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Josey Valdosta TOTY

V.D.T. 7-12-83

By SUZANNE CARSWELL
Times Staff Writer

There's a reason why Janeen Josey is in Valdosta.

It took her a while to find out what it was, but she says she's convinced the Lord knew all along.

Mrs. Josey is the Teacher of the Year for the Valdosta school system.

"My husband works for the (Georgia) Department of Family and Children Services and every time he was promoted, it meant a move for us," she said.

"It always happened that there was a (teaching) vacancy in my area (business education) wherever we moved, so I believe the Lord meant for me to move."

When it came time for the Joseys to move to Valdosta, there were 19 other places they could have gone to — and they knew someone in each of those towns.

Of course, the new job came open in Valdosta, where they knew not a soul.

But now Mrs. Josey believes the Lord sent her and her husband here for a purpose, possibly her work with others since she discovered she had a malignant mole.

Mrs. Josey has been through the necessary surgery and doctors believe they got all of the melanoma, but they are still monitoring her condition periodically at a Houston hospital.

As a result of that experience, she has had telephone calls from others in similar circumstances who want her advice and comfort — and she does all she can to help.

"I really believe this is our ministry here," she said.

She is also active with First Presbyterian Church, civic groups and charities and has helped raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation after a friend's child died with the genetic lung disease.

One reason for her work with some organizations is to let the community know what is going on in the school system.

Getting her Future Business Leaders of America students involved in community projects not only helps the community, but helps the students learn to work together to help others and teaches important business and leadership skills.

Mrs. Josey is doing what she always wanted to do and does it with an enthusiasm that is contagious.

"I wanted to teach all my life," she said. "I just didn't know what is was I wanted to teach.

"Then when I was a junior in high school, I took a typing course and I knew that was it."

So she majored in business education at Georgia Southern College in Statesboro, married Ray Josey right after graduation, moved to Rome, Ga., and began her teaching career.

Except for two years off to have her children, Emily, 11, and Mark, 6, she's been at it ever since.

"I am very active with my children because I believe in supporting them in whatever they do," she said.

That includes holding offices in parent-teacher organizations (as a parent, not a teacher) and as a team mother for gymnastics classes.

"One of the most important things a parent can do for their children is to give them your time," Mrs. Josey said.

"I'm reminded of the song, 'Cat's in the Cradle,' which, when you listen to it, makes you wonder, am I doing enough for my children," she said.

The song tells of a son whose father was always too busy to find time for him.

Listening to children and taking an interest in their activities is something Mrs. Josey tries to do not only at home, but in the classroom.

"I believe in showing respect and love and concern for my students and taking the time for them," she said.

And she tries not to be boring, even in one of her classes, which is primarily a lecture course.

Even in that class, business law, she has her students conduct a mock trial, with students taking the part of plaintiff, defendant, witnesses, attorneys, judge and jury.

In her other classes, she believes in practical and "hands-on" experience — something which will help the students in the working world after they leave school.

She has them actually plan trips for imaginary employers, play games, type pictures and type to music and operate an imaginary cosmetics company named Serendipity Inc.

The FBLA students have had activities such as "adopting" grandparents, holding seminars on birth defects for engaged couples, starting a layette bank (baby clothing for indigent families) and assume the leadership roles of community leaders for one day.

Times Staff Photo

Janeen Josey Convinced Lord Sent Her

Mrs. Josey believes in accentuating the positive with her students.

"I never want to put anyone down or belittle them," she said.

"If someone asks a silly question in class, the rest of the students may laugh at it, but then I try to put it in perspective."

That attitude paid off for the student Mrs. Josey said was her most rewarding experience as a teacher.

"One girl was extremely shy and withdrawn and didn't participate in anything," Mrs. Josey said. "She had friends, but she was a loner."

Mrs. Josey got her involved in FBLA and she was elected president of the high school's chapter before running for a state FBLA office.

The girl then went on to major in business education in college, obtained her master's degree and is now teaching the subject in north Georgia.

Teachers have many rewarding students throughout a career, but "that's the one who has followed in my footsteps," Mrs. Josey said.

VHS Photographer Named

7-14-83

A new senior photographer has been named at Valdosta High School.

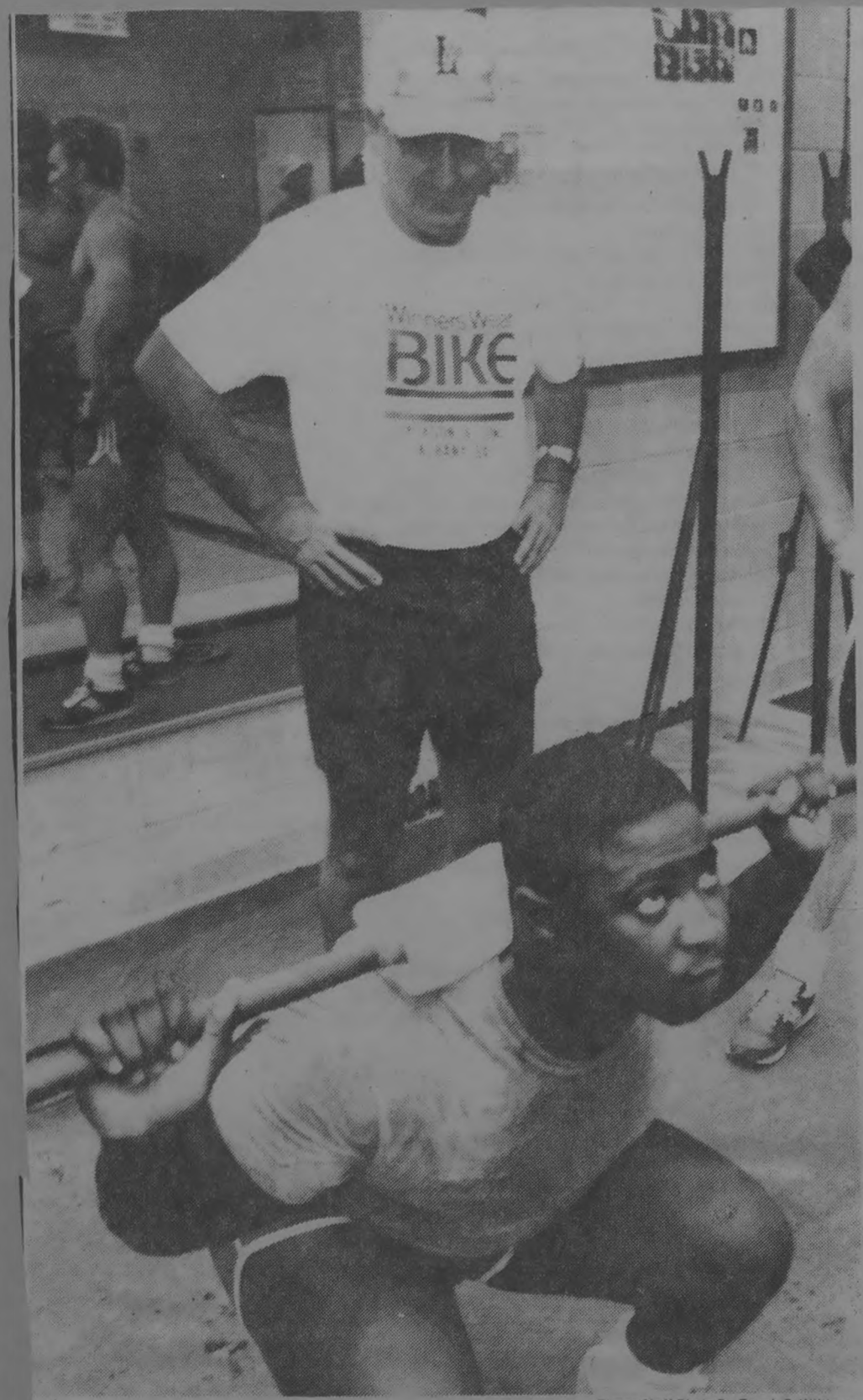
Garner Walker Photography, a representative of Olan Mill Studios, has been named the official senior photographer for the school.

The spokesman said there had been some confusion concerning who was the official photographer. Last year Duke's Home of Fine Photography was the official photographer and some parents have taken their children there, the spokesman said.

But for senior portraits to be in the school's yearbook, they must be taken at Walker's, the spokesman said.

There is no cost or obligation in having the portraits made. But students and parents have the option of purchasing the pictures, the spokesman added.

Seniors who missed having their pictures made during senior week, July 5 through July 8, may call Walker studios at 244-7856 and make an appointment.



Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams

Lorenzo Thomas Pumps Iron As Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson Looks On

VHS Begins Practice

Season Never Ends For Viking Football

V Times 7/21/83

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Lowndes High wasted little time getting ready for the 1983 football season. Following a season-ending loss to Thomasville last Nov. 5, the Vikings returned to the weight room the following Monday.

They've been going at it ever since.

And for four nights a week all summer the Vikings worked on weight training, running and agility.

"We've been going at it since Nov. 8," Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson said as he prepares to enter his seventh season at the Viking helm.

Across town, meanwhile, Valdosta High returned to the practice field last Monday. After winning the AAAA state championship last year, the Wildcats spent most of the spring in the weight room before taking some time off earlier in the summer.

The 'Cats will continue at it on a regular basis until they open the regular season at Waycross on Aug. 26. With almost one week complete, the 'Cats have two more weeks of conditioning before they open football camp at the Twin Lakes 4-H Camp Aug. 8.

Valdosta will hold scrimmages at Cleveland Field the Friday night of each week at camp.

Lowndes will also open camp Aug. 8. But, as they did last year, the Vikings will hold camp at the high school.

In the past, the Vikings went to camp in Hahira where there was a lighted practice field. But with lights being installed at the practice field at Lowndes, the Vikings can stay at home and practice.

"We've got the poles up," Wilson said. But there is still a lot of work to be done, he said.

If the lights aren't up in time for camp, the Vikings will stay at the high school and bus the players to Hahira for nightly practice sessions.

When camp opens Aug. 8, the Vikes will have just two weeks to get ready for the season opener against Cook High Aug. 19 at Martin Stadium. The Vikes are used to the rush, though. Last year they had the same problem.

But Wilson doesn't see it as a problem at all. After preparing for eight months, he said the players are ready to play.

"I don't think it's that big of deal," he said. "It's just as fair for Cook. I'd much rather play than practice, anyway. I'm sure the kids are the same way."

Despite the long hours in the weight room, Wilson said he is not concerned about his players getting burned out on football.

"We haven't done any football, yet," he said. "We've just done the fun things like lifting weights and running."

And the players don't seem to mind. They have already set their goals.

"I've never had a bunch work this hard," Wilson said. "And it's paying off. They're stronger than any group I've ever had. And maybe bigger."

Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco

Valdosta Took To The Practice Field In Shorts Monday

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Steve
Corrigan
Times Sports Editor

Hyder Maintains Midfield Manners

ATLANTA—Valdosta's Nick Hyder never seems to change.

You can take the 'Cat out of Cleveland Field, but you can't take the Cleveland Field out of the 'Cat. Maybe that has something to do with the Ghost.

Hyder has a peculiar habit of standing at or near midfield following a game, win or lose. Mostly, he says, it is to benefit members of the media. "I want to promote this great game," he said.

It also gives parents and fans a chance to walk by after a game and congratulate the coach or give him views on how to improve for next Friday.

But take the Wildcat coach over 200 miles away from Valdosta, and he still does the same thing. There he was Thursday night at Georgia Tech's Grant Field, standing at or near midfield after the game, chatting with the media and getting congratulated by parents and fans.

The South upended the much-bigger North squad at the annual Georgia High School All-Star football game, 7-6. And Hyder looked right at home standing out there at or near midfield...

The University of Georgia had the most players in this year's all-star game with nine. Georgia tech had seven and Auburn six.

But from the looks Thursday night, Georgia had the best.

David Dukes, quarterback for Clarke Central, looked sharp all night. But he's probably a better punter. He ripped a 53-yarder in the second half.

David McClusky, the tailback from West Rome, had half the north's total yards at intermission. He scored their only points.

"Give it to McClusky 25 times and we're probably beat," Hyder said after the game.

And then there was Henry Harris of Columbia. He was in on six unassisted tackles, two for losses. Hyder said he was the difference between the first half, when the South had trouble offensively, and the second.

"The difference was big no. 52," Hyder said. "Henry Harris. He's a Tasmanian Devil. We had to double-team him."

Dukes, McClusky and Harris are all going to Georgia...

— As for the players from the Valdosta area, the defensive players overshadowed the offensive.

Chris Major and Ricky Daniels, both former Wildcats heading for South Carolina, started and played most of the game.

Daniels, a defensive tackle, had three solo tackles. Major, a defensive back, had four solo stops and two assists.

Despite that, Major was not pleased with his performance. "I believe I should have played a little better. I should have had more tackles. When they scored the first time, I should have had that tackle," Major said.

On that play, McClusky, who is 6-foot-1 and 215 pounds, got outside and scored from the 4.

The offensive players were a different story. Carl Parker, the former Lowndes wide receiver, played a great deal, but didn't catch a pass. Steve Browning, the former Cook quarterback, saw action in only two series of downs.

Parker, who left for Vanderbilt after the game, was disappointed, but "like Coach Hyder said, 'It's better to be a contributing factor to a winning cause than to be a standout in a losing effort.'"

"Chris made several good tackles. And Ricky really plugged it up," Hyder said. "Carl was open a lot if we just could have gotten it to him..."

The All-Star game also marked the first time the Valdosta area players saw action on Astroturf. They better get used to it in a hurry. Both South Carolina and Vanderbilt have it installed on their home fields.

"During the game it was hot," Parker said. "I don't think I could have played on it in the afternoon. Overall, though, there's a lot of advantages. Your cuts are a lot more clean."

Daniels agreed it was hot. "But it helped to get that feeling," he said.

"It's a lot hotter," Major said. "But other than that, there's not that much difference..."

Hyder had an interesting thought after the game: "That's quite an experience with all new kids," he said. "But of all the quarterbacks we've had at Valdosta, I didn't get to use one of mine..."

— Of the South's top two players, quarterback Bruce McFarland and defensive back Ervin Manuel, neither has been gobbled up by college teams.

Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco

Valdosta High's Nick Hyder Guided South To A 7-6 Win Over The North

VHS Cheerleaders Win

7-1-83

The Valdosta High School cheerleaders were named the most spirited squad at the recent National Cheerleaders Association summer workshop.

They also received all superior ratings in evaluations at the workshop, which was held at the University of West Florida in Pensacola, Fla.

The cheerleaders were selected for the Spirit Award on the basis of their cheerleading technique, unity, friendliness, cooperation, leadership and sportsmanship to the other squads attending.

The squad was also nominated for the award of excellence at the workshop, which included sessions on cheerleading techniques, cheers, chants, jumps, partner stunts and pep rallies.

There were also seminars on sportsmanship, crowd participation, responsibilities, organization and dedication.

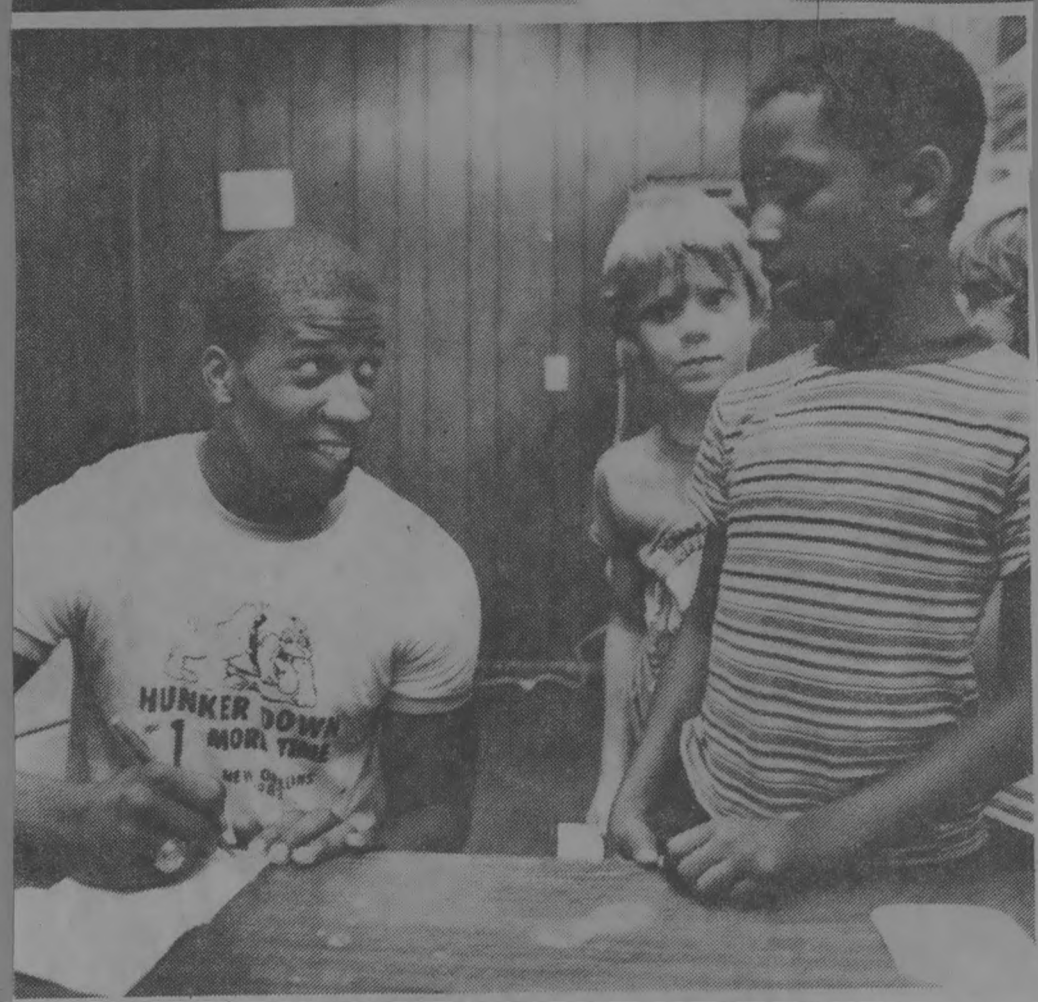
The VHS cheerleaders are sponsored by Jana Whitehead.

VHS Band Boosters Meet

7-30-83

Band Boosters of Valdosta High School will meet Thursday at 8 p.m. in the VHS Little Theater to discuss band camp, uniforms and patron memberships.

A reception will be held after the meeting for parents whose children are new in the band, according to Publicity Chairman Jan Bristow.



Football Fever 7-16-83

Former Valdosta High School football star John Lastinger, top, and Lowndes High gridiron great Chuck Jones, bottom, sign a few autographs Thursday and Friday at the Boys' and Girls' Club facilities in Valdosta. Both went on to play for the University of Georgia Bulldogs. Lastinger was starting quarterback last years and will return this years as a senior, while Jones played his last year at Georgia in the 1982 season as a wide-out.—Times Staff Photos by Joey Ivansco and Frank Williams.

Wildcats Look Strong As Ever

Aug 12 83

Impressions After First Week Of Football Camp: Is there any way Valdosta High can better last season's team which went 15-0 and captured the AAAA state title? If the first week of camp is any indication, they can.

This year's Wildcats look as good or better than last year's championship team. Other than a few holes on the offensive line and in the defensive secondary, the 'Cats look superb.

An experienced backfield that includes starters Teddy West at quarterback and Dana Brinson and Tony Anderson at running backs should help the line until it gains needed experience.

Anderson has put on 15 pounds since last season to up his weight to 205, yet he has not lost any speed. It appears he could carry 15 more pounds without any noticeable affect.

Brinson, meanwhile, has maintained his 160-pound frame and is as quick as ever. The senior suffered a slight ankle injury in Thursday's practice, but that shouldn't slow him.

And Mr. Reliable, West, just keeps doing the things that led to the 'Cats championship last year.

If there is any noticable difference in this year's team it will be in play selection. To offset line inexperience, the 'Cats are going to a more option-oriented.

A trio of new receivers should keep the defense off balance, as well. Hosea Heard, just a sophomore, is a deep threat every time he enters a game. And flanker Steve Gandy has the sure hands that characterized the 'Cats receiving corps last season.

Defensively, the 'Cats probably have the best pair of linebackers in the state. Senior Frank Abney has worked much of the summer to improve his speed and sophomore John Porter, well, what more can be said about the junior.

Already national champion Penn State has expressed interest in him as have Georgia and Auburn.

"Penn State has looked a five different films," head coach Nick Hyder said. "They asked who signed 47 (Porter's number). They can't believe he is just a junior."

And if there is any question about the defense, there shouldn't be. Defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph is perhaps the best in his profession. He has never fielded a poor defense. This year should be no exception.

So what are the odds of the 'Cats repeating as state champion, a feat which hasn't been accomplished since 1973-74 when Thomasville did it? According to the ever pessimistic Hyder they are 1 in 97. "There are 97 teams in AAAA," Hyder said. "We've got a 1 in 97 chance to win it again. That's the same as everybody else."

Meanswhile, just up the interstate at Lowndes High, things are moving along on schedule on the newly lit practice field. Head coach Joe Wilson, who enters his eighth year at Lowndes and 24th year of high school coaching, which included over a decade at Valdosta, says this year's team has the best attitude of any team he has coached.

The Vikings, who have had back-to-back mediocre seasons, are clamoring for a successful season. This could be the year.

An offensive backfield that returns intact should help. Quarterback Randy Gay, a two-year starter for the Vikes, "is another year older and more mature," said Wilson. The junior stands 6-foot-3 and weighs 185 pounds. His arm is as strong as ever.

Reserve quarterback Bobby Eason has been given the OK to return to practice. Earlier in the week it was feared he may have to have his appendix taken out. He should provide the Vikes a reliable backup at quarterback.

But Wilosn knows Lowndes fans are ready for a winner. "We haven't had two outstanding seasons won-loss wise," he said. "Of course the fans always want a good record. I'm sure in their minds they want a winner. And I want to give it to them. One thing we haven't learned around here is loose gracefully."

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VHS Expands Its Computer System

VDT 8-7-83

By FREDRICK HODGE
Times Staff Writer

First there was UNIVAC. Then Hal of *2001: A Space Odyssey* fame made it a household word and *Time* magazine named it "Man of the Year."

Now Valdosta High School is following suit.

The school has recently received 10 computer terminals and a second disc drive to complement six other units, three similar terminals and the first disc drive.

The equipment enlarges the school's ability to provide "hands-on" computer training.

Though the school is not quite ready for computer-based instruction, the electronic wizards will be used in the business, English, physics and math departments, according to principal Lloyd Mims.

The computer program at the school started three years ago, said Barbara Miller, who teaches programming to advanced juniors and seniors.

The first year of the program FORTRAN, a computer language, was taught, said Mrs. Miller.

This year students learn how to program in the BASIC language during their first year in the program and actually run programs for various school functions during the second, she said.

Senior students have placed football statistics and others on programs for use by the various departments, she added.

"Coach (Nick) Hyder came in last year and wanted to know the frequency of certain plays used against them on third down," said Mims.

Students programmed the statistics Hyder gave them into the computer and provided him with the answer, said Mrs. Miller.

The computers are basically for use by students who take computer programming courses but Mrs. Miller has initiated her pre-algebra students to the system.

The school will get a modem, or data set, compliments of the computer company, she said. The modem will technically give the school the ability to link its system with Valdosta State College or the University of Georgia via telephone company long distance lines.

Mrs. Miller, who has just finished conducting a computer course for the Governor's Honor Program students at VSC, said a back-to-school advertisment was recently filmed using the computers and students as subject matter.

The equipment has VHS on a natural progression to computer-based instruction, said Mims. "But they will never replace teachers," he added.

The business education department will use seven of the computers and offer vocational office training for students leaning toward a secretarial career, said Mims.

Some of the machines will go to the English department to perform word processing, Scholastic Aptitude Test reviews, word power and to foster creativity, he said.

"Students will be able to write a paragraph and put it into the computer and get it back with suggestions on how the words could have been better structured," he said.

All of the students have received the computers well, said Mrs. Miller. "On the first day they write a program and I tell them to turn around and type it," she said.

She gets a lot of giggles as students watch various functions performed, but otherwise they adapt to the computer quickly, she said.

The students are not afraid of their electronic learning tools, she said. "I did a session for math teachers and they were more afraid of (the computers) than the kids were," she said, laughing.

The pre-algebra class Mrs. Miller teaches got to use the computer as a reward. If all homework and other assignments were done she would take them to use the computers once a week.

Grades improved and every student in the class passed, which is unusual for a pre-algebra class, she said. The computer time also contributed to the progress of the students. Mrs. Miller had them doing math equations using a tic-tac-toe program.

"One student had refused to do anything until they (the class) came to the conference room" where the computers are kept, she said.

The first day he lost all of his tic-tac-toe games and was embarassed, she added.

He went back and learned the material he had refused to do; returned the next time and won, she said. He didn't win all of his games, but he did win some, she added.

Has the program been successful?

Three former and one current student have opened a generic software company, she said.

Barbara Miller With New Unit

Aug 7, 1983

First Game Ever

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Aug. 21, 1983

Football, Sanity Are Compatible

BY ARCHIE MCKAY

Good morning.

None of us had ever seen a football game in person. Obviously, none of us had seen one on television. It was even before the Washington Redskins became the "Southern" entry in the National Football League and telecast every Sunday.

Then, Perry, Ga. High School formed up a football team and football had come to our area there at home.

The first game of the season for them was against Hawkinsville and a bunch of us went to see this madness. It was in the mid-1950s.

Our old childhood gang had grown up a bit. We were now in high school and playing a bit of baseball and basketball but we didn't know anything about football.

J.D., our childhood gang leader, was still our leader on-acceptance-only, just like Judge Roy Bean.

Several of us went up with our high school coach. He had played football in college and therefore knew a thing or two about the game.

It was a sight worth paying money to see. Actually, coach got in free because he was a coach and the rest of us sort of eased on in with our good looks.

Even today a meeting between Perry and Hawkinsville in any sport can't be considered routine. They generally play for keeps and don't believe in second place none, not one bit.

When the game was over I had learned two important things about football: 1—At the end of a quarter you don't run over to the bench, get a sip of water and wipe off with a towel; 2—it is legal to ring somebody's bell if they get within striking distance.

J.D. was an instant convert to the game. During the second half he ran out of the stands and was running up and down the sidelines. He pulled for the team that had the ball. When the ball changed hands he rooted for the team coming into possession.

As noted, it was Perry High's first football game. It didn't matter, those boys always caught on quick when it came to learning how to win. The trouble was they were going up against a crowd that also knew how to win.

Perry, to put it mildly, had a good basketball team. Lanier High of Macon stopped playing Perry because they felt it a bit demeaning to be drubbed by such a small school.

Fred and Ollie of our childhood gang went up with us to the game. Fred, the lad who could cuss for 17 straight minutes without taking a deep breath or using a four-letter word, thought football might be his game because he considered himself pretty tough.

After a couple of players were carried off the field, Fred confessed he might have been a little hasty about wanting to try football.

Ollie, who was our spiritual leader and a child of the universe, said he had no proof but he thought the Bible might not condone such violence.

Coach explained to Ollie the players had pads, were in good shape and the noise they made when they hit was mostly from the pads. I didn't believe a word of that and Ollie also looked doubtful. Sounded to me like some flesh and bones got mixed up in those pads when the collisions took place.

I think Hawkinsville won the game. Hard to remember now. Their coach was Bobby Gentry, a living legend. I doubt if he is still active but Gentry was a much respected man.

Meanwhile, here at home and back in the present, high school football season is here.

Life is too short now for me to worry about winners and losers in high school sporting events. Scores don't matter, winners and losers are determined by attitudes, not the final score.

And, life is too short for me to be concerned with deranged adults who actually think someone here at the newspaper would, by hook or crook, try to take some credit away from one school or try to give it to another.

I can't stop nuts from being nuts but I don't have to talk with them on the telephone or read their letters. If you are a nut find another dance partner, my card is filled.

As usual, our sports staff is going to cover high school and college and professional football. We have no axes to grind. We know high school students are still children. We will do our job. But, we are not cheerleaders, nor or we the hangman. Don't expect us to perform either task.

Instead, we'll provide as many stories and pictures as we can of the games, just like we did in baseball and basketball season.

But it does seem like a good high school season coming up. Not just the two teams here but all across our area in places like Brooks County, Berrien County, Cook County, the sports writers tell me the teams are looking very well.

Valdosta and Lowndes are expected to have good teams each year and rarely dissapoint you. Nick Hyder and Joe Wilson are easy men for sports writers to do business with and that helps us do our jobs a bit better.

One minor but important change in the way we do things this year. Our sports staff is going to select an area all-star team at the end of the season from our trade area. We will continue to rank the teams in 1-AAAA but this new all-star selection will also recognize players in lower classifications such as in Cook and Brooks counties.

V.D.T. Aug 13, 83

Times Staff Photos By Frank C. Williams

Sophomore Running Back Tony Anderson (21) Scampered For 53 Yards On This Play. He Finished With 4 TDs On The Evening

'Cats Hyder Likes Team's Showing In 1st Scrimmage

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High School Wildcats put on an impressive show for a crowd of over 100 spectators in the 'Cats first game-type scrimmage of the 1983 season Friday night at Cleveland Field.

"This was about as good a scrimmage as we've ever had at this time of year," said 'Cats coach Nick Hyder, who ran his No. 1 offense against his No. 2 defense, and vice versa, for much of the game.

"Our conditioning looked fairly good. The pass routes weren't as sharp as they need to be and the blocking wasn't that good. But that probably had more to do with the fact that our defense played so well. There was some good tackling.

"It's tough to have the offense and defense look good at the same time," Hyder said.

As would be expected, the No. 1 units dominated the game, for the most part. Running back Tony Anderson scored four times, first catching an 8-yard touchdown pass from Ted West and then scoring on runs of 1, 6 and 3 yards.

Hyder also got a look at his three back-up quarterbacks, junior Berke Holtzclaw, sophomore Joey Crosby and freshman Dirk Hardin. Holtzclaw and Crosby had one TD pass apiece, with Holtzclaw connecting with wide receiver Hosea Heard on a 36-yard touchdown pass and Crosby connecting with Sylvester Kitchen on a 40-yard scoring play.

The No. 1 defense got in some licks of its own in the scrimmage, scoring three times. The first string blocked two consecutive punts by David Thomas in the second quarter. Elijah Holmes picked up the first at the 15 and ran it in for a touchdown. Mark Closson returned the second blocked kick to the 3-yard line, setting up Anderson's second touchdown of the night.

In the third period, linebacker John Porter grabbed a fumbled pitchout and ran it back 35 yards for a touchdown. And in the fourth, Aundra Irvin intercepted a pass by Crosby and returned it 30 yards for a score.

Porter also drew praise from Hyder for his place kicking, as did West for his punting. Porter was 8-for-8 on point-after kicks.

Hyder said he was pleased with his team's performance Friday night overall, but "we didn't get enough work for our backup defense and our No. 1 offense because of field position and the way the game turned out."

The 'Cats will take Saturday and Sunday off before returning to camp in Twin Lakes on Monday. Valdosta will conclude pre-season practice next Friday with Picture Day activities at 3:30 p.m. and a scrimmage at 5:30 at Cleveland Field.

Quarterback Ted West Threw For One Touchdown

6

Lowndes Selected Third

Aug 14, 83

'Cats Picked To Capture Region Title

ALBANY — Sports writers are easy to convince about some things, hard to convince about others.

Last year, the writers who cover Region 1-AAAA football were convinced that Westover's playoff showing in 1981 was a fluke and therefore voted the Patriots in the lower half of the 1982 predictions.

The writers, it seemed, were more than willing to go with the traditional region powerhouses — Valdosta, Lowndes, Tift County and Thomasville — as the playoff contenders.

Two consecutive playoff appearances by Westover and a coaching change at Thomasville have done much to change the writers' minds about whom the top teams in the region will be.

Predicted Region Order

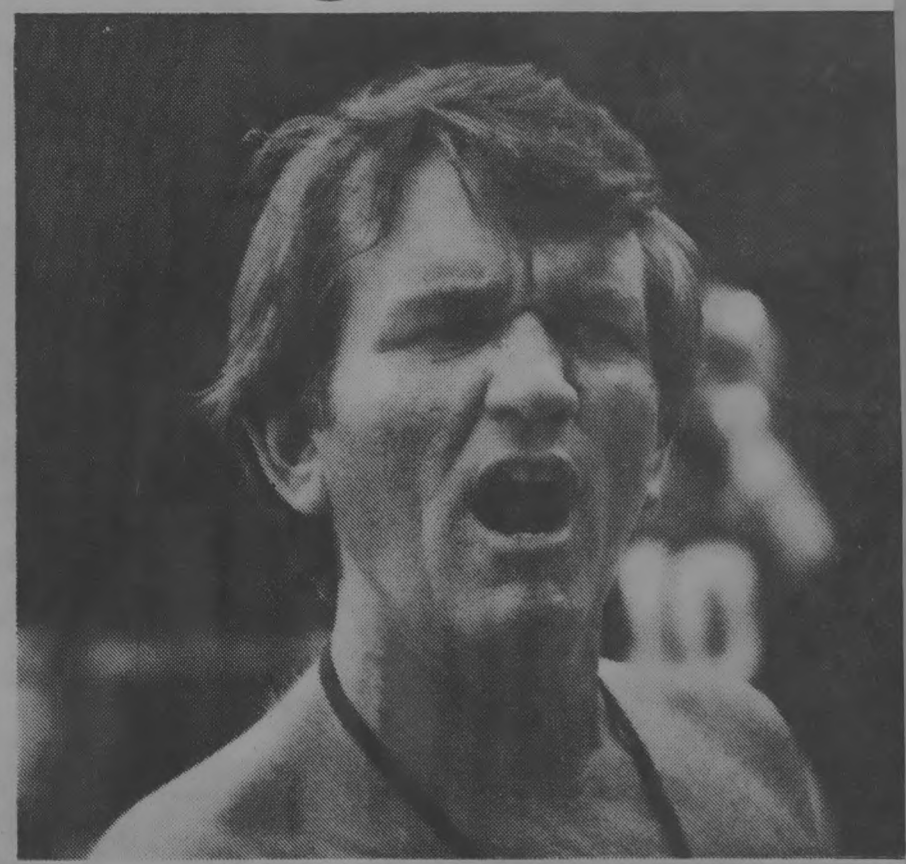
1. Valdosta, 48
2. Tift County, 44
3. Lowndes, 43
4. Westover, 33
5. Thomasville, 27
6. Colquitt County, 25
7. Central, 19
8. Dougherty, 15
9. Albany, 11
10. Monroe, 10

Defending AAAA state champion Valdosta has once again been picked as the team to beat. The Wildcats garnered 48 of a possible 50 points, giving them a four-point edge over Tift County, last year's region runner-up.

The Wildcats were chosen first on four of the five ballots and third on the other. A team gets 10 points for a first-place vote, nine for second, etc.

Tift, picked third last year after two straight second-place predictions, returned to the second spot with 44 points, one ahead of Lowndes. The Blue Devils were chosen second on four ballots and third on the other. Lowndes received one first-place vote, one second and three thirds.

Joe Wilson's Vikings Expected To Be Much Improved



Nick Hyder's Wildcats Predicted To Repeat

Westover was a solid choice for fourth overall with 33 points. Four writers picked the Patriots for that spot and one picked them sixth. Thomasville, which opens the season under new coach Terry Powell, was picked fifth with 27 points, followed by Colquitt County with 25, Central of Thomasville with 19, Dougherty with 15, Albany with 11 and Monroe with 10.

There are question marks all over the region and the votes reflected them. Thomasville, for instance, was picked fourth in one poll and eighth in another. Central was ranked as high as fifth and as low as 10th. Monroe received no 10th place votes, but the Tornadoes finished with the lowest point total. They were picked ninth on all five ballots, but the 10th place votes were divided among Albany, Dougherty and Central.

In a sub-region breakdown, the writers are picking in order Valdosta, Tift County, Dougherty, Albany and Monroe in the North and Lowndes, Westover, Thomasville, Colquitt County and Central in the South.

Valdosta was picked to win the region championship game on four ballots with Tift playing the losing role in that game on all four. Tift was picked to defeat Lowndes on the other ballot.

Valdosta TD Club Hosts Dinner

Aug. 18-83

The Valdosta High Touchdown Club is sponsoring an open house supper Thursday night at the Twin Lakes 4-H Club where the Wildcats are holding fall football camp.

The supper starts at 5:30 p.m. and all TD Club members and prospective members are invited.

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Football: From Pre-season To The Real Thing

Even though South Georgia is still suffering from 90-plus temperatures, high school football is upon us once again.

Valdosta and Lowndes opened their respective pre-season camps on Aug. 8.

The Wildcats held their pre-season practice at the 4-H camp at Twin Lakes, preparing for their season opener in Waycross Aug. 26.

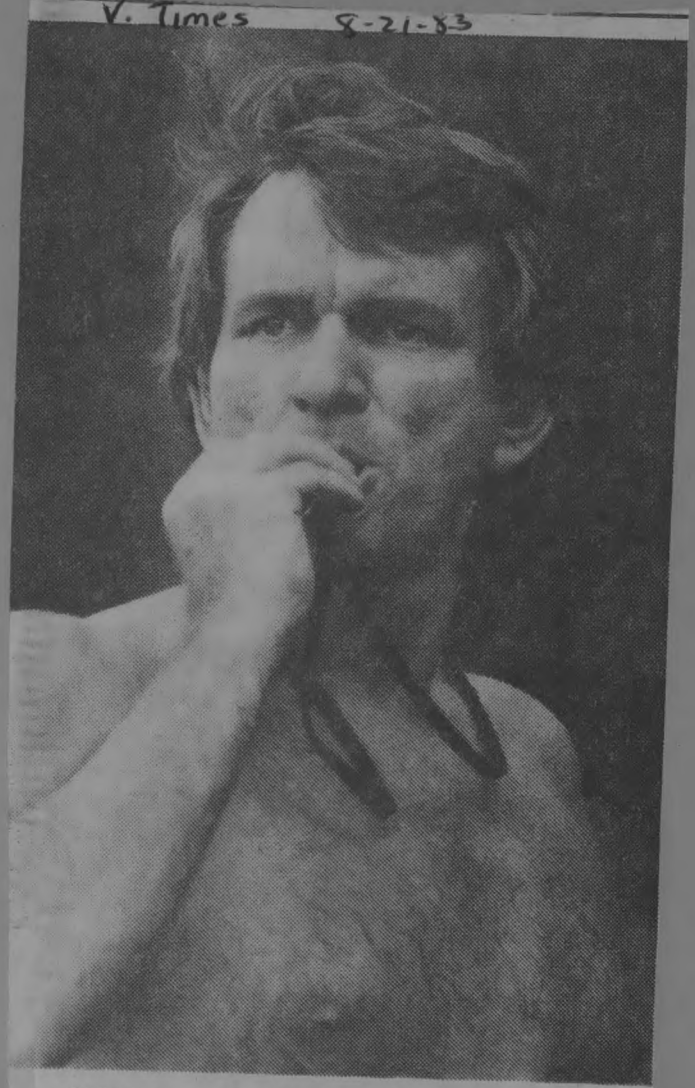
Coming off their first state championship since they tied Griffin for No. 1 in the state in 1978, Valdosta is once again picked to win the 1-AAAA region by the region sportswriters.

Meanwhile, Lowndes practiced at the high school after installing lights at the practice field. The Vikings opened the season last Friday night against Cook.

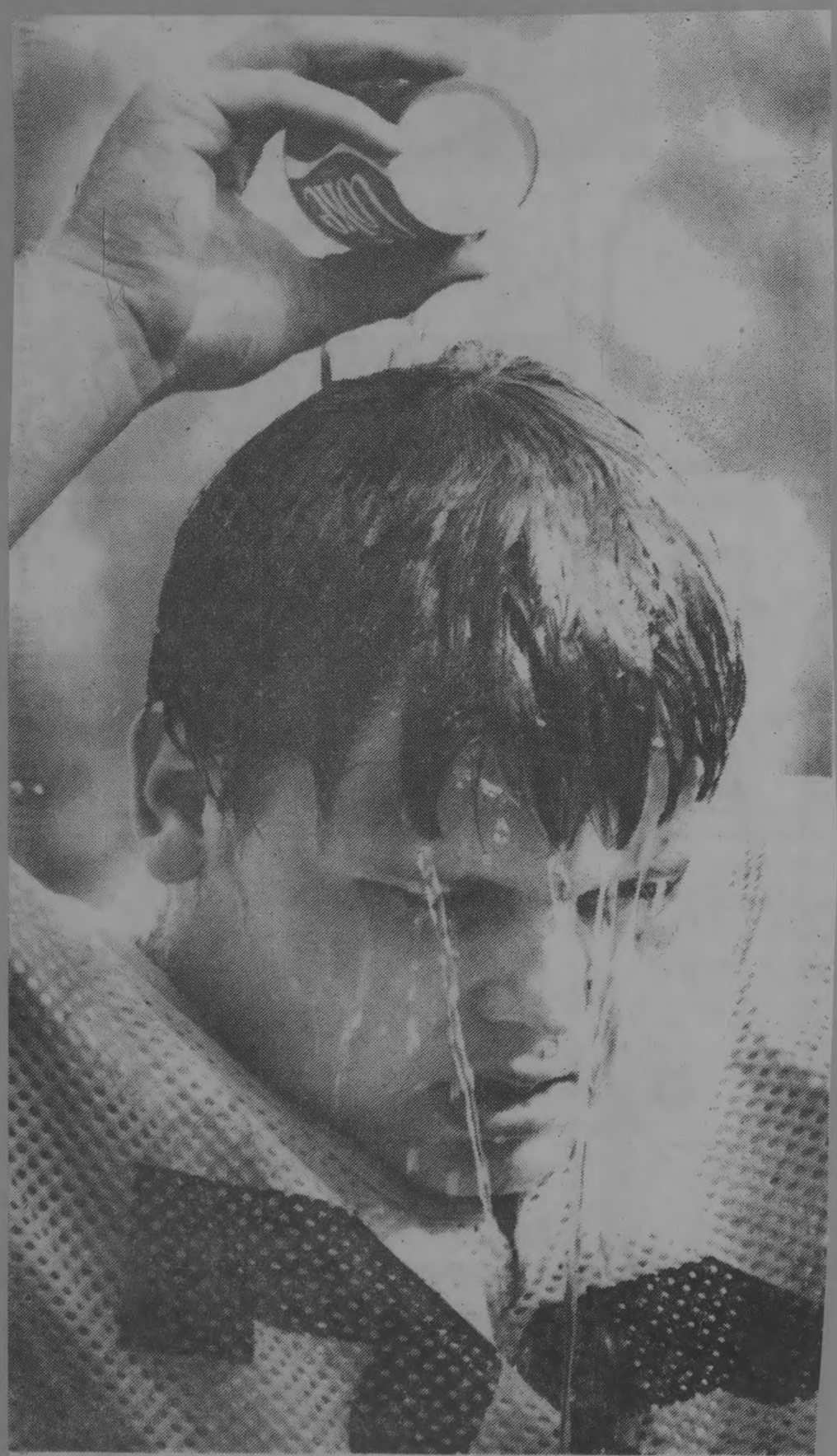
The Vikings are looking to return to the playoffs for the first time since 1980 when they won the AAAA state championship.

Lowndes is the favorite to win the South subregion.

V. Times 8-21-83



VHS Coach Nick Hyder At Camp



Wildcat Marty Howell Takes Pause That Refreshes

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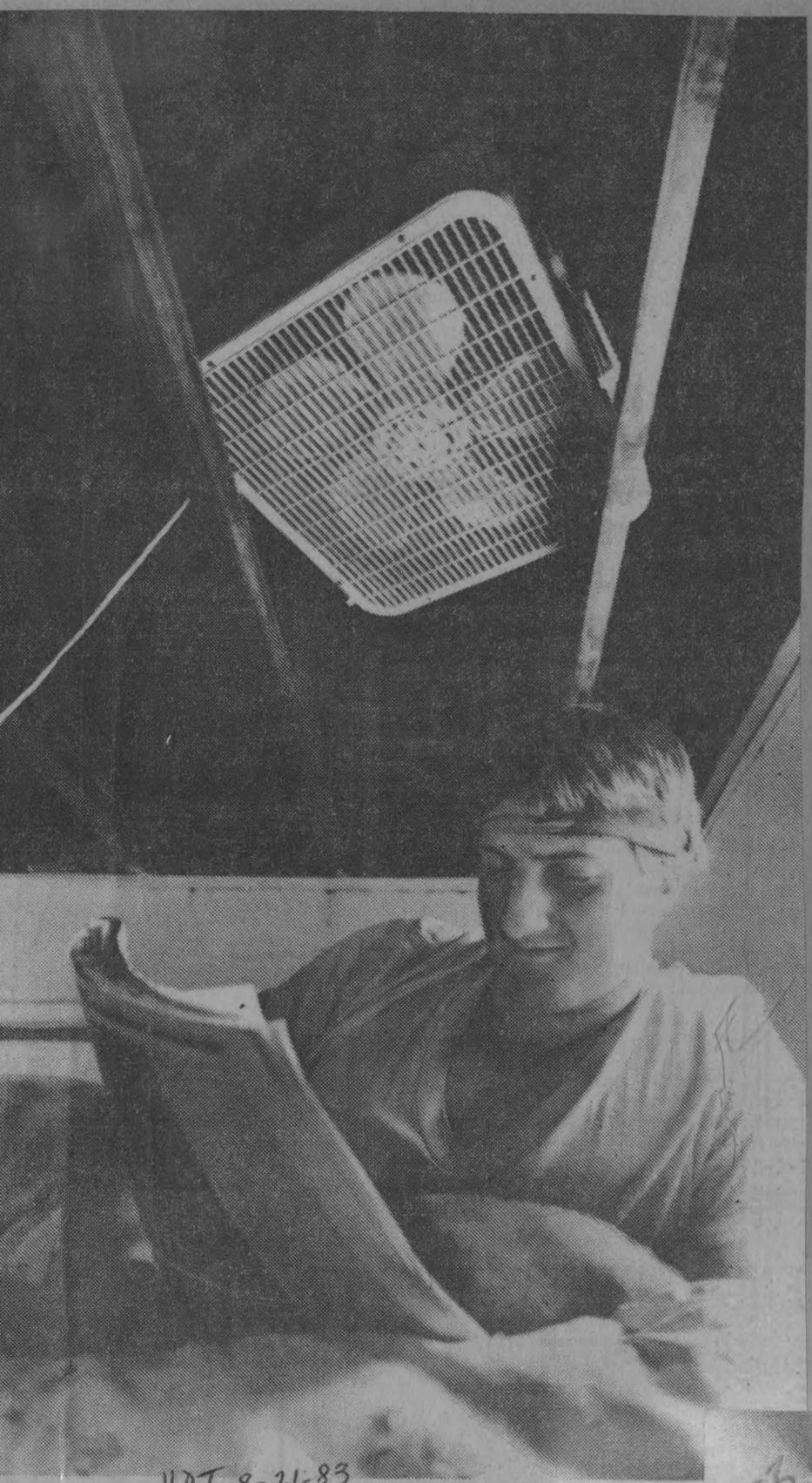


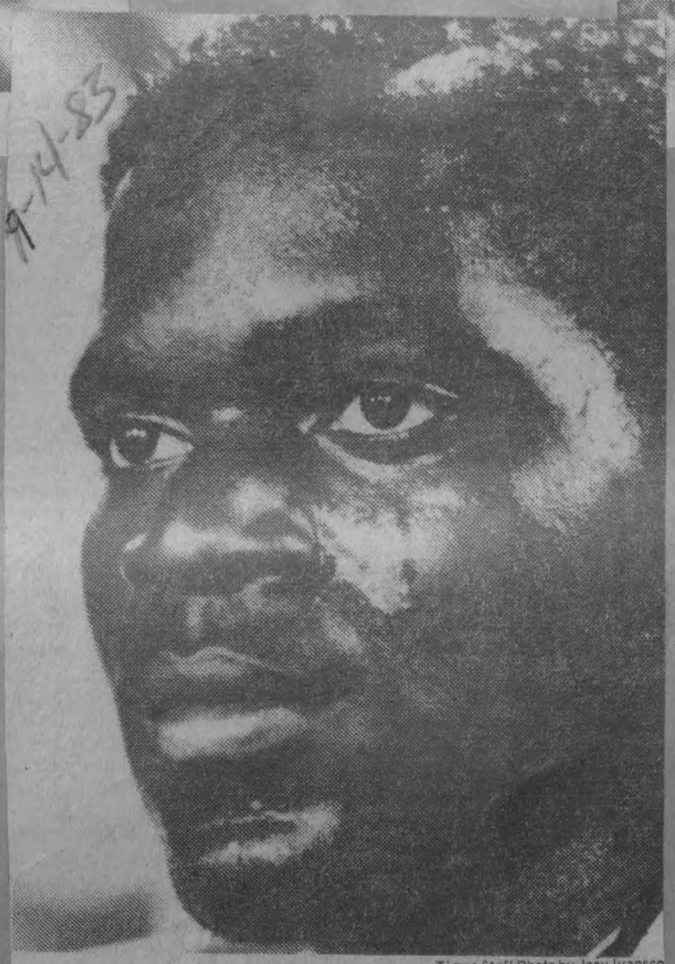
VDT 8-21-83

VHS's John Nitschke Keeps Fan In Rafters

VDT 8-21-83

Agony Of De Heat?

9-14-83



Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

Small 'Dog Defense To Be Tested By Anderson

August 23, 1983

'Cat Captians Named

Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder (kneeling, center) named his team captians for the upcoming football season that gets underway Friday at Waycross last Friday at the team's annual picture day. Pictured on the top row left to right are: defensive lineman Leon Johnson (45), linebacker Frank Abney (49) and linebacker John Porter (47). Pictured kneeling are: quarterback Ted West (3), Hyder and offensive lineman Monte Davis (69). — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

Hyder: No Bets On Title In '83

8-25-83 V-times

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

If Nick Hyder was a betting man, he wouldn't like the odds he's given his Valdosta Wildcats of repeating as AAAA state champions. Even though the feat hasn't been accomplished since the 1973-74 Thomasville Bulldogs put together back-to-back state titles, it seems the Wildcats, who won the state title last year with a 10-7 win over Peachtree, would have a better chance than one in 97.

But that's the odds the 10th year VHS coach has given his team of repeating.

"There are 97 teams in AAAA," he said. "We've got a one in 97 chance to win. That's the same as everybody else."

With the way graduation hit last year's team that went 15-0, robbing the offense of eight starters and the defense of seven, Hyder's evaluation would seem to be right on the money for the '83 'Cats. The entire offensive line, except for one starter, is gone. The receiving corps has graduated, as has one running back. On defense, four of five linemen and three of four defensive backs were lost.

That leaves this year's 'Cats a mere shell of the championship team.

But don't let that fool you. This year's team may not equal last year's record, but they very well could.

Offensively, the 'Cats return a trio of starters in the backfield that should provide the inexperienced line time to mature. And the defense is anchored by perhaps the best linebacker and nose guard in the state.

Quaterback Ted West (Sr., 5-10, 178), and running backs Dana Brinson (Sr., 5-9, 160) and Tony Anderson (Soph., 5-11, 205) all started last year in the backfield. They give an otherwise young offense much-needed experience.

The speedy Brinson gives the 'Cats an outside threat. Anderson, meanwhile, combines speed with power. He has added 15 pounds from last year, but was able to retain he speed and agility.

Willie Lewis (Jr., 5-8, 153), Scott Braswell (Jr., 5-9, 149) and Bernard Rose (Sr., 5-4, 145) give the 'Cats depth in the backfield.

"We're pleased we have Tony and Dana," Hyder said. "And Willie Lewis has been a most pleasant surprise."

While Hyder wouldn't say Brinson and Anderson are the best pair of running backs to ever play at VHS, he would say, "Potentially they are. You've got to wait and see how they perform together."

Both Brinson and Anderson are versatile. Brinson has played flanker and running back at VHS, but Hyder says, "he

Please See Valdosta, page 2

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Two Wildcats, Two Vikings Make Region 1st Team

V-Times Aug. 24-83

By PAUL McCORVEY
Special To The Times

ALBANY — Tift County right-hander Todd Shiver, the backbone of the Blue Devils' region championship team, has been named Player of the Year by the sports writers who cover 1-AAAA.

Region runner-up Valdosta placed catcher Marty Shiver and second baseman Mark Perry, both seniors on the team.

Meanwhile, Lowndes also placed two players, outfielder Carl Parker and shortstop Jimmie Evans on the first team.

Shiver is one of five players off Coach Tommy Seward's baseball squad who were named to the All-Region first team selected by the writers. Joining him are Rusty Sowell, first baseman Brian Massingill, outfielder Darrien Teals and designated hitter Lee Burgess.

Seward, who guided the Blue Devils to a 20-7 season and the region championship, was named Coach of the Year.

Shiver (11-3, 1.30 ERA) pitched 98⅓ innings and struck out 133.

"Todd did an outstanding job for us," Seward said. "He was definitely the backbone of our team. We started him in seven of the eight sub-region games we played."

Sowell (9-2, 1.21), a left-hander who also has a fine curve, fanned 88 in 75 innings.

Massingill, a senior (as are Shiver and Sowell), batted .317 with five home runs and 24 RBIs. Teals, a sophomore, hit .368 with seven doubles and one homer. He scored 33 runs and stole 13 bases. Burgess hit .338 and batted in 20 runs. He had one homer and scored 16 runs.

Shiver batted .464 with five home runs, 23 runs scored and 17 RBIs.

Perry, who didn't strike out all season, hit .382 with four homers. He scored 20 runs and knocked in 21 more.

Parker, who will attend Vanderbilt University in the fall on a football scholarship, batted .373 with three homers.

