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Valdosta High School Scrapbook 36, 1986-1987

Valdosta High School

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VDT 8-19-86

Football Is Here

Georgia high schools began practicing in pads yesterday in eager compliance to Georgia High School Association rules.

At left, a Lowndes High back sneaks through an opening during practice. To the right, Valdosta line coach Jerry Don Baker watches two players collide. (Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek)



Notebook VDTimes 8-19-86

Wildcat Camp

Valdosta opened camp with a 4½ hour practice Monday. "The defense pretty much dominated the first day," Coach Nick Hyder said. "I was impressed with Dan Tillman's and Charles Steward's kicking. Defensively, I felt like Seabron Williams looked awfully good. Offensively, John Wheelles did a good job on the line."

The Wildcats will practice twice a day the rest of the week and then scrimmage at Cleveland Field Friday.

Valdosta hadn't even reported to camp and already there was talk about the season opener with LaGrange. The Grangers are ranked No. 1 in the pre-season poll and Valdosta is picked second.

For the first time since the early 50s, the Wildcats are not holding camp at the 4-H camp at Twin Lakes.

The 4-H camp is currently undergoing renovations and was unavailable for use this year.

But Hyder is not that upset about the change.

"Down there, we only had about two-thirds of a field and we were eaten up by dirt and dust," he said. "Here, the turf is in excellent condition. We've got more space and we've got the weight room."

The last time the Wildcats changed a long-standing tradition was prior to the 1982 season when then switched to bright yellow helmets. Before that, it was Old Gold, like Georgia Tech's. VHS went on to win the state title in '82.

Season tickets are still available for Valdosta's five home games this season for \$20.

Season ticket holders also receive priority on road games as well as playoff games. Tickets that have already been ordered will be mailed later this week.

For more information on tickets, contact Don Simmons at 244-2015.

— ROBERT L. BRADLEY

Notebook V. Times 8-21-86

Wildcat Camp

A rain-soaked field didn't keep the Valdosta Wildcats from banging heads in yesterday's afternoon practice.

The Wildcat's practice field doesn't drain quite as well as Cleveland Field, and yesterday's heavy rains made conditions less than favorable.

Quarterback's had a hard time planting feet and more than one wounded duck was offered to members of the secondary.

It's hard to imagine just how big John Wheelles is. Sure, he weighs over 300 pounds but to see him in person is a wonder.

Wheelles is so broad that the 'Cat coaches haven't been able to find him a pair of shoulder pads that fit him. A search for former 'Cat Marty Howell's pads came up empty.

According to offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker, special pads had to be ordered from somewhere in Alabama — triple extra large ones at that.

According to center Ben Lane, Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder has been heard saying "No one ever got arrested for eating green beans and roast beef." Hyder obviously realizes the importance of a good diet.

Lane does too. He said he liked having camp at the high school rather than Twin Lakes because the food was better.

The wet field didn't slow running backs Jerome Calloway or James Roberts yesterday. The duo got some good yardage with some tough running.

Safety Reginald Dandy made a spectacular one handed interception and took down Roberts singlehandedly. Defensive end Seabron Williams batted down one pass and swiped another one from the arms of tight end Charles Steward.

— MIKE COLOMBO

Notebook V. Times 8-22-86

Wildcat Camp

All the hoopla surrounding the football team at Valdosta High School so far this season has been directed toward the offense. Everyone's heard the talk about how the offensive line averages well over 250 pounds, and how the running backs are an amazing combinations of power and speed, and how the quarterback is drawing notice from major college scouts.

But a little analysis will tell you that this trend is something like the prodigal son story in the good book. With all due respect, the offense kind of went south last year, managing more than two touchdowns on only three occasions.

The squad which had a lot of pressure put on it and accepted the challenge was the non-prodigal son — the Wildcat defense. They gave up an average of only 6.2 points per game last season and had five shutouts while staying on the field much longer than many past VHS teams.

Fact is, Coach Jack Rudolf's defensive squad returns most of the dozen and a half players who saw regular duty last season. Returning to bolster the defensive line are seniors Otis Conaway and Seabron Williams. Conaway has pretty much grown up hanging around the Valdosta Boys' Club, playing football and basketball and working over at the center on Toombs Street. Last year he won the their Boy of the Year Award.

Seabron Williams is the epitome of the Wildcat defensive player. He is a rock at his right defensive end position, where he made all-region last season as a junior. How he does it no one can tell. But even at 5-foot-10 and 170 pounds, his teammates say he hits like a freight train.

The pair of senior linemen will be counted on heavily to provide leadership this season on defense, since a freshman, a sophomore, and three juniors could be playing regularly.

—BLAIR DICKINSON

V. Times 8-26-86
Notebook

Wildcat Camp

As the Valdosta High football team wraps up it's last three days of camp, defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph is busy getting his troops ready for the season opener Sept. 4 against LaGrange.

"Oh, we're looking pretty good right now," he said. "But I can't pick a phase of our defense that I think is ahead of the other."

"We're just trying to survive camp right now and keep injury free."

* * *

During Tuesday's afternoon practice, the 'Cats' first and second team offense continued to move the ball well.

Running backs Lawrence Sharpe and James Roberts ran well while B.J. Mason continued to impress at quarterback. Senior kicker Todd Peterson continued to kick well.

But despite some good moments, head coach Nick Hyder isn't quite ready to tackle LaGrange just yet.

"We're not into our game preparation yet. We will do that next week. Right now we're just getting the players physically, mentally and spiritually ready to play," he said. "We need a game, but right now these two-a-days are preparation enough. This is like basic training, like Paris Island. We're just getting into shape."

* * *

The 'Cats' offensive line received a major blow Tuesday afternoon when Andy Anderson, a 2-year starter, went down with a knee injury.

According to offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker, the extent of Anderson's injury is not yet known.

Anderson is a 6-foot-3, 257-pound senior right tackle.

—ANTHONY DASHER

The Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., Aug. 22, 1986

Valdosta Students Receive Scholarships

Governor Joe Frank Harris announced that five Valdosta students have been awarded Governor's Scholarships for study at colleges this fall.

Lesley L. Sommerville has been awarded a scholarship for study at Valdosta State College. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene S. Sommerville and is a 1986 graduate of Lowndes High School.

Kathryn K. Harris has been awarded a scholarship for study at Emory University. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William N. Harris and is a 1986 graduate of Valdosta High School.

Pamilla J. Gulley has been awarded a scholarship for study at Agnes Scott College. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Gulley and is a 1986 graduate of VHS.

Louis G. Gonis has been awarded a scholarship for study at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Gonis and is a 1986 graduate of VHS.

Julie Shierling has been awarded a scholarship for study at Shorter College. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julian L. Shierling and is a 1986 graduate of LHS.

This prestigious scholarship was awarded to 316 outstanding high school seniors from across the state as part of Harris' emphasis on quality education. Because the scholarship can only be used at Georgia colleges and universities, it also offers an incentive for these exceptional students to continue their education in Georgia.

Selection for the highly competitive

scholarship was based on academic performance, consistent school attendance and achievement test scores. Additional criteria included interscholastic participation, leadership and community involvement.

The Governor's Scholarship covers tuition costs of up to \$1,350 per year for full-time study in Georgia. It may be renewed for an additional three years if the student maintains acceptable grades.

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

V. Times 8-27-86
Notebook

Wildcat Camp

When camp opened, the Wildcats had three linebackers; but none with any major experience. Beau Laskey was hurt on the first day of practice last year and was hurt during the 1985 season. Bruce Daniels did not play last year, but returned for the 1987 season. Anthony Williams was the only player to see extensive action in 1986.

"But now we've got five or six who can play," linebacker coach Charles Tarpley said. "We may even move one of them over to defensive end."

Defensive end was another concern for Tarpley. Seabron Williams started there for three years while Michael Tolbert held down the other side before signing with the University of South Carolina. Junior Coleman Rudolph, senior Kenneth Berrian and senior Bobby Brooks have been doing a good job during the camp.

"Rudolph got to play a lot last year," Tarpley said. "And all three of them did very good on the Super Cat test. So we should be okay there."

* * *

Linebacker Freddie Henton found out what it's like to get hit by a freight train during Wednesday morning's workout. While the offense was running a sweep to the left, Henton came up and squared off on runner James Roberts, a 210-pound running back.

Henton had the play covered by the book, but Roberts just lowered his head and flattened the sophomore, and never lost a stride in doing so.

* * *

Valdosta Touchdown Club members and prospective members will have a chance to meet the 1987 Wildcats at 7 p.m. tonight at the high school. Head coach Nick Hyder will introduce the players with the annual supper to follow.

—ROBERT L. BRADLEY

Notebook V. Times 8-28-86

Wildcat Camp

Valdosta concluded its last night of camp by presenting its Super Cat awards to the players who had done well on the fitness test.

Running backs James Roberts and Issace Ceaser were awarded the Ultra Cat awards for scoring 225 points on the test.

Superior Cat awards went to Charles Steward, B.J. Mason, Reggie Dandy, and Cornzoa Greene.

Getting awards for attaining Super Cat were Beau Laskey, Earl Carter, Keith Henry, Steve French, Keith Beal, Bobby Brooks, Coleman Rudolph, Frederick Henton, Bernard Hitson, Kenneth Berrian, Bernard Rose, Carlos Parker and Chirs Hart.

Offensive lineman Andy Anderson underwent knee surgery Thursday morning at the Hughston Clinic in Columbus. Anderson is expected to be out for two to three weeks.

The team got a surprise from the senior lineman when he walked up on crutches at the end of the Super Cat awards ceremonies.

Valdosta Touchdown Club members and prospective members had a chance to meet the 1987 Wildcats last night following a light scrimmage by the Wildcats. Head coach Nick Hyder introduced the players and the annual supper followed.

Following the supper, it was time for the annual Rookie Night. Players who have not been to camp before were "treated" to a hazing by other players. It wasn't a pretty sight, but the the rookies did come out of hiding long enough to get their medicine.

— ROBERT L. BRADLEY

Wildcats not shoo-in, Valdosta coach says

Times-Union and Journal, Jacksonville, Sunday, August 31, 1986

Special to the Times-Union/Journal

To absolutely no one's surprise, the Valdosta Wildcats are heavy favorites to win the Region 1-4A championship this year.

With the Wildcats returning seven offensive and seven defensive starters, the only person not conceding the region title to the perennial Georgia football giant is Valdosta coach Nick Hyder.

"The region is up from last year," Hyder said. "Tifton, Lowndes, Valdosta, Moultrie [Colquitt County], Westover and Dougherty are all returning a lot of experienced players. We should be in the picture, but there are too many other good teams in the region to be counting other folks out."

VALDOSTA — With returning quarterback Greg Tally working behind an offensive line that averages almost 250 pounds a man, it's easy to see why the Wildcats are again among the state's best.

John Wheelless, a whopping 310-pound tackle and a Times-Union/Journal Super 11 selection, is the big man on the Valdosta offensive line. He joins Jodie Sprinkle (265) — another Super 11 pick — Dan Tillman (205), Andy Anderson (245) and Todd Pitchford (235) along the Wildcat front.

Defensive end Seaborn Williams, a four-year starter, and linebacker Bill Kirby, who will start for the third straight year, head the Valdosta defense.

More To

Get Started

and lost to Warner Robins in the state quarterfinals while the 1983 team was 11-1, losing to Tift County in the region title game.

Despite a few losses in region title games, the tradition at Valdosta is still much alive and kicking.

Joe Wilson

Prior to the Joe Wilson era at Lowndes High, the Vikings were just another whipping stone for most teams in South Georgia.

The Vikings had managed to win only 31 times in 100 tries during the first 10 years. Lowndes had just one team to break even — the 1973 Vikings were 5-5. In 1970 and 1971, Lowndes posted 4-6 records and had a pair of 3-6-1 seasons.

But that all changed in 1976. Wilson, a long-time assistant at Valdosta High, moved across the city to Lowndes. Quickly, the tradition of Lowndes

football was changed and another was started.

Under Wilson's direction, the Vikings were 8-2 that first season. They did not make the playoffs because of losses to Valdosta (14-3) and Central-Thomasville (27-8). Nevertheless, the cornerstone for the future was set. A pair of 7-3 seasons followed and Lowndes made its first-ever playoff appearance in 1978, losing to Valdosta 21-7.

In 1980, the Vikings won the state championship. The only blemish on a 14-1 record was the 17-8 loss to Valdosta in the seventh game of the season. But Lowndes got revenge by upending the Wildcats 6-0 in the region championship game.

Lowndes continued its march to the state championship and beat Griffin 28-12 for the title.

And while Lowndes' best record prior to Wilson was 5-5, by contrast, the

worst since Wilson was 5-5. The whippee has become the whipper.



Pictured above (left to right from top) are the stars to watch in area high school football this year: Jodie Sprenkle from Valdosta; John Wheelless from Valdosta; and Seaborn Williams from Valdosta.

2 Coaching Eras Continue, 2

UDT 8-31-86

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Traditionally, South Georgia is a hotbed for football talent.

Two area coaches are not newcomers to this fact while two more will find out first-hand what it's like to head a program in this "haven for college recruiters."

While most areas go through a constant change of coaches, two coaches who are old pros at the wars of high school football in South Georgia will return in 1986.

Nick Hyder came to Valdosta in 1974, and though his Wildcats stumbled at first with a 3-7 record, Hyder has kept the Wildcat tradition going full-team ahead.

Joe Wilson moved over to Lowndes after many years as an assistant at Valdosta. And though Lowndes doesn't quite have the tradition of Valdosta, Wilson has guided to Vikings to a state championship and many playoff appearances.

With the job of being a head coach goes the pressure of winning. Coaches are fired for not winning and are replaced by coaches who have proven themselves. Sometimes, an assistant coach is elevated, but no matter where they come from, the changes occur.

Of the 13 schools in *The Times'* coverage only, only three will be represented by new coaches this year.

Valdosta State College, which has become a regional leader in naming new coaches, was once again in the process of looking for a new coach this year. Jim Berryman, the second coach in the brief four-year history of the school, stepped down to take an assistant's job at Division I New Mexico. Berryman resigned on national signing day, but the loss didn't affect players from signing. VSC President Dr. Hugh C. Bailey finally announced the hiring of Georgia assistant Mike Cavan.

Valwood, after playing for the state title in its first two years of competing

on the football field, also went looking for a new coach after Allen Fort resigned. But the Valiants didn't have to look very far as assistant coach David Williams was promoted.

In Brooks County, Jim Mills went from Brooks County High to Westbrook Academy. Mills was an assistant for several years under Max Milligan before deciding to try his hand at being a head coach.

Nick Hyder

When Charlie Greene left Valdosta High for Stephens County High in Northeast Georgia, the Valdosta school system went through a tremendous undertaking of finding a replacement.

The job was not an easy one as Greene's predecessor, Wright Bazemore, had laid a foundation unequalled in high school football. More than 100 applicants were received for the job.

Ironically, the person hired was not among the applicants — Nick Hyder was invited down for an interview. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Under Hyder's direction, the Wildcats have posted an impressive record of 128 wins, 24 losses, and one tie. They have won four state titles and one national championship.

With the exception of Hyder's first year, Valdosta's worst season under him was in 1979 when the Wildcats were 8-4. Valdosta followed that with an 11-1 campaign in 1980, losing to eventual state champion Lowndes in the region championship game.

The region championship is nothing to new to Hyder. The Wildcats have played for the title nine consecutive years. They have won six titles and tied for another.

Since 1980, Valdosta has won 72 games and lost just seven, including three last year. The 1982 and 1984 teams were both 15-0 and won the state championship. The 1981 squad was 11-2

Wildcats Should Be Much Stronger Than In '85

VDT 8-31-86

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

With seven starters back on both offense and defense, Valdosta High School's season will still rest with the defense this season.

"We'll have a good, tough defense this year," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said.

But that's nothing unusual. The Wildcats have always been known for their defensive play. Not since Hyder's first season have the Wildcats allowed more than 125 points in a season. In the last 11 years, Valdosta has allowed an average of just 7.0 points per game, while scoring 27.4.

Each year, Hyder and his staff have to make a lot of changes due to graduation. A total of 20 key players are gone from last year. The defense, however, was spared following last season's 9-3 season.

"I've never known our defense to be stripped," Hyder said. "Among the eight starters back from last year, there's four of those eight who will be back next year, and one of them is a freshman, Anthony Williams — who we're real high on. When (Ben) Laskey got hurt, that gave Williams a shot to move in there to start."

Laskey hurt his shoulder on the first day of contact, but should be back in time for the season opener.

Among those returning to the defensive side this year will be Seabron Williams, who was named *The Times* defensive lineman of the year last season. Bill Kirby returns at linebacker along with safetys Walt Gill and Derek Shaw, cornerback Reggie Dandy, and linemen Otis Conaway and Coronzo Greene.

"You study the linebackers and let me know if there's a better one than Bill Kirby," Hyder said. "I won't say he's the best, but let me know if there's a better one than Kirby."

"We've got seven starters back this year, bona-fide starters, on that defensive unit. Zabria Bell alternated with Kelvin Miller at the right defensive tackle and Keith Henry alternated at the right corner. That's nine people who carried the load. And there's two more on the line who carried the load as well."

The Wildcats lost just three defensive starters from last year.

"Kelvin Miller was a good, quick defensive lineman; Dwayne Hart was a fine defensive back, but he didn't play much in the last two games because he was hurt, and Tony Johnson played a lot for us at linebacker."

But by the same token we have Coronzo Greene, Seabron Williams — who is as fine a football as in the area — and Bill Kirby — who is the same caliber — back. We've got a tough defense. Dandy is about as tough a kid as you'll find at corner, and Keith Henry is at the other side. He started the last two games when Dwyane was



Gill



Roberts



Greg Talley Will Be One Of The Area's Top Quarterbacks

member a kicker I've been more impressed with. Not only is he ready to kick, but he's ready to give us depth on the offensive line."

Backing up Steward at tight end will be a pair of underclassmen, Lee Thomas and Mathew Butler.

There was much talk heading into last season as to who would be the starting quarterback for the Wildcats, Greg Talley or Steward. Talley won the battle, and when camp opened this year, he was the only player working that position.

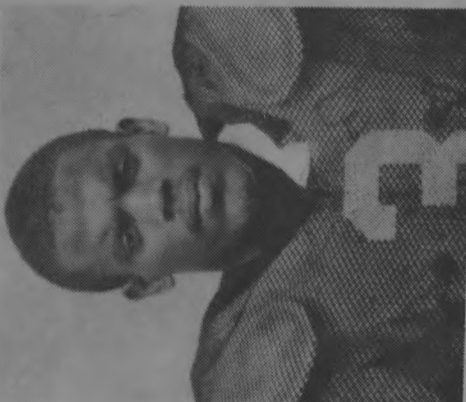
"But we've also got B.J. Mason and we could go with Steward," Hyder said. "Talley is the quarterback until he falls to injury or folds up. But you don't pay the dues he's paid and fold up."

Joining Talley in the backfield will be three new running backs. Tony Mangham and William Dixon both graduated, but Callaway, James Roberts, and Antonio Henderson have moved in.

"We put Calloway on offense because



Kirby



Steward

hurt, and both safetys are back, Walt Gill and Derek Shaw."

Despite losing Jeff Davis, Matt Stanaland, and Marty Howell, the Wildcats return a wealth of talent in the offensive line. Add to that John Wheelless, who sat out last year, and it's easy to see why Valdosta could have the type of offense that scored 550 points two years ago when it won the national championship.

Perhaps the two biggest moves the Wildcats have encountered since last year was switching Jerome Callaway from defensive back to running back and Charles Steward from wide receiver to tight end.

"Charles is a very versatile athlete," Hyder said. "He has been a starter for three years at wide receiver. He alternated taking the plays in. We moved him to tight end and that is a very key move. He played there against Lowndes in the game we lost 14-7 (in the Region 1-AAAA championship), but he'd only been there three

four touchdowns. Belue had four catches for 56 yards and Steward two for 13. Tommy Rainge, who will be a freshman this year, was the leader with three catches for 84 yards and two touchdowns.

But his status on the team is still uncertain.

"He had a domestic problem and I hope he gets it straightened out," Hyder said. "We haven't planned for him to be here, but he may be back. He scored two touchdowns against Southwest Macon in the spring. He helps you open it up, but at this point there are more weapons out there this year than there were last year."

Because of the schedule this year, the Wildcats will need all of that talent that returns. In addition to playing six Region 1-AAAA games, Valdosta opens at home with LaGrange Sept. 5, which was ranked No. 1 in the pre-season poll. Also scheduled are Fulton, Leon of Tallahassee, Fla., and Waycross.

"I think the quality of football will be very good this year," Hyder said. "Moultrie had a really fine team last year and they'll have another good team this year. Tift County will be good, Westover will be good, and Lowndes will have a real fine defense and I know they'll have a scrapping offense. Experience-wise, they (Lowndes) lost a lot of good people."

"Tifton, Lowndes, Valdosta, and Moultrie will have experience. Westover and Dougherty will also have experience. Experience and talent-wise, the region is up from last year."

"Each of us had to get four additional games, and we have upped our quality of football," Hyder said. "We picked up LaGrange, Fulton, which is the best in Atlanta, Leon, and Waycross may be better than all of them. All four of our non-region games are going to be tough."

The four non-region games will open the season, including a Sept. 26 encounter against Leon which will be played at Florida State's Doak-Campbell Stadium. Valdosta has five home games — LaGrange, Fulton, Dougherty, Westover, and Lowndes.

Valdosta

Region: 1-AAAA
1985 Record: 9-3
Players To Watch:
Greg Talley
Jodie Sprengle
John Wheelless
Seabron Williams

1986 Schedule

| | |
|-------|--------------------------|
| S. 5 |LaGrange |
| S. 13 |Fulton |
| S. 19 |at Waycross |
| S. 26 |at Tallahassee-Leon |
| O. 3 |at Tift County |
| O. 6 |Dougherty |
| O. 17 |Westover |
| O. 24 |at Colquitt County |
| N. 8 |at Monroe |
| N. 14 |Lowndes |

we were wiped on offense as far as playing time," Hyder said. "Dixon and Mangham, and (Jeffery) Holmes are gone. We had to go to work in the winter and find some backs and wound up with Antonio Henderson and James Roberts — he's 195 pounds and only a sophomore. Roberts and Calloway, I'd hate to have to stop them. They're the tough street-fighter type kids."

Following the spring game, many people felt that Valdosta would open up the offensive attack this year and pass the ball more. But Hyder is leaving all of that up in the air.

"We've got a good (passing) threat, but I will not just say we're going to stand in there and throw all the time," he said. "B.J. Mason and Guy Belue give us disciplined routes, and we have Charles Steward at tight end, and we moved (Bernard) Hiltson from running back to wide receiver."

The Wildcats completed 11 of 20 passes in the spring game against Southwest Macon for 170 yards and

VDT 8-31-86

...Remember When

Changed Men

After attending Valdosta High School and coaching there for many years, Joe Wilson made the almost unthinkable move in 1976 -- he moved across town to arch-rival Lowndes. But Wilson has no regrets. And he shouldn't. He's won 80 games, including two region titles and a state championship, and lost just 32. At Valdosta, Wilson captained the 1951 Class A state championship team and was named all-region. Also playing on that team was Noel George (bottom photo), who is an assistant at Lowndes now.



Roman Empire Still Lives

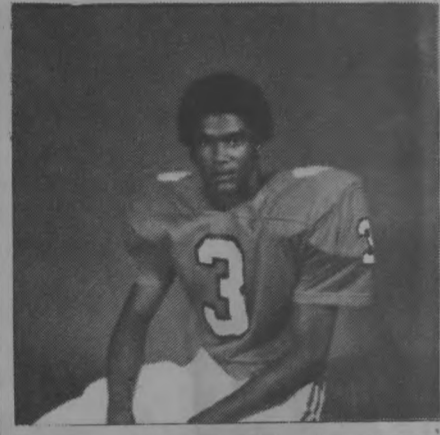
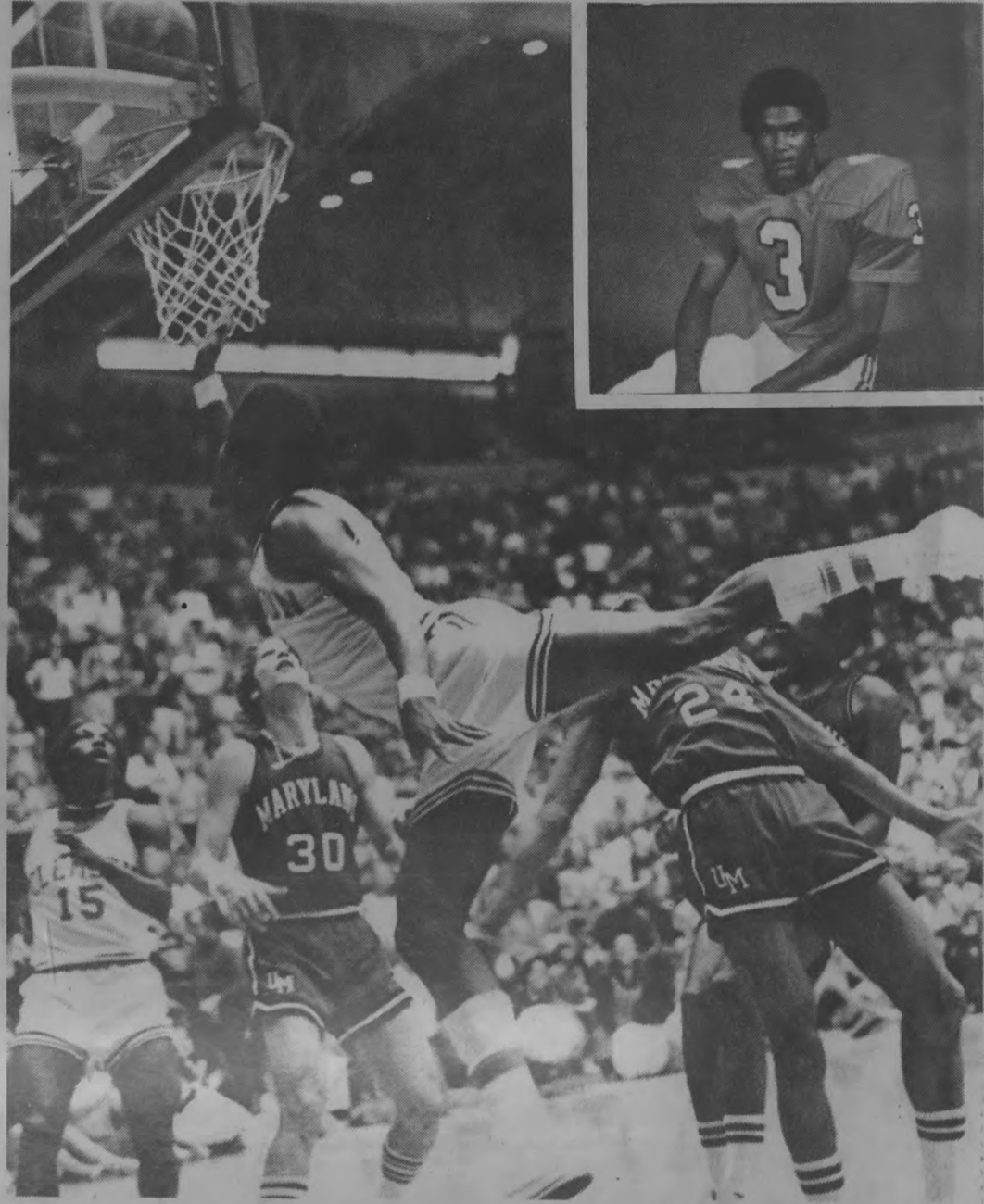
After being named a high school All-American in both football and basketball at Valdosta High, Stan Rome headed north to play for Clemson. His first year there he tried his hand at both sports, but finally settled on basketball.

Here, Rome drives around a University of Maryland player, who gives a great Hollywood acting lesson.

Rome is best remembered to Valdosta fans

running down the sidelines on Friday nights catching passes. He did that so much he is still listed in several categories in the National High School Sports Record Book.

Rome finished his career with 4,477 yards and averaged 22.3 yards per catch, both national leaders. His 201 receptions is fourth on the all-time list and his 45 touchdowns is third. Rome also averaged one touchdown for every 4.5 receptions.

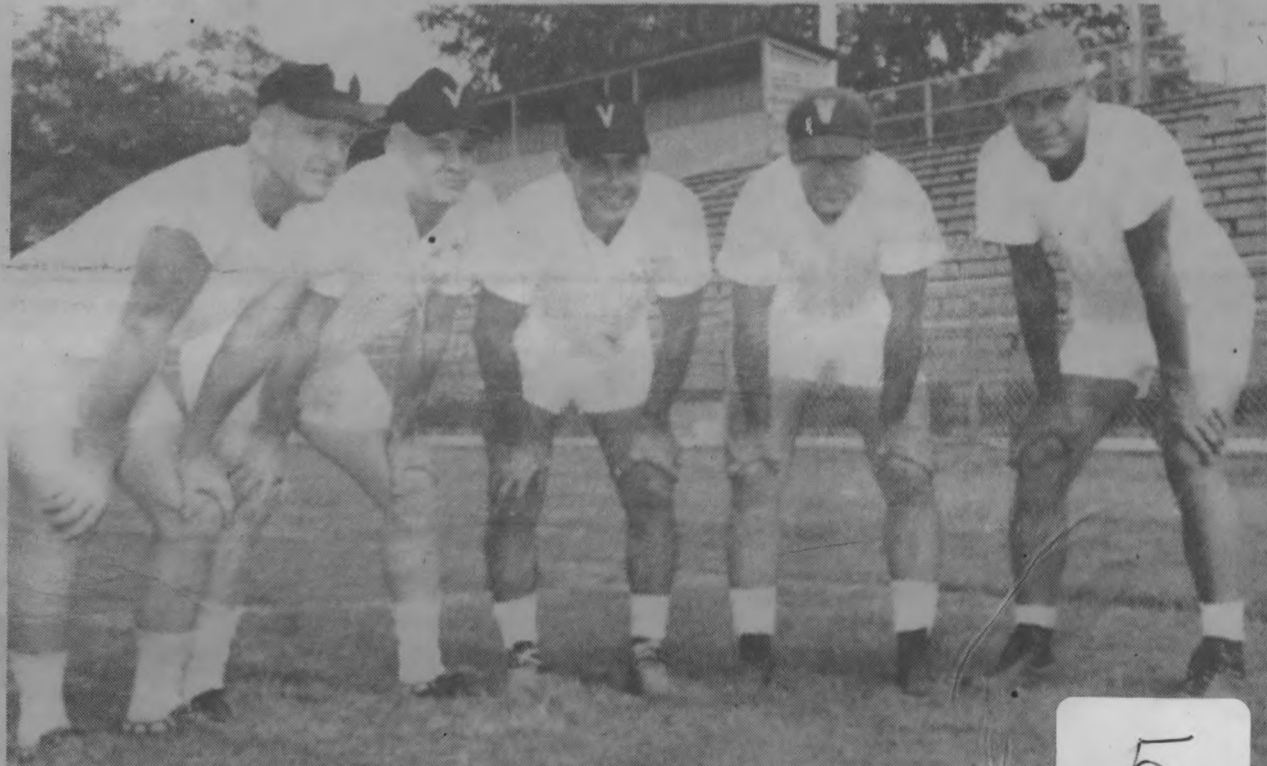


The Start Of Something Big

In 1951, Valdosta High won its third state championship. Since then, the Wildcats have claimed 15 more titles. Leading the 'Cats in 1951 were captains Joe Wilson (l) and Gary Phillips (r) and head coach Wright Bazemore.

Not Just For Players

The Valdosta High Wildcats have long been known for turning out college prospects. But several assistant coaches at the school have emerged to head programs at other schools. In the mid 60s, the Valdosta staff included two future head coaches. From left are J.B. Rowland, Charlie Greene (now at Central-Thomasville), Wright Bazemore, Joe Wilson (Lowndes) and Julian LeFiles.



Traditionally, South Georgia is a hotbed for football talent.

While most areas go through a constant change of coaches, the Valdosta area is blessed with knowledgeable coaches who build solid programs.

The 1986 season will, however, mark the debut of two coaches in Valdosta, while two more Valdosta coaches return for another campaign in the ever-tough Region 1-AAAA. The two new coaches are Mike Cavan at Valdosta State College and David Williams at Valwood. The two veterans of South Georgia wars are Nick Hyder of Valdosta and Joe Wilson of Lowndes.

Hyder, who coached at West Rome before moving South, has been at Valdosta since 1974. Wilson, meanwhile, is a native of Valdosta and graduated from Valdosta High.

The color photographs were taken by *Times* Chief Photographer Bob Lupinek and the cover design was done by *Times* Sports Editor Robert L. Bradley.

* * *

The 1986 football edition was written by *Times* sports writers Robert L. Bradley, Mike Colombo, and Blair Dickinson. Pictures were taken by staff photographers Bob Lupinek and Paul Leavy.

* * *

The *Times* would like to thank the administrators and coaches at all of the area schools for their assistance in helping us put together this year's football edition.

First Day Of City Schools Goes Well

VDT 9-3-86

By DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
Times Staff Writer

The first day of school in Valdosta Tuesday couldn't have gone much better, according to Valdosta School Superintendent Walter Altman.

"We had a very good day," Altman said. "It was pretty much routine and everything went smoothly."

"We had 6,700 students, which is about what we expected, just a few less than the first day last year. Of course, enrollment should pick up some on into the week."

Class sizes were on target, and initial schedules set up in pre-planning should hold, Altman said.

"At this time, class sizes look balanced pretty good, and even though it usually takes about four or five days to work that out, things seem to be averaging out already," he said.

Valdosta High School reports a fairly large freshman class, with 540 reporting the first day.

And as for kindergarteners, the first-timers fared pretty well the first day, Altman said.

The young students wore name tags to keep busing confusion down and no drivers reported misplaced riders, sometimes a common first day com-

plication, he said.

And news from Valdosta Junior High School is also good. Teachers and administrators helped incoming 7th graders learn their way around the campus, and other VJHS reports are positive as well.

Lunchroom operations are improved this year at the school, according to Altman.

"We added two serving lines, so we're up to eight now. With 1,060 kids to feed, that's making things go a lot better."

"We also started self-serve at junior high this year. It worked out so well with the older students at Valdosta High last year, we thought we'd try it there. It's saved us money to let them serve themselves buffet style."

"We thought at one time it would be more expensive, that students would take more than they would actually eat. But, we've found that they take just what they want, they move faster through the line and most of the time they clean their plates."

Generally speaking, Altman said, "I'm very pleased with the outcome of the day...I hope it's an indication of what's going to take place the rest of the year."

Pursuit Of Titles Begins Friday Night

VDT 9-3-86

Camden An Unsure Opponent

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Camden County High Wildcats invade Martin Stadium Friday on the opening weekend of the South Georgia football season for a game with Lowndes High in which both teams could be termed as "unknown quantities".

Camden had a successful 7-3 season last year in Region 1-AAA East, defeating a strong Cairo team 7-0 in the first round of the playoffs before dropping a 21-14 decision to the Bulldogs of Thomasville in the region championship game.

The Wildcats drop to Class AA to play the 1986 season in Region 2-AA Southeast. They were rated the state's ninth best team in Class AA by *The Atlanta Constitution* before the current season, and the Associated Press has Camden ranked 10th in its pre-season poll.

Lowndes has never played Camden before, but oddly enough, the Wildcats' final game last season was against the same school which Lowndes played in its spring football game. Thomasville eliminated Camden from the 1985 playoffs by a touchdown and then tied Lowndes 7-7 in March.

And while Lowndes lost 25 seniors and returns only four starters from last year's team, Camden is not much better off. The Wildcats graduated 24 seniors and return only three starters on offense and four on defense.

Their attack should be quite interesting.

"The offense we run is a run-and-shoot," said Camden County head coach Bill Thombs. "We're prepared to throw the ball quite a bit, but we strive to achieve a good balance in our play-calling between passing and running the ball. A lot of that is contingent on what the defense gives us."

When asked about Friday night's game against Lowndes, Thombs sounded a bit guarded.

"We could end up throwing the football 30 to 35 times against Lowndes. From what I hear they are a pretty physical team — big, strong, and fast — with a good football tradition. Coach (Joe) Wilson has built an outstanding program out there."

"We basically have a pretty small team, about average size for a Class AA squad. We average around 180 pounds along the offensive line and about 190 pounds along the defensive line. We're looking to get a lot of questions answered in this game."

The Wildcats will be counting heavily on three players in particular. Eugene Tyson is a 5-foot-11, 185-pound sophomore linebacker who made all-region (1-AAA) last season and led the team in tackles. Eric Williams is a 5-8, 185 junior running back who has gained 2,009 yards over the last two seasons.

The trigger for the Wildcat offense will be quarterback Sean Hunnings, a 6-1, 175-pounder who started for Camden at wide receiver last season. He should keep plenty of pressure on the Lowndes defensive backfield if given time to throw.

Valdosta

vs.

LaGrange

- When: Friday, Sept. 5
- Where: Cleveland Field
- Time: 8:30 p.m.
- Records: LaGrange, 0-0; Valdosta 0-0
- Rankings: LaGrange, 1st (state), 4th (national); Valdosta 2nd (state), 14th (national)
- Series: Valdosta leads 8-4-0.
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 20, LaGrange 13, 1967.
- On Deck: Marietta at LaGrange, Sept. 12; Fulton at Valdosta, Sept. 13

Lowndes

vs.

Camden County

- When: Friday, Sept. 5
- Where: Martin Stadium
- Time: 8:00 p.m.
- Records: Camden County, 0-0; Lowndes 0-0
- Rankings: Camden County, 10th; Lowndes, unranked
- Series: This is the first meeting ever between Lowndes and Camden County
- On Deck: Cook at Camden County, Sept. 12; Lowndes at Warner Robins, Sept. 12

Grangers Are Very Talented

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

When the 1986 high school football season opens Friday night, people in Georgia will find out real quick how two of the top teams in the nation stack up.

LaGrange has been picked as the No. 1 team in the state in Class AAAA in a poll of Georgia sports writers released this morning by The Associated Press. Valdosta has been tabbed No. 2.

LaGrange is also ranked No. 4 in the nation by *USA Today* while Valdosta is 14th.

"We're going to know pretty quickly whether we've been deserving of all the hype," LaGrange coach Gary Guthrie was quoted as saying in *USA Today*.

All that hype will come to a head at 8:30 p.m. Friday at Valdosta's Cleveland Field in the inaugural game of the season. Looking at the pre-season rankings, don't look for LaGrange to be a pushover. A look at the players on the Grangers' roster further amplifies this.

One of the top college prospects in the nation this year is LaGrange defensive end John Johnson, who anchors the Grangers' six-man defensive front.

Johnson (6-foot-4, 215-pounds) runs a 4.6 40. Last year, he had 66 first hits and 68 assts. He was also credited with 97 big plays last year. Johnson can be so man-handling that LaGrange coach Gary Guthrie has to limit what

Johnson does in practice because he bangs up the running backs so much.

Two other key defensive players are linebacker Andre Griffin and guard Julian Blackmon.

Griffin had 85 tackles and 55 assists last year while Blackmon had 24 tackles and 34 assists.

LaGrange, 12-2 last season and 13-7 losers to Clarke Central in the North Georgia title game, returns 14 starters from last year — seven on both sides of the ball.

While Johnson leads a hard-hitting defensive unit, the offensive side of the ball features several top-notch players.

The Grangers run a wing-T formation with a lot of misdirection.

Leading the complicated offensive attack is quarterback Dechane Cameron (6-1, 200), who has been rated as one of the top 100 seniors by UPI. Cameron accounted for 1,708 yards in total offense (1,140 passing and 568 passing). He also passed for 13 touchdowns and ran for eight more a year ago.

Joining him in the backfield are fullback Roy Lee Moss (1,076 yards rushing in 1985) and Raynon Allen (694 yards rushing last year). Moss had eight touchdowns and Moss five, despite missing all of the playoff games because of a bruised kidney.

Wide receiver Derwin Brewer not only gives the Grangers and excellent passing threat, but returns punts and kickoffs as well.

Valdosta-LaGrange Matchup Should Be Classic

VDT 9-4-86



VHS Assistant Coaches Work With Defense In Final Preparations For LaGrange Game
Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Rivalry Renewed After 19-Year Hiatus

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

When the 1986 high school football season opens Friday night, one game in particular has all the makings to be a classic.

- Both teams have long been powerhouses in the state of Georgia.
- One of the teams is ranked No. 4 in the nation and No. 1 in the state in Class AAAA.
- The other team is ranked No. 14 nationally and second in the state in Class AAAA.

It has been billed as the top game in the state and one of the top in the Southeast for the season.

Both teams have at least six major college prospects, including one of the top prospects in the nation.

THE Game will be played at Cleveland Field when LaGrange, ranked first in the state and fourth nationally, invades town to take on Valdosta, ranked second in the state and 14th nationally, in an 8:30 kickoff.

Anytime Oklahoma and Texas tangle on the football field, you know it's going to be one of those classic battles.

And somehow, you get that same feeling about this one.

On paper, the teams stack up pretty evenly. Both return 15 starters from last year when the two combined for a 21-5 record.

Leading the attack for Valdosta on offense will be quarterback Greg Talley. The 6-foot-1 senior completed 68 of 135 passes for 818 last season. He also threw eight interceptions, but had a string of five consecutive games without a one.

One of his favorite receivers, Charles Steward, is also back. But Steward, who caught 38 passes for 438 yards, has been moved from wide receiver to right end.

Anchoring the offensive line will John Wheelless and Jodie Sprengle. But Wildcats have plenty of experience with Ben Lane, Andy Rykard, Jack Morgan, Todd Pitchford, Troy Wells, and Andy Anderson.

In the backfield will be Jerome Calloway, James Roberts, Bernard Hinson, and Antonio Henderson. Defensively, the Wildcats are very solid. Seabron Williams, who was

"We need to play, whether or not we're ready. We need to get a game under our belts. We've been practicing long enough and the players are ready to go after someone else."

—Nick Hyder
—Valdosta Coach

named the most valuable defensive lineman by *The Times* after last season, Otis Conaway, Coronzo Greene, and Zabria Bell anchor a line that will get a solid test from LaGrange's wing-T formation.

Bill Kirby is one of the top linebackers in the area while Walt Gill, Reginald Daney, and Derek Shaw lead the secondary.

The Wildcats are more than familiar with themselves now and are ready for the challenge against LaGrange.

"We need to play," Coach Nick Hyder said, "whether or not we're ready. We need to get a game under our belts. We've been practicing long enough and the players are ready to go after someone else."

The Wildcats have worked very hard on getting ready and have spent this week putting the final touches on execution in preparation for the Grangers.

"Execution really is going to be the

big thing," Hyder said. "And we're going to have some first-game intensity which is to be expected. Plus all the media hype is making it tougher than normal."

"We've got to be ready for big things and this is definitely going to be one of them."

The last time Valdosta and LaGrange met on the football field, most of the players who will be participating in this year's game weren't even born yet.

That was in 1967 with Valdosta claiming a 20-13 decision. The last time the Grangers won against the Wildcats was in 1964, a 13-0 victory. Valdosta leads the series against LaGrange with eight victories in 12 meetings.

But LaGrange has an excellent chance to gain another game on the Wildcats. The Grangers have several of the top prospects in the state, including defensive lineman John Johnson.

"He is one of the big recruits," Hyder said. "He's about first, second, or third on just about all the lists, at the least the ones I've seen. Andre Griffin and Kenzil Jackson are also good linebackers."

Leading the offense will be quarterback DeChane Cameron, who accounted for more than 1,700 yards in total offense last season.

"He's being recruited by Stanford, Southern Cal, most of the Big 10 schools, and all the SEC schools," Hyder said. "People are comparing him to Vince Suttion; but (Cameron's) stronger. He runs a lot like a tough linebacker and is a good passer as well."

Cameron has a wealth of talent working in front of and behind him. Five starters return on offense, including a pair of running backs who accounted for nearly 1,800 yards rushing last season.

Valdosta

vs.

LaGrange

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- Last LaGrange Win: 1964, 13-0
- On Deck: Marietta at LaGrange, Sept. 12; Fulton at Valdosta, Sept. 13

1 team playing the No. 2 team in a regularly-scheduled game."

The kind of attention the game is getting is nothing new to either schools. Valdosta trails only Massillon, Ohio in career victories by a school. And Massillon's lead is only one game. LaGrange has also been a long-time power of Georgia football.

But the pressure is really on the coaches. Most of the players on Valdosta's team were not members of the 1984 national championship team.

"The coaches are used to this type of thing," Hyder said. "But the players' reactions will be different. Only Bill Kirby, Seabron Williams, John Wheelless, and Charles Steward carried a big load for us in '84. The rest of the players, this is all new to them."

in the state in Class AAAA and 14th nationally, will tangle with top-ranked LaGrange at Cleveland Field at 8:30 p.m. Friday. The Grangers, who are also ranked No. 4 in the nation by USA Today, asked that the kickoff be moved back 30 minutes to enable its fans time to get to Valdosta.

Because of the lofty ranking of both teams, the game has received a lot of hype across the state. It has also been billed as one of the top games scheduled in the Southeast this year.

"I can't remember a game that has gotten as much hype as this one has," Hyder said. "When we play Lowndes that gets a lot, but it's mostly local. But this game is getting state-wide attention."

"It's not often when you have the No.

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta High Wildcats are more than ready to start the football season.

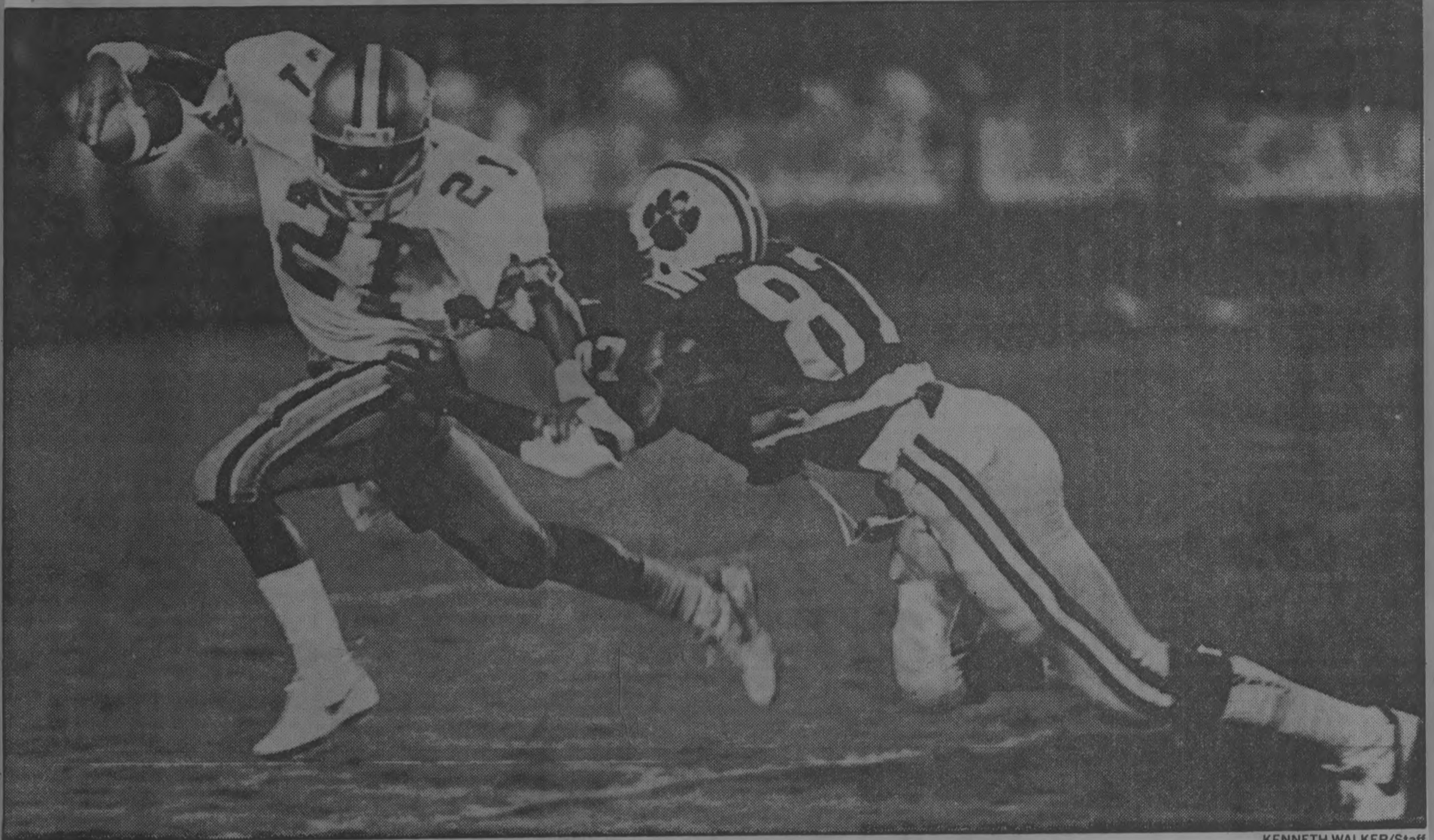
Unfortunately for Valdosta, its season-opening opponent Friday night is what coach Nick Hyder terms as one of his toughest openers ever.

"It's definitely a tough game," Hyder said. "It's the toughest opener we've had since I've been here and probably the toughest since I was at West Rome when we opened with Westminster. Another tough one was against Gadsden, Ala., when I was at Rome. We ended up in a tie in both of those. But since I've been here, this is undoubtedly the toughest opener."

The Wildcats, who are ranked second

Valdosta makes case for No. 1

Atlanta Const. 9-6-86



KENNETH WALKER/Staff

LaGrange wide receiver Derwin Brewer (21) breaks away from Valdosta's Seabron Williams during second quarter of Friday night's game.

Second-ranked Wildcats knock off top-rated LaGrange

Complete high school coverage, Pages 4-C, 5-C
By Rachel Blount
Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — When the season's first high school football rankings came out last month, most of the experts picked LaGrange as the top team and Valdosta as No. 2 in Class AAAA. But Friday night, Valdosta proved the pollsters wrong with a 16-6 win at Cleveland Field in the season opener for both teams.

Quarterback Greg Talley, who scored on an eight-yard touchdown run to put Valdosta ahead for good in the second quarter, teamed with running back Jerome

Calloway to lead the Wildcats' offense. But Valdosta's defense proved to be the key to the victory.

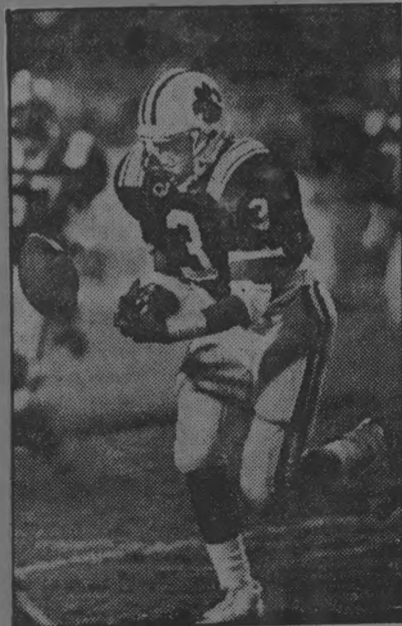
Led by lineman Eric Larry, linebacker Anthony Williams and defensive back Derek Shaw, the Wildcat defense allowed LaGrange to score first, then harassed Granger quarterback Dechane Cameron the rest of the night and kept LaGrange from ever putting together another successful drive.

LaGrange got off to a rough start when Cameron fumbled the snap on the game's third play from scrimmage. Shaw scooped up the loose ball and ran it back to the Grangers' 28, and the Wildcats' offense took over.

But Valdosta couldn't capitalize. LaGrange sacked Talley and held Valdosta for three more downs to regain possession at its 20. Then the Wildcats made some mistakes of their own. On third-and-four, LaGrange fullback Roy Lee Moss took a late hit as he ran out of bounds to give the Grangers a first down at their 43. On the next play, Valdosta committed another personal foul to put the Grangers at the Wildcat 45.

Then Cameron took charge, connecting with wide receiver Derwin Brewer at the Valdosta 5-yard line.

See VALDOSTA, Page 12-C



JOEY IVANSCO/Staff

Valdosta's Charles Stewart can't hold on to pass from Greg Talley.

Atlanta Const 9-6-86

Valdosta

From Page 1-C

Two plays later, running back Raymon Allen took the pitch around the right side and into the corner of the end zone to give the Grangers a 6-0 lead with 6:01 remaining in the quarter.

Valdosta came back behind Calloway, who got the Wildcats back into LaGrange territory with runs of six and seven yards. After Valdosta was pushed back to the Granger 40 on another penalty, Calloway took a handoff and picked through five tacklers for 42 yards, nearly dragging defensive back Marty Carter with him as he high-stepped into the end zone to tie the score at 6 with 1:42 to go in the first quarter.

LaGrange got only as far as its 27 before it punted on the next drive, and Valdosta found another star. This time, Talley tried out his passing game, taking the Wildcats to the Granger 8 with a 22-yard pass to Calloway and a 12-yarder to wide receiver Guy Belue. With first-and-goal at the 8, he kept it on the ground, faking a pass and scampering through the middle into the end zone.

Dan Tillman made the first successful extra point of the game to give Valdosta a 13-6 edge with 8:05 left in the half. LaGrange's extra point had been wide to the right, and the Valdosta snapper sent the ball over holder B.J. Mason's head on the Wildcats' first touchdown.

LaGrange struggled again on its next possession, getting only to its 32 before punting. But the defense kept Valdosta mired in its own territory, and LaGrange got the ball back on its 37 after a punt.

Things got no better for the Grangers. Just as they finally edged toward the 50-yard line, Cameron threw a pass that hit bounced to lineman Coronzoa Greene. The Wildcats took over on the Grangers' 32, and Tillman missed to the right on a 43-yard field goal to end the half.

Valdosta totally controlled the third quarter, stringing its first drive out for nearly eight minutes before Tillman made a 34-yard field goal to give the Wildcats a 16-6 lead with 4:06 remaining in the quarter. LaGrange threatened in the fourth quarter, taking the ball all the way to the Valdosta 17, but Valdosta's Keith Henry broke up a Cameron pass to Moss to end the drive.

8

Valdosta Upends No. 1 Grangers, 16-6

VDT 9-6-86



By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

"I tell you what, this is one heck of a way to open the high school football season this year," said one observer in the press box at Cleveland Field Friday night.

Indeed it was. The Valdosta Wildcats, ranked second in the state in Class AAAA, upended top-ranked LaGrange 16-6 before 11,000 fans.

"The defense and the offense really played with a lot of intensity," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said. "This was not a marshmallow game."

LaGrange, with at least seven major college prospects on its roster, was its own worst enemy. The Grangers fumbled seven times and lost two of them. DeChance Cameron, one of the top quarterbacks in the state, was also intercepted three times.

The Wildcat defensive unit was responsible for most of the mistakes with its aggressiveness and hard-hitting pursuit.

But it was a mixup in the Wildcat secondary coverage that led to the Grangers' only score of the game.

Derwin Brewer broke loose down the middle of the field and Cameron connected for a 35-yard gain to the Wildcat five-yard line. Two plays later, Raymon Allen went around right end for the score.

The extra point by Julian Blackmon was wide to the left and the Grangers had a 6-0 lead with 6:01 still left to play in the first quarter.

"We just had a mixup that set up their touchdown," defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said. "We didn't have the right coverage on and they caught us."

The Valdosta defense also helped the Grangers with two consecutive un-sportsmanlike penalties that moved LaGrange from its own 22-yard line to the Valdosta 40.

Before the LaGrange score, Valdosta had failed on a fourth-down and four attempt at the LaGrange 21-yard line. LaGrange then put together a seven-play, 79-yard drive.

The Valdosta offense came back and put together its own drive. This time, Valdosta went 71 yards in nine plays to tie the game. Jerome Calloway went through the middle of the line, broke two tackles at the 35-yard line, and went 42-yards to the end zone.

On the extra point attempt, the snap from center went over the head of kicker Dan Tillman and the teams were deadlocked at six with 1:42 left in the first quarter.

The Valdosta defense was able to gradually wear down LaGrange in the second half. And that was mainly because the Wildcats were substituting so freely.

"We had several players we rotated in and out," Rudolph said. "That might have been a big factor because we always had several rested players."

The Valdosta defense, which yielded only 84 yards rushing, held the Grangers to minus one yard on their next series. After taking the punt at the 43-yard line, the Wildcats proceeded to put together what turned out to be the game-winning drive.

On third-and-10, quarterback Greg Talley found Calloway for a 24-yard gain to the LaGrange 33. Calloway then broke lose for a 12-yard pickup and Guy Belue moved the Wildcats to the LaGrange 9-yard line with an 11-yard reception from Talley.

After James Roberts gained just one yard on first down, Talley rolled to his right looking for a receiver. Instead, he found a wide open lane and went in for the touchdown.

Tillman came on to kick the PAT and the Wildcats were ahead 13-6 with 8:05 left in the first half.

The teams exchanged punts before LaGrange started another drive. But it ended when Valdosta's Eric Larry batted down a Cameron pass and Coronzo Greene grabbed the interception at the LaGrange 32-yard line.

The Wildcats moved as close as the 22 before Talley was sacked on second down and threw an incomplete pass on third down. Tillman came in to try a 43-yard field that was just short with only 20 seconds left in the half.

| | | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|------|
| LaGrange | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0-6 |
| Valdosta | 6 | 7 | 3 | 0-16 |

| | |
|---|--------|
| LaG | Val |
| Val - Raymon Allen 5 run (kick failed) | 9 |
| Val - Jerome Calloway 42 run (kick failed) | 68 |
| Val - Greg Talley 8 run (Dan Tillman kick) | 25 |
| Val - Tillman 37 FG | 84 |
| Yards Rushing | 12-63 |
| Yards Passing | 7-2 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 3-37.7 |
| Punting | 8-60 |
| Penalties | 3-25 |
| Rushing - LaGrange, Moss 11-34, Brewer 2-23; | |
| Valdosta, Calloway 16-90, Roberts 15-32, Talley 13-33; | |
| Passing - LaGrange, Cameron 12-63 84; Valdosta, | |
| Talley 12-50 54; | |
| Receiving - LaGrange, Brewer 3-49, Allen 2-29, Moss 1-11; Valdosta, | |
| Calloway 2-29, Steward 2-14, Belue 1-11. | |

Valdosta got the second half kick off and put together a drive that proved to be the turning point of the game.

The Wildcats ran 19 plays and moved the ball 64 yards. But the drive bogged down and Tillman kicked a 32-yard field. The drive took nearly eight minutes as the Valdosta offense was able to wear down the LaGrange defense and give its defense some added rest.

"That was definitely a big factor in the game," Hyder said. "We even had a couple of fourth-down tries we were successful on."

"That was definitely the turning point in the game," Rudolph said. "We ran a lot of time off the clock and the field goal was just the icing on the cake because it put them in a position of having to score twice to win."

The drive was highlighted by a 17-yard run by Talley on second-and-10. But most of the plays were from 3-6 yards. Talley also made a key 6-yard run on fourth-and-one and did the same on fourth-and-two.

"Talley was just terrific," Hyder said, "particularly in that drive."

The Wildcats, who are ranked No. 14 in the nation, will play host to Fulton of Atlanta next Saturday at Cleveland Field. LaGrange, which is ranked fourth nationally, will play host to Marietta Friday night.

This year's game was the 13th meeting between the two schools. Valdosta holds a 9-4-0 lead in the series.

Valdosta's James Roberts Cuts Back Behind The Line To Gain Some Extra Yardage
Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek



Valdosta Quarterback Greg Talley (11) Hands Off To James Roberts (48)

Camden's Williams Ruins Vikings' Opening Game

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Camden County running back Eric Williams, only a junior, is already being sought by several major colleges. After Friday night's performance against the Lowndes High Vikings, it's not hard to see why.

On the first play from scrimmage, Williams ran 75 yards for a Wildcat score and added a crucial two-point conversion late in the fourth quarter as Class AA Camden surprised Region 1-AAAA power Lowndes, 15-14.

"We had about seven guys on Williams on that conversion, but he just escaped and got the ball in," said Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson. "He's really a great back."

Lowndes led 14-7 with just over five minutes left in the game when running back Anthony Wright turned the ball over to Camden on its own 44-yard line. Not great field position, but the Wildcats took advantage of the miscue.

Three consecutive running plays moved the ball to the Vikings' 19-yard line. Sean Hummings then went around the left end for 19 yards and the score to cut Lowndes' lead to 14-13.

But the Wildcats were not about to settle for a tie. In the attempt to go for two, Williams swept right and faced a wall of Viking defenders but managed to elude them. He rambled to the other side of the field and found his way into the endzone for the score, accounting for the 15-14 tally.

Williams finished the day with only 80 yards on 12 carries. But while Williams cooled in the second half, Hummings got hotter. The Camden quarterback finished with 99 yards on 19 carries. Hummings got only a total of 38 yards in the air but Camden's net ground total of 205 yards more than made up for the slow night in the air.

The Wildcats used a variety of sets and plays to fool the Lowndes defense. One strategy was the unbalanced line. Camden would put the center on the

end and split the backs. This set gave Lowndes some trouble, but it was not a surprise.

"We knew they were going to do that," Wilson said. "It wasn't a surprise. We just didn't defend against it too well."

Hummings gained most of his yardage keeping the ball and scooting right up the middle. "We had the players assigned to stop him," Wilson said. "They just didn't carry their assignments out too well."

But Lowndes' defense played a strong game despite the score and the number of yards gained on the ground by Camden. Time and time again, the Viking defensive front pressured Hummings from the pocket to stop drives. Freddie Richardson made some ferocious hits and had a touchdown saving tackle and a sack to his credit. Robert Hargett sacked Hummings as well.

And the Viking defense spent a lot of time on the field. The Lowndes offense gained only 64 yards on the ground and 98 in the air on the night. Bennie Pierce led the rushing attack with just 34 yards on eight carries. Speedster Mark Walker gained only 11 yards on eight carries. Wright had 16 yards on five carries.

"We had a real bad case of first-game jitters," Wilson said. "We played a lot of youngsters out there and I knew they would make mistakes. But there were a lot of seniors and juniors out there who made some errors they shouldn't have. But Rome wasn't built in a day. We'll just have to reload and remount."

Viking quarterback Rhett Akins performed admirably in his first start at the Lowndes helm. Akins played only sparingly last season and competed the past two weeks against four other teammates for the starting spot.

Last night, Akins went 13-26 for 98 yards. Akins hurled only one interception and that was in the waning

moments of the game.

Down by a touchdown, it was the steady play of Akins and Brad Almon that got the Vikes back into the fray. After Lowndes forced a Camden County punt, Almon returned the ball 64 yards down to the Wildcats' 9-yard line. But it was Akins who had to get the ball in. Two incomplete passes and an Akins' scramble left the ball on the Wildcat 4-yard line at fourth and goal. But Akins rolled right and found split end John Thompson in the endzone for the score. Joey Parker's extra point was no good and Lowndes trailed 7-6.

Lowndes jumped ahead 14-7 late in the third quarter. With the ball on the Viking 30-yard line, Wright was hurled for a two-yard loss. Akins then connected on two long passes, one to Zane Craven and another to Rozelle Orr. A 15-yard roughing penalty and a short run by Pierce moved the ball to the Camden 32. Akins then threw to Orr, who was open in the right side of the endzone. The ball was tipped by a Camden defender but Orr was there to get the rebound and go in for the score. On a two-point conversion, Akins found Almon for the 14-7 lead.

But three minutes later, Camden scored again and Williams made his phenomenal run on the two-point try to seal Lowndes' fate.

| | | | | | |
|---|--------|---|---------|---|----|
| Camden Co. | 7 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 15 |
| Lowndes | 0 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 14 |
| Cam — Eric Williams 75 run (Rusty Prescott kick) | | | | | |
| Low — John Thompson 4-yard pass from Rhett Akins (kick failed) | | | | | |
| Low — Rozell Orr 32 pass from Akins (Brad Almon pass from Akins) | | | | | |
| Cam — Sean Hummings 19 run (Williams run) | | | | | |
| | CC | | Lo | | |
| First Downs | 9 | | 9 | | |
| Yards Rushing | 205 | | 64 | | |
| Rushing Attempts | 41 | | 27 | | |
| Yards Passing | 38 | | 98 | | |
| Passes | 17-6-0 | | 28-13-1 | | |
| Fumbles-Lost | 4-1 | | 1-1 | | |
| Punting | 7-26.5 | | 7-30.0 | | |
| Penalties | 6-50 | | 4-30 | | |
| Rushing — Camden. Hummings 19-99, Williams 12-80, Myers 5-18. Lowndes. Pierce 8-34, Wright 5-16, Walker 8-11. | | | | | |
| Passing — Camden. Hummings 5-16-0 38. Lowndes. Akins 13-27-198. | | | | | |
| Receiving — Camden. Miller 2-23, Baker 1-19. Lowndes. Orr 6-88, Craven 2-15. | | | | | |
| Missed Field Goals — none. | | | | | |

Valdosta Should Claim No. 1 Spot

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats will most assuredly move into the No. 1 position in the state high school football polls after soundly defeating previously top-ranked LaGrange 16-6 Friday night in Valdosta's Cleveland Field.

The Wildcats got a 42-yard touchdown run from senior running back Jerome Callaway and an 8-yard scamper for another score from senior quarterback Greg Talley. Placekicker Dan Tillman added a 32-yard field goal late in the third quarter to put the game on ice for the home team.

Behind the solid play of its huge offensive line led by tackle John Wheelless and guard Jodie Sprengle, Valdosta rolled up 168 yards rushing against the Grangers to maintain ball control for much of the second half. A 19-play 64-yard drive for the field goal consumed nearly eight minutes of the third quarter and took the starch out of the Grangers.

The traditionally stout Wildcat defense showed that this year's edition is as strong as effort. Valdosta coach Nick Hyder's defenders held No. 1 ranked LaGrange to a mere 68 yards rushing on 25 attempts, in effect dominating the line of scrimmage.

Valdosta faces another stern test next week when Fulton High School from Atlanta, featuring David Rocker, one of the top high school linemen in the country, invades Cleveland Field for a Saturday night game.

Another Valdosta team which will top the polls in the coming week is Valdosta. The Valiants, defending champions in SEALS Class A, began their season last week with a 51-0 trouncing over Class AAA Memorial Day School of Savannah.

Friday afternoon they solidified their rating with a 28-18 home victory over the Class AA defending state champion Brookwood Warriors. And most of their offense came from a rather

unexpected source.

Junior quarterback Danny Swilley, a defensive back last season, was expected by many to simply hand off to star halfback Maurey Copeland this season. But with most of the Brookwood defense keying on Copeland, Swilley completed seven of 11 passes for 178 yards, including scoring strikes of 72 yards to Jamie McLean and 53 yards to Bucky Davis.

A charged-up Valdosta defense, led by noseguard Karl Spinney and linebacker Anthony James, bottled up the Brookwood wishbone, holding the Warriors to a mere 64 yards rushing.

The Lowndes High Vikings held on grimly to a 14-7 lead throughout most of the second half against the powerful Camden County Wildcats until late in the game. That's when Camden quarterback Sean Hummings broke loose for a 19-yard touchdown run. Star running back Eric Williams then added a two-point conversion on a wild run to seal the Vikings' fate, 15-14.

The Brooks County Trojans downed long-time rival Cook High 13-9 behind the play of senior quarterback Preston Williams who scored the first touchdown on a 70-yard punt return.

Berrien County held only an 18-15 lead over Pelham before bolting to three second-half touchdowns behind an opportunistic defense. The Rebels recovered three Pelham fumbles in the last two periods and turned each into a touchdown.

Senior quarterback Jerry Simmons passed for 297 yards and four touchdowns in the victory for Berrien County.

Westbrook Academy got four touchdowns from Floyd Rothrock and downed Crisp Academy 53-6.

Don Bolden scored two touchdowns and Herbert Mingo added a touchdown, two 2-point conversions, and a PAT as the Panthers of Clinch County shut out Pierce 22-0.

Line Was The Difference

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High football coach Nick Hyder had said before his Wildcats' game against top-ranked LaGrange that the difference would be execution.

And though the Wildcats struggled at times in that area, there was one particular drive Valdosta executed to near perfection.

Valdosta won the coin toss before the game, but elected to receive at the opening of the second half. The strategy paid off.

Holding a 13-6 lead at the half, the Wildcats got the second-half kickoff and kept the ball for nearly eight minutes. And though they only got a field goal out of the drive, the difference was keeping the ball for such a long period of time and forcing LaGrange to play a hurry-up offense the rest of the game to try and get back in it.

"Going out after the half, we felt like we had to get something on the board," offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker said. "Going down and getting the three points made them score twice to beat us."

But the Grangers didn't even score once as Valdosta's defense, which was

all over LaGrange most of the night, didn't give an inch. The defense forced turnovers at costly times for the Grangers. And the offense never made a serious threat after that, it had done its work at the start of the half.

The Wildcats were able to play ball-control offense at the start of the second half because of its huge offensive line. With John Wheeless making his return to the lineup after a year off, running back Jerome Calloway was able to pick up 90 yards on 16 carries, including a 42-yard touchdown run in the second quarter. That run came when Calloway burst through a gaping hole created by Wheeless, then broke a pair of tackles, and outran the secondary to the end zone.

"Andy Anderson made a key block on that touchdown," Baker said. "He got a little tired as the game went on and they were able to get to us. But this is his first game starting in the offensive line and he made some mental mistakes. He is a good lineman and is just going to get better."

"Jodie Sprenkle played a hell of a game and John Wheeless, I'm glad he's back. Andy Rykard also did a good job for us at center."

Baker said he was not surprised at the way Wheeless played.

"He really played with a lot of intensity," Baker said. "He's toting around 300 pounds. But his leadership really helped us tonight. He's got a lot of experience and he's getting better all the time."

Wheeless, with his 6-foot, 308-pound frame, welcomed the return. He had to sit out last year for personal reasons, but the layoff didn't show in his play.

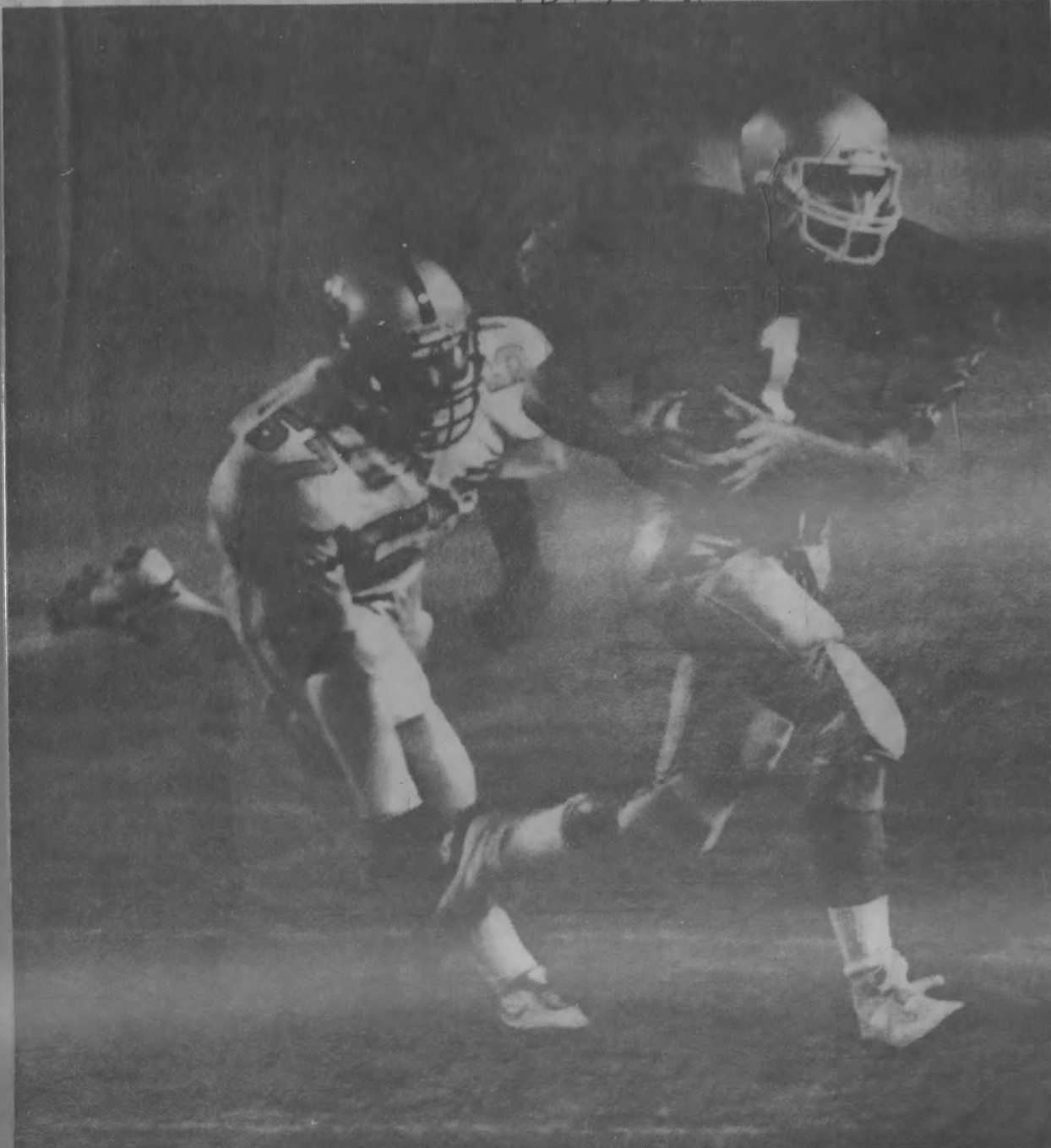
"It's great to be back," he said. Anderson wasn't the only offensive lineman who started to drag a little bit late in the game.

"I guess I'm just going to have to run them some more," Baker said.

But the offense was sharp enough at the start of the second half to put the finishing touches on the victory.

"That offensive drive was really big," defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said. "They kept the ball for a long time and ended up getting a field goal, which was the icing on the cake."

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Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Rhett Akins Scrambles From Wildcat Defender In Attempt To Reach Endzone

'Cat Defense Played On Determination

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcat defense, perhaps small in stature but long on determination, dominated the state's top-ranked team Friday night in a 16-6 victory over LaGrange. For their efforts, the entire defensive unit has been named as the Valdosta Daily Times' Players Of The Week.

The Wildcat defenders allowed only a first quarter touchdown in limiting the Grangers to 152 yards total offense. In 25 rushing attempts, LaGrange runners averaged only 2.7 yards per carry, and the Valdosta defense held the visitors to only 84 yards passing while picking off three LaGrange passes.

The Wildcats also registered three quarterback sacks and forced seven fumbles by their opponents, recovering two of them.

"Our whole defensive squad played so well that I couldn't single out one or two individuals," Wildcat defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said. "They all played so well, and it was such a total team effort that everyone contributed a great deal."

Seniors in the Valdosta defense include ends Seabron Williams and Mike Tolbert, tackles Otis Conaway and Eric Larry, linebacker Bill Kirby, and safeties Derek Shaw and Walt Gill.

Jerome Callaway, Valdosta — gained 90 yards on 16 carries and scored the Wildcats' first touchdown on a 42-yard run. Callaway also caught two passes for 29 yards.

Valdosta Moves To Top Spot

ATLANTA (AP) — Lincoln County, the only 1985 champion ranked No. 1 entering this season, was bumped from atop Class A after losing 13-10 to Class AA No. 1 Washington-Wilkes.

Washington-Wilkes was the only No. 1 team from last week which managed to hang onto its ranking in this week's voting by The Associated Press' panel of sports writers and sportscasters.

Valdosta is the new No. 1 in Class AAAA, Thomson and Bainbridge are tied at the top in Class AA and Commerce leads Class A.

Valdosta, ranked second last week, was the unanimous pick to replace LaGrange atop Class AAAA after beating the Grangers 16-6. No. 2 Clarke Central and No. 3 Warner Robins each have moved up a spot, while LaGrange dropped to fourth.

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By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Why do people who are fairly well off risk life and limb travelling to the jungles of darkest Africa, the heights of Mount Everest, or the sands of the Middle East to seek out what those places have to offer?

For the experience. So why would Fulton High School football program in Atlanta, risk life and limb coming four hours down the interstate to play against the No. 1 team in the state — Valdosta High?

"We feel like it'll be a good experience for our boys to play against somebody with a reputation like Valdosta has," Fulton coach Willie Hunter said. "The biggest crowd we ever play in front of is around 4,000 people. From what I hear, Valdosta will have at least twice that many, and they're pretty supportive of the home crowd."

"We have great respect for their team and coaching staff. We've heard that this may be their year as far as taking another national championship goes. We just want to see how well our boys can compete on that level."

But the Cardinals have a pretty fair team of their own. They lost only two out of 10 games last year and barely lost the region championship to George High School. A major portion of that team returns this season, including a

Valdosta vs. Fulton

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young man about whom Valdosta coach Nick Hyder is quite concerned.

Fulton has a young lineman named David Rucker who plays center on offense and tackle on defense, and he is what you might call a franchise player. He has been listed among just about everyone's top 25 prospects in the nation. He's big (6-foot-4, 245 pounds), quick, strong, and really makes his presence known.

But the Cardinals have three other players who are bona-fide college recruits. Anthony Slayton is a big quarterback (6-2, 190) who runs the wishbone very well, but who also throws the ball very well to keep the defense honest. Larsell Bennings is a fine athlete at cornerback. Gerald Dalton is a 5-11, 190-pound fullback who runs a 4.64 out of the wishbone.

Otherwise Fulton could be characterized as an average sized team with good quickness and a lot of speed. They are very well coached as Hunter is in his ninth year at the helm. He regularly finishes either first or second in his region and is high respected by the media and by recruiters in the

Atlanta area. Hunter may have one major problem on his hands. Rucker was carried off the field with a sprained knee in Fulton's 21-0 victory over Mays last weekend. On Tuesday morning Hunter said Rucker would not play. But one can never tell about a player's resolve and determination. Hyder is surely counting on Rucker being in the lineup.

Without Rucker, Fulton averages between 200 and 210 pounds along the offensive line, and is about the same size on defense, with two exceptions who will be players to watch Saturday night.

Linebacker Willie Savage, No. 40 for Fulton, is a quick, hard-nosed, intense competitor in the middle but is a little small at 5-9, 160 pounds. And the other defensive tackle opposite Rucker is Kiwi Spikes, a mountain of a man at 6-2, 280.

Interestingly enough, Spikes will still be outweighed by the man he plays head-up to — Valdosta tackle John Wheelless at 308 pounds. That will be a battle to watch.

Fulton plays a basic 50 defense with

two stand-up defensive ends, the two middle linebackers, two cornerbacks, a free safety, and a rover who plays up close to the line of scrimmage but at a lot of different places so that he is kind of like a wild-man linebacker.

But the Cardinals will be interesting on offense. Their wishbone is very dangerous with the speed they possess in the backfield. But they also use it to set up the passing game. When the defense begins massing at the line of scrimmage to stop the wishbone, Slayton becomes deadly.

Even Hunter admitted that while they are basically a running team, they throw the football 30 percent of the time, and that is considered to be a lot for a wishbone attack.

The Cardinals have four or five players who play regularly on both offense and defense, and that may hurt them against the masses of Wildcat players. But if anyone put players on the field and play them both ways effectively, it is Hunter. He works them hard in the weight room and should have them well-prepared for the South Georgia heat.



JOEY IVANSKO/Staff

CONSOLATION: Valdosta coach Nick Hyder walks off field with LaGrange's Roy Lee Moss.

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No. 2 Valdosta records upset of No. 1 LaGrange

By Rachel Blount
Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — When the season's first high school football rankings came out last month, most of the experts picked LaGrange as the top team and Valdosta as No. 2 in Class AAAA. But Friday night, Valdosta proved the pollsters wrong with a 16-6 win at Cleveland Field in the season opener for both teams. Quarterback Greg Talley, who scored on an eight-yard touchdown run to put Valdosta ahead for good in the second quarter, teamed with running back Jerome Calloway to lead the Wildcats' offense. But Valdosta's defense proved to be the key to the victory.

Led by lineman Eric Larry, linebacker Anthony Williams and defensive back Derek Shaw, the Wildcat defense allowed LaGrange to score first, then harassed Granger quarterback Dechane Cameron the rest of the night and kept LaGrange from ever putting together another successful drive.

LaGrange got off to a rough start when Cameron fumbled the snap on the game's third play from scrimmage. Shaw scooped up the loose ball and ran it back to the Grangers' 28, and the Wildcats' offense took over.

But Valdosta couldn't capitalize. LaGrange sacked Talley and held Valdosta for three more downs to regain possession at its 20. Then the Wildcats made some mistakes of their own. On third-and-four, LaGrange fullback Roy Lee Moss took

a late hit as he ran out of bounds to give the Grangers a first down at their 43. On the next play, Valdosta committed another personal foul to put the Grangers at the Wildcat 45.

Then Cameron took charge, connecting with wide receiver Derwin Brewer at the Valdosta 5-yard line. Two plays later, running back Raymond Allen took the pitch around the right side and into the corner of the end zone to give the Grangers a 6-0 lead with 6:01 remaining in the quarter.

Valdosta came back behind Calloway, who got the Wildcats back into LaGrange territory with runs of six and seven yards. After Valdosta was pushed back to the Granger 40 on another penalty, Calloway took a handoff and picked through five tacklers for 42 yards, nearly dragging defensive back Marty Carter with him as he high-stepped into the end zone to tie the score at 6 with 1:42 to go in the first quarter.

LaGrange got only as far as its 27 before it punted on the next drive, and Valdosta found another star. This time, Talley tried out his passing game, taking the Wildcats to the Granger 8 with a 22-yard pass to Calloway and a 12-yarder to wide receiver Guy Belue. With first-and-goal at the 8, he kept it on the ground, faking a pass and scampering through the middle into the end zone.

Dan Tillman made the first successful extra point of the game to give Valdosta a 13-6 edge with 8:05 left in the half. LaGrange's extra

point had been wide to the right, and the Valdosta snapper sent the ball over holder B.J. Mason's head on the Wildcats' first touchdown.

LaGrange struggled again on its next possession, getting only to its 32 before punting. But the defense kept Valdosta mired in its own territory, and LaGrange got the ball back on its 37 after a punt.

Things got no better for the Grangers. Just as they edged toward the 50-yard line, Cameron threw a pass that hit the Wildcats' Larry in the hands and bounced to lineman Coronzo Greene. The Wildcats took over on the Grangers' 32, and Tillman missed to the right on a 43-yard field goal to end the half.

Valdosta totally controlled the third quarter, stringing its first drive out for nearly eight minutes before Tillman made a 34-yard field goal to give the Wildcats a 16-6 lead with 4:06 remaining in the quarter. LaGrange threatened in the fourth quarter, taking the ball all the way to the Valdosta 17, but Valdosta's Keith Henry broke up a Cameron pass to Moss to end the drive.

| | Val | LaG |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------|
| First downs | 13 | 8 |
| Rushes-yards | 43-156 | 26-91 |
| Passing yards | 85 | 85 |
| Passes | 4-11-0 | 6-13-3 |
| Fumbles-lost | 0-0 | 3-2 |
| Penalties-yards | 5-45 | 3-15 |
| Valdosta | 6 7 3 0-16 | |
| LaGrange | 6 0 0 0-6 | |

LaG—Raymond Allen 5 run (kick failed)
Val—Jerome Calloway 42 run (kick failed)
Val—Greg Talley 8 run (Dan Tillman kick)
Val—Tillman 34 FG



Freddie Waters (left) And Tackle Otis Conaway

Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Waters Could Play With Best

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

On Friday night December 11, 1953, Valdosta High School pounded LaGrange High 48-7 at Cleveland Field for the Wildcats' third consecutive Class A state championship. On the following morning, the local newspaper gave an account of the game which took up more than half of the front page of the Saturday morning edition.

On the back page of the sports section of the same edition, there appeared a small three-paragraph announcement of another state championship game to be played at Cleveland Field that Saturday night — a game between Dasher High, then Valdosta's negro high school, and Hunt High of Fort Valley.

One sentence used in describing the Dasher team went thusly, "The fancy pass receiving of ends Gene Hampton and Freddie Waters also figures heavily in Tiger offensive play."

Dasher High won that state championship game 13-12, twice coming from behind in a steady rain which had most of the field under water. The game story which ran the following Monday was the only coverage Dasher received all season, although they finished undefeated in 1953.

Such was the playing career of one Freddie Waters, perhaps one of the best football players ever to emerge from Valdosta. He was a sophomore on that 1953 state championship team but played quarterback the following two years.

After a stellar high school career at Dasher, Waters matriculated to Bishop College, now an NCAA Division III competitor, but back then a power in the Gulf Coast Conference.

While at Bishop he competed against many players who later went on to star in the National Football League — players like Willie Davis and Elijah Pitts of the Green Bay Packers, Buck Buchanan and Ernie Ladd of the Kansas City Chiefs, and Deacon Jones of the Los Angeles Rams.

Today, Waters is the defensive line coach for the Valdosta High Wildcats. Many of his own players might be surprised to learn that he was once a 6-foot, 195-pound speedburner who could turn a 9.9-second 100-yard dash, or perhaps a 4.6 40.

Just how well Freddie Waters could play football is awfully hard to say. Dasher High was closed in 1956, and its successor, Pinevale High, was absorbed into Valdosta High School during the integration of the late sixties. Athletic statistics, it is safe to say, are very, very difficult to retrieve.

The newspapers of that era did not cover the black schools on a regular basis, and Dasher did not have a school annual then. Statistics were not kept and filed the way they are today.

Two people were located who remembered Waters'

exploits on the gridiron. One was Brooks County High basketball coach Art Gamble.

"I played quarterback against Freddie Waters when he was at Dasher and I was at Washington Street High in Quitman. He was a fine quarterback — a great runner as well as a great passer. He may be a little heavy now, but back then he had some great moves and he was fast. You really had to watch Dasher then because they'd make a couple of big plays and before you knew it, they'd be up by four or five touchdowns."

Another who remembers Waters is Wright Bazemore who coached Valdosta High at the time and often watched Dasher play.

"Freddie was one of the best quarterbacks in the state. He was a fine passer and a great runner. He scored two or three touchdowns every game and passed for a bunch more. Dasher played a good brand of football with good execution, but you talk about unpredictable — every time there'd be a situation where you'd expect them to plunge into the line, they'd throw long! They had a great football team."

After his career at Dasher, Waters was highly recruited by several of the top black colleges in the South — Florida A&M, Tennessee State, Fort Valley State, Albany State, Morris Brown, and West Virginia State. He chose Bishop College out in Texas, a competitive school with a fine program.

Waters was the starting quarterback all four years at Bishop. During his junior and senior seasons, he was the offensive captain of a team which won the Gulf Coast Conference championship.

He got offers from two AFL teams, the Houston Oilers and the Dallas Texans (now the Kansas City Chiefs), as well as an offer from the expansion Dallas Cowboys. But Waters' mother was very ill in Valdosta at the time, so he returned home to care for her.

"Pro football was a lot different then from the way it is today," Waters explained. "The top players were only making around \$12,000 a year. I felt like I was as good as the players in the pros, but I had a family emergency. With the money they spend nowadays my family wouldn't have let me turn it down."

After his mother improved Waters worked coaching jobs in Cordele and Holly Springs, Ark. for a short time before W.G. Nunn talked him into coming back home. He taught at Lomax Junior High for four years before moving to Valdosta Junior High where he toiled from 1966-74.

When present Valdosta football coach Nick Hyder arrived in 1974, he brought Waters over to work with the high school team where he has been ever since, developing talent like all-region defensive end Seabron Williams and standout tackle Otis Conaway.

Depth Will Aid Wildcats

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High Wildcats will be challenged by Fulton High School out of Atlanta this Saturday night at Cleveland Field. The Wildcats enter the game as the No. 1 ranked team in Georgia's Class AAAA while Fulton is an unranked squad from Region 6-AAA.

Valdosta coach Nick Hyder was asked whether the size of a school's student body really has much effect on the performance of its football team.

"In the spring we played a game against the biggest high school east of the Mississippi, and it made no difference (Valdosta 41, SW Macon 0). So a school's overall program — its tradition, the players' attitudes, support from the student body and community, and the quality of the coaching staff — is what makes a football team a winner, not just the size of its talent pool."

Statistics strongly support Hyder's theory. Southwest-Macon's average daily attendance figure is 2,092 while Valdosta's is 1,138. And the ADA of Clarke Central, a team which has won three state championships and played for a fourth in the last 10 years, is a mere 844 which would make it the smallest school in Region 1-AAAA save for Monroe High.

"Fulton High has a strong program,

headed by one of the top coaches in the Atlanta area, Willie Hunter," Hyder explained. "He has been there nine years and has built a quality program. The athletes they develop are very well-conditioned and highly disciplined. It's a good fundamental football team we'll be facing Saturday night."

Fulton's Cardinals finished last season with an 8-2 record in second place in their region behind George High School. They have regularly come in first or second in the region since Hunter's arrival. The Cardinals opened their 1986 season last week with a 21-0 victory.

They have an average size team with the exception of their two defensive tackles, 6-foot-2, 280-pound Kiwi Spikes and 6-4, 245-pound David Rocker. Rocker has been widely acclaimed as one of the top 25 high school football players in the country.

However, Rocker sprained a knee in last week's game, and Hunter said he would not play Saturday. Of course his status will not be definitely known until the kickoff.

Spikes will battle the biggest of Valdosta's large offensive linemen, 6-2, 310-pound John Wheelless, all night long on the right side of the Cardinal defensive front. It will be a matchup worth watching.

One definite advantage in the

Wildcats' favor will be depth, not so much because they are a bigger school but because they work at it, playing a lot of different personnel for big portions of all games, especially on defense. For every pair of positions, like the two defensive ends or inside linebackers or safeties, there is always at least a third alternate "starter", if not a fourth.

This allows all of those Wildcat defenders to stay very well rested. And against an opponent which has numerous players going both ways, like Fulton may well be forced to do, Valdosta usually ends up dominating the fourth quarter, especially on a hot, muggy night in Cleveland Field.

"Last week against LaGrange, we were protecting a 10-point lead, and our offense didn't make a first down in the fourth quarter," Hyder explained. But our defense was so fresh that we came up with five turnovers."

The Wildcat offense had produced an 8-minute, 19-play drive for a field goal in the third quarter for a 16-6 lead before turning the ballgame over to the defense for safekeeping.

"We've got a little more depth on defense than we have on offense. We've got over 100 years of playing and coaching experience in defensive coaches Jack Rudolph, Freddie Waters, and Charles Tarpley, and our

strong suit on defense is experience, technique, and anticipation. They coach that into our kids two and three deep at every position."

"But we don't have two 250-pound offensive linemen to man every position, so we'll have to get the job done with what we've got."

The ones they've got should be enough. That's not to say that Ben Lane, Troy Wells and Co. aren't solid enough to play all out the whole game. They are. But Hyder is not one to sit around idle. He is hard at work developing a second offensive line to challenge the first string unit.

Jack Morgan is a 195-pound junior reserve guard. Sophomore Andy Rykard is a 190-pound sophomore backup center who started in the spring game. Junior Todd Pitchford is a 235-pound reserve tackle. All will see more and more playing time as they progress and gain experience.

Wildcat fans will be interested to know that Fulton will have at least four major college prospects in their lineup, if Rocker plays. Quarterback Anthony Slaton, a 6-2 190-pound senior, possesses great speed and can throw a football 60-70 yards. Fullback Gerald Dalton is 5-11 and 190 pounds and runs a 4.6 40. And cornerback Larsell Bennings, a 5-11 175-pounder, is a tough coverage man in the defensive backfield.

Valdosta vs. Fulton

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- Rankings: Valdosta No. 1; Fulton unranked
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- On Deck: Douglas, Ala. at Fulton, Sept. 19; Valdosta at Waycross, Sept. 19

Cats Dominate

Fulton



Valdosta's Nick Hyder Holds Motivational Meeting With Team
VDT 9-11-86

Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Some defensive teams are so good, all they need is an accurate placekicker and they'll take you to a championship.

Valdosta High School got three field goals from soccer-style kicker Dan Tillman and a lot more as the Wildcats subdued Fulton High from Atlanta 30-6 at Cleveland Field Saturday night.

Valdosta rolled up a whopping 21 first downs while yielding but five to the visiting Cardinals of Fulton as they dominated the game from the outset. And it was a somewhat balanced offense as the Wildcats picked up 127 yards through the air and gained 208 on the ground. Two of their touchdowns came through the air and the other came on the ground.

"We really tried to get the play selection going so as to keep Fulton off balance, and for the most part it worked," Wildcat coach Nick Hyder said.

After holding Fulton on the Cardinals' first possession, Valdosta safety Walt Gill used a wall of great blocking to return a punt 62 yards for an apparent touchdown. However, a clipping penalty was called against the Wildcats, giving them a first down instead at the Cardinal 30-yard line. It only took five plays for the home team to score as halfback Jerome Callaway first picked up 12 yards around right end before bursting 18 yards up the middle for the touchdown.

Fulton was not dismayed though. Cardinal halfback William Mabry took the ensuing kickoff at his own 10-yard line, found a hole in the left side of the onrushing Wildcats, and outraced the pursuit down the right sideline for a 90-yard kickoff return. Wildcat defensive end Seabron Williams blocked the point after attempt however, and Valdosta held a 7-6 lead.

Reginald Dandy returned Fulton's kickoff 21 yards to the 30-yard line. From there, the Wildcat offense took

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just seven plays to score. Quarterback Greg Talley found split end B.J. Mason for 16 yards; fullback James Roberts gained 11 yards up the middle; Antonio Henderson picked up five more before Talley gained 13 on a keeper around right end. Talley then passed for 22 yards down the right sideline to Roberts for a first down at the Fulton 9-yard line.

From there Talley passed to tight end Charles Steward over the middle for the touchdown. Tillman's extra point made it 14-6.

The Wildcats' next three possessions ended in two punts and an interception on a tipped pass. But immediately thereafter, they drove for three consecutive field goals off the instep of Tillman.

"Dan has been working very hard for us lately, and his accuracy has been very good," Hyder said. "He was a perfect three-for-three on field goals tonight and a perfect three-for-three on extra points."

Tillman was Valdosta's leading scorer for the evening with 12 points.

After each team repeatedly moved the ball up and down the field in the second half, failing to score, the Wildcat second team offense finally cashed in on a late touchdown with 22 seconds left in the game. Mason, playing quarterback, had already completed a touchdown pass to Terrance Hull which was called back due to a penalty. He got the one that counted to William Jones from 11 yards out in the back-left corner of the end zone.

Two sterling defensive plays stopped Fulton on their deepest penetrations into Wildcat territory. Defensive end Mike Tolbert stacked up the right side of the Fulton line and forced a fumble which stopped one first-quarter Cardinal drive at the Wildcat 28-yard line.

And in the second half, safety Derek Shaw alertly anticipated a fourth-down pass over the middle and took the interception 60 yards up the sideline

behind excellent blocking before he was hauled down by a Cardinal with an angle on him.

Two other plays would have gone for Fulton touchdowns had not the last man for Valdosta caught the ballcarrier from behind. Dandy hauled Cardinal halfback Antoine Clay down from behind at the end of a 42-yard first-quarter scamper.

Then in the fourth quarter it was Clay again bursting through the line into a wide open field with Terrance Hull the only man to beat. Hull came through and tackled Clay to save the touchdown.

Callaway was the leading ballcarrier for the Wildcats with 84 yards on 10 carries. Roberts added 39 yards on nine carries. But perhaps the biggest surprise of the night was sophomore fullback Lawrence Sharpe. The 250-pounder displayed good speed in breaking off runs of 36, 14, and 10 yards, finishing the night with 67 yards on six carries.

Talley finished with 10 completions in 21 attempts for 105 yards and one touchdown. However, in all fairness to the senior quarterback, at least three of his misses were dropped by his receivers.



VDT 9-14-86

Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Valdosta's Jerome Callaway Tries To Drag Out Of The Grasp Of Two Fulton Defenders

| | | | | |
|--|----|--------|---------|------|
| Fulton..... | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0-6 |
| Valdosta..... | 14 | 6 | 3 | 7-30 |
| Val — Jerome Callaway 18-yard run (Tillman kick) | | | | |
| Ful — William Mabry 90-yard kickoff return (kick failed) | | | | |
| Val — Charles Steward 9-yard pass from Greg Talley (Tillman kick) | | | | |
| Val — Tillman 38-yard field goal | | | | |
| Val — Tillman 37-yard field goal | | | | |
| Val — Tillman 37-yard field goal | | | | |
| Val — William Jones 11-yard pass from B.J. Mason (Tillman kick) | | | | |
| | | Ful | Vald | |
| First Downs | | 5 | 21 | |
| Yards Rushing | | 155 | 208 | |
| Rushing Attempts | | 28 | 37 | |
| Yards Passing | | 32 | 127 | |
| Passes | | 11-2-1 | 27-12-1 | |
| Fumbles-Lost | | 5-1 | 2-0 | |
| Punting | | 7-34.3 | 3-39.1 | |
| Penalties | | 10-70 | 5-55 | |
| Rushing — Fulton. Clay 10-93, Slayton 8-35; Valdosta. Callaway 10-84, Sharpe 6-67, Roberts 9-39. | | | | |
| Passing — Fulton. Slayton 2-7-32-1; Valdosta Talley 10-21-105-1, Mason 2-5-22-0. | | | | |
| Receiving — Fulton Clay 1-28; Valdosta. Steward 5-32, Callaway 2-28, Roberts 1-22. | | | | |

High School Poll

'Cats Stay On Top In AAAA

VDT 9-17-86

The State Rankings

ATLANTA — Here are this week's Associated Press rankings of Georgia high school football teams, with records, first-place votes, and point totals in the poll. Voting is by the AP's panel of sports writers and sportscasters.

| Class AAAA | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|
| 1. Valdosta (2-0), 9 | 99 | 6 |
| 2. Clarke Central (1-0), 1 | 87 | 7 |
| 3. Warner Robins (2-0) | 77 | 11 |
| 4. LaGrange (1-1) | 71 | 55 |
| 5. Bradwell Institute (2-0) | 55 | 50 |
| 6. Southwest Dekalb (2-0) | 44 | 39 |
| 7. McEachern (2-0) | 37 | 23 |
| 8. Colquitt County (1-1) | 37 | 19 |
| 9. Redan (2-0) | 37 | 16 |
| 10. Evans (2-0) | 34 | 16 |

Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Effingham County, Glynn Academy, Hardaway, Morrow, Newnan, Northside Warner Robins, Riverdale, Riverwood, Roswell, Southwest-Macon and Tift County.

| Class AAA | | |
|------------------------|----|----|
| 1. Bainbridge (1-0), 7 | 92 | 6 |
| 2. Dalton (2-0), 2 | 87 | 8 |
| 3. Americus (1-0), 1 | 84 | 8 |
| 4. Thomasville (1-0) | 67 | 28 |
| 5. Gainesville (2-0) | 50 | 50 |
| 6. Dublin (2-0) | 46 | 46 |
| 7. Thomson (0-1) | 42 | 35 |
| 8. Marietta (1-0) | 37 | 17 |
| 9. Cedartown (2-0) | 35 | 17 |

| | | |
|-----------------|---|----|
| 10. Cairo (1-0) | 9 | 96 |
|-----------------|---|----|

Also receiving votes: Central-Thomaspville, Coffee, Hart County, Peach County, South Gwinnett, Troup, Westminster and Worth County.

| Class AA | | |
|--------------------------------|----|----|
| 1. Washington-Wilkes (2-0), 7 | 96 | 6 |
| 2. West Rome (1-0), 2 | 81 | 8 |
| 3. Central-Carrollton (1-0), 1 | 74 | 7 |
| 4. Manchester (2-0) | 71 | 7 |
| 5. Camden County (2-0) | 55 | 50 |
| 6. Mary Persons (1-0) | 50 | 50 |
| 7. Duluth (1-1) | 39 | 39 |
| 8. Upton (1-0) | 33 | 23 |
| 9. Lakeshore (1-0) | 23 | 19 |
| 10. Lovett (2-0) | 16 | 16 |

Also receiving votes: Berrien County, Cartersville, East Hall, Pepperell, Swainsboro and Waycross.

| Class A | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|
| 1. Commerce (1-0), 9 | 99 | 6 |
| 2. Palmetto (2-0) | 83 | 8 |
| 3. Lincoln County (1-1), 1 | 81 | 8 |
| 4. Wilcox County (2-0) | 64 | 64 |
| 5. Louisville (2-0) | 60 | 60 |
| 6. East Rome (2-0) | 49 | 49 |
| 7. Greenville (1-1) | 37 | 37 |
| 8. Irwin County (2-0) | 28 | 28 |
| 9. Calhoun County (2-0) | 28 | 28 |
| 10. Montgomery County (1-1) | 21 | 21 |

Also receiving votes: Atkinson County, Bremen, Miller County, Pacelli, Taylor County, Warren County and Wrens.

Atlanta (AP) — When Evans' Davis kicked his 39-yard game-winning field goal against Thomson, he also booted the Bulldogs out of a share in first place in the Georgia Class AAA high school football rankings.

Davis also helped his Knights, who won 17-14 to run their record to 2-0, break into this week's Class AAAA rankings, as determined by The Associated Press' panel of sports writers and sportscasters.

Otherwise, the rankings look much the same as last week. Valdosta remains No. 1 in Class AAAA, Bainbridge has sole possession of the lead in Class AAA, Washington-Wilkes heads Class AA and Commerce is atop Class A.

Aside from Evans, the only new teams in the poll are Class AAA Cairo, Class AA Lovett and Class A Montgomery County, which returns after a week's absence.

The top six spots in Class AAAA again are filled by Valdosta, Clarke Central, Warner Robins, LaGrange, Bradwell Institute and Southwest Dekalb.

Northside-Warner Robins dropped from No. 7 out of the rankings after a 14-7 loss to Morrow. McEachern moved up a spot to No. 7. Colquitt County, which had been tied with Redan at No. 9, got the No. 8 vacancy. Redan remained ninth, followed by Evans.

In the Class AAA rankings, Bainbridge is followed by four teams — Dalton, Americus, Thomasville and Gainesville — which moved up a notch because of Thomson's drop to No. 7. Dublin moved up two notches to No. 6 and Marietta and Cedartown, each climbed one step to eighth and ninth, respectively.

Talley Earned A Spot

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High quarterback Greg Talley received undue criticism from some last season for a supposedly sluggish offensive performance by the Wildcats. This year he might receive too much praise for the team's success. That's just the way it goes.

But VHS head coach Nick Hyder thinks that may be too much pressure for a youngster to handle.

"I'm the head coach. It's my job to set up for the offense and make sure it goes according to plan," Hyder said. "The responsibility of calling the plays is mine. I'm paid to do it. Talley's just a teenager 17 going on 18."

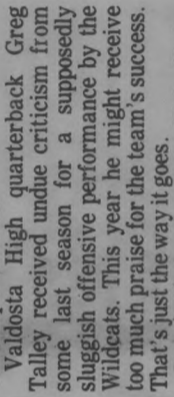
It's this division of labor that makes football a beautiful but precarious game.

Talley, however, doesn't appear bruised by the criticism. In fact, Talley appears to be stronger and more confident than ever.

However, it must be pointed out although the youngster has improved, he didn't really have that far to go. Those obstinate fans who like to blame the quarterback for everything should go back and look at last year's stats. Talley's figures were good at the end of last season. Maybe rabid 'Cat fans expected too much in the wake of a National Championship team.

Talley finished the regular season last year with 60 completions out of 108 attempts for a 55 percent completion average. He gained 686 yards and threw a pair of touchdown passes with seven interceptions. These are more than admirable figures.

In Valdosta's first two games this season, Talley has completed 15 out of



VDT 9-17-86

Valdosta Quarterback Greg Talley Lets One Fly

for himself. He fits into the mold of those well known Wildcat quarterbacks who have gone before — Buck Belue and John Lastinger. He has grown some interest from the University of Georgia as well as Alabama.

"Experience is the key," Hyder said. "He practiced for a whole year before he ever started a varsity game. Last season, he played 12 games. All that work has just started paying off."

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

When the Waycross Bulldogs play host to the Valdosta Wildcats at Memorial Stadium in Waycross Friday night, it will be the 49th renewal of a longstanding rivalry between two traditional South Georgia football powers. There are many bonds between the two schools.

The Bulldogs' head coach, Dale Williams, played quarterback for Valdosta High in the late 1950's and led the Wildcats to a pair of state championships. And it was from Waycross that Valdosta hired a young assistant coach in 1934 named Wright Bazemore who went on to steer the Wildcats toward 268 victories and 14 state championships.

A third bond between the two schools is a young man by the name of Will Edwards. He is the starting right tackle for the game will be on sale today through Thursday at the ticket office from 8:00 until 4:30 and on Friday from 8:00 until 2:00. At Waycross, the ticket window will open at 4:00 Friday and the gates at 6:00 p.m. with the kickoff at 8:00. Advance student tickets are \$2, and advance adult tickets are \$4. All tickets at the gate are \$4.

They began the current season with a 17-7 victory over rival Ware County before losing 27-13 to Class AAA Coffee High School. The Bulldogs return only four starters on offense from last year and six on defense.

"This team has good potential," Williams said. "I realize that doesn't mean much, but we're still developing, and I feel like we have a good chance to go a long way. We played poorly against Coffee, and they deserve some credit. They executed well and didn't make any mistakes."

The Bulldogs operate out of a wishbone offense with senior quarterback JoJo McQuaig calling the signals. The fullback is 175-pound sophomore Barry Boyd, a hard runner and fine blocker. He leads a speedy backfield behind a fairly good-size line. Next to Edwards, a third-year starter, is Danny Smith, a 230-pound

Valdosta Wildcats Renew Old Rivalry With Waycross Friday

VDT 9-17-86

Valdosta vs. Waycross

- When: Friday, Sept. 19
- Where: Memorial Stadium, Waycross
- Time: 8:00 p.m.
- Records: Valdosta, 2-0; Waycross, 1-1
- Rankings: Valdosta, 1st (AAAA); Waycross, unranked (AA)
- Series: Valdosta leads 36-10-2
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 10, Waycross 0, 1985
- Last Waycross Win: 1963, 14-0
- On Deck: Valdosta at Tallahassee-Leon, Sept. 26; Waycross at Lowndes, Sept. 26

completion in nine attempts. It was the only defeat Waycross suffered the entire year until dropping a 21-17 decision to Mary Persons in the quarterfinal round of the Class AA state playoffs. However, the Bulldogs return only 10 starters from that 11-2 team of a year ago.



Totally Tubular

VDT 9-16-86

It's not the valley, but Carlton Wright is definitely tubed out as he plays his Tuba during Valdosta High School band practice Monday afternoon. Wright is also the section leader for the band and has been playing the tuba for nine years. — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

VHS 9th Graders Win

9-20-86

Anthony Roundtree scored four touchdowns to lead the Lowndes ninth-grade team to a 41-0 victory over Ware County Thursday night at Martin Stadium.

Roundtree scored on a 15-yard run, a 50-yard and 35-yard pass from Greg Belcher, and a 45-yard punt return.

Reggie Cobb scored on a 4-yard run and Anthony Jefferson had an 85-yard TD run. Maurice Dean blocked a punt for a safety. Carlos Parker also kicked three extra points for Lowndes.

Lowndes, 2-0, will play at Suwannee, Fla., next Thursday.

Debate Team

VDT 9-20-86

By Jay Connell
Secretary, Debate Club

Valdosta High debaters travelled to Thomasville on Tuesday for a practice round with Central High School's debate team. The affirmative team of seniors Mark Taormina and Matt Winter proposed a free market system for the 1986-87 national high school debate topic, "Resolved: That the Federal Government Should Implement a Comprehensive Long Term Agricultural Policy in the United States." The negative team of junior Toby Baskin and sophomore Robby Higdon defended current agricultural policy against Central's affirmative plan to ban the production and sale of tobacco in the U.S. This was the first interscholastic competition for the club this year.

The debaters have been researching the topic and holding intrasquad debates since early July in preparation for the tournament season. The VHS debate club plans to participate in the Westminster Novice Debate Tournament on Saturday, September 27, in Atlanta. In October the team will attend the Northside Debate Tournament in Warner Robins.

The debaters are planning to sell spirit buttons and book covers to raise money to help pay tournament and travel expenses. A debate booster membership drive will start later this month.

Valdosta High has won the Region 1-AAAA Debates four of the past five years. VHS placed fifth in the State Debates last year.

Annual Breakfast

On September 16, 1986, the Valdosta High School DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) Chapter held its annual officers election breakfast at Shoney's Restaurant. Mr. Norman

Greene, a teacher at Valdosta High School and the coordinator of Valdosta's DECA Chapter, invited the students to join him for breakfast.

After breakfast, the floor was opened for last minute nominations, immediately followed by the election of the new officers by means of secret ballot. The results were: President; Joe Griffin, Vice-President; Kelly Rowe, Treasurer; Gina Hampton, Secretary; Laura Robinson, Reporter; Miles Patterson, Chaplain; Michael White, Sergeant at Arms; Jay Kelly, and the two sweethearts, Laura Allison and Kelly Rowe.

Joey Griffin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Griffin, is a Senior and in his first year in DECA; Kelly Rowe, daughter of Mr. Bill Rowe and Mrs. Mary Ann Bailey, is a Senior and in her second year in DECA; Gina Hampton, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Hampton, is a Junior in her first year in DECA; Laura Robinson, daughter of Mrs. Dean Hardin, is a Senior in her first year in DECA; Miles Patterson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Enrique Gutierrez, is a Senior in his first year in DECA; Michael White, son of Mr. and Mrs. James White, is a Senior and in his first year in DECA; Jay Kelly, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marcell Kelly, is a Senior in his second year in DECA; Laura Allison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Allison, is a Senior, and in her first year in DECA.

VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

Student Magazine

By Frank Hjort
VHS English Department

Valdosta High's English Department is proud to announce the publication of the student literary magazine, Reflections. The publication, sponsored by Coca-cola of Valdosta, is an outgrowth of the national creative writing contest sponsored by Coca-cola as part of its centennial celebration. Winners in the Coca-cola contest were Liza Wallace, first place; James McDaniel, second place; and Charles Cutforth, third place.

By Susan Burns, Secretary
Student Council

Twenty four VHS freshmen campaigned this week for the opportunity to be class officers and members of the student council. Candidates displayed posters or signs in the halls and classrooms with slogans and qualifications for office. Some students distributed buttons seeking freshman votes in the Thursday election.

Freshmen campaigning were Simone Allen, Dan Altman, Honey Brentley, Bahy Brindger, Angela Brown, Katherine Coleman, Rachel Murray Colson, Chris Espada, Curt Fowler, Robin Golivesky, Jason Griffin, Tonya Hodge, Spencer Iverson, Wynne Johnson, Carla Johnson, Emily Josey, Alicia McPipkin, Ryan Moorman, Nikki Norris, Meg Rainey, Jamie Rainwater, Myel Robinson, Martiele Sineath, and Meredith Stanaland.

Election results will be announced next week.

'Cats' Hyder Wary Of Well-Coached Waycross Team

sophomore) are more than ready to fill in.

men of their size. And watching Wheelless come around center and take out a defensive tackle on a trap block is kind of like watching a wrecking ball take down an old two-story brick building.

winning percentage is concerned, Dale Williams is among the top 10 in the state.

Bulldogs have 13 seniors in their starting lineup. Waycross will have the Wildcats in its own back yard over in Memorial Stadium and will be at tempting to exact a measure of revenge for last year's 10-0 defeat, which came on Reginald Dandy's punt return for a touchdown and Dan Tillman's 29-yard field goal.

How do you get a football team of 16- and 17-year old youths excited about a game against a school half your size? Especially when your own team is ranked first in the state and fifth in the nation.

That is the problem facing Valdosta Wildcat coach Nick Hyder and his staff. What's worse, the team to be faced is a perennially strong one with an excellent coach and a corral of fine athletes.

Waycross' Dale Williams is a veteran head football coach who is very capable of pulling some surprises out of his multiple wishbone offense. And with the athletes at his disposal, a couple of game-breaking trick plays could make it a long night for the top-ranked Wildcats.

Waycross went 11-2 last season, losing only to Valdosta (10-0 at Cleveland Field) and to Mary Persons (21-17 in the state quarterfinals). The

Valdosta

vs.

Waycross

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The beauty of the whole situation is that the linemen can so easily see the fruits of their labor. Valdosta has a whole stable of throbbed running backs who need only be sprung through the line to pick up big yardage. And Hyder must assuredly coach hard against fumbling the ball.

Quarterback Greg Talley and his backfield mates seldom if ever mishandle snaps and handoffs, and in the second half of any game, the Wildcat running backs can be seen cradling the football as though it were their first born child.

Obviously the potential of this group is limitless. They have been molded into a cohesive unit by veteran line coach Jerry Don Baker, who receives plaudits from Hyder.

One need only take a look at the Valdosta offensive line. The smallest member of that esteemed unit is Troy Wells, a 6-foot-1 225-pound senior who just moved to Valdosta a year and a half ago. He started a few games last season and is a fine pulling guard.

Hyder remains guarded about taking on the Bulldogs in Waycross Friday night.

Hyder remains guarded about taking on the Bulldogs in Waycross Friday night.

Waycross should provide a sound test for the Wildcats as they return six starters on defense. They had a few problems last week in a 27-13 loss to Class AAA Coffee High School. That ran their 1986 record to 1-1. But the Bulldogs should be up for the Wildcats.

Pass-blocking is an art which comes with the experience gained in working together, and Baker's unit is getting better and better at it every day. And if they should falter just a little bit, youngsters Jack Morgan (195-pound junior) and Andy Rykard (190-pound

Center Ben Lane is a strong, broad-shouldered 6-4, 250 pounds who can move mountains. When he lines up next to 6-4 270-pound Jodie Sprengle and 6-2 310-pound John Wheelless, opposing linemen become quite intimidated. All have quick feet for young

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No-Pass, No-Play Has Critics Here

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Nothing freezes a coach's marrow like the phrase 'no-pass, no-play.'

It has become the bane of Texas football, a rallying point for education reformers, and a source of argument coast to coast.

Now, like those old monsters of the radio era, it's in your hometown.

Georgia's educators and legislators have been toying with the idea of imposing a no-pass, no-play system. At its worst, this rule would prevent anyone who failed a class from participating in any extra-curricular activity the following quarter or semester.

Proponents of the measure argue that a student who has failed a class needs to spend time studying, not playing the French horn in the school orchestra or practicing a speech for the debate team or playing football.

Some feel the measure would give the sub-par student an incentive to study harder.

Valdosta head football coach Nick Hyder doesn't think it will.

"What the rule will do is make students take watered down courses because they will be afraid of failing," Hyder said. "The student on the borderline is not going to risk taking chemistry or trig. He's going to take something a little easier."

Hyder's crosstown rival, Joe Wilson, head coach at Lowndes High, agrees.

"Those legislators and educators pushing this thing are asking the kids to perform at 100 percent all the time, and that's unfair," Wilson said. "I don't know anybody in any capacity who fulfills his job description 100 percent."

The rule would be hard to implement as Georgia schools use both the semester and quarter systems.

In a semester system school, football season lasts one semester. A student failing the semester could still complete the season.

