 students are entered in the competition with contests taking place at different businesses in as realistic situations as possible.

Distributive education is a program in which the students attend classes at their school and gain some of their education through outside jobs.

Both clubs are scheduled to return by plane Monday May 2.

Apr. 23, 1977 VHS Splits

With Moultrie

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta split a high school tennis match with Moultrie here Friday.

The Valdosta girls won a 6-3 decision to raise their record to 14-3, and the Valdosta boys saw their record fall to 14-3 with a 6-1 defeat.

Valdosta is to travel to Tifton Monday for the Region 1-AAA tournament.

Individual results follow:

GIRLS

Singles — Lisa Spain (M) beat Chris Gorbey 6-0, 6-1; Allison Reddick (V) beat Paula Gore 7-5, 6-4; Lisa Feix (V) beat Gina Demott 6-3, 6-1; Linda Hall (V) beat Sarah Edwards 6-2, 6-4; Debbie Mink (V) beat Sonia Barry 6-2, 6-0; Jan Pendleton (V) beat Elizabeth Daniels 6-1, 6-3;

Doubles — Spain-Demott (M) beat Feix-Reddick 6-4, 6-4; Mink-Gorbey (V) beat Barry-Edwards 6-3, 6-2; Daniels-Gore (V) beat Lourdes Rodriguez-Maggie Powell 8-4.

BOYS

Singles — Ricky Shirley (M) beat Steve Connor 6-1, 6-3; Gilbert Pierce (M) beat Fred Skinner 6-3, 6-2; Eddie Statton (M) beat Buck Blanton 7-6, 4-6, 6-4; Lonnie White (M) beat Ricky Darnell 6-3, 6-4; Johnny Windom (M) beat Richard Clayton 6-1, 6-4; Greg Harris (M) beat Art Reddick 7-6, 6-1.

Doubles — White-Windom (M) beat Blanton-Reddick 6-1, 6-0; Darnell-Clayton (V) beat Gilbert-Stafford 7-5, 6-2.

Times 5-17-77

VHS Gets Driver's Ed Building

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta's Board of Education accepted the low bid of \$37,943 from D.C. Cauthan Co. here Monday for construction of a permanent driver's education facility at Valdosta High School.

The Cauthan bid included a typing error in its numerical listing by \$2,000, but still was lowest of the three offers submitted, all from firms located here.

Each bidder was asked to submit five alternate bids for additional work. Upon Supt.-

designate Ralph Brandon's recommendation, the board voted unanimously to include an addition of about four feet to the length of the building to meet 14-foot distance requirements between simulators and screen.

Simulators are devices used to simulate actual driving conditions.

And the board voted to delete concrete sidewalk and teacher storage cabinet work which Brandon said "will be done by our own maintenance

staff."

Previously a \$30,000 grant had been received from the state Department of Transportation to be used in the 1,768-square-foot building which must be used only for driver's ed for at least 15 years.

Brandon said construction would begin "immediately" and is to be finished by Aug. 20.

Region Playoffs Cause Confusion

V.T. May 15, 79

Remember the old gag about if the people who determine the playoff contestants in the National Basketball Association and the National Hockey League had been in charge of World War II, Germany and Japan would still be in contention? Well, the Region 1-AAAA baseball playoff system rivals both pro leagues in its complexities. The initial idea of allowing the sub-region winner and runnerup to compete was a sound one. But, instead of a two-of-three series, a confused round robin, double elimination format was installed.

The only clear thing was the sub-region champions Lowndes (South) and Dougherty (North) would host the runnerups Westover (North) and Valdosta (South) in the opening round. From that point on, utter confusion reigned. Coaches didn't know who their opponent would be or even the site for their next game until a day later. Winners and losers were scheduled to play each other, but at sites determined by coin tosses.

Since the format called for games in different locations (Valdosta and Albany) in this case, the coaches spent half their time traveling to Tifton (about halfway between the cities) to flip coins. The series began last Tuesday and was slated to have been completed Monday. However, rain played havoc with the games, forcing postponements and delays.

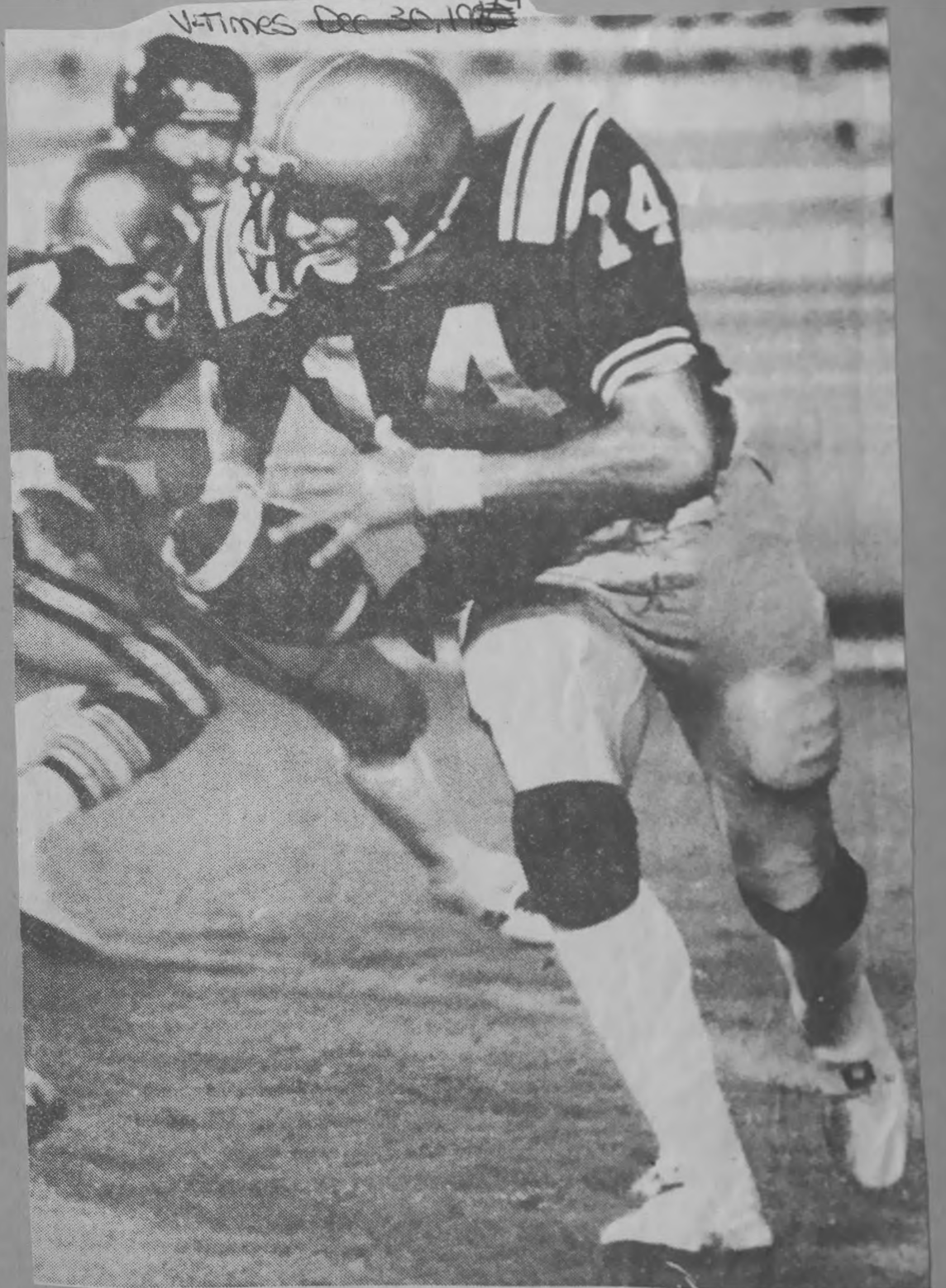
Winning the sub-region titles meant only the home field advantage for one game for Lowndes and Dougherty. The remainder of the playoff sites depended on a coin toss. VHS promptly defeated Dougherty in the opening round, the Trojans losing any advantage they gained by virtue of their first place finish. Lowndes won its first game, but lost the coin flip to VHS. The Vikings defeated the Wildcats Saturday on VHS' home field, but that only insured them a berth in the finals.

Coach Butch Brooks' 'Cats made it an all-Valdosta final, eliminating Westover Monday. This time LHS Coach Noel George called the coin toss correctly and the Vikings have the home field edge. It marks the fourth time VHS and LHS have clashed on the diamond this season. The Vikings need one victory, the Wildcats need two to retain their region title.

The home team in the playoff receives all the money from the gate and concessions, plus playing on familiar turf. It seems that's too much at stake to risk with a coin flip. Both VHS and LHS benefit from the playoffs, each school hosting the other. Calling heads-or-tails on a coin toss could have meant all or nothing for one team. Having four squads in the playoffs is a good idea, but the round-robin format and method of selecting sites should be studied and changed before next year. The visiting team provides the umpires and Brooks explained that was the reason officials from Albany had called the majority of the series.



Tommy
Desselle



Wildcat Quarterback John Bond Rolls Around

Local Briefs

Feix-Reddick Team Earns Spot In State Tourney

By Times Staff Writer
ALBANY — The Valdosta High School girls' doubles team, Lisa Feix and Allison Reddick, earned a berth in the state tennis tournament with a second place finish in the Region 1-AAA tennis tourney held here Monday.

Feix and Reddick dropped a 6-0, 6-3 decision to Thomasville's Danya and Donna Leak in the tourney finals to earn the trip.

The Feix-Reddick duo led a charge by the Valdosta girls which resulted in a second-place finish for the Kittens.

The Valdosta team, coached by John Booth, wound up just one point behind Moultrie in final standings.

Debbie Mink and Linda Hall made it to the semifinal round for Valdosta before falling 6-3, 6-0 to the Leak team.

Kittens Chris Gorby and Jan Pentleton reached the quarterfinal round for Valdosta in singles competition.

Richard Clayton and Ricky Darnell reached the semifinal round in doubles play for coach J.T. Burroughs' Valdosta boys' team, and the team of Art Reddick and Buck Blanton reached the quarterfinal round before falling.

Wildcat Steve Connor won his first round match and went into the second round before being beaten, while Fred Skinner dropped his first round match.

Reddick and Feix are to participate in the state tournament, to be held at Macon May 6.

VICA Club Rated Superior
ATLANTA — Valdosta High School's Vocational Industrial Club of America received a superior rating during the VICA Spring Leadership Conference here last weekend.
 More than 1,100 students from 164 clubs took part in the conference.
 The VHS club also took first place in opening and closing ceremonies with a seven-member team of Bryan Strickland, Robby Hopkins, Natasha Matthews, Warren Turner, Howard Moore, Greg Harbin and Tim King.
 Strickland is a past president of the state organization.
 The club next goes to Cincinnati June 21-24 for national competition.

VHS Wins In Math
 Count 'em: one, two and now three trophies for that Valdosta High School team.
 the annual Coastal Plains Math Contest.
 Last weekend, Tom Farley won the plane geometry contest, Rusty Overby won the Algebra II contest then the pair combined to win the solutions race and lift VHS to victory in the third annual event, sponsored by the Georgia Council of Math Teachers.
 About 80 students from 103 school systems participated in the contest at Valdosta State College under the direction of Dr. Earl Swank, of the VSC math department.
 Lowndes High's Michael Coolidge won the comprehensive portion of the contest; Cook County's Eddie Kemp won the Algebra I portion.
 Lowndes High was runnerup to VHS; Berrien County High was third.

VHS B-Team Wins
 By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta, 7-3; 35.7.
 The Valdosta High School B-team blasted Waycross 26-10 here Wednesday behind three hits apiece by Tim Dame, Mike Ruff, and David New.
 New was the winning pitcher in the game, despite surrendering nine hits including two apiece to Cecil Brown, Tim Davis, and John Chaney.
 New raised his record to 5-1 with the win. The game was the last of the season for the VHS B-team.

Bozeman Bears Down On Valdosta, 7-2

By Times Staff Writer
THOMASVILLE — In a time span of less than a week, Valdosta's Wildcats have removed themselves from the brink of prosperity to the edge of defeat.
 Valdosta dropped a 7-2 Region 1-AAA (South) high

school baseball decision to Central of Thomasville here Tuesday to fall into a tie with Lowndes (Valdosta) for the subregion lead.
 Lowndes knocked off Bainbridge 3-2 in another league game Tuesday.
 It was only last Friday that

coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats stood one game away from clinching their second straight subregion title.
 But they lost that Friday contest by a 6-4 margin to Lowndes. Coupled with Tuesday's defeat by the Yellow Jackets, the Wildcats

are now 14-3 overall and 7-2 in the league standings.
 Lowndes is also 7-2 in the subregion and takes on lightly regarded Thomasville Friday while Valdosta hosts Bainbridge. If both teams win, a playoff would be in order.

Sandy Koufax pitching against him, he was just ready for us."
 Bozeman handcuffed the Wildcats with a four-hit, nine-strikeout performance.
 "I think we can beat Bainbridge," Brooks said. "We'll use Buck Friday and then go with Fugett against Lowndes Saturday if it comes to that."

fourth inning on hits by Belue and White, and a Bozeman balk. Belue had two hits in the game.
 Central scored four more times in the fifth and sixth frames, making use of its 10 hits off Mayne.

Since the south subregion representative is scheduled to begin the region playoffs against north winner Westover (Albany) Tuesday, that playoff for the south title would probably be held Saturday according to Brooks.

The VHS head coach had that playoff in mind Tuesday when he decided to use sophomore pitcher Chuck Mayne against the Jackets, now 9-5.

Mayne had been used as the 'Cats number three pitcher after junior Buck Belue and sophomore fireballer Wayne Fugett. Brooks is saving Belue for Bainbridge and had a hunch Mayne could do the job against Central. If not, he reasoned that Fugett would have over a week's rest in case of a playoff.

"I just felt like Chuck could do as good as any pitcher we've got," Brooks said. "And he did a good job. They (Central) just had one of those 'nubber' days where everything they nubbed just fell in."

"But (Randy) Bozeman (Central pitcher) was just 'right' for them. I don't care if you had Belue or Fugett or

Barney Jackson greeted Mayne with a triple and scored on Mike Singletary's sacrifice fly. Central then had a first inning lead it would never give up.

The Yellow Jackets scored two more in the bottom of the second on singles by Roy Peterson and Jeff Mitchell and a throwing error by VHS catcher Bob White.

Valdosta posted its only runs on the board in the

Wildcat Box

VHS	abr	h	bi	CHS	abr	h	bi
Mayne p	2	0	0	Jackson ss	4	1	0
Pwill ss	3	0	0	Sngltry cf	4	0	1
Bele cf	3	1	0	Hrrng c	2	1	0
D. Whit 3b	2	1	0	Bzmn p	2	1	0
Gns 1b	3	0	1	Creel 3b	3	1	2
Chpmn dh	2	0	0	Fdgerf	3	0	0
B. Whit c	3	0	1	Pftrsn 2b	3	2	0
Dnls 2b	2	0	0	Mtchl 1b	3	1	1
Fggt ph	1	0	0	Smith lf	2	0	2
LDuc rf	1	0	0	Bnstr lf	1	0	0
Hdge ph	1	0	0				
Lstngr lf	0	0	0	TOTALS	27	10	6

TOTALS	27	10	6
Valdosta	000	200	0-2-4-2
Central	120	031	x-7-10-1
E	B. White, Lastinger, Herring; DP —		
VHS 1, LOB — VHS 4, CHS 4.			
3B — Jackson; SB — Herring, Creel, Fudge, LeDuc, Belue; SF — Singletary.			
ip h r er bb so			
Mayne (L, 2 1)	5	10	7 5 2 2
Bozeman (W)	7	4	2 1 4 9
BALK Bozeman; WP — Mayne 2; PB B. White.			

Wildcats Nip BHS; Playoff Set For Today

By MARTIN REGISTER
Valdosta's Wildcats earned their Region 1-AAA high school baseball playoff berth the hard way with an extra-innings 3-2 victory over Bainbridge here Friday.

Coach Butch Brooks' Cats used a throwing error by Bainbridge catcher Ralph Rich to bring home pinch runner Tim Dame with the winning run in the ninth inning.

The two teams had finished the regulation seven innings in a 2-2 deadlock.

The win moved the Wildcats into today's playoff game with crosstown rival Lowndes, which sewed up a tie for the regular season crown with an 11-7 triumph over Bainbridge in a game played Thursday.

Today's game was made necessary when the Wildcats' Friday win put their subregion record at 8-2, identical with Lowndes'. The two teams split a pair of regular season games.

The contest was to begin at 2 p.m., at Valdosta State College's Blazer Field.

Friday's game with Bainbridge became a "must win" situation for Valdosta when it lost back-to-back subregion decisions to Lowndes and Central of Thomasville during the past week.

Up until that time, the Wildcats had appeared to have the championship in hand. But coach Noel George's Lowndes Vikings handed the team its first league loss of the season, 6-4, last Friday, and that was followed by a 7-2 loss to Central Tuesday.

The winner of today's game is to begin a three-game playoff series with northern division champion Westover (Albany) Tuesday.

Wildcat Box

BHS	ab	r	h	bi	VHS	ab	r	h	bi
Bch 1b	0	0	0	0	Jimmis rf	2	0	1	0
Bk dh	3	1	1	0	Hart rf	1	0	0	0
Kdy 2b	4	1	1	2	Pwill ss	4	0	1	0
Herrard p	4	0	1	0	Ble p	4	0	1	1
Riles ss	3	0	0	0	D.Whi 2b	3	1	1	0
Prickett c	3	0	0	0	Lesfor lf	0	0	0	0
Fretch 2b	3	0	0	0	Chorran dh	3	0	1	0
Shaw 2b	2	0	0	0	DHS 2b	3	0	2	0
Marin lf	1	0	0	0	B.Whi c	2	0	0	1
Marin lf	1	0	0	0	Dame pr	0	1	0	0
Ekrid pr	1	0	0	0	Dame pr	0	1	0	0
M.Jus cf	3	0	0	0	LDC cf	3	0	0	0
Carri pr	1	0	1	0	Hog pr	2	1	0	0
Carri pr	1	0	0	0	Gro 1b	2	1	0	0
Chvs pr	0	0	0	0	Fight pr	1	0	0	0
H.Jus pr	0	0	0	0					
TOTALS	37	7	7	7	TOTALS	29	3	7	7



Catfight

Valdosta's Wildcats turned the tables on a Bainbridge uprising, responding to a no outs, two-men-on-base situation with a triple play in Friday's game. At left, Buck Belue cuts down Steve Brock, then throws to Chris Daniels, who tags out Harmon. Daniels tossed the ball to Mark Powell, who tags out Al Kelly at home plate for the third out. — Times Staff Photos by Ken Klanicki.



distance for the Wildcats, striking out 13 and allowing just four hits, but he had his rough moments.

Upright third baseman Al Kelly unloaded a home run in the third inning, bringing in himself and designated hitter Steve Brock, who had been camped on first base via a base on balls.

Valdosta came back to narrow the gap to 2-1 in the bottom half of the inning

when first baseman Barry Ganas came home on a single by Belue.

The Wildcats tied things up in the fourth inning when catcher Bob White was walked by Bearcat ace Tom Harmon with no outs and the bases loaded, bringing in third baseman David White.

Harmon managed to escape from the predicament with no further damage when an attempted suicide bunt by designated hitter John

Lastinger was foiled, and he retired two batters in a row.

Things went scoreless after that until Bob White was walked in the ninth inning by Harmon, and Dame was inserted as a pinch runner.

Centerfielder Peter LeDuc then bunted, and Rich's throw sailed far over first baseman Greg Burch's head, bringing home Dame and sealing the win for Valdosta.

Bainbridge had earlier missed a golden opportunity

to pull into a wide lead when Valdosta put down a fifth inning uprising with a rare triple play.

Bainbridge had placed Brock on base with a single. Brock then advanced on an error by Wildcat shortstop Mark Powell.

Harmon then drilled a shot to Powell, who threw to Bob White at the plate in an effort to cut down Brock, who came charging in from third.

Bob White tossed the ball to

HAYMON (L)

9 4 12

Daniels Steal Propels Wildcats Past Vikes

Times May 1, 1974

By MARTIN REGISTER

Second baseman Chris Daniels stole home in the eighth inning for Valdosta's Wildcats, lifting his team to a 4-3 win over Lowndes and the championship of Region 1-AAA (South) in a high school baseball game played here Saturday.

Daniels made the steal as teammate Peter LeDuc drew away the attention of the Vikings by trying to steal second base.

While the Vikes were busy trying to run down LeDuc, Daniels was scampering in for the go-ahead run which ultimately proved the difference.

The game, played before an overflow crowd which packed the stands and sprawled out on cars facing Blazer Field, was made necessary when Lowndes and Valdosta ended the regular season in a deadlock for first place in the subregion.

Valdosta won in a similar fashion the day before over Bainbridge, when a Bearcat error enabled the Wildcats to score a run in the ninth inning to win 3-2 and force the playoff.

Coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats roared out in the first inning Saturday to score three runs off Viking pitcher Jody Wilson, but that was all they scored until the extra inning.

Lowndes scored all its runs in the third inning when it garnered three of its five hits.

Both teams threatened to score through the remainder of the seven regulation innings, but were hurt by a combination of good infield play and, at times, poor base running.

"We had a good team effort," said Brooks after the game. "Our base running could have been better, but I

thought the whole team just came together and gave us what we had to have to win."

Brooks praised pitcher Wayne Fuggett for his five-hit effort, but also had kind words for the Lowndes team.

"Lowndes has a good team," he said, "a real good team."

"We gave up too much," Lowndes coach Noel George said. "You can't expect to give up as much as we did and still win. We made too many mistakes."

"But we had a good year. 15-4 (the Vikings' final record) is good in anybody's book."

The loss was a hard one to take for many of the Lowndes players. The Vikings had come charging back from two games down to the Valdosta in the league standings as the Wildcats stumbled twice in the final week of the season.

Lowndes handed Valdosta its first league loss of the season April 22, then sat back and waited on the chance its crosstown rivals would fall again.

Lowndes was granted its wish Tuesday when Central of Thomasville gunned down the Cats, and almost won the title outright when Bainbridge came within a whisker of upsetting Valdosta on Friday.

For a while Saturday, it looked as though Valdosta would blow the Vikings right off the field.

Lowndes hurler Jody Wilson walked the first batter he faced, rightfielder Steve Jennings, on four pitches, then saw centerfielder Buck Belue reach first on a fielder's choice.

Jennings came home on a steal while Belue reached second. Third baseman David White then blasted a triple off the centerfield fence, driving in Belue, and scored himself when his



Valdosta High School Second Baseman Chris Daniels Scores Winning Run (Left), Then Celebrates Playoff Triumph

—Times Staff Photos By Ken Klantick

brother Bob, the team's catcher, was safe at first on an error by Viking first baseman Andy Plair.

Lowndes finally awoke in the third frame when Plair reached first on an error by Wildcat first baseman Barry Ganas. Second baseman Ronnie Christy singled, driving in Plair for Lowndes' first run.

Back-to-back triples by the Vikings brought in two more runs. The first, by James Marshall, brought home Christy. Then, shortstop Greg Wormsby hit one of his own to drive in Marshall.

Valdosta racked up three hits in the fifth frame, but had one runner picked off second base and left the other two stranded on the bases.

Lowndes had the winning run on second base and another runner on first in the bottom of the seventh, but saw that opportunity fizzle when Fuggett struck out Wilson.

Then, in the eighth frame, Daniels went to first on a base on balls, and wound up on second when Wilson walked Bob White.

A fielder's choice by LeDuc put Daniels on third, from where he made his game-winning run.

Lowndes was up and down in order in the bottom of the frame, but not before generating some excitement. Kelly blasted a shot to deep center for what appeared to be a sure triple. But as he rounded second, Belue

scoped the ball up and hurried it to shortstop Mark Powell, who threw to David White at third base for the out.

Powell caught a fly ball by Raymond Drennan for the final out of the day. David White and designated hitter Andy Chapman each had two hits for Valdosta. Christy mat-

ched that number for Lowndes. With the win, Valdosta earned the right to face Westover, the champion of the northern division of the region, in a three-game series set to begin Tuesday in Albany.

The second and, if needed, third games of the set are to be played here Thursday.

VHS-LHS BOX

VHS	ab	r	h	hi	1 HC	ab	r	h	hi
Jiggs, rf	1	1	0	0	MSM, rf	3	1	1	1
Liger, lf	3	0	1	0	Wilson, d	4	0	1	1
Pavitt, ss	4	0	1	0	Wright, ss	4	0	1	1
Bled, c	4	1	1	0	Kelly, 3b	3	0	0	0
Dunn, 3b	4	1	2	1	Drennan, dh	3	0	0	0
Dale, 2b	3	1	0	0	Strick, pr	9	0	0	0
BWNI, c	2	0	0	1	Reed, cf	3	0	0	0
Darne, pr	0	0	0	0	LeDuc, rf	3	0	0	0
LDCU, rf	4	0	0	0	Plair, lf	3	1	0	0
Fugitt, d	3	0	0	0	Christy, 2b	2	1	2	1
Chapman, ph	3	0	2	0	Low, pr	0	0	0	0
Ganas, 1b	0	0	0	0	Brown, c	0	0	0	0
Totals	31	4	7	2	Totals	27	3	5	3

Valdosta
 1-4-7-2
 003 000 00—3-5-3
 Plair, P
 H—S—L—OB—VHS—LHS
 3b Jennings, Belue 2, Daniels, LeDuc,
 Landrum, Love.
 ip h r er ba so
 Fugett (W) 8 5 3 2 2 4 10
 Wilson (L) 8 7 4 3 6 4

At Albany

May 2, 1977

'Dosta, Westover Open 3-Game Set

By Times Staff Writer
ALBANY — Valdosta's Wildcats, baseball champions of Region 1-AAA (South) by virtue of a tight playoff victory Saturday, open their playoff series with Westover here Tuesday.

The first game of the best-of-three set is to be played at 4 p.m. at Satterfield Park here.

Coach Butch Brooks' Valdosta team had to fight tooth and nail to reach the region playoff, while Westover sailed into it with hardly any trouble.

The Albany team took the lead in its subregion from the beginning of the season and was never threatened in winning the title.

Valdosta, on the other hand, lost two league games in the final week of the season and had to win a special playoff game with crosstown rival Lowndes to reach the series with Westover.

The Wildcats, 17-3, were undefeated in subregion play until April 22, when Lowndes took a 6-4 victory. Then, Central of Thomasville handed the 'Cats a 7-2 loss Tuesday.

The loss to Central lowered the Valdosta team into a tie for first place in the league with Lowndes, since both teams had two region losses.

The Wildcats narrowly avoided elimination Friday when they escaped with a 3-2 win over Bainbridge in nine innings. The winning run was brought about by a Bearcat error.

Then, Saturday, second baseman Chris Daniels stole home in the eighth inning to lift 'Dosta past Lowndes 4-3 in the playoff game.

The Westover-Valdosta series comes to Valdosta for a second and, if necessary, third game Thursday.

Gametime for the Thursday game is to be announced later.



May 1, 1977 Guess Who Won — See Page 16-A

The Valdosta Daily Times, Tues., May 3, 1977-13-

Wildcats Capture 1-AAA Golf Title

By Times Staff Writer
MOULTRIE — Valdosta's Wildcats captured the Region 1-AAA high school golf title here Monday with a four-stroke victory over Moultrie.

Coach Jack Rudolph's Valdosta team carved out a 313 total followed by Moultrie at 317, Bainbridge at 318, and Lowndes (Valdosta) at 320.

Lou Richardson and Richard Beckmann topped the Valdosta team with 77 totals. Ty Edwards shot 78, Rusty Trancygier had an 81, Trip Singletary managed an 82, and Sonny Green recorded an 86.

The best four scores are counted toward a team's final total.

The Wildcats are scheduled to travel to state competition at Kennesaw Country Club in Marietta on May 16.

May 2, 1977

Two Valdosta Girls Place In DE Finals

By Times Staff Writer
ANAHEIM, Calif. — Two Valdosta High School senior girls placed in the finals during national Distributive Education competition here this weekend.

Judy Eanes reached the final 12 in the girl student of the year contest won by a girl from Texas. Debbie Bruck reached the final eight in job interview competition.

"I'm very pleased because we competed well," VHS DE coordinator Norman Greene said. "Anytime you can compete with the best in the nation, you can be proud. But I'm also a little disappointed we didn't do better."

"This group, though," he added, "is the best behaved group I've ever taken anywhere."

The VHS chapter won Georgia Chapter of the Year this spring. Lowndes High

School, state runnerup, didn't place in the nationals, Greene said.

A school from Ohio won national chapter of the year honors.

More than 6,000 students took part in the contests, including Miss Eanes' sister Ellen Eanes, Desiree Smith, Gail McCrary and Cathy Dowling of VHS.

Valdosta Area Vocational-Technical School is to compete in the national junior college competition here later this week. Val-Tech won state ju-co chapter of the year honors.

The students are expected to arrive at Valdosta Municipal Airport at 9:40 p.m. tonight.

Lowndes Principal Carlton Adams said he expects his DE students back in school Tuesday.

Pats Whiz Past 'Cats, 4-0

By MIKE CHASON
ALBANY — Valdosta's Wildcats got a quick look at Phil Deriso here Tuesday, but it was no more than that as the Westover southpaw zipped right through the VHS lineup and sparked a 4-0 Patriot victory.

In a high school baseball game which lasted only 90 minutes, Deriso propelled the Pats into a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three series for the Region 1-AAA championship.

The second game of the series is to begin at 2 p.m. here Thursday at Valdosta's Wright Bazemore Field. If a third game is necessary, it is to begin immediately after.

But if Westover pitcher Mike Johnson works his magic as quick as Deriso, it won't take long for Thursday's first game to end.

Deriso, who has already signed a letter of intent to play college baseball for Auburn University, faced only 26 batters in his seven-inning stint.

Never in serious trouble, he struck out 13, walked four, and allowed only two hits by Buck Belue and Bob White.

It was easy to see why five major league scouts were on hand at Satterfield Park to watch Deriso win his ninth game without a loss.

Both Westover head coach Tommy Stewart and Valdosta head coach Butch Brooks agreed that Deriso was the difference in the game.

"He can bring it," Brooks said. "That's only the second time I've been shut out in four years. But that kid is tough."

"We haven't seen a left-

The Valdosta Daily Times

SPORTS

Wed. May 4, 1977-15-

thander all year. There just aren't any lefthanders in our league (1-AAA, South). And now, we've got to face another one (Johnson) Thursday."

Stewart, who led Westover to its first Region 1-AAA baseball title over last season, also put the finger on his ace pitcher.

"Deriso was the only difference," Stewart said. "Valdosta's got a good hitting ballclub. They'll hang in there with you right on down the line."

"But I honestly think we're a little better all-round team than we were last year. Deriso is stronger than either one of my two starters last year."

Westover returned only three starters off last year's club which lost to Savannah in the first round of the state playoffs after knocking off

Valdosta for the region title. Valdosta, now 16-4, was in much the same situation. Brooks made his youthful look even more evident Tuesday by starting all underclassmen with the exception of catcher Bob White and centerfielder Peter LeDuc.

Junior righthander Belue drew the starting hill assignment for the 'Cats. Now 7-2, Belue was lifted in the fifth in favor of sophomore Chuck Mayne.

Belue gave up four hits, walked one and struck out five. Mayne held the now 15-1 Patriots hitless in the final one and one-third innings.

"I knew Buck had a sore arm, but he's not the type to complain about it," Brooks said. "He did a great job other than the triple they had."

"I thought Mayne came in and did an excellent job also."

Brooks has tabbed fireballing righthander Wayne Fugett to try to close the door on the Patriots Thursday. He is to face Johnson, who's 6-1 overall and is said to possess better control than Deriso.

Steve Townsend welcomed Belue to Albany with a long triple to left field in his first time at bat Tuesday. He scored on Deriso's sacrifice fly.

With both pitchers working with expert craftsmanship on the mound, that's the way things stood until the bottom of the fifth.

Westover's designated hitter, Randy Strickland, then singled and scored on Jeffery Field's triple to right field. Field scored on a wild pitch by Belue.

Johnson, the last man in the Patriot batting order, reached base when Fugett didn't stretch quite high enough at first base to catch Belue's throw.

Johnson moved to second on the play and scored on Townsend's double.

Out came Belue and in came Mayne.

Shrugging off a balk, the sophomore righthander worked himself out of a one-out, two-men on jam in the seventh to end the inning without giving up a run.

But Deriso kept the heat on in the bottom of the seventh, striking out two of the four men he faced.

Brooks said an admission price would be charged for Thursday's final matchup of the two schools.

Wildcat Box

VHS	ab	r	h	bi	WHS	ab	r	h	bi
Dame rf	1	0	0	0	Tonsd 3b	3	1	2	1
Powl ss	2	0	0	0	Tobin ss	3	0	0	0
Belue p.cf	3	0	1	0	Driso p	2	0	0	1
D. Wfe 3b	2	0	0	0	Maoly c	2	0	0	0
Fugett 1b	1	0	0	0	Grbel cf	3	0	0	0
Ganas ph	1	0	0	0	Nicol 2b	3	0	0	0
B. Wfe c	3	0	1	0	Strid dh	2	1	1	0
Jnos ph	0	0	0	0	Field 1b	3	1	1	1
Dnls 2b	3	0	0	0	Jonsn rf	2	1	0	0
Chpmndh	2	0	0	0	Dumnd lf	0	0	0	0
LeDuc cf-rf	0	0	0	0	TOTALS	23	4	4	3
Mayne p	1	0	0	0					
TOTALS	21	0	2	0					

VALDOSTA 000 000 0-0-2-2
WESTOVER 100 030 x-4-4-0
E — Fugett, Lastinger; DP — WHS 1;
LOB — VHS 5, WHS 4.
2B — Townsend, Belue; 3B — Townsend, Field; SB — Strickland; S — Powell; SF — Deriso.

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Belue (L, 7-2)	41.3	4	4	2	1	5
Mayne	12.3	0	0	0	1	1
Deriso (W, 9-0)	7	2	0	0	4	13
BALK — Mayne; WP — Belue.						

Valdosta, Fugett Tackle Westover Again

By Times Staff Writer
Sophomore righthander Wayne Fugett was to be on the mound this afternoon when Valdosta's Wildcats tried to wrestle away the Region 1-AAA high school baseball championship from Westover's Patriots.

The Patriots from Albany grabbed a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three series Tuesday via a 4-0 win. Ace lefthander Phil Deriso was virtually flawless from the mound, allowing only two hits and striking out 13 to key the Westover win.

Today's second game was to start at 2 p.m. with Fugett on the hill for Valdosta and once-beaten Mike Johnson doing the pitching for Westover.

If a third game was necessary, it was to immediately follow the 2 p.m. contest.

The region champion earns a spot in the state playoffs.

Persistence Wins Petite Woman Job

By Times Staff Writer
A recent Valdosta High School graduate says she enjoys spending her days "butchering" plants. Don't take Yvonne Folsom of Valdosta wrong, though. She loves plants, so much in fact she's changing her career plans from being a paralegal to majoring in horticulture and landscaping. Miss Folsom, 17, is in charge of propagation at Dasher's Nursery and Landscaping where she has worked four months.

She became interested in plants when she worked three months for Ruby Bryan at her West Gordon Street nursery.

"She was a good one," Mrs. Bryan recalled. "She really loved plants."

When Miss Folsom tried to get a job at Dasher's nursery, owner Jack Dasher was afraid the job was too much for a petite young woman. She weighs 80 pounds and is 4 feet 11½ inches tall.

But Miss Folsom persisted and kept calling and coming by until she was given the job. "She's fast and efficient and is interested in learning the job and is doing a fine job," Dasher said.



YVONNE FOLSOM
'It's Fun'

"You can tell this is her field of interest because she is all wrapped up in it."

"She is interested in learning new ways to propagate the plants and is willing to put into practice what she has learned," he added.

"I enjoy watching things grow and in a few months have a new plant," Miss Folsom said.

"What makes my work so interesting is we work and have a good time. It's fun and we are getting paid for it."

"The people out there are really great to work for," added the vivacious brown-eyed brunette.

While at VHS she was in the Diversified Cooperative Training program and a member of Vocational Industrial Clubs of America.

Miss Folsom plans to attend Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton this fall and get an associate degree.

When she finishes college, she intends to open up her own nursery and landscaping business on a farm her mother, Roddelle Folsom, owns in Sandersville.

In her spare time, she enjoys riding horses, swimming, bicycle riding and nature.

Feix, Reddick Cop AAA Crown

5-8-77
Times

By Times Staff Writer
MACON — Two Valdosta girls teamed up to win the first state athletic championship at Valdosta High School since 1971 here Saturday.

Lisa Feix and Allison Reddick captured the state class AAA girls' singles tennis title with a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 win over Lynn Barton and Nancy Tillman of Henderson (Atlanta).

According to VHS tennis coach John Booth, Valdosta's last state championship was the class AAA football title former head coach Wright Bazemore's team won in 1971.

"These girls put a lot of hard work into this," Booth said. "They lost the first set of every match and after each one, I was about ready to pack my bags and head home."

"Ever since we lost the region (1-AAA), I've felt we were underdogs. If you can't win your own region, you don't expect to do much in state."

"I just told the girls to play each point at a time, and to play offensive tennis. That's what helped us because we took chances. We had nothing to lose."

In the opening round Friday at the Mercer University courts here, Feix and Reddick bumped Hardaway of Columbus 3-6, 6-4, 6-1. In the second round, they topped Wheeler (Marietta) 0-6, 6-1, 6-0.

In Saturday's semifinal, they beat Dunwoody of Atlanta 3-6, 6-1, 6-2.

"The Atlanta teams have dominated tennis for so long this is just unbelievable," Booth said. "These Atlanta girls really hit. They stay back on the baseline and hit pretty down the line shots."