The leading hitter selected to the first team was Evans, who batted .468 during the season.

Colquitt County, runner-up in the South to Valdosta, placed third baseman Barry Bell and outfielder Phillip Brinson on the first team.

Bell batted .319 with 13 RBIs, while Brinson totaled 13 RBIs to go along with a .339 average.

Wildcat pitcher Ted West was choosen to the second team. West (8-0, 2.30) had 63 strikeouts in 54 innings.

Joining West on the second team from Valdosta was outfielder Ben Reaves, who hit .345 and hit a all-region team leading seven homers.

Lowndes' designated hitter Billy Hancock was selected to the second team. He batted .372 and hit four homers.

The writers, in addition, selected the region golf, tennis and track teams.

Valdosta's Darlene McCormick was named outstanding performer in the region in girls' track. McCormick helped lead the Lady 'Cats to the region title by winning the mile and the 880 and running a leg in the mile relay. She finished fourth in the mile at the state meet in Jefferson.

Joining McCormick from Valdosta on the girls team is Connie Weatherspoon (440) and the mile relay team of McCormick, Weatherspoon, Valerie Bell and Rita Barnett.

Lowndes' Linda Berrian (long jump), Deidre Hampton (100 and 220) and 440 relay team of Berrian, Hampton, Carla Stanford and Angela Brown are also included.

Members of the boys all-region track team included, from Valdosta, Ervin Dailey (mile) and Robert Durham (two mile); from Lowndes, Casey Footman (120 and 330 hurdles).

Lowndes Jolyn Smith and Jill Ferrell made the all-region girls tennis team. The duo won the region doubles title.

Jeff Fletcher of Lowndes made the all-region golf team. Fletcher lost a playoff to Tift's Chris Cooper for low medalist honors at the region tournament.

Wildcats Hope To Break Waycross Winless String

V-Times Aug. 25, 1983

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

It's been quite awhile since Valdosta High has won a football game in Waycross' Memorial Stadium — at least 10 years. It was back in 1973 that then head coach Charlie Greene's Wildcats traveled to Waycross and came away losers.

Eight years later the Bulldogs handed Valdosta a 29-17 defeat in the '81 spring game. The following fall Waycross captured the AAA state title.

But coach Nick Hyder's '83 edition of the Wildcats will be looking to break that string Friday night when VHS meets Waycross in the season opener for both teams. Kickoff is slated for 8 p.m. The 'Cats walloped Waycross 42-14 last year in the season opener, but that game was played at Cleveland Field.

More than winning in Waycross, though, Hyder says his 'Cats just need to play. After two weeks of camp, a week at VHS and, prior to that, three weeks of conditioning, the 'Cats have spent a combined total of six weeks practicing without playing.

"We need a game," Hyder said. "We need to play so we can see what adjustments we need to make."

Last year's team, which went 15-0, won more games in a single season than any other Valdosta team in history and captured the AAAA state title, was hit hard by graduation. Lost were all but one player off the offensive line, a running back, the entire receiving corps, all but one player off the defensive line and three defensive backs. The season opener will give Hyder his first chance to see the new-look 'Cats in a regular-game situation.

"All those seniors are gone," Hyder said of the '82 graduates. "They carried a leadership burden. These youngsters have to pick it up now and carry it."

Despite that, Valdosta returns a solid nucleus from the championship team. All three starters in the backfield — quarterback Ted West and running backs Dana Brinson and Tony Anderson — started last year. So did offensive lineman Monte Davis.

On defense, linebackers John Porter and Frank Abney and nose guard Leon Johnson return. Hyder says this trio is the strongest facet of his team — offensively and defensively.

Even though the offensive backfield has the potential to be one of the greatest in VHS history, Hyder says entering the season it trails the defense.

"That's not to say it doesn't have potential," Hyder said of the offensive backfield. "I think our linebackers are the strongest part of our game. Then there's Leon in the middle. That's three captains."

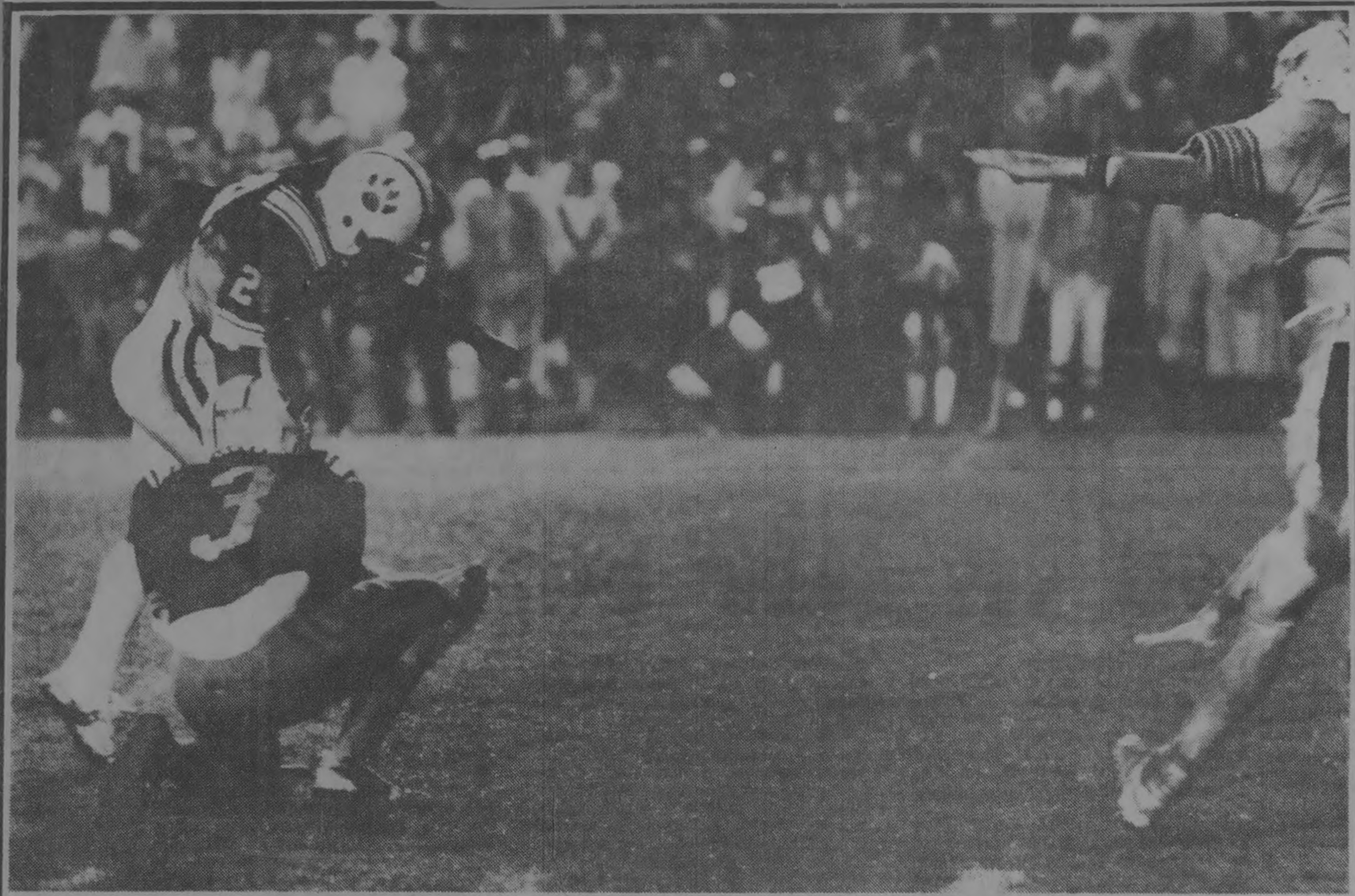
More than winning in Waycross, though, Hyder says his 'Cats just need to play. After two weeks of camp, a week at VHS and, prior to that, three weeks of conditioning, the 'Cats have spent a combined total of six weeks practicing without playing.

The 'Cats will need a strong defensive showing Friday night. Waycross boasts senior running back James Medlock who Hyder calls "maybe the finest physical specimen in the state of Georgia. He may be the next David McClusky (who played for West Rome last year and with the Georgia Bulldogs now) or Herschel Walker."

Medlock gained 135 yards in last year's meeting. But when Waycross sputtered later in the season, so did Medlock. He finished the season well under 1,000 yards and the 'Dogs went 5-4-1.

The 'Dogs may have hit bottom the following spring when they suffered a humiliating 33-0 defeat at the hands of neighboring rival Pierce County.

But defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph, whose chore it is to stop Medlock, said the spring game really doesn't mean a lot. "You never know what a team is trying to accomplish in the spring," he said.



After Three Consecutive Timeouts, Herbert Lowe Calmly Kicked Valdosta High To A 10-7 Win Over Peachtree

Wildcats' State Title In '82 Came Down To Lowe's Toe

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

The sign in front of the fast-food restaurant on Ashley Street, the main throughfare in downtown Valdosta, read: Herbert Lowe for President.

Just a week earlier, nobody, save for family members and friends, had ever heard of Lowe. Now they were ready to make him President.

Lowe, an obscure second-string place kicker for the Valdosta Wildcats when the 'Cats began preseason practice, was the hero of Valdosta's 10-7 win over Peachtree in the AAAA state championship game last December when he kicked a 24-yard field goal with 33 seconds left. Now he was a celebrity in the city in which he grew up.

Lowe had played backup to John Porter for most of the year. When the 'Cats needed a field goal to beat Dougherty High of Albany during the regular season, they called on Porter.

But Porter developed calcium deposits and had to give up kicking. He was able to remain at his linebacker post.

Enter Lowe.

After Valdosta and Peachtree had battled for over three quarters to a 7-7 tie, the 'Cats turned to the reserve kicker to win the state championship for them. The 'Cats had just driven from their own 38 using the hard running of Dana Brinson, Pernell Bee And Tony Anderson. But the 8-yard line was as close to the Peachtree end zone as the trio could get their team.

In fact, attaining anything on offense all night had been tough for both teams. A steady downpour since the beginning of the game had made driving up and down the field near impossible.

Peachtree had been able to do it early. On the Patriots second possession, they drove 67 yards, 48 of which were on the legs of running back Brad Shroeder, to go up 7-0 with 1:38 left in the first period.

But other than a scare in the second period, which was quashed by a Jeff Spivey interception at the 'Cat 12, Peachtree never really mounted another threat the entire game.

Valdosta used the Spivey interception to finally shake its early jitters. The 'Cats drove 88 yards to tie the game with 6:39 left before intermission.

Valdosta nearly wasn't able to put those points on the board. Facing a fourth and 10 at the Peachtree 18, Valdosta elected to for it and quarterback Ted West combined with wide receiver Rob Mitchell to not only get the first down, but a touchdown as well.

But that's the way the Cleveland Field scoreboard stood until head coach Nick Hyder inserted Lowe to win his first undisputed state title. Hyder's 'Cats had tied Griffin for a share of the title in '77. Now he wanted one of his own.

But Lowe was not to kick right away. Peachtree called three consecutive timeouts in an effort to rattle Lowe. Although, he admitted after the game to being nervous, it didn't show from his kick which split the uprights.

Valdosta had its title and a new hero, Hert Lowe — the golden toe.

1983 Should Be A Very Good Year

V-Times 8-25-83

The 1982 football season was an excellent one for high school football fans in the Valdosta area.

And the 1983 season, which got underway last Friday night, promises to be just as exciting.

Here is a brief look at the area teams and a prediction of the upcoming season.

Valdosta: The Wildcats may be the only team to ever win a state championship one year and be underrated the next.

Even though the Wildcats lost a number of good players, the returnees and the replacements are even better.

Look for Valdosta to be in the region championship game Nov. 18.

Lowndes: The Vikings showed they are much improved by routing Cook last Friday night 41-6. It probably could have been worse.

Coach Joe Wilson and the Vikings have missed the playoffs the last two years after winning the state title in 1980.

Look for the Vikings to meet the 'Cats in the region finale.

Cook: The Hornets and coach Mike Raynor will have a tough time repeating the success of last year.

Raynor, in his first season after taking over from Bud Willis, who moved up to principal, led the Hornets to an 8-2 regular season and the Region 1-AAA East sub-region championship.

The Hornets bowed out of the playoffs in the first game, losing to eventual state champion Bainbridge.

Cook graduated 15 starters. The most noteable of those was quarterback Steve Browning, who threw for over 1,000 yards for three consecutive seasons.

Even with the graduations, Raynor should find a way to make the region playoffs once again this year.

Berrien County: First-year coach Bill McCall was able to get 42 players out for pre-season camp, which is a good turnout for a school with only an average daily attendance of 520.

The maximum number of students in a class AA school is 595, so Berrien should probably continue its roller-coaster ride back to AA when the Georgia High School Association meets in December to consider reclassification.

McCall said during camp that the reclasiification was next year and he wanted to concentrate on this year.

However, with the tough 1-AAA East sub-region games and even tougher games outside the sub-region, McCall should be able to match last year's 4-6 mark but not much better.

Brooks County: The Trojans have a very good chance of winning the state championship this year.

Despite losing some of the best players ever to put on a Trojan uniform, Coach Max Milligan and his staff have had the returnees on an extensive weight program. In addition to having the strongest team ever at Brooks, the 1983 team will also be one of the fastest.

Quarterback John Strickland should shine this year. As a junior, he threw for over 1,000 yards in what was basically a running offense.

Knowing Strickland's ability, Milligan said during the off-season that the offense would be a little more pass oriented.

The biggest stumbling block for the Trojans could come in their own 1-AA region. Arch-rival Dooly County was picked in the first polls of the year as the No. 8 team in the state, while the pollsters didn't include the Trojans among the Top 10 in AA.

Atkinson County: The Rebels won the region 2-A crown last year by beating the only other team in the region, Clinch County. They lost in the first round of the playoffs to Wrens.

The Rebels should have the strongest team ever. Coach Jim Wiggins instituted an off-season weight program for the first time at the Pearson school.

The first polls of the year has Atkinson County tied for ninth. During the season, the Rebels should move up in the polls as they feast on the regular-season schedule. But with only one game deciding which team makes it to the state playoffs, it is too early in the season to tell whether the Rebels can make the state playoffs for a second consecutive year.

Clinch County: The Panthers lost the region 2-A crown last year by losing to the only other team in the region, Atkinson County.

Coach Don Tison will increase use of the wishbone this year.

The Panthers should improve over their 3-7 showing in 1982.

Again, as it was with Atkinson County, either of these two teams can make the playoffs. It all depends who is hot on Nov. 4.

Steve Corrigan

Times Sports Editor

Lastinger May Start Opener

Remarkable Recovery: Brad Lastinger, the aspiring defensive back for Valdosta High, told me last week that brother John, the University of Georgia quarterback, had rehabilitated his injured knee to 88 percent of normal capicity, so it came as no real surprise when the wire had a story last week about Lastinger's remarkable recovery.

Lastinger, you remember, injured his knee during Georgia's G-Day spring game. It was believed that Lastinger would not be able to rehabilitate his knee in time for the Bulldogs' season opener against UCLA Sept. 3 under the lights at Sanford Stadium.

Coach Vince Dooley had said Lastinger wouldn't be ready. So did head Georgia trainer Warren Morris.

But somebody forgot to tell Lastinger. He surprised everyone with an incredible offseason rehabilitation program under the watchful gaze of Valdosta State head trainer Jim Madaleno. Lastinger put in two and sometimes three-a-day work sessions at VSC and the YMCA to get ready for his senior season in Athens.

When he reported for fall practice early, he was near full strength. Doctors haven't given him the OK to begin live work yet, but if I were a betting man, I'd put my money on Lastinger being in the lineup when the 'Dogs open on national television for the second year in a row...

Seminoles Have It: The office has been flooded the last month with football media guides. From Penn State to Miami to Arizona to Hawaii and, of course from Georgia and Georgia Tech, colleges have printed media guides and mailed them out to newspapers, television and radio stations.

For the second year in a row, Florida State has printed the best in my estimation. The Seminoles won an award last year for the top media guide and it appears they outdid themselves again this year. FSU sports information director Wayne Hogan and his staff deserve all the credit.

Oddly enough, some media guides mirror the teams they represent. Take Penn State for instance. The defending national champion's media guide looks generic just like their uniforms.

Georgia Tech has really come on strong in the media guide race. In the past the Yellow Jackets settled for a pocket-sized guide. But this year, with a whole new sports information staff at Tech, the media guide is of magazine size and is nice looking with a lot of color.

Georgia remains consistent — not real fancy, but not drab either. The only complaint is the tacky art on the cover.

Even the smaller schools are getting in on the act. West Georgia, the defending NCAA Division III national champion and newest member of the Gulf South Conference, has one of magazine size and it's not too bad either.

Valdosta State hasn't mailed its out yet, so there's no way to compare it with the rest of the field...

Picture Perfect: It's been a long time since I've seen a football field, especially a high school football field, as nice as the one at Lowndes High's Martin Stadium. The Vikings worked overtime during the summer getting the field ready for '83 season, and from the looks last Friday night, the long hours paid off...

Times Football Edition: For the second year in a row, the early high school football season began before we could get out our annual football edition. But we won't miss the second week.

The '83 edition is slated to be in Thursday's paper.

Besides the previews on all the area teams, 1-AAAA teams will be featured along with a look back at last year's AAAA championship win by Valdosta over Peachtree...

V.T 8-27-83

Valdosta Routs Waycross, 33-7 With A Little Help From Folsom

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

WAYCROSS — Derrick Folsom was only credited with one solo tackle Friday night in Valdosta High's 33-7 season-opening win over Waycross. But Folsom, who plays in the secondary for Valdosta, just may have turned in the biggest stop of the night.

STATISTICS

	Valdosta	Waycross
First Downs	14	11
Yards Rushing	226	217
Yards Passing	114	59
Passes	13-8-1	18-5-0
Fumbles Lost	2	3
Punting	4-35.5	5-37.0
Penalties	6-30	1-5

After Valdosta jumped out to an early 20-0 lead in the first quarter on two touchdown runs by Tony Anderson and one by Dana Brinson, Waycross added a touchdown and threatened another shortly before the half.

Bulldog running back Victor Daniels bolted 70 yards with less than 30 seconds to play in the half to Wildcat 5, and he would have scored if Folsom didn't make a stop from behind pulling the junior down just shy of the goal line.

With 1 second left Waycross attempted to reach the end zone by pass which linebacker John Porter batted away.

"A score on either the long run or the second one and it might have been a different game," VHS coach Nick Hyder said after the game. "That was definitely the key."

Instead Valdosta took the emotion and a 20-7 lead into the halftime dressing room.

Early on, though, it didn't appear the Class AAA Bulldogs would give the defending AAAA state champion Wildcats a game. The first time Valdosta touched the ball, it drove 67 yards in seven plays, highlighted by a high-stepping Anderson 15-yard run for the score to go up 7-0.

Anderson's run was set up by a 42-yard pass from quarterback Ted West to wide receiver Hosea Heard to the Waycross 40. West followed that with a 25 yard completion to tight end Darrell Leonard to the 15. Anderson did the rest.

The sophomore led all rushers on the night with 143 yards on 16 carries. He scored three touchdowns on runs of 15, 1 and 31. Dana Brinson had 77 yards on 9 carries.

James Medlock, who scored Waycross' only touchdown on a 72-yard run in the second quarter, led the Bulldogs with 110 yards on nine carries. Daniels had 73 yards on five carries.

The 'Cats converted a Waycross fumble, one of three miscues by the 'Dogs, into a 13-0 lead with 5:21 left in the first quarter. Taking over at the Waycross 29 the 'Cats used just four plays to reach the end zone.

Brinson capped it off with a spectacular 20-yard run on fourth down for the touchdown.

Valdosta added its third score of the quarter when they took a short punt at the 'Dog 45 and drove to the end zone in five plays just on the hard running of Brinson and Anderson. Anderson got the scoring honors from the 1 and Valdosta was up 20-0 with 2:42 left in the first quarter.

But instead of putting the 'Dogs away, Valdosta seemed to let up after it gained the big lead. The long run by Medlock with 3:23 left in the half seemed to bring the 'Dogs to life.

"We relaxed," said West, who threw for 109 yards completing 6 of 9 passes with one interception. "After we got that big lead, the whole team said it was going to be a blowout."

Then Daniels took a pitch wide left and rambled 70 yards to the five before Folsom brought him down shy of the goal.

Valdosta bounced back in the second half completely shutting the 'Dogs down. And the offense, which sputtered early in the third quarter, added two more scores.

Brinson scored his second TD of the night with 1:20 left in the third from 25 yards out. The two-point conversion failed and Valdosta led 26-7.

Anderson rounded out the scoring with 5 seconds left in the third when he broke two tackles on his way to a 31-yard TD run.

Score By Quarters

Valdosta	20	0	13	0—33
Waycross	0	7	0	0— 7

SCORING

Val. — Anderson 15 run, Porter kick
Val. — Brinson 20 run, kick failed
Val. — Anderson 1 run, Porter kick
Way. — Medlock 72 run, Jacobs kick
Val. — Brinson 25 run, pass failed
Val. — Anderson 31 run, Porter kick

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing: VHS — Anderson 16-143, Brinson 9-77, Lewis 3-14, West 5-minus 8, Holtzclaw 7-minus 4. WHS — Medlock 9-110, Daniels 5-73, Taylor 12-10, Harris 4-10, Howard 1-13, Bethea 8-minus 5, Dixon 1-4, Springs 1-2.

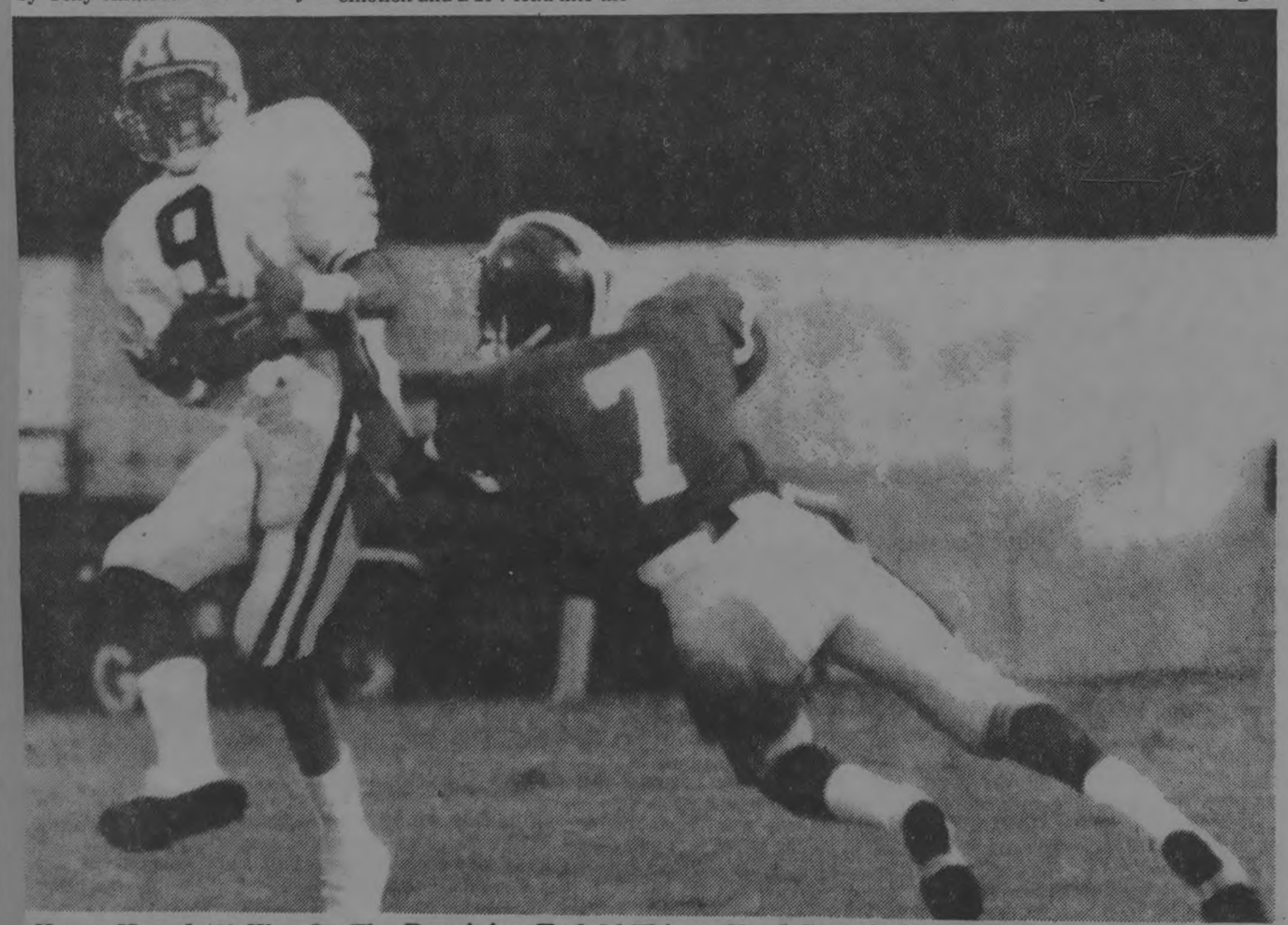
Passing: VHS — West 9-6-1, 109; Holzclaw 4-2-0, 9. WHS — Taylor 16-5-0, 59; Harris 2-0-0, 0.

Receiving: VHS — Heard 2-53, Leonard 3-35, Holtzclaw 1-16, Gandy 1-6, Foster 1-4. WHS — McAllister 2-29, Johnson 2-27, Daniels 1-3.

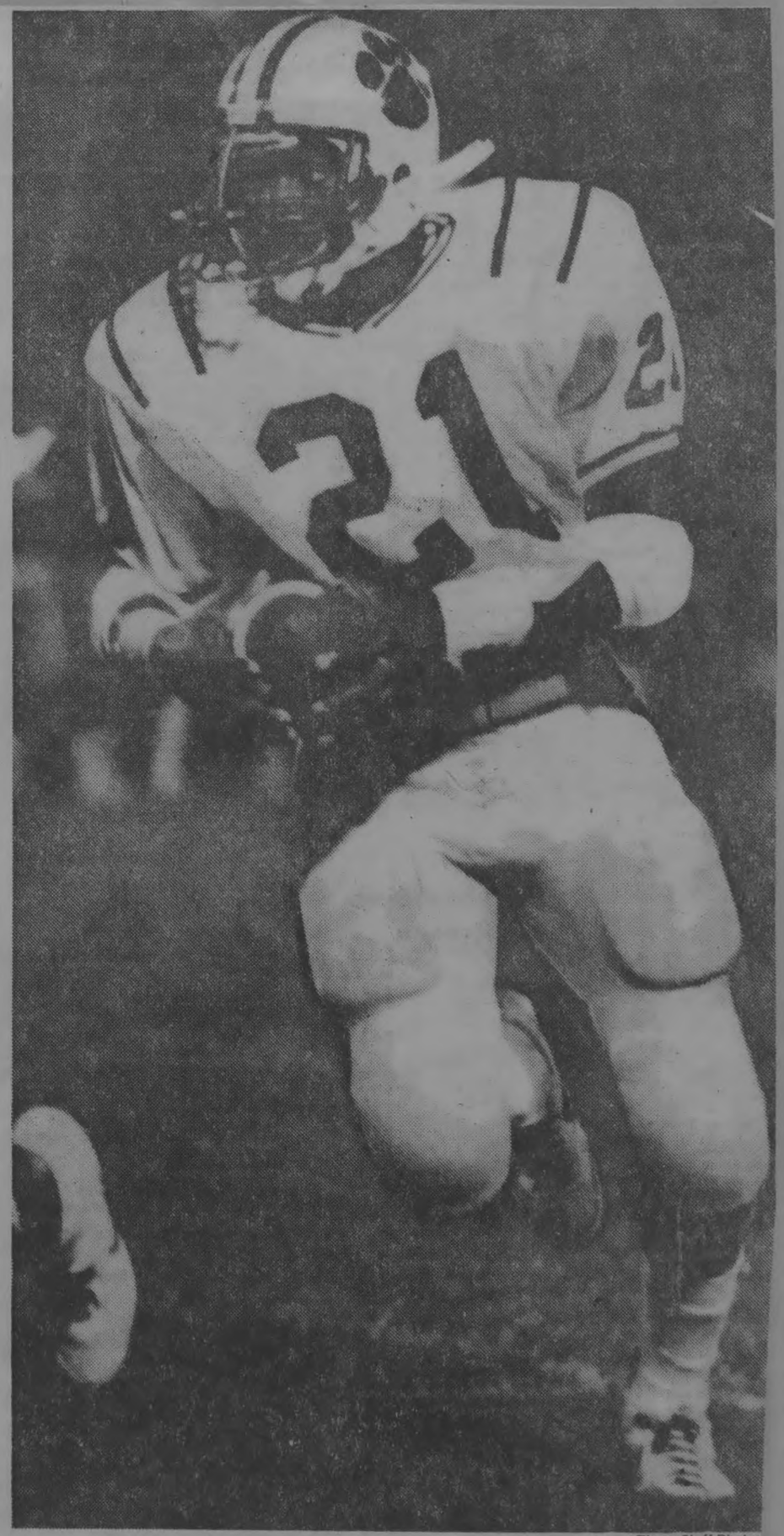
Tackles: VHS — Porter 6, Johnson 7, J. Lewis 2, Wakefield 2, Lewis 3, Mangram 1, Williams 1, Robinson 3, Wheeless 1, Miller 1, Abney 3, Folsom 1, Waller 1, Williams 1. WHS — Wooten 1, Davis 4, R. Wooten 3, White 6, McGauley 3, Martin 3, Baisden 3, Thomas 4, Jacobs 3, Dixon 2, Regulus 1, Medlock 2.

Punt Returns: VHS — Brinson 1-18.

Kick Returns: VHS — Brinson 1-26. WHS — Jacobs 2-22, Medlock 1-10, Daniels 1-4.



Hosea Heard (9) Was On The Receiving End Of This 42-Yard Completion That Set Up 'Cats 1st Score



Times Staff Photos

Anderson Scored 3 TDs, Ran For 143 Yards

114

Aug 31, 83

Westover Coach Hoping Valdosta Doesn't Rout His Team Friday Night

Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco

Lounsberry Says Hyder's 'Cats Can Win 80-0

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

"They could beat us 80-0," said Westover head coach Paul Lounsberry as he prepared his team for the meeting with the Valdosta Wildcats at Cleveland Field Friday night. Kickoff is slated for 8 p.m.

"They could beat us that bad if we play like we did last week against Mitchell-Baker," Lounsberry added. "Not taking anything away from Mitchell-Baker, but we stood around and played stupid football. We deserved to get beat 42-13."

While Mitchell-Baker is the No. 1 team in the Associated Press' AAA poll, Valdosta is No. 2 in AAAA. And Lounsberry thinks he knows just how much better Class AAAA is than Class AAA.

"We were soundly beaten by the best AAA school in the state," Lounsberry said. "And Valdosta is a whole lot better than Mitchell-Baker."

While not happy with the loss, Lounsberry said he is glad his team played a quality team in the season opener.

"Mitchell-Baker pointed out our weaknesses," Lounsberry said. "With a game like that early in the season, we can begin to correct our mistakes now instead of waiting until late in the season."

One of the most glaring weaknesses brought out by the Eagles was the Westover rushing defense, which allowed 354 yards to 10 Mitchell-Baker running backs.

Lounsberry expects Valdosta to take advantage of the weak Patriot rushing defense.

"If I was (Valdosta) Coach (Nick) Hyder, I would run the ball all the time against us," Lounsberry said. "The scouts we had at the Valdosta-Waycross game said 'the two Valdosta running backs (Tony Anderson and Dana Brinson) were as good as anybody we would see all year.'"

Anderson gained 143 yards, while Brinson had 77 in the Wildcats' 33-7 pounding of Waycross.

In last year's 27-6 whipping of Westover at Hugh Mills Stadium in Albany, the Wildcat quarterbacks, Ted West and Berte Holtzclaw, combined to throw the ball 31 times.

Lounsberry doesn't expect to see the ball in the air that many times Friday night.

"I know how well West can throw the ball," Lounsberry said. "But when you've got running backs like those two, you are going to keep it on the ground as much as possible."

Westover tailback Kerry Salary and split end Roger Trent were the only two offensive bright spots for the Patriots in their season-opening loss.

Salary, who is replacing Region 1-AAAA's offensive Player of the Year in 1982 Gary Lee, rushed for 156 yards on 14 carries, including a 59-yard scamper for a touchdown.

"It took Kerry a little while to get started," Lounsberry said. "But he ran like a AAAA back is supposed to run."

Trent had four catches for 99 yards. He scored the other Patriot touchdown with a 44-yard catch from quarterback Tim Richardson.

Lounsberry, however, was not pleased with his signal caller's overall performance. Richardson completed only five of 15 passes.

"He didn't play very well," Lounsberry said. "As the season goes on, we hope the experience will help him get better."

Times-Union and Journal, Jacksonville, Sunday, August 21, 1983

Super 11 country

— Chris Armstrong/Staff

South Georgia, the area served by the Times-Union and Journal, is again a hotbed of football talent this year.

The 1982 Super 11: Where are they now?

Player	High school	College
Andre Smith	Coffee	Georgia
Todd Berry	Glynn Academy	Ga. Southern
Kennedy Cooper	Valdosta	Florida A&M
Ricky Daniels	Valdosta	South Carolina
Chris Major	Valdosta	South Carolina
Trey Gainous	Cairo	Auburn
Eddie Hill	Waycross	Jacksonville St.
Joe Kight	Camden	Southern
Lennie Moore	Thomasville	Albany St.
Carl Parker	Lowndes	Vanderbilt
Jimmy Thrift	Ware	Waycross JC

1-AAAA Roundup

Mitchell-Baker Humiliates Westover, 42-13

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

In Albany, AAA power Mitchell-Baker demolished Westover of Albany 42-13 Saturday night.

The Eagles, ranked No. 1, used 10 running backs to amass 354 yards rushing.

Quarterback James Jackson led the Eagles with 101 yards and three touchdowns, all coming in the first half as Mitchell-Baker built a 28-0 lead at the intermission.

Westover, which is the defending Region 1-AAAA South sub-region champs, turned the ball over five times.

The Patriots defeated the Eagles 21-20 in the season opener last year.

Valdosta 33, Waycross 7

In Waycross, the defending AAAA state champion Valdosta Wildcats lengthened the longest active winning streak in Georgia High School football as they routed AAA's Waycross 33-7 for their 16th consecutive victory.

The Wildcats, who went 15-0 last season in winning their first solo state championship since 1971, scored the first 20 points of the game and held on as the Bulldogs made an effort to get back into the game at the end of the first half.

Valdosta quarterback Ted West says he hopes the streak lasts at least the rest of this season.

"I hope we can go to 30," he said. "That would mean another state championship."

With the Wildcats leading 20-7, Bulldog tailback Victor Daniels broke off a 70-yard jaunt to the Wildcat 5 with less than 30 seconds to play. Daniels was stopped by Derrick Folsom.

The Bulldogs were unable to put any points on the board as Wildcat linebacker John Porter knocked away a pass in the end zone.

Sophomore sensation Tony Anderson led all rushers with 143 yards on 16 carries. Three of those ended with Anderson crossing the Bulldog goal line.

The first time the Wildcats touched the ball they drove 67 yards for a score.

However, the drive didn't start out looking as if it would become anything. The offensive line was called for a procedure penalty and West was sacked for a 15-yard loss on the next play. But West hit wide receiver Hosea Heard with a 42-yard bomb to get the drive on track.

Anderson finished the drive with a 15-yard scamper. He later scored on runs of 1 and 31 yards.

"They (the Bulldogs) were blitzing," said Valdosta coach Nick Hyder, "and it gave us the option play all night long."

James Medlock led Bulldog rushers with 110 yards on nine carries and scored Waycross' only touchdown on a 72-yard run.

Lowndes 42, Monroe of Albany 0

In Valdosta, it took just over four minutes for Lowndes to put all the points it needed as the Vikings routed their second opponent in as many weeks.

Last week, Cook was a 41-6 victim.

Randy Gay's 23-yard scoring strike to fullback Lorenzo Thomas capped an 84-yard drive to give the Vikings a 7-0 lead.

Following Calvin Orr's interception return to the Monroe 7, Gay connected with wide receiver Gerald Mitchell to put the Vikings ahead 14-0.

Gay threw for his third touchdown pass of the first half when he hit Jason Cain with a 49-yard strike.

The Lowndes defense shut down Monroe's quarterbacks, knocking Shed Jones out of the game.

Jones' backup, Lee Mathis was intercepted early in the third quarter by Frank Statum, who returned it 78 yards for a score.

"I thought our defense put on a good pass rush," said Lowndes coach Joe Wilson. "They really got after the two Monroe quarterbacks, especially our nose guard Eddie Gosier."

Colquitt County 27, Dougherty 13

In Albany, Dougherty jumped out to an early 13-0 lead before Colquitt County stormed back with 27 unanswered points to make a winner out of Jim Hughes, who was coaching his first game at the Moultrie high school after 13 years at Thomasville.

The game also made a loser out of first-year Trojan coach Mitch Harrington.

Trailing 13-7 at the intermission, the Packers went ahead to stay when cornerback Johnnie Caldwell intercepted a Kenny Johnson pass and returned it 15 yards to tie the score. The point after was good to give the Packers a 14-13 lead with 4:13 left in the third quarter.

On the Trojans next series of downs, the referees ruled Johnson fumbled when he was hit from behind instead of an imcomplete pass, giving the Packers a first down on the Trojan 18.

Leroy Berry capped the 18-yard drive with his second touchdown of the game.

T.J. Edwards finished the scoring with a 4-yard scamper with 7:25 remaining in the game.

The Trojans scored their first touchdown when safety Calvin Teemer intercepted a Darrell Funderbunk pass and returned it 87 yards for a touchdown at the 5:40 mark in the first quarter.

Dougherty opened up the 13-0 lead when Johnson hit Teemer with a 4-yard touchdown pass, which capped a 57-yard drive.

Following a Trojan fumble, which gave the Packers the ball at the Dougherty 4, Berry scored his first touchdown.

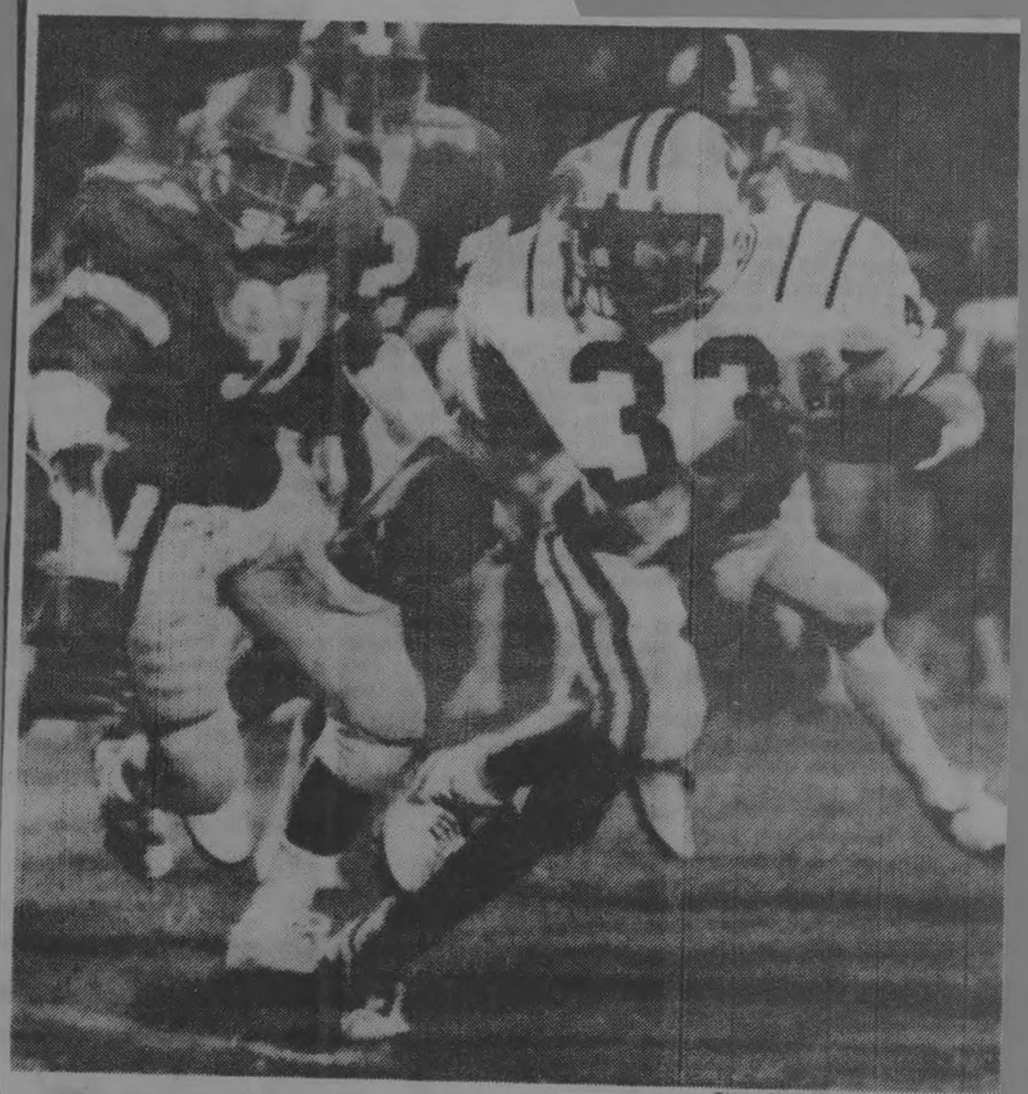
Brooks County 12, Central of Thomasville 7

In Thomasville, the two teams combined to turn the ball over 14 times. Brooks turned the ball over only six times to Central's eight, and the Trojans, who are members of Class AA, were able to pull out a 12-7 upset of AAAA Central.

The Trojans used a 22-yard pass from tailback James Daniels to quarterback John Strickland and a 96-yard fumble return by Clayton Denson to jump out to a 12-0 lead midway through the second quarter.

All of Brooks' turnovers gave the Jackets possession in Trojan territory. But the Jackets were not able to find the end zone until 22 seconds were remaining in the game. Reserve quarterback Mark Hunter found Terry Hurst all alone in the end zone with a 3-yard touchdown pass.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Aug. 28, 1983



Times Staff Photos By Joey Ivansco

Valdosta's Dana Brinson gained 77 Yards On Nine Carries

16

Times-Union and Journal, Jacksonville, Sunday, August 21, 1983

The new: Valdosta is on top again

— Walt Stricklin/Staff

Valdosta coach Nick Hyder makes a point with quarterback-wide receiver Berke Holtzclaw during practice at the Wildcats' football camp.

By Lawrence Dennis
Sports Writer

After 10 years, coach Nick Hyder has a right to call Valdosta home.

Especially after bringing Valdosta High its first undisputed state Class AAAA championship since 1971, the last year of the fabled Wright Bazemore era.

The Wildcats finally made it by edging Atlanta Peachtree 10-7 for the title after several near-misses. Valdosta tied Griffin 7-7 for a co-championship in 1978 and lost in the playoffs to the eventual state champions in 1980 and '81.

But the Wildcats had to run a gauntlet of Region 1-AAAA North and playoff foes on the way to that 15-0 mark and the championship.

And — despite the return of the heart of the team (nine starters) — Hyder expects things to be tougher this year.

"We had an awful lot of close games last year," Hyder said from the Wildcats' preseason camp at Lake Park, south of Valdosta. "I'd say the competition will be very keen. The region looks much stronger overall than last year."

Hyder may have to worry about the competition, but he won't have to worry about people at the skill positions.

Valdosta probably has the most talented group of returnees in the region — perhaps in the state.

Leading the star parade is senior Ted West, a 5-foot-10, 175-pounder who started at quarterback. West will be trying to add to the offensive statistics he compiled in '82, when he was second in the region in passing with 66 completions in 122 attempts for 965 yards and six TDs.

And the Wildcats have plenty of depth at the position.

Berke Holtzclaw, a 6-foot, 170-pound junior, played enough last year to pile up 399 yards passing on 23 of 69, and may even push West for the starting job.

On the receiving end is . . . Holtzclaw, who starts at wide receiver when he isn't at quarterback a la Buck Belue and John Lastinger, who went on to fame at the University of Georgia. The other starting flanker will likely be Hosea Herd, a 6-0, 165-pound sophomore.

The Wildcats can do more than pass, although they did amass 1,471 yards through the air last year. Tony Anderson, a 6-0, 210-pounder, gained 497 of the Wildcats' 1,623 yards rushing last year as a freshman, while Dana Brinson, a 5-9, 160-pound senior, added 261.

Those yardage totals may not seem overpowering, but the graduated Pernell Bee rushed for 609 yards, and Hyder platoons the running backs in his multiple offense almost as effectively as the late Bear Bryant at Alabama. Anderson averaged 5.2 yards per carry and Brinson 4.5.

If there is a problem on offense, it's on the line, where only one starter, 5-11, 218-pound senior guard Monte Davis, returns.

The defensive front is solid, and is anchored by All-Region and Times-Union/Journal Super 11 senior nose guard Leon Johnson, a 6-1, 230-pounder, and 6-2, 200-pound junior tackle James Wakefield.

The front is backed up by what Hyder called "a mighty fine pair of linebackers" — 6-0, 195-pound junior John Porter and 5-10, 185-pound senior Frank Abney.

The problem area on defense is the secondary, Hyder said. Backup quarterback David Thomas, a 6-0, 155-pound junior, has been shifted to safety and will join returning starter Derrick Folsom, a 5-10, 185-pound junior.

"We're strong offensively and defensively," Hyder said. "I'd say the key is pretty much going to be depth and clutch performances by key players. To have consistency, you've got to have depth."

Next year is now for Tift County

By Gary Robinson
Special to the Times-Union

REGION 1 AAAA NORTH

For the past few autumns, the standings in the upper echelon of Region 1-AAAA North have been methodically routine — Valdosta and Tift County.

For variety one year, it was Tift County and Valdosta.

No matter how you stacked them, it was always Valdosta and Tift County in the playoff spots and Albany, Dougherty and Monroe fighting it out for third place.

This year looks no different.

In the annual sports writers' preseason poll, the writers who cover the region called defending state champion Valdosta the early favorite with Tift's Blue Devils right on the heels of the Wildcats.

This would again leave the three Dougherty County schools — a fourth, Westover, is a playoff contender in the South — fighting for the leftovers.

TIFT COUNTY — Last year, Blue Devil coach Gene Brodie, who usually has several major-college prospects on his side of the field, said, "We have no major-college prospects this year, but we'll have some next year."

Even without the usual array of top senior talent, Tift reached the region final before losing to Valdosta.

Next year has arrived.

Leading what should be a potent offense are quarterback Brian Massingill and fullback Terry Revels. Although Thomasville's Lennie Moore was named all-region quarterbak, many observers argued that the honor should have been bestowed upon Massingill as a junior.

Revels won the rushing title as a junior, running for more than 1,000 yards. A bruising runner, Revels makes the off-tackle play, a staple in Brodie's offense, works well and opens the passing lanes for Massingill.

Robert Hill and Darrien Teals provide targets for Massingill.

On defense, Stan Shiver is a quality safety and Sam Hagins figures to stand out at linebacker.

If there's one place Tift needs to build it is on the offensive line.

"We're experienced at the skill positions, but we need to work on the line," Brodie said.

VHS Yearbooks Go Out

Aug. 30, 83

Yearbooks for Valdosta High School will be given out today through Thursday.

Yearbook adviser Ava Mills said the 1983 Sandspur will go to 1983 graduates, seniors and faculty members today from 3-5 p.m.

Juniors and any of those in the first three categories who didn't do so may get their annuals Wednesday at the same time, she said.

Sophomores, freshmen and anyone from other categories may receive their yearbooks Thursday, she said.

All yearbooks will be given out in library number 3 at the high school, Mrs. Mills said.

Those picking the books up are asked to bring their payment receipt or a cancelled check, she said.

A date for selling extra copies will be announced later, she said.

VHS Band To Travel

Aug. 30, 83

The Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats Band will play during the halftime of the opening Atlanta Falcons football game Sept. 11.

Jan Bristow, publicity chairman for the Marchin' Cats' band boosters, said it is the only high school band invited to play during the Falcons' season.

"They'll use college or other bands after that," she said.

The game begins at 1 p.m. in Atlanta Stadium and will be televised, but the halftime show may not be part of the broadcast.

"They usually do other things, show highlights and interviews, during the halftime," Mrs. Bristow said.

The Falcons will play the New York Giants on that date and band members have been invited to sit in the stands and watch the game, she said.

They have played for Falcons games before as well as for the Miami Dolphins, she said.

Times-Union and Journal, Jacksonville, Sunday, August 21, 1983

The old: Another dynasty unlikely

By Lawrence Dennis
Sports Writer

Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear, when a lone high school's football teams rode roughshod over all comers and became legend.

Valdosta High, under coaching wizard Wright Bazemore, ruled supreme in South Georgia high school football from 1951 to 1971, winning or sharing 13 state championships in Class A, Class AA and Class AAA (then the highest classification) during the 20-year span.

Last year, the Wildcats used a last-minute field goal to beat Atlanta Peachtree 10-7 for the Class AAAA crown, their first undisputed state title since Bazemore hung it up in 1971.

That, the return of the heart of last year's team and because Valdosta has made it to the state championship game three times in the last six years (the Wildcats lost to Athens Clarke Central 16-14 in 1978 and shared the title in 1979 with a 6-all tie with Griffin), has people asking a familiar question again.

Is another Valdosta dynasty being born under coach Nick Hyder, who marks his 10th anniversary at the Wildcats' helm this season? Can Valdosta again dominate high school football in Georgia as it did under Bazemore? For that matter, can any team?

The answer is . . . Probably — almost certainly — not.

You have to look at some specifics in the pages of the history books to appreciate the enormity of the task faced by any team that aspires to the "old" Wildcats' mantle — and why none probably will ever wear it.

During the glory years, Valdosta put together unbeaten streaks of 40 (1951-54) and 36 (1960-62) games. Bazemore, during his 25-year career as head coach, compiled an amazing 290-43-6 record.

Between 1960 and 1971, Valdosta won seven state AAA titles outright and shared another with Athens after playing to a 26-26 tie.

Talk about total domination and you're talking about the 1971 season — the crowning achievement of Bazemore's career — when the Wildcats probably fielded the greatest high school team in the history of Georgia. Perhaps in the nation.

Led by the all-America Stan Bounds-to-Stan Rome passing combination, Valdosta went 14-0, outscored its opponents 650-145 (the closest game was a 42-21 win over Moultrie), and humiliated Avondale 62-21 in the state championship game, piling up 637 yards in total offense.

It would be tough for any team to top that, even under the best of circumstances.

Probably none will, because the times, they have a-changed. And the first ones who will tell you that are two present-day South Georgia coaches who have had close connections with Valdosta and Bazemore — Hyder and Joe Wilson of Lowndes, the Wildcats' cross-town arch-rival.

"Well, they [Valdosta] do pretty well," said Wilson, who was a halfback for Bazemore in 1951-52, coached at Valdosta until 1971 and has since molded a Region 1-AAAA South power at Lowndes. "But they don't dominate. I don't believe any one could do it again. I don't know if even he [Bazemore] could do it now. It's a different world now.

"I think the coaches have gotten too equal."

"No, I don't think so," Hyder said in reply to the domination question, "but I think you've got a better balance of football. Other people are putting the same effort in it.

"For lack of a better word, I'd say it's a matter of parity," Hyder continued. "It's tough for anybody to dominate. It's possible that places like Lowndes have spent $1 million over the past six years [on their football programs and facilities]. Tifton [Tift County], Moultrie [Colquitt County], Westover, Warner Robins, Coffee County — they've all spent a lot of money on their programs, on facilities, good coaches and good salaries. When you spend the money, you're going to come up with an effective program.

"Baze never had to face that type of situation."

Parity? Valdosta's 1983 15-0 state championship team was undeniably a fine ballclub. It no doubt deserved its title, but it had to fight for it tooth and nail — the Wildcats dominated few teams, especially in the five-game playoffs.

"We had an awful lot of close games," Hyder said.

Parity seems to be the word for it, though Wilson said he believes there's yet another reason. He thinks the football players themselves are different.

"The kids then didn't have all the things to do they do now," the Lowndes coach said. "In those days, they grew up only wanting to do one thing — play football. Now, some of our best athletes are playing basketball and baseball and not football."

"I understand what Joe's saying," Hyder countered, "but I don't agree, at least in our case. We still have the kids that grow up with one goal — to wear the black and gold. The type kids I deal with — we've got 93 down here in camp [the annual preseason training camp south of Valdosta] — and every one of them's proud to be a Wildcat. We run 'em off if they're not."

Bazemore, since 1971, has remained close to the Valdosta program. But in his years as Hyder's boss as Wildcat AD and since his final retirement five years ago, he has refused to make comparisons. Period.

Ditto for Hyder, with good reason.

"Sometimes, the comparative images thing gets kind of touchy," he said. "But coach Bazemore has been a jewel of a person for me. He's helped with all the problems. He's the reason I've stayed this long."

Even without dominating.

— File

During the glory years, Valdosta put together unbeaten streaks of 40 (1951-54) and 36 (1960-62) games. Wright Bazemore (left), during his 25-year career as head coach, compiled an amazing 290-43-6 record. Between 1960 and 1971, Valdosta won seven state AAA titles outright and shared another with Athens after playing to a 26-26 tie.