Under the quarter system, two academic quarters are required to fulfill the football season. A student failing the first quarter could become ineligible to play during the second quarter when playoffs begin.

Opponents of the measure argue extra-curricular activities keep marginal students interested in school. While exact figures are unavailable, Hyder and superintendent of the Lowndes County Schools Bill Sears said students who participate in after-school interests tend to have higher grade point averages.

"It's things like band and football that keep a lot of kids in school," Wilson said. "If they're unable to fulfill the requirements, they'll probably just drop out and what we'll end up doing is flooding the streets."

The agency responsible for setting grade requirements for those wishing to pursue after-school interests is the Georgia High School Association. The

VDT 9-21-86



GHSA, a non-profit, non-tax supported agency, governs all schools wishing to be placed under its jurisdiction.

The GHSA works with the school systems in forming policies beneficial to higher education.

Under current eligibility requirements set by the GHSA, students must now pass five out of six courses. GHSA Executive Director Bill Fordham thinks that requirement is stringent enough.

"We feel like we're in line with the needs of the students and asking them to pass six out of six is asking them to be perfect," Fordham said. "Passing five gives them a little leeway and also puts them in line for graduation. We are closer to the children and are better able to assess their capabilities."

Fordham pointed out the actual case of a 16-year-old girl who had been molested for a three-year period while living with her mother and stepfather. According to Fordham, expecting this girl to pass all six classes would be unfair.

"It would even be hard to expect her to pass five," he said. "Even now with the pass five rule, we're eliminating a lot of students."

Walter Altman, superintendent of Valdosta City schools, also opposes a flat pass-six requirement.

"You're taking the students that are involved in athletics or any other activity and treating them different," Altman said. "It would make requirements of them that it would not make of everybody else."

In essence, the no-pass, no-play rule would give only a minority of students an incentive to improve their grades, since it is the minority that participates in extra-curricular activities. The ruling does nothing to spur on the majority of students.

State Sen. Loyce Turner feels the majority of the people he represents do not want to see a no-pass, no-play rule passed.

"I'm not on the education committee but I've had some input from my constituents. They're for improving the educational standards for athletes but most of them do not want to go to the extreme of making them pass all six courses," Turner said.

"Many feel the rule could cause some students to drop out of school. Letting them pass five out of six provides them with some leeway. There has been an effort to tighten things up in recent years. I think we need to work with the pass five for a while and see how it works."

Even Dr. Hugh C. Bailey, president

of Valdosta State College, is less than enthusiastic about a no-pass, no-play system.

"I don't have a real strong opinion either way," Bailey said. "I think the present pass five rule is a step in the right direction and should be vigorously enforced," Bailey said. "My fear is that asking students to pass all six courses may cause them to shy away from the tougher elective courses."

Lowndes High English teacher Al Rowell echoed Bailey's sentiments.

"I'm afraid the students will avoid being challenged. There's also a greater chance that pressure will be put on teachers to pass students. But the biggest problem might be the students selling themselves short."

So what can be done with those students who can't make the grade?

Hyder has suggested that instead of prohibiting a student from pursuing outside interests if he fails, the school system should provide a tutor and make the student spend extra time studying.

"This could be done on Saturday or after school," Hyder said. "The teachers willing to tutor could be given a 20 or 30 percent raise. This is my idea of merit pay."

There is no bill in the legislature asking for the state to implement no-pass, no-play, but a committee has been established to study public sentiment. The sentiment here appears to be clearly opposed to the measure.

VHS' Talley Selected Top Player

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Quite often, it is something that an athlete doesn't do which deserves applause and earns player of the week honors.

Valdosta High School registered a convincing 31-0 victory over traditional rival Waycross Friday night. The game story showed where senior quarterback Greg Talley threw only eight passes, completing six for 140 yards and two touchdowns. He also carried on four running plays for 16 yards.

But one of the field general's greatest skills is largely ignored. Throughout the 3½ quarters in which he played, Talley never fumbled and never threw an interception.

Usually things like that are noted only by their coaches, but for Talley it was a performance like any other. He handles the ball deftly in the backfield and seldom throws an interception. He had only eight interceptions in the 12 games he started last year, once putting together a string of five games without one.

Talley has always been a tough, durable quarterback, known for quickly shaking off crunching tackles by the largest of opposing linemen. But he is beginning to show a great deal of finesse also.

On the Wildcats' first play from scrimmage against Waycross, he rared back and fired an arching bomb to Jim Motes which the senior receiver

caught for a 34-yard touchdown play. Later, in the third quarter, he worked a screen pass to perfection, holding the ball until the last second before lofting it over the Bulldog rush to a waiting Charles Steward, who took it down the sideline for a touchdown.

Talley's statistics would have been truly incredible had it not been for a very questionable call by one of the officials. In the third quarter, he fired a 21-yard pass which Steward dove for and seemingly caught in the end zone. The referee standing over Steward, with a good angle, signalled it a good catch and a touchdown, but another official 30 yards across the field overruled him, nullifying the touchdown.

Talley is a young man under a lot of pressure, as any Valdosta quarterback would be, especially with the Wildcats ranked first in the state and among the top five in the nation. But he handles it all very well.

And his statistics may not always be the most glowing, but two very important facts remain. He almost never makes mistakes and he wins ballgames.

Mark Walker, Lowndes — caught 38-yard touchdown pass in fourth quarter for winning points in victory over Americus and picked up 40 yards on 13 carries.

James Roberts, Valdosta — sophomore fullback gained 108 yards on only eight carries and scored on a 35-yard touchdown run in the Wildcats' victory over Waycross. Seabron Williams, senior defensive end, recovered a fumble to set up his team's first touchdown and later slammed into the quarterback, forcing a bad pass which Derek Shaw picked off downfield.

9-22-86



Coach, Engineer Get 'Jailed'

Valdosta Wildcats Coach Nick Hyder is busy on the telephone trying to get bail money for his release from the March of Dimes Jail. His crime — winning too many football games. At left is Lois Baith, March of Dimes representative. Another notable nabbed Tuesday was

City Traffic Engineer Ray Clark, pictured below getting his mug shot taken. The Jail N Bail event at the Valdosta Mall was all in fun to raise money for the charity. — Times Staff Photos By Paul Leavy.

VHS 9th Graders Roll

LIVE OAK, Fla. — The Valdosta High ninth-grade team destroyed Suwanee County Thursday 35-6.

Valdosta's Anthony Roundtree scored three touchdowns on a 40-yard run, a 75-yard run, and a 15-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Greg Belcher.

Belcher scored VHS' first touchdown on a 2-yard run and scored again on a 26-yard romp.

Placekicker Carlos Parker was perfect on the day, hitting all five extra points.

Suwanee scored in the fourth quarter but failed on a 2-point conversion.

The ninth-graders are open next week but will play host to Tift County on Thursday, Oct. 9.

9-26-86

VDT 9-25-86

SAT Scores Below National Average

VDT 9-26-86

By DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
Times Staff Writer

While meeting state averages, Valdosta and Lowndes high school seniors who graduated this spring scored 60 points below the national average on Scholastic Achievement Tests, and scored slightly less than the class of 1985 here.

Overall, Valdosta seniors averaged 843, and Lowndes, 841. The national average is 906, the state, 842.

Lowndes High School Principal Leon Pate said the school is working now to incorporate more SAT test items into the school curriculum.

"The national average has been increasing a little every year. Also, at some schools, like in the northwestern states, only the top three percent of seniors take the test. Here, about 50 percent of our students take it. I'm sure if only our top three percent took it, we'd be a lot closer to or higher than the national average," he said.

With scores just in, Pate said he has not yet separated the scores of students in college preparatory programs and compare them with the national average.

But students at Valdosta High School who followed a college preparatory curriculum scored well above the state and national averages, according to Principal William Aldrich.

"We're above the state average (by a point) overall, and our college preparatory students are over the national average by 163 points," he

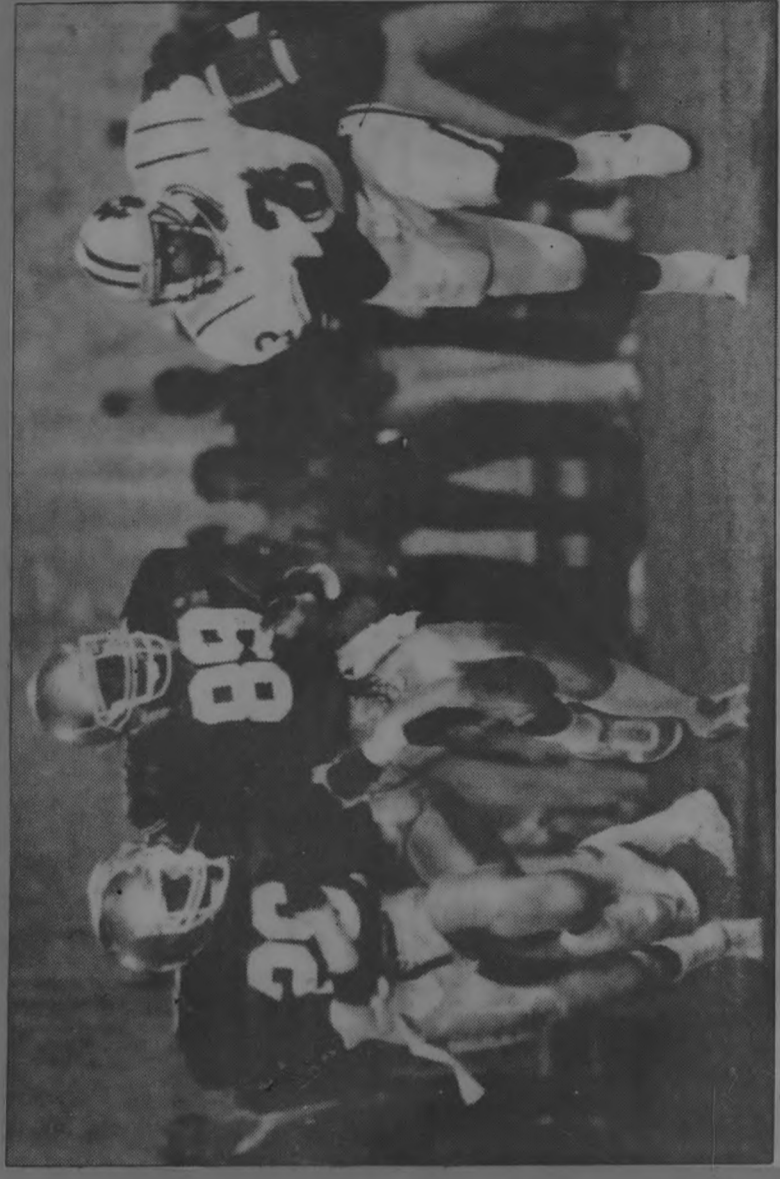
Keith Henry, Valdosta, defensive secondary — Henry was busy Friday night against Leon because the Lions were forced to go to the air. Henry, however, came out the winner after picking off two interceptions.

Freddie Richardson, Lowndes, linebacker — Richardson was in on more than 10 tackles for the Vikings in their 14-12 win over Waycross and also deflected a pass on a 2-point conversion that could have tied the game with just under two minutes remaining. "He played a great game as usual," said Viking head coach Joe Wilson.

Jodie Sprengle, Valdosta, offensive lineman — "Jodie blocked well all night long and showed good senior leadership," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder concerning Sprengle's play in Valdosta's 28-3 win over Leon. "You've got to give those big guys up front some credit."

Greg Talley, Valdosta, quarterback — Talley blistered the Leon secondary with accurate passing. He completed 14 of 21 passes for 211 yards, two touchdown passes and did not throw an interception. According to Hyder, "Talley was magnificent."

Honor Roll
9-29-86



Valdosta's Charles Steward (3) has been shifted from flanker to tight end and is one reason the Wildcats are a favorite to win the title in Region 1-4A this year.

'Cats Will Be Challenged By Small But Feisty Leon

VDT 9-25-86

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats put their 3-0 record and No. 1 state ranking on the line Friday night in the spacious confines of Doak Campbell Stadium when they take on Leon County High in Tallahassee. The game will pit the winningest high school football teams from Georgia and Florida in a game which is a throwback to a historical rivalry.

The first time Valdosta played football against Leon County High School, the Lions defeated the Wildcats 13-7. Of course Harding was President. Valdosta avenged that loss the next year (20-10) and went one up on Leon with a 6-0 victory in 1924. But the Lions tied the series at 2-2 in 1925 with a 14-7 victory before the last game between the schools was played in 1926 with the Wildcats winning a 10-0 shutout.

Today, Leon is a Class AAAA school with an average daily attendance of

1650, compared to Valdosta's 1138. The Lions' head coach is Gene Cox, a proven winner with 247 coaching victories, 196 of them coming at Leon where he has had two state championship teams and two runners-up in his 23 years.

In 1985 they were 10-1. This year they started out ranked in the top 10 in the state before an opening game 14-9 loss to cross-town rival Rickards dropped them out. Last week's game versus Paducah, Ky. was cancelled when a myriad of transportation problems arose.

The starting backfield is sure to return healthy against Valdosta, especially with the week's layoff. And it is a very powerful backfield. Senior fullback Brad Culpepper is Leon's best football player and may be the best college prospect in the entire state of Florida. At 6-foot-3 250 pounds, he has very good speed and is a powerful runner. USA Today listed him as one of

the top 25 players in the entire nation.

Culpepper also has the toughness of a noseguard, which is what he plays on defense. His running mate in the backfield is 210-pound tailback Mike McClinton. And clearing the way for that tandem will be a pair of tackles who go 225 and 235 pounds.

"Gene Cox is a very fundamental, hard-nosed coach who, nevertheless features a wide-open passing attack," Wildcat coach Nick Hyder explained. "They come at you from multiple formations, and with the athletes they have, it is imperative that you defend the entire field."

Another weapon which Cox possesses is a young man named J.D. Carlson. He kicks field goals, he kicks extra points, he kicks off, and he punts, and he may be the best in the state. Street & Smith magazine lists him as the No. 1 kicker in the entire Southeast.

Valdosta has a pretty fair kicker of its own in offensive tackle Dan

Tillman, who is a perfect five for five on field goal attempts and a perfect eight for eight on extra points. He was a new-found closer for the Wildcats' long scoring drives in the Fulton game. Last week against Waycross, Valdosta came up with a blitzkrieg offensive attack, scoring with lightning quickness on pass plays of 34 and 40 yards and on running plays of 37 and 25 yards. Wide receiver Jim Motes came out of nowhere to score on the Wildcats' first play from scrimmage in the 31-0 victory.

Motes is a 6-foot-2 160-pound senior whose injuries kept him from playing the last two years. It is a credit to the Valdosta football program that he was encouraged to stay with it. With his speed, he is a new weapon to add to the already bulging arsenal.

Sophomore fullback Lawrence Sharpe's status for the Leon game is unknown. He was no less than a raging terror against Fulton two weeks ago,

picking up 67 yards on only six carries. But on a 34-yard run in that game, he sustained a very deep thigh bruise which kept him out of action last week in Waycross and prevented him from going full speed in practice.

Valdosta's senior tailback Jerome Calloway stands third in the region in rushing with 222 yards on only 34 carries. Sophomore fullback James Roberts is sixth with 180 yards in three games while Sharpe leads Region 1-AAAA in yards per carry with 11.17.

Greg Talley ranks third in the region in passing with 21 completions in 42 attempts for 299 yards and three touchdowns. Tight end Charles Steward is fifth in receiving with nine catches for 100 yards and two touchdowns. Tillman stands second in scoring with 23 points.

The Wildcats lead the region in rushing offense by a wide margin. And they're in second place behind Tift County in rushing defense.

| Valdosta | vs. | Leon |
|---|-----|------|
| When: Friday, Sept. 26 | | |
| Where: Doak-Campbell Stadium, Tallahassee, Fla. | | |
| Time: 8:00 p.m. | | |
| Records: Valdosta, 3-0; Leon, 0-1 | | |
| Rankings: Valdosta, 1st (AAAA); Leon, unranked (AAAA) | | |
| Series: Valdosta leads 3-2-0 | | |
| Last Meeting: Valdosta 10, Leon 0, 1926 | | |
| Last Leon Win: 1925, 14-7 | | |
| On Deck: Valdosta at Tift County, Oct. 3 | | |

Wildcats

Tame Lions 28-3

9-27-86

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY

Times Sports Editor
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The Valdosta High Wildcats have long been known for their ground-oriented offense. But the Wildcats went the other direction here Friday night, passing for 211 yards enroute to a 28-3 victory over Tallahassee-Leon.

The victory improved top-ranked Valdosta's record to 4-0 while Leon dropped to 0-2. The game was the first between Georgia's and Florida's winningest high school programs since 1926.

And while it was the first meeting in more than 60 years, it was a reunion for Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder and Leon Coach Gene Cox who coached against each other in the Georgia-Florida All-Star game two years ago.

And approximately 20,000 fans showed up at Florida State's Doak Campbell Stadium to witness the battle.

"They hit extremely hard and are a well-coached team," Hyder said. "We love to trap, and some say we do it as well as anybody. But not tonight. They really took that away from us."

"It did, however, leave some passes open for us."

The Wildcats entered the game having attempted 51 passes in their three previous games. But with the run effectively shut down by the Lions, quarterback Greg Talley went to the air 21 times. He completed 14, including six consecutive for 72 yards to open the game, for 211 yards.

Valdosta let it be known early it planned to pass, attempting four passes in its second possession. Starting at their own 40-yard line, the Wildcats went 60 yards in 10 play for the game's first score.

Four running plays put Valdosta on the Leon 40-yard line. Talley then hit Guy Belue for a 5-yard gain. After Talley was sacked for a 8-yard loss, he completed a 12-yard pass to James Roberts. He then hit Jim Motes for a 14-yard completion and a first down at the Lion's 17.

Talley tried to get around right end

but was stopped at the line of scrimmage. He then faded back and found Jerome Callaway over the middle for a touchdown.

Dan Tillman's point after was no good, and the Wildcats led 6-0 with 1:03 left in the first quarter.

The Valdosta defense, which caused havoc in the Leon backfield all night, forced the Lions to punt after just three plays.

And the Wildcat offense wasted little time in increasing its lead 14-0. After Walt Gill's 23-yard punt return put the ball on the Leon 39-yard line, the Valdosta offense needed just eight plays to score.

Callaway was on the receiving end of a 16-yard pass that put the Wildcats on the 20. From there, the offense ground the ball in with Callaway going around left end for the 6-yard touchdown.

Roberts put a big block on the corner that helped to spring Callaway into the extra zone. Valdosta lined up to kick the point, but holder B.J. Mason ran in for the 2-point conversion, giving the Wildcats a 14-0 margin with 9:00 left in the first half.

From there, the defenses took over. Valdosta recovered a Leon fumble to stop one drive, and Derek Shaw picked off a pass to stop another.

Shaw's interception was one of four by the Valdosta defense against Leon quarterback John Haley.

The Wildcats took the second half kickoff and scored quickly. On second down and 22, Talley rolled out on a bootleg and hit Antonio Henderson for a 43-yard completion. Then an interference penalty against Leon moved Valdosta to the Lions' 21-yard line.

Five plays later, Talley went over from the one for the score. Tillman kicked the PAT for a 21-0 lead with 8:16 left in the third period.

"Our coaching staff did a great job," Hyder said. "And the senior leadership was just great. It was very, very evident on the sidelines, in the huddle, and before the game."

Hyder also had praise for the defensive unit. The Wildcats held Leon to just 36 yards on the ground and

caused five turnovers. "Walt Gill, Otis Conway, Eric Larry, Bill Kirby, and Seabron Williams all played extremely well," Hyder said.

Callaway was the rushing leader for the Wildcats with 69 yards on 12 carries. He also caught passes for 33 yards.

"He's just a great athlete," Hyder said. "He's one of the great natural athletes. It's not coaching. He's just a great, talented football player. He's in the same category as Dana Brinson." (Brinson, a former Wildcat, is now at the University of Nebraska.)

Midway through the fourth period the Wildcats put their fourth touchdown on the scoreboard. Talley completed the six-play, 64-yard drive with a 19-yard scoring pass to Jim Motes. Tillman's PAT gave the Wildcats a 28-0 cushion with 6:06 to play.

But the Valdosta defense was denied its second shutout of the season in the closing seconds.

J.D. Carlson, one of the nation's premier kickers, put the Lions on the scoreboard with only six seconds to play. Faced with a fourth-and-10 at the Valdosta 28, Carlson came in and kicked a 45-yard field goal that cleared the crossbar with plenty of room to spare.

The Wildcats will open Region 1-AAAA playing next week when they play at Tift County.

Valdosta..... 6 8 7 7-28
Leon..... 0 0 0 3-3
Val — Jerome Callaway 17 pass from Greg Talley (kick failed)

Val — Callaway 6 run (B.J. Mason run)
Val — Talley 1 run (Dan Tillman kick)
Val — Jim Motes 19 pass from Talley (Tillman kick)
Leon — J.D. Carlson 45 FG

| | Val | Leon |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| First Downs | 17 | 11 |
| Yards Rushing | 93 | 36 |
| Rushing Attempts | 37 | 28 |
| Yards Passing | 211 | 120 |
| Passes | 21-14-0 | 25-10-4 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 3-0 | 3-1 |
| Punting | 5-33.0 | 4-35.3 |
| Penalties | 6-63 | 7-30 |
| Rushing | Leon, McCClinton 16-51, Culppepper 7-26 | Leon, McCClinton 12-69, Roberts 10-34 |
| Passing | Leon, McCClinton 16-51, Culppepper 7-26 | Leon, McCClinton 12-69, Roberts 10-34 |
| Receiving | Leon, McCClinton 16-51, Culppepper 7-26 | Leon, McCClinton 12-69, Roberts 10-34 |
| Interceptions | Leon, McCClinton 16-51, Culppepper 7-26 | Leon, McCClinton 12-69, Roberts 10-34 |
| Sacks | Leon, McCClinton 16-51, Culppepper 7-26 | Leon, McCClinton 12-69, Roberts 10-34 |
| Blocked | Leon, McCClinton 16-51, Culppepper 7-26 | Leon, McCClinton 12-69, Roberts 10-34 |
| Time of Possession | Leon, McCClinton 16-51, Culppepper 7-26 | Leon, McCClinton 12-69, Roberts 10-34 |

Valdosta Fullback James Roberts (right) Plunges Into Line Behind John Wheelless (75)



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Players Of The Week

'Cat Defense Played On Determination

The Valdosta Wildcat defense, perhaps small in stature but long on determination, dominated the state's top-ranked team Friday night in a 16-6 victory over LaGrange. For their efforts, the entire defensive unit has been named as the Valdosta Daily Times' Players Of The Week.

The Wildcat defenders allowed only a first quarter touchdown in limiting the Grangers to 152 yards total offense. In 25 rushing attempts, LaGrange runners averaged only 2.7 yards per carry, and the Valdosta defense held the visitors to only 84 yards passing while picking off three LaGrange passes.

The Wildcats also registered three quarterback sacks and forced seven fumbles by their opponents, recovering two of them.

"Our whole defensive squad played so well that I couldn't single out one or two individuals," Wildcat defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said. "They all played so well, and it was such a total team effort that everyone contributed a great deal."

Seniors in the Valdosta defense include ends Seabron Williams and Mike Tolbert, tackles Otis Conway and Eric Larry, linebacker Bill Kirby, and safeties Derek Shaw and Walt Gill.

Cats Air Out 31-0 Win Over 'Dogs

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

WAYCROSS — Senior quarterback Greg Talley completed six of eight passes for 140 yards and two touchdowns to lead Valdosta High School to a 31-0 victory over the Waycross Bulldogs here Friday night.

The victory ran the top-ranked Wildcats' record to 3-0 while Waycross dropped to 1-2.

Talley hit senior wide receiver Jim Motes on the Wildcat's first play from scrimmage for a 34-yard touchdown play. He later connected with junior tight end Charles Steward for a 40-yard touchdown pass. A third touchdown pass of 31 yards to Steward was ruled a completion by an official 10 feet away, but was ruled incomplete by another official 30 yards away and was disallowed.

Other than being penalized eight times for 90 yards, Valdosta played a near flawless game.

"We're an aggressive football team, and when you play that aggressively, you're going to get hit with some penalties," Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said. "We covered our kickoffs a lot better than we did last week, and our defense really stayed after them the whole game."

It was the defense which set up the first two touchdowns. Senior defensive end Seabron Williams recovered a fumble on the Bulldogs' first possession to give Valdosta the ball on the Waycross 34-yard line. Talley faded back and hit Motes in the left corner of the end zone for the score. Kicker Dan

named Seabron Williams. Nobody bothered to tell him he wasn't big enough to make plays like that, though he made numerous tackles for losses in that state championship game.

"Seabron was one of three freshmen we brought straight up to the varsity in 1983," Hyder said. (The other two were middle linebacker Bill Kirby and offensive tackle John Wheelless). "We had gotten very good reports about him from our junior high coaches, so we knew he was tough enough to play varsity ball."

"He's a good hitter with natural quickness. We put him on our kickoff and punt teams, and he did a real good job for us. He moved onto the first team at defensive end in 1984 and he's been there ever since."

"Seabron's a hard worker and a conscientious youngster. He never misses a day of school. And he's popular with his teammates. They elected him defensive captain this year."

As an athlete, Williams really distinguished himself on the Supercat condi-

"The offensive line played the best game they've played so far this season, and the wide receivers looked very sharp. Our offensive coaches Jerry Don Baker, Bob Bolton and Mike O'Brien, have done a real good job coordinating the offense, and it improved a lot tonight."

—Nick Hyder
—Valdosta Coach

Tillman's extra point made it 7-0 with barely three minutes gone in the game. The Bulldogs bobbled the ensuing kickoff and ended up with a first down at the 5-yard line. Williams sacked Bulldog quarterback JoJo McQuaig at the one on first down. Two running plays then netted six yards. Punter Stuart Saussy, who averaged 42.7 yards on four punts, kicked out of his own end zone to the Valdosta 48, from where Wildcat safety Walt Gill returned the ball four yards.

Sophomore fullback James Roberts, who would pick up 108 yards on eight carries, gained two yards on first down. Talley next hit flanker Guy Belue for four on the sidelines. Talley then made the first down on a 13-yard scamper around right hand.

On the next play, Roberts went 37 yards up the middle on a trap play for the touchdown and a 14-0 lead with 6:28 left in the first period.

Waycross quickly moved into Valdosta territory on its next possession. On second down at the 44-yard line, Williams again slammed into McQuaig, just as the Bulldog quarterback threw long down the right sideline. The

woes, Williams was a rock on the right side of a defense which allowed only 6.3 points per game while being kept on the field more than usual. He was a unanimous choice for the All-Region 1-AAAA defensive squad and he was the Times' defensive lineman of the year. If he continues to play the way he is capable, he will be an odds-on favorite for the All-State team.

Quickness is Williams' greatest asset as he can beat most of the much larger offensive tackles he lines up against in the region. But after getting around the tackle, it is usually his strength which gets him through the running back pass blocking in the backfield.

And it is that blend of strength and quickness which allows him to fight through a tight end and pulling guard to slip through for the tackle on a power sweep.

He is a consistent football player who can also rise to the occasion and come up with the big play. He blocked a short field goal against Waycross to preserve a shutout over there this season. He rushes the passer like

Anthony Williams recovered at the Waycross 44-yard line.

Talley first hit Steward on a sprint out for 13 yards. On the next play, he threw a screen pass to Steward again on the right sideline, and the junior tight end, using his blocking to perfection, took it 40 yards for the touchdown. Holder B.J. Mason made a good save on the point-after attempt as Tillman made it a 28-0 game.

On the next series, Waycross drove from its own 16 to deep inside Valdosta territory, but a Gill interception stopped the drive at the 5-yard line.

A 40-yard pass from Talley to Callaway over the middle set up a 36-yard field goal by Tillman which closed out the scoring in the fourth quarter.

Valdosta.....14 7 7 3-31
Waycross.....0 0 0 0-0
Val — Jim Motes 34 pass from Greg Talley (Dan Tillman kick)
Val — James Roberts 37 run (Tillman kick)
Val — Jerome Callaway 25 run (Tillman kick)
Val — Charles Steward 40 pass from Talley (Tillman kick)
Val — Tillman 34 FG

| Val | Way |
|------------------|----------------|
| First Downs | 13 |
| Yards Rushing | 11 |
| Rushing Attempts | 196 |
| Yards Passing | 30 |
| Passes | 140 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 12-6-1 |
| Punting | 2-1 |
| Penalties | 4-33.5 |
| Rushing | 8-90 |
| Passing | 8-108 |
| Talley 5-11 | Waycross 8-108 |
| 13-4-1-53 | Waycross 8-108 |
| Callaway 1-40 | Waycross 8-108 |
| McQuaig 1-33 | Waycross 8-108 |
| Williams 2-49 | Waycross 8-108 |
| Burfs 1-12 | Waycross 8-108 |

Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek
John Wheelless Clears A Hole For Jerome Callaway's TD

VHS' Williams At Home In Out-Of-Position

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Considering his size he is surely out of position. At defensive end he has often played entire games against offensive tackles who outweigh him by 70-80 pounds or more. But who was it that made All-Region 1-AAAA in 1985?

"Seabron Williams is probably a little small to be playing where he is, but in our defensive scheme, he fits in there real well," said Valdosta High coach Nick Hyder.

Go back to December, 1984. Valdosta High is playing host to Athens' Clarke Central High for Georgia's Class AAAA state championship with the winner likely to be ranked No. 1 in the nation. The Wildcats are precariously holding onto a 21-14 lead with the Gladiators driving downfield at the Valdosta 30-yard line late in the fourth quarter.

On fourth-and-one, Clarke Central went left for the first down, and who should come out of nowhere to throw its all-star running back for a loss but a 5-foot-10, 150-pound sophomore lineman

tioning test. He ran a 4.6-second 40-yard dash and managed to bench press 275-pounds — not bad for a youngster now only 5-11 and 170. In addition, he had a quickness ratio of 33 which is tops on the Valdosta team.

He is the most typical of what Hyder calls his "streetfighters" on the offensive and defensive line — players who are too small but make up for it in heart, determination, and all-out effort. His teammates say Williams "hits like a freight train."

He started playing football at the age of 10. On his first team at Pinevale Lomax, he played center, of all positions. Upon his arrival at Valdosta Junior High, Williams was moved to his present position of defensive end where he played on the Stray Cats in the seventh grade and on the Tom Cats in the eighth grade.

Early in his freshman season during a tackling drill, he suffered a broken wrist which sidelined him for the rest of the year. But by the next spring he was back at it.

In 1985 during a season of offensive

Deacon Jones.

And when he is not sacking the quarterback for a loss, he is often hurrying the passer into throwing interceptions, a statistic in which the Wildcats lead the region by a wide margin.

The player they call Gooney has been such a fixture in the Wildcat defense over the last three years that he probably won't be fully appreciated until after he has graduated. Williams has been contacted by a number of colleges and universities about playing football next year. He would obviously be a valuable addition to any program.

Off the field he is a very casual personality. Williams has been known to favor some fancy clothes at times. And he admitted that his favorite hobby is spending time with his girlfriend, Angelina Simmons.

For now, he would just like to bring the Wildcats one more state championship to go with the one earned in 1984.



Seabron Williams
VHS Defensive End

Valdosta Wins 'Battle Of The Big Cats'

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats proved which of the winningest teams from Georgia and Florida was the best Friday night at Florida State's Doak Campbell Stadium in a game billed as "The Battle Of The Big Cats." But it wasn't done in typical Valdosta fashion.

The Wildcats had a hard time gaining yards on the ground against the Leon Lions, so quarterback Greg Talley went to the air and found that worked even better and Valdosta won 28-3. Talley completed 14 of 21 passes for 211 yards and no interceptions with two touchdown passes.

Valdosta gained 97 yards rushing on 37 carries. Jerome Callaway lead the way with 69 yards on 12 carries.

If Valdosta's ground game was weak, Leon's was nonexistent. The Lions amassed just 36 yards on 28 carries. The Lions did get 120 yards in the air but quarterback John Haley also threw four interceptions.

The Wildcats are now 4-0 and will head into their region schedule with a game at Tift County next week.

While the 'Cats were dismantling Leon, Tift upset the Warner Robins Demons in Warner Robins 22-13.

In other area games, Berrien County tied Turner County 14-14, Clinch County fell to McIntosh County Academy 17-14, Valwood crushed Bullock 40-0, Montgomery County downed Atkinson 28-0, Cook fell to Worth County 33-7, Dougherty and Americus tied at 14, Colquitt County whipped Eufala, Ala., 33-7, Rickards defeated Madison County 10-0, Thomasville upended Westover 26-6, and Westbrook upset top-ranked Tiftarea 7-0.

While Valdosta had it easy, the Lowndes Vikings were locked in a deadly struggle with Waycross at Martin Stadium.

The yardstick had Waycross ahead in yardage 278-149, but it's only the score that counts and Lowndes managed to pull out a 14-12 victory to even its record at 2-2.

Once again it was the Viking defense that saved the day, recovering four fumbles and blocking a punt. Lowndes



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Jerome Callaway Had 102 Yards In Total Offense And Scored Two TDs Against Leon

turned the ball over just once.

Lowndes recovered a fumble on the opening kickoff but was unable to move the ball and missed a 45-yard field goal.

A Waycross fumble later in the first period set up the Vikings' first touchdown, a 17-yard pass from quarterback Rhett Akins to John Thompson.

Joey Parker blocked a Bulldog punt in the fourth quarter that set up Lowndes' second score.

Waycross had a chance to tie the game with under two minutes remaining but failed on a 2-point conversion.

The Valwood Valiants used a barrage of runners to defeat previously unbeaten Bulloch Academy 40-0.

The Valiants accumulated 348 yards on the ground to Bulloch's net of two yards rushing.

Don Faircloth paced Valwood with 102 yards on 14 carries, followed by Maurey Copeland with 81 yards on 10 carries. Edgar Thomas added 54 yards

and Stacey Brogdon had 45.

Valwood is now 3-1-1.

In Berrien County's 14-14 tie with Turner, the Rebels had only 37 yards rushing in 23 attempts, leaving it up to the arm of quarterback Jerry Simmons.

Simmons threw 29 times for 13 completions for 151 yards, but threw three interceptions. Turner, meanwhile, rolled up 139 yards on the ground and came from behind 14-7 to tie it up.

High School Standings

Region 1-AAAA

| | Region | | | | | Overall | | | | |
|--------------|--------|---|---|----|----|---------|---|---|-----|----|
| | W | L | T | PF | PA | W | L | T | PF | PA |
| Valdosta | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 105 | 15 |
| Tift Co. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 43 | 23 |
| Dougherty | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 46 | 37 |
| Colquitt Co. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 80 | 60 |
| Lowndes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 44 | 47 |
| Westover | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 66 | 73 |
| Monroe | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 54 | 38 |

Friday's Results

Colquitt County 33, Eufala, Ala., 7
Dougherty 14, Americus 14 (tie)
Lowndes 14, Waycross 12
Tift County 22, Warner Robins 13
Valdosta 28, Tallahassee-Leon 2
Thomasville 26, Westover 6

Game Notes

Workhorse

Wildcat running back Jerome Callaway had one of his busiest nights of the year, carrying the ball a total of 27 times and running short pass routes as well. All that work didn't seem to tire the tailback out as he gained 159 yards and caught two passes for 24 yards.

Rolling Along

Valdosta is working on its 21st undefeated season. For 14 seasons, the Wildcats have suffered only one loss and have 25 seasons with 10 or more victories.

Down The Road

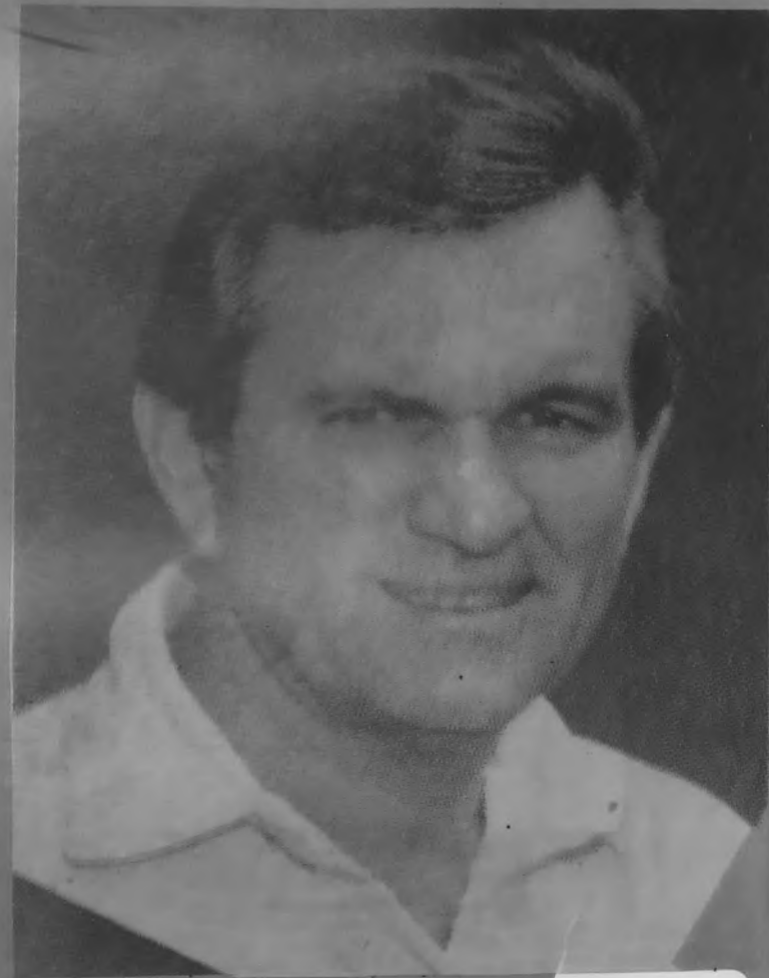
Somewhere coaches don't care to look. If Valdosta beats Carver, the next mission for Valdosta will be Bradwell Institute from Hinesville. Bradwell crushed Effingham County 28-7, doing it with big plays. Bradwell's Ivan Bullard returned the opening kickoff 90 yards for a TD. Another score came on a 41-yard pass play from Raymond Gross to Joe Day. All-State running back John Stewart (6-foot-2, 216 pounds) scored the last two scores on short runs.

David And Goliath

The Wildcats will travel to Columbus to take on Carver High in Kinnett Stadium next Friday night. Carver's average daily attendance is only 511, which technically makes them a Class AA school. Carver, however, chooses to play Class AAAA ball. Valdosta's ADA is 1,138.

No Hard Feelings

Despite losing, several Lowndes supporters came down on to the field to wish Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder well. "If we can't win it, we want you to," said one Viking fan. Valdosta is still ranked No. 1 in the state and certainly would have to go into any game as the favorite.



21

Statistics

Scoring Summary

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|----|------|
| Lowndes..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 |
| Valdosta..... | 0 | 0 | 21 | 7-28 |
| Val - James Roberts 9 run (Dan Tillman kick) | | | | |
| Val - Jerome Callaway 46 run (Tillman) | | | | |
| Val - Talley 1 run (Tillman kick) | | | | |
| Val - Talley 1 run (Donny Headrick kick) | | | | |

| Team Stats | | Low | Val |
|---------------------|--|--------|--------|
| First Downs | | 5 | 19 |
| Rushes-Yards | | 18-54 | 53-298 |
| Passing Yards | | 48 | 113 |
| Comp-Att-Int | | 5-22-0 | 8-13-1 |
| Return Yards | | 58 | -1 |
| Sacks By-Yards Lost | | 2-14 | 2-20 |
| Fumbles-Lost | | 2-0 | 1-0 |
| Punts | | 5-26 | 4-33 |
| Penalties-Yards | | 5-40 | 8-79 |
| Time Of Possession | | 29:42 | 30:18 |

Individual Leaders

Rushing

Lowndes. Walker 4-54, Pierce 4-17, Stanford 4-12, Akins 6 (minus-29).
 Valdosta. Callaway 27-159, Caesar 3-33, Roberts 7-31, Talley 7-19, Steward 1-16, Prime 2-12, Hogan 1-11. Belue 1-10, Sharpe 4-7.

Passing

Lowndes. Akins 21-5-0 48. Pierce 0-1-0-0.
 Valdosta. Talley 13-8-1 113.

Receiving

Lowndes. Thompson 2-31, Craven 1-7, Orr 1-3.
 Valdosta. Steward 3-47, Callaway 2-24, Motes 1-18.
 Belue 1-15, Roberts 1-9.

Missed Field Goals

Lowndes. Parker 42, 46, 49.
 Valdosta. Tillman 27.



Victory Ride *VD 9-86*

Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder gets a victory ride across the field after guiding the Wildcats to a 28-0 win over Lowndes at Cleveland Field Friday night. The victory gave the Wildcats the Region 1-AAAA title. — Times Staff photo by Paul Leavy.

Wildcats return to title form

By Matt Moore
 Sports writer

For Nick Hyder's Wildcats, the 1986 season has been exactly what it was supposed be — a return to the form that brought them the state Class 4A and national titles in 1984.

Possibly the biggest game of the year for the 'Cats was the first game of the season — a 16-6 victory over then-No. 1 LaGrange.

LaGrange, the only common opponent between the Wildcats and Athens Clarke Central, who play tonight for the state title, came to Valdosta and was expected to be a major test for the Wildcats.

Valdosta showed some inexperience at the beginning of the game, but rallied from a 6-0 deficit to take the victory. Leading 13-6 at halftime, the Wildcats wore out the Grangers and claimed the first of what would be 14 victories in a row, none of which would be by as close a margin as that first game.

That win made Valdosta the top team in Class 4A, and it moved up steadily in newspaper USA Today's national poll through the season until this week, when the 'Cats reached No. 1.

After the win over LaGrange, the 'Cats won their next two games easily — a 30-6 victory over Class 3A Atlanta Fulton and a 31-0 win over perennial Class 2A power Waycross.

The next test for the 'Cats was their first trip out of state in Hyder's 13 years as coach. It was a game in Tallahassee against Florida powerhouse Tallahassee Leon, the winningest team in Florida prep history.

But Valdosta easily took care of Leon, 29-3. The game was never in doubt and Leon did not score until there were six seconds left. Valdosta's defense was so dominating in the game that Leon only crossed midfield three times, all in the second half.

After Leon, the Wildcats began the always-tough Region 1-4A schedule.

Tift County was the first of the 'Cats' six region foes to fall. Tift, like many other teams, played Valdosta even for two quarters, only to crumble in the second half. For Tift County, holding the 'Cats to a 14-14 tie in the first half looked promising, but Jerome Callaway

broke runs of 54 and 57 yards in the third quarter and the Valdosta defense took control of the game. The final was 35-14, and the 'Cats were 5-0.

The second region foe for Valdosta was Albany Dougherty. Keeping the game close in the first half for Dougherty consisted of holding the 'Cats to a 27-yard field goal on the game's first drive and going into the locker room down just 3-0.

But the second half proved once again to be Valdosta's — the Wildcats scored three touchdowns, two by quarterback Greg Talley, en route to a 24-0 victory.

The next opponent, Albany Westover, couldn't even hold Valdosta down in the first half. The Wildcats scored every time they touched the ball — no punts, no fumbles and no interceptions. The final score was 58-13, and the Wildcats were 7-0.

The next two opponents provided no challenge for the 'Cats as they went to 9-0 with a 36-6 victory over Moultrie Colquitt County that clinched a playoff spot for the 12th straight year and a 66-0 thrashing of Albany Monroe.

The final regular-season opponent, however, was Lowndes — the crosstown rival who beat the 'Cats twice last year on the way to the region championship. This year, the Wildcats returned the favor both games. The regular-season victory was by a 17-6 margin. The region championship victory was much more convincing — 28-0.

Columbus Carver was the first state playoff opponent for the 'Cats and could do no better than local teams had against the No. 1 team in the state. Carver went in at the half with a scoreless tie, only to leave the field at the end of the game a 28-0 loser.

Hinesville Bradwell Institute, the Region 3-4A champion, was expected to be the toughest test of the year for the 'Cats. The Tigers were not only unbeaten (13-0), ranked No. 4 in the state, but had allowed their opponents a total of only 44 points.

But Valdosta, in what was probably its finest game of the year, bolted to a 28-7 half-time lead and won 49-7.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

State championship games played by Valdosta and Athens/Clarke Central since 1940:

| Year Cl. | Teams, scores |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 1940 - | Valdosta 21, Cedartown 0 |
| 1947 B | Valdosta 24, Gainesville 12 |
| 1950 B | Rockmart 52, Valdosta 21 |
| 1951 B | Valdosta 14, Newnan 0 |
| 1952 A | Valdosta 30, LaGrange 0 |
| 1953 A | Valdosta 48, LaGrange 7 |
| 1955 A | Athens 41, Valdosta 20 |
| 1956 2A | Valdosta 27, Druid Hills 0 |
| 1957 2A | Valdosta 13, Rockmart 6 |
| 1960 3A | Valdosta 21, Avondale 14 |
| 1961 3A | Valdosta 34, R.E. Lee 14 |
| 1962 3A | Valdosta 39, Murphy 0 |
| 1965 3A | Valdosta 14, Athens 13 |
| 1966 3A | Valdosta 14, Marietta 3 |
| 1968 3A | Valdosta 37, Forest Park 12 |
| 1969 3A | Valdosta 26, Athens 26 |
| 1971 3A | Valdosta 62, Avondale 12 |
| 1977 3A | Clarke Central 16, Valdosta 14 |
| 1978 3A | Valdosta 7, Griffin 7 |
| 1979 4A | Clarke Central 20, Tift Co. 12 |
| 1982 4A | Valdosta 10, Peachtree 7 |
| 1984 4A | Valdosta 21, Clarke Central 14 |
| 1985 4A | Clarke Central 21, W. Robins 7 |

VDT 9-86

Football Not Just Self-Serving

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Those educators and taxpayers who have been standing firmly behind the move to stop spring football and would back a no-pass, no-play amendment are cutting their own throats. At least that's what Lowndes High head coach Joe Wilson thinks.

"They're burying the goose that laid the golden egg," Wilson said Thursday afternoon. I don't know if a lot of these people know just how much money football brings in."

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder and Wilson both fear that the push for higher academic standards is in fact penalizing athletes. The two coaches also fear that if the quality of football goes down around the state, it could tell at the gate.

But just how much money does football bring in at Lowndes and Valdosta? The income is staggering, but what is even more staggering is the amount of that income spent to fund other extra-curricular activities as well as other school related functions and programs. Football is the only athletic event at both school systems that does not lose money.

Last year, Valdosta took in \$156,392.76 via football ticket sales. Lowndes made \$168,680.25. But almost all that money was spent by the various athletic departments trying to keep all the non-money makers going.

At Valdosta, the varsity basketball

program finished more than \$10,000 dollars in the red. The story is the same at Lowndes, even though the Vikings and the Vikettes had better seasons. Lowndes lost \$13,586.80.

The figures for baseball, track, and wrestling are as dismal.

But the football ticket money did not just go to keep up athletics.

"Our football program has done a lot of things with the money that have helped the whole system," said Lowndes Superintendent of Schools Bill Sears. "We used \$8,000 of that money to buy a machine to fix and keep the roofs clean. Football also paid for P.E. equipment in the middle school programs."

Lowndes has also used football revenue to buy playground equipment for primary grades.

Around town, there are always rumors about just how much guarantee money is given to the opposition for a home game. On occasion, one school will buy a home game, by guaranteeing the travelling school so much money to offset travelling costs and making up for the fact that the visitor gets none of the gate money. All guarantee money is taken only from ticket sales. This year, Valdosta paid Fulton \$8,000 to travel from Atlanta, and will pay the team the same amount next year. If that sounds like a lot of money, take into account that Valdosta made \$23,697 at the gate during the Fulton game.

If Valdosta had travelled to Fulton, the school would have to forego the gate money plus spend massive amounts of money sending the band and football team on a four-hour drive.

"Essentially we helped each other," said Hyder about Fulton. "They wouldn't make \$16,000 in two home games and we still end up making a good bit."

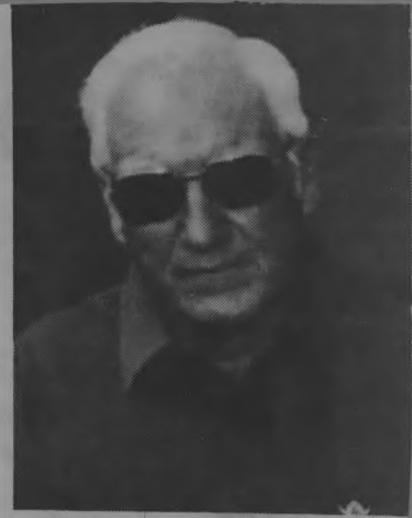
Lowndes paid Camden County \$5,000 for the visit. Lowndes may have lost the game, but certainly didn't lose money.

So football is a money-making proposition. But that's not the only reason Hyder and Wilson are concerned about any move that could imperil football in the state.

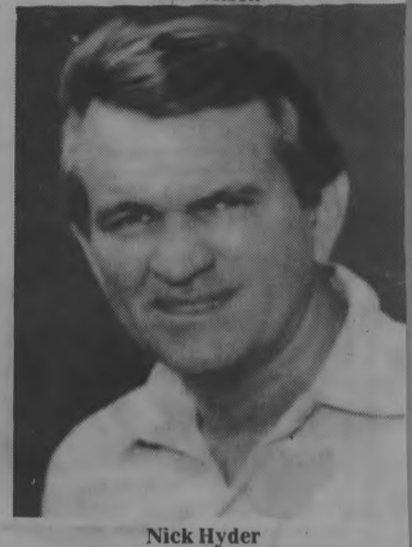
"Football is our avenue of helping people," Hyder said. "I've seen a lot of kids mature and learn to accept responsibility playing football. These people that wanted to abolish spring football mean well, but I don't really think they understand the situation."

It has been pointed out over and over again by coaches and administrators that as a rule athletes exhibit less of a failure rate than the school's overall rate.

"For some reason a lot of people think it's an either/or situation," Sears said. "They think if you have a strong athletic program, you can't have strong academics, and that's just not the case."



Joe Wilson



Nick Hyder



Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Jerome Callaway Had 159 Yards

'Cats Came Alive In 2nd Half

VDT 9-86

When the Valdosta Wildcats and Lowndes Vikings went into the locker-room at halftime knotted at 0-0, many people didn't know quite what to expect in the second half.

Both teams had missed scoring opportunities in the first 24 minutes as three field goal attempts by Lowndes' Joey Parker were no good and Valdosta's Dan Tillman missed a chip shot from 27 yards.

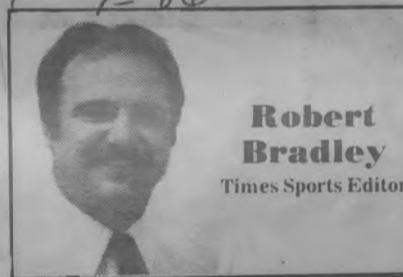
But the second half was more of the type of game the Valdosta people were hoping and the Lowndes fans were dreading.

The Wildcat offense took control at the line of scrimmage and completely dominated the game. After being held to a mere 68 yards in the first half, the Wildcats scoring machine got on track. A quick pair of touchdowns spelled imminent doom for the Vikings in the second half.

"We made one adjustment at halftime," Valdosta line coach Jerry Don Baker said. "The seniors on the line and (Greg) Talley, and several others got together and reminded the players of all the 440's they had to run during the early-morning workouts and all the hours they had spent preparing for the season."

"In the second half, they (Lowndes) were never in the ball game."

After they played Lowndes two weeks ago, Baker was very critical of



Robert Bradley
Times Sports Editor

the way his line had played. But this time, it was just the opposite.

"The players really pass blocked better this time and gave Talley time to throw the ball," Baker said. "With his knowledge and senior leadership, the offense really got going in the second half."

After rolling up a total of 118 yards of total offense in the second half, the Wildcats finished the game with 411 — that's 293 in the second half.

"(Guy) Belue made several catches that were really clutch catches. And he's clutch," Valdosta receiver coach Bob Bolton said.

"I'm extremely proud of every one of them. (Jim) Motes, (Bernard) Hitson, (B.J.) Mason, they all played just super."

"What I was most pleased with was the downfield blocking. They were picking off defensive backs all night, especially in the second half."

But perhaps the most praise by either Bolton or Baker was saved for two of their top players.

Tight end Charles Steward made three catches for 47 yards, including a 27-yarder that set up a touchdown.

"Charles played just magnificently both catching and running the ball," Bolton said. "But he also had a big night blocking."

For Baker, John Wheelless returned to the line this year after not playing last year. But he saved his best for the region championship.

"John Wheelless played the best game he's played this season. He just did a super job," Baker said.

But that's not to say Ben Lane, Jodie Sprenkle, Troy Wells, and Andy Anderson didn't. The five linemen opened huge holes for the running backs and played like Baker felt they would when the season started.

"We put in a play this week just for Lowndes where the guard and tackle fold in. We ran it about seven times and everytime we got good yardage off it."

And the way the Wildcats played in the second half, just about anything they would have tried would have probably worked.

JV 'Cats Too Much For LHS

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

There were no league standings affected. There were no reporters from Atlanta, Jacksonville, or Tallahassee. The Associated Press failed to call for the score after the game.

But for 78 young football players on Thursday afternoon, the seeds were being sown for far greater battles in the future as the Valdosta junior varsity defeated their opponents from Lowndes 22-0 at Cleveland Field.

In a nutshell, the Wildcats had the speed to get outside the Viking defense and pick up lots of yardage down the sidelines. On offense, Lowndes never ran wide with much success, and its passing game never got off the ground, hampered by Valdosta's blitzing linebackers.

Valdosta picked up 225 yards on the ground as Carlos Parker gained 61 yards on nine carries, and quarterback Greg Belcher added 51 yards, also on

| | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|---|------|
| Lowndes..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 |
| Valdosta..... | 7 | 0 | 7 | 8-22 |
| Vald — Greg Belcher 22 run (Carlos Parker kick) | | | | |
| Vald — Belcher 1 run (Parker kick) | | | | |
| Vald — Safety, Lowndes punter tackled in end zone | | | | |
| Vald — Reginald Cobb 21 run (kick blocked) | | | | |
| | Low | Val | | |
| First Downs | 3 | 14 | | |
| Yards Rushing | 42 | 225 | | |
| Rushing Attempts | 24 | 41 | | |
| Yards Passing | 4 | 60 | | |
| Passes | 1-9-2 | 4-12-0 | | |
| Fumbles Lost | 3-1 | 3-1 | | |
| Punting | 3-30.0 | 2-30.0 | | |
| Penalties | 3-25 | 16-151 | | |
| Rushing — Lowndes: Burns 12-36, Jones 4-34, Wright 2-9, Valdosta: Parker 9-61, Belcher 9-51, Rountree 9-43, Cobb 7-38, Jefferson 3-24. | | | | |
| Passing — Valdosta: Belcher 3-9-0 49 yds. | | | | |
| Receiving — Valdosta: Rountree 4-60. | | | | |

nine carries.

Anthony Rountree turned in the finest effort of the day on an 18-yard fourth quarter touchdown burst up the middle on which he literally dragged Viking defenders the last eight yards. It was also Rountree's blocking which repeatedly sprung Parker around the corner.

Belcher scored the first two touchdowns on runs of one and 22 yards and also completed three passes for 49 yards, all to Rountree.

The game was marred by 24 penalty flags. On the first play from scrimmage, Viking quarterback Chris Overman and wide receiver Chris Bridgeforth connected for a 67-yard bomb down to the Valdosta 5-yard line. However, a holding penalty nullified the play.

The Wildcats later had three touchdowns called back due to penalties and got nailed a total of 16 times for 151 yards.

Wildcat linebackers Frederick Henton and Robert Fillmore led a defensive charge which shut down the Viking running game. But it was Alphonso Willis' interception which terminated Lowndes' longest drive of the day.

On their second possession, the



VDT 9-86

Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta's Carlos Parker Was Game's Leading Rusher

Vikings took a kickoff and drove all the way down to the Valdosta 16-yard line. But Willis' picked off a fourth down pass in the end zone.

Following Willis' heroics, the Wildcats drove all the way down to the Lowndes 1-yard line. But a fumbled pitchout was recovered by Lowndes' Jimmy Peters to stop the threat. Valdosta's Chris Hart intercepted a

pass to stop another Viking threat later on.

Linebacker Brooks Akins stacked up most Valdosta runs up the middle, and pressure on the Wildcat quarterback was provided by Lowndes' Lonnie Pitzing, who once sacked the Valdosta quarterback twice in the space of three plays for a total of 22 yards.

But the day belonged to the Wildcats

who finished their season undefeated at 6-0, having allowed only six points all season.

"Our boys really came ready to play today," Valdosta coach Al Akins said. "We hadn't had a game in two weeks, and they were tired of hitting each other in practice. I'm real proud of the way they were blocking on offense, and the defense played very aggressively."



Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Jerome Callaway Had 159 Yards

'Cats Came Alive In 2nd Half

VDT 11-29-86

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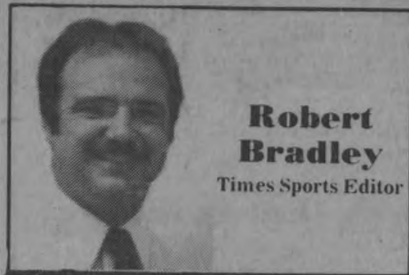
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The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Nov. 29, 1986

They Said It

"We just had a new attitude. Coming into the game we had a good week of practice, but we weren't mentally ready in the first half. But in the second half ..."

Valdosta tight end Charles Steward on the Wildcats' turnaround in the second half.

"We stayed with them for a half. Then they just overpowered us. They were just too big, too fast, and too tough. I was real proud of our kids. They played a good football game. They just couldn't make anything happen early in the game."

Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson

"We went to the I-formation in the second half and it made a tremendous difference. Coaches (Jerry Don) Baker, (Mike) O'Brien, and (Bob) Bolton talked me into it. I didn't want to, but they did. And it worked pretty well."

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder.

"I was throwing short because I was getting pulled down from behind. Everytime I tried to throw the ball, they had me by the ankles."

Lowndes quarterback Rhett Akins who completed his first pass but then threw 15 consecutive passes without a completion.

"The kid's just a good runner. He cut back well on us."

Lowndes coach Joe Wilson on Valdosta running back Jerome Callaway, who had 159 yards on 27 carries.

"Our kids rose to the occasion. It was 'Cats up, not Vikings down.'"

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder.

"It really helped. Mentally we were down and it really gave our confidence a lift. The line was just blowing them off the ball in the second half and was executing just great."

Valdosta quarterback Greg Talley on Valdosta's two quick touchdowns in the second half and the Wildcats' play in the last 24 minutes.

"Our defense played a good ballgame and our offense kept them off the field just long enough to where we could stay with them in the first half. I'm proud of young players. We shouldn't have been here in the first place. You can just get so far playing on heart and determination."

Lowndes coach Joe Wilson.

"Valdosta's first touchdown didn't hurt because we still had the whole second half to go. But when they scored the third one, we were out of it."

Lowndes defensive back Brad Almon.

"I don't know. The seniors got together at the half and decided that we just wanted it more than they did. If God wants us to have it, we'll take it."

Valdosta offensive tackle John Wheelless.

"We proved in the second half that we could move it on them. In the first half we were trying to outfight them. But we played our game in the second half."

Valdosta center Ben Lane.

"We did a heck of lot better this year than most people gave us chance of doing. We were only supposed to win three games."

Lowndes defensive back Brad Almon.

"We just woke up and played to our potential in the second half. It was as good a team effort as I can ever remember at Valdosta High."

Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph.

"John Wheelless played the best game he's played this season. He just did a super job."

Valdosta offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker.

"Nobody's been able to run on Valdosta too effectively all year and we haven't been able to run the ball consistently all season. They have a penetrating defense. Most of the time they had Akins by the ankles."

Lowndes coach Joe Wilson after watching his Vikings gain just 54 yards rushing on 18 attempts.

"It was a good first half for both teams and we knew we couldn't afford to make any mistakes. We didn't have 48 minutes to play, but only 24. We knew mistakes would be crucial in the second half."

Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph.

State Brackets

Classes AAAA And AA

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Region 1 | (H) | | |
| Region 2 | (H) | | (H) |
| Region 3 | | | |
| Region 4 | (H) | | |
| Region 5-9 (AAAA only) | | (H) | |
| Region 6 | (H) | | |
| Region 7 | | | |
| Region 8 | (H) | | |

Classes AAA And A

| | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|
| Region 1 | (H) | | |
| Region 2 | (H) | | |
| Region 3 | | | |
| Region 4 | (H) | | |
| Region 5 | | (H) | |
| Region 6 | (H) | | (H) |
| Region 7 | | | |
| Region 8 | (H) | | |

This weekend's Georgia high school football region finals, with champions indicated in regions with no playoffs or playoffs concluded:

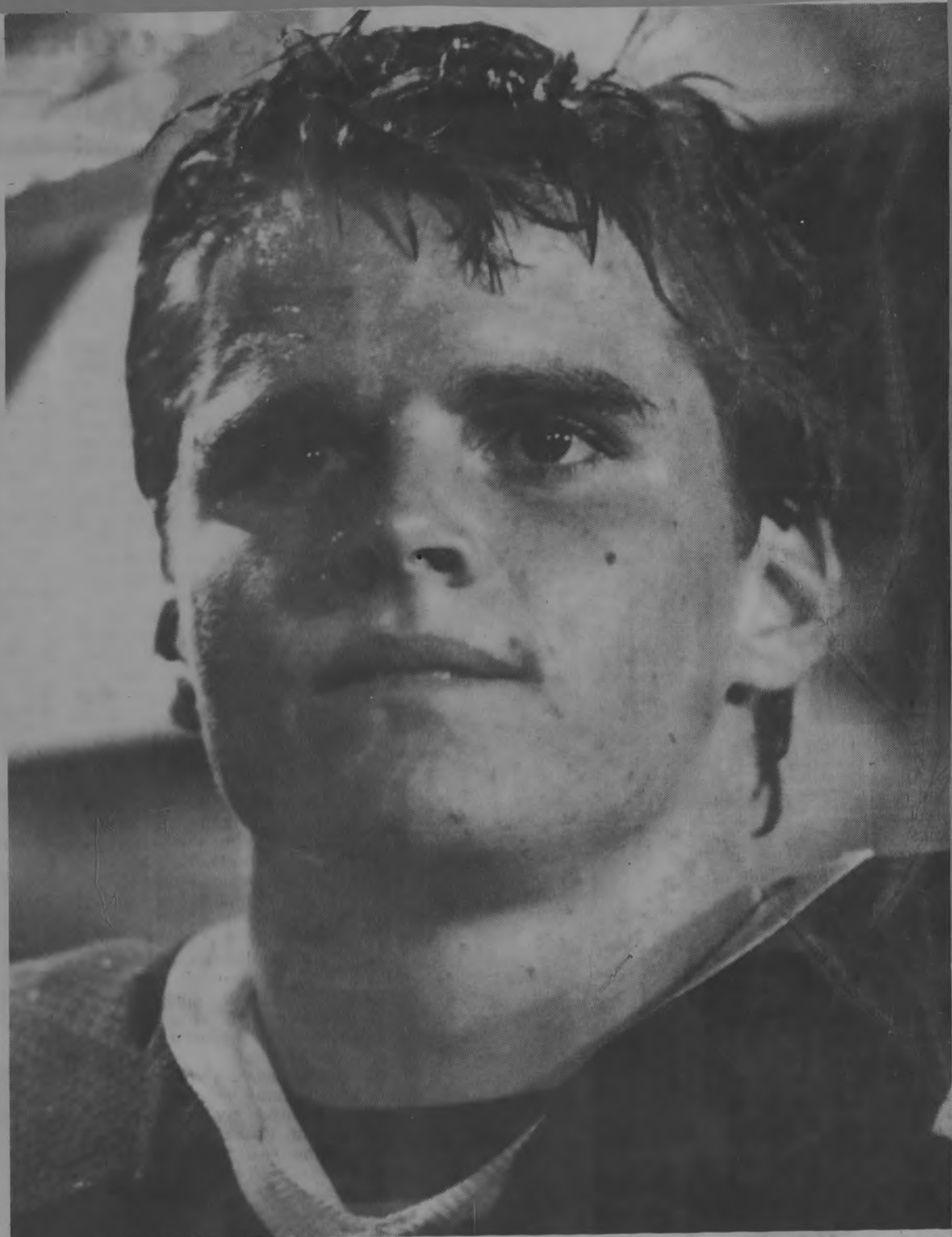
| | |
|---|--|
| Class AAAA | Region 8 Gainesville 24, Stephens County 14 |
| Region 1 | Class AA Brooks County 14, Tri-County 10 |
| Valdosta 28, Lowndes 0 | Region 1 Swainsboro 28, Camden County 13 |
| Region 2 | Region 2 R.E. Lee 20, Manchester 19 |
| Carver-Columbus is region champion. | Region 3 Wash.-Wilkes 23, Greene-Taliaferro 0 |
| Region 3 | Region 4 Gordon 15, Collins 8 |
| Bradwell Institute 28, Effingham County 7 | Region 5 Carver-Atlanta vs. East Atlanta, Saturday |
| Region 4 | Region 6 Central-Carrollton 13, Adairsville 0 |
| Baldwin 14, Warner Robins 13 | Region 7 Duluth 17, Oconee County 7 |
| Regions 5 and 9 | Region 8 Wilcox County 29, Calhoun County 8 |
| Walton 35, McEachern 28 | Region 1 Clinch County is region champion. |
| Region 6 | Region 2 Montgomery County 32, Reidsville 14 |
| Griffin vs. LaGrange, Saturday | Region 3 Lincoln County 9, Warren County 0 |
| Region 7 | Region 4 Greenville 34, Brookstone 7 |
| SW DeKalb 14, Redan 13 | Region 5 East Rome is region champion. |
| Region 8 | Region 6 Palmetto is region champion. |
| Clarke Central 16, Heritage-Conyers 0 | Region 7 Palmetto is region champion. |
| Class AAA | Region 8 Commerce 26, Jackson County 3 |
| Region 1 | |
| Central-Thomasville 13, Thomasville 7 | |
| Region 2 | |
| Westside 26, Thomson 20 | |
| Region 3 | |
| Worth County 15, Americus 14 | |
| Region 4 | |
| Troup 21, McIntosh 3 | |
| Region 5 | |
| Westminster 10, Clarkston 0 | |
| Region 6 | |
| Lakeside 27, Fulton 0 | |
| Region 7 | |
| Villa Rica 20, Dalton 10 | |

Class AAAA
Valdosta at Carver-Columbus
Bradwell Institute at Baldwin
Walton at Griffin or LaGrange
SW DeKalb at Clarke Central

Class AAA
Cen-Thomasville at Westside
Worth County at Troup
Westminster at Lakeside
Villa Rica at Gainesville

Class AA
Brooks County at Swainsboro
R.E. Lee at Wash-Wilkes
Grdn at Carver-Atl. or East Atl.
Central-Carrollton at Duluth

Class A
Wilcox County at Clinch County
Montgomery Co. at Lincoln Co.
Greenville at East Rome
Palmetto at Commerce



VD-9-86

Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Valdosta Quarterback Greg Talley Completed Eight Of 13 Passes For 113 Yards

Viking Overachievers Kept It Close For A Half

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

"I'm awfully proud of our youngsters. They played their hearts out tonight against a powerful football team. They've played that way all year."

Such were the words of Lowndes Viking coach Joe Wilson after his team's 28-0 loss to Valdosta in the Region 1-AAAA championship game. Wilson started last spring with a ragtag bunch of recruits who could be characterized as too small and too slow to be competitive in the state's toughest region.

With only four out of 22 starters returning from last year's team, chances for a pretty dismal season looked pretty good. The players left over had very little experience. But nobody bothered to tell them they weren't supposed to be any good in 1986.

Wilson pointed out that on paper, the over-achieving Lowndes Vikings should have been lucky to make the playoffs.

"This bunch probably shouldn't even have

been here, but they played hard enough to reach the region championship game. All season long they've played way over their heads and defeated teams they weren't supposed to have beaten. But sometimes you can only go so far on heart and desire."

The Vikings had progressed as far as they possibly could at halftime of the region title game against the No. 1 team in the state and the No. 3 team in the entire nation, according to one major poll. They played the powerful Wildcats to a 0-0 standstill for two quarters and even got close enough to try three long field goals in the windy, misting rain.

As they had for most of the season, Lowndes rode a swarming defense to success in the first half. Defensive tackle Joey Parker, one of three returning starters on defense, played the game of his life. He had 12 tackles and two assists, a total which most down linemen are not expected to achieve in two or three games.

Middle linebacker Freddie Richardson,

who didn't even play on the Lowndes varsity last season, had five first hits and six assists in the game and intercepted a pass early in the first quarter. His 57-yard return with the Wildcat aerial gave Viking fans the most they would have to cheer about all night.

Noseguard Chuck Miller, who just became eligible to play last week, contributed five tackles and three assists from his position in the thick of battle against a Valdosta offensive line which averages in excess of 260 pounds per man. His 9-yard quarterback sack just before the half sealed the first-half shutout for the Vikings.

Robert Hargett, a 200-pound Viking defensive end who faced off with Valdosta's 328-pound tackle John Wheelless for much of the night, made a very big play when he fought off a block to throw the Wildcat quarterback for a six-yard loss to end one threat in the second quarter.

Another overachiever in the Viking defense

was corner linebacker Chris Jobes. A 190-pound senior, he seemed to be everywhere over the Cleveland Field turf. He finished with seven tackles and six assists. He and little (5-10, 172 pounds) defensive end Matt Reaves teamed up a number of times to stop the large and fast Wildcat ballcarriers.

The Vikings weren't just outsized on defense. Of their six top offensive linemen, none is listed at heavier than 210 pounds. Zane Craven inspires all the fear that any 6-foot, 150-pound tight end possibly could. The group fought as hard as they could against a Wildcat defensive front which featured 270- and 225-pound tackles.

Wilson was indeed proud of his young charges, and they deserved his praise.

"Our defense played awfully well in the first half. This whole team gave it all they had out there tonight. They were just up against a team with too much size and speed.

But they still deserve a lot of credit for getting this far.

Fire-Breathing 'Cats Whip Lowndes

VDT 9-86

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats exploded for four second-half touchdowns after being held scoreless in the first two quarters of play to claim the Region 1-AAAA title with a 28-0 win over Lowndes High last night at Cleveland Field.

Valdosta will now enter the state championship playoffs where they will play Carver High next Friday night in Columbus.

The Wildcats came out breathing fire in the third quarter, and led 21-0 as the quarter rolled to a close.

Valdosta took the second half kickoff and moved the ball at will. It took the Wildcats only nine plays to move the ball 74 yards for the score. Fullback James Roberts ran the ball down the gut of the Viking defense on a 9-yard touchdown run and kicker Dan Tillman added the point after to make it 7-0 Valdosta with 8:37 left in the third.

After holding the Viking offense on its next possession, Valdosta got the ball back on the Lowndes' 46. On the first play from scrimmage, tailback Jerome Callaway took a handoff from quarterback Greg Talley and went 46 yards down the left side for a TD. Tillman's PAT was good and the 'Cats led 14-0.

A big difference between the first two quarters and the third, according to Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder, was simply an offensive formation change.

"The I-formation was the key," he said. "In the first half we didn't run out of the I and Callaway could only run to one side or the other. Lowndes knew that. In the third quarter, the I allowed him to go more places."

Hyder also targeted senior quarterback Greg Talley with some of the praise.

"Talley did a good job for us. There in the third quarter, he made a lot changes at the line of scrimmage that worked out well."

Talley finished with eight completions in 13 tries for 113 yards and one interception.

The Wildcats scored twice more on short runs by Talley to put the game away as Lowndes was unable to mount a scoring threat in the second half.

Callaway finished with 159 yards on 27 carries and as a team Valdosta rushed for 298 yards against Lowndes.

For Viking coach Joe Wilson, it was a night of aborted efforts as Lowndes had several scoring opportunities in the first half but couldn't convert.

"We had our opportunities in the early going but just weren't able to get the ball in. A couple of dropped passes and some key penalties really hurt," he said.

The Vikings were forced to try three long field goals and the Wildcats missed one from 27 yards out.

It was a long night for Viking quarterback Rhett Akins, who completed just five of 21 passes for 48 yards. Mark Walker was Lowndes' leading rusher with 54 yards. He had one run for 57 yards, but accumulated some negative yardage.

"I'm real proud of these kids," Wilson said. "They weren't even supposed to be here. Valdosta just has a real powerful football team."



Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Valdosta Quarterback Greg Talley Turns And Pitches As Lawrence Sharpe Prepares To Block



Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

'Cat John Wheelless Clears The Path For Greg Talley To Follow As 'Cats Score Third Third-Period TD



VDT 9-86

Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy

Valdosta Quarterback Greg Talley Heads Toward The End Zone In 4th Period

Callaway Ignites To Lift Valdosta

By BLAIR DICKINSON

Times Sports Writer

TIFTON — Senior Valdosta halfback Jerome Callaway exploded for two long touchdown runs behind some excellent blocking early in the third quarter as Valdosta High broke from a 14-14 halftime tie to down the Tift County Blue Devils 35-14 before a packed house last night in Tifton.

On the second play after halftime, Callaway took a handoff over right tackle at the Valdosta 46-yard line, danced through a hole, cut to the sideline, broke a tackle at the 35 and was gone. The 54-yard scoring jaunt gave the Wildcats a 21-14 lead over the stubborn Blue Devils.

After an exchange of punts, the 6-foot-1, 180-pound Callaway was at it again. On the first play after taking possession at the Valdosta 43-yard line, he swept to the right behind a whole host of pulling linemen who deftly cleared the way.

About 10 yards downfield Callaway broke free of his escort and cut back toward the middle of the field. He only had one man to beat, and that defender was eliminated by a ravaging block from flanker Guy Belue. Callaway then cruised down the left sideline and into the end zone for a 57-yard run and a 28-14 lead.

"Callaway played a great second half," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said. "And our line blocked very well. Ben Lane, Andy Anderson, John Wheelless, Troy Wells, and Jodie Sprengle, as well as our tight end Charles Steward, all blocked very well and deserve a lot of credit."

Tift has a fine football team, and tonight these two teams were pretty evenly matched. Odds are fairly good that we may see them again."

But on this night, at least in the second half, the Wildcats were dominant. And they confirmed that fact with a bone crushing 11-play 64-yard drive for a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Fullback James Roberts carried four times on the drive and scored the touchdown on a four-yard burst up the middle behind the blocking of Lane and Sprengle. Dan Tillman then kicked his

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|----|---|----|
| Valdosta..... | 7 | 7 | 14 | 7 | 35 |
| Tift..... | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| Valid—Greg Talley Trun (Dan Tillman kick) | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| Tift—Rubin Bennett 46 pass from Tye Cottle (Jay Johnson kick) | | | | | |
| Valid—Jerome Callaway 32 pass from Talley (Tillman kick) | | | | | |
| Tift—Bennett 28 pass from Cottle (Johnson kick) | | | | | |
| Valid—Callaway 54 run (Tillman kick) | | | | | |
| Valid—Callaway 57 run (Tillman kick) | | | | | |
| Valid—James Roberts 4 run (Tillman kick) | | | | | |

| | Val | Tift |
|---|--------|--------|
| First Downs | 12 | 10 |
| Yards Rushing | 196 | 68 |
| Rushing Attempts | 31 | 27 |
| Yards Passing | 137 | 206 |
| Passes | 14 | 90 |
| Yards Lost | 1 | 31 |
| Fumbles Lost | 1 | 0 |
| Penalties | 7-34.3 | 5-42.6 |
| Receiving — Valdosta: Callaway 16 149; Roberts 8 38; Tift: Cottle 14 31.1; 206; 2-12; Motts 1-17; Roberts 1-26; Tift: Bennett 3-101; Graham 7-38; Ewings 3-38; Jackson 1-9. | | |

fifth extra point for the final 35-14 margin.

The Wildcat defense also made their collective presence felt with a goal line stand to close out the third quarter. Tift put together a 50-yard drive to the Valdosta 2-yard line, mostly on the efforts of standout Blue Devil running back Anthony Graham. He caught two passes on the drive for 26 yards and then broke free on a sweep around left end.

Wildcat safety Walt Gill saved a touchdown on the play by showing Graham out of bounds at the two. An illegal procedure penalty set Tift back five yards before Graham picked up a yard over the right side. Valdosta noseguard Eric Larry then sacked Blue Devil quarterback Tye Cottle for a 6-yard loss. On fourth down, Walt Gill batted down a pass in the end zone to terminate the Tift offensive thrust.

Though the 'Cats clearly dominated in the second half, it was a different story in the first two periods of the game when the Wildcats fought to a 14-14 deadlock with the eighth ranked Blue Devils.

Both senior quarterbacks put on exciting aerial displays and showed why they are two of the best in the state.

Talley completed six of eight passes for 92 yards and a touchdown while Cottle made good on eight of 16 for 143 yards and two touchdowns. However,



Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Wildcat Running Back Jerome Callaway (11) Was Game's Leading Rusher With 149 Yards On 16 Carries

two of Cottle's attempts were intercepted and both led to Wildcat touchdowns.

On Tift's first possession, Valdosta cornerback Keith Henry broke up a pass which Terence Hull intercepted at the Blue Devil 23-yard line and returned down to the 11. Four plays later, Talley sneaked over from the one

to the left side which Valdosta's All-Region defensive end Seabron Williams intercepted and returned for 10 yards.

Talley hit split end B.J. Mason for 15 yards down the right sideline. Then after two running plays lost yardage, Talley faded back, scrambled through a hole in the Blue Devil pass rush, and

fired long down the middle to a wide open Callaway who had slipped through the Tift defense unnoticed. He caught the ball in the end zone for the score and a 14-7 Valdosta lead.

But the Blue Devils would not stay down. They took the ensuing kickoff and drove the length of the field with it — 70 yards in 11 plays.

Sat., Oct. 1, 1936

B-A

Callaway Ignites To Lift Valdosta

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

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Vald—Greg Talley 1 run (Dan Tillman kick)
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| | Val | Tift |
|---|--------|---------|
| First Downs | 12 | 10 |
| Yards Rushing | 196 | 68 |
| Rushing Attempts | 31 | 27 |
| Yards Passing | 137 | 206 |
| Passes | 14-9-0 | 31-14-3 |
| Fumbles/Lost | 1-0 | 1-0 |
| Punting | 7-34.3 | 5-42.6 |
| Penalties | 6-65 | 7-60 |
| Rushing — Valdosta, Callaway 16, 149, Roberts 8, 38; Tift, Graham 16, 54, Jackson 2, 20. | | |
| Passing — Valdosta, Talley 9-14-0 137; Tift, Cottle 14-31-3 206. | | |
| Receiving — Valdosta, Callaway 2, 36; Mason 2, 46; Belue 2, 12; Motes 1, 17; Roberts 1, 26; Tift, Bennett 3, 101; Graham 7, 58; Ewings 3, 38; Jackson 1, 9. | | |

fifth extra point for the final 35-14 margin.

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behind the 6-4, 250-pound Lane for the first touchdown of the game. Cottle came back with a beautiful 46-yard bomb to Rubin Bennett for a touchdown to cap a Blue Devil 6-play, 73-yard drive and knotted the score at 7-7.

Early in the second quarter, the Tift signal-caller attempted a screen pass to the left side which Valdosta's All-Region defensive end Seabron Williams intercepted and returned for 10 yards. Talley hit split end B.J. Mason for 15 yards down the right sideline. Then Talley faded back, scrambled through a hole in the Blue Devil pass rush, and

fired long down the middle to a wide open Callaway who had slipped through the Tift defense unnoticed. He caught the ball in the end zone for the score and a 14-7 Valdosta lead. But the Blue Devils would not stay down. They took the ensuing kickoff and drove the length of the field with it — 70 yards in 11 plays.

VHS' Williams At Home In Out-Of-Position

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Considering his size he is surely out of position. At defensive end he has often played entire games against offensive tackles who outweigh him by 70-80 pounds or more. But who was it that made All-Region 1-AAAA in 1985?

"Seabron Williams is probably a little small to be playing where he is, but in our defensive scheme, he fits in there real well," said Valdosta High coach Nick Hyder.

Go back to December, 1984. Valdosta High is playing host to Athens' Clarke Central High for Georgia's Class AAAA state championship with the winner likely to be ranked No. 1 in the nation. The Wildcats are precariously holding onto a 21-14 lead with the Gladiators driving downfield at the Valdosta 30-yard line late in the fourth quarter.

On fourth-and-one, Clarke Central went left for the first down, and who should come out of nowhere to throw its all-star running back for a loss but a 5-foot-10, 150-pound sophomore lineman

named Seabron Williams. Nobody bothered to tell him he wasn't big enough to make plays like that, though he made numerous tackles for losses in that state championship game.

"Seabron was one of three freshmen we brought straight up to the varsity in 1983," Hyder said. (The other two were middle linebacker Bill Kirby and offensive tackle John Wheelless). "We had gotten very good reports about him from our junior high coaches, so we knew he was tough enough to play varsity ball."

"He's a good hitter with natural quickness. We put him on our kickoff and punt teams, and he did a real good job for us. He moved onto the first team at defensive end in 1984 and he's been there ever since."

"Seabron's a hard worker and a conscientious youngster. He never misses a day of school. And he's popular with his teammates. They elected him defensive captain this year."

As an athlete, Williams really distinguished himself on the Supercat condi-

tioning test. He ran a 4.6-second 40-yard dash and managed to bench press 275-pounds — not bad for a youngster now only 5-11 and 170. In addition, he had a quickness ratio of 33 which is tops on the Valdosta team.

He is the most typical of what Hyder calls his "streetfighters" — players who are too small but make up for it in heart, determination, and all-out effort. His teammates say Williams "hits like a freight train."

He started playing football at the age of 10. On his first team at Pinevalle-Lomax, he played center, of all positions. Upon his arrival at Valdosta Junior High, Williams was moved to his present position of defensive end where he played on the Stray Cats in the seventh grade and on the Tom Cats in the eighth grade.

Early in his freshman season during a tackling drill, he suffered a broken wrist which sidelined him for the rest of the year. But by the next spring he was back at it.

In 1985 during a season of offensive

woes, Williams was a rock on the right side of a defense which allowed only 6.3 points per game while being kept on the field more than usual. He was a unanimous choice for the All-Region 1-AAAA defensive squad and he was *The Times'* defensive lineman of the year. If he continues to play the way he is capable, he will be an odds-on favorite for the All-State team.

Quickness is Williams' greatest asset as he can beat most of the much larger offensive tackles he lines up against in the region. But after getting around the tackle, it is usually his strength which gets him through the running back pass blocking in the backfield.

And it is that blend of strength and quickness which allows him to fight through a tight end and pulling guard to slip through for the tackle on a power sweep.

He is a consistent football player who can also rise to the occasion and come up with the big play. He blocked a short field goal against Waycross to preserve a shutout over there this season. He rushes the passer like

Deacon Jones.

And when he is not sacking the quarterback for a loss, he is often hurrying the passer into throwing interceptions, a statistic in which the Wildcats lead the region by a wide margin.

The player they call Gooney has been such a fixture in the Wildcat defense over the last three years that he probably won't be fully appreciated until after he has graduated. Williams has been contacted by a number of colleges and universities about playing football next year. He would obviously be a valuable addition to any program.

Off the field he is a very casual personality. Williams has been known to favor some fancy clothes at times. And he admitted that his favorite hobby is spending time with his girlfriend, Angelina Simmons.

For now, he would just like to bring the Wildcats one more state championship to go with the one earned in 1984.



Seabron Williams
VHS Defensive End

Confident Wildcat Team Ready For Tift

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats head into their Region 1-AAAA schedule flying high, and will roll into Tift on Friday night a confident and able team.

The Wildcats are 4-0 and have thus far dominated every opponent, including LaGrange, which was ranked No. 1 in the preseason poll.

Valdosta dumped the Grangers 16-6 and went on to beat Fulton 30-6, Waycross 31-0, and Leon 28-3.

Valdosta is rolling, and other than the first half of the LaGrange game, haven't really been seriously challenged.

One reason for Valdosta's success has to be handed to a well-coached defensive squad that likes to eat running backs for dessert. Valdosta is first in the region against the rush, allowing just 288 yards in four games with only a 2.5 yard per carry average and just one rushing touchdown.

Valdosta's defensive front has been rigid this year due to fine play by noseguard Eric Larry and defensive

tackles Coronzoa Greene, Andy Griffin, and Zabria Bell.

Defensive end Seabron Williams, who was the *Times'* defensive player of the year last year, is back on his usual rampages and on the other side, Michael Tolbert has done an excellent job as well.

Because Valdosta has been taking away the rush, its secondary has been challenged time and time again. The 'Cats are ranked sixth in the region of seven teams against the pass. But the Valdosta defense has had the ball thrown against its secondary more than any team in 1-AAAA. Valdosta has given up 337 yards in the air but has intercepted the ball 10 times and has allowed no touchdowns through the air.

While Valdosta's defense has done its lion's share of the job, the Wildcat offense has had little trouble helping its own cause.

Valdosta is first in the region in overall offense with 1197 total yards and is averaging 299.3 yards per game. The 'Cats are second in passing offense

to Tift but only just barely. Valdosta is fourth in rushing offense with 665 yards in four games.

Valdosta has also scored 105 points. Colquitt is second with 80. Tift has scored 43 points in three games.

At quarterback Tift's Tye Cottle and Valdosta's Greg Talley rank No. 1 and No. 2. Cottle is 33 of 54 for 446 yards and four touchdowns. He has also yielded three interceptions. Talley is 35 of 62 for 510 yards and five touchdowns. Jerome Callaway leads Valdosta's rushing attack. The 195-pound senior has 291 yards on 46 carries for a 6.3 average.

Joining Callaway in the backfield is James Roberts who has 214 yards on the ground in four games. Fullback Lawrence Sharpe has appeared in only one varsity game but gained 67 yards. Sharpe got banged up against LaGrange but is expected to be back in the lineup Friday night.

But depth is the key to Valdosta. The 'Cats are pretty much at least two deep at every position and it is building this depth that is a big concern to Hyder.

"Depth is vital," said Hyder, "and we've got to get some of these younger kid ready to play. On the front line we have Jackie Morgan, Todd Pitchford, Andy Rykard and Lee Thomas who are in the wings. In the backfield, we're working with Antonio Henderson and Eddie Jones. Developing the players is so important."

Not only have the 'Cats been playing well, but they have a little bit of history on their sides as well. Valdosta owns a 44-10-3 series lead over the Blue Devils. Since Hyder came in as the VHS head coach, Valdosta has been 11-3-0 against Tift. Two of Tift's wins came in 1979.

But Hyder is wise enough not to make any predictions. "I've been in coaching a long time and I've decided I don't have a crystal ball," Hyder said. "You can get yourself into trouble."

As an example, Hyder pointed out Oklahoma linebacker Steve Bosworth, who boasted that the Sooners would manhandle Miami. It didn't happen. One thing the average fan can expect from the Tift-Valdosta battle is some

hard hitting. That's the only brand of football Hyder and Tift head coach Gene Brodrie teach.

Valdosta

vs.

Tift Co.

- When: Friday, Oct. 3
- Where: Tift County Stadium, Tifton
- Time: 8:00 p.m.
- Records: Valdosta, 4-0; Tift County, 2-1
- Rankings: Valdosta, 1st (AAAA); Tift County, 8 (AAAA)
- Series: Valdosta leads 44-10-3
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 14, Tift County 0, 1985
- Last Tift County Win: 1983, 17-13
- On Deck: Dougherty at Valdosta, Oct. 10; Tift County at Monroe, Oct. 10

Dostans Participate In Gifted Program

DURHAM, N.C. — Two Valdosta, Ga., students competed fast-paced courses in foreign languages this summer at Duke University here.

Heather Epes completed a course in German and Holly Anne Davis in Japanese in the Duke University Summer Residential Program for Verbally and Mathematically Talented Youths.

Miss Epes, daughter of Peter and Melissa Epes, is in the ninth grade this year at Valwood School here. Miss Davis, daughter of Charlton Lee Davis, is in the 11th grade at Valdosta High School.

It was the sixth summer the educational program sponsored by the Duke

ing in-depth on a single area of study and attending class for six-seven hours daily.

The range of courses offered included subjects such as ancient Greek, astronomy, Chinese, computer science, economics, international relations, marine biology, philosophy, physics, precalculus, introduction to psychology, Russian and writing.

Students typically follow up their advance summer study at Duke by taking advanced placement courses in their home schools, enrolling in college courses at local universities, or studying independently through Duke's TIP By-Mail Program.

Talent Identification Program (TIP) has been available to academically gifted seventh through 10th grade students.

The students qualify to come to the program based on their scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) while in the seventh grade. As seventh graders, they score higher than 85 percent of the college-bound high school juniors and seniors taking the same test.

More than 400 students from 33 states and two foreign countries were enrolled in each of the two three-week terms this summer on Duke's east campus. The students tackled challenging academic material focus-



10-4-86

VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

Tanya Mabry, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Mabry; reporter/historian — Tina Johns, daughter of Shirley Singleton; projects chairman — Johnna Elliott, daughter of John & Barbara Elliott; parliamentarian — Matt Winters, son of Mrs. Barbara Baer.

The installation of these officers was held in the VHS Little Theatre on September 25, 1986. The newly elected officers formed a receiving line to greet the guests after they signed the guest book which was managed by Desha Mobley and Darlene Joyner.

The meeting was called to order by Michael Schmier, and all special requests were recognized by Cher Haynes. State President, Cherie Thompson from Jeff Davis High School was introduced by Tina Johns and from there presided over the ceremonies.

Angela Stone, LaShunda Moore, Laurie McAllister and Leigh Williams presented the letters F, B, L, & A to the audience and gave the meaning of each letter. Ann Faircloth then proceeded with the reading of the National Goals of FBLA.

Ms. Thompson gave a motivating speech on getting involved and proceeded with the candle-lighting ceremonies.

A reception was held after the ceremonies. Alesha Avila, Robin Schwartz and Cindy Voorhees served. Carolyn Jones, Diane Jones, Edith Wells, Tracy McCray, Jonathan Ludlum and Tina Johns also provided special assistance with the running of the occasion.

Mr. John Field, Vocational Department Director, and business education teachers and FBLA advisors Maxine Martin, Judy Grant, Jewell Meets and Lynn Joiner were present. There was an excellent turn out of members, parents, teachers and administrators with more than 70 in attendance.

Foreign Lancer Club Holds Officer Elections

Cecelia Mead is the business manager and VHS English teacher Eloise Terry is Sandspur advisor.

1986 yearbooks can still be picked up Monday through Friday at 3 p.m. in the front office.

Debaters Return
By Jay Connel, Secretary
Debate Club

Valdosta High debaters returned from the Westminster Debates in Atlanta with a team record of nine wins and only seven losses in their first tournament of the year. The top debater for VHS was senior Paul Conrad who placed twenty-fifth in a field of 150 affirmative speakers in the tournament. Conrad teamed with junior Jennifer Guest for a 3-1 tournament record.

Junior David Cole finished second among VHS debaters and twentieth place in a field of 150 negative speakers in the tournament. Cole teamed with junior Toby Baskin for a 3-1 record. Junior Holly Davis and Sophomore Susie Grant were third and fourth place speakers respectively among VHS debaters. Miss Davis teamed with junior Barry Golivesky and Miss Grant with sophomore Kelly Shelton.

Commenting on the team's first tournament competition this year, VHS director of debate Frank Hjort said, "This is the best start we've ever had. Some of these students have never been in a tournament situation and the results of last year's debate class are readily evident."

The eight students won decisions over teams representing Buford, Carrollton, Carrollton Central, Dacula, East Coweta, Milton, Macon Southwest, and Parkview high schools. The team is participating in the Northside Debate Tournament on October 3rd and 4th in Warner Robins.

Held Elections
Tina Johns, Reporter

The Valdosta Chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America held elections by ballot for officers on Monday, September 15, 1986. The outcome was as follows:

President — Michael Schmier, son of Louis & Susan Schmier; vice-president — Debra Waters, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Freddie Waters; secretary — Faylene Joyner, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Joyner; treasurer —

Other staff positions include Georgia Graves, academics; Susan Burns, Bryan Harris, and Greg Bennett, portraits; Stephanie Shields, photography; Donnie Hay, clubs; Margaret Anne Sineath, Stephanie Culverhouse, Johnna Ellkot, and Teresa Grace, student life; and Dan Tillman, Paul Rainey, and Chris Hendry, sports.

Sandspur On Sale

By Christine Buel

Sales of the 1987 Sandspur will be Tuesday, October 7, in VHS English classes. The special introductory price will be twenty dollars. Changes are being made regarding the 1987 Sandspur at VHS. Because the yearbook will be larger, there will be more room for candid pictures and student surveys. Student surveys will include such questions as "What are your top ten all-time favorite movies?" There will also be an extensive use of graphics this year.

All staff positions for the 1987 Sandspur have been filled. The students holding editorial positions are Mike Farley, editor-in-chief; Christine Buel, assistant editor; Rhonda Davis, managing editor; David Holland, photography editor; Terri Longeliere, sports editor; Nanci Nichols, student life editor; Melissa Guintero, club editor; and Paul Conrad, academics editor.



Jumping 'Cats

Valdosta backup quarterback Ben Hogan (5) is having a hard time avoiding the rush of defensive ends Seabron Williams, airborne, and Michael Tolbert (49). Hogan, only a sophomore, is third on the depth chart and Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder is pleased with his progress this year.

(Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy)

Valdosta's Jerome Callaway Used Natural Ability, Blocking

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Jerome Callaway used a blend of natural athletic ability and the blocking of his offensive line Friday night to propel the Valdosta High Wildcats to a 35-14 victory over eighth-ranked Tift County in the Region 1-AAAA opener.

Callaway, who was held to just nine yards on seven attempts in the first half, exploded on the second play of the second half for a 54-yard touchdown run. He followed that with a 57-yard TD run later in the game to finish the night with 149 yards 16 on carries. He also caught two passes for 36 yards and a TD.

For his efforts against the Blue Devils, Callaway has been named as *The Times'* player of the week.

"He worked awfully hard in practice last week and he was blending in very well with our offensive scheme," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said. "The blocking formed perfect when he broke the first one. When I say it blended it was his talent and the blocking of the

line. He also got a couple of great blocks deep downfield to set them up. It was good, hard running."

Callaway has made a very successful transition from safety to running back. He was moved to the offensive backfield after playing the secondary last year.

"He's a highly talented young man," Hyder said. "It's one of those things you don't coach. He's a gifted young man."

Callaway's experience on both offense and defense as well as his ability has caught the attention of several colleges.

"Anybody would want him," Hyder said. "The colleges are looking at him on both sides of the ball."

Callaway is still available if he's needed on the defense, but he takes such a beating on offense he doesn't see much action on the other side. Callaway is leading the region in rushing with 440 yards on 60 carries for an average of 88 yards a game. He also scored six touchdowns. He is 13th in the

region in receiving, having caught nine passes for 166 yards and two touchdowns for 33.2 yards a game.

Honor Roll

Andy Baker, Cook — threw an 18-yard touchdown pass and ran in a 3-yard TD in the Hornets' 18-7 decision over Clinch County.

Maurey Copeland, Valwood — picked up 135 yards on 13 carries to lead the Valiants to a 17-0 victory over Tift area. Copeland also scored a pair of touchdowns on runs of 50 and 35 yards.

Ray Gupton, Lowndes Christian Academy — made 12 individual tackles from his middle linebacker position in the Eagles' 28-0 loss to Kings Way.

Jason Hamil, Berrien County — had a season-high nine receptions for 125 yards.

Michael James, Madison County — had 101 yards on 10 carries and scored on runs of one and 60 yards in the Cowboys' 20-13 loss to Marianna. He also kicked an extra point.

Greg Jefferson, Hamilton County — caught five passes for 95 yards and a touchdown and kicked two extra points to help the Trojans to a 20-19 victory over Dixie County.

Joe Moore, Atkinson County — rushed for 72 yards on 24 carries in the Rebels' 14-0 loss to third-ranked Wilcox County.

Rozell Orr, Lowndes — caught six passes for 87 yards as the Vikings upended Colquitt Co. 27-6.

Ronald Rogers, Hamilton County — rushed for 54 yards on 10 carries and scored a 15-yard TD.

Floyd Rothrock and Don Holley, Westbrook Academy — combined for 282 yards on just 16 carries in the Cougars' 31-10 decision over Terrell Academy. Rothrock had 150 yards on seven attempts while Holley had 132 on nine.

Jerry Simmons, Berrien County — rushed for 56 yards on 10 carries and a touchdown and completed 13 of 26 passes for 145 yards.

Steven Snipes, Berrien County —

kicked two field goals and an extra point to help the Rebels in their 13-7 upset victory over Class A sixth-ranked Irwin County.

Greg Talley, Valdosta — completed nine for 14 passes for 137 yards and a touchdown. He did not throw and interception.

Tim Tippens, Cook — returned an interception 38 yards for a TD in the Hornets' 18-7 victory over Clinch County.

Albert Tolle, Hamilton County — completed 11 of 25 passes for 172 yards and two touchdowns in a 20-19 win over Dixie County. His first TD was five yards to Greg Jefferson and his second was a 23-yarder to Wesley Roberson.

Preston Williams, Brooks County — picked up 148 yards on 20 carries and scored two touchdowns on runs of 12 and three yards in the Trojans' 20-13 victory over Seminole County.

Mark Walker, Lowndes — rushed for a season-high 111 yards on 17 carries and scored two touchdowns on runs of 17 and 34 yards against the Packers.



Jerome Callaway
Valdosta Running Back

6-C The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Oct. 5, 1986

'Cats, Lowndes Continue To Dominate

By MIKE COLQUITT
Times Sports Writer

Midway through the season, it appears there will be no transfer of power in the Region 1-AAAA. Lowndes and Valdosta remain the teams to beat.

Valdosta traveled to Tifton to take on the Blue Devils in battle of ranked powers. At the half, the game was tied 14-14, but when the dust had cleared Valdosta walked away with a 35-14 victory.

Lowndes, meanwhile, played host to Colquitt County which came into the game at 2-2 along with the Vikings. Colquitt was ranked high in the pre-season poll but was knocked out of the top 10 with the two losses.

But the Packers were thumped badly by the Vikings 27-6.

In the only other 1-AAAA game, the Dougherty Trojans kicked a field goal with 10 seconds left to down Monroe 3-0.

It was by far Lowndes' best offensive performance of the season, but it may have been the Viking defense that really made the difference. Colquitt had just 34 yards rushing on 18 attempts in the first two quarters with only three first downs. All three came on the Packers' only scoring drive.

"I've been impressed with our defense all year," Lowndes coach Joe Wilson said. "We stopped one of the best rushers in the region in Bernard Howard. We just did a lot of things

right."

Viking running back Mark Walker finally performed the way Wilson thought he could and finished as the game's leading rusher with 111 yards on 17 carries.

It took the 'Cats a little bit longer to dominate the Blue Devils. Tift played tough against the Valdosta rushing game in the first half, virtually stopping Valdosta's big backs.

But Wildcat coach Nick Hyder had a solution to that. The first play after the half was a pass play from quarterback Greg Talley to running back James Roberts that was good for a 20-yard gain to the Valdosta 46.

Fleet runner Jerome Callaway took the next play 54 yards for the score. After that it was all Valdosta as the Wildcats added 14 more unanswered points.

"They have a fine football team," said Nick Hyder. "I think a lot of our success in the second half was because they were tired. Andra Jackson, Willie Stokes, and Rubin Bennett all went both ways."

In other high school action Friday night, Brooks County downed Seminole County 20-13. Berrien County beat Irwin County 13-7, and Cook clipped Clinch County 18-7.

It was Westbrook 31-10 over Terrell Academy, Wilcox County 14-0 over Atkinson County, Hamilton County 20-19 over Dixie, and Madison County

fell 20-13 to Marianna.

The Hamilton County Trojans dodged a bullet against Dixie, holding off a late Bear charge in the waning minutes.

The Trojans fumbled on their own 30 and Dixie scored on an apparent touchdown pass that was called back. The Bears let the clock run down and then attempted a 30-yard field goal but missed it to give Hamilton the win.

Hamilton jumped out to a 14-0 lead. Tight end Greg Jefferson caught a 5-yard touchdown reception from quarterback Albert Tolle and kicked the extra point. Ronald Rogers scored the second time for Hamilton on a 15-yard run.

But Dixie roared back with two long touchdown passes, but missed an extra point conversion to make it 14-13 at the half.

Hamilton's last score came in the third quarter on a 23-yard pass from Tolle to Wesley Roberson. The point after was no good.

Dixie cut the margin to 20-19 on a 30-yard touchdown pass and that's how it remained as the Bears missed the last-minute field goal.

Hamilton is 3-1 and 3-0 in district play.

The Madison County Cowboys didn't fare as well as Hamilton. The Cowboys amassed just a net of 101 yards with five first downs. Running back Micheal James was Madison's leading rusher

with 101 yards on 10 carries. James also scored Madison's two touchdowns on runs of one and 60 yards and kicked the only extra point. It was Madison's third consecutive loss with no wins. Marianna is 2-1.

VHS Student Nominated To Special Band

A Valdosta High School band student was nominated for membership in the McDonald's All-American Band, a 104-member marching corps made up of the best school-aged musicians in the country.

Trumbone player Stephen Pruitt was recognized for his accomplishment in ceremonies on the VHS practice field with band director Dan Gaultney and fellow band members on hand.

He was nominated on the basis of musical honors and competitive contest ratings.

The nomination was announced by T.C. Metzner, who operates McDonald's restaurant at 1177 St. Augustine Road.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the McDonald's band. Those selected as finalists will perform in the nationally televised Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, in concert at Chicago's Orchestra Hall, in the Chicago Christmas Parade, the Fiesta Bowl in Phoenix, Ariz., and the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif.



STEPHEN PRUITT
Trumbone Player



Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Three Cheese Supreme Wins State 4-H Competition And Trip To Chicago In December For Anna Faircloth Of Valdosta

She Wins Trip With Food Project

By ELIZABETH BUTLER
Times Features Editor

A Valdosta teen-ager is excited about the trip to Chicago she won with her 4-H dairy foods project.

Anna Faircloth, 17, will be attending 4-H National Congress in Chicago Dec. 6-12. She won the trip this summer by placing first in state competition in Atlanta with her project. She gave a talk on dairy foods and prepared Three Cheese Supreme in front of the judges.

Unlike state competition where she had to give a demonstration, national competition is on her record book only. The record book is a compilation of all her work in dairy foods in 4-H.

Before the end of the month, she'll learn if she is a national winner. "I can't wait. I'm about to die," she said in typical teen-age fashion.

Anna's younger sister, Amy, 15, will be accompanying her to Chicago. Amy was also a state winner with her flowers, shrubs and lawns project.

Cooking honors are nothing new to Anna who won the Heart Association Bake-Off earlier this year with her Chocolate Cherry Cheesecake. Her Cheese Sauce won first place in district 4-H competition and third place in state last year. Both her Breakfast Pizza and Enchilada Casserole won second places in district 4-H competition.

The El Pollo Nacho Platter she makes is popular with her friends at Valdosta High School where she is a senior.

Anna has helped three years with the cooking school held annually at Mathis city auditorium and has demonstrated a lot of cheese balls at cooking classes for 4-H'ers.

It was a 4-H cooking demonstration by an older 4-H'er, Leigh Powell, which got Anna interested in dairy foods and cooking. Leigh demonstrated a no-bake recipe which piqued Anna's interest in trying the recipe for herself.

"I like for her to cook," said her mother Juanita Faircloth. "That means I don't have to cook when she cooks."

Anna, who has been cooking since



Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

VHS Senior Anna Faircloth Hoping For National Win With 4-H Project On Dairy Foods

she was in the fifth grade, gets the most compliments on her desserts.

"I don't like to use the same recipe over and over," she said. "I like to try new ones."

In addition to cooking, she enjoys aerobic exercising, being with her friends, talking on the telephone and taking pictures.

At VHS she is public relations officer of the Future Homemakers of America, a member of Future Business Leaders of America and flugabone player in the band. She works as a secretary at Bollman Business Machines as part of Vocational Office Training program.

She was 4-H of the Year in 1985 and

won the Georgia Key Award for outstanding leadership in 4-H. She attends Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Cairo.

When Anna graduates from high school, she plans to attend Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and the University of Georgia and major in home economics.

Dougherty

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Dougherty High Trojans bring their Wing-T offense to Valdosta Friday night for an 8:00 game with an undefeated Valdosta High School. It will be a difficult game for which to predict the outcome.

Dougherty reached the Region 1-AAAA playoffs last year with a team that lost only 10-0 to the Wildcats. And though the Trojans top ground gainer, Charles Sisroe graduated, Dougherty returns a bevy of fine running backs.

One is Darren Rowe, a 175-pound senior wing back, who broke loose for three long runs against the Wildcats and gained 70 yards in seven carries. He also caught four passes in the game.

"If the Wing-T is well executed, it can be very difficult to defend," Wildcat coach Nick Hyder said. "It is a type of misdirection offense which forces every player on the defense to concentrate on playing his position. If you play too aggressively and over-pursue and try to gang-tackle too much it can hurt you."

"You get forced into having just a one-on-one shot at tackling the ball-carrier, so you've got to really make sure you lock up on them."

The Dougherty team is also unpredictable at times. They shut out

To Invade Valdosta

Valdosta

vs.

Dougherty

- When: Friday, Oct. 10
- Where: Cleveland Field, Valdosta
- Time: 8:00 p.m.
- Records: Valdosta, 5-0; Dougherty, 2-2-1
- Rankings: Valdosta, 1st (AAAA); Dougherty, unranked (AAAA)
- Series: Valdosta leads 20-2-0
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 10, Dougherty 0, 1985
- Last Dougherty Win: 1976, 28-26
- On Deck: Westover at Valdosta, Oct. 10; Lowndes at Dougherty, Oct. 24

Central-Thomasville to open the season when the Yellow Jackets were ranked No. 1 in the state (Class AAA). And they tied a fifth-ranked Triple-A Americus squad 14-14 two weeks ago. Last week the 3-1-1 Trojans defeated a rebuilding Monroe team 3-0.

Dougherty starts eight seniors on offense and six on defense, so they are a veteran squad. Craig Davis and

Brinson Mosley are both 155-pound seniors who alternate at quarterback. Davis was the starter last season, but Mosley is said to be the better runner and have the stronger arm.

Milton Johnson took over at fullback for Sisroe. He is a 6-foot 185-pound senior who can bench press 300 pounds. Rowe himself bench presses 305 pounds at 5-11 and 175 pounds and averages 5.7 yards per carry. However, the workhorse in the backfield is sophomore Bernard King who stands fifth in the region in rushing with 283 yards.

It is unknown how big King or any other underclassman on the Trojan team is because Dougherty does not list heights or weights of anyone but their seniors in their game programs.

It is known that the Trojans have fairly good size on their offensive line. Senior right tackle Andrew Clum is a solid 240-pounder who bench presses 320 pounds. The other tackle is Eugene Lamar, a 230-pound senior who is stronger than Clum. Tight end Dymytrik Kittles is a solid 6-1 205-pounder.

Dougherty's top receivers are 5-11 175-pound split end Murray Jones and the halfback King who have each caught eight passes, along with Rowe who has averaged 26.3 yards per catch on four receptions.

Valdosta Still No. 1 Berrien Co. In Top 10

ATLANTA (AP) — It's Wilcox County by a point.

Losses last week by No. 1, Commerce, No. 2 Palmetto and No. 6 Irwin County left the top of the Class A high school football poll up for grabs, and Wilcox slipped into first place in voting by The Associated Press' board of sports writers and sportscasters.

Wilcox County got six of nine first place votes to edge East Rome 81-80. East Rome, Greenville and Calhoun County received the other votes.

The other No. 1 teams remained Valdosta in Class AAAA, Dalton in Class AAA and Washington-Wilkes in Class AA.

Seven of last week's unranked teams cracked the rankings: Baldwin, Newnan and Riverwood in Class AAAA; Central-Thomasville, Lakeside and South Gwinnett in Class AAA; and Berrien County in Class AA.

Losing their rankings this week were Warner Robins, Tift County and Redan in Class AAAA; Cairo and Coffee in Class AAA; and Pepperell in Class AA.

At the top of Class A, Wilcox County, East Rome and No. 3 Louisville each have jumped two spots from last week. Commerce fell to No. 4 after a 13-7 loss to Oconee County. Greenville climbed two spots to No. 5.

Thomasville moved up two spots to No. 6 and Peach County, tied with Thomasville last week, moved up a notch to No. 7. Cedartown fell from No. 6 to No. 8 after a 21-7 loss to Central-Carrollton. The ninth ranking is shared by Central-Thomasville, Lakeside and South Gwinnett.

Berrien County entered the rankings at No. 9, dropping Mary Persons one notch to No. 10. Fefferell lost its 10th ranking despite running its record to 5-0 in a 14-0 victory over Coosa.

ATLANTA — Here are this week's Associated Press rankings of Georgia high school football teams, with records, point totals in the poll and first-place votes. Voting is by the AP's panel of sports writers and sportscasters.

CLASS AAAA

1. Valdosta (5-0), 90, 9
2. Clarke Central (4-0), 79
3. LeGrange (3-1), 76
4. Bradwell Institute (5-0), 62
5. Southwest Dekalb (5-0), 52
6. McEachern (5-0), 44
7. Evans (4-0), 33
8. Baldwin (4-0), 16
9. Newnan (5-0), 14
10. Riverwood (5-0), 11

Also received votes (in alphabetical order): Northside-Warner Robins, Paulding County, Redan, Riv. etale, Savannah, Tift County and Warner Robins.

Palmetto, which lost 30-13 to Feldwood, fell into a tie at No. 6 with Lincoln County, eighth last week. This week's No. 8 ranking is shared by Calhoun County, ninth last week, and Warren County, formerly No. 10. Irwin County fell to No. 10 after a 13-7 loss to Berrien County.

The top six teams in Class AAAA remain Valdosta, Clarke Central, La-Grange, Bradwell Institute, Southwest Dekalb and McEachern.

Evans moved from No. 9 to No. 7 after its 10-3 victory over Warner Robins, formerly seventh. The last three spots went to Baldwin, Newnan and Riverwood, respectively.

Tift County lost its one-week-old eighth ranking after a 35-14 loss to Valdosta, and Redan fell from No. 10 after a 20-7 beating by Southwest Dekalb.

Thurs., Oct. 9, 1986

Pressure Will Be On Wildcat

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats put their spotless 5-0 record and No. 1 state ranking on the line Friday night against the Dougherty High Trojans from Albany in an 8:00 game at Cleveland Field. And like last week against Tift County, who had one of the top passing quarterbacks in the state, the defense will again be under added pressure.

Last year's game between Valdosta and Dougherty in Albany was a true defensive struggle. The Wildcats came out on top in that one as safety Walt Giff, end Seabron Williams, tackle Otis Conaway, and noseguard Eric Larry led a ferocious defensive charge which held the Trojans to under 100 yards total offense in a 10-0 shutout.

Each of those players had at least two tackles in the Dougherty backfield. Most of that defense, which allowed

only 6.3 points per game in 12 games, returns this season.

The Trojans run a Wing-T offense which requires a lot of concentration. It is based on misdirection plays which are dangerous to very aggressive teams who overpursue and gang tackle. Many tackles must be made one-on-one much of the time with no second chance, except maybe 20 or 30 yards downfield.

Dougherty's Darren Rowe broke three long runs against the otherwise stout Valdosta defense and ended up the game with 70 yards on seven carries. He is a senior on this year's Trojan team.

There must have indeed been some consternation among the Wildcat faithful during halftime of last week's game when the score stood tied 14-14 in Tifton.

Tift scored both of their touchdowns through the air, but the Wildcats came

plays, but he also has the quickness to be a dangerous pass-rusher. Conaway conspicuously wears No. 99 and also kicks off for the Wildcats. He is the pride of the Valdosta Boys' Club where he has hung out most of his life.

At left end is Mike Tolbert, another unsung Wildcat defender who was all over the Tift County backfield last week. Tolbert is a 185-pound senior with good quickness and tenacity. He split time at the position with Willie Sauls last season and is a steady, consistent performer.

Two others who should see a lot of playing time on the defensive line are Coronzo Greene and Coleman Rudolph. Greene is a 210-pound junior who usually plays tackle or nose. Rudolph is a 6-1, 170-pound sophomore defensive end who was in on two quarterback sacks in the Wildcats' early season shutout of Waycross.

Valdosta Will Be On Wildcat Defensive Line

Valdosta vs. Dougherty

- When: Friday, Oct. 10
- Where: Cleveland Field, Valdosta
- Time: 8:00 p.m.
- Records: Valdosta, 5-0; Dougherty, 2-2-1
- Rankings: Valdosta, 1st (AAAA); Dougherty, unranked (AAAA)
- Series: Valdosta leads 20-2-0
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 10, Dougherty 0, 1985
- On Deck: Westover at Valdosta, Oct. 10; Lowndes at Dougherty, Oct. 24

Fall Conference
VDT 10-11-86
The Valdosta DECA Chapter sent four of their club officers to Jekyll Island October 10-11 for the Georgia DECA Fall Leadership Conference. The officers attended workshops conducted by the Youth and Educational Services Department of Georgia Power Company for the development of the officer's leadership skills.

The Jekyll Island Convention Center, which was the site for the conference, was the center of such activities as an officer's dance, rotating leadership workshops, and officer's meeting.

The four Valdosta DECA representatives going to the conference were: President; Joey Griffin, Vice-president; Kelly Rowe, Treasurer; Gina Hampton, and Reporter; Miles Patterson. Joey Griffin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Griffin; Kelly Rowe is the daughter of Mr. Bill Rowe and Mrs. Mary Ann Bailey; Gina Hampton is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Hampton, and Miles Patterson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Enrique Gutierrez.

Won Award

By JAY CONNELL
Debate Club Secretary

Two Valdosta High students won a negative team award in the Northside Debate Tournament in Warner Robins last Saturday. Sophomore Jay Connell

and senior Paul Conrad placed second with a 4-1 won-loss record out of 40 negative teams in the tournament. Juniors Holly Davis and Terry Snyder finished ninth with a 4-1 record in a field of 40 affirmative teams.

Other students debating were juniors Anne Clark and Brooke Price on the affirmative and Toby Baskin and David Cole on the negative. VHS debaters defeated teams representing such schools as Brunswick, Calhoun, LaGrange, Lee County, Pace, St. Pius, and Savannah Country Day.

Conrad tied for fifth place speaker with a five round score of 131 points out of 80 negative debaters. The tie was broken with Ladha from Pace Academy based on composite ranks. Conrad had a rank of 11 and Ladha seven. Each of the four debaters in a round is ranked from one to four with the top speaker receiving a ranking one and the second a two, etc. The lower composite rank is superior. Connell was tenth among negative speakers.

The Northside tournament was the second competition this year for the team. The next road trip will be Thomasville Central later this month for a two-man tournament requiring teams to debate some affirmative and some negative. The Valdosta High debate club will host a tournament on Jan. 17 at Valdosta State College.

Training Conference

By Anita Giles
VDT 10-11-86
The Georgia Vocational Industrial Clubs of America's Fall Leadership Training Conference, held at the Waverly Hotel in Atlanta, was attended by four Valdosta High School VICA members this past weekend. During the conference the members learned much about leadership qualities, how to motivate members and the proper way to conduct a meeting. All four members also earned the Torch of Knowledge and Georgia Statesman award pins. The theme of the conference this year was "America's New Professionals, The Difference that Works."