"My girls are just south Georgia hackers. But we stayed with our game, and it worked out for us."

The Valdosta duo lost once during the regular season to the Thomasville team of



LISA FEIX
Broken Racquet



ALLISON REDDICK
Her Senior Year

Dayna and Donna Leake. They also lost to the Leake sisters in the region finals.

Henderson eliminated the Thomasville team in an earlier round in the state tournament.

During the state cham-

pionship, Feix broke her racquet on an overhead return and had to borrow one owned by Booth. Evidently, it didn't hinder her effort any.

The state meet was the last high school meet for Reddick, who is a senior this year.

Times 5-10-77

VHS Slates Fugett In Opener

By Times Staff Writer

Two sophomore righthanders take the mound here Wednesday when Valdosta's Wildcats host Windsor Forest's Knights in the first round of the state class AAA high school baseball playoffs.

Valdosta's Wayne Fugett, 9-1, is scheduled to face the Savannah school's Danny Peigh, 11-4, in the 4 p.m. contest at Wright Bazemore Field here.

Valdosta advanced to the state playoffs Thursday when Fugett picked up back-to-back victories over Westover (Albany). The hard-throwing 10th grader pitched a three-hitter to win the first game 1-0 and then started and finished the second game with some relief help in between.

Fugett also got some timely support from the VHS offensive attack in the wild, 13-12 come-from-behind victory in the second game. The Wildcats trailed 10-2 at one point.

VHS head coach Butch Brooks said Fugett would probably get the call for Wednesday's game because of his ability to come back a little sooner than junior righthander Buck Belue.

Belue is to pitch the second game of the series Friday in Savannah. If a third game is necessary in the best-of-three playoff, it is to immediately follow Friday's 2:30 p.m. game.

"Fugett could possibly come back for that third game if we had to play it," Brooks said. "Buck needs a little more rest. Of course, we have Chuck Mayne and our little freshman (David New) who can pitch."

"Tim Dame pitched a lot of B-team games for us this year, and he might possibly throw some."

Brooks said the two big wins over Westover for the Region 1-AAA title had left his team on an emotional high, one he hopes will carry over into this week's games.

"I think the kids are really ready," Brooks said of his 18-3 team. "They are ready to go and give it everything they've got. They want it bad."

"We're going to scrap, claw, fight ... whatever it takes to win." Brooks said he didn't know a "cockeyed thing" about his opposition except that the Knights featured righthanded pitching.

Windsor Forest coach Earl Etheridge might be better informed about the Wildcats, but if he is, he isn't letting anybody know it.

"Anytime you play a team that has the tradition Valdosta has, it's going to be tough," Etheridge said. "The baseball is extremely good down there."

The baseball hasn't been bad in Region 3-AAA either. Savannah came out of that region to win the state title last season.

The Knights, 23-6, were the top team in the regular season this year and won a four-team playoff for the region championship.

"Over the year, our strength has probably been defense," Etheridge said. "We're a fair hitting team that's not exceptionally strong day in and day out."

The winner of the first round series advances to the state semifinals. The best-of-three series is to be held at the site of the winner of the Valdosta-Windsor Forest matchup.

VHS Cats To Give 'Replay'

Times 5-7-77

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta High School's Marchin' Cats band is to present an, if not instant replay, a replay just the same of its winning field competition performance at the recent Festival of States at St. Petersburg, Fla.

The seven-minute show begins 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Cleveland Field when St. Pete officials are to make the presentation of a trophy.

The 220-member band was also selected to entertain at the Coronation Ball during the annual Florida event March 31-April 2 and finished fourth in parade competition there.

This is also to be VHS Band Director Frank Butenschon's final field appearance. The 39-year-old Oxford, Ala., native who has directed the band to dozens of awards in the past 17 years, is taking a year's leave of absence to attend Troy State University, his alma mater, to obtain his master's degree in music.

Assistant director Mike Chapman has been named interim director.

The band's annual spring concert is May 23.

"Band Booster patrons will be admitted free Thursday night," Chapman said, "but there may be a slight admission charge for others."



Judy Eanes



Sarah Wetzel



Karen Merritt



Anne Ricks



Beverly Blevins

Judy Eanes Wins UDC Easy Contest

Times May 11, 1977

Six Valdosta students were recognized as winners of the annual essay contest sponsored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and Judy Eanes was named over-all winner.

At a meeting held last week at the Woman's Building, the winners were introduced, presented cash awards and read their winning essays on the topic "The Role of Confederate Women in the Civil War."

It is not surprising, said a spokesman, that five of the winners were girls.

Miss Eanes, a senior at Valdosta High School, is the

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Eanes III.

Second place was awarded to Matt Harrington, also a senior at VHS, and son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Harrington.

Sarah Wetzel, daughter of Maj. and Mrs. Raymond A. Wetzel, won first place in the sixth grade division. She is a student at S.L. Mason Elementary School and Jan Banck is her teacher.

Karen Merritt placed second in the sixth grade level. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Merritt, she is a student of Sandra Finland at W.G. Nunn Elementary

School.

Anne Ricks placed first in the fifth grade division. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Ricks and is also a student of Mrs. Blanck at S.L. Mason.

Beverly Blevins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Blevins, placed second among fifth graders. She is a student of O'Dell Hall at W.G. Nunn.

The essays are to be sent for district competition.

In her winning essay, Miss Eanes focused on the fictitious character Mary Lou Wingate mentioned in "John Brown's Body."

"She is the epitome of

Southern women. She represents the Southern woman in that she was a gentle woman and a workhouse during this moral conflict," the winner said.

The Southern woman farmed, took care of the children, doctored them, was a preacher, attended to the legal affairs while her husband was away, said Miss Eanes.

Special guests at the meeting were the student's parents and their teachers

who were presented orchid corsages by Mrs. Charles Darnell, UDC president.

Mrs. Ruth Paine entertained on the piano with selections from "The Sound of Music."

Mrs. Graham Wall was essay chairman and Mrs. Wesley Ren Christie was co-chairman.

Hostesses at the meeting were Mrs. Will Spain Kelly, Mrs. Beth Carpenter, Mrs. John May and Mrs. Norman McGowan.

VHS Band Leader Gets Last Hurrah

Fla. Times 5-12-77

The Times-Union Bureau

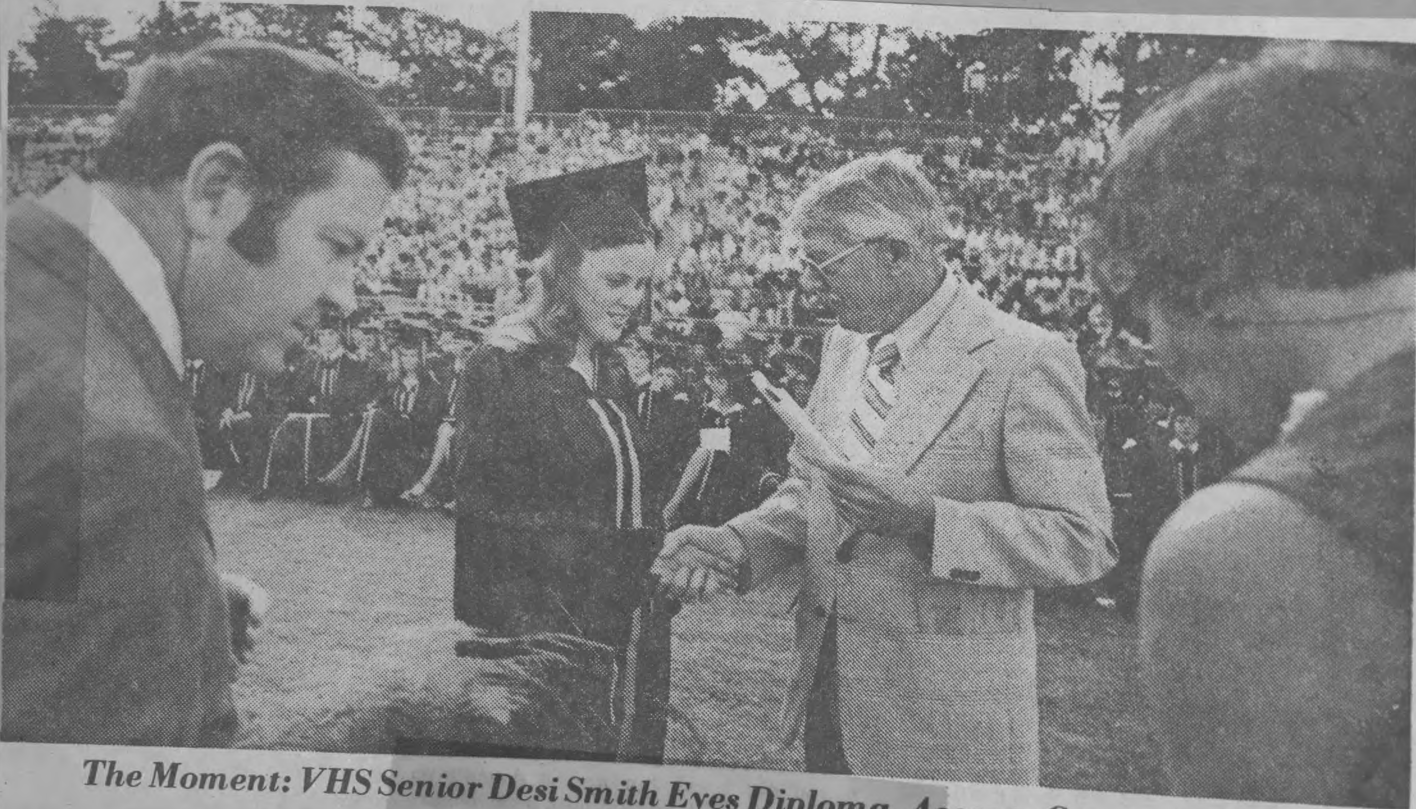
VALDOSTA, Ga. — After 17 years and many Friday night halftime shows, Valdosta High School Band Director Frank Butenschon will be overseeing his final field show tonight as head of the VHS Marchin' Cats.

The Marchin' Cats are to perform their award-winning St. Petersburg Festival of State Contest show on Cleveland Field at 7:30 p.m. The show is being repeated in conjunction with Festival of States awards ceremonies scheduled to follow the Cats.

St. Petersburg Festival of State officials Herb Melleny and Bob Crisp arrived in Valdosta Wednesday for tonight's ceremonies. The Marchin' Cats will receive a trophy for their first-place

finish March 30 in the Festival of States National Marching Competition.

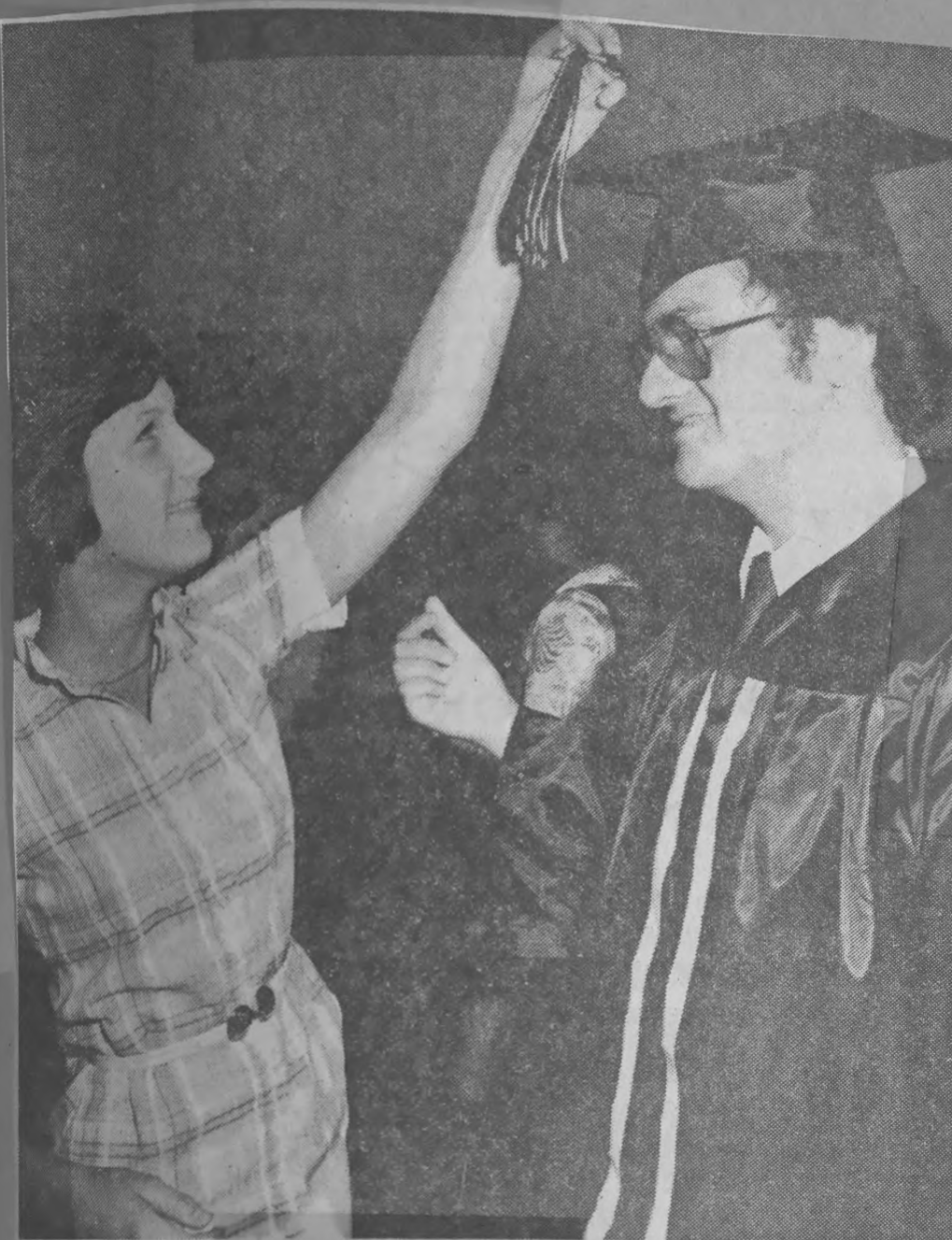
By winning the contest, the Marchin' Cats were named National Field Show Champions. "Mr. B," as the red-headed band director is called by his students, led the band to the same national field title in 1974 as well as an impressive string of other honors and championships during his 17-year career at Valdosta High.



The Moment: VHS Senior Desi Smith Eyes Diploma, Accepts Congratulations

Goolsby Responds To Grievance List

Valdosta Daily Times 6-9-77



Exchange Student Filemon Lopez Has Help Flipping Tassel

By Times Staff Writer
City School Supt. Foster Goolsby has responded to several grievances from eight Valdosta High School lunchroom employes, "and that sounds fine to me," said a spokeswoman for the group.

"But Mr. (Supt. designate Ralph) Brandon fired us," Elnora Wilson told the Times today, "and until he'll call or write us, I'm trying to find other work."

The eight women, all black, instead of showing up for work May 30, arrived at City Schools Food Services Director Jimmy Griffin's office at Cleveland Field with a list of grievances.

That was seven school days before the end of the school year. Mrs. Wilson maintains Brandon fired her group on the spot.

However, Brandon, who assumes the retiring Goolsby's post July 1, has repeatedly denied that, saying he simply sent them home.

He made arrangements to feed the about 1,400 VHS students by taking employes from other schools in the system those final days before school closed Tuesday.

School officials and the women met last week when Goolsby promised an announcement Wednesday.

Although Mrs. Wilson said she's yet to receive his reply which Griffin said was mailed Tuesday, she reviewed the Times' copy.

In the memo to Griffin, Goolsby said:

— Proceed with plans to hire a man on the staff next fall to help out with lifting heavy objects.

— Make sure all medical expenses are listed on workman's compensation forms when an employe is injured.

— The same courtesy is to be extended to employes that the employes should extend to the lunchroom manager.

— Take immediate steps to correct a possible hazardous condition when an employe notices such.

— Lunchroom employes are to be granted a 30-minute lunch break and employes can leave for the day when the work has been completed.

— Beginning in September, employes are to have five days sick leave.

— Periodic meetings should be scheduled with employes and administration members to discuss "matters of mutual interest."

The workers also complained about unemployment compensation over the summer, as has been permitted the past two summers.

However, federal regulations this year have stopped that.

"I though channels of communication were already open," Goolsby said. "I'm willing, have been and have and will be willing to do anything to improve communications."

Griffin has been directed to contact each of the workers

and discuss their employment as soon as possible.

"We just wish they'd gone about this differently," Griffin said.

VHS DE Honors Lastinger



Lastinger (Left) With Taylor, Miss Eanes

By Times Staff Writer
"Employers who believe in kid-power," that's what the Distributive Education program is all about, as defined by DE student Bill Brown of Valdosta High school.

Thursday night the VHS Distributive Education Club of America chapter paid tribute to those "employers who believe in kid-power" and handed out awards to its own members for their work in the club and school.

John B. Lastinger, manager of the Chamber of Commerce here, was inducted into the club as an honorary life member. This is the highest honor the club pays to an individual in the community for his support and help to DE at VHS.

Lastinger was cited for his assistance to the DE program, which included judging contests, counseling with members, advising on projects and setting up a marketing program.

In accepting the award, Lastinger said his job as head of the Chamber is to "go around bragging on Valdosta. It is folks like you and this

high school that make my job easy."

Distributive Education is a joint school-work program in which the students attend classes and are employed in regular jobs in various businesses and service establishments in the community.

The more than 60 students in the DE program at VHS last year earned more than \$100,000, it was pointed out.

Among its accomplishments this year, the VHS club was cited as the outstanding club in Georgia after competition with other DECA organizations throughout the state.

Announced earlier, but presented with their trophies at the banquet program

Thursday night were the DE students of the year, Rex Taylor and Judy Eanes. Taylor is employed at Bob Taylor Men's shop and Miss Eanes at Sears Roebuck and Co.

Winner of the Warren Horton Memorial Award as the student of the year in the DE program was also Miss Eanes.

The W.E. Glenn Award as the most valuable student in the DE club went to Debbie Bruck, who is employed at The Valdosta Daily Times.

The Rookie of the Year Award for the outstanding new student went to Cheryl Gatewood, an employe of Wendy's.

Norman Greene, the VHS

coordinator for the DE program, presented his award — The Coordinator's Award — to Anne Greene, an employe of Weeds and Things.

Coordinator Greene announced that five students were winners of the national Gold Medal Award. They are: Bill Brown of Valdosta Music, Rex Taylor of Bob Taylor's, Marie Eunice, Livia Lyles of Wendy's and Brian Mullis of Sno White Cleaners.

In addition Greene said that of his 63 DE students, 51 were winners of the state Silver Medal award.

State Sen. Loyce Turner of Valdosta was the principal speaker at the annual DE awards banquet.

Area Teams Hit Big Time In 1976-77

The mud is long gone from the football cleats, the basketball sneakers have been put out in the sun to air out a long winter of sweat and the baseball spikes are finally getting a rest from pop-up slides.

After their biggest smash hit ever, the characters in the nine-month long movie on the area high school and college sports scene have ridden off into another sunset. But they went out in a blazer of glory.

Our big daddy to the north might be called Loserville but for this season at least, Valdosta and the surrounding area has earned the name Winnersville, U.S.A.

Never have so many local teams won so many titles in so many sports.

At the top of the list has to be Lowndes High School's Vikes. There's no way anybody can top a 30-0 record, the state class AAA championship and the tag as the number one girls' high school basketball team in the nation.

Valdosta's Wildcats have three times been named national football champs, but never has this area had a nationwide basketball champion.

The closest any other team came to a national title was Valdosta State College's Blazer baseball team. The Blazers won more games than they've ever won in the school's history. They piled up 47 victories against 16 losses. In the NCAA Division II national tournament, Valdosta State finished fourth, losing two one-run games to the number one and number two teams in the nation.

It was quite a turnabout from 1976 when the Blazers managed a 28-25 record for the most losses ever incurred by a VSC nine.

Probably not more than a handful of people in town can name a single cross country runner for Valdosta State. But the Blazer runners finished seventh nationwide after winning their second straight South Atlantic Conference championship.

Running five miles at a clip requires tremendous individual desire and a whole lot of guts. Dave Waples either deserves credit as being a great recruiter or a great motivator.

Several members of Waples' newly formed track team also made it to the national track meet, but none distinguished themselves in their first year of active competition.

Cross country was run during the fall which happens to be the same time another sport is in full swing. That sport is football and for as long as anybody can remember, football has been king in Valdosta.

The Wildcats haven't won a state title since 1971 and have been to the state playoffs only once since Wright



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

Bazemore retired that national championship season. But this season they again made themselves known by tying for the regular season I-AAA title before losing a playoff game to Central of Thomasville.

To the surprise of everyone but Joe Wilson, Lowndes' Vikings fielded the best football team in the school's history this year. The Vikes finished 8-2 for their first winning record ever in class AAA.

Down south of the state line, Hamilton County's Trojans from Jasper, Fla. advanced to the state playoffs for the second straight year and moved to the state class AA quarterfinals before losing to Wildwood. In 1975, the Trojans made it all the way to the state finals.

Clinch County (Homerville) didn't win the region 2-A championship, but the Panthers did rack up eight wins against only three losses enroute to a subregion title.

On the same night Hamilton closed out its football season, Valdosta State's basketball team scissored open the flap on its most productive campaign in 10 years. The Blazers went 23-6, tied for the SAC regular season title, and finished second in the SAC tournament.

For the second straight year, they advanced to the South Regional at Chattanooga, Tenn. where they were again beaten by eventual national champion University of Tenn. at Chattanooga. Valdosta State was at one time ranked 15th in the nation.

Valdosta State's women's team finally overcame Cindy Brogdon and the Mercer Teddy Bears to win the Georgia state large college title. At the South regional, the Blazers wound up third behind two-time national champ Delta State and Mississippi College. VSC also finished fifth in another national tourney, the National Women's Invitational at Amarillo, Tex.

Lyndal Worth's team ended its longest season ever with a 26-6 record.

On the high school hoop scene, Valdosta's Wildcats set one of the top records in the state (18-3) but didn't win anything out of it. They lost in the semifinals of a subregion tournament.

Brooks County's Trojanettes from Quitman proved moving up a step in classification doesn't make any difference as they captured their second straight state title. They won the class A state crown in 1976 and the class AA state trophy this year only hours before coach Charles Cooper's Vikes claimed the first athletic title in Lowndes' history.

Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.) sent both its boys and girls' teams to the state tourney, and Clinch County's Pantherettes made what seems to be their annual trip to the Macon Coliseum. Georgia Christian School's Generals also advanced to the state tourney for the second year in a row.

The last basketball had hardly quit bouncing when baseball was right on top of us.

Valdosta and Lowndes tied for the Region I-AAA (South) subregion baseball title for the third year in a row. This time it was Valdosta which escaped the playoff and mowed down all opposition enroute to the state semifinals. Kendrick's Cherokees from Columbus cut short the 'Cats' bid for a state title at that point.

Nobody heard much about spring sports until this season when the tennis, track and golf folks captured a few headlines of their own.

Valdosta's girls' doubles' team of Lisa Feix and Allison Reddick won the state class AAA tennis title, despite finishing second in their own region tourney.

Valwood's Robin Carter didn't take the top prize statewide, but did complete her senior year by grabbing the second place trophy in the state girls' singles category.

Lowndes tied with Dougherty for the region track title, and Westbrook took the whole ball of wax in its region meet. The Cougars from Dixie placed second in the state meet.

Hamilton was third in the state class AA track meet in Florida.

Valdosta's golf team sewed up the Wildcats' second straight I-AAA all-sports trophy by winning the region title and finishing fifth in the state tournament.

Valdosta State also won the first annual all-sports trophy for the six-team South Atlantic Conference.

If you put all their trophies together, there's probably enough gold to restock Ft. Knox. Taken individually, it seems there are a lot of athletes in all the area schools willing to pay the price for fame.

And in three months, it starts all over again.

Lowe, Middleton Picked On South All-Star Team

Valdosta Daily Times 6-24-77

Notes, quotes and assorted trivia:

— Valdosta High School middle linebacker Keith Middleton and safety Lawrence Lowe have been named to the south team for the annual North-South all-star game at Atlanta's Memorial Stadium Aug. 4.

— Other Region I-AAA football players on the team include Dougherty's John Holloway and Eddie Johnson, Thomasville's Clifford Kerbo and Johnny Parrish and Central of Thomasville's George Herring.

— North Florida Junior College basketball coach Dick Danford resigned his position a month ago to take the head coaching job at Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, Fla.

— One of Danford's former players, Calvin Crews, was recently drafted by the Atlanta Hawks of the NBA.

— A replacement for Danford is expected to be named within a week.

— Five Valdosta State College women basketball players and their head coach are scheduled to tour a series of basketball camps in Michigan in July.

— VSC head coach Lyndal Worth said she is to accompany Sue Ann Christie, Carol Chason, Cathy McCurdy, Jeri Roche and Gracie Sanders on the two-week expenses-paid tour.

— The Blazers are to fit the tour in between three one-week camp sessions of their own. The three sessions have attracted an average of nearly 65 players a week.

— The Jefferson County Kennel Club in Monticello, Fla. is making plans for one of its biggest greyhound racing weekends ever.

— The track, which is open every day of the week except Sunday, is to run its usual 2 p.m. matinee and regular night session on Saturday, July 2.

— On Monday, July 4, the track is to feature another matinee at 2 p.m. as well as the regular Monday night racing program.

— Former heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman is 29 pounds lighter after a three-week fast.

— Foreman says he wouldn't step back into the ring for "all the money of the Rockefeller's or the late J. Paul Getty."

— Foreman cited religious reasons for his retirement from boxing and his fast.

— Foreman said because of "not fighting and high taxes," he will probably have to sell his cars and homes. He reportedly owns eight cars and three or four houses.

— Valdosta High School basketball player Sunnie O'Neal has switched loyalties in the middle of her high school career. O'Neal, a two-year starter for the VHS girls' basketball team, has transferred across the county to Lowndes High School.

— She made history last season by becoming the first girl ever to play on the Valdosta baseball team. O'Neal has no plans to play baseball at Lowndes. She has decided to concentrate both her final two seasons of eligibility on basketball instead.

— The Georgia qualifying tournament for the United States Wrestling Federation Junior national tournament is scheduled for Saturday at the Marietta High School gymnasium.

— Former Albany standout Al Smith was drafted by the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA draft. Smith was one of the offensive terrors of Region I-AAA during his prep

The Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., June 24, 1977-8-

Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor



playing days.

— Valdosta golfer Al Armstrong won the eighth annual Mott Buick Open golf tournament in Live Oak, Fla. two weeks ago. Armstrong, one of the top golfers in the local area, shot a 143 in the two-day tournament to take the title by one stroke.

— The Golden Isle Speedway near Brunswick is to have a special race Sunday afternoon at 5 p.m. A full field of Late Model cars is to be competing for \$4,000 in prize money. General admission tickets are \$3 and children under 12 are to be admitted free.

— Valdosta State College basketball coach James Dominey said his Blazers now have 23 games on their schedule for next season. One of the newest additions is a game against old rival Georgia Southern in Statesboro. The Eagles had previously announced they couldn't accommodate VSC on their schedule.

— Nine Valdosta High School athletes and VHS head football coach Nick Hyder have recently returned from a Fellowship-of-Christian-Athletes sports conference at Black Mountain, N.C. The VHS boys making the trip included Mike Rose, Andy Chapman, David Reaves, Rob Register, Billy Harvey, Bubba Hardin, Darrell Swindle, Henry Sanders and Cass Burch.

— Advance tickets for the American Softball Association's Junior Girls Slow Pitch national tournament are now on sale at the Tifton-Tift County Recreation Department. Advance passes for the nearly 50-team tournament are \$6 for adults and \$3.25 for students. The passes are good for the approximately 100 games expected to be played during the Aug. 11-14 tourney.

— Once Fran Tarkenton gets through tossing touchdowns for the Minnesota Vikings, he wouldn't mind taking a crack at owning a professional football team. The Athens, Ga. native even says he would like to own the Atlanta Falcons.

— "One of my regrets is that I haven't helped make this franchise as successful as others," Tarkenton said in an Atlanta Constitution story last week. "If Rankin Smith ever decides to sell, I'd like a chance to buy."

— Home runs are usually hit only two or three times during a major league baseball game, but in softball it's different. The Chicago Storm of the new American Professional Slo-Pitch softball league reported 87 homers in a recent four-game series. That's 87 brand new softballs never to be seen again.



Martin Register

Times Sports Writer

Enthusiasm Key To VHS Success

A fireballing sophomore pitcher and a University of Georgia signee were just two of the beacons among the highlights of Valdosta High School's 1977 baseball season.

The sophomore pitcher, Wayne Fugett, and the UGA signee, Robert White, provided the spark that sent the Wildcats all the way through a seemingly endless string of heartstopping do-or-die wins to the state semifinals. There they lost out to eventual state champ Kendrick (Columbus).

From the very beginning of the season, through a long streak of region victories, and into a harrowing array of narrow playoff wins, Valdosta seemed to develop an uncanny ability to pull through in the clutch.

Brooks many times referred to the team's ability to play together as an unit, and White did the same during a recent interview.

"Everybody worked together for each other," he said. "There was no selfishness, and no griping. If a player was told to sacrifice bunt instead of going for a hit, then that's what he did."

The team's togetherness was evident on the field, where team members reacted to good plays and success on the part of the other members of the team with genuine enthusiasm, not just stale, hyped-up versions of the old rah-rah, let's go-get-'em, if-we-don't-congratulate-you-the-coach-will-crawl-our-backs routine.

And the enthusiasm helped. Ask any coach how far spirit can carry a team.

Brief Slump

The Wildcats hit a brief slump, losing two subregion games during the final week of the regular season, and found their backs to the wall in a "must" game with Bainbridge. If the 'Cats won, they earned the right to face crosstown rival Lowndes in a special-playoff to determine the subregion champ. If they lost, it was all over.

Valdosta did win, finally, on a Bearcat error in extra innings, and that same wave of enthusiasm was there to immerse the Wildcat baserunner when he raced home with the winning run.

But the team's spirit had never dimmed, not during the short losing skid. And that enthusiasm was very important in the 'Cats comeback effort against Bainbridge.

An incredible string of luck seemed to follow Valdosta through much of the playoffs, as it pulled off wins in games that appeared certain to be headed toward opposite results.

Twice in one week, against Lowndes and Westover, especially against Westover, the Wildcats advanced to further competition by charging back from seemingly impossible situations to claim victories.

The team then cut down Windsor Forest (Savannah), in two games, and dropped a tough, three-game set with Kendrick.

Kendrick then won the state championship in two games over Sequoyah (Doraville).

The narrow defeat at the hands of Kendrick was hard to take, but the Wildcats and their backers had to be pleased, to put it mildly.

The road to the state semifinals was long and at times difficult, but through it all the team seemed to put out the deciding effort when it counted most. And right at the center of things was Fugett and White.

Hard Work

Fugett, a virtual unknown until this season, dazzled Valdostans and opposing players and fans as well, climbing the rung to the top of the 'Dosta pitching staff largely on the strength of a blistering fastball.

Teamed with veteran hurler Buck Belue, and backed up by strong team hitting, Fugett was a strong push behind Valdosta's try for state laurels.

White was cited time and again during the season by Brooks as a major force behind the 'Cats success, leading the team's defensive charge from his catcher's position and working harmoniously with the team's pitching staff.

Of course there were others who had their day with the 1977 'Cats, as Brooks so often stated.

"We had good talent on the team," David White, brother of Robert, and the team's leading hitter, said. "We had some of the best coaching, and one of the best all-around teams I've ever seen."

Other team members praised the coaching of Brooks and assistant coach Charles Tarpley. Robert's adjective for them was "grest. They've been around baseball all their lives," he said, "and they tell us a lot of things that help us out."

But while everyone concerned seems to try to place the credit elsewhere, the Wildcats' 21-6 record speaks for itself. And it couldn't have been accomplished without hard work and dedication from all corners.

An old saying goes that one should never be satisfied with anything less than perfect. And while the 'Cats season may have been less than perfect, it was impressive, and at least much of the time, exciting.

Valdosta, UCLA Alike

Don't worry Gene Bartow, Charlie Greene knows just how you feel.

Just as Bartow abandoned the perils of Pauley Pavilion earlier in the week, Greene left the cozy confines of Cleveland Field here in 1973. Both men were winners, but neither could replace legendary predecessors. And for the fans in both situations, just being a winner wasn't enough.

Bartow inherited the rolled up program and calm sideline mannerisms of John Wooden at UCLA. Greene stepped in for the famous south Georgia drawl of Valdosta High School coach Wright Bazemore.

UCLA won 52 basketball games and lost only nine in two seasons under Bartow. Valdosta won 17 football games and lost only three in two years under Greene.

But UCLA didn't win a single national title, a feat Wooden accomplished 10 times in 12 years. And Valdosta didn't win a single state championship, something Bazemore did 15 times including three national championships.

For not winning titles many schools have never even sniffed at, Bartow and Greene were forced to find employment elsewhere.

Oh sure, neither was fired. The death warrant read resignation, but the autopsy said much more. Sports fans are the harshest critics alive, and when they want a coach's hide, they usually get it. In the cases of Bartow and Greene, they got what they wanted.

UCLA lost to Indiana in the semifinals of the 1976 NCAA tournament. The Hoosiers were drafted by the NBA. But this year, the Bruins lost to somebody named Idaho State in the upset of the season. The blue-and-gold boys from the west coast never made it to Atlanta's Omni.

After Valdosta won the state class AAA championship with a 62-12 mauling of Avondale in 1971, Bazemore announced he was giving up the sport with which he made Valdosta famous.

Greene took over, lost to Moultrie in 1972 and finished with a 9-1 season. In 1973, the Wildcats lost to Thomasville and Waycross, and Greene started packing his bags.

But life goes on. Even though UCLA fans were tired of Bartow and some Valdosta followers didn't necessarily approve of Greene, some other schools did.

Bartow's starting from scratch at the University of Alabama at Birmingham which boasts not even a warmup ball to its credit at the present. UAB doesn't even have teams named Tigers or Rattlers or Pigeons or anything yet. The only thing Bartow has going for him is a 17,500 seat civic center which ain't a bad start.

Greene has moved upstate a bit to Stephens County where he still hasn't won a state championship but he has brought winning football to Toccoa.

Neither Bartow nor Greene will get the media attention they received in Los Angeles and Valdosta, but maybe they're enjoying what they are doing a bit more.

"I believe many people feel I need psychiatric care for leaving UCLA, but others feel I'll be much happier here (Birmingham)," Bartow said. "Anyone in coaching puts pressure on himself to win. I think we'll have a winning team very quickly. I think we're going to have fun."

Maybe Bartow said the magic word. Isn't fun the reason every athlete started playing sports in the first place? It can't be for money because every kid in the fourth grade just doesn't turn out to be the next Kenny Stabler or Julius Erving.

But nobody ever said coaching was just for fun.

Coaches are paid to teach character, good sportsmanship and winning ways. Succeeding on the last member of that list might make a lot of folks forget about the first two. Character and good sportsmanship are fine assets for a winning coach, but no perennial loser ever got out of the fans' doghouse being a gentleman.



Mike Chason

Times Sports Editor

Bartow and Greene would be laughed at if they claimed a lack of talent as good enough reason for not winning national and state championships. Fans don't remember how much or how little talent a team has, they only remember how it finished the season.

Besides, nobody blames the players for not winning. It's always the coach's fault. Just ask Gene Shue of the Philadelphia 76ers. On the other hand, some coaches are proclaimed masterminds when they come up with one big winner as is the case with Portland Trail Blazer coach Jack Ramsay.

On the local front, Lowndes High football coach Joe Wilson has been praised in much the same way after his Vikings went 8-2 on the football field last year.

Wilson has been a head coach only one year but has already gotten more credit for knowing football than Nick Hyder has received in three years as Valdosta's head coach.

Wilson might turn out to be a great coach. If the Vikings keep winning year after year, he'll no doubt deserve that tag. But what if Wilson had stepped in at Valdosta in '72 and won 17 games in two years? Would he have been called a great coach then? Was anybody calling Greene a great coach?

Any other school in the nation would have been satisfied with a 52-9 record UCLA had the past two years ... but UCLA isn't any other school.

Any other school in the nation would have been satisfied with the 17-3 record Valdosta had in Greene's two years ... but Valdosta isn't any other school.

And that's where Bartow and Greene stepped in their gopher holes. Undoubtedly, both realized the tremendous pressure to win which would be on them. However, neither fully realized the magnitude of that pressure.

As Bartow said, all coaches feel a certain amount of pressure for their teams to do well. But in certain situations, such as UCLA and Valdosta, that pressure is amplified to a level which neither Bartow nor Greene could turn down.

On the other hand, Wilson wasn't faced with anything near that situation at Lowndes. A break-even record last year wouldn't have disappointed a whole lot of people. After all, Lowndes had never had a winner in football until Wilson took over.

Until last season, Lowndes was just another high school football team. But if Wilson keeps turning out 8-2 teams every year, it's going to be much more than that.

Just as Valdosta fans and UCLA fans expect their teams to win it all every season, Lowndes' fans will come to expect the same from the Vikings.

It's a perfect example of "Catch 22." Once a team establishes itself as a winner, it can never be anything less than that to the fans. The better a team does, the more the fans expect.

Stepping in for a loser will never be as tough as stepping in for a winner. Gene Bartow knows ... and so does Charlie Greene.

VICA Students Place Third
By Times Staff Writer
CINCINNATI, Ohio — Valdosta (Ga.) High School's state championship opening and closing ceremony team finished third in competition during the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) national convention here last week.
VHS club advisor Levy Taylor and the VHS team of Bryan Strickland, Natasha Mathews, Robby Hopkins, Joey Ivansco, Phil Feinberg, Tom King, Greg Harbin and alternate Warren Turner each received a bronze medal for their efforts.
Two-time state heavy duty mechanic champion Thad Heaney of Lowndes High (Valdosta) didn't place in his second consecutive trip to the nationals.