Times-Union and Journal, Jacksonville, Sunday, August 21, 1983

1983 Georgia prep standings, schedules

Final 1982 Standings

	Region W	Region L	Region T	All W	All L	All T
1-AAAA North						
Valdosta	4	0	0	15	0	0
Tift Co.	3	1	0	8	4	0
Dougherty	1	3	0	2	8	0
Albany	1	3	0	4	6	0
Monroe	1	3	0	3	7	0
1-AAAA South						
Westover	3	0	0	8	3	0
Thomasville	3	1	0	7	4	0
Lowndes	2	2	0	6	4	0
Colquitt Co.	1	3	0	2	8	0
Central T'ville	0	4	0	2	8	0
3-AAAA "A"						
Benedictine	6	0	0	10	1	0
Brunswick	5	1	0	6	5	0
Jenkins	4	2	0	9	1	0
Groves	2	4	0	6	4	0
Wayne Co.	1	5	0	3	6	1
Beach	2	4	0	3	7	0
Tompkins	1	5	0	2	8	0
3-AAAA "B"						
Coffee	6	0	0	12	1	0
Statesboro	3	3	0	7	5	0
Glynn Academy	3	3	0	5	5	0
Savannah	3	3	0	4	6	0
Bradwell Inst.	3	3	0	4	6	0
Johnson	3	3	0	4	6	0
Windsor-Forest	0	6	0	1	9	0
1-AAA East						
Cook	6	0	0	8	3	0
Camden Co.	5	1	0	8	3	0
Waycross	4	2	0	5	4	1
Fitzgerald	2	4	0	5	5	0
Ware Co.	2	4	0	3	7	0
Berrien Co.	2	4	0	4	6	0
Appling Co.	0	6	0	1	9	0
1-AAA West						
Mitchell-Baker	5	0	0	10	2	0
Bainbridge	4	1	0	14	1	0
Cairo	3	2	0	7	3	0
Early Co.	1	4	0	3	7	0
Worth Co.	1	4	0	2	8	0
Lee Co.	1	4	0	2	7	1
1-AA						
Turner Co.	3	0	0	9	2	0
Brooks Co.	1	2	0	8	5	0
Terrell Co.	2	1	0	7	5	0
Dooly Co.	2	1	0	7	4	0
Macon Co.	0	3	0	3	7	0
Seminole Co.	3	0	0	6	4	0
Terrell Co.	2	1	0	6	4	0
Randolph-Clay	1	2	0	1	9	0
Stwrt-Quitmn	0	3	0	2	8	0
2-AA North						
Claxton	4	0	0	10	2	0
Vidalia	3	1	0	7	4	0
Lyons	2	2	0	5	5	0
Jeff Davis	1	3	0	2	7	1
Reidsville	0	4	0	1	9	0
2-AA South						
Pierce Co.	5	0	0	11	1	0
Irwin Co.	4	1	0	6	5	0
Bacon Co.	3	2	0	6	4	0
Brantley Co.	1	3	0	4	5	0
Charlton Co.	1	4	0	3	7	0
McIntosh	0	4	0	0	9	0
2-A						
Atkinson Co.	1	0	0	8	3	0
Clinch Co.	0	1	0	3	7	0

Schedules

Region 1-AAAA North

Albany
Sept. 2 — Central T'ville
Sept. 10 — Dougherty
Sept. 16 — at Colquitt Co.
Sept. 23 — Valdosta
Sept. 30 — at Worth Co.
Oct. 8 — Tift Co.
Oct. 14 — at Thomasville
Oct. 22 — Monroe
Oct. 28 — at Lowndes
Nov. 4 — at Westover

Albany Dougherty
Aug. 26 — Colquitt Co.
Sept. 2 — at Thomasville
Sept. 10 — at Albany
Sept. 16 — Lowndes
Sept. 30 — at Bainbridge
Oct. 7 — at Valdosta
Oct. 15 — Central T'ville
Oct. 21 — Tift Co.
Oct. 28 — Westover
Nov. 5 — at Monore

Albany Monroe
Aug. 26 — at Lowndes
Sept. 3 — WR Northside
Sept. 9 — at Valdosta
Sept. 17 — at Westover
Sept. 23 — at Tift Co.
Sept. 30 — Central T'ville
Oct. 14 — Colquitt Co.
Oct. 22 — at Albany
Oct. 29 — Thomasville
Nov. 5 — Dougherty

Tift County
Sept. 2 — Lowndes
Sept. 9 — at Central T'ville
Sept. 16 — at Macon Southwest
Sept. 23 — Monroe
Sept. 30 — Thomasville
Oct. 8 — at Albany
Oct. 14 — Westover
Oct. 21 — at Dougherty
Oct. 28 — Colquitt Co.
Nov. 4 — at Valdosta

Valdosta
Aug. 26 — at Waycross
Sept. 2 — Westover
Sept. 9 — Monroe
Sept. 16 — at Thomasville
Sept. 23 — at Albany
Sept. 30 — Colquitt Co.
Oct. 7 — Dougherty
Oct. 14 — at Lowndes
Oct. 28 — at Central T'ville
Nov. 4 — Tift Co.

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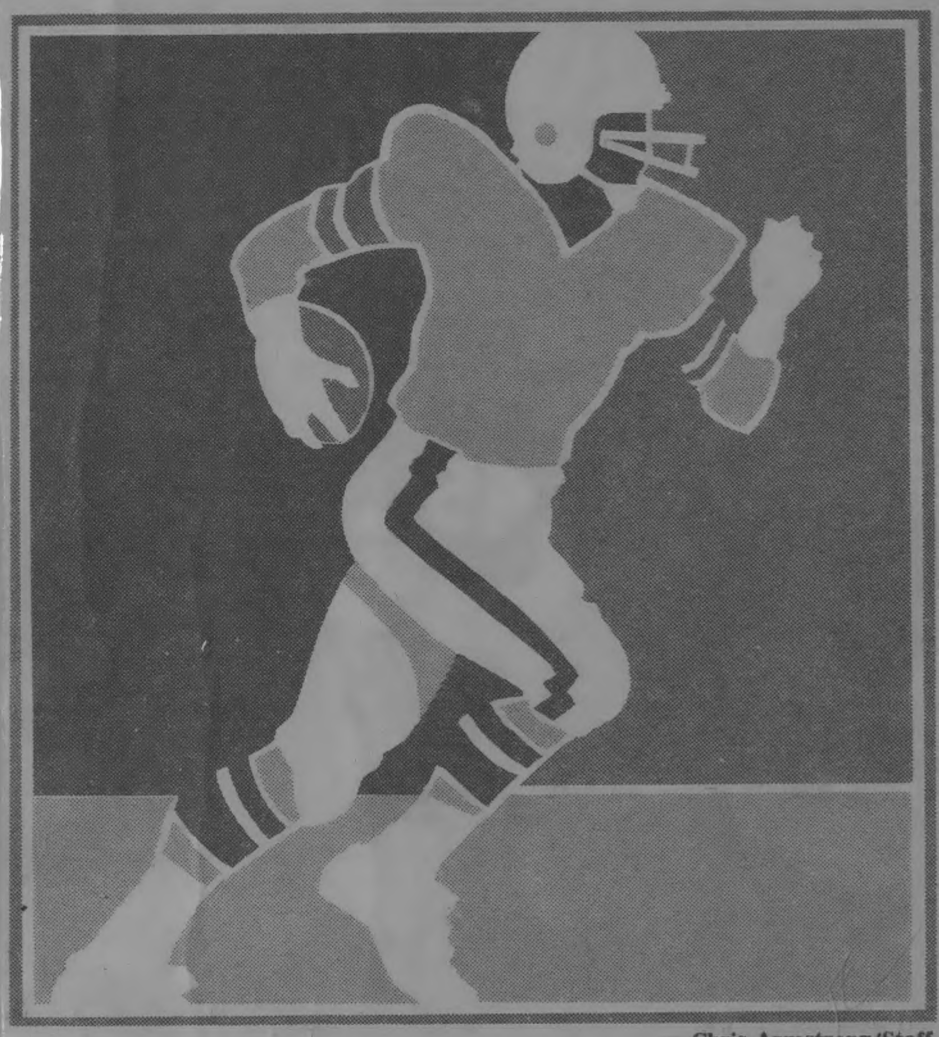
Times-Union and Journal, Jacksonville, Sunday, August 21, 1983

The Georgia 11: Super



— Chris Armstrong/Staff

By Daryl Bell
Sports Writer

Obviously, when it comes to picking the top football players in South Georgia, there are bound to be players worthy of recognition omitted from the list.

This year's Florida Times-Union/Jacksonville Journal South Georgia Super 11 — an all-star team comprised of those considered the 11 best players, regardless of position and class — is no exception.

Nevertheless, few can argue with this year's selections.

In the past, South Georgia has been regarded as one of the hotbeds of college football recruiting and that tradition should remain intact this year. No doubt when national letter of intent day roles around on Feb. 8, there will be several athletes from South Georgia landing scholarships to major colleges.

Porter

The members of the 1983 South Georgia Super 11 could help any collegiate program. And all of the players, with the exception of Valdosta's John Porter who is entering only his junior season, should be doing just that next fall.

Of all the major college prospects in the area, Coffee County's Richardo Ingram is without a doubt the best. An all-star baseball player who also plays basketball, Ingram is one of the reasons why Coffee County will once again be vying for the Class AAAA crown. If he can remain healthy, the 6-foot-1, 185-pounder will be the hottest major college prospect in the area. Last season, Ingram showed versatilty by playing cornerback and running back for a Coffee County team that lost only one game. There's not a coach in the area who doesn't wish Ingram was in his starting lineup.

Valdosta, as usual, will be popular with college recruiters. Last season, Valdosta won its 17th state championship when it locked up the Class AAAA crown. From that team, the Wildcats posted three members to the Super 11 team. This year, the perennial state powerhouse places two members on the team.

Porter (6-foot-1, 190 pounds) is right out of the Valdosta mold of disciplined ball players. He may have been overlooked in the pre-season scouting reports last year but that won't be the case this season. He is a tenacious, hard-hitting linebacker whose great speed gives Valdosta coach Nick Hyder the luxury of virtually having an extra defensive back on pass plays. Against the rush, Porter has the ability to roll off tackles to stop a ballcarrier in mid-stride. He knows the game and very rarely hurts the team when gambling for a turnover.

Hyder calls Leon Johnson a bull and for good reason. When injuries hampered Times-Union Super 11 and Super 24 (our postseason all-star team comprised of the best talent in both Florida and Georgia) performers Kennedy Cooper and Ricky Daniels, Johnson proved to be invaluable. The 6-foot-1, 230-pound middle guard was impressive as Valdosta marched to the state title and will be counted on heavily this season as the Wildcats look to repeat. *Street and Smith* magazine has picked Johnson, a 3-year starter, as one of the top seniors to watch this upcoming season.

While Valdosta is boasting

(See GOZIER, Page 11)

the talents of Porter and Johnson, neighboring arch-rival Lowndes has a legitmate star of its own in 6-foot-1, 185-pound defensive lineman Eddie Gozier. Lowndes coach Joe Wilson is never at a loss for words when describing Gozier. He's a hard worker and goes all out on every play. Several colleges are looking at him and Lowndes' ability to make the playoffs in the rugged Region 1-AAAA South may rest on his huge shoulders.

The best of the best

NAME	SCHOOL	HT.	WT.	YR.	POS.
John Porter	Valdosta	6-1	190	Jr	LB
Leon Johnson	Valdosta	6-1	230	Sr	DL
Eddie Gozier	Lowndes	6-1	185	Sr	DL
James Medlock	Waycross	6-3	215	Sr	RB
Brian Massingill	Tift County	6-1	205	Sr	QB
Terry Revels	Tift County	5-11	210	Sr	RB
Jimmy McBride	Pierce County	6-0	190	Sr	RB
Ricardo Ingram	Coffee County	6-1	185	Sr	DB
Barry Johnson	Camden County	5-10	170	Sr	RB
Duke Donaldson	Cairo	6-1	190	Sr	QB
Greg Folsom	Cook County	6-1	180	Sr	TE

The best of the rest

Other leading all-star candidates in the Times-Union/Journal's South Georgia circulation area:

Quarterbacks

Randy Gay, Lowndes, 6-3, 190, Jr.
Joey Hester, Cairo, 6-1, 185, Jr.
Bobby Walden, Bainbridge, 6-1, 185, Sr.
Ted West, Valdosta, 5-10, 175, Sr.
Bobby Wilkes, Glynn Academy, 6-1, 180, Sr.

Running Backs

Tony Anderson, Valdosta, 6-1, 210, Soph.
Dana Brinson, Valdosta, 5-9, 160, Sr.
Marvin Pittman, Thomasville, 5-9, 190, Jr.
Jimmy Scott, Camden County, 6-1, 175, Sr.
Lorenzo Thomas, Lowndes, 5-10, 230, Sr.
Gene Wesley, Atkinson County, 6-0, 185, Sr.

Receivers

Phillip Bryant, Bainbridge, 5-10, 170, Sr.
Gerald Mitchell, Lowndes, 6-0, 174, Sr.
Cassius Osborn, Statesboro, 6-1, 170, Sr.

Offensive Linemen

Monty Davis, Valdosta, 5-11, 215, Sr.
Tony Johns, Ware County, 6-3, 200, Jr.
Tony Smith, Waycross, 6-2, 200, Sr.
Calvin Thompson, Mitchell-Baker, 6-4, 218, Sr.

Defensive Linemen

Joel Giddens, Lowndes, 6-4, 240, Sr.
David Harper, Bainbridge, 5-9½, 180, Sr.
Leroy Mincey, Statesboro, 6-1, 200, Jr.
Pat Wells, Brunswick, 6-2, 220, Sr.

Linebackers

Edwin Calhoun, Central Thomasville, 5-11, 185, Sr.
Harold Hutchinson, Camden County, 6-1, 185, Sr.

Defensive Backs

Gerald Bell, Thomasville, 6-2, 180, Sr.
Danny Copeland, Central Thomasville, 6-2, 185, Sr.
Jeff Mangram, Brunswick, 6-0, 180, Sr.

FOOTBALL INSIDE

✔ **NO MORE DYNASTIES** — Valdosta is still good, but the days of the dynasty appear over. Page 4.

✔ **VALDOSTA** — The defending state champion is loaded for bear. Page 5.

VHS

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Valdosta's Home Opener

V. T. Sep. 1, 1983

Hyder Looks For Westover To Be Ready

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Westover coach Paul Lounsberry said he is worried his team will play Valdosta in a lackadaisical manner as it did in a 42-13 season-opening loss to Mitchell-Baker last week.

But Valdosta coach Nick Hyder says he doesn't doubt for a minute that the Patriots will be fired up when the two teams meet Friday night at Cleveland Field in Valdosta's home opener. Kickoff is set for 8.

"At Valdosta, we have to be ready for every team," Hyder said. "Every team that has us on its schedule points to us as the team it wants to beat."

Lounsberry said earlier in the week that his team stood around and played sorry football and would get beat 80-0 by Valdosta if it played the same way again.

Hyder says he knows Westover is not as bad as people think.

"We went up and saw the game," Hyder said. "There is not that much difference between Westover and Mitchell-Baker. But I have tried to convince people of that and I can't."

Mitchell-Baker is No. 1 in the latest Associated Press AAA poll, while Valdosta is No. 2 in the AAAA poll behind the Clarke Central Gladiators.

The Wildcats replaced Tift County, which was No. 2 in the first poll of the season.

Coming into the Westover game last year, the Wildcats were ranked No. 2 behind the Gladiators. Clarke Central lost to Warner Robins, allowing Valdosta, with its 27-6 win over Westover, to move into the top spot.

Again as Westover and Valdosta battle this Friday night, Clarke Central will put its No. 1 ranking on the line in Warner Robins.

Mitchell-Baker ran up 354 yards rushing against a Westover defense, which has only one starter returning from 1982.

Meanwhile, the Wildcats boast perhaps their strongest running attack ever. In Valdosta's 33-7 win over Waycross last week, sophomore sensation Tony Anderson ripped the Waycross' defense for 143 yards and Dana Brinson added another 77.

"We are not going into the game with the idea that we are going to run the ball all the time," Hyder said. "We are going to use whatever the defense will give us.

"Tony and Dana are very good runners and also very good pass receivers.

"Plus we don't have as big an offensive line as Mitchell-Baker does."

Hyder expects to use both Ted West and Berke Holtzclaw at quarterback against the Patriots.

West threw for 109 yards on six of nine completions, while Holtzclaw was 2 of 4 for nine yards.

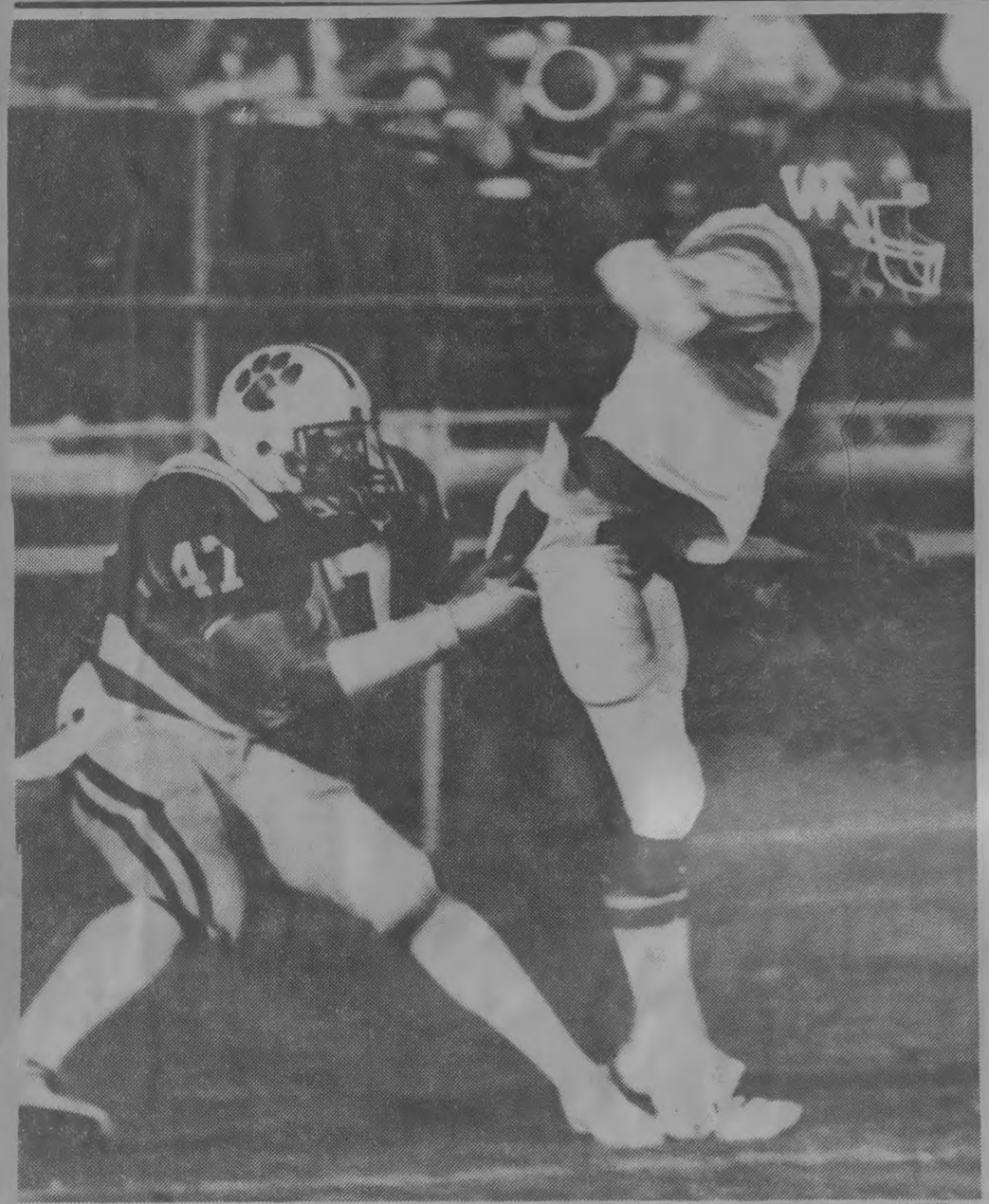
The Wildcat defense will have to contend with the Region 1-AAAA's leading rusher, Kerry Salary, who picked up 156 of Westover's 175 yards on the ground against Mitchell-Baker.

"Salary is one of the top backs I've seen in quite some time," Hyder said. "He is a tough back and gets better as the game goes along."

Hyder also said he is worried about what can be an explosive passing combination in quarterback Tim Richardson and split end Roger Trent.

"We are going to have adjust our defense to Richardson's ability to throw the ball so well," Hyder said. "And Trent is an very good receiver."

Valdosta will enter the game with a 16-game winning streak, the longest in AAAA.



Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams

Porter Picks Up Safety When Richardson Was Called For Grounding

September 3, 1983

Hyder Left Wondering After Win Over Westover

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder has now seen his Wildcats play two ballgames. Each game has been against an opponent that was simply outmanned.

So Hyder is still wondering just how good the 1983 version of the Wildcats really is?

STATISTICS

	WHS	VHS
First Downs	07	19
Yards Rushing	36-88	38-283
Yards Passing	94	154
Passes	7-17-1	9-18-2
Fumbles Lost	1	4
Punting	0-00.0	4-39.8
Penalties	2-10	7-37

Following the 51-7 humilaition of the Westover Patriots at Cleveland Field Friday night, Hyder said the only thing he knew for sure so far this season was that Valdosta was 2-0 on the season. Valdosta beat Waycross 33-7 in the season opener.

"I really don't know how good we are," Hyder said following the game during his usual mid-field press conference. "I know the season always gets tougher in this region as it goes along.

"This bunch of players remember the tough games of a year ago, the state championship win over Peachtree and many others. Those help them keep mentally prepared."

Following last year's 27-6 drubbing of the Patriots, Valdosta moved into the top spot in the Associated Press AAAA poll with help from Warner Robins, which knocked off top-ranked Clarke Central.

However, 1983 proved to be different. Clarke Central traveled to Warner Robins and defeated the Demons 3-2 to preserve its No. 1 ranking. Valdosta will probably remain No. 2.

Hyder said the polls don't mean very much to him or his team.

"The polls are like cotton candy — sweet nothing," Hyder said. "Because we have a playoff system in Georgia, the polls don't mean a thing."

Valdosta struck early and easily in the first quarter, scoring four times to build an insormountable 28-0 lead.

After Dana Brinson returned a Westover punt 27 yards to the Patriot 43, the Wildcats took only two plays before putting the first points on the new scoreboards at Cleveland Field.

Anderson finished off the last 35 yards with a run off right tackle and down the sideline.

Valdosta's Ernest Manghram stopped the next Westover drive when he recovered a Kerry Salary fumble.

Quarterback Ted West wasted no time as he hit Brinson with a 39-yard pass for the 'Cats second touchdown on the first play after the Manghram recovery.

West ended the game with four touchdown passes.

Leon Johnson recovered the next Westover fumble. And West found Hosea Heard all alone in the end zone with a 3-yard scoring strike to push the Wildcat lead to 21-0.

Heard caught his second touchdown pass of the quarter when West hit him with a 7-yard pass on the last play of the quarter.

Later in the third quarter, Heard hauled in his third touchdown pass of the game, a 17-yarder from Berke Holtzclaw.

Anderson led all rushers with 109 yards on nine carries. Brinson finished with 64 yards.

The Wildcat defense held the Westover offense to only 182 yards, 81 of which came on the Patriots lone scoring drive of the night late in the fourth quarter.

Score By Quarters

WHS	00	00	00	06—6
VHS	28	02	07	14—51

VHS: Anderson 35-yard run (Porter kick)
VHS: Brinson 39-yard pass from West (Porter kick)
VHS: Heard 3-yard pass from West (Porter kick)
VHS: Heard 7-yard from West (Porter kick)
VHS: Porter safety
VHS: Heard 4-yard pass from from West (Porter kick)
VHS: Brinson 3-yard run (Henderson kick)
VHS: Holtzclaw 3-yard run (Henderson kick)
WHS: Salary 6-yard pass from Northrop (Williams kick)

Individual Stats

Rushing

WHS: Salary 11-26, Richardson 8- -10, Northrop 3- -3, Thomas 8-40, Williams 1-2, Chatmon 4-28, Hall 1-5

VHS: Anderson 9-109, 1 TD, Brinson 9-64, 1 TD, Rose 3-27, Lewis 3-17, Braswell 5-39, Holtzclaw 6-22, 1 TD, West 2-1, Bishop 1-4

Pass Receiving

WHS: Trent 3-14, Tucker 1-9, Hall 1-42, Salary 2-29, 1 TD

VHS: Gandy 2-46, Heard 4-32, 3 TDs, Brinson 2-49, 1 TD, Holtzclaw 1-27

Passing

WHS: Richardson 2-9-1, 11, Northrop 5-8-0, 83, 1 TD

VHS: West 8-9-1, 137, 4 TDs, Holtzclaw 1-7-0, 17, Crosby 0-1-0, 0, Hardin 0-1-1,

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Scandinavian Exchange Students Visit Valdosta

By MICK HENDERSON
Times Staff Writer

For those of you who find it hard to put up with the recent spell of hot weather, imagine the plight of three young visitors from Scandinavia who arrived in Valdosta in late August as part of a student exchange program.

"It's rather hot," said Monica Wahlstrom, 16, the only female of the three, while fellow students Peter Brantsing, 17 and Ismo Hamalainen, 16, vigorously nodded in agreement.

"This weather is just incredible to them," said Paula Dille, area representative for the American Scandinavian Student Exchange, whose family is sponsoring Monica for the ten-month stay.

Ms. Wahlstrom, a petite blond from Norsburg, a Stockholm suburb, said it was also hot in Sweden this time of year, but that their fall season and cooler temperatures were fast approaching.

Brantsing, sporting a long shock of blond hair, lives in Uppsala, 14 miles northeast of Stockholm, while lanky, almost white-haired Hamalainen is from Savonlinna, a resort city in southeastern Finland.

Brantsing is attending Lowndes High School, as is Ms. Wahlstrom, and is sponsored by teacher Roy Wetherington and family, while Hamalainen is staying with the Jack Prudens and attending Valdosta High School.

All three answered questions in very good English, having had at least seven years of it behind them to qualify for the program.

Asked why she wanted to come to America, Ms. Wahlstrom said "it's the big thing to come here. You get to be independent and experience a new culture."

Hamalainen said he was motivated "to learn to speak English better and to see a different country. I think it's a great experience."

Brantsing also wanted to learn more about our language and added, "America's a big country and has a lot to show and exchange. There's a lot to see and learn."

So what do Swedes and Finns think of south Georgia and Georgians so far?

"The houses are bigger and there are more cars," Ms. Wahlstrom said, "and there are shopping centers instead of shops," although she added that there were enclosed malls in Sweden.

She also noted that schools here are "more social" and that there was much greater freedom in selecting classes.

Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

From Left, Hamalainen, Ms. Wahlstrom, Brantsing

"There's just a few subjects that we can pick ourselves in Sweden," she said.

Hamalainen thought that people were "more open" here than in Finland, but that "there wasn't enough time between classes," compared to the fifteen minutes he gets in Finland.

Asked about recreation in their native lands, Brantsing mentioned "sports and music, especially in Stockholm," which received a nod from Ms. Wahlstrom, while Hamalainen said he enjoys tennis and swimming.

Mr. Pruden pointed out that Hamalainen had already been initiated in the art of newspaper tossing by son Scott, who delivers for *The Times*.

Sponsor Roy Wetherington said he became interested in the program after a student recommended his family to Mrs. Dille as a sponsor and said he became enthusiastic about it after talking with her.

"It's been real interesting," he said, when asked about his reaction to the program so far. "It's a wonderful way to build bridges and not barriers between people."

Mrs. Dille said she heard about this particular exchange program last year and got in touch with the official in charge of the Southern region.

Her family's three-year residence in Brussels, Belgium in the mid-1970s sparked an interest in international relations that led to the inquiry, she said.

"When I indicated I'd be a representative," she said, "that's all it took."

Mrs. Dille said that preparations for the students' stay had been going on since this past January.

Applications from the prospective exchange students were received that month, she said, and those selected were notified in April.

Qualifying students must be 16 or 17 years old, submit an autobiographical essay and be personally interviewed, she said.

Representatives from the prospective student's school as well as exchange officials carefully screen the applicants, she said, and only those who evidence excellent character, behavior and proficiency in the English language are chosen.

She said she hoped the students' visit would encourage some young people from this area to participate in what is known as their "outbound program," which arranges for a sponsor family in Scandinavia or Germany.

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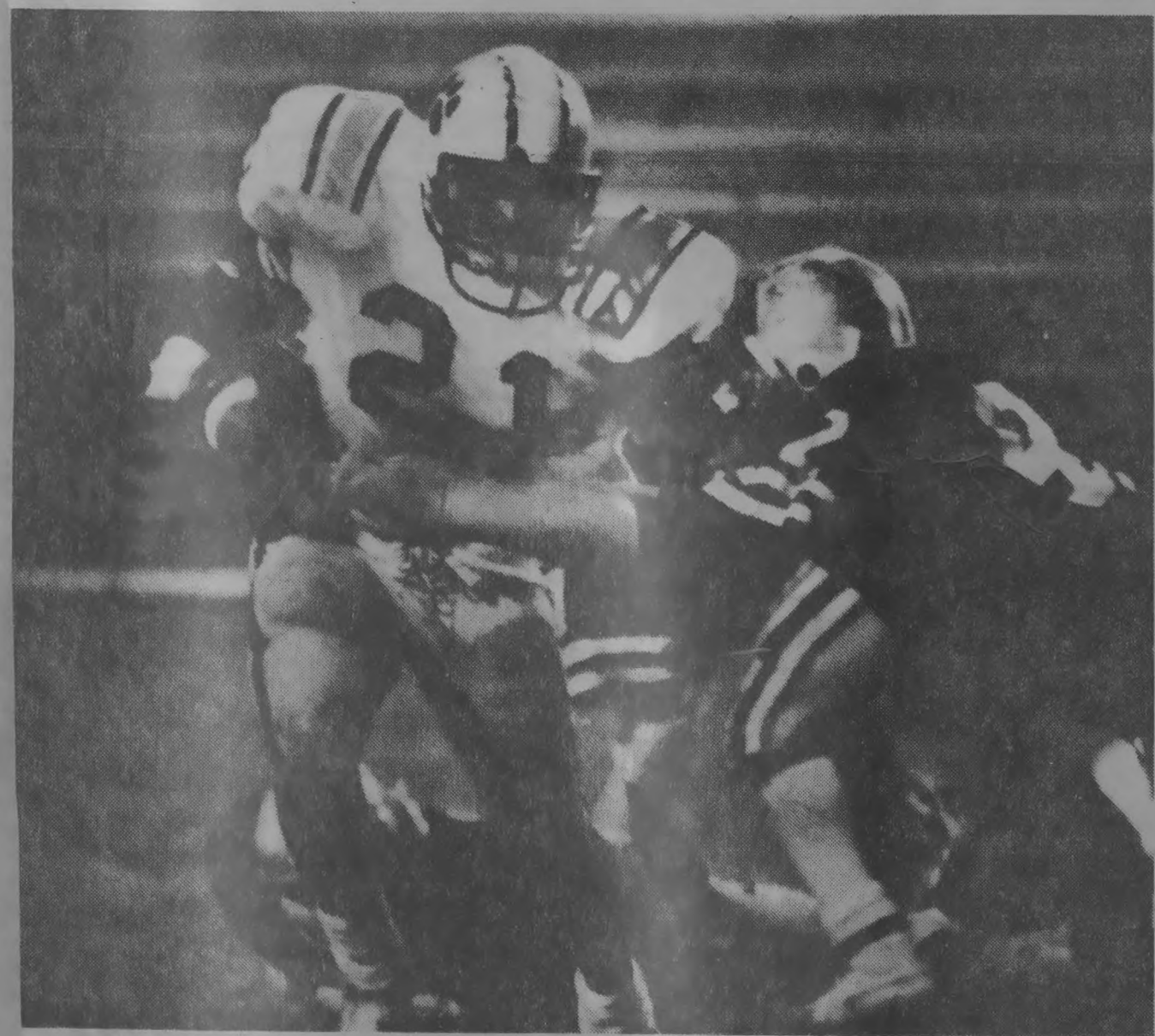
SPORTS

The Valdosta Daily Times



Times Staff Photo

Monroe's Thomas Jokingly Suggests Playing Extra Men To Stop Anderson, Wildcats

Valdosta Worries Winless Monroe

V. Times 9/7/83

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

How does an 0-2 football team that hasn't scored a point this season approach a meeting with the No. 2 team in the state?

"Very carefully," says Willie Thomas, head coach of Monroe of Albany, whose Golden Tornadoes play Valdosta High Friday night at 8 at Cleveland Field.

"We're so banged up, I don't know if we can show up to play. Both of our quarterbacks (juniors Shed Jones and Lee Mathis) are out and we've got a 10th grader (converted wide receiver-defensive back Robert Jackson) working there now."

Thomas says youth, injuries and a murderous schedule have hurt Monroe. Valdosta will be the second Top 10 team the Golden Tornadoes have played in three weeks (Monroe opened against No. 8 Lowndes). Especially, Thomas says, on offense.

"I think the fact that they (the offensive players) are so young has worked against us. Plus, there have been some tragedies surrounding football this year (such as the death of former Monroe player Greg Pratt at Auburn) and a lot of parents are being careful," said Thomas. "The players are not giving all they could like I expected them to. I'm hoping that will change as the season goes on.

"We started with Lowndes (a 42-0 loss) and it was a really physical ballgame. We came out with a lot of bumps and bruises and we haven't had time to heal yet. The true character of this ballclub hasn't been seen yet."

Neither has the expected performance of senior running back Keithan Hall. Hall had knee surgery last spring and Thomas says he hasn't healed as expected. "He (Hall) is having a lot of problems with his knee. He will play some against Valdosta, but I don't know how much."

Thomas says the Monroe defense, which yielded 21 points to Northside of Warner Robins last Saturday, "really hasn't shown any consistent play. Again we've got a lot of players who haven't played before, like on the defensive front" where the Tornadoes have seniors at right end (Joe Davis), right tackle (Hollis Richardson) and noseguard (Ralph Thomas). But on the left side, a sophomore (Michael Sessions) starts at tackle and a junior (Roderick Williams) at end.

"They're all playing for the first time," says Thomas, "and they're just making the mistakes that 10th graders make."

Thomas characterizes Valdosta simply as "Tough.

"I saw them last week against Westover (a 51-7 VHS win) and they scored the first four times they had the ball. That's an indication of what kind of football team they have. It's just difficult for our team, playing that kind of competiton right now."

Thomas added, "I really don't think Lowndes is in the same class with Valdosta, as far as being a good, solid football team. Lowndes has got a good starting lineup, but there's not much after that. Valdosta has got the numbers."

So how can a young, beat-up Monroe team hope to defeat the defending state champion? "We've got to play 12, 13 or 14 men at one time," jokes Thomas.

"Let's be realistic. Coming into Death Valley is never easy. And I know Valdosta feels like they're the No. 1 team in the state and they want to keep their high ranking.

"We're just going to come over and play good, basic football and try to improve over last week. If we can just show some improvement, I'll be satisfied."

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Valdosta Hosts Winless Monroe

9-8-83

'Cats Ready For Sub-Region Opener

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

When talking to the press this week, Monroe of Albany head coach Willie Thomas has all but conceded his team's game with Valdosta High Friday night at Cleveland Field.

But Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder, whose team is ranked No. 2 in the current Associated Press state AAAA poll, is having none of it. "They (the Monroe coaches) haven't called to cancel the game. So we're still going to play."

Despite Monroe's 0-2 record, the fact that it is the Wildcats' firs sub-region contest makes it that much more important.

Hyder discounts any suggestion that his team might not be up for Monroe emotionally. "Our object is to approach every game with the same amount of intensity," he said. "We work hard for an emotional level that pretty much always the same."

Thomas claimed Wednesday that his Golden Tornadoes are "so banged up, I don't know if we can show up to play." But Hyder is apparently taking Thomas' injury report with a grain of salt.

For example, Thomas said both of his quarterbacks, juniors Shed Jones and Lee Mathis, "are out." But Hyder said Jones played the entire game against Northside of Warner Robins last Saturday. "I don't know, something may have happened in practice, but he played the whole game last week and we're assuming he will Friday night."

Another example is linebacker-running back Keithan Hall. The senior underwent knee surgery last spring and Thomas has said he doesn't know how much he will play. But Hyder said that from what he saw in the Northside-Monroe game, "Keithan Hall is an excellent linebacker. He was making some good tackles."

Monroe has had some problems on offense in its first two games as is evidenced by the scores — 42-0 and 21-0. "I'm fully aware that they haven't scored yet," said Hyder.

"But I'm also aware that Coach Thomas has said that this year he has the best speed, the best size and the best ability he's ever had there.

"And they have an excellent quarterback in Shed Jones and some good receivers with a lot of speed ... that speed worries me. On just one play you can not play one of them right and the next thing you know, that receiver has caught a ball and outruns you to the endzone.

"They could bust it and go at any time."

On the line, Hyder said that Monroe center Hollis Richardson is "the best center in the region."

"As I said, Shed Jones can throw the ball well," Hyder added. "And (Eric) Singletary and Hall are good, tough backs who could start for anybody in the region."

On defense, Hyder calls Hall and Singletary "both good linebackers." He also liked what he saw in defensive end Joe Davis and cornerback Tony Mosley.

After the whippings Monroe has taken at the hands of Lowndes and Northside in its first two games, Friday's game would appear to be a cakewalk for the 'Cats. But that's not true to hear Hyder tell it.

"My experience is it's never been easy to play Monroe," he said. "Last year, we won 35-0, but we scored quickly and had to fight the rest of the game."

Hyder characterized Monroe as "a team that hits hard, has great speed and has great pride ... I think they're in the process of putting things together. They have some people with experience, but they don't have people with much experience at their positions.

"That's the same thing that happened to Westover (of Albany). We beat Westover 51-7 (last week) but we're not that much better than them. They're going to improve.

"They (Monroe) are still hungry," Hyder added. "They know they've got to get something going. And I think they will."

But whether Monroe can get something going in time to help them Friday night remains to be seen.

9-8-83

Prep Coaches Looking To Start Season Later

Valdosta High coach Nick Hyder will meet with several colleagues Saturday at Woodward Academy in College Park to discuss a proposal that would push the starting date for the football season back until after Labor Day, the first Monday in September.

The coaches' proposal, which Hyder says he fully supports, would have the first game of the year being played on the first Friday following Labor Day.

As the Georgia High School Association rule stands now, schools can start the 1983 season on the third weekend in August. With either two or three weeks of practice in pads and three more before that in shorts, pre-season practice usually starts in mid-July.

The coaches are expected to introduce the proposal they come up with in this Saturday's meeting to the GHSA Executive Committee for approval in the board's December meeting.

In addition to Hyder, other coaches that have made plans to attend are: Graham Hixon, Woodward Academy; Bobby Gruhn, Gainesville; Jerry Sharp, East Rome; Mike Hodges, West Rome; Lloyd Bohannon, Griffin and Bob Davis, Warner Robins.

Hyder says the underlying reason for the proposal is a decline in participation in football at many high schools in the state.

"There are a couple of schools that have had as many as 25 or 30 people drop from their teams over the last couple of years," Hyder said. "Because the starting date has been pushed back, many kids have quit, so they can go on vacations with their parents or because they are working. Some just have other things to do besides playing football."

Hyder's concern for a decline in participation in football at Valdosta would have to be in the future. Valdosta broke 1983's pre-season camp with 92 players, one of the largest groups ever at VHS.

The proposal would have a 10-game schedule played in 11 weeks. It also plans for two-game region and three-game state playoffs. The finale of the season, the state championship game, would be played the weekend before Christmas.

Teams would also be finishing up their regular seasons, provided they took a week off some time in the season, on Thanksgiving weekend.

For college and pro football, the Thanksgiving weekend is one where many heated rivalries are renewed. High school football in this state used to be the same way.

"It would be a big benefit to everyone to play a big regular season game on that weekend," Hyder said. "It would especially help the non-playoff teams."

Hyder said the coaches who are at fault for the starting date being pushed back farther into summer. He said that winter sports coaches have been using their muscle to make sure football does not overlap their sports.

"As a group, we football coaches have let the winter sports coaches push us back," Hyder said. "We have to remember that football generates all the revenue and pays for the other sports.

"We are going to have to make sure we get heard at these upcoming meetings."

Hyder says the coaching group will push hard for Executive Committee to adopt the proposal.

"All coaches have to get more youngsters involved in football," Hyder said. "If we start football closer to the start of school, maybe more people will be interested. As it is now, not only are we losing people in the field, we are losing fans. It would be better for the fans to start football later as well."

Teen's Song

9-8-83

EDITOR'S NOTE: Organizations and businesses wishing to list their plans or change regular entertainment information should contact The Times People department by Tuesday afternoon before the Thursday publication date.

By Times Staff Writer

A Valdosta teen-ager won a country song writing contest here.

Dotty Jo Brown, 17, daughter of Bill and Dorothy Brown of Valdosta, won the WJEM contest sponsored by Kentucky Fried Chicken, said a spokesman.

Her song, *You're Not Fooling Me*, was judged the best in this area, the spokesman said.

It has been sent to national competition where the top two winners will be recorded by Johnny Lee, the spokesman said.

The Valdosta High School senior admits the boy she wrote the song for is a Lowndes High School graduate. It took about a week to write the song she said was inspired by "the best looking guy I had ever met."

She has been writing songs and poetry since she was 6 but had not entered any of them in any competition before, the spokesman said.

She is the current Miss Teen Georgia and is recognized as an outstanding volunteer with the Young Volunteers in Action, giving more than 100 hours last summer to work in the program.

DOTTY JO BROWN
Writes About LHS Grad

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Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

Hyder Credits Staff With Success

Hyder Closes In On Coaching Mark

V-Times 9-9-83

100th Win Could Come Against Dougherty

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Some time during the 1983 season, Nick Hyder's 10th as head coach at Valdosta High, the Wildcats will register their 100th win under the Tennessee native.

If Valdosta continues unbeaten through its next four games, Hyder's 100th win could come against Dougherty of Albany Oct. 7, at Cleveland Field.

In a profession where a winning percentage of .700 is thought of as doing a pretty good job, Hyder's is well above that. He has, at present, 95 wins, 20 losses and one tie (.827).

The two coaches that preceded Hyder at Valdosta can boast of similar winning percentages.

The legendary Wright Bazemore won 290, lost 43 and tied six, (.856), during his 31 years as the Valdosta mentor.

Replacing Bazemore in 1972 was Charlie Greene, who resigned under pressure after finishing 17-3 (.850) in his two years as head coach.

Hyder's cross-town rival, Joe Wilson of Lowndes, has a 58-21 (.734) slate in the eight years since leaving his assistant coaching position at VHS to take over the reigns at Lowndes.

Hyder, who won 53 games while at West Rome High School prior to coming to Valdosta, says he thinks such records are vastly overrated.

"Records like that don't mean much to me personally," Hyder said. "I think it shows a much broader success than just one person.

"Every one of those wins was a school effort. The fans, band, students, faculty and school board members all pull together to come out a winner."

Hyder credits much of the success in his 10 years here at VHS to a coaching staff which has been together for eight years.

"This is a fine staff to work with," Hyder said. "They are here every morning before the sun comes up and leave long after the sun has gone down.

"They are as much responsible for the success we have had here as any group."

In his 10 years at Valdosta, Hyder's long string of successes have included five region championships, two 1-AAA and three 1-AAAA, three South Georgia championships, one AAAA State title and one AAAA co-state title.

	W	L	T
1974	3	7	0
1975	10	2	0
1976	9	2	0
1977	12	2	0
1978	14	0	1
1979	8	4	0
1980	11	1	0
1981	11	2	0
1982	15	0	0
1983	2		

(at West Rome)		
53	12	3
(at Valdosta)		
95	20	1
Overall		
148	32	4

Valdosta Moves Closer, Lowndes Still 8th

9-14-83

ATLANTA (AP) — The Valdosta Wildcats are set to pounce on any misstep by the Clarke Central Gladiators.

The No. 2 Wildcats blasted Monroe 66-13 Friday night to move closer to Clarke Central, top-ranked in Class AAAA in the Associated Press' weekly poll of Georgia high school football teams.

Clarke Central, 19-0 victors over Northeast Macon, maintained 95 out of 100 possible points in balloting by a board of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters. Valdosta, however, rode its third straight decisive victory to move to 91 points, six more than last week.

Mary Persons is also feeling pursuit as West Rome trails the Bulldogs by a single point in Class AA.

Meanwhile, Mitchell-Baker and Palmetto used impressive victories during the weekend to solidify their positions on top of Class AAA and Class A, respectively.

Behind Clarke Central and Valdosta in Class AAAA were, in order: Tift County, Warner Robins, Statesboro, Coffee, Baldwin, Lowndes, Dunwoody and Campbell of Smyrna.

Cedar Shoals, 26-9 losers to Warner Robins, and Westside, 33-13 losers to Glenn Hills, dropped from the rankings. Cedar Shoals had been ranked fourth and Westside had been No. 10.

Dunwoody and Campbell of Smyrna were new to the rankings this week.

In Class AA, No. 2 West Rome was a 28-13 winner over Dalton on Friday while No. 1 Mary Persons trounced unranked Upson 36-6. Dalton had been ranked fourth among Class AAA schools until the defeat by West Rome.

Mary Persons received five first-place votes to West Rome's three.

The rest of Class AA was: Lincoln County, Claxton, Dooly County, Brooks County, Greene County, East Rome, Central of Carrollton and R.E. Lee.

R.E. Lee returned to the top 10 for the first time since the first poll. The Rebels were ranked third then, but a 28-6 loss to Morrow knocked them out. Central of Carrollton, undefeated after four games, was in the poll for the first time this year.

They replaced Morgan and Pierce counties, last week's No. 8 and No. 9 teams.

Mitchell-Baker and Palmetto each received 98 of a possible 100 points to take the top spot in their classes.

Mitchell-Baker defeated then-No. 2 ranked Bainbridge 17-7 last week, solidifying its position on top of Class AAA while dropping the Bearcats to seventh.

Gainesville defeated Habersham Central 34-17 to move into second place.

Americus made the biggest jump of any team in the four classifications, moving from sixth to third. The Panthers beat Crisp County 13-9 to jump over No. 4 Dublin and No. 5 Glenn Hills.

The rest of Class AAA was: Marist, Bainbridge, Camden County, Dalton and, in a tie for 10th, Cass and Thomson.

Both of the No. 10 teams were new to the poll this week, while Woodward Academy, 31-21 losers to Marist, dropped from the list. Woodward had been ranked ninth.

In Class A, Palmetto has yet to be scored on in three games while galloping to 80 points of its own. Despite Palmetto's dominance, Buford — with one first place vote — is a fairly close second with 91 points to the Raiders' 98.

Third-ranked Greenville took the other first place vote.

Next came Jefferson, West Point, Metter, Wrens, Wilcox County, Clinch County and, in a tie for 10th, Hogansville and Arnold — both new to the poll this week.

Dropping from the top 10 were Emanuel County Institute and Adairsville, which were tied for 10th last week. ECI lost to Metter 14-13 and Adairsville lost to Cass 13-8.

Class AAAA
1. Clarke Central (2-0), 95.4
2. Valdosta (3-0), 91.1
3. Tift County (2-0), 83.1
4. Warner Robins (2-1), 49
5. Statesboro (3-0), 45
6. Coffee (2-0), 44
7. Baldwin (3-0), 32
8. Lowndes (3-1), 30
9. Dunwoody (3-0), 13
10. Campbell, Smyrna (3-0), 11

Also receiving votes: Cedar Shoals, Evans, Glynn Academy, LaGrange, Lakeside, Laney, Southeast Macon, Thomasville, Sprayberry and Westside.

Class AAA
1. Mitchell-Baker (3-0), 98.8
2. Gainesville (3-0), 83
3. Americus (3-0), 66
4. Dublin (3-0), 65.1
5. Glenn Hills (2-0), 56.1
6. Marist (3-0), 51
7. Bainbridge (2-1), 36
8. Camden County (3-0), 27
9. Dalton (1-1), 15
10. Tie — Cass (3-0), 10
Thomson (3-0), 10

Also receiving votes: Brookwood, Cairo, Effingham County, Franklin County Towers, Waycross, West Laurens and Woodward Academy.

Class AA
1. Mary Persons (2-0), 85.5
2. West Rome (2-0), 82.3
3. Lincoln County (3-0), 75.1
4. Claxton (3-0), 72
5. Dooly County (3-0), 63
6. Brooks County (2-0), 43
7. Greene County (3-0), 42
8. East Rome (2-0), 17
9. Central, Carrollton (4-0), 16.1
10. R.E. Lee (1-1), 9

Also receiving votes: Druid Hills, East Laurens, Gilmer County, Lamar, Loganville, Manchester, Morgan County, Pierce County, Terrell County, Union County and Washington-Wilkes.

Class A
1. Palmetto (3-0), 98.8
2. Buford (3-0), 91.1
3. Greenville (2-0), 79.1
4. Jefferson (3-0), 60
5. West Point (3-0), 53
6. Metter (2-1), 52
7. Wrens (2-1), 35
8. Wilcox County (3-0), 32
9. Clinch County (3-0), 28
10. Tie — Hogansville (2-0), 9
Arnold (3-0), 9

Also receiving votes: Adairsville, Bremen, East Coweta, Emanuel County Institute, Georgia Military College and Warren.

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9-1983

Football Ho-Hums

VHS Seniors Melissa Jones, left, and Felecia Rosser took time out to catch up on the news as they apparently weren't too excited with the Valdosta High-Monroe High football game Friday night at Cleveland Field. Little wonder, since the Wildcats registered a 66-13 thrashing of the Tornadoes. Lowndes High, meanwhile, took care of business with a 35-0 whipping of Colquitt County at Martin Stadium. For details on these and other games, see page 9.—Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

Region 1-AAAA Roundup

Valdosta, Thomasville Renew Rivalry

V-times 9-16-83

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats and the Thomasville Bulldogs will meet in the 73rd renewal of their hostilities tonight at Thomasville's Memorial Stadium.

And even though the 69-year-old series is lopsided in favor of the Wildcats — 50 wins, 17 losses and five ties — the rivalry continues to be a heated one.

In other games involving Region 1-AAAA teams, Lowndes (3-1) will be in Albany to take on Dougherty (1-2); Southwest of Macon (3-0) is at Tift County (2-0); Albany (0-2) will be in Moultrie to take on Colquitt County (1-2); and Monroe (0-3) plays Westover (0-3) in the Saturday night contest.

Nick Hyder, who is in his 10th season as Valdosta's head coach, owns an 11-3 record against the Bulldogs. For those previous 14 meetings, the Bulldog coach was Jim Hughes, who resigned last May to take a similar position at Colquitt County.

The new adversary for Hyder and the Wildcats will be Terry Powell.

"Coach Powell was an assistant over there for quite a few years," Hyder said, "so a lot of his philosophy he got from Coach Hughes. But he has also incorporated some of the things he believes in.

"After playing Thomasville under Coach Hughes, we knew some of their tendencies. With a new coach, that is going to present us with new problems."

Hyder says he was able to get a feel for the rivalry the first time a Hyder-coached Valdosta team played Thomasville.

"My first year here, William Andrews led them to a 40-0 win in a driving rain storm at Cleveland Field," Hyder said. "That was the worst defeat I have ever been associated with in 39 years of playing and coaching football."

Hyder says he looks for tonight's game to be another typical Valdosta-Thomasville matchup.

"It is always tough when we play Thomasville," Hyder said. "Both teams play excellent football. It always seems to bring out the best in the players.

"It has always been one of our biggest rivalries. There is a great deal of pride at stake in this game."

Hyder said he expects the kicking game to play a big part in deciding tonight's game.

"The kicking game could be the difference," Hyder said. "There have been several games in this series decided by the kicking game. It could be a field goal or field position, which is directly related to the kicking game.

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The Valdosta Daily Times

Sat., Sept. 10, 1983

No Sweat, 'Cats Rip Inept Monroe 66-13

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

If hadn't been for the heat, the Valdosta High offense might not have broken a sweat Friday night. Sure, the Wildcats trounced Monroe of Albany 66-13, but the 'Cats' offense never seemed to have very far to go to get to the goal line and never seemed to take very long to do it.

"I think we showed good balance with our offense and defense," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder, whose team improved to 3-0 with their first Region I-AAAA North subdistrict win.

STATISTICS

	MHS	VHS
First Downs	4	25
Yards Rushing	146	166
Yards Passing	5	176
Passes	13-2-0	20-10-2
Fumbles Lost	4	2
Punting	5-35.6	2-43.0
Penalties	13-96	5-35

"The defense gave us good field position and the offense responded, except on a couple of occasions when we had some breakdowns."

The worst field postion Valdosta had all night was on their first possession, when they had to start at their own 25-yard line. After that, 10 of the 13 times Valdosta gained possession of the ball, it was inside Monroe territory.

The stats for Valdosta were not the big numbers that usually go with scoring 66 points. The 'Cats had 342 yards total offense, 166 rushing and 176 passing. Valdosta's leading rusher, Dana Brinson, got 59 yards on 12 carries but scored

While the Valdosta offense was moving the ball practically at will, the 'Cats' defense had just the opposite effect on Monroe.

The VHS defenders tackled Monroe ballcarriers in the endzone twice for safeties. And the Valdosta offense used the field position it got on the ensuing Monroe kickoffs from the 20 to score touchdowns both times.

Valdosta held the Golden Tornadoes to 155 yards total offense and four first downs. The 'Cats also forced four fumbles. And over half of Monroe's 146 yards rushing came on a single play, quarterback Lee Mathis' 80-yard touchdown run which finally got the Tornadoes on the scoreboard this season after 11 scoreless quarters.