The members that attended and were presented these awards were: Brian Defek, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dufek; Lane Plageman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Plageman; Pam Hulstein, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hulstein, and Anita Giles, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Giles.

The students were accompanied by their DCT instructor and VICA advisor, coach Jim Landrum.

Valdosta

VDT 10-10-86
The Valdosta High School 9th-grade football team defeated Tift County 21-0 yesterday to run their season's record to 4-0. They scored in the first quarter on a 70-yard punt return by Anthony Rountree. In the second quarter the young Wildcats drove 90 yards in nine plays to score on Reggie Cobb's 4-yard run.

Then in the third quarter Robert Fillmore picked off a pass and returned it 30 yards for a touchdown. Carlos Parker kicked all three extra points. Coach Al Akins cited the excellent line play of offensive linemen Jason Peters and Lee Weeks as well as Maurice Dean who played both ways at defensive end and offensive tackle.

The next game of the VHS 9th-graders is next Thursday against Moultrie at 5:00.

Foreign Club

VDT 10-11-86
Valdosta High's Foreign Language Club chose Beth Moritz, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Jeff Moritz, as "Miss FLC", in their Wednesday meeting. Plans were discussed for aid to refugees in Central America during December. This year's sponsors are Patty Smitherman and Rosanne Capeless.

Guest Speakers

By TINA JOHNS
Reporter

On Oct. 8 Tina Jones, Region II Vice President, and Mrs. Maxine Martin, Advisor, traveled to Pierce County for a speaking engagement at Pierce County High School.

Ms. Johns' speech was directed at motivating FBLA's involvement in the school and community. Suggestions and hints were given for activities and projects. Also, the benefits that would be derived from this involvement were discussed.

District Meeting

VDT 10-11-86
By ANNA FAIRCLOTH

The district fall meeting of district I FHA was held Oct. 4 at Crisp County High School. The theme this year was "Future Homemakers the Spotlight is on You."

Eleven members from Valdosta High and their advisors attended the conference. Pre-entertainment was given by Early County High School.

The spotlight workshops were on Star Events, the Student Body, Families and the Future, Link Up, and District I Chapters.

Norcross Man Became Devoted Wildcat Fan

VDT 10-10-86
Matt Mathews isn't mentally unstable — he's just crazy about them 'Cats. Mathews lives in Norcross, went to high school at Shamrock and has no friends or relatives in Valdosta.

But the 27-year-old painting contractor has season tickets to Valdosta High home games and often sees them on the road. During game days, he leaves work early and drives approximately 243 miles to Valdosta, just to watch football.

He is the epitome of the word fan — short for fanatic.

"Sometimes the people in the stands think I'm a little bit crazy," Mathews said. "They ask me where I'm from and when I tell them Atlanta, they look at me like I'm a little weird."

His real name is Troy. "My parents certainly didn't call me Matthew Mathews," Mathews expained. "Matt is just a nickname I've picked up."

Mathews caught Wildcat fever in 1982. A friend and he were sitting around and decided to get tickets to the Valdosta-Tift game. He called Tifton, got the tickets, and came for the game.

"We were always doing weird things like that — just taking off and doing something wild. We knew Region 1-AAAA had the most powerful teams in the state, so we thought we'd come on down and see the game."

Valdosta won 21-0 and eventually went on to play Peachtree in the state title game. Mathews had tickets for that game too.

"I sat out there in the rain and watched the whole game," Mathews said. "Valdosta kicked a field goal with about a minute left and won the game. It was great."

The following year, Mathews saw numerous Valdosta games and in 1984 began buying season tickets, which he has had ever since.

Mathews' zeal for the Wildcats has won Valdosta a few converts. Originally, he made most of the trips with Lon Humpheries, his best friend. But



Mike Colombo
Times Staff Writer

now he's involved a few more of his friends.

Mathews has become so enamored with the 'Cats that he has even pondered moving to Valdosta. but he is not sure if he could stay busy enough in his line of work.

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder may want Mathews to move down. Mathews has a son in the first grade who already stands over four feet and weighs 70 pounds.

"The doctor said he would be a big one when he was born. He's one of the fastest kids in his class and he can throw too. Of course, I've worked with him a little," Mathews said.

"I would really like him to play for someone like Hyder.

"It's a different breed of football down there," said Mathews. "The teams up here just don't pop you like they will. There are Clarke Central, LaGrange and Griffin but they haven't put it all together like Valdosta. South Gwinnett is 5-0 but Valdosta would stomp them about 42-0. I've seen it all and I can judge."

Mathews is also an avid University of Georgia fan and rightly despises Auburn and other SEC foes.

So if you see a car ripping down I-75 Friday afternoon with Gwinnett County tags, give it some room. It's probably Mathews and Humpheries with a bad case of Wildcat fever.

"We can make it to Valdosta in about three hours and fifteen minutes when Lon drives," Mathews said.

Despite Paralysis Sampson Starred For Wildcats

VDT 10-10-86
By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

In one of the most memorable movies of all time — *Brian's Song* — the Chicago Bears fullback, Brian Piccolo, contracted terminal cancer. It was a true story, occurring back in 1968. After his first operation in the movie, he's lying in the hospital bed and, trying to think positively, says to Gale Sayers, "I'm thinking about making a comeback as a kicker."

However the saga of Brian Piccolo did not have the typical Hollywood happy ending. The Bear fullback eventually lost his life.

A happier parallel, though not one without its undercurrent of misfortune, can be found right here in Valdosta. This story is about Keith Sampson.

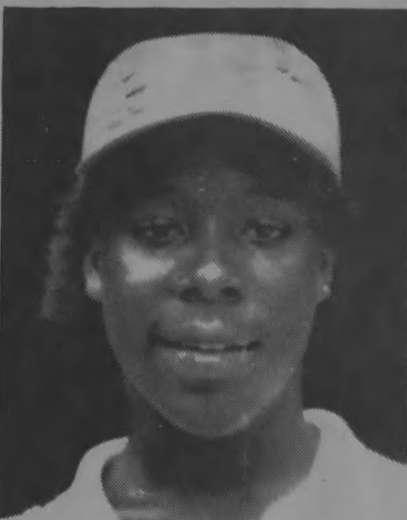
Many Valdosta Wildcat fans will remember him as a three-year placekicker back in 1979-81 who scored 108 points in his career, including nine field goals. Lowndes High fans will remember him as something of a thorn in the Vikings' side.

In his sophomore season, his 21-yard field goal and three extra points aided a narrow 24-21 Wildcat victory over their cross-town rivals, knocking Lowndes out of the playoffs. In 1980 he booted a 27-yard field goal and a pair of extra points in a 17-8 win which marked Lowndes' only loss in a state championship season.

In his senior year, Sampson booted 26- and 32-yard field goals and two PAT's to again defeat the Vikings 20-13.

The amazing thing is that he scored all of those points with his right arm in a sling, paralyzed since a freak injury early in his freshman year.

"Keith Sampson was one of the most versatile athletes to ever come out of



Keith Sampson
Kicked 9 FG's In Career

Valdosta," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder in 1981. "Skill-wise I'd have to rank him right up there with Stan Rome (then a Kansas City Chiefs receiver). He would have been our starting split end as a freshman, and he was also our backup quarterback — he had all the tools."

Sampson was also an all-around athlete, having once scored 49 points in an eighth-grade basketball game against Bainbridge. And he was a hurdler and long jumper of merit on the track team. But football was his best sport.

In the 1977 Valdosta Junior High season, he showed the brilliance and potential of a superstar. Sampson scored 11 touchdowns in five games. His touchdown runs included a 50-

VDT 10-10-86
yarder vs. Lowndes, a 22-yarder vs. Thomasville, and a 46-yarder vs. Suwannee County. And of his eight touchdown catches, four covered more than 30 yards. Not bad for an eighth-grader.

Just before his freshman year early in summer camp down at Twin Lakes, it happened. Sampson was scrimmaging with the first team. Quarterback John Bond threw a pass that was picked off by a defender across the field. The freshman phenom angled over to make the tackle. He drove his shoulder into the ballcarrier and fell in a heap.

"I couldn't move anything for about 30 seconds," Sampson recalls. "Then I could move my eyelids, but I was still paralyzed. I was scared to death."

"Keith took a blow to the neck and shoulder and didn't move anything for awhile," Hyder explained. "He was paralyzed. We got the ambulance right out there and had him to the hospital in about 18 minutes. Everything eventually came back except for the use of his right arm."

Sampson spent four days in the hospital and, after a month or so, spent five more days in a Gainesville hospital. The arm has never come back. It was determined that nerve endings leading to the arm were pulled away from the spine.

But to his credit, Keith Sampson never gave up. He went back to school.

"I couldn't see myself going back to school and doing nothing," he said. "One day I was out walking on the track, and Coach Hyder came over and asked me if I wanted to kick. So I started working out my freshman year and began kicking in games my sophomore year."

But this was no charity case. The

young man could kick. In a game against Thomasville in 1981, he came into a scoreless game with three seconds left in the half and nailed a 42-yard field goal. He was knocked out for the year with an injury in the ninth game of his junior year and split the kicking duties with Dale Parker for much of his career but still made good on 81 of 84 extra point attempts in his three years.

Surprisingly enough, Sampson kept on playing basketball, once scoring 15 points in a B-team game against Cairo. But he was disallowed from playing against Colquitt County in Moultrie because of his injury. He never played varsity basketball.

Sampson never had the opportunity to play in a state championship game. His career from 1979 to 1981 ran between the Wildcats' titles in 1978 and 1982. He graduated from Valdosta High in the spring of 1982.

He worked for a while as an instructional aid at a home for retarded children in Warm Springs after graduation. Then last summer he joined the staff at the Valdosta Boys Club where he now works full time with Robert Soper and Russ Blocker.

"I really enjoy working with kids," Sampson said. "Next year I hope to start coaching if they have any expansion teams. I wanted to be a recreation aid, but you need college for that, and after graduation (from high school) I was pretty tired of school, especially having to write left-handed the whole time."

Like Mark Buoniconti, who was injured from the neck down in a football collision, Keith Sampson hopes that sometime in the future, medical science will come up with a way of curing paralysis.

Homecoming Set At Valdosta High

By SUSAN BURNS

Homecoming Week at Valdosta High is October 13-18. The Homecoming theme this year is "Wild, Wild West." The Student Council voted on dress-up days for that week and decided they would be the following:

Monday is crazy day, Tuesday-jersey day, Wednesday-50s day, Thursday-black and gold day and Friday-theme day.

On Friday afternoon, there will be a parade after school in which each class and many different clubs will enter a float. Student Council, class officers and representatives have been meeting this week with their advisors to plan their class float. The game will be against Westover that night at Cleveland Field.

Late last week, each homeroom nominated girls for Homecoming representative. On Tuesday, Oct. 7, the students voted on two representatives from each class. Elected were Simone Allen and Sonjia French for the Freshman class, Keri Kirby and Nicole White for the Sophomores, Stephanie Culverhouse and Joy O'Neal to represent the juniors, and Kristy Stabell, Debra Talley, Vanessa Hubbard and Gwen Evans as the Senior class representatives.

A Homecoming dance, sponsored by the Student Council, will be held Oct. 18. The dance will be at Mathis City auditorium and will last from 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission will be \$2 with VHS identification.

New Club

An interest meeting for INTERACT — a new club at VHS — was held Tuesday evening, Oct. 7, in the Little Theater at VHS. Approximately 350 students, parents, Rotary Students from VSC, Valdosta Rotary Club members, and advisors attended the meeting.

Last Friday, approximately 200 VHS students received written invitations to INTERACT. INTERACT is sponsored by the Valdosta Rotary Club. Membership is limited to students recommended by VHS faculty and who meet the following criteria:

Unquestionable character.
Overall B Average (last school year).

9-12 Grade.
Leadership Potential and/or Ability.
Desire to promote International Understanding.

Desire to serve the local community and school.

Be recommended by a faculty member (having met above requirements).

INTERACT, a worldwide organization, has the purpose of providing opportunity for young people to work together in a world fellowship dedicated to service and international understanding. The basic principle of INTERACT is to serve others. It is one

person in cooperation with other persons reaching out to still others. Although there is work involved, it should be emphasized that there is fun for all as well. Even the name INTERACT — a combination of the English words "international" and "action" highlights the international aspect of the program. Clubs are located throughout the world, on six continents — approximately 5,000 clubs in all.

An organizational meeting for the purpose of nominating INTERACT officers and discussing Homecoming and purchasing jerseys will be held Tuesday morning, October 14, at 7:15 a.m. in the Little Theater.

Fri., Oct. 10, 1986

I-B

Week 6 '86 Football Season Has Reached The Halfway Point

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

It almost seems hard to believe, but high school football teams are starting to head into the home stretch of the 1986 season.

It wasn't that long ago that teams were getting ready for the upcoming season and now we're at the halfway point.

Several area teams posted big victories last week. Valdosta, which is ranked No. 1 in the state in Class AAAA, defeated eighth-ranked Tift County 35-14. Lowndes upended Colquitt County 27-6. Class AA Berrien County defeated Class A sixth-ranked Irwin County 13-7. Valwood toppled Tiftarea 17-0, and Hamilton County rolled to a 20-19 decision over District

3-AA Lee Dixie County.

The trek toward region or district titles continues this weekend with 11 games involving all of *The Times*' area teams. One of the key matchups will be played in St. Marys where Berrien County will invade Camden County in a non-region game.

Camden County opened the season with a narrow 15-14 victory over Lowndes and since rolled to four more victories — all by 27 or more points. Berrien County, meanwhile, has just one tie against its record while climbing into the state rankings for the first time this season.

Other area games Friday will have Brooks County travelling to Monticello, Fla., to take on Jefferson County; Chieftand at Hamilton County; Dooly

County at Clinch County; Dougherty at Valdosta; Douglass-Montezuma at Atkinson County; Irwin County at Cook; Suwannee County at Madison County; and Valwood at Westbrook.

On Saturday, Lowndes will visit Westover and Pineland Christian travels to Lowndes Christian.

Also on Saturday in the college ranks, Valdosta State will visit Troy State in an 8 p.m. game; Georgia is at LSU (8:00); Georgia Tech will play host to North Carolina State (12:20); Kent State is at Florida (1:30); Tulane visits Florida State (7:00); and Auburn is at Vanderbilt (8:00).

This will be the 11th meeting between Camden County and Berrien County with the Wildcats holding a 6-4 lead in the series. Camden has won four of the

five meetings in St. Marys.

Valdosta has completely dominated its series with Dougherty — the Wildcats have won 20 of the 22 games. The last time the Trojans upended Valdosta was in 1976, 28-26.

There are very few teams that have a winning record against Valdosta, and the Albany schools are no exception. Overall, the Wildcats own an 86-22-2 mark against the four Albany High Schools, including a 49-4 record against teams in Region I-AAAA.

The Lowndes Vikings will also be taking on a semi-familiar foe in Westover. The Vikings have defeated the Patriots nine times in the 14 meetings. Lowndes coach Joe Wilson is 7-2 against Westover.

The Valdosta State College Blazers

will put their No. 16 national ranking on the line when they play the 11th-ranked Trojans.

"There is no question Troy State is the most complete football team we've played," VSC coach Mike Cavan said. "They run the wishbone extremely well because they have the quarterback in (Mike) Turk to run it. He's a magician with the football."

"For us to have a chance, we must play an error-free offense, and that's something we haven't come close to doing yet. Our turnovers last week (six) made it difficult for us to win. We must really work on our concentration in every facet of the game."

Both teams enter the game tied with Mississippi College for the top spot in

the Gulf South Conference with 2-0 records. VSC and TSU are also both 3-1 overall.

The Georgia Bulldogs will be taking their act to one of the toughest stadiums in the nation to play in — Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge, La. LSU leads the overall series between the two Southeastern Conference schools 96-1. They have not met since the 1979 season when the Bulldogs prevailed with a 21-14 decision in Athens. The previous year, the Bulldogs won on the road, 21-14, in the first game between the schools since 1953.

LSU won the first seven games of the series, but Georgia has captured six of the last nine, including one tie.

Sat., Oct. 11, 1986

2nd Half Propels 'Cats

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats used a hammering running attack to score three second-half touchdowns on the way to a 24-0 victory over the Dougherty High Trojans Friday night at Clevelandfield.

Valdosta finished the first half with 77 yards on the ground, 56 in the air, and a 3-0 lead on a 27-yard field goal by kicker Dan Tillman. But the second half belonged to the Wildcats as they improved their record to 6-0. Dougherty is 3-3.

Valdosta rolled up 117 yards in the last two quarters and quarterback Greg Talley went 9-of-10 passing in the second half to finish with a game total of 164 yards as Valdosta burst ahead.

Valdosta's first touchdown drive of the evening came early in the second half. The 'Cats forced a Trojan punt and got the ball back in poor field position on their own 14. But the 86 yards to go didn't deter Valdosta.

The Wildcats put together a 17-play drive all the way to the Trojan 4-yard line, and Lawrence Sharpe bulldozed his way into the end zone for the 4-yard score and gave Valdosta a 10-0 lead.

It was only Sharpe's second game carrying the ball. He has been out with an injury since the Waycross game.

"Lawrence hasn't been 100 percent until this week," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "He really adds something to our running game. He's a load to tow."

Sharpe is listed on the Valdosta game program as weighing 250 pounds, but may tip the scales closer to 265. He finished with 39 yards on 10 carries.

The long drive was kept alive on hard running by Sharpe and teammate Jerome Callaway. Talley went 3-for-3 during the drive, connecting with Guy Belue on a 7-yard pass, Jim Motes on a six yarder and tight end Charles Steward on a 10-yard play.

Dougherty mounted its only scoring threat on the next series. The Trojans ran the kickoff back to their 28 and on the first play from scrimmage, running back Bernard King broke loose for a 10-yard gain. A 15-yard penalty against Valdosta after the play moved the ball to the Valdosta 39.

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| Dougherty..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Valdosta..... | 3 | 0 | 7 | 14 | 21 | |
| Val — Dan Tillman 37 lg | | | | | | |
| Val — Lawrence Sharpe 4 run (Tillman kick) | | | | | | |
| Val — Greg Talley 12 run (Tillman kick) | | | | | | |
| Val — Talley 1 run (Tillman kick) | | | | | | |

| | | |
|---|----|-----|
| First Downs..... | DW | Val |
| Yards Rushing..... | 6 | 20 |
| Rushing Attempts..... | 45 | 194 |
| Yards Passing..... | 24 | 52 |
| Passes..... | 4 | 10 |
| Fumbles Lost..... | 3 | 3 |
| Penalties..... | 6 | 21 |
| Punting..... | 3 | 15 |
| Rushing — Dougherty, King 12, Johnson 6, Talley 11, Roberts 14, Sharpe 10, Callaway 10, 38. | | |
| Passing — Dougherty, Davis 4, 9, 0, 42; Valdosta, Talley 13, 20, 11, 64. | | |
| Receiving — Dougherty, Mahlis 1, 19; Kiftles 1, 12; Valdosta, Steward 4, 50; Henderson 2, 42; Roberts 1, 18; Callaway 1, 17; Belue 2, 14; Jones 1, 7. | | |

Trojan quarterback Craig Davis then connected with tight end Dymytryk Kittles for a 12-yard gain to the 22. But misfortune struck the Trojans on the next play as King bobbled the ball going off the right side and Valdosta noseguard Eric Larry pounced on it for Valdosta on the 29.

The Wildcats took advantage of the opportunity. On Valdosta's first play, running back James Roberts rammed the ball up the middle for a 13-yard gain to the 'Cat 42. It took Valdosta just eight more plays to move the ball to the Trojan 30. Talley then connected with Callaway on a 17-yard pass play to put the ball on the 13. Hyder described Callaway's snag as an all-star catch.

Sharpe then drove for a 1-yard gain and on the next play Talley kept for a 12-yard gain and the score. Tillman added the extra point and the 'Cats took a 17-0 lead.

Valdosta's final score came with just 1:05 left in the game. The 'Cats got the ball on their own 32 and Talley picked apart the Trojan secondary to move the ball with ease. He hit both Antonio Henderson and Steward for 20-yard gains and hit Steward again for 16 yards that made it first-and-goal from the four. Talley eventually ran it in from the one and Tillman's chip shot was good to account for the final score.

Talley finished as the game's leading rusher with 61 yards on 11 carries. Most of the yards came on a play Valdosta ran over and over again. Talley would fake inside to Callaway or

Sharpe and then head around the end for the gain.

Callaway had 38 yards on 10 carries, and Roberts had 47 yards on 14 carries.

Dougherty played well defensively in the first half, witnessed by the 3-0 halftime score, but the Trojans were eventually beaten down.

"Our first half possessions did not come easy," Hyder said. "We made a couple of mistakes that ended some drives and they played pretty well. Defensively, I'd say they can play with anybody."

The Wildcats took the opening kickoff and looked as though they would blow the Trojans out early as the big offensive linemen — John Wheelless, Jodie Sprengle, Troy Wells, Ben Lane, and Andy Anderson — dominated the line of scrimmage.

Talley threw the ball just two times in a 13-play drive that moved the ball from the Valdosta 34 to the Trojan nine. The drive could have ended in a touchdown pass from Talley to Guy Belue, but a fine defensive play by Dougherty cornerback Darren Petty broke up the pass on third-and-goal.

Tillman, however, made good on a 27-yard field goal to make it 3-0.

The Valdosta defense then held the Trojans cold on their first possession, giving up seven yards in three plays to force the punt.

Reginald Dandy returned the ball to the 'Cat 39, but on the first play from scrimmage, Talley overthrew his receiver and Petty nabbed it for an interception. Talley threw 61 passes without an interception before lofting the ball to Petty, he leads the region with six interceptions.

Valdosta's next drive was a strange one. The Wildcats were forced to punt after Talley was sacked twice, but Dougherty fumbled it and Valdosta had it first-and-10 on the Trojan 26. Valdosta, however, couldn't move the ball and was unable to hit on a field goal, the first of two that were missed in the second quarter.

Valdosta's defense allowed just 87 total yards, shutting down Dougherty's offense, which came into the game ranked next to last in Region 1-AAAA in total offense and last in rushing offense.



Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Valdosta's Antonio Henderson Tries To Regain Balance

Valdosta wakes up, rips Dougherty

Times-Union/Journal Super 11 selections — opening massive holes, Wildcat running backs rolled for 193 yards against worn-out Dougherty. Joining Talley rushing were James Roberts (46 yards), Jerome Callaway (40) and Lawrence Sharpe (33 and a touchdown), with most of the yardage coming in the second half.

"We missed a couple of field goals and had two turnovers in the first half, but you have to give Dougherty credit," Hyder said. "Their defense can play with anybody. They hit us hard; remember, they were 3-1-1 coming in here [with a win over 3A top-ranked Central of Thomasville and a tie with a ranked Americus team]."

"But I can't fault our kids, we had good execution by the offensive line the second half, and Talley showed a lot of poise. He completed a lot of possession passes, but there were several clutch catches, especially by Charles Steward [four second-half receptions for 49 yards], and Callaway."

Hyder also had praise for the defense, which posted its second shutout of the season — the other coming at 2A Waycross 31-0 Sept. 19. That defense, which kept the 'Cats in the game in the first half, allowed the Trojans only 89 yards rushing and 47 passing.

The 'Cats will put their 2-0 region record on the line when another Albany team — Westover — comes to Cleveland Field next week.

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| Dougherty | 0 0 0 0-0 |
| Valdosta | 3 0 7 14-34 |

V—Tillman 27 FG
V—Sharpe 4 run (Tillman kick)
V—Talley 11 run (Tillman kick)
V—Talley 1 run (Tillman kick)

Special to the Times-Union/Journal
VALDOSTA, Ga. — A Jekyll-and-Hyde Valdosta High football team showed up to host visiting Region 1-4A opponent Albany Dougherty Friday night.

The "Jekyll" Wildcat team on the field the first half couldn't do much with a tenacious, senior-laden Trojans defense. Valdosta, rated No. 4 in the country by USA Today, also showed the effects of last week's physically exhausting and emotionally draining 35-14 victory over Tift County.

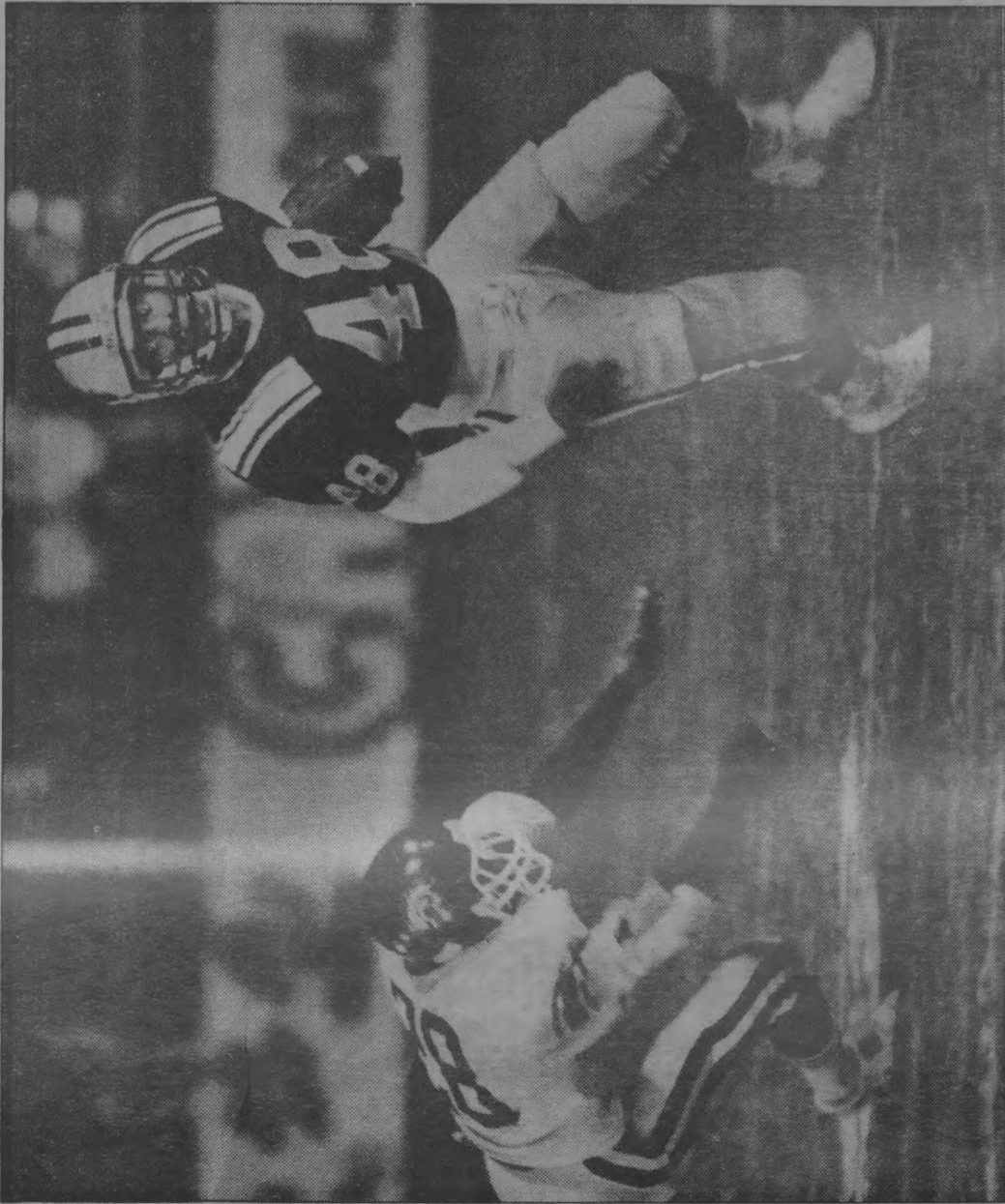
A 3-0 lead, coming on a 27-yard Dan Tillman field goal that capped a 13-play, 57-yard game-opening drive, was all the top-ranked Class 4A team in the state had to show for 24 minutes of play. Many among the 7,000 watching were thinking upset at the half after watching the Wildcats complete only 4 of 12 passes and commit two costly turnovers.

But the team coach Nick Hyder sent out after intermission turned into a monster against the Trojans. Valdosta rolled up three second-half touchdowns for the second consecutive week on its way to a 24-0 romp, raising its record to 6-0.

Senior quarterback Greg Talley was perfect in the second half, scattering 10 passes to seven receivers as he engineered time-consuming scoring drives of 86, 71 and 68 yards and scored twice himself.

"I concentrated more the second half," said Talley, who ended the night 14 of 22 passing for 158 yards and another 67 yards rushing. "I was down a little at halftime, but the team got behind me. Our offensive line did a good job. There's no doubt they're the best line in the state."

With seniors Jody Sprengle and John Wheelless — both



— Will Dickey/staff

Valdosta running back James Roberts tried to run around Dougherty's Frederick Fowler in their Region 1-4A game Friday night. The Wildcats raised their record to 6-0 with a 24-0 win.

Fri., Oct. 3, 1986

Week 5

The Start Of Region 1-AAAA Play; VSC To Face JSU

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Writer

The pre-season is over for Region 1-AAAA teams as they head into the region schedule this weekend.

One of the top games in the state will be played in Tifton when Valdosta, ranked first in Class AAAA, meets No. 8 Tift County.

And though Valdosta's previous four opponents have not been able to stop the Wildcats from moving the ball, Tift County coach Gene Brodie has an idea what it will take to continue the Blue Devils' rise.

"We'll need to hold onto the football, not throw any interceptions and not have any penalties that hurt us. And if we average 44 yards a punt, kick off into the end zone every time, and get 40-yard field goals along with a couple of fumbles like last week, it wouldn't hurt either," Brodie said.

The meeting of Class AAAA's No. 1

and No. 8 teams at Tift County Stadium headlines four collisions of ranked teams Friday night. Class AAAA No. 5 Southwest DeKalb visits No. 8 Redan, Class AAA No. 8 Thomasville visits No. 10 Coffee and Cedartown, sixth in Class AAAA, entertains Class AA No. 2 Central-Carrollton.

In area games, Brooks County travels to Seminole County to open its Region 1-AA South schedule, Clinch County visits Cook, Colquitt County will travel to Dixie County, Berrien County will play host to Class A No. 6 Irwin County, Kings Way is at Lowndes

Christian, Marianna visits Madison County, Westbrook will travel to Dawson to face Terrell Academy and Wilcox County, ranked third in Class A, will play at Atkinson County.

On Saturday, Tiftarea and Valwood will tangle at Valwood at 4 p.m.

In the collegiate ranks on Saturday, Valdosta State College will open its

home schedule against Gulf South Conference foe Jacksonville State at 2 p.m. Also, Georgia Tech is at North Carolina (12:15), LSU travels to Florida (1:30), Mississippi is at Georgia (1:00), and Western Carolina visits Auburn (2:30).

Tift County, the 1983 state champion, fell to 2-8 last season and lost its opener 7-6 to Northside-Warner Robins this year. The Blue Devils then knocked off Central-Thomasville, then ranked in Class AAA, and Warner Robins, then third in Class AAAA.

"These last two games have shown them what they can do, and the victory over Warner Robins up there did worlds of good for our confidence," Brodie said.

But Valdosta's size, including an offensive line that averages 264 pounds, worries Brodie. "There's no doubt Valdosta is the best team in our state," he said.

"They're as physical as any team I've seen in my career."

Although Colquitt County leads the overall series against Lowndes 10-9, Viking coach Joe Wilson is 9-2 against the Packers. But Wilson is not looking at past history, especially against this Colquitt County team.

"Colquitt County is the best overall football team we have faced this year," Wilson said. "They are bigger, faster, and stronger than any team we have played yet. We will have to play well above our heads to be competitive with Colquitt."

The Packers return nine seniors on offense and five on defense from last season's 7-2-1 Region 1-AAAA North champion team.

"We are a banged up, bruised up defensive team, and we'll have our hands full," Wilson said. "Colquitt is a good option team, and we have been known to have a lot of trouble defending the option in the past. Our

defense has played their hearts out all year, but we're going to have to call on them to perform above their capabilities again.

"And I'm not sure we're good enough to try and play a ball-control offense against these fellows. We're going to have to catch them by surprise with something unexpected."

Georgia Tech leads the overall series against North Carolina, but the Yellow Jackets have not won at Kenan Stadium since 1945. Tech has, however, played there just three times since, losing in 1980 (33-0), 1982 (41-0), and 1984 (24-17).

UNC coach Dick Crum will be back on the sidelines for this week's game. Crum suffered an unusual injury during the Florida State game two weeks ago. While watching upfield, Crum was hit from the blind side and suffered a broken leg.

The Georgia Bulldogs will open their

six-game Southeastern Conference schedule at home against Mississippi. The Bulldogs won a thriller in Columbia last weekend over South Carolina 31-26 to raise their record to 2-1.

The game will be televised nationally by WTBS. Georgia has been on television 67 times during coach Vince Dooley's 23 seasons. The Bulldogs' record on TV is 31-22-4, including a 20-9-2 mark in the 80s. The last time the Bulldogs and Rebels played on TV was on WTBS in 1984, with Georgia winning 18-12.

If the last two games are any indication of what the television audience can expect, the game will definitely be a thriller. ABC had the Clemson game when the Tigers kicked a field goal with no time left for a 31-28 decision and ESPN broadcast the game against the Gamecocks.

Westover's Patriots Hoping For Second Region Victory

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Westover head coach Larry Cox said last week he thought his team had improved since last season. Friday night against the Lowndes Vikings, the Patriots showed just how improved they were, beating Lowndes 22-20.

It was Westover's first Region 1-AAAA game of the year and the Patriots are now enjoying a 3-2 record, already equalling last year's win total when Westover went 3-7.

But the Patriots will face another formidable challenge this Friday night when they roll into Cleveland Field to take on the No. 1 ranked Valdosta Wildcats. Prior to a Wimbledon final one year, a reporter asked Martina Navratilova how she might be beaten. The candid and talented Navratilova simply replied that someone would probably have to break her arm.

That's probably how Cox feels about Valdosta.

The 'Cats enter the game first in the region in every offensive statistic imaginable — first in rushing offense (1,054 yards on 236 attempts), first in passing offense (963 yards), with 59 completions in 107 attempts, first in total offense, and first in scoring offense (164 points, 27.3 points per game).

These statistics have every reason to concern the Patriots, for they have not played too consistently on defense.

Westover is last in rushing defense, allowing 170 yards per game. They are fourth in passing defense and last in total defense, giving up more than 250 yards per game. The Patriots are also last in scoring defense, allowing an average of 18.6 points per game.

Cox, however, defended his defense.

"We had to play Thomasville and

Worth County, both of whom have strong running games and had good nights against us," he said. "Against Albany and Southwest-Macon we were a little more consistent. We really don't have the quickness to be as effective as I'd like us to be. We had trouble against (Alphonso) Ellis out of Thomasville and not taking anything away from Worth, but against them we just played a flat game offensively and defensively."

Offensively, the Patriots are in pretty good shape. Running back Montrel Greene has become the region's second leading rusher behind Valdosta's Jerome Callaway. Greene is averaging 7.2 yards each carry and has scored five touchdowns. He has also averaged 82 rushing yards each game.

Back Richard Rollins is also a rushing threat for the Patriots, averaging 5.1 yards per carry with 324

total yards.

The pair of running backs has lifted Westover to second in the region in rushing, just behind Valdosta and in front of third-place Colquitt County.

The Patriots have some size on the front line. At 280 pounds, tackle Haze Saddler is one of the region's best linemen, and Derrick Lakes adds some bulk at 270.

"We've been able to move the ball against everybody," Cox said.

"Against Thomasville we had a lot of turnovers, but had more than 300 yards."

Westover's passing offense, however, is somewhat weak. Quarterback Kenneth Taylor has completed just 21 passes this season for 462 yards. Westover has not had to throw the ball that much because of the grinding running game, but that may not bode well Friday night.

The Wildcats have an excellent blend of experience, depth, size, and speed on their defensive unit. To rush the passer they have two large tackles — 6-foot-2, 220-pound Otis Conaway and 6-4, 270-pound Zabria Bell — and two tenacious defensive ends, Seabron Williams and Mike Tolbert.

At linebacker is team captain Bill Kirby, a three-year starter, and 6-2, 215-pound Anthony Williams who is quickly building a reputation for himself as the next John Porter. Reggie Lane and Beau Laskey also see much playing time at inside linebacker.

The cornerbacks are junior Keith Henry and junior Reginald Dandy who was a starter last season. Terence Hull is also an able backup. The safeties are

senior Walt Gill, with his 4.6 speed in the 40, and senior Derek Shaw with 12 career interceptions.

Conspicuous as the third safety is the Wildcats' No. 18, 160-pound junior Eric Toth. He has a reputation as a kamikaze hitter, a hard-nosed player who goes all out on every play without regard to life or limb. Toth is also the third player in his family to wear No. 18 on defense for the Wildcats. Brothers Mark and Troy preceded him in that regard.

Valdosta ranks first in the region in rushing defense, second in total defense, and first in scoring defense by a wide margin. The Wildcats also rank first in every offensive category — rushing, passing, scoring, and scoring margin.

Undefeated Valdosta To Face Westover Patriots

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats will once again be attempting to avoid an upset Friday night when they take on the underdog Westover Patriots at Cleveland Field in an 8:00 contest. Valdosta is 6-0 overall, 2-0 in Region 1-AAAA and is ranked No. 1 in the state. Westover is 3-2 overall and 1-0 in the region, having defeated Lowndes 22-20 last Saturday night in Albany.

Valdosta has not lost to the Patriots since the Wildcats' epic 3-7 year of 1974. Westover defeated Valdosta 34-14 in that one.

The Wildcats have been only modestly threatened in just three games all season. They downed top-ranked Lagrange 16-6 in the season

opener. Two weeks ago they were tied at halftime in Tifton before blitzing Tift County for three second half touchdowns and a convincing 35-14 victory. And last week against a heavy underdog, region foe Dougherty High, the Wildcats led only 3-0 at halftime before again coming back for three unanswered touchdowns in the second half and a 24-0 win.

As they have so many times in the past, the Wildcats have depended on a stone wall defense to devastate their opponents thus far in 1986. Valdosta has allowed only 29 points in six games for a 4.8 points per game average. They have shut down a multiple offense (Waycross 31-0), a Wing-T misdirection offense (Dougherty 24-0), and one of the top passing offenses in the state (Tift County).

Florida will travel to the Meadlands in New Jersey to take on Rutgers (1:00); Georgia Tech is at Auburn (12:30); Vanderbilt visits at Florida State (7:00).

The VSC Blazers will be trying to get back on the winning track after a 45-10

and Southwest at Valwood.

On Saturday, Lowndes Christian will travel to Newnan Christian.

Also on Saturday, all of the area colleges will be in action. Valdosta State will play host to Gulf South Conference foe Livingston at 2 p.m. at Cleveland Field.

Florida will travel to the Meadlands in New Jersey to take on Rutgers (1:00); Georgia Tech is at Auburn (12:30); and Wichita State is at Florida State (7:00).

The VSC Blazers will be trying to get back on the winning track after a 45-10

whipping at the hands of Troy State last week in Troy, Ala.

This will be the fifth meeting between Livingston and VSC. The Blazers won the first three games before the Tigers won for the first time at Livingston last season, 10-5. VSC has won two one-point games at Cleveland Field, 22-21 in 1982 and 17-16 in 1984. The Blazers also won in Livingston in 1983, 29-14.

"Livingston plays great defense, and their offense came on last week against West Georgia," VSC coach Mike Cavan said. "I'm certainly concerned about Livingston but I'm more concerned

about our own football team and how we react to last week's loss to Troy State.

"I know the coaching staff learned a lot last week, and I hope the players did, too. I'm concerned that we continue to make so many mistakes. We are not fundamentally sound, and for this football team to have any chance of being successful we must become fundamentally sound."

Georgia Tech is coming off a very impressive 59-21 victory over North Carolina State last week and Yellow Jacket coach Bill Curry is hoping that momentum will continue when his

teams rolls into Auburn.

"Everything good that could have happened did so last week," Curry said. "We caught N.C. State on a day when they were not at their best and we played better than we have ever played offensively. We didn't play well defensively. There is room for improvement there. It was a once in a lifetime day."

"They (Georgia Tech) are coming off a great win and will be emotionally high," Auburn coach Pat Dye said. "They are surely a Top 20 football team right now. We have had trouble with them in the past."

Cats To Perform

The Valdosta Marchin' Cats will compete Nov. 1 at the Southland Band Classic in Enterprise, Ala. against five other bands.

This is the first year Valdosta has participated in the event, according to Valdosta Band Director David Gaultney.

Fri., Oct. 17, 1986

Week 7 Several Teams Face Crucial Games In Region 1-AAAA

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Though only two weeks have been played on the Region 1-AAAA schedule, Lowndes and Tift County have already put themselves in must-win situations. Both are 1-1 in the region and neither can afford a loss if they hope to capture the region title this year.

But one of them will be in a tougher situation after tonight as the Blue Devils will visit Martin Stadium for a crucial region game.

"There is no doubt our backs are against the wall now," Tift County coach Gene Brodie said. "If we lose

two (in the region), we're in trouble."

Lowndes coach Joe Wilson simply said, "We've got to win."

The game will kick off at 8 p.m.

Also scheduled for tonight in the region is Westover (3-2 overall, 1-0 in the region) at Valdosta (6-0, 2-0); and Monroe (1-4, 0-2) at Colquitt County (2-3, 0-1).

Other games scheduled for area teams are Atkinson County at Charlton County; Berrien County at Clinch County; Hamilton County at Newberry; Jefferson County at Madison County; Lee County at Brooks County; Robert Toombs at Westbrook;

Valdosta leads 12-1-0

Last Meeting: Valdosta 37, Dougherty 7, 1985

Last Westover Win: 1974, 34-14

On Deck: Valdosta at Colquitt County, Oct. 24; Monroe at Westover, Oct. 24

Valdosta 9th-Grade Downs Colquitt Co.

The Valdosta High ninth-grade football team scored in the first and fourth quarters to take a 13-0 decision over Colquitt County Thursday.

Carlos Parker scored on a 12-yard run in the first period to give Valdosta a 6-0 lead.

The game stayed that way until only two minutes were left to play when Reggie Cobb scored on a 6-yard run. Parker added the PAT.

Valdosta, 5-0, will play host to Lowndes at Cleveland Field Oct. 30.

VHS Council President Plans For Graduation

From Staff Reports

Veteran Student Council member and current Council President Georgia Graves has had a busy Senior year planning the 1986-87 homecoming celebration, but after this Friday, she'll turn some of her attention to after graduation plans.

Miss Graves, 17, has been on the VSC her entire four-year high school career, but was prepared early for the demands of council duty.

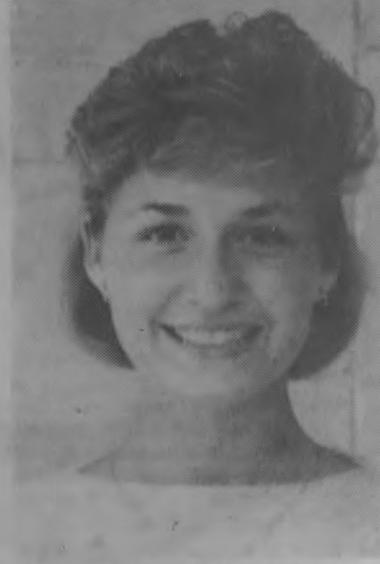
"My older sister was on council, and she dragged me out here for two years," Miss Graves recalled. "When I was in the seventh and eighth grade, I was sort of drafted into working on their projects. They always needed extra help."

After an appointment to girls state this summer and duty as Junior Class President the year before, Miss Graves said her political career will probably end with the close of school this year. "I've enjoyed it, but I don't really think I have any ambition in college politics. I don't think it's really for me."

Instead, she's planning farther ahead, to a career in counseling.

"I'm looking at two colleges in Virginia because they have equestrian programs. I'd like to find a way to combine riding and counseling, if that's possible, but I'm not sure."

In the meantime, the next school project on her agenda is a possible spring dance, still in the works.



GEORGIA GRAVES

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Oct. 18, 1986 3-A

Interact Holds First Organized Meeting

By Laura McMillan, Secretary

The first organizational meeting of Interact was held on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 7:15 a.m. Interact is an international service organization sponsored by the Valdosta Rotary Club. At this meeting, officers for the 1986-87 school meeting were elected. The following were chosen:

President, Johnna Elliot; vice-president, Ashley Moorman; secretary, Laura McMillan; treasurer, Brian Harris; parliamentarian, David Cole; school projects chairman, Deania Denmark; community projects chairman, Joy O'Neal; social chairman, Susan Burns; and chaplain, Mike White.

The members also voted to order jerseys and to enter an officer's car in the Homecoming Parade.



Elects Officers

By Tina Johns

Valdosta High School elected Co-ed "Y" Club officers for 1986-87 by secret ballot Oct. 15. The new officers are as follows:

President, Johnny Murphine, son of Judi and Bobby Murphine; vice-president, Wendi Connell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Connell; chaplain, Georgia Graves, daughter of George and Kay Graves; secretary, Anita Giles, daughter of R.J. and Patsy Giles; treasurer, Dawn McGee, daughter of Jimmy and Dorothy McGee; school projects chairman, Letisha Stibbins, daughter of James and Virginia Best; community projects chairman, Julie Davis, daughter of Roger and Carol Davis; publicity chairman, Anna Field, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Field; world

service/home extension chairman, Anissa Knight, daughter of Juanita Coachman; fund raising projects chairman, Lisa Scherer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Turner; club socials chairman, Cindy Voorhees, daughter of Shirley Singleton.

Y-Club is sanctioned by the school under the direction of the State YMCA. Its purpose is to create, maintain and extend throughout the home, school and community high standards of Christian character.

Clubs Meet

By Anita Giles, Secretary

Valdosta High School's Vocational Industrial clubs of America met Tuesday, Oct. 14 at Shoney's for their October breakfast.

During this meeting they elected their 1986-87 officers. President, Brian Dufek, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dufek; vice-president, Joy Myddleton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Myddleton; secretary, Anita Giles, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Giles; treasurer, Robyn Rainwater, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Rainwater; parliamentarian, Kevin Breeden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Breeden; reporter, Laura Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Smith; and the advisors, Pam Holstein, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Holstein; Christy Wainwright, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Wainwright and Lane Plageman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Plageman.

Also this week, VICA participated in the World Food Day & Homecoming festivities.

FHA Meets

By Anna Faircloth

On Wednesday Oct. 8, the Future Homemakers of America Met to elect Miss FHA and her court for the 86-87 school year. Miss FHA is Stephanie Jones, the daughter of Ms. Helen Myers. Her court will include Leanne Hendrix, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Eades and Deshunda Merrell, daughter of Mrs. Mary Meyers. These girls will participate in the VHS Homecoming parade Friday afternoon.



Homecoming Parade Kickoff

The Valdosta Wildcats got their homecoming festivities underway with a parade down Patterson Street Friday afternoon. The parade stretched around the western side of the city as military units, floats, bands, students, football

players and homecoming queen candidates marched and rode over the long route from Brookwood Plaza to the downtown location of Pic N' Save. (Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek)

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Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Valdosta QB Greg Talley (1) Heads Upfield Along With Back Jerome Callaway (11)

Win 58-13

'Cats Humble Westover

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Tailback Jerome Callaway and fullback James Roberts each gained 71 yards rushing on nine carries and quarterback Greg Talley completed 15 of 19 passes for 205 yards and three touchdowns as Valdosta High upped its record to 7-0 with a 58-13 victory over Region 1-AAAA foe Westover at Cleveland Field Friday night.

Valdosta remains tied with Massillon, Ohio's Washington High for the most all-time victories by a high school football team with 611 apiece. Callaway, Roberts, and junior tight end Charles Steward each scored two touchdowns in the game as the Wildcats jumped out to a big lead early and never looked back. They had a 37-6 lead at halftime and added three touchdowns in the second half before the Patriots pushed across a touchdown with 19 seconds remaining in the game.

"With the size of our line and running backs and the play of Talley at quarterback, if we execute the way we did tonight, we'll get good results," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said. "Talley's selection of receivers was very good tonight. He was really fired up and ready to go. Our running game got off to a good start, and our receivers — Steward, Guy Belue, Roberts, all of them — played very well."

In retrospect, Valdosta's first drive was indicative of how the game would go all night. After the Wildcat defense held the Patriots without a first down after the opening kickoff, Valdosta

Westover..... 0 6 0 7-13
Valdosta..... 14 23 14 7-58
Valid — Jerome Callaway 10 run (Dan Tillman kick)
Valid — Charles Steward 13 pass from Greg Talley (Tillman kick)

West — Kenny Taylor 2 run (kick failed)
Valid — James Roberts 8 run (Tillman kick)
Valid — Safety, Westover punt snap through end zone
Valid — Guy Belue 8 pass from Talley (Tillman kick)
Valid — Steward 8 pass from Talley (Tillman kick)
Valid — Roberts 1 run (Tillman kick)
Valid — Callaway 6 run (Tillman kick)
Valid — Eric Prime 2 run (Donny Headrick kick)
West — Montrel Greene 11 run (Steve Baker kick)

| | West | Val |
|------------------|--|---------|
| First Downs | 11 | 28 |
| Yards Rushing | 214 | 265 |
| Rushing Attempts | 41 | 44 |
| Yards Passing | 0 | 226 |
| Passes | 0-7-0 | 18-23-0 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Punting | 3-20-3 | 0-0-0 |
| Penalties | 10-75 | 10-75 |
| Rushing | Westover — Greene 24-136, Rollins 2-50 | |
| | Dent 1-25, Valdosta — Callaway 9-71, Roberts 7-71, Talley 7-19, Mason 5-50, Caesar 6-32, Henderson 2-11, Prime 2-5, Tillman 1-6 | |
| Passing | — Valdosta, Talley 15-19-0 205, Mason 3-4-0 | |
| Receiving | — Valdosta, Steward 4-67, Belue 5-45, Callaway 2-54, Roberts 2-25, Moles 1-14, Henderson 1-11, Mason 1-4, Jones 1-12, Hinson 1-4 | |

scored in three plays before even three minutes were gone in the game.

Callaway picked up 16 yards around right end on the Wildcats' first play from scrimmage. Roberts gained 27 through the middle on the second play. Then on the third, Callaway got the touchdown, again through the middle, from 11 yards out.

Westover failed to move for a first down on its second series, and Valdosta again moved for a score, but this time the Wildcats took a little more time. Callaway and Roberts each carried twice on the 9-play, 55-yard drive, and Talley completed four of five passes. The last was a 13-yard strike to Steward in the end zone.

Dan Tillman's second extra point conversion made the score 14-0. But Westover then came to life. The Patriots put together a 10-play, 76-yard drive to cut Valdosta's lead to 14-6. Sophomore fullback Richard Rollins picked up 36 yards on one play, and quarterback Kenny Taylor got the touchdown from two yards out.

But the workhorse in the Westover backfield was senior halfback Montrel Greene. He carried 26 times and picked up 136 yards on the night against a Valdosta defense which led the region in rushing defense coming into the game. Greene and Callaway are now tied for the rushing lead in Region 1-AAAA with 549 yards each.

"It was a good hitting ballgame, and Westover is a good offensive football team," Hyder explained. "They drove on us pretty good at times."

But usually the Patriots could not get the big yards when they needed to. Twice in Wildcat territory they turned the ball over on downs. And Westover never completed a pass all night long. When they scored their second touchdown at the end of the game, one needed a program to tell who many of the unfamiliar numbers were running around the field in Wildcat uniforms.

After Westover's first quarter touchdown, Valdosta drove 76 yards in 10 plays for a third touchdown and a 21-6 lead. The offensive line of center Ben Lane, guards Troy Wells and Jodie Sprengle, and tackles Andy Anderson and John Wheelless opened gaping holes on trap plays and led sweeps with punishing blocks. Roberts scored the touchdown from eight yards out.

UDT 10/19/86

Football Fanatics



Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Ardant Fan Marsha Rudolph Cheers For The Wildcats During Friday Night's Game

'Cat Fans Love The Tradition

By SYLVIA COOPER
Times Staff Writer

Black and gold, paw prints painted on dewy young cheeks and some not so dewy, players beating their helmets on the tin roof outside the locker room at Cleveland Field before the games, the fight song, the band and cheerleaders are some of the traditions surrounding Valdosta High School Wildcat football.

But there's really only one important tradition to the true 'Cat fan — Winning.

And the 'Cats do that. Have been doing it for years. They've upheld the winning tradition so well since the program was begun in 1913 — with 611 games in the win column — that now the fans not only expect them to win, but to look good doing it.

They've won so much that defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph is afraid to

go home when they lose, according to his wife, Marsha, head cheerleader at VHS in 1957-58, long before she met her husband.

"I was involved in it before he was," Mrs. Rudolph said. "When they get beat, which isn't often, he's afraid to come home because of what's waiting on him 'cause we don't like to get beat. The four years I was in high school, we won two state championships. We never did anything but win."

And the 'Cats are still winning, Friday night, they trounced Westover High 58-13 for a perfect homecoming game under a full moon, keeping the tradition that has instilled pride into the community and put Valdosta on the map, according to many 'Cat fans.

"The community expects it, and you don't want to live anywhere where people don't expect you to do your

best," Mrs. Rudolph said. "I think the community tradition of expecting you to win spills over in everything you do."

To Mrs. Rudolph and many others, Wildcat football is more than a game.

To William Kirby, the father of this year's team captain Bill Kirby, Wildcat football is a "major inspiration to the whole community."

"It has been an inspiration to me and my family," Kirby said. "To have a son to play as a Valdosta Wildcat is the greatest experience a father can have."

To Eric Toth, who plays safety on this year's team, and is the third player in his family to wear No. 18, being a Wildcat is living up to the tradition of his two older brothers and an "indescribable" experience.

See VHS, Page 8-A

8-A The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Oct. 19, 1986

...VHS

From Page 1-A

"I'm trying to live up to my brothers' reputation," Toth said, during halftime of Friday's game. "One of them, Mark, played cornerback. Troy played linebacker. I'm trying to follow in their footsteps and become a leader on this team."

"All three of us wore No. 18. It just makes me feel good to wear black and gold and represent the Valdosta Wildcats. I can't put it into words. It's indescribable."

This year's homecoming queen Kristy Stabell, after her crowning Friday, said, this is the most important thing that has ever happened to me. First I made varsity cheerleader, and now I've been elected homecoming queen.."

Buck Belue, who quarterbacked the 'Cats for four years (1974-77), and kept the tradition and became a part of its lore was the first of three Belue men to wear the black and gold. He sees the

games as community social events where a sense of continuity may be found.

"I grew up here, and I see the same people now I saw when I was growing up," Belue said. "Those people's children have grown up and have families, and you have the same people year after year. The games are meeting places."

"Coach (Wright) Bazemore deserves the credit. He got it all started. That's what has instilled all the pride in the community. It has just grown and grown."

Scott Alderman hasn't missed a game since he graduated from VHS in 1975. That's 176 consecutive Wildcat football games. Yet, Alderman denies being a football fanatic. There's no reason to be, he said.

"I'm not really a wild fanatic," Alderman said. "We're all big fans, but nobody here is just crazy because winning is a foregone conclusion here."

Alderman and others contend the winning tradition has put Valdosta on the map.

To Dale Durden, football season is the only time of the year that really matters.

"All year I wait for football season," he said. "The other two-thirds of the year don't mean nothing. I just live for Valdosta football. The rest of the time is just time passed spent waiting. It would take the funeral of a close relative to make me miss a game."

Some people *not* raised in Valdosta have caught 'Cat fever and never recovered. Matt Mathews of Norcross, caught it in 1982 when, on a lark, he and a friend drove to Tifton and saw the Valdosta-Tift County game that year. When Valdosta won 21-0, Mathews became a convert. In 1984, he began buying season tickets and has considered moving to Valdosta.

Vikings In Good Position

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

While the Lowndes High Vikings still have three games remaining in the 1986 season, they are sitting in very good position to make the region playoffs for the second consecutive year.

Lowndes used a strong ground game and a tough defense to down Tift County 14-6 at Martin Stadium Friday night. The victory gives the defending region champions a 2-1 record in the region and a 4-3 overall mark. And though a wild combination of wins and losses could prevent the Vikings from making the playoffs, Lowndes coach Joe Wilson is not ready to concede anything.

"We're in a lot better shape right now than we would have been if the game had turned out the other way around," Wilson said. "But it's still going to be an uphill struggle for us. We've still got to win some games."

The Vikings still must play Dougherty, Monroe, and Valdosta. Dougherty, Lowndes' opponent this Saturday night in Albany, and Monroe have combined for a 4-7-1 overall record and 1-4 mark in the region. Valdosta, which is ranked No. 1 in the state in Class AAAA, is 7-0 overall and 3-0 in the region.

Valdosta kept its record unblemished with a 58-13 whipping of Westover. The only other game in the region Friday saw Colquitt County upending Monroe 9-0.

As for area teams Friday night, Berrien County, which won four and tied one in its first five games, lost for the second time, 14-0 to Clinch County. Also, Brooks County whipped Lee County 32-6. Valwood tied Southwest Georgia 6-6. Hamilton County toppled Newberry 24-14. Madison County defeated Jefferson County 13-6. Atkinson County stopped Charlton County 26-14, and Westbrook downed Robert Toombs 23-13.

The only Saturday game had Lowndes Christian playing at Newnan Christian.

For the Valdosta Wildcats, the 58 points scored against Westover was the highest output of the season. Valdosta,



'Cat James Roberts Gained 71 Yards On Nine Carries And Scored Twice In 58-13 Win

which has scored 222 points in seven games for a 31.7 average, had previously scored a season-high of 35 against Tift County two weeks. It was also the most points put the scoreboard by a Wildcat team since the ninth game of the 1984 season when it scored 60 on Dougherty.

"With the size of our line and running backs and the play of (Greg) Talley at quarterback, if we execute the way we did tonight, we'll get good results," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said.

Talley finished the game with 15 completions in 19 attempts for 205 yards and three touchdowns. He did not throw an interception.

"Talley's selection of receivers was very good. He was really fired up and ready to go. Our running game got off to a good start, and our receivers — Charles Steward, Guy Belue, James Roberts, all of them — played very well."

The Wildcats, who lead the region in total offense with an average of 345.4 yards per game, picked up 501 on 67 plays against the Patriot defense.

And it was an even mixture of the run and the pass that paved the way as Valdosta had 265 on the ground and 236 through the air.

Jerome Callaway and James Roberts

each had nine carries for 71 yards and two touchdowns. B.J. Mason added 50 yards on five attempts.

Steward led the receiving corp with four catches for 67 yards while Belue had five for 45. Callaway also caught two passes for 54 yards and Roberts had two for 25.

In games across the state involving ranked teams, unranked Bowdon gained a 7-7 tie with East Rome, the top-ranked team in Class A, and missed an upset only because Wallace Minnifield's 36-yard field goal attempt in the final minute went wide.

Also, Class A No. 4 Lincoln County handed No. 3 Louisville its first loss, 10-7. In other games matching ranked teams, Class AAAA No. 7 Evans downed No. 8 Baldwin 38-14, Class A No. 6 Warren County beat No. 10 Wrens 24-0 and, in Class AAA, No. 6 South Gwinnett edged No. 3 Gainesville 17-13 and No. 8 Central-Thomasville beat No. 4 Thomasville 35-28.

Four unranked teams staged upsets. In Class AAAA, No. 9 Riverwood fell to Lassiter 24-12 and No. 10 Newnan lost to Griffin 21-14. Class AAA No. 10 Cedartown lost 21-9 to Villa Rica and Class AA No. 4 Upson lost 8-7 to Mary Persons in an overtime period decided

on penetration.

Three No. 1 teams eased to victories. In addition to Valdosta's win, Class AAA Dalton beat Murray County 28-0 and Class AA Washington-Wilkes buried Putnam County 70-0.

Meanwhile, Calhoun County, ranked eighth in Class A, remained unscathed upon in 1986 with a 24-0 victory over Sumter County.

In other games involving ranked Class AAAA teams, No. 2 Clarke Central beat Johnson-Gainesville 27-0, No. 4 Bradwell Institute beat Beach 40-0 and No. 6 McEachern beat Wills 35-0.

In Class AAA, No. 2 Bainbridge beat Albany 26-0, No. 5 Peach County beat Americus 17-14 and Marist, sharing the eighth ranking with Central-Thomasville, beat Crestwood 35-21.

In Class AA, No. 2 Camden County beat Waycross 44-27, No. 3 Manchester beat Harris County 48-0, No. 5 Lovett beat Decatur 28-0, No. 6 Lakeshore beat Russell 34-27, No. 7 Central-Carrollton beat Pepperell 21-0, No. 8 Swainsboro beat Lyons 28-0 and No. 10 Murphy beat West Fulton 48-0.

In Class A, No. 2 Wilcox County beat Pelham 49-0, No. 5 Greenville beat Hogansville 38-7, No. 7 Palmetto beat Forsyth County 27-0 and No. 9 Commerce beat Jackson County 34-0.

Player Of The Week

Talley Has Shown Improvement

VDT 10-20-86

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High quarterback Greg Talley has made quite an improvement since last season.

Last year, Talley completed 68 of 135 passes for 818 yards and eight interceptions as the Wildcats finished with a 9-3 record.

But this year, Talley is rarely off the mark. The senior has thrown for 1,016 yards while completing 62 percent of his passes (72 of 116). He has also thrown just two interceptions and nine times he thrown for a touchdown.



Talley

Having a game like he did Friday did nothing but help his statistics. Talley completed 15 of 19 passes for 205 yards and three touchdowns in leading the Wildcats to a 59-13 decision over Westover.

For his efforts against the Patriots, Talley has been named *The Times'* player of the week.

Talley used just about every receiver he had available as he completed passes to nine different players.

Honor Roll

Charles Steward, Valdosta, caught four passes for 67 and two touchdowns in the 'Cats win over Westover.

Jerome Callaway and James Roberts, Valdosta, each rushed for 71 yards on just nine carries in the Wildcats' 58-13 victory over Westover. Callaway also scored two touchdowns and Roberts had one.

Colquitt Coach Wary Of Top-Ranked Valdosta Wildcats

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

When the Valdosta High Wildcats load up the buses and head to Moultrie to face Colquitt County Friday night, Packer head coach Jim Hughes isn't sure what will be waiting on the Wildcats when they arrive.

"We've been more down than up this year," Hughes said. "We're still trying to establish some sort of identity, personality for this team. About the only redeeming thing for the kids has been in practice — they continue to work hard."

Although the Packers are 3-3 overall and 1-1 in Region 1-AAAA, they have been unbeatable in Mack Tharpe Stadium, winning all three games. But Hughes feels it will take a near-perfect game against Valdosta if his team is to continue that streak.

"We could end up getting blown away if we play like we've played in half our games where we've just gotten humiliated," he said. "But if we play like we've played in our other three

games, we should be able to slow Valdosta down."

Last year, Colquitt split with Valdosta. The Packers won 21-14 to stop Valdosta's winning streak at 22 games. Valdosta returned the favor in the playoffs with a 14-13 victory.

"Last year, the team we had was very competitive with Valdosta," Hughes said. "But I don't feel that way this year."

While Hughes had to replace a lot of personnel after last season, he is quick to point out that Valdosta has a lot of veteran players on its team.

"Their defense has a lot of familiar faces, who are a year older and stronger," he said. "They seem to be playing much tougher physically than they were at this point last year. Their offense is simply ... well, they have huge running backs with speed, huge linemen with strength and quickness, and a very adept quarterback who understands the system very well. They have no soft spots."

And that has caused Hughes a lot of

problems in getting ready for the Wildcats.

"We'll be facing a Valdosta team that is clearly the best football team we've faced this year," he said. "They may be so superior to us that we have no business at all competing with them. Last year we were able to get a decent level of competition with them and we ended up splitting. But the two years before that we were beaten very badly. And Valdosta is certainly capable of beating us, or anybody else for that matter, very badly. We'll be facing a better football team on both sides of the football this year than we did last year."

Prior to last year, you have to go all the way back to 1975 to find the last time a Colquitt County team had beaten Valdosta. During the period from 1976 until 1984, Valdosta outscored the Packers 381-76. The Wildcat scored 28 or more points in all of those games while the most the Packers could get was 14 twice and 20

"This is a big game because you put things on a region basis," Hughes said. "All games count the same, and this one is just as important as the Monroe game was last week and the Westover game will be next week. All of the games are important. We only have six of 'em that count. I think most of the time when Colquitt and Valdosta play, at least in the eyes of many, it is a big game."

The Packers enter the game ranked around the middle of every single category in the region stats. Colquitt is third in rushing offense, rushing defense, and scoring offense, fourth in passing offense and total offense, sixth in passing defense, and fifth in total defense.

"You've got to find something you can hang your hat on, and we haven't done that," Hughes said. "There is no one thing we are doing particularly well. At times, we've rushed or thrown well but we're not particularly strong in either."

"We have certainly given up more yards in the air (517 in six games) than I'm comfortable with. From a statistical standpoint, the first six games we have demonstrated we don't have a strong point."

Colquitt's Bernard Howard is fourth in the region in rushing with 411 yards. He is averaging 4.3 yards per carry and has scored four touchdowns. Robert Lamar is next with 249 yards while Sean Berry has 111. Only two other players have carried the ball, and they have combined for just 54 yards on 60 carries.

Quarterback James Lee has thrown for 544 yards, but he has completed only 47.5 percent of his passes. His top two receivers are Willie Sims and Andra Bridges. Both have 15 catches. Sims for 186 yards and Bridges for 181. The Packers do not have a tendency to throw to their running backs very often. Howard has caught just three passes and Lamar four for a total of 20 yards.

Valdosta vs. Colquitt Co.

- When: Friday, Oct. 24
- Where: Mack Tharpe Stadium, Moultrie
- Time: 8:00 p.m.
- Records: Valdosta, 7-0, 3-0; Colquitt, 3-3, 1-1
- Rankings: Valdosta, 1st (AAAA); Colquitt, unranked (AAAA)
- Series: Valdosta leads 49-11-5
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 14, Dougherty 13, 1985
- Last Colquitt Win: 1985, 21-14
- On Deck: Valdosta at Monroe, Nov. 7; Colquitt County at Westover, Oct. 31



Winning Smile

VDT 10-20-86

Kristy Stabell flashes a smile after she was named High School Patriots. Escorting Miss Stabell is Jason Valdosta High School Homecoming Queen prior to Friday night's matchup between the Wildcats and the Westover

Warner Robins Finds Poll; Wildcats Still Enjoy No. 1

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Oct. 22, 1986 5-B

ATLANTA (AP) — Valdosta remains No. 1 in Class AAAA. Dalton in Class AAA and Washington-Wilkes in Class AA.

There was a shakeup at the top of the Georgia Class A high school football rankings, but not much of one, as Wilcox County resumed the No. 1 spot and East Rome dropped back to No. 2.

East Rome had edged the Patriots by one point in last week's voting by The Associated Press' panel of sports writers and sportscasters, but dropped back this week after a 7-7 tie against unranked Bowdon.

Wilcox County had no such problem with Pelham, winning 49-0 to run its record to 6-0.

Seven teams climbed into the rankings this week: Griffin, Effingham County and Warner Robins in Class AAAA; Appling County, Lakeside and Troup in Class AAA; and Bremen in Class A.

The first seven teams in Class AAAA again are Valdosta, Clarke Central, LaGrange, Bradwell Institute, Southwest DeKalb, McEachern and Evans.

But the next three teams in last week's voting, Baldwin, Riverwood and Newnan, were defeated last weekend and dropped from the rankings.

Baldwin fell to Evans 38-14. Riverwood lost to Lassiter 24-12 and Newnan lost to Griffin 21-14.

Griffin, 5-1 after losing only to Clarke Central, is the new No. 8 team. Effingham County, 5-1 with its only loss to Bradwell Institute, is No. 9. Warner Robins, which dropped from the rankings after losses to Tift County and Evans, is back up to No. 10 after raising its record to 5-2.

Dalton again is followed by Bainbridge in Class AAA. South Gwinnett jumped from No. 6 to No. 3 after a 17-13 victory over Gainesville, formerly third. Peach County climbed one spot to No. 4 and Gainesville dropped to No. 5.

Central-Thomasville moved from No. 8 to No. 6 after beating Thomasville, formerly No. 4, 35-28. Worth County remained No. 7, unbeaten Appling County took over the eighth ranking and Marist, formerly tied with Central-Thomasville at No. 8, is No. 9.

Thomasville fell into a three-way tie at No. 10 with Lakeside, 6-1 with only a loss to Southwest DeKalb, and Troup, 5-1 with the loss to Class AA power Manchester. Cedartown dropped its 10th ranking after losing 21-9 to unranked Villa Rica.

In Class AA, Washington-Wilkes, Camden County and Manchester remained the top three teams. Upson, fourth last week, lost an 8-7 overtime decision to unranked Mary Persons and fell into a tie at No. 9 with Murphy. 10th last week.

Georgia High Schools To Lose Spring Football

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

The majority of people in south Georgia will tell you their favorite sport is football. Their second favorite is spring football.

Now, they'll have to find a second favorite.

At an executive session meeting of the Georgia High School Association Tuesday, the delegates voted to abolish spring football practice. Although players will be allowed to practice in helmets, they cannot wear any other pads, thus eliminating contact workouts.

"I think it is a strategic mistake," Valdosta High football coach Nick Hyder said. "It is totally unfair to a young man who has to learn how to block and tackle versus people his own size. When a youngster is playing youth football, he doesn't need to work on that. But when they get to high school, they have to practice blocking and tackling."

"Football is not like your other sports. In basketball, track, golf, tennis, baseball, and wrestling, those can all be practiced, more or less, in your backyard. But blocking and tackling has to have controlled supervision. It takes time to develop those skills."

Both Hyder and Lowndes coach Joe Wilson felt the Georgia High School Association passed the new law under

or school administrators. And that's where the strongest push came from.

"There has been talk for about 10-15 years, longer than that probably, of abolishing it," Hughes said. "There were increasing pressures from political sources, state board sources, the push for increased emphasis on academic activities, plus supposedly, the fact that spring football interferes with other activities."

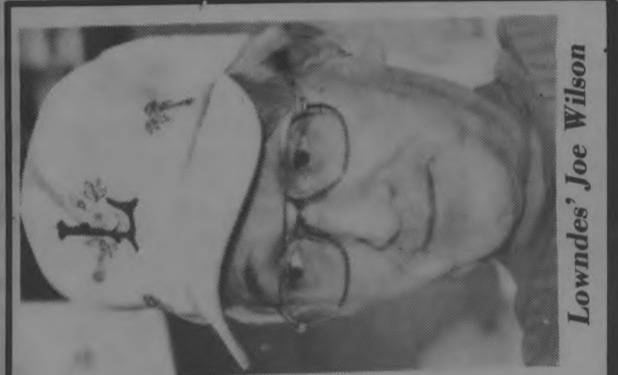
"I don't buy any of them. The superintendent's association, the school administrator's association, all of those professional groups have combined to attempt to persuade people that spring practice needs to be done away with."

Financially, the Georgia High School Association could be cutting its own throat if the decision holds up. The majority of the money it receives from member schools comes from football playoffs — 12 percent from every single game, from the region playoffs all the way through, the state title games.

Why the new rule will hurt Georgia at the gate is the schools will be producing an inferior product to what fans are accustomed to seeing now.

"They're getting the goose that laid the golden egg," Wilson said. "The people who made the decision are not thinking the picture all the way

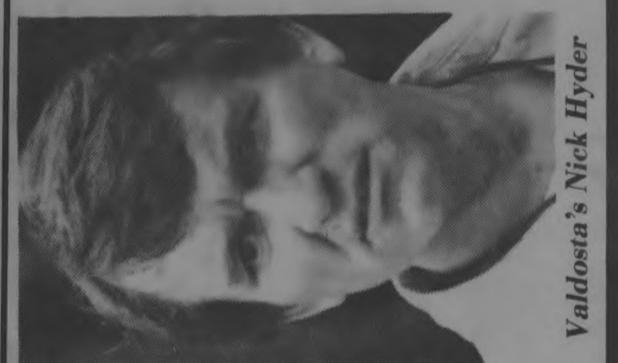
See Spring, Page 2B
(Cont. ON BACK PAGE)



Lowndes' Joe Wilson

"The Georgia High School Association is just bending to lawmakers who make the laws and regulations. They're just screwing up this like they have everything else, and nine out of 10 of them have never been in an athletic contest in their life."

— Joe Wilson
— Lowndes Coach



Valdosta's Nick Hyder

"I'm more disappointed than I am surprised. I feel like this is a compromise by the Georgia High School Association for no-pass, no-play. There are groups who feel very strongly about that. Because we don't have no-pass, no-play, they feel this is a compromise."

— Nick Hyder
— Valdosta Coach

continue this year and then see what happens."

Each region in the state has a representative who attends the state meetings to vote on rule changes. In all, there are 33 regions in the state, plus an at-large representative from the north and south. Hughes is one of the few coaches who is a representative. Most of them are principals

"Overall, we think it's a very big blow to football in this state."

While there is a slim chance the decision can be reversed, the spring of 1987 will be the last for football in the state.

"You don't have to convince our region that this is the wrong thing to do," Hughes said. "But I was not surprised it was voted out. We'll

1-AAAA representative. He said abolishing spring practice is something that has been talked about for a long time.

"It's something they've been squawking about for quite a while," Hughes said. "And they finally got together on it. There are a large number of coaches who don't like spring practice."

outside pressures.

"The Georgia High School Association is just bending to lawmakers who make the laws and regulations," Wilson said. "They're just screwing up this like they have everything else, and nine out of 10 of them have never been in an athletic contest in their life."

Colquitt County High School athletic director Jim Hughes is the Region

through. They're not thinking of the kids."

"The caliber of football in Georgia will join other states that don't have spring practice," Hyder said. "As the recruiters tell us, they don't even bother to do much recruiting in states that don't have spring practice because the youngsters are not ready to play. They need to work in the spring. A youngster can't decide in August that's he's going to go out for the football team. He could break an ankle or tear up his knee or shoulder because he hasn't conditioned himself for the contact he'll get in football."

"The injuries will increase and the caliber of football in the state will drop considerably."

"It's definitely going to make football weaker in this state," Wilson said.

Carolina and other areas where they don't have spring football. I look for the whole thing to wind up being like soccer before it's over with."

But Wilson does not feel eliminating spring football will necessarily cause an increase in injuries.

"Certainly the injuries in football won't increase," he said. "But it will help the youngsters to be able to get into more trouble. They'll have nothing else to do but go out and ride around. At least with spring practice, the mamas and daddys know where their kids are."

Neither Wilson nor Hyder were surprised at the action.

"I'm not surprised with anything they do any more," Wilson said. "They are taking the strong things and trying to make them weak. And they're taking the weaker things and trying to

"But they're taking something as grand and glorious as high school football and are taking it down. It's just a crying shame."

"I'm more disappointed than I am surprised," Hyder said. "I feel like this is a compromise by the Georgia High School Association for no-pass, no-play. There are groups who feel very strongly about that. Because we don't have no-pass, no-play, they feel this is a compromise."

Lineman Sprenkle Valuable To High-Powered Valdosta ¹⁻⁸ ^{10/22/50} Offense

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Jodie Sprenkle plays offensive right guard for the undefeated Valdosta Wildcats. Who cares about offensive linemen? you ask. Well, how do you think the Wildcats got to be undefeated?

A quick check of the region stat sheet shows the Wildcats No. 1 in rushing offense, No. 1 in passing offense, No. 1 in total offense (by a large margin 345-257 over 2nd place Westover), and not coincidentally, No. 1 in scoring (by a 31.7 to 16.8 edge over 2nd place Westover).

"You start your whole offensive team with the offensive line," Wildcat coach Nick Hyder said. "Without a good line, your running backs can't run and your quarterback can't throw. Any good coach will tell you that the offensive line is vital to his team's success."

But, getting back to Jodie Sprenkle, he is one lineman you can say a lot about. Sprenkle is a senior and a two-year starter. He is 6-foot-4 and weighs 275 pounds. And the young man may still be growing. He is only 17 years old.

Sprenkle came to Valdosta High School from Open Bible in the 10th grade, so he did not have the benefit of the junior high school Wildcat program. But he was good enough to make the team as a sophomore and alternated some at tackle that year. There may be another reason for that.

Jodie Sprenkle is a member of the Valdosta Reaves clan, all of whom live and breathe football. Uncle Jerry just received a coaches award from the Boys Club for 20 years of service as a volunteer coach. First cousins Ben and Valdosta, Ben on the 1982 state championship team at fullback and Jon as the most valuable offensive lineman on the 1984 national championship squad.

Uncle Stan Reaves was a star halfback on the Wildcats' 1962 national championship team and coaches football at Lowndes Christian Academy.

Sprenkle's older brother Hal played football across town at Lowndes High in the late 70's. And last year Jodie, for the Wildcats, played against first cousins Stan (an offensive tackle) and Matt Reaves (cornerback) in Valdosta.



He's That Big

Valdosta lineman Jodie Sprenkle (middle) tips the scales at 275 pounds and stands 6-foot-4 as the Wildcats' offensive right guard. Sprenkle is part of one of the biggest lines in Georgia high school football. The VHS line averages over 265.

ta's two games against the Lowndes Vikings, both losses.

The soft-spoken Sprenkle was asked about the two losses to Lowndes. All he had to say was "We're going to be ready for Lowndes this year."

One thing that must be noted is the improvement which Sprenkle has made. Last season he was a left tackle

of moderate ability on an offensive team which often had trouble moving the football. This season he is the starting right guard and an integral part of a pulling and trapping line.

"We moved Jodie from tackle to guard because we needed his quickness in there pulling and trapping in front of our running backs who run those 4.5

and 4.6 40's," Wildcat offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker said. "He stays with them pretty well. And Jodie has the quick feet that you need for pass blocking."

Sprenkle runs a 5.1 40-yard dash. He has maxed out at 860 pounds on the hip sled. He can bench press 365 pounds. It is no wonder that the Wildcats usually

run behind the right side in short yardage situations.

Sprenkle has gained 30 pounds since this time last year. One reason is that, at just 17 years old, he is still growing.

Another is a solid diet which Hyder constantly advocates to his young charges.

"Jodie has always been firmly

committed to making as much improvement as possible, and that has included listening to the coaches and following good eating habits. He's gained weight by eating plenty of green vegetables, meat, Irish potatoes, eggs and bacon, and drinking plenty of sweet milk."

Sprenkle was also a constant resident of the Valdosta High School weight room during the winter, spring, and in the late afternoons over the summer. He would work very hard with a teammate of comparable size — 310-pound John Wheelless who hip sleds over 900 pounds — and also with coaches Bob Bolton and Jerry Don Baker, who has succeeded after making Sprenkle one of his projects.

"Jerry Don Baker deserves a lot of credit for developing not only Jodie's talents but the quality of that whole offensive line," Hyder explained. "Everything we ask him to do, he gets it done. And the job he's done has been invaluable to our offense. He's one of the reasons our offense is doing so well this season."

Sprenkle is also showing a lot of leadership ability this season. He was voted one of the Wildcats' two permanent offensive co-captains along with tight end Charles Steward, a three-year starter. Baker recounted one story involving Sprenkle's leadership.

"Our quarterback had been having a bad game recently and was apologizing to his teammates on the sidelines when Jodie walked up to him and said, 'There's no need to apologize. We're a team and we play together. Forget about it.' He's a real leader on the line, and his play shows the experience he's gained."

Where grades are concerned, Sprenkle is no problem. He maintains a B-average in his schoolwork. With his strength, he is obviously being courted by several colleges to play football. Auburn, Tennessee, and Georgia have been in the forefront, with Sprenkle, at this point, leaning toward the Tigers.

But right now, he wants to win a state championship for the Valdosta Wildcats. And perhaps get a little revenge on Lowndes in the process.

'Cats Capable Of Dismantling Colquitt

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

On paper, Valdosta's battle with Colquitt County this Friday night is not shaping up to be as close a contest as the games played between the two teams last season.

Last year, Colquitt handed Valdosta its first loss of the season with a 21-14 win over the 'Cats at their own homecoming game. But in the playoffs, Valdosta eked out a 14-13 win over the Packers in Moultrie.

However, this year's edition of the Valdosta Wildcats is playing better offensively than the '85 squad. The Packers have been plagued by in-

consistency on offense and defense. Packer head coach Jim Hughes said the game could end in a blowout if the wrong Colquitt team shows up to play.

The 'Cats have been averaging 31.7 points per game, and with the exception of LaGrange and Tift County for one half, Valdosta has completely dominated the opposition.

Last week, Valdosta pounded Westover at Cleveland Field 58-13. The game was out of reach by halftime, and head coach Nick Hyder gave his extras plenty of playing time. The 'Cats beat Dougherty 24-0.

While the 'Cats have been coasting, the Packers have ridden the

rollercoaster all season.

Colquitt dropped its season opener to Thomasville due to a slow first half. The Pack came on strong in the second half but there wasn't enough time to pull the game out. Colquitt bounced back against Carver of Columbus the following week 22-12. It must be pointed out that Carver falls into the Class AA category with its 511 figure of average daily attendance, but for travel's sake plays in Class AAAA.

The Packers had a case of the fumbles against Central-Thomaspville and lost 17-6. Colquitt whipped Eufala 33-7, but then got crushed by Lowndes 27-6. Last week, the Packers just got by

Monroe 9-0. The Golden Tornadoes have won but a single game since the 1984 season after going 0-9-1 last season.

To beat Valdosta, Hughes will have to find a way to stop a well-balanced offensive attack. Valdosta is first in the region in rushing with an average of 188 yards per game. Most of the rushing have been gained by the bruising yards of fullback James Roberts and tailback Jerome Callaway.

But the 'Cats are also first in the passing department behind the strong play of Greg Talley, who is completing 62 percent of his passes, hitting on 72 out of 116 attempts with just two

interceptions and nine touchdowns. In the individual rankings, no other quarterback is even close to Talley when all the stats are taken into account.

Valdosta's defense is also leading almost every defensive category in the region under the watchful gaze of defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. The 'Cats are first in rushing defense, total defense, and scoring defense.

A win against Colquitt would pretty much assure Valdosta of a playoff spot, with only two more region games left to play.

Valdosta vs. Colquitt Co.

- When: Friday, Oct. 24
- Where: Mack Tharpe Stadium, Moultrie
- Time: 8 p.m.
- Records: Valdosta, 7-0, 3-0; Colquitt, 3-3, 1-1
- Rankings: Valdosta, 1st (AAAA); Colquitt, unranked (AAAA)
- Series: Valdosta leads 49-11-5
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 14, Dougherty 13, 1985
- Last Colquitt Win: 1985, 21-14
- On Deck: Valdosta at Monroe, Nov. 7; Colquitt County at Westover, Oct. 31

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Oct. 25, 1986 3-A

Interact Students Of Week Are Named

By Laura McMillian

Valdosta High School Interact students of the week are Laura McMillian, Brian Harris, Johanna Elliott and Ashley Moorman.

Laura McMillian is the sixteen year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McMillian. She is a junior at Valdosta High and is presently the secretary of Interact. She is also a member of the Beta Club and a Student Council representative. She attends Lee Street Baptist Church where she is a member of the Youth Choir and the Youth Council.

Brian Harris is the sixteen year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Harris. He is a junior at Valdosta High and holds the office of treasurer in Interact. Brian is presently the vice-president of the Student Council and a member of the Beta Club and the Key Club. Brian attends Park Avenue United Methodist Church.

Johanna Elliott is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Elliott. Johanna is a senior at VHS and is 17 years-old. She attends Park Avenue Methodist Church with her family.

Johanna is President of INTERACT and a member of the yearbook staff. She has been a member of FBCLA for two years and serves as Projects Chairman this year. She is a member of Sigma Delta Theta sorority and has been for three years. She has been selected "Best All-Around Sophomore" and "Best All-Around Junior" in the sorority, and she serves as Vice-President this year.

Johanna's hobbies include swimming, skiing and aerobics.

Ashley Moorman is the son of Dr. and Mrs. W.S. Moorman. Ashley is a junior at VHS and is 16 years-old. He is the Vice-President of INTERACT,



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

tions Chairman.

During the Oct. 22 candlelight service, newly installed officers pinned red and white ribbons on each new member. FHA members enjoyed an ice cream sundae party following the ceremony.

Debate Club

By Jay Connell, secretary
Debate Club

On Monday, Oct. 27, there will be a meeting at VHS for anyone interested in joining the debate club. The meeting will consist of brief debate demonstrations by students and is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. in the English department. Membership is open to all VHS students who meet eligibility requirements to participate in extracurricular activities.

Members of the debate club were busy during homecoming week. On Monday, Oct. 13, signs were painted and spirit buttons were made. Dealers sold over 150 spirit buttons to the students and the faculty at Valdosta High during the week. On Friday, debate club officers and members rode in a van in the homecoming parade.

Valdosta Remains Atop Poll

ATLANTA (AP) — The season's eighth full slate of games produced mostly minor changes in the Georgia high school football rankings, but each classification's top 10 picked up a new team.

The No. 1 spots in the voting by The Associated Press' panel of sports writers and sportscasters again went to Class AAAA Valdosta, Class AAA Dalton, Class AA Washington-Wilkes and Class A Wilcox County.

The new No. 10 teams are Class AAAA Douglass-Atlanta, Class AAA LaFayette, Class AA Mary Persons and Class A Wrens.

Class AAAA's first seven teams, unchanged from last week, are Valdosta, Clarke Central, LaGrange, Bradwell Institute, Southwest DeKalb, McEachern and Evans. Effingham County and Warner Robins each moved up a spot to No. 8 and No. 9 respectively, followed by Douglass-Atlanta, which boasts an 8-0 record.

Griffin, eighth last week, fell from the rankings after a 17-16 loss to Riverdale.

Bainbridge remained a close second to Dalton in Class AAA, but South Gwinnett, third last week, fell to No. 8 after

a 33-15 loss to Elbert County, Peach County, at No. 3, and No. 4 Gainesville each moved up a spot. The fifth ranking went to Central-Thomaspville and Worth County moved from seventh to sixth.

Lakeside moved up three spots to No. 7. Troup, which had been tied with Lakeside and Thomasville at No. 10, advanced to No. 9 where it was tied with newcomer LaFayette.

Thomasville beat Appling County, No. 8 last week, 28-14, but both teams fell from the rankings. Marist, formerly ninth, also dropped from the top 10 despite beating Henderson 7-0.

In Class AA, Washington-Wilkes, Camden County, Manchester and Lovett again lead the pack. No. 5 Central-Thomaspville and No. 6 Swainsboro each have advanced one notch.

Upson and Murphy, tied at No. 9 last week, now are No. 7 and No. 8, respectively. Lakeshore dropped from No. 5 into a tie with Mary Persons at ninth after losing to Collins 14-6. Mary Persons returns to the top 10 with a 5-2 record.

Cartersville dropped from the rankings after a 7-0 loss to Pepperell.

Valdosta Ransacks Packers For

36-6 Decision

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY

Times Sports Editor
MOULTRIE — The Valdosta High Wildcats overcame some early stumbling blocks and ended up ransacking Mack Tharpe Stadium to send the Colquitt County Packers packing home with a 36-6 loss Friday night.

"I'm real proud of the youngsters," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said. "We played with a lot of intensity and played hard."

The top-ranked Wildcats, 8-0 overall and 4-0 in Region 1-AAAA, appeared to be headed for trouble early when, after receiving the opening kickoff, Jerome Callaway threw an interception on a half-back pass. Colquitt started at the Valdosta 45, but had to punt after gaining just six yards on three plays.

Valdosta then drove 75 yards in six plays to the Colquitt County five with a first down. But on four consecutive plays, the Packer defense held and Colquitt took over.

"That goal-line stand is what football in Region 1-AAAA is all about," Hyder said. "I was a little disappointed we didn't score then, but we did a good job of getting the ball down there. I just didn't call it right."

But after those two setbacks, it was all Valdosta from then. Quarterback Greg Talley, who leads the region in passing, completed nine of 12 for 153 yards and three touchdowns. He has thrown for 12 TDs this season. And Talley wasn't keeping the Colquitt defense off guard, running backs Jerome Callaway and James Roberts were running the ball right at them.

As if the Valdosta offense wasn't enough for Colquitt to contend with, the Packers also faced a hard-nosed defense. Colquitt had only 93 yards on the ground, including a 44-yard run by Bernard Howard late in the game, and managed just 52 through the air.

Packer QB James Lee completed just seven of 17 passes and had two interceptions.

"Terrance Hull did a good job in the secondary," Hyder said. "In fact, the whole secondary played a good game."

After Colquitt stopped Valdosta at its own 3-yard line, the Packers had to punt inside their own 10. Walt Gill took the ball at the 41-yard line, raced to the left sideline and went to the Colquitt 17 before he was knocked down. Gill was aided on the runback by a bone-



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta Halfback Jerome Callaway (11) Picks Up Yardage Against Colquitt County

crunching block by Michael Tolbert. From there, the Wildcats needed only two plays to score. Charles Steward one-handed a catch to the two and James Roberts went over left tackle for the score. Dan Tillman added the PAT for a 7-0 lead with 2:17 left in the first period.

Valdosta's defense held again and the Wildcats went ahead 10-0 when Tillman booted a 26-yard field with 7:51 left in the first half. Talley went to the air to spark the drive, hitting Jim Motes for a 27-yard gain and following that with a 21-yard pass to Callaway.

But perhaps the turning point for the Wildcats came on their next series. A personal foul penalty on a punt started Valdosta with a first-and-25 at its own 27. After off-setting penalties, Talley went beyond the line of scrimmage to complete a 40-yard pass for an apparent first down. But instead, Valdosta was faced with a second-and-24.

The Wildcats, however, kept churning. Callaway went up the middle for a 14-yard gain and Talley threw to Motes for a 12-yard completion and a first down. "We just never gave up on that drive," Hyder said. "We had a personal foul, a clip, and Talley went past the line. But we still turned around and scored on the drive. That was crucial to the game."

Once the Wildcats had gotten out of trouble, Talley found Guy Belue in the end zone for a TD with 2:52 left in the half.

The Wildcats practically put the game out of reach when Colquitt fumbled on third down at its own 27 with 1:26 left in the half. An offside penalty against Colquitt preceded a 22-yard pass from Talley to Steward for the score.

"They just played outstanding tonight," said Colquitt coach Jim Hughes. "There is no doubt who the superior team on the field was."

After watching Valdosta post a 58-13 victory over Westover last week, Hughes had said earlier this week he

"I'm real proud of the youngsters. We played with a lot of intensity and played hard."

— Nick Hyder
 — Valdosta Head Coach

was very concerned about playing the Wildcats. "I was having nightmares about 58 points," he said. "But that didn't come true. But all things are relevant now."

In the second half, the Wildcats played mostly younger players. But the subs still put points on the board.

Talley led an opening drive that covered 64 yards. Motes had a defender all over him in the end zone, but he wrestled the ball away for a 5-yard TD and a 29-0 lead. After Valdosta recovered a fumble on second down, the Packer fans started leaving in droves, but some were still around to watch Issac Caesar score from 11 yards out with 5:31 left in the third period.

"I'm glad coach Hyder and (Jack) Rudolph started playing their younger guys," Hughes said. "It gave me a chance to do the same."

Colquitt avoided the shutout with just over four minutes to play. Howard went up the middle for a 44-yard gain to the Wildcat 27-yard line. Five plays later, reserve quarterback Ben Wiggin faded back to pass, but scrambled into the end zone from the 12.

Although Hyder would have liked to register the shutout, he was not disappointed the Wildcats didn't.

"That's just part of the game," he said. "Sometimes you have to give up a score to gain some experience."

Valdosta..... 7 15 14 0-36
 Colquitt..... 0 0 0 0 6-6

Val — James Roberts 2 run (Dan Tillman kick)
 Val — Tillman 28 FG
 Val — Guy Belue 14 pass from Greg Talley (kick failed)
 Val — Charles Steward 22 pass from Talley (kick failed)
 Val — Jim Motes 5 pass from Talley (Tillman kick)
 Val — Issac Caesar 11 run (Tillman kick)
 CC — Ben Wiggins 12 run (kick failed)

| | Val | Col |
|------------------|--|--------|
| First Downs | 18 | 9 |
| Yards Rushing | 187 | 93 |
| Rushing Attempts | 38 | 31 |
| Yards Passing | 153 | 52 |
| Passes | 15-9-1 | 17-7-2 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 0-0 | 3-2 |
| Punting | 2-31.0 | 4-31.0 |
| Penalties | 7-55 | 5-32 |
| Rushing | — Valdosta: Callaway 14-84, Roberts 8-54, Caesar 12-26, Sharpe 5-14, Colquitt: Howard 9-66, Wiggins 2-5, Walker 0-14, Posing | |
| Passing | — Valdosta: Talley 12-9-0 153, Colquitt: Lee 17-7-2-32 | |
| Receiving | — Valdosta: Steward 3-65, Motes 4-47, Callaway 1-27, Belue 1-14, Colquitt: Bridges 3-22, Boyd 1-16, Dawson 1-12. | |

Football Not Just Self-Serving

VDT 10-31-86

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Those educators and taxpayers who have been standing firmly behind the move to stop spring football and would back a no-pass, no-play amendment are cutting their own throats. At least that's what Lowndes High head coach Joe Wilson thinks.

"They're burying the goose that laid the golden egg," Wilson said Thursday afternoon. I don't know if a lot of these people know just how much money football brings in."

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder and Wilson both fear that the push for higher academic standards is in fact penalizing athletes. The two coaches also fear that if the quality of football goes down around the state, it could tell at the gate.

But just how much money does football bring in at Lowndes and Valdosta? The income is staggering, but what is even more staggering is the amount of that income spent to fund other extra-curricular activities as well as other school related functions and programs. Football is the only athletic event at both school systems that does not lose money.

Last year, Valdosta took in \$156,392.76 via football ticket sales. Lowndes made \$168,680.25. But almost all that money was spent by the various athletic departments trying to keep all the non-money makers going.

At Valdosta, the varsity basketball

program finished more than \$10,000 dollars in the red. The story is the same at Lowndes, even though the Vikings and the Vikettes had better seasons. Lowndes lost \$13,586.80.

The figures for baseball, track, and wrestling are as dismal.

But the football ticket money did not just go to keep up athletics.

"Our football program has done a lot of things with the money that have helped the whole system," said Lowndes Superintendent of Schools Bill Sears. "We used \$8,000 of that money to buy a machine to fix and keep the roofs clean. Football also paid for P.E. equipment in the middle school programs."

Lowndes has also used football revenue to buy playground equipment for primary grades.

Around town, there are always rumors about just how much guarantee money is given to the opposition for a home game. On occasion, one school will buy a home game, by guaranteeing the travelling school so much money to offset travelling costs and making up for the fact that the visitor gets none of the gate money. All guarantee money is taken only from ticket sales. This year, Valdosta paid Fulton \$8,000 to travel from Atlanta, and will pay the team the same amount next year. If that sounds like a lot of money, take into account that Valdosta made \$23,697 at the gate during the Fulton game.

If Valdosta had travelled to Fulton, the school would have to forego the gate money plus spend massive amounts of money sending the band and football team on a four-hour drive.

"Essentially we helped each other," said Hyder about Fulton. "They wouldn't make \$16,000 in two home games and we still end up making a good bit."

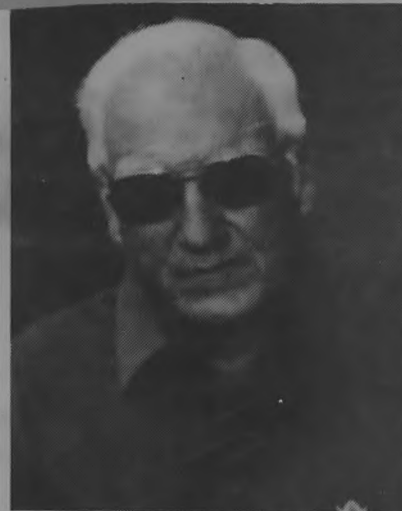
Lowndes paid Camden County \$5,000 for the visit. Lowndes may have lost the game, but certainly didn't lose money.

So football is a money-making proposition. But that's not the only reason Hyder and Wilson are concerned about any move that could imperil football in the state.

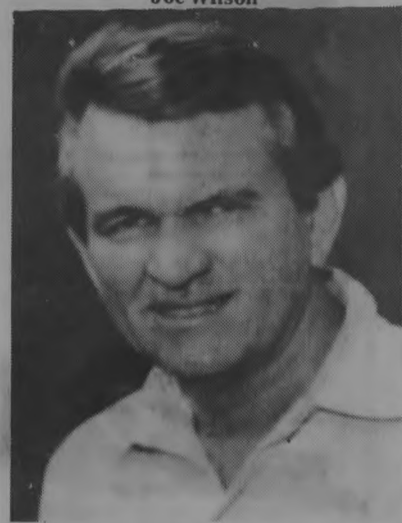
"Football is our avenue of helping people," Hyder said. "I've seen a lot of kids mature and learn to accept responsibility playing football. These people that wanted to abolish spring football mean well, but I don't really think they understand the situation."

It has been pointed out over and over again by coaches and administrators that as a rule athletes exhibit less of a failure rate than the school's overall rate.

"For some reason a lot of people think it's an either/or situation," Sears said. "They think if you have a strong athletic program, you can't have strong academics, and that's just not the case."



Joe Wilson



Nick Hyder

6-C The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Nov. 2, 1986

Playoff Picture Not Getting Any Clearer

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

The Lowndes Vikings assured themselves of a playoff spot while the Berrien County Rebels more-or-less took themselves out of the playoff picture Friday night.

Lowndes defeated Monroe 20-0 to climb to 4-1 in Region 1-AAAA. The Vikings have just one game left and will finish no worse than 4-2. The other teams in the region still alive in the playoff race are Colquitt County, Tift County, and Westover. All three are 2-2 and still have games remaining against each other in the last two games — Tift is at Colquitt next week and Westover is at Tift in the season finale.

Dougherty and Monroe are definitely out of the playoff picture.

No matter what happens in the final two weeks, Lowndes will make the playoffs.

If Valdosta defeats Lowndes, Westover beats Dougherty and Tift, Colquitt beats Tift and Dougherty, and Tift loses to Colquitt and Westover, Lowndes, Westover, and Colquitt will be tied for second with 4-2 records. And that's where the problem comes in — Lowndes beat Colquitt, Colquitt beat Westover, and Westover beat Lowndes.

If Lowndes beats Valdosta and Valdosta beats Monroe, the Vikings and Wildcats will be tied for first with 5-1 records, and the region title will go to Lowndes.

But if Valdosta should lose its final two games, the Wildcats will still get

second place on the strength of wins over Westover, Colquitt and Tift.

Berrien County, meanwhile, is one of the strange situations. The Rebels are members of Region 2-AA, but the region is subdivided into four divisions instead of two. Because of that, only the top team, instead of the two in each subdivision, will make the playoffs.

With its 10-0 loss to Waycross Friday night, Berrien is 0-1 in the subregion with only two games left.

Cook, coming off a 21-7 victory over Bacon County, is sitting in good position. The Hornets have games left with Waycross and Berrien.

Even if Berrien wins its final two games, the Rebels will finish 2-1. If Cook beats Waycross and loses to Berrien, Cook and Berrien will be tied at 2-1. Berrien will advance based on its win over Cook. But that is the only way Berrien will reach the playoffs.

If Cook beats Berrien and Waycross downs Bacon County next week, the champion will be decided in the season finale when Cook plays host to Waycross. Waycross could still lose to Bacon and be in the playoff picture.

With only four teams in the subregion, anything can happen in the next two weeks.

Brooks County continued its quest for a subregion title by claiming a 30-16 victory over Region 1-AA South foe Mitchell-Baker. The Trojans, who are 4-0 in the subregion, are definitely in the playoffs. The only question is will it be at No. 1 or No. 2?

Even if Brooks loses its final two

games, the Trojans will be 4-2, tied with either Mitchell-Baker or Lee County (they play in Camilla in the final game), and Brooks beat both of them.

The only threat to Brooks' title will be Terrell County. A combination of 1-1 records by both teams will put them tied at 5-1. Brooks will still be region champion because of its 20-13 victory over Terrell.

Brooks will only lose the subregion title if it loses its final two games and

Terrell wins its last two. The Trojans' final two games are against Randolph-Clay (1-6, 0-4) and Early County (3-5-1, 2-3) while Terrell has Mitchell-Baker (3-5, 2-2) and Randolph-Clay.

In other high school action Friday night, Madison County won its fourth consecutive game with a 20-7 decision over Blountstown; Clinch County shut out Charlton County 28-0; Atkinson County whipped Long County 45-0; and Westbrook shut out Bulloch 21-0.

Long TD Pass Hands

The Valdosta High 9th-grade football team suffered its first defeat of the season in a 9-6 loss at Lake City. Wildcat Chris Hart returned a fumble 80 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter to score the only points for Valdosta.

Lake City completed a 40-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter for the winning points, and ended their regular season with a perfect 8-0 record.

"That Lake City squad is the best team we've played against since I've been here," Wildcat coach Al Akins said. "They were big, strong, fast and just a superior football team. Their touchdown club had a reception for us after the ballgame and said they had beaten most of their opponents 40 and 50 to nothing and that we were the best team they had played this year. They're hoping to have a national championship team down there in two or three years."

"I'm proud of our boys. They played hard and blocked and tackled just as well as they have all season. It was a very good game."

Valdosta B-Team

1st Loss Of

Nov. 7, 1986

Season 9-6

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

While the football is being tossed around various area fields, basketball practice is in its third week and for many schools the season is due to begin in less than two weeks.

A hole in the Lowndes High gym roof and a buckled floor have forced the Vikings and Vikeettes to find some other place to practice. The Valdosta Wildcat and Lady 'Cat teams are working with new head coaches.

Football practice has kept Brooks' boys head coach Art Gamble busy, along with most of his prospective players.

At Valdosta High, John Miller has the helm of the Wildcat team, replacing Mike O'Brien who decided to step down as head basketball coach after last season.

For Miller, the experience as head coach instead of assistant has been different.

"There are a lot of things that have just kind of snuck up on me that I didn't have to bother with when I was an assistant," Miller said. "But I'm not complaining. So far it's been pretty

fun. "The kids are working hard and the attitude of the team seems good. We're not going to be the tallest team in the world, but the hard work will pay off."

New Lady Wildcat coach Susan Montgomery will have her hands full trying to turn around a program that has been mired in futility the past two seasons, but Montgomery, who was an assistant last year at Berrien County, seems willing to accept the mission.

"I like a good challenge," Montgomery said. "I'm just trying to teach them the fundamentals, shape the younger players and implement things that I think will help us win. I don't really feel any pressure. I'm competitive, I like to do well and I'd like to see the program here do well."

The Valdosta girls' junior varsity program had approximately 80 girls trying out for spots, so Montgomery should find some talent coming up in the next few years.

Lowndes' Terry Wilkes has had to shuffle his Vikings from Westside back to Valwood every other day, alternating sites with the Vikeettes, coached by Elinor Goode. The cramming of B-

team and varsity onto one court has been frustrating to Wilkes.

"We haven't been able to go full court yet because the B-team has been down on the other end," Wilkes said. "They need to practice, too."

Wilkes remains incensed about the no spring practice ruling passed by the Georgia High School Association. Football players can still practice in helmets but no pads. Wilkes wonders if an exception like this will be made for basketball or if no basketball practice will be tolerated at all during the spring.

"What will they (GHSA) make us do, practice with no air in the ball or with only one shoe on?" asked Wilkes. "We're already restricted by the October 16 rule. Now if I have a big freshman, I can't work with him after the season. Sure, he can play in his own back yard, but anyone can tell you that a kid won't work as hard and do the right things without supervision."

Goode has had the same complaint as Wilkes concerning the court situation.

"We're running a little behind right now," she said. "We haven't been able

to work on our transition game at all because there have been so many people on the court."

Last season, the Vikeettes made it to the state playoffs where they upended Northeast Macon before bowing out to the Jordan Red Jackets.

This year's Vikeette varsity sports three seniors, seven juniors, and four sophomores, and it appears that Goode will field another talented squad.

Lowndes' Christmas tourney will go on as usual this season, but only four teams will be in attendance — Lowndes, Berrien, Cook, and Thom- asville. Fitzgerald and Irwin County had originally agreed to play but backed out at the last minute.

By Dione Joyner
FLC News Reporter

The Foreign Language Club of VHS met November 5 with Chad Hodge presiding. The club discussed the annual Christmas dinner to be held December 16. Members signed up to visit a local nursing home before several holidays throughout the year with small gifts and entertainment. Leslie Hiers is chairperson of this community project with Sheila Payton as co-chairperson.

A tutoring service for first-year foreign language students was set up for Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. Students from second and third-year classes will be able to tutor any first-year students needing extra help with the assistance and approval of a foreign language student. Other FLC members volunteered to work with club sponsor, Patty Smitherman, on the FLC jersey project.

Interact Students

By Laura McMillian

Kathy Farley is the 16-year-old daughter of Vince and Cathy Farley. She is community projects chairman for Interact and is also in the Beta Club and Sigma Delta Theta Sorority. Kathy

enjoys playing tennis and is a member of the Valdosta High tennis team. She attends St. John's Catholic Church where she is active in the youth group.

Susan Burns is the 16-year-old daughter of Mrs. Jan Burns. Susan is a junior at VHS. She is the Social Chairman of Interact, Secretary-Treasurer of Student Council, member of Beta Club and Sandspur staff. She has also been a member of Sigma Delta Theta Sorority for two years. She attends First United Methodist Church with her family where she is active in many youth activities. Susan enjoys swimming and water skiing.

VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students



Wildcats Must Keep From Looking Ahead

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The unbeaten, untied, and top-ranked Valdosta Wildcats travel to Albany Saturday night for a football game with the Monroe Golden Tornadoes. And as is to be expected, the greatest problem facing coach Nick Hyder and his staff has been keeping the players concentration and energies focused on this week's opponent.

Monroe's record is 1-7. Valdosta is 8-0 and has been ranked No. 1 in the Georgia Class AAAA rankings for the last eight weeks. What's worse, next week is Winnersville week, highlighted by the annual Valdosta-Lowndes battle. Lowndes has an open date this weekend and is already preparing full scale for the Wildcats.

As in any cross-town rivalry, the players see each other around town, go

to church together, and are involved in civic functions together. While Lowndes players are building enthusiasm toward knocking off Valdosta, the Wildcats must keep their eyes on a deceptive Monroe team.

The Golden Tornadoes are a hard-hitting squad with a very strong defense. Five of their seven losses have been by four points or less, and a sixth was a 9-0 defeat by Colquitt County.

The veteran coach Hyder knows only too well about the negative consequences which could arise from this game.

"We saw Monroe play last week against Lowndes. They are a large, disciplined, and very competitive group of young men. And they don't give up easily. They haven't been getting beat by much, and they give it a good all-around effort until the final

knocked down, you'd better get up and get back in there and prove yourself.

"As far as opinion polls go, they said Mack Mattingly would defeat Wyche Fowler, didn't they. General Custer's scouts said they had a chance at Little Big Horn. We can't afford to take any team lightly, especially one with the calibre of athletes that Monroe has."

Going into the Lowndes game, the Golden Tornadoes are ranked second in the region in total defense, yielding only 167.9 yards per game, and stood third in scoring defense, having allowed 10.3 points per game. Johnny Gilbert is a second-year starter at quarterback, and Johnny Ford and Rod Whitaker are both swift running backs.

The Wildcat defense must stay alert because of the Tornadoes' overall team speed. It will be up to senior defensive ends Mike Tolbert and Seabron

(Gooney) Williams to keep Monroe's running backs from getting outside and around the corner.

Tackles Otis Conaway and Zabria Bell along with scrappy noseguard Eric Larry will fortify the middle, backed up by Anthony Williams and team captain Bill Kirby at inside linebacker.

Gilbert's strong arm will keep pressure on cornerbacks Keith Henry and Reggie Dandy. Walt Gill plays one safety position while steady Derek Shaw, who ranks second in the region in interceptions, plays the other.

The most pressure may be on the renowned Valdosta offensive line which averages 264 pounds per man. They will have to be quick enough to maneuver a small but very quick Monroe defensive front which has limited opposing ballcarriers to 3.4 yards per carry on the season.

Monroe

vs.

Valdosta

- When: Saturday, Nov. 8
- Where: Hugh Mills Stadium, Albany
- Time: 8 p.m.
- Records: Valdosta, 8-0, 4-0; Monroe, 1-7, 0-4
- Rankings: Valdosta, 1st (AAAA); Monroe, unranked (AAAA)
- Series: Valdosta leads 17-1
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 28, Monroe 0, 1985
- Last Monroe Win: 1974, 34-12
- On Deck: Lowndes at Valdosta, Nov. 14; Americus at Monroe, Nov. 15

11/7/86

Substitutes Applauded For Vital Contributions

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

A great number of football players toil long and hard in practice only to stand on the sidelines when the lights go on Friday night. Eric Prime, Dawson Robertson, Antonio Henderson, and Greg Jennings are four senior football players whose hard work, suffering, and sacrifice have been, nevertheless, greatly appreciated by their coaches.

"That's the stuff this game is all about — those youngsters who contribute more to the game than they get out of it," Lowndes High coach Joe Wilson explained. "It takes a unique individual to be part of something and not get all the glamour and prestige that comes to a frontline player. But, yet in a way, they contribute more than a starter, making sacrifices in practice in order to help everyone improve."

They are usually two reasons why that type of individual won't play regularly — they are either hampered by injuries or either there is simply a bigger, stronger, or faster player at their position.

Prime has been in the Wildcat football program all four of his years at Valdosta High School. He played B-team football in the ninth grade. At 5-foot-7 and 140 pounds, he was down on the depth chart behind Tony Anderson and others in his sophomore season. Then last year he tore cartilage in his knee and missed the entire season.

In 1986 Prime has played sparingly and scored a touchdown in the Westover game, but he banged up the knee again in that game and missed the contest with Colquitt County.

Over the years, Prime has attended three summer camps and never missed a 6 a.m. training session in January. He was asked why he never gave up the game with all his knee problems in addition to playing behind Jerome Callaway (6.8 yards per carry).

"Pride. I feel like I'm contributing, at least in practice. I've stuck it out this long, and I've got a lot of friends on the team. And this year, I at least wanted to come out and try to win Most Improved Player or the Skinner Award."

Lowndes' Greg Jennings' problem is a bit different. The 5-9, 145-pound defensive back is in his third year playing for the Vikings. But he doesn't see much playing time at safety behind David Hargett and Brad Almon, two highly touted seniors who have both been mentioned prominently in football recruiting publications.

"I got to start in the spring game when Brad (Almon) and Matt (Reaves) were hurt, and I've gotten into every game this year except for Americus and Westover," Jennings said.

"Greg's a good defensive back," said defensive backfield coach Bill Cribb. "He wasn't blessed with all the talent in the world,

but he's a tough little old knocker, and he'll hit you. He has a broken nose even now."

Jennings' teammate Dawson Robertson is another Viking in his third year on the varsity. At 5-foot-10 and 160 pounds he plays defensive end behind seniors Matt Reaves and Chris Jobs. He played defensive back the last two years and was a cornerback on the B-team his freshman year. He was asked if he ever got intimidated by bigger players, especially last season when he had to try and tackle 240-pound James Carter every day in practice.

"I never get intimidated. You've got to play smart and hit the big guys low. I've only been knocked out once, and that was in camp when I got kicked in the head by Brad Almon running a reverse. I just love to play football," Viking defensive coordinator Brad Almon was asked about Jennings and Robertson.

"They are both here everyday going at it as hard as they can. They're dedicated, and we always need more football players with that kind of attitude."

Wilson also lauded the efforts of both Viking substitutes.

"Both have played and contributed, and when needed to step in and fill a role, they were there. You can't have a program without that type of youngster who puts the team before himself."

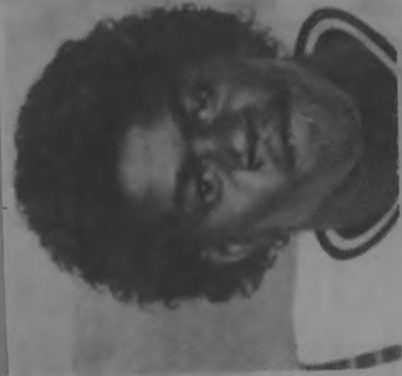
Antonio Henderson is another fine football player who would most likely be a standout at a smaller school but who fills a substitute role at a Class AAAA power like Valdosta. At 5-foot-8 and 150 pounds, he has proved to be an able backup and would play with the confidence of the coaches if injury to a first-stringer occurred. Henderson has carried the ball 22 times this season in the Wildcats' eight games.

"Antonio has always been a dedicated football player," Wildcat coach Nick Hyder said. "He moved to running back in the spring and has played a fair amount. He filled a vital role on the kicking teams for us for a while. He's small but he's tough. He made Supercat on our strength and conditioning tests."

"Both Antonio and Eric are small, but they've stuck with it. They've maintained a very good attitude, and their cooperation is what it takes to have a winning effort."

The question of what football players would be doing in the afternoons without football practice was posed to Robertson. The senior, and veteran of three spring practices, had some interesting comments on the abolition of spring practice.

"Practicing football, even for those four weeks in the spring, helps me keep my grades up. You're on a stricter time schedule during football, and you have to be more disciplined. When football's not in season, you tend to goof off and waste a lot of time."



Eric Prime



Greg Jennings



Dawson Robertson



Antonio Henderson



Celebrating Victory

The Valdosta Wildcat football team storms out on the field with helmets raised as a symbol of victory, after defeating the cross-town rival Lowndes Vikings 17-6 Friday night at Cleveland Field. The game signals the end of the regular season for both teams. Valdosta finishes its regular schedule with a perfect 10-0 record while Lowndes ends up at 6-4. See Related Stories and Photos on Pages 8-9A. — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

The Valdosta Wildcat football team storms out on the field with helmets raised as a symbol of victory, after defeating the cross-town rival Lowndes Vikings 17-6 Friday night at Cleveland Field. The game signals the end of the regular season for both teams. Valdosta finishes its regular schedule with a perfect 10-0 record while Lowndes ends up at 6-4. See Related Stories and Photos on Pages 8-9A. — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Greg Talley, Valdosta High School Quarterback, Talks About Experience At N.C. Retreat

Christ Makes Winners

Four-Letter Man, Local Athletes Speak At Rally Here

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Staff Writer

Albert Long spoke of the problems of peer pressure Tuesday at the Fellowship of Christian Athletes rally at Mathis city auditorium.

But the only peer pressure seen that night was on a positive note as Long made quite an impression on the youths who came to hear him speak.

Gathered in the auditorium were people of all ages from throughout the area, but the greatest concentration was that of local teen-agers.

It is not very often that people from Lowndes and Valdosta get together with a feeling of kinship the week before the Viking-Wildcat rivalry, but there was no apparent conflict between the two rivals Tuesday night.

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder gave the opening prayer and then sat down on the stage next to Lowndes defensive lineman Joey Parker, who had Wildcat quarterback Greg Talley to his left. Three days later, Parker

and Talley lined up on the opposite side of the ball with the intention of making the other look bad.

"In a couple of nights from now, I know you guys will be going at it on the football field, and that's wonderful," said Long. "Competition can be a good thing and has helped make this country great. It's fine as long as you don't take that desire to hit off the field with you," Long said to the various football players.