Moore's Career On The Way Up

Times 7-3-77

By MARTIN REGISTER
PULASKI, Va. — It

doesn't always take forever to move up in the world. Ask Alvin Moore.

Moore, who played only one year of high school baseball for coach Butch Brooks at Valdosta High School, went on to South Georgia College at Douglas, where he had a brilliant two-year stint and attracted the attention of the Atlanta Braves.

And that attention paid off two weeks ago when the young outfielder signed with Atlanta's rookie league team in Kingsport, Tenn.

It's another step up the ladder for Moore in his ambition to play major league baseball. And he feels he has a good chance for further advancement.

"I feel like I have a good chance to move on up," he said from a motel room here where the team was staying on a road trip last week.

"I think I have as good a chance as any player here, and better than some."

Moore was late coming out for the team in his senior year in high school, but Brooks said the coaching staff decided to give him a chance.

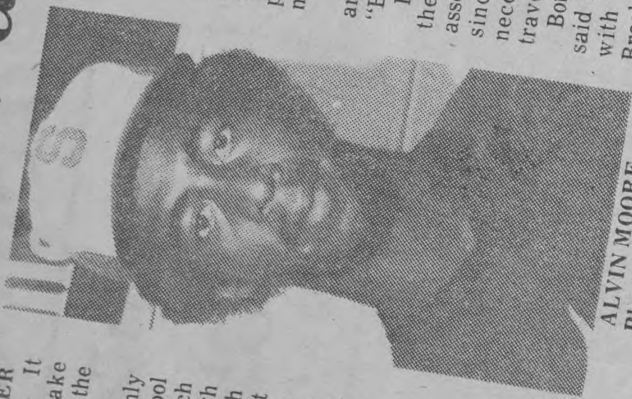
That was the first time Moore played organized baseball. Work had kept him from having time for it before that.

"He had a lot of raw talent," Brooks said. "And he turned out to be a great ballplayer for us."

It was Brooks who took the young player to Douglas, where head coach Clyde Miller was impressed with his ability.

Moore was named all-state at South Georgia both years, playing in the outfield.

He led the Tigers in four categories during the 1977 season — batting average,



ALVIN MOORE
Playing For Pay

home runs, RBI and runs scored.

Moore cracked eight home runs, maintained a .351 batting average, scored 38 runs and batted that same number in.

In his first season with South Georgia in 1976, the 6-2, 195-pounder batted .265 and knocked in 40 runs.

Last month, he was chosen as the team's most valuable player.

Moore was reportedly drafted by the New York Mets in the late rounds of the winter draft in his freshman year at college, but he never signed.

He had hoped to be drafted this season. When he was not, he jumped at the opportunity of trying out for the Braves last month.

The Braves had kept an eye on him through scouts, and when they discovered he had not gone in the draft, contacted him about a tryout.

Moore nailed down a starting berth with the team during the first week and delivered a three-run homer which won one

game in the ninth inning. "My hitting's going pretty well," he said, "and the competition is good."

Kingsport, with a population of about 30,000, compares roughly with Valdosta in size. The ball park there, Moore says, is not new.

"The ballparks up here are kind of old," he said. "But I like it pretty good."

He said he doesn't mind the necessary travel associated with the job, since his college play necessitated extensive travel also.

Both Miller and Brooks said Moore could advance with the Braves, but Brooks pointed out it would take a lot of work and determination.

"I think he could stay all right if he can stay with the rough schedule," said Brooks. "He's a good kid and a hard worker."

"Moore is the kind of player a coach likes to have," Miller said. "He puts a lot of effort out on the field, working the opponent's weaknesses for all he can."

Moore's relative inexperience upon entering college was a strike against him, but Miller said plain hard work earned him a starting spot.

"He played only one year of high school ball and therefore he had to work extremely hard on the fundamentals of the game. He had to put out a lot of effort, and he did."

A few other area players have made trips to farm clubs, never advancing farther, or moving up very slowly.

That doesn't worry Moore, who has played all positions in the outfield and feels he can play any of them with Kingsport or whatever team to which he is assigned.



Valdosta Daily Times
Martin 6-28-77

Register

Times Sports Writer

Watch Out, Here Comes Wrestling

They may not mutilate an opponent like Abdullah the Butcher and they may not be as "pretty" as Gorgeous George but wrestlers seem to be coming into their own in south Georgia. We're talking about high school wrestlers — not the professional grunt'n groaners.

Of course, every small town that is a respectable small town has had its own weekly versions of the Saturday night wrestling matches in front of the town diner or gas pumps, but that's not quite what we're talking about.

High school wrestling matches have been held in the area for the past couple of years, with Valdosta, Berrien (Nashville, Ga.), and Madison, Fla., fielding teams of wrestlers.

The Valdosta team competed well all through the 1976-77 season, and made strong challenges against Fitzgerald, long an established power, in meets between the two schools.

Berrien and Madison, on the other hand, had less-than-spectacular seasons. Both, were just getting their programs underway last season.

The biggest problem coach Jim Landrum's Valdosta Wildcat team faced was finding enough opposition. The 'Cats wound up meeting each area wrestling team on several occasions this past season, due to the fact that very few area schools fielded wrestling teams.

Those very few teams, however, are a few more than were around not long ago.

Up at Berrien, a petite 14-year-old girl made the season interesting, to say the least, when she joined the team. To the surprise of everyone, she wrestled her way to a starting position.

What's What

Looking young and immature are two entirely different things, one 20-year-old man discovered recently.

Making a business trip to Valdosta High School, which has rules against gum-chewing, he approached the front desk to ask the whereabouts of Principal Lloyd Mims' office, all the while chewing on a mouthful of Double Bubble.

The matron at the desk, however, didn't give an inch. "I'll tell you where the office is," she said curtly, obviously unaware of the visitor's advanced age, "when you take that gum out of your mouth."

And before he could remember that he was, after all, not a student at the school, his wad of gum had found the wastebasket.

D

By MARTIN REGISTER

It's a long road from a teaching position in an isolated two-teacher rural school to the principalship of one of the largest schools in the state of Georgia.

And all along the crooks and turns of that road, Valdosta High School Principal Lloyd Mims has had as traveling companions thousands of young people.

Each child, each face in the swirling mass of youngsters was different, yet the same two elements — discipline and organization — have been his tools from the very beginning.

Mims and those associated with him inevitably mention those two practices as the backbone of running his school.

They were instrumental when he first graduated from Jacksonville (Ala.) State University in 1953 and took a job as a teacher-principal at tiny Pinedale, Ala., Elementary School.

"It was a small school," he understates. "No one remembers it now. It burned down years ago."

Mims at first taught a combined class of fourth, fifth and sixth graders in the tiny school — and kept them all day long.

After moving from Pinedale, he took a job at a junior high school, where he was principal, taught 7th, 8th and 9th grade English, coached boys' and girls' basketball, and he says, was janitor and lunchroom supervisor.

"Back in those days," he laughed, "one person did just about everything."

Then, in 1959, Mims received his master's degree in school administration at Auburn University.

After that, he left the classroom and ran a Dairy Queen in Wetumpka, Ala., for one year.

But the classroom called him back. He took his wife Pauline, whom he had married in 1957, and their young son, Gary, to Du Pont in 1960, and assumed the position of principal at Clinch County Junior High School there.

And, two years later, when that facility merged with Clinch County High School at Homerville nine miles away, Mims went with it.

After seven years at the small Homerville school, Mims accepted an offer from the larger Valdosta Junior High School.

Mims spent only two years at VJHS, before being offered a job at Valdosta High School.

He accepted, has been there ever since, and says he plans to remain there until his retirement.

It's been a long, winding road, but Mims says he wouldn't change anything about it if he had the chance.

"I always wanted to be a school teacher," he said. "even in high school, I would



Lloyd Mims: 'Cats No. 1 Fan

fill in for teachers sometimes in study hall."

Being the principal of a 1,400-student, 114-teacher facility is no picnic.

The day begins before daylight for Mims, who is in his office every morning by about 5:30 a.m., except during the summer — "I give myself a little rest, don't get there until 6:30."

Sometimes he doesn't leave the school until almost midnight.

"It's a full time job," he said, "but I love it."

Mims' long hours don't go unnoticed. "I've been working with Lloyd Mims for five years," said Ralph Brandon, city schools superintendent.

"And I would have to say he's one of the most dedicated, hard-working, conscientious school administrators I've ever known."

"He has the unique ability to maintain a well-disciplined student body, while at the same time having good rapport with parents, students and his staff."

"He's knowledgeable, and utilizes the potential of his staff to its maximum capability."

As a result, he said, the Valdosta city system is one of the best organized school programs anywhere. "that's his real strong point — his organizational ability."

"He plans ahead. And he's an outstanding disciplinarian. We don't have that many rules and regulations, but he enforces

those which have been adopted.

"He's a firm believer, as I am, that discipline cannot be taught in an undisciplined atmosphere."

Mims reportedly was offered a superintendent's position earlier in the year, but declined.

"He wanted to stay where he was," said Brandon. "And we're glad he did. He is in the very, very top select group of high school administrators in the state."

Norman Sainz, boys' head basketball coach at the school, says he also is impressed with Mims' administrative abilities.

"He is unsurpassed as far as administration is concerned," said Sainz. "He's very much interested in education, and makes sure that at Valdosta High School, education is number one."

"He's a great guy to work for. He tries as much as he can to be flexible, and tries to help you with any problems you may have."

"If you've got a problem, or if something's upsetting you, then he'll stop, you can tell him what you think, he'll tell you what he thinks, and you can work out a compromise."

"I'll tell you, it's hard to find a man like that these days. Kids are going to learn something when they go out to Valdosta High."

To Mims, who has become known as a firm disciplinarian wherever he has served as principal, the proverb "you've got to get

Georgia," he said. "Faculty is the key. Never sell short a faculty."

Mims looks with pride at the three high school year-books dedicated to him through the years, one at Clinch, one at Valdosta Junior High and one at Valdosta High. He was once named STAR teacher while at Clinch.

Mims says he has always tried to stress fairness in his dealings with students. "One of my pet peeves," he said, "is when a student knows the rules and violates them."

"I always try to be fair, but when a student violates the rules, he has no one to blame, but himself."

"Another important thing to remember is that students are different, and as individuals, have to be treated differently from the mass."

Mims sees no truth to rumors that the present generation of youngsters is less responsible than those of the past.

"I've seen a tremendous change in the attitudes in the children and the adults," he said.

"The parents are more interested, and the students are much more independent than ever before."

"But students are no worse as far as discipline is concerned than they were when I started. They're just exposed to more. All this talk about the generation going to the dogs is just hogwash."

"There are many, many quality students at Valdosta High School. It's always the bad element you hear from. The good, silent majority you never hear from."

"I'm a firm believer that good students overwhelmingly outnumber the bad eggs. We couldn't do

South C

SYLVANIA, Ga. — The U.S. Agriculture Department's Undersecretary John White said he had just seen Sheppard's scruffy and now he stood with Sheppard's wife in the field.

"You got the cow and this too?" Agriculture Undersecretary John White.

Sheppard replied, "You're double breasted undersecretary told Sheppard knew

Rain In Slows I

DAMASCUS, Ga. — Rainy weather and thunderstorms — the Georgia farmers weeks ago for their forced a group of and federal officials



Times Miss Spirit 7-5-77

Ann Bassford, 17, was chosen Miss Spirit of Patriotism in a pageant Monday night at Mathis city auditorium. The contest is sponsored by the Quota Club. Ann, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William O. Bassford, is a senior at Valdosta High School.—Times Staff Photo by Ken Klanicki.

Takes Over Marchin' Cats

Chapman Heard Himself Saying 'Yes'

By JULIAN MILLER

Mike Chapman never really wanted to be the director of the biggest high school band in the state and one of the number one organizations of its kind in the country. And then he did, too.

Chapman's goals were just those back in the late 1960s when he was drum major of the Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats. He even went to Troy State University to work toward them.

But by the time Chapman returned six years ago to become an assistant band director of Frank Butenschon, the man who

wanted to keep the tradition going and we just didn't see anyone else who could or would."

The 26-year-old bachelor is the first to admit the job is a big one.

"I may have stepped in over my head," he said with his sheepish grin behind lightly shaded eyeglasses.

"It's frightening at times, but along with it comes the excitement. You know, in the Valdosta school situation you grow up as a competitor. The challenge of trying to do it is really exciting."

Although he left Chapman with an almost

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built the band into one of the most renowned in the nation, things had changed.

Instead of the 89-member band Chapman had known in 1968, the band itself had more than 200 — 210 in fact.

And since then Butenschon had added another band, a spirit band, numbering 64 and composed of younger members who needed even more work.

That's why Chapman was a bit astonished when he heard himself saying "yes" to Butenschon's request that he take over the band in his absence this year.

"I had always told myself I wouldn't do it," the 26-year-old Chapman said while counting the days until his 300-member organization hits the road to Douglas for its annual camp.

"I said I'd never do it because of the situation. Frank has built this thing up so big ... But when he finally asked me to do it I just said, 'okay.' I don't know why and I might ask myself that many times during this year."

Butenschon requested a year's leave of absence for a variety of reasons.

And new Chapman, the newest and youngest band director in the state, or at least one of them, is holding the bag.

Why did he accept the job? Chapman says he honestly doesn't know. But then he has a pretty good idea.

"I just couldn't look in from the outside and see this band go down," he said. "I

impossible act to follow, Butenschon did everything else he could to help the band prepare for the upcoming year, Chapman said.

"Frank has been super," he offered. "He's been cooperative in every way. He let me run the band pretty much like I wanted last year when he had an operation."

"Since the announcement was made that I would be taking over the band, he has worked real close with me every chance he got, letting me use as many of my ideas as possible."

"He couldn't have been any better about it. And now that he's out of it he continues to help ... The only thing he did to hurt us was to do such a dadgum good job while he was band director!"

Chapman admits he has spent most of the summer deciding exactly what he wants to do with the band this year. And he has some pretty definite ideas.

"We're just going to try to keep things together as best we can. We'll give it our best shot. But it's going to take me and the four other band directors, the band parents and everybody else."

"All I can guarantee is that we're going to give it our best shot."

The new band director, a longtime fan and friend of Butenschon, has no plans of trying to fill his shoes entirely.

"They're big ones, I tell you, super big

ones," he said. "There's no way anyone could actually replace him. Besides all his talent he had 17 years of experience."

Besides the new band director, whose only experience has been six years at the helm of the Valdosta Junior High School band while working as assistant band director to Butenschon, the Marchin' Cats also have three new assistants.

Rick Kimmel begins his third year as assistant band director, Chapman said, with a husband-wife team joining the ranks.

Mark Jeffrey, a former band member, and his wife Annie are working with Chapman along with Conrad Driggers, who last year was band director at Central Gwinnett in

Lawrenceville.

Basically the band will look a lot like last year's Chapman said, with an all-girl color guard complete with new uniforms and larger flags.

Also new is the use of a marching timpani a new percussion instrument, and a few new songs from the likes of a movie "Star Wars."

Currently, Chapman plans a program beginning with the Overture of the Commandments and using the Theme from "Rocky," and a Richard Rodgers theme from "Slaughter on 10th Avenue."

"We're going to try to have as many different facets as possible to have something for everyone," he said.

'Cats, Vikes Hit The Road

April 4, 78 V.D.T.

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta and Lowndes hit the road for a pair of Region 1-AAA (South) games in high school baseball action today.

Lowndes travels to Thomasville to oppose Central's Yellow Jackets, while Valdosta heads north to Moultrie for a battle with the Packers.

Lowndes, 5-3 on the year, fell to Valdosta, 9-5, Friday, but rebounded to trounce Berrien (Nashville, Ga.), 11-2 Saturday.

The defeat at the hands of Valdosta was the only regular season defeat for the Vikes, who were beaten twice in tournament action.

Coach Noel George's Lowndes team returned just two starters off last season's team, and the Viking coach said earlier that it "would just take time" for his team to get things together.

It lacked hitting strength through many of its early games, but swung a heavier bat against Valdosta, and in its win over Berrien's Rebels. Valdosta's Wildcats are

rolling along with a 9-0 record, mainly on the strength of a powerful hitting attack.

Coach Butch Brooks' 'Cats smacked Tift County for five home runs in a 10-6 victory over the Tifton team last Saturday.

Valdosta, in contrast to Lowndes, returned much of last year's Region 1-AAA title team, and has been pegged by many as the favorite to win the league crown this time out.

Both Lowndes and Valdosta hope to improve on their subregion records in today's games.

The Vikings carry a 1-1 league chart into their contest with the Jackets, considered to be one of the top teams in the subregion.

Lowndes needs to avoid another league loss if it is to remain in the thick of things in the scramble for the league subregion title.

Valdosta is 2-0 in league play, after wins over Thomasville and Lowndes.

Central Darts Past LHS, VHS

By Times Staff Writer
Sparked by the outstanding performance of David Harris, Central of Thomasville zipped past Lowndes and Valdosta in a high school track meet here Monday.

In the first meet of the year for all three teams, Central picked up 71 points followed by Lowndes, the host team, with 60 and Valdosta with 35.

Harris was easily the top individual performer with victories in the long jump, triple jump, 100-yard dash and 220-yard dash. He also ran the anchor leg on Central's first place mile relay team.

For Lowndes, Hugh Vankinscott won the 440-yard dash and the 880-yard run. He also ran a leg on the LHS mile relay team, which finished in first place.

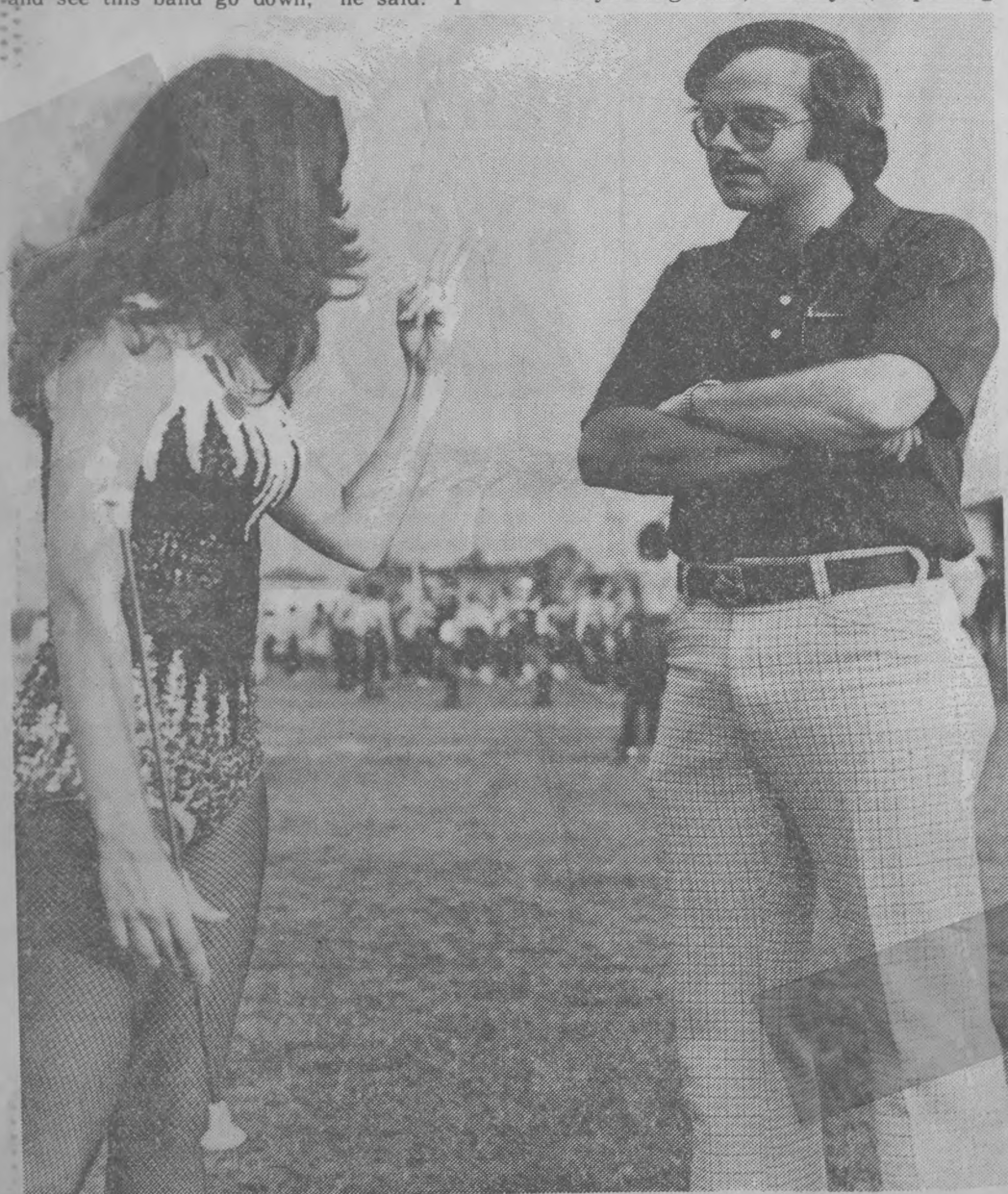
Valdosta's Allen Worthy took two events, winning the 120-yard high hurdles and 330-yard intermediate hurdles.

"We've got a lot of work to do in the sprints and jumping events," Lowndes Coach Newnan Sanchez said as his team opened its bid for a third straight Region 1-AAA title. "We're going to be a competent team before it's over."

Lowndes and Valdosta clash in a dual meet at the LHS track Wednesday.

Individual results follow:
Pole vault — Hooke (C), Brooks (L), H-10'6";
Shot put — Day (L), Clark (C), Kovach (L), Moore (L), D-42'11";
Long jump — Harris (C), Linton (C), Washington (V), Vankinscott (L), D-

22'3";
High jump — Linton (C), West (C), Hicks (C), H-4'0";
Discus throw — Jones (C), Day (L), Clark (C), Hitchcock (L), D-115'5";
Triple jump — Harris (C), Hargett (L), Linton (C), Worthy (V), D-45'2 1/2";
440 relay — Central (Carter, Anderson, Armistead, Harris), Lowndes, T-45.9;
Mile run — Hargrove (L), Hadley (C), Gathager (V), Jenkins (V), T-4:52.4;
440 dash — Vankinscott (L), Fulton (V), Scott (V) tied Lucas (L), T-52.3;
100 yard dash — Harris (C), Burghman (L), Council (V) tied McElroy (L), T-11.3;
120 high hurdles — Worthy (V), Williams (L), Washington (V), Myers (L), T-16.0;
880 run — Vankinscott (L), Anderson (C), McClendon (L), Green (V), T-2:13.3;
220 yard dash — Harris (C), Carter (C), Davis (C), Melchett (L), T-23.7;
330 intermediate hurdles — Worthy (V), Williams (L), Linton (C), Johnson (V), T-43.0;
Two mile run — Gathager (V), Hadley (C), Hargrove (L), Jenkins (V), T-10:57.5;
Mile relay — Lowndes (Lucas, Williams, Hargett, Vankinscott), Valdosta, T-3:39.2



—Times Staff Photo.

Director Chapman, Marchin' Cats Majorette Discuss Routine

Defense Name Of Game For Rudolph

A lot of people look up to Jack Rudolph on and off the football field.

Off the field, it's because he stands over six feet, four inches tall and shows no signs of ever being on a starvation diet.

On the field, it's because he knows about as much about defense as F. Lee Bailey. Bailey does his thing in the courtroom. Rudolph earns his paycheck on Friday nights at Cleveland Field.

The deeply tanned, dark-haired Rudolph has taught defensive intricacies to 11 different Valdosta High School teams. That leaves him in a position to compare say a Tom Holt defense to a Keith Middleton defense. But he's not about to put himself on the spot by comparing years or players.

"There's just no real good way to compare them," Rudolph said Tuesday at a late afternoon practice session. "On what it did, that defense last year was not a real great defense like a Green Bay defense. But it was better than good."

"They played great ballgames at times. The peak game would have to be the Lowndes game. They reacted to pressure well that night. I'd have to rank them with some of the better defenses I've coached."

It was on that cold night in October when Middleton and Co. shut down Lynn Pattillo's aerial circus to the tune of only one field goal. Lowndes scored at least one touchdown in every other game of the season.

"We had some individuals last year that were as good as anybody I've ever coached," Rudolph said, bringing up Middleton, Lawrence Lowe, O'Keefe Hunter and Eddie Denard.

But those guys have departed via the cap and gown route a must s
"Yo

The Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., Aug. 5, 1977-12-



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

because the type players you have dictates the kind of defense you run," Rudolph said. "Some years you don't have the real good pass rushers or some years you don't have the real good secondary. You can't just say 'this is the kind of defense we're going to run.'"

Rudolph was talking non-stop while he chewed thoughtfully on a toothpick, one of which he is almost never without. Maybe it gives him inspiration.

Like any other football coach who's ever done any talking in the preseason, Rudolph implied he was going to need all the inspiration he could get this year.

"This is an untested defense this year," Rudolph said. "It's very young. We've got some good re the secondary and at linebacker. At the a couple of kids at each position. One ma to the other."

petition for a starting job every day in practice is going to make better game players out of a lot of his people. In his mind, competition is the best assistant coach he could have.

History has proven him correct time and again. Anytime a player knows he has another guy just aching for his position, he's going to be working a little harder during the week and busting his gut on Friday night.

Resting on the pine is the number one ego-buster in the world.

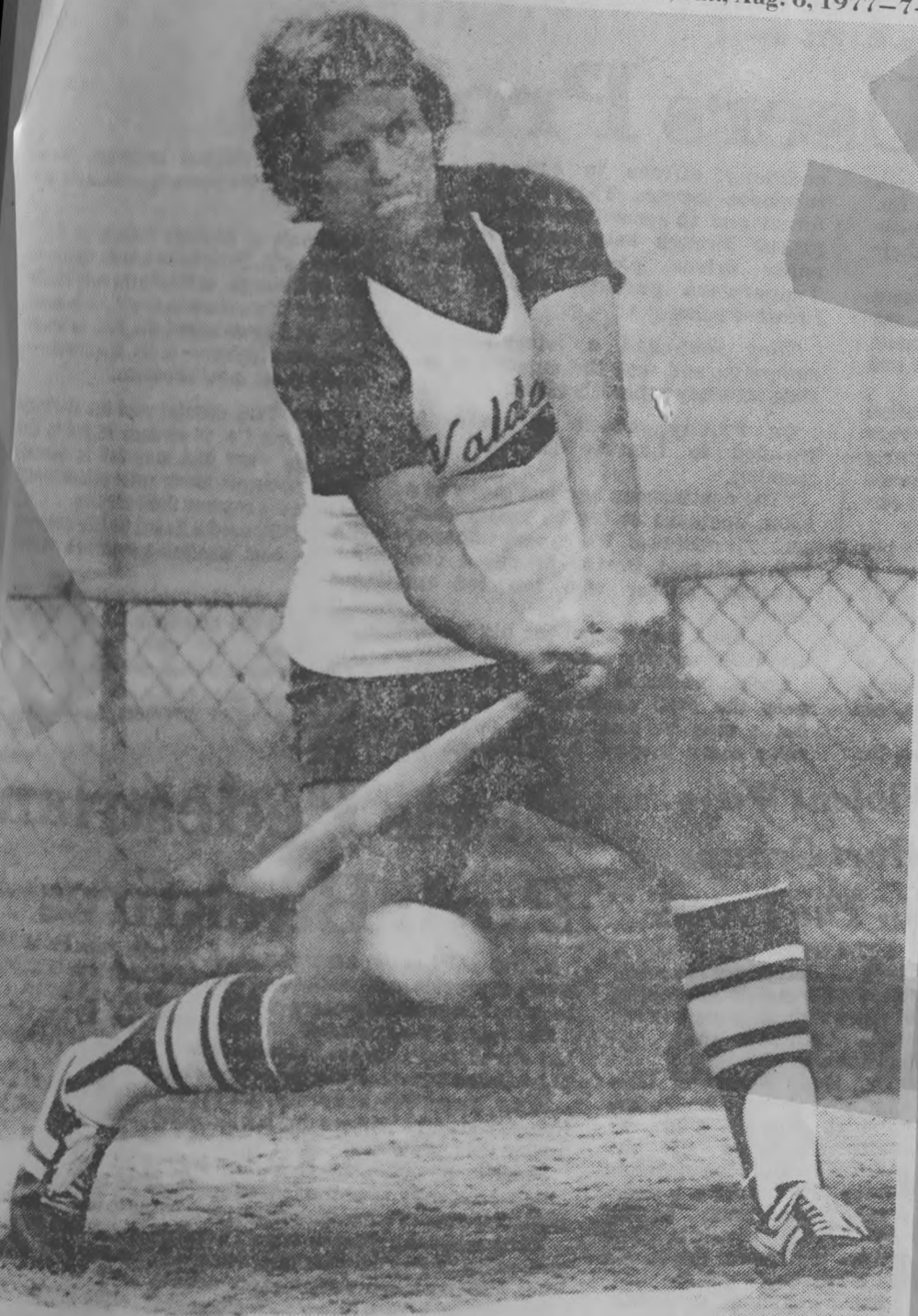
"We won't be nearly as big as we were last year," Rudolph said, again sticking to the coach's creed of never forecasting a truly big team. "The (Ray) Lloyd boy is good sized, but he's the only one that's going to be a really big kid. This will be the least number of kids over 200 pounds we've had."

Rudolph undoubtedly has some objective in mind for his defense in the week remaining before the Wildcats hibernate to their annual summer camp at Twin Lakes. Besides the obvious need for conditioning, he readily admits he expects a kid or two to surprise him before Valdosta meets Crisp County on Sept. 9.

"It never fails that some guy will come out of camp as a surprise," Rudolph said. "I always feel like you're going to get one or two surprises from kids you really didn't know about."

"They get out there, they make a tackle, and it feels

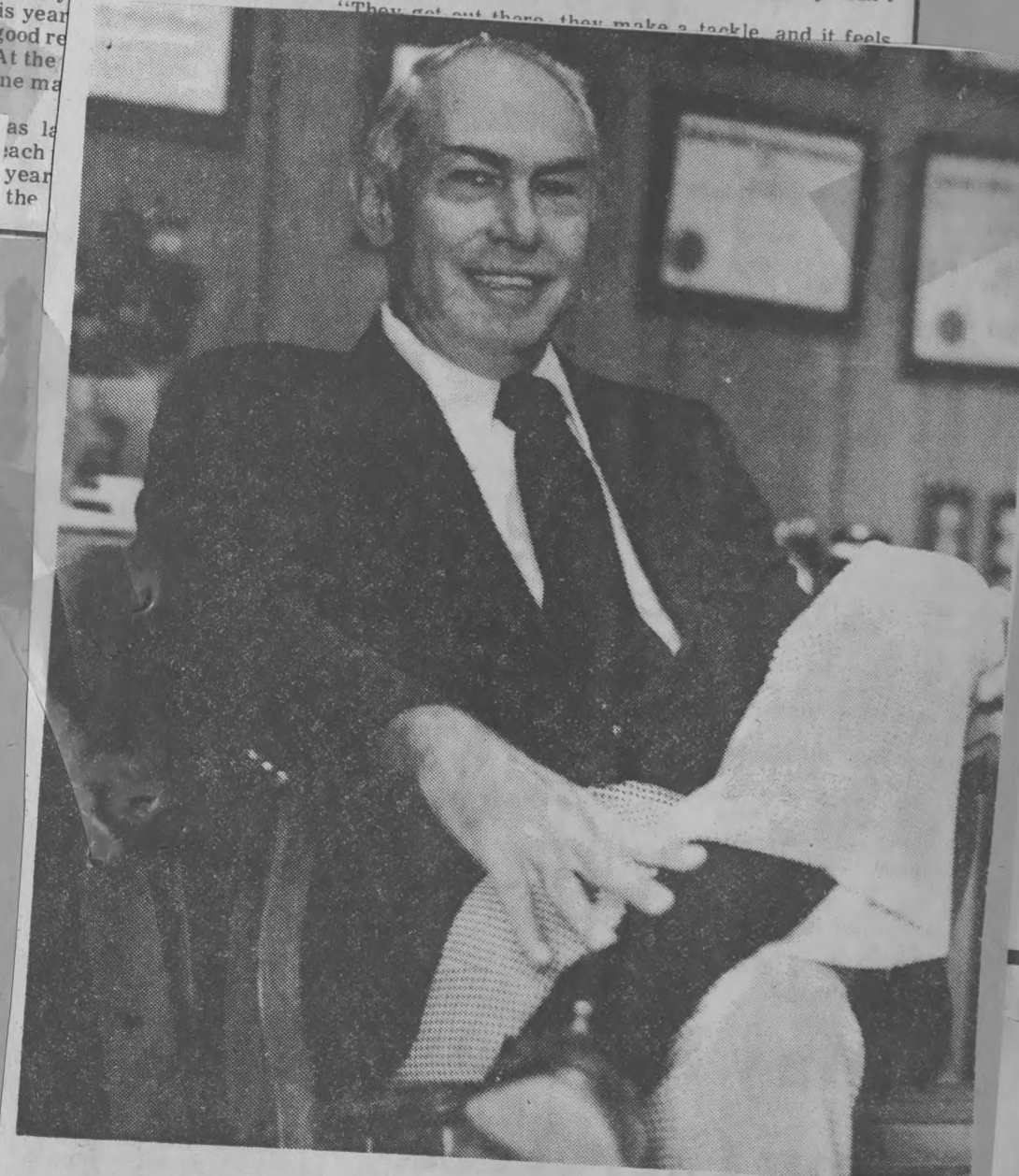
The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Aug. 6, 1977-7-



Frustration

Valdosta's Lisa Feix displays a determined look on her face while taking her turn at bat here Friday. But determination wasn't enough, as Feix and her teammates dropped two games to Cobb County (Marietta) in the finals of the Georgia Recreation and Parks Society's 17-and-under girls' softball tour-

nament. Cobb's Beth Mitchell pitched the north Georgia team to 12-2 and 11-0 romps over Valdosta to win the state crown. The Valdostans had been unbeaten in tournament play before Friday's final round. — Times Staff Photo by Ken Klanicki.



Bazemore: His Forty Years Are In

Bazemore Tells His Retirement

Times 8-12-77

By MIKE CHASON

With the same characteristic coolness he showed in 30 years of coaching football at Valdosta High School, Wright Bazemore has announced his retirement from the teaching profession.

It is the second retirement announcement for Bazemore. After the 1971 season, he wound up his Valdosta coaching career with his third national championship and 15th state title.

Since that time, the 61-year-old Fitzgerald native has been citywide athletic director, a post created especially for him.

"Yep," he said casually from a lawn chair in his tree-shaded back yard Thursday morning, "I've got my 40 years in. That's all they pay you for."

Bazemore was referring to the fact that retirement benefits get no better financially after a teacher has in 40 years of service.

With his well-tanned, rugged outward appearance and confident, near arrogant air, Bazemore hardly seems the type for the pipe and slippers routine.

To no one's surprise, he plans to keep active.

"We want to take some

trips," Bazemore said, including his wife, Betty, in his plans.

"We like to go to the mountains, and we may go out west or to Florida. We'd like to take two or three weeks up around Maine."

"We'll probably end up not doing as much as we anticipate though."

Bazemore recently returned from a trip to the mountains. "A joule to the been ma" "aking for the last years."

yo "ust kinda' invigorates here"

— Times Staff Photo By Ken Klanicki

Valdosta Preseason 1-AAA Pick

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta's Wildcats are the overwhelming choice of southwest Georgia sportswriters as Region 1-AAA's preseason favorite to win the league's football crown in 1977.

Head coach Nick Hyder's 'Cats amassed 83 of a possible 84 points, including all but one first-place vote, to easily finish in the top spot in the poll, conducted by a Tifton newspaper.

The other first-place vote went to Moultrie.

Thomasville Central was second with 71 votes. Only six votes separated the next four teams.

Tift County (Tifton) finished with 63 votes to wind up third, barely nosing out Dougherty (Albany), which had 62 votes.

Dougherty won a special three-way playoff for the league championship last season.

Moultrie was fifth with 59 votes, while Thomasville took the sixth slot with 57. Lowndes was in seventh place with 46 votes. Coach Joe Wilson's Vikes finished no higher than fifth in any of the sportswriters' ratings.

Crisp County (Cordele) wound up eighth with 29 votes, followed by Albany with 28, Monroe (Albany) with 24, Bainbridge with 13, and Westover (Albany), with 11.

Northern division teams rolled up 289 points in the balloting, compared to 258 for southern division teams.

Valdosta, Tift, Dougherty, Crisp, Albany and Monroe are in the northern division.

Points were tabulated according to the order in which the sportswriters ranked the teams, from twelve for first-ranked teams to one for last-placed teams.