Senior Ted West, the starter, and junior Berke Holtzclaw split time at quarterback. West completed four of 12 passes for 96 yards and one touchdown, while Holtzclaw hit on six of eight passes for 80 yards and two touchdown passes.

West put it up on Valdosta's first play from scrimmage, connecting with tight end Darrell Leonard on a 37-yard pass play. For the next seven plays, except for one incomplete pass, the 'Cats stayed on the ground with Brinson and Tony Anderson, with Anderson finally bursting up the middle from 3 yards out for the first of Valdosta's nine touchdowns. John Porter's kick gave VHS a 7-0 lead with 6:39 left in the first quarter.

By the time the clock wound down to 6:34 left in the second quarter, Monroe had made four mistakes which cost the Tornadoes' 23 points. The first 2 were scored when the ball was snapped over the head of Monroe punter Ernest J. Williams inside the Monroe 20. Williams managed to chase down the ball, but the VHS defenders chased down him in the endzone for a safety and a 9-0 Valdosta lead.

A Monroe penalty on the ensuing kickoff gave the 'Cats the ball at the Monroe 40. And on the next play, West found sophomore wide receiver Hosea Heard behind the Monroe secondary and hit him over the middle with a touchdown pass.

Then Monroe coughed up a fumble at its own 26 and it took Valdosta seven plays before Brison could score on a 5-yard run. Christmas arrived early for Valdosta a few minutes later in the form of a loose ball at the Monroe 23.

A penalty backed the 'Cats up but Holtzclaw just used the extra room to throw a pass to Willie Lewis who was streaking down the left sideline. Lewis made an over-the-shoulder catch around the 5 and never broke his stride going into the endzone. Porter's three point-after kicks in the second quarter were all successful and Valdosta had a 30-0 lead at the half.

Things just got hotter in the second half as the 'Cats scored 22 points in the third quarter and both teams combined for 27 in the fourth.

Brison and Anderson both scored touchdowns in third period, on runs of 2- and 1-yards, respectively, before retiring to the bench for the night. Sandwiched between those two touchdowns were another safety (set up by Kelvin Williams' blocked punt), when Jimmy Lewis tackled Monroe's Greg Jackson in the endzone, and Bernard Rose's 3-yard touchdown run.

Porter made his kick after Brison's score, while relief kicker Aerica Henderson was good on his point-after kick following Rose's TD but missed the one after Anderson's.

Score By Quarters

MHS	0	0	0	13—13
VHS	16	14	22	14—66

SCORING

VHS — Anderson 3-yard run (Porter kick)
VHS — Manghram safety, E.J. Williams tackled in endzone
VHS — Heard 40-yard pass from West (Porter kick)
VHS — Brinson 5-yard run (Porter kick)
VHS — W. Lewis 28-yard pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick)
VHS — Brinson 2-yard run (Porter kick)
VHS — J. Lewis safety, G. Jackson tackled in endzone
VHS — Rose 3-yard run (Henderson kick)
VHS — Anderson 1-yard run (Henderson kick fails)
VHS — Holtzclaw 13-yard run (Henderson kick)
MHS — Mathis 80-yard run (Melvin kick fails)
MHS — Sessions 4-yard run (Melvin kick)
VHS — R. Bell 16-yard pass from Holtzclaw (Henderson kick)

Individual Stats

Rushing: MHS — Mathis 7-83, Lockett 13-49, Wilson 4-17, Sessions 2-13, S. Jones 4-minus 7. VHS — Brinson 12-59, Anderson 7-24, W. Lewis 2-26, Holtzclaw 6-17, West 1-14, Rose 2-8, Braswell 2-7.

Pass Receiving: MHS — Johnson 1-12, Jackson 1-minus 7. VHS — Heard 2-57, Leonard 1-33, Lewis 1-28, Bell 3-29, Gandy 1-17, Mabay 1-12.

Passing: MHS — Mathis 9-2-0, 5, Jones 3-0-0, 0. VHS — West 12-4-1, 96, Holtzclaw 8-6-1, 80.

Tackles: MHS — Gammage 5, E. Williams 5, Mosley 4, Chastang 3, R. Williams 3, Lockett 2, Holmes 2, Fulse 2, Brooks 1. VHS — J. Lewis 4, Wheeless 4, Manghram 3, Porter 3, T. Johnson 3, Wakefield 3, Miller 2, Armstrong 2, Hart 2, Abney 2, Closson 1, C. Robinson 1, J. Davis 1, C. Johnson 1, Redish 1, J. Williams 1, S. Williams 1, Anderson, Carnathan 1.

Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

Halfback Dana Brinson Led Valdosta With 59 Yards And Two Touchdowns

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9-15-83

'Cats' Offense Faces Test From T'ville's D

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta High offense has produced points this season, boy have they produced points. In just three games the No. 2 Wildcats have scored 150 points, more than any high school in the state.

And the 'Cats have steadily improved the point output. In the opener against Waycross it was 33. The next week against Westover of Albany it was 51. Then last week the Cleveland Field scoreboard was rocked to the tune of 66 points in a rout of Monroe of Albany.

"We've been able to play a lot of people," Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said. "Let's face it, two or three of those scores could have been horrendous.

"We like the idea of playing a lot of people (56 last week and 86 the week before)."

The 'Cats have also run up big numbers in the statistics department. They lead Region 1-AAAA in rushing with over 261 yards per game (784 total in three games) and are second in passing with 148 yards (444).

But Hyder knows this week's opponent — Thomasville High — will make it hard for the 'Cats to be so offensive.

"This will be the test," Hyder said. "Thomasville is a real balanced, quality football team."

Thomasville, like Valdosta, is 3-0. The 'Dogs have posted impressive wins over Cairo, Dougherty and Westover

The 'Dogs' rollout quarterback Herbert Wright is a threat to run or throw on every play. Hyder said he is almost a carbon copy of last year's Dog QB Lennie Moore.

"This youngster is very similar to Moore. You'll have to take a second look to make sure it's not Moore."

Moore, who was suspended early last season, spurred the 'Dogs to a second place finish in the 1-AAAA's South sub-region and a berth in the region playoffs. Valdosta eliminated Thomasville in the first round 10-7.

The 'Cats and 'Dogs are certainly no strangers. Besides meeting each other during the regular season, they usually run across each other in the playoffs. In the last 10 years, the two have played 15 times.

"I guess Thomasville and Valdosta have played each other more in the last 10 years than any two teams in the state," Hyder said.

"Competition breeds scouting reports," he added, "and scouting reports breeds familiarity."

In the past, the two teams lined up toe to toe and slugged it out. Hyder said this year's game could be different.

"The difference in the the Valdosta-Thomasville game in the past has been the run," he said. "But this year it could be more wide open."

The 'Cats have proven they can run or pass. With Tony Anderson and Dana Brinson in the backfield, Valdosta has the ability to play power football. And with quarterback Ted West throwing to receivers Hosea Heard, Darell Leonard and Steve Gandy, the 'Cats can air it out.

Thomasville, meanwhile, has three of the top 10 rushers in the region. Besides Wright, there's Marvin Pittman and Stonewall Jackson. Thomasville also has a big offensive line.

The 'Dogs definitely present problems for the 'Cat defense.

"Wright can outrun your pursuit," Hyder said. "He'll pick up 10 and 20 yards almost every time he rolls out. He'll turn your ends and out flank you." Hyder said the defensive ends will face their "biggest challenge since Coffee County." VHS nipped Coffee last year in the state playoffs.

But more than just the ends Hyder said the Thomasville offense pressures the corners. "A better word is the perimeters," he said.

"It's tough in Thomasville," he added. "The level of competition (is tough) not the intimidation."

Times Staff Photo

West, Coach Hyder Lead Wildcats Against Thomasville Friday Night

DECA Officers Elected

9/15/83

Valicia Johnson, a senior at Valdosta High School, has been named vice president of the VHS chapter of Distributive Education Clubs of America.

Miss Johnson, daughter of Tillie Mae Johnson, was elected Wednesday at the DECA officers' election breakfast at Shoney's.

She is a second year marketing and distributive education student at VHS.

Jay McLeod, also a senior at VHS, was elected president of the chapter at the president's election breakfast in May, according to J. Norman Greene, MDE coordinator at VHS.

McLeod is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John McLeod.

Other officers elected Wednesday were Tina Greene, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby E. Greene, secretary; Dottie Jo Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Brown, treasurer; Beth Butler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Charles, reporter.

Also, Melissa Winfrey, daughter of Sandra Williams, chaplain; Nancy Santos, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. T.A. Santos, historian; Martin Roesch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guenter Roesch, Division I vice president; Jeff Lynch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Lynch, Division II vice president.

Also, Tim Davis, son of Mr. snd Mrs. Charles R. Davis, Division III vice president; Jay Greene, son of J. Norman Greene, Division IV vice president; and Jana Jenkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jenkins, sweetheart.

Anderson runs for 3 TDs as Valdosta cruises 28-0

FLA TIMES 9-17-83

By Daryl Bell
Sports Writer

THOMASVILLE, Ga. — In last night's 28-0 Valdosta victory over Thomasville High, it was supposed to be the first real test of the season for Valdosta. The defending Class AAAA champions certainly merited summa cum laude honors.

The Wildcats once again donned the gown and mortor board to give an opposing team an education on the field as they trounced the Bulldogs before a crownd of 7,000-plus at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

With the win, Valdosta increases its record to 4-0, while the Bulldogs dropped to 3-1.

The win also keeps Valdosta's winning streak alive at 19 straight games.

The Wildcats were never in any serious danger as they maintained excellent field position throughout the contest thanks to a stingy defense led by defensive linemen Jimmy Lewis, Kelvin Miller, James Wakefield and Charles Robinson. They never allowed Thomasville to threaten except in the final two minutes of the game.

Sophomore running back Tony Anderson tallied three touchdowns on runs of 1, 3 and 2 yards out and Times-Union Super 11 linebacker John Porter was a perfect 4-for-4 on PATs to highlight the win.

The other touchdown was scored by Dana Brinson on a 22-yard run up the middle.

Thomasville quarterback Herbert Wright connected on only 9 of 24 passes. As a team, Thomasville netted 56 yards on the ground, with Wright gaining 27 of them on 16 carries.

Blessed with good field position, Valdosta struck early by scoring 14 unanswered points in the first quarter. The Wildcats, who blew a golden opportunity to get on the board in the first offensive posession of the game, came back when Anderson scored from 1 yard out. Porter's PAT was good and Valdosta had a 7-0 advantage.

The touchdown was set up when Wright fumbled on the Bulldog 3-yard line. From there, it was all academic, and Anderson scored two plays later.

After four futile plays by Thomasville, Brinson returned a Don Ryan punt 19 yards to give the Wildcats a first-and-10 at the Thomasville 12.

Once again, it was Anderson carrying the load as he bolted in four plays later on a 3-yard touchdown run with 2:07 showing. Porter's PAT was good and the visitors had a 14-0 edge.

Thomasville tried to catch the Wildcats sleeping by throwing the ball. However, Wright missed on his first 10 attempts of the game. He was 3-for-13 for only 8 yards in the first half.

While the Thomasville offense was sputtering, the Wildcats' offense was going into overdrive as they gained 93 yards in the first half on the ground alone. Leading the way was Anderson with 16 carries for 51 yards.

Valdosta	14	0	7	7—28
Thomasville	0	0	0	0— 0

V—Anderson 1 run (Porter kick)
V—Anderson 3 run (Porter kick)
V—Anderson 2 run (Porter kick)
V—Brinson 22 run (Porter kick)

	VALDOSTA	THOMASVILLE
First downs	12	6
Rushes-yards	42-183	23-59
Passing yards	36	66
Passes	4-15-0	9-24-0
Punts	3-38.2	8-32.1
Fumbles-lost	2-2	2-1
Penalties-yards	5-33	7-55

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Defense, Kicking Game Spurs

V. Times 9-17-83

'Cats Over T'ville

Valdosta 'D' Records 1st Shutout Of '83 Season

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

THOMASVILLE — The Valdosta defense chalked up its first shutout of the season Friday night in the Wildcats' 28-0 shellacking of Thomasville.

STATISTICS

	Valdosta	T'ville
First Downs	16	5
Yards Rushing	177	69
Yards Passing	38	62
Passes	15-4-0	25-9-0
Fumbles Lost	2	1
Punting	3-41.0	10-26.8
Penalties	7-39	7-55

And it was a just reward for the 'Cat defenders who limited the Bulldogs to just five first downs (one in the first half) and 131 yards in total offense.

The win makes No. 2 Valdosta 4-0, while Thomasville fell to 3-1. The 'Cats have now won 19 straight games reaching back to last season when they went 15-0 and won the Class AAAA state title.

But the defense didn't do it entirely alone. The Valdosta kicking game only allowed the 'Dogs to start on offense outside their 20 four times.

"The kicking game and great defense got them in a hole early," Valdosta high head coach Nick Hyder said after the game. It was his 97th win since coming to VHS 10 years ago.

"It'd be hard to pick out any individual," Hyder added. "Just the whole defensive unit. I saw some good, hard, intelligent licks out there."

While Thomasville was struggling in its own territory, Valdosta started most of its drives — 7 of 11 — outside its own 40. Four of those drives ended in Valdosta touchdowns.

Fullback Tony Anderson led the scoring assualt with three touchdown runs. His backfield mate, halfback Dana Brinson, scored the other touchdown. Anderson finished with 86 yards on 24 carries; Brinson had 74 on 11.

"The 'Cats did what they had to do," Hyder said. "They gave us the run and we took it. We also mixed in some passes."

For the most part, though, the passing game was limited. The 'Cats could only muster 38 yards in the air, compared to 177 on the ground. Hyder said they were mostly "hunt and peck passes. We ground it out," he said. "And the defense played tough."

While the Valdosta kicking game played an important part in the win, Thomasville's contributed to the loss. The 'Dogs averaged only 26.8 yards on 10 punts. And when they punted from deep in their own territory, it usually gave Valdosta excellent position to put points on the board.

Despite that, it was a Thomasville fumble inside its 5, the only 'Dog turnover of the night, that led to Valdosta's first touchdown. After driving from the VHS 43 to the THS 4, the 'Cats stalled and turned the ball over on downs. But Thomasville quarterback Herbert Wright, who passed for 62 yards and ran for 47, fumbled on the third play and Elijah Holmes recovered at the 2.

One play later Anderson dashed into the end zone from 1 yard out for Valdosta's first score.

The 'Cats forced Thomasville to punt from its own 3 on the next series, setting up a 25-yard Brinson return to the 'Dog 12. It took Valdosta just four plays to reach paydirt. Again Anderson got the scoring honors with a 3-yard run and Valdosta led 14-0 with 2:07 left in the first quarter.

Another long punt return in the third quarter set up Valdosta's third score. Anderson took a short Thomasville punt 31 yards to the 'Dog 39, and combined with a 15-yard late hit penalty on the return, gave Valdosta the ball at the Thomasville 23. Anderson capped the seven-play drive with a 4-yard run.

A 20-yard Thomasville punt put Valdosta at the 'Dog 40 to contribute to Valdosta's final score in the fourth quarter. Brinson capped the short drive with a high-stepping 23-yard run up the middle for the touchdown.

Thomasville's only scoring threat, in fact only its third trip inside Valdosta territory all night, came late in the fourth period. The 'Dogs drove from their own 30 to the Valdosta 5 before turning the ball over on downs.

"The defense compliments the offense," Hyder said. "And the offense compliments the defense. The kicking game is the common denominator."

Score By Quarters

Valdosta	14	0	7	7—28
Thomasville	0	0	0	0— 0

Scoring

VAL — Anderson 1 run, Porter kick, 4:38 1st.
VAL — Anderson 3 run, Porter kick, 2:07 1st.
VAL — Anderson 4 run, Porter kick, 2:42 3rd.
VAL — Brinson 23 run, Porter kick, 6:52 4th.

Individual Stats

Rushing: Valdosta — Anderson 24-86, Brinson 11-74, Holtzclaw 3-12, Rose 2-6, Lewis 3-5, Gandy 1-5, West 3-minus 11. T'ville — Wright 14-47, Pittman 5-19, Jackson 4-4.

Passing: Valdosta — West 13-4-0, 38; Holtzclaw 2-0-0, 0. T'ville — Wright 25-9-0, 62.

Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Gandy 2-18, Leonard 1-12, Holtzclaw 1-8. T'ville — Bush 1-25, Morris 2-21, Piland 1-10, Pittman 1-6, Jackson 2-0, Lundy 1-0.

Tackles: Valdosta — Porter 6, Johnson 6, Folsom 2, Abney 6, Robinson 3, Mangram 1, Irvin 1, Holmes 1, J. Lewis 3, Henderson 1. T'ville — Adams 1, Bell 3, Franklin 4, McIntyre 5, Lovejoy 2, Mi Clark 3, McCray 2, Griggs 3, Brown 2, Tillman 2, Smith 1, Ma Clark 3.

Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

Monte Davis (69) And John Nitschke (57) Opened Gapping Holes For Dana Brinson (33)

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Valdosta Defense Records 2nd Consecutive Shutout

V. Times 9-24-83

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

ALBANY — The Valdosta High offense could have sat out Friday night's game and the Wildcats would have still won. The 'Cats defense not only got its second straight shutout of the year, but scored two touchdowns as Valdosta rolled over Albany High 49-0 in a 1-AAAA North Sub-region football game at Hugh Mills Stadium in Albany.

STATISTICS

	Valdosta	Albany
First Downs	19	8
Yards Rushing	150	45
Yards Passing	182	121
Passes	11-18-1	9-23-3
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Punting	2-31.0	6-38.2
Penalties	3-25	6-54

Valdosta may have set some kind of record for least time elapsed before a team's first score. Albany won the toss and elected to receive. John Porter's kickoff went into the endzone and was not returned, so Albany got the ball on its own 20.

On the first play, Albany quarterback Rob Archer dropped back to pass and threw the ball directly to Valdosta defensive tackle Kelvin Williams at the 10-yard line. Williams ran the ball back for Valdosta's first touchdown with only five seconds gone in the game.

"That's about as quick as you can do it," 'Cats head coach Nick Hyder said afterward. "We were all surprised.

"A defensive touchdown is always a thrust, a real thrust."

And Valdosta wasn't long in getting another thrust. The 'Cats offense got on the board on its first possession on a 19-yard touchdown pass from Ted West to Steve Gandy.

But on the second play of Albany's next possession, Archer's pass was deflected into the hands of VHS junior defensive tackle James Wakefield who ran it in 8 yards for a touchdown.

The win upped Valdosta's record to 5-0 overall and 2-0 in the sub-region. It was also Hyder's 98th victory at Valdosta. Albany fell to 0-4 and 0-2.

Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph was pleased by the defensive touchdowns, but even more pleased by the shutout.

"Any time you can play everybody and get a shutout, you've got to be happy," said Rudolph.

"I thought just before the half our older guys got confused about some of the pass coverages ... but they adjusted. And our younger kids came in after halftime and handled it well.

"That's what so great about playing everybody," Rudolph said, "If we need them later on in the season, they'll have already had their baptism of fire."

Rudolph said the game plan was to put a lot of pressure on Archer, the Albany quarterback. "We were trying to rush him because they were sending five receivers down on almost every play.

"We wanted to make him have to scramble, because if you let him get some time to throw it's tough on your secondary."

Albany threw out of the shotgun formation most of the game, but Rudolph said it was no surprise. "In fact, last week (against Colquitt County) toward the end of the game, they ran out of the shotgun almost exclusively. So we got to work against it in practice last week."

Against Valdosta, Archer completed nine of 23 passes for 121 yards but was intercepted three times.

Although the 'Cats defense caught a lot of attention with its two touchdowns, the Valdosta offense was its usual awesome self with 332 yards total offense. Starting quarterback Ted West, who didn't play much of the second half, completed six of seven passes for 101 yards, including his touchdown throw to Gandy and a 44-yard touchdown pass to Berke Holtzclaw in the fourth quarter.

Holtzclaw completed five of 11 for 81 yards, including a 10-yard touchdown pass to Henry Mabry.

Score By Quarters

Valdosta	21	14	7	7-49
Albany	0	0	0	0-0

Scoring

V-Williams 10-yard interception return (Porter kick)
V-Gandy 19-yard pass from West (Porter kick)
V-Wakefield 8-yard interception return (Porter kick)
V-Brinson 10-yard run (Porter kick)
V-Mabry 10-yard pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick)
V-T. Anderson 2-yard run (A. Henderson kick)
V-Holtzclaw 44-yard pass from West (A. Henderson kick)

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Valdosta — Brinson 8-86, T. Anderson 7-46, Rose 4-25, Dixon 1-9, Mabry 1-8, Lewis 1-5, Manghram 1-4, Holtzclaw 2-2, Gamble 1-minus 4, Hardin 1-minus 4, West 1-minus 9. Albany — Archer 10-19, Oliver 7-18.

Passing: Valdosta — West 6-7-0 101, Holtzclaw 5-11-1 81. Albany — Archer 9-23-3 121.

Pass Receptions: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 2-57, Leonard 2-43, Gandy 2-35, Foster 1-18, Mabry 1-10, Bell 1-10, Heard 1-5. Albany — Hudgins 1-38, Swan 3-23, Mitchell 2-23.

Tackles: Valdosta — Williams 4, Porter 4, Holmes 3, L. Johnson 3, Manghram 3, Wakefield 2, Irvin 1, J. Lewis 1, Thomas 1, Abney 1, Folsom 1, T. Johnson 1, Hart 1, Robinson 1, Lastinger 1, Toth 1. Albany — Colbert 4, Hudgins 3, Maples 3, Forbes 3.

Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams

Albany Quarterback Archer Is Pursued By Robinson (97), Porter (47)

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Packers' Hands Full With 'Cats

VT 9-28-83

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Colquitt County coach Jim Hughes recently received his Ph.D. in education adminstration from Auburn University, but the first-year head Packer said that shouldn't help a bit when his team travels to Valdosta Friday night to take on the Wildcats.

"It's a relief," Hughes said of finally getting his degree. "Maybe I'll be able to enjoy it some day. But it won't help a bit against Valdosta."

Nothing, it appears, has helped opponents battle the 'Cats this year. In five games — all won by Valdosta — the 'Cats have outscored the opposition by 200 points — 227-27. And the last two of those games have been shutouts by the stingy 'Cat defense.

"They're a typical Valdosta team," said Hughes, who knows the 'Cats perhaps as well as anyone. The last two years Hughes was head coach at Thomasville, the Bulldogs faced the 'Cats four times — twice during the regular season and twice in the Region 1-AAAA playoffs.

"I have a pretty fair understanding of what coach (Nick) Hyder and coach (Jack) Rudolph (the Valdosta defensive coordinator) will want to do," Hughes said. "I don't know if that will make any difference. I don't know if we'll be able to slow them.

"They run the ball well," Hughes added. "They defend against the run well. And they pass when they have to. Their kicking game is also flawless."

So how can Colquitt, which is 2-3, including a 19-18 loss to Westover a week ago, expect to compete against Valdosta, the No. 2 team in the state, which has won 20 straight football games over the last two years?

"We have to play our best," Hughes said, "and hope Valdosta is sub-par."

The loss to Westover, which came after the Packers held a 12-0 lead, virtually knocked Colquitt out of the South sub-region race. Including a 35-0 trouncing at the hands of Lowndes earlier in the year, the Packers are 0-2 in the sub-region.

"At this point, we're not a contender in this sub-region," Hughes said. "Post-season is not on the agenda."

So rather than thinking about the sub-region race, all Colquitt has on its mind is Valdosta.

"We should be able to put the previous week's game behind us," said Hughes. "I don't anticipate a lot of emotion. We'll probably play the same ones if we were in the sub-region."

For the competitive Hughes, who put together back-to-back state championships at Thomasville, this rocky season has not been easy.

"Any time you're 2-3 after five games it's a disappointment," he said. "I didn't really know what to expect this year."

While the Packers have had their hands full most of the season, there have been some bright spots. One has been the play of senior tailback Willie Palmore.

Last week against Westover Palmore was the only back in Region 1-AAAA to rush for more than 100 yards when he gained 108 in 14 carries. He is now fifth on the region rushing list, up from 10th last week, with 304 yards.

Junior quarterback Darrell Funderburke has also looked good in spots. But his 80 yards gained on the ground has been negated by 89 yards in losses. He has passed for 198 yards and one touchdown, but that has been offset by a pair of interceptions.

Defensively, the Packers are led on the line by 200-pound senior Tony Weaver and 215-pound junior Johnell Walker. Senior defensive back Johnny Caldwell has a pair of interceptions to his credit.

So how should the game turn out?

"Your guess is as good as mine," Hughes said. "Most of Valdosta's games have been high scoring. I hope this one's not. If it is it could be embarrassing."

'Cats 'Getting Up' For Colquitt

V- Sept. 29-83

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High has kept up its intensity this season despite destroying five cleary outmanned squads. And when the No. 2 Wildcats (5-0 overall and 1-0 in the North sub-region) host Colquitt County Friday night at Cleveland Field, Valdosta will be faced with the problem again — getting up for a weaker opponent.

But even though the Jim Hughes-coached Packers are 2-3 midway through their rebuilding season and virtually out of the South sub-region race with two losses, Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said getting ready mentally should be no problem for his team.

"We try to keep our intensity level about the same for all opponents," the 10th-year Wildcat coach said Wednesday afternoon. "We balance our preparation. We spend the same amount of time for each team we play."

Hyder likes to call it a "balanced intensity." He said he has no power over what his next foe is doing, "but I can have influence on our team."

So the 'Cats go about getting ready for Colquitt the same way they would if they were getting ready for Lowndes. Well almost the same way.

The Valdosta-Colquitt rivalry is the oldest in Wildcat history and one of the oldest in south Georgia. The 'Cats played Moultrie (the Colquitt predecessor) twice in 1913. The first game ended in a 7-7 tie, but Valdosta won the second meeting 20-14.

In recent years, though, the once-heated rivalry has lagged as the Packers have fallen on lean years. But Hyder said with Hughes at the helm, Colquitt should be on the upswing. And that should help the rivalry.

"Jim Hughes has just moved his philosophy from Thomasville to Colquitt," Hyder said. "It's going to take some time. Without a spring, though, he's done a phenominal job. He's the coach of the year."

Valdosta brings Region 1-AAAA's top rushing attack into Friday's game. Led by sophomore Tony Anderson's 417 yards this season (the top rusher in the region) and senior Dana Brinson's 355 (third best), the 'Cats are averaging over 200 yards a game on the ground alone.

"We do pretty much what they let us do," Hyder said. "Our offensive line has blocked well. That's been a key."

Colquitt has also shown it can grind it out on the ground. This season the Packers have run 208 rushing plays, tops in the region. Valdosta has run 187.

"It means they're controling the ball," VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said. "At mid-season when you've run the ball more than everyone else, it means you're controlling the ball."

Colquitt may be hard pressed to control the ball against Valdosta's defense. The 'Cats are fifth in the region against the run, allowing just over 100 yards per game. More importantly, though, Valdosta has only given up 27 points this season.

"Our defense is generally very consistant," Hyder said.

Hyder, Woodham Familiar Grid Foes

9-22-83

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

When Valdosta High takes the field against Albany High Friday night at 8 in Hugh Mills Stadium in Albany, Valdosta head football coach Nick Hyder will see a familiar face when he looks across the field.

Hyder first met Albany head coach Al Woodham during Hyder's playing days at Carson-Newman College. Woodham played for Jacksonville (Ala.) State. Hyder's memories of those games aren't all fond ones.

"I have an enormous amount of respect for Coach Woodham," Hyder said Wednesday. "He's a great competitor and he was a tremendous athlete when he was in college.

"He played for Jacksonville State and I played against him while I was at Carson-Newman. One year they gave us one of the worst beatings I've ever been associated with."

Things have definitely gone more Hyder's way during the years since Woodham took over the Albany program. Last year Valdosta whipped the Indians 67-7 and the Wildcats are overwhelming favorites again this season.

Actually, just about any team would be a favorite against this year's Albany crew. The Indians have lost their first three games and have yet to finish within a touchdown of the opposition. So it looks like one of those games for the 'Cats that some people politely call a "confidence builder," right coach?

Hyder's answer: "That's what the newspapers told Bill Curry."

Curry, for those who don't know, is Georgia Tech's head football coach. And last Saturday the Furman Paladins, a Division I-AA team, upset Tech 17-14 in Atlanta.

However, unlike Georgia Tech, there is little question that Valdosta is a solid football team. The 'Cats are No. 2 in the latest Associated Press state AAAA poll. They enter Friday's game 4-0 this season and are the owners of a 19-game victory streak.

But 0-3 or not, Albany is an important game for the 'Cats if for no other reason because it's a 1-AAAA North sub-region contest. "It's one that counts," as Hyder put it.

Hyder discounts last season's massacre at Cleveland Field.

"Last year, going into the fourth quarter, that game wasn't a blowout," Hyder said. "They had some terrible luck with their passing, they threw some balls right into our defenders' hands.

"A couple of those interceptions were run back for touchdowns ... The score didn't indicate how close the game was. We weren't that much better than Albany."

So what does Hyder expect from Albany this year?

"Speed. A fired-up team. I think they'll use that good quarterback (Rob Archer) and the great speed of their receivers to try to score early against us," Hyder said.

"They always have a good plan against us defensively."

Besides having Albany, as Woodham said, "outmanned, outsized and outclassed," the 'Cats will probably have the Indians outnumbered.

Valdosta will dress out 86 players for the game and if the game goes like the first four have for the 'Cats, a lot of them could wind up playing.

"We don't have a B-team game this week so everybody is eligible to play," Hyder said. Under Georgia High School Association rules, a football player can only play in one game a week.

"The score dictates how many get to play. But we play about 50 a game, no matter what the score is."

Vikes Keep Hyder On Go

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

The week has been a difficult one for Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder.

Monday night, there was the Sports Hall of Fame banquet to attend. Tuesday night, it was the Valdosta Touchdown Club meeting. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes met Thursday night, and tonight Hyder will be present at the city-wide pep rally at Cleveland Field.

Oh, and there will be one more appointment he'll have to keep Friday night — that little get-together at Cleveland Field, the crowning event in the Winnersville Classic. The Lowndes-Valdosta football game.

The rivalry is one of those where the hoopla surrounding the affair can be so intense so as to distract the players' and the coaches' attention from the game itself. Hyder says he's very much aware of that potential for distraction.

"This is a difficult week for all of us because of the demands the community places on all of us," Hyder said. "But I try to make that for me, not for the coaching staff or the players. So it has been a difficult week for me. But that's just part of the job. And I have enjoyed all of those meetings."

It remains to be seen if he'll enjoy that last appointment of the week, however. At any rate, Hyder says he's expecting the Vikings to rear back and come at the 8-0 and No. 1 ranked Wildcats with the pedal all the way to the floor.

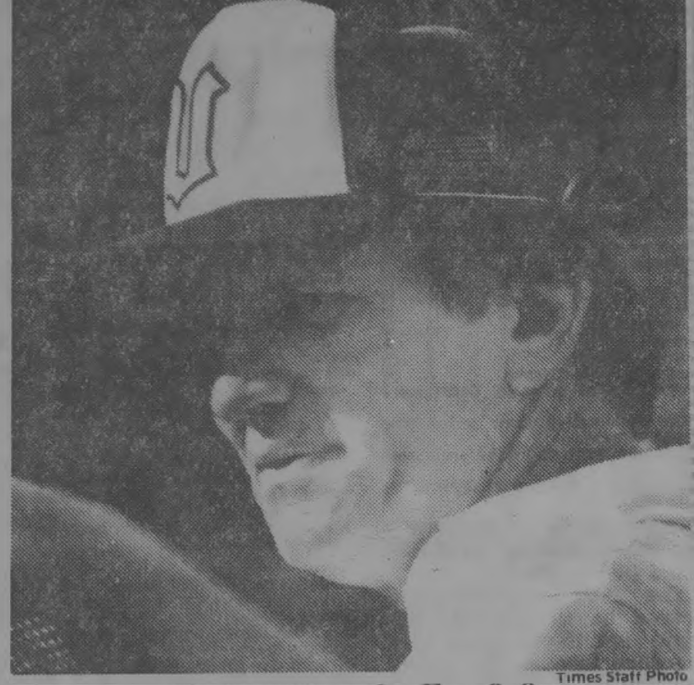
"It would be difficult to pinpoint any one thing that Lowndes does that can give you problems," Hyder said. "They are an extremely sound football team. They have versatile offensive team and a well-coached defense. Their emphasis is on defense, but the offense is very balanced."

The Vikings, 5-2 on the year and still hoping for a berth in the region playoffs, have had problems finding a consistent running attack, however. They rank eighth in region 1-AAAA in rushing, averaging 73 yards per game.

The Lowndes passing attack is another tale, though. With sophomore quarterback Randy Gay at the controls, the Vikings are always a threat through the air. They are hitting for 171 yards per game.

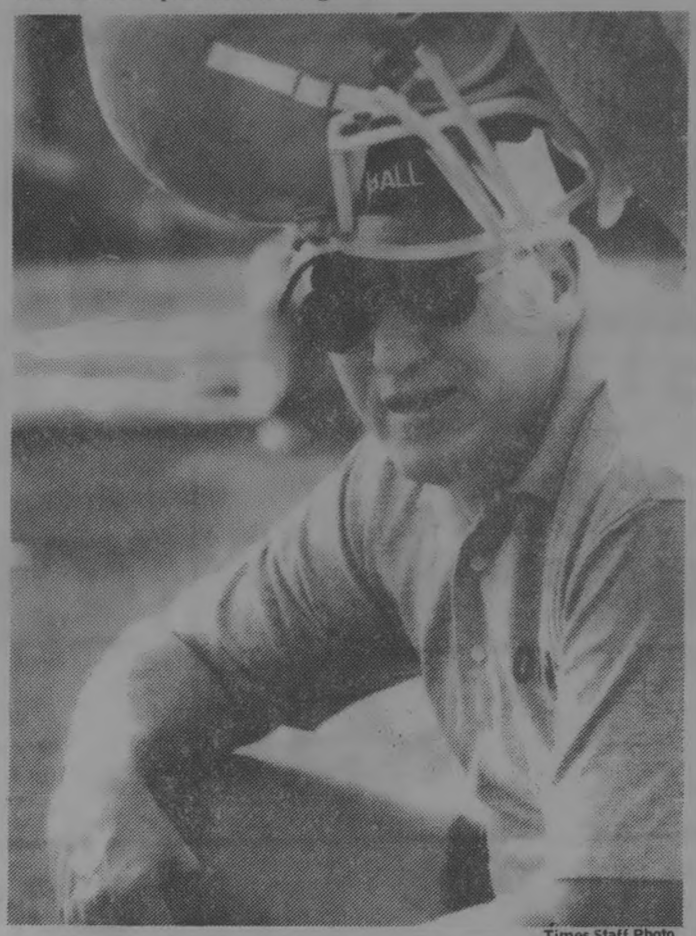
"They do a lot of different things with their passing game," Hyder said. "Randy Gay is no longer a freshman quarterback, and (wide receiver) Carl Parker is a very talented athlete as well as an outstanding young man. And their wide receivers, Boo Mitchell and Jason Cain, are fine receivers. But you can't just sit back and wait for them to pass, either."

As for Valdosta, Hyder is counting on getting a better performance out of Wildcat blockers than he's seen in the last two games. Valdosta had problems opening holes last week in a 17-14 victory over Dougherty, and Hyder says his squad could run into trouble against the Vikings if that inadaquacy is not corrected.



Times Staff Photo

Hyder, 'Cats Go For 8-0



Times Staff Photo

Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson Foresees Struggle

Lowndes' Parker Injured

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

The Lowndes High Vikings were dealt a serious blow Tuesday in their bid to upstage Valdosta High Friday night at Cleveland Field in the Winnersville showdown.

Senior split end Carl Parker suffered a cut over his eye during Tuesday's practice that took eight stitches to close. He also received a mild concussion.

Doctors advised Parker Wednesday to sit out the Valdosta game. Viking coach Joe Wilson said he would adhere to the doctor's report.

Parker said, though, that if there is any way possible he will play against Valdosta. The ultimate decision remains with Parker's father.

The injury occurred when Parker was hit by five oncoming defenders during a scrimmage session. His helmet was forced down, causing the cut.

Parker leads the region in receiving with 29 catches for 629 yards. Just as importantly is his loss to the special teams. This year Parker has returned 14 punts for a 10.7 yard average.

The Vikings know coming into the Valdosta game that it is going to be "very, very difficult to run on Valdosta," Wilson said. "We have studied and worked and we still can't find a weakness on the Valdosta defense."

The Valdosta defense is the stingiest in region 1-AAAA. Combined with the Vikings inept ground game and one can see the cause for Wilson's concern.

"With our lack of a strong running game," Wilson said, "they can spread out and cover our receivers. If you can run you can make them tighten up."

The Vikings have been able to muster just 73.57 yards per game on the ground this year. Junior Lorenzo Thomas leads the Vikes with 387 yards.

Without the run, the Lowndes passing game will be crucial. And the loss of Parker compounds the problem.

Quarterback Randy Gay had hoped that the double coverage Parker would draw would open up some of his other receivers. Flanker Gerald Mitchell and tight end Jason Cain turned in fine performances in last week's 27-19 loss to Westover. Both were on the receiving end of two of Lowndes three touchdowns.

Cain went on to catch six passes for 81 yards including the 8-yard touchdown toss from Parker. Mitchell had five catches for 57 yards and 14-yard scoring pass from Gay.

The key for the offense, though, is giving Gay time to throw the ball. If the Viking defense can keep Ricky Daniels and Company out of the Viking backfield (which no one has been able to do to the 'Cats this year) Lowndes will have a shot.

Defensively the Vikings are in pretty good shape except for defensive back Phillip Vickery, who also doubles as the Vike punter. Vickery missed Wednesday's practice with a bruised shoulder.

Foremost on the Viking agenda is stopping the'Cats excellent running game. "They've got a school bus full of running backs," Wilson said.

The 'Cats are led on the ground by freshman sensation Tony Anderson. The tailback has already rushed for 421 yards despite being held to just 4 yards against Dougherty.

Also in the backfield is reliable, not to mention durable, fullback Pernell Bee. The senior has rushed for 266 yards this year and already the college scouts are beginning to drool.

And then there's Dana Brinson. The junior tailback has been hurt much of this year, but he seems to be coming into his own as a running back.

Prior to the season there was a lot of talk about the 'Cat quarterback position. Ted West and Berke Holtzclaw have come on in fine fashion to fill the gap left by the departed David Parker.

"People talk about the Valdosta quarterbacks in the past and what a great team they would have this year if one were quarterbacking the 'Cats," Wilson said. "But at the same time, they've got two quarterbacks this time and they're undefeated. Both run the ball well, throw the ball well and are super team leaders."

Steve
Corrigan
Times Sports Writer

Lowndes-Valdosta: Just The Right Size

All week coaches have been trying to downplay the annual bloodletting that has become known as the Lowndes-Valdosta game. It's for nothing more than bragging rights they would lead an unwary sports writer to believe.

But this thing is big. Even though it won't determine a subregion champion, it will decide, for a year at least, who the best team in Valdosta is.

Emotion alone will make this game great. Even if the two teams are not on the same level talent-wise, emotion will bring the two closer together.

Still one has to realize that this is just a high school football game. Too much emphasis could be placed on the winning aspect of it.

Former Valdosta High football coach Wright Bazemore disagrees. While the rivalry between the two Lowndes County schools was still in its infancy when Bazemore was the Wildcat coach, he said it has developed into the best game in the state if not the country.

"Year in and year out we play as fine of football as any teams in the country," Bazemore said. "It's a good series. It's not overplayed."

"The kids are the ones who keep it in perspective," Bazemore continued. "If we could just keep the grownups from (ragging each other). It's the people in the stands not the players.

Lowndes never beat the Baze while he was coaching at Valdosta. But Bazemore feels playing Valdosta helped the Lowndes football team to develop into the power it is today. "I think playing us made them a better team."

Ironically it was not before a former Bazemore assistant at Valdosta, Joe Wilson, took over the coaching chores at Lowndes that the Vikings were finally able to defeat the 'Cats.

"Ever since they beat us in '72," Bazemore said "it's been a dogfight."

—Despite the big game nature of the Lowndes-Valdosta war, Wilson has noticed that it may be losing some of its flavor. Ticket sales, always brisk in the past, don't seem to be selling as well this year. Wednesday afternoon Lowndes had not sold its alotted number of tickets. There were still a few reserved seats remaining and most of the end zone seats were still unsold.

Even the student ticket sales were down.

"The game seems to have lost a little of its luster by the sale of tickets," Wilson said. "Tickets just aren't selling at the same rate as they have in the past. Usually we sell out by Tuesday.

—An indication of how big this thing used to be, Bazemore remembers when you could trade four Georgia-Florida tickets for one Lowndes-Valdosta ticket. I'm sure there's many people now who would like to trade four Lowndes-Valdosta tickets for one Georgia-Florida ticket.

Sat., Oct. 1, 1983

V.D.T.

Wildcats Maul Colquitt County, 42-14

Valdosta Records 21st Consecutive Victory

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High's 42-14 win over Colquitt County Friday night in front of over 9,000 fans at Cleveland Field meant something special to Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder.

STATISTICS

	Colquitt	Valdosta
First Downs	9	15
Yards Rushing	39	121
Yards Passing	135	135
Passes	17- 5-0	24-11-0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Punting	8-33.6	5-42.4
Penalties	3-25	2-20

Oh sure, it was the 'Cats 21st straight win reaching back to last season and it was Hyder's 99th win since coming to Valdosta 10 years ago, but the victory had a different meaning for Hyder.

His parents from Knoxville, Tenn., were in attendence. And despite Hyder's winning ways at VHS, it was a rare occasion for his parents to share in one of his victories.

"It was kinda special to me," Hyder said after the game from his familiar interview spot at mid-field. "My mother and father were here. They don't get to come very much."

Hyder's 'Cats put on a good show for the vistors scoring points in virtually every fashion — two runs, two passes, a fumble recovery in the end zone and a punt return.

"I thought the youngsters did well," Hyder said. "We had two defensive touchdowns. Teddy West had a great game throwing for two more. And we got to play at least 70 players, maybe 75."

The win upped the No. 2 'Cats record to 6-0 on the season. Colquitt, meanwhile, fell to 2-4.

After two consecutive shoutouts, the Valdosta defense allowed its first touchdown in three weeks when Colquitt quarterback Darrell Funderburke connected with Nathaniel Lewis on an 86-yard pass play with 3 seconds left in the first quarter to put the Packers up briefly 7-6.

Valdosta scored on its first possession driving 47 yards in 12 plays capped by a Tony Anderson 1-yard run for the touchdown. A missed extra point made it 6-0 before Colquitt's long TD pass put the Packers in front.

But Valdosta battled back for a pair of touchdowns in the second period to take a 21-7 lead into halftime. West capped an 11-play, 50-yard drive with a 1-yard run for Valdosta's second touchdown. And when he hit tight end Darrel Leonard for the two-point conversion, Valdosta went up 14-7 and never trailed again in the game.

Valdosta made it 21-7 when West drove the 'Cats down the field with a pair of passes to Dana Brinson of 11 and 22 yards. He finished off the 48-yard drive with a 6-yard pass to Hosea Heard.

Anderson sent a scare through the 'Cat fans when he was escorted off the field with a bruised shoulder shortly before the half. But the injury was not serious and Anderson returned to the game in the second half. He finished the game with 15 carries for 62 yards and one touchdown to lead all rushers.

Brinson had 50 yards on 8 carries and provided Valdosta with its first score of the second half when he scooped up a Colquitt punt at midfield and returned it 50 electrfying yards for a touchdown to make it 28-7.

West and Heard combined for Valdosta's next score with a 21-yard TD pass. West finished the game with 116 passing yards on 10 of 16 attempts.

And nose guard Leon Johnson recovered a mishandled snap on a Colquitt punt in the end zone for the 'Cats final score.

Colquitt scored its only points of the second half thanks to Valdosta's first penalty of the night in the fourth quarter. On a fourth down pass that fell incomplete, Valdosta was called for pass interference that kept the Packers alive at the VHS 30. Three plays later quarterback Darrell Funderburke combined with Louis Fordham on a 7-yard TD pass.

"They executed and we broke down," Hyder said of Colquitt's two scores.

Score By Quarters

Colquitt	7	0	0	7—14
Valdosta	6	15	21	0—42

Individual Scoring

VAL — Anderson 1 run, (kick failed), 4:42 1st.

COL — Funderburke 86 pass to Lewis, (Parrish kick), :03 1st.

VAL — West 1 run, (West pass to Leornard), 7:23 2nd.

VAL — West 6 pass to Heard, (Porter kick), 3:45 2nd.

VAL — Brinson 50 punt return, (Porter kick), 6:57 3rd.

VAL — West 9 pass to Heard, (Porter kick), 4:01 3rd.

VAL — Johnson fumble recovery in end zone, (Henderson kick), 2:19 3rd.

COL — Funderburke 7 pass to Fordham, (Parrish kick), 7:30 4th.

Individual Stats

Rushing: VHS — Anderson 15-62, Brinson 8-50, West 5-minus 12, Rose 1-11, Mabry 1-6, Holtzclaw 2-minus 12, Lewis 2-17, Braswell 2-minus 1. CCHS — Palmore 7-10, Funderburke 9-minus 25, Spry 2-9, Berry 7-28, Lewis 2-20, Breland 1-minus 3.

Passing: VHS — West 16-10-0, 116; Holtzclaw 8-1-0, 19. CCHS — Funderburke 17-6-0, 135.

Pass Receiving: VHS — Gandy 3-22, Leonard 1-16, Brinson 2-17, Heard 2-27, Lewis 1-34, Foster 1-19. CCHS — Lewis 2-88, Fordham 4-47.

The Packers Were Chasing Tony Anderson, Wildcats All Night

Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams

V.T. Oct. 7, 1983

Painted Up For VHS

Valdosta High School freshman Marilyn Moore gets a little paint applied while she gets into the homecoming spirit Thursday. The art department at the school applied cat tracks to students in anticipation of tonight's homecoming clash with the Dougherty High School Trojans. — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

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Sat., Oct. 8, 1983

'Cats Hold 100th Win Party For Hyder

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High's Homecoming Game Friday night turned into a 100th Wildcat Win party for head coach Nick Hyder as his 'Cats rolled to a 56-14 win over Albany's Dougherty High.

STATISTICS

	Dougherty	Valdosta
First Downs	11	19
Yards Rushing	55	241
Yards Passing	160	124
Passes	31-13-0	16- 8-1
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Punting	8-27.5	1-46.0
Penalties	5-52	4-29

Invitations were mailed and over 8,500 guests showed up at Cleveland Field. The cheerleaders painted signs and even a plaque was engraved for the special occassion. Everyone was there except for one special Wildcat.

June Hyder, Nick's wife, was unable to attend. She was in the hospital. "It was the first game she has missed since I don't know when," Hyder said. The 'Cat players dedicated the game her.

If there was ever any doubt that Dougherty might crash the party, it was erased as quickly as it took Dana Brinson to return a pair of Trojan punts for touchdowns in the first quarter.

Thanks to Brinson's punt returns of 49 and 50 yards, the Wildcats only needed to run three offensive plays to build a 21-0 lead before half of the first quarter had elapsed.

But the game was never really in doubt after the first three minutes of the game.

That's how long it took for the Valdosta defense, which spent almost as much time in the Dougherty backfield as the Trojans, to force a punt and have Brinson return it for a touchdown.

Again Valdosta forced a Dougherty punt after three plays on the next series. Three plays later quarterback Ted West hit wide receiver Hosea Heard on a 14-yard touchdown pass. John Porter's extra point made it 14-0.

The same scenerio that set up Valdosta's first touchdown set up the 'Cats' third TD. Three downs and a punt and a Brinson return for a touchdown. That made it 21-0 and the rout was on.

Hyder just needed two words to characterize the win. "Punt returns," he said after accepting glad hands from several of the 8,500 fans who showed up for the Wildcats' Homecoming Game.

Brinson, who had to shoulder much of the 'Cats' offense burden early on due to the loss of Tony Anderson, who missed the game to an injured leg, finished the game with 70 yards on 8 carries and two touchdowns.

"He's had two good weeks in a row now," Hyder said of Brinson. "I thought the offensive line blocked well. And the defense forced them to punt setting up his returns."

But even though Anderson didn't play, Brinson is still four yards shy of the sophomore in the Region 1-AAAA rushing race. Anderson has 479 yards; Brinson has 475.

The win upped Valdosta's season record to 7-0 overall and 3-0 in the North sub-region. It was the 'Cats' 22nd straight win and assured them of a spot in the region playoffs.

By the half Valdosta led 35-0. Willie Lewis capped a three-play, 35-yard drive with a 5-yard touchdown run to make it 28-0. And reserve quarterback Burke Holtzclaw scored on an option keeper from 30 yards out to close out the first-half scoring.

Valdosta built a 56-0 by the early going of the fourth quarter before Dougherty was able to put any points on the board. Bernard Rose scored on a pair of touchdown runs of 1 and 2 yards, and West and Heard teamed on an 8-yard TD pass, their second of the night.

Roselle Daniels and Kenneth Johnson teamed for Dougherty's two scores in the final six minutes of the game.

Following a brief ceremony after the game in honor of Hyder's 100th win, the Valdosta players hoisted a teary-eyed Hyder to their shoulders for a ride off the field.

"It's kinda special about carrying the coach off the field here at Valdosta," Hyder said. "Some teams do it after almost every win. But here they save it for something special."

Score By Quarters

Dougherty	0	0	0	14—14
Valdosta	21	14	14	7—56

Individual Scoring

VAL — Brinson 49 punt return, Porter kick, 10:30 1st.
VAL — West 14 pass to Heard, Porter kick, 8:25 1st.
VAL — Brinson 50 punt return, Porter kick, 5:57 1st.
VAL — Lewis 5 run, Porter kick, 7:06 2nd.
VAL — Holtzclaw 30 run, Porter kick, 4:13 2nd.
VAL — Rose 1 run, Porter kick, 8:23 3rd.
VAL — West 8 pass to Heard, Henderson kick, 4:54 3rd.
VAL — Rose 2 run, Henderson kick, 11:57 4th.
DHS — Daniels 18 pass to Johnson, kick failed, 6:11 4th.
DHS — Daniels 22 pass from Johnson, Daniels run, :36 4th.

Individual Stats

Rushing: Valdosta — Brinson 8-70, Rose 7-30, Lewis 4-33, West 1-7, Holtzclaw 4-46, Gamble 1-24, Braswell 4-17, Hardin 2-4, Manghram 1-10. Dougherty — Burnett 10-44, Daniels 3-26, Johnson 12-minus 26, Stephens 2-1.

Passing: Valdosta — West 11-8-1, 124; Holtzclaw 1-0-0, 0; Hardin 4-0-0, 0. Dougherty — Daniels 13-7-0, 58; Johnson 18-6-0, 102.

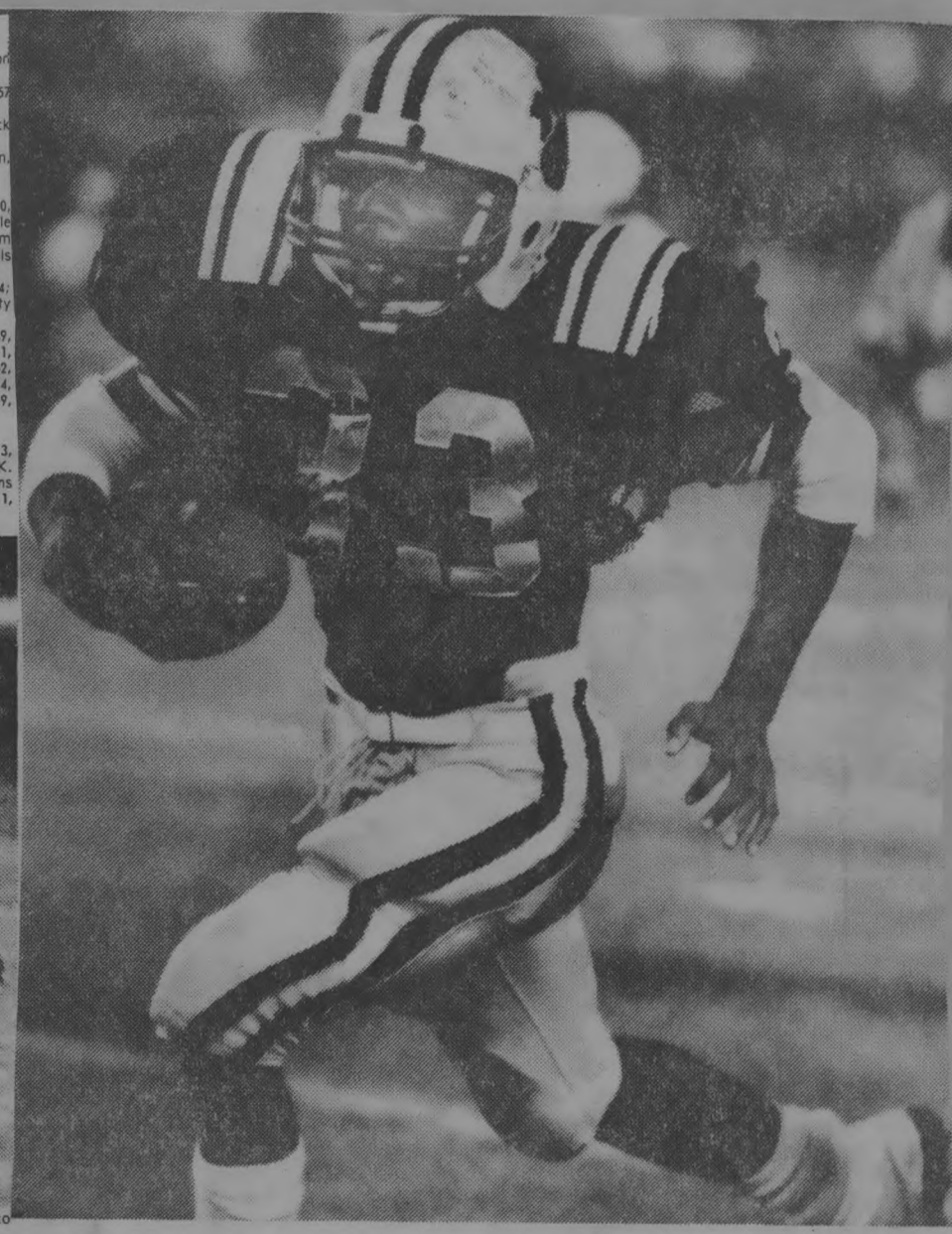
Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Heard 3-49, Gandy 2-43, Leonard 1-19, Brinson 1-1, Lewis 1-11. Dougherty — Jones 4-62, Johnson 2-40, J. Edwards 2-11, Walker 2-14, Burnett 1-11, G. Edwards 1-17, Davis 1-9, Stephens 1-minus 4.