And Long knows all about competition. He attended the University of North Carolina and was the second (and so far the last) four-sport letterman in the history of the school. Long excelled at football, baseball, basketball, and track.

Now, Long spends much of his time spreading Christianity to people across America.

Both Talley and Parker illustrated enough character to stand up in front of at least 100 people and give their testimonies, something many high

school kids would find too embarrassing. Both spoke of positive happenings at Black Mountain, N.C., where they attended a retreat this summer.

Once off the actual mountain top, Parker spoke of the difficulty coming off the spiritual mountain top, and how it took perseverance to keep the faith.

Talley said he entered into the retreat reluctantly but found it a rewarding experience, and thanked Hyder, his coach, for suggesting he should go.

Valdosta flanker B.J. Mason also spoke of his growing commitment to Christ, and how he uses football as a personal witness.

Long said it was important that Christians get up and take a stand on things, and stressed to everyone the importance of remaining faithful during hard times. Several of the local leaders on the football field did just that.

Self Esteem Behind Hyder's Philosophy

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

When Charlie Greene stepped down as the head coach for the Valdosta High Wildcats, a search committee was named to find a replacement. More than 100 applications were received, but the committee ended up hiring a coach it contacted first.

"Coach (Wright) Bazemore called me last week and told me about the opening," Nick Hyder said in an article published by *The Times* after he was hired on Feb. 7, 1974. "But I must admit I had been thinking about the job before then."

"Why? Because if you want to coach, Valdosta is the place you should coach. Somebody told me that after I got here. I believe it was Coach Bazemore, and I liked it."

"I had always heard of Valdosta and the tremendous football teams you have here."

That excellence on the field has not dropped one bit since Hyder has come to town. Although his first team posted a 3-7 record, the worst record since a 2-7-1 season in 1963 and only the second losing record since World War II, Hyder had kicked several players off that team.

"There were 10 players involved in that," Hyder said. "Five of them had started the year before and the other five were starters in the spring. When I started the off-season workouts, they felt they didn't have to do it. I told them they could either come or not play."

Since that first season, it's been nothing but success on the football field as the Wildcats have a 136-24-1 record under Hyder.

When Hyder arrived, he made an immediate impact on the city. Not only did he discipline several players, he also promised the students grades would not suffer while participating in football. Hyder said then that a player whose grades drop below a "C" were given the option of missing the next game or attending a study hall for a week.

"It's not punishment," Hyder was quoted as saying then. "I want to help them. Through the years we've had many players granted scholarships to colleges and some of them, like two boys off last year's team (at West Rome), couldn't accept because of bad grades."

"If a boy becomes a discipline problem, sooner or later he is going to break down on the field. It's important that diplomas have some meaning."

And that philosophy has not changed one bit. Hyder is a staunch opponent of no-pass, no-play, saying a student who participates in extra-curricular activities should not be penalized because he fails a course. Instead, Hyder feels the student should be required to go to study hall or study with a tutor.

"We do have the study halls," Hyder said.

"We install them when the grade cards first come out. They came out four weeks ago and put several players in them. We've also got several who go voluntarily."

"Our priorities out of 29 years of coaching are creator first, family second, and next is academics. I just feel like the priority of academics coming after family and creator is absolutely essential. The taxpayers put several million dollars in each school in each community. The athletes are role models, leaders in the classroom and other activities. They need to set a good example. We had eight on the honor roll the last time."

A high school football observer might have a tendency to think Hyder's top priority for his players at Valdosta is the Wildcats. After all, Hyder is the head coach of one of the top football programs in the nation.

Actually, the Wildcats are fourth in Hyder's list of priorities.

Hyder's four-point coaching philosophy concerns the development of the four fitnesses — moral, spiritual, mental, and physical — and stresses, "God, family, academics, and team, in that order."

"My dad helped with that," Hyder said. "Everybody has it probably. I was raised in a time where Christian values were extremely important. I went to church nine months before I was born and have been each time there after. The principles taught in Christian values are part of everyday life — charity, being honest, give full days work... the values of being unselfish, service, giving of yourself. When you get that over into the people you work with — coaches and athletes — I think you get an effective unit going. Although the fourth item is team, some of my players think I should put friends between academics and team."

And getting that system across to the players is the greatest challenge Hyder faces.

"The greatest challenge is for him to hold that four-point system in the proper priority," Hyder said. "I've had some after 20 years come back and say it works."

After his first season, Hyder's philosophy started to show on the field. The Wildcats were 10-2 in 1975 and won the region championship. The 1976 Wildcats posted a 9-2 record and the 1977 team advanced to the state championship game where they lost to Clarke Central, 16-14.

The Wildcats were undefeated the following year and tied Griffin for the state title. They then went 8-4, but have posted a 72-7 record in the seven years since, including a 9-0 record this year.

Valdosta won the state title in 1982 and 1984 and were named national champions in 1984.

Hyder posted a 53-12-3 record at West Rome and guided the Chieftans to two

See Hyder, Page 2-B



Lowndes' Joe Wilson Has 86-35-0 Record



VHS' Nick Hyder Has 136-24-1 Record

Wilson Has Turned Corner At Lowndes

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

In the 10 years prior due Joe Wilson's arrival at Lowndes High as Viking head football coach, Lowndes sported a 31-66-3 record and had been the doormat of the area.

The closest Lowndes came to a winning record during those 10 long years was a 5-5 season under West Thomas in 1973. In 1976, Wilson took over as the Viking mentor after having been an assistant coach at Valdosta High.

It didn't take Wilson long to turn the program around. In his inaugural season, Lowndes sported an 8-2 record and outscored the opposition 215-121.

Lowndes only two losses came at the hands of Central-Thomasville 27-8 and Valdosta 14-3.

The 1985 season marked Wilson's 10th year with the program and a quick look at Wilson's record shows him to be a proven winner.

Wilson heads into this Friday's contest against Valdosta with 86 wins and just 38 losses under his belt along with one state title. Wilson's 1980 team went 14-1-0 and beat Griffin in the Class AAAA title game 28-12.

Wilson has assembled some powerful teams over the years, namely that '80 team and last year's squad that was knocked out of contention in an overtime game against Warner Robins. Under Wilson, the Vikings have been known for their wide-open offensive attack and feisty defense.

The Vikings have become known as a team that likes to throw the ball and Wilson has turned out some quarterbacks who certainly could throw and throw well. Randy Gay signed with Georgia Tech after the 1984 season after having a brilliant career under Wilson. Bobby Eason, last year's quarterback, was the offensive player of the year in the region and passed for well over 1,000 yards with few interceptions.

And don't forget some of the fine receivers Lowndes has graduated. Former Vikings Gerald Mitchell and Carl Parker are lighting up things for Vanderbilt and are among the top receivers in the SEC. Chuck Jones, who played tight end for Georgia, also came out of the Viking program.

Despite his obvious success at the high school level, Wilson does not entertain thoughts of ever coaching on a collegiate level.

"I don't think I'd ever want to do that. It's bad enough here," Wilson said. "There's no need to get in any deeper water."

Wilson has done a lot to heat up the Valdosta-Lowndes rivalry, mainly due to the fact that Lowndes had trouble staying on the field with the 'Cats before Wilson's arrival.

Valdosta-Lowndes

Friday, Nov. 14



Graphic By Jeanette Lipinsek

It is somewhat interesting that Wilson would have a lot to do with throwing fuel on the fire. Wilson played his high school football at Valdosta High under Wright Bazemore and attended college at South Georgia Junior College and Valdosta State where he graduated with a degree in Business Administration.

Upon leaving college, Wilson became an assistant football coach at Valdosta before he was head coach at Lowndes.

At Valdosta, Wilson also coached basketball and had the privilege of coaching Stan Rome.

Wilson played football during the 1949, 1950, and 1951 seasons for the 'Cats. He was used primarily as a half back and a defensive back.

"In those days we played both ways. Everybody did," he said. Wilson was the team captain in 1951 and when asked if he was any good, Wilson smartly replied "We won the state championship in '51."

For Wilson, the Lowndes-Valdosta confrontations that stand out the most are naturally the wins, especially the two that occurred last season. But oddly enough, he pointed out his first battle against his alma mater as one of the better games. That year, '76, Wilson's Vikings fell 14-3.

"I'd say it was a pretty good spectator game," Wilson said. "For a while we led, but they came back for the win."

This year's matchup promises to be every bit as exciting. The 'Cats clearly have a better record and overall have played better, but the game can be mysterious. The Vikings' 1980 state championship season saw Lowndes lose to Valdosta during the regular season, only to come back for a win in the region final.

Anything can happen and probably will. And Wilson will surely be in the thick of things when it does.

Valdosta Controls Monroe

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

ALBANY — The Valdosta Wildcats showed why they have been ranked No. 1 in Class AAAA for eight consecutive weeks when they travelled to Albany to take on the Monroe Tornadoes Saturday night at Hugh Mills Stadium.

The Wildcats used a balanced rushing and passing attack and held the Monroe offense at bay to collect a 43-0 victory.

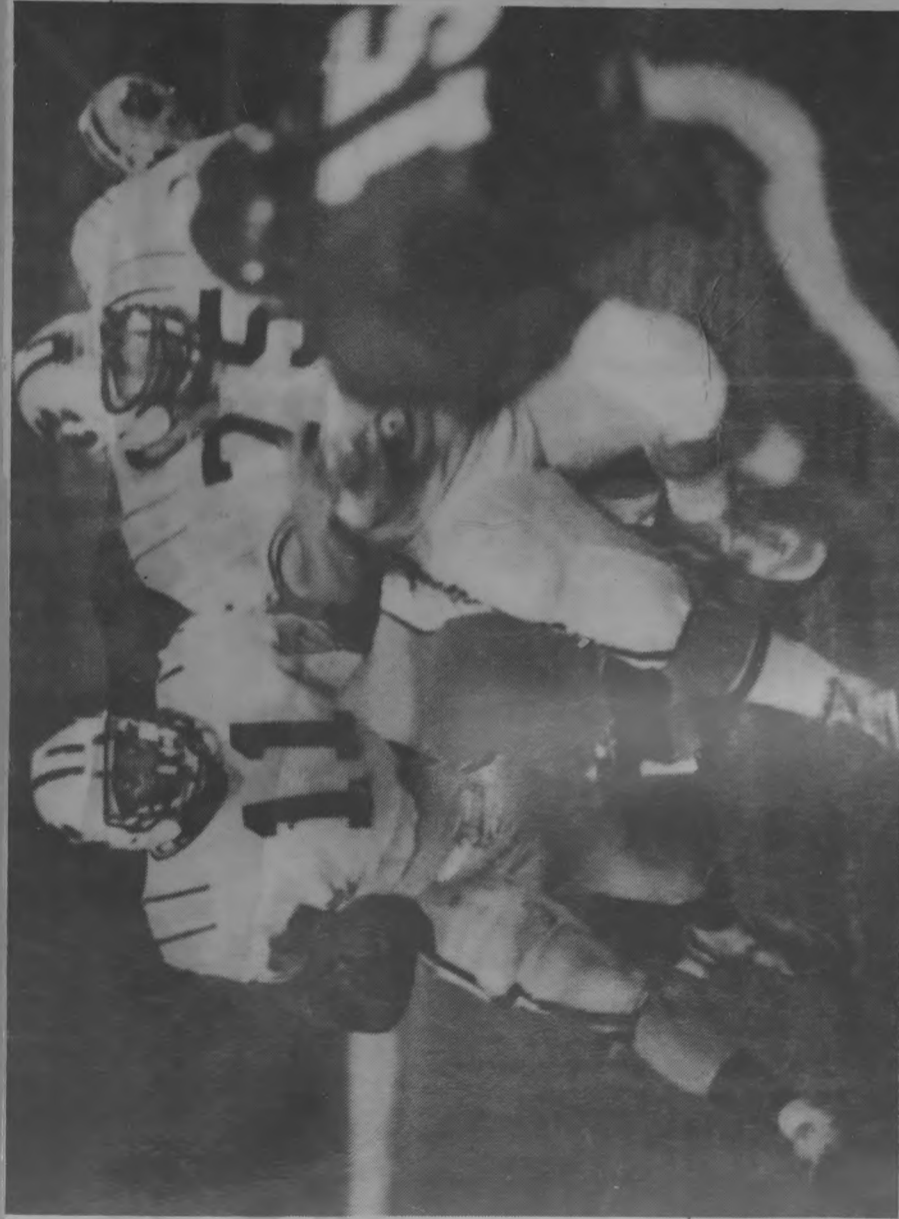
Valdosta is 9-0 heading into its classic confrontation with Lowndes High Friday. The 'Cats are 5-0 in Region 1-AAAA. Monroe drops to 1-8, 0-5.

Valdosta left little doubt as to what the outcome of the game would be after only one quarter of play. Valdosta jumped out to a 14-0 lead and lead 23-0 by the end of the first half.

Valdosta's offense was unstoppable during the entire game, and the 'Cats rolled up 218 yards on the ground and 121 in the air for a combined mark of 339. Monroe had only 72 yards on the ground and 45 in the air as starting quarterback Johnny Gilbert sat out the first half, but stepped back in during the second after Kelvin Glover had not completed a pass during the first two quarters.

Valdosta received the opening kickoff and took only 11 plays to score with 7:37 left in the quarter. That opening drive was highlighted by a 30-yard run by running back Jerome Calloway and a 14-yard scamper by fullback James Roberts. Roberts eventually took the ball in from the two and Valdosta had a 7-0 lead after Dan Tillmand added the extra point.

Monroe got the kickoff and then put together its only real threat of the night, driving the ball from its own 27



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

UDT 11-9-86

Valdosta's John Wheelless Looks For A Block While Jerome Callaway Follows His Lead

to the Valdosta 35 before being forced to punt.

Valdosta closed out the first quarter scoring when quarterback Greg Talley hit receiver Charles Steward for a 24-yard touchdown strike. Tillman's PAT was good and Valdosta led 14-0 with 2:13 left in the first quarter.

A blocked Monroe punt by Coleman Rudolph gave Valdosta a safety when the ball rolled through the Tornadoe end zone and Roberts added another short touchdown dash for the 23-0 halftime margin.

"There's not a whole lot to say," said Valdosta coach Nick Hyder. "Our backs ran well, our front line blocked well, and the defense had a great

game. The only negative thing I really saw was our pass protection in the second half when Talley got sacked a couple of times."

Callaway finished as the game's leading rusher with 96 yards on nine carries. Roberts added 73 yards on six carries. But, the backup runners for Valdosta did just as well. Isaac Caesar and Lawrence Sharpe both came in late in the second half but Caesar racked up 43 yards on eight carries and Sharpe had 32 on five.

Talley completed seven of nine passes without throwing an interception and totalled 111 yards in the air before B.J. Mason came in during the second half.

Rivalry Makes For A Real Fight

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Prior to the Joe Wilson era at Lowndes High, the rivalry between Valdosta High and the Vikings was practically non-existent.

The Wildcats had little trouble disposing of Lowndes each year, running up scores like 40-0 and 20-7. Valdosta won the first nine meetings against its cross-town rival.

But then Wilson left Valdosta, where he was an assistant, to become the head coach at Lowndes. And since then, the rivalry has been growing in intensity.

Today the schools are bitter rivals. Both football teams would feel the season was complete, even if they only beat their cross-town rival.

"When I was coaching, they (Lowndes) were just beginning," former Valdosta coach Wright Bazemore said. "And having coached about half that were playing out there and their daddys and mamas (in basketball), and having about two-thirds of my coaching staff out there, the rivalry just wasn't as intense as it is now."

Since Bazemore left Valdosta and Wilson moved to Lowndes, the teams have squared off in some of the greatest games to ever be played in south Georgia. Now it's hard to predict a winner on a given year.

When Lowndes won the state title in 1980, the Vikings' only loss was a 17-8 decision to Valdosta during the regular season. But Lowndes got revenge with a 6-0 win in the playoffs.

Although Valdosta has outscored Lowndes 226-116 in the last 14 games, most of the games have been close. There were the two last season (10-0 and 14-7), the 20-13 game in 1981, 17-8 and 6-0 and 1980, 15-14 and 24-21 in 1979, and 7-2 in 1977.

In the first eight meetings, the Wildcats won by an average of 30

points a game.
See Rivalry, Page 2-C

Valdosta-Lowndes Friday, Nov. 14



Graphic By Jeanine Lupinek

The Series

| Lowndes | | Valdosta | | |
|---------|-----|----------|--------|-----|
| Rec | Pts | Year | Pts | |
| 2-6-0 | 6 | 1968 | 9-0-0 | 48 |
| 3-5-1 | 0 | 1969 | 9-0-0 | 40 |
| 4-5-0 | 0 | 1970 | 9-0-0 | 26 |
| 4-5-0 | 0 | 1971 | 9-0-0 | 40 |
| 3-5-1 | 7 | 1972 | 8-1-0 | 20 |
| 5-4-0 | 0 | 1973 | 7-2-0 | 24 |
| 2-4-0 | 3 | 1974 | 1-5-0 | 20 |
| 2-4-0 | 7 | 1975 | 5-1-0 | 41 |
| 5-1-0 | 3 | 1976 | 5-1-0 | 14 |
| 5-1-0 | 7 | 1977 | 6-0-0 | 2 |
| 5-1-0 | 0 | 1978 | 5-0-0 | 22 |
| 7-3-0 | 7 | 1978 | 9-0-0 | 21* |
| 6-0-0 | 15 | 1979 | 4-2-0 | 14 |
| 9-1-0 | 21 | 1979 | 7-3-0 | 24 |
| 6-0-0 | 8 | 1980 | 7-0-0 | 17 |
| 10-1-0 | 6 | 1980 | 11-0-0 | 0 |
| 4-1-0 | 13 | 1981 | 6-1-0 | 20 |
| 5-2-0 | 0 | 1982 | 7-0-0 | 22 |
| 5-2-0 | 6 | 1983 | 7-0-0 | 35 |
| 6-3-0 | 6 | 1984 | 9-0-0 | 28 |
| 7-2-0 | 10 | 1985 | 8-1-0 | 0 |
| 9-2-0 | 14 | 1985 | 9-2-0 | 7 |

Vikings Must Finesse Wildcats' Huge Line

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

When the Valdosta Wildcats and the Lowndes Vikings line up on the field at Cleveland Field Friday night, there will be a considerable difference in the size of the Wildcat offensive line and the Viking defensive line.

The Wildcats average 262 pounds across the front, not including the tight end. Lowndes will counter that with a group of three down linemen who average 215 and a trio of ends who average 208.

And though that is a considerable difference, there are advantages on both sides.

"Valdosta has an extremely big line," Lowndes defensive line coach Tony Branch said. "We're going to try and overcome their size with our quickness. That's been our forte all year — we're not big, but we'll go at you quick."

Lowndes will probably start Joey Parker (235 pounds) at left tackle, Barry Curtis (200) at right tackle, and Robert Hargett (210) at noseguard. Chris Jobs (190) will start at one end while Hargett and Bennie Pierce (225) will play some at the other. Playing behind the front three will be Richard Brown (197) and George Wisenbaker (185).

They will be matched against Valdosta's Jodie Sprenkle (270), Troy Wells (225), Ben Lane (245), Andy Anderson (240), and John Wheelless (328).

The Wildcats also have several excellent backups in Andy Rykard, Jackie Morgan, and Todd Pitchford.

"We're going to have to change our blocking schemes some a little bit because of some things they do defensively in order to stop Freddie Richardson (Lowndes' linebacker)," Valdosta offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker said. "Watching them on film, they are a very quick team. Parker is a two-year starter and is a very physical ball player. He'll be matched up against Wheelless and that should be a good matchup."

And though a lot of fans will look at the matchup between the two lines as being lopsided, Branch feels otherwise. "The kids we have in there are the ideal size for what we do on defense," Branch said. "They've been able to get in there and outquick some bigger players."

The Vikings suffered a big loss to the secondary last weekend when cornerback John Smith was injured in an automobile accident. That has forced the Vikings to move Matt Reaves into the secondary while Hargett and Pierce pull double duty at the ends.

And that could be a big factor in the

outcome of the game. "The key to the game is going to be our blocking on their defensive ends," Baker said. "We've got to keep the pressure off the quarterback. We've got to be able to pick up the ends and linebackers. And I'm sure Brad Almon (Lowndes' defensive coordinator) will come up with something."

"Physically we can play with them," Branch said. "We've got some players who have been getting a lot of playing time. Last year, they didn't get to play that much, but they have this year."

Parker is one of the mainstays to the Lowndes line. He also doubles as the place-kicker and has good range. He is quick and a hard hitter.

Hargett has good size (6-foot, 210) and along with Curtis, has been able to keep opponents bottled up inside most of the season.

They are the anchors of a Lowndes defense which ranks third in the region in rushing, passing, and total defense. Lowndes is second only to Valdosta in scoring defense.

Sprenkle is the most experienced Valdosta lineman. He works hard in the weight room and has gone from 240 to 325 pounds on the bench press. He has also gained 35 pounds since last season. "The day after the last Lowndes game last season, he was in the weight room ready to go," Baker said. "He has really worked hard. He is much stronger and quicker now and that's why we decided to move him to guard this season."

Wells started every game for the Wildcats last season, but according to Baker, has improved tremendously. "He made a lot of mental mistakes last year," Baker said. "He's also given us a lot of senior leadership this year."

Lane is the starting center for Valdosta and over the summer gained 45 pounds. But he is down to 245 now. "His best thing is picking up and blocking the linebackers," Baker said.

Anderson is another one of the players who started on defense before being switched to the offensive side. Baker says he's like an oak tree because of the size of his legs. "But he's just now getting mentally where he can function on the field," Baker said.

Wheelless has gotten much of the notice from opposing coaches this year simply because of his size (328) and his strength. "He has really worked on his pass blocking," Baker said. "He's so tough to get around because of his size and strength." Wheelless is also one of the strongest players on the team, bench pressing 350 pounds and leg pressing 955 pounds.



Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

VDT 11-12-86 Jodie Sprenkle (79) And Troy Wells (77) Anchor Big Offensive Line For Valdosta



Ben Lane



Barry Curtis



John Wheelless



Joey Parker

LHS Backs Face Strong Secondary

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta's defense has held the end zone under virtual lock and key all season, giving up just 48 points. Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson must now find a way to pick that lock, and Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph must find a way to keep his fortress strong.

A key factor in the game will be how well the Viking receivers and runners can fare against the iron-willed Valdosta secondary and linebacker squads.

"I would say there's a great deal of pressure on our offensive unit," Wilson said. "At times we have played exceptionally well. At other times, we haven't kept our defense off the field. For example, our defense played well enough to beat Warner Robins, but our offense turned the ball over five times and failed to move the ball."

Wilson compared that game to the battle with Colquitt County, when the Vikings ran wild and pulled out a 27-6 score, totally dominating every aspect of the game.

At times, Lowndes has been forced to live or die with the pass, but the ratio to run and the pass remains health. The Vikings have rushed the ball 314 times and have thrown it 149 times.

Wilson would like to lower that ratio a little against Valdosta, and feels his team's ability to run at the 'Cats will be important.

"In Region 1-AAAA if you can gain near 150 yards on the ground you stand a good chance of winning," Wilson said. "Of course, nobody has gotten 150 yards on the ground against Valdosta this year."

Wilson has seen great improvement in his receivers during the course of the year, but they too have been inconsistent.

Rudolph, meanwhile, has produced a defense nearly perfect against the run. The stats, however, show Valdosta as being fifth in the region against the pass. Rudolph feels that figure is accurate.

"I'd say that figure reflects about where we are," Rudolph said, "but it doesn't alarm me. We play a lot of zone defense in the secondary and when you do that you're going to give up the yards."

Despite giving up 682 yards in nine



Bill Kirby



Rhett Atkins



Bennie Pierce

games, only two passes have made it into the end zone against Valdosta and the 'Cats also lead the region in interceptions with 16.

LHS Backs, Receivers

Rhett Atkins — Atkins has taken more than his share of bumps and bruises as the Vikings field general this year. The 5-foot-11, 165-pound junior saw his season start off 0-2 but hung in there in crucial games as Lowndes' record began to rise.

Atkins is ranked No. 3 in the region behind Valdosta's Greg Talley and Yift County's Tye Cottle in passing.

"Rhett's come a long way," Wilson said. "He didn't get to play as much as he probably should have last season."

Mark Walker — Walker is the fastest running back on the Viking team and much has been expected from him. It



Reginald Dandy

may sound like a cliché, but Walker has steadily improved each game. He has accumulated 489 yards on 119 carries for a 4.1-yard per carry average.

Bennie Pierce — Pierce has played offense and a little defense. The 225-pound junior missed some time because of a knee injury but has been coming back strong. He has rushed the ball only 54 times but has 222 yards.

"He's a strong runner and the secret is if he gets mad," Wilson said. "He's a great big ole nice wonderful kid but when he gets mad he's a terror."

Bobo Perry — has seen limited action this year but will be called on in the absence of Shawn Stanford, who was injured in an automobile wreck this past weekend. Perry has only carried the ball twice this year.

Rozell Orr — "Orr has been the



Graphic By Jeanine Lupinek

biggest surprise of the receivers," Wilson said. Orr has indeed played a large part in the success of Lowndes. He is currently ranked second in the region in receiving with 29 catches for 366 yards.

John Thompson — Thompson has been a big-play man as the Vikings' slot man. He's a threat to go deep and has four touchdown receptions to his credit.

Zane Craven, Brent Moye, — These two have alternated at tight end, although neither of them is blessed with the size a coach would like to see at tight end. Wilson characterized them both as good hard workers and good students.

"They're not blessed with great speed, but they try hard and do everything that's expected of them," Wilson said.

Valdosta Secondary, LB

Walt Gill — Gill has come up with two interceptions this year and his play and leadership has earned him his teammates' respect. Gill, a safety, is a defensive captain along with end Seabron Williams. He is a senior and a two-year starter.

Derek Shaw — He has been another leader in the Valdosta defense and is known as a fierce hitter as well as an extremely intelligent player. Shaw is not your typical high school secondary man. He's 6-4 and while he does not possess great foot speed, he gets to where he needs to go and his height is a



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Mark (Herschel) Walker Is Lowndes' Main Ground Threat

great advantage over the usually diminutive receivers.

Reginald Dandy — He is a real speedster in the outfield for Valdosta and a heady player with the courage to hit hard at cornerback. Dandy, a junior, started last year and remains a dangerous punt returner.

Keith Henry — Henry is a relative newcomer to at the other cornerback spot for Valdosta. Only a junior, Henry has good size at 170 pounds and has wrangled two interceptions this year.

Bill Kirby — Kirby might be one of the best, if not the best, linebackers in the region. His fine play has earned him the title of team captain. Kirby, a 190-pound senior, is a leading tackler on the team. "Kirby has done a tremendous job for us," said linebacker coach Charles Tarpley. "He's extremely aggressive and also does a good job covering the backs."

Anthony Williams — at 195 pounds, Williams is the only starting freshman on the Valdosta defense. Termed a John Porter clone by Tarpley in the preseason, Williams probably hits as hard and like Kirby, is an aggressive, heads-up player.

It Will Be The Biggest Game Of Season For Lowndes, Valdosta

VD 7/11-13-86

Wilson Respects 'Cats

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson may not have love in his heart for archrival Valdosta, but he does speak with great respect for the 1986 Wildcats, a team he will have to battle Friday night at Cleveland Field.

"Many people do not like Valdosta and that's because they've been beaten by them so many times," Wilson said. "They may not be liked but they are respected."

"Down through the years, Valdosta has had great talent and has developed that talent through its knowledgeable coaches and hard work."

Wilson has a right to speak highly of Valdosta. He played his high school football there and coached at VHS until 1976.

Now Wilson must find a way to do something no one else has done this year — beat the 9-0 Wildcats. Just glimpsing down at the Region 1-AAAA statistics, Wilson knows he'll have his hands full.

Defensively, Valdosta is ranked first in rushing defense, fifth in passing defense, second in total defense and first in scoring defense. Valdosta's defensive front has been impermeable to the run.

"The defense is of a typical Jack Rudolph vintage," Wilson said. "The front line has stopped the run all year and the secret to their success is penetration. They also have the best defensive ends they have ever had."

Those two ends are senior Seaborn Williams and Michael Tolbert. Williams was defensive lineman of the year last season and Tolbert has developed into an accomplished player as well.

"The secondary has both speed and height, both necessary in stopping the pass. They are also good open field tacklers."

See Wilson, Page 5-B



Lowndes' Joe Wilson

Hyder Sees Challenge

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

It's the biggest game of the season for both the Valdosta Wildcats and Lowndes Vikings Friday night at Cleveland Field.

With a victory, the Wildcats can wrap up their sixth undefeated regular season under head coach Nick Hyder. A win will also give the Wildcats the Region 1-AAAA championship.

But a loss would give the title to the defending region champion Vikings. And though Lowndes' record is 6-3, Hyder feels the Vikings are a much better team than the record.

"They are just 10 points away from being 9-0," Hyder said. "They lost by seven to Warner Robins, two to Westover, and one to Camden County. They are a better team than the record indicates."

What the near sellout crowd at Cleveland Field will see Friday is what Hyder calls "high school football at its best."

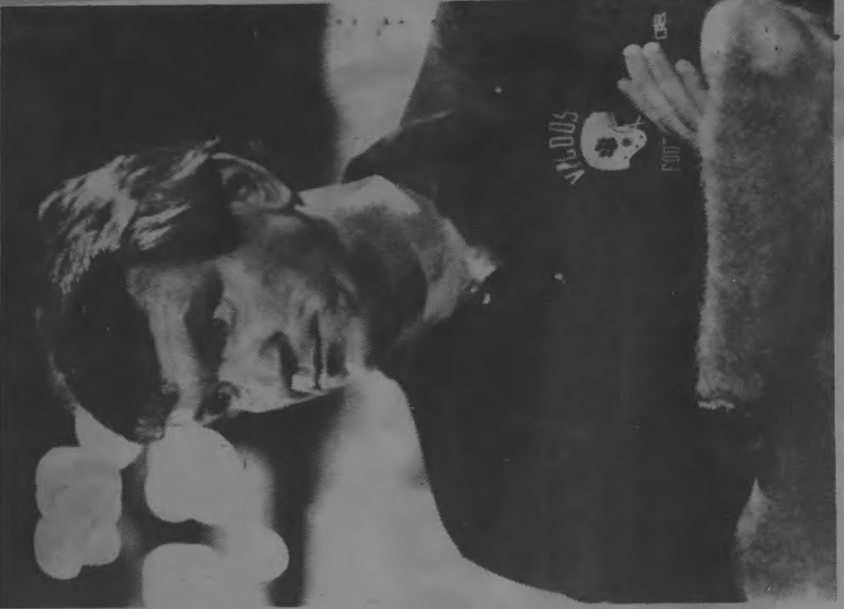
The Wildcats have completely dominated their opponents this year and Hyder feels that will have to carry over to this game when the Wildcats on offense trying to elude Lowndes linebacker Freddie Richardson.

"They key matchup will be Freddie and whoever they're blocking to free him," Hyder said. "But that's not to eliminate the others on like (Joey) Parker, (Barry) Curtis, (Robert) Hargett, (Richard) Brown, (Chris) Jobes, and (Antoine) Clark. They are all good players."

"I know Freddie because he started over here before he moved and is an outstanding ball player."

Richardson played 10 games for the Wildcats as John Porter's backup in 1984 when they won the state and national

See Hyder, Page 5-B



Valdosta's Nick Hyder

...Hyder

Continued From Page 2-B

championship.

The Wildcats will be facing a Lowndes team that is balanced offensively. The Vikings are averaging 123.2 yards per game on the ground and 81.8 through the air. Lowndes is fifth in the region in total offense, but second in scoring offense.

On defense, Lowndes is third in rushing, passing, and total defense, and second in scoring defense.

But of equal concern to Hyder is the pressure that is building on the Wildcats.

"We've got to have good execution and manage the pressure — both internally and externally," he said.

"But I like the pressure. A lot of times with the youngsters involved you just can't simulate that pressure on the practice field."

The two teams met twice last season with Lowndes winning both games — 10-0 in the regular season and 14-7 in the region championship game. And Lowndes started the season with two consecutive losses, Hyder has seen a lot of improvement in the last several games by the Vikings.

"They are a vastly improved from when the season started," he said. "They are always a well-coached team by coaches who are totally dedicated to the job of coaching."

Two things that should work in Valdosta's favor are the losses last year and the fact they are playing at home.

"They have really sold a lot of tickets for this one," Hyder said. "I wish we could sell this many for every game."

Hyder said the Wildcats are not approaching this game any differently from the previous nine.

"We try to approach them on an even keel because every opponent is tough

and every opponent can hurt you. You'd better be alert when you take the field because the intensity level is so high."

The intensity level will be extremely high for this game because it is the biggest game of the season for both

teams. And that's because it's not only for a region title and bragging rights, but playoff position as well. Win or lose, the Wildcats can finish no worse than second in the region. Lowndes, meanwhile, can finish any where from first to fourth.

V-Times 11-13-86

Thurs., Nov. 13, 1986

Who Will Win THE Game?

The showdowns have arrived and several championships will be on the line this week.

There is no doubt what the biggest game here is — Lowndes at Valdosta.

Everyone is talking about the game, but not like they were last year when the Vikings pulled off two victories over Valdosta.

The game will have the emotion anyone could possibly want and more. And though the Wildcats are ranked No. 1 in the state and Lowndes is unranked, the Vikings will definitely give Valdosta a good game in front of a near-sellout crowd at Cleveland Field.

Last week: 4-2.
Season: 61-29-4.

Lowndes at Valdosta

On paper, the game looks like it should be a blowout by Valdosta. But somehow, Lowndes has never had trouble getting ready for the Wildcats.

The Vikings are the defending region champions and still have a shot at winning the title this year — but they have to beat Valdosta to do it.

Both teams are in the playoffs, it's just a matter of where they'll be playing next week.

Pick: Valdosta, 21-7.

Atkinson County at Clinch County
Our neighbors to the east couldn't



Robert Bradley
Times Sports Editor

geared up for the playoffs.
Pick: Brooks County, 17-0.

Waycross at Cook

It's for all the marbles — the winner goes to the playoffs while the loser stays at home. Cook is on a roll now and even a traditional power like Waycross won't keep the Hornets out of the playoffs.

Pick: Cook, 21-17.

Hamilton County at P.K. Yonge

The Trojans need a miracle to get into the playoffs, but they will keep their bowl hopes alive by ripping through Yonge.

Pick: Hamilton County, 34-6.

Madison County at Baker County
Madison continues to improve with each week and is looking for a possible shot at the playoffs. Baker could give the Cowboys a good challenge, but Madison will come through in the clutch.

Pick: Madison County, 12-10.

John Hancock at Westbrook

It's the first round of the playoffs, and Westbrook could be caught looking ahead to a rematch with Valwood in the second round. But they won't look too much.

Pick: Westbrook, 14-10.

Bacon County at Berrien County

Neither team has a thing to play for but pride. Berrien started the season like it was unbeatable, but then started having trouble moving the ball. The Rebels should be able to at least finish the season on a winning note.

Pick: Berrien County, 21-14.

Early County at Brooks County

Even a complete collapse can't keep the Trojans from winning the sub-region title. After a slow start, Brooks has come on strong and is getting

"Hey, you know Valdosta's going to win, don't you?"

This question was tossed out at me by an exuberant Valdosta High student as I left the school on Tuesday. I'm less sure of that certainty than that young man is.

As a matter of fact, it's quite possible that Lowndes could win the game. What's wrong? Don't believe me? Call Nick Hyder and ask him if Lowndes could win. I'd bet he'd say "of course". Hyder is wise and knows a number of weird things can happen between those white lines.

Lowndes is clearly at least the second best team in the region. Those predicting a lopsided Valdosta win would do well to look at the Valdosta-Tift game that was close until the third quarter. Take away a couple big plays and the Blue Devils might have won. And Lowndes is a much better team than Tift County or Colquitt County.

Lowndes must get its running game in gear and going. Those who are forced to pass and pass against Valdosta find the ball in the hands of Reginald Dandy or Derek Shaw.

Much of the success of the Vikings' running attack will depend on the performance of halfback Mark Walker. Walker, a 6-foot-2, 185-pound junior, is Lowndes' sole big play threat on the ground. At times he has played inconsistently and he has to hit the holes and find the open field to be effective. The holes have often been there but Walker's has had trouble learning to cut back against the flow of traffic, but the youngster has improved.

If he can find the seams against the 'Cats and cut back, Valdosta could be in for a long night.

Then there's Bennie Pierce. Pierce is one of those backs coaches refer to as punishing. The 225-pound junior is more the three yards and a cloud of dust type runner. He doesn't often break the long ones, but he's real hard to stop on the short ones.

Pierce may also be called on to play defensive end if necessary, but Wilson will do that only as a last resort.

Another back who will have some pressure — instantly thrust upon him is Leonard "Bobo" Perry. Perry will also be in the Viking backfield, stepping in for an injured Shawn Stanford.

Wilson said on Tuesday that he felt rushing the ball against the 'Cats was an imperative and that if Lowndes could gain 150 yards on the ground they could win.

That certainly won't be easy for the diminutive Lowndes front line to pull off, especially against Valdosta's experienced defense, but I believe the Viking front could do it. They played well against a larger and more experienced Colquitt defensive front.

The Vikings will also have to present quarterback Rhett Atkins with a target other than Rozell Orr. Orr has been a power to reckon with, but he can't go it alone. Tight end Zane Craven and slot John Thompson must get into the clear.

Defensively is where the game might be more crucial for the Vikings. Lowndes must get to Valdosta quarterback Greg Talley. The senior quarterback has enjoyed good protection all year behind his mastodon front linemen, but the line has shown some chinks in the pass protection department. Lowndes must also keep Talley in the pocket. Talley is a dangerous runner, and Valdosta does include several quarterback keep plays that have been successful. But he can also throw on the run, which makes him even more dangerous.

The Lowndes defensive front must also keep backs Jerome Callaway and James Roberts from busting the big plays like they did against Tift.

I know the above-mentioned tasks won't be easy, but the Vikings could rise to the occasion.

And if they do: Lowndes 10, Valdosta 7.

Could Be Lowndes

VD 11-13-86



Mike Colombo
Times Sports Writer

When ordered to write a column saying that Valdosta will win their Winnerville Classic showdown against Lowndes High School, one will eventually find oneself out on a limb. The reason I say that is because I strongly agree with one wily, veteran coach who once said, "That ball ain't round, and sometimes it tends to bounce in funny ways."

On paper, the Valdosta Wildcats look to be a strong favorite in the game. They have size, speed, solid men at the skill positions, a world of experience on defense, and astounding depth on both sides of the ball.

At quarterback, Greg Talley will be starting his 22nd game for the Wildcats. The maturity he has gained over that period of time has been remarkable. He has a strong and accurate arm, good quickness, and a keen football sense.

Talley stands behind that big offensive line, averaging 264 pounds. Tight end Charles Steward is very underrated as a combination receiver-blocker. And halfback Jerome Callaway has burning speed in the backfield.

The Viking defensive front is a scrappy, tenacious bunch, and safeties Brad Almon and David Hargett are potential all-state selections. The keys for the Wildcats on offense will be springing Callaway around the end and getting him and Steward the football in the secondary.

Fullback James Roberts should find running tough up the middle against the Vikings' front wall. But look for draw plays and screen passes to work against a gangtackling, heavily-pursuing Lowndes team. The Vikings may also be susceptible to the Wildcats' trap plays which are always well executed by Jerry Don Baker's troops.

Talley is also, obviously, a big key to the Valdosta offensive performance. Lowndes must respect the Wildcat receivers, especially Motes and Steward deep, and that would leave Talley a lot of room to run should he scramble out of the pocket.

Injuries are a part of the game, and the Wildcats are a team with a lot of depth. But there are three people who, if they suffer injury, could change the complexion of the game with their absence. Talley, Callaway, and Steward have able substitutes who could get the job done, but their effectiveness is not as great.

On defense the Wildcats will be challenged by the size, strength, and speed of Lowndes two running backs, Bennie Pierce and Mark Walker. The Vikings' offensive line coach, Jerry Davis, is quite underrated as a tactician. Seabron Williams, Otis Conaway, Mike Tolbert & Co. will have to play a smart game.

They will have the advantage in size, quickness, and experience, but they will have to play under control — staying at home on reverses, not biting too much on screen passes, and turning sweeps to the inside. No one has been able to run up the middle against Valdosta this season, although Westover had moderate success behind right tackle.

One other weakness displayed by the Wildcats came in the first half of the Tift County game. The Blue Devils tied it up at the half 14-14 on the medium-to-long range passing of Tye Cottle. Lowndes' Rhett Atkins, a junior, has not progressed to the degree that Cottle has, but he has been improving every week, and one thing the Vikings have is speed.

Valdosta will have to guard against the long pass by keeping a strong rush on Atkins. But it must be a controlled rush because Joe Wilson's squad can screen and draw quite effectively.

If Valdosta can keep the field spread out on offense, keep pressure on Atkins and not fall victim to trick plays or long gainers on defense, they should win the game, say 17-7.

Could Be Valdosta



Blair Dickinson
Times Sports Writer

Lowndes-Valdosta Matchup Not Only Thriller On Tap

60
MIKE COLOMBO

Times Sports Writer
For high schools in the area, this weekend marks the official end of the regular edition of the 1986 football season. Many schools will be back on the field next weekend as the various region playoffs get started. But for some, the uniforms go back into storage on Monday and those football players who miss the thrill of athletic competition will have to turn to basketball.

The beauty of the whole thing is that many teams won't know which category they fall into until the dust clears Friday night.

The game between Valdosta and Lowndes is obviously on the minds of

most fans in Lowndes County, and rightfully so. The winner will be the regular season champion of Region 1-AAAA. And the loser? Here it gets a little complicated. If Valdosta loses, they will definitely be second behind Lowndes. If Lowndes loses, Westover beats Tift County, and Colquitt County beats Dougherty; the Patriots will be second, Colquitt third, and Lowndes fourth. If Westover loses, the worse the Vikings can finish is second, and either Colquitt, Dougherty, or Westover would be eliminated from playoff contention.

But Region 1-AAAA isn't the only place action is sure to heat up this weekend. Another big game will take place in Adel where Cook's Hornets

battle the Waycross Bulldogs for the Region 2-AA Southwest crown.

Cook has assembled a 6-3 season after starting out 1-3. Both Cook and Waycross are undefeated in the sub-region at 2-0.

Unfortunately, the loser of this game will not go to the playoffs while the winner is sub-region champ. Region 2-AA has 17 teams and is divided into four subregions with only the four subregion titleists going into the playoffs.

Another heated battle will pit the Atkinson County Rebels against the Clinch County Panthers in Homerville. This game is like a Valdosta-Lowndes game in miniature. Both Atkinson and Clinch are members of Region 2-A and

this matchup has developed into quite a rivalry in every sport in which the two compete.

The playoff situation here is uncertain. Clinch is 3-0 in region play while both Atkinson and Irwin County are 2-1. If Atkinson should knock off Clinch and Irwin beats Charlton (which is almost a sure thing) there will be three teams tied at 3-1. In Region 2-A, only two teams enter the post-season.

On paper, however, Clinch has to be favored to win. The Panthers are 6-3 overall while Atkinson is 3-6. Clinch beat Irwin 12-10. Irwin beat Atkinson 55-6.

The Georgia Independent School Association teams are already beginning the assault for the state crown.

Westbrook Academy finished the regular season 7-3 and will take on Class A foe John Hancock Academy tonight in Dixie.

The Valwood Valiants remain idle in anticipation of next week's state semifinal game with the winner of Wilkes Academy-Tiftarea game. That game will be held at Martin Stadium next Saturday at 8 p.m.

On the collegiate level, the Valdosta State Blazers will stay in pursuit of a Division II playoff berth when the Blazers travel to Cleveland, Mississippi to take on Gulf South Conference foe Delta State.

VSC will be seeking to up its record to 8-2 overall and 5-1 in the GSC. Delta State has the conference's top passer in

quarterback Keith Williams and the second leading rusher in Londale Bankston. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. (CST).

The University of Florida travels to Lexington to take on the Kentucky Wildcats in a Southeastern Conference battle.

One of the bigger SEC games has Georgia playing Auburn at Jordan-Hare Stadium with kickoff coming at 7:45 (EST). Georgia could muddy the SEC race greatly with a win over the highly-ranked Tigers.

Independents Florida State will battle Tallahassee at 3 p.m.



4.DT 11-13-86

Vikings vs. 'Cats



Quarterback

As a first-year starter last season, Greg Talley was just another average high school quarterback. That experience has proven to be a big plus for the Wildcats this season — Talley has completed 64 percent of his passes for almost 1,300 yards. Talley has a wealth of receivers to work with and also throws to his running backs. On the other side, Rhett Akins is in his first year. The junior has had his good games and his bad. He has completed 45.6 percent of his passes for 736 yards. Akins has also thrown 11 interceptions to eight touchdowns. Akins is not known for his scrambling ability, having gained 59 yards on 52 carries.

Running Backs

Valdosta has plenty of backs to choose from, but mainly rely on Jerome Callaway and James Roberts. Both are strong runners and good blockers. They also have an excellent line working in front of them. Lowndes is basically a three-deep backfield with Bennie Pierce, Mark Walker, and Shawn Stanford, but Stanford will miss the game because of an automobile accident. The Vikings have been playing behind an inexperienced line that has played very well at times. Pierce missed many games during the middle of the season with an injury. Valdosta has gained 1,724 yards on the ground to 1,109 for the Vikings.

Receivers

Lowndes' Rozell Orr is the second leading receiver in Region 1-AAAA with 366 yards on 29 catches and three touchdowns. The next best on the Viking squad is John Thompson, who has 165 yards and four touchdowns, but no other Viking has more than 100 yards. Valdosta counters with Charles Steward, Jerome Callaway, Jim Motes, Guy Belue, and James Roberts — all with more than 100 yards. Valdosta's receivers have good hands and threatening speed. Lowndes has not been as successful throwing the ball this year, but the Vikings are a threat to air it out at anytime.

Offensive Linemen

With the return of John Wheelless to the line, the Wildcats have an experienced group. Wheelless, Jodie Sprengle, Ben Lane, Troy Wells, and Andy Anderson have given Talley plenty of protection and have opened huge holes for the backs to run through. The Wildcats average 262 pounds across the front. Lowndes has just one starter back from last year, Ed Falgout, and he has changed positions after two years as a center. Brett Butler, Ryan Broome, and Jody Platt are not very big, but they play well together and never give up. The Vikings have been inconsistent but on occasion have given Akins enough time to work with.

Defensive Linemen

Valdosta is quick and experienced. The Wildcats have given up an average of only 87.5 yards per game on the ground. Lowndes also has a good line, giving up just 101.9 yards a game. The Vikings have improved on their pass rush over last year, ranking third in pass defense.

Linebackers

This one is very close, but only by the smallest of margins. Lowndes has one of the best linebackers in the state in Freddie Richardson who constantly puts pressure on the offense. Valdosta has always had a good group of linebackers, with Bill Kirby leading the way this year.

Secondary

Both teams sport excellent secondaries. Valdosta has Walt Gill, Derek Shaw, and Reginald Dandy, all who saw extensive playing time last season. Junior Keith Henry has played well. The Vikings have Brad Almon and David Hargett at the two safety spots. Both are aggressive and intelligent players. At the corner for Lowndes will be Matt Reaves.

Place-Kicking

Both teams have improved tremendously over last season. Lowndes' Joey Parker has only kicked three field goals, but has attempted several long ones that were either just wide or barely short. Valdosta's Dan Tillman worked very hard on his kicking during the summer and has become very accurate. He is third in the region in scoring with 32 extra points and seven field goals.

Punting

Only three-10ths of a yard separate Valdosta's Charles Steward and Lowndes' Brad Almon. The big difference, however, is Steward's hang time. Almon has been very inconsistent, kicking line drives most of the season. He has gotten good yardage, but has also threatened the lives of linemen who are in the way.

Special Teams

Valdosta's kickoff unit has been on the field nearly 60 times and does a good job of coverage. The Wildcat punting team has played well also. Lowndes sports solid kicking teams as well. Perhaps the weak link for Lowndes is its punt return team. There have been a large number of dropped kicks and poor runbacks.

Intangibles

Valdosta is looking for revenge. The Vikings became only the third team since World War II to beat the Wildcats twice in the same season last year. The Wildcats will have the home-field advantage and also have tradition on their side — winning 17 of the previous 22 meetings. One thing that may work in the favor of Lowndes is overconfidence on the part of Valdosta. The general consensus favors a lopsided score in favor of Valdosta. That could work against the 'Cats if the score stays close.

When Lowndes, Valdosta Play,

Count On A Battle

Tonight's Could Fit In That Mold

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Although a look at the overall series between the Valdosta Wildcats and the Lowndes Vikings indicates that it has been somewhat lopsided in favor of Valdosta, a closer look shows that a majority of the time nothing could be the furthest from the truth.

Valdosta won the first nine games in what was a rather weak beginning for the Vikings in the series. But since Joe Wilson moved from Valdosta as an assistant to Lowndes as the head coach, the games have nip and tuck every year.

Other than a three-year span (1982-1984 when the Wildcats won 22-0, 35-6, and 28-6), no more than two touchdowns have separated the two teams. But usually, the games have been much closer than that — like the 15-14 Lowndes' win in 1979, the 24-21 Valdosta win that same year, the 6-0 Lowndes' win in 1980, and both games last year, 10-0 and 14-10 in Lowndes' favor.

But to grasp a better prospective of the series, one must look at the back of the Lowndes press guide. In it is a page devoted to the sweetest Lowndes victories. Of the 13 games mentioned, Valdosta was the opponent five times. Also included are the Vikings' playoff opponents in 1980 on their march to the state title and several big region decisions.

And while anytime Lowndes and Valdosta tangle on the field it is a big game, here is a brief look at some of the bigger games in the last 10 years of the series.

1976 — Valdosta 14, Lowndes 3

The Vikings intercepted four Buck Belue passes and led 3-0 heading into the final four minutes of the game. But after the fourth interception, the Vikings were in trouble.

On third down, the Wildcats forced a fumble and recovered. Two plays later, Belue scored on a 1-yard plunge.

"It was as good a football game as you'll ever see," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said. "Two good football teams fought their hearts out. Lowndes played a great game but the Wildcats did, too. They both played great...but it could have gone either way."

The game was the first for Wilson on the Lowndes' sideline in the annual city matchup. It also pitted Wilson against his son Jody, who was the leading receiver for the Wildcats.

"This loss doesn't set our program back," Wilson said. "We'll have a good season. We're still coming strong."

The Vikings finished the season 8-2 for their first winning season in the school's history. The Wildcats finished tied for the region title and lost to Central-Thomasville in the region title game.

1977 — Lowndes 7, Valdosta 2

It was the night that defense ruled and Wilson got the final judgement. For the first time ever, the Vikings had defeated Valdosta, and it was before a standing-room only crowd of 10,000 at Martin Stadium.

The game featured the two most potent offenses in the region, but it was the defenses that did all the scoring.

Lowndes' Bill Schreffler returned an interception 80 yards in the third quarter and the Vikings held on.

Again, Belue had his problems as he threw three interceptions. But it wasn't the Lowndes defense that came to play. The Vikings were held to zero yards rushing and 90 passing. The Wildcats gained only 74 yards on the ground and 87 through the air.

"They beat us, they earned it, and I don't have any excuses," Hyder said. "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 Joe's philosophy was great. He played down the game to the people, but got his boys up for it."

"We were physically tough," Lowndes defensive coordinator Brad 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."

Valdosta entered the game ranked No. 2 in the state, and finished with a 12-2 record after losing 16-14 to Clarke Central in the state championship game. Lowndes went on to finish 7-3.

Lowndes vs. Valdosta



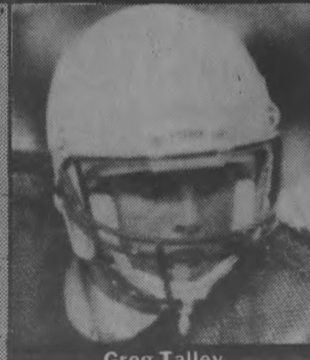
When: Tonight, 8 p.m.
Where: Cleveland Field
Tickets: Sold Out
Radio: WGAF, AM 91, 7:45 p.m.; WGOV, AM 950, 7:45.
Last meeting: Lowndes 14, Valdosta 7 (1985)
Series record: Valdosta 17, Lowndes 5



Valdosta Wildcats, 9-0, 5-0
Coach: Nick Hyder
School career record: 137-24-1
Career coaching record: 190-36-4

Offensive starters:

| | | |
|----|-----------------|----|
| 3 | Charles Steward | TE |
| 74 | Andy Anderson | RT |
| 79 | Jodie Sprengle | RG |
| 54 | Ben Lane | C |
| 77 | Troy Wells | LG |
| 75 | John Wheelless | LT |
| 17 | Guy Belue | SE |
| 15 | B.J. Mason | FL |
| 1 | Greg Talley | QB |
| 48 | James Roberts | FB |
| 11 | Jerome Callaway | TB |



Greg Talley

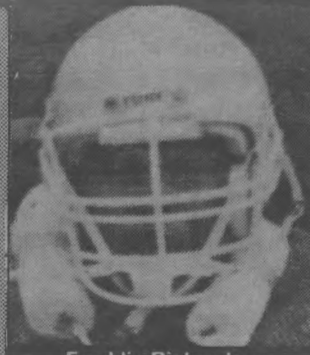
Defensive starters:

| | | |
|----|------------------|-----|
| 49 | Michael Tolbert | LE |
| 99 | Otis Conaway | LT |
| 61 | Eric Larry | NG |
| 92 | Zabria Bell | RT |
| 87 | Seabron Williams | RE |
| 84 | Bill Kirby | LLB |
| 44 | Anthony Williams | RLB |
| 23 | Reggie Dandy | LCB |
| 8 | Derek Shaw | LS |
| 36 | Walt Gill | RS |
| 14 | Keith Henry | RCB |

Lowndes Vikings, 6-3, 4-1
Coach: Joe Wilson
School career record: 86-35-0
Career coaching record: 86-35-0

Offensive starters:

| | | |
|----|---------------|----|
| 10 | Zane Craven | TE |
| 68 | Doug Hubbard | RT |
| 62 | Jody Platt | RG |
| 66 | Ron Jones | C |
| 78 | Ed Falgout | LG |
| 58 | Brett Butler | LT |
| 17 | Rozell Orr | SE |
| 3 | John Thompson | FL |
| 1 | Brad Almon | QB |
| 34 | Bennie Pierce | FB |
| 33 | Mark Walker | TB |



Freddie Richardson

Defensive starters:

| | | |
|----|--------------------|----|
| 80 | Chris Jobes | LE |
| 52 | Joey Parker | LT |
| 95 | Robert Hargett | NG |
| 54 | Barry Curtis | RT |
| 9 | Dawson Robertson | RE |
| 45 | Freddie Richardson | LB |
| 81 | Antwoine Clark | LB |
| 46 | Matt Reaves | CB |
| 8 | Brad Almon | S |
| 25 | David Hargett | S |
| 12 | Kelvin Williams | CB |



Joe Wilson

| Lowndes | Valdosta |
|--|--|
| Season so far: Camden County 15, Lowndes 14 Warner Robins 7, Lowndes 0 Lowndes 16, Americus 13 Lowndes 14, Waycross 12 Lowndes 27, Colquitt County 6 Westover 22, Lowndes 20 Lowndes 14, Tift County 6 Lowndes 24, Dougherty 0 Lowndes 20, Monroe 0 | Season so far: Valdosta 16, LaGrange 6 Valdosta 30, Fulton 6 Valdosta 31, Waycross 0 Valdosta 28, Leon 3 Valdosta 35, Tift County 14 Valdosta 24, Dougherty 0 Valdosta 58, Westover 13 Valdosta 36, Colquitt County 6 Valdosta 43, Monroe 0 |



Nick Hyder

| Previous meetings: | Lowndes 6 Valdosta 0, 1980 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Valdosta 48, Lowndes 6, 1968 | Valdosta 20, Lowndes 13, 1981 |
| Valdosta 40, Lowndes 0, 1969 | Valdosta 22, Lowndes 0, 1982 |
| Valdosta 26, Lowndes 0, 1970 | Valdosta 35, Lowndes 6, 1983 |
| Valdosta 40, Lowndes 0, 1971 | Valdosta 28, Lowndes 6, 1984 |
| Valdosta 20, Lowndes 7, 1972 | Lowndes 10, Valdosta 0, 1985 |
| Valdosta 29, Lowndes 0, 1973 | Lowndes 14, Valdosta 7, 1985 |
| Valdosta 20, Lowndes 3, 1974 | Valdosta 41, Lowndes 7, 1975 |
| | Valdosta 14, Lowndes 3, 1976 |
| | Lowndes 7, Valdosta 2, 1977 |
| | Valdosta 22, Lowndes 0, 1978 |
| | Valdosta 21, Lowndes 7, 1978 |
| | Lowndes 15, Valdosta 14, 1979 |
| | Valdosta 24, Lowndes 21, 1979 |
| | Valdosta 17, Lowndes 8, 1980 |

Defense Never Rested For Valdosta And Lowndes

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

It was a night on which the defense, unlike a court of law, never rested.

The Valdosta defense was incredible. Seabron Williams and Mike Tolbert darted into the Viking backfield so fast on every play, you'd think they were just men in motion with the wrong colored jerseys on. Middle linebacker Bill Kirby stacked up every running play which managed to elude noseguard Eric Larry and tackles Otis Conaway and Zabria Bell.

The Vikings rushed for a total of nine yards on the night and made a total of two first downs in the game. One of those came on an underthrown bomb which went 72 yards for a touchdown. The other Lowndes first down came on a roughing-the-kicker penalty. Unofficial tabulations show Kirby as

the Wildcats' leading tackler with six first hits and five assists. Larry had five tackles and forced a fumble which freshman linebacker Anthony Williams recovered. Tolbert had five tackles, including two for losses totalling 16 yards. And Gooney Williams had six total tackles on the night.

But the efforts of the Lowndes defense can not be overlooked. They were on the field a mere two seconds short of 30 minutes out of the 48 minutes played, yet allowed only 10 points — on a 37-yard pass from Greg Talley to Guy Belue and on a 20-yard Dan Tillman field goal.

Senior defensive tackle Joey Parker played a masterful game. Safety David Hargett was all over the field. Senior defensive end Chris Jobses played the

game of his life. Kelvin "No-Neck" Williams made a name for himself with several key plays, including an interception to stop the Wildcats' at the Viking 2-yard line and the breakup of a pass in the end zone late in the game which kept his team's hopes alive.

Parker finished with four tackles, two assists, a 7-yard quarterback sack, and a fumble recovery which he returned 61 yards in the final 20 seconds. Hargett made six unassisted tackles. Jobses had two assists and seven tackles, including two for losses.

Iron man Bennie Pierce played the entire game at fullback and was in long enough on defense to make five tackles and help on three others. Pierce also had two quarterback sacks for a total of 21 yards.

And many more Viking defenders made major contributions. Freddie

Richardson played his usual stellar game at middle linebacker. Barry Curtis and Matt Reaves were solid in supporting roles. Antoine Clark made a couple of big plays, and receiver Rozell Orr deserves mention for running Valdosta's Walt Gill down from behind to save a touchdown on an interception.

"These kids showed a lot of heart and played with a lot of class tonight," Lowndes coach Joe Wilson said. "They faced a powerful football team in Valdosta, and they played hard the whole game. You can't fault them for that."

Wilson was forced to play against the top-ranked team in the state with a quarterback who had never played a down at the position at the high school

varsity level. Starter Rhett Akins was forced out of the lineup with a fractured rib and punctured lung, it was learned the day before the game.

The Vikings used senior safety Brad Almon and freshman Chris Overman behind center. Almon played a mistake-free game but failed to move the offensive squad consistently. Overman entered the game in the second half and startled the crowd by immediately throwing a 72-yard touchdown pass to Orr.

But the clock later struck twelve for the 9th-grader as the stout Wildcat defensive team roughed him up for an interception and a fumble.

"We just threw the kid in there," Wilson said. "And that's what freshmen are supposed to do — have one good play and one bad play. We'll get better."

9-0 Wildcats To Face 6-3 Vikings

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Tonight, Valdosta High plays host to cross-town rival Lowndes High in the culmination of Winnersville week here in the Azalea City. The football game pits the top-ranked, 9-0 Wildcats against a rebuilding and ever-improving Viking squad which, after a slow start, has won six of its last seven games.

The victor in this contest will win the Region 1-AAAA crown and will be seeded first in the region playoffs with home games throughout. The two squads have met 22 times previously, and the rivalry has built into perhaps the greatest in the state of Georgia.

Valdosta defeated No. 1 ranked Lagrange 16-6 in its first game of the year and has been the top-ranked team in the state ever since. Tift County managed to stay tied with the Wildcats for a half before dropping a 35-14 decision, and region foe Dougherty stayed within three points for a half before losing 24-0.

Lowndes began the season losing to Camden County (now ranked second in Class AA) 15-14 on a last minute touchdown and two-point conversion. The following week they dropped a 7-0 decision to Warner Robins (presently 9th in Class AAAA) on the road. Since that time they have suffered only a 22-20 loss on a Saturday night in Albany to Westover when a two-point conversion attempt went awry.

Valdosta has compiled its undefeated mark by averaging 33.4 points per game while yielding only 5.3 points. Both marks lead the region. Lowndes is second in the region in both categories, scoring 16.6 points per game and allowing but 9.0.

The Wildcats are led by halfback Jerome Callaway, a 6-foot-1, 190-pound senior who runs a 4.5 40. He has carried the ball 99 times this season for a 7.3-yard average and 10 touchdowns. He has also caught 13 passes for a 22.9-yard average and two more touchdowns.

Valdosta quarterback Greg Talley leads the region in passing with 88 completions in 137 attempts for 1280 yards, 13 touchdowns, and only two interceptions. Tight end Charles Steward is the Wildcats' leading receiver with 26 catches for 330 yards and six touchdowns.

The Wildcat defense is led by team captain Bill Kirby, a three-year starter at middle linebcker, and defensive captains Seabron Williams, an all-state player at right defensive end, and Walt Gill, a senior safety with great speed.

Valdosta is also notorious for a large offensive line, led by guard Jodie Sprenkle and center Ben Lane, which averages 264 pounds per man.

Lowndes is a team which is improving every week. Their victories over Colquitt County (27-6) and Tift County (14-6) were very surprising, especially considering that the Vikings returned only one starter on offense and three on defense from last year's region championship team which defeated Valdosta twice in three weeks.

Senior guard Ed Falgout leads a young Viking offense which ranks third in the region in rushing offense with 3.5 yards per carry and third in passing offense with 736 yards through the air. But Lowndes has lived and died by its defense this season.

Defensive tackle Joey Parker, linebacker Freddie Richardson, and all-state safeties David Hargett and Brad Almon lead a tough, swarming unit which has allowed only 165 yards in total offense per game.

Parker and Valdosta placekicker Dan Tillman could each play an important role in the game. Tillman has booted seven field goals this season while Parker, who has put the ball through the uprights from 57 yards out in practice, has three field goals this year.

Line Play Inconsistent

Baker Levels Criticism

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The mood in the Valdosta locker-room after the game was nothing short of jubilation. After losing to the Vikings twice last season, the Wildcats had plenty to prove, and prove it they did.

Before the game, offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker said he felt the contest would pivot on a couple of crucial points — Valdosta's ability to run the ball, getting good yardage on first downs, and protecting quarterback Greg Talley.

The Wildcats did a good on these points, but trouble showed in other spots.

"Those things didn't even really enter into it," Baker said. "Look at the scoreboard. We stunk it up."

A 17-6 final score wouldn't displease most coaches, and Baker was certainly satisfied with the win, but things didn't go just right for Valdosta.

The Wildcats blew several early scoring opportunities and some careless penalties proved costly.

"We moved the ball great inside the 20-yard lines but after that things didn't go right," Baker said. "We had a couple of penalties that really killed us, and almost all of them were because of movement on the line. Most of those penalties came when it was second or third-and-short, and instead of having a little way to go, we had to pass."

Baker was also upset with blocking of his line in the passing situations.

"At times, we just didn't block well," Baker said. "They were able to pressure Talley a great deal. But you have to give credit where credit is due. Lowndes is a good defensive line and they really came after us tonight."

As far as using the first downs to their benefit, the Wildcats did just that. Valdosta averaged 5.3 yards per first down play, something Baker felt was important going into the game.

Charles Tarpley, the Wildcats' linebacker coach, was busy collecting jerseys but had time to stop and discuss the play of his squad.

"I thought everyone played great," Tarpley said. "They weren't really able to pull any surprises on us. They only had two first downs. One on the touchdown pass (from Chris Overman to Rozell Orr) and the other on a penalty. I thought the pass should have been intercepted and that roughing the kicker penalty was just a bad call."

Tarpley was not surprised at Viking head coach Joe Wilson's relatively conservative approach to the game.

"There was no way he was going to throw a lot with his starting quarterback on the bench," Tarpley said. "I think when we went up 7-0, Wilson just decided to keep it close at the half."

Valdosta, the official regular season Region 1-AAAA champs must now prepare for Tift County, who sweeps into Cleveland Field next Friday night. Lowndes finishes second and hosts Colquitt County.

Playoffs Set

Despite losing to Valdosta Friday night, the Lowndes Vikings finished second in the Region 1-AAAA standings and will play host to Colquitt County in the first round of the region playoffs next week at Martin Stadium.

Valdosta finished on top of the region with a 6-0 record. Lowndes and Colquitt are tied for second at 4-2, but Lowndes receives the second-place slot in the playoffs by virtue of its 27-6 victory over the Packers earlier this season.

Tift County defeated Westover 30-20 Friday night to claim the fourth spot. Tift will play at Valdosta next week.

If Westover had defeated Tift County, Lowndes, Colquitt and Westover would have been tied for second place. Colquitt and Westover were both 1-0 against non-region competition while Lowndes was 0-1. Colquitt would have won second place based on its win over Westover while Lowndes would have finished fourth.

And though the loss did keep the Vikings from placing first in the region, Tift County's victory enabled Lowndes to retain the home-field advantage next week.

The two winners next week will play at the highest seeds home field.

— ROBERT L. BRADLEY



Lowndes QB Brad Almon Looks Downfield For Opening

VHS Dominates Vikings For 17-6 Win

VDT 11-15-86

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta High Wildcats used a combination of a punishing defense and explosive offense to down the Lowndes Vikings 17-6 at Cleveland Field Friday night.

The victory enabled Valdosta coach Nick Hyder to post his sixth undefeated regular season for the Wildcats in his 13 years at the school.

With the exception of one play, the Valdosta defensive unit held Lowndes to only nine yards for the game. That one play was a 72-yard touchdown pass from Chris Overman to Rozell Orr for Lowndes' only score after the Wildcats had gone up 14-0 in the third quarter.

"Both defenses were the story of the game," Hyder said. "Reginald Dandy's punt return helped us a lot. The defensive coaches did a good job."

Dandy's punt return of 74 yards gave the Wildcats a 7-0 lead after only four minutes had elapsed in the game. Dandy chased the ball down after watching it bounce off the ground. He eluded a tackle by Matt Reaves, found the wall, and raced down the sideline.

"The wall was there for him," Hyder said. "That was THE factor in the first half."

The Wildcats could have scored on several other occasions in the first half, but tough defensive stands by the Vikings kept Valdosta out of the end zone.

"That was some big and powerful line we had to go up against," Lowndes coach Joe Wilson said. "But I'm very proud of the way the kids played."

Three times in the first half the Wildcats drove deep in Lowndes territory and came away empty.

But the 'Cats struck for a 14-0 lead early in the second half when Greg Talley culminated a 7-play, 69-yard drive when he connected with Guy Belue for a 37-yard TD. Lowndes' Brad Almon went high to try for the interception, but Belue was behind him, came down with the ball, and was down the sideline for the score.

Lowndes struck back quickly, though, after the kickoff. On first down, Overman, who had been on the bench in the first half, found Rozell Orr on the left side for a 72-yard TD.

Lowndes' only other chance to score came in the closing seconds when Joey Parker returned a fumble 61 yards to the Valdosta 16-yard line. Jerome Callaway saved the TD for the Wildcats.

"Jerome catching that guy was the play of the game," Hyder said.

A clipping penalty pushed the Vikings back to the 31, and the clock expired after a pair of incomplete passes.

The Wildcat defense was so tough on the Vikings that Lowndes had just two first downs for the game — one on the TD pass and another on a roughing the punter penalty.

The Wildcats dominated the game in every statistical category. They had 199 yards on the ground to nine, and they had 81 passing to 72. Valdosta also controlled the clock, keeping the ball for almost 30 minutes to 18 for the Vikings.



'Cat Receiver Charles Steward (3) Loses Ball Into Air After Catch.....

Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek



....But Jerome Callaway (11) Catches It Once More

Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek



Captains Freddie Richardson Of Lowndes And Seabron Williams (87) And Bill Kirby Of Valdosta Meet At Midfield

Statistics

VDT 11-15-86
 Lowndes..... 0 0 6 0 - 6
 Valdosta..... 7 0 10 0 - 17

Val - Reginald Dandy 74 punt return (Dan Tillman kick)
 Val - Guy Belue 37 pass from Greg Talley (Tillman kick)
 Low - Rozell Orr 72 pass from Chris Overman (kick blocked)
 Val - Tillman 20 FG

Team Stats

| Lowndes | Valdosta |
|---------|----------|
| 2 | 12 |
| 25 | 46 |
| 9 | 199 |
| 10-1-1 | 13-6-1 |
| 72 | 81 |
| 8-36-1 | 5-34-2 |
| 3-25 | 6-50 |
| 69 | 103 |
| 3-28 | 2-17 |
| 18:02 | 29:58 |

Individual Leaders

Rushing

Lowndes - Pierce 11-12, Overman 4-3, Perry 1-2, Walker 7-1, Almon 2-(-9).
 Valdosta - Callaway 19-128, Roberts 15-61, Talley 10-10, Ceasar 2-0.

Passing

Lowndes - Overman 8-1-172, Almon 2-0-00.
 Valdosta - Talley 13-6-181.

Receiving

Lowndes - Orr 1-72.
 Valdosta - Belue 1-37, Steward 2-31, Roberts 1-9, Mason 1-8, Ceasar 1-(-4).

Game Notes

Captain Defense: The four players who met at midfield prior to the start of the game were all members of their team's defensive unit - Bill Kirby and Seabron Williams from Valdosta and Matt Reaves and Freddie Richardson from Lowndes.
 * * *

Where's That Zebra From: The officials who called the game all came from the Atlanta Area Football Officials Association.
 * * *

VDT 11-16-86
Penalty, Penalty: The Vikings were penalized only three times while the Wildcats had six flags thrown on them.
 * * *

'Cats Return: Former Valdosta players Jeff Davis and Stan Rome were among the many people on the sidelines. Davis is a member of the scout team at Georgia Southern.
 * * *

Reading The Paper: Everytime the Lowndes band struck up across the field, members of the Valdosta band would stand up and read the newspaper. But the Georgia Bridgemen had the last say as they walked off the field with a standing ovation from both sides of the field.
 * * *

Under The Gun: Lowndes quarterback Chris Overman was inserted into the game in the second half, and on his first play, threw a 72-yard touchdown pass. Talk about beating the pressure...
 * * *

Defense, Defense: For the third consecutive game, it was the defenses of both teams that made the game interesting. In last year's two games, the defenses constantly came up with the big plays. And though Lowndes did score on a 72-yard pass, the Vikings managed only nine yards for the rest of the game.



Valdosta's James Roberts Tries To Break Away

It Was A Classic Example Of High School Football

VDT 11-15-86



Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder And Former 'Cat Coach Wright Bazemore Talk Before The Game

Feeling Like Oklahoma's Bosworth

It was a long walk through the Valdosta dressing room for me after the Wildcats beat Lowndes High.

Parallel to it would have been Oklahoma linebacker Brian Bosworth's appearance in the Miami Hurricane dressing room earlier this year when the 'Cats crushed the Sooners after Bosworth shot off his mouth a little too much.

You see, I wrote this harmless little column entitled *Lowndes Could Win*. It didn't happen, but it certainly was a possibility. The only problem is that the large, aggressive football players at Valdosta took it to mean I picked Lowndes to win, which was not the case.

As I entered the locker room I was greeted with the jeers and ridicule I expected. That's part of the job. I would just like to thank flanker B.J. Mason who kindly told the players that I don't necessarily write everything of my own free will.

A look at my column will show that Lowndes did very little that they needed to do in order to win.

To begin with, Lowndes' offense was nonexistent. Viking head coach Joe Wilson said that if his team could rush



Mike Colombo
Times Sports Writer

for 150 yards against Valdosta, they stood a good chance of winning. The Vikings got only a net of nine yards in 25 carries. Halfback Mark Walker had one yard on seven carries, and Bennie Pierce had 12 on 11.

Lowndes also failed to get its passing game going. Speedster Rozell Orr has been the principle receiver for the Vikings all year. But last night he was held in check and the other Viking receivers failed to get into the open. Only one pass was completed in 10 attempts, a 72-yard touchdown pass to Overman.

It was imperative that Lowndes get

some other targets in the clear and that obviously didn't happen.

Lowndes accumulated just two first downs — one on a roughing the kicker penalty and the other on the long pass to Orr.

The Vikings defensive line played well but ended up playing much too long, and it showed. Early in the game, Lowndes looked impressive against the rush but then began to tire as the Wildcats were able to play ball control offense. In the second half, the 'Cat runners made it into the secondary too often. Valdosta's Jerome Callaway finished as the game's leading rusher with 128 yards. Of that, 71 came in the second two quarters.

The loss of quarterback Rhett Akins to a broken rib and a punctured lung hurt the Vikings more than imagined. The Vikings appeared cautious offensively, especially when throwing the ball. Wilson even called for several quick kicks on third down.

Just as most people thought, Valdosta's defense ruled the night. The Viking offense couldn't keep its own defense off the field. But the two could play again in two weeks. Who knows what will happen then?

Lowndes' Joe Wilson Found The Going Rough Most Of The Game



Photos By

Bob Lupinek And Paul Leavy

Six Area Teams In Playoffs

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

For the fourth consecutive season, both Valdosta and Lowndes High Schools will participate in the Region 1-AAAA playoffs. This Friday night Valdosta (10-0 overall and 6-0 in the region) will play host to Tift County (6-4, 3-3) at Cleveland Field.

The winner of that game will then play the winner of the Lowndes (6-4, 4-2) vs. Colquitt County (6-4, 4-2) matchup, which will take place at the Vikings' Martin Stadium. If Valdosta emerges unscathed, it will have the home field for the region championship game the following week (Nov. 28). Otherwise, the winner of the Lowndes-Colquitt game will have the home field.

The Region 1-AAAA winner then will advance to meet the winner of Region 2-AAAA on the Region 2 champ's home field on December 5th. Carver High (7-3, 6-1) and Kendrick High, both of Columbus, are said to have the inside track in that region.

The 1-AAAA vs. 2-AAAA winner will then play host to the 3-AAAA vs. 4-AAAA winner, which is likely to be either Evans (ranked No. 6, 10-0), Effingham County (No. 8, 9-1), or Benedictine (No. 10, 8-2). Warner Robins was ranked ninth last week with a 7-2 record but lost Friday night to rival Northside-Warner Robins 38-7.

Lowndes season ticket holder have through Wednesday to claim their tickets. All others will be on sale at the Lowndes High field house — \$2 for students, \$4 for adults. All tickets will be \$4 on the night of the game with Colquitt County.

Valdosta season ticket holders may purchase their tickets at the Ticket Outlet Tuesday and Wednesday. Other Wildcat fans may purchase tickets at



Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

'Cat Linebacker Kirby Picked Player Of Week

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Every good defense needs to have a rock at its base — middle linebacker. Two years ago when the Valdosta Wildcats won the state championship, their middle linebacker was what someone might call a real "stud hoss", a fellow by the name of John Porter.

Porter now starts for the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets. As a senior at Valdosta, he played alongside a young sophomore to whom he passed the standard of defensive strength — Bill Kirby.

Alternating at the right inside linebacker position, Kirby played in 14 games in 1984. Last year, moved to Porter's spot on the left.

"We play a multiple defense with a lot of different check offs at the line of scrimmage," said Wildcat linebacker coach Charles Tarpley. "Coach (Jack) Rudolph calls all the plays in to Kirby in the huddle. But if the offense comes up to the line of scrimmage in a different look, we depend on Bill to make the read and call out the checks.

Not enough can be said about the Wildcat senior's leadership — he is Valdosta's team captain.

He has intercepted four passes in his career but none this year.

"Other teams haven't been throwing into the middle on us very much this year," Tarpley said. "Our secondary has 13 interceptions and our defensive ends have three, but our linebackers don't have any. They just haven't been throwing in that area."

Last Friday night, was just another game for Bill Kirby. He had seven tackles and four assists on the night which seem to be modest totals until it is realized that the opponents only had the ball for 18 minutes during the whole game. Kirby & Co. held Lowndes to nine yards rushing and only two first downs.

For his efforts, Kirby has been named *The Times* player of the week.

Honor Roll

Robin Tippins, Cook — Hornet defensive end had six tackles and seven assists in 7-0 overtime subregion loss to Waycross. Linebacker Billy Jackson had seven tackles, four assists, and an interception against the Bulldogs.

Jerome Callaway, Valdosta — rushed 19 times for 129 yards in 17-6 victory over Lowndes. Defensive end Mike Tolbert had four assists and four tackles, among them a 13-yard quarterback sack and a 4-yard loss on a running play. Seabron Williams also had four assists and four tackles, including one for a 4-yard loss.

Rozell Orr, Lowndes — caught the Vikings' only pass of the night, a 72-yard scoring bomb from Chris Overman, and alertly saved a touchdown on a Wildcat interception when he tackled a Valdosta defensive back just short of the goal line. Chris Jobs had seven tackles and four assists in the game, David Hargett had eight tackles and four assists, and Joey Parker had seven tackles, three assists, and a fumble return of 61 yards in the game's final minute.

Don Bolden, Clinch County — had 13 tackles in Panthers' 21-0 shutout of Atkinson County. Herbert Mingo gained 102 yards on 12 carries, kicked all three extra points, and scored the Panthers' second touchdown on 60-yard run.

Preston Williams, Brooks County — completed six of 10 passes for 132 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions in 33-0 victory over Early County. The touchdowns were for 29 and 27 yards. William Sims rushed 10 times for 85 yards and one touchdown.

Floyd Rothrock, Westbrook — rushed 21 times for 110 yards and a touchdown in 25-0 victory over John Hancock.

Scotty Harris, Berrien County — caught four passes for 47 yards in 19-7 loss to Bacon County.

Jerome Callaway (11) Will Lead Valdosta While Brad Almon (8) Will Lead Lowndes

The Ticket Outlet all day Thursday and on Friday until 1 p.m. Student tickets may be purchased at Valdosta High School on Thursday or at Valdosta Junior High and elementary schools during the week. One section of season tickets in the North stands may be moved to another section.

The Brooks County Trojans (7-3, 6-0) have established themselves as a very strong team this year. Their only losses have come at the hands of Class AAA Cairo, Florida's Jefferson County, and Berrien County of Region 2-AAA. Brooks won Region 1-AA South and is scheduled to play Fitzgerald High (5-5, 5-1) this Friday night in Quitman in the first round of the region playoffs.

If they defeat Fitzgerald, the Trojans would play host to the winner of the Terrell County vs. Tri-County game the following week (Nov. 14th). Whoever emerges from that matchup will meet the winner of Region 2-AA. Camden County, 10-0 and ranked second in the state, is the favorite to be the champion in that region.

The Clinch County Panthers won Region 2-A with a 21-0 victory over Atkinson County last week. They won't see action again until December 5th when they will play host to the Region 1-A champion. That team should be either Wilcox County (No. 6, 8-2) or Calhoun County (No. 3, 10-0).

Clinch finished the season 7-3 overall and 4-0 in the region. Their only losses were to Class AA Cook and McIntosh County Academy and to Wilcox County 14-0 in the second game of the season.

Lowndes, Clinch and Brooks were all mentioned as receiving votes in last week's state Associated High School Poll and could possibly move into the Top 10 in their respective classes this week.

Valwood and Westbrook will both be in action this weekend in the GISA Class A playoffs. Valwood will play at Martin Stadium Saturday night while Westbrook travels to Hawkinsville to take on Baker.

V-Times

11-17-86

Wildcats Have 2-Game Lead On Massillon

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

One of the most-watched high school football teams in Valdosta this year wasn't even a team in South Georgia.

For that matter, the team isn't even in the city of Massillon, Ohio.

At the start of the season, Massillon's Washington High School was the nation's all-time winningest high school football program. Washington had rolled up 605 victories against 156 losses and 35 ties. But trailing Washington by just one game was Valdosta.

Wildcat fans were hoping for some losses up north so Valdosta could forge ahead.

And that's exactly what they got. Washington finished the 1986 with a 7-3 record. A loss Saturday night knocked them out of the playoffs. Add to that

Valdosta's 10-0 record so far this season, and the Wildcats have a two-game lead.

It didn't take long for stories to reach Valdosta of how Washington had been barred from the playoffs this season for recruiting players. Valdostans felt if that ruling stood up, the Wildcats would be ahead by the time the season ended. And the lead would continue to grow if the Wildcats advanced through the playoffs.

Washington sought a court injunction to participate in the playoffs this season, and on Friday, a court judge ruled in favor of the high school.

But all the legal proceedings came to a head the next day when Washington was dealt its third loss of the season and knocked out of the state playoffs.

According to a sports writer for the *Canton Repository*, Washington is losing quite a few players off this year's

team and will definitely be rebuilding in 1987. He also said that Washington High may try to buy out the final year of Coach John Morost's three-year contract.

One thing Washington and Valdosta share in common is their love for high school football. Washington averaged around 11,000 fans per game this season, including 20,000 Saturday when it lost to McKinley. Valdosta, meanwhile, played in front of more than 13,000 Friday night against Lowndes.

With its 10-0 record this year, Valdosta has won 614 games in the history of the school. The Wildcats have lost only 129 and have been tied 33 times for an 81.3 winning percentage. Washington ended its season with a 612-159-35 (78.3 percent) record.

The Wildcats have accomplished their feat in 72 years of playing, and

did not play in 1917 and 1918 due to World War I. Washington began playing in 1894, and it is not known if the team missed playing any seasons.

And though the Wildcats and Washington are only two games apart at the present, they will be fighting for the top spot for years to come.

Valdosta will start its journey to increase its lead over Washington this weekend at Cleveland Field. The Wildcats will open the Region 1-AAAA playoffs against Tift County, a team they have played 58 times.

The Blue Devils are the third most frequent opponent for Valdosta, trailing only Thomasville (76 games) and Colquitt County (66).

Tickets for the Tift County game are on sale today through Friday. Season ticket holders may purchase their tickets at the Ticket Outlet today and

Wednesday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Other tickets may be purchased at the Ticket Outlet on Thursday from 8-4:30 and on Friday from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Student tickets are available at the high school, junior high, and elementary schools.

Persons who had season tickets in the South stands during the season will receive those tickets for the game. According to ticket manager Don Simmons Tuesday morning, Tift County only took one section of reserved seats and one section of student tickets, a total of 1,392 tickets. Season ticket holders in Section K will be the only ones moved, but Simmons said they would receive approximately the same field position for the game.

Tickets are \$4 for reserved seats, \$3 for general admission, and \$2 for students.

Mon., Nov. 17, 1986



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Reginald Carter With His New Wheelchair Surrounded By Members Of Key Club At VHS Provides Money For Wheelchair

VHS Key Club Helps Classmate

By LIZ VICKERS
Times Staff Writer

Buying a wheelchair for fellow classmate, Reginald Carter, is just one of the many meaningful projects the Valdosta High School Key Club has undertaken.

Carter, son of Robert and Cleatha Harris of Valdosta, was born with a spinal disorder and has been in a wheelchair since birth. His old wheelchair had been worked on many times by VHS metals instructor Wayne Sapp, and everyone knew that it was only a matter of time before he would have to have a new one.

In one of the Key Club's meetings, under the direction of three-year adviser Coach Bob Bolton, the 73-member organization decided they wanted to contribute a part of their club's funds to purchase a wheelchair for Carter.

Being in a wheelchair doesn't seem to slow down Carter one single bit. "He keeps the school spirit, attends all the pep rallies and ball games, and cheers the Wildcat teams all the way to

victory," said one of the Key Club members. "He is also very active in the bench press weight lifting program at VHS."

"I feel real glad about the club getting the wheelchair for me," said Carter. "I enjoy having friends and I feel secure and loved by everyone in the school."

After graduation he plans to attend Valdosta State College and major in art. "I planned to stay in Valdosta because I was born and raised here and this is my home," said Carter.

The Key Club, whose purpose is to promote community affairs in the school, is sponsored by the Valdosta Kiwanis Club. The Key Club has many events planned for the immediate future.

They will have a can food drive for Thanksgiving and Christmas with all contributions going to The Salvation Army. In December they will assist the Kiwanis Club in selling poinsettias. Many of the poinsettias will be purchased by clubs at the school and the Key Club will disperse them to all

the local nursing homes. In February members plan to participate in Lift America sponsored by the National Strength and Conditioning Association which will serve as a fund-raiser for the Special Olympics.

"The Key Club looks for membership of the well-rounded student who maintains a 75 grade point average or better," said Coach Bolton. "Most of our members are involved with some type of sport so we put a lot of our budget back into things such as equipment for the weight room, advertising in baseball programs, purchasing of trophies for the basketball team, and sending members to Fellowship of Christian Athletes Conferences.

Being in a wheelchair doesn't seem to slow down Carter one single bit. "He keeps the school spirit, attends all the pep rallies and ball games, and cheers the Wildcat teams all the way to victory," said one of the Key Club members. "He is also very active in the bench press weight lifting program at VHS."

Debutante Cotillion Saturday

Fourteen young women will be introduced to society Saturday during the third annual Debutante Cotillion sponsored by Kappa Tau Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. The young woman with the highest amount of ad sponsors will be crowned "Miss Debutante" at the 7:30 p.m. event at Mathis city auditorium.

Those who will be presented as debutantes included the following:

Kelisa Valenta Brown, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Brown. Kalisa is a junior at Valdosta High School. Winifred Evette Brown 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Brown. She is a sophomore at Lowndes High School. Tara Demps, 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Demps. She is a sophomore at Valdosta High School.

And Nicole Yvette Fuller, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Fuller. She is a junior at Lowndes High School. Lucille Glin, 15, daughter of Master Sgt. and Mrs. C.D. Glin. She is a sophomore at Lowndes High School. Rhonda Michelle Henderson, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie L. Henderson. She is a junior at Valdosta High School.

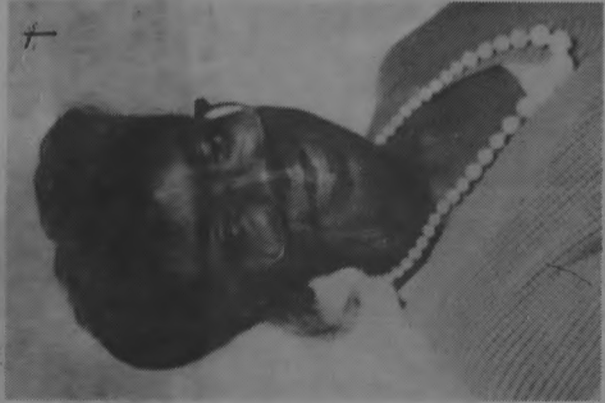
Also, Erica Cheri Miller, 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly D. Dawsey. She is a junior at Valdosta High School. Constalina Deanna Moore, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Moore. She is a junior at Lowndes High School. La Shunda Moore, 18, daughter of Dorothy Moore. She is a senior at Valdosta High School.

And Erica E. McPherson, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alphonso McPherson. She is a senior at Lowndes High School. Joy Yvette O'Neal, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank O'Neal. She is a junior at Valdosta High School. Farida D. Sermons, 16, daughter of Patricia Sermons. She is a senior at Valdosta High School.

Also, Wanda D. Washington, 16, daughter of Henrietta McCoggie and Freeman Washington. She is a junior at Lowndes High School. Staci C. Willis, 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Willis. She is a sophomore at Lowndes High School.

A ball will follow the presentation of the debutantes with music provided by Zeal. Tickets cost \$3 and may be purchased from any Alpha Phi Alpha member. Proceeds will be used for scholarships.

Robert Willis is chairman and Willie Jones co-chairman of the event.



KELISA BROWN



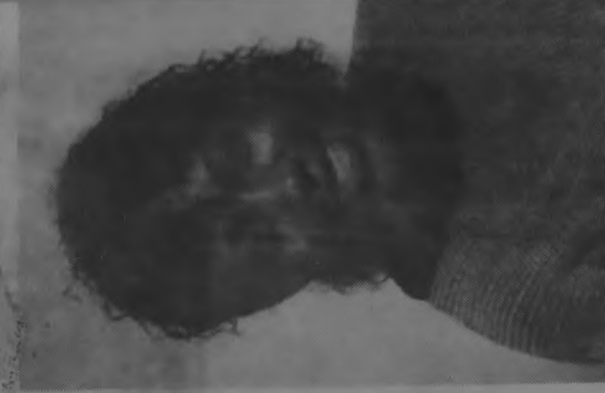
WINIFRED BROWN



TARA DEMPS



NICOLE FULLER



LUCILLE GLIN



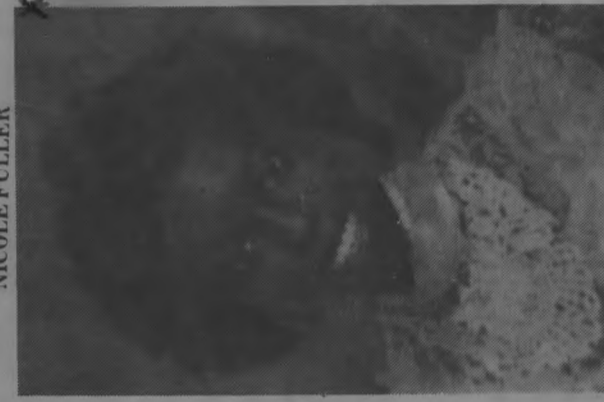
ERICA MILLER



CONSTALINA MOORE



LA SHUNDA MOORE



JOY O'NEAL



FARIDA SERMONS



STACI WILLIS



WANDA WASHINGTON

'Cats Are Not Writing Off Tift

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

1 DT 11-20-86

Sometimes it's tough convincing people that you have to show up and play a football game in order to be declared the winner. Many people in Valdosta have written off the Tift County Blue Devils (6-4, 3-3) in their first round region playoff game against the local high school's Wildcats.

Well, in 1985 the defending national champion Brigham Young Cougars

Region 1-AAAA

took on the winless, 0-6 Miners of Texas-El Paso and guess what happened? UTEP 20-16.

To put things into closer perspective, in 1984 an undefeated Clarke Central squad ranked second in the nation came to Valdosta to play a mediocre Lowndes squad and got beat 31-6.

The Valdosta Wildcats are 10-0, ranked first in the state and fourth in the nation. They are ranked first in the region in every statistical category save for pass defense (a mere 75.4 yards per game). Their closest game all season was a 16-6 victory over then top-ranked LaGrange.

But their biggest scare came in Tifton where they were tied with the Tift County Blue Devils 14-14 at halftime. They won 35-14, but the score they allowed in Tifton was their largest yield on defense all season.

There is a reason for that. Tift County quarterback Tye Cottle is among the best in South Georgia at throwing the football. He just beat out Valdosta's Greg Talley for the region lead in passing. The Wildcats edged the Blue Devils in team passing, but Tift's top two receivers, Rubin Bennett and Ray Ewings, are ranked second and fourth in the region.

Florida Teams To End Season

The 1986 high school football season is winding down, and for teams now it's win or sit at home.

Of the 12 teams in *The Times'* coverage area, six of them made the playoffs.

Valdosta and Lowndes will open the Region 1-AAAA playoffs with home games Friday night — the Wildcats will play host to Tift County while Lowndes will take on Colquitt County.

In Region 1-AA, Brooks County will play host to Fitzgerald while in the GISA Class A playoffs, Westbrook will travel to Hawkinsville to take on Baker and Valwood will play host to Tiftarea Saturday at Martin Stadium.

The other team in the playoffs, Clinch County, will not play until

Dec. 5. The Panthers' Region 2-A, does not have a region playoff and Clinch got an automatic berth into the state playoffs.

While schools in Georgia are involved in the playoffs this weekend, Florida schools still have one more week remaining in the regular season.

In this weekend's games, Hamilton County and Madison County will be playing their season finales — Hamilton County will play host to Lake Butler while Madison travels to Quincy.

Hamilton County, 6-3 overall and 6-2 in District 3-AA, saw its bowl hopes disappear last week when it lost to winless P.K. Yonge, 14-9.

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY

Valdosta ranks first in total defense, but in second place, it is not Lowndes, with whom the Wildcats had trouble last week, but Tift County. The Blue Devils have allowed only 168.1 yards per game behind Valdosta's 155.3 yards per game. But the Valdosta defense has not played against the No. 1 offense in the region — their own.

Coach Nick Hyder is particularly concerned about the passing of Cottle, which was largely responsible for the strong first half showing of the Blue Devils in Tifton.

"Tift County has always been a very quarterback oriented team. They had a couple of great ones in Ken Hobbie and Brian Massengill, who took them to their state championship in 1983. Now they've got Tye Cottle, and if they give him good protection, like they've been doing lately, Tift County could give us

a very hard time.

"They've got very good receivers and two good running backs who block very well for Cottle and who catch the ball very well themselves. Coach Gene Brodie has always used a lot of motion, and that will keep pressure on our defense. Cottle also moves around very well back there. I understand he had a bad ankle in that first game."

Cornerback Keith Henry and safety Walt Gill each made fine plays in the earlier Tift game to break up passes and avert more touchdowns by the Blue Devils. The Wildcats will have to get good pressure from their pass rush in order to keep Cottle from picking apart the secondary. Ends Seabron Williams and Mike Tolbert must have fine performances Friday night along with noseguard Eric Larry and tackles Otis Conaway and Zabria Bell.



Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Valdosta's Nick Hyder Seeks Repeat Against Tift

2-C The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Nov. 19, 1986

10th Consecutive Week

'Cats Hold On To No. 1

ATLANTA (AP) — There were no changes from a week ago in the No. 1 teams in The Associated Press high school football poll, and Valdosta was the unanimous choice as the Class AAAA top team for the eighth consecutive week.

Valdosta, 10-0, remained undefeated by beating Lowndes County High School 17-6 last week.

The playoffs, which began on a small scale last weekend, gear up this Friday and Saturday with 55 games scheduled. There are also four regular season games.

The AP's panel of sports writers and sportscasters kept Dalton tops in Class AAA, Washington-Wilkes in AA and East Rome in A.

Clarke Central, 10-0, LaGrange, 9-1, and Bradwell Institute, 10-0, all remained 2-3-4 behind Valdosta. Evans climbed one notch to fifth with a 48-6 thrashing of Hepzibah while McEachern, which was tied with Evans last week, remained No. 6 after a 30-0 victory over Paulding County.

Effingham County remained in the seventh spot followed by Southeast DeKalb, 9-1, which fell from eighth to fifth after a 21-17 overtime loss to Douglass-Atlanta. Northside Warner-Robins replaced Warner Robins in the No. 9 spot after beating the city rival 38-7 with Douglass grabbing the No. 10 position. Benedictine dropped out from the No. 10 spot after its 21-0 loss to Bradwell Institute.

There were no changes in the two places behind Dalton, 10-0, in Class AAA with Worth County remaining No. 2 followed by Central-Thomasville. Lakeside, 9-1, moved up a slot to fourth

with a 29-0 victory over Druid Hills and Troup County climbed to fifth from eighth after a 30-0 triumph over Henry County to go 9-1. Thomasville and Gainesville, both 8-2, moved up to sixth and seventh respectively from ninth and 10th the week before.

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 9. Montgomery Co. (8-2), 20
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Also receiving votes: Bowdon, Bremen, Clinch Co., Irwin Co., Social Circle and Westwood.

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'Cats Are Not Writing Off Tift

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Sometimes it's tough convincing people that you have to show up and play a football game in order to be declared the winner. Many people in Valdosta have written off the Tift County Blue Devils (6-4, 3-3) in their first round region playoff game against the local high school's Wildcats.

Well, in 1985 the defending national champion Brigham Young Cougars

Region 1-AAAA

took on the winless, 0-6 Miners of Texas-El Paso and guess what happened? UTEP 20-16.

To put things into closer perspective, in 1984 an undefeated Clarke Central squad ranked second in the nation came to Valdosta to play a mediocre Lowndes squad and got beat 31-6.

The Valdosta Wildcats are 10-0, ranked first in the state and fourth in the nation. They are ranked first in the region in every statistical category save for pass defense (a mere 75.4 yards per game). Their closest game all season was a 16-6 victory over then top-ranked LaGrange.

But their biggest scare came in Tifton where they were tied with the Tift County Blue Devils 14-14 at halftime. They won 35-14, but the score they allowed in Tifton was their largest yield on defense all season.

There is a reason for that. Tift County quarterback Tye Cottle is among the best in South Georgia at throwing the football. He just beat out Valdosta's Greg Talley for the region lead in passing. The Wildcats edged the Blue Devils in team passing, but Tift's top two receivers, Rubin Bennett and Ray Ewings, are ranked second and fourth in the region.

Florida Teams To End Season

The 1986 high school football season is winding down, and for teams now it's win or sit at home.

Of the 12 teams in *The Times'* coverage area, six of them made the playoffs.

Valdosta and Lowndes will open the Region 1-AAAA playoffs with home games Friday night — the Wildcats will play host to Tift County while Lowndes will take on Colquitt County.

In Region 1-AA, Brooks County will play host to Fitzgerald while in the GISA Class A playoffs, Westbrook will travel to Hawkinsville to take on Baker and Valwood will play host to Tiftarea Saturday at Martin Stadium.

The other team in the playoffs, Clinch County, will not play until

Dec. 5. The Panthers' Region 2-A, does not have a region playoff and Clinch got an automatic berth into the state playoffs.

While schools in Georgia are involved in the playoffs this weekend, Florida schools still have one more week remaining in the regular season.

In this weekend's games, Hamilton County and Madison County will be playing their season finales — Hamilton County will play host to Lake Butler while Madison travels to Quincy.

Hamilton County, 6-3 overall and 6-2 in District 3-AA, saw its bowl hopes disappear last week when it lost to winless P.K. Yonge, 14-9.

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY



Valdosta's Nick Hyder Seeks Repeat Against Tift

Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

2-C The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Nov. 19, 1986

10th Consecutive Week

'Cats Hold On To No. 1

ATLANTA (AP) — There were no changes from a week ago in the No. 1 teams in The Associated Press high school football poll, and Valdosta was the unanimous choice as the Class AAAA top team for the eighth consecutive week.

Valdosta, 10-0, remained undefeated by beating Lowndes County High School 17-6 last week.

The playoffs, which began on a small scale last weekend, gear up this Friday and Saturday with 55 games scheduled. There are also four regular season games.

The AP's panel of sports writers and sportscasters kept Dalton tops in Class AAA, Washington-Wilkes in AA and East Rome in A.

Clarke Central, 10-0, LaGrange, 9-1, and Bradwell Institute, 10-0, all remained 2-3-4 behind Valdosta. Evans climbed one notch to fifth with a 48-6 thrashing of Hepzibah while McEachern, which was tied with Evans last week, remained No. 6 after a 30-0 victory over Paulding County.

Effingham County remained in the seventh spot followed by Southeast DeKalb, 9-1, which fell from eighth to fifth after a 21-17 overtime loss to Douglass-Atlanta. Northside Warner-Robins replaced Warner Robins in the No. 9 spot after beating the city rival 38-7 with Douglass grabbing the No. 10 position. Benedictine dropped out from the No. 10 spot after its 21-0 loss to Bradwell Institute.

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VHS Debate Team Wins Four Awards

By Jay Connell, Secretary Debate Club

Valdosta High debaters won four awards at the Berrien County High School novice debate tournament last Saturday in Nashville. Sophomore Susie Grant and senior Matt Winters won the first place affirmative team award with a 4-0 won-loss record. Junior Terry Snyder finished as the first place affirmative speaker with 109 points in the four-round tournament. Winning second place awards were juniors Anne Clark, affirmative speaker, and David Cole, negative speaker.

Snyder teamed with freshman Michelle Jones and Miss Clark teamed with junior Brooke Price to finish with 2-2 records. Cole and sophomore David Hazlehurst joined to give a Colquitt affirmative team (3-1) their only loss in the tournament. Juniors Holly Davis and Barry Golivesky finished with a 3-1 record. Other debaters participating were sophomores Robby Higdon and Jay Hollingsworth and Freshman James Coffman and Wynne Johnson. VHS defeated teams representing Central, Colquitt, Fitzgerald, and Tift high schools. Also participating as judges in the novice tournament were senior Paul Conrad, junior Jennifer Guest, sophomores Jay Connell and Kelly Shelton, and Valdosta State freshman Charles Cutforth.

The next scheduled tournament for VHS debaters will be on January 2-3 in Americus. The Valdosta High Debate Club and Valdosta Debate Boosters will host an invitational tournament at VSC on January 17, 1987.

Officers Installed

By Laura McMillan

The officers and members of the newly-organized Interact Club of VHS were installed during a formal ceremony Tuesday evening, Nov. 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theater at Valdosta High.

Dr. Ren Christie, Secretary of Valdosta Rotary Club, served as Master of Ceremonies during the evening.

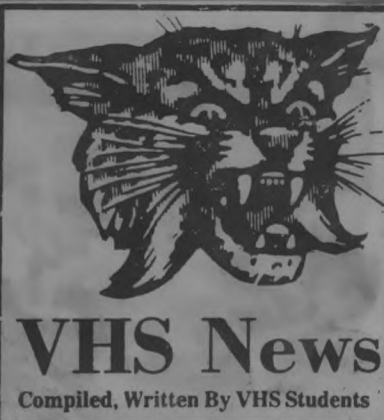
Mrs. Joyce Dunmire of the Lowndes County Diabetes Association presented Kathy Farley — on behalf of Interact — a plaque for Interacts participation in raising funds for their football raffle.

Michael White, Interact Chaplain, gave the invocation. Mayor Gill Autrey, President of the Valdosta Rotary Club, gave the welcome. Special guests were John Langdale of

Valdosta, former Rotary District Governor, and Dr. S. Walter Martin of Valdosta, former Rotary District Governor. Also, members of the Rotary

Interact Committee were present. Mr. James Bridges, Dr. Ren Christie, Mr. John Bowling, Mr. Joe Cordova, Mr. Richard Reissiger, and Mr. Tom Shelton. Many Rotarians were present, as well as Superintendent Walter Altman and VHS Principal, Bill Aldrich. Parents of the members were also recognized. The current Rotary District Governor, Mr. Jake New, and Mrs. New of Dublin, Georgia, were also in attendance.

District Governor New then installed the officers. They are: President, Miss Johnna Elliott; Vice President, Ashley Moorman; Secretary, Miss Laura McMillan; Treasurer, Biran Harris; Parliamentarian, David Cole; Social Chairman, Miss Susan Burns; School Projects chairman, Miss Deania Denmark; Community Projects Chairman, Miss Kathy Farley; International Projects Chairman, Miss Joy O'Neal; and Chaplain, Michael White.



The newly-installed officers and District Governor New then installed each of the members. Interact has 190 participating members.

Johnna Elliott, President of the Interact Club, then presented the framed charter for the Club to Mr. Bill Aldrich, VHS Principal. The charter was prepared by Mrs. Patsy Smith, VHS Art Instructor. Members, officers, school officials, advisors, and Rotary members signed the charter earlier at a "Charter Party" at McKey Park.

Johnna Elliott then gave a summary of the club's participation since its organization in October.

A reception was held for members and guests in the school cafeteria. Members of the Junior class that are Interact members and parents of these members served as hosts/hostesses for the Reception.

Marching Unit

On Nov. 22, the Valdosta High School Naval Junior Reserved Officers' Training Corps marching unit traveled to Ashburn, Georgia to participate in a Christmas parade.

The unit departed from the school at 7:45 a.m. and arrived in Ashburn around 9:30 a.m. The unit was greeted by several applauding crowds. After the parade, the unit departed from Ashburn and arrived at the school at 2 p.m.

Interact Club

The Interact Club of VHS has selected its "Students of the Week." They are Jill Bryan, Christine Buel and Elizabeth Crane. These students were honored on Wednesday by attending the weekly meeting of the Valdosta Rotary Club.

Elizabeth is a member of Interact the Beta Club, the Marching Cat Band and the Symphonic Band. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank F. Crane, Jr. She is a senior at VHS. Elizabeth attends First Presbyterian Church with her family. She is very active in all youth activities at her church. She currently serves as President of the Youth Council for the southwest Georgia Presbytery.

Christine is a member of Interact, Beta Club, Foreign Language Club, Y-Club, and is President of the Dram Club. She participated in the 1986 Governor's Honors Program as a Theater major. She is a 17-year-old senior at VHS and the daughter of Ms. Vickie Buel. Christine participated in Region 1-AAAA One-Act Play competition in 1984-85. She received the "Best Actress" award in the 1985 Region 1-AAAA competition. She received 1st place in Oral Interpretation at the Region 1-AAAA Literary Meet in 1985. She is currently participating in her third One-Act Play at VHS. This play will enter Region 1-AAAA competition December 5 and will be performed for the public at a later date. She and her family attend First Baptist Church.

Jill is the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Bryan. She is a senior at VHS. She is a member of the Interact, the math team, Science Club, Beta Club, Drama Club and is an actress in the One-Act Play. She is also a member of Pi Gamma Phi Sorority. Her hobbies include swimming, sailing and acting. She and her family attend St. John's Catholic Church.

FBLA Meet

By Tina Johns Reporter

On Nov. 14, Tina Johns, Region II Vice President, Mrs. Maxine Martin, Advisor, and Janet Martin, FBLA Member, traveled to Savannah for an Executive council meeting that night and for the weekend long FBLA State Leadership Conference.

The following morning, Nov. 15, others joined them in Savannah for the Conference. The following attended: Ms. Lynn Joiner, FBLA Advisor; Debra Waters, Vice President; Robin Schwartz, Secretary; Tanya Mabry, Treasurer; Adrian Garland, Member; David Purdy, Member; Johnny Murphine, Member; Leigh Williams, Member; Anna Faircloth, Member and Faylene Joyner, Member.



Lowndes At Valdosta

VDT 11-28-86



Place — Cleveland Field
Times — 8 p.m.

The Coaches — Lowndes Vikings: Joe Wilson. Valdosta Wildcats: Nick Hyder.

The Records — Lowndes: 7-4. Valdosta: 11-0.

How They Qualified — Lowndes, posted a 4-2 record in Region 1-AAAA to take second place. The Vikings defeated Colquitt County 17-0 last week in the first round of the region. Valdosta captured the regular season title in Region 1-AAAA with a 6-0 record. The Wildcats defeated Tift County 28-16 last week in the first round of the region.

Game Notes — This is the 24th meeting between the cross-town rivals. Valdosta leads the series 18-5-0. ... Joe Wilson is 5-10 against the Wildcats. Nick Hyder is 11-6 against the Vikings. ... This is the fifth time the teams have played twice in one season. They have split twice. Valdosta won both games in 1978 and Lowndes won both games last year. ... Valdosta and Lowndes have played for the region championship twice, with Lowndes winning them both (1980 and 1985). Valdosta has won both previous first-round meetings.

The Keys — Lowndes' offense will have to play better than it did two weeks ago when the Vikings had just 81 yards in total offense — including 72 on a touchdown pass. ... The Viking defense will also have to play better. They allowed 199 yards on the ground. ... Valdosta's secondary will be challenged more this time since Rhett Akins returns to direct the Lowndes offense.

Daily Times Pick — Valdosta, 24-10.

On Deck — The winner of the game will play at Carver-Columbus next week in the first round of the state playoffs. The loser is eliminated.

High School Playoffs

VDT 11-24-86

'Cats-Lowndes To Play Again For Region Championship

By BLAIR DICKINSON Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High Wildcats and the Lowndes High Vikings advanced to the Region 1-AAAA championship game just as many football fans in the Valdosta area had anticipated.

The Wildcats qualified by defeating a stubborn Tift County squad 28-16 at Cleveland Field Friday night. Valdosta was led by halfback Jerome Callaway, who gained 140 yards on 20 carries and scored two touchdowns, and by defensive end Seabron Williams, who had four quarterback sacks in the game.

Lowndes advanced on the strength of a workmanlike performance in a 17-0 victory over Colquitt County. A stout defense led by lineman Joey Parker and linebacker Freddie Richardson never allowed the Packers inside their own 26-yard line, and Mark Walker scored on 3- and 4-yard touchdown runs.

The two teams are scheduled to play for the region title at 8 p.m. Friday night at Cleveland Field. It will mark the fourth time in the last 54 weeks that the crosstown rivals

have played each other in football. Lowndes won the regular season matchup last year 10-0 and took the region championship game 14-7. Both games were at Martin Stadium.

This season Valdosta won the regular season contest 17-6 at Cleveland Field. The winner this week will advance to play the winner of Region 2-AAAA on that team's home field next week.

The 8-3 Brooks County Trojans continue to roll. Coach Max Milligan's squad met with some difficulty in disposing of 5-5 Fitzgerald 18-13. Senior quarterback Preston Williams scored two touchdowns and passed 28 yards to Derrick Watts for another. They will take on Tri-County for the Region 1-AA championship in Buena Vista this Friday.

Region 2-A winner Clinch County will have another week off before playing the winner of Friday night's Calhoun County-Wilcox County game to decide the winner of Region 1-A.

In GISA action, Valwood drubbed archrival Tiftarea Academy 44-12 Saturday night at Martin Stadium to advance to the Class A state cham-

pioship game for the third consecutive year. Maurey Copeland returned the opening kickoff 91 yards for a touchdown and broke open a 17-6 game at halftime with an 82-yard scoring jaunt on the Valiants' first play from scrimmage in the second half.

Valwood plays host to Baker Academy for the state title this weekend at Martin Stadium. Baker edged Westbrook Academy 21-20 in their semifinal game in Hawkinsville Friday night when the Cougars had a touchdown called back in the final minute of play.

Like the situation in Region 1-AAAA, another crosstown rivalry will decide Region 1-AAA. No. 3 Central-Thomasville beat Appling County 13-6 while No. 6 Thomasville defeated Bainbridge 19-7, and the two winners will clash for the region championship Friday night.

Other games of interest in Class AA include second-ranked Camden County defeating Waycross 18-17 in Region 2-AA action. Top-ranked Washington-Wilkes whipped Harlem 48-6. And West Rome lost to Central-Carrollton 21-7.

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It's Time For THE Showdown

At Cleveland Field

Statistically Speaking

VDT-11-28-86

Individual Leaders

| Name, School | Rushing | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------|-----|-----|-----|----|------|
| | G | Att | Yds | Avg | TD | GAvg |
| Jerome Callaway, Val | 11 | 138 | 997 | 7.2 | 12 | 90.6 |
| James Roberts, Val | 11 | 106 | 629 | 5.9 | 7 | 57.1 |
| Mark Walker, Low | 11 | 144 | 576 | 4.0 | 8 | 52.4 |
| Shawn Stanford, Low | 10 | 64 | 314 | 4.9 | 2 | 31.4 |
| Bennie Pierce, Low | 7 | 79 | 269 | 3.4 | 1 | 38.4 |
| Greg Talley, Val | 11 | 80 | 161 | 2.0 | 6 | 14.6 |
| Lawrence Sharpe, Val | 4 | 26 | 152 | 5.8 | 1 | 38.0 |
| Isaac Ceasar, Val | 5 | 19 | 106 | 5.6 | 2 | 21.2 |

| Name, School | Passing | | | | | |
|------------------|---------|-----|-----|------|-----|----|
| | G | Att | Cmp | Yds | Int | TD |
| Greg Talley, Val | 11 | 160 | 100 | 1426 | 4 | 15 |
| Rhett Akins, Low | 10 | 145 | 66 | 785 | 12 | 8 |

| Name, School | Receiving | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|----|-----|------|----|------|
| | G | No | Yds | Avg | TD | GAvg |
| Rozell Orr, Low | 10 | 31 | 450 | 14.5 | 4 | 45.0 |
| Charles Steward, Val | 11 | 29 | 372 | 12.8 | 7 | 33.8 |
| Jerome Callaway, Val | 9 | 14 | 312 | 22.3 | 2 | 34.7 |
| Jim Motes, Val | 9 | 15 | 246 | 16.4 | 3 | 27.3 |
| Guy Belue, Val | 10 | 18 | 171 | 9.5 | 3 | 17.1 |
| John Thompson, Low | 7 | 9 | 165 | 18.3 | 4 | 23.6 |
| James Roberts, Val | 8 | 10 | 142 | 14.2 | 0 | 17.8 |

| Name, School | Scoring | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------|----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| | G | TD | 1Pt | 2Pt | FG | Pts |
| Jerome Callaway, Val | 8 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 84 |
| Dan Tillman, Val | 11 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 8 | 62 |
| Mark Walker, Low | 7 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| James Roberts, Val | 5 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Charles Steward, Val | 6 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Greg Talley, Val | 5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Joey Parker, Low | 8 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 4 | 28 |
| Rozell Orr, Low | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| John Thompson, Low | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |

| Name, School | Punting | | |
|----------------------|---------|------|------|
| | No | Yds | Avg |
| Charles Steward, Val | 37 | 1232 | 33.3 |
| Brad Almon, Low | 59 | 1950 | 33.1 |

Team Leaders

| School | Rushing Offense | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----|------|-----|----|-------|
| | G | Att | Yds | Avg | TD | GAvg |
| Valdosta | 11 | 444 | 2160 | 4.8 | 29 | 196.4 |
| Lowndes | 11 | 385 | 1270 | 3.3 | 11 | 115.4 |

| School | Passing Offense | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----|-----|------|-----|----|
| | G | Att | Cmp | Yds | Int | TD |
| Valdosta | 11 | 180 | 105 | 1519 | 6 | 16 |
| Lowndes | 11 | 170 | 67 | 857 | 13 | 9 |

| School | Total Offense | | | |
|----------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | G | Plays | Yards | GAvg |
| Valdosta | 11 | 624 | 3679 | 334.5 |
| Lowndes | 11 | 555 | 2127 | 193.4 |

| School | Scoring Offense | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----|------|--|
| | G | Pts | Avg | |
| Valdosta | 11 | 346 | 31.5 | |
| Lowndes | 11 | 172 | 15.6 | |

| School | Rushing Defense | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----|------|-----|----|-------|
| | G | Att | Yds | Avg | TD | GAvg |
| Valdosta | 11 | 327 | 860 | 2.6 | 4 | 78.2 |
| Lowndes | 11 | 348 | 1182 | 3.4 | 9 | 107.5 |

| School | Passing Defense | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| | G | Att | Cmp | Yds | Int | TD |
| Lowndes | 11 | 172 | 60 | 712 | 10 | 3 |
| Valdosta | 11 | 182 | 69 | 900 | 18 | 5 |

| School | Total Defense | | | |
|----------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | G | Plays | Yards | GAvg |
| Valdosta | 11 | 509 | 1760 | 160.0 |
| Lowndes | 11 | 520 | 1894 | 172.2 |

| School | Scoring Defense | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----|-----|--|
| | G | Pts | Avg | |
| Valdosta | 11 | 70 | 6.4 | |
| Lowndes | 11 | 98 | 8.9 | |

| School | Scoring Margin | | | |
|----------|----------------|------|------|-------|
| | G | OPts | DPts | Mrgn |
| Valdosta | 11 | 346 | 70 | +25.1 |
| Lowndes | 11 | 172 | 98 | +6.7 |

Two Teams, Same Goal: Berth In State Playoffs

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

When Valdosta and Lowndes played two weeks ago in the regular-season finale, the game couldn't have gone any worse for the Vikings.