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Gandy Bid Ends

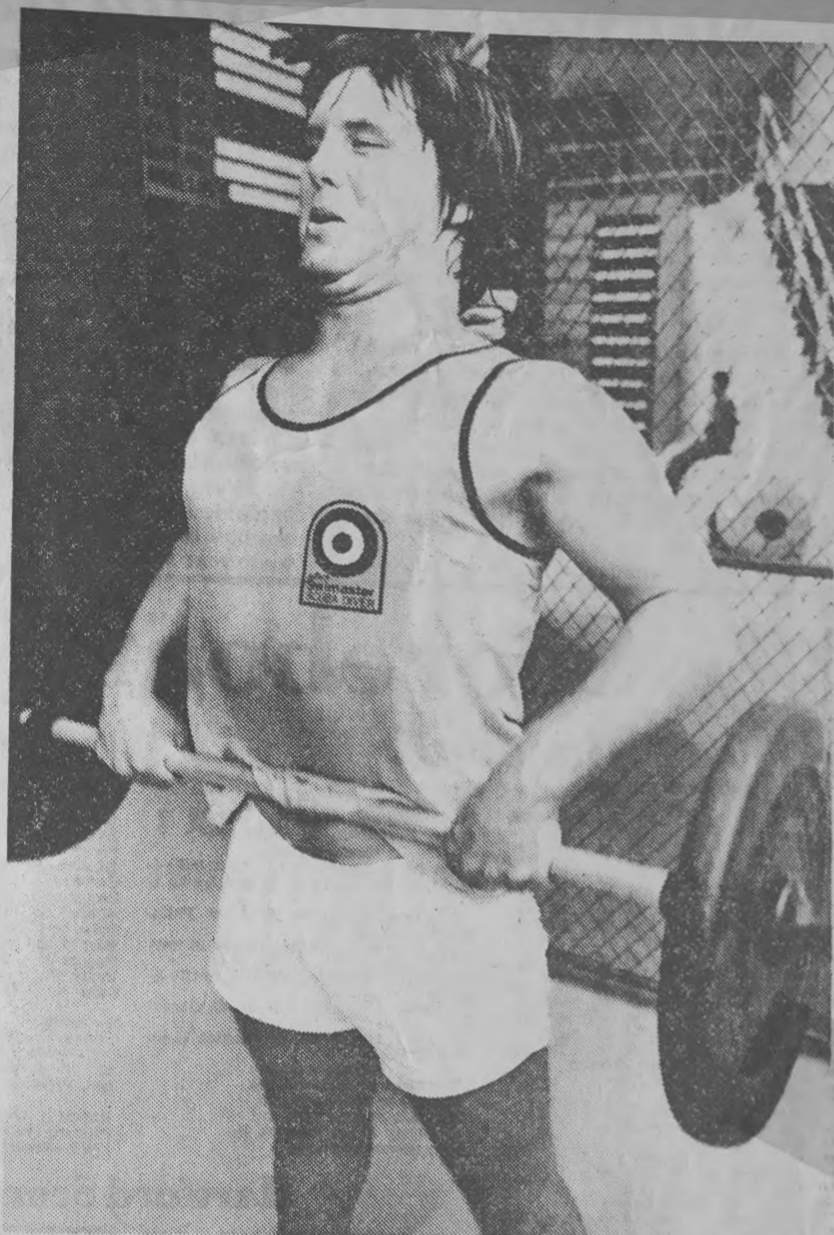
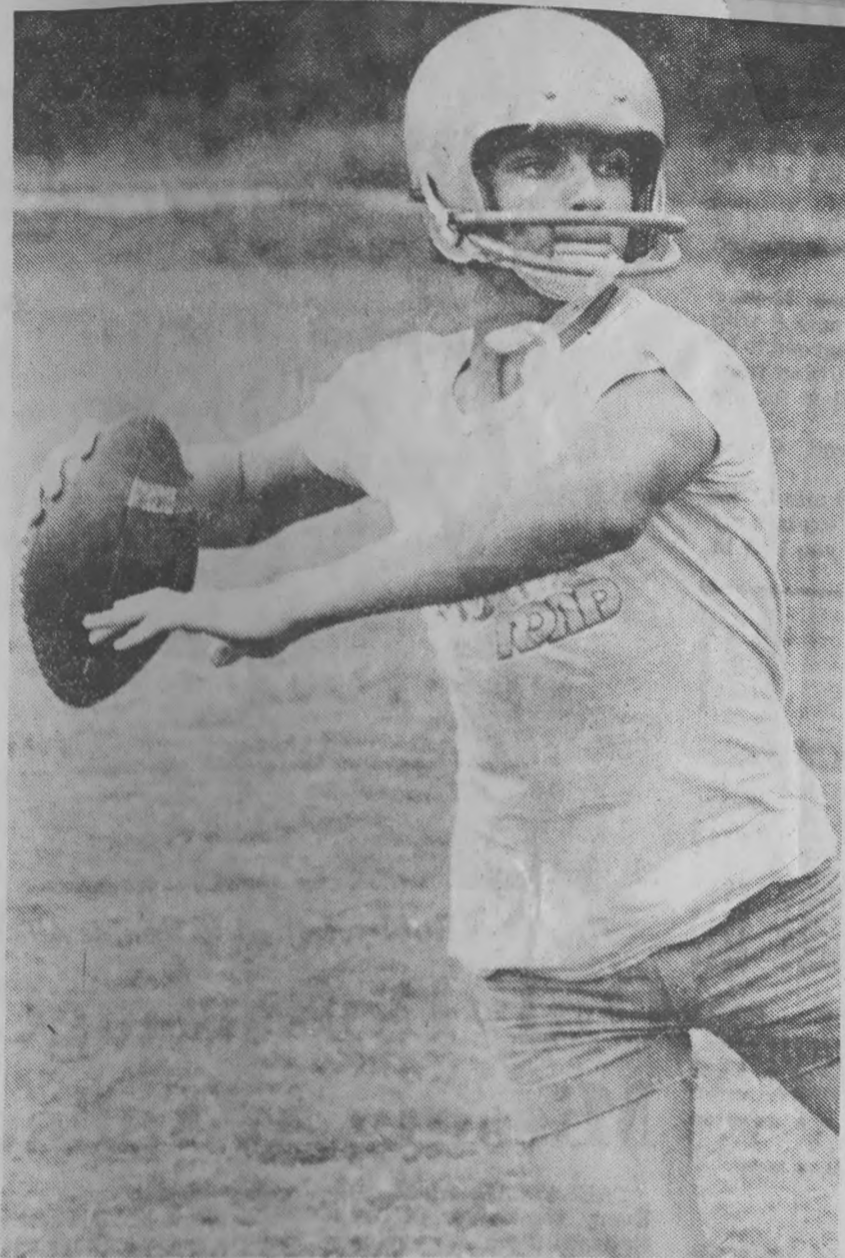
ATLANTA — Kim Gandy of Valdosta was defeated in the Southern Tennis Championship here Friday.

Gandy had advanced to the final 16 players in the 16 and under age group, but fell to a Kentucky player, Tammi Woodrum, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

The nine top finishers from a group of 124 girls in Gandy's age group qualify for the national tournament in Charlottesville, W.V. Gandy is an alternate for the nationals.

Gandy won six matches in the competition before bowing to Woodrum, who was the 12th ranked player in her age group in the Southeast

V. Times July 1, 1977



—Times Staff Photos.

Preparation: Basic Drills, Conditioning Are Tools Of The Trade For Lowndes, Valdosta

Conditioning Important At VHS

By MARTIN REGISTER

With the opening of the 1977 high school football season only a month away, gridders all over the state are leaving their swimming holes and summer jobs to report to camps and practice.

Head coach Nick Hyder and his Valdosta Wildcats spent their first days of conditioning last week in echoing rooms lifting weights and on the field in front of empty, brooding stands.

It's the first step toward the school's season opener Sept. 9 at Crisp County, when the stands no longer will be empty, and the screams of cheering, football-hungry fans will replace the reverberating echos of the weightroom.

Fans and players alike have awaited the new season since the final curtain fell on the previous one.

Valdosta is football country, and with the initial kickoff to begin the new season, football fever comes epidemic.

The Valdosta grid dynasty has experienced phenomenal success through the years, towering far above other local and state programs.

The school, however, has

not won a state championship since 1971.

Last year's version of the Wildcats went 9-1 during the regular season, finishing in a three-way tie for the Region 1-AAA regular season championship.

Valdosta later dropped a 21-6 decision to Central of Thomasville in a playoff contest.

With some key returning veterans, the 1977 'Cats appear to have a chance to take the region title they last won in 1975.

But it all starts with conditioning.

"We've been running through conditioning drills," said Hyder, who is by no means counting his Wildcats before they prove themselves.

"We've been running, stretching and lifting weights like everybody else does this

time of the year." Linebacker Bob Watts, a New Orleans Saint rookie, has written more than 5,000 poems. He attended Boston College.

time of the year."

The return to strenuous muscle activity after laying out during the long, hot summer makes for sore muscles, but Hyder said that's about as far as conditioning-induced injuries go.

"There have been a few pulled muscles," he said, "and one of the youngsters had to have some stitches in his chin when he scraped it, but it was just an accident."

About 80 sophomores, juniors and seniors are taking part in the conditioning program, Hyder said, along with about 50 freshmen.

"We've still got some out on

The Valdosta Daily Times

SPORTS

Sun., Aug. 7, 1977 - 11-A -

vacation," he said, "and that's understandable."

The aspiring Wildcat charges are to add throwing and kicking the ball to their drills this week in preparation for their up-

coming camp at Twin Lakes.

That camp is to begin Aug. 15 and last for two weeks. Friday night scrimmages are to be held at Cleveland Field during those two weeks.

'Cat Wrestlers Host Fitzgerald

The Valdosta High wrestling team will put its 6-0 record on the line Thursday night when it hosts Fitzgerald, which is 8-1.

The Wildcats are coming off a second-place finish in the Southwest Invitational meet, which was held in Macon last weekend. The winner of the meet was Fitzgerald.

The Hurricanes' only loss this season came at the hands of Jonesboro, which won the AAAA state title two years ago and once again is a strong contender for the crown.

PHOTO BY VHS/6/HR — KELLY/SB — KELLY/M
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Valdosta

Valdosta Daily Times 8-22-77

Preseason

1-AAA Pick

By Times Staff Writer

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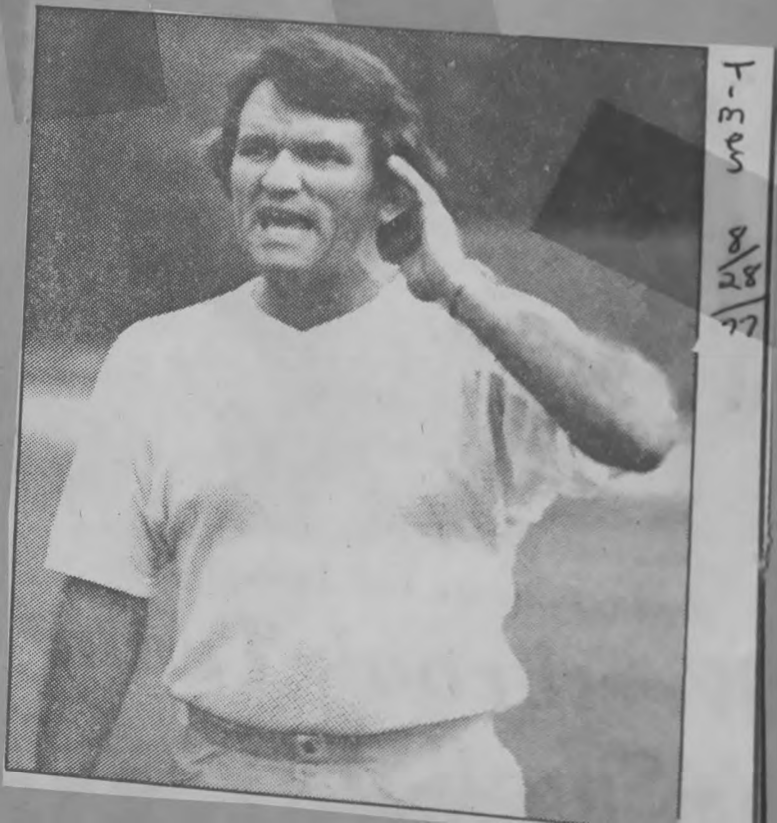
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Even Best Need Luck, Says Hyder

Times 8-22-77

By MIKE CHASON

Nick Hyder has finally voiced what he knew all along, but that some other coaches would rather not admit... it takes luck to keep winning football games.

Skill, size and coaching no doubt have their part in the game and are usually the deciding factors when two teams meet.

But when the competition is on an almost even level every Friday night of the season as this coming season looks to be, Lady Luck has control of the dice.

As the season approaches, and with one week of summer camp under his belt, does Hyder feel more confident about the way things are shaping up for his Valdosta Wildcats?

"I don't have any confidence about what's happening at all," Hyder said Friday as his team went through the pre-season ritual of picture day under rain-promising skies.

"It just takes a lot of luck at get there. Lawrence Lowe getting hurt probably cost us a 10-0 season last year. Of course, (Steve) Jennings got hurt too and either one of them might have made the difference in the Dougherty game."

Valdosta lost that game 28-26 for its only regular season loss. Central of Thomasville and Dougherty also lost once during the regular season, leaving all three teams with 9-1 records at the final gun.

In the resulting playoff, Central beat Valdosta and Dougherty beat Central. After the first week of two-

a-day drills at the 4-H Club camp at Twin Lakes, Hyder reported the 'Cats as a "bruised" football team.

"It's nothing really serious," Hyder said. "Just some bruises and sprains that may keep them out of a practice or two."

Hyder said he still had the same 85 team members he started camp with although several boys had to leave Twin Lakes with high temperatures. No one has quit the squad.

"We're probably on some kind of schedule," Hyder said, "but I can't really tell too much until we get them under the lights and before a crowd in a real game."

Every camp usually has its surprises, and Valdosta's one-week hibernation has been no exception.

"We're pleasantly surprised with Kenny Washington (156, sr.) at wide receiver, and Monte Richardson (155, jr.) in the defensive secondary," Hyder said. "John Branan (182, jr.) has looked real good at linebacker. He's taking Keith Middleton's place, and he's got some big shoes to fill."

Hyder also cited his stable of running backs including Frank Council (182, sr.), William Gaskins (150, jr.), Sam Fletcher (185, jr.), Ernest King (170, soph.) and Robert Smith (155, jr.).

Hyder said senior quarterback and three-year starter Buck Belue (185) was "delivering the ball real well."

The Wildcats open their season Sept. 9 in Cordele against Crisp County.

Continued article

Fla. Times 8-23-77

Valdosta Is Seeking a Return to Past Glory Days

Continued from Page 1-D

Valdosta hasn't won a state championship in five years, and not since 1940 have the Wildcats and their ardent fans been without a state title that long. Buck Belue, the state's premier quarterback prospect this year, is back to begin his fourth season (he has started 33 straight games) and with an experienced backfield hopes to end the drought.

The Wildcats, 9-2 last season, lose seven from the offensive and seven from the defensive sides of a year ago, but should have a potent backfield with Belue and Frank Counsel and William Gaskins at running backs. The biggest shoring-up jobs come on defense where the entire front is gone.

Lakeside finished 6-3-1 and out of the playoffs in Wayman Creel's least successful season in seven as head of the Vikings last year. But most feel he won't let that happen again, not with this team at least. "They (the players) didn't like the way it went last year," Creel said, "and they've worked hard in spring and summer practice."

The Viking offense also looks powerful with fullback Ricky Ferguson, wingback-turned-tailback Danny Garnham and quarterback Chip Tarkenton. They will probably be directing their efforts toward the right side of the line where everyone, including Creel's 6-2, 220-pound son Chip, is back. "It could be one of the better offensive lines we've had," he says.

As much as anything, Creel has been in-

spired by the team's attitude thus far. "They've got a dad-gum good attitude," he said. "That will win some of the close ones for you."

Clarke Central holds down the No. 4 position in the first rankings of the season, and the Gladiators will be eyeing a possible confrontation with Lakeside since they are on opposite sides of the strong 8-AAA region. Clarke won its subregion championship last year with a 9-1 record as Billy Henderson's four-year rebuilding job came to a culmination.

Whether the Gladiators can return to that kind of prominence depends on the offensive line, where most of the losses were. The offense seems secure with Jim Bob Harris finally back at quarterback after tours of duty at tight end, safety, tailback, snapper and punter. Exciting Stan Davis, who gained 1,200 yards last season, is back at tailback in the multiple offense.

"There's no way we can expect too much of a situation like we had here last year," Central Thomasville coach Will Roy Cooley says. And he's right—it's hard to imagine the Yellow Jackets standing region 1-AAA on its ear like they did in their first year in the region last season. But, with a little time, Central could be quite a force with which to be reckoned. Defense is the primary concern, but if inexperienced quarterback Bernard Jackson can get the ball to split end Horace Smith, one of the state's best wide receivers, Central can move on offense.

Class AAA Top 10

School	1976 Record
1. Griffin	11-3
2. Valdosta	9-2
3. Lakeside	6-3-1
4. Clarke Central	9-2
5. Central Thomasville	10-2
6. Wheeler Robins	10-4
7. Warner Robins	10-0
8. Southwest DeKalb	9-2
9. Richmond Academy	10-2
10. Northside, Warner Robins	7-3

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Jim Bob Harris, QB, Clarke Central; Stan Davis, RB, Clarke Central; Mike Cofer, E, Peachtree City; Lakeside; Danny Garnham, RB, Lakeside; Ricky Ferguson, WR, Lakeside; Buck Belue, QB, Valdosta; Robert Baidwin, LB, Valdosta; Jerry Aubin, QB, Dougherty; Cedric Mosley, Dougherty; Sammy Brown, S, Warner Robins; Rusty Smith, S, Warner Robins; Mark Stewart, C, Northside; Warner Robins; Billy Mitchell, RB, Northside; Warner Robins; Jeff Paulk, QB, Wheeler; Ricky Maddox, RB, Wheeler; Horace Smith, WR, Cent. Thomasville; Robert Shumrock, QB, Cent. Thomasville; Lee North, DT, Shumrock; Chip Miller, QB, William Banks; Lanev, RB, Richmond Academy; William Banks, TE, Butler; Frank Manson, RB, Baldwin; Tim Talley, Murrells; Ken Herndon, C, Macon Central; David Cason, RB, Northeast Macon; Mitch Gilstrap, C-LB, Marietta; Carey Nelms, T, Clarke Central; Scott Umberger, Johnson, Gaines.

Wheeler lost 23 players from last year's

team that went to the second round of the playoffs before meeting Griffin. That's the bad news. The better news is that 25 from that team are coming back, and if the Wildcats can get off to a better start than the 4-3 of a year ago their trip through 5-AAA should be much more comfortable than last year. The defense should be strong again with the entire front wall returning, and the offense should be better balanced with Jeff Paulk at quarterback.

No one is going to be as strong this year as Warner Robins was a year ago, especially not Warner Robins. But that is not to say the Demons should not again be a contender. The offense lost 10 of 11 starters, but the excellent feeder program coach Robert Davis has at his disposal seems to have delivered highly capable replacements. On defense, there is experience back across the line and in the secondary. There may be no James Brooks, Ronald Simmons or Jimmy Womack, but a favorable schedule lends credence to Warner Robins' presence again in the playoffs.

Dewey Alverson has been complaining that "complacency" has crept into his program. Well, that's a temptation one expects at a school that has averaged nine wins a season the last five years. Southwest DeKalb lost 29 seniors, and Alverson calls it a rebuilding year. But he has a lot to build around with six coming back as starters to the offense and five to the defense.

Richmond Academy, at No. 9, may have the best backfield in the state with All-South selection Darrish Davis at running back leading the way.

Only six of 29 players who started during the year at Northside, Warner Robins last year were graduated, giving the Eagles ample remains of a 7-3 team with which to contest the region 2-AAA race with Warner Robins. The offensive line will be big and strong, but the major job is remaking the defense.

School Spirits?

Those hands seem a little ghostly as they search for a name on those long, long lists. But it's no seance. It's just a couple of students who will be returning to Valdosta High School Monday. Homeroom lists have been posted on the lunchroom windows and these students are making sure they know where to report.

— Times Staff Photo by Ken Klanicki

Times 8-25-77

Mike



Chason

Times Sports Editor

New Time Real Pain For Hyder

Unless the Valdosta school system is willing to dig deep into its pocketbook, the Wildcats and every other high school football team in the state are going to be starting their games at 7:30 p.m. this season.

And VHS head coach Nick Hyder is hot about it. "Nobody has really proven this is going to save any energy at all," Hyder said. "We're going to approach the Georgia High School Association to reconsider."

But the GHSA is well aware of the complaint of Valdosta and a few other systems. And it has offered a solution.

"To change anything, the executive committee has to meet," GHSA executive secretary Bill Fordham said Thursday. "A school would have to bear the expense of bringing them together. I couldn't tell you exactly how much that would be, but I guess somewhere around \$1,200 to \$1,500."

Of course, anybody that disagrees with the action the executive committee took could just wait until it meets again to voice an opinion. However, that meeting isn't scheduled until November ... the tail end of football season.

The committee passed the rule moving the starting times for games from 8 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. last spring. Girls' basketball games are to begin at 6:45 p.m. this year instead of 7 p.m. Also, only 10 minutes is to be allowed between the girls' game and the boys' game.

Like everybody else these days, the executive committee felt compelled to jump on the energy saving bandwagon. And when they jumped, they got both feet wet. Fordham said there was not a single vote against moving up the starting times.

"Statewide, there was an energy crisis," Fordham said. "That was the reason the committee adopted it. Times were moved up on most everything. That was just one method to conserve energy."

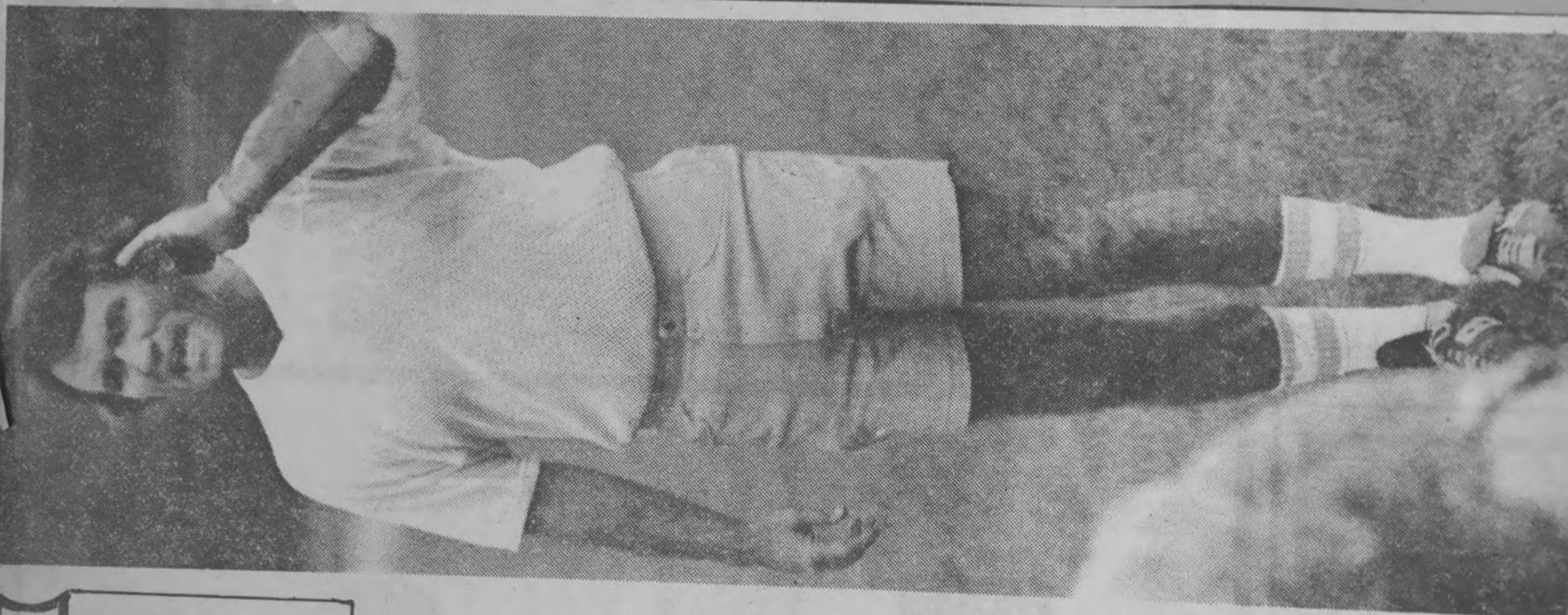
"But I didn't pass it ... the executive committee did." Hyder doesn't care who passed it. He just wants it changed.

"Say Dougherty is coming to Valdosta," Hyder said. "There's no way those folks from Albany can get down here at gametime. Same thing with Lowndes and Albany or Valdosta and Bainbridge."

Valdosta has three long trips this season. Two are to Albany to play Monroe and Albany and one is the opening game of the year to face Crisp County in Cordele. The other road games are Thomasville and across town to Lowndes.

Lowndes also travels to Cordele against Crisp and goes to Albany twice to play Monroe and Westover. The Vikings open up with Tift County in Tifton Sept. 2 and close at Thomasville Nov. 11.

Fordham didn't come over strong in defense of the executive committee, but he didn't sound any good vibrations for the high schools either. "I'm not pleased with the committee," he said. "I'm not pleased with the people who passed it."



Times Staff Photo.

Nick Hyder Wants Action From GHSA

they used to be many long years ago. That way, no lights would have to be turned on except in cloudy weather. As it is, the sun's going to disappear before 7:30 p.m. on most nights during football season anyway. The lights will still have to be turned on. The same amount of energy will still be used, just 30 minutes earlier.

On the other hand, not that many people are going to miss a football trip out of town just because it's being played a half hour sooner. A fan is a fan and if he wants to go to a game, he'll go if it starts at midnight.

The new starting time is only an inconvenience. It wasn't so long ago that Valdosta had bitter rivals like Lanier and Willingham in Macon as well as Milledgeville and Jordan in Columbus. Compared to Milledgeville, Milledgeville and Bainbridge are just up the road. Valdosta has battled these seemingly ancient rivals only 10 years ago. Some people are going to get off work a little later than they used to, but that's not a big deal.

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Class AAA

Fla. Times 8-23-77

Griffin's Bears Favored To Win Championship

By BILL BRYANT

Griffin coach Max Dowis knows people are talking about him and his team behind their backs.

"And I can understand why they're talking," Dowis says a little reluctantly.

"They may be overrating us though."

Or they may just be right about the 1977 Bears, last year's state runners-up to Warner Robins and this season's choice to return to the Class AAA championship game and this time leave with the big trophy.

The talk about this year's Griffin team is that it's big, experienced and fast. But mostly fast.

The fastest is sophomore running back Ricky Williams (5-11, 170), who rushed 152

times last year during an incredible freshman season for 1,159 yards (7.6 yard average) and 13 touchdowns. Williams is a 9.7 sprinter but still only beats backfield running mate Russell Miller by a couple of steps in the 100-yard dash. Miller, at 5-6, 160 pounds, had nine touchdowns last year on 97 runs for 629 yards (6.5 average).

"They'll score for you if you give them a chance," Dowis says.

It will be up to a couple of inexperienced, young quarterbacks to get the ball to Williams and Miller to give them that chance. Jeff Ector and Andre Reid are the candidates. Both are sophomores. "We probably won't have a big passing threat," Dowis said. "We have ability there, but not experienced ability."

Most serious graduation losses were suf-

fered in the defensive secondary, where all four starters from a year ago are gone. "But we have some good prospects," Dowis says. In fact, there are few areas where he feels he doesn't have quality replacements. One serious worry is at defensive end, where Griffin will line up with a pair of 150 pounders. But the interior of both line, looks strong and solid. Last year's leading tackler, linebacker Bobby Willis (128 tackles last season), returns to secure the defensive middle.

"This is going to be an interesting team for us," Dowis said. "I don't know if I'm enthused, though. I think I'm running scared after all this attention." Not half as scared as those 10 opponents on the Griffin schedule are running, though.

See VALDOSTA, Page 6-D

Sex Bias Charged In City Schools

Times 6-2-77

Activists File A Complaint

By ARCHIE MCKAY

Valdosta schools are accused of discriminating against female students and female administrators in a complaint filed with the government by a private activist group.

Valdosta and Worth County schools were among 21 districts in six southern states named in the complaint made to the civil rights office of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The American Friends Service Committee made the complaint.

In a lengthy report, the group charges Valdosta schools deny females equal access to certain courses, athletics and principalships, maintains separate dress codes, allows corporal punishment for boys only and has in the past encouraged pregnant students to take courses at a special school.

Information for the report was gathered at the local level by a group of the Valdosta chapter of the American Association of University Women.

Elaine Ricks, legislative committee chairman of the AAUW, coordinated the interviews conducted here.

The complaint said 21 school systems in Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina violate a 1972 law that prohibits schools that get federal money from discriminating on the basis of sex.

HEW's civil rights office has been asked to launch an investigation. An HEW official, Louie Mathis, said only that the department would examine the complaint.

The American Friends Service Committee decided in the spring of 1976 to examine school districts in the South to see if there was compliance with the law.

Valdosta and other systems were chosen at random, because there were local people or groups who volunteered to conduct the interviews and investigation.

The report, written by Jane Petty, is entitled: "Almost as Fairly: The First Year of Title IX Implementation in Six Southern States."

Mrs. Ricks of Valdosta said her group's work was hindered by lack of time, though three key interviews were held.

She said about 15 student questionnaires were circulated.

Officials interviewed by Mrs. Ricks' group included Supt. Foster Goolsby, Athletic Director Wright

Bazemore and John Fields, who coordinates efforts to comply with the equal treatment provision of the law.

Mrs. Ricks said eight or 10 of her Valdosta group used the questionnaires, worked on the project and the raw results were shipped to the committee office in Atlanta.

"I did not conduct any interviews but I think it (law) is being complied with in the

(See Activists Page 2)

major areas. I don't see any blatant discrimination at all," said Mrs. Ricks today.

She is the wife of John Ricks, Valdosta State College faculty member and a member of the city board of education. She said her husband did not participate or know the details of her work. "He was never involved... He had materials I could have asked for but I didn't," said Mrs. Ricks.

The report was written and put into the form of a complaint by the Friends Service Committee personnel, using the field information gathered by different groups.

Mrs. Ricks said the report was based on the 1975-76 school year.

Supt. designate Ralph Brandon said the thing about the report that bothers him is the system is being accused of something which is not yet really law, and the fact that some of the allegations were true in the past but have been corrected.

Brandon said girls may go out for any sports team, including football, and noted there is one female principal in the system and an assistant principal who is female at the high school.

Brandon said there was a voluntary program of allowing pregnant students to attend a special school but it has been discontinued. He said pregnant students were never forced to attend the special school.

However, Brandon pretty much agreed with the report on corporal punishment. Asked if females would be spanked, Brandon said, "No sir, in no way are we going to do that."

Brandon pointed out the system actually has until next year to be in full compliance with the law and said he felt sure the system would be found in compliance.

The title of the report apparently comes from a quote taken from a student at a Valdosta school, who, when asked about it, said "I do not feel that sex discrimination in our school is a big problem. I think that girls are treated almost as fairly as boys."

In sports, the report quoted a Valdosta female student as saying "a girl has as good an opportunity as a boy to play on a team she likes, if the sports she likes is basketball or tennis."

According to the report, the Valdosta school system did well initially in 1975 by naming a Title IX coordinator. "The students seemed reasonably well informed about the law. Most students interviewed were aware that Title IX existed and also knew what it meant, or could mean, to them," the report said.

By MARTIN REGISTER
Robert "Bob" White was named the most valuable player for Valdosta High School's 1977 baseball Wildcats at the team's awards banquet at the Gold Plate Restaurant here Friday night.

White, the team's catcher, who head coach Butch Brooks had cited throughout the season as a team leader, received the trophy on a vote of his teammates. He recently signed a grant-in-aid to play baseball at the University of Georgia. White has been credited to a large extent with the success of the Wildcats, who advanced to the state semifinals before being edged out by eventual state champ Kendrick (Columbus). Sophomore star Wayne Fugett was named the team's most outstanding pitcher.

Fugett recorded 62 strikeouts and chalked up an ERA of 2.45 enroute to an 11-2 record. Juniors David White, brother of Robert, and Buck Belue shared the best of-fense player award. Both received trophies. Shortstop Mark Powell was named the team's best defensive player, while Mark Hodge was awarded the sportsmanship trophy. Second baseman Chris Daniels was selected as most improved. The spirit award went to Peter LeDuc. Nathan Hunt was given the bench jockey award, annually awarded to a player other than a starter who contributes significantly to the team's success. B-team awards were won by Darryl Swindle, best of-fense player; Mike Ruff, best defensive player, and Tim Dame, most valuable player.

The team's graduating seniors, first baseman Barry Ganas, Hodge, outfielder Steve Jennings, Robert White, Hunt, and LeDuc, were given plaques. Robert White and Belue turned the tables by presenting awards from the team to the coaches; Brooks, assistant coach Charles Tarpley, and B-team coach Ken Eldridge and his staff. The team also presented a plaque of appreciation to school principal Lloyd Mims. A plaque containing the names of all varsity and B-team players was presented to Brooks.

The coaching staff also received tokens of appreciation from the Baseball Boosters Club. Brooks' gifts included a hunting rifle with a scope, but also featured a "foul line" award, consisting of a baseball on a foul line running down a plot of turf. Brooks' team was the victim of a controversial foul line call against Kendrick. Team managers and batgirls were also given awards. Mike Rose, one of the team's managers, received the first of what is to be an annual award of a four-day beach stay, donated by team physician Dr. Jose Campa. Kay Brooks, wife of the Cats head coach, and sponsor of the batgirls, was honored by that group. Outgoing Boosters Club president John Lastinger was presented a plaque by other members of the club.

Earlier in the evening, South Georgia College head baseball coach Clyde Miller spoke to the crowd for about 30 minutes.

Robert White Named VHS MVP

Valdosta High Sets Graduation Plans

By Times Staff Writer
Three hundred sixty-six seniors are scheduled to graduate during Valdosta High School commencement exercises at Cleveland Field Tuesday night.

Baccalaureate services are to be 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Mathis city auditorium.

Featured graduation speakers are to be Tammy Sayre and Bart Bullock, chosen by their fellow honor graduates.

Judy Eanes is class valedictorian. Class salutatorian is Cindy Glassman.

City School Board chairman Joella Blackburn and member William M. "Bill" Eanes, Judy's father, are to deliver diplomas.

The honor graduates:

Judith Marian Eanes, Jeffery Howard Farley, Carol Jean Whitehurst, James Bartlett Bullock, Robert Lynn Canady, Marie Evelyn Castro, Eugene James Cheney, Ricky Ralph Christie, Richard Henry Darnell, Theresa Kim Dixon, Terri Durden, Michael Steven Ellis, Cindy Kay Glassman, Christine Lee Gorbey, Cheryl Marie Gray, George Matthew Harrington, Gregory K. McCaskill, Morgan Stuart McRae, Marcus Wade Rogers, Tammy Renee Sayre, Rhonda Charlene Shiver, Susan Catherine Slocumb, George McPherson Smart, Sharilyn Denise Smith, Michael Taylor, Vicki Lorraine Taylor, Rebecca Winn Thompson, Sally Tuner, Douglas J. Valenti, Robert A. White.

The VHS class of 1977:

Craig Allan Adams, Tamela Lynn Allbritton, Brenda Joyce Allen, Michael Anthony Anderson, Jared Hugh Bailey, William Henry Barnes, Carl Winston Battle, Dexter Battles, Carolyn Bebo, Sandra Elizabeth Bellflower, Janice M. Bell, Lisa Lynn Bennett, James Randall Berger, David Keith Best, Cassandra Gail Bethea, Frederick L.

Bivins, Willie Sam Bivins, Jr., John W. Black, Michael Raymond Blackburn, Martin Franklin Blane.

Benjamin Roberts Blanton, Shelley Veronica Blanton, Lillie May Boyd, Everett Bradley, Ronnie B. Brinson, Steven Wade Brogdon, Danny Brown, Deborah Brown, Merrita Letrice Brown, William Meredith Brown, Jr.

Deborah Anne Bruck, James Arthur Bruhl, Annette Yvonne Bryant, Bobby Bryant, Jr., Debra Bryant, Pamela Jane Bryant, James Burgman, Timothy Burgman, Virginia M. Burgman, Debra Elaine Buttner.

Jack Holland Cain, Cathleen Louise Carson, Maurice Lewis Cassotta, Jr., Mark A. Caudle, Ricardo Chabrand, Sallie Elizabeth Chadwick, Anna Renee Chaney, Warren Speed Coats, Anita Diane Cobb, Matrica Ann Coffey.

Bradley Mark Cohen, Angela Billie Connell, Tony Cook, David Scott Cooper, Donna Lynn Cooper, Debra Copeland, Haywood Copeland, Tom L. Copeland, Kim Cotterly, Janice Anita Courson.

Susan Marie Crawford, James Terrell Creasy, Judy Delane Crews, Scott Darrell Dallas, Beverly Davis, Joseph Maxwell Davis, Margie Marie Davis, Reginald Lavaine Davis, Alan Wray DeCarlo, Milton Carl Demps.

Jeanne Marie Dennis, Loren Allen Denzer, Indy Leigh DeShong, Janice Catherine Dorminey, Harvey Reginald Dotson, Henry W. Dowdy, Jr., Barbara Allen Dunaway, Kathy Jeanne Duncan, William Dykeman, Carl Edward Eady.

Theodore LaVert Emanuel, Fae Anne Euler, Nancy Marie Eunice, Dana Dari Evans, Suzanne Elizabeth Everett, Louis William Federico, Dena Robin Feinberg, Joy Ellen Feinberg, Phillip Feinberg, Jerri Lynn Finger.

Paul Fisher, Terry Leigh Fleming, Stephanie Floyd, Kathy Ann Fluit, Laura Alice Fontaine, Amy Elaine Funderburk, Marian Pamela Futch, Teresa Beth Futch, Dawn Elizabeth Gaither, Barry Ganas.

Lisa Janice Gant, Mae Ellis Gardner, William Burke Garrett III, Arthur Cecil Gary, Cheryl Aleeta Gatewood, Stewart Gay, Alice Lynn George, Pamela Yvette Gilmore, Bevely Joyce Goff, Brenda Denise Golden.

Benjamin Gordon, Marcie Kate Gordon, Jacqueline Denise Graham, Gregory D. Granger, Sydney Elizabeth Green, Ann Jeannette Greene, Gary Robert Greene, William Samuel Gregory, Belinda Darlene Guess, William David Halter, Lisa Sadie Haltiwanger.

Cheryl Denise Hankins, Phyllis Harder, Sheree Hardin, Billy Edward Harkins, Jr., Janis Lee Harpe, Debra Ann Harper, Joe Louis Harrell, Beverly Harris, Cheryl Ann Harris, Janet Lynn Harris.