Punt Returns: Valdosta — Brinson 2-99.

Tackles: Valdosta — Porter 4, Johnson 3, Abney 3, Irvin 2, Holmes 1, Robinson 1, K. Williams 3, Lewis 4, D. Robinson 3, T. Williams 2, Hart 1, Lastinger 1, T. Johnson 1, Mangram 2.

Times Staff Photos By Joey Ivansco

Hosea Heard Was On Receiving End Of West TD Pass



Dana Brinson Returned This Punt 50 Yards For His Second TD

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Tues., Oct. 11, 1983

V.DT.

The Lowndes-Valdosta War: You Pick It

Steve Corrigan

Times Sports Editor

It took Nick Hyder all of 30 minutes last Friday night at Clevalnd Field to swing his attention from winning his 100th football game since coming to Valdosta High in 1974 — a 56-14 drubbing of Dougherty — to the upcoming war Friday night against Lowndes High at Martin Stadium.

"They'll just have to be ready to go next week," Hyder said of his 7-0 Wildcats. "Our season starts next Monday."

Undoubtably, the Lowndes-Valdosta game is big. Just look at the city and all the festivities surrounding Friday night's game, and one can see that Winnersville is on its ear. Families will go against families in this one. It is more than just a high school football game; it's for pride.

"It is an emotional game," Hyder said.

But always the coaching diplomat, Hyder said, "It has something to with having the home-field advantage in the playoffs."

Maybe to Hyder a win would mean home-field considerations in the Region 1-AAAA playoffs that get underway Nov. 11, but ask any man on the street, and he'll be sure to tell you a victory would insure bragging rights for at least a year.

Joe Wilson, the Lowndes coach, knows all too well what a win over Valdosta means. In fact, the last three years Wilson has had to battle his youngsters from looking past opponents to the Valdosta game. In '81 and '82 it cost him as the Vikings suffered loses to South sub-region foe Westover, which was the game just before the Valdosta game.

This year, Lowndes almost suffered a similar fate, but a Randy Gay field goal on the last second of the game pulled out a win over Westover.

The victory assured Lowndes (6-1 overall and 3-0 in the South sub-region) of a spot in the playoffs, something the Vikings have not acheived since 1980 when they won the state title.

The '80 season also marked the last time Lowndes beat Valdosta. The 'Cats prevailed during the regular season, but the Plowboys won in the region playoffs thanks to the play of Cedric Jones, Eric Thomas and Steve Player. Since then, though, it has been all Valdosta.

And a whipping last year at Cleveland Field has Lowndes hungry to break the streak. Five interceptions by the eventual Class AAAA champions ended any chance of Lowndes winning in '82.

Lowndes finished the '82 season 6-4. Valdosta, meanwhile, went 15-0 and won the state title. It was Hyder's first solo state title since coming to Valdosta.

Valdosta has kept the winning streak alive this year. So far the 'Cats have won 22 straight games. Only West Rome has a longer active winning streak at 25. Oddly enough, Hyder came to Valdosta from West Rome.

So, what's going to decide Friday's game.

If home-field advantage comes into play, Lowndes should win. But, then again, both teams are from Lowndes County so maybe that won't decide it.

How about if it comes down to a battle in the trenches? Valdosta only has one returning starter on the offensive line. But Hyder says the reason the 'Cats are leading the region in rushing is due to the guys up front. Lowndes also has a young line.

Well then, how about the backfield? Valdosta's Tony Anderson leads the region in rushing, but he didn't play a down last week. His backfield mate, Dana Brinson is second in rushing. He has also proven he can return a punt. Lowndes' Bruce Jones is the surprise of the region this year. He is third on the rushing list. And fullback Lorenzo Thomas continues to be a powerful back, but he has had to go both ways with defensive lineman Eddie Gosier's recurring leg injury.

The passing game, then. Surely if it comes down to that, Lowndes will win. Boo Mitchell and Jason Cain are two of the best. Then again, Hosea Heard and Daryl Leonard aren't that bad.

Well, you pick 'em.

V. Times

VHS's Best

10-8-83

The float judged the best during the VHS homecoming parade belonged to the freshman class. Scott Young, left, looks it over while Kristy Stabell, right, waves.—Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

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Clinch, Lowndes Climb, 'Cats Still No. 2

V.T. Oct 12, 1983

Class AAAA
1. Clarke Central (6-0), 105, 7
2. **Valdosta (7-0), 100, 3**
3. Tift Co. (6-0), 92, 1
4. Baldwin (7-0), 67
5. Statesboro (6-0), 60
6. LaGrange (6-0), 53
7. Warner Robins (5-1), 50
8. Campbell, Smyrna (7-0), 34
9. **Lowndes (6-1), 24**
10. Coffee (5-1), 11

Also receiving votes: Bradwell Institute, Cedar Shoals, Evans, Redan, Tucker and Westside.

Class AAA
1. Americus (7-0), 106, 8
2. Gainesville (6-0), 97, 2
3. Glenn Hills (6-0), 92, 1
4. Effingham Co. (6-0), 63
5. Mitchell-Baker (6-1), 52
6. Bainbridge (5-1), 41
7. Thomson (6-0), 38
8. Fulton (5-0); 28
9. Marist (5-1), 19
10. Brookwood (6-0), 14

Also receiving votes: Camden Co., Cass, Chamblee, Dodge Co., Northside (Atlanta), Riverwood, Waycross and Worth Co.

Class AA
1. Mary Persons (6-0), 103, 8
2. West Rome (6-0), 101, 2
3. Dooly Co. (6-0), 87
4. Claxton (6-0), 75
5. Greene Co. (7-0), 74
6. East Hall (6-0), 40
7. Lincoln County (5-1), 37
8. R.E. Lee (5-1), 32
9. Manchester (5-1), 14
10. Loganville (6-0), 8

Also receiving votes: **Brooks Co.**, Cartersville, Central (Carrollton), Chattanooga Valley, East Rome, Lakeshore, Lamar, Lovett, Macon Co., Pierce Co., Terrell Co., Union and Vidalia.

Class A
1. West Point (7-0), 107, 8
2. Tie — Wrens (5-1), 85, 1
Palmetto (6-1), 85, 1
4. **Clinch Co. (6-1), 75**
5. Greenville (5-1), 56, 1
6. Hogansville (5-1), 44
7. Metter (4-2), 34
8. Georgia Military College (5-1), 27
9. Tie — Adairsville (5-2), 16
Montgomery Co. (5-1), 16

Also receiving votes: Arnold, Bremen, Buford, Emanuel County Institute, Jefferson, Pelham, Portal and Wilcox.

ATLANTA (AP) — While rankings in three of the four high school football classifications remained pretty much the same this week, weekend losses by six ranked teams in Class A have caused a full-blown apple-basket turnover.

Three teams are gone; two teams are new; and not one team is ranked the same as last week.

Meanwhile, the top three teams in each of the other three classifications remained the same in The Associated Press' weekly poll of Georgia prep football teams.

The West Point Raiders, 7-0, took advantage of the losses by No. 1 Palmetto, 6-1, and No. 2 Greenville, 5-1, to move from its third place spot last week into the No. 1 Class A ranking this week.

West Point had eight first place votes and 107 points in balloting by a board of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters.

Points are awarded on a basis of 10 for first, nine for second, eight for third and so on.

Palmetto dropped into a tie for second with Wrens, 5-1. Wrens was fourth last week.

Next came Clinch Co., 6-1, in fourth, up from fifth. Greenville was fifth while Hogansville, 5-1, unranked a week ago, showed up at No. 6. Metter, 4-2, moved from a tie for 10th to seventh while Georgia Military College's loss to Portal dropped the Bulldogs from sixth to eighth.

Adairsville, 5-2, and Montgomery Co., 5-1, were tied for ninth. Adairsville had been seventh. It was Montgomery Co.'s first ranking this year.

Gone were Jefferson, Wilcox Co. and Buford. Jefferson and Wilcox Co. had been tied for eighth, but both lost during the weekend. Idle Buford had been tied for 10th.

In Class AAAA, Clarke Central, 6-0, kept the No. 1 spot it has held all year. In No. 2, where it has been since the second week of the season, was Valdosta, 7-0. No. 3 Tift, 6-0, has also been in the same place since the second poll.

Nos. 4 Baldwin, 7-0, and 5 Statesboro, 6-0, were in the same places they've been for three weeks. LaGrange, 6-0, used a defeat of Griffin to leap into sixth place over No. 7 Warner Robins, 5-1. Campbell of Smyrna, 7-0, moved up from ninth to eighth while Coffee, which saw its record drop to 5-1 with a loss to Windsor-Forest, fell from sixth to 10th.

Americus, 7-0, Gainesville, 6-0, and Glenn Hills, 6-0, once again were the top three teams in Class AAA.

Effingham Co., 6-0, advanced from seventh to fourth to take the place of Marist, 5-1, which fell to ninth because of its loss to Riverwood.

Behind Effingham Co., in order, were Mitchell-Baker, 6-1; Bainbridge, 5-1; Thomson, 6-0; Fulton, 5-0; Marist, 5-1; and Brookwood, 6-0.

It was the first time this year Brookwood had been ranked as the Broncos replaced idle Worth Co.

No. 2 West Rome, 6-0, edged closer to No. 1 Mary Persons, 6-0, as the Chieftains picked up 101 points to the Bulldogs' 103.

Although West Rome was first on only two ballots to Mary Persons' eight, the Chieftains had nine second place votes. Two voters, meanwhile, placed the Bulldogs fourth.

Following those two were Dooly Co., 6-0; Claxton, 6-0; Greene Co., 7-0; East Hall, 6-0; Lincoln Co., 5-1; R.E. Lee, 5-1; Manchester, 5-1; and Loganville, 6-0.

Loganville, ranked for the first time this year, replaced Chattanooga Valley, which lost to East Rome.

Funky

Fla Times U. 10-21-83

Comic strip creator to help strike up the bands at Valdosta competition

From Staff

VALDOSTA, Ga. — The creator of the Funky Winkerbean comic strip will serve as honorary master of ceremonies tomorrow when 20 high school bands from across the Southeast compete in Valdosta.

Cartoonist Tom Batiuk of Medina, Ohio, often pokes fun at an egotistical high school band director in his comic strip about the life and times of student Funky Winkerbean.

Parental band boosters are not immune from his gentle jibes. But parental band booster Jan Bristow of Valdosta marvels at Batiuk's knack for being right on target about the marching band scene.

"He knows exactly. I don't know how he has such insight," said Mrs. Bristow whose two children have marched in the Valdosta High band.

She said Batiuk will provide commentary and mingle with the kids tomorrow.

The Eighth Annual Southern Open Marching Band Competition begins at 9 a.m. at Cleveland Field and lasts through the evening. Preliminary competition should end about 6 p.m. The five highest scoring bands will compete in the finals beginning at 8 p.m., she said.

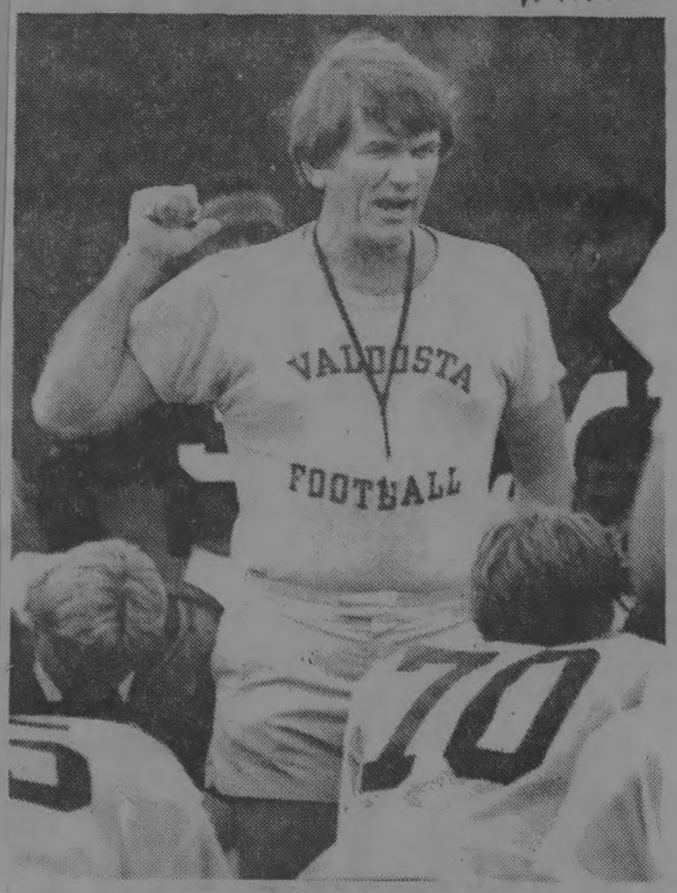
Admission is $3 in advance and $4 tomorrow.

Mrs. Bristow said she hopes the weekend will provide Batiuk with material for future strips. "We see ourselves now. It's so funny," she said. She explained that several recent Winkerbean strips have shown Harry, the band director, preparing to host a high school battle of the bands that he obviously expects to win.

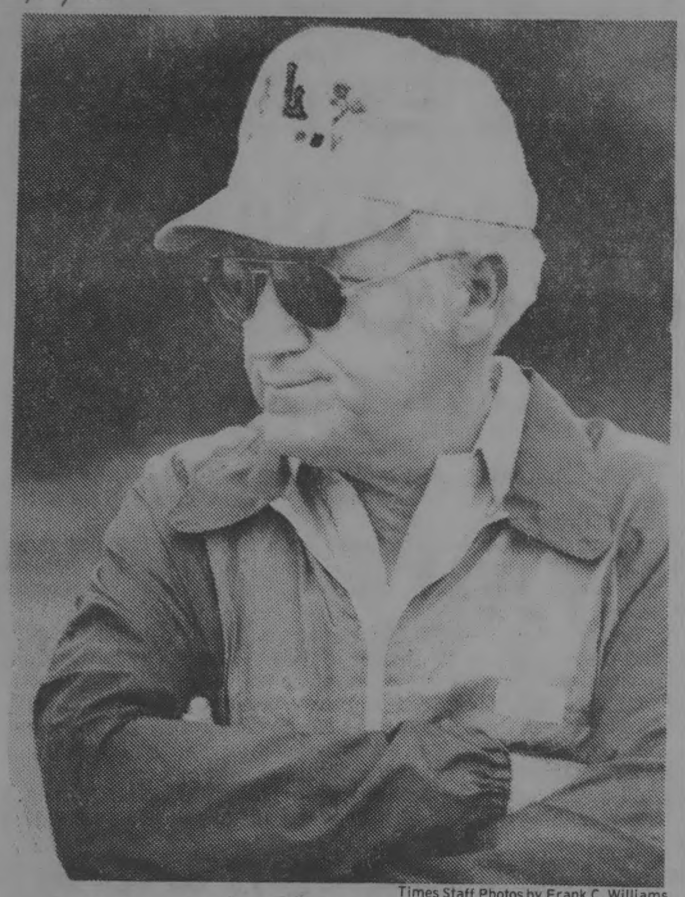
Unlike the comic strip, the Valdosta High band will not compete at its own contest. The local band will perform, however, along with three other exhibition bands.

Lowndes-Valdosta: The Coaches

V. Times 10/12/83



Hyder Is 8-3 Against Lowndes



Times Staff Photos by Frank C. Williams

Wilson Is 3-6 Against His Alma Mater

'Cats View Vikes As Just Another Game

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

No one needs to tell Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder about the importance of Friday night's game with Lowndes at Martin Stadium. But Hyder said he is trying to approach the Wildcats' 19th meeting with the Plowboys with the same level of intensity he uses for every other game.

"There's a lot of interest in this game," Hyder said Tuesday, "which makes it, to this point, the high point of the season.

"The game is the game this week. This is the one we're preparing for. But the odds are better than 2 to 1 that we'll have to play (Lowndes) again in the next five weeks."

Valdosta, ranked No. 2 in this week's Associated Press poll, holds a 15-3-0 lead in the series which dates back to 1968 and includes three meetings in the 1-AAAA region playoffs. Despite the lopsided margin, which includes a 22-0 win for the 'Cats in 1982, Hyder said, "We have tremendous respect for Lowndes. The only disappointment I have is I wish we could draw this many people for every game. And I know Coach (Joe) Wilson feels the same way."

Hyder had plenty of good things to say about his county rival, starting with Lowndes' 6-1 record. "If you leave out Waycross, the other six teams we've played have only won a total of nine games this year," he said. "And even if you include Waycross, the seven put together have won 13 and Lowndes has won almost half that many.

"We're playing a winning opponent and they've done what it takes to win."

Hyder was particularly impressed by the way Lowndes rallied from a 21-point deficit to beat Dougherty three weeks ago in Albany.

"That takes a disciplined effort," Hyder said. "It's one of the most amazing things I've seen in this region in a long time."

Hyder also emphasized the fact that Lowndes' "excellent team" has "15 players who started against us last year," including seven on offense.

The Lowndes offense is not entirely unfamiliar to Hyder. "Our offenses are similar," he said, "because they were both basically designed by Coach (Wright) Bazemore. They are both multiple offenses and both are based on taking what the defense gives you. And sometimes that's not much."

Does knowing basically what the other team is going to do on offense make things any easier?

"Maybe (you know) what, but not when," said Hyder. "That's the competitive part of the game, to adjust or be ready for it. I guess that's why you need coaches."

Hyder called Lowndes starting quarterback Randy Gay and back-up Bobby Eason, who has rallied Lowndes to wins twice in three games, "the best 1-2 quarterback situation in the state of Georgia."

Hyder didn't stop with the quarterback. "They (Lowndes) have done a great job setting up protection for the passer. And their pass routes are always innovative...(Gerald) Mitchell along with (Jason) Cain probably, either individually or as a pair, lead the state in receptions."

"On the defensive end of it, nine of those players started against us last year. And it was a 2-0 ballgame until late in the third quarter," Hyder said.

Plowboys Hoping To Topple 'Cats

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Lowndes High is facing a task Friday night which no team has been able to accomplish in the last two years: beating the Valdosta Wildcats.

In seven games this season no team in south Georgia has even come close to stopping the No. 2 'Cats. They've only trailed once in a game. And that was only briefly. Including a 15-0 season in 1982, the 'Cats have now won 22 straight games.

But Lowndes coach Joe Wilson hopes he has the solution when the two arch-rivals meet Friday night at Martin Stadium. Kickoff is slated for 8 p.m.

"It's very simple," Wilson said Tuesday afternoon before his No. 9 Vikings worked out. "It's what seven other teams haven't done."

Wilson wouldn't elaborate futher except to say, "Our kids will play with great emotion and intensity. They will play with more emotion and intensity than they have all year long. Whether that is good enough to beat Valdosta, I don't know."

Beating Valdosta is a rare occasion, especially for Lowndes. In 18 meetings since 1968, Lowndes has only won three times. The first win came in '77, Wilson's second year with the Plowboys. Lowndes won again in '79 and in the '80 Region 1-AAAA playoffs. Wilson is 3-6 overall against his alma mater.

"They (Valdosta) have a very fine group of mature young men," Wilson said. "They have size where it's needed. They're very similar to the teams they've had in the last eight to 10 years, exceptional speed and abound with experience."

Sounds ominous. But...

"We've got a plus in our favor that we haven't had in a while," Wilson said. "We've played them close the last two years, but we were out of the running. Now we've clenched a playoff spot. We ought to have extra incentive."

The Vikes clinched that playoff spot, their first since 1980, with a last-second 25-23 win over Westover last Friday in Albany. It was the second time in the last three games that Lowndes had to come from behind to win. The Vikings are now 6-1 overall and 3-0 in the South sub-region.

"I think our youngsters have shown a great deal of character in that they've come back in several games after being behind and won some games...You couldn't have asked for a better emotional uplift."

The Westover game also marked the second time in three weeks that sophomore Bobby Eason relieved starter Randy Gay to lead a Viking comeback. At Westover, though, it took a Gay field goal as time expired to win.

"The big game was this past Friday," Wilson said of the win over Westover. "This is icing on the cake. It's a great show for the community and the schools. The old cliche about this is nothing but for the bragging rights holds true."

Wilson would not name a starting quarterback for Friday's game.

"We will play both quarterbacks Friday night," he said. "Who starts depends on who performs best this week in practice based on my decision and my coaches' decision. It is definitely a plus to have two very talented quarterbacks."

And if that wasn't enough to worry Wilson, he's got the 'Cats Friday night.

"We have reviewed and studied Valdosta," the eight-year Lowndes coach said. "If there is a weakness, we haven't spotted it.

"Offensively, they have all the tools. Big strong running backs, very fast backs, a proven quarterback and their offensive line has come on strong. I figured the line would not be as good since they lost so many, but they've done a super coaching job and they've got a fine unit. Their coaches should be commended."

Lowndes' Bridgemen capture band competition title

10-24-83 Fla. Times Union

From Staff

VALDOSTA, Ga. — About 2,500 spectators and 3,000 student musicians ignored cloudy skies and turned out Saturday for the Eighth Annual Southern Open Marching Band Competition in Valdosta.

Eighteen high school bands from Florida and Georgia performed in competition at the Valdosta High football stadium. Four other bands performed solely for exhibition including the host school, Valdosta.

Cartoonist Tom Batiuk, the creator of the cartoon Funky Winkerbean, was honorary master of ceremonies at the daylong event. Batiuk, one of whose character's is an obsessive band director named Harry L. Dinkle, introduced bands and band directors and signed autographs.

Batiuk also said he was gathering background for future comic strips.

In competition, each band has a 15-minute time slot which allows nine minutes for the actual performance. The finalists were named after all the bands had performed.

By the 8 p.m. finals, the weather had deteriorated and a heavy mist hung over the field, but that did not prevent the Lowndes High School "Georgia Bridgemen" band from marching off with a win.

The other four finalists, starting with fifth place, were: Bainbridge High School, Bainbridge, Ga.; Johnson High, Gainesville, Ga.; Ware County High, Waycross, Ga., and Largo High School, Largo, Fla.

Other awards included: the Valdosta Principal's Choice, Interlachen High of Interlachen, Fla.; best color guard, Lowndes County; best drum major, West Orange High of Winter Garden, Fla.; and best majorettes, Ware County.

Two Jacksonville high schools, Fletcher and Terry Parker, both were rated superior by the 10 judges.

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Lowndes-Valdosta: The Players

V Times 10/13/83

Anderson, Brinson Lead 'Cats' Attack

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Comparing players, no matter the sport, with their predecessors of an earlier era is always risky business. It's much like apples and oranges.

Yet there are certain players that justifiably warrent being called "The Best Ever."

In the case of Valdosta High football history, though, comparing can go back 70 years when the game was quite different from today.

But this year's pair of Wildcat running backs — Dana Brinson and Tony Anderson — can be compared with the best that have ever worn the black and gold of Valdosta High. Without question they are one of the best tandems of running backs in VHS history.

That's quite a bold statement when you consider Giles Smith and Kenny Rufer played in the same backfield in 1960 and 61. Danny O'Neal and Larry Howell also played together. More recently, there was Alton Battle and Billy Berrian in 1975, Ernest King and Irvin Roe in '78 and Freddie Motes and Pernell Bee in '81.

But are Brinson and Anderson the best?

"I can't make that statement," said 'Cat head coach Nick Hyder, who coached Battle and Berrian, King and Roe, and Motes and Bee. "I believe they (Anderson and Brinson) deserve to be mentioned among the tandems. If you talk about tandems you have to talk about them."

Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph, who played and coaches at VHS, doesn't like the idea of comparisons.

"Well, you can't pick out a tandem and say they're the best," Rudolph said. "I don't think it's a good statement to say they're the best."

So far, in seven games this season, all of which Valdosta has won, Anderson and Brinson are 1-2 in the Region 1-AAAA rushing race. Anderson leads his teammate by just four yards, 479 to 475.

And Anderson maintained his lead without playing a down in last week's 56-14 rout of Dougherty High. He hurt his leg in practice the week before the game, and Hyder optioned to sit him out. Anderson is expected to play Friday night when the 'Cats travel to Martin Stadium for a game with arch-rival Lowndes.

With Anderson out, Brinson carried on with a pair of punt returns of 50 and 49 yards for touchdowns to go along with 70 yards on 8 carries.

Despite the competition for region rushing honors Brinson, a senior, and Anderson, a sophomore, remain good friends. It is not uncommon to see the two together on and off the field.

"From the beginning of the season, we wanted to be 1 and 2," Brinson said of the region rushing race. "It didn't matter who was first. Right now we're doing what we expected to do."

Anderson agrees, but with a slight exception.

"Of course, I wouldn't mind leading the region as a sophomore," he says. "But our goal is to 1 and 2."

But if it came down to the team winning or gaining yards, Anderson and Brinson agree that the team comes first. And after winning the state title in '82, both are looking for better things in '83.

"Our ballclub is like it is," Brison says, "because we're a team. We try to share it all together."

There is one goal the two would like to achieve while they're in the same backfield.

"Something we haven't done is combine for over 100 yards each," Anderson says. "One of us had 100 and the other 80, but we haven't each gotten 100."

Hyder knows he is blessed this season with the two talented backs.

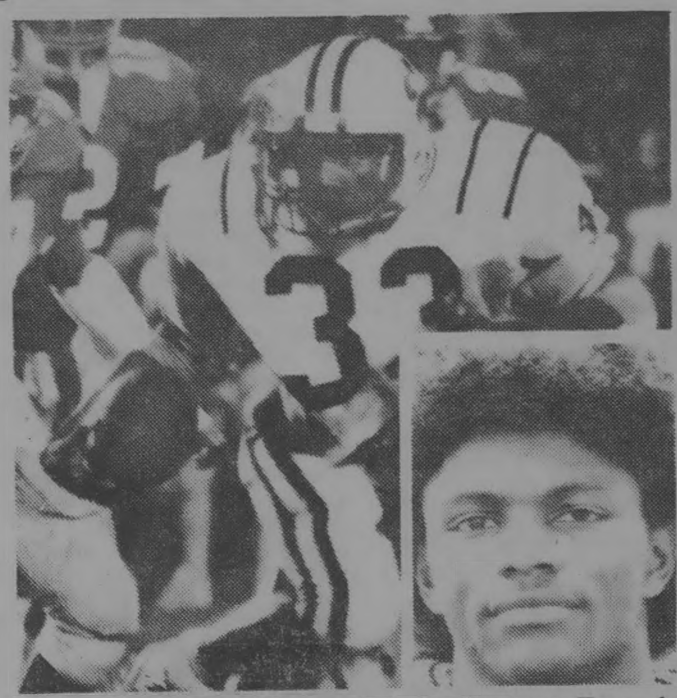
"Dana may be the most talented running back that I've coached," Hyder says. "I've reserved that because that spans 26 years. The youngster continues to amaze us. He runs, blocks and can play defense if we need him."

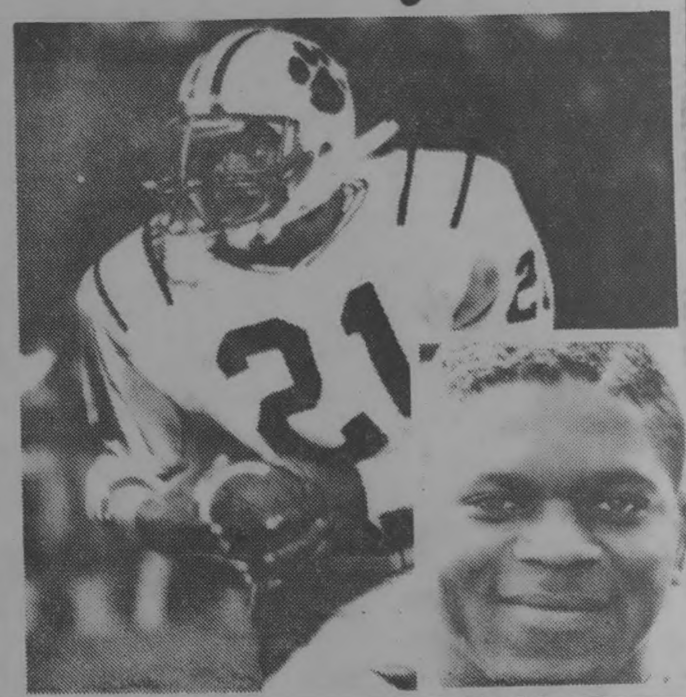
And Anderson?

"He's one of two backs over a 26-year period that has the muscle and bone structure to make him a powerful runner.

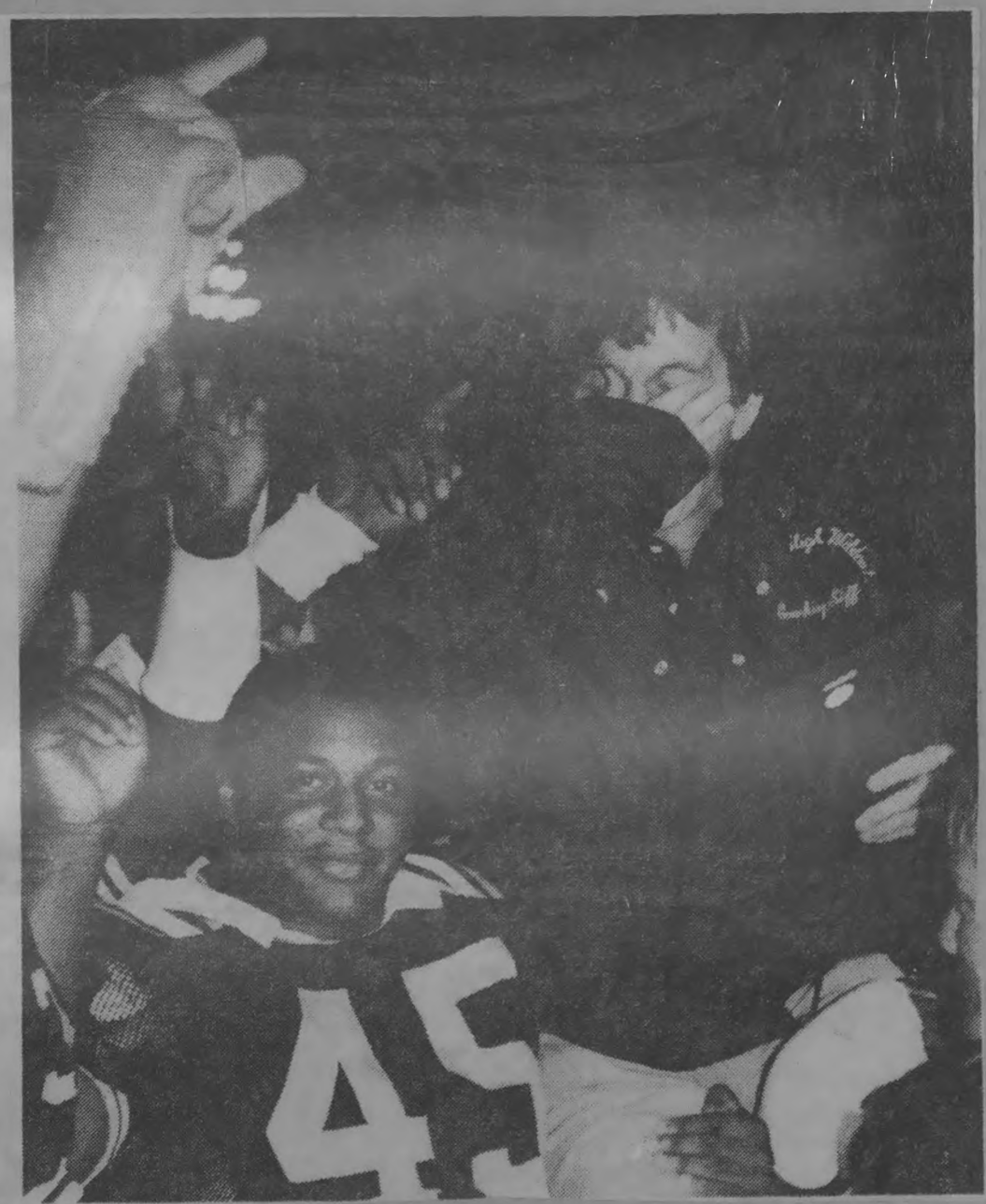
"Both of these young men love the colision part of football."

The best? Well maybe.



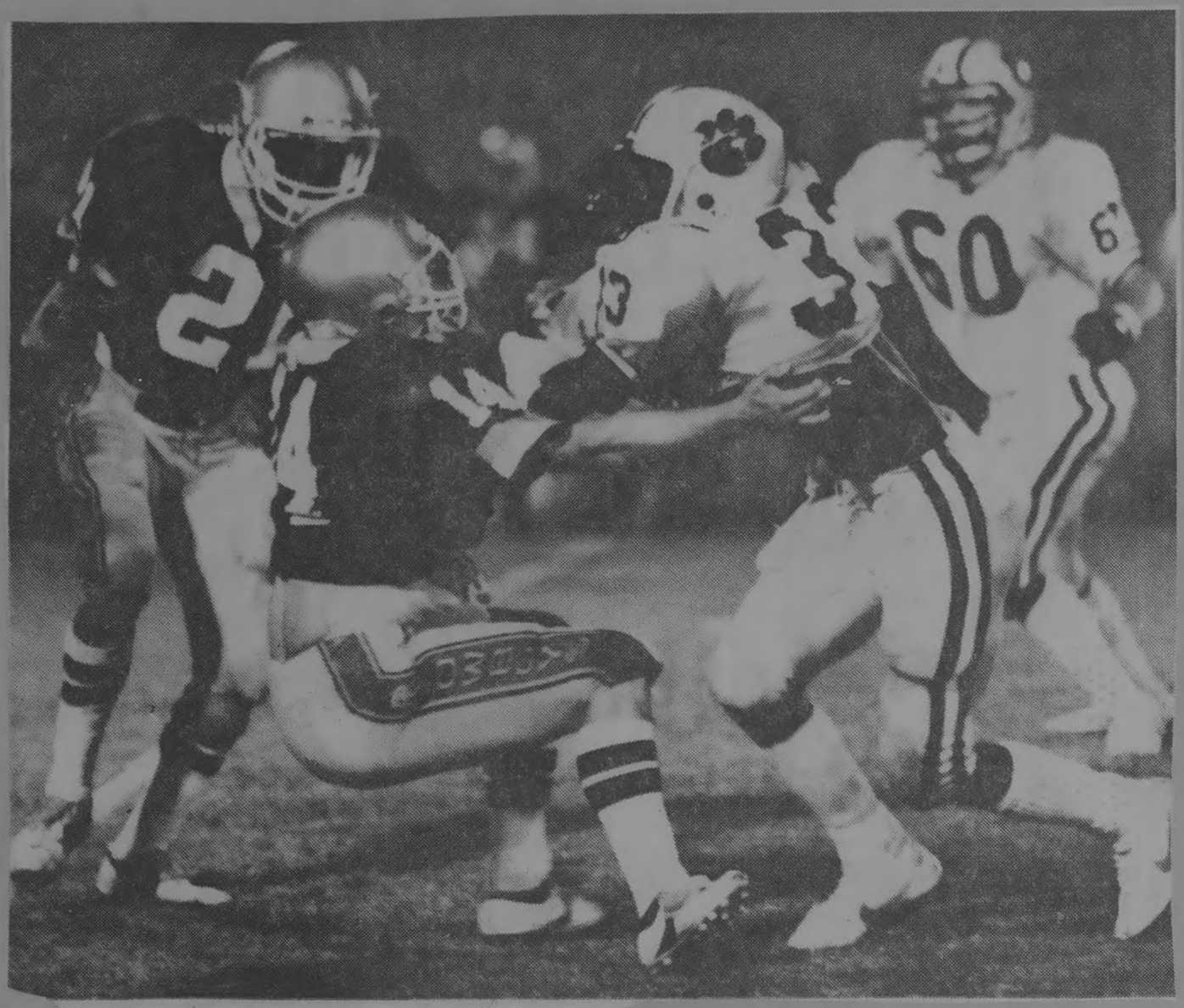


Senior Dana Brinson (L), Sophomore Tony Anderson Are 1-2 In Region 1-AAAA Rushing Race



Mixed VHS Emotions

Actually, these two are expressing the same emotion—happiness—but in different ways. At left, Valdosta High School Homecoming Queen Sonya Davis, 17, smiles during homecoming festivities at the Valdosta High-Dougherty High football game here Friday night. At left, Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder gets a little misty after being carried off the field by players following his 100th win with Valdosta, a 56-14 pasting of the Patriots. His overall coaching record is 153-32-4.—Times Staff Photos by Joey Ivansco.



V. Daily Times 10/23/83

'Cats No. 2; Lowndes Drops

V. Times 10-19-83

Out Of Poll

ATLANTA (AP) — West Point opened the season with one vote for eighth place in The Associated Press' weekly poll of Georgia high school football teams. Now the Raiders top Class A — one vote shy of being a unanimous choice.

It was the second straight week West Point was voted the No. 1 Class A team in balloting by a panel of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters.

Other No. 1 teams remained the same, although the battle between Clarke Central and Valdosta for the top spot in Class AAAA tightened to its closest point in the nine weeks of this season's poll.

Americus and Mary Persons were still on top of Class AAA and Class AA, respectively.

West Point took 10 of 11 votes for first place in Class A with the other placing the Raiders in second for 109 out of a possible 110 points. Points are awarded on a basis of 10 for first, nine for second, eight for third, and so on.

Unranked in the first poll, the Raiders entered the poll the next week at 10th. Since then they have climbed steadily to the top.

Wrens, which received the other first place vote, was a distant second with 95 points.

Class AAAA

1. Clarke Central (7-0), 103, 6
2. **Valdosta (8-0), 102, 4**
3. Tift Co. (7-0), 92, 1
4. Statesboro (7-0), 67
5. Warner Robins (6-1), 62
6. LaGrange (7-0), 55
7. Campbell, Smyrna (7-0), 43
8. Baldwin (7-1), 22
9. Cedar Shoals (6-1), 13
10. Tie — Bradwell Institute (6-1), 11
— Westside (6-1), 11

Also receiving votes: Coffee, Evans, **Lowndes**, Morrow and Tucker.

Class AAA

1. Americus (7-0), 103, 7
2. Gainesville (7-0), 100, 3
3. Glenn Hills (7-0), 84, 1
4. Effingham Co. (7-0), 71
5. Mitchell-Baker (6-1), 56
6. Bainbridge (6-1), 43
7. Thomson (7-0), 41
8. Fulton (6-0), 32
9. Cass (8-0), 28
10. Camden Co. (6-1), 12

Also receiving votes: Cairo, Central Gwinnett, Chamblee, Dodge Co., Habersham Central, Marist, Riverwood and Waycross.

Class AA

1. Mary Persons (7-0), 106, 8
2. West Rome (7-0), 100, 2
3. Dooly Co. (7-0), 84
4. Tie — Claxton (7-0), 75
Greene Co. (8-0), 75
6. Lincoln County (6-1), 49
7. R.E. Lee (6-1), 35
8. Manchester (6-1), 30
9. Vidalia (5-1), 13
10. Tie — East Hall (6-1), 9
— Central, Carrollton (7-1), 9

Also receiving votes: Lyons, Loganville, Oconee Co., Pierce Co. and Union Co.

Class A

1. West Point (8-0), 109, 10
2. Wrens (6-1), 95, 1
3. Palmetto (7-1), 88
4. **Clinch Co. (7-1), 80**
5. Metter (5-2), 46
6. Montgomery Co. (6-1), 42
7. Georgia Military College (6-1), 38
8. Bremen (5-1-1), 23
9. Portal (5-2), 17
10. Tie — Buford (4-3), 14
— Emanuel County Institute (5-2), 14

Also receiving votes: Adairsville, Greenville, Hogansville, Miller Co., Southeast Bulloch and Wilcox Co.

Next came, in order, Palmetto, Clinch Co., Metter, Montgomery Co., Georgia Military College, Bremen, Portal and, in a tie for 10th, Buford and Emanuel County Institute.

Greenville, which lost for the second straight week, fell from the poll as did Adairsville and Hogansville.

Portal's ranking was its first of the season, while E.C.I and Buford returned after absences of five weeks and one week, respectively.

Clarke Central has been atop Class AAAA since the season began. Valdosta, meanwhile, started in third and advanced to second in the second poll.

The distance between the two has fluctuated each week, this week narrowing to a single point.

Clarke Central amassed 103 points on six first place, three second place and two third place votes. Valdosta had 102 points on four first place, six second place and one third place votes.

Behind the top two was Tift Co., just as it has been since it swapped with Valdosta in the second poll.

Leading the rest of the pack was Statesboro, followed by Warner Robins, LaGrange, Campbell of Smyrna, Baldwin, Cedar Shoals and, in a tie for 10th, Bradwell Institute and Westside.

Lowndes and Coffee, ranked ninth and 10th last week, fell from the poll after weekend losses.

Cedar Shoals was ranked for the first time since an early season loss to Warner Robins. Westside had been unranked since the third poll.

Bradwell Institute, which defeated Coffee, was ranked for the first time this year.

In Class AAA, the top eight teams remained the same: Americus, Gainesville, Glenn Hills, Effingham Co., Mitchell-Baker, Bainbridge, Thomson and Fulton.

In ninth place was Cass, which had been unranked since early in the year.

Camden Co. was 10th after a two-week absence. Gone were Brookwood and Marist.

Mary Persons and West Rome were one and two in Class AA, just as they have been all year long. Dooly Co. was third.

Claxton and Greene Co. were tied for fourth, followed by Lincoln Co., R.E. Lee, Manchester, Vidalia and, in a tie for 10th, East Hall and Central of Carrollton.

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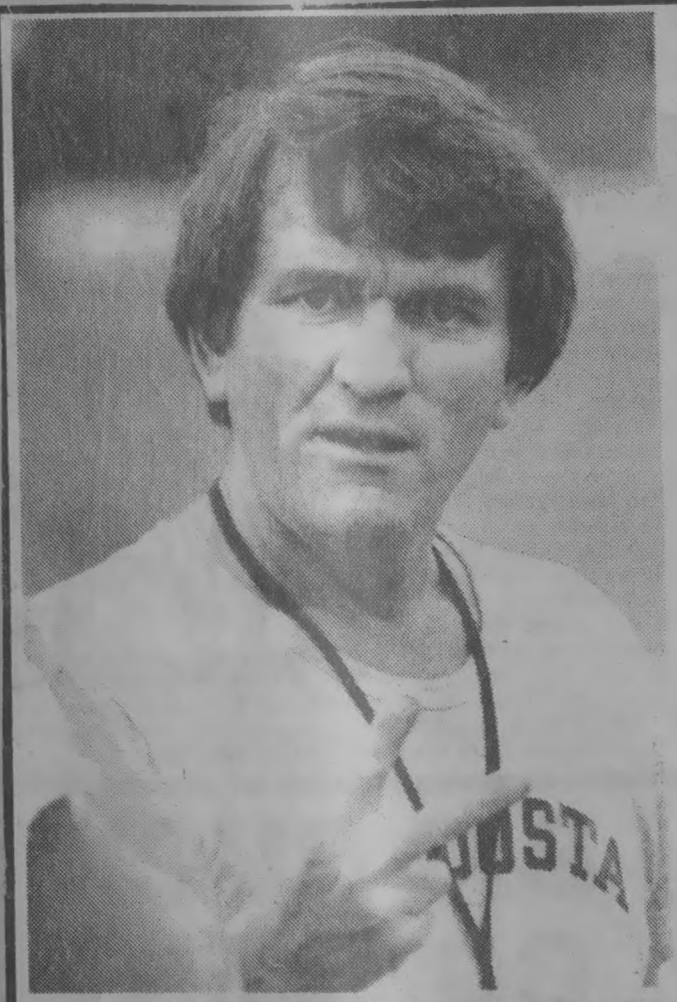
V. Times 10-20-83

Lowndes, Valdosta Welcome Off Week



Hyder's 'Cats Focusing On Central Thomasville

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

This Friday's open date for both Valdosta and Lowndes Highs was a welcome relief after the emotionally-charged contest between the two schools last Friday at Martin Stadium.

No. 2 Valdosta, which downed the Vikings 35-6 in the annual Winnersville Classic, and Lowndes, which dropped out of the Associated Press Prep Poll for the first time this season, used the week off to rest and get ready for their respective opponents next week.

Valdosta (8-0 overall and 3-0 in the 1-AAAA's North sub-region) took Monday off before returning to the practice field in full gear Tuesday and Wednesday. Today the 'Cats will go through a light workout with the B-Team playing a game. Friday is an off day.

"The idea is to use the time to study," said 10th-year Valdosta coach Nick Hyder. "We're in better shape at this point than last year academic-wise."

Last year grades were a problem for several 'Cats, forcing them to miss the state championship game against Peachtree last year. Hyder said the problem with grades is still there, but not as bad.

The 'Cats travel to Thomasville next Friday to take on Central. They then close out the regular season Nov. 4 at home against unbeaten and third-ranked Tift County.

Meanwhile across town, Lowndes (6-2 overall and 3-0 in the South sub-region) was following a similar practice format. The Vikings took Monday off before returning to the practice field in full gear Tuesday and Wednesday.

Eighth-year Viking coach Joe Wilson said his team would practice again today in full gear and take Friday off. Lowndes will return in earnest Monday getting ready for its Homecoming Game next Friday against the winless Albany High Indians.

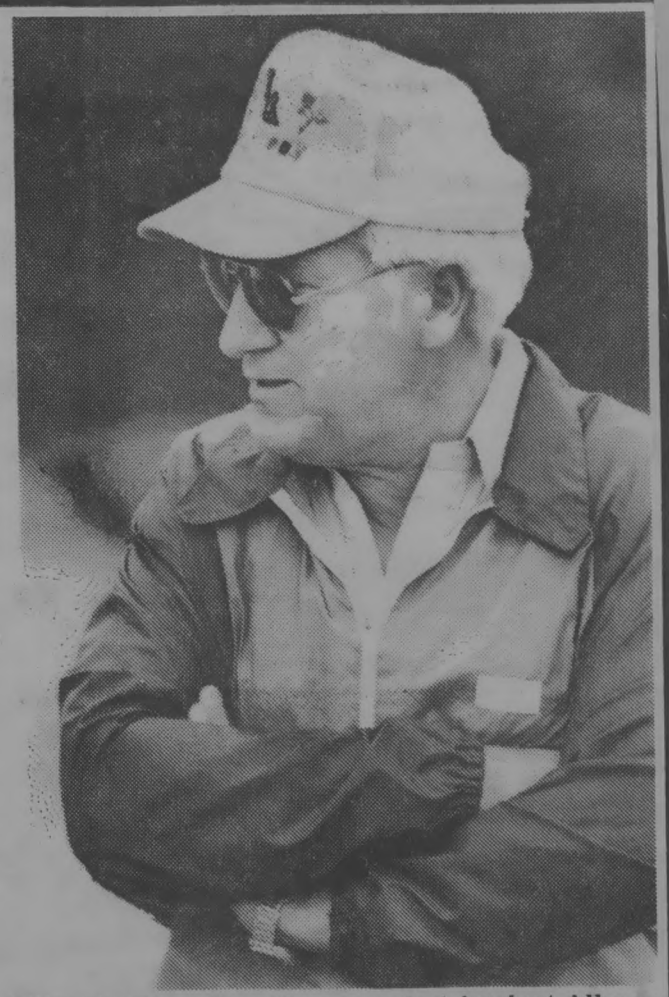
"We're just doing the normal things," Wilson said, "trying to get ready for Albany."

Lowndes closes out the regular season at Thomasville on Nov. 4 in a crucial sub-region game.

Wilson said he is not worried about an emotional lapse after the loss to rival Valdosta.

"The kids will bounce back," he said. "They were a little down the first couple of days. But it's getting better...Losing doesn't ever help. But they'll bounce back."

The Vikings came away from the Valdosta game with only one major injury. Nose guard Eddie Gosier is still slowed by a persistent ankle injury. He is expected to be ready for Albany.



Wilson's Vikes Eye Homecoming Against Albany

Valdosta Not Looking Past Central

V.T. Oct 27, 1938

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

This week Valdosta High moved into a tie for first place with Clarke Central in the Associated Press state prep poll. Next week the Wildcats close out their regular season against No. 3 Tift County.

But as always, Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder isn't talking about the polls too much, except to say that they don't mean anything. And he certainly isn't about to talk about Tift, especially not with a trip to Thomasville to play the Central Yellow Jackets this Friday night.

"We've been No. 1 (in the AP poll) several times," Hyder said. "But there's no permanent recognition that goes with that. The recognition comes from winning the playoffs.

"I'm glad that the sports writers and sportscasters think enough of Valdosta's football program to rank us so highly. But the trophies are presented to those who win the playoffs...I'm not going to ask our youngsters to divide their loyalties. We work toward one thing, reaching the playoffs."

As an example, Hyder cited the championship he led West Rome to while he was head coach there in 1970. "We went into the playoffs with a 4-5-1 record and won the state title," he said.

"We weren't even ranked...then all of the sudden, we were No. 1."

Valdosta, 8-0, had an open date last weekend and Hyder said the time off has been beneficial to the 'Cats.

"I think it's been good for us," he said. "We used the time to catch up academically...The youngsters are student athletes first of all. We're in better shape than we were a year ago, but we're still not in the shape we need to be academically."

On the field, Hyder said, "We didn't want to overwork the youngsters. We didn't practice last Monday or Friday. We held a light practice last Thursday...We also worked extremely hard in the weight room on condiditioning and toning.

"We came back this week and were able to come right back in the same routine...Hopefully we didn't lose anything. But we needed some rest after eight ballgames. Our players have had 13 weeks of intense work and they needed some time to rest and catch up."

Hyder said the time off has given a number of players time to recover from injuries. The main two have been quarterback Ted West and running back Tony Anderson. West suffered bruised ribs against Lowndes and Hyder said "he's still sore, but he's healed." Anderson was banged up in the Colquitt County game. He missed the Dougherty game but returned to play against Lowndes.

Other players who Hyder said either have resumed practicing or should within a week include Russ Rudolph, Dion Price, Joey Crosby and Seabron Williams.

Central is 4-4 in its third season under head coach Larry Green and Hyder calls the Yellow Jackets "a vastly improved team...They've shown a 200 percent improvement over the last two years." Central finished 2-8 in each of its first two seasons under Green.

"I know Larry Green," Hyder said. "Larry looks forward to playing Valdosta all year...It's a matter of pride with him.

"He's had some of his players tell me they're going to beat us. They've gotten ready and their program is in a position now where they could do that."

Actually, just scoring this year would be an improvement for the Yellow Jackets. The 'Cats have won their last two games with Central by scores of 34-0 and 35-0. Central hasn't beaten Valdosta since 1976 when the Yellow Jackets won a special Tuesday night playoff game at Cleveland Field 24-6.

"That was one of the worst nights at Cleveland Field that I can remember," Hyder quipped.

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Look Who's Back On Top Of The State

V Times 10/26/83

Valdosta Moves Into Tie For No. 1 With Clarke Central; Clinch Climbs To No. 3

ATLANTA (AP) — Despite a weekend off, Valdosta has finally caught Clarke Central at the top of the weekly Associated Press poll of Georgia high school football teams.

The Wildcats began the season ranked third in Class AAAA but moved to second in the next poll and have been there since, slowly moving closer to the top-ranked Gladiators.

This week the two powers were tied for first, each with 103 points out of a possible 110 in balloting by a board of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters.

There was little movement in the rest of the poll as most ranked teams won during the weekend. Americus remained on top in Class AAA, Mary Persons in Class AA and West Point in Class A.

Valdosta, 8-0, trailed the Gladiators by one point last week. But this week the Wildcats tied Clarke Central by picking up a first place vote that had previously gone to Tift County.

While Valdosta was off this weekend, Clarke Central defeated Parkview 35-0 for its sixth straight shutout. The last points scored against the Gladiators came in the second game of the season when they beat Warner Robins 3-2.

The Gladiators, 8-0, got their 103 points on six first place, three second place and two third place votes. Valdosta was first on five ballots, second on five and third on one.

Tift County was once again third.

Clarke Central and Valdosta won't be able to determine themselves which is the better team unless they meet for the state championship. That game, should it occur, would be in Athens on Dec. 10.

Each team has only one potentially tough opponent remaining on its regular season schedule. Clarke Central will host No. 8 Cedar Shoals for the Region 8-AAAA championship on Nov. 4. Valdosta, meanwhile, entertains No. 3 Tift the same day to determine the Subregion 1-AAAA North title.

After Tift County this week were, in order: Statesboro, Warner Robins, LaGrange, Campbell of Smyrna, Cedar Shoals, Baldwin and Westside.

Cedar Shoals and Baldwin swapped positions from last week while Bradwell Institute, which had been tied with Westside for 10th, dropped from the rankings.