Quarterback Rhett Akins missed the game because of a fractured rib and punctured lung, and the Vikings had to use two players at quarterback who had not played the position during a game.

Because safety Brad Almon was inserted at quarterback, he had to play both ways. Bennie Pierce was also going on both sides, playing fullback and defensive end. The Vikings were also without the services of running back Shawn Stanford, who missed the game after being injured in an automobile accident.

But when the two teams line up on Cleveland Field tonight (8 p.m. kickoff) for the Region 1-AAAA championship, the Wildcats will see a different team than they saw two weeks ago.

Akins returned to the lineup last week and led the Vikings to a 17-0 victory over Colquitt County. And with the addition of newcomer Chuck Miller at defensive end, Pierce will not have to go both ways.

"Having their starting quarterback out (in the first game) was a major factor," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said. "I don't mean to criticize that young man who played, but Rhett Akins took the majority of snaps and was the starter for nine games."

The Vikings' offense managed to gain just nine yards rushing two weeks ago. And because Akins was out, the passing attack was nearly non-existent. With the exception of a 72-yard touchdown pass from Chris Overman to Rozell Orr, Lowndes was 0-9 in the passing department.

"We're going to have to eliminate mistakes," Lowndes coach Joe Wilson said. "We didn't make many ball-turnover mistakes the last time. But the main thing is, we've got to create some offense. We know the things we can't do against them, so we'll have to try some things we can do."

"We've got to be able to move the ball. But nobody this year has been very successful with that against Valdosta. We also can't afford to give up any easy touchdowns like the punt return or the long pass."

Valdosta's Reginald Dandy sparked the Wildcats with a 74-yard punt return for a touchdown and Guy Belue hauled in a 37-yard scoring pass.

While Lowndes was beating Colquitt County at Martin Stadium last week, Valdosta was posting a 28-16 victory over Tift County.

The Wildcats used a punishing ground game attack to gain the victory. Jerome Callaway, who has 957 yards this season on just 138 carries (7.2 per carry) and 12 touchdowns. James Roberts, with 629 yards, rushed for 71 yards against the Blue Devils.

And if the rushing attack of Valdosta's should get shut down, the Wildcats can always turn to the pass. Quarterback Greg Talley completed 100 of 160 (62.5 percent) of his passes for 1,426 yards and 15 touchdowns. He has been intercepted just twice, but one was against Lowndes and the other came last week.

Trying to stop the Wildcat offense will be a strong Lowndes defensive unit led by linebacker Freddie Richardson. With Almon and David Hargett in the secondary and Miller in the line, the unit has played well this year, allowing an average of 172.6 yards per game.

For Valdosta, end Seabron Williams and linebacker Bill Kirby are the leaders. Seabron had four of the Wildcats' five quarterback sacks last week. The Valdosta defense has allowed only 160 yards and 6.4 points a game.

One thing that won't be a problem for either coach is getting the teams ready to play. Anytime the two meet, it is a very emotional game.

"Normally playing the same team twice is not all that difficult," Wilson said. "You know what you didn't do the first time, and you work on trying to find something different to do."

"But since we're playing Valdosta for the second time, it will be double tough."

With a region championship, a berth in the state playoffs, and bragging rights up for grabs, just about anything can happen. And probably will.

Game Notes

Kicking Off

For the second straight meeting, Lowndes won the coin toss before the game but opted to kickoff during the first half and after intermission. Valdosta took the second-half kickoff and scored its first touchdown.

Workhorse

Wildcat running back Jerome Callaway had one of his busiest nights of the year, carrying the ball a total of 27 times and running short pass routes as well. All that work didn't seem to tire the tailback out as he gained 159 yards and caught two passes for 24 yards.

Senior Farewell

Several outstanding Lowndes seniors said goodbye to the playing field Friday night. The list of those seniors is a distinguished one: wide receiver John Thompson, safety Brad Almon, defensive end Dawson Robertson, defensive safety David Hargett, running back Shawn Stanford, defensive back Ralph Hiers, defensive end Matt Reaves, defensive lineman and kicker Joey Parker, defensive lineman Barry Curtis, offensive lineman Brett Butler, offensive lineman Jody Platt, offensive lineman Ryan Broome, offensive lineman Nolan McFarland, offensive lineman Ed Falgout, defensive lineman Chris Jobes, defensive end Robert Hargett, and defensive lineman Richard Brown.

Rolling Along

Valdosta is working on its 21st undefeated season. For 14 seasons, the Wildcats have suffered only one loss and have 25 seasons with 10 or more victories.

Down The Road

Somewhere coaches don't care to look. If Valdosta beats Carver, the next mission for Valdosta will be Bradwell Institute from Hinesville. Bradwell crushed Effingham County 28-7, doing it with big plays. Bradwell's Ivan Bullard returned the opening kickoff 90 yards for a TD. Another score came on a 41-yard pass play from Raymond Gross to Joe Day. All-State running back John Stewart (6-foot-2, 216 pounds) scored the last two scores on short runs.

No Hard Feelings

Despite losing, several Lowndes supporters came down on to the field to wish Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder well. "If we can't win it, we want you to," said one Viking fan. Valdosta is still ranked No. 1 in the state and certainly would have to go into any game as the favorite.

David And Goliath

The Wildcats will travel to Columbus to take on Carver High in Kinnett Stadium next Friday night. Carver's average daily attendance is only 511, which technically makes them a Class AA school. Carver, however, chooses to play Class AAAA ball. Valdosta's ADA is 1,138.

VDT 11-30-86

4-84

'Cats, Central No. 1

ATLANTA (AP) — Valdosta remained the top Class AAAA team and Washington-Wilkes stayed No. 1 in Class AA as Georgia football teams prepare for the state playoffs.

Central-Thomasville, which tumbled from the rankings after beginning the season ranked first in Class AAA, is back on top. Central replaces Dalton, eliminated from the playoff picture in a 20-10 upset by Villa Rica, as the No. 1 Class AAA team in this week's Associated Press rankings.

In Class A, Calhoun County lost its share of the top ranking after a 29-8 loss to Wilcox County in a region final game. East Rome now has sole possession of No. 1. Central opened its season with two losses to Class AAAA opponents, but since has reeled off 10 straight victories to climb back to the top of Class AAA.

Worth County moved up a notch to No. 2 and Lakeside climbed a spot to No. 3. Villa Rica jumped three notches to fourth following its triumph over Dalton and Troup moved from No. 6 to No. 5.

Valdosta, Clarke Central, LaGrange and Bradwell Institute again lead Class AAAA. Southwest DeKalb climbed two notches to No. 5.

Baldwin jumped from No. 10 to No. 6 after a 14-13 victory over then-No. 8 Warner Robins, which fell out of the rankings. McEachern fell from No. 5 to No. 7 after losing 35-28 to Walton.

In Class AA, Washington-Wilkes is followed by Central-Carrollton and Swainsboro, each up a notch from last week. Robert E. Lee jumped two notches to No. 4 and Camden County fell from No. 2 to No. 5 after losing 28-13 to Swainsboro.

Brooks County jumped four notches to No. 6 and Manchester dropped two spots to No. 7 after losing 20-19 to Robert E. Lee. Gordon and Duluth entered the rankings at eighth and

ninth, respectively. Lovett eliminated earlier in the region playoffs, fell from No. 8 to No. 10.

ATLANTA — Here are this week's Associated Press rankings of Georgia high school football teams, with records, point totals in the poll and first-place votes. Voting is by the AP's panel of sports writers and sportscasters.

- 1. Valdosta (12-0), 70, 7
- 2. Clarke Central (12-0), 60
- 3. LaGrange (11-1), 58
- 4. Bradwell Institute (12-0), 49
- 5. Southwest DeKalb (11-1), 41
- 6. Baldwin (10-2), 32
- 7. McEachern (12-1), 20
- 8. Walton (11-2), 16
- 9. Athens (10-1), 15
- 10. Elmoreham County (10-2), 10

Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Carver-Columbus, Griffin and Warner Robins.

- Class AAA
- 1. Central-Thomasville (10-2), 67, 5
- 2. Worth County (11-1), 54
- 3. Lakeside (11-1), 52
- 4. Villa Rica (11-1), 51, 1
- 5. Troup (11-1), 44
- 6. (tie) Dalton (11-1), 30
- 7. Gainesville (10-2), 30, 24
- 8. Thomasville (10-2), 24
- 9. Westminster (10-2), 19
- 10. Westside (10-2), 6

Also receiving votes: Americus, Bainbridge, Stephens County and Thomson.

- Class AA
- 1. Washington-Wilkes (12-0), 69, 6
- 2. Central-Carrollton (11-1), 62, 1
- 3. Swainsboro (11-1), 57
- 4. Robert E. Lee (11-1), 49
- 5. Camden County (11-1), 32
- 6. Brooks County (9-3), 31
- 7. Manchester (10-2), 19
- 8. Gordon (10-2), 16
- 9. Duluth (9-2-1), 14
- 10. Lovett (10-1), 13

Also receiving votes: Carver-Columbus, Collins, Felowood, Mary Persons, Oconee County and Tri-County.

- Class A
- 1. East Rome (9-0-1), 67, 5
- 2. Lincoln County (10-2), 60, 1
- 3. Greenville (11-1), 55, 1
- 4. Wilcox County (10-2), 45
- 5. Commerce (10-2), 43
- 6. Montgomery County (10-2), 34
- 7. Calhoun County (11-1), 26
- 8. Warren County (10-2), 17
- 9. Palmetto (8-3), 15
- 10. Clinch County (7-3), 14

Also receiving votes: Bowdon and Louisville.



Martha Smart Makes A Pitcher On Her Wheel

Lowndes vs. Valdosta

VD 11-28-86



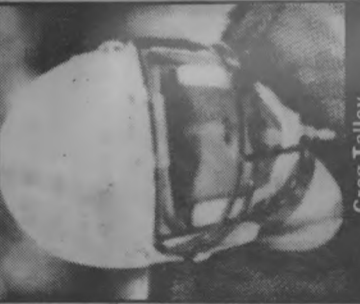
When: Tonight, 8 p.m.
Where: Cleveland Field
Tickets: Reserved Seats: \$4. General Admission: \$3
Radio: Star FM 105.3, 7:45 p.m.; WGOV, FM 95, 7:45.
Last meeting: Valdosta 17, Lowndes 6 (1986)
Series record: Valdosta 18, Lowndes 5



Valdosta Wildcats, 11-0
Coach: Nick Hyder
School career record: 139-24-1
Career coaching record: 192-36-4

Offensive starters:

| | | |
|----|-----------------|----|
| 3 | Charles Steward | TE |
| 74 | Andy Anderson | RT |
| 79 | Jodie Sprengle | RG |
| 54 | Ben Lane | C |
| 77 | Troy Wells | LG |
| 75 | John Wheelless | LT |
| 17 | Guy Belue | SE |
| 15 | B.J. Mason | FL |
| 1 | Greg Talley | QB |
| 48 | James Robert's | FB |
| 11 | Jerome Callaway | TB |



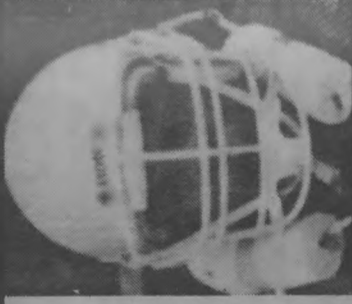
Greg Talley

Lowndes Vikings, 7-4

Coach: Joe Wilson
School career record: 87-36-0
Career coaching record: 87-36-0

Offensive starters:

| | | |
|----|---------------|----|
| 10 | Zane Craven | TE |
| 68 | Doug Hubbard | RT |
| 65 | Ryan Broome | RG |
| 66 | Ron Jones | C |
| 62 | Jody Platt | LG |
| 78 | Ed Falgout | LT |
| 17 | Rozell Orr | SE |
| 3 | John Thompson | FL |
| 1 | Rhett Akins | QB |
| 34 | Bennie Pierce | FB |
| 33 | Mark Walker | TB |



Freddie Richardson

Season so far:
Camden County 15, Lowndes 14
Warner Robins 7, Lowndes 0
Lowndes 16, Americus 13
Lowndes 14, Waycross 12
Lowndes 27, Colquitt County 6
Westover 22, Lowndes 20
Lowndes 14, Tift County 6
Lowndes 24, Dougherty 0
Lowndes 20, Monroe 0
Valdosta 17, Lowndes 6
Lowndes 17, Colquitt County 0

Season so far:
Valdosta 16, LaGrange 6
Valdosta 30, Fulton 6
Valdosta 31, Waycross 0
Valdosta 28, Leon 3
Valdosta 35, Tift County 14
Valdosta 24, Dougherty 0
Valdosta 58, Westover 13
Valdosta 36, Colquitt County 6
Valdosta 43, Monroe 0
Valdosta 17, Lowndes 6
Valdosta 28, Tift County 16



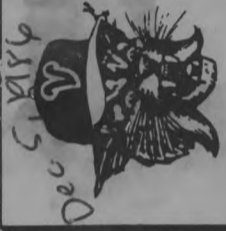
Nick Hyder

Previous meetings:

Valdosta 48, Lowndes 6, 1968
Valdosta 40, Lowndes 0, 1969
Valdosta 26, Lowndes 0, 1970
Valdosta 40, Lowndes 0, 1971
Valdosta 20, Lowndes 7, 1972
Valdosta 29, Lowndes 0, 1973
Valdosta 20, Lowndes 3, 1974

Valdosta 41, Lowndes 7, 1975
Valdosta 14, Lowndes 3, 1976
Lowndes 7, Valdosta 2, 1977
Valdosta 22, Lowndes 0, 1978
Valdosta 21, Lowndes 7, 1978
Lowndes 15, Valdosta 14, 1979
Valdosta 24, Lowndes 21, 1979
Valdosta 17, Lowndes 8, 1980

Lowndes 6 Valdosta 0, 1980
Valdosta 20, Lowndes 13, 1981
Valdosta 22, Lowndes 0, 1982
Valdosta 35, Lowndes 6, 1983
Valdosta 28, Lowndes 6, 1984
Lowndes 10, Valdosta 0, 1985
Lowndes 14, Valdosta 7, 1985
Valdosta 17, Lowndes 6, 1986



Valdosta At Carver

VD 12-4-86



Place — Columbus, Kinnett Stadium.

Time — 8 p.m.

The Coaches — Valdosta: Nick Hyder. Carver: Wallace Davis.

The Records — Valdosta: 12-0. Carver: 7-3.

How They Qualified — Valdosta won the tough Region 1-AAAA and defeated their two biggest rivals, Tift County (28-16) and Lowndes (28-0) in the region playoffs. Carver won a very weak Region 2-AAAA with a 6-1 record. Region 2-AAAA has no region playoffs.

Game Notes — Region 2-AAAA is not known for its football. It is made up of eight Columbus area teams which, collectively, have placed only one team in a state championship game since 1960 — that being Columbus High which lost to Marietta in the 1967 title game 14-7... Valdosta swept undefeated through the toughest region in the state after beginning the season by knocking off the state's No. 1 team, LaGrange... The Wildcats are ranked No. 2 in a major national high school poll and have been top-ranked in Georgia for 13 consecutive weeks.

Keys — Valdosta must do the things which have gotten them this far — keep their turnovers to a minimum and play aggressive football with the controlled intensity which has won them 12 consecutive games... For Carver to win, they must force the Wildcats to do things which no other team has forced them to do this season — fumble, throw interceptions, commit a lot of penalties, give up the big play on defense, miss a lot of field goals.

Times Pick — Valdosta 38-3.

On Deck — The winner advances to the South Georgia championship game against the winner of the Bradwell Institute-Baldwin game.

Scoreboard

Home Visitor



Playoff Schedule

Here is the playoff schedule for Georgia high school football:

Quarterfinals

Class AAAA

Valdosta at Carver, Columbus

Bradwell Inst. at Baldwin

Waycross at LaGrange

SW DeKalb at Clarke Central

Class AAA

Central-Thomsonville at Westside

North Co. at Troup

Westminster at Lakeside

Villa Rica at Gainesville

Class AA

Brooks Co. at Swainsboro

P.E. Lee at Washington Wilkes

Gordon at Carver, Atlanta

Central Carrollton at Duluth

Class A

Wilcox Co. at Clinch Co.

Macon County at Lincoln Co.

Greenville at East Rome

Palmetto at Commerce

'Cats' Kirby Draws Respect For Tenacious Attitude

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Bill Kirby is one of only two bona fide three-year starters on the Valdosta Wildcat football team, but he did not play in the 1984 state championship game. This young man was a key player for Valdosta during the '85 season but failed to make the first or second team on the all-area squad and didn't even make honorable mention.

Not only a football player, he excels on the baseball diamond and led the Wildcats to a 24-8 season as Valdosta compiled its second best record in the school's history. The team was 4-6 when he began playing.

When the Wildcat baseball team was knocked out of the state playoffs by Columbus High, he had the only RBI and extra-base hit in the 8-1 loss.

He had shown such courage, skill, and leadership in his first two years with the Wildcat football team, that he was voted team captain by his peers — THE team captain.

Linebacker Bill Kirby has quietly become one of the best all-around

athletes turned out by Valdosta High. Practicing alongside John Porter (now a starter at Georgia Tech) during the 1984 season, Kirby came into his own and was a starter on the Valdosta defense as a sophomore that season. Nothing, however, has come easy for the 190-pound senior.

"Bill has had to work hard and has had to overcome a lot of injuries," said Wildcat linebacker coach Charles Tarpley. "He's missed a lot of time with injuries but has always managed to come back."

Perhaps the most serious injury Kirby sustained came late in the 1984 season and proved disappointing for a variety of reasons. Kirby experienced some pain in his knee and trainers and coaches couldn't locate the problem, and Kirby played hurt. However, it was finally discovered that he had a blood clot under his knee cap. Surgery was necessary, and knee surgery to any football player normally spells disaster. The surgery also took Kirby out of the state championship game against Clarke Central after he had

played in every game that year. Kirby also cut his ear that season and could be seen on the field with a large bandage protruding from his helmet for protection.

A hobbled Kirby got out of the hospital on Christmas Eve. Things were not going his way. "They had to cut him open and let his knee drain," Tarpley said. "It left a gaping hole in his knee and things didn't look good. He missed all the winter workouts and missed spring practice in 1985 as well."

But Kirby had the guts and skill to fight his way back and won back his starting position last year. Since missing that state final game, Kirby has started in every game for the Wildcats at a position where its hard to stay healthy because of the constant pounding given as well as received.

While not a weakling (Kirby benches 280 pounds and can move 570 on the hip sled) he is not as strong as some of his counterparts, partly because of time lost to the knee injury and also because

of a shoulder injury he suffered last spring.

Kirby is also not the biggest person to play linebacker in Region 1-AAAA. The program has him listed at 190, but Tarpley's not sure how accurate that is.

"A lot of kids are heavier on the program than they really are," said Tarpley. "Those weights are done in the summer when they're still fat and lazy. Bill doesn't weigh too much less than that but I don't think he's at 190."

"He's not real big, but he makes up for it by being so aggressive out there and so dedicated," Tarpley said. In Kirby's three years with the Wildcats thus far, the team has compiled a 36-3-0 record, claimed one state title, two subregion titles, and two region crowns, and one national championship, and the 'Cats are now in hot pursuit of their 19th state title and possibly their fifth national championship.

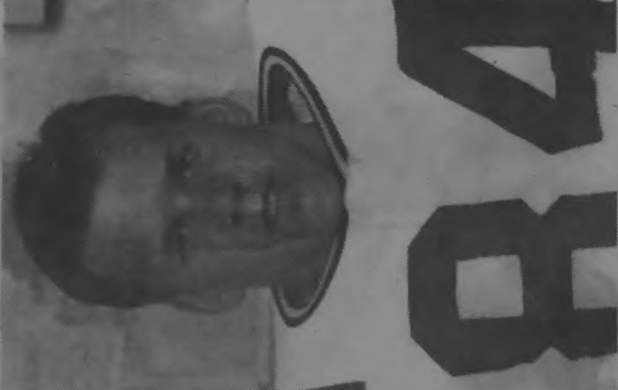
Here amid the chills of winter it would be an insult to talk about Kirby's heroics without mentioning his efforts

in the warm weather game of baseball. Kirby's shoulder injury last spring kept him out of the first 10 games, but his presence made quite an impact when he joined the active ranks, as much of an impact as his bat made on the ball.

Kirby ended up playing in around 20 games as catcher and defensively he made only two errors all year. He batted .348, hit four homers, five doubles, and struck out only 12 times. He had 23 RBI and led the team in putouts with 89.

"I was really hesitant about putting him in there," said Tarpley, who is also the Wildcat baseball coach. "I really didn't think he could do it. Sometimes when I watch him during football practice I wonder how he does it, but somehow he does."

Kirby is unsure of his future plans. He wants to go to college and thinks he may enroll at VSC. Whether or not he wishes to pursue a football career is uncertain. But one thing is certain — Bill Kirby has what it takes to be a winner.



Bill Kirby
Wildcat Linebacker

Thurs., Dec. 4, 1986

Wildcats To Face First Columbus Team In 16 Years

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Time was, back in the pre-Apollo days before Neil Armstrong took a giant leap for mankind, the Valdosta Wildcats regularly played against football teams from the Columbus area. In fact, during that jewel of a year, 1963, Columbus knocked off the Wildcats 52-19, Jordan-Columbus beat them 13-9, and Valdosta squeaked by Baker-Columbus 6-0.

But it has been 16 years since the Wildcats last played any football team from the Columbus area. Kendrick High of Columbus was the most recent opponent, a 28-12 loser to Wright Bazemore's next to last Valdosta squad in 1970.

Little is known about the quality of football in the city by the Chat-tahoochee River. But the 1986 Wildcats are about to find out. For, their next assignment comes Friday night against a 7-3 Carver High team, champions of Region 2-AAAA, which consists of eight Columbus area schools.

Those schools seldom play anyone outside of the Columbus area, and when they do, the opponent is usually an Alabama high school.

One thing remains for certain — Carver is a school which has won its last six games in a row. And they have been off for the last two weekends, so the Tigers will be healthy, wealthy, and wise — or at least injury-free and

Rushing

| G | Att | Yds | Avg | TD | GAvg |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-------|
| Jerome Callaway | 12 | 165 | 115.6 | 7 | 86.3 |
| James Roberts | 12 | 113 | 66.0 | 5 | 55.0 |
| Greg Talley | 12 | 89 | 18.0 | 2 | 15.0 |
| Lawrence Sharpe | 5 | 30 | 15.9 | 3 | 31.8 |
| Isaac Caesar | 4 | 22 | 13.9 | 0 | 23.2 |
| B.J. Mason | 6 | 15 | 7.7 | 1 | 6.0 |
| Antonio Henderson | 7 | 22 | 4.2 | 1 | 6.0 |
| Charles Steward | 4 | 4 | 2.4 | 0 | 8.0 |
| Eric Prime | 4 | 6 | 1.5 | 0 | 6.0 |
| Bernard Hisson | 3 | 4 | 1.3 | 0 | 2.8 |
| Eddie Jones | 4 | 4 | 1.0 | 0 | 10.0 |
| Guy Belue | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 0 | 6.0 |
| Walt Gill | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 0 | 6.0 |
| Dan Tillman | 1 | 6 | 6.0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| Ben Hogan | 2 | 3 | 2.0 | 0 | 269.3 |
| Valdosta Totals | 12 | 477 | 251.1 | 52 | 33 |
| Opponent Totals | 12 | 345 | 91.4 | 2.6 | 4 |

Passing

| G | Att | Cmp | Yds | Int | TD | GAvg |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Greg Talley | 12 | 173 | 108 | 15 | 15 | 128.3 |
| B.J. Mason | 5 | 15 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 12.6 |
| Jerome Callaway | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Charles Steward | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Valdosta | 12 | 193 | 114 | 16 | 16 | 133.5 |
| Opponents | 12 | 204 | 74 | 9 | 5 | 79.0 |

Receiving

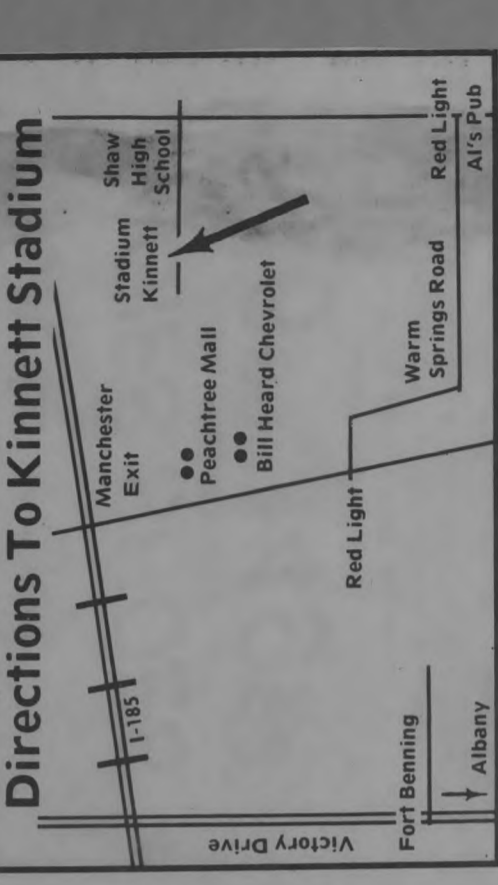
| G | No | Yds | Avg | TD | GAvg | |
|-------------------|----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| Charles Steward | 12 | 34 | 435 | 12.8 | 7 | 36.3 |
| Jerome Callaway | 10 | 16 | 336 | 21.0 | 2 | 33.6 |
| Jim Myles | 10 | 16 | 264 | 16.5 | 3 | 26.4 |
| Guy Belue | 11 | 19 | 186 | 9.8 | 3 | 16.9 |
| James Roberts | 9 | 11 | 151 | 13.7 | 0 | 16.8 |
| Antonio Henderson | 3 | 4 | 96 | 24.0 | 0 | 14.8 |
| B.J. Mason | 4 | 4 | 40 | 10.0 | 1 | 10.0 |
| Bernard Hisson | 2 | 2 | 9 | 4.5 | 0 | 4.5 |
| Isaac Caesar | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 0 | 4.0 |

Scoring

| G | TD | 1PT | 2PT | FG | Pts |
|-----------------|----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| Jerome Callaway | 9 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 90 |
| Dan Tillman | 12 | 0 | 41 | 0 | 85 |
| James Roberts | 6 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Greg Talley | 6 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Charles Steward | 6 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Guy Belue | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Isaac Caesar | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Reginald Dandy | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| William Jones | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Eric Prime | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Lawrence Sharpe | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Doonny Headrick | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| B.J. Mason | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |

Interceptions

| No | Yds | TD | Avg | Ref |
|------------------|-----|----|-----|------|
| Derek Shaw | 4 | 71 | 0 | 17.8 |
| Keith Henry | 2 | 36 | 0 | 18.0 |
| Walt Gill | 2 | 29 | 0 | 14.5 |
| Terrance Hull | 2 | 12 | 0 | 6.0 |
| Seabron Williams | 1 | 10 | 0 | 10.0 |
| Coleman Rudolph | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2.0 |
| Reginald Dandy | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Coronzoa Greene | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Michael Tolbert | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Eric Toth | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |



good speed and directs an offense out of multiple formations.

Behind Fort are two very fast running backs — Tyrone Shaw and Tim Whatley. They run behind a very large line featuring 240-pound Bob Dozier, 250-pound Maurice Garrett, and the gargantuan Tometo Anderson, a 6-foot-3, 270-pounder. Valdosta coach Nick Hyder knew well of Anderson.

Tometo Anderson is a big, strong lineman who gets very good leverage. And we'll see him on offense and defense. He's one of about five players who go both ways on that Carver team.

They have very good team speed and a good aggressive, swarming defense."

Two of Carver's key performers on defense are middle linebacker Darrell Williams and safety Tyrone Mahone, a prized college recruit.

The Valdosta Wildcats will counter with a defense which has allowed only 5.75 points per game while compiling a 12-0 record. They are led by Region 1-AAAA Defensive Player Of The Year Seabron Williams at right defensive end.

team captain Bill Kirby, with Williams the only three-year starters on defense, patrols the middle of a tenacious squad which plays particularly tough against the run.

Scrappy noseguard Eric Larry is flanked by two huge, strong defensive tackles — 6-foot-4, 270-pound Zabria Bell and 6-2, 225-pound Otis Conaway who bench presses a whopping 365 pounds. The left defensive end is 6-1, 190-pound senior Michael Tolbert, a quick and very strong redhead who guards very well against the run

around his end.

Playing alongside Kirby in the middle is freshman phenom Anthony Williams. At the corners are Keith Henry and second-year starter Reginald Dandy. Senior safeties Walt Gill and Derek Shaw have combined for seven interceptions on the season. Also deserving mention prominently are the Wildcats' two punt returners, Dandy and Gill. Each has great speed and breakaway ability. Dandy has returned punts for touchdowns in each of the last two years.

Callaway; A Natural At Back

VP 1 12-4-86

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Rarely do you run across an athlete with the natural ability of a Jerome Callaway. He is the very talented tailback of the 12-0 Valdosta Wildcats, the No. 1 team in the state of Georgia.

At 6-foot-1, 180 pounds, he runs a 4.5-second 40-yard dash. In 1986 he has gained 1,156 yards on 165 carries, good for 13 touchdowns, and he has caught 16 passes for 336 yards and two more touchdowns.

Perhaps the most astounding fact about the young man is that last season, he was a defensive back. That is hard to believe as one watches his fluid running style, the balance, the tackle-breaking ability, the knack for picking the right hole.

Callaway's natural talent is nothing any coach could ever take credit for. Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder has never attempted to.

"There are some things you just can't coach into a youngster. You can't coach 4.5 speed. Jerome has a rare combination of power, speed, quickness, and balance that didn't come from anything we've done. His talent is God-given."

Callaway was a starting defensive back for Cook High in Adel in 1984 as a sophomore, and when his family moved to Valdosta in the summer of 1985, he went out for the football team as a defensive back.

He played quite a bit for the '85 Wildcats at cornerback, and he also returned punts. In the region championship game against Lowndes, he came up with an important interception to halt one Viking drive. But on a great defensive squad (6.3 points allowed per game), Callaway was just another very fine athlete.

Then last spring, Hyder, obviously noticing the hidden talent, made the decision to try Callaway on offense.

The inspiration for the move came from a very interesting source. "In 1980 we had a pretty good football team, and we beat a good Lowndes High team 17-8 in the regular season," Hyder said. "They had a young running back named Cedric Jones who was one of the best athletes to ever come out of South Georgia. By the playoffs that year, Joe Wilson had decided to use Cedric not only on offense but also in a lot of situations on defense at the safety position."

"Well, Lowndes beat us 6-0 in the playoffs and I firmly believe Cedric Jones was the difference. He made several touchdown-saving tackles. I had envisioned a role like that for

"Jerome works hard in the weight room and at practice, but where he really gets the respect of his teammates is in his blocking. He's a good pass blocker and run blocker, and he'll also get downfield and block for pass receivers. It is a very intangible help to the team but one that makes a big difference."

— Nick Hyder
— Valdosta Head Coach

Jerome on this year's team. But once we moved him to offense, the parallel role on defense never quite materialized."

The Wildcat defense has survived quite well without him — well enough to lead the region in defense by a wide margin, allowing only 5.7 points per game. And Callaway's presence on the offense has helped raise the teams output from 14.3 points per game scored in 1985 to more than 31 points per game this season.

He has also managed to make his share of touchdown-saving tackles. He hauled down Joey Parker from behind at the 10-yard line after the Lowndes defensive tackle had recovered a fumble and returned it 65 yards. And in the playoff game against the Vikings, he caught linebacker Freddie Richardson from behind at the 15 after an interception and 55-yard return.

Watching Callaway carrying a football behind his blockers through a

defense reminds one of a Tony Dorsett-type runner — great speed and acceleration combined with a strong upper body and shifty moves. He makes good use of his blockers, especially fullback James Roberts, and shakes off tacklers with the ease of a much bigger runner. But his talents do not stop there.

He is a dangerous receiver out of the backfield on short routes as well as on deep patterns when his speed allows him to get far downfield very quickly. But Hyder has been particularly pleased with Callaway's blocking, the yeoman duty on a football team which many great headline backs disdain.

"Jerome works hard in the weight room and at practice, but where he really gets the respect of his teammates is in his blocking," Hyder said. "He's a good pass blocker and run blocker, and he'll also get downfield and block for pass receivers. It is a very intangible help to the team but one that makes a big difference."

Callaway's talents as an athlete do not end once he leaves the football field. At the end of the football season last year, he joined the Wildcat varsity basketball team. And though he got a late start, he still averaged 11 points per game playing the forward and big guard positions. In a crucial subregion playoff win over Central-Thomasville, he scored 20 points.

He and 6-3, 220-pound tight end Charles Steward plan on joining the Wildcat basketball team again at the end of the state football playoffs which, they hope, won't come for another three weeks.

As a football player, Callaway has even gone so far as to prove that he is not perfect. On the first play of the Colquitt County game in Moultrie, he threw the football on a halfback pass and it was intercepted.

"We think the receiver may have run the wrong pass route on the play," Hyder said. "Throwing may be the weakest area of Jerome's repertoire of abilities, but we're not too concerned about it. And we're working on improving it."



Jerome Callaway
Valdosta Running Back



Valdosta's Jerome Callaway Has Made A Successful Switch From Defense To Offense
Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Lane's Quick Feet I Of Many Forces

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

When college scouts look at offensive linemen, one of the first things they look at is the lower body strength.

"Having the upper body strength is good, but from the hips down is where you win the offensive line battle," Valdosta offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker said. "And that's one thing the college scouts really look for — the lower body strength."

Baker has an offensive lineman who, as just a junior, already has gotten the attention of colleges.

Ben Lane has turned into one of the best centers in the state and the main reason is not only his physical condition, but his attitude as well.

"Our goal is take one game at a time and then hope we win 15 of them," Baker said. "But Ben goes beyond that. He's a good worker in the off-season and really improved his upper body strength over the summer."

"The key behind Ben is his parents. They have always been behind him and supported him. They are a close-knit family. His parents are concerned about his grades and they really care about him. And I think that helps to make him a better football player."

Perhaps one of the most noticeable things about Lane to the scouts are his feet.

"He has real quick feet — probably the quickest of anyone I've ever coached," Baker said. "All the college scouts say he has very quick feet and great lower-body power. Coming off the ball, his hips are sinking down and driving."

See Lane, Page 4-B



Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Valdosta Center Ben Lane

...Lane

Continued From Page 3-B

And while Lane does possess great lower-body strength (he lifts 800 pounds on the hip sled), his upper strength is also superb as he benches 270 pounds.

When the Wildcats reported for fall workouts, Baker was a little concerned about the condition Lane was in. After playing at 215 pounds last season, Lane ballooned to 260 over the summer. But since he has trimmed down to 245.

Because of his quickness and strength, Lane fits perfectly into the mold of Valdosta offensive linemen. "Another thing he does so well is he feels, or folds, for trapping," Baker said. "He creates a good hole for the backs to run in."

Lane is also the long snapper for the Wildcats on extra points, field goals,

"And he may have to play tackle next year."

Four VHS Students

By Laura McMillan
Four Interact Students at Valdosta High have been selected as "Students of the Week". The four were honored by the Valdosta Rotary Club at their Wednesday meeting.

Ronny Creque is the 17-year-old son of Rev. and Mrs. Ron E. Creque. He is a Senior at VHS. He is a member of Interact, Key Club, DECA, and is Vice President of the Beta Club. He attends Cornerstone United Methodist Church with his family and where his father serves as minister. Ronny is President of his youth group at his church and is active in many of the church activities. He is enrolled in the Distributive Education class at VHS and is employed by Dr. William Martin, Veterinarian. Ronny's hobbies include playing the drums and lifting weights.

Anna Faircloth is the 17-year-old daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Faircloth. She is also a Senior at VHS. Anna is a member of Interact, FBLA, FHA, and the VHS Marching Cats. She is also a member of 4-H and is a state and sectional winner in the 4-H Dairy

foods project. She is enrolled in the Vocational Office Training program at VHS and is employed at Bollman Business Machines. Anna attends Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church with her family.

Michael Farley is the 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent P. Farley. He is a Senior at VHS, also. He is a member of the Interact Club, Key Club, Science Club, Math Team, and Tennis Team. Mike is Editor of the Valdosta High yearbook — the Sandspur — and also acts as photographer. He attends St. John's Catholic Church with his family and is very active in many church activities.

Anita Giles is the 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Giles. She is a Senior at VHS. She is in Interact, serves as the Secretary of VICA, and is Secretary of the Co-Ed "Y" Club. She is enrolled in the Distributive Cooperative Training program at Valdosta High and is employed at Winn-Dixie Marketplace as a Pharmacist Aide and Cashier. Anita's hobbies include playing the guitar, all music and reading.

'Cats Open State Playoffs With Trip To Columbus

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

When the Valdosta High Wildcats load up the busses today and head to Columbus for the opening round of the Class AAAA state playoffs, they will have an opponent on their minds they don't know a whole lot about.

Although Valdosta has scouted Carver four times this season, the Wildcats don't have any combat action with the Tigers. In fact, the teams have never played before.

But the Valdosta coaching staff has seen Carver on film enough to know that the Tigers do have a good team. Carver, which is one of the smallest schools in the Columbus area with an average daily attendance of 511 (more than half of Valdosta's 1,138), won Region 2-AAAA with a 7-3 record.

Carver opened the season with a 1-3 record, but has since reeled off six consecutive victories. Carver's region does not have a region playoff and the Tigers have been idle since Nov. 15.

Valdosta, meanwhile, has gone through one of the toughest schedules

in the state unscathed. The Wildcats opened the season with then top-ranked LaGrange and came away with a 16-6 victory. Following that came wins over Fulton-Atlanta, Waycross, and Leon-Tallahassee. The Wildcats defeated all six teams in Region 1-AAAA by an average score of 35.5-6.5. Their closest game was a 17-6 win over Lowndes in the season finale.

The only common opponent between Valdosta and Carver is 1-AAAA member Colquitt County. Colquitt defeated the Tigers 22-12 in the second game of the season but fell to Valdosta 38-6.

The Wildcats are trying to finish their 21st undefeated season and capture their 19th state title. If Valdosta reaches the state championship game, it will be the 19th time in the last 27 years Region 1-AAAA has been represented at the title game. The region has a 14-3-1 record in championship games. Valdosta has played in 14 of those title games and has an 11-1-1 mark.

But for the Wildcats to reach the

state title game, they must first get by Carver. And that could be a tougher challenge than some people think it will be.

The Tigers are led by quarterback Scott Fort who has good speed and directs a multiple-formation offense. Carver has two fast backs to work with in Tyrone Shaw and Tim Whatley.

The offensive line consists of a trio of players who possess good size — Bob Dozier at 240-pounds, Maurice Garrett at 250-pounds, and 6-foot-3, 270-pound Tometo Anderson.

"Tometo Anderson is a big, strong lineman who gets very good leverage," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said. "And we'll see him on offense and defense. He's one of about five players who go both ways on that Carver team. "They have very good team speed and a good aggressive, swarming defense."

The winner of the Valdosta-Carver game will play host to the winner of the Bradwell Institute-Baldwin game next week for the South Georgia champion-ship.

Get Interact Honor

Hiers read Thanksgiving Legend, and Toni Essinger read The First Thanksgiving. The students sang a Thanksgiving hymn with the residents and gave them Thanksgiving cards with candy.

The following students attended with the following students attended with sponsor, Patty Smitherman: Pam Bennett, Brooke Price, Jamie Essinger, Julie Anderson, Rhonda David, Patti Smith, Misti Rowe, Felicia McKeithen, Chad Hodge, Toni Essinger, Shelia Payton, Michelle Jamison, Alicia Deloach, and Karen Jamison.

Christmas Dinner

By Dione D. Joyner
Reporter

President Chad Hodge announced the Christmas Dinner at Nan's on Dec. 16. Leslie Hietz reported on the Nursing Home visit and reminded committee members to begin work on the Christmas Project Friday at 7:30 a.m. Kevin Elliott gave a report on the FLC tutorial project which is on every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 a.m. for first year students.



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

Made Visit

By Dione D. Joyner
Reporter

Fourteen students of the Foreign Language Club went to Heritage House Nursing Home on Nov. 26 for a Thanksgiving visit with the residents. Patti Smith read Psalms 136, Leslie

Wildcats No Strangers To Semifinal Matchups

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

For the 25th time since 1940, the Valdosta High Wildcats will be playing in the South Georgia championship game.

Of those 25 games, the Wildcats have won 21 times to advance into the state title game where they are 17-3-1.

If Valdosta wins Friday against Bradwell Institute, the Wildcats will get a shot at their 19th state title. Bradwell Institute was a 32-12 winner over Baldwin last week. The Wildcats earned their shot at Bradwell by taking control in the second half and defeating Carver-Columbus 28-0.

As has been the case for most of the season, it was the Wildcat defense that left its mark on the Tigers. Valdosta

held the Tigers to minus seven yards rushing for the game and Carver had just 79 passing, completing five of 13 passes.

In addition to keeping the Tiger offense silent for most of the game, the Wildcats also forced four turnovers — two fumbles and two interceptions.

"It was a good effort by the defense," Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said after the game. "It was a team effort by the whole defense."

Senior noseguard Eric Larry was singled out by Rudolph for playing a good game. Larry kept constant pressure on the two Carver quarterbacks and also blocked a punt that scored the Wildcats' third touchdown.

"Larry really played well," Rudolph

said. "He was getting good pressure on the passer the entire game and then he had that blocked punt."

The blocked punt was one of four touchdowns the Wildcat defense set up. After a scoreless first half, Derek Shaw intercepted a pass near midfield. On second down, Valdosta quarterback Greg Talley threw a 52-yard touchdown pass to Jim Motes.

Following the kickoff, Carver's Scott Forte fumbled when he was sacked by Coronzo Greene and Michael Tolbet recovered at the Tiger 12. Two plays later, Jerome Callaway scored.

Larry then blocked the punt that rolled into the end zone where Otis Conaway recovered for a TD.

And just .51 seconds into the final quarter, Carver's Tyronne Shaw

fumbled and Tolbert recovered. On first down, Talley threw for the score to Charles Steward.

"After Shaw's interception, that really put the pressure on them," Rudolph said. "And we responded well to that pressure ourselves. The defense forced their mistakes and the offense was able to get the ball in."

The Wildcat offense had its share of problems in the first half. On their first possession, Talley was intercepted deep in Carver territory. Callaway later ripped off a 44-yard run to the Tiger 28, but the drive stalled on a penalty.

The 'Cats moved to the Carver six early in the second period, but a bad pitch on fourth down turned the ball back over to the Tigers. Three more

drives gained zero, three, and nine yards before the half ended. * * *

In other playoff action around the state over the weekend, LaGrange downed Walton 21-0 and Clarke Central beat Southwest DeKalb 10-0 in Class AAAAA.

LaGrange and Clarke Central will play this week for the North Georgia title.

In Class AAA, Central-Thomasville whipped Westside 41-14, Lakeside ousted Westminster 17-7, Villa Rica nipped Gainesville 21-14, and Worth County upended Troup 22-7.

Central-Thomasville and Worth County will play for the South Georgia title this week while Villa Rica meets Westminster in the north.

In Class AA, Brooks County toppled Swainsboro 13-2. Washington-Wilkes defeated R.E. Lee 28-7, Gordon downed Carver-Atlanta 27-6, and Central-Carrollton defeated Duluth 29-8.

Brooks County will play host to Washington-Wilkes for the South Georgia title Friday night and Gordon will take on Central-Carrollton in the north.

In Class A, Clinch County was eliminated by Wilcox County 20-0, Lincoln County shut out Montgomery County 24-0, East Rome nipped Greenville 6-0, and Commerce ripped Palmetto 32-7.

Wilcox County and Lincoln County will play for the South Georgia title this week and East Rome will meet Palmetto in the north.



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Valdosta Defense Gets 28-0 Shutout

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY

Times Sports Editor
COLUMBUS — Although the Valdosta High Wildcats have played well in every phase of the game this season, the defense has been like a brick wall.

In the quarterfinals of the Class AAAA state football playoffs here Friday night, that defensive unit turned into a granite wall as the Wildcats posted a 28-0 victory over the Carver-Columbus Tigers.

Valdosta, 13-0 and ranked No. 1 in the state, advances to the South Georgia championship game against Bradwell Institute. The game will be played at Cleveland Field next Friday.

The Wildcats did score 28 points, but every one of them was set up by the defense. After battling to a 0-0 tie at the half, the tough Wildcat defense really put the pressure on Carver in the second half. The Tigers finished the game with minus 7 yards rushing, including a negative 43 in the second half.

Valdosta registered nine tackles for losses (totalling 41 yards) and also had five quarterback sacks for an additional 36 yards in losses.

"Our defense really made it happen out there tonight," Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said. "The defensive coaches — Jack (Rudolph), Freddie (Waters), and Charles (Tarpley) — did an excellent job tonight."

While the Wildcat defense was a thorn in Carver's side all night, the Valdosta offense was having more than its share of problems.

Every time the Wildcats would get a drive going in the first half, a penalty or turnover would stop it.

"So much is expected of our kids and that's a lot of pressure on them," Hyder said. "We just had to settle down (after the first half) and try to make some things happen."

"When (Greg) Talley threw that interception (on Valdosta's first possession), the call was mine. The run when Jerome (Callaway) broke loose (a 44-yard gain) and they caught him, showed us that they definitely had some speed. There were several passes that Talley just overthrew. Those are the things I'm talking about and that's coaching."

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|----|------|
| Valdosta..... | 0 | 0 | 21 | 7-28 |
| Carver..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 |
| Val — Jim Motes 52 pass from Greg Talley (Dan Tillman Kick) | | | | |
| Val — Jerome Callaway 6 run (Tillman Kick) | | | | |
| Val — Ditts Conaway recovered block put in end zone (Tillman Kick) | | | | |
| Val — Charles Steward 3 pass from Talley (Tillman Kick) | | | | |

| | Val | Car |
|--|--------|--------|
| First Downs | 6 | 5 |
| Yards Rushing | 105 | 7 |
| Rushing Attempts | 27 | 31 |
| Yards Passing | 98 | 79 |
| Passes | 18-8-2 | 13-5-2 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 3-2 | 3-2 |
| Punting | 5-29-4 | 9-34-1 |
| Penalties | 6-54 | 4-41 |
| Rushing — Valdosta: Callaway 7-72; Roberts 3-24; Talley 5-13; Steward 1-1; Ceasar 1-1; Sharpe 1-1; Hogan 1-3; Mason 2-4; Carver, Shaw 11-21; Williams 7-7; Pitts 3-6; Thomas 1-1; Forte 3-10; Walton 6-32. | | |
| Passing — Valdosta: Talley 18-8-2; Motes 1-0-0; Carver, Forte 8-6-236; Walton 5-1-0-0. | | |
| Receiving — Valdosta: Motes 1-52; Callaway 2-22; Belle 2-8; Roberts 1-7; Mason 1-6; Steward 1-3; Carver, Mahone 3-45; Williams 1-8; Paniel 1-7. | | |

And though Valdosta settled down in the second half, the 'Cats started the half on a bad note when Bernard Hitson fumbled the kickoff. Carver recovered at the Wildcat 34-yard line. After moving to the Valdosta 13, Valdosta's Walt Gill intercepted a pass and returned it 57 yards.

However, Valdosta was called for holding and had to start on its own 4. The 'Cats couldn't move the ball and had to punt three plays later. But the offense came back on the field when Derek Shaw intercepted a pass and returned it 11 yards. A piling on penalty against the Tigers moved the ball out to the Valdosta 46.

On second down, Talley dropped back and found Jim Motes over the middle. Motes spun out of a tackle and raced 52 yards for a touchdown to break the scoreless tie.

Dan Tillman then kicked the first of his four extra points for a 7-0 lead with 7:20 left in the third quarter.

Again on second down following Valdosta's kickoff, Coronzo Greene sacked Carver QB Scott Forte and forced a fumble. Wildcat defensive end Michael Tolbert recovered it at the Carver 12, and two plays later Callaway scored on a 6-yard burst behind left tackle John Wheelless.

After an exchange of punts, the Tigers dropped into punt formation, but Wildcat noseguard Eric Larry broke through the line and blocked the



Photo Special To The Times

Valdosta Safety Derek Shaw Hauls Down Carver Standout Tyrone Mahone In Wildcats' 28-0 Playoff Victory

kick. The ball rolled into the end zone and Otis Conaway recovered for a 21-0 lead with :28 left in the third period.

With less than a minute into the final quarter, the Valdosta defense was standing tough again. Carver's Tyrone Shaw was hit hard in the backfield and fumbled. Tolbert recovered the ball at the Tiger 3 and on first down, Talley hit Charles Steward for the score.

"We just got too intense on the sidelines on the youngsters in the first half, and that was my fault," Hyder

said. "The kicking game was good for us. We got two fumbles and two interceptions and that's good. I'm proud of our defense. They really kept us in it."

LaGrange Wins

From Staff Reports

LaGrange defeated Walton 21-0 Friday night to advance to the Class AAAA North Georgia championship game next week against Clarke Central.

The Grangers got a first quarter

touchdown from Roy Lee Moss on a two yard run. The point after attempt failed, however. In the second quarter LaGrange scored when quarterback Deshame Cameron tossed a 24-yard touchdown pass to Trey Baldwin. A two point conversion attempt failed after that one.

But the Walton quarterback was later flagged for intentionally grounding the ball in the end zone to give LaGrange a 14-0 lead at halftime. They scored again in the third period when Mike Cofield caught a 26-yard

touchdown pass from Cameron and Julian Blackmon kicked the extra point. Gary Carter had five interceptions for the Grangers. Roy Lee Moss rushed 21 times in the game for 137 yards. Cameron completed nine of 16 passes for 138 yards and the two touchdowns. Walton was held to a net of minus-8 yards rushing while LaGrange picked up 237 yards on the ground. However, Walton passed for 154 yards while LaGrange gained 138 yards through the air.

Valdosta's Second-Half Surge Kills Carver

Columbus Ledger & Enquirer 12-6-86



Carver's Tyrone Mahone is brought down by Valdosta's Derek Shaw during Friday night's Class 4-A state playoff game.

Four Valdosta Plays Spell Doom for Carver

By Guerry Clegg
Staff Writer

The score will enter the books: Valdosta 28, Carver 0. It will surprise no one as Valdosta is ranked No. 1 in the state in Class AAAA and No. 2 in the nation. The Wildcats, 13-0, have won by an average of 25 points.

But this latest score could never tell an accurate story. A near full house at Kinnett Stadium watched Carver fight the mighty Wildcats vigorously Friday night.

It went for naught. Four big plays spelled doom for Carver and made Valdosta a winner in the quarterfinals of the state playoffs.

Valdosta will play Bradwell Institute, a 33-12 winner over Baldwin, next week for the South Georgia championship.

"We did the best we could," said Carver coach Wallace Davis. "I'm proud of our kids. They played well."

Carver, 7-4, was impressed with Valdosta. But awed? No. Intimidated? Not in the least.

"They were a strong team and we knew it," said quarterback Scott Forte. "We're proud of ourselves for hanging in there with them as long as we did. We knew if we went out there and played hard we could play with them."

"I think we played a good game the first two quarters," said linebacker Dennis Tillman. "I still think Valdosta's got a good team. But I think we've got a good team, too."

Valdosta coach Nick Hyder was impressed — but not surprised.

"I've been impressed with them since we've been studying them," Hyder said. "They've got a good defense. They have good schemes. They change up, give

you different looks. They hit well and they never quit."

While Hyder applauded Carver's defense, he praised his own. And rightfully so. Valdosta's defense forced three of the touchdowns. It held Carver to 50 yards total offense, minus seven in the second half.

Valdosta scored its first TD on a 52-yard pass from Greg Talley to Jim Motes. The ball was underthrown but Motes caught it and slipped past safety Tyrone Mahone.

That's when the Valdosta defense took control. On the second play of Carver's next possession, Coronzo Green stripped the ball from Forte and Valdosta's Michael Tolbert recovered at the Carver 12. Two plays later Jerome Callaway scored on a 6-yard run.

Valdosta scored again with 28 seconds left in the third quarter. Seabron Williams blocked a Carver punt and Otis Conaway recovered in the end zone.

On the next possession Valdosta recovered another Carver fumble at the Tigers' 3. This time it wasn't a hit, but rather intense pursuit that forced the fumble.

The Wildcats capitalized immediately when Talley hit tight end Charles Steward in the left corner of the end zone.

"Our defense was the key tonight," said Hyder.

Carver's lack of depth showed in the second half. While Valdosta has two platoons (and two deep at several positions) Carver had several players who hardly left the field.

"I was getting tired. I had cramps in my legs," said Tillman.

Said Hyder: "If Carver didn't have so many youngsters going both ways that could have been a difference."

Larry: Feisty In 'Cat Tradition

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

"We call him Crazy," said one Wildcat teammate. "It's like trying to block a lightning bolt," said Wildcat center Ben Lane, about trying to impede this defensive lineman's progress.

At 180 pounds, senior noseguard Eric Larry has earned a reputation as a hard hitter with quick feet and good speed. Larry, too, is a quick learner. He didn't play football before last season and saw a good deal of playing time before the season ended.

Larry's trademark is an aggressiveness that propels him through the biggest of offensive lines, an aggressiveness that also has gotten him in trouble with the officials from time to time. It seems that Larry hates it when the other guy cheats.

"A lot of times he gets fired up out there and shows his temper," said Valdosta defensive line coach Freddie Waters, "but usually he just gets mad when he gets held or something and the official doesn't call it."

"He's just very aggressive and I'll take an aggressive player any day over a passive one."

One advantage Larry has over many noseguards around the state is that he has to practice daily against some big bodies. In the 2-minute drills, he has to line up against Lane (250), Jodie Sprenkle (270), and John Wheelless (310).

"That really gives him an advantage," Waters said. "He goes up against these big guys everyday. When he gets a smaller guy, he can blow right by him."

Many of the Valdosta coaches think that Larry's second-half performance against Carver High last Friday night was his best one of the season. The stubborn noseguard

was all over the field making tackles and hits.

What may have spurred Larry on a little is the fact that he didn't start the game. One day early last week, he left his equipment at home and was unable to practice. Water's general rule is if you don't practice, you don't start.

Instead of getting to hit, Larry spent the day running around the Valdosta track. Evidently, he stored up his frustration until Friday night.

A noseguard plays a key role for the defense, often controlling the flow of the play and keying the defensive line. Larry's quickness is one tool, but as only a second-year player, he has grown adept at reading the offense and spotting the ballcarrier.

"His quickness is excellent," Waters said, "and that helps him get by those big linemen. They blink and he's by them. He's fast, too, and he can read the offenses well. He does everything pretty well."

Waters refers to Larry as "solid." He stands only 5-foot-8, has a low center of gravity, and hits like a bigger man. He's also no weakling. According to the progress charts posted in the Wildcat weight room, Larry can power clean 215 pounds, bench press 300, and can move 620 on the hip sled. Larry has also been timed at 4.9 seconds in the 40-yard dash.

Larry is a member of an defensive line that is about as impermeable to the rush as a high school line could be. The Wildcats finished first in the region against the running game, and heading into the Carver game had allowed just an average of 76 rushing yards per game. Carver had minus seven yards rushing against Valdosta.

Perhaps one of the biggest compliments given Larry came from head coach Nick Hyder, who simply said, "I'm glad he's on our team."

Wildcats, Lowndes Dominate All-Region Team



Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Jerome Callaway Was Named Offensive Player Of Year

By DAVID YEARY
The Moultrie Observer

Valdosta High school head football coach Nick Hyder believes that through adversity comes strength. And the 1986 Region 1-AAAA coach of the year thinks that the adversity his Wildcats lived through in 1985 was the foundation for this year's 13-0 team.

"We did the best we could last year; we did the best we could with what we had," said Hyder, whose team finished 9-3 last year. "A lot of the people who came through for us this year paid their dues last year."

And how those people came through, as the Wildcats went all but undefeated in winning the Region 1-AAAA title. Valdosta's closest region game was a 17-6 victory over Lowndes High in the regular-season finale, and that kind of domination by the Wildcats shows up in the 1986 All-Region team selected last week by the sports writers who cover Region 1-AAAA.

Of the 26 players on the first team offense and defense, 12 are from Valdosta, and another five Wildcats are on the second team. In addition, Valdosta swept the special awards as Hyder won his second consecutive coach of the year award, running back Jerome Callaway was named offensive player of the year and end Sebron Williams was named defensive player of the year.

Lowndes, which won the region title last year and finished second to the 'Cats this season, placed six players on the first team and four on the second team; resurgent Tift County had three first-team players and seven players on the second team; Colquitt County had one player on the first team and seven players on the second team; Westover had two first-team players and one second-team player; Dougherty had one first-team player and one second-team player, and Monroe had one first-team player and one second-team player.

Hyder, who is in 13th season at Valdosta, has guided the Wildcats to a 141-24-1 record during his tenure, including state championships in 1978, 1982 and 1984.

His 1986 squad breezed through the regular season, including wins over LaGrange and Tallahassee-Leon, and in the post-season easily captured the region championship and coasted past Columbus-Carver in the first round of the state playoffs last Friday.

As always, Hyder is quick to give the credit to his staff and players.



Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Valdosta's Seabron Williams (87) Was Named Region 1-AAAA Defensive Player Of Year

"Our situation here is a staff situation," said Hyder. "I've got one coach (Charles Tarpley) who has been with me for 22 years. Between (assistant coaches) Jack Rudolph, Freddie Waters and Tarpley there's over a 100 years of experience coaching and playing football. And we've got fine young coaches in Mike O'Brien, and Jerry Don Baker and Bob Bolton played at Valdosta, so they know about the tradition."

"And this year we had an unselfish group of players who pulled for each other. There was an awful lot of camaraderie."

The star of the Wildcats' offense was running back Jerome Callaway (6-foot-1, 190-pounds, senior), who led the region in rushing (1,156 yards) and scoring (90 points) and was fifth (first among backs) in receiving (336 yards). Not bad for a player who spent all of last season in the Wildcats' defensive backfield.

"Jerome is a very talented athlete — an unbelievable talent," said Hyder. "I've been around football 29 years,

and the only one I can compare him to is William Andrews of Thomasville. William was a student leader, real outgoing. Callaway is an introvert off the field, but put him on the football field and he's a real extrovert. He can go."

"We had him in the secondary last year, and he was a real fine defensive player. He seems to have whatever speed he needs. I don't know how fast he is, but he's fast."

Williams, though small (5-11, 175), was a dominant defensive player, averaging three sacks per game for the region's best defense.

"Seabron is a very experienced football player who started for our 15-0 team in 1984," said Hyder of the senior. "He doesn't have the physical looks of a great lineman, but we sure can't block him in practice. We can't do anything against him in practice. I know the other teams have to be frustrated because their offense can't do anything against him and our defense."

See All-Region, Page 11-A



Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder
Region 1-AAAA Coach Of Year

...All-Region

Continued From Page 10-A

Also on the first team offense from Valdosta are region-leading quarterback Greg Talley (6-2, 186, Sr.), running back James Roberts (6-0, 210, So.), tight end Charles Steward (6-3, 218, Jr.), guard Jodie Sprenkle (6-3,

275, Sr.), tackle Andy Anderson (5-11, 250, Sr.), center Ben Lane (6-2, 255, Jr.) and place-kicker Dan Tillman (6-0, 200, Sr.), who scored 65 points, including eight field goals. Talley passed for 1,539 yards and had 15 touchdown passes and juut five

interceptions. Roberts rushed for 660 yards to be the region's fourth-leading runner, while Steward caught 34 passes for 435 yards and seven touchdowns and punted for a 33.2-yard average. Wildcats on the first-team defense are lineman Otis Conaway (6-1, 230,

Sr.), linebacker Bill Kirby (6-0, 190, Sr.) and defensive back Walt Gill (6-0, 185, Sr.), who had two interceptions. Joining Callaway, Talley and Roberts in the first-team backfield is Westover runner Montrel Greene (5-10, 191, Sr.), who rushed for 874 yards despite missing one game with an injury. Highly-recruited tackle Haze Sadler (6-1, 280, Sr.) is the other Westover representative on the first team.

County trio on the first team. Bennett, who caught 31 passes for 484 yards and five touchdowns, is joined on the first team by defensive lineman Travis Battle (6-1, 218, Sr.) and punter Brian Chestnutt (5-11, 180, Jr.), who led the region with a 37.1-yards per kick average.

Lowndes' Rozell Oree (5-11, 150, Jr.) is the other first team receiver. He caught 32 passes for 453 yards and four touchdowns and is joined by Lowndes guard Ed Falgout (6-1, 200, Sr.), defensive lineman Joey Parker (6-0,

Region-leading receiver Rubin Bennett (6-0, 180, Sr.) leads the Tift

County linebacker Freddie Richardson (6-3, 220, Jr.) and defensive backs Brad Almon (5-11, 160, Sr.) and David Hargett (6-1, 186, Sr.) on the first team.

Colquitt County linebacker Demetrius Walker (6-0, 210, Sr.), who had 86 tackles, 1½ sacks and three interceptions, was his school's lone representative on the first team, while Roderick Coleman (6-4, 220, Sr.), who had 92 tackles, eight sacks and an interception, was the Monroe representative on the first team.



Brad Almon
Lowndes

James Roberts
Valdosta

David Hargett
Lowndes

Andy Anderson
Valdosta

Jerome Callaway
Valdosta

Otis Conaway
Valdosta

Ed Falgout
Lowndes



Walt Gill
Valdosta

Fred Richardson
Lowndes

Joey Parker
Lowndes

Dan Tillman
Valdosta

Rozell Orr
Lowndes

Greg Talley
Valdosta

Charles Steward
Valdosta

First Team Offense

| Pos | Name, School | Hgt. | Wgt. | Cl. |
|-----|---------------------------|------|------|-----|
| QB | Greg Talley, Valdosta | 6-2 | 185 | Sr. |
| RB | Jerome Callaway, Valdosta | 6-1 | 190 | Sr. |
| RB | James Roberts, Valdosta | 6-0 | 210 | So. |
| RB | Montrel Greene, Westover | 5-10 | 191 | Sr. |
| WR | Rubin Bennett, Tift Co. | 6-0 | 180 | Sr. |
| WR | Rozell Orr, Lowndes | 5-11 | 150 | Jr. |
| TE | Charles Steward, Valdosta | 6-3 | 218 | Jr. |
| G | Jodie Sprenkle, Valdosta | 6-3 | 275 | Sr. |
| G | Ed Falgout, Lowndes | 6-1 | 200 | Sr. |
| C | Ben Lane, Valdosta | 6-2 | 255 | Jr. |
| T | Andy Anderson, Valdosta | 5-11 | 250 | Jr. |
| T | Haze Sadler, Westover | 6-1 | 280 | Sr. |
| PK | Dan Tillman, Valdosta | 6-0 | 200 | Sr. |

First Team Defense

| Pos | Name, School | Hgt. | Wgt. | Cl. |
|-----|--------------------------------|------|------|-----|
| L | Otis Conaway, Valdosta | 6-1 | 230 | Sr. |
| L | Joey Parker, Lowndes | 6-0 | 235 | Sr. |
| L | Travis Battle, Tift Co. | 6-1 | 218 | Sr. |
| E | Seabron Williams, Valdosta | 5-11 | 175 | Sr. |
| E | Roderick Coleman, Monroe | 6-4 | 220 | Sr. |
| LB | Bill Kirby, Valdosta | 6-0 | 190 | Sr. |
| LB | Freddie Richardson, Lowndes | 6-3 | 220 | Jr. |
| LB | Demetrius Walker, Colquitt Co. | 5-11 | 215 | Sr. |
| DB | Walt Gill, Valdosta | 6-0 | 185 | Sr. |
| DB | Brad Almon, Lowndes | 5-11 | 160 | Sr. |
| DB | David Hargett, Lowndes | 6-1 | 185 | Sr. |
| DB | Darren Petty, Dougherty | 5-10 | 175 | Sr. |
| P | Brian Chestnutt, Tift Co. | 5-11 | 180 | Jr. |

Second Team Offense

| Pos | Name, School | Hgt. | Wgt. | Cl. |
|-----|------------------------------|------|------|-----|
| QB | Tye Cottle, Tift Co. | 5-11 | 185 | Sr. |
| RB | Mark Walker, Lowndes | 6-2 | 185 | Jr. |
| RB | Anthony Graham, Tift Co. | 5-10 | 185 | Sr. |
| RB | Robert Lamar, Colquitt Co. | 5-10 | 185 | Jr. |
| WR | Andre Bridges, Colquitt Co. | 5-9 | 170 | Jr. |
| WR | Willie Sims, Colquitt Co. | 5-9 | 160 | Sr. |
| TE | Andre Jackson, Tift Co. | 6-3 | 240 | So. |
| G | Troy Wells, Valdosta | 6-1 | 230 | Sr. |
| G | Eddie Campbell, Colquitt Co. | 6-0 | 210 | Sr. |
| C | Doug Strain, Colquitt Co. | 5-11 | 195 | Sr. |
| T | John Wheelless, Valdosta | 6-0 | 305 | Sr. |
| T | Doug Hubbard, Lowndes | 6-3 | 210 | So. |
| PK | Joey Parker, Lowndes | 6-0 | 235 | Sr. |

Second Team Defense

| Pos | Name, School | Hgt. | Wgt. | Cl. |
|-----|---------------------------------|------|------|-----|
| L | Eric Larry, Valdosta | 5-10 | 180 | Sr. |
| L | Zabria Bell, Valdosta | 6-2 | 280 | So. |
| L | Robert Hargett, Lowndes | 6-0 | 210 | Sr. |
| E | Andre Jackson, Tift Co. | 6-3 | 240 | So. |
| E | Willie Stokes, Tift Co. | 6-5 | 210 | Sr. |
| LB | Marcus Richardson, Westover | 6-0 | 181 | Sr. |
| LB | Johnny Brown, Colquitt Co. | 5-11 | 190 | Jr. |
| LB | Rob Rowe, Tift Co. | 5-7 | 160 | Sr. |
| DB | Reginald Dandy, Valdosta | 5-10 | 170 | Jr. |
| DB | Sheldrick Hawkins, Colquitt Co. | 5-10 | 185 | Jr. |
| DB | Mark Bell, Tift Co. | 5-10 | 185 | Jr. |
| DB | Sharonski Barnum, Monroe | 5-10 | 180 | Jr. |
| P | Edwin Griffin, Dougherty | 5-11 | 183 | Sr. |

Tolbert A Diamond In Rough

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

On a defensive team like the Valdosta Wildcats have, many a fine football player fades in comparison to the accomplishments of the squad as a whole. The Wildcats have given up only 5.3 points per game through 13 games in 1986 and that against a very difficult schedule.

Behind every fine team effort though, there are valuable individuals filling vital roles as part of that team. At Valdosta High School, one of the finest players on the exemplary defensive squad is the left defensive end, Michael Tolbert. He is a 6-foot-3, 200-pound senior who alternated at the position last season.

Tolbert toils somewhat anonymously, performing his duties in a workmanlike fashion. But there is a reason for that.

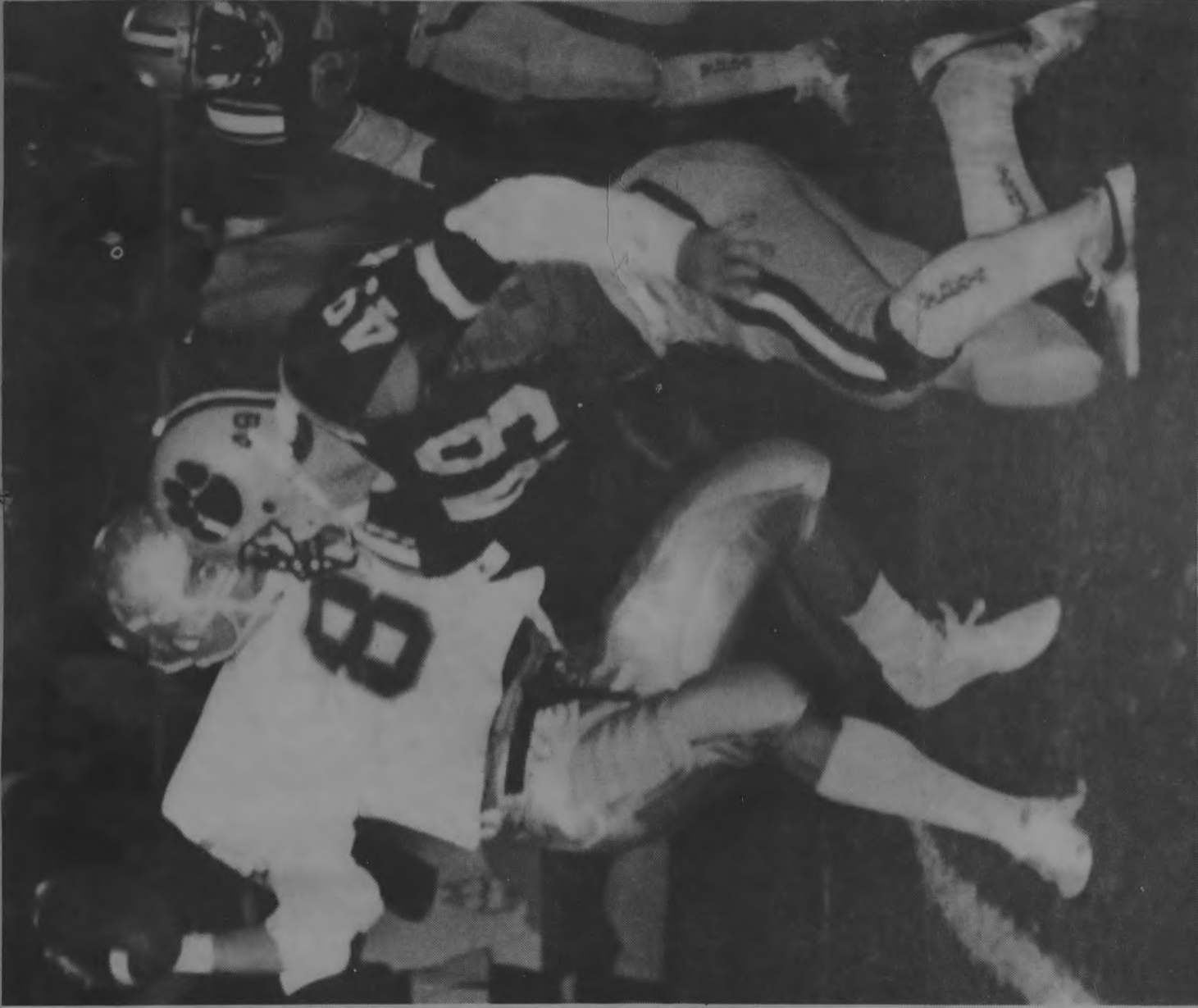
"Most defenses play their quicker, smaller end on the right side to rush the passer better from the blind side," explained defensive end-linebacker coach Charles Tarpley. "And that's where we have (Region 1-AAAA most valuable defensive player) Seabron Williams. On the other side, which is the side most teams have a tendency to run toward, we play our biggest, strongest end."

"Mike does a great job against the run. He's a big, strong kid who is good at shuffling off a blocker and making a play."

Because a seven or eight yard quarterback sack is more spectacular than making two or three tackles in a row at the line of scrimmage, Tolbert's efforts often go unnoticed — by everyone except the people who like to watch a lot of game films.

"Mike Tolbert is probably one of the most improved players we have on the team this year," Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder said. "He works hard and is a very coachable youngster. Last week against Carver, he recovered two fumbles for us. But he's done that type of thing for us all year. He's made some key first hits and tackles over the course of the season."

"Mike gets good support from his family in athletics. His father was the head man out at Moody Air Force Base and has always taken an active interest in how the youngster is doing. Mike has paid his dues and worked his way up through our program for four years to where he's making a valuable contribution to our defensive effort this year."



File Photo
Mike Tolbert Excels Against The Run But Still Finds Time To Besiege Quarterbacks
VDT 12-10-86

An interesting fact is that Tolbert likely has not reached anywhere near his full potential. He runs a 4.75 40 and can bench press 275 pounds. But he began school when he was five years old. He is a senior in high school, but he just turned 17 three weeks ago — on the day of the Wildcats' 17-6 victory over Lowndes. If things had worked out differently, Tolbert could have had two more years of high school football left after this season.

And he might also have had two more years of baseball. Tolbert is a

right-handed hitting first baseman-outfielder with power to spare. Against Berrien County in Nashville last spring, Tolbert smashed a monster three-run blast over the right-center fence into the wind which landed back on the top of the field house.

Tarpley, who is also the Wildcat baseball coach, speculated on the redhead's future in football.

"Mike's still growing. With his body build, he could play at 220 or 230 pounds as a lineman or as a linebacker. He has good strength and

quickness and has a lot of potential that could still be developed."

But for now, Tolbert is working hard toward achieving victory this Friday night against fourth-ranked Bradwell Institute. The Tigers run the ball around 80 percent of the time, and that will make the left end on Valdosta's defense a prime target, especially for 6-2, 220-pound Tiger fullback John Stewart, who wears No. 9. So look for No. 49 in black to meet No. 9 of the visiting team quite often Friday night. It will be a key matchup.

VDT 12-11-86
Playoffs Toughest In Years

The Associated Press

Coach Nick Hyder, who has led Valdosta High School's Wildcats to three Georgia Class AAAA football titles since taking charge in 1974, said this year's playoff field will make it hard to win his fourth.

"This final four ranks up there with any I've seen," said Hyder, whose top-ranked Wildcats entertain No. 4 Bradwell Institute in a semifinal game Friday night.

In the other Class AAA semifinal, No. 3 LaGrange visits No. 2 Clarke Central.

The Class AAA semifinals have No. 2 Worth County at No. 1 Central-Thomasville and No. 4 Villa Rica at No. 3 Lakeside Friday night.

In Class AA, No. 2 Central-Carrollton visits No. 8 Gordon Friday night and No. 1 Washington Wilkes goes to No. 6 Brooks County Saturday night.

The Class A games Friday night are No. 5 Commerce at No. 1 East Rome and No. 2 Lincoln County at No. 4 Wilcox County.

"All the teams in the AAAA final four play good defense," Hyder said.

Valdosta has given up just 70 points in 13 games, including five shutouts.

The Wildcats will be up against a Bradwell defense that has allowed just 50 points, with seven shutouts. The Tigers have held seven opponents to less than 100 yards in total offense.

Linebacker Ron Johnson has accounted for 10½ of Bradwell's 55 sacks. Clarke Central's defense has given up 53 points and shut out six opponents. In fact, the Gladiators have won two straight playoff games without scoring a touchdown.

"We've always started with the defense," said Clarke Central Coach Billy Henderson. "We start with the front seven, the down linemen and the linebackers. Our goal is to stop the run first."

LaGrange, meanwhile, has shut out seven opponents and allowed just 46 points, including 16 to Valdosta in a 16-6 season-opening loss.

- Semifinals
Class AAAA
Bradwell Institute at Valdosta
Clarke Central at LaGrange
Class AAA
Worth Co. at Central-Thomasville
Villa Rica at Lakeside
Class AA
Washington-Wilkes at Brooks Co.
Central-Carrollton at Gordon
Class A
Lincoln Co. at Wilcox Co.
Commerce at East Rome

- Finals
Class AAAA
Clarke Central-LaGrange winner at Valdosta Bradwell Institute winner
Class AAA
Worth-Central-Thomasville at Villa Rica Lakeside winner
Class AA
Central-Carrollton-Gordon winner
Brooks-Washington-Wilkes winner
Class A
Lincoln-Wilcox winner at Commerce East Rome winner

VHS Drama Team Gets First Place Win

By DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School drama students took first place in a regional theatre competition held at Valdosta State College and will try for a state win in January.

They bested several other schools in the Region 1-AAAA contest, including Lowndes, Tift and Colquitt counties and three schools in Albany. This is the first time in four years the school has come away with the regional first place win.

Senior Christine Buel took best actress honors in the Friday meet for the second year in a row.

The 17-member cast and crew performed "Gammer Gurton's Needle," described as a farce written in 1575 and one of the oldest works still being performed, according to Valdosta

ta Drama Director Lee Pulliam.

Written by a man listed only as 'Mr. S.' of Cambridge University, the play revolves around the chaos and brawls that erupt in a small village when a prized needle goes missing.

"It's the kind of play that would have been performed in Shakespeare's day on the back of a horsecart or wagon, by a troupe moving from village to village," Ms. Pulliam said.

"In the play, a mischievous citizen pits Gammer Gurton and another woman in the community against each other by telling each of them that the other stole one of her prized possessions. The village takes sides and brawls develop," she said.

Rehearsals are underway this week for a public performance Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the school theatre, in preparation for the state contest at

VSC on Jan. 3.

The group is composed of Miss Buel, Toby Baskin, Susie Grant, Julie Wallace, Jim Cook, Jill Bryan, Kelly Shelton, Paul Conrad, Barry Golivesky, Sam Fritts, Jenny Staley, Marilois Owens, Ned Sanderson, Rosalyn Thompson, Angela Alexander, stage manager, Liza Wallace, costume manager, Ann Sorenson, properties manager, and Jennifer Cantrell, lighting director.

VHS Concert

Valdosta High Band will present a Christmas Concert on Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Whitehead auditorium, in the Fine Arts Building at Valdosta State College. The program will feature seasonal offerings including numbers by Irving Berlin, Leroy Anderson and Handel. The event is open to the public at no charge.

CHRISTINE BUEL
Best Actress Winner



The Valdosta Daily Times

Sports

Wed., Dec. 10, 1986

1-B

Valdosta-Bradwell: A Showdown Of 13-0 Teams

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Among Georgia's Class AAAA high school football teams, there are only three undefeated teams left, and two of them are in South Georgia. One is the top-ranked Valdosta High team, and the other is their opponent in the South Georgia championship game this Friday night — Bradwell Institute.

The Tigers are 13-0 and ranked fourth in the state. They are the Region 3-AAAA champions and qualified for Friday night's game by defeating Region 4-AAAA winner Baldwin 33-12 last week. The Tigers also made it to the South Georgia title game last year, losing to Warner Robins 21-7.

Bradwell is widely known for its top runner, John Stewart, who set the state Class AAAA record last season, gaining 2,186 yards in 1985. But there is a better reason for their undefeated

record.

The Tigers' defense has allowed but 45 points to be scored against it all season. In the first four games no team scored against Bradwell, and the Tigers yielded no more than six points to any of its first eight opponents. Only once all season has any opponent gained as many as 100 yards rushing against them.

The closest any team came to Bradwell Institute in 1986 was a 6th-ranked Effingham County team. It lost only 16-6 to the Tigers in the regular season. The two teams met again in the region championship game, and the Tigers prevailed 28-7 in a game that was never close. Those were the only two losses Effingham County suffered all season.

Baldwin (10-2) was ranked sixth in the state coming off a region victory

over Warner Robins last week. Stewart gained 116 yards on 27 carries in that game and scored two touchdowns.

More important, however, was the passing game which Bradwell exhibited. Quarterback Raymond Gross threw only nine times against Baldwin but completed seven of them for a whopping 155 yards and two touchdowns. The score was 33-0 before the second team defense allowed a pair of harmless touchdowns.

"We don't throw an awful lot, but we have had some good games, especially our last game," Tiger coach Clifford Johnson said. "We've got a big running back and we like to get the football to him. Like any one else, as long as we can run, there is no sense in throwing. But we probably haven't thrown as much this year as we should have — we've got four good receivers and a

quarterback who can throw the ball."

The Tigers primarily run their run-and-shoot offense out of a double slot formation with only Stewart in the backfield behind Gross. Five of the six players in the skill positions are seniors, and the sixth is Ivan Bullard, who returned the opening kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown against Effingham two weeks ago.

Johnson commented on what kind of game he was expecting.

"I don't think it will be a very high-scoring game. I certainly hope not. I don't know if we're capable of playing with them. They are an excellent football team. But our defense has only given up 44 points this year. We've got a good defense, but they are so big on offense. Their strength is definitely their defense. They are very aggressive and well

coached."

Johnson has been at Bradwell Institute for 26 years. He has seen the Hinesville school grow from a Class B school to a AAAA school in that time due to the influx of population attributable to the Fort Stewart army base. Last season's advancement to the South Georgia championship game was the farthest has advanced since a Class A state championship in 1965.

Johnson was asked about the homefield disadvantage.

"It's going to be a good challenge for us. Most of (our) kids played in the South Georgia championship game last year against Warner Robins, so they should be accustomed to the large crowds. We haven't played in front of the type of crowd we'll see over there (in Valdosta), but I don't think it'll

bother them."

Bradwell lists only 45 players on its roster, but 23 of them are seniors. Johnson was asked if he thought either team could make a comeback if they got down by 10 points or a couple of touchdowns.

"I don't know — we haven't been behind all year. I don't know how we'll react. Both teams are very explosive on offense."

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Regular Season | 24-0 |
| Statesboro | 14-0 |
| Groves | 20-0 |
| Jenkins | 30-0 |
| Windsor Forest | 16-6 |
| Effingham Co. | 40-0 |
| Savannah | 26-6 |
| Beach | 27-13 |
| Brunswick | 21-0 |
| Wayne Co. | 35-0 |
| Benedictine | 28-7 |
| Region Playoffs | 33-12 |
| Glynn Academy | |
| Effingham Co. | |
| State Playoffs | |
| Baldwin | |

Sports



Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Valdosta's Greg Talley Has Accounted For 1,830 Yards

Tough Test Ahead Of Valdosta

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High Wildcats may be facing their sternest test since the first game of the season when they play host to the Bradwell Institute Tigers at Cleveland Field Friday night in the Class AAAA South Georgia championship game.

Both teams are 13-0 on the season. Valdosta is ranked No. 1 in the state, and Bradwell Institute presently stands at No. 4. The narrowest margin of victory for both teams came in 16-6 victories over highly ranked teams — Valdosta over then No. 1 LaGrange and Bradwell over No. 6 Effingham County.

Both teams have strong defenses. Valdosta has allowed 5.3 points per game while Bradwell has yielded only 3.9 per contest. And both teams have very good running backs. Tiger fullback John Stewart is widely held to be the top recruit in the state of Georgia. The 6-foot-2, 220-pound fullback has gained 1,435 yards in 1986 and picked up a whopping 2,186 last year.

However, the Wildcats can counter with a multitude of fine ballcarriers. Foremost among them is Region I-AAAA most valuable offensive player Jerome Callaway. The 6-1, 190-pound tailback has rushed 172 times for 1,228 yards and 14 touchdowns this season.

Not to be overlooked however, is fullback James Roberts. The 6-foot, 210-pound sophomore has rushed 122 times for 684 yards and eight touchdowns. Roberts and quarterback Greg Talley (eight touchdowns rushing) both joined Callaway on the All-Region I-AAAA first team.

Reserves Isaac Cesar (6-0, 195) and Lawrence Sharpe (6-2, 250), both sophomores, also distinguished themselves out of the backfield. Sharpe has 160 yards on 31 carries while

ingly enough, they trigger their pounding running game from what is usually a passing formation — the double-slot which is a favorite run-and-shoot set employed by happy teams. Stewart is the only back to line up behind quarterback Raymond Gross.

Wildcat coach Nick Hyder was asked about facing the unusual formation and whether a team could be effective running out of it.

"The way Bradwell runs it has been very well, and it is suited to their personnel. Not only will it keep a lot of pressure on our corners, but it keeps a lot of pressure on the tackles as well."

"Their big running back, Stewart, is very big and fast and hard to bring down. He's an Eric Dickerson-type back, and he's liable to run the ball 25 or 30 times. Our defense will have to hustle and stay on its toes."

Defensive ends Seabron Williams and Mike Tolbert will be under the gun to guard against the quick pitch to the outside. Tackles Otis Conaway (6-2, 225) and Zabria Bell (6-4, 270) will have to hold off the inside plunges. Scrappy noseguard Eric Larry will be a key figure in the trenches.

No. 84 for the Wildcats will be middle linebacker and team captain Bill Kirby, a three-year starter who may be playing his biggest game yet at Valdosta. He has an extraordinary nose for the football and is a tough, rugged tackler. Alongside him will be freshman Anthony Williams or junior Beau Laskey.

Valdosta's small but very quick cornerbacks are juniors Reginald Dandy and Keith Henry. Senior safeties Walt Gill (4.6 40 and 1,140 on the SAT) and Derek Shaw (6-foot-4, six interceptions) will cover the middle on passing plays and provide support for run defense.

Valdosta Statistics

| Rushing | Yds | Avg | TD | GAvg |
|-------------------|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Jerome Callaway | 13 | 172 | 7 | 14 |
| Dan Tillman | 13 | 122 | 8 | 84.5 |
| James Roberts | 13 | 122 | 8 | 52.6 |
| Greg Talley | 13 | 94 | 2 | 14.8 |
| Lawrence Sharpe | 6 | 31 | 1 | 26.7 |
| Isaac Cesar | 7 | 23 | 2 | 20.0 |
| B.J. Mason | 7 | 17 | 3 | 10.4 |
| Antonio Henderson | 4 | 22 | 4 | 6.0 |
| Charles Steward | 4 | 25 | 2 | 6.3 |
| Eric Prime | 4 | 5 | 0 | 5.0 |
| Bernard Hinson | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2.8 |
| Eddie Jones | 3 | 11 | 0 | 3.7 |
| Guy Belue | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1.0 |
| Walt Gill | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1.0 |
| Dan Tillman | 1 | 6 | 0 | 6.0 |
| Ben Hogan | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1.0 |
| Valdosta Totals | 13 | 596 | 24 | 201.2 |
| Opponent Totals | 13 | 376 | 9 | 89.8 |

| Passing | Yds | Int | TD | GAvg |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Greg Talley | 13 | 189 | 116 | 163 |
| B.J. Mason | 9 | 17 | 6 | 63 |
| Ben Hogan | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Jerome Callaway | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Charles Steward | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1.0 |
| Valdosta Totals | 13 | 211 | 122 | 1700 |
| Opponent Totals | 13 | 217 | 79 | 1027 |

| Receiving | No | Yds | Avg | TD | GAvg |
|-------------------|----|-----|-----|------|------|
| Charles Steward | 13 | 35 | 438 | 12.5 | 6 |
| Jerome Callaway | 11 | 18 | 358 | 19.9 | 2 |
| Jim Motes | 11 | 17 | 316 | 18.6 | 4 |
| Guy Belue | 12 | 21 | 194 | 9.2 | 3 |
| James Roberts | 10 | 12 | 158 | 13.2 | 0 |
| Antonio Henderson | 3 | 4 | 96 | 24.0 | 0 |
| B.J. Mason | 7 | 8 | 95 | 11.9 | 0 |
| William Jones | 4 | 4 | 40 | 10.0 | 1 |
| Bernard Hinson | 2 | 2 | 9 | 4.5 | 0 |
| Isaac Cesar | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 0 |

| Scoring | TD | 1PT | 2PT | FG | PTS |
|-------------------|----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| Charles Steward | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Jerome Callaway | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Jim Motes | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Guy Belue | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| James Roberts | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Antonio Henderson | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| B.J. Mason | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| William Jones | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Bernard Hinson | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Isaac Cesar | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |

| Total Offense | G | Plays | Yards | GAvg |
|---------------|----|-------|-------|-------|
| Valdosta | 13 | 717 | 4316 | 322.0 |
| Opponents | 12 | 593 | 1934 | 148.8 |

| Scoring Offense | G | Pts | Avg |
|-----------------|----|-----|------|
| Valdosta | 13 | 402 | 30.9 |
| Opponents | 13 | 70 | 5.4 |

| Scoring Margin | G | OPts | DPIs | Mrgn |
|----------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Valdosta | 13 | 402 | 70 | +25.5 |

| Punting | No | Yds | Avg | 32.8 |
|-----------------|----|------|------|------|
| Charles Steward | 46 | 1509 | 32.8 | |

| Interceptions | No | Yds | TD | Avg |
|------------------|----|-----|----|------|
| Derek Shaw | 5 | 82 | 0 | 16.4 |
| Keith Henry | 4 | 26 | 0 | 6.5 |
| Walt Gill | 3 | 43 | 0 | 14.3 |
| Terrance Hull | 1 | 10 | 0 | 10.0 |
| Seabron Williams | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2.0 |
| Coleman Rudolph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Reginald Dandy | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Coronzo Greene | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Michael Tolbert | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Eric Toth | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |

Cesar added 140 yards on 23 attempts. Talley has completed 116 of 189 passes for 1,637 yards and 17 touchdowns while tossing only six interceptions in 13 games. His No. 1 target is 6-3, 218-pound junior tight end Charles Steward who has 35 catches for 438 yards and eight touchdowns.

Callaway presents a serious threat out of the backfield with 18 catches for a whopping 358 yards. Roberts caught 12 for 158 yards while the top two wide receivers are Jim Motes (17 receptions, 18.6-yard average, four

touchdowns) and Guy Belue (21 receptions, three touchdowns).

This plethora of weapons is led into battle by a very large and very strong offensive line led by first team all-region selections Ben Lane (6-3, 250) at center, right guard Jodie Sprengle (6-4, 270), and left tackle Andy Anderson (6-0, 245).

Perhaps the most pressure will be on the Wildcat defense. The Tigers have scored 342 points in their 13 games this season, mostly on the ground. Interest-

VDT 12-11-86

Hartzog Paces Valdosta Win

From Staff Reports
THOMASVILLE — The Valdosta Lady Wildcats outscored Thomasville 15-7 in the final period to claim a 49-45 victory in high school basketball action Friday night.

Jan Hartzog led Valdosta with seven of 11 points in the final period. Terry Longeliere scored all six of her points in the final quarter.

"We just did an excellent job on defense in the fourth period," Valdosta coach Susan Montgomery said. "Tonight, more than any other night we've played, we were aggressive and the intensity level was very high."

"Their full-court press didn't hurt that much at all. We just did everything right. We had a few too many turnovers, but we'll get over that in time."

Cassandra Ceasar led Valdosta with 12 points.

Valdosta (49) — Ceasar 12, Plummer 8, Hartzog 11, Richardson 6, Twine 6, Longeliere 6, Cricket, Thomasville (45) — Brown 17, Garland 2, V. Brown 6, Moore 8, Davis, Mack, Marria 12.
 Valdosta.....8 14 12 15 — 49
 Thomasville.....11 12 15 7 — 45
 Records — Valdosta 23; Central 3-1.
 Next Game — Central-Thomasville at Valdosta.

Bradwell vs. Valdosta

VDT 12-12-86



When: Tonight, 8 p.m.
 Where: Cleveland Field
 Tickets: All seats \$4 at the gate
 Radio: WGOV, AM 95, 7:45.
 Last meeting: First meeting



Valdosta Wildcats, 13-0
Coach: Nick Hyder
School career record: 141-24-1
Career coaching record: 194-36-4

Offensive Starters

| | | |
|----|-----------------|----|
| 3 | Charles Steward | TE |
| 74 | Andy Anderson | RT |
| 79 | Jodie Sprengle | RG |
| 54 | Ben Lane | C |
| 77 | Troy Wells | LG |
| 75 | John Wheelless | LT |
| 17 | Guy Belue | SE |
| 15 | B.J. Mason | FL |
| 1 | Greg Talley | QB |
| 48 | James Roberts | FB |
| 11 | Jerome Callaway | TB |



Jerome Callaway

Bradwell Institute Tigers, 13-0
Coach: Clifford Johnson
School career record: 126-55-3
Career coaching record: 126-55-3

Offensive Starters

| | | |
|----|-----------------|----|
| 70 | Ken Wright | RT |
| 52 | Gary Richardson | RG |
| 50 | Kelvin Wooten | C |
| 61 | Fred Phillips | LG |
| 73 | Mark Delafchell | LT |
| 6 | Henry Jones | WR |
| 21 | Edward Jones | WR |
| 33 | Joe Day | WB |
| 34 | Ivan Bullard | WB |
| 11 | Raymond Gross | QB |
| 9 | John Stewart | TB |



Nick Hyder

Season so far:

| |
|-----------------------------|
| Valdosta 16, LaGrange 6 |
| Valdosta 30, Fulton 6 |
| Valdosta 31, Waycross 0 |
| Valdosta 28, Leon 3 |
| Valdosta 35, Tift Co. 14 |
| Valdosta 24, Dougherty 0 |
| Valdosta 58, Westover 13 |
| Valdosta 36, Colquitt Co. 6 |
| Valdosta 43, Monroe 0 |
| Valdosta 17, Lowndes 6 |
| Valdosta 28, Tift Co. 16 |
| Valdosta 28, Lowndes 0 |
| Valdosta 28, Carver 0 |

Season so far:

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Bradwell 24, Statesboro 0 |
| Bradwell 14, Groves 0 |
| Bradwell 20, Jenkins 0 |
| Bradwell 39, Windsor-Forest 0 |
| Bradwell 16, Effingham Co. 6 |
| Bradwell 19, Savannah 6 |
| Bradwell 26, Brunswick 6 |
| Bradwell 27, Wayne Co. 13 |
| Bradwell 21, Benedictine 0 |
| Bradwell 35, Glynn Acad. 0 |
| Bradwell 28, Effingham Co. 7 |
| Bradwell 33, Baldwin 12 |



Clifford Johnson

'Cats, Tigers Well Matched

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
 Times Sports Editor

When it came down the Final Four of the Class AAAA football playoffs, the sports writers of the state had the teams well picked.

Valdosta is ranked No. 1 and will play host to Bradwell Institute, ranked No. 4, tonight at Cleveland Field for the South Georgia championship. In the North Georgia title game, No. 2 Clarke Central will visit No. 3 LaGrange.

Valdosta, Bradwell Institute, and Clarke Central are all undefeated at 13-0 while LaGrange has suffered just one loss this season, a 16-6 setback to Valdosta in the season opener.

For Valdosta, the game with the Tigers tonight at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field is the 25th time since 1940 the Wildcats have played for the South Georgia title. Valdosta has lost in that round only four times.

Bradwell Institute, meanwhile, lost to Warner Robins, 17-14, last year in the South Georgia title game. Prior to that, Bradwell had not advanced past the first round of the state playoffs since 1965 when the Tigers won the Class B state crown. Bradwell Institute was also runnerup in Class B in 1964.

"This Final Four ranks up there with any I've ever seen," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said. "All of the AAAA Final Four play good defense."

That is a fact that can be supported by looking at statistics. Valdosta has given up just 70 points and has five shutouts. Bradwell has yielded only 50 points and has posted seven shutouts.

The Wildcats will be up against a defense that has allowed just six opponents to gain more than 100 yards in total offense for a game. Bradwell will try and move the ball against a defense that has allowed an average of less than 70 yards a game on the ground and less than 80 a game passing.

Linebacker Ron Johnson has accounted for 10 1/2 of Bradwell's 55 sacks. End Seabron Williams have averaged three sacks a game for the Wildcats.

But both teams also have potent offensive attacks.

The Wildcats have averaged 30.9 points per game this season. Their lowest output was 16 against LaGrange and 17 against Lowndes. In the other 11 games they scored at least 24 points and went over the 30-point mark six times. Their season high was 58 against Westover.

Bradwell Institute is averaging 26.3 points per game. The Tigers have been held under 20 points three times, but have scored more than 30 four times. Their season high was 40 against Beach.

"I don't think it will be a very high-scoring game," Bradwell coach Clifford Johnson said. "I certainly hope not. I don't know if we're capable of playing with them. They are an excellent football team. But our defense has only given up 50 points this year. We've got a good defense, but (Valdosta is) so big on offense. Their strength is definitely their defense. They are very aggressive and well coached."

Leading Bradwell Institute's offense is running back John Stewart, who is just 51 yards short of gaining 5,000 yards during his three-year career. The Wildcats will counter the running of senior Jerome Callaway and sophomore James Roberts. Callaway has gained 1,228 yards rushing and also has 358 yards in receptions. He has scored 16 touchdowns. Roberts has 684 yards rushing, 158 receiving, and has eight touchdowns.

Quarterback Greg Talley has completed better than 63 percent of his passes for the Wildcats. Talley has thrown for 1,637 yards by completing 116 out of 189. He has thrown for 17 touchdowns and has eight interceptions.

Conaway Fought Back

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

When the Valdosta Wildcats kick off against Bradwell Institute tonight, look closely at the player kicking the ball. It should be a big, husky senior defensive tackle with No. 99 on his jersey named Otis Conaway. Keep your eye on him as he charges down the field. He'll likely be in the thick of things at the play's end.

A scant two years ago Conaway was on the sidelines — good enough to play but academically ineligible. With a lot of hard work and determined effort, he pulled up his grades, became eligible, and played his way into the starting lineup of a defense which allowed only 6.3 points per game in 1985.

At the beginning of the current season, while the Wildcats were in summer camp, Conaway could be seen walking around in street clothes, out with a cracked bone in his shoulder. Despite the injury, he vowed to be back at practice the next week and in the starting lineup by opening night. Darned if he wasn't.

It has been that way for most of his life. Otis Conaway has come a long way up. And there are two reasons he usually gives for the improvement — football and the Valdosta Boys' Club.

"When I first met Otis, he was a real rough kid, mean as a snake," Boys Club director Robert Soper said. "He had a nasty disposition and no friends. I kicked him off the premises one day and said he'd never join the club here. But he later joined up and slowly, over time, his attitude improved."

Conaway had suffered a seriously debilitating eye injury in a fight one day in grade school. And it caused a lot of problems, at school and around other kids.

But when he became active in the programs offered by the Boys Club, his attitude began changing.

"He started playing in some of our midget football and basketball leagues — I guess he was around 11 years old at the time — and it started to change him," Soper said. "Then one day his team, Stracener Construction, was playing against a rival team in a big matchup."

"Stracener was down 21-7. They scored one touchdown, and then in the last minute of play, Otis was playing halfback and took a pitch on a sweep. At the last instant, he stopped and threw a long pass to Tim Brown, which went for 66 yards and a touchdown which helped them win the game 21-20. His teammates carried him off the field."

Conaway is now 6-foot-1 and weighs more than 230 pounds, runs a 4.85 40 and can bench press 370 pounds. He was asked about his transformation from bona fide urchin to starting defensive tackle on the No. 1 team in the state.

"It's true. I used to get into a lot of trouble as a little kid. But football changed my attitude. It got me used to being around other people — people I could trust and talk to. I owe a lot to my teammates here at Valdosta and especially to coach (Freddie) Waters."

"All the defensive linemen get along, like a family. (Eric) Larry's like a brother to me. All of them are — Seabron (Williams), (Mike) Tolbert, Zabe (Zabria Bell). We all get along real well and work well together. It means a lot."

"Otis is a very hard worker, very coachable, very aggressive, and very serious-minded," said Waters, the Wildcat defensive line coach. "He's

...Conaway

Continued From Page 1-B

committed to what he's doing and gives it 100 percent. He's a very good football player. He makes a lot of tackles on the kickoff team that go unnoticed."

About the future, Waters said that the young tackle had much potential.

"Conaway can make it anywhere he goes. He reads his keys well and penetrates very well. And he has good speed for his size. He's a special kind of person who has overcome a disability. I'm glad to work with him and would do it all over again."

Conaway kicked several extra points last season and even made a crucial 33-yard field goal in a 10-6 victory over Thomasville but has since relinquished those duties to sidewarder Dan Tillman who is now the placement specialist.

Conaway has continued his association at the Boys Club. He has continued to play basketball there, once scoring 14 points in a game, and has worked for the club the past few summers.

In 1985 Otis Conaway received a very high honor — the Valdosta Boys Club's Boy Of The Year Award. And now his football team is one game away from playing for a state championship. No. 99 has indeed come a long way.

From Staff Reports

THOMASVILLE — Valdosta rallied from a 20-point deficit in the second period, but fell behind again as Thomasville nipped the Wildcats 75-64 in boys' high school basketball action Saturday night.

The Wildcats cut the 20-point lead to 31-26 at the half and then cut the margin to one in the third period. The game stayed close until the final three minutes when Valdosta tried fouling to get back in the game.

"Gary Campbell played the best game of the year," Valdosta coach John Miller said. "We played as hard as we've played all year, especially during the comeback."

Campbell led Valdosta with 18 points while Reginald Butler had 12.

Valdosta, 1-4, made just 11 of 29 shots from the free throw line. Thomasville, meanwhile, shot better than 70 percent

from the line.

Valdosta (44) — Butler 12, Carter 7, Lowe 2, Campbell 18, Iverson 4, Perry 3, Phillips 2, Davis 5, Owens 8, Thomasville (75) — Hardy 18, S. Jones 17, M. Jones 14, Curry 8, Graham 2, Daphney 7, Dodge 9.
Valdosta.....13 13 21 17-64
Thomasville.....16 15 19 25-75
Records — Valdosta 1-4; Thomasville 4-0.
Next Game — Central-Thomasville at Valdosta, Tues. day.

Boys' Roundup

VD 12-14-86

Valdosta Rally Falls Short

In Loss To Thomasville

Wildcats Proved Superior

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The question was bouncing off the walls of the Valdosta lockerroom like a superball in a blender: Who's got the best defense now? Who's got the best defense now?

After the Wildcats crushed the Bradwell Institute Tigers 49-7 last night at Cleveland Field, that question seemed obviously rhetorical.

Bradwell headed into the Class AAAA state semifinal game against the 'Cats ranked No. 1 defensively by more than one state poll, but that won't hold much water now.

But it was more than just a case of Valdosta's defense being superior. Valdosta's offense roamed the field at will. The Wildcats threw just eight passes and most of those were simply for the fun of it.

When the chalk had settled at Cleveland Field, Bradwell discovered just what it was like to get a Region 1-AAAA taikicking. The Tigers amassed only 200 yards of total offense and most of those yards came on fluke runs by quarterback Raymond Gross and runs late in the game by running back John Stewart after the outcome was no longer in doubt.

Bradwell put just seven first downs on the scoreboard to Valdosta's 20 as the 'Cats scratched out a total of 490

yards: 280 of those yards came on the gliding feet of tailback Jerome Callway, who got all those yards on only 18 carries. He ripped off two long touchdown runs, one of 80 yards and another of 90.

No one could have been any happier about Valdosta's offensive showing than those big linemen who toil in the trenches to spring the backs.

Last week against Carver, Valdosta went scoreless in the first half, and had trouble scoring in the first half against Lowndes in the region final.

Offensive tackle John Wheelless summed up the charged offensive attack in one word. He pointed at his large chest and simply said, "Heart."

"Everything just came together for us tonight," Wheelless said. "But tonight we knew it was life or death. We stuck together because we knew it would take all 11 guys pulling together."

"A lot of it comes back to God," Wheelless said. "If he wants it, it's going to happen."

Quarterback Greg Talley had a somewhat strange night. He didn't have to throw the ball because the ruffling game had come together, and he didn't have to run too much because Callaway was unstoppable. But maybe that was Valdosta's game plan.

"We did just what we wanted to do out there," Talley said. "The front line

did a tremendous job and Callaway had the best night he's ever had. Our defense played a tremendous game too. The whole team just came together."

Offensive guard Jodie Sprengle looked at the game as a result of months of sweat and toil.

"It really came down to hard work. We really wanted it more than they did. Callway ran the ball right at them and Talley did a good job leading us down the field."

Valdosta's defense held one of Georgia's best backs to just 73 yards and tore apart a vaunted passing attack with three sacks and a lot of pressure. Noseguard Eric Larry had another tremendous game as did both ends Seabron Williams and Michael Tolbert.

One of the little guys who deserves a big hand is Terrance Hull. Twice on kickoff returns Hull made touchdown saving tackles.

Valdosta's defense also took advantage of weary Bradwell runners by forcing five fumbles and recovering three of them. Valdosta didn't turn the ball over once.

The 'Cats just did everything right, offensively and defensively. So who does have the best defense now? One thing's for sure. It's not Bradwell.

Valdosta Is South Georgia's Top Cat



Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Valdosta's Jerome Callaway Breaks Through The Line En Route To Part Of His 280 Yards Rushing Against Bradwell

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

What was supposed to be a battle between two of the top teams in South Georgia turned out to be a rout.

Valdosta High scored on its first three possessions and then had three more possessions that took just one play to score as the Wildcats embarrassed previously undefeated Bradwell Institute 49-7 to claim the Class AAAA South Georgia championship at Cleveland Field Friday night.

The Wildcats, 14-0 and ranked No. 1 in the state, will play host to Clarke Central next Saturday for the state title. It will be the second time in the last three years the two have played for the state title.

Valdosta has struggled at times during its past several games. Against Lowndes two weeks ago, the Wildcats were tied 0-0 at the half before exploding for 28 points in the second half. The same thing happened last week against Carver. But this week, it was a different story.

"We played our most complete game of the season tonight," Wildcat coach Nick Hyder said. "We had been playing well in halves, but this time we played all 48 minutes well."

"The offense hasn't produced the yardage recently, but the defense has played solid the entire game."

And the defense continued to play well against the Tigers. Star running back John Stewart, who entered the game needing only 51 yards to surpass the 5,000-yard mark for his three-year career, picked up 73 yards on 23 carries. Quarterback Raymond Gross was Bradwell's leading rushing with 89 yards on nine carries, but 86 of those yards came on two carries when Gross was hemmed up in the backfield only to escape.

But perhaps the story of the game also was the Wildcat offense. Tailback Jerome Callaway carried the ball only 18 times and picked up 280 yards.

Fullback James Roberts had 105 yards on 11 attempts. As a team, the Wildcats rushed for 451 yards on 50 carries.

"The key to it was the offensive line," Callaway said. "They were doing just a super job blocking. When they have a good night, I have a good night."

It didn't take long for the Wildcats to set the tone of the game on both sides of the ball. Bradwell took the opening kickoff and gained four yards on three plays and had to punt where Valdosta took over at its own 20-yard line.

Callaway took the handoff from quarterback Greg Talley, broke threw a hole up the middle, and just 10 yards from the line of scrimmage was in the clear. From there it was a foot race which Callaway won easily.

The defense again held and the Wildcats took over at the Bradwell 42-yard line. Valdosta then put together one of its few drives of the night. After moving to the Tiger seven with a first

Bradwell..... 0 7 0 0-7
Valdosta..... 14 14 14 7-49

Val — Jerome Callaway 80 run (Dan Tillman kick)
Val — Greg Talley 17 run (Tillman kick)
Val — James Roberts 8 run (Tillman kick)
Bl — Ivan Bullard 6 pass from Raymond Gross (Tim Kerlin kick)
Val — Roberts 65 run (Tillman kick)
Val — Charles Steward 20 pass from Talley (Tillman kick)
Val — Callaway 90 run (Tillman kick)
Val — Lawrence Sharpe 3 run (Donny Headrick kick)
A — 12,000.

| | Bl | Val |
|------------------|--------|-------|
| First Downs | 7 | 20 |
| Yards Rushing | 171 | 451 |
| Rushing Attempts | 38 | 50 |
| Yards Passing | 28 | 38 |
| Passes | 14-2-0 | 8-3-1 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 5-0 | 0-0 |
| Sacks by | 3-20 | 3-8 |
| Return Yards | 8-36.4 | 531.2 |
| Punting | 3-25 | 10-50 |
| Penalties | 3-25 | 10-50 |

Rushing — Bradwell, Gross 9-89, Stewart 23-73, Valdosta, Callaway 19-280, Roberts 11-105, Sharpe 7-39, Talley 5-16, Ceasar 3-9, Mason 3-3.
Passing — Gross 12-2-0, Stewart 2-0-0, Valdosta, Talley 3-1-0, Mason 1-1-0, Hogan 3-1-0, Callaway 1-0-1-0.
Receiving — Stewart 1-23, Bullard 1-6, Valdosta, Seward 1-20, Belue 1-10, Jones 1-9.

and goal, the Wildcats lost 10 yards on a penalty and a sack. Talley dropped back to pass, was swarmed by the defense, broke away from a tackle and scrambled into the end zone.

Another drive followed that culminated on an 8-yard run by James Roberts. Dan Tillman added his third extra point and the Cats led 21-0 with 9:34 left in the first half.

But Bradwell didn't quit. The Tigers scored just before the half and then forced Valdosta to punt. And it appeared that Bradwell may be able to regroup and make it a game in the second half.

The Wildcats, however, had other plans in mind. With just 41 seconds left, Valdosta got the ball on its own 35. Roberts went up the middle on a draw, turned to the outside and raced down the sideline after breaking a tackle at the Bradwell 43. Tillman's PAT put Valdosta ahead 28-7 at the half.

The Wildcats then put the game out of reach when Zabria Bell recovered a Tiger fumble at the 20-yard line on the second play of the second half. On Valdosta's first down, Talley threw to Charles Stewart in the left corner of the end zone for a 35-7 lead.

Bradwell's only real threat in the second half came on the next series. The Tigers, with the help of an interference penalty and a personal foul penalty on defensive coordinator coach Jack Rudolph on that call, moved to the Wildcat 10. But the defense rose once more to stop Bradwell on downs.

Callaway left little doubt that Valdosta would be playing again next week when he burst up the middle and raced 90 yards for a TD.

"We just picked up on something they were doing on defense on first down," Hyder said when asked how the Wildcats had been successful with four one-play drives. "That first one, Jerome just blasted through the line." With substitutes playing the fourth quarter, the Wildcats added one more score. Lawrence Sharpe finished the 8-play, 50-yard drive when he went off left tackle from the 3-yard line.

Sat., Dec. 13, 1986
VDT

Four Students Get Interact Awards

By Laura McMillan

Four VHS Seniors have been selected as the Interact Students of the Week. These four Seniors were honored at the Valdosta Rotary Club's weekly meeting at the Valdosta Country Club this past Wednesday.

Paul Conrad is the seventeen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Mikel F. Conrad. He is a member of Interact, Beta Club, Debate Club-President, Drama Club, Science Club. He is a cast member of the One-Act Play, which recently won the Region Literary competition. He is a National Merit Semi-Finalist, listed in Who's Who in American High School Students, holds a school letter in Academics, and a member of the Debate Team which was the winner of Region in 1985-86. He also attended the Governor's Honors Program in Social Studies last summer at VSC.

Dirk Hardin is the eighteen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Fomby Hardin, Sr. He is a member of Interact, the Key Club and the Valdosta High Wildcat Baseball Team. Dirk plans to attend Valdosta State College next Fall and major in Accounting. He attends First Baptist Church with his family.

Karen Ray is the 17-year-old daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Marvin Ray. She is a member of Interact, VICA, FBLA and the Beta Club. Karen is enrolled in the Diversified Cooperative Training (DCT) program at Valdosta High and is employed part-time by Insta-Lube. Karen attends First Baptist Church with her family and is active in the youth activities of the church. Karen plans to graduate in January and to attend VSC.

Teresa L. Grace is the seventeen-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Grace. She is a member of Interact, the Beta Club, the Sandspur staff (yearbook), and DECA. She is enrolled in the distributive education program at Valdosta High and is employed at Fads and Fashions at Castle Park. She will attend Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama, this fall and will major in Child Psychology. Teresa attends Foresst Park Church of Christ with her family. She is an active member in the youth group and other church activities.

Take First Place

By Jill Bryan, Secretary
Drama Club

Valdosta High's one-act play took the first place award in the Region 1-AAAA competition at Valdosta State College on Friday, December 5th.

The play, Gammer Gurton's Needle, is set in the 16th century when steel needles were rare. The action centers around a woman, Gammer Gurton, who loses her needle. The town prankster, Diccon, gets the whole town in an uproar by placing the blame for the lost needle on Gammer's neighbor, Dame Chat.

The VHS English department chairperson, Lee Pulliam, directed the play. The cast was named early in

October and the group practiced nearly every day after school. On Wednesday, December 3, four preview performances of the play were presented to VHS English classes.

Senior Christine Buel was selected as Best Actress in Region 1-AAAA for her role as Gammer Gurton. Other members of the cast were Toby Baskin, Gammer's servant, Hodge; Susie Grant, Gammer's maid, Tyb; Julie Wallace, Locke; Jill Bryan, Dame Chat; Kelly Shelton, Dame Chat's maid, Doll; Jim Cook, Diccon; Paul Conrad, town doctor and priest, Dr. Rat; and Barry Golivesky, magistrate, Master Bailey. Sam Fritts, Marilois Owens, Ned Sanderson, Jenny Staley, and Roslyn Thompson made up the ensemble. The crew consisted of Liza Wallace, costumes; Ann Sorenson, properties; and Angela Alexander, Stage manager.

Lowndes placed second in the one-act competition with Albany Westover finishing third. Other schools entered were Colquitt, Dougherty, Albany Monroe, and Tift. A one-time performance will be presented free to the public next week. The play will enter State AAAA One-Act competition at VSC on January 3, 1987.

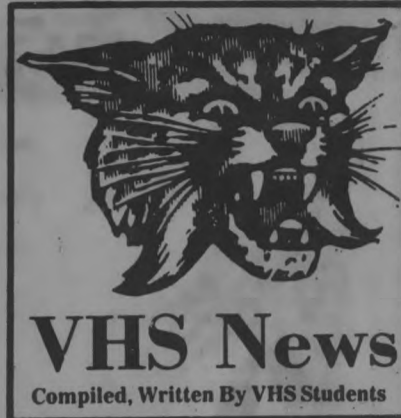
First Debates

By Jay Connell
Secretary, Debate Club

Valdosta High's Debate Club invites area schools to participate in the First Annual Valdosta Debates on January 17, 1987, at Valdosta State College. Registration starts at 8 a.m. at the Fine Arts building with four rounds of debate to begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Debate competition will be offered in open and novice divisions. Both divisions will debate the 1986-87 national high school topic, Resolved: That the federal government should implement a comprehensive long-term agricultural policy in the United States. The tournament is sanctioned by high school associations in Georgia and Florida.

The open division will use a two-person format with an eight minute constructive speech. Each team will debate two rounds on the affirmative and two rounds on the negative side. The top two teams will meet on the final round. The novice division will employ a four-person format with the same speech times as the open division but debaters will advocate the af-



firmative or negative, not switching sides of the resolution. Novice debaters must have less than twenty rounds of tournament experience.

Trophies for the top teams and individual speakers will be awarded after the fourth debate round on Saturday afternoon. The VHS Debate Club is currently seeking local business contributions to help pay for the cost of these awards. If you want to be included as a sponsor or need more information about the tournament, please contact Frank Hjort, director of debate, at Valdosta High School.

Still Working

Members of the VHS Symphonic Band have been pulling double duty recently. With the Wildcats still in the playoffs, the Marchin' Cats are still practicing for their halftimes. The members of the Symphonic Band have been practicing for their Christmas Concert on Tuesday, Dec. 16. The concert will be held at Whitehead Auditorium at VSC 7:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

Director Daniel Gaultney said he is pleased with the rapid progress the group has shown in such a short time, noting the transition from a marching band "sound" to a concert "sound" is not an easy one. The band, he says, is responding to the challenge.