Tressa Dian Harris, Anthony Hart, John Remer Hart, Erma Jean Haynes, David R. Henderson, Jaye Tee Hendricks, Gwanda Ophelia Henry, Bill Hermann, Cynthia Herndon, Dennis Earl Herrington.

Shelia Virginia Hingson, John Stephen Hitchcock, Mark Monroe Hodge, Pamela Holland, Ester Lanett Holmes, Robert Webster Hopkins, Jr., Denise Lynette Houseal, Nathan Brett Hunt, O'Keefe Hunter, Hoyt B. Hurt III.

Tami Inman, Kenneth Kurt Jackson, Loretha Jackson, Joseph James, Jr., Julie Ann Jarvis, James Steve Jennings, Alvin C. Johnson, Anthonyio Johnson, Bryan D. Johnson, Diane Johnson.

Julie Diana Johnson, Leon Johnson, Raymond Johnson, Redessa Tulena Johnson, Sharon Diane Johnson, Sherri Lynn Johnson, Darlynn Jones, Dorothy Jean Jones, Teri Joseph, Susan Kebler.

Raymond Frederick Kelly, Karen Marsha King, Mary Alice King, Patricia Ann King, Debra J. Kolb, Steven Kroll, Katherine J. Kuntz, Patricia A. Lawrence, Peter Michael LeDuc, Barbara Ann Lewis.

Lu Anne Lewis, Willie B. Lewis, Jr., Filemon Lopez, Lawrence Lowe, Livia Lyles, Gregory Brady Lynch, Sandra Gail Maples, Barbara Ann Marshall, Cynthia Martin, Deborah Anne Martin.

James David Martin, James Edward Martin, Jr., Careen Marzban, Natasha Ileen Mathews, Cynthia Ann May, Susan Anita McCall, Cynthia A. McCambridge, Imogene McCastle, Cheryl Marie McCellan, Donna Allise McCloud.

Joanne Marie McCoy, Judith Gail McCrary, Jeffery David McDonald, James Randall McDougald, John Hadley McDuffie, Cynthia McFarland, Wanda S. McFarland, Cheryl Lynn McGilvray, Tammy McGuyrt, Donna Darlene McMichen.

Joy Lynn Mead, Angelia Karen Metcalf, Keith Middleton, Andrew D. Miller, Sharon L. Miller, Carolyn Mitchell, Linda Mitchell, Cynthia Diana Moore, Diane Moore, John H. Moore.

Kenneth D. Moore, William Moore, Delores Moorehead, Judith Alicia Moran, Emily Carol Morgan, Janie Carol Morris, Karen S. Morris, Oscar Neloms, David Nelson, Sylvia Veronica Nelson.

Lisa Ann Nichols, Penny Renee Nichols, Melody Lynn Oliver, Wendy Lisa Owens, Linda Kaye Parham, Vicky Lynn Parmelee, Jackie Edith Patten, Jeannette Patterson, Vanessa Valentina Paul.

Melody Teresa Paulk, Craig Alan Pennington, Jacqueline Yvette Pierce, Carol Sauls Preaster, Marionette Denise Pride, Julie Faye Pulliam, Paul Eugene Purcell, Donna Gail Rambo, Alison Charlotte Reddick, Arthur Hanesworth Reddick.

William Charles Retterbush II, Doris Elaine Rhoades, Willie Lee Richardson, Jr., Mark Stephen Ridley, Wendy Jo Robbins, Barbara Marie Roberts, Melvin Joe Roberts, George Wilkerson Robinson, Jerry Dean Rogers, Donna Sue Rouse.

Johnny Lee Rowe, Sandra Lynn Rowe, Karen Lynn Rude, Pamela Ann Russell, Frederick A. Ruttinger, Felipe De Jesus Salguero, Gregory Bernard Sampson, David F. Sandbach, Jr., Patricia Ann Sawyer, Brenda Kay Schunhoff.

Danya Kay Schutt, Annette Scott, Mark Wayne Selph, Jeffery Alan Sermors, Bernard Sirmans, Fred Warren Skinner III, Michael Clinton Skipper, Cynthia Denise Smith, Kathryn Desiree Smith, Donald Smith.

Tracy Gay Southwell, Suzanne Sparkman, Cynthia Ann Speer, Alan Spell, Randolph Spencer, Janice Elaine St. John, Evelyn Lavern Stacks, Victoria Frances Stewart, Cobie L. Stouffer, Allen Strickland.

Daniel Bryan Strickland, Fran Merrell Malone Tate, Mary F. Taylor, Tracy Ann Taylor, Amy Ruth Teague, Evette Ann Tharps, Theresa Toal, Barbara A. Trapp, Ava Lawanna Tumbler, Helon Uddyback.

Catherine Elizabeth Verrier, Charlotte Suzanne Vickers, Charles Warren, Jerry L. Webb, Rosalie Weightman, Angela Wells, Charles W. West, Jacquelyn Laree West, Rhonda Snow White, David A. Whitmer.

Stephanie Jean Wildes, Clifford Williams, Curtis Williams, Deborah Williams, Denease Maxwell Williams, Gwynett D. Williams, Janice Marie Williams, Monroe Williams, Nancy Williams, Quinton Bernard Williams.

Sandra Gail Williams, Rebecca Laurene Williams, Teresa Ann Williams, Julius Wilson III, Patricia Marie Wise, Eddie Wood, Linda Joyce Woods, Gerald Bernard Worthy, Jacqueline Juanita Wright, James Reginald Wright, Shirley Ann Wright, Brenda Lee Wynn, Charles Richard Youles, L. Young, Patricia Young.



Time 6-5-77 Graduation Present

Scott Dallas of Valdosta holds up a 10 and one-fourth pound bass he caught at the Sunset Hunting and Fishing Club south of town last week. Dallas, who says he goes fishing quite a bit, used a plastic worm to

entice the monster on to his hook. Dallas is scheduled to graduate from Valdosta High School Tuesday and his biggest catch ever may be the ideal graduation gift. — Times Staff Photo



A teacher for eight years, she is coordinator of the vocational office training program at VHS where she has taught for three years. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Valdosta State. She is first vice president of the Valdosta Association of Educators and past president of the Georgia Association of Educators. She was the 1976 Business and Office Educator of the Year for the Second Congressional District and Outstanding Business Education Teacher for the Eighth District in 1975 and 1973. She is a member of several professional organizations, Quota Club and First Baptist Church. Times 6-5-77

Schools Guilty Of Sex Bias

We sure are glad the American Association of University Women looked into sex discrimination in the Valdosta schools. That's because there is plenty of it. For instance, the city schools have a policy of not spanking a female student. Boys, though, are subject to the paddle. That's blatant discrimination, we think. And girls don't play on the powerful Wildcat football team. By any measure that's blatant discrimination. We bet when the AAUW looked into school sex bias they found the boys had one kind of restroom and the girls had another in the city schools. We bet they also found that girls have their own physical education program and boys have theirs. In addition, it is a good bet more boys are involved in the welding class than girls. And that more girls are involved in home economics than boys.

It is great to know that we have these kind of things going on in our schools. It is great to know the AAUW filed its report with the American Friends Service Committee, which lodged a complaint with the federal government. Heck, this gives our school administrators something to do other than teach and try and improve the educational quality of our schools. It provides a nice little bit of business for school lawyers over bias claims. Like we said, we are sure glad to know that the AAUW, the American Friends Service Committee and the federal government have found that the schools discriminate because of sex. Sure they do. In all this, they might have even discovered there is a little bit of difference between a boy and a girl, but we doubt it.

Times 6-6-77

Hyder Bidding For 1-AAA Title In His 30th Year Of Grid Game

By MIKE CHASON

Nick Hyder and football have a 30-year romance on the line this season. But he's not looking for any pearl gift from the game, he wants gold... Region 1-AAA championship gold.

And with the most experienced quarterback in the league at the controls of a potentially explosive offense, Hyder may get his wish.

But 10 regular season games and a sub-region playoff remain before the champion is decided. And nobody ever called Hyder an optimist.

"Winning that championship is certainly a worthy goal," Hyder said as his team prepared for a workout at its summer camp at Twin Lakes.

"But our ultimate aim is to take a young man and make a better young man out of him. Winning is not a by-product of that aim, but winning is a part of it because winning helps him become a better young man."

After 10 years in the game as a player, Hyder was sure football helped him become a man. Now he's entering his 20th year as a coach, and he's more sure than ever before.

Hyder has run the gauntlet of success and failure as a coach. At West Rome, he had a 53-12-3 record. Since moving to Valdosta in 1974, he has won 22 games and lost 11.

The low point of his career came in his first season at Valdosta when the Wildcats won only three games and lost seven. It was one of the worst records in the school's history.

"My idea when I came here was to find out what the problems were and see what I could do to solve them," Hyder said. "If they hadn't had problems, they wouldn't have needed a coach."

"They came after me, I didn't go after them."

From the first practice, Hyder faced discipline problems. He immediately remedied that situation.

"We had several youngsters who refused to be disciplined," Hyder said. "Those boys could have played. But if you play for me, you've got to pay the price."

"We only returned five or six boys who had started the year before. We also had a 14-year-old quarterback. Three wins might have been a good season for that team. But I'll take the blame for that."

In Hyder's second season, Valdosta grabbed the region title for the first time since Wright Bazemore retired from coaching in 1971. The team wound up 10-2 after a tough 15-14 loss to Wayne County (Jesup) in the first round of the state playoffs.

Before the season, Hyder had asked former offensive coordinator Joe Wilson and former defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph to return to the program. Both did.

"It was my decision to ask both Jack and Joe back," Hyder said. "I had to have experienced people. Jack is just a whole of a defensive coach. He functions awfully well on the sidelines."

Since Wilson, now head coach at cross-county rival Lowndes, called the plays in '75, many people gave him the credit for the success of the team.

"I'll give him the credit for 20 per cent of the success," Hyder said. "Our coaches function as a unit, and that team returned nine starters on offense."

But when it came time for that offense to

really shine in Jesup against Wayne County, one of its cogs was missing, Fullback Alton Battles was not recovered from an injury.

"We lived with the pass in 1975," Hyder said. "When we got to Jesup we needed the run, and we couldn't do it."

That circumstance led to last season when quarterback Buck Belue, the passing leader of the region as a sophomore, started giving the ball up on handoffs and doing some running himself.

The cutback in the Valdosta air game was noticeable.

"I saw we had to develop the running game," Hyder said. "But we did not develop enough depth in the backfield to carry us through the season."

That's Nick Hyder's fault. We had to remedy that."

Valdosta still lost only two games in 11 tries last year including a 21-6 loss to Central of Thomasville in a playoff for the region title.

Which brings Hyder and three-year starter Belue up to the present.

"People put us in contention because of Belue," Hyder said. "But let's face it. The success of the Valdosta team the last two years has been due to the defense. If we didn't do well, it was because our defense didn't have a good game."

"I can cite you two examples... Moultrie in '75 (a 28-20 loss) and Dougherty (a 28-26 loss) last year."

The Wildcats return five defensive starters from last year including linebacker Robert Baldwin (206, sr.), tackle Curtis Wright (185, sr.), backs Lynn Roberts (165, jr.) and Troy Thomas (172, jr.) and safety Allen Worthy (170, sr.).

But Hyder is expecting some help from

tackle Ray Lloyd (235, sr.), linebacker John Branan (182, jr.), ends Doug Conway (185, sr.) and Alec Greene (175, sr.), middle guards Craig Simmons (190, sr.) and Doug McQuaig (240, jr.) and safeties Jimmy Hartman (178, sr.) and Nathaniel Caesar (160, soph.)

On offense, the spotlight is on Belue.

"He's probably got as much pressure on him as I do on me," Hyder said.

Offensive tackle Gary Guthrie (220, sr.) also returns along with split end Alvin Thomas (180, sr.) and halfback William Gaskins (150, jr.).

Besides the returnees, Hyder hopes Sam Fletcher (185, jr.), Frank Council (182, sr.) and Ernest King (170, soph.) add some zip to the backfield.

Ends John Lastinger (174, jr.) and Fredrick Blair (153, jr.) are both threats to catch the ball anytime Belue fades back.

Hyder listed Robert Smith (155, jr.) and Melvin Hunter (147, sr.) as the flankers.

On the offensive line, Tony Blasetti (210, soph.) is the top center candidate flanked by guards Andy Chapman (180, jr.), Register (167, jr.) and Frank Beacham (170, jr.). Scott Griffin (190, jr.) may play the other tackle spot.

With Baldwin returning to kick extra points and field goals and Belue back to do the punting, Hyder believes the kicking department to be the soundest returning part of the Valdosta game.

Hyder has never set a definite time period within which to accomplish his goals, but this year's seniors are the boys he was crudely initiated with in '74.

In the back of his mind, there has to be the thought that it's about time to reap the benefits from that initiation.



—Times Staff Photo

Hyder Points Out A Problem

Times 6-7-77



CHERYL GATEWOOD
Georgia Tech Bound

Senior Receives Grant

By Times Staff Writer

A 17-year-old Valdosta High School senior is the recipient of a National Achievement Scholarship for Outstanding Negro Students to attend Georgia Tech.

Cheryl A. Gatewood, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Gatewood Sr. of 1014 N. Troup St., plans to study chemical engineering at the Atlanta school.

"Cheryl's a hard working student who's also a happy person," said VHS guidance counselor Virginia Wisenbaker. "We expect a lot out of her."

Miss Gatewood graduates during ceremonies tonight at Cleveland Field. She plans to continue working part time at Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers before entering Tech in the fall.

She was secretary-treasurer of the VHS student council, a member of Quill & Scroll, winner of the home economics department Betty Crocker award, a Senior Superlative and the Distributive Education Club Rookie of the Year.

About 475 black students nationwide received college-sponsored grants in the National Achievement Scholarship Program, announced this week.

VHS's White Brothers Raised On Baseball

By MARTIN REGISTER

If practicing against good competition makes perfect, then Valdosta High School's baseball brothers, Bob and David White, should be almost there.

The two have been practicing baseball skills on each other practically since climbing out of the cradle, and both admit, though modestly, that it has been a big influence in developing their abilities.

Bob, a graduating senior, was named the team's most valuable player, due to his excellence from the catcher's spot, at a recent banquet honoring the team.

David, who played the third base position, shared the best offensive player award with outfielder-pitcher Buck Belue.

The introduction of Bob White at Wildcat contests inevitably led to a chorus of "quail calls" from friends in the stands, but the elder White brother was seldom bothered by it.

He was cited time and again during the season by head coach Butch Brooks as a major reason behind the 'Cats success.

Valdosta advanced to the state semifinals before dropping a close three-game set to eventual state champ Kendrick (Columbus).

Brooks pointed out Bob's leadership ability and work with the pitching staff as evidence of his impact on the team.

"He's meant a lot to me, to the ballclub, and to the school," he said at the banquet. "He has a lot of desire, a lot of leadership, and a lot of ability."

White wasn't always a star, and credits Brooks with much of his success.

"When I was a freshman,"



BOB WHITE
Headed For UGA

he said, "I was only 5'2", and weighed about 125 pounds. And I was slow. But coach Brooks put me on a weight program, and gave me a chance to get on the team.

"I really appreciate that, and I won't forget it. I just want to go off to college and do a good job."

Last week, Bob signed a grant-in-aid to play baseball for the University of Georgia.

He thinks if he works hard, there is a possibility he could start for the Bulldogs as a sophomore or junior.

"They've got a senior catcher returning," he said, "and another freshman from Illinois has signed with them as a catcher."

"I want to work really hard this summer, and be ready when I get up there (to Athens) in the fall."

Bob played football for Valdosta as a freshman and as a sophomore, but had to lay down that sport because of a neck injury.



DAVID WHITE
Best Hitter

He began playing Little League baseball when only nine years old, and played shortstop until his last season as a Pony Leaguer, when he switched to catcher.

Both brothers are good hitters, but David's batting average, topping the .420 mark, is the better of the two.

Known as "Boo-Boo," because of his supposed resemblance to Yogi Bear's buddy, David gives much credit to his older brother.

"Robert could be a good baseball coach," he said. "He's always been there to help me along . . . he's just always been a real 'big brother'."

David, a rising senior, has no plans for college at the moment, preferring instead to "look around for awhile."

David also credits Brooks to a large degree for his success, and adds that his father has been a big influence.

"My father kept after me,"

he said. "He told me 'you've got to practice if you're going to be good.' He kept me going."

David also played basketball and football in Boys' Club leagues, but stuck primarily to baseball as he grew older.

As a freshman he played second baseman, but as his throwing arm improved, he moved around to third.

He has played in the catching position, but says "with Robert there, it's no use trying to play catcher."

Bob and David were injured in a regular season game when an errant pitch fractured David's forearm, and another struck Bob in the throat.

But both were back in action during the next week, David with a bandage on his arm.

"The arm healed back pretty well in two weeks," David said. "Bob couldn't talk for awhile (he was hit in the vocal cords), but he was all right after a couple of days."

Both credited a variety of variables with the team's success this season.

"We were lucky most of the season," Bob said. "But mostly, we played as a team."

"Everybody worked for each other. There was no selfishness, and no griping. If a player was told to sacrifice bunt instead of going for a hit, then that's what he did."

"And Coach Brooks and (assistant) Coach (Charles) Tarpley are really great. They've been around baseball all their lives, and tell us a lot of things that help us out."

"We had good talent on the team," David said. "We had some of the best coaching, and one of the best all-around teams I've ever seen."

Noteworthy Area High School Students In GHP

Thirteen Valdosta area high school students have been selected to participate in the 1977 Governor's Honors Program (GHP). They are among 600 students chosen from 1,700 nominees.

Four hundred students are to attend the GHP at Wesleyan College beginning June 16. They are to study a variety of subjects including science, mathematics, music, foreign languages, social studies, visual arts and the performing arts. Two hundred students are to attend North Georgia College beginning June 19 for the new career development program.

Those to attend Wesleyan include: Laura Farley, Elizabeth Reddick, Rusty Overby, William David Curtis, Richard Clayton, all of Valdosta High School; Laura Lissa Phelps of Adel, Lynne Dianna Ferri of Cecil, Marlon Daniel Cowart of Sparks, all students at Cook High School;

April Rich of Quitman, student at Brooks County High School; Debra Anne Wooly of Lake Park, Lowndes High School; Gregory Steven Tyson of Nashville, Ga., Berrien High School.

Those to attend North Georgia College are Douglas Black of Valdosta High School and Leigh Touchton of Valdosta, Lowndes High School.

Judy Eanes Wins District Contest

Times 6-8-77

Valdosta High School's top senior was also named the highest ranking contestant in the district essay contest sponsored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Judy Eanes, 16, who won the local UDC Essay Contest during May, is to compete for the state title later this summer. The theme was "The Role of Confederate Women in the Civil War."

Miss Eanes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Eanes, was valedictorian of the VHS senior class which was graduated Tuesday night. She was named Best All Around Senior by the faculty and students and is the recipient of a tuition scholarship from the Valdosta Association of Educators.

She plans to attend Valdosta State College to study journalism, education or pre-law.

Although not the first Valdosta High student to win the district contest, according to a school official, she is the first one in a long time.

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JUDY EANES
Valdosta Valedictorian



CINDY GLASSMAN
Valdosta Salutatorian

Times 6-5-77

Academic Excellence

Student Scholars In County Honored

Valdosta High is to graduate 366 Tuesday night, and, appropriately, the Best All-Round Senior is also the class valedictorian.

That's 16-year-old Judith

Marian Eanes, the green-eyed brunette daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William M. "Bill" Eanes of 55 Loganberry Circle.

Miss Eanes' activities and honors could easily fill a scrapbook, "but being named Best All-Round Senior means the most," she said, "because it comes from a vote of teachers and students."

She's the recipient of a tuition scholarship from the Valdosta Association of Educators and is to attend VSC beginning this fall to study "a little bit of everything, maybe journalism, pre-law or education."

Miss Eanes finishes high school with a 96.7 average.

"I studied long and hard," she said, "because I wanted to be the best, and I'm never satisfied with myself, won't settle for anything less than the best."

"My parents, teachers and counselors have all inspired me and given me the incentive to do well."

She's hoping a part time job at Sears, Roebuck and Co. becomes full time this summer and enjoys "reading, riding my bike and watching television."

"I think I'm ready for college," she added, "and what all is coming my way because the experiences, both good and bad, during high school have helped me mature."

Cindy Kay Glassman, the 18-year-old daughter of Jayne Glassman of 1309 W. Park Ave. and the late Sammy Glassman, is salutatorian at VHS.

A small, freckled, brown-haired girl with blue eyes, Miss Glassman put together a 96 average and is to attend Emory University in Atlanta come fall.

"I didn't study all the time," she said, "but I did study."

"I want to major in chemistry in college and get into an allied health field like medical technology, respiratory therapy or anesthesiology."

Miss Glassman said she enjoyed most working on the yearbook as ad manager and participating in drama activities during high school.

"I tried to do well because it made my parents proud," she explained, "and I had the capability, so there wasn't any reason to waste it."

"Now, if I can find a summer job to help pay for college..."

Georgia Inks VHS' Fugett To Baseball Scholarship

V.D.T. May 15, '79

By Times Staff Writer

Georgia's Bulldogs have mounted another successful recruiting campaign in the Azalea City.

The prize is Valdosta High's Wayne Fugett, the senior pitcher-first baseman, having signed a baseball grant with the Bulldogs.

A three-year regular for the Wildcats, Fugett has been a standout in VHS' drives to region and state titles.

"Wayne is a very coachable athlete. He's willing to do anything to help the team," Coach Butch Brooks said. "He has great character and attitude and I think he has the ability to develop into a top flight college player."

Fugett has outstanding statistics, hitting .349, fielding .955 and compiling a 2.43 earned run average his sophomore season.

He hit .310, had a .955 fielding average and posted a 1.22 ERA his junior year. Currently, he's batting .549, fielding .945 and has a 1.96 ERA.

A hard thrower with a moving fast ball, Fugett has recorded 285 strikeouts in his career. He's issued 74 walks.

Fugett has a 28-5 pitching record, all five losses coming this season.

A versatile athlete, he plays third, first or leftfield when he's not pitching. In addition to hitting for average, Fugett has 17 home runs.

Bulldog Coach Roy Umstatt has Georgia in the midst of a rebuilding program. They missed qualifying for the SEC playoffs by one game.

In addition to Georgia, Fugett had offers from South Carolina, Florida State, Auburn and Valdosta State.

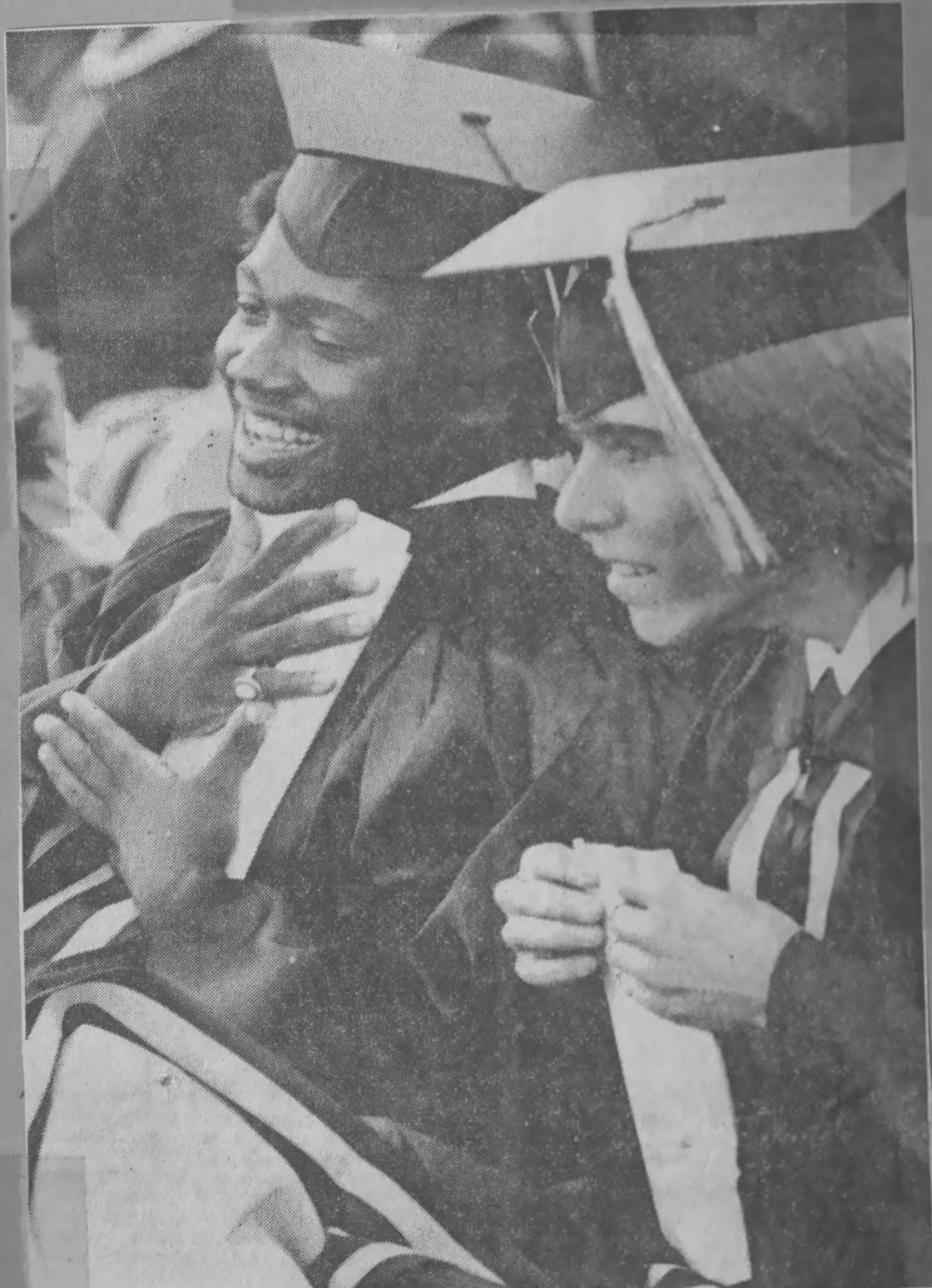
Fugett indicated he was impressed with Georgia's facilities and he believed the baseball program was on the upswing.

Two other VHS grads — Buck Belue and Bob White — also play baseball for the Bulldogs.

Fugett, 6-1, 190 pounds, has been involved in the prep playoffs all three of his varsity seasons.

Brooks thinks he has the talent, desire and determination to help Georgia build a winning program.

"He can help them with his pitching and his hitting," Brooks said. "I think he made a wise decision."



Times 6-8-77 Graduation Grasp

Valdosta High School graduating senior O'Keefe Hunter apparently had no intentions of letting his high school diploma slip away as he clutches it close to his heart during graduation exercises held Tuesday night at Cleveland Field. Classmate Hoyt Hurt

doesn't seem as ecstatic as Hunter but he has a secure grip on his sheepskin as well. They were among 366 seniors who were graduated from the school. — Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III.

Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., Aug. 12, 1977-19

Times 6-8-77

Young Named Echols Co. Coach

By Times Staff Writer
STATENVILLE — Danny Young grew up in Clinch County where the basketball rivalry with adjoining Echols County is legendary.

Competition on the hardwood turned fierce between the two counties in recent years as two brothers — Austin Deloach in Clinch and Ashley at Echols — guided the basketball fortunes of the schools.

Tuesday night Young was named head basketball coach at Echols County High School to succeed Ashley Deloach who resigned after six years in the post.

Young, who has been coaching the ninth grade basketball team at Valdosta High School the past three years, "knows what he's getting into," according to Echols School Supt. Jackie Carter.

"He came from a place about this size ... Clinch County," Carter chuckled. "He knows the ropes in this region already."

Clinch actually has moved up to 2-A from 2-B since Young ended his playing days there seven years ago.

But the Panthers were in the thick of region championship races, copping two titles, while Young was there during the old Region 2-B days.

The opposition usually was short, always quick with lots of hustle, Young recalled.

That's what he expects from his players at Echols.

"They have a good tradition," he said.

But Young, who plans to move to Statenville in August, wants to carefully avoid too many preconceptions about the job.

"We'll do what they do best," he said.



DANNY YOUNG
New At Echols

Ironically, the 25-year-old Young thought he would one day become a football coach despite his background as a swing man on the hardwood.

"I had all intentions of becoming a football coach," he said, freely admitting ambition was a consideration in his attachment with Valdosta High.

"I wanted to get on the coaching staff there," he said. "It's well established and top notch."

But Young, who graduated with a degree in secondary education from Valdosta State College, found football "to be too specialized."

As a result, his primary concern again became basketball.

Aug. 3, 1977

College Prep System Changed

By KATHY KING

If, four or so years from now, any Valdosta parents think their kids aren't getting a flying start in college, they better not blame Lloyd Mims or Valdosta High School.

Mims is instituting a college preparatory curriculum system this school year, which students must follow if they want their transcript, after graduation, to indicate completion of college prep work.

A transcript is the copy of a student's record which is sent, by high schools, to prospective employers and colleges.

The school has always had college prep courses but, Mims said, in the past many students planning to enter college have, with their parents' approval, avoided some of the toughest courses, such as level three advanced composition.

Incoming ninth graders won't be able to do that, not if they want the high school's seal of approval that they are college material.

Students who want to be certified college prep graduates, now "can't evade chemistry and advanced composition," Mims said.

The principal said many parents, at the request of their children, ask to have the children placed in easier courses.

"I've had parents ask to have their child taken out of a

level three math course because they're afraid he'll get a lower grade in the course and won't graduate with honors," Mims said.

Mims said he hopes the new college prep system will discourage students from taking the easy way out.

He sent parents of incoming ninth graders a letter which stated:

"If colleges accept students who have not pursued the college preparatory curriculum, or if parents do not choose this program for their children, parents should not hold the school responsible for any deficiencies."

Courses required for students in the college prep system include four years of English and, three years of social studies. These must be level three (accelerated) or advanced placement (college credit) courses, Mims said.

Students in this program are also required to take three math courses, including beginning and intermediate algebra and geometry. And they must take three science courses, he said.

More incoming ninth graders are signing up for level three courses than in past years, since the school sent the letter to parents, Mims said.

Students who don't follow the new system can still be accepted by colleges, Mims said.

But, he said, they shouldn't blame their local public high school if they don't fare well in college.



LLOYD MIMS
Earn Certification

Sept. 11, 1977
Even Best
Need Luck,
Says Hyder

By MIKE CHASON

Nick Hyder has finally voiced what he knew all along, but that some other coaches would rather not admit... it takes luck to keep winning football games.

Skill, size and coaching no doubt have their part in the game and are usually the deciding factors when two teams meet.

But when the competition is on an almost even level every Friday night of the season as this coming season looks to be, Lady Luck has control of the dice.

As the season approaches, and with one week of summer camp under his belt, does Hyder feel more confident about the way things are shaping up for his Valdosta Wildcats?

"I don't have any confidence about what's happening at all," Hyder said Friday as his team went through the preseason ritual of picture day under rain-promising skies.

"It just takes a lot of luck at get there. Lawrence Lowe getting hurt probably cost us a 10-0 season last year. Of course, (Steve) Jennings got hurt too and either one of them might have made the difference in the Dougherty game."

Valdosta lost that game 28-26 for its only regular season loss. Central of Thomasville and Dougherty also lost once during the regular season, leaving all three teams with 9-1 records at the final gun.

In the resulting playoff, Central beat Valdosta and Dougherty beat Central.

After the first week of two-

a-day drills at the 4-H Club camp at Twin Lakes, Hyder reported the 'Cats as a "bruised" football team.

"It's nothing really serious," Hyder said. "Just some bruises and sprains that may keep them out of a practice or two."

Hyder said he still had the same 85 team members he started camp with although several boys had to leave Twin Lakes with high temperatures. No one has quit the squad.

"We're probably on some kind of schedule," Hyder said, "but I can't really tell too much until we get them under the lights and before a crowd in a real game."

Every camp usually has its surprises, and Valdosta's one-week hibernation has been no exception.

"We're pleasantly surprised with Kenny Washington (156, sr.) at wide receiver, and Monte Richardson (155, jr.) in the defensive secondary," Hyder said. "John Branan (182, jr.) has looked real good at linebacker. He's taking Keith Middleton's place, and he's got some big shoes to fill."

Hyder also cited his stable of running backs including Frank Council (182, sr.), William Gaskins (150, jr.), Sam Fletcher (185, jr.), Ernest King (170, soph.) and Robert Smith (155, jr.).

Hyder said senior quarterback and three-year starter Buck Belue (185) was "delivering the ball real well."

The Wildcats open their season Sept. 9 in Cordele against Crisp County.

v. l. 5-31-79
Baseball Wildcats Feted

By Times Staff Writer

Seniors Wayne Fugett and John Lastinger were the major trophy winners at Valdosta High School's annual baseball awards banquet Wednesday night.

Fugett, who compiled a career record of 28-5, received trophies as the best pitcher and best offensive player for the Wildcats. Lastinger, who is VHS' captain, hit in 40 of his last 41 games and posted a .492 batting average to earn most valuable player honors.

Other trophy winners were Tim Dame, spirit award; Ashley DeLoach, most improved; David New, outstanding in the playoffs; Mike Ruff, best defensive player and Tag Welch, sportsmanship.

Head coach Butch Brooks and his assistants also presented color team pic-

tures to each player. The managers and bat girls were awarded gifts and trophies.

"This was the hardest working group I've been associated with," Brooks said. "They never quit battling or fighting."

The Wildcats rebounded from a 1-4 start, winning 12 of their last 16 games en route to a 13-8 mark and second place in 1-AAAA South. VHS posted a .251 team batting average, .920 fielding average and scored 163 runs. The Wildcats gave up 87 runs, 46 being unearned.

VHS competed in the playoffs for the sixth consecutive season and Brooks issued a challenge to the returning Wildcats.

"We want to set our goal now to win the region and return to the playoffs," Brooks said. "We can accomplish this with hard

work."

B-team trophy winners were William Davis, most valuable; David and Dale Parker, best defensive players and Nolan Barnes, best offensive player.

The team presented a plaque to Brooks as did the VHS seniors.

The coaching staff were presented gifts and gift certificates by the Wildcat baseball boosters club.

May 15, '77

'Inside VHS' To Debut

By Times Staff Writer
Head coach Nick Hyder, assistants Butch Brooks, Jack Rudolph and the Wildcat football team are to be the feature of Valdosta High School's initial television effort.

"Inside VHS," produced by several VHS faculty members, is scheduled for broadcast Monday night on cable channel nine here. The 30-minute program is set for 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

"The content and format are great," said VHS audio-visual technician Ralph Gurino, who's received raves for his slide presentation of VHS.

"But the production isn't as good as I wanted. We want to see what kind of response and constructive criticism we'll get. This is a start to get some of the bugs out."

"We'd like to run a series beginning next fall," explained VHS teacher Eloise Terry, who wrote the program's script, "and involve students."

Another VHS teacher, Jimmy Taw is to interview Hyder, show highlights of the traditional Regional 1-AAA power's recent spring practice and introduce each Wildcat.



Technician Gurino (L), Coach Hyder, Interviewer Taw Instrumental In First Show

Photo Special To The Times

ABAC Inks Patten

'Cats Sign College Pact

Notes, quotes, and assorted trivia:

Three Valdosta High School athletes have signed up to play college sports. George Robinson and Jeff Sermons have signed grant-in-aids to play basketball for Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute, and Leon Johnson has signed a national letter of intent to play football for Tennessee State in Nashville, Tenn.

Robinson and Sermons join another Valdostan, O'Keefe Hunter, who has already agreed to play football for Tuskegee.

Lanier County High School's all-sports banquet has been scheduled for May 19. The 7:30 p.m. banquet features the Lakeland, Ga. school's basketball, baseball, cross-country and track athletes. The \$5 tickets may be obtained by calling the Lanier County High School office.

Speaking of Lanier County, that school's top basketball player of the season past, Franklin Patten, has signed a grant-in-aid scholarship to continue his hoop career with Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. ABAC coach Peter Dees signed the 6-2 Bulldog guard at his home Wednesday night. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilma Patten.

Westbrook School wasn't a big winner in football, basketball or baseball this season, but the small Dixie school almost won the whole ball of wax in the Southeastern Association of Independent Schools' state class A track meet.

The Cougars finished second behind Gordon Ivey with 49 points. Buddy Freeman finished first in the shot put, and Hal Cooper had a first place throw in the discus. Other point-getters included Kerry Patrick in the shot put, Craig Faucette and Jay Simpson in the pole vault, Kal Squires in the high and low hurdles, and Billy Baker in the low hurdles.

Atlanta's Falcons are off to their worst start ever in season ticket sales. Only 33,586 tickets have been sold, and the Falcons plan to keep the season seats on sale until the opening game against Los Angeles in September. Atlanta sold 41,000 season tickets last year and rewarded those fans with a 4-10 record. Prior to this season, the poorest year for season tickets was 1969 when only 38,000 were sold. The top year was 1974 when 55,000 were sold.

The grass is now being planted on the 18-hole renovation to Valdosta Country Club. Nine holes of the existing 18-hole course were revamped in addition to nine new holes. The complete 27-hole course is to be ready for play by the time of the annual Jack Oliver Invitational tournament on Labor Day.

It's really a shame WCTV can't pick up the pro basketball playoffs. Evidently, the station would rather carry old movies on Sunday afternoons than the best in basketball. Hopefully, it will change its tune for the championship series.

Alvin Moore, a South Georgia College centerfielder, has been named to the 1977 Georgia Junior College Athletic Conference all-state team. Moore, a former Valdosta High School player, led the Tigers from Douglas in home runs with five, RBI with 38 and runs scored with 38. Moore, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Moore of Valdosta, played only one year of high school ball for coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats.