There were no comings and goings in Class AAA, only a minor reshuffling of the same 10 teams.

Americus, Gainesville and Glenn Hills, all 8-0, were the top three teams, in that order, for the fifth straight week.

Effingham County had been ranked fourth, but was defeated during the weekend by Glenn Hills and fell to ninth as a result.

Thomson jumped from seventh into fourth place while Mitchell-Baker stayed fifth and Bainbridge sixth. Cass moved from ninth to seventh while Fulton and Camden County remained eighth and 10th, respectively.

Class AA also remained virtually identical to last week, with the top six places unchanged. Mary Persons and West Rome, both 8-0, have been first and second since the season began.

Dooly County, 8-0, was third while Claxton, 8-0, and Greene County, 9-0, were tied for fourth.

Those five teams have topped the classification for five weeks.

Lincoln County was sixth while Manchester moved from eighth to seventh. Central of Carrollton had been tied with East Hall for 10th place but moved up to eighth while East Hall made it to ninth.

Lovett moved into the rankings at 10th place, only the second time this year the Lions had been ranked.

R.E. Lee, which had been seventh, was beaten by Mary Persons and dropped from the poll.

West Point, 8-0, lost some ground but retained a hold on the top ranking in Class A. The Raiders are the only undefeated team in the classification.

Wrens, 7-1, retained its No. 2 position. After that, however, everything changed.

Clinch County moved from to third from fourth and Metter from fifth to fourth. Montgomery County also moved up a notch from sixth to fifth.

Palmetto had been ranked third, but fell to sixth after losing to Lovett last weekend.

Bremen moved from eighth to seventh while Emanuel County Institute and Buford broke last week's tie for 10th. Buford took eighth and E.C.I. was ninth.

Georgia Military College fell from seventh to 10th because of a weekend loss to Warren County.

Class AAAA

1. Tie — Clarke Central (8-0), 103, 6
Valdosta (8-0), 103, 5
3. Tift Co. (8-0), 91
4. Statesboro (8-0), 65
5. Warner Robins (7-1), 63
6. LaGrange (8-0), 61
7. Campbell, Smyrna (8-0), 45
8. Cedar Shoals (7-1), 26
9. Baldwin (7-1), 24
10. Westside (7-1), 15

Also receiving votes: Coffee, Glynn Academy, Lowndes and Tucker.

Class AAA

1. Americus (8-0), 104, 6
2. Gainesville (8-0), 98, 4
3. Glenn Hills (8-0), 93, 1
4. Thomson (8-0), 61
5. Mitchell-Baker (7-1), 57
6. Bainbridge (7-1), 48
7. Cass (9-0), 42
8. Fulton (8-0), 31
9. Effingham Co. (7-1), 27
10. Camden Co. (7-1), 19

Also receiving votes: Chamblee, Dodge Co., Marist, Riverwood and Waycross.

Class AA

1. Mary Persons (8-0), 106, 8
2. West Rome (8-0), 100, 2
3. Dooly Co. (8-0), 79
4. Tie — Claxton (8-0), 74
Greene Co. (9-0), 74
6. Lincoln County (7-1), 60
7. Manchester (7-1), 32
8. Central, Carrollton (8-1), 25
9. East Hall (7-1), 17
10. Lovett (7-1), 14

Also receiving votes: Campbell (Fairburn), East Rome, Lyons, Oconee County and R.E Lee.

Class A

1. West Point (8-0), 108, 9
2. Wrens (7-1), 99, 1
3. Clinch Co. (8-1), 89, 1
4. Metter (6-2), 63
5. Montgomery Co. (7-1), 57
6. Palmetto (7-2), 50
7. Bremen (6-1-1), 48
8. Buford (5-3), 29
9. Emanuel County Institute (6-2), 27
10. Georgia Military College (6-2), 9.

Also receiving votes: Adairsville, Greenville, Hogansville, Jefferson, Portal and Wilcox Co.

Sports Briefs Oct. 28, 83

9th Grade 'Cats Finish With Win

MADISON, Fla. — The Valdosta High ninth grade team finished its season with a 35-0 win over Madison (Fla.) County here Thursday.

The freshman Wildcats scored first late in the first quarter on an 11-yard run by fullback Otis Conoway. Conoway's extra point kick failed, but Conoway was successful on the three he kicked after that.

Valdosta got on the board twice in the second period. Greg Talley threw an 21-yard pass to Guy Belue for the first TD and also threw a pass to Michael Robinson for the two-point conversion. The 'Cats scored right before the half on a halfback pass of 7 yards from Robinson to flanker Calvin Robinson to take a 21-0 lead.

Talley scored on a quarterback sneak from the 2-yard line midway through the third period.

The final Valdosta touchdown came on a 71-yard pass from Kyle Lowe to Tim Holmes early in the fourth quarter.

The Valdosta freshmen finished with a record of 5-2. Both losses came at the hands of Tift County.

Region 1-AAAA

Oct. 28, 1983

Tuneups On Tap For Playoff Teams

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Region 1-AAAA's four playoffs teams — Valdosta, Lowndes, Thomasville and Tift County — are expected to use this week's non sub-region games as tuneups for the sub-region championship matchups next week.

At stake in those games to be played in Valdosta and Thomasville Nov. 4 is not only the respective sub-region titles but the home-field advantage in the first round and perhaps the finals of the region playoffs.

In tonight's games, Lowndes is hosting Albany, Valdosta is at Central of Thomasville, Colquitt County is at Tift County and Westover of Albany plays cross-town rival Dougherty. Monroe of Albany will host Thomasville in Albany Saturday night.

The Albany High Indians will come into Martin Stadium tonight sporting an 0-8 record, while the Vikings have a 6-2 mark.

The Vikings have always had a tough time with the Indians. Last year, the Vikings fell behind 14-0 late in the second quarter before rallying to win 28-14.

Lowndes, which is 3-0 in the South sub-region, will be on the road in Thomasville, also 3-0, to play the Bulldogs for the South championship and the home-field advantage in the first round of the playoffs next Friday.

Meanwhile, Valdosta, which moved into a tie with Clarke Central atop the Associated Press Class AAAA poll this week, will tangle with a much-improved Central Yellow Jacket team in Thomasville.

The Jackets, under third-year coach Larry Green, have won three of their last four and bring a 4-4 mark into the game against the Wildcats.

Valdosta, on the other hand, is 8-0 on the season and has won 23 consecutive games.

Wildcat senior quarterback Teddy West will be looking to tie a Valdosta High record that has stood 22 years. A win tonight over Central would give West 24 straight victories as Wildcat quarterback, which would tie him with Bruce Bennett's mark set in 1960 and '61 when the 'Cats put together back-to-back 12-0 seasons.

West can break the record next week at home when Valdosta hosts Tift County.

The Wildcats host Tift County at Cleveland Field next Friday to decide the North champion and home-field advantage.

The winner, in fact, of the Valdosta-Tift County matchup will have the home-field advantage for as long as it remains in the region playoffs.

Tift County is hosting Colquitt County tonight in the Devil's Den.

The Blue Devils are the No. 3-ranked team in the latest poll. Colquitt County is 3-5 and has lost three of its last four games.

Westover will be searching for its third victory of the season, while Dougherty will be after win No. 2 tonight when the two Albany schools tangle at Hugh Mills Satdium.

Thomasville, fresh off its 7-6 win over Colquitt County last week, which clinched a playoff berth for the Bulldogs, will be playing the Monroe Tornadoes in Hugh Mills Stadium Saturday night.

Monroe won its first game of the season last week, 16-6 over cross-town rival Albany.

Central Hoping To 'Get Lucky' Against 'Cats

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

V.T. Oct 26 1983

After winning only four games in the previous two seasons, the 1983 season has already been a successful one by almost any measure for Central of Thomasville.

The Yellow Jackets are 4-4 and, even though they have been eliminated from the running for a playoff spot, head coach Larry Green said, "We have a chance to come out of the year with a break-even record. And if we got very lucky, we might even have a winning season. But we'd have to get extremely lucky."

In order to have a winning season this year the Yellow Jackets would have to get lucky enough to do something no team has done in the last two years, beat Valdosta High. The Wildcats, who are tied for first place in the state this week with Clarke Central, play Central in Thomasville Friday night at 8.

Green makes it clear he's using Valdosta's ranking to fire up his players. "We have the added incentive of playing a ranked team and the defending state champion," he said. "Hopefully we can catch Valdosta looking ahead (to next week's game with No. 3 Tift County)."

The Yellow Jackets have played well at times this season. Only one of their losses, to No. 3 Tift 30-0, has been by more than 10 points. And Central enters Friday's game with a two-game winning streak. The Yellow Jackets completed their sweep of the four Albany schools with victories over Dougherty and Westover.

"We executed better offensively the last two weeks than we have all season," said Green. Part of that has been due to the return last week of tailback Vernon Jones. Jones, a junior, is the seventh leading rusher in Region 1-AAAA with 432 yards on 101 carries.

"He (Jones) missed two games before last week with an ankle injury," said Green. "He came back at full speed last week (in a 24-22 win over Westover) and really helped us. So we're fortunate to have him back."

The third-year Central coach considers defense his team's strong point. "We play an agressive football game on defense. You can loosen up a little on defense and we teach our kids to play very physically and with recklessness. They enjoy it."

Central returns four starters on defense, defensive backs Danny Copeland and Bahan Rich, and linebacker Edwin Calhoun and guard Frankie Rollins. Green also said the play of four new starters, senior defensive end Steve Denson and three juniors, end Jesse Small, guard Oliver Blunt and back Michael Lovejoy, has "been a pleasant surprise for us."

The Yellow Jackets also have a junior at quarterback. Senior Chris West, the starter last year, was replaced in the first game of this season by Mark Hunter. Hunter has held the job ever since has completed 29 of 89 passes for 446 yards and two touchdowns. But he has also been intercepted eight times.

Still Green said the switch "has worked out well for us in that we've taken a junior and he's gotten a lot of experience...And he gets a little better every day in practice."

Central will be playing on its home field, but Green isn't sure that gives the Yellow Jackets much of an advantage. "This year, we've played better on the road," he said.

But on the other hand, Green doesn't think the fact that the 'Cats had an open date last week will have any great effect on the game. "At this point in the season, a week off would not make a difference," Green said. "You're already doing what you're going to do. If you have to change, you're in trouble anyway."

Not that Green thinks Valdosta needs to change anything. "I think they're better this year than they were when they won the state championship," he said. "You're talking about an outstanding football team. They deserve to be No. 1."

Green added, "Traditionally Valdosta is there (at No. 1) and will be there. When you play Valdosta, if you win it's an upset. And you don't win very often.

"You don't beat them, they beat themselves."

"For us to win," said Green, "we'd have to play above our heads. We'd have to catch Valdosta flat and we'd have to play the best game we've ever played at Central...We'd have to play a mistake-free game. And get very, very lucky."

No Problems For Valdosta, Lowndes

10-28-83

For only the second time in 11 weeks of picking high school football games this year, we turned in a perfect slate last week. But the 4-0 mark (1.000) was totally a solo act.

The crystal ball requested and receivied the week off to rest up for the final two Fridays of the season. And after being right on the money in four trys last week by myself, I was hoping the glass prognosticator would want an extended vacation.

The week off, though, had the reverse effect. Now, more than ever, the ball wants to pick. So pick away mystic one...

For the season, the combined effort of the ball and myself is 41-12-2 (.773). And with a light slate on tap this weekend, perhaps we can go over the once seemingly unattainable .800 plateau.

ALBANY at LOWNDES

Lowndes does not only need to win this one. It needs to win in a big way.

Many are saying the Vikings peaked four games ago and are now on the backside heading down.

Coach Joe Wilson disagrees. But he does say: "We are not playing as well now as we were at the first of the season."

From all the grumbling of Viking supporters you couldn't tell that Lowndes is 6-2 and back in the Region 1-AAAA playoffs for the first time since 1980.

With winless Albany coming to town tonight that record should go to 7-2. In a big way...**Lowndes 35, Albany 6.**

VALDOSTA at THOMASVILLE CENTRAL

The Wildcats are back in their rightful position atop the Class AAAA rankings for the first time this season. And nobody in their right mind would pick against the 'Cats at this point of the season.

Valdosta had a week off to get ready for this meaningless (as far as the North sub-region is concerned) game with Central.

There is no question that the Yellow Jackets are playing better. Their four wins this season equals the victory output of the previous two Central teams' records combined.

But there is no way Central will get its fifth win this week...**Valdosta 48, Central 0.**

STEWART-QUITMAN at BROOKS COUNTY

This game will be played in Quitman, which is no relationship to Stewart-Quitman. But even if it was being played in Stewart-Quitman (wherever that is), it wouldn't make any difference.

Brooks coach Max Milligan says his team will looking for another record-breaking preformance just like last year when the two teams met. And who is the crystal ball to disagree...**Brooks 50, Stewart-Quitman 0.**

COOK at FITZGERALD

"Wait till next year" will be the prevalent cry in Fitzgerald tonight when the Purple Hurricanes entertain the Hornets. Both teams are going nowhere as far as playoffs are concerned. So this will be the perfect time to give the younger kids a chance to get some playing experience.

Cook needs to win this game if it hopes to have a chance of breaking even this season. The Hornets' 3-5 mark can be eased with wins tonight at Fitzgerald and next Friday at Appling County.

But Fitzgerald will have something to say about that...**Fitzgerald 20, Cook 13.**

BERRIEN COUNTY at APPLING COUNTY

The Rebels had last week off to get ready for their final two games of the season. They will also be Berrien's final two games in Class AAA for at least two years.

The good news is the Rebels will be dropping down to Class AA next year. The bad news is they must persevere two more weeks with the big boys.

The Rebels' best chance of finishing the season with one more win is tonight in the Nuclear City. Next week powerful Camden County comes to town.

But a victory in Baxley does not come easily. Two weeks ago the Pirates gave Waycross fits...**Appling 24, Berrien 6.**

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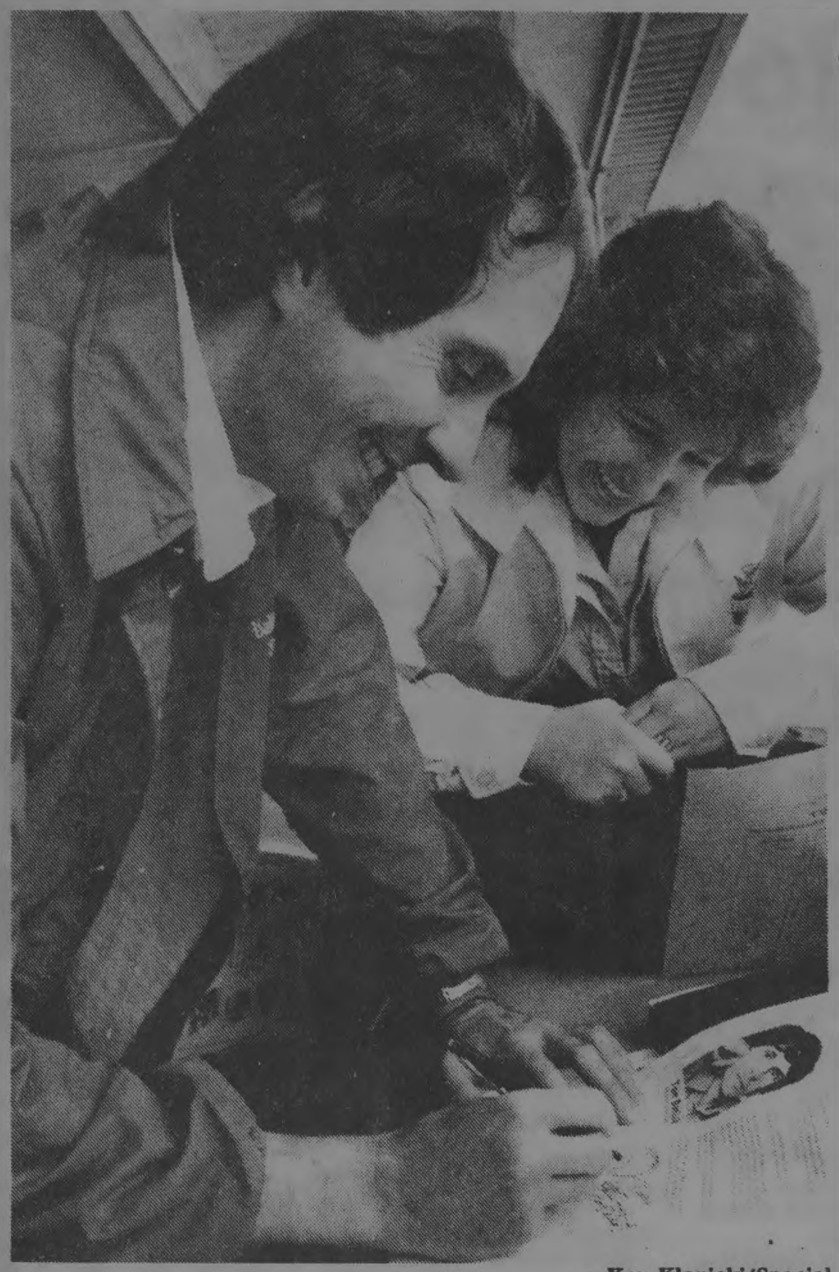

— Ken Klanicki/Special

Tom Batiuk, creator of the Funky Winkerbean comic strip, signed an autograph for Stacy Broomberg on Saturday in Valdosta, Ga.

Former high school band director inspires Funky comic strip creator

F. Times 10-25-83

By Jamie Lucke
Staff Writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Down on the field, banners swirl and majorettes prance as a white-gloved drum major leads a rousing, brassy version of a Michael Jackson hit.

Up in the crowded press box, Tom Batiuk watches.

Lanky in blue jeans, Hushpuppies and a borrowed windbreaker, Batiuk idly chews a wad of green gum and reminds you of, well, he reminds you of Funky Winkerbean.

Not the perennial teenager who is so average it almost hurts, but Funky at 36, amazed that his lifelong ambition came true so quickly.

Batiuk is a Winkerbean who spends six days a week in the vicinity of a drawing board, sometimes working, sometimes gazing out the window; whose studio sits atop a garage in rural Middle America not far from Cleveland; who seems just a bit uncomfortable in the limelight.

He has a wife, Cathy, and a 3-year-old son, Brian.

And after 11 years of producing the same comic strip, he insists the ideas are still coming. The story of Westview High School is only now getting juicy, Batiuk said.

He was in Valdosta Saturday to serve as honorary master of ceremonies at one of the biggest high school band competitions in Florida and Georgia. That Batiuk would be in demand at a band contest seems a bit like the fox getting invited to dinner by the hens.

As any regular reader of Funky knows, Batiuk earns his living poking fun at high school life, including a Napoleon-like band director who commands an army of band boosters.

Batiuk confesses that he sometimes marvels at how warmly folks who might be offended appreciate the jokes.

His old high school band director was the inspiration for cartoon character Harry L. Dinkle, who thinks football is a warm-up act for the band.

He said his wife seems justifiably suspicious that she was the inspiration for Ann Randall, who got "RIFed" out of a teaching job (RIF means reduction in force) and had to turn to a fast-food franchise for work.

Crazy Harry, air-guitarist extraordinaire, is a toned-down version of a student that Batiuk once taught.

"Funky, the character, is maybe a little bit me. He's sort of the straight man for everyone else," said Batiuk, who warns against getting carried away with the parallels between Funky and real life.

"I put a baby in the strip for a while. Everyone thought my wife was pregnant. I do make most of it up."

Nonetheless, Batiuk won high marks for accuracy from Fletcher High drum major Darby Raiser of Atlantic Beach.

"I swear every band director including ours must have Funky up on the office wall," she said. "I love it when he makes them sell band candy during the holidays."

Batiuk was on hand Saturday to announce some of the competition and to sign autographs, but he left the judging to others.

He judged a majorette contest about 10 years ago, but he said the Valdosta show was the biggest band contest he has ever seen.

The Southern Open Marching Band Competition is a daylong pageant of halftime shows. Eighteen high school bands go through their routines performing everything from pop hits to *America the Beautiful* while majorettes twirl streamers, batons, flags, umbrellas and pompons.

The five bands in the finals had to take the field again after dark. But a heavy mist did not deter Lowndes High School of Valdosta, Ga., from capturing first place. Largo High School, Largo, was second; Ware County High School, Waycross, Ga., third; Johnson High School, Gainesville, fourth; and Bainbridge High School, Bainbridge, Ga., fifth.

It was a long day for kids — and chaperones — who filed onto school buses around dawn and didn't get home until late at night.

"There'll be a lot of band parents waiting at the parking lot [at home] at 1 in the morning," Batiuk said.

He said that he wanted to be a cartoonist even before he could read. The Prince Valiant and Flash Gordon comics that his father used to read him are still vivid memories. And he used to copy Dick Tracy.

After graduating from Kent State University in 1969, he taught high school art in Ohio. Midway through his third year of teaching, a national syndication service bought the Funky Winkerbean strip that now appears in 347 papers.

Although syndication ended his teaching career, Batiuk substitutes

(See FUNKY, Page D-3)

Funky getting easier to write, creator says

(From Page D-1)

five or six times a year for the art teacher who has his old job. And he frequently hangs out at the high school.

Batiuk syndicated a spin-off strip, John Darling, a spoof of local TV, in 1979. It now appears in 160 newspapers. Tom Armstrong of Evansville, Ind., draws the Darling strip; Batiuk writes it.

"I've done every local TV show at home in Cleveland because they need warm bodies," Batiuk said.

Comic strips rise and fall in popularity, just like TV shows, but the cycles of a comic strip last much longer, he said. After 11 years, Funky is just getting established.

"It just keeps getting easier and easier to write," he said. "The characters have become much more real. It's like there's a real Westview High School and Montoni's Pizza. It's becoming more and more a story and not a gag-a-day strip.

"That's something you can't achieve just starting out," he said. "It almost requires 10 years of background. It's kind of like a repertory company."

Was the Southern Open Marching Band Competition inspirational?

Batiuk smiled and confided, "I think we've got next year's Westville High band competition just about ready."

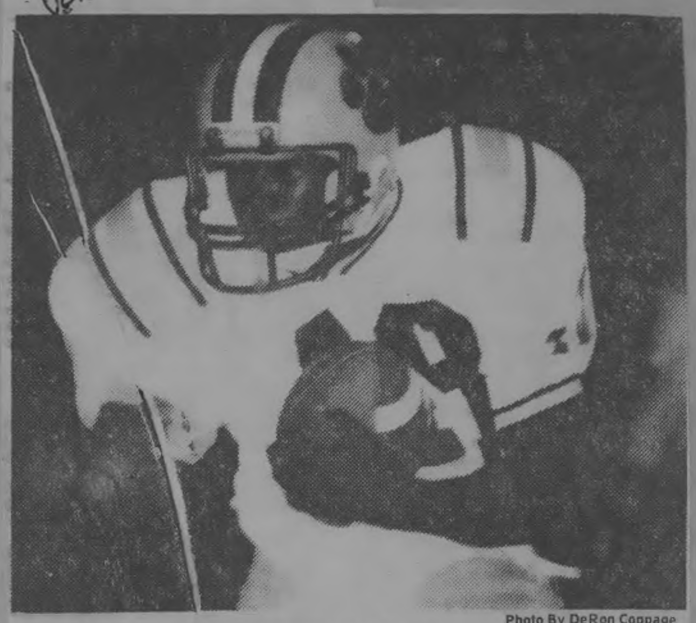

Photo By DeRon Coppage

Reserve Willie Lewis Was Forced To Start

Valdosta Walks Past Yellow Jackets

Wildcats' 24-0 Victory Over Central Came With Pair Of Starters On Bench

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

THOMASVILLE — It wasn't pretty or perfect or particularly exciting. But Valdosta High, with two offensive starters on the bench, beat Central of Thomasville 24-0 here Friday night and that was good enough for Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder.

"A win is a win," Hyder said.

It was a win that left the top-ranked Valdosta undefeated going into next week's final regular season game with No. 3 Tift County. Tift, like Valdosta, is 9-0 this season following a 49-12 win over Colquitt County Friday. Central fell to 4-5.

STATISTICS

	Valdosta	Central
First Downs	15	10
Yards Rushing	83	92
Yards Passing	224	67
Passes	22-13-0	16-5-2
Fumbles Lost	3	0
Punting	4-35.3	6-35.3
Penalties	8-86	4-40

"This was a game where we had to teach some people some lessons," Hyder said. He was apparently referring to running back Dana Brinson and offensive lineman Monte Davis. Neither of the seniors played in the game.

Hyder said the two were held out of the game because of "a little disciplinary problem...It's nothing serious. It's a family matter, a football family matter."

He said the two should return to action against Tift County, adding, "I thought the team played pretty well without them."

Hyder did not specify why the two were benched. But a person connected with the football team said Brinson and Davis were not allowed to dress out because they were late for a team meeting prior to the 'Cats' trip to Thomasville.

Senior quarterback Ted West said the 'Cats were "too inconsistent" on offense. Valdosta had 307 yards in total offense, not a bad night's work, but probably could have had more had the 'Cats not lost three fumbles in the second half and been hit with eight penalties for 86 yards.

The absence of Davis, an offensive guard was particulary noticeable. Valdosta quarterback West was sacked for times for 32 yards in losses.

"We had to make some adjustments with Monte Daivs out," said Hyder. "They got to him (West) pretty good on the blitz. Usually we pick up the blitz well."

Please See Valdosta Page 11

Score By Quarters

Valdosta	7	10	0	7-24
Central	0	0	0	0-0

Scoring

VAL — Anderson 8 run (Porter kick)

VAL — Holtzclaw 15 pass from West (Porter kick)

VAL — Porter 30 field goal

VAL — Porter 52 interception return (Porter kick)

Individual Stats

Rushing: Valdosta — T. Anderson 16-71, W. Lewis 7-30, Gandy 1-3, Leonard 1-minus 3, West 6-minus 18; Central — V. Jones 17-75, Williams 7-12, Ray Brown 2-7, Hunter 5-minus 2.

Passing: Valdosta — West 22-13-0—224; Central — Hunter 16-5-2—67.

Receptions: Valdosta — Heard 4-80, Leonard 3-53, Gandy 2-27, W. Lewis 2-19, Holtzclaw 1-15, Anderson 1-14; Central — Copeland 3-43, Farmer 1-7, Busby 1-11.

Valdosta Now 9-0

From Page 9

Filling in for Brinson was junior Willie Lewis. Lewis had 30 yards on seven carries and caught two passes for 19.

Valdosta got most of its offensive work done in the air, with West completing 13 of 22 passes for 224 yards.

But most of Valdosta's offense, period, was supplied by a defensive player, John Porter. Porter, a junior linebacker, kicked three extra points, a field goal and returned one of his two interceptions for a touchdown.

"The pass opened it up for us," said Hyder. "We didn't want to bruise ourselves up by trying to take it up the middle all night."

West's 31-yard pass to Darrell Leonard set up Valdosta's touchdown on its first possession of the game. Tony Anderson scored two plays later on an 8-yard run with 6:24 left in the first quarter.

The 'Cats added 10 points in the second period. Valdosta's second touchdown was set up by the recovery of a Central fumble at the Yellow Jacket 25. Six plays later, West threw a 15-yard TD pass to Berke Holtzclaw with 8:56 left in the half.

West had another touchdown pass five minutes later called back because a lineman was illegally downfield. But Porter gave Valdosta a 17-0 halftime lead when he kicked a 30-yard field goal as time ran out.

Porter would also supply Valdosta's only points of the second half when he returned an interception of a Mark Hunter pass 52 yards for a touchdown with 4:11 left in the game. He was also Valdosta's leading tackler with seven.

It was a good night for the defense as a whole. The 'Cats held Central to 159 total yards. Valdosta also turned back two Yellow Jacket drives inside the 20-yard line, including one late in the game when the Jackets had first and goal at the Valdosta 3.

Hyder wouldn't agree with an observation that the 'Cats looked flat. Instead he said, "I thought Central looked good...Central is a very much improved football team...They had a hard time a the beginning of the year, but they came on."

As for his team, Hyder said, "There were times when we looked real good. We caught the ball well.

"We didn't play spectacular football, but I thought we played a good, hard-nosed ballgame."

Anderson Had 71 Yards Rushing, 26 In Returns

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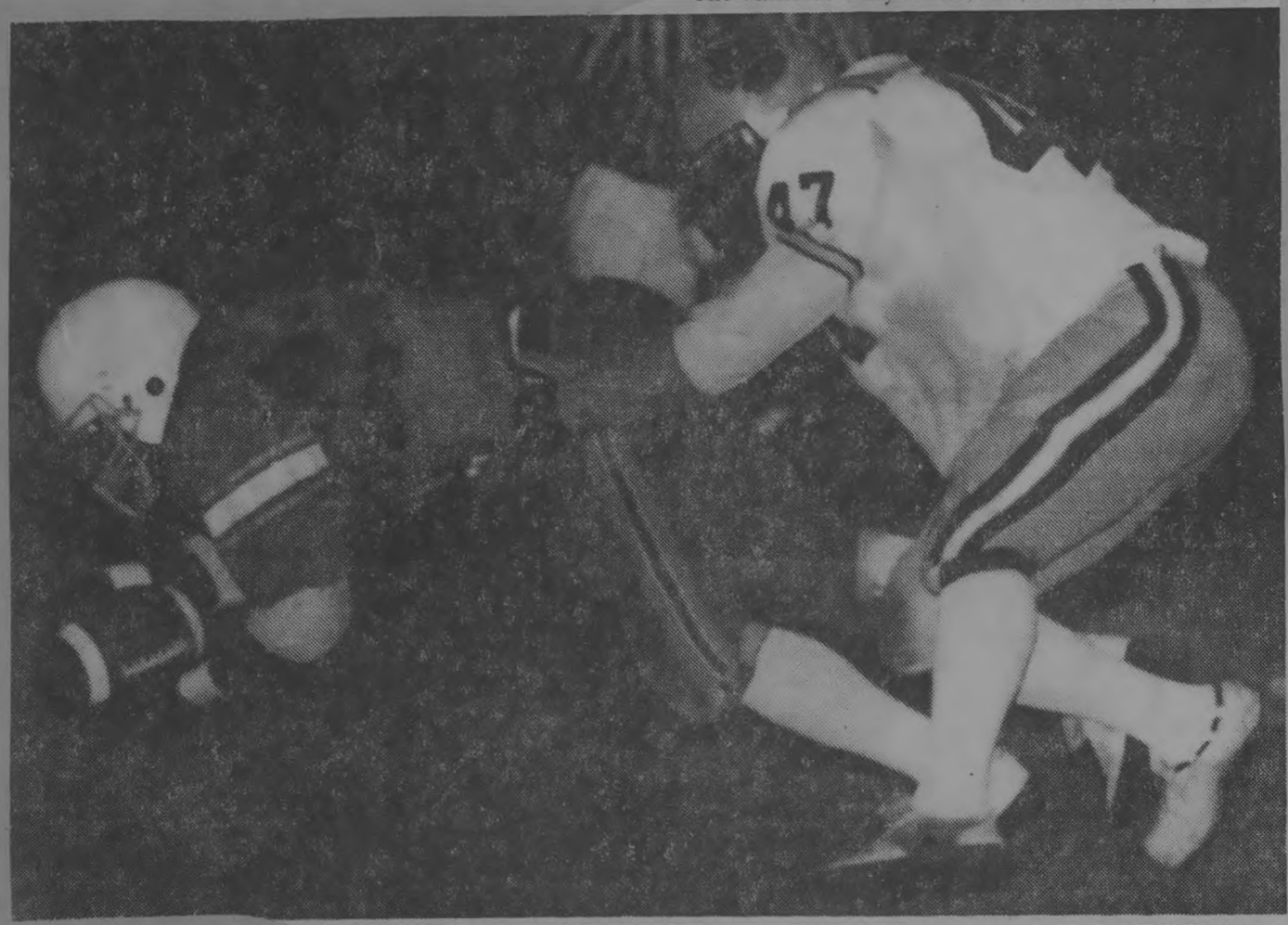

John Porter Led 'Cats In Scoring And Tackles

Photos By DeRon Coppage

Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

Gene Brodie's Blue Devils Are No. 3 In State

It's Showtime

Wed., Nov. 2, 1983

Valdosta Hosts Tift Co. For North Title

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

It's showtime and the showdown comes Friday night at Cleveland Field when No. 1-ranked Valdosta hosts No. 3 Tift County in a showcase between the two teams battling for the 1-AAAA's North sub-region championship and the home field in the first round of the region playoffs next week.

And what a show it should be.

Tift comes to town undefeated (9-0 overall and 3-0 in the North) and boasting the top offense and defense in the region. The Blue Devils have outscored opponents 337-53, with the only close calls coming in their season opener to Lowndes and two weeks ago to Dougherty.

Valdosta is also undefeated (9-0 and 3-0) and No. 2 in both offense and defense in the region. The Wildcats have outscored opponents 384-61, the closest coming in last week's 24-0 shutout of Thomasville Central. Valdosta has won 24 straight games spanning the last two seasons.

"It's a game between two darn good teams," said Tift Coach Gene Brodie this morning by phone. "We have a good offense and defense. They have a good offense and defense. It ought to be a great game."

Led by an all-senior backfield, Tift is averaging 230 yards per game on the ground alone, tops in 1-AAAA. Combined with 125 in the air (third best in the region), the Devils' are producing over 355 yards of total offense per game.

Valdosta has averaged just over 319 yards of total offense per game.

Tift tailback' Michael Turner leads the region in rushing with 844 yards. Turner also played quarterback against Dougherty when regular starter Brian Massingill was sidelined with bruised ribs.

"He's been the most pleasant surprise we've had," Brodie said of Turner. "He's played for us for two or three years, but he just stood around. Being a senior, though, has really brought him around. He's a different ballplayer."

Massingill, the No. 4 passer in the region with 779 yards and 14 touchdowns, has overcome his injury and is expected to be 100 percent against Valdosta.

"He was 100 percent last week," Brodie said. "But we only played him a half. We didn't want to take the chance of getting him hurt again. He's got his flack jacket and he's ready."

Fullback Terry Revels, the third senior in the Devils' backfield, led the region in rushing last year. He is fourth this season with 630 yards. But most of his time has been spent opening holes for backfield mate Turner.

"I think that's the reason Turner is doing so well," Brodie said, "because of Revels' blocking."

Senior free safety Stan Shiver leads the Tift defense that is only giving up 41.56 yards on the ground (No. 1 in the region) and 78.22 in the air (No. 4). Brodie said Shiver is the only college prospect in an otherwise "no-name defense."

Despite being without stars, the defense has made Brodie the proudest.

"It's hard to say what has made the defense play so well," he said. "It's hard to put your finger on pride. It's hard to put your finger on hustle. It's hard to put your finger on want-to.

"When you don't have a star to rally around," Brodie added, "I guess you just rally around yourselves. And that's what the defense has done."

And Brodie said his defense would have to continue to play well, especially with Valdosta on the horizon.

"I think this may be the best team they've had in eight years," Brodie said of the 'Cats. "That's based on the fact that (quarterback Ted) West has 24 games under his belt. They have the best backs I've seen. (running back Dana) Brinson is incredible.

"Defensively, they have the ability to penetrate the offensive line. That's just strength and quickness. Their linebackers are the best in the region without a doubt. It makes it extremely difficult to execute on offense.

"They're blessed."

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V.T. Nov 2, 1983

Valdosta No. 1-And-Only In Prep Poll

Class AA

1. Mary Persons (9-0), 106, 7
2. West Rome (9-0), 100, 3
3. Dooly Co. (9-0), 84
4. Greene Co. (9-0), 78
5. Claxton (9-0), 72
6. Lincoln County (8-1), 50
7. Manchester (8-1), 41
8. Lovett (8-1), 31
9. Oconee Co. (7-2), 9
10. Tie — Union Co. (8-1), 5
— R.E. Lee (7-2), 5

Also receiving votes: Campbell (Fairburn), Cartersville.

Class A

1. West Point (9-0), 108, 9
2. Wrens (8-1), 98, 1
3. **Clinch Co. (8-1), 89, 1**
4. Metter (7-2), 64
5. Palmetto (8-2), 61
6. Bremen (7-1-1), 60
7. Emanuel County Institute (7-2), 45
8. Buford (6-3), 27
9. Montgomery Co. (7-2), 17
10. Greenville (7-2), 13

Also receiving votes: Adairsville, Commerce, Georgia Military College, Hogansville and Wilcox Co.

Class AAAA

1. **Valdosta (9-0), 104, 5**
2. Clarke Central (9-0), 103, 6
3. Tift Co. (9-0), 88
4. Statesboro (9-0), 71
5. LaGrange (9-0), 65
6. Warner Robins (8-1), 58
7. Tie — Baldwin (8-1), 35
— Cedar Shoals (8-1), 35
9. Westside (8-1), 24
10. Campbell, Smyrna (8-1), 12

Also receiving votes: **Lowndes**, Morrow, Glynn Academy.

Class AAA

1. Americus (9-0), 102, 6
2. Gainesville (9-0), 97, 4
3. Glenn Hills (9-0), 91, 1
4. Mitchell-Baker (8-1), 67
5. Cass (10-0), 65
6. Fulton (8-0), 59
7. Bainbridge (8-1), 51
8. Effingham Co. (8-1), 25
9. Thomson (8-1), 21
10. Marist (8-1), 13

Also receiving votes: Avondale, Central Gwinnett, Dodge Co., Madison Co., Riverwood and Waycross.

ATLANTA (AP) — The Valdosta Wildcats, winners of 24 straight games, sat alone on top of Class AAAA in this week's Associated Press poll of Georgia high school football teams.

Valdosta edged Clarke Central by one point in voting by a board of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters. The Gladiators had been on top since the season began but were tied for first with Valdosta in last week's voting.

Americus continued on top of Class AAA, while Mary Persons led Class AA and West Point was No. 1 in Class A.

Valdosta was able to take over the No. 1 spot despite receiving fewer first-place votes than Clarke Central.

The Gladiators had six first place votes to the Wildcats' five. But Valdosta was named second on the other six ballots, while three vote3.

Valdosta had been third on one ballot last week, accounting for the tie.

Both teams wrap up their regular season this weekend against ranked, area rivals.

Clarke Central, 9-0, travels across Athens to play Cedar Shoals, tied for seventh this week, in a game that will decide first place in Region 8-AAAA.

Valdosta, also 9-0, hosts third-ranked Tift County with the top spot in Subregion 1-AAAA North on the line. Valdosta won the state championship last year and compiled a 15-0 record.

Of the two teams, only Clarke Central has had even one close game in preparation for this weekend's slugfests.

When Valdosta defeated Central of Thomasville 24-0 Friday night, it was the closet any opponent had come to the Wildcats since a season-opening 33-7 defeat of Waycross.

The 10 points scored against Clarke Central by Newton County on Friday night were the first since the Gladiators defeated Warner Robins 3-2 in the second game of the year. But the Gladiators rolled to 49 points of their own and weren't threatened. In all, Clarke Central fashioned six straight shutouts.

Statesboro continued in fourth while LaGrange, behind a 30-6 thrashing of Forest Park, took over fifth.

Warner Robins dropped to sixth, despite defeating Northeast Macon 38-7. Baldwin was tied with Cedar Shoals for seventh. Westside moved to ninth and Campbell of Smyrna, stung 21-14 by Sprayberry, fell from seventh to 10th.

The Big Three in Class AAA remained unchanged for the sixth straight week: Americus on top followed by Gainesville and Glenn Hills. All three are 9-0.

Mitchell-Baker, which began the season as No. 1 but fell after a midseason loss to Worth County, climbed to fourth. Cass, which finished an undefeated regular season last week by beating Pepperell, moved from seventh fo fifth.

Fulton, ranked eighth last week, headed the second five, followed by Bainbridge, Effingham County, Thomson and Marist. Bainbridge and Effingham County moved up one while Thomson fell from its No. 4 ranking after being beaten by Glenn Hills. Marist — back in the rankings after a two-week absence — took the place of Camden County, which was unranked after a 24-19 loss to Waycross.

The only difference in the top five teams in Class AA was that Greene County and Claxton broke a two-week old tie for fourth. In fact, the top five has been the same for six weeks, with Greene County and Claxton swapping fourth and fifth.

Mary Persons, West Rome and Dooly County led the classification. Greene County was in fourth while Claxton was fifth.

Lincoln County and Manchester were sixth and seventh for the second week.

In eighth place came Lovett, moving up from 10th to replace Central of Carrollton which was beaten by Class A Bremen and fell from the rankings.

No. 9 Oconee County was ranked for the first time this year after upsetting previously eighth-ranked East Hall and knocking it out of the poll. Also ranked for the first time was Union County, tied with R.E. Lee for 10th.

No. 1 West Point is the only undefeated team remaining in Class A and was named first on nine ballots and second on two to easily hold its top spot.

Wrens, Clinch County and Metter retained their second-, third- and fourth-place rankings.

Palmetto moved from sixth to fifth; Bremen from seventh to sixth.

Emanuel County Institute jumped from ninth to seventh on the strength of a 13-7 defeat of previously fifth-ranked Montgomery County, which fell to ninth.

Buford held on to its No. 8 ranking while Greenville replaced Georgia Military College in 10th.

Wildcats Transform Defeat Into Victory

V.T. Nov 5, 1983

Valdosta Comeback Drops Tift Co., 14-10

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

For three awful quarters Friday night, Cleveland Field smelled of dank defeat. Nothing it seemed, not even a pre-game trek across the field by a fan dressed as the ghost, brought any life to the Valdosta High players or fans.

STATISTICS

	Tift	Valdosta
First Downs	11	10
Yards Rushing	19	144
Yards Passing	174	74
Passes	33-14-1	15- 6-1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Punting	7-36.7	5-40.0
Penalties	5-45	4-36

The only noise out of the 13,000 in attendence was from the Tift County side. And for good reason, the No. 3 Blue Devils were leading the top-ranked Wildcats 10-0 entering the final quarter.

One would have to go all the way back to the Dougherty game of last year to find the last time a Valdosta team trailed in the final quarter. In fact, the 'Cats had trailed only once this entire season and that was only briefly to Colquitt County.

Before two minutes expired from the fourth quarter, though, that had all changed. That's how long it took the 'Cats to rally for a pair of touchdowns and nip the upset-minded Devils 14-10, bringing Valdosta back to Valdosta again.

The win, the 'Cats' 25th in a row, gave Valdosta, now 10-0 overall and 4-0 in the 1-AAAA's North sub-region, its second undefeated regular season and fourth straight sub-region title. For Tift, 9-1 and 3-1, it was the first loss of the season.

The 'Cats will host Thomasville, a 20-19 loser to Lowndes High Friday night in Thomasville, next Friday at Cleveland Field. Lowndes, the South sub-region champion, will host Tift the same night.

Senior running back Dana Brinson broke the game open on the first play of the fourth quarter when be burst up the middle and rambled 72 yards for the 'Cats' first score. John Porter's extra point, his first of two on the night, trimmed Tift's lead to 10-7 with 11:49 to play.

Just over a minute later Derrick Folsom picked off a Brian Massingill pass at the Tift 30 and returned it all the way for a touchdown to make it 14-10 with 10:31 left. As it turned out, it would be all the points Valdosta would need.

"Dana's run plugged in the Christmas tree," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said. "And later Derrick's interception started it flashing."

At the half, though, the only ones who looked to be celebrating Christmas early was Tift. The Devils mounted two time-consuming drives on their way to a 10-0 lead at the break.

And while Valdosta responded with a pair of drives of its own, the 'Cats could never get the ball in the endzone despite reaching the Tift 24 and 12. On Valdosta's very first possession of the night, it drove to the 24 only to have to turn the ball over on downs.

The Devils responded with a 13-play, 76-yard drive to go up 7-0 with 2:48 left in the quarter. A sleeper play helped Tift cover the final 24 yards.

Receiver Robert Hill lined up on the right sideline instead of returning to the huddle. No 'Cat defender picked him up and Massingill tossed a 24-yard TD pass to Hill, who had no one within 15 yards when he caught the ball.

Tift added its other score with 8:25 remaing in the half on a 23-yard Stan McKellar field goal.

See 'Valdosta,' Page 11

Score By Quarters

Tift	7	3	0	0—10
Valdosta	0	0	0	14—14

Scoring

TIFT — Massingill 24 pass to Hill, McKellar kick.
TIFT — McKellar 23 field goal.
VAL — Brinson 72 run, Porter kick.
VAL — Folsom 30 interception return.

Individual Stats

Rushing: Valdosta — Brinson 14-125, Anderson 16-42, West 8-minus 23. Tift — Turner 12-25, Revels 6-4, Massingill 11-minus 10.

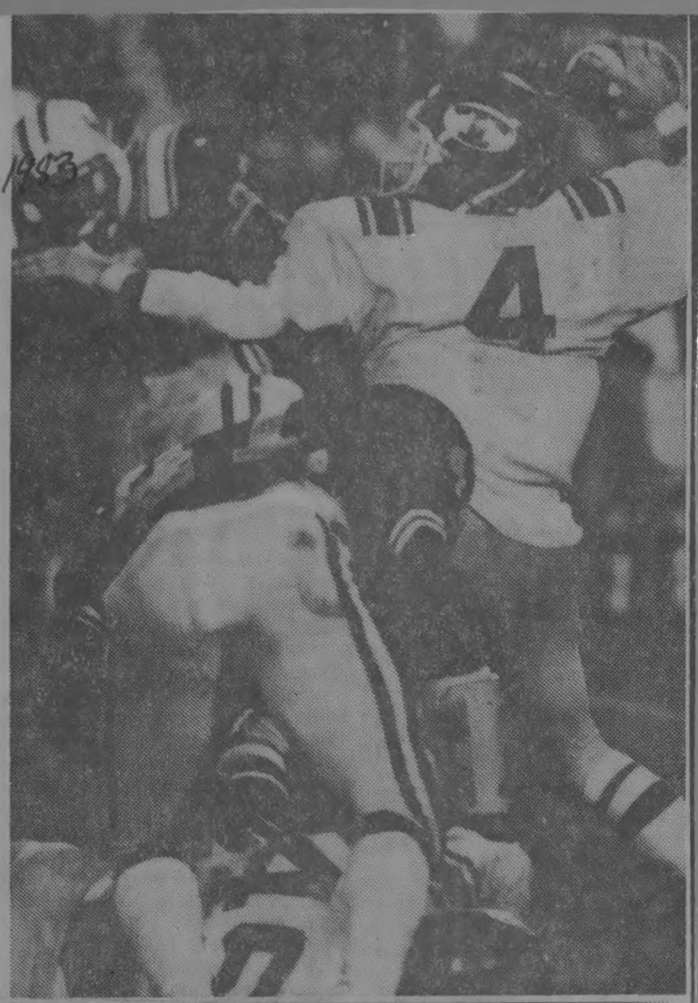
Passing: Valdosta — West 14-6-1, 74; Anderson 1-0-0, 0. Tift — Massingill 32-14-1, 174; Turner 1-0-0, 0.

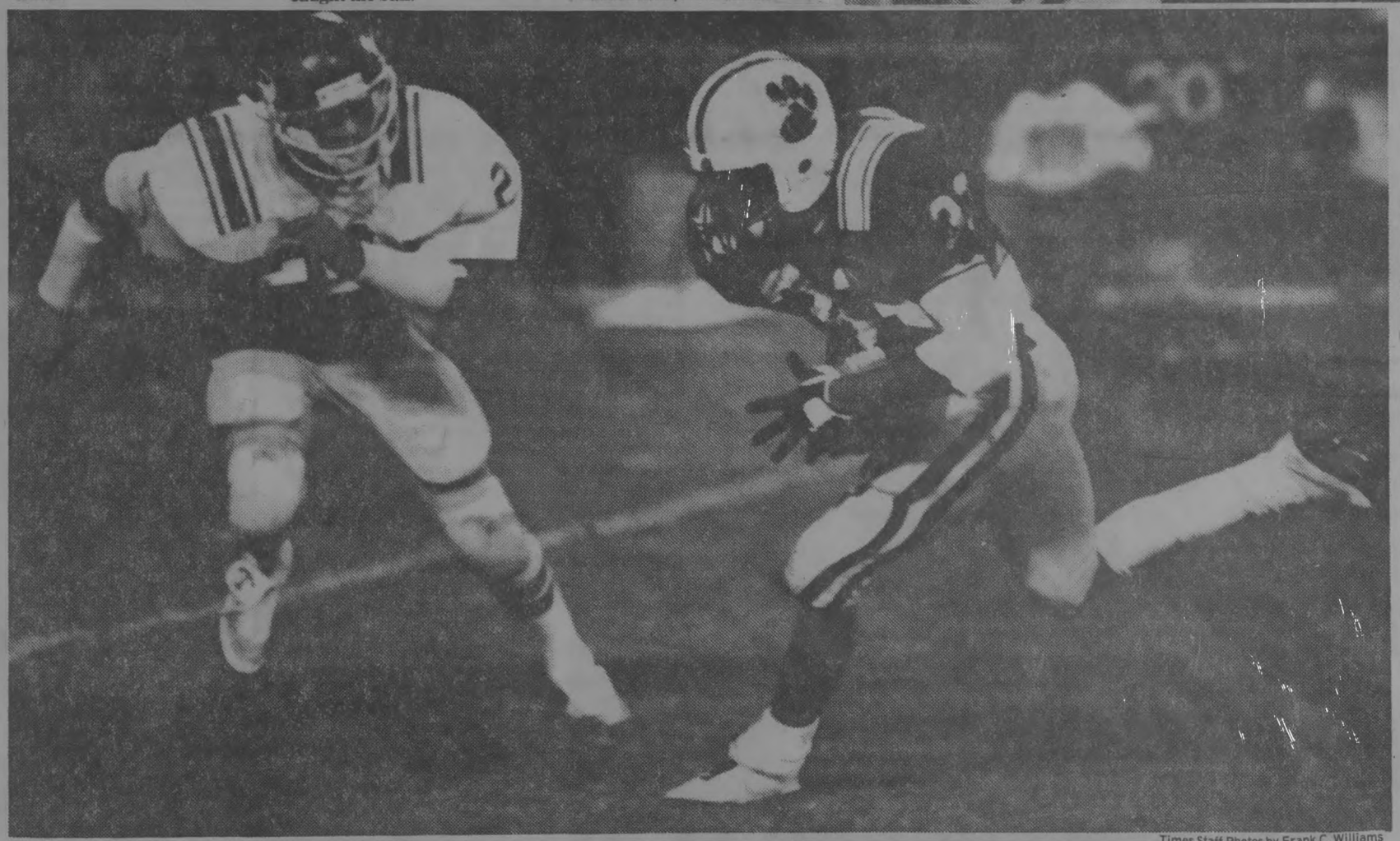
Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Heard 2-25, Gandy 2-16, Leonard 1-14, Brinson 1-19. Tift — Hill 7-103, Teals 4-51, Turner 3-20.

Tackles: Valdosta — Porter 8, Johnson 6, J. Lewis 6, Wakefield 5, Manghram 3, Holmes 2, Folsom 2, Abney 2, Robinson 2, D. Thomas. Tift — S. Haggins 7, C. Haggins 6, Bozeman 7, E. Burns 4, S. Burns 3, Jackson 3, Shiver 2, Waters, Cox.

Interceptions/Returns: Valdosta — Folsom 1-30. Tift — C. Haggins 1-10.

Fumble Recovery: Tift — Jackson.





Times Staff Photos by Frank C. Williams

Brinson's 72-Yard TD Run (below) Opened The Way For Valdosta's Win, But Tift QB Brian Massingill (top) Kept It Close

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Valdosta Falls To No. 2; Lowndes Back In At 10

V.T. Nov 9, 1983

ATLANTA (AP) — Usually it takes a loss to knock a team from a No. 1 ranking, but such has not been the case in recent weeks in The Associated Press' weekly poll of Georgia high school football teams.

Top ranked Valdosta beat Tift County on Friday, but in doing so opened the door for Clarke Central to reclaim the top Class AAAA ranking from the Wildcats.

And Mary Persons, which had been on top of Class AA all year, suddenly found itself tied with West Rome.

It was the fourth straight week there had been a change in the Class AAAA No. 1 rankings.

For the first nine weeks of the poll, Clarke Central was alone on top, although Valdosta had been closing the gap. In the 10th poll, the Wildcats and the Gladiators were tied for first. Valdosta then moved ahead by a single point last week.

Class AAAA
1. Clarke Central (10-0), 105, 6
2. **Valdosta (10-0), 104, 5**
3. Statesboro (10-0), 75
4. LaGrange (10-0), 74
5. Warner Robins (9-1), 70
6. Tift Co. (9-1), 61
7. Baldwin (9-1), 35
8. Westside (9-1), 32
9. Cedar Shoals (8-2), 20
10. **Lowndes (8-2), 9**

Also receiving votes: Campbell (Smyrna), Glynn Academy, Hardaway, Lakeside, Redan and Sprayberry.

Class AAA
1. Americus (10-0), 107, 7
2. Gainesville (10-0), 98, 3
3. Glenn Hills (10-0), 91, 1
4. Mitchell-Baker (9-1), 67
5. Cass (10-0), 65
6. Bainbridge (9-1), 49
7. Fulton (9-0), 48
8. Thomson (9-1), 28
9. Marist (9-1), 27
10. Riverwood (9-1), 11

Also receiving votes: Avondale, Central Gwinnett, Dublin, Effingham Co. and Waycross.

Class AA
1. Tie — Mary Persons (10-0), 103, 6
— West Rome (10-0), 103, 5
3. Dooly Co. (10-0), 90
4. Claxton (10-0), 78
5. Lincoln County (9-1), 57
6. Manchester (9-1), 43
7. Greene Co. (9-1), 42
8. Lovett (9-1), 33
9. R.E. Lee (8-2), 18
10. Union Co. (9-1), 11

Also receiving votes: **Brooks Co.**, Campbell (Fairburn), Cartersville, East Hall, Lakeshore, Oconee Co., Price and Vidalia.