The concert program will consist mostly of seasonal favorites, including works by Leroy Anderson, Irving Berlin and Haydn.

Wildcat Wrestlers Victorious

VDT 12-16-86
By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High wrestling team began its 1986-87 season Monday night with a 57-12 victory over Atkinson County. The match was marred by several forfeitures as often happens early in the season. So, the contest was not an accurate indicator of how strong the Wildcat team will be over the course of the season.

Valdosta placed eighth at the Class AAAA state meet last winter while Atkinson County took second at the Class A meet. However, both teams seem to be rebuilding this season.

"We placed three wrestlers at the state meet last year, and all three of them graduated," said Wildcat coach Jim Landrum. "We have a young team which works hard, but a lot of them are a little untested."

Junior Neal Fudge, wrestling in the 119-pound weight class, won by pinning his opponent in 25 seconds. Jeff McLeod, a junior in the 126-pound class, pinned his man in 1:33. Brian Mueller took 32 seconds to pin his opponent at 138 pounds, while freshman Maurice Dean, wrestling in the 155-pound division, subdued his opponent in 1:38.

However, there was one match which Landrum said was "worth the price of the \$1 admission". In the 167-pound weight class, Valdosta junior Ashley Moorman, who won his region last season, locked horns with defending state champion Reggie Mathews. Moorman emerged the winner in a narrow decision.

Valdosta won five matches by forfeit while Atkinson won two bouts by forfeit — in the 185-pound and heavyweight divisions. Landrum is expecting football players Troy Wells and Andy Anderson to fill those voids after the football season is over. Both are offensive linemen.

The Wildcats are coming off a 12-4

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Continued From Page 8-A
record in last season's dual meet schedule and will soon be jumping into big-time competition. They will participate in Cook High School's invitational tournament known as the Hornet Classic this Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. There will be 26 teams at the event, and Valdosta has won it nine of the last 10 years. However, Landrum is making no promises for this season.

"We won't know how good we are as

far as the state competition goes until the first week in January when we face some of the Atlanta schools. And we expect the competition to be very tough in Adel this weekend, especially with so many teams."

98 pounds — Mark Bagley (V) won by forfeit. 105 — Ashley Fann (V) won by forfeit. 112 — Mike Schmier (V) won by forfeit. 119 — Neal Fudge (V) pinned Locke Tanner. 126 — Jeff McLeod (V) pinned Darrell Lockhart. 132 — Paul Rainey (V) won by forfeit. 138 — Brian Mueller (V) pinned Curtis Williams. 145 — Ryan Moorman (V) won by forfeit. 155 — Maurice Dean (V) pinned Antonio Williams. 167 — Ashley Moorman (V) dec. Reggie Mathews. 185 — Ray Lanier (A) won by forfeit. Hwt. — Joe Moore (A) won by forfeit.



Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

James Roberts (48) Had 105 Yards Rushing To Lead Valdosta Into Saturday's State Title Game With Clarke Central

Finals Set In H.S. Playoffs

By DAVID SIMPSON

Associated Press Writer
Clarke Central's Corey Mapp ran 24 yards to the end zone with a fumble recovery and Doug Brewster picked off a pass in his own end zone to seal the second-ranked Gladiators' 21-14 victory over No. 3 LaGrange in the semifinals of the Georgia Class AAAA high school football playoffs.

In next week's state title game, Clarke Central will visit No. 1 Valdosta, a 49-7 winner over No. 4 Bradwell Institute in Friday night's other Class AAAA game.

In Class AAA, No. 2 Worth County topped No. 1 Central-Thomasville 21-14 and No. 4 Villa Rica beat No. 3 Lakeside 28-26.

Central-Carrollton, No. 2 in Class AA, beat No. 8 Gordon 21-7 to advance to the final against No. 1 Washington-Wilkes, which defeated No. 6 Brooks County 45-6 Saturday night.

In Class A, No. 1 East Rome beat No. 5 Commerce 17-7 and No. 2 Lincoln County beat No. 4 Wilcox County 23-0.

Valdosta 49, Bradwell Institute 7
Tailback Jerome Callaway blew through the Bradwell line on Valdosta's first play from scrimmage and

sailed 80 yards to the end zone on the way to a 280-yard game. Callaway's 19 carries also included a 90-yard TD run.

Greg Talley ran 17 yards for a Valdosta touchdown and threw a 20-yard pass to Charles Steward for another score. James Roberts picked up 105 yards on 11 attempts, including TD runs of 8 and 65 yards.

The visitors' only score came on a 6-yard pass from Raymond Gross to Ivan Bullard.

Clarke Central 21, LaGrange 14
LaGrange led 14-7 at halftime before the visitors from Athens came up with key turnovers. Mapp snared a fumble by Roy Lee Moss to tie the game at 14.

Kenny Brown scored the winning touchdown on a 1-yard run to cap a 43-yard drive in the fourth quarter.

Dechane Cameron, who earlier hit Derwin Brewer with a 4-yard TD pass, brought LaGrange back down the field with a 17-play drive covering 70 yards. But on first and goal from the Clarke 5, Brewster stepped in front of receiver Ramone Allen to intercept a Cameron pass with 13 seconds left.

Moss finished with 179 yards on 54 carries, including a 5-yard TD.

High School Basketball Preview

Lady Wildcats Hope Momentum Continues

By BLAIR DICKINSON

Times Sports Writer
The Valdosta High Lady Wildcats are coming off a big win as they prepare to tip it off against Central-Thomasville at home tonight. They won their second game of the season Saturday night on the road with a 49-45 victory over Thomasville High School, and the current victory total matches that of the entire season last year.

Cassandra Caesar and Jan Hartzog were the leading scorers in a balanced Lady Wildcat attack. Caesar had 12 points, and Hartzog got seven of her 11 points in a crucial fourth period when Valdosta came back from a 38-34 deficit to win the game. Valerie Plummer added eight points while three other players scored six apiece.

Other matchups in the Valdosta area find Lowndes at Thomasville, Clinch County at Echols County, Pineland at Valwood, Hamilton County at Buchholz, Berrien County at Waycross, and New Hope Christian at Lowndes Christian.

Snead Scores 31 To Lead Hornets

Jenrette had 10 rebounds to go with his five points.

The key to the game was holding Colquitt star James Lee to three points after Lee scored 27 against the Hornets the last time the two teams played.

Cook (45) — Orr 10, Byron 14 and 5 steals, Edgar Snead 31, Wesley Jenrette 5 and 10 reb, Trevis Durden 3, Lewis 2.
Colquitt Co. — Summer 4, Lee 3, key, 27, Stevenson 8, Mansfield 12, Roberts 6, Harrison 2, Boyd 4, Moore 2, Stokes 12.
Cooks — Cook 3-4.
Record — 10 22 15 18 — 45
Next Game — Cook vs. Thomasville at Lowndes Christmas Tournament, Friday.

Forward Billy Byron added 14 points and made five steals in the game. Point guard Theipo Orr followed with 10 points while Wesley

Cook High School may just be making its move on the basketball court. The Class AA Hornets knocked off Region 1-AAAA's Colquitt County Packers Monday night in Moultrie 65-53 with a very balanced attack. Edgar Snead, a 6-foot-5 junior, scored 31 points to lead Cook, but several other players made valuable contributions as well.

Forward Billy Byron added 14 points and made five steals in the game. Point guard Theipo Orr followed with 10 points while Wesley

In 1985 the Lady Wildcats defeated only Buchholz of Gainesville and the Class A Lanier County Lady Bulldogs

in their 20-game season. Saturday night's win over Class AAA Thomasville avenged an earlier 48-37 loss to

those Lady Bulldogs. Coupled with an early season victory over Class AAA Coffee High, it set their 1986 record at 2-3 with tonight's contest against Central-Thomasville.

Valdosta's first-year coach Susan Montgomery attributes the improvement to a new winning attitude.

"There's a new confidence on the team now. These players are no longer running scared — the team everybody is supposed to beat. They are out to win, and they're hungry to win. It's a whole new attitude. I'm not sure what brought it on."

Whatever it was pushed the Lady Wildcats to new heights Saturday night. They came from behind against a full-court press implemented by a squad which had already defeated them. Usually it takes a disciplined, veteran squad to achieve such a feat.

Montgomery is a hard-working coach with a fundamental approach who has passed her way of thinking along to her players. She stresses a mistake-free floor game, rebounding, and defense as

necessary to winning.
"In the past it seemed like this team would always look inside to Cassandra Caesar for points while the other four girls on the floor would not contribute. I feel that in order to win and to consistently play well, you need to have a balanced attack. In our offense there is the opportunity for everyone to score.

"We also stress a concentration on rebounding and defense. Against Thomasville, we had 41 rebounds (Chris Richardson led with 12) and we stayed in a man-to-man defense the whole way. We still had too many turnovers, but the total was way down from our previous games."

Montgomery cited the floor play of Valerie Plummer and Terry Longeliere as reasons why the Thomasville full-court press failed to be effective against the Lady Wildcats.

"We handled the ball very well against their defensive pressure and capitalized on their mistakes for a number of easy layups."

Valdosta Has Shot At National Title

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta-Clarke Central state championship game at Cleveland Field Friday night took on a significant amount of importance over the weekend.

While Valdosta was whipping previously undefeated Bradwell Institute down LaGrange 21-14, a game being played more than 3,000 miles away caught the attention of the folks in Valdosta.

Banning High in Wilmington, Calif., had entered its final game as the No. 1 team in the nation. They were playing a team they had defeated 37-10 just a few weeks earlier and were expected to

win again.
But Carson High of Los Angeles upended Banning 21-11.

And all that means to the Valdosta fans is another shot at a national championship. The Wildcats were ranked second last week and moved into the No. 1 spot this week.

Also in the poll this week is Clarke Central, which is ranked 25th. If Valdosta beats Clarke Central Saturday night, a second national title in the last three years awaits the Wildcats. And just like in 1984, Valdosta will be playing the Gladiators for the right to claim No. 1 in the nation.

Clarke Central will come into Saturday's game with revenge on its mind. The last time the Gladiators lost was to

Valdosta in 1984, 21-14. Clarke Central had entered that game on a 10-game winning streak. Its only other loss that season was to Lowndes during the regular season.

Since then have come 29 consecutive victories, including a 21-7 decision over Warner Robins in the state title game a year ago.

For the decade of 80's, the Gladiators have posted an 82-11 record, a winning percentage of 88 percent. In 1980, they were 13-2, losing in the Region 8-AAAA title game to Peachtree. Clarke Central followed that with a 7-4 season and lost to Lakeside in the first round of the region playoffs.

And there are seven of their 11

losses. In 1982 and 1983, Clarke Central posted 12-1 records. The Gladiators lost in the first round to Griffin in 1982 and then lost to LaGrange in the first round in 1983.

Then came the 1984 season when they were 13-2, and both losses were to teams in Lowndes County.

The Wildcats, meanwhile, have been more successful in the 80's, winning 82 games and losing just seven for a winning percentage of 92.3 percent.

Valdosta was 11-1 in 1980, losing to Lowndes in the Region 1-AAAA title game. The Wildcats followed that with an 11-2 mark in 1981, losing to Warner Robins in the state quarterfinals.

Then came a 15-0 season and a state championship in 1982. An 11-1 record followed in 1983 when Valdosta was eliminated from the state playoffs by Tift County in the region title.

The Wildcats rebounded in 1984 with another 15-0 record and state title before slipping to 9-3 last season.

Combined, Valdosta and Clarke Central have posted a record of 169-18 over the past seven seasons, a winning percentage of 90.3 percent.

| Year | Valdosta | Clarke Central |
|------|----------|----------------|
| 1980 | 11-1 | 9-3 |
| 1981 | 11-2 | 7-4 |
| 1982 | 15-0 | 12-1 |
| 1983 | 11-1 | 12-1 |
| 1984 | 15-0 | 13-2 |
| 1985 | 9-3 | 15-0 |
| 1986 | 14-0 | 14-0 |

Valdosta Statistics

| Rushing | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| G | Att | Yds | Avg |
| Jerome Callaway | 14 | 191 | 13.6 |
| James Roberts | 14 | 133 | 9.5 |
| Greg Talley | 14 | 99 | 7.1 |
| Lawrence Sharpe | 7 | 38 | 5.4 |
| Isaac Caesar | 8 | 26 | 3.3 |
| B.J. Mason | 8 | 20 | 2.5 |
| Antonio Henderson | 7 | 22 | 3.1 |
| Charles Steward | 5 | 6 | 1.2 |
| Eric Prime | 4 | 6 | 1.5 |
| Bernard Hiltson | 3 | 3 | 1.0 |
| Eddie Jones | 4 | 4 | 1.0 |
| Guy Belue | 1 | 1 | 1.0 |
| Wait Gill | 1 | 1 | 1.0 |
| John Tillman | 1 | 1 | 1.0 |
| Ben Hogan | 2 | 2 | 1.0 |
| Valdosta Totals | 14 | 556 | 39.7 |
| Opponent Totals | 14 | 414 | 10.78 |

| Passing | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|
| G | Att | Cmp | Yds |
| Greg Talley | 14 | 192 | 117 |
| B.J. Mason | 7 | 18 | 7 |
| Jerome Callaway | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| Charles Steward | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Valdosta Totals | 14 | 219 | 125 |
| Opponent Totals | 14 | 231 | 81 |

| Receiving | | | |
|-------------------|----|-----|-----|
| G | No | Yds | Avg |
| Charles Steward | 14 | 36 | 2.6 |
| Jerome Callaway | 11 | 19 | 1.7 |
| Guy Belue | 13 | 37 | 2.8 |
| James Roberts | 10 | 12 | 1.2 |
| Antonio Henderson | 7 | 4 | .6 |
| B.J. Mason | 5 | 5 | 1.0 |
| Bernard Hiltson | 2 | 2 | 1.0 |
| Isaac Caesar | 1 | 1 | 1.0 |
| Valdosta Totals | 74 | 119 | 1.6 |
| Opponent Totals | 74 | 105 | 1.4 |

Clarke Central At Valdosta

| Scoring | | | |
|-----------------|----|-----|-----|
| G | TD | FG | Pts |
| Jerome Callaway | 11 | 18 | 0 |
| Dan Tillman | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| James Roberts | 14 | 0 | 8 |
| Greg Talley | 7 | 10 | 0 |
| Charles Steward | 8 | 9 | 0 |
| Jim Moses | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Guy Belue | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Isaac Caesar | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Lawrence Sharpe | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Oris Conway | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Reginald Dandy | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| William Jones | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Eric Prime | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Donny Headrick | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| B.J. Mason | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Valdosta | 14 | 775 | 486 |
| Opponents | 14 | 645 | 214 |

| Total Offense | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|------|
| G | Plays | Yards | GAvg |
| Valdosta | 14 | 775 | 55.4 |
| Opponents | 14 | 645 | 46.1 |

| Scoring Margin | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|------|
| G | Plays | Yards | GAvg |
| Valdosta | 14 | 775 | 55.4 |
| Opponents | 14 | 645 | 46.1 |

| Punting | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|------|
| G | Plays | Yards | GAvg |
| Valdosta | 14 | 775 | 55.4 |
| Opponents | 14 | 645 | 46.1 |

| Interceptions | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|------|
| G | Plays | Yards | GAvg |
| Valdosta | 14 | 775 | 55.4 |
| Opponents | 14 | 645 | 46.1 |

| Ref | | | |
|------------------|-----|----|-----|
| No | Yds | TD | Avg |
| Derek Shaw | 5 | 82 | 0 |
| Keith Henry | 4 | 26 | 0 |
| Wait Gill | 3 | 43 | 0 |
| Terrance Hull | 2 | 12 | 0 |
| Seaborn Williams | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Coleman Rudolph | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Reginald Dandy | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Coronzo Greene | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Michael Tolbert | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Eric Toth | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Clarke Central At Valdosta

Place - Cleveland Field, Valdosta
When - Saturday, 8 p.m.
The Coaches - Clarke Central Gladiators: Billy Henderson. Valdosta Wildcats: Nick Hyder.

The Records and Rankings - Clarke Central: 14-0, No. 2 in state, No. 25 in nation, Valdosta 14-0, No. 1 in state, No. 1 in nation.
How They Qualified - Clarke Central won the North Georgia title by beating LaGrange 21-14 last week. The Gladiators also beat Southwest DeKalb (10-0), Heritage (16-0), and Johnson-Gainesville (26-13) in the playoffs. Valdosta captured the South Georgia title by whipping previously undefeated Bradwell Institute 49-7 last week. The Wildcats also beat Carver-Columbus (28-0), Lowndes (28-0), and Tift County (28-16) in the playoffs.

Game Notes - This is the second time in the last three years Valdosta and Clarke Central have played for the state title with a national championship on the line. Between them, they have won six of the last nine state titles... Valdosta has a 17-3-1 record in state championship games... Clarke Central defeated Warner Robins for the state title last year and has won 29 consecutive games.

The Keys - Valdosta's offense cannot turn the ball over. Three of Clarke Central's last five touchdowns have been produced by the defense... Valdosta cannot be overconfident because of its lopsided win last week against Bradwell Institute... The game will key on how well the offenses can move the ball and how the defenses can stop that. Both teams are excellent on both sides of the ball.

Daily Times Pick - Valdosta, 21-17.
On Deck - The winner is the Class AAAA state champion.

Clarke Central Has Dominated With Defense

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Once again the war is on. With the exception of Crosstown rival Lowndes High, there's only one other team in the state that can really get a rise of out loyal Wildcat fans, and that team is the Clarke Central Gladiators.

When the two teams line up against each other for the Class AAAA crown on Cleveland Field Saturday night, Clarke Central will play in its third consecutive state title game, and it will mark the fourth time each team has participated in a Class AAAA championship.

Clarke Central beat Warner Robins last season 21-7, and lost to Valdosta in

of Clarke Central's last five touchdowns.

The Gladiator starting defense is comprised of seven seniors and four juniors, led by a pair of linebackers who are bona fide college prospects.

Reginald Parrott, a 6-foot-3, 200-pound senior linebacker, has 4.6 speed in the 40-yard dash and bench presses 325 pounds.

The other linebacker is 6-3, 215 senior Doug Brewster who also has 4.6 speed and can bench press 330. The defensive front five are also big and fast as well.

Right tackle Dale Pope is a 6-2, 225

senior with 4.7 speed who has been considered by many to be the best defensive lineman to play at the school in two seasons.

Junior Emmitt Smith, 6-1, 220, is the left tackle.

The defensive ends are 6-1, 185 senior Corey Mapp and Chuck Smith, a 190-pound junior. Mapp returned a fumble 23 yards against LaGrange for a touchdown.

Junior Ralph Whitehead is the noseguard and is 6-1, 260.

Three seniors and a junior fill out the secondary, averaging near 6-0 and 190 pounds with 4.6 speed. Offensively, Clarke Central has been struggling since it entered the playoffs.

Prior to the LaGrange game, the Gladiators went eight quarters without scoring a touchdown on offense. That streak went to nine during the LaGrange game before the Clarke Central offense scored a TD during the second quarter.

The interior offensive front line is anchored by four seniors, center Skipper Strickland (6-2, 230), right guard Len Thomas (6-4, 250), right tackle and long snapper Alex Nicholson (6-5, 225), and tight end Pat Hodgson (6-3, 180).

Adrian Jarrell is a 5-1, 180 pound sophomore quarterback who got the nod as the starting QB midway through the season.

Junior tailback Kenneth Brown is the Gladiators' main rushing threat and along with kicker John Kasay has supplied half of Clarke Central's points.

Kasay, the field goal man and place kicker, is one of the state's premier kickers. He has booted a 53-yarder this year and most of his kickoffs fall near the back of the end zone.

Clarke Central's senior class has a four-year record of 54-3 and the Gladiators are currently on a 29-game winning streak. Their last loss was to Valdosta, 21-14, in the 1984 state championship game.

'Cats Preparing For Pressure Cooker Affair



File Photo

Clarke's Billy Henderson In Third Straight Title Game

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta High Wildcats will be playing for all the marbles on both the state and national levels Saturday night when they once again lock horns with the Clarke Central Gladiators at Cleveland Field.

Not only will the Wildcats be playing for their second Class AAAA state championship in the past three years, but the Wildcats will be trying to earn their fifth national championship since 1962.

If Valdosta does win its fifth national title, it will tie Cincinnati's Moeller High School for having won the most national titles.

"Those are things we have no control over," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said. "I've been around high school football for most of my life and I'm proud that they are getting that kind of recognition."

"There are 15,000 high schools in this country that play football and to be on top of them is a real honor."

To get that honor, only 14-0 Clarke Central stands in the way of Valdosta. And that is quite an obstacle. The Gladiators have won 29 consecutive games, including a 15-0 season and state title last year. Clarke Central's last loss was a 21-14 decision to Valdosta in the state title game in 1984.

And though the pressure in a state championship game is tremendous, Hyder said the pressure now is even greater since his team has a shot at the national title.

"The World Series is a different type of pressure for baseball than the regular season. In the 15th round of a boxing match, there is a different emphasis. The Super Bowl has a different aura, just like the Kentucky Derby or the Masters," Hyder said. "All of that intertwines into championship pressure. And this is the championship game."

The Wildcats started the season ranked No. 14 nationally and No. 2 in

the state. They opened with a 16-6 over then No. 1 LaGrange and have held the top spot in the state since.

Valdosta enters the game with an offense that is averaging 32.2 points a game a defense that has yielded only 5.4 points a game.

Quarterback Greg Talley, tailback Jerome Callaway, and fullback James Roberts lead the offensive attack. Talley has completed 117 of 192 passes (60.9 percent) for 1,657 yards. He has thrown 18 touchdown passes and has been intercepted just six times.

Callaway, who played defensive back last year before being moved to offense in the off season, has rushed for 1,508 yards (7.9 average) and 16 TDs. Roberts has 789 yards (5.9) and 10 TDs. Talley has also scored nine rushing TDs.

Defensively, the Wildcats are led by end Seabron Williams, linebacker Bill Kirby, and backs Derek Shaw, Walt Gill, Reginald Dandy and Keith Henry.

Clarke Central will counter with a defense that has allowed an average of 4.8 points a game and has six shutouts to its credit. The defense has scored three of the Gladiators' last five touchdowns.

"I'm very much concerned about their defense," Hyder said. "That's where they're really tough. There offense is tough, but their defense is superb."

On offense, Clarke Central will also display a 1,500-yard rusher in Kenny Brown, a junior tailback. Brown has also scored 15 touchdowns.

Clarke Central coach Billy Henderson has won three state titles as has Hyder in the past 10 years. For the seventh time during that period, the state champion will once again be either Valdosta or Clarke Central.

"Every game is the most important," Hyder said. "The next game is always THE most important."

And with both a national and state title on the line this week, that is no understatement.



File Photo

Valdosta's Nick Hyder Eyes One More State Crown

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Title Games Should All Be Thrillers

VDT, mcs 12-19-86

The Associated Press

Georgia's high school football season draws to an end Saturday when No. 1 Valdosta hosts No. 2 Clarke Central in the eighth Class AAAA championship meeting between the football dynasties of north and south Georgia.

In addition to the AAAA game in Valdosta, three other championship games are scheduled: No. 2 Worth County — a team that was 1-9 last year — visits No. 4 Villa Rica for the Class AAA title, No. 2 Central Carrollton goes to No. 1 Washington-Wilkes in Class AA and No. 2 Lincoln County visits No. 1 East Rome in Class A.

Valdosta played Clarke Central or the old Athens High for state titles in 1920, 1939, 1955, 1965, 1969, 1977 and 1984. Valdosta won the last one, 21-14 over Clarke Central two years ago.

Clarke Central Coach Billy Henderson said Valdosta's 1986 squad is even better than the 1984 version.

"They are the most complete football team I've ever seen," Henderson said.

Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder, in turn, said Clarke Central has "a quality, well-coached, hard-nosed football team."

Both teams are 14-0 this year. Hyder's career mark is 142-24-1 in 13 years at Valdosta. Henderson is 144-30-1 at Clarke Central.

Worth County Coach Milt Miller said the Rams' young squad got plenty of practice during last year's 1-9 season, providing the team with the experience and maturity needed to achieve this year's 13-1 mark.

"We were out of it early," he said. "So we started playing the younger kids more. We continued to get beat, but they were getting better and better as the season went on. It has really paid off."

Worth County meets Villa Rica, also 13-1.

Many of the speedsters who led Central-Carrollton and Washington-Wilkes to a tie for the state track title last spring will compete again in the weekend's Class AA title football game.

Washington-Wilkes cornerback Eric Luke, flanker-quarterback Henry Stephens and flanker Ricardo Clark were on the Tigers' mile relay team.

Central has five players who finished at least third in the state track meet, including tailback Walt Crowder, who ran on the 400-meter relay team which finished second to Washington-Wilkes.

East Rome's regular-season victory over Class AA West Rome, which had won four straight state titles, inspired the Class A squad, which ended the regular season 9-0-1.

"It feels good to be back on top after all those years," said senior lineman Todd Frost. "All that time when West Rome was winning and we weren't, we heard about it."

"When we beat them, it was just crazy. ... Everyone's still up about it, and it helped us stay up the rest of the season," Frost said.

Here are last week's Georgia High School's state playoff semifinal scores and pairings for various state championships:

Semifinals
Class AAAA
Valdosta 49, Bradwell Institute 7
Clarke Central 21, LaGrange 14

Class AAA
Worth Co. 21, Central Thomasville 14
Villa Rica 28, Lakeside 26

Class AA
Washington-Wilkes 45, Brooks Co. 6
Central-Carrollton 21, Gordon 7

Class A
Lincoln Co. 23, Wilcox Co. 0
East Rome 17, Commerce 7

Final Pairings
Class AAAA
Clarke Central at Valdosta
Class AAA
Worth County at Villa Rica
Class AA
Central-Carrollton at Washington-Wilkes
Class A
Lincoln County at East Rome

"Krane" Deserves Respect

VDT 12-19-86

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Derek Shaw runs a 4.9 40-yard dash, but his teammates sometimes call him slow. At 6-foot-4, 175 pounds, he has earned the nickname Krane. Like Rodney Dangerfield, Shaw sometimes gets no respect.

But the senior safety has started for two years on Jack Rudolph's tenacious Valdosta Wildcat defense, so he must be doing something right. Last year, he led Region 1-AAAA in interceptions with eight, and this year finished among the leaders with five to give him a career total of 13.

Shaw is also a sure open-field tackler, who shows excellent instincts on defense and No. 8 can usually be found somewhere near the ball.

"Derek is just a real good youngster to have around," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "He's a friendly kid and he comes from a real supportive family. He's an active member of our Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter here and everybody likes him."

Hyder is equally high on Shaw's performance on the field.

"Derek has really played well for us," Hyder said. "He's a two-year starter and has led the team in interceptions both years. He's a good tackler too, but most of all he's a hard-working youngster and he's definitely tough."

Despite being a member of the 1984 state championship team that vanquished Clarke Central 21-14, Saturday night's Class AAAA title game between the same Gladiators and Valdosta will be Shaw's first championship game. He saw action in every game in 1984 but didn't play a down in the state final.

"I'm looking forward to it," Shaw said in an interview on Thursday. "I didn't get to play in 1984. I was disappointed but there were a lot of guys out there better than me."

Shaw is truly a product of the Valdosta system, having played in the local rec leagues, and then later at Valdosta Junior High.

At the senior high level, Shaw has been strictly a defensive player, but according to Hyder, Shaw has a great pair of hands and could have possibly played wide receiver.

Shaw actually did act as a pass catcher at the junior high level along with now varsity quarterback Greg Talley.

Shaw managed two pull down two touchdown passes in his brief career as a receiver. Dirk Hardin and Kyle Lowe were probably the ones throwing the passes. Hardin has since graduated. Lowe now does all his passing on the basketball court.

Despite his success in the game of football, Shaw is expecting his career to come to an end Saturday night, hopefully as a member of another state and national championship team. But Shaw is hoping to pursue another athletic endeavor.

Krane can play baseball and play it well.

Last year as a first baseman on the region champion team, he batted .371, poled nine home runs, and led the team in RBI with 44. Shaw also swiped 16 bases last season. As a first baseman, he had only one error in 32 games.

That Wildcat team finished 24-8 and reached the state semifinals before bowing out to Columbus.

Playing for the Boys' Club in the eighth grade, Shaw was name team MVP and also won the batting championship.

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**STATE AAAA
CHAMPIONSHIP
GAME**

VALDOSTA WILDCATS

VS

CLARK CENTRAL GLADIATORS

SATURDAY,

DECEMBER 20, 1986

8 P.M.

CLEVELAND FIELD





Jerome Callaway (11) Is Valdosta's Leading Rusher And Is Capable Of Breaking Long One

Season so far:

Valdosta 16, LaGrange 6
 Valdosta 30, Fulton 6
 Valdosta 31, Waycross 0
 Valdosta 28, Leon 3
 Valdosta 35, Tift Co. 14
 Valdosta 24, Dougherty 0

Valdosta 58, Westover 13
 Valdosta 36, Colquitt Co. 6
 Valdosta 43, Monroe 0
 Valdosta 17, Lowndes 6
 Valdosta 28, Tift Co. 16
 Valdosta 28, Lowndes 0
 Valdosta 28, Carver 0
 Valdosta 49, Bradwell 7

**SATURDAY
 DECEMBER 20, 1986**



Guy Belue Celebrates TD Vs. Lowndes



Clarke Central Head Coach Billy Henderson Has Reputation Of Bringing Well-Coached Teams

Season so far:

Clarke 21, Griffin 0

Clarke 28, Brookwood 7

Clarke 42, Norcorss 7

Clarke 28, Parkview 6

Clarke 10, Heritage 0

Clarke 27, Johnson 0

Clarke 37, Berkmar 7

Clarke 7, Cedar Shoals 6

Clarke 13, Newton Co. 0

Clarke 44, Cen.-Gwinnett 7

Clarke 26, Johnson 13

Clarke 16, Heritage 0

Clarke 10, SW DeKalb 0

Clarke 21, LaGrange 14



Greg Talley Has Accounted For 1,866 Yards

VHS Interact Students Of Month Selected

By Laura McMillan

The Interact Club of Valdosta High has selected its "Students of the Week." They are: Georgia Graves, Marty Graves, Chris Hendry, and Jeff Knotts. All four students are Seniors at VHS. The four were honored by the Valdosta Rotary Club this Wednesday at its regular meeting.

Georgia Graves is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Graves. She has been on the Student Council for the past three years and is currently serving as its President. She served as her Junior Class President. She is a member of Interact, Beta Club, Drama Club, and Y Club where she is Chaplain. Georgia attended Girls' State the summer of her Junior year. She attends First Baptist Church with her family and is active in all youth activities there. Georgia's hobby is horses. She spends much of her time giving and taking riding lessons. She plans to attend Averett College in Virginia after graduation.

Marty Graves is the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Graves. She is a member of Interact, Beta Club, and VICA. She is enrolled in the DCT program at VHS and is employed at Interiors Unlimited. Marty plans to attend Clemson University and major in financial management after graduation. Her hobbies include piano and band.

Chris Hendry is the 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hendry. He is a member of Interact, Beta Club, Key Club, and is on the Sandspur staff at VHS. He attends Westminster Presbyterian Church. Chris' hobbies include hunting and playing pool.

Jeff Knotts is the 17-year-old son of Ms. Joyce Knotts. He is a member of Interact and is on the Tennis Team at VHS. At his former high school, he was a member of the Golf Team. Jeff is a Presbyterian.

FBLA Workshop

By Tina Johns
Reporter

On December 13, 1986, the Region II FBLA Workshop was held at Valdosta High School. Over 100 participants from eight schools registered.

Valdosta Mayor Gil Autry delivered a speech on becoming business leaders during the opening assembly. Cherie Thompson, FBLA State Officer, brought greetings from the Executive Council. Susie Lancaster, Region II Secretary; Gretta Allan, Region II Reporter; and Tina Johns, Region II Vice President assisted in the opening assembly. A total of 19 sessions were held in the Business Department at

Valdosta High school.

Terry Smith, Georgia FBLA Executive Director, talked to the FBLA advisors about the region, state, and national competitive events.

Eilene Mitchell and five models from Eilene's School of Modeling presented the session on Dress For Success.

Mac Tillman and Bill Egar from Toastmasters held a mock meeting to demonstrate parliamentary procedures.

Lisa Wetherington from Toastmasters talked about public speaking and gave an excellent speech on becoming an organ donor.

Mary Alice Griffin from Valdosta State College and Butch Mosier from Valdosta Technical School discussed the advantages of college and technical school.

Bill Frech from Valdosta State College presented the session on Economics.

Jeanette Coody from the Azalea City Women's Club presented a session on Community Involvement.

Kent Buescher supplied a video tape about Entrepreneurship in general and about his own business — Buescher Communications.

Cherie Thompson from Jeff Davis High School held a session on running for an FBLA State Office.

Linda Boyette from Business & Professional Women gave a presentation on professionalism. Teresa Lami from Griffin Corporation held a session on Job Interviews.

Many Projects

Interact members at Valdosta High School have the Christmas spirit and are involved in several projects during the holidays.

The members have been conducting a canned food and toy drive with all food and toys being donated to the Salvation Army for their Christmas project. Members have been donating food and toys for approximately two weeks. A representative of the Salvation Army will pick up the food and toys this week. On Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, Interact members will work with Salvation Army representatives in distributing these toys and the food. Members have signed up to work two-hour shifts the first three days of their holidays to participate in this project. Interact is a service club — this project is another way the members are promoting community service by giving unselfishly of their time. The community projects chairman is Kathy Farley.

The school projects chairman, Deania Denmark, and her committee



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

are placing Christmas cards in all teachers' mailboxes. This is just one small way Interact members wish to say how much they appreciate the support of the faculty and administration.

PAMS Club

Angelina Simmons

The PAMS Club has been very active with various service projects and social activities.

Club members assisted with the Tootsie Roll Drive for retarded citizens. Members donated canned goods for Unity Food Day. A visit to a local nursing home is planned for the Christmas holidays.

The club sponsored a breakfast during the week of the Winnersville Classic. Two cars were entered in the homecoming parade. Erica Miller was elected as PAMS Queen. Her attendants were Sonja Barnes and LaShunda Moore. The club sponsored a Christmas social recently. Members exchanged gifts. New members were recognized at the social and given the pledge.

New members are Kim Anderson, Kelisha Brown, Tanyala Brown, Trina Faulk, Debra House, Darlene Joyner, Faylene Joyner, Maia McFarland, Carlos Moses, Evette Plather, Nicole Revels, Ebonye Robinson, Bridgette Davis, Debra Waters, Sabrina Watson, Stephanie Davis, Tanya Mabry, Stephanie Moody, Deadra Williams, Sheila Payton, Angela Greene, Tara Walker, Marilyn Moss, Deldra Sirmans and Carla Carter.

Newly elected sweethearts are Anthony Hart, Yves Ownes, Hubert Davidson, Kent Johns, O.J. Mathis, Kacy Williams and Reginald Miller. The sweethearts are responsible for assisting the PAMS members with their projects.

PAMS club members and sweethearts are encouraged to be outstanding in the areas of P-Personality, A-Appearance, M-Manners, and S-Scholarship and Service.

Interact Club

The regular meeting of the VHS Interact Club was held Thursday morning at 7:15 in the Little Theater. President, Johnna Elliott, called the meeting to order and presided over the meeting. Michael White, Chaplain, gave the devotional.

Laura McMillan, Secretary, read the minutes of the previous meeting and the minutes were approved as read. Brian Harris, Treasurer, gave the financial report which was approved as read.

Deania Denmark, School Projects Chairman, gave a report of her committee. Deania reported they were placing Christmas cards in the mailboxes of all teachers and administrators.

Kathy Farley, Community Projects Chairman, gave a report of her committee. Kathy reported that the food and toy drive was going well. Several boxes of food and toys were collected during the drive.

Joy O'Neal, International Projects Chairman, gave a report of her committee. Joy reported that her committee has decided for Interact to Adopt a Child for the year. This child will be from a foreign country, and Interact will sponsor him or her throughout the year.

Interact lapel pin, membership cards and receipts were then distributed to members.

Visits House

The Foreign Language Club Nursing Home Project Committee visited Heritage House December 17 with presents for the residents made by Club members. Leslie Hiers is chairperson for the project. Patti Smith was in charge of making the gifts assisted by Lori Martin, Shawn Jensen and Rhonda Davis.

The officers and board members of FLC met December 17 to discuss 1987 projects. A fund-raiser will be held in January, the International Dinner will be in February, Foreign Language Awareness Week will be sponsored in March, and there will be a trip to St. Augustine in the spring. President Chad Hodge commended the spirit chairperson, Patti Smith, for the spirit signs during football season.

'Cats Maul Clarke Central To Win State Championship

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

The Clarke Central Gladiators came into Cleveland Field with the reputation of having one of the toughest defenses in the state of Georgia. But the Valdosta Wildcats took their first possession and drove 60 yards for a score. The Wildcats didn't even look back as they claimed a 28-0 victory over the Gladiators to win the Class AAAA state championship.

The state title is the 19th for the Wildcats since 1940 and fourth under head coach Nick Hyder.

Valdosta, which entered the game ranked No. 1 in the nation, also was named mythical national champions for the fifth time.

"We didn't know what we could do against their defense when the game started," Hyder said. "Victories have never come easy. I've been involved with this sport for more than 40 years and every game is always tough."

But the Wildcats made it look easy.

Valdosta won the toss and elected to kickoff to the Gladiators. Clarke Central was unable to move the ball and had to punt. The Wildcats got good field position and started at its own 40-yard line. Quarterback Greg Talley completed a 10-yard pass to Jim Motes, James Roberts rushed for eight and 19 yards and Talley kept on a keeper to move the Wildcats to the Clarke 19-yard line.

On third-and-three at the 17, Talley hit Roberts for a 16-yard gain to the one where Talley scored on the next play.

Dan Tillman kicked the first of his four extra points for a 7-0 lead with 6:34 left in the first quarter.

The teams played easy for the rest of the half before the Wildcats exploded for 14 points in the final five minutes. Talley completed a 10-play, 77-yard drive when he scored from the one with 4:49 left.

Roberts again was the spark plug to the drive as he had runs of 21 and 19 yards while Jerome Callaway had a 19-yard gain. Talley went in behind massive right guard Jodie Sprenkle for the score.

But the Wildcats weren't through for the half. Clarke Central was stopped for minus six yards in three plays and had to punt for the fifth time in the first 24 minutes where Valdosta took over at the Clarke 36-yard line.

Faced with a second-and-14 at the 40, Talley dropped to back to pass and found tight end Charles Steward over the middle. Steward leaped high for the ball and outwrestled Clarke defender Willie Lester for the ball. Steward turned toward the end zone and was gone.

"Getting that third touchdown just before the half probably hurt us," Hyder said. "We didn't dig in in the second half like we should have. Knowing their coach (Billy Henderson) they would make a comeback on us in the second half and they did."

Henderson pointed to the first half as being the key to the



James Roberts Plunges Over Goal Line In Third Quarter

—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

game.

"In the first half, we just got outcoached," Henderson said. "In the second half, we never gave up and we fought out hearts out. We just came up short."

"We all share in the loss, starting with me."

But Henderson also pointed to the loss as being an important win.

"This is a valuable lesson in life — football and losing," he said. "How well the players respond to this will lead them a long way in life."

Although the Gladiators played well in the second half,

they were not able to get back in the game.

Clarke Central was held to minus 10 yards in total offense in the first half and finished the game with 196.

Hyder said he felt the game was over midway through the third period when Valdosta's Walt Gill returned a Clarke Central fumble 44 yards to the Gladiator 1-yard line. Roberts scored two players later for a 28-0 margin.

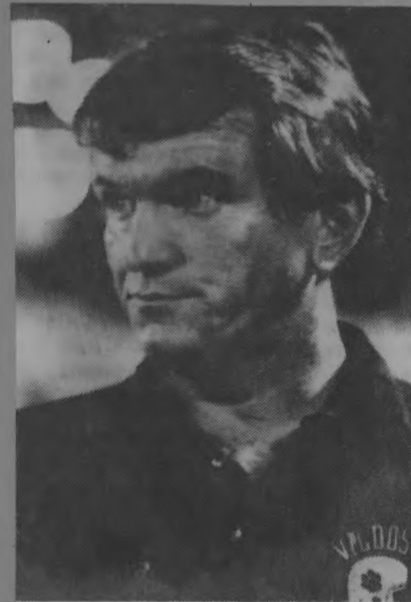
"When Walt picked up that fumble and we scored, we took control of the game," Hyder said. "With our defense, I knew it would be tough for them score five touchdowns to beat us."



Volunteers At Work Here

It may not be a very merry Christmas in some places, but the local Salvation Army and students of the Interact Club here are working to be sure that's not so in Valdosta. At top, club member Melanie Dennard, helps a local mother pick out a toy for Christmas. At left, students are proud of bagged groceries. They are, r-l, Honey Lynn Bentley, Simone Allen, Paul Hatcher, Erica Miller, Chad Zahniser. At right, Kelly Coleman helps Johnna Elliott, right, bag gifts. — Times Staff Photos by Paul Leavy.

VD Times
Dec. 22, 1986



Nick Hyder

Fri., Dec. 26, 1986

'Cats Make All-State Team

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Quarterback Greg Talley and offensive lineman John Wheelless of Class AAAA state champion Valdosta head the 1986 Georgia Sports Writers Association's all-state football team. Wildcats Coach Nick Hyder is the coach of the year.

Hyder directed Valdosta to its third state AAAA title in five years, defeating defending state champion Clarke Central 28-0 Saturday night.

All 24 players selected to the all-state squad are seniors.

Talley, a 6-foot, 180-pounder, completed 121 of 201 passes for 1,734 yards and 19 touchdowns this year. He also ran for 230 yards and 11 TDs.

Wheelless, a 6-foot, 310-pound tackle, keyed a Valdosta offensive line that averaged 268 pounds.

Receivers named to the offensive team were Shad Santee of Walton, who had 48 catches, 735 yards and eight

touchdowns, and tight end Pat Williams of Baldwin, who had 15 catches for 302 yards and five touchdowns.

The all-state team features a trio of running backs who combined for more than 6,000 yards. Bradwell Institute's John Stewart ran for more than 2,000 yards a year ago and had 1,500 yards and 16 touchdowns this season. He has more than 5,100 rushing yards and 50 TDs in his high school career.

Westside's Joe Ross gained 2,133 yards and scored 22 touchdowns.

Alphonso Ellis of Thomasville broke the school's regular season rushing record set by William Andrews, now of the Atlanta Falcons. Ellis had 1,383 yards on 193 carries. Including playoff games, he had 1,617 yards on 231 carries and 22 touchdowns.

The offensive line includes Mickey Lee of Villa Rica, Ron Vissage of

Americus, Haze Sadler of Westover, Kelvin Pritchett of Therrell and Wheelless.

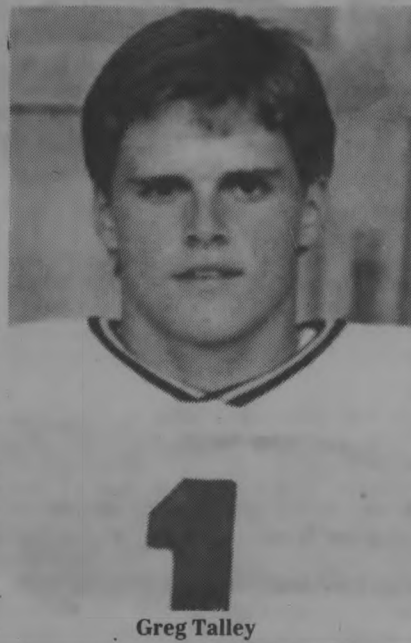
John Kasay of Clarke Central, who has kicked field goals of 56 and 54 yards, is the placekicker.

The defensive line includes John Johnson of LaGrange, David Rocker of Fulton, LeMonte Tellis of Peachtree, Norman Cowins of Douglas County and Gerren Shorter, a 6-foot-8, 292-pounder from Bradwell Institute.

David Summers of McEachern, Doug Brewster of Clarke Central and Tony Cox of Troup are the linebackers.

Ronnie West of Wilcox County picked off 11 passes to lead the defensive backs. Broderick Allen of Griffin and David Hargett of Lowndes complete the secondary.

Stuart Saussy of Waycross, chosen as the punter, has averaged 42 yards per punt.



Greg Talley



John Wheelless

'A Thrill To Be A Part Of It'

VDT 12-21-86



—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Charles Steward (3) Makes Circus Catch For Third Score

By ERNIE ROGERS
Times City Editor

The stuff of dreams, magic — just another national championship — all were in the air Saturday night as the Valdosta Wildcats rolled over Clarke Central to gain both a Class AAAA state championship and the national high school football title.

"This is high school football as it should be," said a man who should know, the mentor of Valdosta football, Wright Bazemore. "Playing in a game like this will affect you for the rest of your life."

"You can tell your kids, 'I played on a national championship team.' You realize how few people have done that. It's a thrill to be a part of it."

The more-than-capacity crowd was part of what has become "a way of life in Valdosta," according to long-time fan sparkplug Herb Ross.

Ross, a member of Valdosta's first state championship team in 1940, underestimated the Wildcat offense by two touchdowns. "I think we'll win it 16-3. I dreamed that, and I'm not a dreamer. I'm fired up over it."

So were people who usually find themselves at odds with the Wildcats.

Jack Clark, defensive tackle for Lowndes High School, shouted from the sidelines to his cousin and VHS counterpart, Scott Barton #95. Clark said he had gone by to see Barton earlier in the day.

"He was quiet, keeping to himself. He was getting up for the game, not saying much," Clark said of his cousin.

Clark predicted victory for the Wildcats if they could carry a lead into halftime and come back out on the field

with a determination to "stick to it. They can't come back out with a big head. They've got to stick with it and play good football."

That they did. And in front of two interested parties who each thought his team would take home the state title. Clarke County Sheriff Jerry Massey and Lowndes Sheriff G. Robert Carter watched from opposite sides of the field as Carter's prediction followed those of most other pickers who had Valdosta winning, but by a more conservative margin than the 28 to 0 final.

Carter had the Wildcat offense being too much for the Gladiators by two to three touchdowns. Massey said Clarke Central would win by a factor that was negated by the tough Valdosta defense that didn't allow the Gladiator's field goal threat, John Casey, to exercise his 60-yard scoring kicks.

Instead the Valdosta stands thundered at the feet of fans accustomed to winning. "It's exciting. This is what it's all about," screamed City Councilman and LHS counselor Bunnis Williams, as the national championship became a reality. "Winnersville, USA! Just look at the crowd. Winnersville!!"

The football jacketed LHS defensive tackle glowed as his cousin's team and his sworn football enemies wrapped up another perfect season. Jack Clark's feelings probably best reflected the feelings of all the fans — "I'm really glad for 'em — proud for 'em," he said as the steaming Wildcats celebrated their titles on the sidelines.

Ross weaved through the crowded sideline, his megaphone swinging behind him. "It's even better than my dream," he said.

Seniors' Hard Work Pays Big Dividend

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

For the Valdosta Wildcat seniors, last night's 28-0 victory ended four long seasons of toil and sweat. But those seniors got their just rewards as the Wildcats walked away with the Class AAAA crown and in all probability a national title.

The seniors of this year's squad are a gritty bunch of youngsters who can best be characterized by the phrase "hard work." On both sides of the ball the seniors have provided key leadership throughout the season.

"I can't say enough about the senior leadership on the line," said offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker. "John Wheelless, Jodie Sprenkle, and Troy Wells played tremendous games tonight. During halftime, they got together and decided it's not over till it's over. In the second half we just tried to chew some time off the clock and not make mistakes. I think all the seniors just dedicated themselves to this game and it showed."

Valdosta's senior offensive lineman of Sprenkle (275), Wheelless (310), Wells (225) are part of the biggest line in the state and opened enough holes for senior running back Jerome Callaway to get 79 yards. Callaway finished the year as the 'Cats leading ground-gainer.

Talley played a poised game at quarterback, completing four of nine passes for 77 yards and threw a beautiful touchdown pass to Charles

Steward. Talley threw only six interceptions in 15 games and 18 touchdown passes.

Defensively, the Wildcats have been just as dependent on seniors. Defensive end Seabron Williams has been an all-region first-teamer two consecutive years and played a large part in the Wildcats' 1984 title win over the same Clarke Central Gladiators.

At the other end is Michael Tolbert, who has not received the recognition he deserves. Tolbert has had a great season and played a heads up game against the Gladiators.

On the line, there are others who deserve to be mentioned for their sparkling play — noseguard Eric Larry and tackle Otis Conaway.

At linebacker, there's Bill Kirby who is one of the best linebackers in Region 1-AAAA. Kirby contributed six individual tackles, two assists, and had one sack.

Kirby played the entire '84 season but missed the state final game due to a knee injury.

Safety Walt Gill picked up a fumble and returned it 44 yards to the Clarke Central 1 to set up Valdosta's last score. Gill, a defensive captain, said his teammates went into the game undaunted by the Gladiators.

"We heard all week about their size, strength and speed, but it came down to two things," Gill said. "We worked well together and we had more desire."

Game Notes

VDT 12-21-86

Streak Ended

The loss by Clarke Central was the first in 29 games, dating back to the 1984 state championship game when the Gladiators dropped a 21-14 decision to the Wildcats at Cleveland Field. The game was also for the state title and Valdosta was named national champions afterwards.

No. 19

The state championship claimed by Valdosta was the 19th in the school's history. The first was back in 1940 when the Wildcats defeated Cedartown 21-0. Valdosta has played in 22 state championship games and has been a winner 18 times. The 'Cats tied Griffin, 7-7, in 1978.

Unbeatable 'Cats

By finishing the season with a 15-0 record, it is the 14th time Valdosta has gone through a season without losing or being tied. Coach Nick Hyder has had three of those undefeated teams while former coach Wright Bazemore produced nine. Valdosta's first undefeated season was in 1929 when it was 11-0 under coach Mike Herndon.

Worse Defeat

The 28-0 loss by Clarke Central was the most points allowed by a Gladiator team since a 32-21 loss to Griffin in 1980. The worst loss by a Clarke Central team came in 1976 when it lost to Peachtree 42-7. Clarke Central also lost to Gainesville 28-0 in 1975 and 54-0 to Warner Robins that same season.

The Most Since '71

Valdosta's 28 points was the most scored by a Wildcat team in a state title game since they scored a 62-12 decision over Avondale in the 1971 title game.

Stuck On 28

Valdosta has scored 28 points in four of its last five games. The Wildcats defeated Lowndes 28-0, Tift County 28-16, Carver-Columbus 28-0, and Clarke Central 28-0. The other victory was a 49-7 decision over Bradwell Institute last week for the South Georgia title.

Make The First

Valdosta was able to convert on four out of 10 third-down conversions while Clarke Central converted just five times out of 13 tries. The Gladiators punted the ball five times, all in the first half, and had no first downs in the first half. The Gladiators finished with nine first downs.

in., Dec. 21, 1986

Statistics

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|----|---|---|----|
| Clarke Central..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Valdosta..... | 7 | 14 | 7 | 0 | 28 |

Valdosta — 6:34 left in first quarter. Greg Talley 1-yard run (Dan Tillman kick). Drive was eight plays, 60 yards, and used 3:26 off the clock. James Roberts highlighted the drive with a 19-yard run and a 16-yard pass reception from Talley. Drive started after a Clarke Central punt.

Valdosta — 4:49 left in the second quarter. Talley 1-yard run (Tillman kick). Drive was 10 plays, 77 yards, and used 5:02 off the clock. Roberts highlighted the drive with runs of 21 and 19 yards and Jerome Callaway added a 19-yard run. Drive started after a Clarke Central punt.

Valdosta — 1:07 left in the second quarter. Charles Steward 40-yard pass from Talley (Tillman kick). Drive was three plays, 36 yards, and used 1:05 off the clock. Steward made a leaping catch and took the ball away from a Gladiator defender. The drive started after a Clarke Central punt.

Valdosta — 8:39 left in the third quarter. Roberts 1-yard run (Tillman kick). Drive was two plays, one yard, and used 49 seconds off the clock. Drive was set up when Walt Gill returned a fumble 44 yards to the Gladiator 1-yard line.

| | CC | Val |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|
| First Downs..... | 9 | 11 |
| Yards Rushing..... | 9 | 162 |
| Rushing Attempts..... | 32 | 36 |
| Yards Passing..... | 187 | 77 |
| Passes..... | 25-12-0 | 9-4-0 |
| Sacks by..... | 3-22 | 1-8 |
| 3rd Down Conv..... | 4-10 | 5-13 |
| Fumbles-Lost..... | 3-2 | 0-0 |
| Punting..... | 5-38.4 | 3-35.3 |
| Penalties..... | 7-55 | 3-15 |

Individual Leaders

Rushing

Clarke Central — Brown 16-29, Maxell 3-11, Dukes 1-3, Mack 1-(-11), Jarrell 11-(-23).
Valdosta — Callaway 16-79, Roberts 11-72, Talley 8-8, Steward 1-3.

Passing

Clarke Central — Jarrell 25-12-0 187.
Valdosta — Talley 9-4-0 77.

Receiving

Clarke Central — Mack 1-46, Scott 3-25, Davis 1-24, Hodgson 2-18, Brown 3-13, Mangel 1-8.
Valdosta — Steward 1-40, Roberts 1-16, Callaway 1-11, Motes 1-10.



'Cats Crush Gladiators

Details Pages 1C-2C

The Valdosta Daily Times

Vol. 82—No. 67

Valdosta, GA Sunday, Dec. 21, 1986

50 Cents

Valdosta Tops In Nation

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta High Wildcats are national champs. The fifth national title and 19th state crown came with a 28-0 victory over Clarke Central at Cleveland Field Saturday night before a crowd of 12,500.

The national with state crown was the second in the past three seasons for the Wildcats. Both victories came against Clarke Central.

Even with the lopsided 28-0 score, Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said the game was not easy.

"None of them are ever easy," Hyder said. "You start with the early-morning workouts and weight room and all the hours spent on the practice field. That's not easy. But this kind of payoff makes it all worthwhile."

Valdosta quarterback Greg Talley lead the Wildcat offense as they ran through and passed over the Gladiator defense to the delight of the hometown fans.

The 'Cats defense held through-out the game to shut out the team ranked 25 in the nation and helping to deliver the team its only loss of the season. Clarke Central's only threat was mounted in the closing minutes of the fourth quarter as they drove to the Valdosta one-yard line.

But the Big Cat held.

The victory ended Valdosta's season with a 15-0 record and No. 1 ranking in the nation. The Gladiators last loss was 29 games and two years ago to Valdosta in the state title game played at Cleveland Field.



Times Staff Photos
By Bob Lupinek



Times Staff Photo
By Paul Leavy

Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder Celebrates, Shakes Hands With Clarke Central's Coach Billy Henderson As Scoreboard Tells All

101

Wildcats Talley, Sprengle To Attend Georgia

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Two Valdosta High Wildcat blue-chip football players have verbally committed to play football next year for the University of Georgia Bulldogs.

Quarterback Greg Talley, Georgia's player of the year, and 6-foot-4, 270-pound offensive guard Jodie Sprengle, a member of the Class AAAA all-state squad, have each made the agreement with Georgia officials.

Both Talley and Sprengle have been hotly pursued by representatives from several major college programs. Sprengle was also recruited heavily by Auburn, Florida State, and Notre Dame while Talley was also pursued by Alabama and Tennessee.

"I've always rooted for the Georgia Bulldogs growing up, and I've always wanted to play for them," Sprengle said. "Now I'll get the chance. It's a great school."

Sprengle has also remained undaunted in his belief that the university offers a quality education, despite all of the negative press in the past year surrounding the Jan Kemp court case involving the remedial education program in Athens.

"No matter what anybody says, Georgia is a good school academically.



Greg Talley

"Georgia's already gotten commitments from a lot of guys whom I have played with or against. Jodie's going there, Haze Sadler, John Kasay, Rod Coleman and some others. They're all guys I've played either with or against, good players and guys I'd want to be playing alongside for the next four years."

— Greg Talley



Jodie Sprengle

"Things just felt more comfortable at Georgia. I visited there during the homecoming weekend, and they had a bunch of recruits down on the field during the game. It felt kind of like being on Cleveland Field. It's going to take a lot of hard work, but I'm looking forward to playing there."

— Jodie Sprengle

They offer many excellent programs in a lot of different areas. And that had a lot to do with my decision."

Sprengle, who carries a 2.8 grade point average, plans on studying sports medicine upon entering the university.

"Things just felt more comfortable at Georgia," Sprengle said. "I visited

there during the homecoming weekend, and they had a bunch of recruits down on the field during the game. It felt kind of like being on Cleveland Field. It's going to take a lot of hard work, but I'm looking forward to playing there."

Talley said he informed Georgia assistant coach Ray Goff of his de-

cision on Monday.

"I had known all along that's where I wanted to go," Talley said. "I was born and raised a Georgia Bulldog, and my parents and family have always been fans. Coach Goff called Sunday and we talked a long time. Then I slept on it and got up the next day and talked it

Talley make up his mind was the list of players which had already committed to Georgia.

"Georgia's already gotten commitments from a lot of guys whom I have played with or against. Jodie's going there, Haze Sadler, John Kasay, Rod Coleman and some others. They're all guys I've played either with or against, good players and guys I'd want to be playing alongside for the next four years."

Sadler, a 6-4, 270-pound offensive tackle from Westover High School in Albany, and Coleman, a 6-4, 220-pound defensive end from Monroe, both were first team All-Region 1-AAAA performers. Kasay was the All-State kicker in 1986. Widely acclaimed as one of the best placekickers in the Southeast, he booted two field goals this season from more than 50 yards.

Talley admitted that there is one other All-State player from the region which he would like to see join him at Georgia. Lowndes safety David Hargett has always been high on the Bulldogs' list, and Talley himself has called the Viking star.

"David's one of the best defensive backs around. I know he is at the top of Georgia's list, and I sure hope he ends up in Athens."

over with my parents.

"I decided there wasn't any use in wasting more of anybody's time or playing games with anyone, so I told Coach Goff that day that I wanted to come to Georgia."

The Talleys have long been Georgia fans, and another fact that helped

VHS Wrestlers Fall To 'Canes

VDT 1-3-87

From Staff Reports

Valdosta High's wrestling team suffered its first loss of the season Wednesday, losing to Fitzgerald 46-19 at the VHS gym.

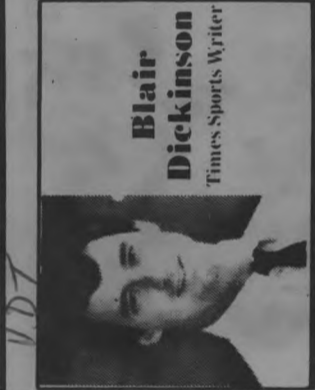
The winners for Valdosta were Mike Schmier (105 pounds), Neal Fudge (122), Maurice Dean (158), and Troy Wells (188). Wells, fresh off the football field as a member of the 1986 state champions Valdosta Wildcats, recorded the quickest pin of the match, finishing off his opponent in just 51 seconds.

The Wildcats had to forfeit at unlimited where they have yet to put a wrestler, and Jeff McLeod had to forfeit at 129 because of an injured ankle.

Valdosta, McEachern, Sprayberry, Cook, and Lowndes will wrestle Saturday at the Valdosta High Gym.

100 pounds — Woodall (F) pinned Fann, 108 — Schmier (V) dec. Tomberlin, 115 — Clarke (F) pinned Luke, 122 — Fudge (V) pinned Powell, 129 — Mann (F) won by default, 135 — Calhoun (F) dec. Rainey, 141 — Sherrill (F) dec. Mueller, 148 — Lavender (F) pinned Moorman, 158 — Dean (V) dec. Shelton, 170 — Rogers (F) pinned Moorman, 188 — Wells (V) pinned Kinnert, Uni. — Smith (F) won by default.

Tues., Jan. 6, 1987



Blair Dickinson
Times Sports Writer

A No. 1 Ranking

The Times has learned that the National Sports News Service, which has been ranking high school teams since 1927, placed the Valdosta Wildcats at the top of their polls once again in 1986. Their latest press release lists the accomplishment as Valdosta's fourth (according to them) "mythical" national crown.

It further states that Valdosta is one of only four high schools with 600-plus wins in football. They follow the Wildcats with No. 2 Montgomery (Ala.) Lee and No. 3 Monroeville (Pa.) Gateway.

The ranking service has only two other teams from the South among their top 20. Knoxville Austin-East is 10th at 15-0 while Little Rock (Ark.) Central is 19th. The Little Rock squad won its 18th state championship since 1941 and was voted the national title in 1946 and 1957. That almost sounds familiar.

The NSNS player of the year is Pensacola Escambia's Emmitt Smith, a 5-foot-11, 192-pound halfback with 106 career touchdowns, 8,796 yards, and only six career fumbles. Their coach of the year is Jack Johnson whose Great Falls (Mont.) Russell High team went 12-0 and won its seventh state championship since 1975.

The NSNS lists its game of the year as Ruston (La.) High's 31-24 overtime victory over Slidell for the Louisiana 4A title, played in the Louisiana Superdome.

And quite appropriately, they list as the Upset of the Year Carson High's 21-11 victory over Banning High in the Los Angeles 4A title game which prevented Banning from winning the 1986 national title.

News of that game reached our sleepy South Georgia town rather quickly as Valdosta safety Walt Gill's father witnessed the game in person and relayed the result home soon afterwards.

Many sports fans around the Valdosta area may remember a huge picture of the Wildcats' John Wheelless and Jerome Callaway in a September issue of Sports Illustrated magazine. The caption below the photo mentions Valdosta High's rich football tradition.

Wheelless and Callaway are sitting on the tailgate of a black pickup truck in the photograph. I'll bet you didn't know whose truck it was.

Well, the chariot in question belongs to none other than Jack Cook, a starting defensive end for...yep, you guessed it...Lowndes High in 1975, the last Viking team not coached by the now famous Joe Wilson. Cook, who may know more about air-conditioning units than any man alive, works for the Valdosta school system and now has ties to the Wildcat program because so many of the players he used to coach at the Boys Club now play for Valdosta High School.



—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Valdosta's Reginald Butler Drives Towards Basket As Viking James Conyers Looks On

Gritty Wildcats Can't Hang On

VDT 1-7-87

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Like the Garden of Eden, all good things must surely come to pass.

And so it was with the Valdosta Wildcats' early lead in their Region 1-AAAA bout with Lowndes Tuesday night. After four minutes and 56 seconds of play, the Wildcats, an underdog by a wide margin and severely outsized on the basketball court, led the visiting Vikings by the unbelievable score of 11-0.

Valdosta's full-court pressure stymied their cold-shooting crosstown rivals in the early going, and the young Wildcats came up with some big baskets. Michael Perry got the first of his 15 points at the free throw line. Gary Campbell sank a foul shot, and Reginald Butler got a tip-in off a miss free throw.

Perry worked inside for a basket, and Campbell followed with an 18-footer which he turned into a three-point play for an 11-0 lead.

"Our press worked a couple of times early on, and Lowndes came out cold against our zone," explained Wildcat coach John Miller. "We worked our offense for some good baskets, but we knew we weren't going to hold Lowndes scoreless all night long."

"If anything we came out maybe a little too keyed up," Viking coach Terry Wilkes said. "Valdosta's a very important rival, and we've come over here each of the last two years with teams which were supposed to be a lot better than theirs. We lost both times in close games. So it was important that we play well tonight. We just came out a little tight and didn't hit our shots."

The Vikings' size advantage was obvious from the minute the teams took the court for warmups. The Lowndes front line of 6-foot-6 Chance Black, 6-5 Arney Lucas, and 6-2 James Moore overshadowed Valdosta's 6-foot center Butler, and 5-11 power forward Perry.

But Lowndes didn't score until there were almost five minutes gone in the game. Black converted an offensive rebound. Then after Campbell sank a 15-footer for a 13-2 lead, the Vikings ran off nine straight points.

Moore sank a pair of free throws before Lucas powered inside for a 3-point play. Black scored again on another offensive rebound, and point guard James Conyers pulled up on a fast break to nail a 15-footer. It ended the first quarter with Valdosta in the lead 13-11.

To Valdosta's credit, the Wildcats did not give in easily. Valdosta, which entered the game with a 1-5 record compared to Lowndes' 5-4, played the Vikings even through the second quarter as Perry and Butler hung in against their larger opponents and

found some success scoring inside. But the clock struck 12 in the third quarter.

After Valdosta led 23-21 at halftime, the Wildcats came out cold in the second half. Lowndes reeled off 10 straight points for a 31-23 lead before Perry scored his team's first points after 3:20 of the second half. Lucas and Black began dominating the inside game, and Anthony Foster provided a major spark off the bench for the Vikings.

"Valdosta had come out in a tight zone, forcing us to shoot from the outside," Wilkes said. "And we played right into their hands until Anthony came off the bench and hit a couple of shots from long range. That forced them to come out a little bit and gave us a little room to work with inside."

That was all Lowndes needed as the Vikings had built a 42-29 lead by the end of the third quarter and carried a 15-point cushion throughout the fourth quarter. Foster finished up as Lowndes' leading scorer with 17 points while Black had 13 points and an incredible 20 rebounds.

The Lowndes Vikettes, ranked No. 4 in the state entering the game, ran their record to 10-0 with a 79-33 victory over a young and improving 2-4 Lady Wildcat squad.

Lowndes had five players in double figures, led by Lisa Harrell's 20 points. Beverly Williams, Sadie Straughter, and Carol Bradley each followed with 14 while Laine Scarborough added 13 points.

"We stayed with them fairly well in the first quarter," Valdosta coach Elizabeth Montgomery said. "It was 12-9 the last time I looked at the scoreboard. But overall we didn't execute well and didn't do the things tonight which we are capable of."

"Lowndes has a very good ballclub. We're not going to dwell on this one. At least we now know what it takes to beat somebody. We've got to have a sustained effort for 32 minutes. Hopefully we'll get back on the winning track Friday night against Monroe."

Cassandra Ceasar led Valdosta with nine points while Jan Hartzog and Terry Longeliere followed with eight and seven points respectively.

Boys' Game

Lowndes (40) — Black 13, A. Lucas 9, Moore 10, Conyers 6, Foster 17, Herring, London 1, Roberts 2, M. Lucas, Thomas 2, May.

Valdosta (41) — R. Butler 5, Carter, Lowe, Campbell 6, Iverson, Perry 15, Phillips 2, Davis 6, Jones, Elliott.

Lowndes.....11 10 21 18—60

Valdosta.....13 10 6 12—41

Records — Lowndes 7-5, Valdosta 1-6.

Next Game — Lowndes at Berrien Co. Saturday; Valdosta at Monroe Friday.

Girls' Game

Lowndes (79) — Williams 14, Straughter 14, Harrell 20, Bradley 14, Scarborough 13, Evans, Campbell, Carter 2, Brown, Sauls, Dykes, A. Hall, S. Hall.

Valdosta (33) — Ceasar 9, Richardson 1, Hartzog 8, Longeliere 7, Plummer 6, Twine, Creque 2, Wilson, Shown.

Lowndes.....25 28 14 12—79

Valdosta.....15 5 9 4—33

Records — Lowndes 10-0, Valdosta 2-5.

Football Player Becomes Hero To Two Boys

By BLAIR DICKINSON
And LIZ VICKERS
Times Staff Writers

What started out to be just a day to get another haircut turned into something special for two young Valdosta Wildcat fans.

Joshua Baker, 8, and Shannon Baker, 10, met Walt Gill, the 1986 Valdosta defensive co-captain, in a barbershop. The boys were wearing their black and gold (Valdosta colors) and Gill struck up a conversation with them and bought them a Coke. The friendship was born.

"You know how kids look up to football players," said their mother, Debbie Baker, a lifelong Valdosta resident. "Ever since that day, they've been talking about Walt. They took a special interest in him. We'll go to games and they're always watching to see what No. 36 (Gill's number) is doing on every play. They'd yell anytime they'd see his name in the paper."

When asked what prompted him to take the time to share and start a conversation with the two young boys, Gill said, "I enjoy children. I know how it was when I was little. I looked up to the athletes around me.

"After every game Joshua and Shannon would go down on the field and look for Gill," Mrs. Baker said. "Sometimes they'd get lost in the crowd, but after the Colquitt County game (a 36-6 victory), Gill gave them his chinstrap and neck brace.

"After the Clarke Central game (a 28-0 win for state, national title) Shannon asked Gill for his autograph. Gill signed his requested autograph, God bless. The boys also asked if they could have his helmet. Gill said he had to check it out with Coach (Nick) Hyder first."

By the time Gill got around to seeing about getting helmets for the two boys, the season was over and all the Wildcat football equipment had been placed in storage until it was time to kick-off next year's football season. Gill continued to pursue Coach Hyder about getting the helmets.

Gill then got a pair of old helmets from the school, sanded them down, painted them, added the Valdosta paw print emblem and the stripes,



—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Walt Gill Autographs Helmet For Shannon Baker While Joshua Baker Waits His Turn

and painted his No. 36 on the back. Mrs. Baker wrapped them up and had them under the tree Christmas morning. The boys value the gifts highly.

"If I had it do do again, I would," said Gill. "Being a part of a team that is nationally recognized, the players have a tremendous responsibility, not because of our talent or who we are, but because of what we are a part of. We have a responsibility to let everybody enjoy it and take part."

Gill's impressive record includes returning punts and intercepting three passes this year. His 44-yard fumble return to the Clarke Central 1-yard line set up Valdosta's final touchdown in the state title game. Gill was selected to the Region 1-AAAA First Team as a defensive

back in 1986.

As a baseball player, Gill made the All-Region First Team in the outfield and was the winning pitcher in both games as the Wildcats defeated Colquitt County for the region baseball crown last spring.

He has been offered a full football scholarship to Vanderbilt. Gill said he began hearing from Vanderbilt during his junior year as a Wildcat. He has since been contacted numerous times in reference to the scholarship offering. At the present he has plans to accept the scholarship and play football for Vanderbilt.

Gill, a graduating senior, has been a member of the Wildcat football team for three years. Receiving the scholarship was a big honor for him. "I always thought

while I was growing up that if I ever received a scholarship, I'd receive a scholarship in baseball," he said.

He attributes much of his success and developed talents to Coach Hyder and Coach Jack Rudolph. "Coach Rudolph is the best coach that I've ever had the opportunity to train under," Gill said.

"Coach Hyder has been more for keeping my personal life straight. We had long talks nearly every day and he would ask me what was the difference between a winner and a loser? I would always say it's the way you think. He has taught all his players what the definition of class means."

Gill is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walt Gill. His GPA is very high and he scored well over 1100 on the SAT.

VHS Names Weekly Interact Students

By Laura McMillan

Four VHS seniors have been selected as Interact Students of the Week. The four young ladies are Beth Hickox, Tina Johns, Vanessa Hubbard, and Michelle Green. These students were honored by the Valdosta Rotary Club at their weekly meeting held this Wednesday at the Holiday Inn.

Beth Hickox is the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hickox. She is a senior at Valdosta High. Beth is a member of Interact and VICA. She is enrolled in the DCT program at VHS. Beth attends the First United Methodist Church with her family and is active in many youth activities.

Tina Johns is the 17-year-old daughter of Shirley Singleton. She is a member of Beta club, Y-Club, Interact, and FBLA. Tina is the Student Representative of the Business Education Advisory Committee. She has served as Secretary and Projects Chairman of the Y-Club. She has served as Parliamentarian for FBLA and cur-

rently serves as Historian/Reporter. Tina also serves as a state officer for FBLA — Region 2 Vice-President

She is enrolled in the VOT program at VHS and is employed by the Valdosta City School System and by Piece Goods Shop. She attended the 1986 Governor's Honors Program in Executive Management. Her interests include piano and crafts. Tina attends the First Church of the Nazarene where she is a member of Sunday School and active in youth activities.

Vanessa Rene Hubbard is the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Hubbard. Vanessa is Secretary of the Senior Class. She is a member of the Student Council, Beta Club, PAMS, Interact and VICA. Among her many accomplishments, Vanessa was selected as an outstanding Negro Student by Georgia Southern College, won the National Leadership Scholastic Achievement Award, and listed in Who's Who in Foreign Lan-



DDT 1-10-87
guage for South Georgia/North Florida. She plans to attend Georgia Tech after graduation.

Michelle Green is the 17-year-old daughter of Beverley and Rudolph Green. She is a Senior at VHS. She is a member of the Interact, FBLA, a Mat Girl, a Bat Girl and was a member of the Foreign Language Club for three years. She is a member of Christ Episcopal Church where she is an active member of EYC, the church youth group.

VDT

'Cat QBs Share Success Stories

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

If it is a college scholarship which you seek for your athletically inclined son, have him become the starting quarterback for the Valdosta High School Wildcat football team.

The 1986 quarterback, Greg Talley, recently announced that he intends to accept a football scholarship to the University of Georgia. That decision maintains a remarkable string of scholarship winners.

Since Bruce Bennett, the Valdosta quarterback in 1960 and 1961, went to the University of Florida on a football scholarship, the subsequent 15 players to hold that position for the Wildcats have all received college scholarships. Not all have played quarterback. Bennett himself became an All-American safety.

And two of the 16 were not on football scholarships. The starter in 1982 and 1983 was Ted West, now on a baseball scholarship at Valdosta State College. The 1980-81 quarterback was David Parker, who received an academic scholarship to Princeton University.

Besides Bennett, three others made their mark in the collegiate ranks on the defensive side of the ball. The 1963 field general, Hank Lee, went on to play safety for the Bulldogs of The Citadel. Glenn Davis played the position in the two years following Lee before moving on to Athens where he played defensive end for the University of Georgia Bulldogs.

Another Georgia defensive player who formerly quarterbacked the Wildcats was 1969 starter Don Golden, a standout safety for the Bulldogs in the early 1970's.

Several of the ex-Valdosta High quarterbacks went on to play major roles at big-name institutions. Buck Belue, the only player in the group to start for four years (1974-77) at Valdosta, went on to play first string for Georgia in 1979-81, playing in two Sugar Bowls and quarterbacking the Bulldogs to the national championship in 1980.

His successor on the team, 1978

starter John Lastinger, followed him to Georgia and was the starting quarterback for the Bulldogs in 1982 and 1983. He played in one Sugar Bowl and was the most valuable player when the underdog Bulldogs upset the nation's No. 1-ranked team, the Texas Longhorns, in the 1984 Cotton Bowl 10-9.

John Bond followed Lastinger as the Wildcat starter in 1979. Bond went on to become the first-team quarterback for the Mississippi State Bulldogs for four consecutive years. He guided them to two of the six bowl games in which Mississippi State has ever participated, the last a 10-0 victory over Kansas in the 1981 Hall of Fame Bowl.

Several other ex-Valdosta quarterbacks went on to play various roles at smaller institutions. The 1966 starter, John Smrcina, played collegiately at West Texas State. Berke Holtzclaw, who guided the Wildcats to a national crown in 1984, now calls signals in the East Carolina backfield where he started three games as a freshman in 1985.

Frank Demming was the starter at Valdosta in 1967 and 1968, later matriculating to Florida State where he won a varsity letter as a reserve QB. Bruce Hilton, the 1972-73 starter for the Wildcats, went to Memphis State where he was a starter at quarterback. Rick Thomas was the 1962 starter for Valdosta. He played at Georgia Tech and held for extra points and field goals when the Yellow Jackets made trips to the Gator and Orange Bowls.

Stan Bounds, who still holds the all-time season passing yardage record for the state of Georgia, directed a prodigious Wildcat offense in 1970 and 1971, winning the national championship after defeating Avondale 62-12 in the 1971 state title game. It was long-time coach Wright Bazemore's final game as the Valdosta head coach.

Bounds was the Ole Miss Rebels' starting quarterback until he severely damaged a knee.

Tues. Jan. 13, 1987

Turnovers Plague Wildcats In Loss

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta Wildcats have been looking for a cure to the bad-quarter blues all season.

Of the nine games Valdosta has played, one quarter in every one of them has been the difference.

That trend continued here Monday night as Valdosta started its slump in the second period and it carried over through the third. Colquitt County took advantage of the slumping Wildcats and burst from a one-point lead to a 16-point margin en route to a 74-46 victory over Valdosta.

"We just never recovered in the second period," Valdosta coach John Miller said. "We've been having one bad quarter and tonight it started in the second and went into the third."

But the bad news for Valdosta continued through the fourth period also as Colquitt outscored the Wildcats 18-7.

Turnovers were a major contributor to the Wildcats' downfall.

"We handled their press pretty good for a while," Miller said. "Then we hit a bad streak of turnovers. We just couldn't handle the passes. We made one mistake and a bunch followed."

Valdosta scored the first basket of the game, but Colquitt then scored eight consecutive points for a lead it never gave up. The Packers built a 21-16 lead at the end of the first period, but Valdosta stayed close and outscored the Packers 13-9 in the first 5:50 of the second quarter to pull within a 30-29 margin.

Then Colquitt reeled off 10 consecutive points for a 40-29 lead at the half.

The teams traded baskets to start the second half before the Packers got hot again, this time putting in eight unanswered points for a 52-36 lead with 1:48 left in the third period.

Although the Wildcats did not let the game get completely out of hand to start the fourth period, Colquitt put the finishing touches on its victory with 11 points in the final 3:20 for the victory.

Reginald Butler and Michael Perry paced the Wildcats with 13 points each. Perry also had six rebounds to lead the Wildcats.

Mike Mansfield was the leader for Colquitt with 18 points. Ronnie Roberts had 14 while James Lee and Andre Stevenson had 12 apiece. Lee also had 11 rebounds as the Packers outrebounded Valdosta 26-21.

"The players are really working hard and we'll continue to work hard,"

Miller said of his 1-8 squad. "It is discouraging to be losing like this, but we can learn some good things if they continue to work hard."

In the girls' game, Colquitt used a 20-point fourth quarter to pull away for a 63-42 decision.

Both teams entered the game with 2-6 record, but the Lady Packers used a balanced scoring attack to gain the victory.

After a 13-all first period, Colquitt took the lead for good in the second quarter and posted a 29-23 advantage at the half. The Lady Wildcats continued to falter in the third period, falling behind 43-32.

"I really thought we came out in the first and second quarter doing a good job," Valdosta coach Susan Montgomery said. "We were doing what we wanted to do, but we had too many turnovers. Turnovers are just killing us right now and until we get them down we're going to have problems."

"I still see improvement in this team. We had almost 30 rebounds on defense which is a great night for us. We've just got to get to where we can play a complete game."

The Lady Wildcats were led by Jan Hartzog and Cassandra Ceasar, both with 11 points. Cassandra Twine grabbed 11 rebounds for Valdosta as the Lady Wildcats outrebounded Colquitt 45-33. Ceasar and Chris Richardson had seven rebounds each for Valdosta.

Phaedra Hill paced Colquitt with 15 points with Julia Poole getting 12. Hill also had 11 rebounds as Charla Hurst and April Williams had seven each.

"If we can come out in the second half and a good first three minutes, we'll play good the rest of the game," Montgomery said. "But tonight, we come out down by six and with five minutes to go we were down 10, so we haven't gained a thing."

Boys' Game
Valdosta (46) — R. Butler 13, Lowe 2, Campbell 4, Iverson, Perry 13, Phillips, Davis 2, Jones, Owens 2, Elliott, Williams 7, Sanders, C. Butler 3.
Colquitt County (74) — Sumner, J. Lee 12, Stevenson 12, Mansfield 18, Harris, Boyd, Goose 2, Roberts 14, Moore 2, Welch, Stokes 5, Kensley 4, Henry, Jackson 4, M. Lee 1.
Valdosta.....16 13 10 7—46
Colquitt.....21 19 16 18—74
Records — Valdosta 1-8, 0-3; Colquitt County 3-7, 2-1.
Next Game — Dougherty at Valdosta, Friday.

Girls' Game
Valdosta (45) — Hartzog 11, Longliere 4, Ceasar 11, Richardson 4, Plummer 4, Creque 2, Twine 6.
Colquitt County (63) — Williams 3, Poole 12, P. Hill 15, Hurst 4, Suber 8, Montgomery 6, Baell 4, Sloan 2, Thompson 4, N. Hill 4, Freeman 1.
Valdosta.....13 10 9 10—42
Colquitt.....13 16 14 20—63
Records — Valdosta 2-7, 0-3; Colquitt County 3-6, 2-1.

V. Times
Valdosta 62
Buchholz 30 1-18-87

Jan Hartzog finished her career at Valdosta by scoring 21 points to lead the Lady Wildcats to a 62-30 victory over Buchholz of Gainesville, Fla.

Hartzog, a junior, played her final game because her family is moving to Jacksonville.

"Jan just had a great game," Valdosta coach Susan Montgomery said. "I hate to see her go. She is one of the best all-around players I've ever coached."

Cassandra Ceasar added 13 points for the Lady Wildcats while Chris Richardson had 11.

Valdosta jumped out to a 20-6 lead at the end of the first period and increased its margin to 24 points, 39-15, at the half.

Buchholz (30) — Bonds 9, Cantliffe 10, Cre 3, Davidson 2, Washington 2, Jameson 4.
Valdosta (62) — Ceasar 13, Twine 7, Hartzog 21, Plummer 4, Richardson 11, Creque 2, Larry 4.
Buchholz.....6 9 7 8—30
Valdosta.....20 19 16 7—62
Records — Buchholz 4-10; Valdosta 3-8.
Next Game — Tift County at Valdosta, Tuesday.

V. Times 1-15-87
VHS Plans Debates At College Here

By DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High School debate club will hold the First Annual Valdosta Debates Saturday at Valdosta State College.

"We hope to make this a yearly contest that draws the best debaters in the state, and elsewhere," VHS Director of Debate Frank Hjort said.

Schools from Berrien County, Albany, Thomasville, Statesboro, Tift, Savannah, Moultrie and several other

areas have entered the meet.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. in the Fine Arts building.

Four rounds of debate will begin at 9 a.m. that day in two divisions, open and novice competition.

The open division will use a two-person team format and debaters will have eight minutes to construct argument, three minutes to answer cross-examination, and four minutes for rebuttal.

Each team in this division will

debate two rounds on the affirmative side of an issue, and two rounds on the negative side. The top two open competition teams will meet in the final round Saturday afternoon.

The novice division will use a four-person format, with the same time frame as in the open division.

The topic of the debate is "Resolved: That the federal government should implement a comprehensive, long-term agricultural policy in the United States."

Judges from Atlanta will decide the winners, and trophies for team and individual winners will be given.

"We plan to provide competition to give local schools a good opportunity to prepare for regional competition, and encourage debate at the high school level in South Georgia," Hjort said. "We just don't have that much available here with maybe five tournaments in all that we can participate in, and most of them are located north of Macon."



—Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy

Valdosta's Reginald Butler Goes High To Tip In Shot

Boys' Roundup

V. Times 1-21-87

Fourth Period Lifts Westover By 'Cats

From Staff Reports

Westover outscored Valdosta 15-5 in the final period to pull away for a 51-38 victory in high school basketball action Friday night.

Valdosta led by two, 25-23, at the half before Westover rallied in the third quarter to take a 36-33 lead.

"We played the best we could for three quarters, and one quarter was it," Valdosta coach John Miller said. "We were spreading the ball in the first half. Guards Casey Williams, Kyle Lowe, and Gary Campbell penetrated and dished off to Michael Perry and Reginald Butler for easy baskets.

"In the second half we were going to do the same but they come out and hit a couple of quick baskets and went up by two. Being down we couldn't spread it out and then we went cold.

"In the fourth, we couldn't throw it in the ocean."

Butler led the Wildcats with 16 points while Perry had 11. Butler sparked the Wildcats in the first half with a pair of slam dunks.

"If Westover is No. 7 in the state, then for three quarters we were No. 8," Miller said. "The boys are getting frustrated, but they really played hard. It would be easy for them to fold the tents and quit, but they've hung in there. I believe we'll sneak up somebody before the year's over."

Reginald Ward was the leader for Westover with 22 points while Tron Hall had 16.

Westover (51) — Davis 10, Tinch 10, Hall 16, Wemberley 2, Proctor 3, Ward 22, Whitacker 4, Bradley 2.
Valdosta (38) — R. Butler 16, Lowe 2, Campbell 5, Perry 11, Williams 4.

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Westover | 9 | 14 | 13 | 15 | 51 |
| Valdosta | 12 | 13 | 8 | 5 | 38 |

Records — Westover 17-1, 7-1; Valdosta 1-12, 0-6.
Next Game — Valdosta at Lowndes, Tuesday.

Valdosta To Host

9th-Grade Tourney

V. Times 1-29-87

Valdosta High will be the site of the Coca-Cola Classic Ninth-Grade Round Robin Tournament this Friday and Saturday.

The tourney involves Valdosta, Lowndes, Cook, and Colquitt County. Everybody will play everybody and the team that wins the most games wins the tournament.

Competition begins Friday night at 7 with Lowndes battling Colquitt, followed by Valdosta and Cook.

Play opens Saturday at 3:15 with Valdosta playing Colquitt. Cook and Colquitt will battle at 7 and rivals Lowndes and Valdosta square off at 8:15.

Three place trophies will be given along with MVP awards. An all-tourney team will be chosen as well and all participants will be given t-shirts.

Valdosta High Hosts New Debate Tourney

V. Times 1-24-87

By Jay Connell
Secretary, Debate Club

Lee County and Vidalia High Schools took top honor last Saturday at the First Annual Valdosta Debates at Valdosta State College. Twenty one schools from around the state competed in the one-day competition sponsored by the Valdosta High Debate Club and Valdosta Debate Boosters.

Lee County's team won the first place trophy in the open division and Vidalia finished first in the novice division. Lee County also had three individual speaker awards, Albany Dougherty had two, and Colquitt County one. Other schools winning awards were Calhoun County, Mary Persons, Reidsville, Tift County, and Warner Robins.

Members of the debate club, the boosters, and Interact worked all day Saturday as floor guides, runners, and lab room operators. Parents and teachers donated food and money to provide a hospitality room for visiting coaches, judges, and parents. Others helping with tournament expenses through donations were Mrs. Phyllis-Gilson, Mr. and Mrs. Charlton Davis, Colson Business Systems, Valdosta High Interact, Valdosta High Student Council, and Georgia Power Company. The profits from entry fees will be used to buy materials and pay travel expenses for VHS debaters.

Defend Title

By Jay Connell
Secretary, Debate Club

Valdosta High debaters are defending their Region 1-AAAA title this afternoon at 2 p.m. at Lowndes High School. Sophmores Kelly Shelton and

Jay Connell will debate on the affirmative and seniors Paul Conrad and Matt Winters will advocate on the negative side of the resolution.

The topic for debate will be the national high school debate topic for 1986-87, Resolved: That the federal government should implement a long-term comprehensive agricultural policy in the United States. Other region schools entered are Colquitt County, Dougherty, Lowndes, Tift County, and Westover.

Interact Students

The Interact Club of VHS has selected its Students of the Week. They are Joey Griffin, Laurie McAllister, Jodi McDonald, and Joy Myddleton. All these students are Seniors at VHS and were honored by the Valdosta Rotary Club at their weekly meeting on Wednesday.

Joey Griffin is the 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe A. Griffin. He is a member of Interact, the Beta Club, the Key Club and DECA — serving as President. Joey is enrolled in the ME program at VHS and is employed at Country Cobbler. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, scuba diving, and playing golf. Joey and his family are members of First Baptist Church. After graduation, Joey plans to study Electrical Engineering.

Laurie McAllister is the 17-year-old daughter of Harriet McAllister and the late Floyd McAllister. She is a member of Interact, FBLA, the VHS Drill Team, and the Mat Girl Squad. She is enrolled in the VOT program at VHS and is employed at McAllister Insurance Agency. Her hobbies include playing the piano, swimming, and



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Compiled, Written By VHS Students

reading. She attends First Baptist Church with her family. After graduation, Laurie plans to attend Valdosta State and major in Biology.

Jodi McDonald is the 17-year-old daughter of Debra and Julian R. McDonald, Jr. She is a member of Interact and VICA. She is also a member of Sigma Delta Theta sorority. She is enrolled in the DCT program at VHS and is employed by Probate Court Judge, T.N. Holcombe, Jr. Jodi enjoys aerobic dancing, swimming, water skiing and traveling. She is a member of First Baptist Church. After graduation, she plans to attend Valdosta State and study pre-law.

Joy Myddleton is the daughter of Steve and Sheila Myddleton. She is a member of Interact, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Vice-President of VICA. She was a Varsity Basketball Cheerleader as a Freshman and has been a Varsity Football Cheerleader for the past three years. She is also Projects Chairman for Sigma Delta Theta Sorority. Joy is enrolled in the DCT program at VHS. She is listed in Who's Who Among Outstanding American High School Students. Joy attends Park Avenue United Methodist Church with her family. After graduation, Joy plans to attend college, major in Art, and become a Commercial Artist.

Westover 59 V. Times
Valdosta 42 1-31-87

ALBANY — Westover jumped out to a 32-19 halftime lead and hung on to down Valdosta 59-42.

Cassandra Ceasar and Terri Longieliere led the Lady Wildcats with 10 points each and Ellen Shown added eight.

Valdosta trailed by 12 after three periods, but outscored the Lady Patriots 15-10 in the fourth quarter.

Deelanie Thomas paced Westover with 20 points and Shannon Brett had 19.

Valdosta (42) — Ceasar 10, Richardson 8, Plummer 2,

Longielri 10, Creque 2, Shown 8, Larry 2.
Westover (59) — Dunsen 9, Brett 19, Lowe 10, Thomas 20, Boatwright 1.
Valdosta 12 7 8 15 — 42
Westover 14 18 17 16 — 59
Records — Valdosta 3-12, 0-8; Westover 9-10, 4-5.
Next Game — Valdosta at Tift County, Tuesday.

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Vikings To Host 'Cats

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta and Lowndes will renew their basketball rivalry tonight when the cross-town rivals meet at the Lowndes High gym.

The Vikings come into the game in second place in Region 1-AAAA with a 4-2 region record and 8-7 overall mark. Valdosta is 1-12 and 0-6.

"Our schedule this year has been the toughest it's ever been, especially in the region," Lowndes coach Terry Wilkes said. "We played Westover, Tift County and Monroe and all were ranked and we beat all three. Then we turned around and lost to Westover and Colquitt County. The pleasing part of the record is that we're No. 2 in the region. Right now we're playing for the region tournament and seeding.

"We're really going to have to have some help (from other teams) because we've got some strong ones coming up. We've got to win the games we have at home and that starts against Valdosta."

Other area games tonight will have: Brookwood at Valwood; Charlton County at Clinch County; Hamilton County at Echols County; Lake Jackson at Open Bible; Lanier County at Berrien County; Maranatha at Lowndes Christian; Seminole County at Brooks County; Waycross at Cook; and Westbrook at Pineland.

Valwood will also play at Georgia Christian on Thursday in a makeup game.

Girls' games are scheduled to start 7 p.m. with the boys' games starting at 8:30.

Lowndes defeated the Wildcats 60-41 at Valdosta High three weeks ago, but Wilkes feels Valdosta has improved since that game, despite its record.

"We beat them by 19 the first time, but apparently they're playing better basketball than they were then," he said. "Tift County and Westover didn't blow them out, in fact (Valdosta) was leading at halftime. So they are playing better.

"We can't take them lightly being our cross-town rival and all the emotion around the game."

In the girls' game, Lowndes will have everything to lose and Valdosta will have everything to gain if the Lady Wildcats should post a victory. Lowndes enters the game ranked No. 2 in the state with a 15-0 overall record and 6-0 mark in the region. Valdosta is 3-10, 0-6.

And when your undefeated team is getting ready to play a 3-10 team, how do you get them motivated?

"When you're playing a rival like Valdosta, that usually takes care of itself," Lowndes coach Elinor Goode said. "Records don't matter. The rivalry is still there. The same is going to be true for Valdosta because we're Lowndes. Usually, that is a self-motivator. It just extends from football; both teams get motivated and excited."

Since the last time Valdosta and Lowndes played, the Lady Wildcats lost one of their top players when Jan Hartzog moved.

"I've only seen them that one time, so I don't know who they've got to replace Hartzog," Goode said. "But I feel they will be ready to play. Anytime they play us, they tend to play their best. I know they'll be scrappy against us."

'Cats Play Stubbornly In Defeat

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

UDT
1-21-87

If fighting almost impossible odds with courage and determination builds character, Coach John Miller and the individuals on the Valdosta High Wildcat basketball team should be nearing the point of moral perfection.

When Region 1-AAAA powerhouse Tift County rolled into town, it would have been easy for the 1-11 Wildcats to give up early. Miller has been sick for the better part of a week. Tift County has a player by the name of Jody Patton, who has already signed a basketball scholarship with the University of Georgia.

The game had blowout written all over it, but the Wildcats, instead, made the game interesting and played a good second half before finally falling in a 63-51 defeat.

Valdosta trailed at the half 34-20 and early in the third period Tift led by as much as 20 points. Valdosta, however, outscored the Blue Devils 31-29 in the second half and actually was able to cut the lead to 10, 59-49 with two minutes left. But Miller and the Wildcats rediscovered once again that all the heart in the world can't overcome a 10-point margin with two minutes left against a team like Tift County.

"I thought we really played pretty well," said Miller. "We got going in the second half and were able to do some things. Reginald Butler had a good night for us and crashed the boards well."

Butler, a 6-foot senior forward forced to play post because he is the tallest player on the team, led Valdosta with 17 points and pulled down 13 rebounds.

Forward Michael Perry had 14 points and eight rebounds.

For Tift, Patton and Willie Stokes teamed up to riddle the Valdosta defense.

"We tried to stay in a zone, but they have such good outside shooting that we had to go into a man to man," Miller said. "When we did that, Stokes hurt us inside. If it wasn't Patton outside, it was Stokes inside."

Patton finished with 22 points as the game's leading scorer while Stokes added 17 points.

In the girls' game, the situation was similar. The Lady 'Cats fell behind 22-8 after one quarter and trailed 31-18 after two, but lost only 56-47.

Valdosta outscored Tift 18-11 in the third quarter and cut the lead to only six points, 42-36.

Cassandra Ceasar, Valerie Plummer, and Cassandra Twine then started crashing the boards for Valdosta and Alice Creque put together some



—Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy

Valdosta's Kyle Lowe Fights For Possession

key steals to bring the Lady Wildcats within four, 44-40 and later 46-42 with six minutes left, but that was as close as the Lady 'Cats would come.

Ceasar had one of her better games of the year, scoring 26 points and pulling down 14 rebounds, but was the only Lady Wildcat in double figures.

Outside shooting by Tift's Vanessa Burns and Lanette Chaney made the difference as they scored 20 and 15 points, respectively. Center Julie Rutland had 11 points.

Valdosta will play host to Westover

Friday in another Region 1-AAAA battle.

Boys' Game

Tift County (43) — Patton 22, Mingo 4, Stokes 17, Brooks 2, Brown 10, Trice 4, Donahue 4.
Valdosta (51) — Butler 17, Perry 14, Lowe 8, Campbell 8, Williams 4.
Tift.....16 18 16 13 — 63
Valdosta.....8 12 12 19 — 51
Records — Tift 9-5, 3-3; Valdosta 1-11, 0-5.
Next Game — Westover at Valdosta, Friday.

Girls' Game

Tift County (56) — Burns 20, Chaney 15, Howard 7, Rutland 11, Wallace 3.
Valdosta (47) — Ceasar 26, Richardson 2, Plummer 4, Longeliere 2, Creque 5, Twine 6, Shown 0, Larry 2.
Tift.....22 9 11 14 — 56
Valdosta.....8 10 18 11 — 47
Records — Tift 2-12, 2-4; Valdosta 3-9, 0-5.

Lowndes, VHS Wrestlers Take Three

V. Times 1-25-87

From Staff Reports

The Lowndes Vikings and Valsosta Wildcats both won three matches Saturday, defeating Monroe, Albany, and Colquitt County in a wrestling meet held at Lowndes High.

Lowndes beat Monroe 52-15, Albany 45-18, and Colquitt 58-6. Valdosta beat the same three 48-24, 46-15, and 52-13.

The three victories gave Valdosta's Jim Landrum 101 career victories as the Wildcat wrestling coach.

Individuals winning three matches for Lowndes were Chandler Griffin (100 pounds), Tom Fisher (107), Mike Miley (134), Darren Broome (169), and Ryan Broome (187).

Those from Valdosta reaching the three-win mark were Ashley Fann (100), Mike Schmier (107), Neal Fudge (121), Dexter Sharper (128), Bryan Mueller (140), and Troy Wells (187).

Rob Jackson (114) won twice for the Vikings, as did Jimmy Mallory (121), Jody Platt (147), Billy Swords (157), and Chuck Miller (heavyweight).

Those from Valdosta winning twice were Gary Luke (114), Ryan Moorman (147), and Shawn Smith (157).

Lowndes is now 8-5, 4-0 in region action. Valdosta is 5-4, 2-0.

Interact Club Names Students Of The Week

The Interact Club of VHS has selected its Students of the Week. They are Rusty McCall, Katie Louttit, Cecilia Mead, and Yves Owens. All of these students are seniors at VHS and were honored by the Valdosta Rotary Club at their weekly meeting on Wednesday.

Rusty McCall is the 18-year-old son of Rusty and Laurie McCall. He is a member of the Interact Club, the Student Council, and the Math Team. His hobbies are hunting, fishing, and working on his car. His honors and awards include Boy's State, Chamber of Commerce Student of the Month, Who's Who Among American High School Students, and Georgia Certificate of Merit. He attends Christ Episcopal Church. After graduation, he plans to attend Georgia Tech and become an architect.

Katie Louttit is the 17-year-old daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Jan Louttit. She attends Christ Church of Valdosta where she is involved in the local EYC (Episcopal Young Churchmen) and is vice-president of the state EYC. She is also active in the Happening movement. At VHS, Katie is a member of Interact, Beta, Y-Club, Deca, and Sandspur. She enjoys aerobics, swimming, walking, shopping, and spending time with friends. She is also listed in Who's Who in High School Students. After graduating, she plans to attend the University of the South in Swannee, Tennessee and major in early childhood education.

Cecilia Mead is the 17-year-old of Hank and Susan Mead. Along with Interact, Cecilia is involved with the Beta Club and Deca. She is the president of Pi Gamma Phi sorority and the Business Manager of the Sandspur. She is currently employed at the Party Shop in Castle Park. After graduation, Cecilia plans to attend VSC and major in marketing. She eventually wants to become a state

representative in tourism for an Eastern Coastal State. Cecilia and her family attend St. John's Catholic Church.

Yves Owens is the 18-year-old son of Cornelious-Owens and Brownie Owens. He is a sweetheart for the PAMS Club, a member of Interact, the Beta Club, FBLA, and is on the Varsity basketball. He attends St. Paul Church of God in Christ and is an usher in the church. His plans after graduation are to attend college, major in medicine, and become a doctor.

Debate Team

By Jay Connell
Valdosta High won the Region 1-AAAAA debates for the fifth time in the past six years. The team finished with a perfect 6-0 record in the three-round tournament last Saturday at Lowndes. The subject of debate was the national high school topic for 1986-87, Resolved: That the federal government should implement a long-term comprehensive agricultural policy in the United States. With the region championship the team qualifies for the State AAAA Debates at West Georgia College in Carrollton in February.

Sophomores Jay Connell and Kelly Shelton made up the affirmative team which won decisions over Colquitt County, Dougherty, and Lowndes. Connell was the tournament's top speaker with 85 points and Miss Shelton was second with 79 points. The affirmative team proposed one plan to conserve water in order to restore the Ogalla Aquifer, which is used to irrigate most of the farmland in the midwestern states. Another proposed submitted for debate by the VHS affirmatives dealt with grain dust explosions.

Seniors Paul Conrad and Matt Wintners advocated on the negative for VHS and won rounds against Dougherty, Lowndes, and Tift. Conrad finished as

Girls' Roundup

Turnovers hurt the Valdosta Lady Wildcats as they lost to Westover, 67-53 in girls' high school basketball action Friday night.
After falling behind 21-12 in the first period, Valdosta outscored Westover 37-32 in the second period to take a lead at the half.
"The first half, I don't have any complaints about," Valdosta coach Susan Montgomery said. "We got into some foul trouble and had to sit out there at the end."
"What killed us in the second half was we had about 15 turnovers, and just about every one of them was under their basket."
Chris Richardson was the leader for the Lady Wildcats with 20 points while Cassandra Caesar had 14.
Delanie Thomas paced Westover with 17 points. Shannon Brett added 13 for the Lady Patriots while Tonda Lowe had 11 and Karen Dunson and Julie Williams had 10 each.

Turnovers Costly As Valdosta Girls Fall To Westover, 67-53

Valdosta girls' basketball team fell to Westover, 67-53, in a game played at Valdosta on Friday night. Turnovers were the key to Westover's victory. The Lady Patriots scored 13 points in the first half and 34 in the second. Valdosta's offense was hampered by 15 turnovers, which resulted in 14 points for the Lady Wildcats. The game was tied at the end of the first half, 13-13. Valdosta took a 17-12 lead at the half, but Westover's second half performance was dominant. The Lady Patriots' shooting was poor, as they finished with a 25 percent field goal percentage. Westover's defense was effective, forcing 15 turnovers from Valdosta. The game was a defensive struggle for Valdosta, as they were unable to score in the second half. The final score was 67-53 in favor of Westover.

"We've got to learn to be patient and handle the ball better," Montgomery said. "All-in-all, I'm pleased with our play."
Westover (67) — Dunson 10, Brett 13, Williams 10, Lowe 11, Thomas 17, King 6.
Valdosta (53) — Caesar 14, Richardson 20, Plummer 9, Longeliere 6, Croque 2, Shawn, Lerry.
Valdosta..... 21 11 17 18-67
Westover..... 12 25 9 7-53
Records — Westover 8-10, 3-5; Valdosta 3-10, 0-6.
Next Game — Valdosta at Lowndes, Tuesday.

Clinch County 78 Atkinson County 45

HOMERVILLE — Clinch County jumped out to a 22-8 lead at the end of the first period en route to a 78-45 rout of Region 2-A rival Atkinson County. Kathy Willis paced the Pantherettes with 22 points while Lisa Pittman had 15. Mary Smith came off the bench to score 10 for Clinch.
Rhonda Roberts was the leader for Atkinson with 16 points. Toni Matthews

added 14.
Atkinson made just five-of-16 shots from the free throw line.
Atkinson County (45) — Matthews 14, Frazier 4, Tillman 2, Roberts 16, Loft 6, Sims 3.
Clinch County (78) — Willis 22, Forner 6, Pittman 15, Bryant 4, Booth 2, Robbins 4, Tolbart 6, L. Cunningham 7, Smith 10, Raffield 2.
Atkinson..... 8 6 10 21-45
Clinch..... 22 15 18 23-78
Records — Atkinson County 57; Clinch 14-1.
Next Game — Chariton County at Clinch County, Tuesday.

the second half to pull away for a 34-24 victory.
Noelle Dixon led Valwood with 16 rebounds and eight points while Susie Hiatt had 12 rebounds and nine points. Dena Smith and Angie Register scored 12 points each for the Lady Panthers.
Tiftarea (34) — Henderson 6, Smith 12, Register 12, Carter 3, K. Carter 1.
Valwood (24) — Marcoux 2, Dixon 8, Hiatt 9, Anderson Carpenter 2.
Tiftarea..... 8 7 13 4-1
Valwood..... 11 13 23 32-67
Next Game — Brookwood at Valwood, Tuesday.
JV Score — Valwood 44, Tiftarea 42.

Valdosta, Lowndes Earn Wrestling Split

From Staff Reports
Valdosta, Lowndes each split a pair of Region 1-AAAA wrestling matches with Westover and Dougherty.

Valdosta defeated Westover 36-24 and lost its first region match ever in a 45-20 loss to Dougherty. Lowndes barley lost to Dougherty, 35-30, but whipped Westover, 46-21. The Wildcats, 6-5 overall and 4-1 in the region, travel to Macon Saturday to take on Southwest-Macon, Baldwin, and Riverdale. Valdosta will then play host to Lowndes Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Brian Mueller (147 pounds) and Mike Schmeir (107) were the only double winners for the Wildcats. Schmeir is 13-1 on the season. Ashley Moorman, 9-1 at 158, lost his first match of the season since dropping a weight class. Five Lowndes wrestlers were double winners: Michael Miley (134), Jody Platt (147), Billy Swords (157), Ryan Broome (187) and Chuck Miller



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the fifth place speaker in the tournament. The negative team defeated plans dealing with soil conservation, international food aid, and selective harvesting of timberlands.

Tift (4-2) finished second and Dougherty (2-4) was third among teams competing in the event. Frank Hjort is director of debate at VHS.

- 100 — Ly (W) won by forfeit; 107 — Nix (W) pinned Fisher; 114 — Larkin (W) pinned Jackson; 121 — Mallory (L) pinned Green; 128 — Woodruff (L) pinned Mack; 134 — Miley (L) pinned Gares; 140 — Roberts (W) dec. Bramlett; 5:2; 1:7 — Platt (L) pinned Tribble; 157 — Swords (L) pinned Brunson; 1:69 — R. Broome (L) dec. Washington, 11-4; 1:87 — R. Broome (L) pinned Taylor; UNL — Miller (L) won by forfeit.
- Dougherty 35, Lowndes 30
100 — Hill (D) won by forfeit; 107 — Lewis (D) dec. Fisher; 8:7; 114 — Kendrick (D) pinned Jackson; 121 — Martin (D) pinned Mallory; 1:28 — Smith (D) pinned Woodruff; 1:34 — Miley (L) pinned Gares; 1:40 — Bramlett (L) pinned Giddens; 1:47 — Platt (L) dec. Brown; 13:3; 1:57 — tie between Swords (L) and Mosley; 10-10; 1:69 — Gilyard (D) pinned D. Broome; 1:87 — R. Broome (L) pinned Dent; UNL — Miller (L) pinned Woodruff.
- Lowndes 46, Westover 21
100 — Ly (W) won by forfeit; 107 — Nix (W) pinned Fisher; 114 — Larkin (W) pinned Jackson; 121 — Mallory (L) pinned Green; 128 — Woodruff (L) pinned Mack; 134 — Miley (L) pinned Gares; 140 — Roberts (W) dec. Bramlett; 5:2; 1:7 — Platt (L) pinned Tribble; 157 — Swords (L) pinned Brunson; 1:69 — R. Broome (L) dec. Washington, 11-4; 1:87 — R. Broome (L) pinned Taylor; UNL — Miller (L) won by forfeit.
- Dougherty 45, Valdosta 20
100 — Fann (V) pinned Hill; 107 — Schmeir tech, dec. Lewis; 6:0; 114 — Kendrick (D) pinned Luke; 121 — Martin (D) pinned Finland; 1:28 — Smith (D) pinned Sharper; 1:34 — Dykes (D) dec. Rainey; 17:3; 1:40 — tie between R. Moorman (V) and Giddens; 1:47 — Mueller (V) tech, dec. Brown; 1:60; 1:57 — Mosley (D) dec. A. Moorman; 5:3; 1:69 — Gilyard (D) pinned Smith; 1:87 — Dent (D) won by forfeit; UNL — double forfeit.

Trojans Lead Tourney

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

For six consecutive years, the Valdosta Wildcat wrestling team has waltzed away with the Area 1-AAAA Wrestling Tournament, but this year that probably won't be the case. The Lowndes Vikings went into the tourney hoping to improve on 1984's third-place finish and last year's fourth-place ranking, but the first round didn't exactly pan out the way Viking coach Newnan Sanchez thought it would.

After one round at the Valdosta High School gym, Dougherty leads the tournament with 24 points, followed by Tift County with 20.5, Monroe 16, Lowndes 14, Valdosta 13, Effingham 10, and Colquitt four.

"We only got two pins and that was it," said a somewhat disappointed Sanchez after the match. "We didn't wrestle all that well, and lost some I didn't think we would lose. The loss that really hurt was Mike Miley at 135. He came in as the top seed but just couldn't pull it out."

"I thought some of the younger kids wrestled real well. Darren Broome and Michael Woodruff both did a good job." Broome took a 7-0 decision over Colquitt County's Kirk Weldon at 170 and Woodruff earned a pin at 129.

Joining those two in the semifinal round for Lowndes are Chandler Griffin (101), Tom Fisher (108), Ryan Broome (188) and Chuck Miller (heavyweight) who drew byes in the first round, Bobby Bramlett (141) who earned a pin, and Jody Platt (148), and Billy Swords (158) who won by decision.

The Valdosta Wildcats advanced seven wrestlers into the semifinal round. Mike Schmier (108), Jason Finland (121), and Brian Mueller (148) drew byes. Paul Rainey (129) and Ashley Moorman (158) earned pins, while Ashley Fann (101) and Ryan Moorman (141) took decisions.

"Ryan Moorman is the big surprise for us," said Valdosta coach Jim Landrum. "He beat the No. 1 seed (15-7) and you just can't ask for anything better. We did about as well as I thought we would. I thought Jeff McLeod would do a little better than he



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Lowndes' Jody Platt Puts A Cradle On David Yarbrough Of Colquitt During Wrestling Tournament At Valdosta High

did, but he just got on his back early and had a hard time getting off."

The match of the night was Swords' victory. He took a one-point lead on an illegal slam and then escaped to take a 15-13 win in the closing minute of the contest.

The tournament continues today with round two beginning at 11 a.m. The wrestlebacks begin at 1:30 and the consolation start at 6 p.m. The championship round will begin at 7:30.

Wrestlebacks permit a wrestler who loses in the first round to get back into the tournament. If a wrestler loses but his opponent goes on to win in the semifinal round, he is thrown back into a consolation bracket. In the wrestlebacks, a player can finish no

higher than third, but that is enough to send him into the state tournament.

There were a total of 24 pins in the first round. That percentage will get much lower as the tournament continues.

Key — Colquitt County (CC), Dougherty (D), Effingham (E), Lowndes (L), Monroe (M), Tift County (TC), Valdosta (V), Westover (W).

Round One Results
101 Pounds — Thank Ly (W) pinned Chris Johnson (CC); Marcus Hill (D), by: Ashley Fann (V) dec. Jonathan White (W); Chandler Griffin (L), by: Eddie Roberts (M) pinned Warren Robinson (E); Tony Rodney Troupe (TC) dec. Rodney Lewis (D); Michael Nix (W), by.
115 — Andrew Williams (M) pinned Gary Luke (V); Eric Taylor (TC) pinned Rob Jackson (L); Vincent Kendrick (D) pinned John Giddens (CC); Norman Bowen (E) pinned Jason Larkin (W).

122 — Martin (D), by: Paul Gillison (E) pinned Jimmy Mallory (L); Jason Finland (V), by: Michael Larkin (W) pinned Robert Davis (M).

129 — Corey Smith (D) pinned Daniel Williams (M); Ricky Williams (CC), by: Paul Rainey (V) pinned Tony McCant (TC); Michael Woodruff (L) pinned Frederick Ramsey (W); Michael Woodruff (L) pinned Frederick Ramsey (W) pinned Ken Goree (W); Leon Sears (TC) pinned Scott Pevey (E); Reginald Dykes (D) pinned Jeff McLelland (V).

135 — Antonio Lewis (M) pinned Michael Miley (L); Ramsey Adams (CC) pinned Ken Goree (W); Leon Sears (TC) pinned Scott Pevey (E); Reginald Dykes (D) pinned Jeff McLelland (V).

141 — Ryan Moorman (V) dec. Gronasky, Albritten (M); Thomas Dorsey (TC) dec. Andre Dodd (D); Bobby Bramlett (Lowndes), pinned Jimmy Gilchrist (CC); Rodney Roberts (W) pinned Jason Lovell (E).
144 — Brian Mueller (V), by: Brazzell (E) dec. Jay Drell (TC); Jody Platt (L) dec. David Yarbrough (CC); Tony Harper (M) pinned Reginald Brown (D).
158 — Ashley Moorman (V) pinned John Brunson (W); Eddie Roberts (M) pinned Warren Robinson (E); Tony Rodney Troupe (TC) dec. Rodney Lewis (D); Billy Swords (L) dec. Ronnie Charles Gilbert (TC).
170 — Michael Gilyard (E) pinned Michael Washington (W); Robert Griffin (E) pinned Shawn Smith (V); Chris White (TC) pinned Clayton Lewis (M); Darren Broome (L) dec. Kirk Weldon (CC).
188 — Ryan Broome (L), by: Jesse Dent (D) pinned Woodworth (D).

Ken Taylor (W); Steve Caldwell (E), by: Bobby Gordon (TC) dec. Stanley McClain.
HWT — Chuck Miller (L), by: Frank Perry (CC), by: Kenneth Goodwin (TC), by: Ronny Woodworth (D), by.

Round Two
101 — Ly (W) vs. Hill (D); Fann (V) vs. Griffin (L).
108 — Schmier (V) vs. Fisher (L); Troupe (TC) vs. Mix (W).
115 — Williams (M) vs. Taylor (TC); Kendrick (D) vs. Bowen (E).
122 — Martin (D) vs. Gillison (E); Finland (V) vs. Larkin (W).
129 — Smith (D) vs. Williams (CC); Rainey (V) vs. Woodruff (L).
135 — Lewis (M) vs. Hakeem (CC); Sears (TC) vs. Dykes (D).
141 — Moorman (V) vs. Dorsey (TC); Bramlett (L) vs. Roberts (W).
148 — Mueller (V) vs. Brazzell (E); Platt (L) vs. Harper (M).
158 — Moorman (V) vs. Roberts (M); Mosley (D) vs. Swords (L).
170 — Gilyard (D) vs. Griffith (E); White (TC) vs. Broome (L).
188 — Broome (L) vs. Dent (D); Caldwell (E) vs. Gordon (TC).
HWT — Miller (L) vs. Perry (CC); Goodwin (TC) vs. Woodworth (D).

Boys' Roundup Tift Riles

2-4-87
'Cats

V. Times

From Staff Reports
TIFTON — Valdosta rallied from a two-point deficit in the final period to post a 50-46 victory over Tift County in a Region 1-AAAA boys' basketball game Tuesday night.

The win was only the second for the Wildcats this year in 16 decisions and first in the region win in nine games.

Tift County fell to 11-8 and 5-5. Valdosta head coach John Miller said that a key to the was Tift's behavior before the game.

"During warmups, they lined up in a shotgun formation like they were playing football and had Jody Patton playing quarterback," Miller said. "That really got our players fired up."

Patton did finish with 20 points but only one other Blue Devil made double figures.

Gary Campbell did a good job guarding Patton," said Miller. "He scored 20 points but that's not that high for him."
"Defensively, we kept switching things around and that seemed to confuse them."

Kacy Williams was the leader for the Wildcats as he poured in 22 points. Campbell added 12 and Reginald Butler had 11.

Tift County had taken a 15-13 lead at the end of the first period, but the Wildcats rallied to tie the game 25-all at the half. The Blue Devils again took a two-point lead at the end of the third period, 36-34.

But Valdosta outscored Tift County 16-10 in the final period to post the victory.

"I kept telling the kids that we were going to sneak up on somebody, and we finally did," said Miller. "This one was sweet. Real Sweet."

Valdosta (50) — Butler 11, Carter 1, Campbell 12, Perry 4, Williams 22.
Tift County (46) — Mingo 2, Patton 20, Stokes 6, Brown 8, Trice 10.
Valdosta.....13 12 9 16—50
Tift.....15 10 11 10—46
Records — Valdosta 2-14, 13; Tift County 11-8, 5-5.
Next Game — Valdosta at Dougherty, Friday.