Season tickets for Lowndes High School football

May 13 1977

The Valdosta Daily Times, Fri. May 13, 1977-14-



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

games are now on sale. The Vikings have quite an attractive home schedule during the fall with Moultrie, Central of Thomasville, Valdosta, Albany and Bainbridge visiting Martin Stadium.

Peggy Treadway has signed a letter of intent to play basketball for South Georgia College in Douglas. The two-time most valuable player for Echols County High School was the leading scorer and rebounder for the Statenville school last season. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Treadaway of Lake Park.

Mark Dibois, who played football for Valdosta's Wildcats, is now the girls' track coach at Stephens County High School in Toccoa. Dibois won the region title in the school's first try at girls' track. Former Valdosta head football coach Charlie Greene is the football coach at Stephens.

Greyhound racing at the Jefferson County Kennel Club in Monticello, Fla. is scheduled to begin May 27. The track is to operate every night of the week except for Sunday. Matinee races are to be held every Saturday. Night races begin at 8 p.m. and matinee races are to begin at 2 p.m.

Wayne Pearson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Abner Pearson of Valdosta, has qualified for the national Bassmasters fishing tournament. Pearson finished sixth in the Georgia Bass Championships held several weeks ago. He caught over 27 pounds of fish in the two-day tournament.

The Valdosta High School athletic association is again issuing a plea for season ticketholders to Wildcat football games to renew their seats. The latest notice says that all seats not renewed by May 20 are to be re-assigned.

Former Valdosta High School running back Alton Battles is scheduled to play a prominent role in the football plan of Illinois State University in the fall. Battles was a key figure on the 1975 Valdosta Region 1-AAA championship team.

Brookwood High School basketball coach Tom Johnson closed out his coaching career with the Thomasville school on a glorious note this year. Johnson, a former Valdostan who played baseball and basketball for Valdosta State, led the Warriors to the Southeastern Association of Independent Schools state class A title. He was named class A coach of the year as a result. Johnson is leaving the coaching field to go into administrative work at Brookwood.

Time 5-16-77

Turner To Speak At DE Banquet Thursday Night

By Times Staff Writer
State Sen. Loyce Turner is to be the guest speaker at Valdosta High School's state champion Distributive Education Club Employee-Employer Banquet Thursday night in the school cafeteria.

Club coordinator Norman Greene expects about 200 persons to attend the 7:30 p.m. affair "which gives an opportunity to recognize outstanding students and show our appreciation to employers who worked with our program."

Sixty-three students are involved in Greene's program at VHS, including

Debbie Bruck and Judy Eanes, who placed in national competition this month in Anaheim, Calif.

Twelve VHS students entered state competition in Atlanta, and seven of those took first places.

Highlight of the annual banquet is the awarding of an honorary life membership. Other awards to be given include the W.E. Glenn trophy to the most valuable DE student; the Warren Horton Memorial Award to the most outstanding participant in DE Club activities; the coordinator's trophy to the most improved second-year student; the rookie trophy to the most outstanding first-year student, plus several state and local medals.

The banquet is financed by club fund-raising projects over the past year, Greene noted. Entertainment is to be provided by DE student Bill Brown's trio.

VHS Golf Team

MARIETTA — Valdosta finished fifth in the state class AAA high school golf tournament held at Indian Hills Country Club here Monday.

Hendricks of Columbus won the tournament with a 303 total followed by Marietta at 318, Lakeside (Atlanta) and Westside (Augusta) at 328 and Valdosta at 329.

Lou Richardson was the low scorer for the Wildcats with an 80.

Valdosta gained its berth in the state tournament by winning the Region 1-AAA title.

Times 5-17-77

Time 5-15-77

Valdosta, Kendrick Set Times

By Times Staff Writer

Times for the Valdosta-Kendrick class AA high school baseball playoffs have been set, the Times learned late Saturday.

The two teams are to square off in a doubleheader at Wright Bazemore Field here Thursday beginning at 2 p.m.

A third game, if necessary, is to be held Friday at 4 p.m., also at Wright Bazemore Field.

Kendrick, 24-1, of Columbus, defeated Evans (Augusta) last week in its state quarterfinal series, and brings a team batting average topping .300 into the best-of-three series with the Wildcats.

Valdosta is 20-4, and defeated Windsor Forest (Savannah) in two games to win their series last week.

Times 5-17-77

VHS To Honor Its Own Tonight

By Times Staff Writer

One hundred-sixty-two Valdosta High School students are to be recognized during what Principal Lloyd Mims calls "an hour and a half well spent" Honors Night in the school's Little Theater tonight.

Mims is to preside at the annual ceremony which is to begin at 7:30 p.m.

"We save the best for last," Mims noted, looking over the long list of honorees today.

Thirty of this year's graduating class of 366 are honor graduates, those students who have maintained a 90 or above average during their four-year high school career.

"When you have just 30 out of 366," Mims explained, "that indicates you have a strong academic program."

The top three honor graduates are to receive pins; all 30 are to receive plaques from the North Valdosta Rotary Club.

Ten to 15 graduates are to be named Senior Superlatives from a vote by faculty members.

"That's the highlight," Mims said. "These are those students who have excelled either academically, athletically, as good school citizens and in personality. It's one of the school's highest honors."

The Best All-Round Senior is the one who receives the most votes.

If students have been previously honored at a banquet, they won't be honored tonight unless they're seniors.

The 1977 class graduates June 7 at Cleveland Field.

Vald Daily Times 5-16-77

Noteworthy Valdostan Wins At State Contest

A 15-year-old Valdostan won second place in the state Elks Oratorical Contest held recently at Columbus.

Bernard Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Williams Jr. of 618 Johnson St., received a trophy for his patriotic speech. He represented the Elks Lodge 457 of Valdosta.

A sophomore at Valdosta High School, he is a member of the Marchin' Cats band.

Times Sports Editor 5-19-77

Valdosta, Kendrick Eye Spot In AAA Finals

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta and Kendrick were to meet here today to decide the South Georgia champion in the class AAA high school baseball playoffs.

Valdosta, 20-4, was to have Buck Belue on the mound in the 2 p.m. first game and Wayne Fugett on the hill in the 4 p.m. second contest at Wright Bazemore field.

If a third game is necessary in the best-of-three series, it is to be played here Friday at 4 p.m.

The winner gains the right to host the state championship series.

Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., Aug. 12, 1977, 19

Miss Eanes Big Winner At VHS

By Times Staff Writer
 Judy Eanes, a green-eyed brunette senior, walked away with the top awards during Tuesday night's Honors Night at Valdosta High School.

The 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William M. "Bill" Eanes of 55 Loganberry Circle was named Best All-Round Senior and the top honor graduate during the annual ceremony.

"She's just an outstanding young lady who excels in anything she does," said VHS Principal Lloyd Mims, who presided. "She exemplifies the All-American girl."
 "You name it," added guidance counselor Virginia Wisenbaker, "and this gal has done it."

Miss Eanes is president of the VHS student council, has maintained a 96.7-grade-point-average during her four-year high school career and plans to study either teaching, pre-law journalism, probably at Valdosta State College.

She was named Georgia Distributive Education Club Girl Student of the Year and placed 12th in similar national DE competition, state winner in the Elks Club leadership contest and winner of the United Daughters of the Confederacy essay contest.

Miss Eanes is also on yearbook staff, outstanding 10th grade French and English student, outstanding 11th grade history student, selected for the governor's honors program last summer in English, member of the Beta Club, received a national high school award for excellence, recipient of a good citizenship award by the Daughters of the American Revolution and was selected to Who's Who Among High School Students.

"I'm really surprised, but I couldn't be happier," she said through tears afterward, holding a bundle of plaques, medals and charms. "I try to do my best. My parents, teachers and counselors have all inspired me and given me the incentive to do well."

She's one of nine children, including eight daughters and works part time at Sears, Roebuck and Co.

More than 150 students were recognized during the about two-hour ceremony, including 30 of a graduating class of 366 as honor graduates.

The entire VHS honors list:

ART: Outstanding Senior: Debbie Butner; Junior: Kenneth Eddings; Sophomore: Linda Hall; **Governor's Honors:** Doug Black and Laura Farley.
ENGLISH: Most Improved Literature: Catherine Slocumb; Most Improved not on Honors Level: Joe Davis; **Fire Prevention Essay Winners:** Donna Batten, Ricky Christie; **Department Awards:** Outstanding



JUDY EANES
 Plaques, Medals, Charms

Senior: Stuart McRae; **Outstanding Junior:** Jill Garrett; **Outstanding Sophomore:** Rusty Overby; **Outstanding Freshman:** Tim Farley; **District Meef - Literary Events:** Boys' Essay First Place in District and in State: Matt Harrington; Girls' Essay Second Place in District: Jill Garrett; **Fourth Place in Extemporaneous Speaking:** David Pulliam; **Second Place in Oral Interpretation and Third Place in Debate:** Bart Bullock; **Quill and Scroll Membership:** Outlook: Bart Bullock, Frances Smith, Monti Stephens; Sandspur: Judith Eanes, Jill Garrett, Cindy Glassman, George Smart; **Quill and Scroll Honor Certificates:** Outlook: Steve Jennings, Phillip Feinberg, Steve Hitchcock; Sandspur: Paul Fisher, Janis Harpe, Ricky Christie, Terri Nash, George Robinson, Rhonda Shiver.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Outstanding French I: Laurie Ellison; Outstanding French II: Danita Lee; Outstanding French III: Curt Cochran; Outstanding Spanish I: Frances Smith; Outstanding Spanish II: Elisabeth Reddick; Outstanding German I: David New; Outstanding German II: Stuart McRae; **Governor's Honors Program:** Spanish: Elisabeth Reddick.

MATH: Outstanding Introductory Algebra: Brenda Tigrett; Outstanding Intermediate Algebra: Rusty Overby; Outstanding Geometry: Tim Farley; Outstanding Pre Calculus: Karl Chiang; Best all-round Math Student: Richard Clayton; **1st Place Math team middle Georgia Tournament:** John Branan, Richard Clayton, Rusty Overby, George Smart; **1st Place middle Georgia Tournament:** Richard Clayton; **2nd Place middle Georgia Tournament:** George Smart; **National Test - 1st Place:** Richard Clayton; **National Test - 2nd Place:** Rusty Overby; **National Test - 3rd Place:** George Smart; **1st Place Team - Coastal Plains CESA Math Tournament:** Karl Chiang, Rusty Overby, Tim Farley; **1st Place Geometry in CESA Tournament:** Tim Farley; **1st Place Algebra II in CESA Tournament:** Rusty Overby; **1st Place Team in Solutions Race in CESA Tournament:** Tim Farley, Rusty Overby; **Governor's Honors:** Richard Clayton, David Curtis, Rusty Overby.

SCIENCE: Outstanding Physical Science: Tim Farley; Outstanding Biology: Laurie Ellison; Outstanding Chemistry: Jeff DeGange; Outstanding Physics: George Smart.

SOCIAL SCIENCE: Outstanding 9th grade: Tim Farley, Julie Becton; 10th Grade: Rusty Overby, Danita Lee; 11th Grade: Jill Garrett, Chris Daniels; 12th Grade: Cathleen Carson, Matt Harrington.

DT: Outstanding VICA Student, VICA State President, Local Club President, Member of Opening and Closing Team - 1st Place Dist.: Bryan Strickland; VICA Club Secretary, Member of Opening and Closing Team: Natasha Mathews; Member of Opening and Closing Team: Becky Williams; VICA Club Treasurer, Member of Opening and Closing Team: Robbie Hopkins; **1st Place Safety Contest VICA (Dist.):** Marty Blane; **Nurses Aide Contestant, State Representative for VHS VICA:** Sallie Chadwick.

DISTRIBUTIVE EDUCATION: 1st place District VII Student of Year, 1st place District VII Merchandise Information Manual, 1st place State DE Student of Year, 2nd place State Merchandise Information Manual, 12th place Nation Student of Year: Judy Eanes; 1st place District VII Job Interview, 1st place State Job Interview, 2nd place State Creative Marketing Project,

8th place Nation Job Interview: Debbie Bruck; 1st place District VII Area of Distribution Manual, 1st place State Area of Distribution Manual: Desiree Smith; 1st place State Promotion Project, 1st place State Free Enterprise Project: Marie Eunice; 1st place District VII Apparel & Accessories, State Finalist (top eight) Apparel & Accessories: Alice George; 2nd place District VII Student of Year, State Finalist DE Student of Year: Rex Taylor; 3rd place District VII Speech: Bill Brown; 1st place District VII Math, 2nd place State Math: Cheryl Gray; 1st place District VII Spelling, State Finalist (top eight) Spelling: Ellen Eanes; 1st place District VII Display, State Finalist (top eight) Display: Cheryl Gatewood; 1st place State Jewelry Manual: Cathy Dowling; 1st place District VII Advertising, 1st place State Advertising: Gail McCrary; 2nd place State Reporter of Year: Elizabeth Reddick; DECA Chapter 1st Place State.

TRADE & INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT: Metals: Mike Haynes; Cosmetology: Vera Sirman; Transportation: Bryan Johnson; Drafting: Jackie Johnson; Electro-Mechanics: Kenneth Ridley; Construction: Donald Smith; Graphic Arts: Charles Warren; Industrial Arts: Lynn Roberts; VICA Winners: Small Engine (1st place): Frank Brown; Graphics (1st place): Indy DeShong; Mechanical Drafting (3rd place): Jackie Johnson; Machine Shop (2nd place): Joey Ivansco; Plumbing (2nd place): Winston Williams; Electrical Trades (3rd place): Kerry Watts; Air Conditioning (3rd place): Kenneth Ridley; Auto Mechanics (2nd place): Bryan Johnson.

BUSINESS EDUCATION: 1st Place Girls' Typing - District: Jackie Patten; Faye Pilkenton Award: Sandy Maples.

HOME ECONOMICS: Betty Crocker Award: Cheryl Gatewood; Most Outstanding Home Ec. Student: Redessa Johnson.

INDIVIDUALS: Best American History Student: Jill Garrett; runnerup: Chris Daniels; **Moody Officers Wives Club Scholarship:** Tammy Sayre and Bart Bullock; **Girls State:** Mary Wissert, Terry Nash; Alternates: Jill Garrett, Ellen Eanes; **Boys State:** Eric Kachelhofer, Emanuel Payton; Alternate: David Durham; **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Award:** Greg McCaskill; **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Scholarship Award:** Greg McCaskill; **Elks Leadership:** First in State: Judy Eanes and Bryan Strickland; **Elks Scholarship:** 1st Place Region: Tammy Sayre; **STAR Student:** 1st Place Region: George Smart; **STAR Teacher:** Mrs. Martha Smart; **Alice Bingle Essay Winners:** 1st Place: Ricky Christie; 2nd Place: Matt Harrington; 3rd Place: Gail McCrary; **UDC Essay Winner:** 1st Place: Judy Eanes; **Good Citizenship - girl:** Judy Eanes; **Good Citizenship - boy (tie):** Matt Harrington and Bryan Strickland.

Who's Who Among American High School Students: Seniors: Michael Anderson, Bart Bullock, Robert Canada, Marie Castro, Ricky Christie, Terri Durden, Judy Eanes, Jeff Farley, Cheryl Gatewood, Cheryl Gray, Matt Harrington, Greg McCaskill, John McDuffie, Stuart McRae, George Robinson, Tammy Sayre, Rhonda Shiver, George Smart, Bryan Strickland, Amy Teague, Carol Whitehurst; Juniors: Buck Belue, Douglas Black, Buck Blanton, Chris Daniels, Jeff DeGange, Ellen Eanes, Lisa Fick, Jill Garrett, Jo Lynn Saller.

State of Georgia and University of Georgia Certificate of Merit Award: Steven Conner, David Curtis, Jeff DeGange, Robert Denkins, Ellen Eanes, Laura Farley, Lisa Fick, Timothy Folsom, Jill Garrett, Paula Gombas, Chris Mead, Terri Nash, Amy New, Elizabeth Reddick.

Presbyterian College Junior Academic Achievement Award: David Curtis, Jeff DeGange, Ellen Eanes, Lisa Fick.

National Merit Finalists: Ricky Christie, Stuart McRae, George Smart; **National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students Finalists:** Cheryl Gatewood; **National Merit Commended Students:** Judy Eanes, Cheryl Gray; **National Merit Commended Student for Outstanding Negro Students:** Julius Wilson; **National Merit Participates 1977-78:** Manor Folsom and Elisabeth Reddick.

Seven Weeks Research and Seminar in Science and Engineering for High School Students at Georgia Tech: Jeff DeGange, Kenny Eddings; **Accepted for National Science Foundation Summer Training at the Univ. of Georgia:** Steve Conner; **Georgia Tech College of Engineering Scholarship for \$2,550 to:** Cheryl Gatewood; **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Annual Scholarship for \$400 to:** Pam Gilmore; **Valdosta Association of Educator Scholarship for \$600 to:** Judy Eanes.

NJROTC: Naval Science I: Distinguished Cadet: Willie Lawery; Honor Cadet: Jimmy Bostock; **American Legion Medal (Bronze):** William Glaster; **Naval Science II:** Distinguished Cadet: Monte Richardson; Honor Cadet: Robert Reeves; **American Legion Medal (Silver):** Howard

Hughes; **Naval Science III:** Distinguished Cadet: Michael Anderson; Honor Cadet: Gordon Hopkins; **American Legion Medal (Gold):** Michael Anderson; **Daughter of Am. Revolution Medal:** Karla Parrick; **Daughters of Am. Colonists Merit Award:** Marionette Pride.

ATHLETIC: Football: Howard Bridges Scholastics Award: Craig Adams; Spirit of the Wildcats Award: Eddie Dennard; Best Offensive Lineman: David Cooper; Best Defensive Lineman: Curtis Williams; Most Improved: Ben Blanton; Most Loyal: Mark Hodge; Most Outstanding Player: Keith Middleton; Team Captain: Keith Middleton; Offensive Captain: David Cooper; Offensive Co-Captain: Ben Blanton; Defensive Captain: Lawrence Lowe; Defensive Co-Captain: O'Keefe Hunter; Georgia High School selection for the Georgia High School Allstar Football game to be played August, 1977: Lawrence Lowe and Keith Middleton; Region 1AAA Defensive Player of the Year: Keith Middleton; Scholarships: University of Georgia: Keith Middleton; Georgia Tech: Lawrence Lowe; University of Tennessee at Martin: Curtis Williams; Tuskegee Institute: O'Keefe Hunter; Keith Middleton and Lawrence Lowe's names are on All State; Keith Middleton's name is on All Southern; **Basketball:** Best Defensive Player: Lawrence Lowe; Best Offensive Player: Greg Sampson; Spirit of the Wildcats: Jeff Sermons; Most Valuable Player: George Robinson; George Robinson and Jeff Sermons signed Scholarships with Tuskegee College in Alabama; **Tennis:** State AAA Doubles Champions: Lisa Fick; Finalists in Region 1AAA: Alison Reddick; Semi-Finalists in Region 1AAA: Debbie Mink, Linda Hall; Quarter-Finalists in Region 1AAA Singles: Chris Gorby, Jan Pendleton; Girls Tennis Team finished 2nd overall in Region Team Competition; **Wrestling:** Captain: Jack Cain, Robert Canady; **Golf:** Golf Team Captain: Ben Blanton.

BAND AND VOCAL: Ga. All State Band: Amy Teague; Field Commander: Carolyn Gee, Skip Butenschan; 8th District Band: Amy Teague, Dana Evans, Ricky Christie, Janice Harpe, Claire Strickland; Superior Solo and Ensemble Festival: Amy Teague; 8th District Clinic Band: John McDuffie, Marc Dickman, Teri Durden; **Lab Band - Superior Solo and Ensemble Festival:** John Black, Harvey Dotson, Melody Oliver, Robin Dinkins, George Smart, Jay Cordova, Nicky Coachman, Larry Marositz, Bobby Mayer, Bart Bullock, Randy McDougal, Marc Dickman, Randy Jeffrey, Jay Bartholemew, Dennis Eldson, Carlton Brooks, Chris Huss; Outstanding Instrumental Student: Amy Teague; Outstanding Vocal Student: Donna McCleod.

HONOR GRADUATES: 1st Honor: Judith Marian Eanes; 2nd Honor: Jeffery Howard Farley; 3rd Honor: Carol Jean Whitehurst; James Bartlett Bullock, Robert Lynn Canaday, Marie Evelyn Castro, Eugene James Cheney, Ricky Ralph Christie, Richard Henry Darnell, Theresa Kim Dixon, Terri Durden, Michael Steven Ellis, Cindy Kay Glassman, Christine Lee Gorby, Cheryl Mary Gray, George Matthew Harrington, Gregory K. McCaskill, Morgan Stuart McRae, Marcus Wade Rogers, Tammy Rene' Sayre, Rhonda Charlene Shiver, Susan Catherine Slocumb, George McPherson Smart, Sharilyn Denise Smith, Michael Taylor, Vicki Lorraine Taylor, Rebecca Winn Thomson, Sally Turner, Douglas J. Valenti, Robert A. White.

SENIOR SUPERLATIVES 1976-77: Best All-Round Senior: Judy Eanes; Michael Anderson, Benjamin Blanton, Bart Bullock, Marie Castro, Cheryl Gatewood, John McDuffie, Keith Middleton, George Robinson, Tammy Sayre, Rhonda Shiver, George Smart, Bryan Strickland, Robert White.

Georgia Prep Roundup

Lowndes Wins Game

V.D. Times 10/13/79
 By The Associated Press

Chuck DeVane connected with Cedric Jones on a 56-yard touchdown pass play and then Eric Thomas ran a sneak for two extra points in the fourth quarter to give Lowndes a 15-14 victory over city-rival Valdosta in Georgia High School football action Friday.

A capacity crowd of more than 12,000 jammed Lowndes stadium for the annual matchup and were treated to the usual intense battle between the two powerful South Georgia teams. It was Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson's second victory in four attempts against Valdosta.

In other key games Friday, Dublin took the top spot in Region 3AAA with a 6-0 victory over previously undefeated Dodge County; Emanuel County Institute upset previously undefeated Johnson County 3-0; Southeast Whitfield defeated Northwest Whitfield 15-14 in overtime; East Rome defeated Darlington 21-15 in a cross-town rivalry; Waycross beat Camden County 14-6 in a key 1AAA matchup; and Commerce beat Jefferson 34-18 in an important subregion 8AA-East game.

Waycross held off a fourthquarter Camden County rally to notch its seventh victory without a loss this season. Camden, trailing 14-6, was at the Waycross two-yard line when the game ended.

"Our defense had its back to the wall and did a super job keeping them out of the end zone that last series," said Waycross Coach Dale Williams, whose team is ranked No. 1 in Class AAA. "We believe it did us good, to win a big, close game. It might help us down the stretch. We can't enjoy it too much, we have to get ready for Fitzgerald next week."

Camden Coach Ralph Pierce said, "I was real proud of our team's character. We came back from being down 14-0 to score, and then actually had a chance to tie it up. This was a tough loss for us, but Waycross is an excellent football team and proved they deserve No. 1 tonight."

Camden's record falls to 5-2.

Jefferson rebounded from last week's loss behind the running of junior running back Ronald Watson to defeat arch-rival Commerce 34-18. The victory ties Jefferson with Commerce, Duluth and Oconee Co. for the lead in subregion 8AA-East.

Fresh Strawberry Pie



Fresh all the way. Fresh-picked berries—big, red, juicy-ripe. Freshly baked pie crust. Fresh whipped topping. Um-m-m good. And fresh.

Enjoy a generous slice yourself or take home a whole pie for the family.

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Split, Title Game Today

The Valdosta Daily Times

SPORTS

Fri., May 20, 1977 - 14 -

By MIKE CHASON
A fired-up band of Kendrick Cherokees came swooping down from the northwest here Thursday and almost tomahawked Valdosta's Wildcats right out of the state class AAA high school baseball playoffs.

Riding high in the saddle after a two-game sweep of Evans (Augusta) in the first round of state play last week, the Cherokees stood strong behind a four-hit pitching performance by Steve Woods to win the first game 3-1.

But the Wildcats, who have made a habit of comeback victories, tore loose for 11 hits in a 4-0 second game victory at Wright Bazemore field here.

That sets the stage for a 4 p.m. game here today to decide the south Georgia championship in the best-of-three series.

Today's winner hosts either Sequoyah (Doraville) or Southwest Dekalb (Decatur) in the state finals. Those two teams are playing for the north title.

To get into that state championship series, the now

21-5 Wildcats must defeat senior righthander Greg Ivey, who's unbeaten in seven starts for the Cherokees this season.

Ivey played both games at third base Thursday, but didn't throw a single pitch from the mound. He should be fresh for today's contest.

Valdosta coach Butch Brooks has the option of either going with junior righthander Buck Belue, who saw his record fall to 8-3 in the first game or sophomore righthander Wayne Fugett.

Fugett pitched a masterful three-hitter to win his 11th game against one defeat in the second contest Thursday.

Brooks may decide to send sophomore righthander

Chuck Mayne to the mound. Mayne hasn't started a game since the end of the regular season and is 2-1 overall.

At the end of Thursday's play, Brooks wasn't sure which direction he would take.

"It's just according to how Buck and Fugett feel tomorrow," Brooks said. "Or we might come in with Mayne ... you just never know what we're going to do."

"Fugett did a fine job, but I thought Buck did an excellent job too. We shouldn't have given up the runs we did in that first game."

Kendrick, now 25-2, did all its scoring in the third inning.

In that frame, the Cherokees combined singles by David Evans, Eddie Jamieson, a double by Woods, and an error on VHS rightfielder Steve Jennings to plate the only three runs they scored all afternoon.

Belue gave up consecutive singles to Bill Manning and Woods to lead off the fifth, but he worked himself out of the jam.

Diving catches by Peter LeDuc and Mark Hodge averted other scoring efforts by the Cherokees, who came into the game with a team batting average of .341.

Woods, now 8-0, had a no-hitter working until the fifth when Bob White's infield fly

and the sun became entangled in the eyes of the Kendrick infield.

The 'Cats put one on the board in the sixth when David White's single drove in Hodge, who had walked. It looked like an opportune time to get a lot more, but Woods struck out John Lastinger with the bases loaded.

Woods performed almost the same feat in the final inning. This time two runners were aboard with Belue at bat.

The Valdosta pitcher looked at a called third strike to end the game however.

Between games, Kendrick head coach Joe Pace thought his team had a good chance of winding up the series.

"I thought we had a good chance to win the second game," Pace said. "I knew they were going to pull out all the stops. It just seemed like everything we hit went right at somebody."

"Fugett did a super job, but I don't think Greg (Valentini) did all that poorly. Valdosta just got some hits in the right places."

The Wildcats crawled on Valentini for 10 hits in the five innings he threw to lower his record to 6-2 overall. Brian Ammons came on in relief in the sixth.

Fugett seemed to throw harder as the game progressed although he struck out only two Cherokees. Two double plays and another circus catch by LeDuc to end the game worked to his advantage.

Valdosta drew first blood in the second inning when Hodge used one of his two hits in the game to knock in Bob White.

That paper thin edge held until the fifth when Mark Powell singled, Belue hit his second double, and David White clouted a 345-foot home run over the left field scoreboard.

Despite the awakening of the Valdosta bats in the second game, Pace felt confident about today's game.

"I think we're in excellent shape," he said. "Ivey and Valentini have been our number two pitchers all year long. They've both done a good job for us."

Although never willing to predict the future, Brooks isn't conceding anything to the Cherokees either.

"We're not going to give anybody anything," he said. "We didn't think we would lose that first game, but we did. But our kids got right back up and won the second one."

"We're going to stick right in there and keep fighting."

Wildcat Boxes

FIRST GAME						SECOND GAME					
KHS	ab	r	h	bi	VHS	KHS	ab	r	h	bi	VHS
Evns rf	4	1	2	0	Jnngs rf	2	0	0	0	0	LeDuc lf
Mnng 2b	4	0	1	0	Hdg rf	0	1	0	0	0	Powell ss
Wds p	4	1	2	1	Pwil ss	3	0	1	0	0	Mayne ph
Ivy 3b	3	1	0	0	Blep	4	0	0	0	0	Belue cf
Jmsn lf	3	0	1	2	D. Wht 3b	1	0	1	1	1	D. Wte 3b
Lstr lb	3	0	0	0	Dnl 2b	1	0	0	0	0	Danls 2b
Mtsvge ss	3	0	0	0	B. Wht c	3	0	2	0	0	B. Whe c
Mrrs c	3	0	1	0	Lstr lf	2	0	0	0	0	Lstr lb
Alxdr cf	3	0	0	0	LDc cf	3	0	0	0	0	Hodgerf
					Gns lb	2	0	0	0	0	Fugett p
					Hnt ph	1	0	0	0	0	
TOTALS	30	3	7	3	TOTALS	22	1	4	1	1	TOTALS
											26
											4

Kendrick				Valdosta						
ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi			
003	000	0-3	7-1	000	001	0-1	4-3			
E—Daniels, D. White, Morris, Jennings				E—Powell, Woods; DP—KHS 2, VHS 2;						
DP—VHS 1; LOB—KHS 6, VHS 8.				LOB—KHS 5, VHS 7.						
2B—Woods, Morris, Powell; SS—				2B—Belue 2; HR—D. White; S—						
Evans, Ivey, Jamieson; S—Daniels,				Powell, Fugett.						
Lastinger, Powell.				ip h r er bb so						
				Valentini (L, 6-2)	5	10	4	3	1	3
				Ammons	1	1	0	0	0	0
				Fugett (W, 11-1)	7	3	0	0	4	2

VHS Grabs 1-AAA All-Sports Trophy

Times 5-19-77

By Times Staff Writer
For the second straight season, Valdosta High School has won the Region 1-AAA Overall Sports Championship, sponsored by the Albany Herald.

Valdosta used region championships in baseball and golf, and third place finishes in boys' and girls' tennis, to claim the top spot with 71 points.

Points are awarded on a scale of one to 12 in each sport, depending on the team's final standing.

Dougherty (Albany) took second place with 69½ points, barely nudging out Lowndes,

which finished with 69.

Twelve points are awarded the region champion in each sport, with 11 going to the runner-up. Other places are determined by overall region records, or in the case of baseball, subregion records.

Points for golf or track are dependent on the team's finish in the region meet. Points awarded for tennis are determined by the number of matches won during the region tournament, not necessarily by which school has individual league champs.

Valdosta copped the 71-

point total despite the fact it was one of only five schools in the league which didn't field

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Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., Aug. 12, 1977 - 19

Cherokees Inch Pa

Griffis,
Wilkins
Betrothal



Miss Patricia Lynn

TAYLORS, S.C. — Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Ned Griffis of Taylors, formerly of Valdosta, Ga., announce the engagement of their daughter, Patricia Lynn Griffis, to Mark Alan Wilkins son of Mr. and Mrs. Eldor H. Wilkins of Sioux City, Iowa.

The wedding is to be on July 16 at Victory Baptist at Valdosta.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy S. Allen, Mr. Barney D. Griffis, all of Valdosta, and the late Mrs. Griffis.

She was graduated from Lowndes High School and is a junior at Bob Jones University at Greenville.

Mr. Wilkins was graduated from Rosalie (Neb.) High School and Bob Jones University. He is employed at Radio Shack at Greenville.

He is the grandson of Mrs. George Busselman of Rosalie, the late Mr. Busselman, Mr. Fred Wilkins of Sioux City and the late Mrs. Wilkins.

Party Parade

Tea Honors Mrs. Ben

Mrs. Jack Levy Bennett was complimented at a tea given Thursday afternoon at the Valdosta Country Club. Before her recent marriage the honoree was Miss Lucy Jane Hunter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Felton Davis.

Hostesses were Mrs. Walter Autrey, Mrs. Charles Barnes Jr., Mrs. James Dowling, Mrs. William Eager Jr., Mrs. Berkley Mackey and Mrs. Joyce Mixson.

They presented the bride a corsage of cymbidium orchids to wear on her long yellow chiffon dress which featured princess lines and a double capelet collar.

Mrs. David Wainer, Mrs. William R. Howard, Miss Kern Chitty and Miss Cathy Dowling assisted the hostesses in serving.

The refreshment tables were overlaid in white linen

guest of honor at a luncheon held today at the Sterling Drive residence of Mrs. Donna Brandon Slaughter.

For this occasion the bride wore a blue and white sundress. She and her mother, Mrs. Felton Davis, were given daisy corsages by the hostess.

Arrangements of daisies were used on the luncheon table and in other areas of the house.

FOR MISS BOLEN
Miss Anne Bolen, whose marriage to Mark Eanes is planned for June 19 at First Baptist Church, was honored at a luncheon given by Mrs. John Langdale at her residence on Langdale Drive.

The bride-elect wore a navy and white polka dotted skirt with navy top and her corsage of white daisies was given her by the hostess who

luncheon Miss honoree given resident Espino Co-host Perry DeLoac

Around were g table v arrang and pi tersper kitchen bowl. T present along blender The h colored trimme corsage and utensils

By MIKE CHASON
It was a game of inches. In the eyes of the home plate umpire, those inches favored Kendrick's Cherokees in the final game of the South Georgia Championship in the class AAA high school baseball playoffs here Friday.

The result was a 7-4 victory for Kendrick and a berth in the state finals against either Southwest Dekalb (Decatur) or Sequoyah (Doraville).

For Valdosta's Wildcats, there is only the consolation of being one of the top four teams in the state and the long, lingering thoughts of what might have been.

The loss ended any state title hopes for the Wildcats, who have fought an uphill battle all the way through the regular season, a playoff with crosstown rival Lowndes for the subregion title and a magnificent comeback against Westover (Albany) for the Region 1-AAA championship.

Then it was a two-game sweep over Windsor Forest (Savannah) last week and

Wildcat Box

KHS	abr	h	r	bi	VHS	abr	h	r	bi
Evansrf	3	1	1	0	LeDucrf	4	0	1	0
Manningz	2	1	0	0	Powellss	4	1	2	0
Woods	4	1	2	1	Beluecf	4	2	3	1
Ivey	4	1	1	1	DWhite3b	4	1	2	3
Jamsonlf	4	1	1	0	Dennis2b	4	0	1	0
Lestr3b	2	2	1	1	BWhitec	4	0	1	0
Mitsg1b	4	0	2	0	Lstr1b	3	0	1	0
Morris	3	0	1	3	Chpmndh	4	0	0	0
Alxrcf	3	0	0	1	Fugett	3	0	2	0
					Hodgelf	0	0	0	0
					Waynep	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	27	9	7	7	TOTALS	34	13	4	4

Kendrick 104 000 2-7-9-0
Valdosta 101 020 0-4-13-2
E—Hodge, Lastinger; DP—VHS 1; LOB—KHS 8, VHS 10,
2B—Evans, Belue; 3B—Belue; HR—D. White.
Ivey (W, 8-0) 7 13 4 4 1 3
Fugett (L, 11-2) 6 2 3 6 5 5 4 1
Belue 1 3 3 2 2 0 0 0
Wayne 0 0 0 0 2 0 0
HBP—Manning by Fugett; WP—Ivey; PB—D. White.

a split of the first two games of the best-of-three series with Kendrick Thursday.

But now it is over.

There were still the post-game hugs from parents and girlfriends, but these were not the jubilant embraces always reserved for victories.

The Cherokees, now 26-2, got those as well as a few shouts of "we're number one."

In the end, it was a controversial call by the home plate umpire which really turned the tide for Kendrick.

Down 5-2 in the game, Valdosta came out swinging in the bottom of the fifth. Buck Belue turned a single into a triple when Kendrick leftfielder Eddie Jamieson fell down trying to field the ball.

David White then launched his second home run in two days over the left field fence to bring the 'Cats within easy striking distance.

After two outs, David's brother, Bob, singled, and John Lastinger walked.

Designated hitter Andy Chapman stepped to the plate and smashed a screaming liner down the right field foul stripe.

With all of Valdosta hollering fair ball, the plate ump became public enemy number one when he waved the ball foul.

VHS assistant coach Charles Tarpley, who was standing in the first base coaching box, immediately came storming down the line with his hair blowing in the breeze.

Before Tarpley finished his tirade, Valdosta head coach Butch Brooks was on the scene for a little nose-

to-nose with the ump.

After the commotion had ended, Chapman was so flustered he swung at a bad pitch and struck out.

Valdosta never scored again.

"I'd say that was the turning point," Brooks said. "We had our momentum going, and then the ump has to go and call something like that."

"But it's a judgment call, and there's nothing you can do about it. He stood by his call."

Tarpley was a little more disturbed.

"I don't know if he didn't see it or what," Tarpley said. "But he just flat blew it. But we still could have won it."

After the game several fans located the spot where the ball hit. It was marked clearly where the ball had hit on the line with maybe a seam leaning foul.

But no matter whether the fat part of the ball was on the line or not, the score stands ... and Kendrick head coach Joe Pate knows it as well as anyone.

"That's just part of the game," Pate said. "I saw some balls that were called strikes that looked low to me. But the umpire judged they were strikes just like he judged that ball was foul."

"I've had some like that go for me, and I've had some go against me. There's nothing you can do about it."

Belue, who played centerfield for most of the game and unleashed a cannon-shot throw to cut a runner down at the plate on one occasion, was one of the last to leave Wright

South Georgia Crown At Stake In Valdosta-Kendrick Matchup

Times 5-19-77

By MIKE CHASON
Valdosta and Kendrick match explosive offenses, solid pitching staffs and dependable defenses in the semifinal round of the state class AAA high school baseball playoffs here Thursday.

Both teams zipped past first round foes last week with relative ease.

Valdosta, 20-4, disposed of Windsor Forest (Savannah) in two straight games by identical 4-2 scores.

Kendrick 24-1, knocked off Evans (Augusta) in a 2-0 contest and then roared back in the second game to grab a 16-2 triumph.

The first game at Wright Bazemore field here Thursday is scheduled to begin at 2

p.m. followed by a second contest at 4 p.m. If a third game in the best-of-three series is necessary, it is to begin at 4 p.m. here Friday.