Class A
1. West Point (10-0), 99, 9
2. Wrens (9-1), 91, 2
3. Metter (8-2), 78
4. Bremen (8-1-1), 76
5. Palmetto (8-2), 70
6. Emanuel County Institute (8-2), 53
7. Buford (7-3), 36
8. **Clinch Co. (8-2), 31**
9. Montgomery Co. (8-2), 24
10. Greenville (8-2), 19

Also receiving votes: Adairsville, Commerce, Hogansville and Wilcox Co.

Clarke Central, however, returned the favor in the latest balloting by a board of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters. Neither team has lost a game this year.

Although Tift County had been ranked third overall last week, the Blue Devils were second and Clarke Central third on two ballots, giving Valdosta 104 points to Clarke Central's 103.

But Tift's 14-10 loss to Valdosta dropped it to sixth, with the Gladiators picking up its second place votes.

The Gladiators totaled 105 of a possible 110 points on six first-place and five second-place votes. Valdosta had 104 on five first-place and six second-place votes. Points are awarded on a basis of 10 for first, nine for second, eight for third and so on.

Behind Valdosta came, in order, Statesboro, LaGrange, Warner Robins, Tift County, Baldwin, Westside, Cedar Shoals and Lowndes.

Baldwin had been tied with Cedar Shoals for seventh last week, but easily defeated Northeast Macon while Cedar Shoals was losing to Clarke Central.

Westside was ninth last week while Lowndes moved back into the rankings after a three-week absence, replacing Campbell of Smyrna, beaten by Paulding County.

West Rome easily won last week, while Mary Persons narrowly escaped Lamar County and that apparently accounted for West Rome's tie for first.

The Chieftans defeated East Rome 29-8 for their 29th straight victory. Mary Persons, meanwhile, was a 8-7 victor.

Mary Persons received six first place votes to West Rome's five. But West Rome was second on five ballots and third on one while Mary Persons was second on four and fourth on one. Each team had 103 of a possible 110 points.

Dooly County remained in third while Claxton rose to fourth. All four teams move into the playoffs with 10-0 regular season records.

Claxton's step up was made possible when Greene County, which held the position last week, lost to Washington-Wilkes and fell to seventh.

Next came Lincoln County and Manchester, each up one notch from last week.

Behind Greene County were Lovett, R.E. Lee and Union County.

Three undefeated teams continued to lead Class AAA. Amerius, Gainesville and Glenn Hills have been the top three, in that order, for seven straight weeks.

Mitchell-Baker, which began the season on top, retained its fourth place rating as did fifth-place Cass.

Next came Bainbridge, Fulton, Thomson, Marist and Riverwood.

Bainbridge swapped places with idle Fulton while Thomson and Marist moved up a notch.

Clinch County had been third, but tumbled after a season-ending loss to Atkinson County. Metter moved up a notch while Bremen leaped over No. 5 Palmetto into the fourth spot.

Down But Not Out

V.T. Nov 5, 1983

Ellen Parnelle, captain of the Valdosta High School cheerleading squad, yells for the Wildcats from a sitting position after falling and slightly hurting herself at Friday night's Valdosta-Tift County clash at Cleveland Field here. The VHS senior didn't let her injury interfere with urging on the Wildcats, who overcame a 10-0 halftime deficit to nip the visiting Blue Devils 14-10 in a high school football match of unbeatens. The victory clinched the Region 1-AAAA (North) title for the 'Cats, who ran their victory string to 24 games. Meanwhile, crosstown rival Lowndes roared from a 16-0 halftime deficit to edge Thomasville, 20-19, and earn the region's southern division crown. Details are in today's sports section of The Times. — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

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It's Decision Time Valdosta

V.T. Nov. 9, 1983

It's decision time, Valdosta, and you're not getting any help from me. This one is all yours.

With two Region 1-AAAA playoff games slated for the same night, it isn't very easy to come up with an answer, now is it? And when both are being played only few miles from each other in the same city, it complicates the decision even further.

But why should I help you out? Neither of the host institutions thought anything about you, so I'm not about to get involved either.

Still, it is quite a dilemma.

Uptown, at Cleveland Field, you've got the No. 2 team in the state — Valdosta High — playing. The Wildcats, the 1-AAAA's North sub-region champion, will be playing Thomasville, the No. 2 team from the South sub-region.

Meanwhile, at the very same time, just outside the city limits, Lowndes High, the No. 1 team from the South and No. 10 in the state, will be entertaining Tift County, the No. 2 team from the North sub-region and the No. 6 team in the state.

That only further complicates the process, though.

Maybe comparative scores will help. Let's see.

First, Valdosta beat Thomasville 28-0 during the regular season. Then the 'Cats walloped Lowndes 35-6. They followed that up with a 14-10 win over Tift County.

Meanwhile, Tift County beat Lowndes 20-17 and Thomasville 35-0, before losing to Valdosta. Lowndes lost to Tift County and Valdosta, before edging Thomasville 20-19. Thomasville lost to all three.

So why the heck is Thomasville even in this thing? Such is the way of the sub-region.

But wait a second. There are many of you out there wondering why we are going through all this. For you, it's merely an effort in futility.

You'll just don your black and gold or crimson and silver and go root for your beloved 'Cats or Plowboys. It's no decision at all. Just another Friday night at the ball park.

For the football purist, though, with no ties to either school, it does provide food for thought. Should it be Valdoosta vs. Thomasville or Lowndes vs. Tift County?

The only logical choice: Leave early for Georgia-Auburn game in Athens.

Speaking of Georgia: If you're a Dawg fan, you've got to like the position the University of Georgia is in. Even if don't bleed red and black, you've got to admire their options.

The Bulldogs can write their own script Saturday. Instead of counting on someone else to do their dirty work for them, Georgia can decide its own fate.

A win Saturday over Auburn would assure the 'Dogs of their fourth straight Southeastern Conference championship. Just as important it would mean their fourth trip to the Sugar Bowl.

Last Saturday's big win over Florida left Georgia and Auburn the only undefeated teams in league play. Now the 'Dogs can be the only SEC team without a blemish if they can beat Auburn in Sanford Stadium.

And even if Georgia stumbles Saturday, it is still the team most of the major bowls want. The Cotton, Orange and Fiesta Bowls — all New Year's Day bowls — are still clamoring over the possibility of getting the No. 4 'Dogs and their large following of big-spending fans.

Georgia seems to have tradition on its side. Besides having experience playing for the conference title, the 'Dogs have not lost a conference game since 1979; that's 23 straight. They have also not lost a game at home since that same year; that's 24 straight.

But that could also work against them.

The last conference team to beat Georgia, and the last team to beat Georgia between the hedges, was Auburn. James Brooks and Joe Cribbs ran wild in that game as Auburn won 33-13.

Little good that did then-War Eagle coach Doug Barfield. After he lost to Alabama the following week Barfield was ousted from his job.

Since then its been Pat Dye at the Auburn helm. The former Georgia All-American has yet to beat his alma mater.

Saturday is his best shot to date.

Hyder: Thomasville Was Well Prepared

'Cats Make 6th Straight Trip To Championship

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats will be making their sixth consecutive appearance in the Region 1-AAAA championship game next week when they play host to Tift County at Cleveland Field.

The Wildcats quailfied for the title game by sliding by Thomasville 16-6. Meanwhile, Tift County manhandled Lowndes 35-6 to make it to the finals for the second year in a row.

Valdosta defeated the Blue Devils 21-7 last year en route to the state championship.

Valdosta also defeated Thomasville in 1978 and 1981. The 'Cats lost to Tift County in 1979 and Lowndes in 1980.

Tift County went on to lose in the state finals to Clarke Central. Lowndes captured the state championship with a win over Griffin.

Valdosta and Tift County will be meeting next week for the second time in three weeks.

In the regular-season finale, Valdosta had to come from behind with a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns to win 14-10 over the Blue Devils.

After Friday night's win, Valdosta coach Nick Hyder was looking forward to the rematch.

"I guess the game is pretty much what the season has been pointing to," the 10th-year coach said. "The only thing the first game meant was we get to play this one at home, since we won the first one."

Hyder says Tift County will be ready next week.

"They'll come in here sky-high," Hyder said. "They will be geared for revenge.

"Tift has a great football team. And their coach (Gene Brodie) was quoted after last week's game that he felt like Tift County was just as good."

Tift County will be looking to beat the Wildcats for the first time since the region championship tilt in '79. Valdosta has won four in a row over the Blue Devils.

Wildcats, Vikings Host

V.T. Nov 9, 1983

Region Playoffs

Thomasville Coach Expecting The Usual From No. 2 'Cats

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Thomasville head coach Terry Powell can't be blamed if he's thinking, "Here we go again," as his Bulldogs prepare to play second-ranked Valdosta in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs Friday at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field.

This game will be the eighth time the two old rivals have played in the last four years and the 16th time in the last 10 years.

"We play them twice most years," Powell said in a telephone interview this morning. "Some years it's been just once, but usually one of us has to beat the other to go anywhere."

Powell was an assistant at Thomasville for five years before he took over as head coach last spring. Can there be any surprises when these two teams get together?

"Not too many," Powell quipped. "But sometimes it doesn't take but one."

Thomasville was matched against Valdosta, the 1-AAAA North sub-region champ, after the Bulldogs lost to Lowndes 20-19 in the South championship game in Thomasville last week.

Valdosta whipped Thomasville 28-0 when the two played earlier this season in Thomasville. But Powell doesn't believe the score was indicative of the difference in the teams. "Valdosta got us in the hole early. They played a great game as far as field position. We didn't get past midfield until late in the first half," Powell said.

"We made some real critical mistakes because of inexperience. We don't have that inexperience anymore. Valdosta was probably two touchdowns better than us, in that particular game."

If Thomasville is to break Valdosta's 25-game winning streak, Powell says, "We've got to play perfect. And it might be we have to count on Valdosta to make a mistake."

Powell calls the Wildcats "an awesome football team. They're more balanced (on offense) than we are."

The Bulldogs have a weak kicking game, according to Powell, and can't match Valdosta's depth. "They know if they play conservative for three quarters, they can probably beat us in the fourth by waiting for us to make a mistake in our kicking game or just wearing us down physically," Powell said.

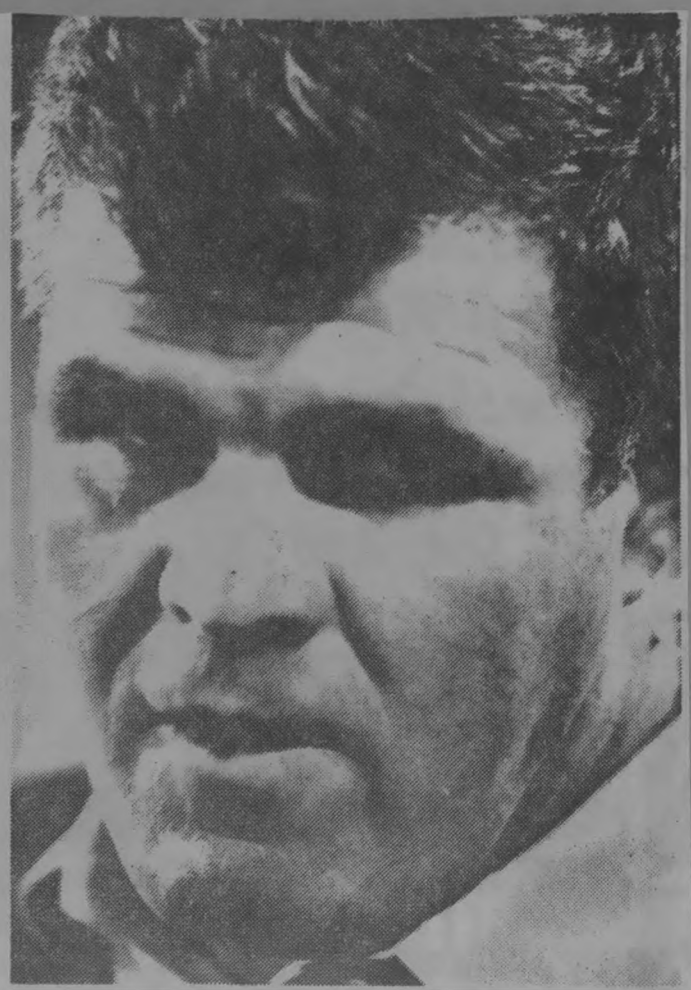
The first-year Bulldog coach said the conservative approach won't work against the 'Cats.

"It's important for us to not get behind at any time," said Powell. "We've got to execute on offense and count on big breaks on defense, like a fumble or an interception.

"We can't be too conservative. We can't just line it up and run at them, we've got to open it up on offense and do some things you don't usually like to do."

In Thomasville's case, that means "throwing it more and just trying to get the ball to your best players, the ones who can do something with it once they get it."

Thomasville's top offensive players include quarterback Herbert Wright, who sixth in the region in passing with 729 yards and nine touchdowns, and tailback Marvin Pittman. Pittman is the region's ninth leading rusher with 453 yards on 93 carries and is the main reason the Bulldogs are third in the region in team rushing.



Brodie's Devils Coming South Again

Lowndes Battles Tift Co. In 1st Round Of I-75 Playoffs

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

For the second time in as many weeks, Gene Brodie and his Tift County Blue Devils will have to make the 45-minute trek down Interstate 75 from Tifton to Valdosta to play a football game.

But this Friday, there is a great deal more on the line than a week ago when the Devils lost their first game of the year, 14-10 to Valdosta.

Tift, which fell to No. 6 in this week's poll, invades Martin Stadium Friday night to take on Lowndes High in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs. The winner moves one step closer to the state playoffs, while the loser hangs up the pads until next year.

If Tift wins, the possibilty of playing again in Valdosta for the third straight week is high. Valdosta hosts Thomasville in the first round of the region playoffs, a team the 'Cats beat 28-0 during the regular season.

If both Tift and Valdosta win, the pair will meet again at Cleveland Field on Nov. 18.

"It doesn't make any difference," Brodie said of having to play in Valdosta again. "It's a 45-minute bus ride. But that shouldn't have any affect. If we had our druthers, we'd rather play in Tifton. We're just glad to be in the playoffs."

Despite going through the regular season with but one loss, the Devils had to survive a pair of scares to keep their slate nearly unblemished. And one of those close calls came in the Devils' season opener against Lowndes in Tifton.

In that game, the Devils had to drive 70 yards in less than two minutes for a touchdown to nip Lowndes 20-17.

Brodie said that opening win over Lowndes had a lot to do with the Devils' successful regular season.

"It meant the difference between us going 9-1 and 8-2," he said. "It gave us an excellent start and prepared us for things to come."

After completely dominating the first half, Tift went to sleep in the third quarter and allowed Lowndes to get back in the game. By the fourth quarter Lowndes had the lead and was driving to run out the clock. But a Viking fumble in Tift territory gave the Devils the ball and one final chance to win.

The Devils came blowing down the field on the arm of quarterback Brian Massingill and scored with just a few seconds left to win.

Brodie said if Tift is to win Friday, it needs to put Lowndes away early if it has the chance.

"That's if we can," Brodie said. "Lowndes has great second-half comeback ability. That's what has been impressive about them. If we can go ahead and put them away it would be nice. If it's even going down the stretch, they'll beat us."

Brodie said his team emerged from the Valdosta game in good shape physically.

"We had a bunch of people hurt," he said. "But it was just feelings."

Brodie said his team will have to put the Valdosta game behind them.

"I hope we can," he said. "We'll have to see. We had a fair practice Monday. We'll just have to wait and see how they do Friday. If we can win, Friday night will be everything."

Everything, maybe, until the following Friday.

V.D.T.

Valdosta, Lowndes Gearing For Playoffs

Battle At Martin Stadium

Plowboys' Return To Playoffs Has Joe Wilson All Smiles

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

You'll have to excuse Joe Wilson, but the Lowndes High coach is having fun again. For the first time in two years, Wilson is getting his Viking football team ready for a playoff game rather than a long winter's nap.

And no one knows better than Wilson that when No. 10 Lowndes hosts No. 6 Tift County in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs Friday night at Martin Stadium (8 p.m. kickoff), much of the pain of sitting out the last two playoffs will be shoved into the dark recesses of Plowboy fans' minds. After all, the Vikings, win or lose to Tift, are back.

So how does it feel Coach?

"How does it feel to not have a toothache after having a toothache for two years? It's desert."

Wilson says he has all that and no pressure.

"Lowndes has got everything in the world going for them," Wilson said. "If we lose, well, ho hum, we were supposed to. If we win, then it's all gravy, all desert."

The Vikings, 11-9 the last two years, finished 8-2 this season and captured the South sub-region championship with a perfect 4-0 slate. The only loses came to Valdosta (35-6) and Tift Couty (20-16), both members of the North sub-region.

And Lowndes was ahead of Tift in the fourth quarter of their game in Tifton early in the season before a costly fumble allowed the Blue Devils to eke out a win. But rather than hindering the Vikings, Wilson said the loss may have had reverse effects.

"The kids bounced back from that," the eighth-year Viking coach said. "That loss is out of their minds. That loss showed them they could play with Tift. And that was reinforced with wins over Dougherty (29-21) and Thomasville (20-19)."

In the Dougherty and Thomasville games, Lowndes trailed at the half only to put it all together in the last two quarters to salvage wins.

"It shows they can play with the big boys," Wilson said. "They came back against Tift. They came back and beat Dougherty. They came back and beat Thomasville. So they know they can play."

And play they'll have to Friday night. The Devils, 9-1 overall, only lost to Valdosta during the regular season. But the 14-10 final was as close as anybody played the No. 2 Wildcats all season. It was even closer if you realize Tift was leading Valdosta 10-0 going into the last quarter.

"Tift will come in here one of two ways," Wilson said, "either flat from an emotional loss to Valdosta or like a wounded bear. There won't be any in between for them."

For Lowndes to win and advance to playoff finals against the winner of the Valdosta-Thomasville game, Wilson said his team must do two things. Offensively, the Vikes must control the ball. Defensively, they must contain Tift's explosive offensive backfield. That's no easy chore, though.

"We can't shut it down," Wilson said of Tift's ground attack led by fullback Terry Revels and tailback Michael Turner. "We might slow it down."

Just as important is stopping Tift's quarterback.

"We've got to be able to keep (Brian) Massingill off the corners," Wilson said. "We've also got to stop Turner and Revels at the same time."

And Lowndes will have to do it without the services of nose guard Eddie Gosier, who had an excellent game against Tift, but has spent more time on the sidelines lately than in games.

"That is the big question," Wilson said. "He played exceptional against Tift. They had to double team him. That left one man to roam free."

Cleveland Field Showdown

If It's November, Then 'Cats Must Be Playing Thomasville

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

November means Region 1-AAAA playoffs time and that means it's time for Valdosta to play Thomasville again. And Wildcats head coach Nick Hyder doesn't like it.

This the third year in a row the two schools have played twice (the figures is Wednesday's paper were incorrect) and the sixth time since the current playoff format began in 1975. As if all of that weren't enough, Valdosta and Thomasville have been playing since 1914, the second season Valdosta had a football team.

The two old rivals will kick off their sixth game in three years at 8 Friday night at Cleveland Field.

"This is a tough assignment for us, having to play a team for the second time (in one season)," said Hyder.

"Football is not a series game like baseball. Football is an emotional game and you have to kindle the emotion each time you get ready to play. When you're playing a new team, a coach can always find something to spark a team, but that's harder when you play the same people as much as we do."

Hyder has had to prepare for playoff games for eight straight years now, and to hear him tell it, getting ready to play Thomasville, Tift County or Lowndes, the Wildcats' usual post-season opponents, is the hardest part.

"It gives you a tremendous challenge," Hyder said. "And nobody has had to do this more than Valdosta...It's one of the toughest challenges I've had in coaching. I'd rather be getting ready for another team."

Valdosta would appear to have three distinct advantages entering the game, although Hyder would never say so. First, the 'Cats whipped Thomasville 28-0 on the road during the regular season. Plus, the game is being played in Death Valley and Thomasville didn't sell its entire allotment of tickets.

Finally, the 'Cats trailed Tift County 10-0 last week, but rallied in the fourth quarter to win 14-10 and claim the North sub-region title. Hyder admits the win was a confidence-booster for the 'Cats, whose closest game this season before that was a 24-0 win over Central of Thomasville.

"It was a confidence-booster for us, I think that's a good term," Hyder said. "Tift County is a great football team...Confidence is certainly a big factor going into any ballgame.

"It was certainly a good game to help us get started (in the playoffs). It taught us that some of the big scores we had earlier in the season didn't just fall into place by themselves."

But if the Wildcats got a confidence boost last week, Thomasville probably got just the opposite. Thomasville, playing at home, was leading Lowndes 19-0 early in the third quarter last week, but wound up losing 20-19. The loss, only Thomasville's third this year, cost Thomasville the South sub-region title.

Hyder says Valdosta's 28-point victory in the first game was deceiving. "Our first two touchdowns were field position scores," he said.

"They fumbled inside of their own 10 a couple of times...We just got the ball in good field position."

Hyder also said the Bulldogs have had time to heal a few injuries and their offensive linemen, none of whom saw much playing time last year, have gained that much more experience.

"Thomasville is a vastly improved football team," said Hyder. "I think Terry Powell had done an excellent job in grouping those athletes coming off of a difficult situation."

Powell took over the program in May after Jim Hughes left to take the Colquitt County job. Although Powell had been an assistant at Thomasville for five years, the school board interviewed a number of other applicants before hiring him.

"In my opinion," said Hyder, "He (Powell) is the coach of the year...He's done a great job."

Meet 'Dogs In Playoffs For 3rd Year In A Row

Wilson's Vikings Ended 2-Year Playoff Drought

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Valdosta's Defense Shuts Down Thomasville, 16-6

V Times 11-12-85

'Cats Host Tift County For Region Championship

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

For the second time in as many weeks, Valdosta fell behind early. But, unlike last week, the Wildcats took the lead for good right before halftime and let the defense shut down Thomasville to preserve the 16-6 win in the opening round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs Friday night at Cleveland Field.

Valdosta (11-0) will host Tift County, a 35-6 winner over Lowndes in the other region playoff game Friday night, for the 1-AAAA championship and a berth in the state playoffs next week.

It will be the second time in three weeks Valdosta and Tift County have met. Valdosta came from behind with two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to defeat Tift County 14-10 last week.

Sophomore tailback Tony Anderson, who led all rushers with 103 yards on 19 carries, scored from 8 yards out with 2:04 remaining in the second quarter to put the Wildcats ahead for good. John Porter booted the PAT to give the 'Cats a 9-6 lead at the intermission.

In the second half, Valdosta managed to put one additional touchdown on the board. But it was the play of the defense that sparkled as the Bulldogs failed to move inside of Valdosta's 40-yard line in the final two quarters.

STATISTICS

	THS	VHS
First Downs	7	10
Yards Rushing	46	106
Yards Passing	76	79
Passes	5-21-1	6-14-1
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Punting	7-24.7	7-39.1
Penalties	13-100	9-46

The Valdosta defense held Thomasville quarterback Herbert Wright to only 16 yards rushing, including sacking the elusive signal caller eight times for 46 yards in losses.

In addition to the sacks, the pass rush, which was aided on several occasions by one or more blitzing linebackers, hurried a number of Wright's passes. Wright was able to complete only five of 20 passes for 76 yards.

"We knew he could throw well," said Valdosta coach Nick Hyder after the game, "so we had in our game plan to put some additional pressure on him by blitzing quite a bit.

"Our defense just played magnificantly."

Please See Page 11

Score By Quarters

THS	6	0	0	0—6
VHS	0	9	0	7—16

THS — Greg Tillman 65 interception return (kick failed)
VHS — Leon Johnson safety
VHS — Anderson 8 run (Porter kick)
VHS — West 1 run (Porter kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing

THS — Wright 13-16, Pittman 11-30
VHS — Anderson 19-103, Brinson 14-24, West 8- minus 21

Passing

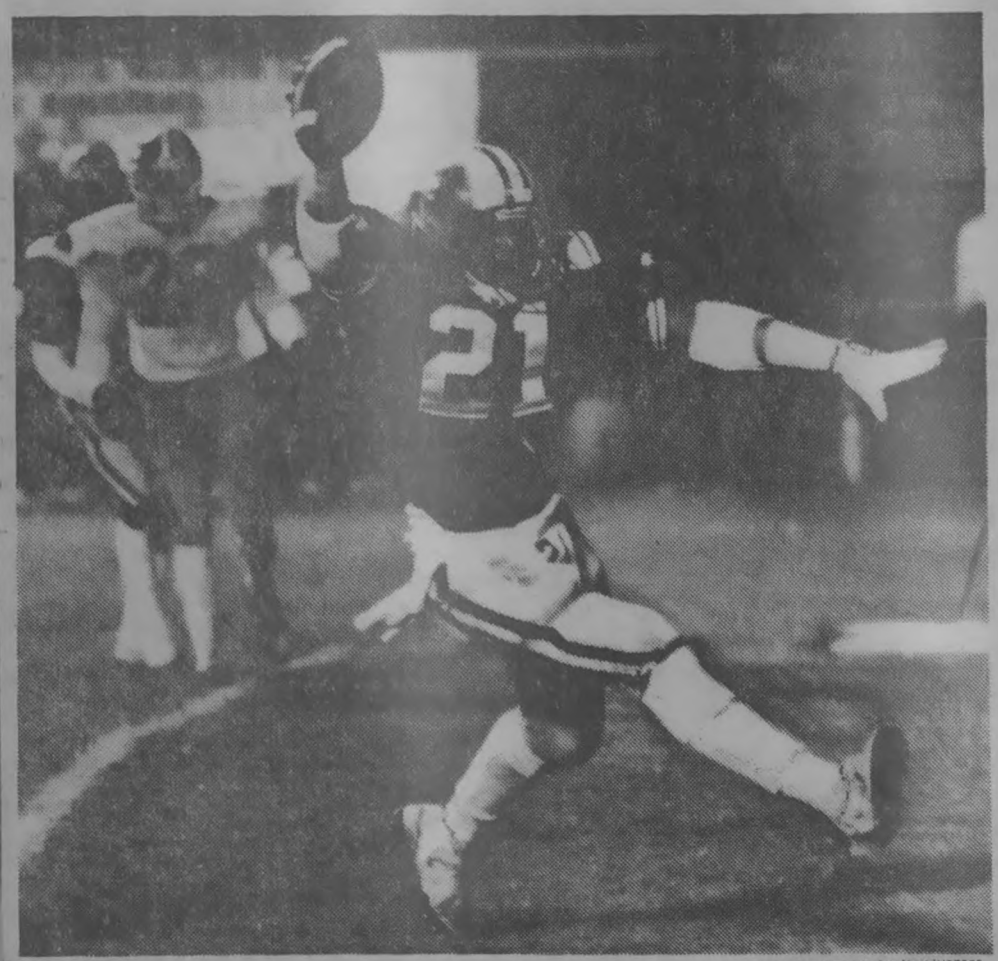
THS — Wright 5-20-1, 76, Lovejoy 0-1
VHS — West 6-14-1, 79

Pass Receving

THS — Lundy 2-24, A. Morris 1-36, Bush 1-19, W. Morris 1- minus 3
VHS — Brinson 1-8, Anderson 2-25, Heard 2-29, Gandy 1-6, Holtzclaw 1-6

Tackles

VHS — Porter 6, Abney 9, Lewis 4, Robinson 3, Wheeless 2, Johnson 10, Manghram 3, Wakefield 8, Williams 4, Irvin 5, Johnson 1, Davis 3, Reaves 3, Chapman 1, Holmes 1



Times Staff Photos by Joey Ivansco

Tony Anderson Scores Go-Ahead Touchdown In Second Quarter

Anderson Breaks Away From Thomasville's Alfred McCray

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V.D.T. 11-13-83

Valdosta 16, Thomasville 6

Thomasville coach Terry Powell says his team was prepared for the blitz, but just not able to handle it.

"We knew their pass rush would be strong," Powell said. "But we thought we could handle it, but we didn't. They just physically outmanned us."

Thomasville took an early 6-0 lead when safety Greg Tillman intercepted an errant Ted West pass and returned it 56 yards for a touchdown with 1:34 left in the first quarter.

"That was the most disappointing thing in this game," Hyder said. "Our offense gave up the points, our defense didn't."

Valdosta got its nine, second-quarter points thanks to a poor Thomasville punting game, which has haunted the Bulldogs all season.

Backed up at their own 4, Bulldog punter Larry Williams stepped out of the back of the end zone rather than punt from the end line. The safety narrowed the 'Dogs' lead to 6-2 with seven minutes remaining in the second quarter.

Anderson's go-ahead score was set up by a 14-yard Bulldog punt which went out of bounds at the Thomasville 21.

The Wildcats needed five plays to cover the 21 yards.

On first down, it appeared the go-ahead score would come by way of West's arm. But wide receiver Hosea Heard dropped the pass in the end zone.

Following a four-yard loss by Dana Brinson and an incomplete pass, West had to complete a 17-yard, fourth-down pass to Anderson to keep the drive alive.

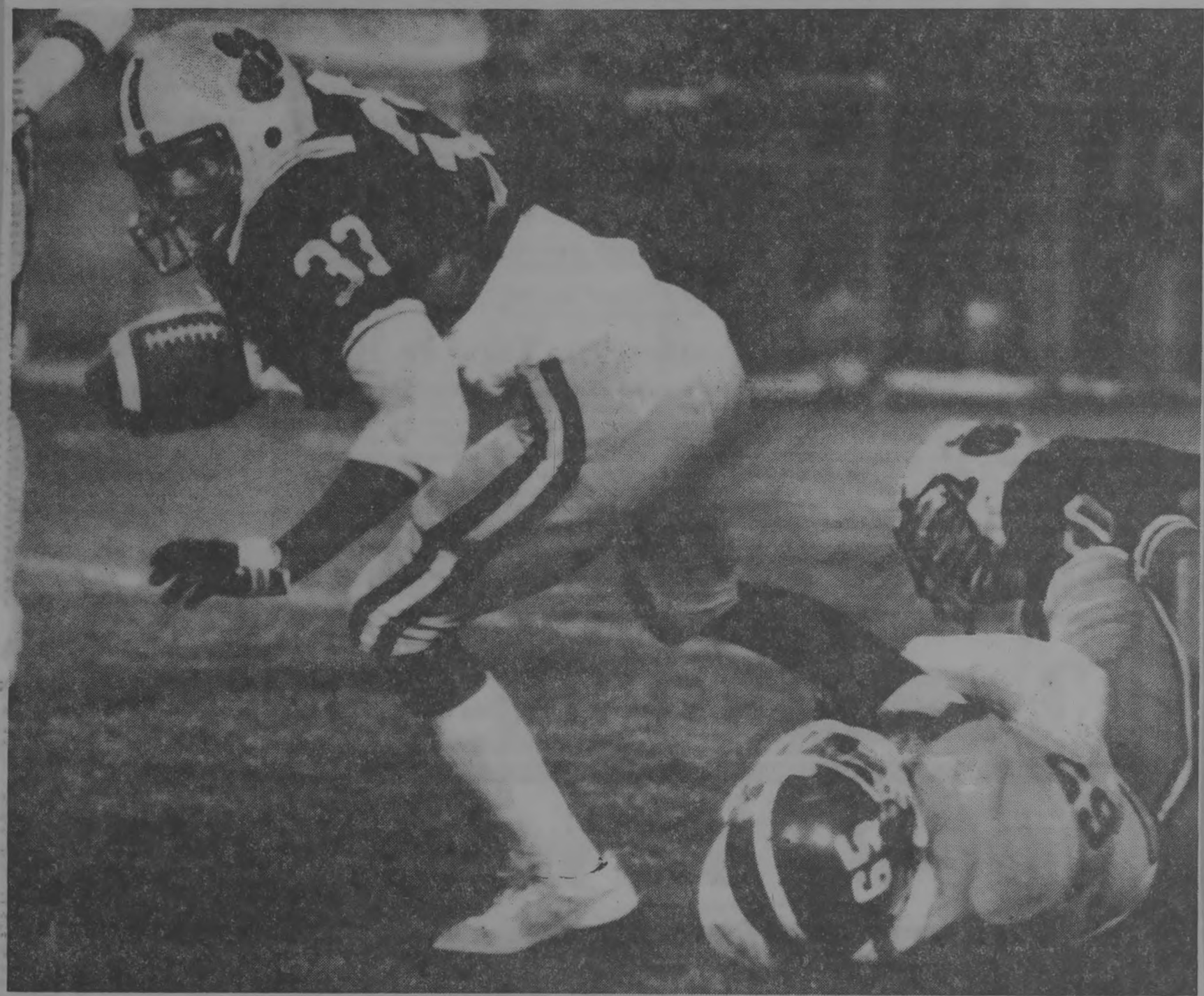
Powell acknowledged after the game how much the punting game had hurt his team.

"Our punting game killed us," the first-year Bulldog coach said. "If we had someone with any consistency, we may have been closer. I know next year we are going to have two or three who can kick the ball."

Valdosta cornerback Jerry Williams recovered a Wright fumble at the Thomasville 36 to set up the 'Cats' final score.

Moving the 36 yards for the score took Valdosta six plays with West snaeking over from the 1. Porter's second PAT gave Valdosta a commanding 10-point lead with 6:55 left in the game.

"It was a tough game," Hyder said. "Thomasville is always tough every time we play them. They were well prepared tonight."



Valdosta Fullback Dana Brinson Was Held To 24 Yards on 14 Carries

Times Staff Photos by Joey Ivansco

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Winning Ways

Nov. 13, 83

Valdosta High School Cheerleader Marissa Lathrop yelps for joy when her favorite team manages to score with a crucial touchdown. The Valdosta Wildcats beat out the Thomasville Bulldogs with a score of 10 to 7. Details about the game are on page 9. — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

VHS' Talley Selected Top Player

VDT 10-15-83

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 dived 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.

Honor Roll

Yardley Payne, Cook — senior linebacker made eight individual tackles, assisted on four others, and recovered three Fitzgerald fumbles in 11-0 win. **Tim Tippens** caught five passes for 84 yards for the Hornets.

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.

Marvin Thomas, Berrien County — junior receiver caught four passes for 64 yards and scored the only touchdown of the game on a 35-yard pass play as the Rebels narrowly defeated Atkinson County 7-0. **Corey Boone**, junior fullback rushed 14 times for 82 yards, and **Scotty Harris** caught four passes for 74 yards.

Preston Williams, Brooks County — senior quarterback completed five passes for 86 yards and rushed 18 times for 73 yards in loss to Cairo.

Albert Tolle, Hamilton County — Trojan quarterback ran for a 5-yard score and passed 26 yards for a second touchdown in a 41-0 victory over Williston. He also threw for a pair of two-point extra points. Tolle finished with 211 yards total offense. **Greg Jefferson** caught three passes for 53 yards, kicked two extra points, and caught a 2-point conversion.

Times Staff Photo by Frank C. Williams

Valdosta's Stephanie Weatherspoon (40) Goes Up For A Shot

'Cats Split Basketball Opener With Monroe

V.T. Nov 16, 1983

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High led Monroe of Albany at the end of the first quarter, but a height disadvantage and a flurry of penalties hit the Wildcats hard in the second period as Monroe rolled to a 58-49 win in the second game of a Region 1-AAAA North double-header that opened Valdosta's 1983-84 basketball season here Tuesday night.

But Valdosta's new girls coach, James Studstill, got his first season with the Lady 'Cats started on the right foot as Valdosta trounced Monroe 63-41.

In the boys game, the Wildcats got their fast break going in the first period and led by as many as seven points twice in the quarter. Monroe trailed only 16-13 at the end of the first quarter and finally tied the game at 24-24 on Bradford Macklin's free throw with 1:01 left in the first half.

The Golden Tornadoes held Valdosta scoreless for the last four minutes of the second quarter to jump out to a 28-24 lead at halftime.

"We got in foul trouble early," said 'Cats head coach Mike O'Brien.

"I had two main starters (Jerome Berrian with four and Bruce Parker with three) sitting on th the bench with me most of the first half...

"When we got in foul trouble our bench was unable to help us out," O'Brien said.

A third starter, Wallace Campbell, was also whistled for his third foul shortly before the half.

In the second half, Monroe put the game away by outscoring the 'Cats 15-6 in the third quarter. Valdosta rallied to make the game respectable in the fourth quarter, but the 'Cats never got closer than 10 points until Daniels' shot at the final buzzer.

Monroe had a clear height advantage, but the 'Cats didn't help themselves much with their shooting. Valdosta hit just 7 of 19 free throws. Seven of those misses were the front end of one-and-one free throw opportunites.

Valdosta's shooting from the field was also poor. On three seperate trips down the floor the 'Cats missed two layups.

"We missed some easy shots in the first half and the second half," O'Brien said. "Whether that's good defense or poor shooting, we've got to make those shots.

"If we're going to win and be a contender, we've got to make those shots and our foul shots."

Guard Victor Walker led the 'Cats with 15 points, Moses Daniels had 10 and Wallace Campbell had 10. James Berrian, the only returning full-time starter from last year had 6 points.

Eric Walker of Monroe led all scorers with 19 points.

The win evened Monroe's record at 1-1.

Despite the loss, O'Brien said, "I feel like we did some good things, but we also made some bad mental mistakes.

"If the kids come back with a good attitude like I know they will, I think we're going to be all right."

In the first game, Monroe also had the Lady 'Cats at a height disadvantage, but Valdosta's fast break and some poor Monroe shooting did in the Lady Tornadoes.

The game was tied 11-11 at the end of the first quarter, but Valdosta had opened up a 28-14 lead at the half.

Monroe never came any closer than 10 points in the second half. The loss left the Lady Tornadoes 0-2.

The victory was a sweet one for Studstill, who considered it an upset.

"I guarantee you it was a pleasant surprise," Studstill said.

"We don't have much height, but I hope what we lack in height we make up for in desire."

Studstill said position, not stature ultimately made the difference. "When they're so much taller, the only thing you can do is get postion underneath the basket," he said.

"We've got a scrappy bunch. We went after it tonight. I think maybe we're sort of jelling now."

Shevon Peeler was the only Valdosta player in double figures with 29 points. But five other players in the game scored at least 5 points.

"I was pleased that the scoring was pretty well-distributed," Studstill said. "...When one player slowed down, the other people picked up the slack...I think that may be the story of this team this year."

Valdosta will play again next Tuesday against Tift County in Tifton. The games with Atkinson County originally scheduled to be played at VHS on Nov. 23, have been rescheduled for Jan. 21.

Boys Game

Monroe	13	28	43	58
Valdosta	16	24	30	49

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Monroe — Walker 19, Woodson 9, Harpe 8, Bradford 7, Henderson 5, Jackson 4, Bridges 2, Riggins 2, Jones 1.

Valdosta — Walker 15, Daniels 11, Campbell 10, Parker 7, Berrian 6.

Girls Game

Monroe	11	14	23	41
Valdosta	11	28	40	63

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Monroe — A. Driskell 17, Stone 8, I. Driskell 5, Collins 3, King 2, Cheeks 2, Williams 2.

Valdosta — Peeler 29, Henderson 8, W. Irvin 8, Elder 6, L. Irvin 6, C. Weatherspoon 5.

Tift Co. Set For Rematch With 'Dosta

V.T. Nov 16, 1983

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

The final round of Tift County's I-75 series comes to close Friday night at Cleveland Field when the Blue Devils take on Valdosta High in the finals of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs.

After making successive trips to Valdosta to play the Wildcats two weeks ago in the regular-season finale and Lowndes High a week ago in the first round of the region playoffs, the Devils have to make one more trip south on Interstate-75 to play a high school football game.

"We just put it on automatic pilot and go," said Tift coach Gene Brodie of the 45-minute ride from Tifton to Valdosta.

The Devils lost in the first round of the series to Valdosta 14-10 when 'Cat running back Dana Brinson burst 60 yards up the middle on a touchdown run and VHS defensive back Derrick Folsom returned an interception 30 yards for the winning touchdown.

But Tift bounced back the following week in the first round of the region playoffs at Lowndes' Martin Stadium with a 35-6 drubbing of the South sub-region champion Vikings.

That win set up the rematch with Valdosta this Friday at 8.

And Brodie said his team relishes its second chance.

"They're upset," Brodie said of his team, whose only loss came to Valdosta. "They're welcoming the chance to go back and redeam themselves."

Tift had Valdosta on the ropes in that first meeting, holding a 10-0 lead going into the fourth quarter. No team this season had held a lead on the 'Cats going into the final period and only one team had led the defending state champions in a game.

But within a two-minute stretch of the fourth quarter, the 'Cats changed all that and eked out a win.

Brodie said the loss stunned the players and the town, as well. Despite that, the Devils put the loss behind them and turned in a fine perfomance the following week at Lowndes.

"Our kids did that," Brodie said. "Out whole town was down. But that was just grocery store talk, filling station talk. The kids didn't let that affect them against Lowndes. And we shouldn't let it affect us against Valdosta. Emotionally, we'll be ready for Valdosta."

Tift went into its first meeting with Valdosta as the No. 3 team in the state. The loss dropped the Devils to sixth. But this week they are back at No. 5.

Valdosta, meanwhile, the No. 1 team in the state two weeks ago dropped to No. 2 last week. But this week the 'Cats are back atop the state poll with Clarke Central.

Brodie said the 'Cats may be even better than that.

"In my opinion, they're the best team in the nation."

And to beat Valdosta for the first time in four meetings, Brodie said his team must do two things:

"We must be able to move the ball on offense," he said. "And on defense we need to keep Valdosta from making the big play."

In the first meeting between the two schools, Valdosta limited Tift's running backs — Michael Turner and Terry Revels — to under 20 yards combined. Turner finsihed the year as the region's leading rusher. Revels attained that honor last year.

Tift also has another threat in quarterback Brian Massingill. The senior has proven he can pass and run. He puts a great deal of pressure on the corners with his sprint-out passes.

Brodie said he expected Valdosta to be tough in the first meeting, but he may have underestimated the 'Cats in one area.

"I think the only thing we underestimated was Valdosta's defensive front," he said. "They are much more physical than we expected. They penetrated the line of scrimmage well and that shut down our running game."

Brodie says that's all history now. This is the game that counts.

"This was definitely our goal to here in the region finals. Ain't too many people got this opportunity."

Lowndes Drops Out Of Poll

Valdosta Back In Tie With Clarke Central

V.T. Nov 16, 1983

ATLANTA (AP) — The merry-go-round of The Associated Press high school football rankings has turned again, putting Valdosta into a tie with Clarke Central for the top billing in Class AAAA.

And in Class AA, Mary Persons moved back into first place by itself, breaking a one-week tie with West Rome.

Americus and West Point firmly retained their No. 1 perches in Class AAA and Class A respectively.

It was the fourth straight week Valdosta and Clarke Central have jockeyed for the top spot in balloting by a board of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters.

After nine weeks alone at the top, Clarke Central was tied by Valdosta in the season's 10th poll. The next week, it was Valdosta on top and Clarke Central second. Following that, Clarke Central was first and Valdosta was back in second.

This week they are tied once again. Both teams carry 11-0 records into their respective region championship games Friday night.

Each team received five first place and five second place votes for a total of 95 points each. Points are awarded on a basis of 10 for first, nine for second, eight for third and so on.

LaGrange, also undefeated, is tied with Warner Robins, 10-1, for third place. Warner Robins' loss was a 3-2 early season setback to Clarke Central.

Tift County, whose only loss was to Valdosta, moved from sixth to fifth, followed by Baldwin, Westside, Cedar Shoals, Statesboro and Glynn Academy.

Statesboro, 10-1, fell from third after a season-ending 7-6 loss Friday to Benedictine, allowing most teams to move up one notch.

Glynn Academy was ranked for the first time this year, replacing Lowndes, beaten 35-6 by Tift County.

Mary Persons and West Rome had been Nos. 1 and 2 respectively all year long until last week when the two powers were tied.

But the Bulldogs, 11-0, reclaimed the top spot for themselves this week by one point. Mary Persons received six first place, three second place and one fourth place vote for 94 points.

West Rome, 11-0, was first on four ballots, second on five and third on one for its 93 points.

The next six places, unchanged from last week, were Dooly County, Claxton, Lincoln County, Manchester, Greene County and Lovett.

Vidalia made its second appearance in the poll this year at the ninth spot while No. 10 Campbell of Fairburn was ranked for the first time.

R.E. Lee and Union County, ninth and 10th last week, fell from the poll after playoff losses to Manchester and Duluth, respectively.

The top nine teams in Class AAA did not change from last week's ranking, as three undefeated teams led the way.

Americus, Gainesville and Glenn Hills, each 11-0, have been atop the classification, in that order, for eight weeks.

Next came Mitchell-Baker, which preceded Americus as the No. 1 team, Cass, Bainbridge, Fulton, Thomson and Marist.

Avondale beat Riverwood, No. 10 last week, and replaced it in the poll.

West Point continued on top of Class A, followed by Wrens, Metter, Bremen, Emanuel County Institute, Palmetto, Buford, Greenville, Wilcox County and Clinch County.

Class AAAA
1. Tie — Clarke Central (11-0), 95, 5
Valdosta (11-0), 95, 5
3. Tie — LaGrange (11-0), 72
Warner Robins (10-1), 72
5. Tift Co. (10-1), 62
6. Baldwin (10-1), 40
7. Westside (10-1), 37
8. Cedar Shoals (9-2), 28
9. Statesboro (10-1), 24
10. Glynn Academy (9-2), 10
Also receiving votes: Benedictine, Campbell-Smyrna, **Lowndes**, Marietta, Redan and Sprayberry.

Class AAA
1. Americus (11-0), 95, 7
2. Gainesville (11-0), 84, 2
3. Glenn Hills (11-0), 83, 1
4. Mitchell-Baker (10-1), 66
5. Cass (11-0), 61
6. Bainbridge (10-1), 49
7. Fulton (10-0), 42
8. Thomson (10-1), 31
9. Marist (10-1), 21
10. Avondale (9-1-1), 8
Also receiving votes: Central Gwinnett, Carrollton, Riverwood, Waycross and Woodward.

Class AA
1. Mary Persons (11-0), 94, 6
2. West Rome (11-0), 93, 4
3. Dooly Co. (11-0), 81
4. Claxton (11-0), 72
5. Lincoln Co. (10-1), 51
6. Manchester (10-1), 48
7. Greene Co. (10-1), 39
8. Lovett (10-1), 37
9. Vidalia (9-2), 14
10. Campbell-Fairburn (9-2), 6
Also receiving votes: Central-Carrollton, Duluth, Morgan Co., Seminole Co., Union Co. and White Co.

Class A
1. West Point (11-0), 91, 8
2. Wrens (9-1), 85, 2
3. Metter (9-2), 68
4. Bremen (9-1-1), 66
5. Emanuel County Institute (9-2), 61
6. Palmetto (9-2), 56
7. Buford (8-3), 39
8. Greenville (9-2), 34
9. Wilcox Co. (9-2), 20
10. Clinch Co. (8-2), 15
Also receiving votes: Adairsville, Montgomery Co. and Monticello.

LHS, VHS Students Score High On Test

V.T. Nov 16, 1983

By TOM MATHER
Times Staff Writer

Results from the state high school "exit exam," just released, showed that Lowndes County students scored higher than Valdosta students, and students from both systems scored higher than statewide totals.

The exam, offically known as the Georgia Basic Skills Test, was taken this fall by 10th grade students.

"It's in effect the exit exam — a student must pass it to graduate from high school," said Bill Sears, superintendent of Lowndes County schools.

Students have taken the test for the past three or four years, Sears said, but 1982 was the first year it counted. In other words, students who plan to graduate during the 1984-85 school year or later must pass the test in order to receive their diplomas.

For all Georgia high school students taking the test this fall, 87 percent passed the reading section and 79 percent passed the mathematics section, he said.

Of 509 Lowndes High students taking the test, Sears said that 94 percent passed the reading section and 88 passed the mathematics section.

"We're real pleased," he said. "It shows a lot of hard work by the teachers and by the students themselves."

Of 504 Valdosta students taking the test, 92 percent passed the reading section and 80 percent passed the mathematics section, said Ralph Brandon, superintendent of Valdosta schools.

"We are proud that a high percentage of our students did pass the test," Brandon said.

Students who failed all or a portion of the test may take it again this spring, Brandon said. And those students may keep taking the tests until they pass, he said.

Both schools have programs set up to help those students who fail the test to pass.

"We will be providing remedial help to the students who did not pass," Brandon said. "We have received $20,000 this year in state compensatory education funds for use at the high school level, and we plan to use these funds for remedial programs in the basic skills area."

A similar program is in effect at Lowndes High, Sears said.

If such students still can't pass the test, but fulfill all other requirements, they will receive a certificate of attendance, he said.

Sears said that the test results look more favorable when the scores are broken down into categories by regular students, special education students and repeaters.

For 437 Lowndes High regular students taking the exit exam for the first time, he said that 94 percent passed the reading section, and 88 percent passed the math section. For 33 first-time special education students, 42 percent passed the reading section and 20 percent passed the math section.

For students that failed the test last year and were repeating, Sears said 73 percent of 11 students passed the reading section and 54 percent of 28 students passed the math section.

Breakdowns for Valdosta High were provided by Walter Altman, assistant superintendent of Valdosta schools.

For 478 Valdosta regular students taking the exam for the first time, he said 92 percent passed the reading section and 81 percent passed the math section. For four first time special education students, 75 percent passed the reading section and 100 passed the math section.

For eight second-time repeaters, Altman said that 88 percent passed the reading section and 64 percent passed the math section. For third-time repeaters, he said that 60 percent passed the reading section and 50 percent passed the math section.

The Basic Skills Test is divided into three skill areas for both the reading and math sections. Passing score for both tests is 300 on a scale of 200 to 400.

Skill areas measured in the reading test include literal comprehension, inferential comprehension and problem solving. Skill areas measured in the math test include concept identification, component operations and problem solving.

Results From Georgia Basic Skills Test

	Valdosta	Lowndes	State
Passing Reading	92 Percent	94 Percent	87 Percent
Passing Math	80 Percent	88 Percent	79 Percent

Winning Streak, Region Title On Line When Valdosta Hosts Tift Co. Tonight

V.D.T. Nov. 18, 83

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

A 26-game winning streak and a berth in the state playoffs are line tonight for Valdosta High when the No. 1-ranked Wildcats host No. 5 Tift County for the Region 1-AAAA title.

Kickoff is set for 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field.

Valdosta comes into the game fresh off a 16-6 win over Thomasville in the first round of the region playoffs. The win made the 'Cats 11-0 this season. And combined with 15 straight wins in 1982, the defending Class AAAA state champions have won 26 straight games.

Tift, meanwhile, is coming off a 35-6 win over Lowndes High last week in the Vikings' Martin Stadium. The win made the Blue Devils 10-1 on the season.

Tift's only loss came to Valdosta (14-10) two weeks ago in the final regular-season game for both teams. The win enabled Valdosta to capture its third straight North sub-region title. A win tonight over Tift would give the 'Cats their third straight region title as well.

Tift has not beaten Valdosta since 1979 when the Devils went all the way to the finals of the state playoffs before bowing to Clarke Central in the finals. Since then Valdosta has won four staight over the Devils.

The 'Cats have moved up and down in the state poll. They started out the season No. 3 behind Tift and Clarke Central. But they quickly moved ahead of the Devils and stayed No. 2 most of the season. Four weeks ago Valdosta moved into a tie for the top spot with Clarke Central before taking over sole possession the next week.

But after beating Tift, the 'Cats dropped back to No. 2. The most recent poll, though, has Valdosta back even with Clarke.

Nationally, the 'Cats are ranked 7th in the latest USA Today poll. Just three weeks ago, the 'Cats weren't even ranked. But a win over Tift moved them to No. 20, and last week's win over Thomasville vaulted the 'Cats 13 places to No. 7.

Valdosta appears healthy for the game despite having 33 players sidelined at one time or another in the last two weeks with fever and tonsillitis.

Tift coach Gene Brodie also reported his team in perfect shape. There was some question about receiver Robert Hill, who dislocated his elbow in the Lowndes game. But Brodie said he would be ready to go tonight.

Tift ended the regular season as the top offensive team in the region. The Devil ground attack produced over 2,000 yards alone, tops in the region. That's an average of over 200 yards per game on the ground. In the air, Tift was second behind Lowndes with 1,318 yards or 131 per game.

Tift is led by an explosive senior offensive backfield. Quarterback Brian Massingill missed the 1,000-yard mark in passing by only 25 yards. He also contributed over 200 yards on the ground.

"Massingill is magnificent," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said. "He got up and took the challenge extremely well."

Running back Michael Turner led the region in rushing this year with 872 yards. Fullback Terry Revels, who held the honor last year, was fifth with 633 yards.

In the first meeting against Valdosta, though, the pair was limited to under 20 yards each by the Wildcat defense that is second in the region against the run.

Valdosta is led by senior quarterback Ted West. West has never lost a game he startered in the last two years. He led the region is passing with 1,190 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Running backs Tony Anderson and Dana Brinson, the Nos. 3 and 4 rushers in the region, respectively, give the 'Cats a potent ground game. Brinson's 60-yard run against Tift enabled the 'Cats to overcome a 10-0 fourth-quarter deficit.

Defensively the 'Cats are led by nose guard Leon Johnson, linebacker John Porter and defensive back Derrick Folsom. Folsom's 30-yard interception return for a touchdown proved to be the winning margin against Tift.