18 VHS Students To Attend Conference

V. Times 2-7-87

By Leslie Hagan

Eighteen Valdosta High school DECA students will be attending the Georgia DECA Seventh District Competitive Events Conference in Waycross today. The purpose of the conference is to allow Marketing Education Students an opportunity to compete in co-curricular contests that relate to their classroom studies and their job related activities.

The three district finalists in each competitive event will then represent their school and district in State Competition in Atlanta March 20-22. Norman Greene, the Marketing Education Coordinator at Valdosta High School, said that there are about 275 DECA Students from throughout Southeast Georgia competing.

The students attending from Valdosta High School are: Ronny Creque, son of Ron and Karen Creque, competing in General Marketing Supervisor Level; Debra Talley, daughter of George and Polly Talley, competing in Interview; Tori Murchison, daughter of Noel and Betty Murchison, competing in General Merchandising; Freddie Bajalia, son of Fred and Jeanette Bajalia, competing in Spelling and Vocabulary; Clariss Coley, daughter of Maurice Coley of Atlanta and Sybil Coley of Valdosta, competing in Math; Lang Culbreth, daughter of Alex and Mary Culbreth, competing in Apparel and Accessories.

Also Leigh Dominey, daughter of James and Monica Dominey, competing in General Marketing; Teresa Grace, daughter of James and Shirlee Grace, competing in Spelling and Vocabulary; Joey Griffin, son of Joe and Becky Griffin, competing in Food Marketing; Katie Louttit, daughter of Henry and Jan Louttit, competing in Apparel and Accessories; Dawn Zager, daughter of Jim and Brenda Zager, competing in Advertising and Display Services; Michele Winfrey, daughter of Dennis and Sandra Williams, competing in Restaurant Marketing.

Also Michael Walker, son of Gary Walker of Atlanta and Jennifer Connelly of Valdosta, competing in Food Marketing; Miles Patterson, son of Miles Patterson and Maria Gutierrez, competing in Restaurant Marketing and Management; Scott Orenstein, son of Mark and Pat Orenstein, competing in Automotive; Cecilia Mead, daughter of Hank and Susan Mead, competing in Finance and Credit; and Dawn McGee, daughter of Jimmy and Dot McGee, competing in General Merchandise Retailing.

Interact Club

By Laura McMillian

The regular meeting of the VHS Interact Club was held Thursday at 7:15 a.m. in the Little Theater. Johnna Elliott, President, called the meeting to order and presided. Michael White, Chaplain, presented the devotional — an inspiring "Thought for the Day" for

volunteer workers.

Laura McMillian, Secretary, read the minutes of the previous meeting. Brian Harris, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report. Both of these reports were approved as read. Joy O'Neal, International Projects Committee Chairman, gave a report of her committee. Interact is sponsoring a child from Columbia as their International Project this year. Members are encouraged to communicate with the sponsored child throughout the year.

Kathy Farley, Community Projects Committee Chairwoman, presented members that had helped the American Heart Association in January with Certificates of Appreciation — Dirk Hardin, Andrea Dominey, Tina Johns, Ned Sanderson, Paige Boyd, Maia McFarland, David Cole, Jodi McDonald, and Jay Connell.

In addition, a special Certificate of Appreciation was presented to the Interact Club for participating in this project. Kathy also reported that several members worked the Pepsi Booth at the recent Discount Fair at the Civic Center — Keri Kirby, Jay Langdale, Charley Hester, Lara Wetherington, Chad Hodge, Emily Josey, Tonya Hodge, Deann Dasher, Leslie Altman, Missy Bently, Kelly Coleman, Wendy Griffin, Kevin Dowling, Jamie Essinger, Toni Essinger, Julie Anderson, Pam Hoover, Jenny Crane, Emily Broome, Ann Sorenson, Barry Golivesky, Kellie Sessions, Runa Ware, Nicole White.

Deania Denmark, School Projects Chairman, gave a jersey update. She also discussed a new school/community project to be held in March. Members will participate in the Tommy Swann Memorial 5K Run, sponsored by the KA fraternity at VSC, by providing sponsors for the run. Rick Rupp, of the KA fraternity, is the liaison person with VHS.

David Cole, Parliamentarian, discussed the new member regulation. It was decided that new members would only be invited to join at the beginning of each school year. Laura McMillian showed the members an example of the permanent attendance badges they would wear at each meeting and discuss how they would work for checking attendance.

Ashley Moorman, Vice President, then introduced the speaker for the meeting. Dr. Wren Christie is the Secretary of the Valdosta Rotary Club and is on the Interact Committee. He has been very instrumental in the Initiation of the VHS Interact Club. He spoke to the members about various aspects of the club and encouraged them to continue doing the outstanding job they are presently doing.

Foreign Meeting

By Dione Joyner
Reporter

VDT 2-7-87
The VHS Foreign Language Club officers and board met on Feb. 2 at the home of their sponsor, Patty Smitherman. President Chad Hodge led discussions on upcoming club projects.

The International Dinner will be held Feb. 12 at St. John's. Decoration chairperson's are Sheila Payton and Janet Rose. Entertainment chairperson is Taura Walker. Plans were made to celebrate National Foreign Language Week, March 2-6 with several activities including daily school announcements coordinator. Patti Smith is a charge of school signs and library display. Chairperson for the International Sweet Shop is Angela Green.

During the club meeting on Feb. 3, President Chad Hodge announced all the activities and reminded club members to turn in money from the club candy sales. Kevin Elliott, in charge of the tutorial program, announced the schedule for February. The club trip to St. Augustine was also discussed.



Times Staff Photos By Paul Leavy

Elizabeth Laughs With Graves, Susan Burns, Shannon Taw, Brian Harris, Nancy Hjort

VHS Student Council Provides Wagon For Kid With Epilepsy

By LIZ VICKERS
Times Staff Writer

VDT 2-8-87

Elizabeth Warren was all smiles as she hopped into her new red wagon given to her Thursday by the Student Council of Valdosta High School.

Elizabeth, 7, has been having epileptic seizures since she was 2½-years-old which sometimes makes her legs too weak for her to walk and she was getting a little too big for her mother, Betty Jean Warren of Valdosta, to carry.

The VHS Student Council learned about Elizabeth and her handicap from Liska Wetherington, director of special education for Valdosta City Schools. "Mrs. Wetherington called me and told me about Elizabeth and her seizures," said Georgia Graves, president of the Student Council.

"She told me that Elizabeth was really getting too big for her mother to carry to and from classes and doctor visits when she was weak from one of her seizures. A stroller would have been too babyish for her so I decided on a wagon and a cushion to go in the bottom to make it soft. I presented the issue to the Student Council and everyone agreed to it."

Both Elizabeth and her mother were excited about the wagon. "I think it's great," said Mrs. Warren. "I couldn't afford it but needed something to pull her around in when she's weak. Mrs. Wetherington called and told me about it and I told Elizabeth. She was tickled to death."

"It's pretty and thank you," was what Elizabeth had

to say when asked what she thought of her new wagon.

Elizabeth is in Debbie Freeman's handicapped class at Sallas-Mahone Elementary School. "They're working on writing and basically the same things that they teach the other children in school," said Mrs. Warren. "They just teach them at a pace they can do. She also goes two days a week to speech and hearing classes at Valdosta State College."

The seizures that Elizabeth has can not be detected beforehand. Sometimes the seizures last seconds and some last hours. The symptoms often include convulsions, nausea, dehydration and weakness of the legs. Some make her so weak that it is days before she can walk.

"She is about to get use to the seizures," said Mrs. Warren. "Sometimes when she can't walk she wants to talk about it. She's a pretty good sport about it. Looking at her is worth going through all the things bad about it. She's very special. Anybody who knows her will tell you how special she is."

Elizabeth has to visit the doctor on an outpatient basis every three to six months for blood checks to make sure she is taking enough medication. She takes three types of medication every day. Mrs. Warren said Dr. Romulo Alvarado is always helpful in helping her know what to do when the seizures occur.

"Even though she's handicapped, I love her," said Mrs. Warren about her daughter who has been announced as the 1987-88 Epilepsy Poster Child by the Epilepsy Association of Georgia. "She means the world to me. I guess it makes us that much closer."

sbyterian Church, where he is active in the Youth group. He plans to attend Auburn University and major in International Business.

Robyn Rainwater is the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Rainwater. She is a member of In-

teract, the Marching Cats Drill Team (3 years), a Bat Girl (2 years), Treasurer of VICA and is Secretary of Sigma Delta Theta Sorority. Robyn is listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students and was the 3rd runner-up in last year's Miss VHS pageant. She enjoys aerobics, gymnastics, singing, being with friends and swimming. Robyn and her family are members of First Baptist Church. She plans to attend VSC and major in Public Relations and Communications.

Addison Ricks is the 17-year-old son of Dr. and Mrs. John A. Ricks. He is a member of Interact, Beta Club, Student Council, FBLA, FLC, Science Club and is on the Tennis Team. Addison has received the Georgia Certificate of Merit and is on the Congressional Youth Leadership Council. His interests include tennis, fishing, and golf. He is attending Youth Council in Washington, DC, from February 22-27 as a representative of

Georgia. He will be studying all phases of government — Congress, judicial system, the White House, etc. Addison and his family are members of First Presbyterian Church, where he serves as president of his Sunday School Class and is active in the youth program. He plans to attend college after graduation from high school.

Laura Smith is the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Smith. She is a member of Interact, Beta Club, FCA, Reporter for VICA, Student Council, Senior Class Treasurer, Varsity Football Cheerleader (3 years), Mat Girl, Bat Girl and Treasurer of Sigma Delta Theta Sorority. She is listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students, the U.S. Academy for Biology, a Georgia Certificate of Merit student and was 4th runner-up in last year's Miss VHS pageant. She is also on the "A" Honor Roll at VHS. Laura enjoys gymnastics, playing the flute, aerobics, cooking. She plans to attend the University of Georgia and major in Business.

Students Of Week

By Laura McMillian

The following VHS students have been selected as Interact Students of the Week: Paul Rainey, Robyn Rainwater, Addison Ricks, and Laura Smith. All of these students are seniors at VHS. They were honored at the Valdosta Rotary Club's regular meeting this past Wednesday.

Paul Rainey is the 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Rainey. He is a member of Interact, Key Club, VICA, Student Council. He is on the Wrestling Team and the Golf Team. He also serves as the Vice President of the Senior Class. Paul is listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students, the Society of Distinguished American High School Students, and was a Candidate for Boy's State. His hobbies include hunting and fishing. He is enrolled in the DCT program and is employed at Video 2001. Paul and his family are members of First Pre-

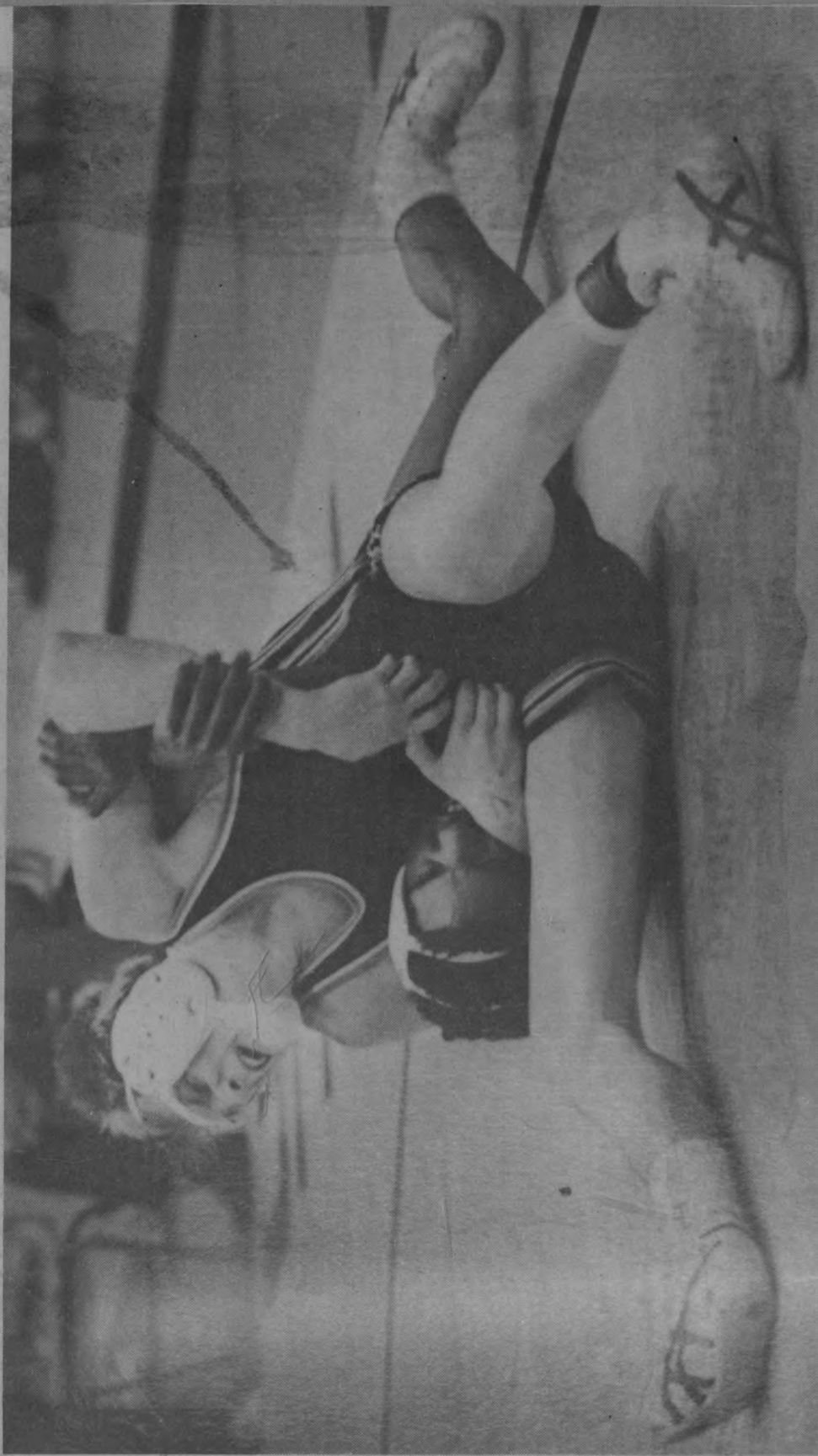
Sun., Feb. 8, 1987

The Valdosta Daily Times

Area I-AAAA Wrestling Tournament



Wildcat Coach Jim Landrum Watches Action



Valdosta's Paul Rainey Battles Tift County Blue Devil Tony McCant In 129-Pound Action

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Photos By

Paul Leavy

Story By

Mike Colombo

Like it has always been in the past, the Area 1-AAAAA wrestling tournament held at Valdosta High Friday and Saturday was another exciting opportunity to see area wrestling at its best.

And this year's tournament was probably more exciting because nobody was able run away with the title early.

For those wrestlers who placed first through fourth, there is more wrestling to come as the state tournament looms ahead. For some who weren't so lucky, there's always next year.

No matter what the outcome of the tournament, many Lowndes and Valdosta wrestlers will surely remember this season in particular.

For the first time, the Lowndes Vikings beat Valdosta in a dual match. Lowndes Viking coach Newnan San-

chez assembled a group of scrappy athletes, who led the region standings after the regular season was over.

For Valdosta's Jim Landrum, it was the kind of season he has not experienced in a while. He had kids quit, some injuries, and lost some key wrestlers late in the season, but his young Wildcat team still wrestled admirably and had a fine showing in the tournament.

But Lowndes and Valdosta are not the only area schools with fine programs. Cook High placed third in the Class AA state wrestling tournament held two weeks ago.

Wrestling continues to flourish in the area, and in the future, the area tournament promises to be a true drawing card for the sport.



Mat Girl Wendi Connell Keeps Officials Aware Of Time



Lowndes Coach Newnan Sanchez Anxiously Yells Instructions To Viking Wrestler



Spectators Look On As Area Teams Compete In Valdosta Gym While Coaches Sit In Their Respective Corners, Watching Action On Two Mats



Valdosta's Mike Schmier, Who Won At 108, Puts Lowndes' Tom Fisher On His Back

—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

This One Is Worth Remembering

VDT 2-8-87

Perhaps no other sport is as individually intense as wrestling. As a result, no one enjoys winning or hates losing as much as a wrestler.

The program for the Area 1-AAAA Wrestling Tournament made a few comments on this subject.

"In wrestling, individual sport is at its best," the program said. "The wrestler is given an opportunity for self-expression which may be denied him in other sports. Once he enters the contest, the final outcome is his own responsibility. His success depends on his own intelligence, determination, and physical power."

Looking back on the tournament as a whole, it is easy to spot small moments of greatness as well as disappointment. As always, someone has got to lose if someone else is going to win.

Some events from this tournament will surely be etched in the mind of Valdosta's Ryan Moorman. The



Mike Colombo
Times Sports Writer

14-year-old, 141-pound freshman up-ended the No. 1 seed in the first round, earned an 8-4 decision the next round and found himself in the finals. Brother Ashley pinned his first two opponents to also move into the championship round. Both, however, dropped hard-fought contests to tough opponents and finished second.

The Lowndes Vikings have a pair who didn't do too bad either. Ryan Broome (188) and Darren Broome

(170) also gained berths to the finals, and Ryan came away as a region champ.

Viking heavyweight Chuck Miller put on a show of his own. After two rounds, Miller made the finals wrestling just 26 seconds. He earned bye in round one. In round two, Miller surged to the middle of the mat, wrapped a bear-like hug around Colquitt's Frank Perry, and promptly pinned him, and then pinned his opponent in the final round. It's only his first year as a wrestler.

One of the more exciting matches of the semifinal round took place between Lowndes' Michael Woodruff and Valdosta's Paul Rainey. Woodruff took a 4-3 victory as Rainey came close to escaping with just seconds left.

Some kids also had their share of disappointment. Lowndes' Michael Miley came in seeded first at 135 but lost in the first round to Monroe's

Antonio Lewis. "I don't know what happened out there," Miley said. "I just didn't wrestle well."

Miley spent round two waiting for Lewis to wrestle again, knowing that another win by Lewis would put Miley into the wrestlebacks. Lewis won a close match and at times, it looked as though he might lose.

"It really drove me crazy watching that match," said Miley. When this *Times* reporter blunderingly asked Miley if he was still disappointed about losing in the first round Miley said: "Of course. First was what I wanted."

The consolation round gave Miley just that — some consolation. He won his wrestleback and won in consolation to finish third.

In the same weight class, Valdosta's Jeff McLeod was seeded second. He also lost and found his way into a wrestleback, but couldn't win.

Williams, Callaway Signed

VDT 2/12/87

Wildcat Standouts Headed For JUCO

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Two more Valdosta Wildcats are Oklahoma bound.

Northeast A&M Junior College in Miami, Okla., which in the past has recruited well here at Valdosta, signed Wildcat defensive end Searbron Williams and tailback Jerome Callaway.

Callaway had been sought after by Valdosta State College and was seriously considering the local school, but opted for Northeast A&M instead.

By opting to attend a junior college, Callaway can sign with a Division I school after two seasons and step in and play. If he attended VSC, he would have to sit out a year after transferring before he could play with another school.



Callaway

Callaway, 6-foot-2, 210-pounds, finished as the Wildcats' leading ground gainer last season. Over the 15-game season that saw Valdosta High clinch another state and national title, Callaway carried the ball 207 times for 1,587 yards for an average of 7.7 yards per carry and 105.9 per game.



Williams

Callaway also showed that he had a good pair of hands, catching 19 passes for 369 yards, averaging 19.4 yards per catch. He scored a total of 18 touchdowns for 108 points.

"Jerome can do it all," said Northeast head coach Glen Wolf. "He's a bona-fide Division I player. He runs the ball real well, but what's also impressive is his blocking. Most high school backs aren't good blockers, but he does that real well."

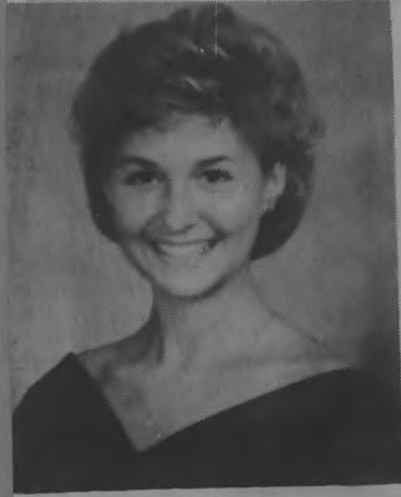
Wolf said that talent-wise, Callaway could probably step in and immediately contribute for the Norseman.

Searbron Williams has probably received more media attention than any other defensive member of the 1986 Wildcat squad. The 5-10, 170-pound defensive end is a tenacious hitter and has gotten the job done despite being outmatched in the size department.

For two consecutive years, Williams was named the defensive player of the year by *The Times*. He's a two-time member of the all-area and all-region teams and was one of only two players on the 1986 team that saw significant playing time in the 'Cats' 1984 title season.

VDT, Thurs., Feb. 12, 1987

VHS Student Wins DAR Essay Contest



GEORGIA GRAVES

A Valdosta High School student has been chosen as the Good Citizen essay winner by the General James Jackson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She is Georgia Graves, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Graves of Valdosta.

The DAR Good Citizen Award is presented to students for their outstanding qualities in leadership, dependability, service and patriotism in their schools, homes and communities, according to Mrs. Converse Ferrell.

Other Good Citizens students recognized were Scott Dasher from Lowndes High School and Jordan Harrell from Valwood School.

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Contest Promotes VHS FBLA Week

UDT 2-12-87

As a project for FBLA Week, an essay contest was held. Members wrote essays on the 1986-87 state theme — "Business Students Striving for a Better Tomorrow."

First place winner was Tina Johns, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gene Johns. Tina is a state officer in FBLA. Second place winner was Tracy McCray, daughter of Ms. Bernetha McCray. Tracy is a senior and has been active in FBLA for four years. Third place winner was Mandy Green, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Houston Green. Mandy has been an active member for three years and is a junior of Valdosta High School.

The following is a copy of the winning essay.

The theme of "Business Students Striving For A Better Tomorrow" depicts the ideas of all Future Business Leaders of America members. As business students and FBLA members, we constantly strive to achieve our maximum potential in school, work and community. We feel it our duty to set high standards and examples for ourselves and for our peers.

Business students are utilizing their time and potential to the best of their ability. We are preparing ourselves for the future, our personal future and the future of our country. When one takes time to reflect, it is evident that all great achievements have come from people who care, people who work, and most importantly who strive for the maximum.

By being FBLA members, we have the opportunity to excel in all areas. FBLA projects mean that we have the chance to be involved in our communi-

ty. The chance to meet all types of people in the community is just waiting, and FBLA students want to meet this chance face-to-face. Let us not forget about the businesses that assist us with our struggle for a better tomorrow. If it were not for these businesses, FBLA and business students would be powerless. These businesses provide experience and sound advice. They make available jobs for students who seek to earn experience and an income.

Also, we must mention education. Our education is the foundation for our success. Without this, we could not take a stand for improvement. Business students owe it to their teachers for the success and recognition that they receive. We put our best foot forward in the classroom, and this enables us to be a winner in all aspects of our lives.

The business students are doing their best today in hopes of a better tomorrow. This can be seen in all areas of their lives. The business students of today are truly striving for a better tomorrow.

VHS Celebrates Own FBLA Week

Valdosta High School celebrated FBLA Week Feb. 9-14. Members met at the Pizza Hut Monday night and enjoyed a pizza party together.

Valentines were given to faculty, secretaries, and administrators. In addition, valentines were given to patients at South Georgia Medical



Center.

An essay contest was held. Members wrote essays on the FLBA state theme for 1986-87.

FBLA Week climaxed with breakfast at the Gold Plate Restaurant Saturday morning. Lowndes High School, the host of the breakfast, and Valdosta High School FBLA's enjoyed breakfast together. Tina Johns, Region-II Vice President, gave a speech on motivation. Laurie Rodriguez, Robin Schwartz, and Tracy McCray assisted with the program.

VHS Gets National Honor Society Charter

Valdosta High School has been granted a charter for the National Spanish Honor Society, "La Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica," according to sponsor Patty Smitherman. Only students of second and third-year Spanish with a minimum 93 overall average, will be eligible for membership. A ceremony inducting members will be conducted in Spanish only and will be held in the Spring.

Thirteen VHS Students Ready For Competition

Thirteen of Valdosta High School's DECA students qualified for the State Competition in Atlanta, Ga. These students went to the Georgia DECA Seventh District Competition in Waycross Feb. 7 in which they competed in co-curricular contests to qualify for the state competition.

The students that qualified are Michael White, third place in the speech competition; Teresa Grace, third in marketing-spelling-vocabulary; Cecelia Mead, third place in finance and credit; Lang Culbreth, third place in apparel and accessories master employee level; Dawn Zager, second in advertising services.

Also, Scottie Orenstein, third in vehicles and petroleum marketing; Michael Walker, first in food marketing master employee level; Joey Griffin, second in food marketing

supervisory level; Clarissa Coley, second in full service restaurant management; Ronnie Creque, first in general marketing supervisor level; Gina Hampton, second in economics testing event; and Clarissa Coley, third in the math testing event.

Attend Convention

Ten members of the Valdosta High School BETA Club attended the State Beta Club Convention in Atlanta Feb. 6 and 7.

Jill Bryan took the math test, Anne Clark took the English test, Paul Conrad took the social studies test, Melissa Quintero took the science test and Holly Davis entered the essay competition. Addison Ricks, Kenneth Gonis, Stefanie Webb and Luz-Maria



Zea Cabrera also attended. Martha Smart and Kathy Sheeley attended as sponsors.

The Quiz Bowl team, consisting of Paul Conrad, captain, Anne Clark, Jill Bryan and Holley Davis won first place in state competition. They will participate in the national convention at Louisville, Kentucky, from June 18 to 20. Anne Clark placed second in the English competition.

Cold Night Shooting Finishes Off 'Cats

UDT 2-20-87

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

ALBANY — The Valdosta Wildcats didn't want to get in a running game with Dougherty in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA tournament here Thursday night. Valdosta coach John Miller was hoping his Wildcats would be very patient on offense and work for a good shot.

For the most part, Valdosta was patient. But when the shots came, most of them didn't go in and Dougherty came down with the defensive rebound en route to a 54-36 victory over the Wildcats.

"We did what we wanted to do," Miller said. "We just couldn't make the baskets. We wanted to be patient and pop it in the middle for the score."

And though Valdosta picked up nearly half of its shots in the paint, the Wildcats were forced to take many shots from beyond range. Valdosta made only 14-of-53 shots (26.4 percent) from the field. Dougherty, meanwhile, hit 24-of-41 (58.3 percent).

"We just didn't shoot the ball that well," Miller said. "We shot awful. For us to have won, we knew we would have to shoot at least 60 percent."

Valdosta's patient attack kept it in the game during the first quarter, but the Wildcats trailed 13-10 after hitting 5-of-13 shots. Then disaster struck. Valdosta managed to make only four field goals in the second period and fell behind 25-18 at the half.

The Wildcats' troubles continued in the third period as they scored just four points, including two at the free throw line. Dougherty took advantage of Valdosta's miscues to take a 13-point, 35-22, lead.

"We just came out cold in the third quarter," Miller said. "We hung in there in the first half and were down by seven at the half and were still in good shape. But in the third quarter we just went ice cold."

The loss eliminates the Wildcats from the region tournament and ends their season with a 3-17 record. Dougherty, 16-7, will face Tift County today at 6 p.m. The Blue Devils whipped Colquitt County 75-46.

The only other boys' game had Monroe upending Lowndes 45-42. The Tornados will face Westover tonight at 9 p.m.

The other tournament games today will have Colquitt County's girls against Dougherty at 4:30 and the Lowndes girls taking on Westover at 7:30.

Gary Campbell was the leader for Valdosta with 12 points. Reginald Butler managed to score only five points against Merritt, but did grab seven rebounds. Mike Perry also had seven rebounds for the Wildcats.

Defensively for Valdosta, the Wildcats had trouble stopping Dougherty's Todd Merritt. The 6-foot-8 senior hit 4-of-4 shots in the second period. He finished with 18 points on 8-of-9 shooting and eight rebounds.

"He's tough enough to stop inside, but then he goes out and hits a long jumper from the baseline," Miller said.

Darren Rowe was the only other Trojan in double figures as he scored 10 points. Keith Emerson also had seven rebounds for Dougherty while Andrew Fields and Curtis Carter both came off the bench to grab five each.

Dougherty outrebounded the Wildcats 43-32.

Neither team was deadly from the free throw line — Valdosta made 8-of-19 and Dougherty hit 6-of-14.

Dougherty (54)
Emerson 1-2 0-0 2, Rowe 4-8 2-2 10, Irvin 3-7 0-0 6, Merritt 8-9 2-4 18, Hall 3-5 0-0 6, McLloyd 1-1 1-3 3, K. Davis 0-0 1-2 1, M. Davis 0-2 0-2 0, Polite 1-3 0-0 2, Fields 1-2 0-0 2, S. Davis 1-1 0-0 2, Carter 1-1 0-1 2. Totals 24-41 6-14 54.
Valdosta (36)
Campbell 5-18 2-5 12, Williams 3-14 2-4 8, Perry 1-3 0-0 2, Owens 1-6 3-4 5, Butler 2-8 1-6 5, Lowe 1-3 0-0 2, Carter 1-10 0-2. Totals 14-53 8-19 36.
Dougherty.....13 12 10 19 — 54
Valdosta.....10 8 4 14 — 36
Rebounds — Dougherty (43); Merritt 8, Emerson 7, Fields 5, Carter 5, Rowe 3, Irvin 3, McLloyd 2, K. Davis 2, Polite 1, Team 2, Dead Ball 5. Valdosta (32); Perry 7, Butler 7, Campbell 4, Williams 4, Owens 2, Lowe 1, Team 2, Dead Ball 5.
Records — Dougherty 16-7; Valdosta 3-17.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Feb. 14, 1987

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Little Goes Lady

UDT 2-19-87

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

ALBANY — Maybe the Valdosta High Lady Wildcats were just not meant to come here Wednesday night for the opening round of the Region 1-AAAA basketball tournament.

Valdosta coach Susan Montgomery complained to the officials all night about their lack of calls. The Lady Wildcats could barely a basket, and in the end Valdosta was eliminated 70-43 by Dougherty.

Late in the game, the officials called a foul on a Dougherty player and Montgomery said "thank you" to the ref.

Technical.
Montgomery responded by saying

"that's par."

Another technical.

And though Dougherty's Wendy Davison hit three of the four free throws, the game had long been decided.

Valdosta's troubles started early. The Lady Wildcats missed their first four shots and didn't even get a shot off on six other trips down the court because of turnovers. Dougherty took advantage of Valdosta's cold start to take a 21-7 lead at the end of the first period.

Valdosta hit only 2-of-10 shots from the field in that quarter. The second quarter didn't get any better for the Lady Wildcats as they hit just 2-of-18 shots and trailed 36-14 at the half.

For the game, Valdosta hit only 13-of-59 shots (22.0 percent). The Lady

Wildcats were outrebounded 71-39 and a lot of Dougherty's rebounds came on the defensive end of the court. Valdosta spent most of the night hustling down the court to try and stop the fast break.

Lady Wildcat Cassandra Ceasar spent most of the game on the bench in foul trouble. She picked up her third foul only 17 seconds into the second period and stayed on the bench the rest of the half. With only 20 seconds gone in the second half, Ceasar was called for her fourth foul and she again left the game. She was able to play six minutes of the final period before fouling out.

But Montgomery did not feel that was the difference in the game.

"We've got to realize that she is only one player on the court and there are four others out there," Montgomery

said. "You can't do it if you're counting on one player."

But Ceasar's absence did hurt the Lady Wildcats. Without her in the game, Dougherty was able to go inside and score at will. DeShonda Smith scored 21 points for the Trojanettes, hitting 9-of-15 shots from the field. Smith also grabbed 12 rebounds.

Michele Gordon added 14 points and 10 rebounds for Dougherty while Cindy Cheek came off the bench to get seven rebounds.

Although Ceasar played less than 15 minutes, she managed to score 10 points and grab six rebounds. Valerie Plummer paced the Lady Wildcats with 13 points and eight rebounds while Terri Longteliere had 10 points and six rebounds.

After falling behind by 31 points,

57-26, heading into the final quarter, Valdosta was able to cut Dougherty's lead to 23, 58-35. A trio of players led the Lady Wildcats as they outscored the Trojanettes 9-1 to start the period.

But Dougherty scored 10 of the next 12 points to pull back into a 31-point lead.

Although Dougherty hit 28-of-57 shots (49.1 percent) from the field, neither team was able to hit its free throws. Valdosta made only 17-of-34 (50 percent) while Dougherty hit 14-of-32 (43.8 percent).

In other first-round games, Colquitt County defeated Tift County 45-40 and Westover nipped Monroe 38-36.

Friday's games will have Colquitt taking on Dougherty at 4:30 and Lowndes, which received a first-round bye, will meet Westover at 7:30.

Today's schedule will be three boys games. Lowndes and Monroe will open the session at 6, followed by Tift County and Colquitt County at 7:30 and Valdosta against Dougherty at 9. Westover recieved a first-round bye.

Dougherty (79)

Gordon 6 8 2 5 14, Davison 2 5 4 5 9, Emerson 3 8 0 1 6, D. Smith 9 15 3 8 21, Rouse 2 5 0 0 4, Edwards 1 7 1 2 3, Harris 3 4 2 2 8, R. Jefferson 0 0 0 1 0, Cheek 2 3 0 2 4, W. Jefferson 0 1 1 4 1, K. Smith 0 1 0 0 0, Lewis 0 0 0 1 0.

Totals 98-57 14-32 70.

Valdosta (43)

Creque 0 7 3 4 3, Longteliere 5 15 0 2 10, Plummer 5 20 0 1 4 4, Shown 0 1 2 4 2, Totals 13 59 17 34 43.

Dougherty

..... 21 15 21 13 70

Valdosta

..... 7 12 17 40

Rebounds — Dougherty (71); D. Smith 12, Gordon 10,

Cheek 7, Harris 6, Rouse 5, Edwards 4, Emerson 4, W.

Jefferson 3, Davison 1, Team 5, Dead Ball 8, Valdosta

(39); Plummer 8, Longteliere 6, Ceasar 6, Richardson 6,

Creque 3, Shown 2, Larry 1, Team 5, Dead Ball 2.

Records — Dougherty 13-9; Valdosta 3-17.

Next Game — Dougherty vs. Colquitt County, Friday,

4:30 p.m. at Albany.

Monroe Downs

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

After successfully holding the ball for nearly three minutes, a five-second call against Valdosta turned the ball over the Monroe. The Tornados then held for the last shot and the strategy worked.

Monroe's Alonso Robinson took the ball into the heavy traffic and scored, was fouled, and made his free throw with only five seconds left to lift the Tornados to a 51-48 Region 1-AAAA victory over the Wildcats Friday night.

"I don't blame that (the five-second violation) on the loss," Valdosta coach John Miller said. "That's just part of the game. They got the break at the end and then didn't make any mistakes."

Valdosta hit only two of its first seven shots in the third period and went from a 29-28 lead to a 38-33 deficit. But then the Wildcats got hot, scoring 11 of the final 13 points in the period for a 46-40 lead.

Monroe scored six quick baskets to the tie the game. Valdosta's Gary

Campbell went inside for a score and Monroe's Reginald Taylor countered with an 18-footer with 4:23 to play.

Valdosta brought the ball downcourt and was content to hold onto it. The Wildcats went into the four-corners offense and ran the clock down.

"Our kids played a heck of a game," Miller said. "We were planning to use the four corners if we got the lead or tied the game. Kacy (Williams) does a good job of playing one-on-one and running the offense."

Another bright spot for the Wildcats was the play of senior forward Re-

ginald Butler. Playing in his final home game as a Wildcat, Butler grabbed 11 of Valdosta's 21 rebounds and scored 16 points, hitting 7-of-11 from the field.

"Reginald just played an excellent game," said. "This was probably the best game he's played year."

Campbell was the only other Wildcat in double figures as he had 14 points, including eight in the third period that sparked Valdosta to its 6-point lead.

Valdosta hit 21-of-37 (56.8 percent) from the field and 6-of-12 from the free

throw line.

Monroe was paced by Robinson's 13 points and Taylor's 12. Adonas Lewis led the Tornados on the boards with seven rebounds. Monroe, which shot 21-of-41 (51.2 percent) from the field and 9-of-10 from the line, outrebounded the Wildcats 22-21.

In the girls' game, Monroe took a 27-14 lead into the lockerroom at the half and never looked back en route to a 54-40 victory over the Lady Wildcats.

Cassandra Ceasar was the only Valdosta player in double figures as she

'Cats 51-48 In Final Seconds

had 14.

Mary Jones led Monroe with 20 points while Cheryl Cheeks had 16.

Boys' Game

Monroe (51) — Coleman 4, Taylor 12, Branch, Whitfield 4, Lewis 8, Robinson 13, Brown 6, Atkins 2, Valdosta (48) — Butler 16, Owens 4, Carter 2, Campbell 14, Williams 7, Perry, Lowe 5, Iverson.

Records — Monroe 13-9, 6-6; Valdosta 3-16, 2-10.

Next Game — Region 1-AAAA tournament, Wednesday, Saturday, Albany.

Girls' Game

Monroe (54) — Jones 20, Morrell 4, Walker 1, Jackson 4, McQuinn 4, Bishop 4, Parrence, Lewis 1, Cheeks 16, Valdosta (40) — Ceasar 14, Richardson 8, Plummer 4, Longteliere 5, Creque 6, Shown 3, Larry.

Records — Monroe 6-15, 4-8; Valdosta 3-16, 0-12.

VHS STAR Shines In History

By LIZ VICKERS
Times Staff Writer

It was a shocking experience for a Valdosta High School young woman as she was named STAR Student and it was lucky number seven for her STAR Teacher.

Anna Lucy Tomberlin, a senior, was announced as the 1987 STAR Student and she chose 24-year teaching veteran, Mike Rogers, math teacher, as her STAR Teacher. Rogers has been the recipient of the honor seven times in his teaching career at VHS and this makes his third year in a row.

"I was shocked," said Miss Tomberlin about being named STAR Student. "I'm quite happy about it. It looks good on my record and will hopefully improve my chances of obtaining scholarships."

She has been accepted to Agnes Scott College, an all-girls school in Decatur, Ga., where she plans to pursue a degree in law and has future plans of being a judge. "I like the law profession," said Miss Tomberlin. "It's interesting. I want to put away the bad guys. I want to be the one to pass down the tough sentences and get them off the street."

Miss Tomberlin had been impressed by her visit to Agnes Scott College. "I knew it was a good school academically," she said. "After visiting the campus I saw they were a small and friendly school. They do their best to work with you. I work hard for personal satisfaction of getting into college. A lot of people bum around. Studying hard is aspiring to work hard to get into a good college and get scholarships."

It was a bit unusual for her to choose her math teacher as her STAR Teacher since history is her favorite subject and math her least favorite, but she justified her decision. "I met Mr. Rogers when I was in the eighth grade at the math competition," she said. "I hated math when I started high school. Math wasn't my strongest subject. The competition got me going to math team meetings. It was challenging and fun."

Miss Tomberlin had Rogers as her math teacher both her junior and senior years at VHS. "He inspired me to do better," she said. "The math that he's taught me helped me on the SAT. History comes natural to me. The math teachers are important to bring me up to the level I am with other subjects."

Miss Tomberlin is in the advanced placement classes in English, history and math at VHS. The classes are college level courses which will enable her to test at the end of the academic year for college credits. She is also active in the Interact Club, Beta Club, math team and plays in the marching and symphonic bands. She is the daughter of Dr. Joe and Norma Tomberlin of Valdosta.

Rogers was quick to defend that she was not weak in math. "Lucy works to full potential," he said. "She wants to do well in everything and does. The



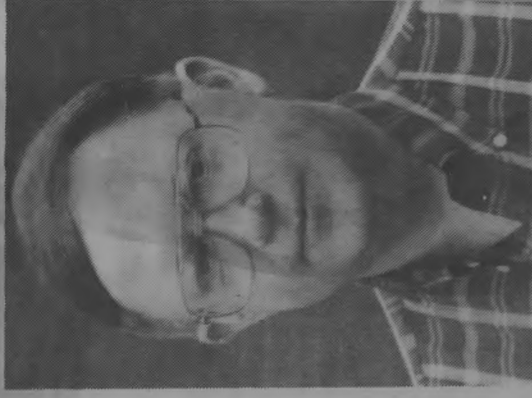
ANNA LUCY TOMBERLIN
VHS STAR Student

classes that she's in, most of them do pretty much the same. She works pretty hard to get everything just right. She's a perfectionist."

"I try to be a perfectionist," said Miss Tomberlin. "I want to do the best I can. If I meet something I can't perfect, I know I can work hard to do my very best."

"I call her a real student because she knows she has to work to do her very best," Rogers said. "She can understand something on the surface but is always interested in learning about it in a different sense. This is my favorite kind of student."

"There are so many gifted students that don't delve deep enough into a subject. They are not working toward the perfection that Lucy is. Lucy practices good study habits."



MIKE ROGERS
VHS STAR Teacher

"I feel it is a double honor for a student to select a teacher of a subject that she doesn't like. It's not that she doesn't like it. It's probably not her favorite. You never know what goes through their (students') minds. There are a lot of good teachers at Valdosta High."

Rogers is a native of Columbus. He is a graduate of Valdosta State College in math and received his master's degree in math education from Auburn in Alabama. He settled in Valdosta with plans of teaching here for a year and then moving on to Atlanta.

"Valdosta was a good place to stay," said Rogers. "Valdosta High is a good school."

Rogers has a son, William, who attends VSC and is studying accounting.



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students!

Cheerleading.
Barthaniel Werts III is the 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Barthaniel Werts Jr. Bart is a member of Interact and Beta Club. He attends Mt. Calvary Baptist Church with his family and is in the Junior Choir and an active member in the Youth Department of his church. Bart plans to attend college and major in business or in engineering. His hobbies include listening to music and lifting weights.

Leigh Williams is the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Williams. She is a member of Interact and FBLA. She received the United States Business Education Award and the All-American Achievement Award. She is enrolled in the VOT program at VHS and is employed at South Georgia Medical Center. She attends First United Methodist Church with her family where she is active in the youth group. Leigh plans to attend VSC and major in early childhood education. Leigh's hobbies include playing the piano and modeling.

Luz Maria Zea Cabrera is the 16-year-old daughter of Humberto and Luz Maria Zea of Colombia, South America. She is living in Valdosta with her uncle, Dr. Fabio Cabrera-Mendez, and attending VHS. Luz Maria is a member of Interact, Beta Club and Science Club. She is also a member of Pi Gamma Phi sorority. She attends the Catholic church and participates in the CCD classes. She plans to attend college and to eventually become a pediatrician. When asked about life in America (and in Valdosta), Luz Maria replied, "I love this country. People have been very friendly; everybody welcomes me." Luz Maria's father is a civil engineer, and her mother is a registered nurse in Columbia, South America. She was recently named to Who's Who in Foreign Language in 1986.

VHS Hosts FBLA Region Conference

Valdosta Vo-Tech. Ten area schools participated in various leadership, skill and medical areas.

Valdosta High placed first in overall competition. The winners in the leadership area were: Joy Myddelton, Paul Rainey, Brian Dufek, Tracy Osborne, Robyn Rainwater, Christy Wainright and Anita Giles; opening and closing ceremony team.

Winners in the Trade and Industrial area were: Chad Harrell, Small Engine Repair; Walter Altman, Architectural Drafting; Samuel Wright, Brick Masonry; and Jamie Jones, Welding.

Valdosta also placed first in the medical area of competition. Winners were Renae Bergin, Dental Assistant; and Elena Munoz, Medical Assistant.

Valdosta High's second place winners were Laura Smith, Job Interview; Anthony Freeman, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration; Len Gibson, Automotive Service; Spencer Iveson, Machine Drafting; Eric Von Holland, Precision Machining; and Brad Hotard, Sheet Metal.

All of these students will advance to the District Competition to be held in Americus March 12.

VHS Selects

Interact Students

Four Valdosta High Students were selected as Interact Students Of The Week. They are all seniors at VHS and were honored by the Valdosta Rotary Club at their weekly meeting February 25. They are Kristy Stabell, Barthaniel Werts, Leigh Williams and Luz-Maria Zea Cabrera.

Kristy Stabell is the 18-year-old daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Edward R. Stabell. She is a member of Interact, varsity football cheerleader, 1986 VHS Homecoming Queen, 1983-84 Key Club Sweetheart, #1 singles player on girls' varsity tennis team (4 years), and Most Valuable Tennis Player. She is also a member of Sigma Delta Theta sorority. She attends First Presbyterian Church with her family. Kristy plans to attend Valdosta State College after graduation. Her hobbies include tennis, waterskiing and

Region Two Future Business Leaders of America met at Valdosta State College February 21, for a day of fun and competition. Fifteen schools attended this event. More than 120 students competed in 16 different events. Valdosta High School coordinated and hosted the conference.

The high schools attending were: Brantley County, Charlton County, Coffee, Echols, Fitzgerald, Irwin, Jeff Davis, Lanier, Lowndes, Nichols, Pierce, Telfair County, Ware County, Waycross and Valdosta.

Judges for the competitive events were selected from our local area due to their outstanding accomplishments in their particular fields. The Toastmasters provided judges for Impromptu and Public Speaking. They were Carolyn Duncan, Vickie Elliott, Bill Eger, Liska Wetherington, and Paul Gates.

Job Interview judges were Mary Nix of Mr. Employer, Megan Smith of Griffin Corporation, and Barbara Mulligan of Young, Young & Clyatt. Clerk Typist I judges were Robert Scheuring of Ben Hill Irwin Tech, Carolyn Cox of Valdosta State College, and Susan McCranie. Clerk Typist II judges were Randy McElvly of Valdosta Tech, Betty Mealor of ABAC, and Nancy Elsberry of Valdosta Tech. Stenographer I & II judges were Dr. Donnie McGahee of VSC and Sally Dorniney of Valdosta Tech.

Eleven members from Valdosta High School competed in various events. Valdosta High School winners include: Johnny Murphine, 1st Place Impromptu Speaking; Tracy McCry, 1st Place Accounting I; Matt Winters, 1st Place Business English; LaShunda Moore, 3rd Place Job Interview; Johathan Ludlum, 5th Place Business Computer Applications - Design and Programming; Mandy Green, 5th Place Public Speaking. Leigh Williams, Fefe Sirmans, and Debra Waters also competed and did an outstanding job.

VHS Wins In Skill Olympics

The Southwest Area VICA Skill Olympics was held February 21 at



EMILY ANDERSON
Outstanding Am. History Teacher



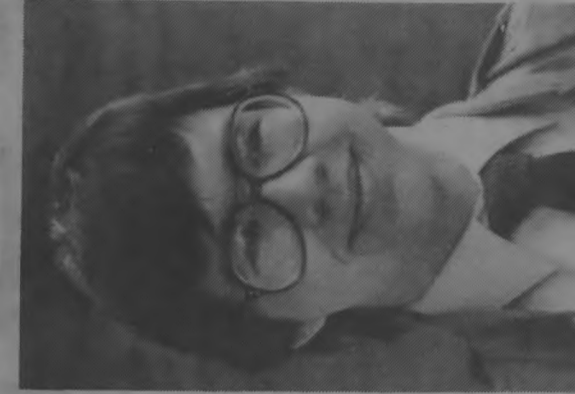
CLAIR PETERSON
Essay Winner



BETSY STRONG
Valwood Seventh Grader



LEE BRADFORD
Valwood Seventh Grader



ROLAND HALL
LHS Senior



MICHAEL STONE
LHS Junior

DAR Here Honors Teacher, Students

By **ELIZABETH BUTLER**
Times Features Editor

Nine students and a teacher were honored at a meeting of the General James Jackson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Students in the seventh grade at Valwood School participated in an essay contest writing letters to the editor dated September 1787 from their favorite American patriots regarding ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

Clair Peterson's letter from Benjamin Franklin was the winning essay and will be submitted for state DAR competition. Others reading their essays Wednesday were Betsy Strong, whose letter was also from Benjamin Franklin, and Lee Bradford, whose letter was from Alexander Hamilton.

The top two history students from Lowndes and Valdosta high schools and Valwood School read papers they had written on their favorite American patriots. They were Roland Hall and Michael Stone from Lowndes, David Cole and Anne Clark from Valdosta and Todd Peterson and Noelle Dixon from Valwood.

Emily Anderson, who teaches seventh, eighth, eleventh grades and the advanced placement American history at Valwood School, was selected as DAR Outstanding American History Teacher. Mrs. Anderson shared that honor last year with Jimmy Taw, head of the Valdosta High School history department.

Mrs. Anderson also serves in the administrative position of academic dean of Valwood's middle school and is the sponsor for the Junior Beta Club

"One of the most rewarding and demanding aspects of my job is to plan and lead a two-week tour for seventh grade students each spring to Williamsburg, Washington, Philadelphia and New York," Mrs. Anderson said.

"I have taught the Cambridge Study Skills course that is a 30-hour intensive course that teaches students how to become better students. I believe that the future of education must stress process or else we will miss the boat as educators whose job is to prepare our students for the future."

Mrs. Anderson was the STAR Teacher at Valwood for 1984-85. She is a member of Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society and the interviewing committee for the Governor's Honors Program for the state of Georgia and is a certified data collector for the Coastal Plains Regional Assessment Center.

She received a grant in summer 1984 to participate in a seminar entitled "Freedom and National Security" held at Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge, Pa., and a grant in summer 1983 to participate in a five-week endeavor to write a source book for teachers of Georgia history in Georgia schools. The latter took place under the leadership of Dr. Ste Gurr at Georgia Southwestern College in Americus.

Mrs. Anderson, who has worked 10 years in education — eight of them at Valdosta, received bachelor's and master's degrees in secondary education/history from Valdosta State College. She has done post-graduate work at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

LOWNDES HIGH

Roland Hall, son of Fae Hall and Bobby Lee Hall of Rt. 3, Hahira, wrote



DAVID COLE
VHS Junior

on Edmond Ross as his favorite American patriot.

Hall is a member of the Beta Club and math team and is features editor of SAGA, his high school newspaper.

His other recent honors and awards include 1987 STAR Student, 1987 National Merit finalist in the top 1/2 of 1 percent, and Governor's Honors in piano, Presbyterian Scholar and Telluride competition finalist in 1986.

Michael Stone, son of Mr. and Mrs. Duell Stone of Valdosta, wrote on "The American Patriot — The Vanishing Species."

The junior is a member of the math team and was a nominee for Governor's Honors Program. He won first place in Colquitt County Math Contest, the ninth grade honor band award and was first chair in the eighth district band.

VALDOSTA HIGH

David Cole, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Larnar Cole, chose Max Cleland as his favorite American patriot.

Cole is parliamentarian of the Interact Club and a member of the Key



ANNE CLARK
VHS Junior

Club, Future Business Leaders of America and First Presbyterian Church. He won best defensive player in basketball in the ninth grade and best defensive player in baseball in the 10th grade and was a Governor's Honors Program nominee in business management.

Anne Clark, daughter of Col. and Mrs. R.R. Clark, wrote her paper on Eleanor Roosevelt.

The junior is a member of the math team, debate team, Beta Club, and ROTC. She has won top student awards in math, science, English and social studies. She won second place in English at the state Beta convention this year and was a member of the Quiz Bowl team which won the state championship.

She has been nominated to the Governor's Honors Program in math.

VALWOOD SCHOOL

Todd Peterson, son of Joel Gregory and Joree Joseph Peterson, wrote his paper on Gen. George Patton.

The junior was on the headmaster's



TODD PETERSON
Valwood Junior

list three consecutive years. He has received book awards and the history department award and had the highest freshman grade point average. He is a member of the Beta Club, has been listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students and participated in Georgia Governor's Honors Program.

He is a Student Council officer, peer tutor, on the math and science teams and attended Presidential Classroom Mexico legislature. In sports he was all-region and all-state football place kicker for 1986, all-area place kicker for 1985 and received the Mr. Hustle award in varsity baseball and the Golden Toe award in varsity football.

Noelle Dixon, daughter of Jerry M. Dixon and Lydia P. Dixon, wrote her paper on Robert E. Lee.

The junior was named to Who's Who Among American High School Students and was a representative on the homecoming court, secretary of the junior class and Student Council repre-



NOELLE DIXON
Valwood Junior

sentative.

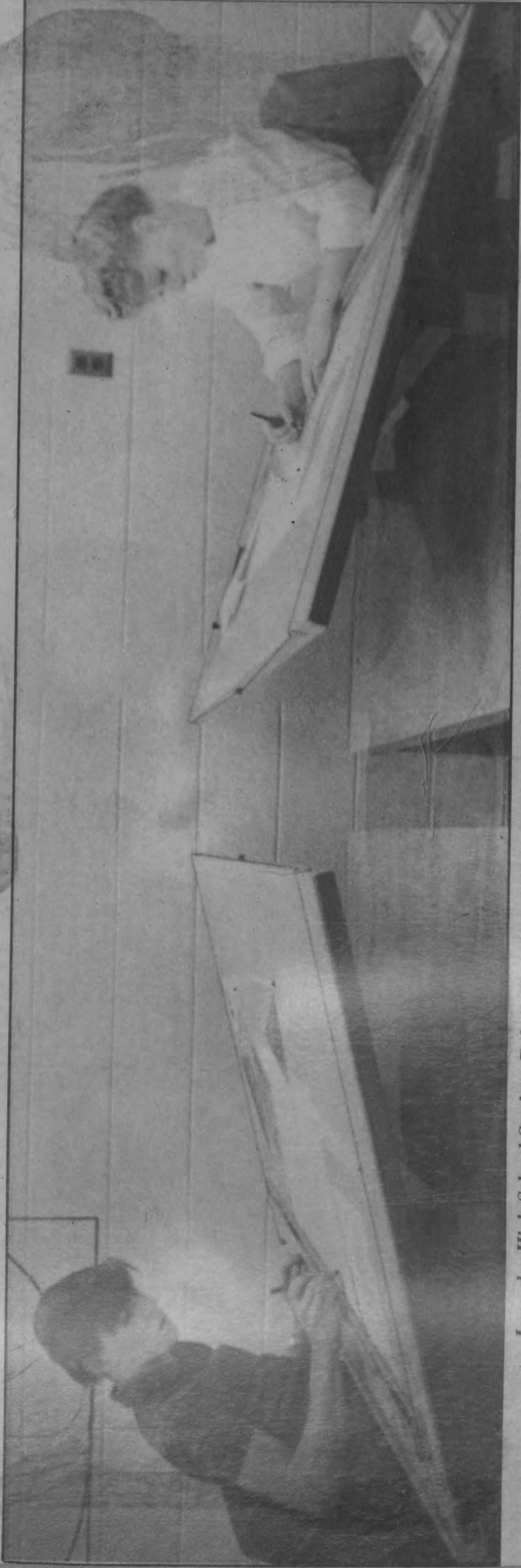
Clair Peterson, sister of Todd Peterson, had the second highest academic average and received the reading award in the sixth grade and the scholastic academic award in the fourth and fifth grades. She won first place in her division with the Junior Garden Club in 1984. She has been on the headmaster's list, has won the book award and was chosen to take the SAT. She was a page in Sante Fe in the state legislature.

Betsy Strong, daughter of James D. Strong and Sue E. Strong, is a member of Junior Beta Club. She is entering the Duke Talent Identification Program.

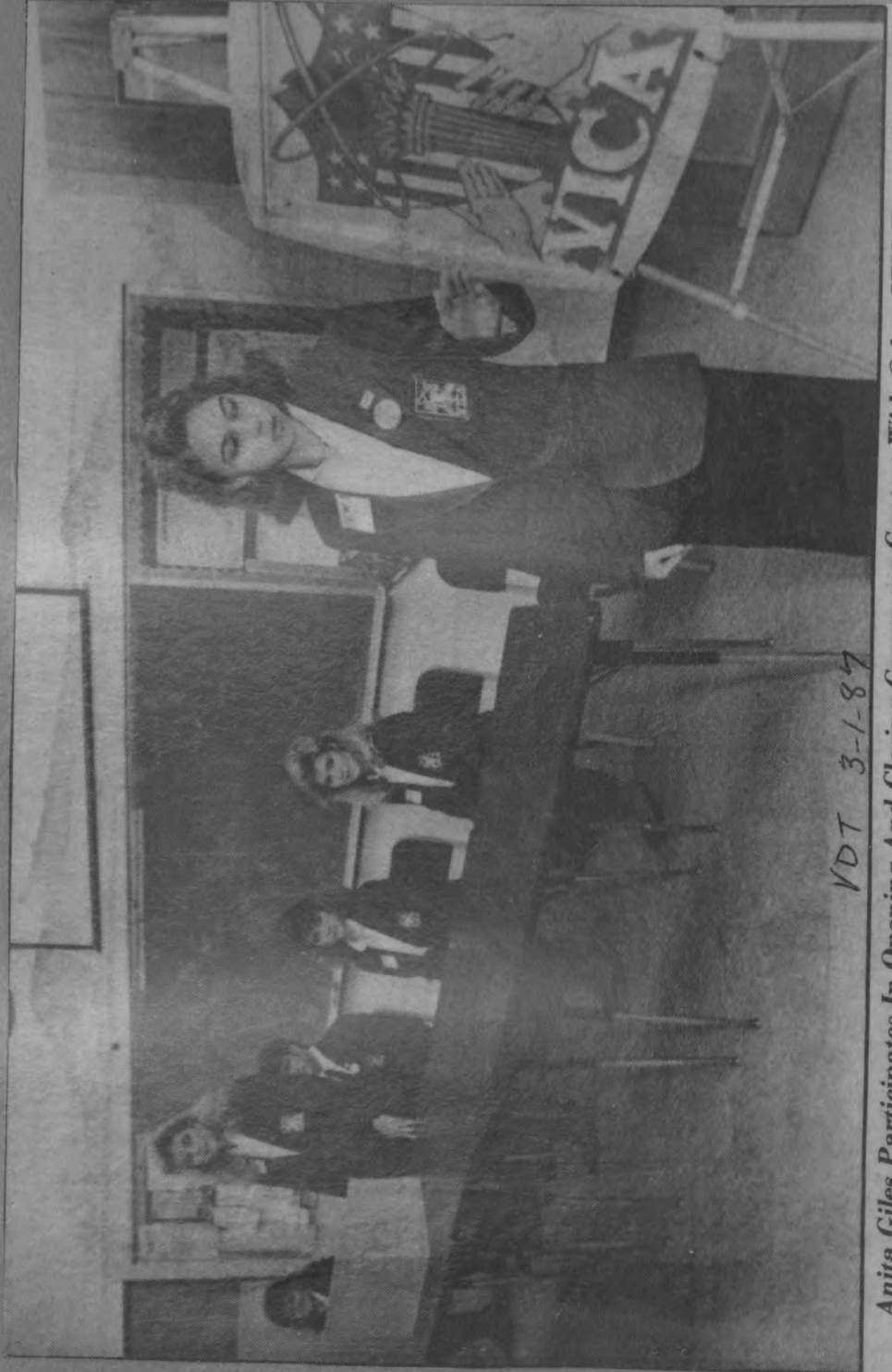
Lee Bradford is the daughter of Joy Bradford, who won the DAR contest when she was in the seventh grade. She is also the daughter of James D. Bradford.

Her other awards include the fire prevention essay contest in the fifth grade and the Duke Talent Identification Program. She is captain of the cheerleading team.

VHS Sweeps VICA Skill Olympics



Lowndes High School Student Robert Dummeey Competes With Fellow LHS Student Dawn McCain In Machine Drafting



VDT 3-1-87

Anita Giles Participates In Opening And Closing Ceremony Contest With Other VHS Team Members



VDT 3-1-87

Brad Hotard Of VHS Concentrates On Sheet Metal Design

Valdosta High School captured first place honors in the Southwest Area Vocational Industrial Clubs of America Skill Olympics.

Ten area schools participated in the competition in the areas of leadership and skill (trade and industry) and medical. The Feb. 21 event was held at Valdosta Area Vocational-Technical School.

Following first place Valdosta High were Colquitt, Lowndes, Tift, Brooks, Berrien, Lanier, Worth, Cook and Coffee counties.

In the area of leadership, Valdosta High won the opening and closing ceremony. Team members are Joy Myddelton, Paul Rainey, Brian Dufek, Tracy Osborne, Robyn Rainwater, Christy Wainwright and Anita Giles.

First place winners from Valdosta High in the trade and industry category were Chad Harrell, small engine repair; Walter Altman, architectural drafting; Samuel Wright, brick masonry, and Jamie Jones, welding. In the medical area, first place winners were Renae Bergin, dental assistant, and Elena Munoz, medical assistant.

Second place winners from Valdosta High were Laura Smith, job interview; Anthony Freeman, air conditioning and refrigeration; Len Gibson, automotive service technology; Spencer Iveson, machine drafting; Eric Von Holland, precision machining, and Brad Hotard, sheet metal.

VDT 3-1-87

Photos By

Paul Leavy

Story By

Elizabeth Butler

Lowndes High first place winners were Tracy Southerland, air conditioning and refrigeration, Brian Jones, electronic product servicing, and Robert Dumme, machine drafting. Second place winners were Sandra Flowers, prepared speech, and Chris Riggs, appliance repair.

From Brooks County were Idella Williams who placed first in practical nursing and Jeff Rogers who placed second in small engine repair.

Berrien County High students winning first place honors were Wanda Lyas in job interview and Sonya Cornelius in nurse assistant and orderly. Garnering second place spots were Theresa Durrance in medical assistant, Tonya Rampey in practical nursing and Gary Dupree in cabinet making.

Cook High student Chad Summer captured first place in automotive service technology while Katrina Robinson gathered second place honors in nurse assistant and orderly.

All of these students will advance to district competition to be held in Americus March 12.

VICA is an organization for students enrolled in vocational trade and industrial education. Its major purpose is to prepare vocational students for leadership in the world of work. Nationwide, there are more than 300,000 VICA members, representing all 50 states.



VDT 3-1-87

Wes Copeland Of Tift County High School Lets The Sparks Fly While Gas Welding



VHS Student Len Gibson Gets Assistance In Auto Mechanics From Judge Jimmy Smith

Wildcats Not Bothered By Lack Of Experience

V. Times 3-3-87
By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta's Nick Hyder is trying to figure out how he'll fill some holes in next season's lineup. But to his credit, as well as the Wildcats' program as a whole, he won't have to depend on too many green players.

Hyder is a firm believer in giving the little guy a chance to play, and as a result, this year's spring practice has gone smoothly for the defending state and national champs.

While last year's sensational running back Jerome Callaway will not return next season, Valdosta still has a lot of depth at running back. James Roberts and Lawrence Sharpe have both been running hard this spring and Hyder has also been pleased with the play of Isaac Ceasar,

Carlos Parker, and Joe Wright, who quarterbacked the Tomcats last season.

Roberts (210 pounds) and Sharpe (250) both have good size while Ceasar is a slashing type of runner. Sharpe can also play defense if needed, but the Wildcat staff would rather see him trim off a few pounds and stay on offense.

Hyder said B.J. Mason was currently the leading quarterback candidate by virtue of his age and experience, but said that sophomore Ben Hogan was right up there with him. If anything hurts Mason's chances of starting next fall it is the fact that he's an excellent receiver.

While Jodie Sprenkle, Troy Wells, and John Wheelless no longer grace Valdosta's offensive front, Ben Lane, Andy Anderson, Andy Rykard, Jackie Morgan, and Steve Smith are not

strangers to action in the trenches and Hyder had not complaints with their play thus far.

"This group has a lot of experience and has good size," Hyder said. "They are coachable players and should do a good job for us."

Defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph has plenty of talent to work with as well this spring and hasn't had a problem finding able-bodied young men.

Returning starter Anthony Williams at linebacker has been flanked with both Carlos Bulter and Beau Laskey. Laskey is recently returning from shoulder surgery and can go through drills but is unable to hit. Despite this, Hyder referred to him as a college prospect and is looking for him to contribute in the fall.

Some secondary people who have impressed Hyder are Steve French, Demetricus Waters, and

Will Troutman. Hyder was also pleased with the play of Jason Bridges. Others who have played well at safety and cornerback spots are Alofonso Willis, Eric Williams, Travis Lane and Chris Hart.

Tommy McMillan and Robert Filmore have been battling at nose-guard in the wake of Eric Larry's absence. Filmore weighs in at about 170 while McMillan tips the scales at 230.

Valdosta will play its has-been, will-be game this Friday at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field and will play its spring game on Friday, March 13 at 8 p.m. against Southwest-Macon, also at Cleveland Field.

On Thursday, the Valdosta Touchdown Club will hold its annual squad introduction dinner at VHS at 7 p.m.

VHS Students Named To All-State Band

Two VHS students were recently named to the 1987 Georgia Senior High All-State Band.

Senior trombonist Steve Pruitt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gwen Pruitt, was named first chair trombone in the all-state orchestra. Junior flutist Laura Bailey, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Bailey, was named first chair flute in the all-state band. It is believed to be the first time in recent history that two first chair positions were awarded to VHS students the same year.

Director of Bands Daniel Gaultney said making the all-state band is a considerable achievement, considering that literally thousands of student musicians enter the auditions each year.

"To be awarded a first chair position is a testament to the talent and countless hours of intense practice that these young people have dedicated themselves to," Gaultney said.

Miss Bailey was previously first chair flute in the junior high all-state band in 1985, and was recently named to the John Philip Sousa National Honor Band for 1987. Mr. Pruitt was the first chair trombone of the Georgia All-State Jazz Band earlier this year.

Steve and Laura will join Catherine Rowe, freshman french hornist, earlier named to the 1987 Junior High All-State Orchestra, at the 1987 All-State Event in Savannah in May.

International Dinner Held For Students

By DIONE JOYNER
Reporter

The Foreign Language Club Annual International Dinner was held Feb. 12 in the cafeteria at St. John's. Emily Josey gave the blessing.

More than 40 dishes from other countries were enjoyed. Guests attending were VHS Principal Bill Aldrich, Vice Principal Don Allison, Dr. Rosalie Allison, Vice Principal Sheryl Newton, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nichols, and Mr. Marshall Smitherman.

President Chad Hodge introduced the officers and board of FLC and presented sponsor, Patty Smitherman, with a gift from the club members. Mrs. Smitherman reviewed the club's activities for the year and thanked club members for their work. Awards were presented to several students for their outstanding contributions to the club.

"La Fourmi" (Spanish) to Angela Greene. These words mean "ant" referring to the hard working creature. The "Quixote" award for best ideas went to President Chad Hodge and the "Calderon" award for hardest worker was presented to Patti Smith.

Language Club Sponsors Week

The Foreign Language Club is sponsoring National Foreign Language Week in Valdosta this week.

President Reagan has issued a national proclamation and Valdosta Mayor Gill Autrey has proclaimed Foreign Language Week locally. Club activities this week have included morning announcements in French and



Spanish each day followed by a translation and a reason for Foreign Language study. Chairman for this activity is Brooke Price.

Public service announcements were sent to radio and television stations to promote the week. Kim Reese is publicity chairman. Brooke Price and Kevin Elliott accompanied FLC sponsor Patty Smitherman to the North Valdosta Rotary Club meeting on Monday, March 2, for a short presentation on Spanish, French, and English on the importance of foreign language in business and government.

On March 4, Mrs. Smitherman, Jay Langdale, Emily Josey, and Toby Baskins visited Valdosta Rotary Club with a similar presentation. On Friday there was a "Patisserie - Pasteleria" (sweet shop) with French and Spanish pastries for sale to students. Angela Greene is chairman of this activity. School announcements were made by Kevin Elliott, Rosalyn Thompson, John Langdale, Meredith Coogan, Lonnie Phillips, Debra Waters, Christine Buel, Holly Davis, Patti Smith, and Sandra Wang.

Interact Students Of Week Named

By LAURA MCMILLAN

Four VHS students were recently selected as Interact students of the week. They are Toby Baskin, Sheri Boyd, Paige Braswell, and Kelisa Brown. They are all Juniors at Valdosta High. They were honored by the Valdosta Rotary Club at its meeting on Wednesday at the Sheraton.

Toby Baskin is the 16-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Perry Baskin. He is a member of Interact, Math Team, Debate Club, Science Club, Drama Club, and was in the One-Act Play. Toby's interests include computer programming, and role-playing games.

Sheri Boyd is the 16-year-old daughter of Gloria Boyd. Sheri is a member of Interact, Foreign Language Club, Beta Club and is a member of the Wildcat Marching Band. Her hobbies include traveling, reading, and aerobics. Sheri wants to eventually work in foreign countries, either for the State Department or for an international corporation.

Paige Braswell is the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Braswell. She is a member of Interact, the VHS Drill Team and is a Mat Girl

for the Wrestling Team. Her interests include dancing and exercising. She attends the Central Church of Christ with her family and is active in youth seminars. Paige hopes to become a buyer for a major department store.

Kelisa Brown is the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Brown, Jr. She is a member of Interact, PAMS Club, FBLA, Foreign

Language Club Beta Club. She is listed in Who's Who in American For Foreign Languages and was presented as a Debutante for 1987. She attends New Hopewell Baptist Church. Kelisa's hobbies and interests include reading, dancing, writing poetry and skating. She plans to become a computer technician or psychologist. Kelisa is employed at Morrison's in the mall.



Freshmen 'Cats

Valdosta High freshmen Tony Alvarado (17) and Tracy Smothers work on passing drills during a Wildcat practice session Wednesday. Valdosta will play its annual Has-Been, Will-Be game Friday night at Cleveland Field. The Wildcats conclude spring practice next Friday at Cleveland Field against Southwest Macon. Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy.



Valdosta Defensive End Coleman Rudolph Bears Down On Quarterback B.J. Mason
Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Hyder Impressed With 'Cat Backs

V. Times 3-7-87
By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Despite the graduation of several key people at skill positions, the Valdosta High Wildcats showed some good promise for the 1987 season during an intrasquad scrimmage at Cleveland Field Friday night.

One of the biggest question marks for coach Nick Hyder heading into the spring drills was finding a replacement for departed quarterback Greg Talley. B.J. Mason and Ben Hogan both split time at that position during the scrimmage, and Hyder was pleased with what he saw.

"Our passing game is getting there," Hyder said. "B.J. Mason and Ben Hogan have made tremendous progress this spring. We didn't have any problems with exchanges from center and we didn't fumble any handoffs. They are very much ahead of where we normally are at this time."

Perhaps one of the most impressive aspects of the scrimmage was the running backs. The Wildcats lost Jerome Callaway to graduation, but have a stable of good runners waiting in the wings. James Roberts, who was first team All-Region 1-AAAA and all-area last season, went 32 yards for a score on his first and only carry of the game. Isaac Caesar had 164 yards on 14 carries while Carlo Butler had 86 yards on 11 attempts.

On the offensive line, the Wildcats

will have to find replacements for three players, but offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker was pleased with the performance of several returning players as well as newcomers.

"We worked a lot of kids in and out the whole night," Baker said. "Ben Lane picked up where he left off last year. Andy Anderson has been one of our biggest surprises so far. Andy Rykard has put one some weight and is a very intelligent player. Jackie Morgan and Todd Pitchford both did a good job. I'm also pleased with the play of Mickey McSwain and we've got a youngster who already weighs 250 pounds. Shawn Eilder, who is just a freshman."

On defense, the Wildcats looked impressive, and Hyder singled out several players for the play. But defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph saw plenty of problems.

"We've got some young kids who did well, but we had some older kids who didn't," Rudolph said. "It's hard to anticipate what to expect in your first scrimmage. We're having problems with the whole defense as to finding a unit that can work together. We're still looking for the best 11."

"Keith Henry and Reginald Dandy hit well," Hyder said. "Anthony Williams and Zabria Bell were both tough and Eric Toth did a good job. The Wildcats will conclude spring drills next Friday night when they play host to Southwest Macon at Cleveland Field."

Lady Wildcats

Upend Thomasville

The Valdosta High girls' tennis team improved its record to 2-0 with a 7-2 victory over Thomasville Thursday.

Kristy Stabell, Terri Longeliere, Wendy Griffin, Josey Hatcher, and Kelly Edwards all won their singles matches for the Lady Wildcats Stabell and Shannon Harris, and Griffin and Edwards then teamed to win in doubles.

The Lady Wildcats will play a Region 1-AAAA match at Hill County Monday.

Singles — K. Stabell (V) d. Deas, 6-4, 6-3; Smith (T) d. Harris, 1-6, 8-3, 6-2; Longeliere (V) d. Welch, 6-3, 7-5; Griffin (V) d. Brown, 6-4, 6-3; Hatcher (V) d. Reed, 6-2, 6-4; Edwards (V) d. Arnold, 6-3, 6-3 (V) d. Brown-Smith, 6-1, 6-0; Welch-Reed (T) d. Longeliere-Moore, 6-3, 8-4; Griffin-Edwards (V) d. Reed-Sullivan, 6-2, 5-6, 6-7.

Valdosta State College

Gill To Sign With

Valdosta High's

V. Times 3-12-87
Valdosta High's Walt Gill expected to sign with Valdosta State College later today. Gill, a 185-pound safety, was a team captain off last year's state and national championship team. Gill was a two-year starter for Valdosta and also a valuable member of the Wildcat baseball season last year. Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said he would probably play baseball and football.

4-B The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Mar. 11, 1987

Lady 'Cats Win Opener

Bulletin Board

Valdosta High's Lady Wildcat tennis team won its opening match against Central-Thomasville 8-1 yesterday at Valdosta High.

Collecting wins in singles for the Lady 'Cats were Shannon Harris, Wendy Griffin, Terri Longeliere, Margaret Anne Sineath, and Josie Hatcher.

In doubles action, the teams of Kristy Stabell and Harris, Griffin and Paige Stabell, Longeliere and Marianne Moore claimed victories.

The girls' B-team was also victorious, taking a 6-0 decision. Moore, Paige Stabell, Kelly Edwards, and Honey Hatcher claimed single wins. The doubles teams of Hatcher and Hatcher, and Edwards and Meg Rainey also scored wins.

The Lady Wildcats will host Thomasville tomorrow afternoon.

Depth In Favor Of Wildcats

J. Times 3-12-87

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

After Valdosta crushed Southwest Macon 41-0 in last year's spring game, Wildcat fans should probably know what to expect from this year's battle as well. Sure, last year's Wildcats were state and national champs. While the 1987 squad may not be able to recapture that magic, Nick Hyder's Wildcats look like they're on the right track.

Fans will find out just how well tuned Valdosta is when the Wildcats host Southwest Macon Friday at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field. The two B-teams will lock horns at 5:30 p.m. Today at 5 p.m., Valdosta's upcoming ninth-grade team will play Tift County. On Saturday, there will be a junior high jamboree involving Valdosta Junior High, Colquitt County Junior High, Tift County Junior High, and Waycross Junior High.

Southwest's Patriots are surely in for a rocky time. Valdosta has reviewed and re-reviewed last year's game films and are ready to play, and like last year, depth won't be a problem for the Wildcats.

"Coach Rudolph does such a good job with the defense, that we continue to have excellent defensive teams each year," said Hyder. "We all believe in building on the future and nobody does that any better than Jack."

Rudolph's defense may feature some new faces, but there is still plenty of experience. Robert Fillmore will get the nod at noseguard. He is the brother of last year's starter, Eric Larry, and Fillmore is every bit as scrappy as Larry.

Coronzoa Greene and Scott Barton will line up at the starting tackle spots, supported by George Copeland.

Coleman Rudolph will play one end and Bobby Brooks will get to see some action as well.

Valdosta's linebackers will be fierce again this year. Starter Anthony Williams returns and Carlo Butler will start Friday in the other spot.

"Both of these young men can really hit and are good coachable athletes," said Hyder. Hyder, too, is already looking to next year when Beau Laskey can play. Laskey had shoulder surgery



File Photo

Nick Hyder Confident Of Valdosta's Depth

late last year and still cannot enjoy contact, but Hyder is thinking he'll be a major college prospect.

Reginald Dandy and Keith Henry will resume their corner duties while Eric Toth will see action at one safety spot and Jason Bridges the other. Steve French will alternate with Bridges.

John Wheelless, Jodie Sprenkle, and Troy Wells are gone but offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker won't have to search too far for some able-bodied young men.

Ben Lane returns at center and Andy Anderson at right tackle. Andy Rykard will line up at right guard. Jack Morgan will play left guard and Todd Pitchford will play left tackle. Add to these, the names of Mick McSwain, David Hazelhurst, and Matthew

Butler.

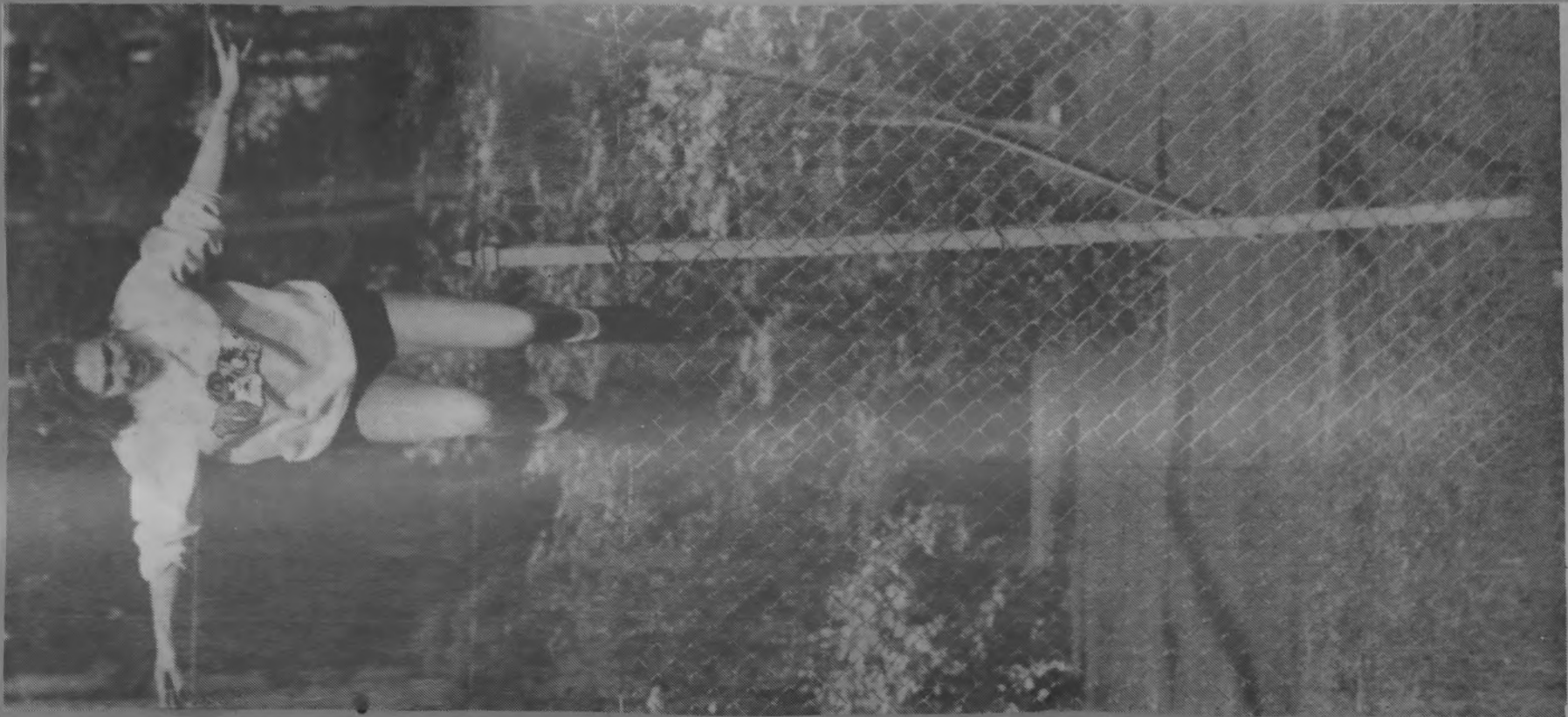
Charles Steward will line up at the familiar tight end spot, backed by Lee Thomas.

"We may have lost some size with the loss of Sprenkle and Wheelless, but we have made it up in the depth department," Hyder said of his front line.

B. J. Mason will start at quarterback, but Ben Hogan is expected to challenge Mason for the spot come fall and should see some playing time against Southwest.

They will be throwing to Steward, as well as flankers Bernard Hitson and Dwayne Bullard, and split end Keith Beall.

The starting tailback will be Carlos Parker and Joe Wright and Isaac Ceasar will start at fullback.



Times

VHS High Jump

3-13-87

Margaret Anee Sineath, 11th grade student at Valdosta High School, takes the big jump, but it wasn't a track meet. She was returning to a tennis match after getting a ball that made it over the fence. - Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

VHS Takes First Again At Literary Meet Here

By BETH MOORE
Times Staff Writer
V. Times 3-18-87

Valdosta High School finished tops for the seventh time in the past nine years in the Region 1-AAAA literary meet at Valdosta State College with students competing in 16 events. During the event Saturday, VHS

students received a total of 86 points, followed by Lowndes with 63, Albany-Dougherty with 49 and Tift with 45.

First place winners for VHS were Laura Bailey, piano; Anne Clark, essay; Paul Conrad, extemporaneous speaking; Christine Buel, oral interpretation; and Ned Sanderson, oral interpretation and solo.

Second place winners were Kelly Shelton, extemporaneous speaking; and Greg Leong, essay.

Third place winners were Rachel Hill, spelling; Dan Altman, piano; and the girls' trio of Latonya Brown, Regina Strmans and Juanyata Revels. Finishing in fourth place were Anna Faircloth, home economics; and Latonya Brown, solo. Also competing were Chris Hendry and Tina Johns in typing.

Veronica Brantley, girls extemporaneous speaking; Tonya Black, girls' oral interpretation; Joey Delk, boys' oral interpretation; Penny Brannen, girls' essay; Jill Sermons, home-economics; and Kevin Carmichael, Michael Hansen, Joey Delk and Bobby Yarborough, quartet.

Third place winner was Choya Lee Harden, boys' spelling.

Fourth place winners were Melissa Newton, Valencia Colquitt and Kristen Sivey, girls' trio.

Valdosta High also received 12 points for winning first place in the Region 1-AAAA one act play competition in December and 12 points for first place in the Region 1-AAAA Debates in January.

Talley Hurls No-Hitter In First Start For 'Cats

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High senior Greg Talley got the chance to pitch in his first varsity game Wednesday night in the Rebel Invitational at Blazer Field, and he did not squander the opportunity. Talley pitched a no-hitter and went the distance as the 2-0 Wildcats handed Cook, 7-1-1, its first loss of the season in a 7-3 decision.

The tournament continues today with Leon High playing two games. The Lions play Lowndes at 4:30 and Berrien County at 7 p.m.

Talley started the game looking like he'd be in the showers by the third inning. Cook's Hornets got all three of their runs that inning with the help of five walks and a wild pitch.

Hornet second baseman Paul Kenrick walked to open the game, and with one out, Talley walked three more batters to score Kenrick.

Cook's Jason Alderman hit into a fielder's choice that scored Cook's Andy Baker and a wild pitch scored Stacy Searcy.

The second inning, however, revealed a different Talley.

"I told him he was one pitch from being yanked out of there," said Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley. Talley must have taken Tarpley's words to heart. He began taking a little off his pitches and found his control, and over the next six innings he walked none and finished the game with 13 strikeouts.

"I thought all along that nobody could hit him real well if he could only get the ball over the plate," said Tarpley. "We knew he had good stuff but has had a problem with his control. His mechanics are getting a lot better and I'm proud of the job he did. I didn't

think anybody would hit him very well under the lights.

"Now I'm wondering if he can go out there and do it again. He has to start off effective. If we were in the playoffs against a great team, he may not have made it past that first inning."

Talley got plenty of offensive help from his team as the Wildcats gathered 10 hits. First baseman Derek Shaw went 3-for-4 with two doubles, knocked in four runs, and scored once.

Rebel Classic Schedule

| At Blazer Field | W | LPF | PA |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----|----|
| Tuesday, March 24 | | | |
| Cook 4, Leon 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| Berrien County 14, Lowndes 11 | 1 | 0 | 14 |
| Wednesday, March 25 | | | |
| Valdosta 7, Cook 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Thursday, March 26 | | | |
| Lowndes vs. Leon, p.p.d. rain | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Leon vs. Berrien County, p.p.d. rain | 0 | 1 | 11 |
| Friday, March 27 | | | |
| Lowndes vs. Leon, 4:00 | | | |
| Leon vs. Berrien County, 6:00 | | | |
| Berrien County vs. Valdosta, 8:00 | | | |
| Saturday, March 28 | | | |
| Lowndes vs. Cook, 1:00 | | | |
| Leon vs. Valdosta, 3:00 | | | |
| Valdosta vs. Lowndes, 5:00 | | | |
| Cook vs. Berrien County, 7:00. | | | |

Rebel Classic Standings

| W | LPF | PA | |
|----------------|-----|----|----|
| Valdosta | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| Berrien County | 1 | 0 | 14 |
| Cook | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Leon | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Lowndes | 0 | 1 | 11 |

Champion Determined By:
1. Won-Lost Record
2. Runs Allowed
3. Runs Scored

Thurs., Mar. 26, 1987
V. Times

Shortstop Art Bass went 2-for-4 and scored twice. Right fielder Michael Tolbart went 2-for-3, stole a base, laced a double down the first base line, and also scored a run.

Cook hit only four balls out of the infield. Baker came close to an extra-base hit in the fifth, but Valdosta center fielder Walt Gill made a tremendous running catch near the fence to preserve the no-hitter. In the sixth, David Graham hit another hard shot, but Wildcat shortstop Guy Belue snagged the ball for the out. Those were the only shots hit by the Hornets and the only base runners after the first came in the third and the sixth off two Valdosta errors.

Baker started for Cook but left after giving up three runs on four hits in 1 1/2 innings. It was his first start for Cook and is normally a catcher. He is also recovering from a rotator cuff injury.

"He's too valuable for us as a catcher and I'm still thinking about the subregion race right now," said Cook coach Bob Owsley about Baker's early departure.

It was reliever Marty Wood who took the loss, giving up four runs in 4 2/3 innings pitched. Only four of Valdosta's seven runs were earned as Cook made five errors in the field.

"There's not much to say about this one," said Owsley. "Talley did a helluva job out there and we didn't hit the ball."

Valdosta scored a single run in the bottom of the first when Shaw knocked in B. J. Mason on a fielder's choice.

Cook.....300 000 0-3 0 5
Valdosta.....130 201 x-7 10 2
Baker, Wood (2) (L, 0-1) and Kenrick, Baker (2); Talley (W, 1-0) and Kirby, 28-Shaw (V); Tolbart (V).
Records—Cook 7-1-1; Valdosta 2-0.
Next game—Valdosta vs. Berrien, 5 p.m., Friday; Cook vs. Lowndes, 7:30 p.m., Friday.



Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy

Valdosta's Greg Talley Calmed Down After Rocky Start

Butler, Ceasar Named Most Valuable At Valdosta Banquet

From Staff Reports
 V. Times 3-20-87

Reginald Butler and Cassandra Ceasar were named MVPs for the Valdosta High Wildcat and Lady Wildcat basketball teams Thursday night at the VHS basketball banquet.

Butler was also named the team's best rebounder with an average of 8 per game.

Ceasar, too, took home the girls' rebounding trophy with an average of 10 per game and was also named the best offensive girls' player with 233 points for an average of 12 per game.

Kacy Williams won the best offensive award for the Wildcats, averaging 8 points and five assists per game. Gary Campbell was named the best defensively and Chris Charter won the hustle award for playing with more injuries than could be counted on one hand.

Kevin Elliott won the team spirit trophy, and Michael Perry was most improved. Senior Yves Owens won the scholastic award for maintaining a 90.5 average and Williams hit 75 percent from the foul line to win the free throw award. Senior Kyle Lowe won the sportsmanship award.

For the VHS girls, Alice Creque won both the hustle and most improved trophies. Terri Longeliere was named the best scholar (91 for four years) and best free throw shooter (55 percent). Jan Hartzog won the sportsmanship award while Valerie Plummer was most improved and Ellen Shown won the spirit award.

Taking home honors for the ninth-grade team were Major Lynn and James Manning, who tied for most improved, Jason King (best offensive), and Brad Sullins (best defensive).

Vincent Williams was named most improved on the B-team, while Carlo Butler took home the best offensive award and Ivan Davis the best defensive.

Wildcats

Defeat

Colquitt
 V. Times 3-24-87
 By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
 Times Sports Editor

MOULTRIE — Hitting was supposed to be the hot topic for the Valdosta High Wildcats heading into the 1987 baseball season, but it was sound pitching that enabled the Wildcats to win their season opener here Monday.

Guy Belue limited Colquitt County to just four hits, including three in the first inning, to propel Valdosta to a 4-1 victory.

"Belue just pitched a great game," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said. "He did all you can ask. We also played a good defensive game and was able to hit a good pitcher."

Although the Wildcats did rip the ball, most of them were to Packer defenders. Valdosta had just five hits and did not have more than one in a single inning.

"We just didn't hit the ball like we're supposed to be hitting it," Tarpley said. "That was supposed to be our strength this year. We were playing in a big park today, but couldn't get them to fall in."

Both teams scored single runs in the first inning before Valdosta erupted for three runs in the fourth. The Wildcats were aided by two Packer errors in the inning, and could have gotten more runs as they left the bases loaded.

With one out, Bill Kirby picked up one of his two hits with a single. He went to second when Walt Gill reached on an error. Kirby then went to third on a passed ball and Gill took second on a steal. On the steal, the ball went into the outfield, allowing Kirby to score and sending Gill to third.

Matt Perry drew a walk and stole second. Michael Tolbert reached on a fielder's choice as Gill slid into home under the throw. Tolbert stole second to again put runners on second and third. Greg Talley followed with a grounder to third, but the ball was dropped by Colquitt catcher Chris Malpin on the play at the plate, enabling Perry to score.

Colquitt brought in reliever John Buckner for starter Ernie Sims, but Buckner walked B.J. Mason. A fielder's choice by Art Bass got Talley out at the plate, but the threat ended when

Baker Leads 'Cat Track Team

From Staff Reports
 V. Times 3-25-87

Valdosta 93, Coffee 65, Colquitt County 8 — Keith Baker captured three first place finishes to lead the Valdosta boys' track team to an easy win in the season opener.

Baker finished first in the long jump with a leap of 20-3, the triple jump at 41-7 and the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.55.

The Wildcats 440-yard relay team consisting of Hubert Davison, Carlos Butler, Aldophus Simmons, and Baker also finished first with a time of 45.6.

John Wheelless and Simmons managed to capture two first place finishes as well. Wheelless took the shot put with a toss of 41-2 and the discus with a throw of 122-2 while Simmons won the 440-yard dash with a time of 52.19 and the 220 with a time of 23.03.

Other first place finishers for the Wildcat's were Reginald Butler in the high jump with a leap of 5-8 and Paul McLane in the pole vault with a jump of 10-0.

Local DECA Finalists Competing Today

V. Times 3-21-87

Ten Valdosta High School DECA Chapter members are attending the Georgia DECA State Career Development Conference in Atlanta this weekend. The purpose of the conference is to allow District Finalists in DECA contests to compete on the state level.

All State Finalists are competing for National Honors at the National DECA Conference in New Orleans, La., the first week in May. In addition to the competition, all students attending are participating in Career Development Workshops designed to enhance their career awareness.

The students attending from Valdosta High School are: Ronny Creque, son of Ron and Karen Creque, competing in General Marketing Supervisory Level; Clarissa Coley, daughter of Maurice Coley of Atlanta and Sybil Coley of Valdosta, competing in Math; Teresa Grace, daughter of James and Shirley Grace, competing in Spelling and Vocabulary; Joey Griffin, son of Joe and Becky Griffin, competing in Food Marketing; Katie Louttit, daughter of Reverend Henry and Jan Louttit, competing in Apparel and Accessories;

Michael Walker, son of Gary Walker of Atlanta and Jennifer Connelly of Valdosta, competing in Food Marketing; Scott Orenstein, son of Mark and Pat Orenstein, competing in Automotive;

Cecilia Mead, daughter of Hank and Susan Mead, competing in Finance and Credit; Leslie Hagan, daughter of Eddie and Barbara Hagan, competing in Reporter of the Year; and Gina



VHS News
 Compiled, Written By VHS Students

Hampton, daughter of Mike and Pat Hampton, competing in Economics.

... Wildcats

Continued From Page 8-A

Derek Shaw flied out to left. The Wildcats threatened again in the sixth when they had runners on second and third with one out. Andy Rykard walked and was replaced by pinch runner John Iverson. Eric Toth followed with a single to send Iverson to third and Toth took second on the throw. With one out, Mason flied out to left and Iverson tagged up, but was thrown out at the plate.

In the first inning, Valdosta took a 1-0

lead when Mason walked, went to third on a single by Bass, and scored when Shaw hit into a double play.

Colquitt countered with a single run in the bottom of the inning. With two outs, Malpin, Doug Strange, and Scotty Dean all singled to score Malpin.

Belue finished with seven strikeouts and four walks. After the first inning, he allowed only two runners to reach second — one on a sacrifice bunt and the other on a passed ball.

Valdosta, 1-0 overall and in the region, will play Cook in the Berrien

County Invitational at Blazer Field Wednesday at 7 p.m. The Wildcats will also tangle with Berrien on Friday (5 p.m.), and Tallahassee-Leon (1 p.m.) and Lowndes (4 p.m.) on Saturday. Colquitt, 2-1-1 overall and 0-1 in the region, will travel to Lowndes for a Wednesday game at 4:30.

Valdosta.....100 300 0-4 5 0
 Colquitt.....100 000 0-1 4 3
 Belue (W, 1-0) and Kirby; Sims (L, 0-1), J. Buckner (4) and Malpin.
 Records — Valdosta 1-0, 1-0; Colquitt County 2-1, 0-1.
 Next Game — Valdosta vs. Cook, Wednesday, 4 p.m.; Blazer Field; Colquitt at Lowndes, Wednesday, 4:30 p.m.

Girls Track

V. Times 3-25-87

Valdosta 48, Colquitt County 47, Coffee 42 — Valdosta finished first in only three events, but the Lady Wildcats picked up enough points by finishing second-fourth to open the season on a winning note.

The Lady Wildcats outscored Colquitt County by just one point, 48-47, while Coffee finished with 42 points.

Cassandra Ceasar placed first in the shot put and the discus for Valdosta. The only other first-place finisher for the Lady Wildcats was the mile relay team.



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

VHS Band Gets New Level 'Superior'

V. Times 3-28-87

The Eighth District Georgia Music Educators' Association Band Festival was held recently in Waycross, where some 51 bands from southeast Georgia performed in front of professional adjudicators for ratings in concert performance and sight-reading. The VHS Symphonic Band, performing in Level VI (the most difficult level of music) for the first time, scored impressive straight "Superior" ratings

in both concert and sight-reading. Bands are rated in the captions of tone, intonation, technique, balance, interpretation and musical effect. From these areas a band is awarded an overall rating from I (Superior) to V (poor). This year's concert judges were Dr. Truman Welch, formerly of Troy State University, Dr. Bodie Hinton, of Auburn University, and formerly of

Troy State University and Guerry Youmans of Jonesboro, Ga. The sight-reading judge was Larry Musick of Carrollton, Ga. VHS Director Daniel Gaultney praised the students for their effort. "To go into Level VI for the first time, following two bands that have been there for years, and to deliver the kind of performance they did, performing very difficult music, just says a lot

about the talent, dedication and good work habits these people have developed. I am very pleased and happy for them. "Judges' comments identified the areas of technique and musical effect as the band's particular strong points. Dr. Welch commented on his rating sheet that 'this is the best Valdosta band I have heard in years'," he said. The band next begins rehearsing for the big Spring Concert, to be held on Thursday, May 28, at VSC's Whitehead Auditorium.

FBLA Participates In 'Starbusters'

By TINA JOHNS Reporter

The Valdosta High School Future Business Leaders of America participated in the 1987 "Starbusters" on March 17th at the Valdosta Junior High School.

"Starbusters" is sponsored by the VJHS PTO and allows upcoming Freshmen and their parents to see what the clubs of Valdosta High are all about.

Sirena Gosier and Tina Johns gave a brief presentation of FBLA and what the club has to offer. FBLA also had a display of pictures, awards, and information sheets. Ms. Maxine Martin, FBLA adviser, was also present to answer any questions that the young students may have.

Interact Students Of Week Named

Four VHS Interact students were selected as this week's "Students of the Week." They are Chris Griner, Stephanie Gupton, Jennifer Guest and Charley Hester. All four students are Juniors at VHS. They were honored by the Valdosta Rotary Club this Wednesday at its weekly luncheon meeting.

Chris Griner is the 16-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Griner. He is a member of Interact and Beta Club. He was the 1987 History and Government Award winner and the Sophomore History Award winner. Chris enjoys playing baseball and basketball. He attends Azalea City Baptist Church with his family.

Stephanie Gupton is the 16-year-old daughter of Shirley Gupton and Steve Gupton. She is a member of Interact, the VHS Drill Team, and the Marchin' Cats. She is a member of Sigma Delta Theta sorority and was recently elected Treasurer for 1987-88. She is employed by Camera America. Stephanie enjoys snow skiing, water skiing, and playing the piano. She attends

First Baptist Church with her family.

Jennifer Guest is the 16-year-old daughter of Gail and Raymond Folsom. She is a member of Interact and the Debate Team. She is listed in Who's Who Among Foreign Language Students in Georgia and Florida High School, and she won 2nd place in the 1986 Georgia Southern Foreign Language Oratorical Competition. She is employed by McDonald's. Jennifer enjoys Spanish, swimming, debate and shopping. She plans to go into international business in the future.

Charley Hester is the 16-year-old son of Joe and Harriett Hester. He is a member of Interact and the Foreign Language Club. He enjoys art and swimming. Charley attends St. John's Church with his family.

Interact Students For March 21 Week

By Laura McMillan

The following students were recently selected as Interact's STUDENTS OF THE WEEK: Mackey Foster, Kevin Elliott, Jarrett Gayle, and Amy Griffin. All these students are in the Junior class at VHS. They were honored this Wednesday at the Valdosta Rotary Club's meeting held at the Sheraton Inn.

Mackey Foster is the 16-year-old son of A. M. and Patricia Foster. He is a member of Interact, the Debate Team and the Tennis Team. His hobbies include skiing, traveling and sailing. He plans to go into business for himself in the future. Mackey attends Christ Episcopal Church with his family.

Kevin Elliott is the 17-year-old son of Ssam and Carlene Braswell. Kevin is a member of Interact, Key Club, Beta Club, FLC, Basketball team, Baseball team, and is a Student Council Repre-

sentative. He is listed in Who's Who Among High School Students (1986-87). His hobbies include sports, horseback riding, and skiing. He plans to be a doctor. Kevin attends Lee Street Baptist Church with his family where he is a member of Youth Choir and is a part-time Sunday School helper.

Jarrett Gayle is the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Gayle. She is a member of Interact, the VHS Drill Team (3 years) and is in Sigma Delta Theta Sorority. Her interests include skiing. She is employed by Body Shop in the mall. Jarrett attends First Baptist Church with her family.

Amy Griffin is the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rusty Griffin. She is a member of Interact, VHS Drill Team and Key Club Sweetheart (1986-87). She is listed in the Honor Society of Distinguished American High School Students. Her hobbies include waterskiing, cooking, aerobics, cross-stitching. She plans to attend college and further her study in Psychology. Amy attends First United Methodist Church with her family where she is active in the Youth Choir and is Vice President of the Youth Council.

First-Inning Syndrome Can't Stop VHS' Talley

D. Times 3-30-87

By ANTHONY DASHER Times Sports Writer

Even though Valdosta's game against Berrien County didn't end until 12:05 a.m. Sunday, the Wildcats' Greg Talley looked anything but tired.

The big right-hander, who tossed a no-hitter against Cook last Wednesday, rebounded after a terrible first inning to no-hit the Rebels over the final six innings to lead the Wildcats to a 10-5 victory in Saturday's late game of the Rebel Classic at Blazer Field.

Earlier in the evening, Tallahassee-Leon clinched first place, going 3-1 for the tournament by defeating the Wildcats 10-4.

Talley was racked by the 4-2 Rebels for five first-inning runs and with one out yet to go, Wildcat coach Charles Tarpley was about ready to make a move.

"I told (Talley) if he didn't get the next man out I was going to yank him," he said. "I guess it's in his head, I don't know."

Talley gave up three runs in the first inning against Cook but managed to settle down.

Valdosta came back with four runs in the second on only one hit but it was a big one as an Art Bass single brought in both Michael Tolbert and B.J. Mason.

Derek Shaw drove in two more Wildcat runs in the second and scored himself three batters later when Walt Gill singled.

The Wildcats added three insurance runs, one in the fifth on a base hit by Bass, who went 3-3 on the night and two more in the seventh as they ran their record to 3-1 on the season.

But despite their comeback, Tarpley is still concerned about his squad's progress.

"We're not fielding consistently, hitting consistently, anything," he stated. "I'm just proud that we were able to come back. Berrien has a pretty good club."

Cook will play Berrien tomorrow night at 6 p.m. but the Valdosta-Lowndes game has been cancelled.

Boys' Roundup

V. Times 3-31-87

Wildcats Beaten

From Staf Reports

ALBANY — Valdosta High played Region 1-AAAA leader Westover close but couldn't upset the 18-1 Patriots, losing 66-60.

"That was the best game we played all year," said Valdosta head coach John Miller. "We went 80 percent from the line and we had a chance to cut it to two with 20 seconds left but lost the ball."

Michael Perry led Valdosta with 20 points, Reginald Butler added 18 and Kacy Williams finished with 12.

Tron Hall paced Westover with 23 points.

Westover led 38-34 at the half and outscored the 'Cats 16-10 in the third period to take a 54-44 lead. Valdosta, however, surged back in the fourth but couldn't overtake Westover.

Valdosta (60) — Perry 20, Butler 18, Carter 2, Lowe 2, Campbell 6, Williams 12.
Westover (66) — Davis 10, Tinch 13, Hall 23, Wimberly 3, Proctor 4, Whitaker 9, Bradley 4.
Valdosta 12 22 10 16 — 60
Westover 16 22 16 12 — 66
Records — Valdosta 1-14, 0-8, Westover 18-1, 8-1.
Next Game — Valdosta at Tift, Tuesday.

Luncheon Held To Show Appreciation

By TINA JOHNS Reporter

V. Times 3-28-87

The Vocational Office Training Students of Valdosta High School held their Employer Appreciation Luncheon on March 10th at the Sheraton Inn. This luncheon honored the companies and people who make the VOT program possible by providing experience and knowledge that can not be found in the classroom. Over 80 people were in attendance.

The following VOT Students participated in the program: Jenni Mayne, opening remarks; Mandy Green, invocation; Matt Winters, introduction of guest; Anna Faircloth, thanks to employers; Alesha Avila, closing remarks. Also, each student introduced their employers and companies.

Mr. Walter Altman, Superintendent; Mr. William Aldrich, VHS Principal; Mr. Norman Green, ME Coordinator; Ms. Linda Todd, LHS VOT Coordinator; Ms. Mary Ann Gilbert, Vocational Secretary; Brian Dufek, VICA President; and Joey Griffin, DECA President were the special guests who attended the luncheon. The following Business Education Teachers were also present: Ms. Lynne Joiner, Ms. Janeen Josey, Ms. Judy Grant, and Ms. Jewell Metts.

Valdosta High School VOT employers for 1986-87 are follows: Wendy's, Ron's Campus Casuals, Hickman & White, Incorporated, Clements Insurance Agency, Piggly Wiggly, Elliott Farms, Bollman Business Machines, Brandon & Tillman, CPA, Valdosta Employees' Credit Union, Juanita's house of Style, Horton's Cleaners, Quincy's, Valdosta City Schools, Valdosta City Food Services, Piece Goods Shop, Bates Bridal & Formal Attire, Fashion Flair, Holiday Skate Palace, McAllister Insurance Agency, Farmer's Furniture, Pipkins Motors, Tokyo Wigs, Social Security

Administration, Scottish Inns, Radiology Associates, Pinevale Youth Center, Big D Construction & Remodeling, Martin Insurance Agency, Wilbro's, Gary Zeighler, CPA, Bosch, Oldsmobile, GMC Dealership, Valdosta Teachers Federal Credit Union, Parks & Recreation Department, Stone's Auto House, Baker Tree Stand Manufacturing, Family & Children's Services, Prayer Temple, Kevin Jefferson, VSC Air Force ROTC, South Georgia Medical Center Business Office, South Georgia Medical Center Admissions, Dr. Everett Force, Solar Innovations, and Girl Scout Service Center.

Capote, Williams Book

NEW YORK (AP) — Although neither Tennessee Williams nor Truman Capote would have liked the comparison, the two shared many similarities: They were both Southern writers who came to New York, homosexuals, enormously successful at an early age, abusers of drugs and alcohol and both produced disappointing works in their last years.

They also shared a friend in Donald Windham, who has recorded his memories of the two literary giants in "Lost Friendships: A Memoir of Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams and Others" (William Morrow and Co., \$17.95).

Williams died in February 1983 in a New York hotel, choking on a plastic bottle cap. Capote died 18 months later at the Bel-Air, Calif., estate of Joanne Carson. The cause of death was liver disease complicated by drug intoxication.

"There's nobody alive who knew the two of them as well as I did, (although) some people knew either one of them better," Windham said in a recent interview in his apartment overlooking the southern fringes of Central Park.

Windham, 66, has written five novels, including "The Dog Star," and an autobiography, "Emblems of Conduct," as well as other works.

The author is quick to acknowledge that he had a falling out with both Williams and Capote several years before they died, hence the title "Lost Friendships." However, don't expect a dishy "Mommy Dearest." Windham's memories are more bittersweet than bitter.

Windham said he felt compelled to write "Lost Friendships" after being repeatedly interviewed by Capote and Williams biographers. He thought the writers were only seeing how the two ended up, not how they began.

"There was a man here who was writing on Tennessee. And his attitude was: when 'Menagerie' was done, Tennessee couldn't have been very excited; he was waiting for the big one — 'Streetcar.' Well, when your first play is done you have no idea you're ever going to write another play. They see it backwards," said Windham, his voice betraying his Georgia roots although he left Atlanta 46 years ago to become part of New York's literary scene.

So Windham set out to write their stories "forwards."

The first half of "Lost Friendships" details his friendship with Capote, whom he met in Venice in 1948. Windham was 27, Capote, 23, and already a phenomenon in the publishing world.

From the beginning, when Capote boasted of having slept with the French writer and philosopher Albert Camus, Windham knew the capricious young writer told tall tales, but he found it part of Capote's immense charm.

However, Capote's insatiable desire to be liked, his fondness for remembering stories "the way they should have been" and his almost gothic sense of fatalism (he predicted in 1978 he would die a tragic death like Marilyn Monroe) led him further and further away from reality.

By 1968, two years after "In Cold Blood" was published to critical acclaim, Capote was drinking "a Bloody Mary before lunch, followed by three or four large vodkas, then wine. Before dinner, about a bottle of white wine, then four or five drinks at the house, then two or three more at the restaurant," Windham writes.

Capote had virtually given up writing for talk show appearances and Palm Spring parties, and spent most of the 1970s in and out of hospitals to dry out or to have face lifts.

By 1980, Capote and Windham's friendship was strained. Capote delayed writing a letter that would help Windham win a libel suit and then dedicated "Music for Chameleons" to Williams, who by then had declared Windham an enemy.

The second half of "Lost Friendships" is about Windham's more intimate and far more complicated relationship with Williams.

The two co-wrote the play, "You Touched Me," which was produced on Broadway in 1945, and Williams later made his directorial debut in Houston with Windham's play, "The Starless Air."

Windham met Williams in New York in 1940, and the two struggling artists became instant friends. Windham said it took him many years to see that Williams was so detached from the rest of the world that his emotional responses were mere acting.

He came to believe that Williams' true personality emerged only through his characters: the selfish Maggie in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," the manipulative Amanda in "The Glass Menagerie," the predatory Mrs. Stone in "The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone."

Williams, too, had a propensity for altering the facts, which eventually drove a wedge between the two

Hits Don't Come As 'Cats Lose To Tift

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer
V. Times 4-2-87

For the early part of the 1987 baseball season, Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley's biggest complaint has been his teams' lack of hitting. And after managing only a single off Tift County's Rob Roe in Wednesday's 5-3 loss to the Blue Devils at Bazemore Field, the Wildcats did nothing to change their coach's mind.

"There's just no excuse for us not hitting," Tarpley said. "He's (Roe) not that good a pitcher. We just can't make contact. I don't understand."

Wildness plagued the 'Cats' starter Walt Gill early in the game. After walking the bases loaded in the second inning, Gill started out the third by walking Bryan McClain, and one out later Kenny Bilson. The next batter, Bruce Abbott made Gill pay dearly as the rightfielder nailed a high fastball for a three-run homer giving Tift a 3-0 lead.

Valdosta came back with two runs of their own in the bottom of the third, both without the benefit of a hit.

Greg Talley and Andy Rykard opened with walks. The next batter, B.J. Mason, reached base on an error by the shortstop, Ross Underwood. Talley then scored Valdosta's first run when Art Bass bounced out to short and Rykard scored when Derek Shaw grounded out to second base.

Tift added a run in the fifth after

Underwood opened with a single, was sacrificed to second by Bilson, and scored on a single by Jerry Flynn.

The Blue Devils scored again in the seventh as Underwood again opened the inning and scored four batters later on a bases-loaded walk to Wade Manning.

However the Wildcats had a chance to tie the game in the bottom of the seventh. Gill opened with a walk, went to second on a fielder's choice, and scored on a wild pitch by Roe.

Then with runners at first and third and one out, Tift coach Tommy Seward brought in Russ Davis, who struck out Mason, walked Bass to load the bases and struck out Shaw to end the threat.

"We're supposed to hit the ball," Tarpley said. "We have people hitting .350, runners in scoring position and can't scratch but one hit all night. We're just not taking good stuff."

Roe evened his record at 1-1 on the year, giving up only Rykard's single in the seventh, while striking out seven and walking five. Gill's record fell to 0-1 in going the distance for Wildcat's. He walked eight and struck out three. With the win, Tift evened its record at 5-5 while Valdosta dropped to 3-2. The Wildcats will play at Monroe Thursday and then host arch rival Lowndes Friday at 4:30 p.m.

Tift County.....003 010 1-5 4 1
Valdosta.....002 000 1-3 1 0
Roe (W, 1-0), Davis (7) and McClain; Gill (L, 0-1) and Kirby, HR — Abbott (TC).
Records — Tift County 5-5; Valdosta 3-2.
Next Game — Valdosta at Monroe, Thursday.

Valdosta Drops Two To Henderson

V. Times 4-5-87

The Valdosta Wildcats dropped a doubleheader Saturday afternoon, losing to Henderson County of Kentucky, 8-4 and 16-8.

The losses even Valdosta's record at 4-4 overall, while Henderson has an unblemished 5-0 record.

"We didn't have a very good pitching or fielding," said Wildcat head coach Charles Tarpley.

"Henderson has a good team. They could really hit the ball and we gave them a little help."

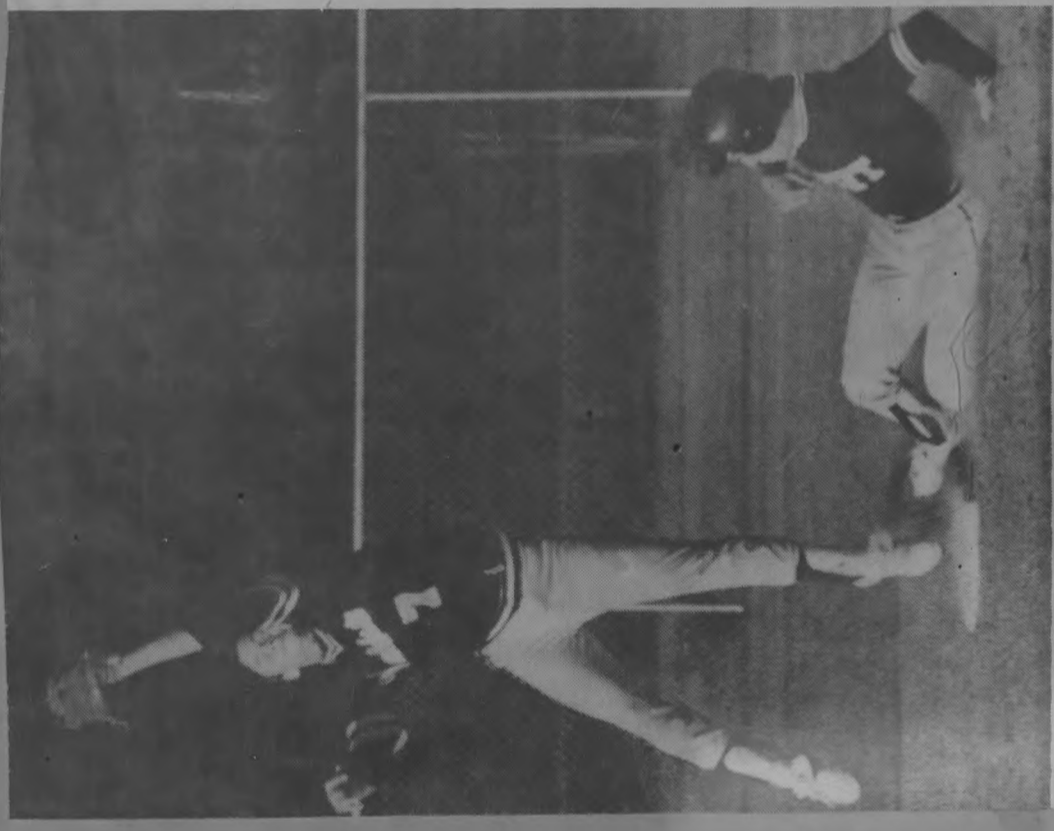
VHS' batting leaders were Jason Crosby and Dirk Hardin. Crosby had three hits in the opener, and Hardin collected three hits in the second game. Andy Rykard took the loss in game one to see his record fall to 0-1. Guy Belue and John Marconi both saw relief work.

In the second game, Greg Talley, who threw a no-hitter last week in the Rebel Classic, sustained his first loss against three wins.

Fran Martin, Art Bass, Crosby, and Hardin all collected doubles for Valdosta.

Henderson.....100 210 0-0 0 1
Valdosta.....000 111 0-4 0 5
Gassner and Morgan; Rykard (L, 0-1), Belue (4), Marconi (7) and Kirby, HR. — Doyle (HC), 2B — Hainer (HC), Martin (V).

Henderson.....011 652 1-16 14 1
Valdosta.....001 322 0-9 10 4
Sandifer (W) Martin (6) and Morgan; Talley (L, 3-1), Gill (4), Marconi (4), Perry (6) and Toth, HR. — Doyle (HC), 2B — Bass (V), Crosby (V), Hardin (V).
Records — Henderson 5-0; Valdosta 4-4.
Next Game — Westover at Valdosta, 4:30 Monday.



Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy

Valdosta's Art Bass Goes High For Late Throw

writers.

"He would write these vile things about me to The New York Times, and then within a week give an interview to another paper that I was his closest friend," Windham remembered.

Windham, who is currently at work on another novel and considering publishing a collection of Alice B. Toklas' letters to him, said he was never driven by the competitive spirit that marked his two friends.