The winner of the south Georgia championship series gains the right to host the state championship series against either Southwest Dekalb (Decatur) or Sequoyah (Doraville). Those

two teams are playing for the north Georgia championship this week.

But neither Valdosta head coach Butch Brooks or Kendrick head coach Joe Pate is looking ahead to the final round.

"From what I hear, they (Kendrick) have a pretty daggone good all-round ballclub," Brooks said. "They've got good hitting, good pitching, good defense and they run the bases well."

"I think the two teams are a lot alike. He's got three real good righthanders, and we've got three good righthanders."

Brooks said junior Buck Belue, 8-2, is to start Thursday's first game. Sophomore Wayne Fugett, 10-1, has the nod for the second game.

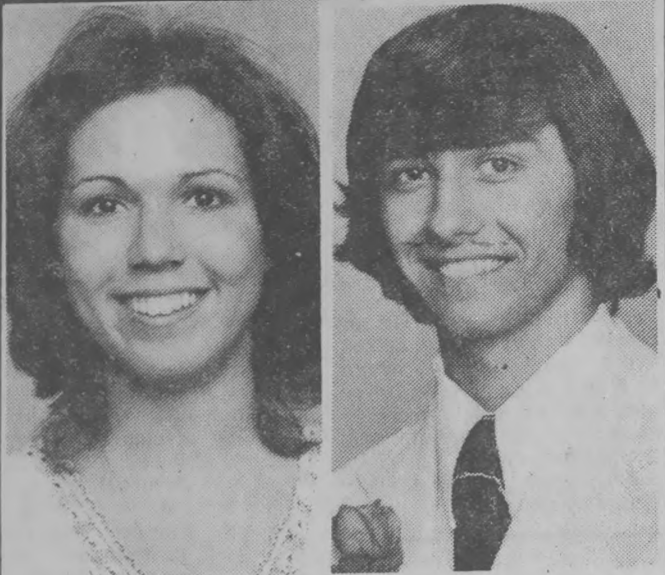
If a third game is needed, sophomore Chuck Mayne, 2-1, is a possible starter if Fugett or Belue could not come back

"We think Valdosta has just a super team," Pate said. "Their record speaks for itself. We've talked with a couple of coaches about them and so far, we haven't talked to anyone who's found a weakness in them."

"They've got two super pitchers, and I feel like they're shooting to win it all. But if our kids keep playing like they have been playing, I think we've got a chance at that too."

Brooks credited a positive attitude as playing a key role in the Wildcats' first Region 1-AAA championship in his four years at VHS and the first round playoff victories.

"This team is not that much of an outstanding ballclub," Brooks said. "They're just good scrappers, and they never give up. That goes back to good attitude and good character."



SANDY MAPLES
Another Honor

STEVE SHAPIRO
FBLA Who's Who

Most Outstanding
FBLA Chapter
Honors Maples

By Times Staff Writer

Less than a week after being named Valdosta High School's Vocational Office Training Student of the Year, Sandy Maples was named the school's Future Business Leaders of America chapter's most outstanding member at the chapter's banquet Monday night.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Maples Sr. prepared the VHS chapter's annual activities report which placed fifth at the State Leadership Conference, was named to Who's Who in Georgia FBLA and was the chapter's secretary this year.

A senior, Miss Maples works part time at Sandy Cambell's Music Center.

Steve Shapiro, a junior, was named 1977-78 chapter president during what is hoped to be an annual affair, held this time at the Ashley Way Restaurant.

Shapiro was also named to Who's Who in Georgia FBLA, attended the 1976 National FBLA Convention and was VHS chapter and Region I vice president.

Chapter advisors Beth Barfield and Carol Irwin presented cash awards to Mark Rogers and Susan Fontaine for selling the most merchandise in fund-raising projects, too.

State, region winners and club officers were also recognized. The state president, Phil Spearman from Bradwell Institute in Hinesville, was the featured speaker.

Most outstanding underclassman award went to 10th grader Roney Jones.

Times 5-30-77

Girls Win Dance-A-Thon

By Times Staff Writer

When their boyfriends backed out, two Lowndes Junior High School girls decided to form their own couple and won the 15-hour Dance-A-Thon for charity Saturday in the Valdosta Junior High School gymnasium.

For raising \$343, Donna Corbett, 12, and Gale Everts, 12, received \$100 each from dance cosponsors Valdosta Parks and Recreation Department and Lowndes-Echols Association for Retarded Citizens (LARC).

Dance coordinator Tracey Ash said "about \$1,500" was raised with the proceeds to be split between LARC and the recreation department-sponsored summer day camp for the mentally retarded and physically handicapped.

Valdosta High School received a trophy for having the most couples participate, three, including the second and third place fund-raisers.

Natasha Matthews, 17, and Bryan Strickland, 18, finished second by raising \$292. Karen Morris, 18, and Steve Shapiro, 17, raised \$219 and finished third.

Replacement Of School Workers Is Explained

Times 5-31-77

By Times Staff Writer
It was the manner in which eight Valdosta High School lunchroom employes presented their grievances and not the fact they did that led to their replacement for the rest of the school year,

said school system Supt. Designate Ralph Brandon. And the school official pointed out once again the employes have not been fired. Brandon said he sent the eight women employes home after they showed up 70

minutes late for work Monday and out of uniform.

Brandon said he had already arranged to take one lunchroom employe from each of the other schools in the system for the last six days of the school year, to assure the estimated 1,400 students who eat at the school a meal each day.

The eight employes, instead of showing up for work Monday, arrived at the office of Food Services Director Jimmy Griffin under the north stands of Cleveland Field.

According to Brandon, they had a list of grievances including unemployment compensation, additional employes, organized supervision, medical expenses for job injuries, sick leave, appropriate respect, periodical meetings with all school food service personnel, more safety measures and 30-minute lunch breaks as dictated in their contract.

Brandon said Griffin, VHS principal Lloyd Mims and lunchroom superintendent Mary Hearne are to meet with each of the eight employes to discuss the problems with them individually.

The new superintendent said he never told the employes they were fired, as had been reported earlier. He also denied earlier reports the employes had presented their grievances to Griffin earlier.

Griffin, contacted today, told the Times he had once talked to "about three" of the employes when he was in the

lunchroom about unemployment insurance.

Brandon explained new federal laws this year prohibit the lunchroom employes from collecting unemployment insurance over the summer months as they had done for the past two years.

School officials had passed that information on to the employes this year, he said.

Ironically, he said several of the grievances were readily agreed to by the school system, and would have been had they been presented after hours as well.

He said a sick leave system would probably be worked out for the employes, but he doubted it would be the two days per month they requested.

He said that would amount to about 20 days per year, which is too much.

He also said the food services manager has been instructed to look into the safety measures requested by the employes and take whatever steps necessary to correct the situation.

The employes, he said, had basically complained about the floors being slippery when wet and requested floor mats.

As far as more help, Brandon explained the lunchroom already has 10 full time personnel, four cashiers and four part time workers.

"If anything we're over-staffed," he said. "That's the most modern lunchroom in the system with all the work saving devices you'll find in a school lunchroom."

"That's not to say, though, that the lunchroom worker's job is an easy one. It's not. We know that."

Brandon also pointed out the lunchroom already has a supervisor. "I don't really know what they're talking about on that," he said.

He added the employes complained that they never get to take the 30-minute lunch break specified in their contract and taken out of their pay.

However, he pointed out, the employes are paid for a six-and-a-half hour work day although they rarely work six full hours.

He continued to point out the school system already has meetings during the replanning sessions and postplanning sessions and it would be rather difficult to get all the lunchroom employes together during the year because of conflicting schedules.

"However," he said, "we

may be able to work it out if necessary."

Brandon said all employes are covered on medical expenses by workman's compensation. However employes point out that covers only doctor bills and not medical bills.

Brandon said the question about the personal respect shown by Mrs. Hearne is something that will have to be worked out between the employes, Mrs. Hearne said Mims.

"We've never had anything like this happen before," Mims said, "and it's regrettable that it happened now."

"But we could not allow those people to go to work after they showed up an hour and 10 minutes late and out of uniform. We feel there was never any intention on their part to go to work."

Times 5-27-77



Butenschon, Wife Susan, Try Furniture

Band Boosters Honor Mr. 'B'

By RICK ROUNTREE
Thursday night was "Mr. B night" at Valdosta High School.

Frank Butenschon, the 39-year-old red haired director of the VHS Marchin' Cats for 17 years, was honored by the VHS Band Boosters at special ceremonies following the band's award banquet.

Amid accolades, gifts and many tears Butenschon told past and present band members, parents and boosters "these have been the best years of my life. I've taken so much more than I've given."

The Oxford, Ala., native announced in February he would not be returning to VHS next year and told the Times today he is to begin work with the EMS Co. of Nashville, Tenn., in Atlanta "sometime in July." He is to be a promotional consultant for the educational materials firm.

He said his family would stay in Valdosta for at least another year until his son Skip, a rising senior at VHS and a band member, could graduate.

Butenschon has built the VHS band from a 50-plus member group in the early 1960s to the 220 members this year and one of the most highly regarded high school bands in the U.S.

He was presented a couch, bedroom furniture and other gifts by the boosters. As he sat on his new couch, on stage in VHS's Little Theatre he listened as voices of past years' band members recounted humorous anec-

dotes.

On hand was Dr. John M. Long, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Troy State University, Butenschon's alma mater, who said, "He is the most copied, envied and highly regarded high school band director in the U.S."

Earlier this year the Marchin' Cats won the field competition at the highly regarded Festival of States competition at St. Petersburg, Fla., edging out the number one rated high school band in the country.

Dr. Wren Christie emceed the program and introduced past associates from each of Butenschon's years at the school.

The Marchin' Cats have played in numerous football halftime shows and parades including the Mardi Gras in New Orleans, La., in 1969 and 1972.

Band awards at the Marchin' Cats' award ceremony included:

Section of the year, trombone, Michelle Dilliplane; Rookie of the Year Award, Leslie Brown; Most Improved Musician, Jill Blackburn; Kathy Gunter Spirit Award, Allyson Reddick; and the Rookie of the Year Award, Skip Butenschon.

The Lucy Stewart Memorial Award, Amy Teague; the Director's Award, Dana Evans, Janet Harris, Donna Rambo, Mark Steely and Warren Coats; and the Bandsman of the Year Award, Nicky Coachman.

Times 10-7-77

Warren Turner Named VHS VICA President

By Times Staff Writer

A junior at Valdosta High School has been elected president of Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA).

Warren Turner was elected to succeed Bryan Strickland as president

Elected with him were BeBe Allen, vice president; Susan Tunison, secretary; Susan Rinehart, treasurer; Greg Harbin, reporter; and Beth Tarleton, parliamentarian.

VICA members are already at work on their first big project of the year- the annual Haunted House. They are working with members of other school clubs and the Lowndes County Arts Commission on the house which is to be open Oct. 27-31 at the corner of North Patterson and North streets.

Levy Taylor, VICA advisor, Turner, and Miss Tunison attended the recent Fall Planning and Officer Training Conference held in Savannah for VICA members from throughout the state.

Valdosta Board Sued By Blacks

Times 10-7-77

Election System Is Challenged

By ARCHIE MCKAY

A group of Valdosta blacks filed suit today in federal court asking the judge to draw up district lines to ensure black representation on the city board of education.

Albany lawyer Herbert Phipps said the suit is aimed at the board of education "but we have not forgotten about the city."

Phipps earlier had said the proposed suit would challenge at-large voting practices in Valdosta.

"We want to get the board out of the way and then think about going after the city," said Phipps.

The suit was filed in Albany but is to be heard in the Valdosta Division of Middle District Court, probably early next year.

Named as defendants in the suit are the board as a group, individual board members and Harrison Tillman, election official.

"We considered going for the council and board but we decided not to put them both in the same suit," said Phipps.

The suit claims the system in Valdosta of electing school board members "illegally dilutes the votes of blacks in Valdosta."

The suit, to be heard by a single judge, probably J. Robert Elliott of Columbus, asks the court to reapportion the board of education districts so that each member is elected from a district and only voters in that district vote for that post.

Named as plaintiffs in the suit are a group known as Citizens For Progress and other individuals including Ralph Hart, Curtis Copeland, Ralph Harrington, Willie Rayford and Winston Relaford.

"It is a class action. They are suing for themselves and all others similarly situated," said Phipps.

Phipps, a partner in the firm of C.B. King of Albany, has been involved in other suits challenging the at-large system of voting in Georgia cities.

In early September Phipps said he planned such a suit and said it would challenge the at-large system used in electing city council as well as the board.

In an at-large elections system, all elected members are voted on by all of the voters in the political subdivision involved, be it county, city or state.

Phipps said his suit does not outline a specific district plan but he will introduce one into evidence.

"In the suit we allege blacks make up about 34 percent of the population of

(See Election on Page 2)

VHS Forfeits
Times 10-10-77

Crisp County Might Appeal

By MIKE CHASON

The State Auditing Office has given Valdosta High School permission to pay its \$1,000 fine to the Georgia High School Association out of the VHS athletic fund.

However, Crisp County school officials have launched a verbal appeal of Valdosta having to pay the fine in the first place.

Valdosta was tagged with the fine Friday when the GHSA Appeal Board overturned an earlier ruling by GHSA Executive Secretary Bill Fordham, which said the school must forfeit its first two football games of the season because it played an ineligible player.

The Appeal Board gave Valdosta back its 40-14 win over Crisp County (Cordele) and 50-13 victory over Bainbridge, but levied the fine in place of the forfeits.

Now, Crisp wants its forfeited win back.

"I have a verbal statement that they want to protest the decision of the Appeal

Board," Fordham said this morning. "I don't know anything other than that."

Fordham said the protest would not become official until it reaches his office in written form.

"I certainly don't begrudge them following the same channels we followed," Valdosta principal Lloyd Mims said. "If they feel like they have a just and fair case, then they have the right to appeal."

"We stayed within the framework of the Georgia High School Association with our appeal, and we would certainly expect them to do the same. If they feel like we didn't win the game fair and square, then they have the right to appeal."

"But we certainly think our case will stand."

Mims said earlier that VHS had gotten permission to pay the fine out of the athletic fund, and did not seek any "public contributions" toward the payment of the money.

Belue To Sign With Georgia

Continued from Page 1-D

understood what I was going through. I could really talk to her," Buck said.

Gretchen listened, but advice she didn't offer. She knew Buck had that coming out his ears already.

"Everyone offered their advice, but like my father said—we talked about it almost every other night—I could only make myself happy," Buck said. "I couldn't try to make him happy or anyone

Monday he left school at noon, came home and then left with friends to drive around. They went to visit Butch Brooks, a Valdosta assistant and one of Belue's baseball coaches. "I can be honest with him, and he'll be honest with me."

Belue came home for supper and called his dad into his bedroom. He told him, "It just came out of my heart to go to Georgia. I felt, truthfully, it was the place to give me the opportunity." Evidently, Belue is not overly concerned about the six returning

quarterbacks at Georgia.

Ben Belue left the bedroom and told his wife Buck wanted to see her, too. The decision had been made.

That left only the hard part as far as Belue was concerned. He still had the others to tell 'no.'

"After all I've gone through," he said, "the hardest thing has been for me to tell somebody I wasn't going to their school. I guess I'm an easy person to get to know, and the hardest thing for me has always been saying no."

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EX

Pack Hopes To Subdue 'Rowdy' VHS

By MIKE CHASON
MOULTRIE — Bud Willis had to take time out from a phone call to quiet down a rowdy class of Moultrie High School students Wednesday. It took only minutes for the longtime Moultrie head football coach to correct the problem.

Willis just hopes he has the same amount of success against Valdosta when his Packers meet the Wildcats here Friday night.

"I'm afraid ya'll have the rowdiest bunch of all over there," Willis said. "We've been working on two defenses all week. So far, the one that's working best is a 13-man defense.

"Maybe if part of the lights are out and the referees don't bring their glasses, we'll be all right. You need those kind of breaks against somebody like (Valdosta quarterback Buck) Belue and those guys he plays with.

"If you don't stop him, you can't stop Valdosta."

If anybody knows how to stop Belue, it should be Willis. His Packers have beaten the strong-armed senior signal-caller twice in his four-year varsity career.

And despite his team's 2-3

record and list of walking wounded, Willis is anxious for the opportunity to play Belue and Co. again.

"I don't think we've ever played Valdosta when we weren't rarin' to go," Willis said. "This game just always creates a lot of static or electricity or something in the air.

"I don't see how we can beat them, but we might make it interesting."

Tyrone Sands, a 165-pound junior halfback, is one of the guys Willis is counting on to "make it interesting." Sands has been Moultrie's leading rusher since Larry Phillips went down with an injury after the Packers' opening game of the season.

Phillips has still not returned to the team and in Willis' estimation, "we don't have a good team unless we have everybody on the field."

Monroe (Albany) employed ball-control tactics to almost pull off an upset last week, finally falling to Valdosta 13-7.

Willis wouldn't mind using that same strategy.

"It would be so terribly nice to have the ball a good amount of time," Willis said.

"Without any powerful runners, it would be hard. I'm afraid we can't do it."

But Willis, who bears a striking resemblance to Minnesota Viking head coach Bud Grant, isn't going to forfeit the chance to try.

"Oddly enough, I'd rather play them (the Wildcats) than anybody in the region," he said. "They're clean ... they always play good, sound football, and the competition is beautiful. That's the way it ought to be.

"Now, if they just wouldn't beat us, everything would be nice. Tell them to be hospitable."

Probable starting lineups for both teams follow:

VALDOSTA

Offense — ends Sam Fletcher (185, jr.) and John Lastinger (174, jr.), tackles Scott Griffin (190, jr.) or Darrell Swindle (190, jr.) and Gary Guthrie (220, sr.), guards Andy Chapman (180, jr.) and Fomby Hardin (170, jr.) or Rob Register (167, jr.), center Tony Blasetti (210, soph.), halfbacks Frank Council (182, sr.) or Robert Smith (155, jr.), fullback William Gaskins (150, jr.) or Ernest King (170, soph.), flanker Melvin Hunter (147, sr.) or Kenny Washington (156, sr.), quarterback Buck Belue (185, sr.).

Defense — ends Lynn Roberts (165, jr.) and Curtis Wright (185, sr.), tackles Doug Conway (185, sr.) and Ray Lloyd (235, sr.) or Carroll Johnson (201, jr.), middle guard Craig Simmons (190, sr.) or Clifford Johnson (182, jr.), linebackers Robert Baldwin (206, sr.) and John Branan (182, jr.), cornerbacks Troy Thomas (172, jr.) and Rodney Gordon (160, jr.) or Carl Roe (165, jr.), safeties Allen Worthy (170, sr.) and Jimmy Hartman (178, sr.).

MOULTRIE

Offense — ends Don Daniels (180, jr.) and Larry Williford (170, sr.), tackles Rob Hall (220, sr.) and David Baker (195, sr.), guards Jack Duncan (170, sr.) and Wayne Howell (170, jr.), center Robert Belcher (165, jr.), halfbacks Tyrone Sands (165, jr.) and Scott Hannah (155, soph.), quarterback James Pullins (160, sr.), slotback Troy Brown (170, soph.).

Defense — ends Milton Eye (145, sr.) and David Durlin (165, jr.), tackles Nathaniel French (200, sr.) and Chris Jenkins (210, sr.), middle guard Ken Christopher (240, sr.), linebackers Tracy Billings (165, jr.) and Ernest Jones (160, soph.), cornerbacks Ronnie Ruffin (155, jr.) and Joe Flowers (140, sr.) or Mike Payne (150, sr.), safeties J.B. Williams (155, soph.) and Steve Hall (170, sr.).

What Price, Victory?

The writer was wrong. There is joy in Mudville. Mighty Casey didn't strike out. The sun is shining, God is in His heaven and all is right with the world. The two forfeits marring the otherwise unblemished record of our mighty Valdosta High School Wildcats have been removed.

We are sure there was much joy and rejoicing among the faithful when news came down that the two losses, incurred when an ineligible player was used in the two games, were washed away in the tide of a thousand bucks. That was the substitute penalty the Georgia High School Association imposed for the clerical error which led to the violation.

However, there are many angles to this story which have hitherto gone unexplored. There is more to this matter than the won-loss record of the VHS Wildcats.

Consider the plight of the poor Crisp County Cougars. They have a 1-2 record off the lone game they played against VHS.

They got beat, then won the game by a forfeit and now they've lost it again. They have

made more trips up and down the subregion standings than a yo-yo.

On the other hand, the Wildcats must have set some sort of record when they chalked up three wins in a single day Friday. They won back the two forfeits, then defeated Monroe of Albany Friday night. We just hope this doesn't violate another GHSA rule.

And for those who would criticize school officials for going to so much trouble for the athletic program, we would point out that part of it was in the field of scientific endeavor. We have finally answered the age-old question: "What price, victory?" Apparently it's \$500 per game.

At least, that is the going rate in the GHSA for regular season games. Playoff games might be slightly higher and offer is void where prohibited by law.

Now, we should apply for a federal grant to finance the entire season right down to the championship game. If it costs any additional, we could hit the governor up for some money from his contingency fund.

The GHSA decision may just revolutionize high school football.

10-10-77

Times

Valdosta

Taking A Long Shot

BOfe Votes To Handle Claims

By MARCIA McRAE

Taking "a long shot," the Valdosta Board of Education unanimously voted Monday night to handle unemployment claims on a reimbursement basis.

The alternative was to be taxed annually by the state 2.7 percent on the first \$6,000 of salary per employee. That method, according to Jack Kent, finance director, would cost \$135,000 per year.

The other way, Kent said, the board might not have to pay anything the first year.

On Jan. 1 boards of education and municipal and county governments are to be responsible for paying unemployment claims instead of the federal government as in the past.

Superintendent Ralph Brandon recommended the reimbursement basis to the board which voted to accept his recommendation.

"We have studied," Brandon said, "both areas very carefully and I'd like to recommend that we handle this ourselves and that we do not pay the contributory tax."

Brandon said he and Kent, in studying the laws, found the board might not have to pay any claims within the first year.

"It's a long shot," Kent said, "but it could happen."

Brandon explained that the earliest a claim could be made would be July 1978 and by the time the state had processed the papers it would

be October by the time the board was sent the bill it would probably be December 1978 or January 1979.

Brandon said there is no way to know how much reimbursement could cost but the maximum is figured at one-third of the tax rate.

Records show the board has not had \$135,000 worth of unemployment claims in a year.

After the board voted to use the reimbursement method, it agreed not to use R.E. Harrington Company Inc., of Atlanta, management consultant firm to handle claims filed against the school system.

Harrington was not mentioned in Brandon's recommendation and after discussion the board agreed

to let its vote stand.

Using the firm had been discussed at a work session last week.

The Georgia School Boards Association is using the company, but Bill Eanes, board member and 14th district director of the GSBA, said the GSBA's decision did not affect the local board.

To use Harrington would cost \$2 per employee and the school system would still have to do the paperwork. Harrington would only handle settling claims.

Based on the number of employees from last year, Kent said, it would cost \$2,464, for Harrington's service.

It was agreed since the school system has the experience in handling the paperwork, that the expense could not be justified.

Game Traffic Plan Is Told

By Times Staff Writer

Traffic is expected to be unusually heavy Friday night in the area of Lowndes High School where the Vikings football team plays Valdosta High's Wildcats and Sheriff Robert Carter's beefed-up forces have a plan for the evening.

Basically, the traffic flow is going to be the same at Martin Stadium entrance as it has been most of the year.

Those with seats in the east stands (visiting fans) are encouraged by Carter to approach the stadium from the east. These cars are to be routed in the two east lanes and into the east stand parking area.

Those coming with seats in the west stands (home side) are encouraged by Carter to approach from the west (Interstate 75 side) and these autos are to be routed in the two west lanes to the west stand parking lot.

"Our main problem is finding enough room to park. We could have more cars than space so we want to encourage folks to get with their friends and go together, perhaps five or six to a car," said Sheriff Carter.

Carter said traffic leaving the stadium would be routed in the same way as that coming in. The east stands parking area is to use the east lanes and will be turned east while the west stands parking area is to be diverted west toward I-75.

"We will have a beefed-up force there. We have some city police volunteers and we are using a number of our auxiliaries to help with traffic and any other problems," said the sheriff.

However, Carter said today the normal patrols of the county would continue and units would still be answering calls and patrolling the rest of the county.

"We do encourage the fans to come out as early as possible. We want them to enjoy the game and we are going to make it as safe for them as we can. We want them to enjoy the game, be good sports, win or lose and just have a good time," said the sheriff.

School officials anticipate as many as 10,000 fans for the ballgame, a game which is considered a tradition now and involves a fairly intense rivalry.

Times 10-20-77

help from
cheerlea
Times F

Clearing The Valdosta Air

This is not a get-back column. This is not an apology column. This is a set-the-record-straight column. Never have I had so many people so grossly misinterpret what I wrote.

In Thursday's column on Nick Hyder's status as head coach of the Valdosta High School football team, any 100 percent objective reader would discover that it was Hyder himself who thought he was on shaky ground . . . not the writer.

It was Hyder who said "losing to Lowndes could be the death bell." It was Hyder who said "I had security in Rome, but I don't have it here." It was Hyder who said "I know there are some carnivorous people here."

Nowhere did this writer condemn or try to run Hyder out of town. Judging him only by his record, he's a good football coach. Judging him by the kind of man he is, he's a better football coach. Valdosta doesn't need another football coach, it just needs to get a small percentage of people off this one's back.

This writer is not one of those people. But, according to Hyder, there are a few of those folks around. But there are a lot more who are behind the man 100 percent. In fact, there are probably more than ever after Friday's win over Tift County.

Any coach in any sport needs the backing of his community and for the most part, Hyder has the support of Valdostans. But he made those comments in Thursday's paper in an apparent effort to show how much heat a few people could put on him.

Hyder is one of the few coaches around who teaches

Mike



Chason

Times Sports Editor

math classes half the school day. He's also one of the few coaches around who's asked to fill church pulpits on Sunday mornings as he did at Azalea City Baptist only long hours after Valdosta lost to Lowndes. He's a unique individual with a low key personality who gets his point across without a lot of fanfare.

As far as I'm concerned, Hyder can be the Valdosta football coach for as long as the majority of the people here want him to be. But if I go to him for a story and he tells me the "death bell" may have sounded, that's what I'm going to write.

In short, and this column has been just that, the people of Valdosta may not have thought Nick Hyder was on shaky soil, but he did. Since the Thursday column and Friday night's game, he has to believe his footing is firmer than ever.

10/23/77
VAL. DAILY TIMES

help from
cheerlea
Times F

Times
11-5-77

In Contest



Greg Harbin, the senior class president at Valdosta High School, has been named a semifinalist in the Georgia Jaycees Good Citizen Award contest. Harbin, 17, is to compete against 29 others during competition Nov. 12 in Atlanta when the state winner is to be announced. He is the son of Mayor and Mrs. Gil Harbin. — Times Staff Photo.

11-6-77

Grid Attitude Unhealthy

Sir: Reading "Are Nick Hyder's Feet on Shaky Soil?" (Oct. 27) has brought me to realize that the atmosphere in Valdosta regarding football is neither healthy nor competitive.

The Valdosta fans do not want to compete, they want to monopolize. A competition between schools requires that there be some degree of uncertainty as to the outcome. Must Valdosta always win? If the result is a foregone conclusion, then there is no contest and no reason to even begin.

Are the Valdosta fans so greedy, so grasping, so small that they cannot accept defeat? Are they so childish that they must blame the coach for the loss instead of commending those that won? Can they not say

"congratulations," and hope for a win next time?

No. They cannot. The Valdosta fans must blame, malign, abuse and threaten their coach. They are not gracious in defeat or sportsmanlike in their conduct. They are too narrow to recognize the worth of another team, or give credit where it is due. They are too backward to accept present situations rather than cling to those of the past. And they are too ignorant to realize that football is a game; not a religion.

Arguments, brawls, threats, and bets seem to go hand-in-hand with this "sport" in Valdosta. These bloodthirsty attitudes seem to permeate all areas of the community. And so, in some degree, everything is spoiled.

How has this happened? How has a game meant for the students evolved into a nightmare of hate and vindictiveness on the parts of both fans and students? I find it incomprehensible. But one thing is clear... when football is played with such violent and destructive emotions, then perhaps football should cease. Such "fans" do not support the game; they destroy it. And they will destroy the team.

How many coaches will they drive away? And how many spectators will stay away to avoid the unwholesome, almost unbalanced, element that transforms a game into a war?

Sharon Van Horn
912 Brookhaven
Dr.

Article Brings Back Memories

Sir: Your Oct. 27 article; "Are Nick Hyder's Feet on Shaky Soil?" caused thoughts and memories to stir in me as I remembered yesteryear.

The school year was 1959-60, the birth year of Lowndes County High School (called LOCO by the Valdosta High crowd) which was the result of controversial consolidation of small county high schools.

However, not all county students went there. Some ambitious moms and dads fed their husky sons steak for breakfast and drove them to Valdosta High to play for (Wright) Bazemore where they could really shine.

Times have changed, and 17 years have passed. Now in 1977, there are 2 fairly equal football powers in this county. And as Friday, Oct. 21, showed, football is no less a passion in Valdosta and the enthusiasm has now spread countywide. At least now plowboys are proud to be plowboys.

But oh — those moms and dads — if only they instead of threatening, bribing, and gifting coaches to produce wins at all cost — if only they would send those husky sons (and daughters) to school with the goals of academic excellence in preparation for

useful honorable lives. If only those moms and dads prayed for the safety and guidance of their offspring and sent them off in love and faith to give their best first to God, then the classroom, then the athletic field.

There have been not a few lives blighted by the idea that the glory of VHS football would last forever. The star of today may wake up 6 years from now a has-been if adults who are responsible for their rearing and training do not have their priorities straight.

Georgia Smith
P.O. Box 2748

Hyder Not Blamed By VHS Students

Sir: There has been much talk about "getting rid of" Valdosta High School's head coach, Nick Hyder. But what I really can't understand is who started such talk. Was it the students, the faculty, the board of education, or was it unconcerned people that just couldn't take defeat?

To whomever it was that started talking about firing our coach, please consider the feelings of not only Coach Hyder but of over 2,300 students at VHS.

If there is any doubt in anyone's mind about how the students or football players feel about Coach Hyder, I challenge you to attend our next pep rally. The one loss to the Vikings has not killed the season for the Wildcats.

They took the defeat like real winners. Did they blame anyone? No. They certainly didn't blame a man who has helped them win, not only on the field, but who has also helped them build a winning

character.

It is easy to "tell" someone how to do their job, but "doing" the job is another story. Coach Hyder is not only a great coach but a good math teacher as well.

For those who were so greatly disturbed by the loss to the Vikings, just keep in mind it's only a game.

Susan McDonald
VHS Student Council
Vice President

Students' Artwork Is Bought

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School art students are to have their work purchased by the Georgia Department of Education for a permanent display at Stone Mountain.

A team from the state department of education came Friday to look at what VHS has to offer and describe to Jerry Pilcher, art department head, the specifications and purpose of the exhibit.

The display is to be set up in an old train at Stone Mountain and is to be called "Schools Today."

The VHS art department, highly respected by the state education department, is to supply all the works for the display.

It is the only high school in the state selected because, according to one of the state department representatives, it has an outstanding program and a good reputation.

Pilcher said with registration for winter quarter still underway it is too hectic to know now what is to be sent for the display.

But he expects to have them submitted by February. He said probably the juniors and seniors taking independent directed study will do the artwork.

"We can't really pull out all the stops like I'd like," he said. "Because what we submit will have to be self-explanatory. For example, a piece of salt glaze ceramics, if you don't recognize it for what it is, looks like a sloppy piece of work."

CEEB Membership For VHS

Times Nov 8, 1977

Valdosta High School has been elected to a five-year membership on the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB), according to Virginia Wisenbaker, guidance director.

The CEEB, she said, is a non-profit educational association which serves students, schools and colleges through many programs, including various testing programs.

VHS was elected to membership at the annual CEEB business meeting held recently in San Francisco, Calif.

The school, Mrs. Wisenbaker said, had applied for membership and is the only one in south Georgia on the board.

Membership, she said, means a representative from VHS may attend annual meetings and help create board policy and programs.

help from
cheerleader
Times Pho

By JULIAN MILLER

It was bedlam. It was chaos. It was ecstasy. And it was 10 years in the making.

But Lowndes High School fans knew it had been a much longer time coming than that year a decade ago when Lowndes High was formed.

It had been since the late 1950's when Lowndes' predecessor, Lowndes County High, was formed that the county football team had been chasing their city counterparts.

Friday night it all came to an end when Lowndes Vikings finally caught and passed Valdosta's Wildcats in a 7-2 victory.

They had started out booing Valdosta and cheering their Vikings, most with the phrase "We're proud of you," in the

Low

Lowndes student
Through it all
seemed to
classmates. On
doubt appear.
fourth quarter
Wildcats advance
Lowndes territory
But the Vikings
their third inter
night and they
realized their
coming a year
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for a safety,
reveal any fear
"They ain't
one student s



NATION'S WEATHER: Showers much of Texas and Oklahoma while the Great Plains. Sunny skies are generally elsewhere in the nation.—AP Laserphoto

Weather Data Here

(As compiled by Valdosta's official weather stations, WJEM and the Valdosta Flight Service.)

High Yesterday	80
Low Last Night	46
Temp. at Noon	68
Barometer	30.05
Wind Direction	NW
Wind Velocity	6 mph
Rain past 24 hours	none
Rain to date 10-22, 1977	14
Rain to date 19-22, 1976	4.68
Rain to date 1977	36.46
Rain to date 1976	51.64

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- Amar
- Ancho
- Ashev
- Atlant
- Birm
- Bisma
- Boise
- Bosfor
- Brow
- Buffal
- Char
- Chica
- Cincin
- Clevel
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Prep results 11/13/77
T.U. Journal Staff
 AREA

Lowndes 15, Valdosta 14
 Glynn Academy 19, Savannah 10
 Waycross 14, Camden Co. 6
 Charlton Co. 26, Patterson 0
 Fitzgerald 35, Berrien Co. 0
 Atkinson Co. 14, Irwin Co. 7
 Bacon Co. 35, Brantley Co. 15

OTHER
 Avondale 36, A'nta Briarcliff 7
 Chamblee Peachtree 15, A'nta Lakeside 10
 Redan Sine Mt. 13, Dechur Twers 10
 A'nta Walker 24, Cedar Grove 22
 Decatur Gordon 20, Sequoyah 0
 A'nta Sylvan 12, East Atlanta 7
 A'nta Fulton 25, A'nta Grady 0
 A'nta Therrell 21, A'nta Boss 0
 A'nta Brown 14, A'nta George 8
 A'nta Turner 44, A'nta Roosevelt 7
 N'side Atlanta 20, A'nta W. Fulton 6
 Athens Cedar Shis 21, S. Gwinnett 3
 Narcross 3, Cent. Gwinnett 0
 Griffin 17, Janesboro 14
 Newnan 14, N. Clayton 0

Lincoln Co. 28, Oglethorpe 14
 Manhester 17, Thomaston Lee 0
 Flint River 31, Piedmont 6
 Hoggansville 42, Rome Pacelli 0
 Cartersville 14, Rabun Co. 7
 Union Co. 7, Gilmer Co. 0
 Macdon Mt. De Sales 27, Monticello 0
 Rockdale Co. 23, LaGrange 22
 A'nta St. Pius 14, Roswell 3
 West Rome 20, A'nta Woodward 14
 B'wood Acad. 20, D. Emanuel 14
 Habersham Cent. 26, G'ville Johnson 14
 West Point 20, Heard Co. 0
 Col. Park 27, Fairburn Campbell 0
 Chattahoochee Vly 42, Fannin Co. 7
 Dalton 21, Ringgold 0
 Warner Robins 48, C'bus Baker 6
 A'nta WSide 21, Evans 6
 Thomson 21, Washington Co. 7
 Burke Acad. 8, Sov. Mem. 6
 Oconee 47, N. Gwinnett 15
 Smyrna Wills 16, Austell 5, Cobb 0
 Forsyth Mary Persons 42, Lamar Co. 0
 Elbert Co. 28, Hart Co. 21
 East Rome 21, Rome Darlington 15
 Rockmart 23, Paulding Co. 6

Sports In Brief

Vald Times Nov 17, 1977

**'Dosta TD Club
 Slates Pep Rally**

By Times Staff Writer

A citywide pep rally sponsored by the Valdosta Touchdown Club is scheduled for tonight at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field.

The rally precedes the Region 1-AAA high school football championship game here Friday night at 7:30 p.m. between Valdosta and Thomasville.

Valdosta 46, Moultrie 20

Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue had the kind of night every high school athlete dreams of in the Wildcats' smashing defeat of one of their oldest rivals. Belue scored three touchdowns and passed for two more to John Lastinger. He picked up 160 yards rushing on 16 carries and hit on 9 of 20 passes for 146 yards via the air route. The senior signal-caller also punted four times for a 39-yard average. Frank Council also scored two touchdowns for the now 6-0 'Cats, including an electrifying 95-yard kickoff return.

Sat. Nov. 12, 1977



Hoot Mon, T

It was Valdosta High's Homecoming Friday, and the celebration by a student parade through the downtown area of the city. A marshal and high school principal Lloyd (Mc)Mims gives the "Go VHS Marchin' Cats who then led the procession on Patterson and /

Old Grads Return To Watch Flames

By JULIAN MILLER

There were more than just a few wet eyes when the old Valdosta High School building burned this morning.

And the majority of them were not caused by the sometimes unbearable smoke.

"I hate it," was the phrase uttered more often than any other, as large early morning crowds gathered all around the block to watch.

While firemen tugged on hoses and ran for gas masks, alumni spun one yard after another about the good ole days.

Volunteers aimed firehoses through the windows where Ellis Clary said he once threw stolen football equipment down to a waiting friend — and subsequently got caught.

The roof caved in early on the spot where former Principal, the late Howard Bridges, used to stand in his white suit, slapping his notebook into his hand.