"Tennessee used to say, 'Domie, you're so sweet.' After about 20 years I discovered that was an insult," he said, laughing.

"Lost Friendships" does not hand out pat answers as to why Capote and Williams destroyed themselves. Indeed, it often appears that Windham is trying to explain things to himself rather than to the reader. And this helps create one of the book's serious flaws: Many of its anecdotes are so insufficiently sketched that one is perplexed instead of enlightened.

Still, it is a useful work for those who want to know about these tragic twins of Southern literature, and Windham succeeds in telling his sad stories without vitriol.

Four Wildcats Hit Ball Well Enough To Earn Victory

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

For the Valdosta Wildcats, it was a four-man effort that provided enough offensive firepower to down Region 1-AAAA foe Westover 8-3 Monday afternoon.

B.J. Mason, Art Bass, Derek Shaw, and Jason Crosby combined for 10 of Valdosta's 11 hits against the Patriots. Left fielder Mason finished the night at 3-for-3 with two runs-batted-in, scoring three times. Shortstop Bass went 3-for-4 with three RBI and a double. Shaw was 2-for-3 with a homer and two RBI, and the power hitting

first baseman hit a long homer to right field in the second inning. Crosby went 2-for-4, scoring once.

Lowndes will play at Valdosta today at 4:30 p.m. in another region battle.

"Sure we hit the ball well," said Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley, "but it was all the same people. Crosby and Bass have been hitting pretty well. B.J. and Shaw have come alive lately. But the rest of the team just hasn't been hitting, especially the other outfielders."

Shaw entered the game in a bad slump, getting just one hit in his last 22 at bats. Valdosta starter Guy Belue won his

first game, going the distance and giving up just six hits and three runs in the process.

Belue finished with eight strikeouts, but also gave up seven walks.

"Guy pitched a pretty good game for us, but he needs to keep those walks down," said Tarpley. "If you walk that many batters against a good team, they're going to score some runs."

Westover pitching yielded just two walks and seven strikeouts, but the 11 errors did them in. Only four of Valdosta's eight runs were earned.

"You just can't boot the ball against a team like Valdosta and expect to win," said Westover head coach Ron Best. "I thought our starting pitcher did a good job, but we let them get on because of mistakes and then they put us out of the game with the big hit."

Steve Baker took the loss for Westover, seeing his record fall to 4-2. He went 3 1/2 innings, giving up 10 of the hits and all eight runs. He walked only two and struck out five.

Westover took a 3-1 lead after scoring three runs in the top of the second inning, but could touch Belue no further.

Patriot Donny Wall reached on a

fielder's choice, went to third on a double by Randy Gazaway, and scored on a Steve Stevenson single that put Gazaway on third.

Scott Hutchens then hit the ball to short and Stevenson was forced at second, but Fran Martir threw wild on the double-play attempt and Gazaway scored. Two consecutive singles put Hutchens on third and Belue then gave up a walk to force him home.

Belue gave up just two more hits over the next five innings. Valdosta rallied in the second inning for four runs. Shaw took the first pitch to right for his solo homer. Bill Kirby then reached on a two-out error.

Colquitt had entered two teams in that race, and Valdosta needed only to finish ahead of one of them to edge out at least a tie. But the Lady Packers finished first and second while Valdosta finished third.

"I probably lost the meet for us," Montgomery said. "Just before the last event, I kicked one of the girls off the team, and she runs in the mile relay."

Layoff Hurts VHS

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

A week layoff by the Valdosta High boys' and girls' track teams showed its effects Monday, but the boys were able to overcome their problems while the girls didn't.

"We had two meets scheduled for last week that were cancelled and some of the kids were out of town because of spring break," boys' coach Freddie Waters said. "So I just gave the rest of them the week off and told them to run on their own. But I know they didn't and it showed."

"But right now, I still feel okay about this team. The boys posted 80 points to easily outdistance second-place Thom-

asville's 68 on the Wildcats' home track. Cook was third with 43 points and Colquitt County had 35. For the girls, the Lady Wildcats had what appeared to be a comfortable 60-38 lead with only four events remaining. But Colquitt was first and second in the 220-yard dash, two-mile run, and mile relay and first and third in the 880-yard run to gain a narrow 81-74 decision. Thomasville picked up 39 points and Cook finished with five.

"We were unable to practice at all last week," girls' coach Susan Montgomery said. "I think if we had had a little practice we wouldn't have done that bad."

For the Wildcats, Keith Baker and Adolphus Kimmons were the big winners. Baker was first in the long jump and triple jump while Kimmons took first in the 440-yard dash and the 220. Keith Beal was second in the 880, third in the 110-yard high hurdles, fourth in the triple jump, and fifth in the long jump.

But one thing that has helped the Wildcats so far is their depth.

"We are at least two deep in everything but the high hurdles, pole vault, intermediate hurdles, and high jump," Waters said. "But we could handle some of those depth problems if we'd get some other kids out here. We've got several kids (in school) who could make a difference, but they just don't want to come out."

For the Lady Wildcats, depth has been almost a plus. In its last meet,

Valdosta placed first in only two events but still accumulated enough points to take first place. Again on Monday, Valdosta recorded firsts in only three events, but still led heading into the final event, the mile relay.

Colquitt had entered two teams in that race, and Valdosta needed only to finish ahead of one of them to edge out at least a tie. But the Lady Packers finished first and second while Valdosta finished third.

"I probably lost the meet for us," Montgomery said. "Just before the last event, I kicked one of the girls off the team, and she runs in the mile relay."

at Valdosta High
Boys' Meet
Valdosta 80, Thomasville 68, Colquitt County 35, Short Put — Ellis (T) 52-10 1/2, Wheelless (V), Walton (C), Mays (C), Smith (T),
Discus — Donald (T) 113-7 1/4, Ellis (T), Smith (T), Waldon (C), Thomas (C),
Long Jump — Henry (C) 5-10, Butler (V), no third-fifth, (T), Imman (C), Beal (V),
Triple Jump — Baker (V) 4-7, Imman (C), Brown (C), Beal (V), Hardy (T),
Pole Vault — McClain (V), no second-fifth, Colquitt No. 1, Colquitt No. 1,
440-Yard Relay — Thomasville No. 1 45.45, Valdosta No. 1, Colquitt No. 1,
Mile Run — Collins (T) 5:07.0, Bridges (V), Whatley (C), Alderman (C), McClellan (C),
440-Yard Dash — Kimmons (V) 52.50, Hakeem (C), Butler (V), Jackson (C), Hawkins (C),
100-meter Dash — Ellis (T) 11.7, Spivey (C), Hardy (T), Jackson (C), Ceasar (V),
110-Yard High Hurdles — Futch (T) 16.45, Phillips (C), Beal (V), no fourth or fifth,
880-Yard Run — Beal (V) 2:16.0, Beal (V), Jackson (C), Bigham (T), Hakeem (C),
220-Yard Dash — Kimmons (V) 23.76, Butler (V), Jackson (C), Spivey (C), Crawford (C),
330-Yard Intermediate Hurdles — Phillips (C) 45.94, Davidson (V), Johnson (C), Bryant (T), no fifth,
Two-mile Run — Hartman (C) 11:37.0, Collins (T), Alderman (C), Sullivan (V), McClellan (C),
Mile Relay — Thomasville No. 1 3:43.0, Valdosta No. 1, Cook.

Girls' Meet
Colquitt County 81, Valdosta 74, Thomasville 39, Cook 5, Short Put — Ceasar (V) 37.3, Morris (C), Davis (T), Gertman (V), Williams (C),
Discus — Ceasar (V) 98.5, Davis (T), Silber (C), Gertman (V), Morris (C),
Long Jump — Willis (T) 16-1 1/2, Freeman (C), Chandler (V), Marrin (T), Davidson (V),
High Jump — Davidson (V) 4.6, Edwards (V), Chandler (V), Stansland (V),
440-Yard Relay — Thomasville 54.33, Valdosta, Colquitt County,
Mile Run — Richardson (C) 6:00.0, Suber (C), Jones (V), Younger (V), Quarterman (V),
440-Yard Dash — Debruce (C) 1:05.39, Puckett (C), McGill (T), Chandler (V), Gray (V),
100-meter Dash — Willis (T) 13.39, Freeman (C), Weatherpoon (V), Moses (V), Hightower (C),
110-Yard Low Hurdles — Mike (T) 18.8, Davidson (V), Stansland (V), Puckett (C), Croft (C),
880-Yard Run — Suber (C) 3:06.05, Younger (V), Claigg (C), Quarterman (V), Hightower (C),
220-Yard Dash — Debruce (C) 28.84, Freeman (C), Willis (T), Weatherpoon (V), Moses (V),
Two-mile Run — Richardson (C) 12:30.40, Simpson (C), Jones (V), Croft (C), Parker (C),
Mile Relay — Colquitt No. 1 4:47.55, Colquitt No. 2, Valdosta No. 1.

Martin singled Kirby to third, and an attempt to nail Kirby at third allowed Martin to go to second. Mason then singled both the runners home with a shot to center.

Bass doubled home Mason and Valdosta led 5-3.

Two Patriot errors led to two more Valdosta runs in the fifth. Bass singled home Mason in the sixth to account for the final Wildcat run.

Westover.....000 000 0-3 6 3
Valdosta.....140 021 x-8 11 4
Baker (L, 4-2), Billings (6) and Armstrong; Belue (W, 1-1) and Kirby, HR — Shaw (V), 2B — Gazaway (W), Bass (V).
Records — Westover 7-3, 2-2; Valdosta 5-4, 3-1.
Next Game — Lowndes at Valdosta, 4:30 Tuesday.



Lady 'Cat Beth Edwards Goes High In Long Jump

—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lipnick

V. Times

Shaw Frustrates Lowndes Again

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The lanky figure of Valdosta first baseman Derek "Krane" Shaw played an important and dramatic part in the outcome of the Valdosta-Lowndes game for the second consecutive year. And twice, that outcome has not been too pleasing to Lowndes Viking fans.

During the final 1986 meeting between the two, Shaw dove for a ball hit in the gap by Lowndes' Allen George with the bases loaded and two outs in the final inning. Shaw came up with the ball and outtraced George to the bag, preserving a 13-11 Wildcat victory.

Tuesday afternoon at Valdosta High, the story was almost the same. Valdosta led 9-8 with one out, but Lowndes had the bases loaded. Viking catcher Bart Brown, who bats left-handed, ripped a shot down the first-base line. Shaw caught it in the air and stepped on first to force out Wayne Williams for a double play, ending the game in favor of the Wildcats.

Valdosta, 6-4 overall and leading Region 1-AAAA with a 4-1 mark, will play at Dougherty today at 4:30. The 6-5, 3-2 Vikings play host to Westover tonight at 7:30.

"He ended the game about the same way last year," said Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley. "I have always said that he's one of the better first basemen around. He's a pretty steady fielder."

"He made a good play that hurt us," said Viking head coach Noel George.

| ab | r | h | bi | Valdosta | ab | r | h | bi | Lowndes |
|----|---|----|----|---------------|----|---|---|----|---------------|
| 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Martin, 2b | 4 | 0 | 3 | 2 | Lowndes |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | Mason, lf | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Almon, 2b |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Bass, ss | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Spell, cf |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Crosby, 3b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | George, p |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Shaw, lb | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Williams, 3b |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | Tolbert, rf | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | B. Brown, c |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Gill, cf | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | R. Brown, c |
| 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | Talley, p, rf | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | Parker, p |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | Kirby, c | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | Hightower, ss |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Totals | 28 | 9 | 9 | 6 | Akins, lf |
| 32 | 8 | 11 | 7 | | | | | | Brickhaus, lb |
| | | | | | | | | | Folsom, ph |

| IP | H | R | E | R | BB | SO |
|-------|----|---|---|---|----|----|
| 4 2/3 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| 1 1/3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 6 1/3 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| 7 2/3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

"He did it to us last season, too. He made a couple of good plays for them late in the game."

Shaw, however, was partly to blame for the Viking comeback to begin with. Valdosta led 9-6 after six innings, but three singles by Lowndes' Rhett Akins, Danny Folsom, and Bill Spell loaded the bases with one out. Akins' single was a slow bouncer to first. Shaw scooped the ball up but couldn't beat Akins to the bag.

"He had the play. Greg Talley was there to take the throw," said Tarpley. "For some reason, Shaw just hesitated."

George then singled home Akins, and Williams popped a single off reliever

Valdosta.....401 021 0 0 8 10 3
Dougherty.....100 000 0 1 4 3
Smith (L), Jones (4), Lewis (5) and Williams, Gill (W, 1-1) and Kirby, HR — Shaw (V), Mason (V), 2B — Crosby (V), Valdosta 7-4; 5-1.
Records — Valdosta 7-4; 5-1.
Next Game — Berrien at Valdosta, 4:30 today.

Spring Sports

Shaw, Mason Homer As Valdosta Whips Dougherty In Region Action

V. Times
From Staff Reports
4-9-87

Baseball

ALBANY — B.J. Mason and Derek Shaw each blasted home runs to lead the Valdosta Wildcats to an 8-1 victory over Dougherty County Wednesday.

The Cats' struck for four first-inning runs and that turned out to be all Walt Gill would need as he shut down Dougherty on just four hits while striking out eight.

Valdost scored one in the third, two in the fifth and one more in the six. Dougherty could manage only one first inning run.

The Wildcats, 7-4 overall and 5-1 in Region 1-AAAA will play Berrien County today at 4:30 p.m. at Bazemore Field.



Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy

Valdosta's Walt Gill (36) Called Safe At Plate After Escaping Rundown Between Home And Third

responsible for all eight runs (five earned) and walked eight, striking out three.

Allen George got the loss for Lowndes, giving up nine runs (four earned), walking two and striking out three.

"I don't think we played very well, but I don't think they played that well either," Coach George said. "We'd go

ahead and they would come back. We made some mistakes and they made some mistakes. I thought Allen pitched well, but we didn't play that well behind him."

George had a good day at the plate. He went 4-for-5 with one RBI. Another youngster to be commended is sophomore Mark Hightower. Hightower

stepped in as the Vikings' starting shortstop Monday against Dougherty. Against the Trojans he was 2-for-3 with two RBI. He continued to play well against Valdosta, going 2-for-4 with two RBI.

Fran Martin paced Valdosta, going 3-for-4 with two RBI. Wildcats Shaw and Michael Tolbert had two hits each.

Lanier County. Valdosta finished with 95 points, Lanier 27 and Brooks 12.

Cesar's throw which traveled 118 feet, exceeded by 6 feet, the longest throw in the state by a female this year.

Cesar also took the shot put with a toss of 35'11". The Lady 'Cats also took first place finishes in the high-jump, the one-mile run, the 440 high hurdles, the 880 high hurdles, the 440 relay with a time of 56.78, and the mile relay with a time of 5:18.

Girls' Track V. Times 4-15-87

Cesar Sets VHS Record

Cassandra Cesar set a new Valdosta High school record in the discus in helping the Lady 'Cats win a three-team track meet with Brooks and

V. Times

Perry Sparks Wildcat Surge In Sixth Inning

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Matt Perry's two-run triple sparked a four-run, sixth-inning upsurge by Valdosta High School as the Wildcats came back to defeat Monroe 12-9 in Region 1-A AAAA baseball action at Bazemore Field Wednesday.

Perry went 2-for-4 and drove in five runs. Walt Gill picked up the win in relief of starter Greg Talley. Gill pitched the final three innings, giving two runs on five hits. Talley went four innings giving up seven runs on six hits.

But despite the win, Wildcat coach Charles Tarpley was anything but pleased.

"We stunk today. Although we hit the ball pretty well, we ran the bases like idiots. There were times when we just took ourselves out of innings," he said.

Trailing 9-8, B.J. Mason reached on an error to open the sixth for the 'Cats. Derek Shaw then walked and Jason Crosby followed with an infield hit loading the bases. Mason scored on a wild pitch by Dexter Boone.

The next batter, Mike Tolbert, bounced to second baseman Kono Smith, who cut down Shaw at the plate attempting to score. Walt Gill reached

on an error by third baseman Tate Cantrell, and Perry followed with his triple to score Crosby and Gill. Talley then singled up the middle to score Perry for the 'Cats final run.

Monroe took a 1-0 lead in the top of the second inning on a home run by Herbert Rambo, but Valdosta came back in the bottom half of the inning. Tolbert and Gill led off with singles and advanced on a wild pitch by Boone.

Perry grounded to second scoring Tolbert and Talley followed with a fly ball that got by the Tornadoe's right fielder to put runners on first and third. Then on a 2-1 pitch to Bill Kirby, the Wildcats pulled the double steal, Talley

took off for second beating catcher Tony Apperson's throw and the second baseman's throw home was too late to catch a sliding Gill.

But Valdosta's 2-1 lead was short lived as Monroe struck for four more runs in the third, the key hit being a three-run homer by Rambo, his second of the game to make the score 5-2.

Valdosta scored a run in the bottom of the third on a double by Mason and an error by the shortstop on a ball hit by Crosby.

But Monroe came right back in the top of the fourth on a wind-blown home run by Curtis Smith off Talley to make the score 7-3.

The Cats added a run in the bottom of the fourth on a base hit by Mason and could have had more, but Fran Martin was thrown out at third to end the inning.

Valdosta took the lead in the bottom of the fifth. Crosby led off the inning with a home run to right. The next two batters, Crosby and Tolbert, followed with singles. Gill ripped a double scoring Crosby and Perry followed with a line-drive single to right-center field scoring Tolbert and Gill to make the score 8-7.

Monroe scored its final two runs in the top of the fifth on a home run by Cantrell and a single by Dexter Boone.

"They made mistakes that helped us, but we turned around and made errors on the base that helped them," Tarpley said. "When you win one like we did today, you're just happy to be able to go on to the next day."

Valdosta, 9-4 and 7-1, travels to Tift County today for a Region 1-A AAAA battle with the Blue Devils. Game time is 5 p.m.

Monroe.....014 202 0-9 11 8
Valdosta.....021 144 x-12 12 0
Boone (L, 12) and Apperson; Talley, Gill (5) (W, 2-1), and Kirby, HR - Rambo 2 (M), Smith (M), Cantrell (M), Shaw (V), 3B - Perry (V), 2B - Smith (M), Apperson (M), Shaw (V) and Gill (V).
Records - Monroe 48, 3-6; Valdosta 9, 4, 7, 1.
Next Game - Valdosta at Tift County, Thursday, 5:00.

VHS, Lowndes Split

Dual Tennis Match

V. Times 4-9-87
By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Joe Delos of Lowndes and Kristy Stabell of Valdosta led the way for their respective teams as the Vikings and the Wildcats split a tennis match Wednesday afternoon.

Lowndes' boys defeated Valdosta 6-3 while the Lady Cats' white-washed the Vikes 9-0.

Delos, currently the 20th ranked high school in the state showed his opponent Grayton Pierce exactly why he earned that lofty ranking as he defeated the Cats' top singles player 6-0, 6-1.

"I don't say a thing to Joe," Viking coach Bill Cribbs. "I just tell him what time to play."

Delos, a sophomore along with teammates Darren Broome and Jerry Dombrowski are all undefeated this year.

No. 2 singles Broome defeated David Coleman 6-1, 6-7, 6-2 while Dombrowski blanked Earl Thomas 6-0, 6-0.

In other matches, Alan Hayes of Lowndes defeated Mark Beard 7-5, 6-3, Matt Winter of Valdosta beat Ashley Paulk 6-4, 6-2 and VHS' Leigh Struber of the Cats' took Jason Biery in three sets 6-3, 1-6 and 6-4.

In the doubles competition the Lowndes team of Delos and Paulk defeated Pierce and Beard 7-6, 6-1; Dombrowski and Hayes beat Coleman

and Beard 6-3, 7-5 while Valdosta's Thomas and Strubel slipped by Broome and Biery 6-4, 5-7 and 6-2.

"We did better this time out," Valdosta's boys coach Jimmy Carter said. "We split some sets that could have gone either way."

"Early on we haven't looked very good at all. We lost a lot of experience with Eric Anderson graduating and this year we have a lot of inexperienced young players."

On the girls side, the Lady Cats' had little trouble with the Vikes who didn't win one set all afternoon.

"We played a good match today," Valdosta's girls coach Frank Hjort said. "The girls seemed real prepared. But of course it's real easy to get up for Lowndes."

Stabell, at No. 1 singles, started the cakewalk by blanking Melinda Coffey 6-0, 6-0. Shannon Harris breezed by Kathy Blanton 6-0, 6-0, and No. 3 Terri Longtelere defeated Clara Daniels 6-1, 6-0.

In other singles matches, No. 4 Wendy Griffin beat Amy Janney 6-2, 6-1; No. 5 Margaret Anne Sineath beat Lena Galbraith 6-4, 6-2, and No. 6 Paige Stabell defeated Laura Janney 6-1, 6-1.

In doubles action Stabell and Harris won 6-0, 6-1, while Griffin and Sineath beat Blanton and Daniels 6-2, 6-2, and Longtelere and Paige Stabell blanked Daniels and Galbraith 6-0, 6-0.



Valdosta's Wendy Griffin Prepares To Return Ball Against Her Opponent.

Times Staff Photos by Paul Lee

Hyder Still Hoping

V. Times 4-15-87

Although the Georgia High School Association decided to table a vote on reinstating spring practice, Valdosta head football coach Nick Hyder left Monday's meeting of the GHSA in Forsyth feeling somewhat optimistic. Or at least he didn't feel like doom had descended.

"The coin is in the air," said Hyder. "I may come down head or tails, but at least it hasn't come down yet."

The football committee of the GHSA put forth a proposal to move spring practice to May, making for less conflict between sports. But instead of voting on it, the GHSA decided to wait until October and let the various members of the state school board look over the proposal.

"I first thought if they didn't act on it now, that they could not reinstate spring practice again until 1989, but I was assured that was not the case. Now, spring practice could be reinstated next year without missing a season if they vote for it in October."

Hyder said he favors a local option plan, that would let each separate school district decide its own course.

"We're not wild on soccer down here, but we wouldn't tell somebody else when they could practice soccer," Hyder said. "A lot of people aren't big on football, but it's not fair that they can tell us we can't have spring practice."

When the issue comes back up in October, there is sure to be a fight. The Georgia Association of Superintendents wants spring practice done away with, as does the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals. Neither groups, however, came to that decision unanimously.

Next on the agenda is the prospect of a battle over no-pass, no-play. The GHSA has already come out against the extreme measure, claiming that the current pass five out of six rule is stringent enough.

The GHSA would like to regulate its own system as it seems fit, but anything the GHSA does can be vetoed by the state school board. There are a lot of people pushing hard on both sides of this issue. It will be interesting to see if the GHSA gets its way.

Interact Club Names Students Of Week At Valdosta High School

V. Times 4-18-87

The Interact Club of Valdosta High has selected its Students of the Week. The students are Hohn W. Iverson, Jr., Tracy Lees, Melanie Meeks, and Erica Miller. All four students are are Juniors at VHS. They were honored by their sponsoring club, the Valdosta Rotary Club, at its weekly meeting on Wednesday.

John Iverson is the 16-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Iverson. He is a member of Interact, FBLA, varsity basketball team, varsity baseball team and the soccer team. John's interests include sports of all kind. He plans to attend college and major in Accounting or perhaps become a stockbroker. John attends Southside Church of Christ.

Tracy Lees is the 17-year-old daughter of Bill and Joanne Lees. She is a member of Interact. She is employed at Drs. Smith and Dennard's offices. She enjoys swimming, exercising and

being with her friends. She plans to attend college and major in law. Tracy attends Evangel Assembly of God with her family.

Melanie Meeks is the 16-year-old daughter of Laura Meeks. She is a member of Interact and a past member of FHA. She was awarded the Academic All-American Typing Award in 1984. She enjoys playing piano and horseback riding. Melanie attends the Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints with her family.

Erica Miller is the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Dawsey. She is a member of Interact, Student Council, PAMS, FLC, Marching Band, Drill Team and Beta Club. She is listed in Who's Who in Foreign Languages, is a Georgia Merit Scholar, President of her Junior Class and former vice-president of FLC. She is employed by Valdosta Parks and Recreation as a

scorekeeper.

Erica enjoys watching movies, swimming, writing poetry and playing the piano. She hopes to pursue a medical career and to specialize in pediatrics. She attends Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church with her family where she is the pianist for Sunday School, is the Youth Announcing Clerk, and a member of the choir.

Language Club

By Debra Waters

The Foreign Language Club met April 15 to discuss their spring activities. Patti Smith and Shawn Jensen reported on their nursing home project. Club members will visit the home to give out candy and cards with a visit from the Easter bunny. President Chad Hodge reported on plans for the club trip to St. Augustine on May 16. He also

reminded members to sign up for the club's tutorial program for the rest of the school year.

Tara Walker and Kim Anderson volunteered to be chairmen of the ushering and refreshments committee for the May 5 Foreign Language Department Drama Night. Three plays will be performed by the French and Spanish Departments.

Y Club Week

By Lisa Scherer

The week of April 11-18 was celebrated as Y Club Week. A fundraising bakesale was held April 11 to kick off Y Club Week. Monday night a Teen Talk was held at Northside Baptist With Charlie Brown, youth director at Northside, as the speaker, and David Hall as the vocalist. During the week, Georgia Graves, Y Club chaplain, gave a "thought for the day" each morning. Friday morning a prayer breakfast was held. Finally, a carwash was held today at the YMCA.

state of Georgia.

During the weekend, students wrote and performed small skits, prepared french cuisine, wrote poetry, learned French folk music, drew designs for their T-shirt for next year, and had volleyball tournament.

Saturday night the students dressed up in costumes and had a dance with popular music in French and English as well as voting on the best play out of the different divisions. An awards ceremony was held Sunday morning with awards ranging from best participation to best dresser.

After the ceremony, students donated their T-shirts and posed with their new friends in their division and exchange addresses before going home. Rosalyn Thompson from VHS attended the camp. She was sponsored by the Foreign Language Club.

Language Club Scholarships

The Foreign Language Club has awarded 2 scholarships for total immersion camps for 2 VHS foreign language students. Rosalyn Thompson will go to the French total immersion camp April 10-12. Patti Smith will attend the Spanish camp April 24-26. These students will participate in a variety of activities with the target language being the only language spoken the entire weekend.



COLE WILLIAMS BAILEY

Valdosta High 8 To Attend GHP

By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

Eight students from Valdosta High School have been selected to attend this summer's Governor's Honors Program at Valdosta State College.

"This program is for students who are 'cream of the crop,'" said Mrs. Virginia Wisenbaker, local program coordinator.

The students selected are Laura Bailey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh C. Bailey; David Cole, son of Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Cole; Holly Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlton Davis; Katherin Farley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Farley; Gregory Leong, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mun Leong; Rosalyn Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thompson; Melissa Wetherington, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Wetherington and Micayle Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Williams.

Miss Williams and Miss Wetherington will study dance. Miss Bailey will study music, and Cole will emphasize in vocational studies. Both Miss Davis and Miss Thompson will concentrate on French, and Miss Farley will study English. Leong will emphasize in math studies.

The students were selected on the basis of academics, test scores, class participation and recommendation by a classroom teacher. Next they were interviewed in Atlanta and 600 students were chosen out of the 1,200 competing.

All expenses for the six-week program are paid through funds in the Governor's budget.

During the summer, students will attend set morning classes with the afternoon reserved for study in special interest areas, said Wisenbaker.

The summer program will begin June 14 and run through the July 25.



WETHERINGTON THOMPSON DAVIS LEONG FARLEY

6-A The Valdosta Daily Times,
Thurs., Apr. 23, 1987

Valdosta's Belue Sparkles

V. Times 4-17-87

TIFTON — Valdosta's Guy Belue was two hits away from being perfect.

Belue gave up only two hits and for the first time this year gave up no walks as the Wildcats defeated Region 1-AAAA foe Tift County 5-0 here Thursday night.

"We probably played our best game," said Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley. "Belue pitched a great game, and not walking anyone made a big difference."

The left-hander saw his record rise to 4-1 and he also had five strikeouts to his credit.

Valdosta scored single runs in the second and seventh innings, and put together a three-run fifth inning.

In the first inning, Michael Tolbert scored on a fielder's choice by Greg Talley, and he scored the lone run in the ninth, too, coming home on a Matt Perry single.

In the fifth, Valdosta loaded the bases with two singles by B.J. Mason and Jason Crosby and an error put Tolbert on. A wild pitch scored Mason and center fielder Walt Gill singled home Tolbert and Crosby.

Mason, Derek Shaw, Crosby, Tolbert, and Gill all had two hits. Gill had a double to his credit along with the two RBI.

Valdosta is now 12-4 overall and 8-1 in region play. Tift is 5-4 in the region standings.

Valdosta.....010 030 1-5 11 0
Tift County.....000 00 0-0 2 3
Belue (W, 4-1) and Kirby; Davis (L, 5-2) and McLain.
2B — Gill (V).

Records — Valdosta 12-4, 8-1.
Next Game — Valdosta at Berrien County, 2 p.m. Saturday.

Valwood 6 Ravenwood 0

MEIGS — Jeff Hall saw a bid for a no-hitter end with two outs in the seventh inning when Ravenwood's John West hit a single, but Valwood still took a 6-0 victory over the Raiders in a GISA Region 3-A contest.

Hall had 17 strikeouts and walked only four batters. He now has 91 strikeouts in 47 innings pitched.

Leading the Valiants offensively was Chris Moorman. The sophomore third baseman went 3-for-4 with a double. Danny Swilley homered and doubled, and Shannon Houchins also touched off a solo homer.

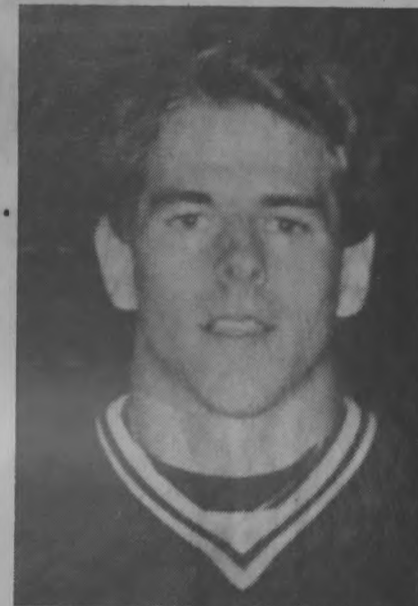
Valwood.....021 102 0-6 10 0
Ravenwood.....000 000 0-0 1 3
Hall (W, 7-0) and Swilley; Daughtry (L) and Railey. HR — Houchins (V), Swilley (V). 2B — Swilley (V), Moorman (V).

Records — Valwood 8-2, 3-0; Ravenwood 7-4, 1-2.
Next Game — Southwood at Valwood, 2 p.m. doubleheader.

Long County 14 Clinch County 7

LUDOWICI — Clinch County pitcher King Bridges gave up six home runs and was forced to go the distance in a 14-7 loss against Long County in a Region 2-A game.

The Blue Tide jumped on Bridges for seven runs in the first inning and scored three in the third, one in the fifth, and three in the sixth.



GUY BELUE
Got 4th Victory

Clinch had some fireworks of its own. The Panthers had homers by Austin Deloach, who hit two, Jamie Spates, and Bridges.

Clinch County.....303 100 0-7 8 0
Long County.....703 013 x-14 11 0
Bridges (L, 1-1) and Hughes; Edwards, Raff (2) (W), Duncan (5) and Passmore. HR — Deloach 2 (CC), Spates (CC), Bridges (CC), Peacock (3) (LC), Passmore (2) (LC), Chapman (LC).

Records — Clinch 5-5, 4-1.
Next Game — Lanier at Clinch, 4:30 today.

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'Cats Club Dougherty

V. Times 4-25-87

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High baseball coach Charles Tarpley was juggling his lineup constantly, but all the changes didn't seem to bother the Wildcats.

Valdosta used 17 players, including four pitchers, as it jumped out to a big lead and then held on to beat Dougherty 14-10 in the regular-season finale at Bazemore field Friday.

"We planned to play a lot of people no matter what the score was," Tarpley said. "(Guy) Belue was only going to pitch three innings and wanted to use a few others as well. (Jason) Crosby pitched in about three or four games last year, but with (Greg) Talley out, we wanted him to pitch some today."

Belue went three innings, giving up two hits and two runs on a pair of homers. Crosby pitched two innings and was charged with five runs, but only two of them were earned.

"We made some errors behind Crosby and that wasn't his fault,"

Tarpley said. "I was disappointed in all the walks (a total of seven) and errors (five)."

The Wildcats took a 2-1 lead in the first on a two-run homer by Derek Shaw. In the second, a triple by B.J. Mason gave Valdosta a 4-2 lead and Shaw hit a three-run homer to center. A walk, wild pitch, and single by Mike Tolbert scored another run for an 8-2 lead.

Mason hit a solo home run in the third.

After Dougherty scored twice in the fourth, Valdosta countered with three. Three consecutive singles, a stolen base, and three Trojan errors accounted for the runs.

But Dougherty didn't give up. The Trojans peppered away at the lead and pulled within 13-10 heading into the bottom of the sixth. Valdosta put the game away when Talley singled and scored on a sacrifice fly by John Iverson.

The Wildcats ripped 13 hits off four Dougherty pitchers. Mason was 3-for-3

with three RBI while Shaw was 2-for-4 with five RBI. Crosby was 2-for-3.

"I was pleased to use a lot of people," Tarpley said. (Bill) Kirby and Talley couldn't play because of doctors, but we got into some situations that hopefully we'll learn from."

The Wildcats, 15-5 overall and 10-2 in the region, will be the top seed heading into next week's Region 1-AAAA tournament. Valdosta will be on the road for the opener on Tuesday against Tift County at 7 p.m. and then will come home for a possible doubleheader on Thursday beginning at 2 p.m.

Westover defeated Lowndes Friday, matching up Valdosta with fourth-place Tift County. Despite the Vikings' loss to Westover that ended them in a second-place tie, the Vikings took second by virtue of a coin toss.

Dougherty.....110 233 0-10 7 3
Valdosta.....261 311 x-14 13 5

Hall (L), Drew (2), Stolze (4), Griffin (6) and Beaver; Belue, Crosby (4) (W, 1-0), Rykard (6), Perry (7) and Toth, Kirby (4). HR — Griffin 2 (D), Shaw 2 (V), Stolze (D), Mason (V). 3B — Mason (V). 2B — Beaver (D), Stolze (D).

Records — Valdosta 15-5, 10-2.
Next Game — Valdosta at Tift County, 7 p.m. Tuesday.



Times Staff Photo. By Paul Leavy

Derek Shaw Stretches For High Throw From Shortstop



Times Staff Photo. By Paul Leavy

Valdosta's B.J. Mason Shakes Hand With Coach Tarpley After Slapping Home Run

Valdosta Bats Crush Berrien

By ANTHONY DASHER

Times Sports Writer

V. Times 4-19-87

NASHVILLE — For any baseball fan who went to Berrien County hoping to watch the Rebels and Valdosta in a good old-fashioned pitching duel, Saturday was not the day to go.

Valdosta and Berrien combined for 27 hits and seven home runs but it was the Wildcats' bats which boomed the loudest as the 'Cats defeated the Rebels 15-9.

Valdosta got home runs from Jason Crosby, Andy Rykard, and Mike Tolbert while Berrien got theirs from Jason Hamil, Steven Snipes, Dan Nix, and Scott Griner.

It was the third time Valdosta has beaten Berrien this year, avenging four losses to the Rebels last season.

"We hit the ball exceptionally well and as it turned out we needed every one of them," VHS coach Charles Tarpley said. "Berrien has a very good team."

"Valdosta has as good a hitting team as I've seen in high school," Rebel Coach Bart Shuman said. "They have a really great team."

Rykard was the starter and winner for Valdosta, giving up nine runs, 11 hits. He struck out three and walked

two.

"Andy did a good job," Tarpley said. "Greg Talley has a hurt arm and probably won't be able to pitch anymore. So with the big lead we had, we just let Andy go all the way."

"With Talley out, Andy is going to have to pitch a lot more. He's good for three or four innings but after that he starts to get tired. But he can do the job."

Valdosta jumped on Rebel starter Jason Hamil for three first-inning runs, the key blow being a two-run homer by Crosby. Crosby went 4-for-4 with three runs batted in on the day. Art Bass had a run-scoring triple in the inning as well.

The second inning saw the 'Cats send 10 batters to the plate and score five runs on five hits.

Bill Kirby led off with a single, B.J. Mason followed with a double, Bass walked to load the bases, and Derek Shaw lifted a sacrifice fly to score Kirby.

Crosby doubled in Mason, Tolbert singled in Bass, and Matt Perry drove in Crosby with a groundout to first. Kirby then singled in Tolbert to make the score 8-0.

Berrien got a run in the second on a

base hit by Snipes but Valdosta added one of their own on a base hit by Tolbert to make the score 9-1.

The Rebels added a run in the third but Valdosta got two more in the fifth on Tolbert's two-run home run to make the score 11-2.

Berrien cut the lead to 11-4 in the bottom of the fifth on Nix's two-run shot but the Wildcats scored two more in the sixth on an error by Ronnie Ash and a fielder's choice by Fran Martin.

The Wildcats scored their final two runs in the seventh on Rykard's long home run to left.

Coach Shuman's squad got three runs in the bottom of the sixth on a solo homer by Snipes, and a two-run shot Rodney Nix, and two more in the seventh on Griner's blast.

Valdosta 13-4 and 9-1 in region play can clinch the Region 1-AAAA regular season title by winning one of their three remaining region games. The Wildcats play at rival Lowndes 4:30 Monday.

Valdosta.....351 022 2-15 16 0
Berrien County.....071 023 2-9 11 2

Rykard (W, 2-1) and Kirby, Toth (6); Hamil (L, 5-1), Griner (2), Stallings (7) and Snipes, Ash (7). HR — Hamil (B), Snipes, (B), D.Nix (B), Griner. (B), Crosby (V), Tolbert (V), Rykard (V). 3B — Bass (V). 2B — Purvis (B), Simmons (B), Mason (V), and Crosby (V).
Records — Valdosta 13-4, Berrien 13-6.
Next Game — Valdosta at Lowndes, Monday at 4:30

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It's
American Home Week
April 26—May 2,
1987



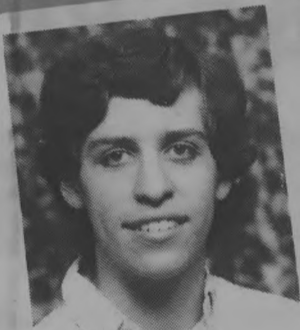
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ANN CLARK
FIRST PRIZE WINNER

BROOKE PRICE
SECOND PRIZE WINNER

High School Students Ann Clark, first prize winner, and Brooke Price, second prize winner, wrote the winning essays in a contest sponsored by The Valdosta Board of Realtors. The Essay topic was "Why Home Ownership Is Fundamental To The American Way of Life." The Contest was held as part of the Valdosta Board of Realtors celebration of American Home Week, April 26 - May 2.



WHY HOME OWNERSHIP IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

By ANN CLARK
Valdosta High School

Home ownership has become fundamental to the American way of life. Owning a home is a symbol of success for most Americans. In these days of high standards of living, the house has become one of the few remaining examples of stability in many people's lives. The house is usually one of the most expensive assets a family has. Home ownership has developed all throughout America's history as it has become a symbol of the American Dream and prosperity.

To many people, owning a house is the true American Dream. When immigrants came to this country, they were escaping from backgrounds which lacked personal freedom. In Europe, owning land and a home was limited to the rich alone and seemed an impossible dream to everyone else. The freedom to buy land and build a home became something to be defended and cherished. The early settlers were willing to brave Indians and other unknown dangers for the chance to homestead as they went on to settle America. Thus, the ownership of a home became a symbol of the American Dream and a reward for hard

work and dedication.

In today's society, the house one owns is an indication of one's prosperity. The house becomes a symbol of one's independence and pride. For most young couples, the buying of their first home is a tremendously important step, one that shows that they are ready to take their place in society. Also, a house reflects how successful one is in life. People take great pride in owning a good house because it shows to the world that they have done well. Their pride shows in how they take care of their house. People treat a house that they own much better than one that is only rented. The feeling of ownership grows into a love for a house which shows in its appearance.

Owning a house is a matter of pride for most Americans. This pride is clearly seen in the homes in Valdosta. The people of this town are very proud of their homes and this is shown in the beauty of the houses and gardens especially in the spring when Valdosta is glorious and truly lives up to its name of Azalea City.

April 26, 1987 V. Times



Jerome Callaway Helped Guide Valdosta To Another State Title



V. Times 4-27-87

Miss VHS Crowned

Miss Wendi Connell was crowned as the 1987 Miss Valdosta High School, Saturday evening at Mathis Auditorium. Miss Connell is the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Connell of Valdosta. First runner-up was Miss Erica Miller with Miss Anne Wansley as the second runner-up. The third runner-up was Miss Nanci Nichols, and fourth runner-up was Miss Paige Braswell. Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy.

Valdosta, Lowndes Open Playoffs On Road

'Cats Travel To Tift Co.

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

As the defending Region 1-AAAA champs, the Valdosta High Wildcats will be favored to repeat that honor again this year heading into the region playoffs with a 10-2 region record, 15-5 overall.

Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley is just hoping for consistent play from his club when the Wildcats take on Tift County in Tifton tonight at 7 p.m.

"We've been very inconsistent this year, and that's a concern," Tarpley said. "At times we'll hit the ball well, but every fourth or fifth game we faced a good pitcher and shut us down. In the field, we were the same way. We'd be going good and then have a game where we would make some errors. Last Friday we had five. Our pitching has been the same way."

"When all three go bad at once,

you're not going to beat anybody. It's hard to win in the playoffs if even one part of you're game is off."

Valdosta suffered one region loss to Lowndes, and lost earlier in the year at home against Tift on a cold, windy day. When the two tangled in Tifton, Valdosta took a 5-0 victory.

The Blue Devils jumped off to a fast start early in the season, but ended up fourth in the region, thus forcing them to play No. 1 Valdosta in the first round. It is the third consecutive year the two have played each other in the region semifinals.

Led by Darrin Teals, Tift edged out Valdosta in 1985, and last year the 'Cats beat the Blue Devils before going on to defeat Colquitt County for the region title.

This year's Valdosta team is pretty much the same team as last year's, and it's certainly no surprise that the 'Cats finished the regular season on top of the standings.

But as Tarpley pointed out, there are some major differences.

"The biggest difference between this year and last year is Trevor Nance,"

said Tarpley of last year's Region 1-AAAA player of the year. "He got on base three or four times a game, and we're not getting that this year. That cuts down on the RBI at the No. 3 and 4 spots."

Also last year, catcher Bill Kirby was batting well over .300, but this year Kirby is struggling with a .182 average.

With the loss of Greg Talley as a pitcher because of shoulder problems, starters Guy Belue and Walt Gill will be called on to perform exceptionally well, and sophomore Andy Rykard will probably be used as the main reliever.

Belue is the 'Cats' winningest pitcher at 5-2. He has given up 36 hits in 45 1/3 innings with 25 walks and 39 strike outs and an ERA of 3.30.

Despite the loss of Talley, Tarpley is not concerned about going to a 2-man rotation.

"Most teams that win it all have one good pitcher and throw him a lot. Columbus' best pitcher last year threw about every game they played in the state tournament. That's just the way it usually is."

Vikings Play At Westover

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The question uppermost in Lowndes baseball coach Noel George's mind is a simple one — which team will come ready to play?

Lowndes travels to Albany to take on Westover at 7:30 tonight in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs, and George just wonders if his team will be up to the task.

"I would just like to see us play fundamental baseball," said George. "We've had trouble being consistent. You just never know how the kids are going to play."

Lowndes finished the regular season at 11-10, 7-5 in the region last Friday night, losing the finale to the Westover Patriots 6-3.

The loss left the two in a tie for second place. Since the two split during the regular season, a coin was tossed to

break the deadlock and Lowndes won that and the homefield advantage for second and third games of the best-of-three series.

"We didn't really have anything to lose last Friday," said George. "If we had won, we would be in the same shape we are now, and if we had lost, we would have had to play them again anyway. I would have liked to have won, but it really doesn't make that much difference."

Some coaches may be concerned about returning so soon to the scene of the crown, but George has an interesting reason for not being too upset with the split with the Patriots.

"If we had won both games, we might go in there a little overconfident," said George. "I've seen kids do that. Now, we're going in there knowing that they can play."

At times, Lowndes has played brilliantly. The Vikings beat league-leading Valdosta 6-1 last week, shutting out the Wildcats for six innings. But at other times, the error bug has cost the Vikings.

"I don't really think we're a whole lot better now than when the season started," said George. "We probably played one of our better games in the season opener." In that game, Lowndes beat Suwannee County 8-2 and starting pitcher Wayne Williams had 16 strike outs.

If there is a true bright spot for George, it is the play of some of his youngsters, especially Mark Hightower. Hightower has played second, third, shortstop, and outfield, and has done a credible job at the plate.

"Mark has really been a surprise," said George. "I've been able to play him everywhere. He's hitting round .370 and I can't ask for much more than that."

George said Allen George would probably get the nod on the mound tonight, and said he would probably come back with Williams when the teams lock horns again at 5:30 Friday at Lowndes. George is undecided who will pitch game three if the series goes to three.

Interact Four Present Rotary Program



VHS NEWS
Compiled, Written By VHS Students

On Wednesday, April 29, four INTERACT officers visited their sponsoring club-The Valdosta Rotary Club-to present the program for the regular Rotary meeting. The officers attending and participating were: Ashley Moorman, Vice President; David Cole, Parliamentarian; Laura McMillan, Secretary; and Deamia Denmark, School Projects Chairman. The students were accompanied by one of their advisors, Mrs. Janeen Josey.

The officers and Mrs. Josey gave a detailed summary of the club's activities for the year. The organization of the club, the chartering of the club, all socials, all projects and even projects planned for next school year were discussed.

The Interact committee, consisting of seven Rotarians, were presented Interact jerseys (two at Wednesday's meeting and the others at an earlier Interact meeting.) The members of this Committee wore their Interact jerseys for Wednesday's Rotary club meeting.

The four officers attending the Rotary meeting this week have been selected as this Week's Students of the Week.

David Cole is the 17-year-old son of District Attorney and Mrs. H. Lamar Cole of Valdosta. He is a junior at VHS. David is a member of Interact, where he serves as Parliamentarian, Key Club, FBLA, and the Baseball team. David was recently selected to attend the 1987 Governor's Honors Program in Executive Management. His hobbies include swimming, reading, and watching old movies. He attends First Presbyterian Church with his family, where he is very active in Sunday

(with her family). She is in Youth Choir, Youth Council, and Social Chairman of her Sunday School Class.

Denia Denmark is the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Denmark. She is a member of Interact, where she serves as School Projects Chairman. She is a Mat Girl (3 years), Bat Girl (2 years), and a past member of the Marchin' Cats. She was voted the Most Outstanding and Loyal Mat Girl her Sophomore year. She enjoys swimming, singing, playing oboe, and working with children. She plans to be a dental hygienist or work in child psychology. She and her family are members of Lee Street Baptist Church where she is an active member of Sunday School, Youth Group and Youth Choir.

Ashley Moorman is the 17-year-old son of Dr. and Mrs. W.S. Moorman. He is a member of Interact, where he serves as Vice-President. He is also a member of Key Club, FBLA, Beta Club, FCA, and captain of the wrestling team (3 years). He has placed in the area wrestling tournament three years (4th, 2nd, and 1st).

Ashley enjoys waterskiing, snowskiing, riding motorcycles, hunting and fishing. He plans to enter the field of medicine. Ashley and his family are members of New Covenant Christian Center.

She Wants To Show The Christian Way

By LIZ VICKERS
Times Staff Writer

V Times 5-3-87

The new Miss Valdosta High School has set her goal to be herself and pattern herself after the reigning Miss Valdosta High, who she feels was the best Miss VHS possible.

Wendi Connell, the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Connell of Valdosta, was crowned Miss Valdosta High April 25 at Mathis city auditorium after vying with 28 contestants for the title.

When asked how she planned to represent her school, Miss Connell said, "I hope I can be as good of Miss Valdosta High as Tracy Osborne. She's one of my best friends and we've always been real close. She's pretty and very nice. I want to represent the school in the best way possible, be myself and show others the Christian way, like Tracy did."

"I was shocked when I was announced the winner. I wasn't in it to win. I was in it to get money for the junior-senior. Everybody kept talking about how much fun it would be to be in it and to spend time with friends during the practices."

Being in the spotlight is nothing new for the Valdosta High junior who since age 3 has been her father's main award-winning subject in his professional photography career at Connell Studio.

"When I was 3-years-old, Dad won his first merit in photography with me and hopefully after Saturday night he'll have all of his merits," said Miss Connell. The new Miss VHS has also had formal model training from Eileen's School of Modeling here. Although she no longer trains under Mrs. Mitchell, she continues to serve as her daddy's number one model.

In the pageant with the theme of "Wish Upon A Star," co-emceed by Brian Harris and Stephanie Culverhouse, officers of the student council, the junior and senior contestants were judged in eveningwear and casualwear and for their beauty, poise and charm.

In the evening gown competition Miss Connell wore a white gown with a sweetheart neckline with puffed sleeves and lace. "My mother helps me pick out what things I'm going to wear. Sometimes we disagree but before a purchase is made, we always agree," she said.



—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Wendi Connell Is Proud To Represent School As Miss VHS

"In order to be a contestant we had to have \$25 in sponsors and practice every Tuesday and Wednesday night for a little over a month learning how to walk and of course, what to wear." They trained under the direction of Sherry Bennett and Lisa Smith, VHS teachers and pageant advisers.

"I wanted to be Miss VHS because we have a really good school and it is nationally known for football and really even for baseball," she said.

"I'm very proud to be a part of such a school."

With so many contestants it was evident that the competition was bound to be stiff leaving the judges with a tough decision to make. It was indeed a tough decision and they ended up with six finalists instead of five. Miss Connell agreed that the competition was stiff. "I couldn't have picked one winner," she said. "I tried to pick my top 10. I had 20 and I wasn't even a part

of those."

As Miss VHS Miss Connell will receive numerous gift certificates provided by local merchants, participate in ribbon cuttings and parades. She will remain active in school functions such as being a varsity football cheerleader, a mat girl for the VHS wrestling team, vice president for the Y-Club, and a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is also a member of Sigma Delta Theta Sorority. Her hobbies include needlework, swimming, aerobics, painting and like daddy, photography.

When interviewed Monday Miss Connell was looking forward to taking her Scholastic Aptitude Test Saturday at Valdosta State College so that she can begin applying to colleges which will pave the road to her desired career as an orthodontist.

"I know that I'll be going to VSC for the first year so that I can get the basics down," said the brown-haired, hazel-eyed winner. "I think it would be too big of a change to move away straight out of high school to attend college."

She also explained why she has decided to pursue a career as an orthodontist. "I had braces and I know it made my smile better," said Miss Connell. "So if I can help more people give away a smile, it'll make a happier world to live in."

Other winners in the pageant were first runner-up, Erica Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Dawsey; second runner-up, Anne Wansley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Wansley; third runner-up and most successful promotion award for sponsors obtained, Nanci Nichols, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Nichols; fourth runner-up, Paige Braswell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Braswell, and fifth runner-up, Sharon Patrick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Smith. Miss Congeniality went to Carla Carter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carter.

Track 'Cats Qualify For Final

May 5, 87 V Times

ALBANY — Valdosta's Hubert Davison placed third in the 110-meter high hurdles at the Region 1-AAAA track meet and also placed fifth in the 330-meter intermediate hurdles.

The Wildcats also had several qualify for the final heats. Qualifying first in the 400-meter relay for Valdosta were Keith Baker, Carlos Butler, Reginald Butler, and Adolphus Kimmons with a 43.73 time.

Kimmons qualified in the 400-meter dash with a 50.24, and also qualified in the 200-meter dash with a 22:58 time. Carlos Butler also qualified in the 400 with a 53.77.

Baker earned a spot in the finals of the 100-meter dash with an 11:25. As a team Valdosta carries eight points into the final round.

Wildcats, Patriots Vie For Region Crown

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats will begin earnest pursuit of their second consecutive Region 1-AAAA title tonight when Westover plays host to the Wildcats at Albany's Satterfield Park with a single game scheduled for 7:30. The best-of-three series comes to Valdosta at 2 p.m. Thursday.

The 'Cats head into the series with a 17-5 overall record, and finished the regular season as the No. 1 seed in the region with a 10-2 mark.

Valdosta earned a berth to the final

by beating fourth-seeded Tift County 2-0 and 8-3 in the semifinals. Westover, 15-7 overall, finished third in the region by losing a coin toss to the Lowndes Vikings after the two finished with identical 7-5 region records.

Lowndes took Westover to a decisive third game in their best-of-three series, but Westover won the final contest 12-2 with the help of an eight-run sixth inning that broke open a 3-2 Patriot lead.

Valdosta has to be favored entering the championship series. Not only does Valdosta own a better overall record, the Wildcats won the season series 2-0.

Valdosta first beat the Patriots at Bazemore Field 8-3. The second meeting was in Albany where Valdosta took a 10-4 victory with the help of a five-run third inning in which Wildcat Walt Gill hit a three-run homer.

Wildcat head coach Charles Tarpley, however, does not think the 2-0 edge will work in his favor.

"It's going to be tough. To tell the truth, I'd rather be playing Lowndes because I think we'd be better prepared mentally because we split with them," said Tarpley.

"Westover is really hitting the ball and that has me concerned. They hit the stew out of it against Lowndes and

Lowndes' pitching is pretty good." Tarpley also pointed out that at 8-3, Westover pitcher Steve Baker is the winningest pitcher in the region.

"We have to play on their field to start with and that's dangerous, but we'll have to go through it," said Tarpley. "A lot depends on how Guy Belue (6-2) does. Baker doesn't give up too many walks, so we won't be able to give up too many runs. If Guy throws well and we hit the ball we can win."

Tarpley will probably pitch Walt Gill in game two and is not sure about game three.

In only his first year as Westover's baseball coach, Ron Best has

assembled a fundamentally-sound squad. Early in the year, he knew he had a shot at the region playoffs.

"Did I dream it? Yes," responded Best. "I think by the second or third week of the season, I knew we had good enough athletes to be competitive. Would we gel or not was the question. The last third of the season we really came together as a team and things just kind of fell in place."

Other than Valdosta, the Patriots beat every region foe the second time around. In John Arrington, Westover has one of the best catchers in the region and the Patriots sport some strong batters.

Playoff Schedule

- Monday, May 4
 - 1-AAAA: Valdosta at Westover, 7:30
 - 2-AA: Screven Co. at Berrien Co., 4:30
 - 2-A East: Lanier Co. at Long Co., 4:00
- Wednesday, May 6
 - 2-AA: Berrien Co. at Screven Co., 2 if necessary, 4:00
- Thursday, May 7
 - 1-AAAA: Westover at Valdosta, 2 if necessary, 2:00

The winner of the Lanier-Long game will play Clinch Co. for the region title this week in a best-of-three series. The dates and times have not been set.

Tues., May 5, 1987

Wildcat Batters Give Ace Belue Little Help

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

ALBANY — In the first game of the Region 1-AAAA final here Monday between Westover and Valdosta, the two teams looked like region finalists.

There were only a total of four errors, and one of those was questionable. Both pitchers threw well. Both defenses played well. Valdosta's bats, however, were too silent, and the Wildcats' lack of hitting led to a 3-2 win by Westover in eight innings.

Unfortunately for Valdosta pitcher Guy Belue, who took the loss to see his record fall to 6-3, many fans will remember his last-inning pitched.

After getting the leadoff batter out in the bottom of the eighth, he threw walks to disgraced hitter Rod Foster

and right fielder Chip Griggs. Both runners advanced on a groundout, and Foster scored when Belue's third consecutive pitch in the dirt finally got by catcher Bill Kirby to seal the win for Westover.

The series continues Thursday at 2 p.m. in Valdosta with a doubleheader scheduled if necessary.

Up to the ill-fated eighth, Belue had walked just four batters and he gave up only six hits with six strikeouts. Westover had just one extra-base hit and only two of the three Patriot runs were earned.

"Belue pitched a good game, he just didn't get the breaks," said Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley. "The big thing was we just didn't hit the ball at all."

Tarpley, who dislikes playing under

the lights, let it be known after the game.

"I still don't see why anyone would want to play at night — 7:30 is the worse time to play baseball, especially at this park. I guess I do understand why he wanted to play at night; he won."

"But don't get me wrong. The lights didn't beat us. We just didn't have the guts to go up there and swing away."

Winner Steve Baker, 9-3, didn't exactly see his team rip the ball either, but Baker gave up just one walk with six strikeouts, and he yielded just four hits.

Two of Valdosta's hits came in the first inning when Derek Shaw and Jason Crosby hit singles that had eyes, but both runners were left stranded. Baker didn't allow another base

runner until the sixth when Valdosta scored two unearned runs on two hits and one Westover error to take a 2-0 lead.

After leadoff batter Dirk Hardin popped up for the first out, B.J. Mason drilled a double to center and advance to third when shortstop Art Bass reached on an error.

Derek Shaw then hit a high chopper to second. He was thrown out, but Mason scored and Bass reached second. Jason Crosby singled home Bass. Crosby was the leader at the plate for Valdosta, going 2-for-3 with an RBI.

It appeared that the 2-0 lead in the sixth would give the Wildcats the momentum they needed, but Westover punched a hole in that momentum in the bottom of the inning.

Belue walked Baker and hit Donny

Wall to put runners on first and second. Both runners advanced on a sacrifice, and a walk to Griggs loaded the bases.

David Collins lined a shot to third that was too hot for Perry to handle and Baker scored. Bass picked the ball up and tried to force Griggs at second, but throw went wide and Wall was able to score as well.

Westover had the bases loaded in the fourth inning with two outs when Kirby caught Griggs napping on first and picked him off.

The Patriots left a total of two on base in the fourth, fifth, and sixth innings.

"Our base running really stunk," said Westover head coach Ron Best. "This is the first game I can think of when we nearly lost it because of mistakes on the bases. But we

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Those fair weather Wildcat fans who don't think Valdosta will be able to sweep Westover when the two meet at Bazemore Field at 2 p.m. Thursday should think again.

Valdosta dropped game one 3-2 Monday night in Albany and must now sweep the Patriots to claim the best-of-three Region 1-AAAA championship series. Last year, the Wildcats were in this situation twice and came

out victorious. Against Colquitt County, Valdosta dropped the first game in Moultrie, but swept the Packers at home to claim the region title.

In the state playoffs, the 'Cats lost a game at home to Southwest Macon but rallied to sweep a doubleheader in Macon.

"We've definitely been here before," said Wildcat head coach Charles Tarpley. "We did it against Colquitt County last year and we swept

Southwest at their place.

"I don't think any of the players have doubts we can do it. We're not showing a negative attitude because we have to win two. The kids can do it. It's just a matter if they have enough heart or not to come back. I think our attitude is OK."

If Valdosta is to arrive at the state playoffs, the Wildcat bats must come alive. Last year's pitching staff was solid, but it was the vaunted Valdosta batting attack that pushed the Wildcats into the Class AAAA semifinal round.

This year, the hits have been a little harder to come by.

In Albany Monday, Valdosta managed just four hits, two coming in the first inning.

"The worse thing is not hitting the ball and that's something we've had a problem with all year. We're supposed to be able to hit the ball. I've got some big, strong kids with experience. It would be different if we were taking good swings. We're just getting up

there and looking bad."

Tarpley also leveled some criticism at his fielders and pitchers for Monday's performance, claiming Westover didn't hit the ball well either but Valdosta helped them out with mental mistakes and walks.

Before meeting with his team Tuesday, Tarpley said he was not certain who would start game one, but ace Guy Belue would not pitch game one unless Westover threw Steve Baker. At 9-3, Baker is the winningest pitcher in the

overcame those mistakes, and that's supposed to be a mark of a good team."

Valdosta is 17-6, Westover is 16-7.

| | | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Valdosta | ab r h bi | Westover | ab r h bi |
| Mason, 2b | 3 1 1 0 | Armstrong, c | 4 0 2 0 |
| Shaw, 1b | 4 1 1 0 | Schroeder, 3b | 4 0 0 0 |
| Crosby, dh | 4 0 1 1 | Baker, p | 3 1 0 0 |
| Belue, p | 3 0 2 1 | Wall, 1b | 3 1 0 0 |
| Tolbert, rf | 0 0 0 0 | Foster, dh | 2 1 1 0 |
| Gill, cf | 3 0 0 0 | Armstrong, cf | 0 0 0 0 |
| Perry, 3b | 3 0 0 0 | Griggs, rf | 1 0 0 0 |
| Talley, lf | 3 0 0 0 | Horne, 2b | 3 0 0 0 |
| Kirby, c | 3 0 0 0 | Collins, ss | 3 0 2 1 |
| Hardin, ph | 2 0 0 0 | Gazaway, lf | 3 0 1 0 |
| Valdosta | 28 2 4 2 | Totals | 26 3 6 1 |
| Westover |000 002 00-2 | | |
| Two outs when winning run scored |000 002 01-3 | | |
| E - Bass 2, Talley, Collins, DP - Valdosta 2,LOB - Valdosta 4, Westover 8, 2B - Mason, Arrington, SB - Collins, 3 - Mason, Foster. | | | |
| Valdosta | IP H R ER BB SO | | |
| Belue (C, 6-3) | 7 5 6 3 2 6 6 | | |
| Westover | 8 4 2 0 1 6 | | |
| Baker (W, 9-3) | 8 4 2 0 1 6 | | |
| W - Belue, PB - Arrington, HBP - Wall (by Belue), T - 2:30, A - 200. | | | |

Wed., May 6, 1987

Tarpley's 'Cats No Strangers To Adversity

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

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VHS Interact Club Students Recognized

By Times 5-9-87

The Interact Club of Valdosta High has selected its "Students of the Week." They include VHS juniors Joe Paoletti, Brooke Price, Sheila Stevens and Cindy Supp. They were honored by the Valdosta Rotary Club at their weekly meeting on Wednesday at the Valdosta Country Club.

Joe Paoletti is the 16-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Paoletti. He is a member of Interact, Key Club, and Beta Club. Joe is a Georgia Merit Scholar, a Governor's Honors Program nominee, President of his Freshman class, Secretary of his Sophomore class, member of Student Council, and was selected for Georgia Boy's State. He enjoys golfing, fishing, sailing and bicycling, swimming, waterskiing and physical conditioning. He plans to go into sports medicine as a career. Joe attends St. John's Catholic Church with his family where he serves as a church usher.

Brooke Price is the 17-year-old daughter of George and Catherine Price. She is a member of Interact, FBLA, FLC (board member), Y-Club, Debate Team (region champs). She is a Governor's Honors Program nominee in Art. She won the Sophomore Art Award, the National History and Government Award, the UGA State Merit Award, and placed second in the oratorical competition for French at Georgia Southwestern.

She attended FBLA state conference in Graphic Arts. Last summer, she attended a summer program called Summer Math at Mount Holyoke College, Mass. Summer Math was a program of research to determine why more women don't enter the mathematical field. Brooke enjoys running, aerobics, modeling and art. She plans to attend Emory University and then Emory Law School. She is employed as a data processor at Sear's. Brooke attends Park Avenue United Methodist Church with her family.

Sheila Stevens is the 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Joe Stevens. She is a member of Interact, FBLA, and is an avid VHS Cats football fan. She was recently named to the honor roll at VHS. She is employed by the National Computer and Repair Center. She plans to attend Valdosta Technical Institute after graduation in 1988 and hopes to obtain a degree in secretarial administration. Sheila enjoys attending VHS football games, working with computers, music, sunbathing, movies and swimming. She attends New Covenant Christian Center with her family.

Cindy Supp is the 17-year-old daughter of Pete and Sondra Supp. She is a member of Interact, Beta Club, FLC, Y-Club, and was on the tennis team last year. She was listed in Who's Who in foreign languages, is a member of

the choir.

Marilouis Owens is the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Owens. She is a member of Interact, Drama Club, the cast of the 1-Act Play, a former bat girl, and a former member of FLC and Y-Club. She was also a contestant in the 1987 Miss VHS Pageant. She is Vice-President of Pi Gamma Phi Sorority. Marilouis enjoys dancing, horseback riding, singing, riflery, acting, and playing the piano. She plans to go into fashion merchandising. She attends Cornerstone Methodist Church. She is a member of Park Avenue Methodist Church youth group, the choir tour and has participated in the Appalachian Service Project.

Student Attends Leadership Seminar

DeAnn Dasher was the sophomore representative selected to attend the 1987 Georgia Leadership Seminar in Atlanta, April 24-26. The seminar is sponsored by the Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation. The objectives of the foundation are to encourage leadership potential of high school sophomores; to assist students in their quest for self-identification and self-development; to interface these potential leaders with recognized leaders in business, industry, government, science, and education through give-and-take discussion sessions; and to present an exploration of the American economic incentive system and the democratic process.

DeAnn feels that this was one of the most meaningful experiences of her life. It has given her a more positive self-concept. It has also motivated her to put forth maximum efforts to excel and to become more active in her school and community.

DeAnn is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Dasher of Valdosta.

FBLA Students Go To State Meet

By Tracy McCray
The Valdosta High School FBLA Chapter attended the State Conference in Atlanta. The Conference began April 30, and ended May 3.

The following is a list of the students and the events they competed in: Anthony Mitchell, Data Processing Concepts; Adrian Garland, Business Mathematics; David Purdy, Entrepreneurship I; Brooke Price and David Cole, Business Graphics; Tina Johns, Clerk Typist I; Johnny Murphine, Impromptu Speaking; Matt Winters, Tina Johns, Dione Joyner, and Seletha Jones, Parliamentary Procedures; Cher Haynes and LaShunda Moore, Entrepreneurship II; Tracy

McCray, Accounting I; Diane Jones, Office Procedures; Carolyn Jones, Economics; Desha Mobley, Business Law.

Anthony Mitchell won fifth place in Data Processing Concepts. Tina Johns was awarded the Georgia Power Scholarship which is a full-year tuition. Tina was listed as a member of Who's Who in FBLA. Maxine Martin was awarded Adviser of the Year. The Valdosta High Chapter Local Annual Business report received second place in the region. The Chapter also received a Superior Rating, the highest award a chapter can obtain.

Tina Johns, Region II Vice President, presided over the region meeting in which the voting of State Officers took place. Tina gave a response to the keynote speaker, Scott McCain, during the second general meeting. She also participated in the Awards Assembly and in the Installation Ceremony.

John Field, VHS Vocational Director, Lynne Joyner, Business education Teacher, and Maxine Martin, FBLA State Advisor, served as chaperones.

Spanish, French Plays Presented

The Foreign Language Department of VHS presented three plays, two Spanish and one French, May 5 in the VHS Theater. The second-year Spanish class led by teacher Elsie Nicholas, presented an adaptation of "El Sombrero de Tres Picos," a famous work of the Spanish author Pedro Antonio de Alarcon.

Thibe leads of this comedy were Christine Buel, Brad Hotard, Coleman Rudolph, and Kelly Shelton.

The French III class performed their own version of Snow White, directed by their teacher, Sharon Gandy. The main characters of Snow White were Cindy Supp and Rosalyn Thompson.

The Spanish III class portrayed "El estudiante," a comedy by Colombian author Carlos Saenz Echeverria. Due to the length of the Spanish III, three Act play, the main character was played by Jay Langdale in Act I, Kevin Elliott Act II and Cesar Arizpe Act III.

Other leads were Patti Smith, Tim Moore and Marianne Moore. Patty Smithman is their teacher.

NFL Star Visits VHS

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer
I'm glad I chose the marines," he laughed.

In the world of professional football, linebackers are supposed to be a breed apart, willing to knock over their grandmothers if the situation calls. And guess what, they are.

"Of course I'm a little bit biased, but a linebacker has to be like a quarterback on the field," Randy Scott, currently an inside linebacker with the Green Bay Packers, said Monday. "He's got to be smart enough to call plays and know where everybody has got to be in 80 to 90 percent of the plays."

"A linebacker has got to play like he's the only one out there. He's got to say to himself, 'If I don't make this play we're going to lose the game.' They can never quit or relax."

Sponsored by the United States Marine Corps, Scott, a 6-year veteran with the Packers, was at Valdosta High School to answer students' questions and teach some of the basic linebacking skills.

"I enjoy working with kids," he said. "I just try to tell them what I've learned over time and help them anyway I can."

A native of Decatur, Scott attended the University of Alabama where he got to play for the legendary Paul "Bear" Bryant, who the Georgia native credits for much of his current success.

"Coach Bryant was everything you ever heard about and more. Tough? Damn right he was, and so were the practices he ran. But I didn't appreciate that until I got out in the pros."

"He did a great job of molding young athletes into young men as well as young professionals. But he probably did his best with relating life itself to football. He really did a good job."

"His teachings have enabled me to accomplish everything that I have right now. Everything I learned from him and his staff, like how to be the best in football and in life were very convincing and thorough. He made me pay attention to all the little details that I would later need to do in pro football."

Bryant's fair-minded toughness is a legend in the world of sports and Scott recalls that as a senior at Columbia High school, Pepper Rogers, then head coach at Georgia Tech, tried to steer him away from Alabama, using Bryant's rough practices as a reason.

"Rogers told me if I wanted to go to college, go to Georgia Tech, but if I wanted to go to the marines, go to

But despite starrng for Alabama his junior and senior seasons, Scott was not drafted by any NFL clubs and had to make the big time the hard way — as a free agent.

"It was tough all right that first year," Scott said. "But it all worked out and I've enjoyed every minute of it. "Being from Georgia, going to Wisconsin and Green Bay was a real cultural shock. But I got used to it, it's just like anything else. But that snow, man that's something else, especially like that game against Tampa Bay two years ago. I think we had three games like that that year."

And although Scott admitted that the jump to the NFL from college was a difficult one indeed, it wasn't as tough as Scott first suspected.

"Actually going from high school to college was tougher," he said. "I was expecting drastic changes in the pro camp but there really wasn't."

"Getting accustomed to regulations came secondary to me — not only in practice but learning the Packers' scheme of things. As far as learning their defense it wasn't all that hard because it was the very similar to the defense we ran at Alabama."

Scott hates to lose and the past two seasons at Green Bay have been difficult ones, especially with the team finishing 4-12 in 1986.

"I don't like to make excuses but we had a new coaching staff who were starting over and half the team were rookies. But we've got to be patient."

"When you have a young team you're going to have to go through a period of transition. But you've got to stick to the game plan. We don't need to change what we've already done. In 1982 we went to the playoffs and we can be successful again. We've just to keep doing those things until they finally work out."

Working at a real estate firm in Atlanta during the off season, Scott is planning ahead to when his playing days are over, and unlike some of his colleagues, plans to have a future after football is over.

"Many guys don't know what to do. I know my career is going to end but I've got my degree in marketing and I feel good knowing that I'll have a second career."

A member of Athletes in Action and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Scott couldn't leave without urging those in attendance to say no to drugs. "I've seen players lose their jobs over drugs. Drugs mess up peoples' lives, their families, cause divorces and even death. If that's not enough to scare you, nothing will."

Tomberlin, Schmier, Graves Get Top VHS Awards

By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

Lucy Tomberlin was announced as the 1987 Valedictorian for Valdosta High School during the school's annual Honors Program held Tuesday at the VSC Little Theater.

Salutatorian was Michael Schmier and the third honor graduate was Angela Alexander.

From more than 180 categories nearly 500 students were recognized for outstanding academic performance in the classroom and for scholastic extra-curricular activities.

Other honor graduates recognized during the ceremony were Angela Alexander, Jill Bryan, Christine Buel, Paul Conrad, Elizabeth Crane, Ronald Creque, Jr., Sharon Mathis Crowder, Georgia Graves, Martha Graves, Chris Hendry, Vanessa Hubbard, Tina Johns, Teresa Longeliere, Katherine Louttit, William R. McCall, Cecilia Mead, Johnny Murphine, Yves Owens, Eric Rawlings, Addison Ricks, Michael Schmier, Gina Sheffield, Laura Smith, Lucy Tomberlin, Cindy Voorhees, Elizabeth Wallace, Michael Williams and Matt Winters.

The 1987 Senior Superlatives are Leslie Dednne Hagan, Kristen Lynne Stabell, Angela Ann Alexander, Yves Lamar Owens, Anna Lucy Tomberlin, Christine Lynn Buel, Tina Marie Johns, Gregory Tyson Talley, Vanessa Hubbard, Jill Marie Bryan, Laura Lynn Smith, Teresa JoAnn Longeliere, Debra Lynn Talley, Georgia Katherine Graves, William Russell McCall, Paul Mikel Conrad, Michael Bruce Schmier and Michael Francis Farley.

Georgia Katherine Graves was recognized as the Best All Round Student for 1987.

Several community awards and scholarships were presented at the ceremony.

Farida Sirmans was awarded the Alpha Kappa Alpha Scholarship. American Legion Post 13 medals went to Earl Thomas, gold; Edward Hart, silver and Robert Burroughs, bronze. Boys' State participants Joe Paoletti and Brian Harris were also recognized.

Susan Burns was honored as the Girls' State participant, and Rhonda Henderson won the NJROTC award presented by the Daughters of American Colonists.

Daughters of the American Revolution honored Georgia Graves with their Good Citizenship Award and Debra Earle with the NJROTC award.

Anne Clark was the recipient of the Daedalian Award, Derrick Cain, the Gator Flight 58 award, Barthaniel Werts, the Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship Award and Tina Johns, the Georgia Power Company Award Scholarship.

The Kiwanis Club recognized Lucy Tomberlin, Star Student and Mike Rogers, Star Teacher.

The Literary Guild Excellence in Literature Award went to Cecilia Mead with Marty Graves recognized as the recipient of the Moody Enlisted Wives' Club. Tina Johns received an award from the Moody Officers' Wives' Club and Paul Conrad won the USPA & IRA Scholarship.

Tina Johns was recognized by the Valdosta BPW and Anne Clark and Brooke Price by the Valdosta Board of Realtors.

Chris Griner and Anne Clark were the winners of the Woodmen of the World award and Jill Bryan, Addison Ricks, Rusty McCall and Ronnie Creque were the Alice Bingle Essay Winners.

Departmental awards were also presented.

For the art department, Jamie Rainwater was the Most Outstanding freshman, Tonya Nolan, sophomore; Patrick Carlson, junior and Ami Somers, senior.

Michael Schmier was the Academic Athlete Student of the Year.

The odds were against Paul Conrad from the beginning.

Last year Paul, along with 1.1 million other high school juniors from across the nation, entered the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the PSAT.

Much to his surprise, he along with 15,000 students were announced as semi-finalists last fall in the 32nd annual scholarship search.

But according to Conrad, the big shock came when he was named a winner of one of the 6,000 Merit Scholarships awarded for 1987.

"All I can say was that I was totally surprised and shocked," said Conrad of the Michigan State University Merit Scholarship.

Although Conrad has not made his final decision as to where he will attend college, MSU is definitely in his top three.

The other two schools he has considered are the University of Georgia and Texas at Austin.

The Valdosta High School senior may not be sure of which college to attend, but he knows exactly what he wants to study.

"I've always been fascinated by

Also, Erica Miller, Brian Mueller, Joseph Paoletti, Brooke Price, Sarah Strong, Melissa Quintero, Lisa Scherer, Terry Snyder, Rosalyn Thompson, Truett Wakefield and Stephanie Webb.

Juniors with high scores on the PSAT were Laura Bailey, Anne Clark, Holly Davis, Jeffrey Lahr, Gregory Leong, Laura McMillan, Terry Snider and Cynthia Supp.

Laura Bailey will attend Governor's Honors this summer in music and Micayle Williams and Melissa Wetherington in dance.

Those seniors scoring 1,200 or above on the SAT were Angela Alexander, Jill Bryan, Clarissa Coley, Paul Conrad, Martha Graves, William R. McCall, Johnny Murphine, Addison Ricks, Michael Schmier, Lucy Tomberlin and Elizabeth Wallace.

Georgia Scholar Nominees were Lucy Tomberlin, Elizabeth Wallace, Jill Bryan, Angela Alexander, Johnny Murphine and William R. McCall.

National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students were Jill Bryan, Michael Schmier, Lucy Tomberlin and Elizabeth Wallace.

Paul Conrad was a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Other scholarship winners were Michael Tolbert, Teresa Grace, Derrick Jackson, Seabron Williams, Johnny Murphine, Christine Buel, Ronny Creque, Terri Longeliere, Elizabeth Crane, Michael Schmier, Lucy Tomberlin, Paul Conrad, Greg Talley, Georgia Graves, Regina Sirmans, Tony Manghram, Jodie Sprengle, Walt Gill, Tracy McCray, Stephen Pruitt, Addison Ricks, Liza Wallace, Farida Sirmans, Valisa Jones and Matt Winters.

Business Education Awards were presented to: Chris Hendry, for keyboarding; Carla Burgman, for typewriting; Tracy McCray, for data processing; Elizabeth Crane, for accounting; David Cole, for business law; Tina Johns, for vocational office training student of the year and also as the outstanding business student of the year.

Most Outstanding English students were freshman, James Inman, sophomore, Meredith McMillan, junior, Anne Clark and senior, Angela Alexander. Christine Buel was the most outstanding drama student, Jay Connell, most outstanding debate student and Elizabeth Wallace was recognized for second place in the regional poetry contest.

Katherine Farley was honored for her selection to the Governors Honors Program in English.

Foreign Language Awards were presented to Anne Clark and Tasha Quarterman for most outstanding French I students, Lucy Tomberlin, French II and Roslyn Thompson, French III. Most outstanding Spanish I student was Angela Alexander, Spanish II, Christine Buel and Spanish III, Kevin Elliott.

Holly Davis and Rosalyn Thompson were honored for Governors Honor program participants in French.

Math Awards went to Melanie Cowart for Algebra I, Paige Boyd for Geometry, Julie Andersen for Algebra II, Anne Clark for Trig, and Pre-Cal, Angela Alexander for Calculus and Toby Baskin for Computer Math.

Annual High School Math exam winners were Angel Alexander, first place; Michael Schmier, second place and Greg Leong, third place.

Participants in the Resa and Coquitt Math Tournament were also recognized. They are: Angela Alexander, Julie Andersen, Paige Boyd, Greg Leong, Meredith McMillan, Tasha Quarterman, Anne Clark, Jill Bryan, Mike Farley, Joey Tomberlin, Roslyn Johnson and Chris Griner.

Greg Leong will participate in the Governor's Honors Program in math this summer.

For excellence in Naval science, Farrell Scott was recognized as the distinguished first year cadet, Angel Cordy as second year cadet, Anne Clark as third year cadet and Athony Browning as fourth year cadet.

The Retired Officers' Association award was presented to Matt Cupp and the Veterans of Foreign War winner was Tomas Gonzalez.

In the science department, James Inman was the most outstanding student in Physical Science, Pam Hoover in Biology, Greg Leong in Chemistry and Angela Alexander in Physics.

Outstanding freshman Social Studies student was Spencer Iverson, sophomore, Meredith McMillan, junior, Anne Clark and Chris Griner and senior, Michael Schmier and Lucy Tomberlin.

Outstanding DECA students were Michael White, Teresa Grace, Cecilia Mead, Lang Culbreth, Katie Louttit, Dawn Zager, Scott Orenstein, Michael Walker, Joey Griffen, Clarissa Coley, Ronnie Creque, Gina Hampton and Leslie Hagan.



LUCY TOMBERLIN
Valedictorian



MICHAEL SCHMIER
Salutatorian



GEORGIA GRAVES
Best All Around

Area VICA Olympics winners recognized included Walter Altman, Renae Bergin, Elena Munoz, Samuel Wright, Jamie Jones, Joy Myddelton, Paul Rainey, Brian Dufek, Tracy Osborne, Christy Wainright, Robyn Rainwater, Anita Giles, Laura Smith, Brad Hotard, Spencer Iverson, Eric VonHollen, Len Gibson, Anthony Freeman, Mike Conaway and Russell Melligan.

Outstanding students in the Trade, Industry and Industrial Arts department were Walter Altman for drafting, Anthony Freeman for electro-mechanics, Terrance Hull for Graphic Arts, Wanda Sermons for health occupations, John Tooley for industrial arts, Brad Hotard for metals, Zane Coats for DCT and Anna Faircloth for home economics.

In the Governor's Honors program, vocational division, David Cole will participate.

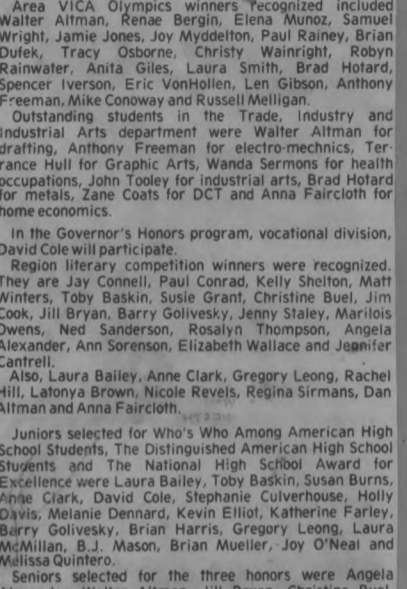
Region literary competition winners were recognized. They are Jay Connell, Paul Conrad, Kelly Shelton, Matt Winters, Toby Baskin, Susie Grant, Christine Buel, Jim Cook, Jill Bryan, Barry Golivesky, Jenny Staley, Marlois Owens, Ned Sanderson, Rosalyn Thompson, Angela Alexander, Ann Sorenson, Elizabeth Wallace and Jennifer Cantrell.

Also, Laura Bailey, Anne Clark, Gregory Leong, Rachel Hill, Latonya Brown, Nicole Revels, Regina Sirmans, Dan Altman and Anna Faircloth.

Juniors selected for Who's Who Among American High School Students, The Distinguished American High School Students and The National High School Award for Excellence were Laura Bailey, Toby Baskin, Susan Burns, Anne Clark, David Cole, Stephanie Culverhouse, Holly Davis, Melanie Dennard, Kevin Elliott, Katherine Farley, Barry Golivesky, Brian Harris, Gregory Leong, Laura McMillan, B.J. Mason, Brian Mueller, Joy O'Neal and Melissa Quintero.

Seniors selected for the three honors were Angela Alexander, Walter Altman, Jill Bryan, Christine Buel, Paul Conrad, Michael Farley, Georgia Graves, Michelle Green, Leslie Hagan, Vanessa Hubbard, Tina Johns, William McCall, Paul Rainey, Addison Ricks, Karen Sanchez, Michael Schmier, Kristy Stabell, Debra Talley, Gregory Talley, Dan Tillman, Lucy Tomberlin and Elizabeth Wallace.

Juniors receiving the State of Georgia and University of Georgia Certificate of Merit included Laura Bailey, Toby Baskin, Kevin Breeder, Susan Burns, Anne Clark, David Cole, Holly Davis, Erika Duckworth, Kevin Elliott, Katherine Farley, Brad Hotard, Beau Laskey, Gregory Leong, B.J. Mason and Laura McMillan.



WALTER ALTMAN
Skill Olympics Winner

Noteworthy May 17, 87 Times

Student Wins 1st In State

Walter Altman, a student at Valdosta High School, placed first in the architectural drafting contest at the annual State Skill Olympics held at Dekalb OEC-North Vocational Center in Atlanta.

More than 1,000 students attending the program sponsored by the Georgia Association of Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) competed in contests which tested their occupational and leadership skills. The purpose of the olympics was to evaluate each contestant's mastery of entry-level job skills and to recognize students for excellence and professionalism in their area of study.

All contestants were previous first and second place winners in VICA district level competitions. All contest judges were from business and industry. The first place winner will compete in the National Skill Olympics in Wichita, Kan., in June.

In addition, 15 students qualified as candidates for national officers and for voting delegates at the national conference.

VHS Senior Beats The Odds, Gets Scholarship

By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

history and politics; so, I plan to study political science and pre-law," said Conrad.

Conrad plans to pursue a law degree and specialize in the field of international law.

"It has become apparent lately that we need people who are in international law," said Conrad.

And while those who undertake such an indepth course of study are generally classified as brains, Paul readily admits he could study more.

"Basically, I pay attention in class, and I have always been encouraged to learn by my parents," said Conrad.

He credits his parents, Master Sgt. Mikel Conrad and Debbie Conrad, for instilling an appreciation for politics and current events in him at an early age.

"I've been real interested in international events since the seventh grade," said Conrad.

His interest has evolved out of the classroom and into other activities such as debating and quiz bowl.

He served as debate club president for two years and his team took third place in state.

He was awarded sixth place in state this year in Extemporaneous Speaking for his speech on how the Iran-Contra scandal will affect the President.

In his "spare time," he has worked

with the Interact Club, the Quiz Bowl team, the one act play, the science club and the school's yearbook.

He believes his extra-curricular activities have helped him a great deal.

"Debating has really increased my knowledge of affairs, and I have become a better speaker because of my participation in extemporaneous."

According to Conrad, a turning point for him scholastically and socially was the summer he spent in the Governor's Honors Program.

"GHP helped me more than anything else," said Conrad.

He enjoyed learning and studying in a college environment and meeting students from all around the state.

Conrad believes hearing the ideas of others is important for personal growth.

He has had plenty of opportunities to meet people from different areas since he and his family have moved five times. They have lived in North Carolina, Texas and Florida among other places.

"Staying in one place has a tendency

to stagnate you," said Conrad.

His choice of profession will keep him on the go and one of the reasons for his interest in international law stems from his love of travel.

Also he feels it is essential all Americans become more involved in the world as a whole, since in his opinion, it becomes smaller every day.

"Countries are becoming more interdependent; you have to know what's going on. If we don't understand the other fellow then we can't get along," said Conrad.

His ability to express his ideas in an articulate and thoughtful manner was one of the reasons he was selected as a National Merit Scholar.

On the finalist level, the student must write a 300 word essay. Paul believes that along with his score on the test was the deciding factors in his selection.

Whatever the reason, those responsible for selecting the winners thought Conrad had the right stuff even though the odds may have been against him.



PAUL CONRAD
Merit Scholarship

VHS Foreign Language Students Take Trip

V Times 5-23-87

Fourteen Foreign Language Club members accompanied by sponsor Patty Smitherman and chaperones Carolyn Sirmins and Charles McFarland recently visited St. Augustine.

The students toured Castillo de San Marcos, a Spaniksh fort; St. Augustine's house; and saw a film on St. Augustine's Spanish founder.

They also toured St. Augustine's historic district. The students had lunch at a French tearoom, La Patisserie, and dinner at the Columbia Restaurant.

Club Meets

The foreign Language Club met Wednesday with Chad Hodge presiding. Rhonda Davis reported on the club trip to St. Augustine on May 16. Kevin Elliott reported on the tutorial program and reminded the students when they are to tutor. Officers were nominated for 1987-88 and will be voted on at the May 27th meeting.

Band Concert

The VHS Band closes out the year's musical activities with its annual Spring Concert Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Whitehead Auditorium Valdosta State College.

The program will open with the concert band, directed by Rick Kimmel. They will perform "Flashing Sabres" march, "Herbrides Suite," a novelty tune and a medley of T.V. themes.

The VHS Jazz Band will perform four numbers during intermission.

The VHS Symphonic Band, directed by Daniel Gaultney, will perform the final segment of the program. The Symphonic Band, recently awarded straight Superior ratings in the difficult Level VI at GMEA Band Festival, will perform works by Sousa, Alfred Reed, Paul Yoder and a selection of Broadway hits. Two soloists will

also be featured. Senior Steve Pruitt will be featured on "Blues Essay" for trombone and band.

Junior Luara Bailey will solo on the "Concertino" by Chaminade. Senior bandsmaen, performing in their last VHS concert will be recognized. The public is cordially invited to what should be an enjoyable evening of music. There is no admission.

Debaters Workshop

By Jay Connell
Secretary Debate Club

Six Valdosta High debaters participated in Mercer Debate's one-day preview workshop on next year's high school debate topic, Resolved: That the United States should adopt a policy to increase political stability in Latin America.

The workshop was held May 16 on the Mercer campus in Macon.

The workshop featured a topic analysis lecture by Dr. Rich Edwards of Georgia State University, editor of "The Forensic Quarterly."

In addition, students saw an exhibition debate between Warner Robins and Westminster high schools, followed by a critique of the debate by Ms. Paula Nettles, director of debate at Woodward Academy. The workshop concluded with afternoon question-and-answer sessions.

Students attending were Blair Barnette, Jennifer Cantrell, Jay Connell, Michelle Jones, Terry Snyder, Heather Strayhorn, and Matt Winters. Frank Hjort, director of debate at VHS, accompanied the students.

Who's Who

By Christine Buel and Diedra Williams
Valdosta High School announces its Who's Who in Foreign Language participants for 1987. The participants were selected for outstanding performances in a foreign language.

VSC sponsors the Who's Who publication for Georgia and Florida High Schools.

The 1987 participants for VHS were Kelisa Brown, Christine Buel, Jennifer Guest, Kelly Shelton, Jennifer Staley, Sabrina Watson and Diedra Williams.

These Spanish II students were selected by their teacher and sponsor, Mrs. Nicholas.

Interact Choices

Four members of the VHS Interact Club were recently chosen as "Students of the Week." They include Chad Zahniser, Leslie Altman, Melissa Bentley and Amy Bowling. The four were honored by the Valdosta Rotary Club at its Wednesday meeting at the Valdosta Country Club.

Chad is the 16-year-old son of Daren and Bill Zahniser. He is a member of the Junior Class at VHS. He is a member of Interact and the tennis team. He is employed by Hardee's. His interests include working on cars, models, skateboarding, hunting, fishing and drafting. He hopes to go into criminal law as a career. Chad attends Park Avenue Methodist Church with his family.

Leslie Altman is the 15-year-old daughter of Mary Beth and Ken Altman. She is a Sophomore at VHS. She is a member of Interact. She is also a member of Sigma Delta Theta sorority. She was a member of the National Junior Honor Society in VJHS, was recipient of the Presidential Academic Fitness Award, and a member of the Talent Identification Program sponsored by Duke University. She enjoys playing the piano, swimming, dancing, traveling and playing tennis. She hopes to pursue a career in commercial advertising. She attends Park Avenue Methodist Church with her family, and she is a member of youth choir and youth group.

Melissa Bentley is the 15-year-old daughter of Emily and Allen Dacus.

She is a sophomore at VHS. She is a member of Interact. She is also a member of Sigma Delta Theta sorority. She enjoys tennis, piano, swimming and dancing. She has won various physical education awards, gymnastics awards, dancing awards and perfect attendance awards. She hopes to become an x-ray technician in the future. Melissa attends Park Avenue Methodist Church with her family where she is active in the choir and the youth group.

Amy Bowling is the 15-year-old daughter of John and Becky Bowling. She is a sophomore at VHS. She is a member of Interact and Beta Club. She is also a Mat Girl for the wrestling team and a member of the Marching Cats Drill Team. She is also a member of Sigma Delta Theta sorority. She enjoys art and being with her family and friends. Amy attends First United Methodist Church with her family and is a member of youth choir and MYF.

Interact Banquet

The Interact Senior Appreciation Banquet was held May 19 at 7 p.m. It was called to order by Johnna Elliot, the president, and a welcome was issued by Ashley Moorman, the vice-president. Michael White, the chaplain, gave the invocation. A covered dish dinner, prepared by freshman and sophomore Interact members, was enjoyed by all. The meeting then moved to the Little Theater for the Awards Presentation. David Cole, Parliamentarian, and Brian Harris, Treasurer, recognized special guests. Laura McMillan, Secretary, Kathy Farley, Community Projects Chairman, and Joy O'Neal, International Projects Chairman, presented the seniors and gave them a small gift to show the club's appreciation.

Deania Denmark, School Projects Chairman, and Susan Burns, Social Chairman, recognized the Rotary Club



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

Members and presented the Interact Committee with certificates of appreciation. Mrs. Hjort and Mrs. Josey, the club sponsors, presented eight students with special awards for their active participation in Interact. The most outstanding students were: Stephanie Rodgers and Alan Golivesky for the Freshman Class, Sandra Wang and Paul Hatcer for the Sophomore Class, Michele Winfrey and Kevin Elliott for the Junior Class and Joy Baker and Joy Baker and Chris Hendry for the Senior Class.

Then Gil Autry, the Rotary Club President, installed the new officers. They are: David Cole, president; Jason Bridges, president-elect/vice-president; Laura McMillan, secretary; Brian Mueller, treasurer; Melanie Dennard, social chairman; Leslie Hiers, historian/reporter; Susan Burns, Chaplain; Deania Denmark, school projects chariman; Kathy Farley, community projects chairman; and Joy O'Neal, international projects chairman.

At this time, Johnna gave the closing remarks and a farewell speech and handed the gavel over to David, the new president. David adjourned the meeting.

Belue Named Wildcats' Top Player

V. Times 5-30-87

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Guy Belue, who pitched his way to 28 victories during his career at Valdosta High School, was named the Wildcats' most valuable player at their annual awards banquet Friday night.

Belue started his sophomore season on the B-team, but was moved up to the varsity where he won seven games and helped guide the Wildcats into the state playoffs.

Last year, the Wildcats won the Region 1-AAAA title behind Belue's pitching and advanced to the South Georgia championship game before losing to Columbus.

Valdosta repeated as region champs this year during the regular season, but lost two consecutive to Westover in the region finals.

The best offensive player was designated hitter Jason Crosby, who batted over .400, while first baseman Derek

Shaw was named the best defensive player.

The most improved award went to outfielder Mike Tolbert and infielder Matt Perry. Pitcher-outfielder Greg Talley won the Spirit of the Wildcat award and shortstop Art Bass was picked as the most loyal.

From the B-team, Sean Cullen, Brannon Pruitte, and Jason Nichols were named the most valuable players.

Head coach Charles Tarpley also honored the 11 graduating seniors, who helped guide Valdosta to a 41-15 record in two years.

The seniors honored were: Tolbert, Talley, Bass, Belue, Shaw, Perry, Crosby, Fran Martin, Dirk Hardin, Walt Gill, and Bill Kirby.

The officers for next year's booster club were also announced. Richard Rykard will serve as president with Ben Hogan (vice president), Janet Mason (secretary), and Wyolene Nichols (treasurer).

Valdosta's Derek Shaw Named To All-Star Team

From Staff Reports

Derek Shaw has been picked as one of 17 players from South Georgia to participate in the annual North-South All-Star baseball game to be played in Athens in July.

The announcement of Shaw's selection was made Friday night during the Wildcats annual baseball banquet.

Shaw was a unanimous choice as the first baseman for the South squad.

Guy Belue was chosen as a first alternate to the team. If one of the other 17 players cannot play in the game, Belue will be the first choice to be added to the roster.

Literary Guild Meets Here

V Times 5-22-87

A retired Valdosta High School English teacher reviewed *The Mammoth Hunters* by Jean Avel at the luncheon meeting of the Literary Guild held at the Sheraton Inn.

Dr. Mabel Wolinski said that the author of the book did extensive research for background before writing the book but takes all responsibility for viewpoints and ideas expressed in the story and that the work of fiction is a story from her own imagination.

The Mammoth Hunters is a story of love, friendship, loyalty and jealousy. The story begins with Alya riding Whinney, the horse she tamed, out from the Valley of Horses. Accompanying her was Jondalar, a tall, handsome man, that she had nursed back to health and came to love.

They met the Mammoth Hunters who were being led by Talut, a huge man with bright red hair and beard, a booming laugh and a gentle heart. He invites the couple to visit his camp. Upon accepting the invitation Talut's camp becomes their home for many months, according to Dr. Wolinski.

Most of the Mamutor accepted Ayla and Jondalar. However, a few disliked Ayla because they were afraid of her ability to control animals and her healing skills.

Ayla was charmed by Ranec, the Mamutor's master carver of ivory, who was artistic, flirtatious and magnetic. She finds herself drawn to him. Trouble arised from Jondalar's jealousy. Ayla is forced to chose between a colorful Ranec and a sincere and loyal Jodalar.

New Literary Guild officers were elected for 1987-88. They were Louise Ellis, president; Grace Clay, first vice president; Nina King, second vice president; Hilda Spurlock, secretary; Louisa Flatau, treasurer, and Katherine Bohler, press. They will be installed during the May meeting.



DR. MABEL WOLINSKI
Literary Guild Speaker

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V. Times 5-28-87 Mr. VHS Competition?

Girls giggled and cheered as more than 30 junior and senior women, uh, men competed for the title of Mr. Valdosta High School. The young men with bangles and beads pranced and strutted to the audiences delight. In the end, John Wheelis was voted

Valdosta Honors Spring Sports Accomplishments

V. Times June 2, 1984

Athletes were recognized for a job well done as Valdosta High School held its spring sports banquet Monday night.

In girls' tennis, Margaret Anne Smeath was voted the Spirit of the Wildcats award. Paige Stabell was voted most improved while sister Christy Stabell was voted team most valuable player for the second year in a row.

In boys' tennis senior Earl Thomas was named most spirited. Lee Strubell most improved, and Greyton Pierce was named MVP.

In boys' track Aldolphus Kimmons was voted the MVP, Keith Baker the most outstanding and Derrick Mays the most improved.

In girls' track there was a tie for most dedicated between June Garman and Tracy Chandler. Pam Grate was voted most improved and Cassandra Caesar was named the MVP.

Cesar won first in state in the shot put with a personal best and school record 40-2 1/4.

In golf Dan Altman was voted rookie of the year. James Inman the most improved, and Walter Altman the MVP.

All awards were voted on by each member of each individual team.

Sun., May 31, 1987 V. Times

All-Americans

Valdosta, Lowndes Represented On Pre-Season List

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Four players from Valdosta and Lowndes high schools are among six players from the state selected to *Scholastic Coach* magazine's pre-season Fifth Annual U.S. Army Reserve All-American football team.

Valdosta and Lowndes were the only schools in the nation to have two players each selected.

Valdosta Center Ben Lane and tight end Charles Steward were named to the team along with Lowndes linebacker Freddie Richardson and defensive end Bennie Pierce.

Lane, however, will not be playing for the Wildcats in 1987. He will be moving to Washington this summer. The 6-foot-3, 255-pound junior, was a big key in Valdosta's offensive line last season and was one of the few returning starters to the interior.

Lane was named All-Region 1-AAAA and All-Area last season. He has been called by several recruiters and coaches the best offensive lineman in the state. Steward, at 6-3, 218, was a starter at wide

receiver during his freshman and sophomore years before moving to tight end last season. He proved to be a very versatile player with excellent blocking and catching. He led the Wildcats with 37 catches for 496 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Richardson will be one of the most heavily recruited players in the area this year. The 6-3, 220 middle linebacker was named the defensive back of the year last year on the Times' All-Area team.

Richardson possess excellent speed and lateral movement. He averaged 14 tackles per game as a junior. He also came up with several key interceptions during the season, including one he returned 60 yards against Valdosta. Richardson also had a key knockdown of a 2-point conversion pass during the Waycross game with less than a minute to play to preserve a 14-12 victory.

Pierce, at 6-3, 235, was used mainly as a fullback last season, but he played well enough at defensive end to gain quite a reputation. Against Valdosta in the final regular-season game of the season, Pierce made five solo tackles, had three assists, and two quarterback sacks for 21 yards in losses.

Pierce has immense strength and he uses it to fight off blockers to get to the ball carrier.

Also selected to the All-American team from Georgia were Charlie Ward of Central-Thomassville and Curt Douglas of Lincoln County.

Ward is a 6-3, 180 quarterback while Fouglass is a 6-2, 230 linebacker.

The All-American team represents 32 states, with California leading the way with 11 selections. Texas, Florida, and Ohio had nine each while Georgia and Michigan had six each.

Those selected from Florida are: Darren Bedrian, 5-11, 190, running back, Winter Haven; Derek Brown, 6-7, 230, tight end, Merritt Island; Gene McGuire, 6-5, 255, offensive lineman, Panama City-Mosley; Dexter McNabb, 6-2, 220, running back, De Funiak Springs-Walton; Tyrone Mouszone, 6-3, 205, defensive back, Dunedin; Zach Samuel, 6-4, 220, linebacker, Bradenton-Manatee; Ron Smith, 6-3, 250, nose guard, Miami-Killian; Harvey Thomas, 6-6, 225, defensive lineman, Pompano Beach-Ely; and John Williams, 6-5, 285, offensive lineman, Pensacola-Escambia.



Lane
Valdosta



Steward
Valdosta



Richardson
Lowndes



Pierce
Lowndes

Valdosta High School Graduates: Alpha And Omega

V. Times 6-6-87

Valdosta High School Commencement Exercises were held Friday evening in the coliseum at Valdosta State College.

Both the valedictorian, Anna Lucy Tomberlin, and salutatorian, Michael Bruce Schmier addressed the crowd of students, parents and teachers. Third honor graduate Angela Ann Alexander presented the invocation.

Honor Graduates for 1987 include Angela Ann Alexander, Jill Marie Bryan, Christine Lynn Buel, Paul Mikel Conrad, Elizabeth Keenan Crane, Ronald Edward Creque Jr., Sharon Mathis Crowder, Georgia Katherine Graves, Martha Allison Graves, Christopher Alex Hendry, Vanessa Rene' Hubbard and Tina Marie Johns.

And Teresa JoAnn Longeliere, Katherine Jayne Louttit, William Russell McCall, Cecilia Annette Mead, Bobby John Murphine Jr., Yves Lamar Owens, James Eric Rawlings, John Addison Rieke IV, Michael Bruce Schmier, Gina Lynn Sheffield, Laura Lynn Smith, Anna Lucy Tomberlin, Cindy Mae Voorhees, Elizabeth Tyler Wallace, Michael Burgess Williams and Matthew John Winters.

Graduates include Maxie Lee Alexander, Laura Lee Allison, Walter Green Altman IV, Antony Martin Alzola, Leon Junior Anderson, Marty Anderson, Thomas Aaron Anderson, Sandra Arnold, Michel Joseph Arsenault, Alesha Joy Avila, Freddie Mousa Bajalia, Joy Lynn Baker, Rollen Keith Baker, Gleen Lavander Barrett, Aimee Aliene Bass, Artis Lamar Bass Jr. and Henry Lewis Bass Jr.

And Lennis Marquette Battles, Guy Russell Belue, Tamra Lee Benefield, Lisa Denise Bennett, Sophia Yvette Bennett, Renae Lynn Bergin, Michelle Darlene Berrian, Miranda Renita Berrian, Tracey Chernitha Berrian, Tracy Yvette Berrian, Sharon Elaine Bivens, Ernest Alan Black, David D. Bowring, Steven Paul Boyd, Frederick Jerome Bradley, Abigail Elizabeth Branch and Carl Anthony Brown.

Also Corey Bernard Brown, James Douglas Brown, Vanessa Lynnette Brown, Anthony Scott Browning, Julie Suzanne Burns, Bunny Ruth Bussey, Carrol Berdex Butler, Reginald Raynard Butler, Derrick Alan Cain, Tess Bernadette Capers, Carla Vantess Carter, Christopher Carter, Robert

Lewis Carter, Tammy Renee Carter, Cassandra Allegra Ceasar, Kristofer Hafdal Cerasl and Lynn Cortez Christopher.

And Angela Demetria Clark, William Dale Clements, Sybil Clarissa Coley, Barbara Melissa Copeland, Brenda Dianne Copeland, Gregory Bernard Copeland, Keith Copeland, Kenneth Copeland, Jason Lawrence Crosby, Sylvia Evette Crumpton, Mary Lang Culbreth, Adron Demetrios Curry, Phillip Noel d'Albertis, Franky Lee Dailey, Gregory Dailey, Greta Denise Dailey and Julie Marie Davis.

And Karen Yowanda Davis, Stephanie Charice Davis, Androl Basil Dean, Darlene Denard, Stephanie Latrece Doe, Monica Leigh Dominey, Gregory Scott Douglas, Robert Brian Dufek, Lana Nicole Duncan, Rhonda Arlisa Edmondson, Johnna Allison Elliot, Julie Lynn Engisch, Lisa Denise English, Gwen C. Evans, Robert Trevis Evans, Anna Marjorie Faircloth, Michael Francis Farley and Minda Sue Feinberg.

Others include Monica Kim Flowers, David Edward Foster, William Paul Frech, Anthony Bernard Freeman, Sonya Ywanda Freeman, Bernie Otis Gaines, Timothy Dejuan Gardner, Anita Lynn Giles, Walter Francis Gill Jr., Xavier Lanard Godfrey, Tomas Paras Gonzalez III, Pamela Vanessa Gosier, Teresa Lynn Grace, Eddie Lee Graham Jr., Veronica Graham and Angela Renee' Grant.

Also Cedric Lorenzo Gray, Patrick Rolando Gray, Kenneth Antworn Green, Michelle Ann-Marie Green, Mathis F. Greene, Michelle Denese Greene, Anthony Zane Griffin, Joseph Allen Griffin Jr., Kimberly Renee' Griffin, Caryl Lynn Gulley, Leslie Deanine Hagan, Aaron H. Hall, Daphne Renee Hammonds, Edwin Dirk Hardin, Richard North Hart, Van Robert Hastings Jr. and Jeffrey Marshall Hasty.

And Shannon Dale Hasty, William Donald Hay, Cher Willette Haynes, Donald Paul Headrick, Antonio Cortez Henderson, Obeatrice Henry, Kristine Renee' Hoptinstall, Elizabeth Ann Hickox, Johnathon Lamont Hill, Julie Corbett Hitching, Charles Henry Holiday Jr., David N. Holland, Jeffery Demetrice Holmes, Randolph Darrell Holmes, Darren B. Hosendolph and Kathy Denise Horton.

Also Reginald Linaris House, Kinley Wayne Howard Jr., Robert Shan

Howell, Terrance Bernard Hull, Pamela Ann Hulstein, Sheila Maria Hunter, Judyth Sheatiel Hurst, Calvitt Johnson Huxford, Cindy Lois Jackson, Darren Bernard Jackson, Derrick Lamar Jackson, Charles Casmier Jaszczak, Diana Lynnette Jefferson, Angela Denise Jenkins and Carolyn Alicia Jenkins.

And Kimberly Antoinya Jenkins, Kenneth Johns, Brenda Kaye Johnson, Lanis Johnson Jr., Sandra Marketer Johnson, Velinzelincia Telina Johnson, Stephen Lamar Joiner, Darryl Earl Jones, Eddie Jones Jr., James Leonard Jones, Kenneth Eric Jones, Marketa Renee Jones, Octavia Tamara Jones, Sharon Ruth Jones, Shirley Ann Jones, Valisa Jones, John Fitzgerald Kelly and Tamara Michelle Kelly.

Also included are Adoiphus Kimmons Jr., Sertanual Litical King, William Dudley Kirby Jr., Anissa Renee' Knight, Jeffrey Lee Knotts, Juliet Kimberly Jean Kult, Tina Renee Kyer, Eric Dewayne Larry, Vickie Leigh Ledbetter, Peggy Lee, Leonard Martin Lefiles, Kathleen Michelle Livingston, Jeffrey Kenneth Lowe, Kyle Owen Lowe, Tangelia Lynnette Lowe, Moses Madiosn Jr. and Tony Gerome Mangram.

And Aaron Antonio Manning, John L. Marconi Jr., Tony Marshall, Francis Wayne Martin, Leslie Delia Martin, Stuart Lindsay Mason, Benjamin Bernard Matchett, Jennifer Elaine Mayne, Laurie Elizabeth McAllister, Pamela Renee' McBurrough, Valerie Nicole McCastle, Tamara Michele McCraney, Tracy Shavette McCray, Jodi Renee McDonald, Michael Willie McDougal, Alisha Dawn McGee and Gloria Jean McGee.

Also Clifford Mercer, Tanya Yvette Merriweather, Deandea Maria Miller, Kedrek Denola Miller, Reginald Devane Miller, Claude Anthony Mitchell, Deborah Lynn Mitchell, Roderick Lenard Mtichell, Desha Latonya Mobley, Bruce Fernard Moore, La-Shunda Yvette Moore, Wendy Denise Morrison, Jim Bernard Motes, Patricia Ann Mullis, Maria Elena Munoz, Tori Gail Murchison and Jason Robert Myddelton.

And Joy Elaine Myddelton, Marcus Lee Nelson, Angela Lechon Newton, Beverly Maria Norwood, Erich Matthew Ohrenschall, Jeri Michelle Oliver, Melissa Catherine Oliver, Scott Michael Orenstein, Tracy Diane Osborne, Gwendolyn Elaine Parker, Todd

Lang Parramore, Avani Chan Patel, Debora Renee Patterson, Miguel Angel Patterson, Miles Thomas Patterson and Reginald Anton Payne.

Also Regina Darlene Pendelton, Darriet L. Perry, Matthew Todd Perry, Michael Perry, Carl Graydon Pierce III, Virginia Lane Plageman, Evett Plather, Maria Teresita Poo, Eric Bernard Prime, Stephen Brannon Pruitt, Bridgett Ann Quattlebaum, Paul Westerdahl Rainey, Robyn Elise Rainwater, Silver Janella Ramsey, Karen Denise Ray, Pauline Register and Juanyata Nicole Revels.

And Stacy Lynette Revier, Nancy Iene Richardson, Carol Burnett Roberts, Ernestine Roberts, Laura Dean Robinson, Sandra Denise Robinson, Wanda Latrese Robinson, Laurie Ann Rodriguez, Quentin Lamar Rose, Reginald Dwayne Rose, Kelly Ann Rowe, Thomas Franklin Ryan Jr., Veronica Lynn Ryan, Theresa LaTonya Salter, Karen Sanchez, Ned Arthur Sanderson Jr. and Robin Eugenia Schwartz.

Other graduates include Cynthia Gail Scurry, Lisa Ann Sears, Jeanne-Marie Selph, Wanda Faye Sermons, Eric Lamar Sharper, Derek Manning Shaw, Tina Marie Shelton, Julian Carol Sherwood III, Angelina Patrice Simmons, Farida Dawnette Sirmans, Felicia Regina Sirmans, Derrick Smith, Michael D. Smith, Sedrick Smith, Stephanie Lynn Smtih, Andre T. Smithson and Amile Rebecca Somers.

And Jodie Isaac Sprenkle, Gregory Edward Spolden, Kristen Lynne Stabell, Jeffrey Marcel Stacks, Louise Steward, Reginald Le'Baren Stewart, Veronica Latrice Stewart, Letisha Cherese Stibbins, Angela Lynn Stone, Debra Lynn Talley, Gregory Tyson Talley, Mark Augustine Taormina, Alisa Delois Taylor, John Allen Taylor, Bruce Bernard Thomas, Earl Thomas and Sylvester Thomas Jr.

Also Terrance Andre Thomas, Daniel McKey Tillman, Michael Douglas Tolbert, John Tooley Jr., Natalie Lynne Tyler, Horace Bernard Tyson, Ora Denise Tyson, Lisa Ann Veal, Kenneth Eric Von Hollen, Cynthia Wade, Lora Christine Wainright, Doris Jeanine Walker, Gary Michael Walker Jr., Susan Lynn Warner, Edith Latrenda Wells, Troy Wilbur Wells, Barthaniel Werts III, Gregory William Wessel, John Martin Wheelless, Kay A. White, Kelley Allison White and Michael Stacey White.

And Shelia Maria White, Anthony

Bernard Williams, Carmella Denise Williams, Catherine Leigh Williams, Curtis Lee Williams, Kacy Lamont Williams, Kenneth Nicholas Williams, Latrece Michelle Williams, Melinda Marie Williams, Seabron Williams Jr., Valerie Michelle Williams, Willie Richard Williams, Valerie Victoria Willis, Lavonda Michelle Wiseman, Tracy Lanette Womble, Dolph Ann Woods, Earnest Wright Jr., Samuel Matthew Wright, Dawn Michelle Zager and Luz Maria Zea Cabrera.

Area

Valedictorians

Plan

Even Brighter

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., June 7, 1987

Futures

she has worked for the title for five years.

"I set that as my goal," she said. She was assisted by her friends and family in reaching her goal of academic excellence as they always gave her that extra push.

In the next decade, she knows she will be a nurse, but where is still a question.

The most important lesson Miss Dean learned in high school was that of cooperation.

"We are taught in high school to work together as a group. I learned how to get along with people," she said.

Lucy Tomberlin, 18, was the valedictorian of Valdosta High School. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Tomberlin of Valdosta.



TOMBERLIN

Miss Tomberlin will enter Agnes Scott College in the fall to study history. She hopes to attend law school upon completion of her four year degree.

For Miss Tomberlin, being selected valedictorian was the culmination of her years of hard work.

"I was recognized for my work," she said.

She realized early, doing well in her

school work would pave a smoother future path.

"I knew it would make it much easier for me to get into college," she said.

In 10 years, Miss Tomberlin wants to

be in Atlanta working as a lawyer or preparing to be a judge.

From high school, she will take four years of good memories, especially memories of her friends.

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—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Lowndes' Greg Turner Slides Into Third Base As Valdosta's Chuck Moore Awaits Throw

Lowndes Batters Sink Valdosta, 6-5

V. Times 6-26-87

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

With former Wildcats Greg Talley and Michael Tolbert as officials, one might think that Valdosta had the edge when it played rival Lowndes in a summer league baseball game Thursday at Bazemore Field.

But the home field and home umpire advantage was not there as Lowndes took a 6-5 victory over Valdosta.

For most of the game it was neck-and-neck, but Lowndes was able to rap out 12 base hits to Valdosta's seven.

Lowndes opened the game with a groundout, but singles by Greg Turner and Mark Hightower, and an error on a ball hit by Danny Folsom loaded the bases.

Richie Carpenter then hit a classic Bazemore Field double off starting pitcher Andy Rykard that was carried aloft by the ever-blowing breeze, and Turner and Hightower both scored to make it 2-0.

Rykard, however, took matters into his own hands in the bottom of the first, belting a long homer to center with Chuck Moore on base to tie it up.

Lowndes went up 3-2 in the second when Roger Meeks singled, stole two bases, and scored on a Greg Spain single. The visitors made it 4-2 in the top of the third when Meeks singled home Carpenter.

Valdosta, however, knotted it at 4-4 in the bottom of the inning with the help of some suspect fielding on Lowndes' part.

Moore walked, stole second, and

went to third on a Sean Cullen single.

Meeks who came in to relieve starter Craig Griner then threw a wild pitch to score Moore, and on the play, catcher Folsom made a wild throw that enabled Cullen to score as well.

In the top of the fourth, Lowndes put the game away, scoring two more runs on three hits. Hightower singled home Spain, and Folsom singled home Hightower to make it 6-4.

Valdosta, however, was determined to go down swinging. In the bottom of the fifth, Moore singled, stole second, reached third on an out, and scored on a wild pitch to make it 6-5.

Both teams then went scoreless and in the bottom of the seventh Valdosta made one more charge.

Moore singled, but was forced out at second on a fielder's choice that put

Cullen on first. Jason Nichols then popped up for out number two. But Andy Rykard and Brian Long both drew walks to load the bases before reliever Hightower was able to get Ray Maples to ground out ending the game.

Carpenter lead Lowndes at the plate, going 2-for-3 with a double and two RBI. Meeks went 2-for-3 with an RBI and stole three bases. Spain and Hightower also collected two hits for Lowndes.

Moore led Valdosta going 2-for-2 at the plate, scoring three runs. Rykard's homer was Valdosta's only base hit.

Valdosta's Cullen took the loss. He pitched four complete innings, giving up five hits and two earned runs. He also struck out seven and failed to yield a walk.

Folsom got the win for Lowndes giving up one run on two hits and two walks in two innings pitched.