Firemen were slaving to try to save the old auditorium where thousands of chapel programs had been held.

But flames finally broke through to the balcony in the back where more than one adventure is said to have taken place between students taking their time going to

class.

Fire Chief Charles Ogburn announced two hours after the first call that his men hopefully had the fire contained at the old wall between the auditorium and the gymnasium.

Then he calmly lit a cigarette while standing in the exact same place where hundreds of former students, once lit them, hiding behind the bushes and other classmates.

The dividing point between the part of the building which would fall and that to be left for the demolition crews seemed to be the wall between the stages in the auditorium and wall.

That's the same wall that used to catch the wayward volleyballs during rough physical education classes.

And it'd also capture the ire of Coach Wright Bazemore, who gave many a student "grass drills" on the gym floor right beside for allowing that to happen.

"I hate it," said Mike Chapman, who graduated in 1968 but is now back at the new school as band director.

"But it can't wipe out the memories."

At the time he was standing beside the science wing where he and other college-bound sophomores slaved through Mrs. Grady Massey's college-prep biology classes.

And the wall was collapsing on Mrs. A.C. Wisenbaker's homeroom, which was flooded by water in 1967 when someone in the room above left the windows open during a rainstorm.

The city board of education had tried to have the old building torn down after it was abandoned for the new facility five years ago.

But nostalgic Valdostans were having none of that.

"It hurts," said alumni Gary Minchew, just after falling down in a puddle while

(See Old on Page 2)



Finally Over

A sign left hanging amid the rubble of old Valdosta High School tells its own story. Following an early morning fire Saturday at the 56-year-old structure on Williams Street, today the two-story red brick building is

merely a shell. Fire investigators have said the cause of the blaze will probably never be known. But the more than four hours of fire and smoke are finally over. — Times Staff Photo.

ATL CONST. Mon Nov 21
Valdosta Fire Damage
Estimated at \$155,000

VALDOSTA (UPI) — Authorities have estimated damage to the Old Valdosta High School, which was ravaged by fire early Saturday, at \$155,000.

Assistant Fire Chief Curtis Cone said about \$100,000 of damage was done to the building and about \$55,000 to the contents. The building housed the Lowndes Arts Commission.

No one was injured in the blaze.

Cone said firemen found the fire "well involved" when they arrived at the building about 6:22 a.m.

Besides the arts commission, the building, a city landmark since the early part of the century, housed some artists' studios, a travel organization and an area

planning commission.

A police spokeswoman said the department was notified of the fire about 6 a.m. and it took more than six hours to put out. The cause of the fire was undetermined.

Nov 20, 1977

Ruins Hide Fire Cause At Old VHS

By ARCHIE MCKAY

The cause of fire which gutted old Valdosta High School early Saturday may never be known, according to fire officials who were still on the scene late in the day.

Fire Chief Charles Ogburn said his last truck left about 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Lines were left as firemen expect the hulking ruins to blaze up again during the weekend.

"There is really no way to investigate it. We have no suspicion of arson whatsoever, no misconduct and probably it will go down in the book as undetermined," said the fire chief.

The blaze was reported by a CB radio operator about 6:21 a.m. Saturday but apparently the fire had been going for some time.

"For us to have stopped the fire in the stage it was in when we arrived would have taken all the water in the Willacoochee River," said Ogburn.

Meanwhile, county officials, who leased the building from the city school board for three years at the request of citizens trying to save the structure, said only minimal insurance was carried.

And, school board Chairman Joella Blackburn said Saturday night her personal feeling is to have the building razed, though attempts should be made to salvage nostalgic tidbits, such as lettering, nameplate and certain other items.

Built in 1921, the building over the years had oil coated on the floors as did other public buildings in an effort to keep down dust. When the fire started, those years of oil treatment told a story.

"They use to oil the floors down ... it was like lighting tender, those floors and beams had been oiled so much they burned like they had gasoline on them," said the fire chief.

All day Saturday and into the evening hours, hundreds of former students, present students of the new high school and the idle curious stood on the littered campus, drove by and remembered the halcyon days.

Lines of cars came early and traffic backed up all afternoon.

While there was some trophy hunting, most so doing politely made requests of officials for some object or piece of the old building for a keepsake.

The structure was slated for reconstruction two years ago. School officials at the time said they no longer



—Times Staff Photo By Robert Wimer III

Smoking Ruins Of Old VHS

could justify the insurance expense and had no use for the building.

Former students and wellwishers, along with a group seeking to preserve local landmarks, fought to save the building.

Lowndes County commissioners agreed to a one-time three-year period of grace. They agreed to lease the building for use by the Lowndes Arts Commission and other such groups while interested citizens tried to raise funds to save the building from the wrecking crane.

That lease would have expired next year and no solid financial support for continuing the old building had been

announced.

County Manager Buford McRae said Saturday night he is not certain of the amount but thinks the county's insurance is less than \$5,000 for fire loss.

Actually, it would have cost about \$40,000 to demolish the building, according to estimates two years ago.

The school board meets Monday night and Mrs. Blackburn said she expects some guidance from the board at that time.

A construction company was brought in to raze some of the walls on the Williams Street landmark late Saturday, after firemen determined (See Ruins on Page 2A)

Peace Bid Israel Wel

JERUSALEM (AP) — Anwar Sadat came to Israel Saturday night on a "sacred" and history-making mission that risked his own political future and Arab unity in a bid to find a lasting peace for the Middle East.

Stepping down from his Boeing 707 jetliner "Egyptian One" at Ben-Gurion Airport, the Egyptian president became the first Arab leader to visit Israel in the 29-year history of the Jewish state.

He arrived to an army bugle fanfare at 8:05 p.m. (1:05 p.m. EST), six minutes after touching down on a cool, dark Mediterranean night for his 36-hour visit.

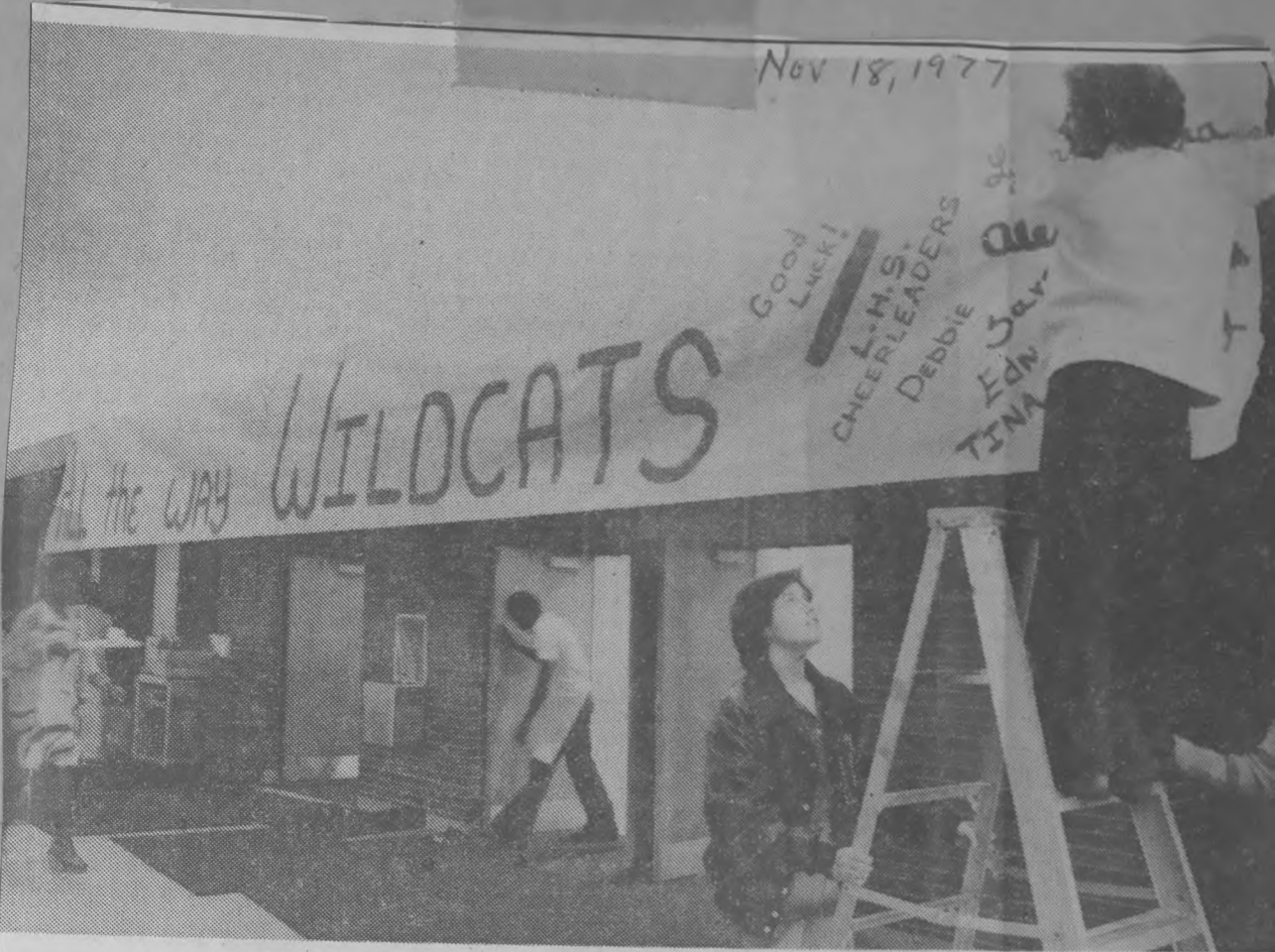
playing of the Egyptian anthems. A 21-gun salute

"A new era has been declared in the Middle East," declared a news-caster describing the arrival scene. Some airport crowd wept.

Sadat came to this he is still formally almost total Arab solitary diplomacy.

man, Sadat had des break the "vicious wars and animosity

But he insisted he make a separate peace



United Front

Lowndes High School cheerleaders have put aside the year-round LHS-Valdosta High School rivalry to back the Wildcats in their bid to become Region 1-AAA champions. The 'Cats play Thomasville High School tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Cleveland Field here for that crown. The LHS cheerleaders hung this banner

Thursday at the VHS cafeteria with some help from friends, namely the VHS cheerleaders. VHS cheerleader Dee Hackworth said, 'I think this is great.' — Times Photo by Ken Klanicki.

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Playoff Ticket Sellers Lauded

Sir: I just want to commend Jack Kent and the superintendent's office for the quick, efficient way in which the Thomasville-Valdosta playoff tickets were being sold.

It only took seconds to purchase your ticket and be on your way.

E. K. Wilcox, Jr.
P. O. Box 887

Nov 20, 1977

Exit Old VHS

Nov 22, 1977
Vald Times

Old Valdosta High School is no more. It was left a shell, a hulk by a fire that ravaged her Saturday. About the only recourse now appears to get the wrecking crews in and clear away the rubble.

It's somewhat sad. A landmark of our city has passed. It was a pretty building. It served our city well. It housed countless thousands of students who trod its halls in the quest of education.

However, in its latter days, the old school was somewhat of a problem. The school board had no further use for the 56-year-old structure. It was planning to level it at one time. Only a hue and cry from the public prevented that from happening.

A reluctant county commission took over the building but showed no inclination to

restore it to its original state. It was used by the arts commission, a travel club and a government agency but it really served no purpose.

It was economically unfeasible to renovate it, the county said. Preservation buffs said leave it alone, we'll find something for it.

So there it stood, sort of rotting away. Until Saturday. Then, for a reason that probably will never be determined, it caught fire and went out in a blaze of glory.

A fire is never a pleasant thing and we realize some of our firemen could have been injured fighting the blaze. Yet, it seems somehow fitting that a structure such as old VHS go out swiftly rather than deteriorating slowly to an ignoble end as we allow most of our old buildings to do.

VHS Girls Win, Wildcats Lose Opener

VALDOSTA TIMES NOV 23, 1977

By Times Staff Writer
TIFTON — Lisa Feix keyed a fourth quarter uprising by Valdosta's girls here Tuesday night, leading the Kittens to a 58-46 season-opening high school basketball win over Tift County.

But the home-standing Blue Devils staged a late rally of their own in the boys' game and came away with a 67-58 victory over Valdosta's Wildcats.

Feix pumped in 13 of her 19 points in the second half, and Vera Crawford brought down

15 rebounds as coach Jerry Baker's Kittens stormed away from a narrow 42-40 third quarter lead.

"Vera Crawford and Maggie Powell really got on the boards with them," Baker said. "Last year, we didn't have enough bench to come back in the fourth quarter. This year, we can."

"Shirley Berrian did a good job with the playmaking. We pressed them a little bit, and they made some key turnovers that helped us out a great deal."

Crawford added 13 points for Valdosta, while Berrian hit for 12 and Renee Whitehead put in 10.

Darby Cottle and Sandra Graydon paced Tift with 19 and 14 points, respectively.

Wildcat coach Norman Sainz carried just eight players to the game, only four of which had experience in a varsity basketball game.

Valdosta kept things close until the beginning of the fourth quarter, when it lost its height, as center Cedric Stroud left the game via the

five foul route.

"When he went out, our rebounding went out," said Sainz. "They just flat controlled the boards."

But the Valdosta coach wasn't blaming the loss on his team's football-depleted ranks.

"We've got good kids with just the ones we're playing," he said. "When the football kids get here, that's fine. But these kids right here are the Valdosta High School basketball team."

"They didn't quit. They

were hustling at the final buzzer."

Chandler Daniels led the Valdosta attack with 12 points, followed by Tim Dame, who scored 11.

Ben White and Felix Turner hit for 18 points a piece to lead Tift, and James Brown added 15.

Valdosta returns to action Tuesday, hosting Moultrie in another Region 1-AAA doubleheader.

Team	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocks	Fouls
Valdosta	58	28	16	11	4	23
Tift	46	20	11	8	3	25

VALDOSTA (58) — Powell 12, Crawford 13, Whitehead 10, Feix 19, Baker 2, Berrian 12, Evans, Cooper, Stewart
Team totals: field goals 26, free throws 6 of 10, fouls 17

TIFT (46) — Graydon 14, Sparks 4, Cottle 19, Houston 5, Mitchell 2, Thompson 2
Team totals: field goals 14, free throws 18 of 25, fouls 16

Team	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocks	Fouls
Valdosta	58	28	16	11	4	23
Tift	46	20	11	8	3	25

VALDOSTA (58) — Daniels 12, Dame 11, Powell 9, Stroud 8, New 7, Russell 7, Daniels 4, Feix
Team totals: field goals 26, free throws 6 of 16, fouls 22

TIFT (46) — White 18, Turner 18, Brown 15, Bryant 6, Miller 4, Robinson 4, Benjamin 2, Smith 2, Ewing, Terry
Team totals: field goals 28, free throws 11 of 22, fouls 16

Playoff ^{Wild}
Times
Tickets 11-23-77
Go On Sale

By Times Staff Writer

The schedule for sale of tickets to Friday's Valdosta-Warner Robins state class AAA semifinal football game has been announced by Jack Kent, Finance Director for the city school system.

Kent said officials from the two schools are to meet Tuesday in Cordele for Valdosta to receive its tickets from Warner Robins.

Locally, VHS band members and football players may purchase tickets for their parents who had season reserve tickets, Wednesday at Valdosta High School.

Touchdown Club members who had season reserve tickets may purchase their tickets at the superintendent's office from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Season ticketholders who have not picked up reserve tickets by Thursday morning may do so from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., at the superintendent's office.

Reserve seat tickets which have not been sold by Thursday afternoon will be taken to Barnes Drug Store at Brookwood Plaza, and put on sale.

General admission tickets are to go on sale Wednesday at 9 a.m., at Barnes Drug Store.

Kent said general admission tickets may be offered at the gate, but added that he expects the game to be sold out by Friday afternoon.

Reserve tickets are to be \$4, while general admission tickets are to cost \$3, and student tickets are to be \$2.

Valdosta Second

Clarke Central Voted No. One

ATLANTA (AP) — Lincoln County — holder of the state's longest winning streak at 26 games after capturing the Georgia Class B high school football championship — was ranked No. 1 today along with titlists in three other classifications in the final Associated Press poll.

The others selected for the top spots by a panel of Associated Press sportswriters and sportscasters were Clarke Central in Class AAA, Waycross in Class AA and East Rome in Class A. All were unanimous choices.

Lincoln County, which was the only school to defend its title this year, defeated Jefferson 22-7 Saturday to take the top spot in Class B and to close out a 13-0 season.

Clarke Central, 14-0, gained its Class AAA laurels by edging Valdosta 16-14 for the title. The Wildcats took the second spot, followed by Southwest DeKalb, Warner Robins and Benedictine.

Class AAA	
1. Clarke Central 14-0	70
2. Valdosta 12-2	63
3. SW DeKalb 12-1	52
4. Warner Robins 11-1	45
5. Benedictine 10-1	43
6. Newman 10-2	34
7. Westside 9-2-1	23
8. Lakeside 9-2	20
9. Wheeler 11-2	18
10. Dougherty 8-2	5

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

'77 Wildcats Have No Weaknesses

9-28-77

It's three hours before the Valdosta-Thomasville game. On the radio, WPAX announcer Art Mack asks Bulldog Coach Jim Hughes, "I don't want to ask you to give away any secrets, but have you seen any weaknesses in the Valdosta attack that you might exploit?"

"We have scouted Valdosta very carefully," said Hughes. "Our coaching staff has spent many hours watching film on Valdosta this week. As a matter of fact, we have made one discovery:

"Buck Belue cannot throw the football with his left hand."

By WENDELL TIDWELL

THOMASVILLE -- It started early before the annual meeting between the Thomasville Bulldogs and the Valdosta Wildcats.

It usually does.

Coach Nick Hyder of Valdosta gave the newspapers his usual build-up interview. You know the type. Registered about knee-deep on the barnyard scale.

Oh, Thomasville was going to be better prepared for Valdosta than any team the 'Cats would face this year, he said. Never mind that 14-0 score against Westover, he said. The Bulldogs could have blown them out of the stadium any time they wanted.

Said Thomasville was just looking ahead to the big one. Been preparing for 12 months, he said.

THOMASVILLE fans who were honest with themselves knew it wasn't true. The Bulldogs' 14-0 showing against Westover was an indication of things to come. Thomasville just did not have the offense it hoped it would. Many Bulldog fans went to the big game knowing it could be a long night.

Of the two pre-game assessments, Hughes' proved to be the most accurate.

If Valdosta displays any weaknesses in 1977, it first must develop some. What makes this edition of the Valdosta Wildcats special is not only do they have the All-American quarterback, but for the first time since anybody can remember, Valdosta has a strong running game to go with him.

Sure, the Wildcats have had its share of running backs, but in recent years none have consistently been able to chalk up 100 yards per game consistently. Now the 'Cats have two backs, Sam Fletcher and Frank Council, who could just about name their rushing totals if they happen to play for anyone except Valdosta.

The Wildcats are solid at every position and every phase of the game. And it took precious little time for them to demonstrate this in their first real test of the season.

Bulldog fans were talking about the 'lucky' punt return on which Valdosta scored first. There was absolutely nothing lucky about it. Valdosta considers a punt return an offensive play.

Always has.

What made Troy Thomas' 50-yard run back work was not only one of the prettiest blocking walls seen in Veterans Memorial in quite a while, but also the fact that Thomas faked a reverse handoff AFTER he got to the sideline that drew most of the Bulldog defenders back inside.

The only Thomasville player with a chance at a tackle was Bulldog punter Johnny Chastain -- if he could have found his way through 460 pounds of blocking Wildcats.

Valdosta got its second touchdown of the game after taking over on the 34 following Thomasville's opening fumble. (one fan said Bulldog fumbling had become so consistent in the past three years that seemed like part of an overall plan to give the defense more opportunities to score. Which is alright, if you are playing Be-Bop High, which Valdosta ain't -- no matter what Louis Grizzard says.)

The Wildcats got 12 points in the first seven minutes of the game and just to show that it was no fluke, the 'Cats put together a sustained drive in the second quarter to go ahead, 19-0, with five minutes left in the half.

To the Bulldogs' credit, the score remained the same until late in the game. The Thomasville defense rallied to hold Buck Belue and company out of the end zone for the remainder of the half, all of the third quarter and most of the fourth.

During this time, the game could have turned around if the Bulldogs had been able to mount any kind of a drive what so ever. It must be said in defense of the Bulldog offensive game that not once did Thomasville take over with any field position at all.

And on the three occasions when Thomasville did cross the mid-field stripe (including the final play of the game), it immediately coughed up the football, as if prosperity was something to flee.



Valdosta Quarterback Buck Belue

When it was all over, Valdosta had a 26-0 win. Somebody on the telephone wanted to know if Thomasville was really that 'bad' this year.

Maybe. BUT REALIZE that 26 points may be the lowest total for Valdosta this year. The Wildcats, at this point in the season, are probably the best football team in the state. And should be No. 1.

But there is one small problem. Due to an oversight in keeping its eligibility chart, Valdosta played a tight end who was two weeks too old in its first two games of the season, one of which was sub-region opponent Crisp County.

Because of the ensuing forfeit, the Wildcats are now 0-1 in sub-region play and in fifth place.

Looking ahead to the season, if Valdosta finishes undefeated the rest of the way, the Wildcats will still need some help to win the North title.

If Crisp County should finish the sub-region schedule unbeaten, the Cougars would be the champs.

If Dougherty finishes the schedule unbeaten the Trojans would, of course, be champs. And if Dougherty beats everybody but Valdosta and ends up in a two-way tie with Valdosta, the Wildcats would be named the

champs on the basis of the regular-season game with Dougherty.

However, if Dougherty beats everybody but Valdosta and Crisp County losses only to Dougherty, it's a three-way tie and the champion would be decided on the basis of overall record, which means Valdosta, now at 1-2, would be in trouble.

THE MAIN IDEA behind sub-dividing 1-AAA was to avoid three-way ties, they said. At least some of them said. Coach Hughes tried to say all along that sub-dividing would only double the chances of having a three-way tie.

Although the GHSA has guidelines for deciding three way ties in sub-regions (but not regions) it still a matter of statistics, which is not deciding it on the football field.

And look at the South side of 1-AAA. Moultrie opened the season with a 14-7 win over Central. Then Lowndes crunched Moultrie, 35-0. Then Central bounced Lowndes, 42-8. Now those three teams -- which were the pre-season favorites in some quarters -- are in a three-way tie -- for third.

Thomasville and Bainbridge are on top of the South standings with 1-0 marks in sub-region play.

Dougherty Visits Valdosta In Key Sub-Region Game

Dougherty travels to Valdosta this week for a game that could have decided the final outcome of 1-AAA North's sub-region race.

If Dougherty wins, it could still be the deciding game. But if Valdosta wins the question is still up in the air due to the Wildcats dropping a sub-region clash to the rule book.

Valdosta's forfeit to Crisp County, which technically is the first victory ever by Crisp against the 'Cats, can throw the sub-region race in a turmoil if Valdosta wins.

The game is the only region contest slated in the North.

1-AAA North		
Dougherty	2-0-0	3-0-0
Crisp County	1-0-0	2-1-0
Tift County	1-1-0	2-2-0
Monroe, Albany	1-1-0	1-2-0
Valdosta	0-1-0	1-2-0
Albany	0-2-0	1-3-0
1-AAA South		
Bainbridge	1-0-0	2-1-0
Thomasville	1-0-0	2-1-0
Lowndes	1-1-0	3-1-0
Central, Thomas Co.	1-1-0	2-1-0
Moultrie	1-1-0	1-2-0
Westover	0-2-0	0-4-0

In the South Central hosts Bainbridge in the only sub-region matchup.

In other games, Monroe is at Westover and Thomasville is at Crisp County.

Valdosta Times 9-29-77 Waits For More Word

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta High School principal Lloyd Mims said Wednesday the school would wait for more definite word from the Georgia High School Association before appealing the forfeit of two of its football games.

Mims said he and other school officials were waiting for "further clarification" before deciding what to do in the matter.

GHSA Executive Secretary Bill Fordham indicated over the telephone earlier that Valdosta would be asked to forfeit wins over Crisp County and Bainbridge because it had played an ineligible player.

Split end Alvin Thomas, a senior, was found to be two months older than the age limit allowed by the GHSA for participation in high school athletics.

Thomas' participation was apparently the result of a clerical error both at the school and at the Association.

Valdosta defeated Crisp 40-14 in its season opener, and bumped Bainbridge the next week.

Shortly afterwards, Fordham discovered Thomas' ineligibility when reviewing basketball eligibility forms the school had sent in.

If "further clarification" by Fordham in fact requires the forfeits, the school plans to file an appeal, with Mims going before a special appeal board.

He'll Teach Football 'Widows'

Special To The Times
Jack Rudolph, defensive coordinator of the Valdosta Wildcats football team, feels such sympathy for "football widows" that he's decided to put them out of their misery. He's to teach a four-session Valdosta State College non-credit course called "Football Survival for Women," beginning tonight.

Fee for the four 8-9 p.m. Thursday sessions in room 205 of the VSC Fine Arts Building is \$10.

"At this time of year, women seem to think their husbands have gone off and left them, or their boyfriends have deserted them — to watch television sets," said Rudolph, who played professional football for seven years with the Boston Patriots and a year with the Miami Dolphins.

"It seemed to me a good idea to help a woman understand what a man goes through at this time, whether he's an old athlete reliving his past or a frustrated athlete who never made it! For lots of people, football is LIFE in 60 minutes — the sufferings, the joys, the sorrows, the applause, the sweat, the hard work, the war, the peace.

"A man identifies with that the way a woman identifies with feminine things. I don't think football is feminine in



JACK RUDOLPH
'Good Idea'

"What a great drive that was!"

Rudolph has divided the course into four lessons.

"The first session will be an introduction to the individual player's part in the game," he said.

"We show the various pieces of equipment — shoulder pads, hip pads, shoes, helmets, different types of face masks for linemen, backs, receivers, what we wear in hot weather as compared to cold (how the jerseys and undergarments change with the weather).

"The second session will be devoted to offensive football, the third to defensive football and the fourth to the kicking game. Each lesson is to be an hour long, but I plan to stay another half hour for questions if members of the class want that."

Rudolph has prepared about 35 pages of background notes for each class participant.

"This is a notebook of

terminology that I think will give them a background that should help in conversations with their husbands," he said.

"It covers when we call signals, how we number our plays, various formations and pass patterns, automatics (which means changing the play at the line of scrimmage), and kickoff diagrams."

Any field trips? "That would raise the cost of the course to \$50," he laughed. "I'll sit in a class and teach the ladies, but I won't go to a football game with them."

Rudolph added he feels his wife should teach a course called "Telephone Survival for Husbands." Marsha, his wife, is this year's president of the Valdosta Junior Service League.

"I'm the unofficial secretary," he quipped. "I record her phone messages when she's not home."

Wildcats Unseated By Robins

Wed. Sept. 28, 1977

By The Associated Press
Warner Robins, which inundated Baker 48-0 last weekend, breezed into the No. 1 spot in the Georgia Associated Press Class AAA high school football poll this week, displacing Valdosta.

Valdosta's Wildcats, burdened with a 1-2 record which some members of the Georgia AP high school board readily called a bookkeeping error, beat archrival Thomasville 26-0, but it wasn't enough to retain the top spot in Class AAA.

Valdosta had to forfeit its victories over Crisp County and Bainbridge because it played an over-age player — an infraction of the Georgia

High School Association rules.

Woodward Academy, beating St. Pius X 28-0, edged Americus into second place in the Class AA standings, even though Americus downed Auburn, Ala., 33-6.

But East Rome and Lincoln County held to the No. 1 positions in the Class A and Class B polls, respectively, receiving 100 per cent of the votes for first place.

In the Class AAA standings, Benedictine moved from sixth place to fifth after a 27-12 victory over Brunswick.

Class AAA

1. Warner Robins (4-0)	92
2. Valdosta (1-2)	82
3. Clarke Central (3-0)	71
4. Richmond Academy (3-0)	69
5. Benedictine (4-0)	56
6. Griffin (3-1)	37
7. S.W. DeKalb (4-0)	35
8. Butler (4-0)	27
9. Peachtree (3-0)	20
10. Laney (4-0) (tie)	10
Newnan (3-0)	10
Others nominated: Cedar Shoals (3-1-0), Lakeside (3-1-0), Wheeler (4-1), Robert E. Lee (3-1-0), Dougherty County (3-0-0), Lowndes (3-1), North Cobb (5-0-0).	

Class AA

1. Woodward Acad. (4-0)	99
2. Americus (4-0)	93
3. Fayette Co. (4-0)	78
4. Ware Co. (3-0)	63
5. Dublin (4-0)	60
6. Dalton (3-1)	46
7. Stephens Co. (4-0)	42
8. Avondale (3-1)	30
9. Waycross (3-0)	22
10. Swainsboro (2-1)	8
Others nominated: Lakeshore (3-1-0), Peach Co. (3-1-0), Cedartown (3-0-1), Perry (3-1-0), Collins (4-0), Chattooga Co. (3-0-1), Gordon (3-1-0), Gainesville (3-1-1).	

Branan Represents Area In Mr. USA Teen Contest

By Times Staff Writer
John Branan, best all around senior at Valdosta High School last year, is to represent south Georgia and north Florida in the Mr. USA Teen contest in Minneapolis Aug. 3-13.

the Civitan writing award for Valdosta. The top finalist in the Mr. USA Teen contest is to receive a \$2,000 scholarship to the school of his choice. There are three \$1,000 scholarships, according to Branan.

Sponsored in the contest by SAFT America, Branan plans to enter Georgia Tech in the fall. While there he is to be on the co-op plan which allows students to rotate between working and going to school. Branan is to be employed here by SAFT America.

The contest includes a charity bowl-a-thon for multiple sclerosis.

"Each participant bowls four lines," said Branan. "All contestants are to get sponsors at one cent minimum per pin.

"I received the information on the bowl-a-thon late and have not been able to get many sponsors yet. I want to get as many sponsors as I can to make the community look good up there," he said.

Branan was selected as a representative of this area judged on his high school activities and honors.

He was co-captain of the Wildcat football team, Governor's Honors finalist, National Merit finalist, and named to Who's Who in American High Schools.

He also received the National Council of Teachers of English writing award and

'Dosta, Dougherty Face 'Must' Game

Time's 9-28-77

By Times Staff Writer
Championship time may be arriving early in the season when Dougherty's Trojans and Valdosta's Wildcats collide here Friday in a high school football game.

The two powers, regarded as the top contenders in the northern half of Region 1-AAA, and both listed among the state's top teams in a recent Associated Press poll, may actually be playing for the subdivision crown in their fourth game of the year if many observers are correct.

Both are unbeaten on the field in three games, but Valdosta's apparent forfeitures of its first two wins, at least temporarily, has thrown a new light on the picture.

Since one of Valdosta's losses was to subdivision foe Crisp County (Cordele), a second subdivision loss to the invading Trojans would virtually knock coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats out of the running for the league title.

It would be a strange predicament for the perennially powerful 'Cats, tabbed this season by many as possessing one of the most powerful outfits in their history.

"We would still mathematically have a chance (at the subregion title) if Dougherty beats us," said Hyder.

"But several things would have to happen, and from the viewpoint of average practicality, they aren't likely to come about.

AAA." A Valdosta win would put the Wildcats in the drivers' seat in the subregion race, since if two teams end up with identical league records, the winner of the regular season game between those teams is declared the league champion.

"It's the most important game of our season so far," Hyder said. "They're the toughest team we've played to date. They're the defending region champions."

Dougherty nipped Valdosta 28-26 in a heart-stopping regular season contest last season in Albany. Dougherty, Valdosta and Central of Thomasville ended up in a tie for the championship of the region.

The loop was not divided into subdivisions last year.

"We know that Dougherty is well-coached and well-conditioned," he said. "Jerry Aubin, their quarterback, is a very, very fine player.

"Aubin and Buck (Belue, the Valdosta signal-caller) are the most experienced quarterbacks in the region."

Hyder was pleased with most points of his team's 26-0 blanking of previously undefeated Thomasville last Friday night.

"The passing game can be improved on," he said, "and we've been working on our kicking game.

"We need to continue to work to get more depth on defense. We need to use more guards and tackles."



Cheshire Cat

Rebekah VanNus, 11, grins like the Cheshire Cat at Valdosta High School's win over Westover High School of Albany Friday night. Miss VanNus cheered her team on and got into the spirit of things with wildcat makeup before the Wildcats defeated the Patriots 26-0. A complete story on the game is on page 6. — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivan-sco.

VHS Picked Over Trojans In Region Showdown

It's a light week for area high school football fans, but Valdosta's Wildcats have drawn their heaviest opponent of the season.

Dougherty's Trojans make the march from Albany to Cleveland Field here tonight for a 7:30 p.m. bout with the best 1-2 team in the state.

On the field, both teams are 3-0. On paper, Valdosta has those two forfeit losses to Bainbridge and Crisp County to worry about. The Crisp contest is the one that really hurt since it was a Region 1-AAA (North) game.

Dougherty Coach Luther Welsh has already declared the winner of tonight's game the north subregion champion. It's apparent he doesn't consider Tift County in the same class with Valdosta, although the two teams meet here later in the season.

Or maybe he's just trying to fire up the Blue Devils, since his team has already defeated them, 15-10. But if the 'Cats do win tonight, Tift would be the only real obstacle keeping them from a berth in the region playoff.

Nick Hyder probably has Crisp County still in the running and technically, the Cougars still are with a perfect subregion record. But does anybody really believe Crisp will beat both Dougherty and Tifton? Don't think so.

This pigskin picker was 17-4 last week for an overall total of 66-14. That's hitting them at an 82 percent clip. Just hope a week away from the desk won't dull the stargazing.

Losing two games off the field must have made some of the Associated Press high school pollsters mad last week because they ranked Valdosta behind Warner Robins. Sure, the Demons clouted Baker 48-0, but didn't Valdosta beat the 10th-ranked team in the state (Thomasville) 26-0? There's definitely a misdirection of logic there somewhere.

But, number one or number two, it really matters little. Hyder just wants Valdosta to be number one come Dec. 10.

And it looks like his Wildcats are going to take a step in that direction tonight. Valdosta, 24-20.

BERRIEN AT BRANTLEY

Brantley's Herons haven't scored a point this season. Berrien's Rebels haven't been shut out. That should knock out the possibility of a 0-0 tie, which turned out to be the score when Brantley played Atkinson.

Berrien has also met Atkinson and fell by a 12-9 margin. In fact, the Rebs have also played Charlton County, another Brantley foe, and defeated the Indians, 10-6. Brantley lost to Charlton 46-0.

If you're not thoroughly tied up with all those scores by now, try this one on for size. Berrien, 27-0.

CLINCH AT ATKINSON

What's the solution to Clinch County's puzzling Panthers? One week, they score a mountain of points and the next week, they couldn't spit over an ant hill in Death Valley.

This should be a mighty fine football game. Homerville and Pearson are close enough for a few pick-up truckloads of folks to CB it over from Panther country.

It's an old rivalry and one that Clinch has had a lock on for the past few years. Here's sticking with tradition. Clinch, 14-10.



COOK AT APPLING

By the time this season is over, Tom Bailey will probably have aged an eon (you like that word?) or two.

Here he is with a Cook team which has only scored six points in four games. Here he is playing an Appling team that has a scoreboard which runs into three figures.

Here he is at the end of the game on the low side of that scoreboard. Appling, 27-0.

SUWANNEE AT HAMILTON

If Hamilton's ever going to lose a game, tonight should be the night. Suwannee waltzed past the Trojans 34-7 a year ago, and the Live Oak, Fla. team has every intention of playing that same tune again tonight.

But this Hamilton County team is not the same Hamilton County team of last year. One year can make a difference, and the Trojan's 3-0 record proves it.

The question is has it made enough difference? I'm betting against the stars on this one and will probably live to regret it. Hamilton, 21-20.

RIVERVIEW AT WESTBROOK

It's countdown time for Buddy Ethridge. His Westbrook Cougars are half way through their schedule with only one win to show for it.

Westbrook beat the clock and almost tied Terrell Academy last week, but a two-point conversion pass didn't have Cougar eyes.

Don't know anything about Riverview, but one person told me it was tough. Tune in at Dixie tonight and find out whether this guy is a bookie or an unknown Arab who only keeps up with ice hockey. Riverview, 14-7.

OTHER GAMES

Lowndes' Vikings get a chance to rest their walking wounded this week. Their practices must look like something from the famous Gone With The Wind hospital scene.

Central of Thomasville walloped the Vikes last week and should do the same to Bainbridge tonight.

Also, Thomasville over Crisp, Monroe over Westover, Moultrie over Albany, Coffee over Cairo, Ware over Camden, Worth over Fitzgerald, Waycross over Johnson, Americus over West Laurens, Bacon over Blackshear, Early over Mitchell, Seminole over Turner, Irwin over Jeff Davis, and Central of Carrollton over Villa Rica.

People Poll

Times

10-27-77

Do you think the tradition of Halloween is dying out?

Jennifer English, Valdosta High School cheerleader: "I think it's here to stay. The younger kids like it just as much as ever."



Mrs. Jack Morse, Thomasville, housewife: "My own family doesn't observe Halloween at all, so I'm hoping it's dying out. Most people don't realize that Halloween actually originated as a pagan holiday, with witchcraft and peoples lives being taken."



Mike Courson, Valdosta High School student: "I think it's dying out. People used to take a more active interest. They don't go out and do things like they used to."



Dr. Ben Moyer, Valdosta physician: "I don't think it's dying out. It seems to fluctuate with time. Some years it's more popular than others, but it is not dying out."



Greg Harbin, Valdosta High School student: "It's changed a lot since I was a kid. With the increase in crime I think it's scared a lot of people, even here in Valdosta. I wish it wasn't dying out, but I believe it is."



Paul Purcell, Valdosta State College student: "Yes. There aren't as many people going from door to door... maybe it'll be a little better this year."