Valdosta

OFFENSE				
FL	17	Steve Gandy	165	SR
TE	89	D. Leonard	180	JR
RT	77	Johnny Crook	234	SO
RG	69	Monte Davis	215	SR
C	54	Jon Reaves	169	JR
LG	57	John Nitschke	195	SR
LT	60	Tim Chapman	172	SR
SE	9	Hosea Heard	161	SO
QB	3	Ted West	178	SR
RB	33	Dana Brinson	158	SR
RB		Tony Anderson	204	SO
DEFENSE				
LE	99	K. Williams	185	SR
LT	92	Jimmy Lewis	197	JR
NG	45	Leon Johnson	223	SR
RT	96	J. Wakefield	187	JR
RE	97	C. Robinson	178	SR
LB	47	John Porter	197	JR
LB	49	Frank Abney	181	SR
CB	22	Aundra Irving	148	SR
CB	39	Elijah Holmes	150	JR
S	12	David Thomas	151	JR
S	5	D. Folsom	166	JR

Tift Co.

DEFENSE				
LT	63	Jeff Jackson	191	SR
LG	75	Chris Waters	190	JR
LB	61	Craig Haggins	168	SO
LB	31	L. Bozeman	161	JR
RG	69	James Cox	205	JR
RT	73	Sam Haggins	193	SR
RE	20	R. Golden	165	SR
CB	5	Sam Burns	165	SR
CB	11	W. McGriff	164	JR
S	9	Eugene Burns	170	SR
S	21	Stan Shiver	180	SR
OFFENSE				
WR	41	Darien Teals	143	JR
TE	88	C. Darrington	188	JR
LT	74	Gary Coker	214	JR
LG	75	Chris Waters	190	JR
C	52	L. Roberson	192	SR
RG	62	Aubrey Holt	179	SR
RT	65	Randy Brooks	237	JR
SB	13	Robert Hill	185	SR
QB	4	B. Massingill	185	SR
FB	45	Terry Revels	195	SR
TB	29	M. Turner	183	SR

Valdosta's Sideline Hung In Until Bitter End

V.T, Nov 19, 1983

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Just before the Valdosta Wildcats run out of their dressing room for the start of the game, assistant coach Bob Bolton tells them "you're going to see something like you never saw before when you get out there."

He's right. The team runs out on the field into a sea of noise and music. It's not really deafening, but it's gets the Valdosta players that much more pumped up. There's a sea of blue and white and "Luv Ya Blue" signs in the Tift County stands across the way and the Marching 'Cats are belting out the fight song seemingly right behind the Valdosta bench. Now *this* is a high school football game.

Nobody sits down during the game, except for the starters when they first come off of the field after a series. The rest of the time they're up. When the offense comes off after Hosea Heard has dropped a long pass, forcing the 'Cats to punt, Tony Anderson comes over to Heard, slaps him on the shoulder pads and informs Heard he will catch the next pass. It's meant as encouragement, but Heard is mad at himself and just nods.

The ground in the team area is more dirt than grass from a season of use and every long shift in field position by either team causes a small cloud of dust as photographers and cheerleaders move back and forth to follow the ball.

When the 'Cats are on defense, defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph and assistants Norman Sainz and Freddie Waters follow the ball as far as the team area's boundaries will allow. They are joined every few minutes by Charles Tarpley, the linebackers and defensive end coach.

Rudolph stands almost a yard onto the field most of the time. He signals in the plays in to linebacker John Porter. The 'Cats hold on their first possession of the game, but they've been burned on a long pass. Rudolph talks with two secondary players at length when they come off after Tift punts. It's not the last time Rudolph will ask them what the problem is in the first half.

Quarterback Ted West stands by VHS head coach Nick Hyder throughout the first series. After the punt, Hyder tells West the play and sends him end.

Throughout the night, Hyder sends in the plays by alternating wide-outs Hosea Heard and Berke Holtzclaw. Offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker also alternates Tim Chapman and Joel Jackson every two plays.

Hyder also moves along the sideline as the ball is moved downfield on Valdosta's first possession. Compared to the other assistants, Hyder and Rudolph are impassive while calling the plays. When Tony Anderson caps Valdosta's first drive with a 1-yard plunge for a touchdown, the 'Cats go crazy. Players, assistants, managers, even the team's physician, Dr. Jose Campa, are jumping up and down, punching the air with their fists in celebration.

Hyder doesn't join in the jubilation. He just looks downfield to make certain there's no penalty and then walks back to the 50-yard line, his mind already on the next series.

After that the first half seems to race by. And it doesn't go well for the 'Cats. Tift answers Valdosta's touchdown with a field goal and the Blue Devils hurt the 'Cats again and again with the pass. Meanwhile, Valdosta just can't get its passing game cranked up and West is intercepted once.

Porter is angry when he comes off the field after Tift's second touchdown. Three people speak to him, but he doesn't answer. He just stares out onto the field as if he's trying to discover the answer to what's gone wrong. None is forthcoming and he takes off his helmet and gets a cup of water.

Hyder stresses the importance of scoring quickly during halftime. He also tells his players to erase the mistakes of the first half from their minds.

Please See 'Sideline' Page 10

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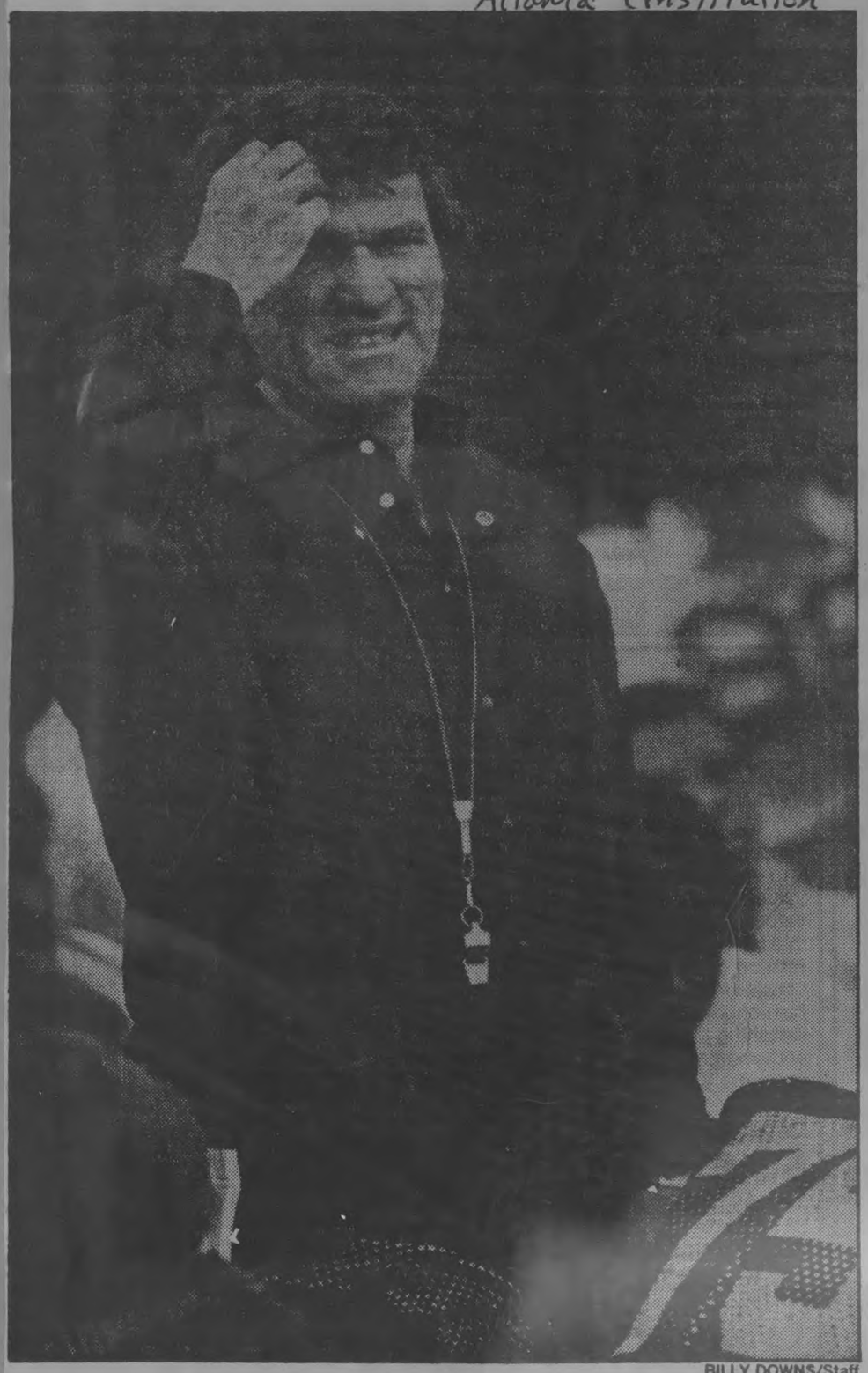
Tift battles Ghost of Cleveland Field

Atlanta Constitution Thurs. Nov. 17, 83



BILLY DOWNS/Staff

Coach Nick Hyder's Valdosta Wildcats have won 15 in a row at home

When you play at Valdosta, watch out for the evil spirits

By Steve Figueroa
Staff Writer

Almost 14,000 fans are expected Friday night in Valdosta for the much-anticipated rematch between second-ranked Valdosta (11-0) and fourth-ranked Tift County (10-1) for the 1-AAAA region championship. Many of them will be there to see if "The Ghost of Cleveland Field" will put in an appearance twice against the same team.

It's not the man who attended the first meeting two weeks ago attired only in a yellow hat and white bedsheet that fans will be looking for. He's just this year's embodiment of a legend that began before any of the players on the current teams were born.

To Tift County coach Gene Brodie, the ghost is "just some guy wearing a sheet who ran onto the field before the coin flip." To Valdosta coach Nick Hyder, he was "probably just one of our booster club members."

But Valdosta fans know there is more to it than that. Say what you will about good teams making their breaks, but Valdosta, which has won 26 games in a row and 15 straight, at home, has an annoying habit of pulling out close games on Cleveland Field.

Past examples are too numerous to list, but one of the most famous was in the 1960 AAAA state championship game when an Avondale defender slipped down late in the game and Valdosta completed a touchdown pass for a 20-14 victory. Then-Avondale coach Calvin Ramsey blamed the wet field conditions, but Valdosta fans know the ghost tripped that boy.

The ghost came out again last year in the title game. With Peachtree leading 7-0 just before halftime, cornerback Steve Squire, who had intercepted three passes the week before, seemed in position to pick off a Valdosta pass on a fourth-and-10 play. But Squire missed the ball and Valdosta scored a touchdown and went on to win 10-7. The ghost pulled on that boy's arm at just the right time.

And two weeks ago, Tift's Blue Devils had built a 10-0 lead after three quarters only to have the ghost take over for two plays in the fourth period. Dana Brinson got a good block from the phantom en route to a 72-yard touchdown run and then the ghost jostled Brian Massingill's arm to cause an interception and a 26-yard return for a touchdown by Derrick Folsom to give Valdosta a 14-10 win.

"That ghost jumps around," said Hyder with a laugh. "Really, we just happened to hit a trap play where everybody made their blocks and then Derrick made a fine defensive play. Those things happen."

Yeah, but they seem to happen more often on Cleveland Field.

Despite that fact, Brodie says his team is anxious to go back. "We're sorta looking forward to it. I don't know anything about any ghost, but I do know that we really don't think anything was decided in that first game. The two teams are pretty even and we think we've got a chance to win, even on Cleveland Field."

The Tift-Valdosta game will be just one of 21 rematches this week between teams that played during the regular season. There were 37 rematches last week, and only six of them came out differently than they did the first time.

Another rematch of state-ranked teams has Baldwin (10-1 and No. 7 in AAAA) traveling to International City Stadium for another shot at Warner Robins (10-1 and No. 5) in the 2-AAAA title game. Warner Robins won the first meeting 17-7.

In 6-AAAA, No. 3-ranked LaGrange (11-0) will try to defeat Morrow (8-3) again after the Mustangs took the Grangers into overtime before losing 24-17 in the first meeting.

The 4-AA title match has No. 5 Greene County (10-1) trying to repeat a rare 12-6 win over No. 6 Lincoln County (10-1), while No. 2 West Point (11-0) must defeat No. 9 Greenville (9-2) again to win the 5-A title and remain the only unbeaten team in Class A.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL/ PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Friday's Games

(Home Team At Right)

CLASS AAAA

REGION 1
Tift Co. (10-1) — Valdosta (11-0)

REGION 2
Baldwin (10-1) — Warner Robins (10-1)

REGION 3
Glynn Acad. (9-2) — Benedictine (8-3) (SM)

REGION 4
Evans (8-3) — Westside (10-1) (ARC)

REGION 5
Marietta (8-3) — Walton (8-3) (MC)

REGION 6
Morrow (8-3) — LaGrange (11-0)

REGION 7
SW DeKalb (8-2-1) — Redan (9-2) (DM)

REGION 8
Cedar Shoals (9-2) — Clarke Central (11-0)

CLASS AAA

REGION 1
Bainbridge (10-1) — Mitchell-Baker (10-1)

REGION 2
Thomson (10-1) — Glenn Hills (11-0) (LR)

REGION 3
Perry (5-6) — Americus (11-0)

REGION 4
Woodward (8-3) — Lithonia (8-2-1) (P)

REGION 5
Avondale (9-1-1) — Marist (10-1)

REGION 7
Carrollton (8-3) — Cass (11-0)

REGION 8
Central Gwinnett (9-1-1) — Gainesville (11-0)

CLASS AA

REGION 1
Seminole Co. (8-3) — Dooly Co. (11-0)

REGION 2
Vidalia (9-2) — Claxton (11-0)

REGION 3
Manchester (10-1) — Mary Persons (11-0)

REGION 4
Lincoln Co. (10-1) — Greene Co. (10-1)

REGION 5
Lovett (10-1) — Campbell-Fairburn (9-2)

REGION 7
Central Carrollton (9-2) — West Rome (11-0)

REGION 8
Duluth (8-2-1) — White Co. (8-3)

CLASS A

REGION 1
Miller Co. (6-5) — Wilcox Co. (9-2)

REGION 3
Metter (9-2) — ECI (9-2)

REGION 4
Monticello (8-3) — Wrens (9-1)

REGION 5
Greenville (9-2) — West Point (11-0)

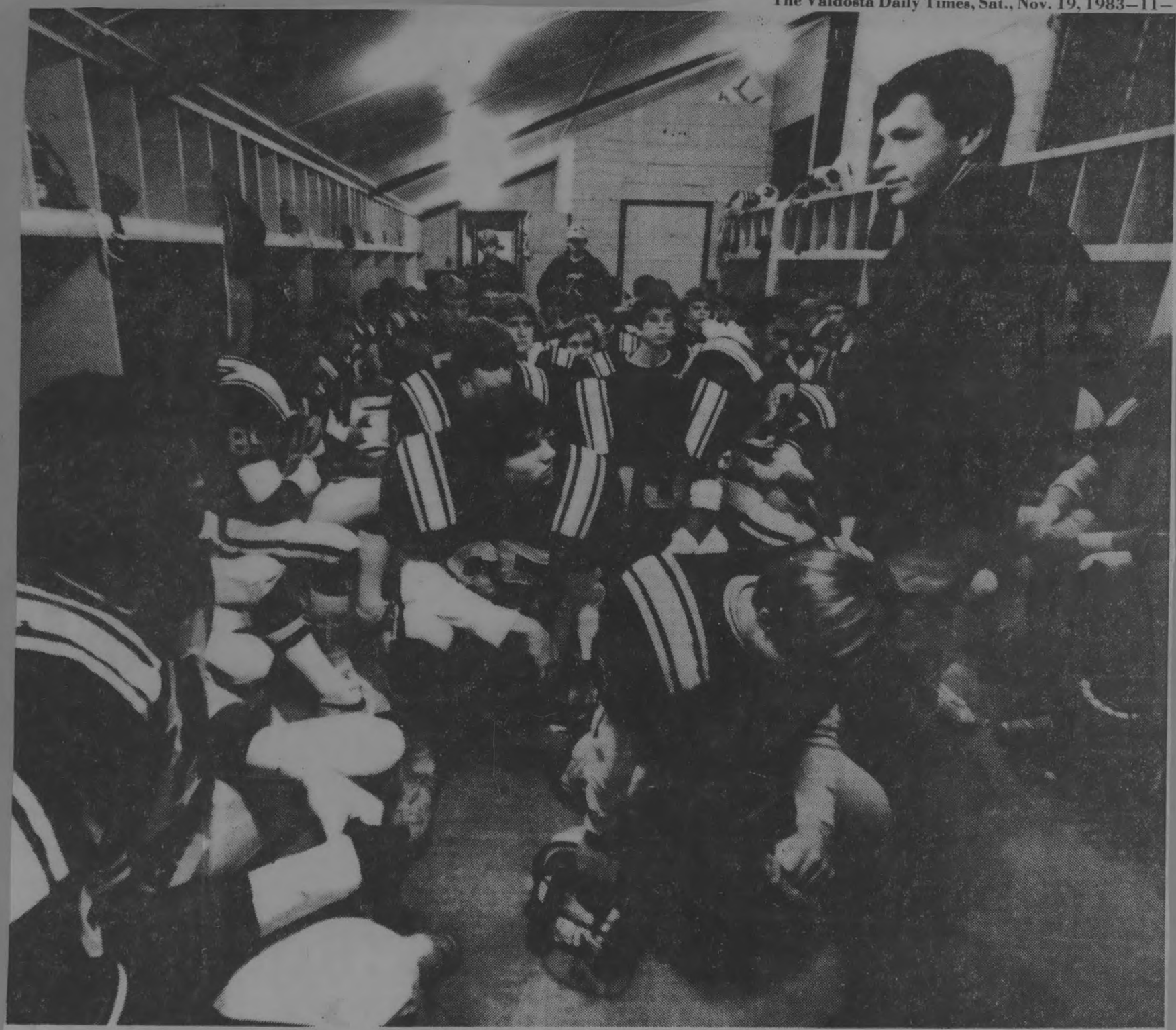
REGION 6
Adairsville (9-2) — Bremen (9-1-1)

Saturday's Game

CLASS AA

REGION 6
Bass (8-2) — Price (9-1) (L)

STADIUM KEY: ARC — Richmond Academy; DM — DeKalb Memorial; L — Lakewood; LR — Lumpkin Road; MC — McEachern; P — Panthersville; SM — Savannah Memorial.



Times Staff Photos by Joey Ivansco

Assistant Coach Jerry Don Baker (R), A Bundle Of Nerves Himself, Readied The Troops Prior To Kickoff

Hyder's Message At Halftime: We've Been Here Before

John Nitschke's (57) Pre-Game Rital Consisted Of Banging Tin Roof

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3 Faces Of Valdosta's Dressing Room

Pre-Game Consisted Of Slow Buildup To Kickoff

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

It all began in a very low-key fashion Friday night. The Valdosta High players arrived at Cleveland Field and were taped by trainer Jim Burroughs. After they dressed, they walked out of the back door of the dressing room into the parking lot behind the stands.

Most of them sat down on the gravel and talked quietly. Wildcats quarterback Ted West sat in a van by himself. If there was any restlessness among the 'Cats, it wasn't apparent. This business of preparing for Region 1-AAAA championship games appeared to be familiar stuff for the Valdosta players. After all, it was the seventh consecutive year the 'Cats have played for the region title.

The cases of nerves seemed to belong to the coaches. An inquiry as to how offensive assistant Jerry Don Baker was feeling was answered with a nervous laugh and "Ask me again in about three hours and I'll tell you."

At 7:03 p.m., Valdosta head coach Nicky Hyder said to his defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph, "Jack, let's get 'em together."

The sounds of the stadium beginning to fill were getting progressively louder as Hyder told his players, "Gentlemen, it now comes time for the Region 1-AAAA championship...And in order to win it, we're going to have to do the very best we're capable of doing."

Hyder then introduced several junior high players who had been invited to the game and the team chaplains before leading the players in a prayer. A brief devotion followed and then the 'Cats headed out to the field for their pre-game warmups at 7:15.

While his team warmed up, Hyder stood on the sidelines with assistant Norman Sainz and watched as the Tift County team went through its warmups. A number of people came by to wish Hyder good luck. By game time, Hyder would have probably talked with 20 people other than his assistant coaches.

The atmosphere was becoming more charged by the minute by the time the entire team had assembled back in the lockerroom at 7:45. While Hyder and several other members of the VHS staff went over the game plan one final time outside, the other assistants began the pre-game pep talks. They stressed the importance of each player being mentally prepared, the fact that "the eyes of the whole state are on this game tonight" and the tradition of the Valdosta football program.

Hyder touched on the same things when he talked to the team just before they went out. By the time the 'Cats stood up to go, the adrenalin was pumping.

And as they exited the lockerroom, the 'Cats used their helmets to bang on the galvanized steel roof of the tunnel.

There was nothing left to do now but play the game.

Deja Vu: Wildcats Faced Same Halftime Situation

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta players must have had a sense of deja vu when they filed into their lockerroom at halftime Friday night. They trailed Tift County by 10 points and their hopes of a second straight state Class AAAA championship and their No. 1 ranking in the Associated Press prep poll both seemed in serious jeopardy.

What a minute, hadn't the Wildcats been through this before? Yes, just two weeks before on this same field when Tift led 10-0 at the half.

Valdosta had scored on its first possession, but things hadn't gone well for the 'Cats since. Tift County had set up two touchdowns and a field goal with three long passes and led 17-7 at the intermission.

After giving the players a minute to drink a Coke and catch their breaths, the Valdosta assistants went to work. Defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph had a lot to talk about with his players, particularly the secondary.

He drove home his point by asking his defense, "Do you realize Tift has over 200 yards total offense already?" The Blue Devils had 232 yards in total offense in the first two quarters.

Rudolph would say after the game: "We tried to make some adjustments to put more pressure (on Tift quarterback Brian Massingill) on the blitz, to shore up the perimeters and make him pull up quicker and in the secondary to just do a better job of staying with the receivers.

"I thought the kids did a whale of a job in the second half."

When the team assembled as a group in the lockerroom, junior linebacker John Porter stood up and told his teammates, "We've got two more quarters. We can score just as many points as they did. We can score more. There's still hope. There's hope as long as there's seconds on the clock.

"Offense, keep doing what you've been doing. The defense is going to help you out this half."

'Cats head coach Nick Hyder said, "We're right where we were two weeks ago. We're exactly where we were."

Hyder quickly went over some offensive plays he planned to use in the second half. He also reminded the players that if they won the region title, the black jersies they had on were theirs to keep.

Hyder then said, "We've got to play wherever we are on the field. We've got to keep hanging on."

There had been no panic in those 15 minutes the 'Cats spent together. There had been no accusations or finger-pointing.

But the Valdosta players and coaches came out for the third quarter well aware that if the 'Cats were going to win this game, they were going to have to make something happen quick.

Tear-Filled Lockerroom Tells Story Of 1st Defeat

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

There are probably funerals held every day where less honest grief is displayed than was shown in the Valdosta dressing room after Friday night's game.

There were no post-game speeches by the coaches. In fact there was little said among the players, especially during those first few awful minutes after they came off the field and realized it was all over.

What more could one say than Tift County 17, Valdosta 13?

Outside, a group of parents and friends awaited the players. But it would be quite awhile before some of the Valdosta players were ready to face the world again after their first defeat in two years.

Linebacker John Porter walked around in the parking lot behind the dressing room. No doubt he, like every other Wildcat player, was thinking about what had been lost.

Another shot at a second straight state title, perhaps even a national championship — all of those dreams belonged to somebody else now.

After a while, Porter came back in and changed. For him, there's another year. But for the seniors there will be no tomorrow and some of them were almost inconsolable.

Offensive lineman John Nitschke sat on a bench outside, still dressed in his uniform, for over 30 minutes after the game.

Inside, Dana Brinson was also still dressed. And the man who had stood up in front of his teammates before the game and vowed to give "150 percent" and then asked them to do the same, was still weeping long after most of the other players had gone home.

Many of them had dressed quickly and left after first turning in their uniforms. It was mostly the seniors who hung around, telling their younger teammates and one another goodbye.

One player dressed and then sat with his back to the rest of the room, his head buried in his hands. Outside, Monte Davis and a teammate stood on the street, still wearing their uniform pants.

Ted West, the underrated player who had led the 'Cats to more consecutive wins than any quarterback in Valdosta history, wasn't thinking about the 26 wins that had gone before.

"I had a great career," West said, trying not to cry, "but it ended on a sour note.

"When we scored (on the first drive of the second half), I thought we were going to win and pull it out...We never did give up. On that fourth and 10 (on Valdosta's final possession), we thought we were going to get that play.

"They were expecting a pass. They just made a good play.

"We thought we could do it," he said.

Valdosta Loses 1st Game In Two Years

V.D.T. Nov. 19, 83

Tift Defeat Leaves Wildcats 'Numb'

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

All good things must come to an end. And previously top-ranked Valdosta High's good thing was no exception

STATISTICS

	Tift	Valdosta
First Downs	16	12
Yards Rushing	119	144
Yards Passing	225	136
Passes	23-10-1	21- 5-3
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Punting	3-42.3	2-36.5
Penalties	6-59	3-35

The Wildcats' 26-game winning streak and bid for a third straight Region 1-AAAA title came tumbling down Friday night before a jam-packed crowd of over 12,000 at Cleveland Field.

The 17-13 loss to No. 5 Tift County ended the state's second longest active win streak (West Rome, a 14-0 winner over Central of Carrollton Friday night, holds the state's longest active win streak at 30 games), and prevented the Wildcats from moving on the state playoffs next Friday to defend their Class AAAA state title.

"It's numb," said Valdosta coach Nick Hyder, who last tasted defeat in 1981 when eventual Class AAAA state champion Warner Robins knocked off the 'Cats, 17-14, for the South Georgia championship.

"It just feels numb."

Tift, 11-1 overall, now advances to the first round of the state playoffs next Friday against Benedictine, a 21-20 winner over Glynn Academy Friday night. It was also revenge for the Blue Devils, who lost to Valdosta 14-10 two weeks ago.

Valdosta, the North subregion champion, closes out the season with an 11-1 mark.

"Tifton earned it," Hyder said. "They'll represent us real well in the state playoffs."

The Blue Devils may have earned it as Hyder said, but they didn't win it without a battle. The game was still in doubt until the Devils held on fourth down deep in Valdosta territory, forcing the 'Cats to turn the ball over on downs.

From there all Tift had to do was run four plays before time expired. It was Tift's first region title since 1979.

"This was my biggest win ever," said a jubilant Tift coach Gene Brodie after the game.

Valdosta opened an early 7-0 lead on its first possession before Tift struck for a field goal and two touchdowns to take a 17-7 advantage into halftime.

Valdosta took the second-half kickoff and scored another touchdown. But the two-point conversion pass failed and that's the way it stood the rest of the game.

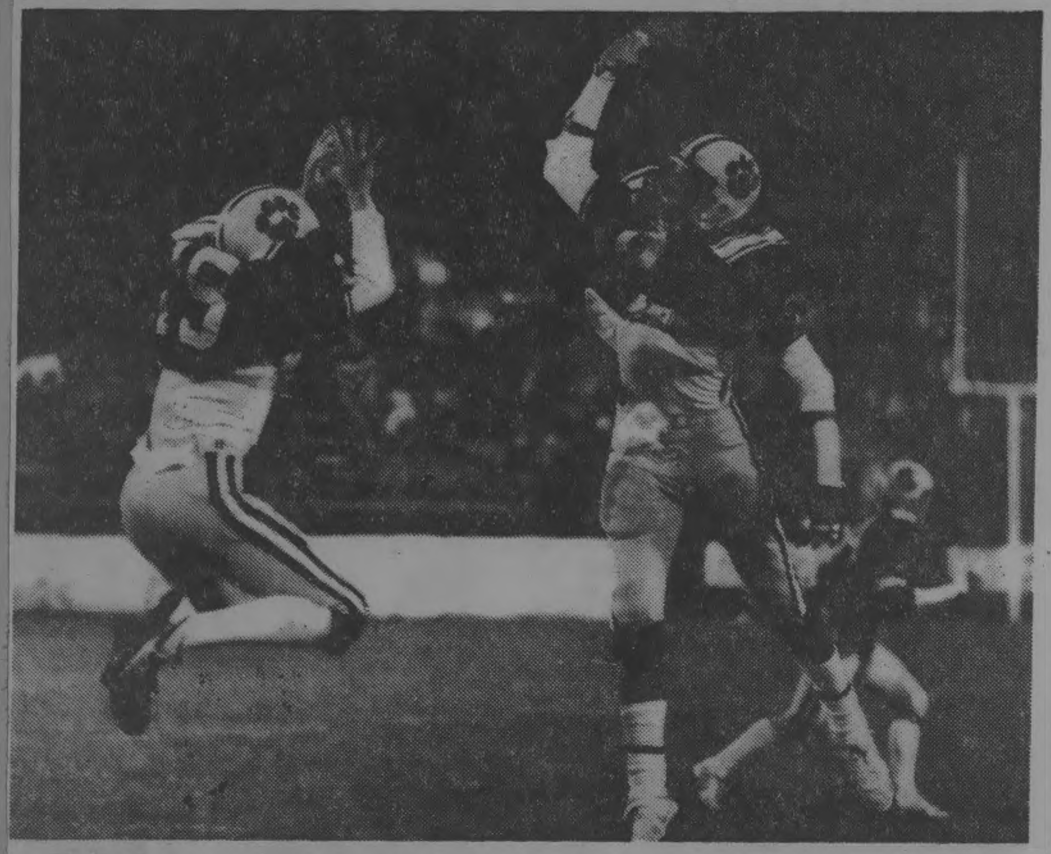
"They got two touchdowns," Hyder said. "We got two touchdowns. They got a field goal and we didn't. I don't have anything else to add except that Tifton played a fine game. But so did we."

Down by four throughout most of the second half, Valdosta had four chances to salvage a win. But a pair of pass interceptions ended two threats in the third period. And Tift forced a punt midway through the fourth period before the 'Cats ran out of downs on their final possession.

Hyder took credit for the interception that stopped the second threat in the third quarter. And the Wildcat coach said it may have been the turning point of the game.

Late in the third period the 'Cats appeared to be driving for the go-ahead touchdown. Alternating runs between Dana Brinson and Tony Anderson, the 'Cats moved from the 25 to their 44. But a Ted West interception, his third of the night, ended the threat.

Please See Valdosta, Page 10



Holtzclaws' TD Reception In 3rd Quarter Had 'Cats Jumping For Joy

Score By Quarters

Tift Co.	3	14	0	0—17
Valdosta	7	0	6	0—13

Scoring

VALD — Anderson 1 run, Porter kick, 7:29 1st.

TIFT — McKellar 26 field goal, 3:38 1st.

TIFT — McGriff 3 pass from Massingill, McKellar kick, 9:26 2nd.

TIFT — Teals 21 pass from Massingill, McKellar kick, 2:49 2nd.

VALD — Holtzclaw 28 pass from West, pass failed, 9:39 3rd.

Individual Stats

Rushing: Valdosta — Brinson 11-57, Anderson 19-79, West 1-3. Tift — Turner 16-67, Revels 18-54, Massingill 6- minus 2.

Passing: Valdosta — West 20-5-3, 136; Anderson 1-0-0, 0. Tift — Massingill 23-10-1, 225.

Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Heard 2-59, Brinson 2-49, Holtzclaw 1-28. Tift — Hill 4-109, Teals 2-40, Smith 2-57, Revels 1-16, McGriff 1-3.

Tackles: Valdosta — Lewis 7, Wakefield 8, Williams 2, Johnson 3, Robinson 3, Porter 6, Abney 2, Irving 3, Holmes 3, Folsom 2, Manghram 4. Tift — Jackson 3, Waters 3, C. Haggins 4, Bozeman 5, Golden 2, S. Burns 3, E. Burns 3, S. Shiver.

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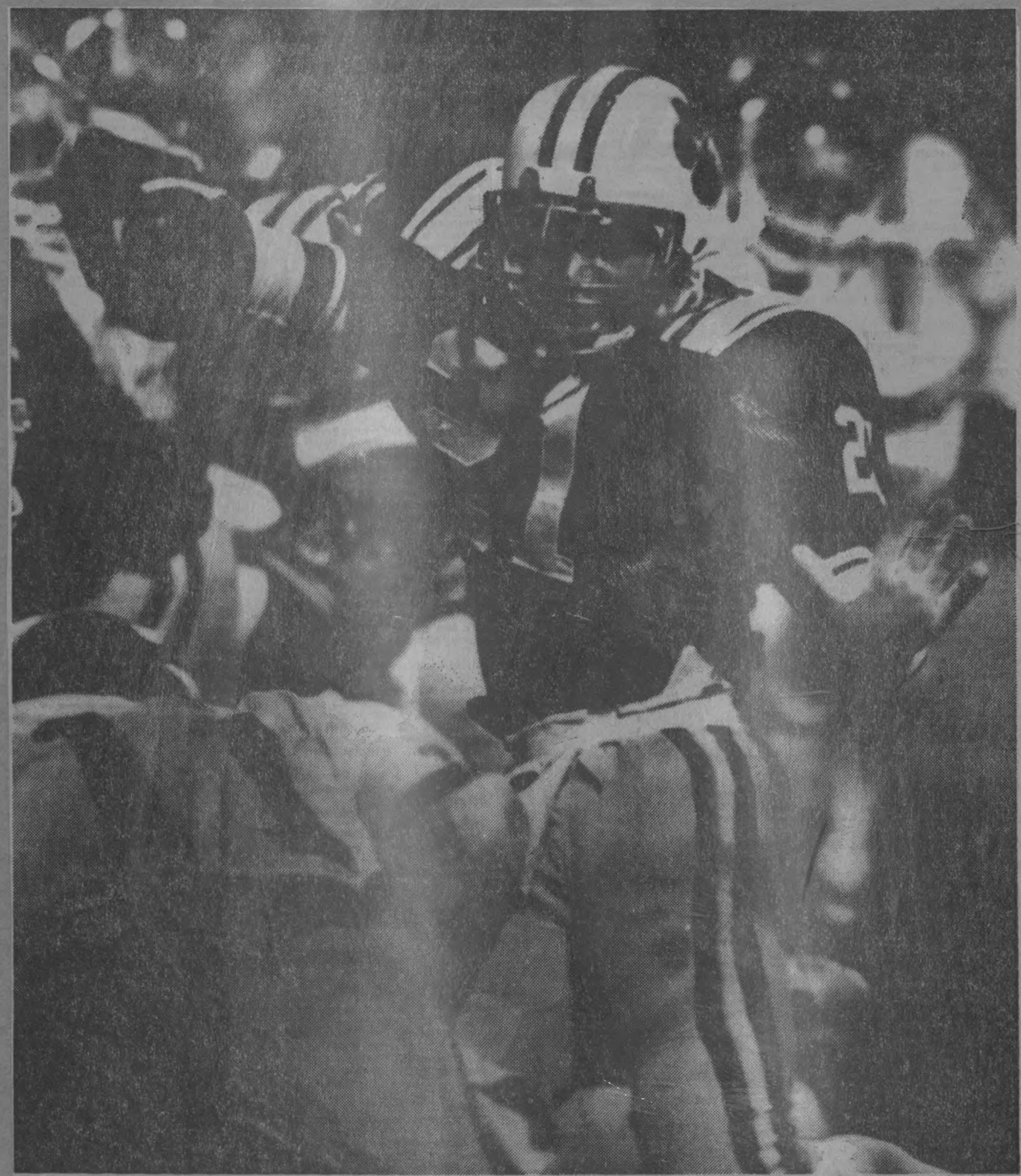

Times Staff Photos by Joey Ivansco

Tony Anderson's 1-Yard Run Capped Valdosta 1st Possession With Touchdown

Hard Day's Night

Little Ben O'Brian, son of Valdosta High School assistant coach Mike O'Brian, mirrors the expression of VHS football fans Friday night as the Wildcats suffered a 17-13 defeat to the Tift County Blue Devils for the Region 1-AAAA championship. For details on the game, see page 9.—Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

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Rematch Draws Attention Of Only One College Scout

Nov 19, 1983

VSC's Goodman Looks Over 'Cats, Blue Devils

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

While the Valdosta-Tift County rematch Friday night at Cleveland Field drew a crowd of over 12,000 interested fans, the game attracted the attention of only one college scout, Valdosta State head coach Jim Goodman.

Goodman says he was surprised there were not more college recruiters at the game.

"It is a little surprising," the second-year Blazer coach said at halftime. "But there are other games in the area that should be pretty good. Plus, there were quite a few scouts at the first meeting."

While he would not comment publicly on who he was looking at because the NCAA does not allow coaches and scouts to have face-to-face meetings with high school players until Dec. 1, it is believed Goodman is interested in Valdosta's quarterback Ted West, fullback Dana Brinson, noseguard Leon Johnson and offensive tackle Joel Jackson.

Possible prospects from the Tift County team include quarterback Brian Massingill, tailback Micheal Turner, defensive backs Sam Burns, Eugene Burns and Stan Shiver and wide receiver Robert Hill.

"We pretty much knew back in April who we were going to look at in the upcoming year," Goodman said.

While Goodman sees many recruits through film, he says the best thing to do is to see them in person if that is possible.

"I always like to see a recruit in person," Goodman said. "Of course, it is not always possible.

"But I like to see players in the game because I look not only at their talent, but also how much savvy he has for the game. I like the players that somehow always find a way to win."

Many fans follow the ball for the most part throughout the game, but Goodman says he likes to look at the play that is away from the ball.

"I like to watch the defensive backs and wide receivers," Goodman said. "I can't look at offensive lineman during a game and tell you if the guy is doing his job or not. I have to go back and look at them on film."

Some coaches sign players sight unseen on the advice of others, but Goodman says he wouldn't.

"I never take anybody's word for someone I was going to sign," Goodman said. "I or someone in my staff would see some film on him first."

Goodman and other college recruiters will have plenty of time to look at film, since the national signing date is in mid-February.

Times Staff Photo by Frank C. Williams

Hyder Met Tift Coach Gene Brodie After Game And Said, 'You Earned It'

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Valdosta-Lowndes Rivalry Moves To Carpet

Mon., Dec. 5, 1983-

V.D.T.

Wildcats Host Vikes Tuesday

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

People connected with Valdosta High and Lowndes High don't ever seem to agree on much of anything. But the two schools' basketball coaches agree on one thing: Tuesday night's Lowndes-Valdosta games need no build-up.

The Vikettes and Lady 'Cats will play at 7 p.m. in the Valdosta gym, with the boys game immediately afterward.

In other area games Tuesday night, Valwood hosts Georgia Christian, Brooks County hosts Monroe of Albany in Quitman, Berrien County hosts Fitzgerald in Nashville, Echols County hosts Lanier County in Statenville, Clinch County hosts Pierce County in Homerville and Atkinson County hosts Cook in Pearson.

The Valdosta Wildcats are 3-1 after winning their third straight game against Westover in Albany Saturday night. The 'Cats are also 1-0 in Region 1-AAAA South Sub-region play. But the Vikings, who are in the same sub-region with the 'Cats in basketball, beat Valdosta twice during the 1982-83 season.

"Since I've been here, we haven't beaten them," said second-year 'Cats Coach Mike O'Brien. "They beat us twice last year.

"They've got a good ball team this year. They hustle and Coach (Terry) Wilkes does a great job."

O'Brien saw the Vikings play once, in a 57-43 loss to Colquitt County. But O'Brien insists he's impressed by Lowndes.

"Height-wise, they're really bigger than us," he said. "They've got at least two kids over 6-foot-3. Wallace Campbell, our tallest player, is about 6-2.

"They've also got more experience at the guard positions than we do."

Neverthless, Lowndes has lost to both Tift County and Colquitt, two teams Valdosta whipped by wide margins. The 2-3 Vikings' only wins have come against Class AAA teams.

Tuesday's game is doubly important for Lowndes if the Vikings are to stay close in the sub-region race. A loss would leave the Vikings two games behind Valdosta.

O'Brien says he's pleased by his team's play so far and attributes their early success to the 'Cats' off-season work. "We're better than we were last year...The kids have worked extremely hard in the off-season on the weights...We have our attitude problems ironed out."

The two schools' positions are reversed in the girls' game. Lowndes is 5-0 and 1-0 in sub-region play, while Valdosta is 2-2 and 0-1.

Lowndes holds a tremendous height advantage over the 'Cats, whose tallest starter is 5-4. Lowndes doesn't have a starter under 5-5, and Tane Register is 6-1 and Natasha Horn is 6-0.

First-year Valdosta coach James Studstill said, "The two big girls they have are tough. The whole team is tough.

"Lowndes has a veteran club and they're going to give us trouble."

The Lady 'Cats have relied on their quickness to give them their two wins. But their lack of height was never more apparent than in their loss to Colquitt, when the Packerettes repeatedly got second and third shots.

Studstill thinks the Vikettes may be better than Colquitt.

"Lowndes is probably the strongest team we'll face in the region this year.

"We did a good job rebounding (against Colquitt) in spite of our size. Colquitt didn't do as good a job executing under the boards as Lowndes will.

"We've got to make every shot count because we're not going to get that second or third shot most of the time."

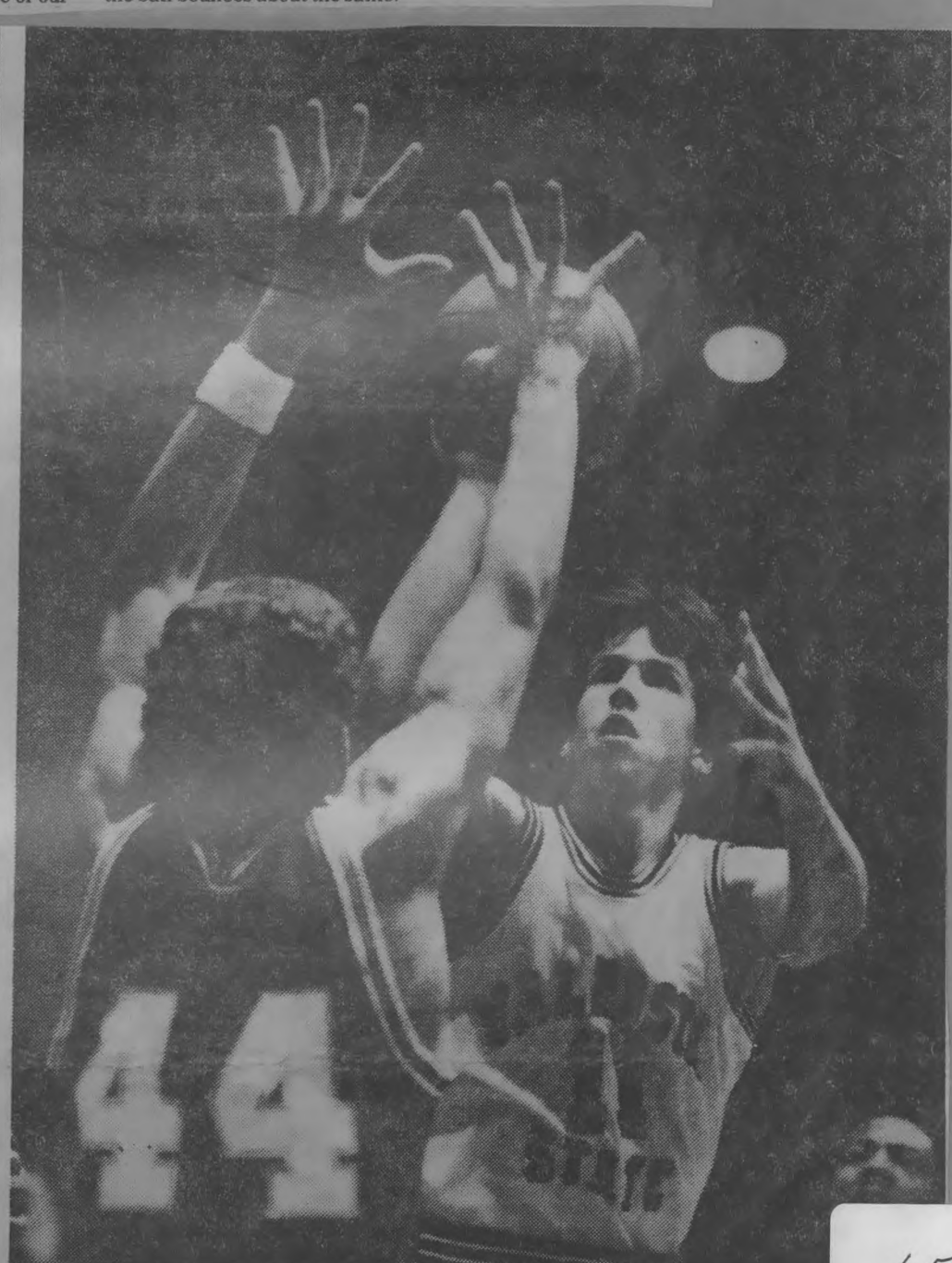
As if Lowndes didn't have enough going for it with its superior height, the Vikettes also have history on their side. During the last three years, the visiting team has always won during the regular season. Lowndes has also knocked Valdosta out of the sub-region playoffs the last two seasons.

Lowndes Coach Steve Kebler hasn't seen Valdosta play, but he said he doesn't plan to make any changes. "We'll be doing the same things...We're not going to change our game," he said.

Playing on Valdosta's carpet instead of the usual hardwood floor will be a switch, but Kebler said, "It hasn't made any difference to us.

"I've heard people complain about it, but I think it's over-emphasized. It's just a basketball court to us, 94 (feet) by 50, with a goal at both ends.

"The noise during the game is different, it's a little quiet. But the ball bounces about the same."



Sophomore Guards Marlon Jones (12) And Tommy Conley (11) Led Valdosta State in Scoring As Freshmen

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VDT
Dec. 5, 1983

Valdosta Sweeps Westover

From Staff Reports

ALBANY — Valdosta High basketball coach Mike O'Brien described his team's 60-47 win over Westover here Saturday night as a test of the Wildcats' character.

"Our kids battled back. They hung in there," O'Brien said after the 3-1 'Cats held off a Westover rally in the third quarter to claim their third straight win.

"Last year, they would have folded. But they fought back in the fourth quarter."

The Lady 'Cats had a much easier time of it as they whipped Westover 56-31. Valdosta is now 2-2.

The Wildcats used a full-court press and a number of Westover turnovers to take a 15-13 lead at the end of the first quarter. Then they scored 19 points in the second period to jump out to a 34-21 halftime advantage. Westover cut Valdosta's lead to five, 40-35, at the end of three quarters.

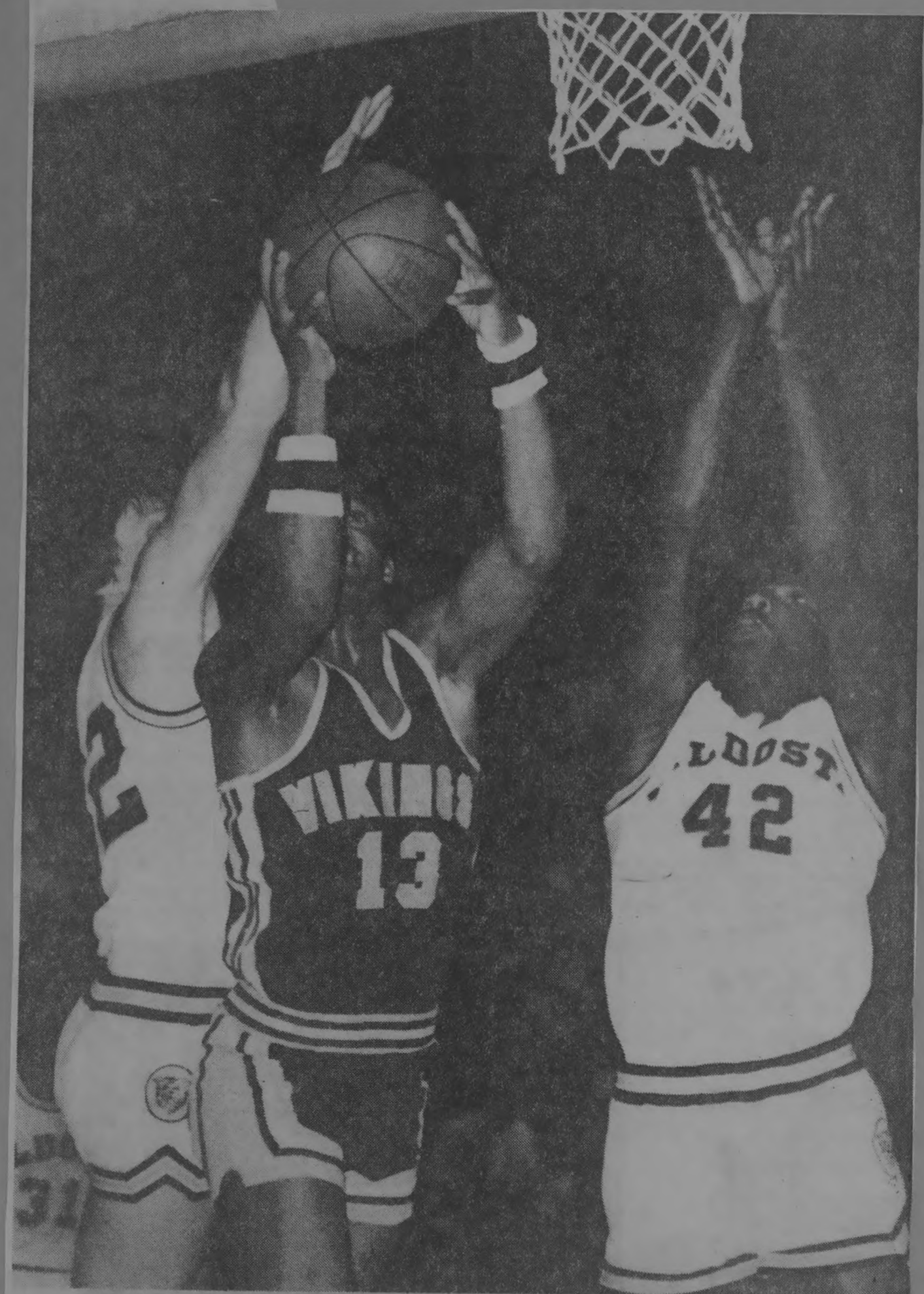
Valdosta's Victor Walker led all scorers with 17 points. Wallace Campbell had 15, Jerome Berrian had 12 and Moses Daniels had 11.

Roger Trent was the only Westover player in double figures with 14 points.

Westover jumped out to an 8-0 lead in the girls game, but it was all Valdosta after that. Valdosta took the lead for good with a minute left in the first quarter and raced to a 23-17 halftime lead.

Shevon Peeler and Lisa Irvin led Valdosta with 14 points apiece.

Connie Dixon was the only scorer in double figures for the Lady Pats with 12 points.



Lowndes' Chris Carter (13) Goes Up Against Valdosta's Wallace Campbell (42)

66

Lowndes Sweeps 2 From Host Valdosta

VDT. Dec. 7, 83

Vikings Win Thriller, Vikettes Breeze

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

"To be truthful," Lowndes head basketball coach Terry Wilkes said, "I was about as scared as I'd ever been coming in to play Valdosta."

For most of Tuesday night, it looked as if Wilkes' fears might be justified. Playing at Valdosta High before an estimated crowd of 500, Lowndes only led once, late in the first quarter, during the first 30 minutes of the game. But starting with Undrae Mitchell's turnaround jumper with 4:18 left, the Vikings outscored the 'Cats 8-2 over a two-minute period.

Those eight points gave Lowndes the lead and six straight free throws in the final seconds preserved the Vikings' 55-50 win over the 'Cats.

The Region 1-AAAA South victory evened Lowndes' record at 3-3 overall and 1-1 in South sub-region play. Valdosta, which had won three in a row coming in, fell to 3-2 and 1-1.

Lowndes' victory, combined with Central of Thomasville's 76-63 win over Thomasville Tuesday night, left Central atop the sub-region standings with a 1-0 record and Lowndes, Valdosta, Colquitt County and Thomasville tied for second with 1-1 records.

The night's first game didn't have nearly as much suspense as the Vikettes overcame a slow start to beat Valdosta 54-35.

"Undrae Mitchell carried us down the stretch," said Wilkes. "We started going to him because (Valdosta center Wallace) Campbell had three or four fouls. We gambled a little bit because we didn't think Campbell was going to play that aggressive on defense because they needed him in there for rebounding."

The tactic worked to near-perfection. Mitchell, who hadn't scored a point in the first three quarters, scored three straight baskets to tie the game at 42-42 and then give Lowndes its first lead, 44-42, with 2:51 left.

An outside jumper by Alan Taylor gave Lowndes the lead for good with 2:04 left.

Jeff Butler sank four foul shots on a pair of one-and-ones and Chris Carter sank two, also on a one-and-one, to kill any hopes of a comeback by the 'Cats.

Lowndes was 13 of 15 from the free throw line in the game. Valdosta did not shoot a single free throw shot in the game. Campbell was the only 'Cat to go to the line Tuesday night and that was to shoot a pair after a technical foul against Wilkes for going onto the court.

The game was wide-open for the first three quarters. Both the 'Cats and Vikings played zone defenses to shut off the other's inside game. But both teams were red-hot shooting from the outside.

The first quarter ended in a 14-14 tie. Valdosta built what was to be its biggest lead of the game, 24-20, during the second quarter. Lowndes scored four unanswered points in the final two minutes to cut Valdosta's back to two, 26-24 at the half.

The struggle continued during the third quarter as Valdosta would get up by two points and Lowndes would come right back to tie the game. The biggest play of the game turned out to be Campbell's third foul early in the quarter.

Lowndes stayed in a 2-3 zone throughout the night. The zone managed to keep Valdosta from putting the ball inside the lane on offense most of the night.

"We were gambling again there," said Wilkes. "We wanted to shut down their inside game. We were praying they wouldn't stay as hot from the outside as they were in the first half.

"We were going to stay in the zone as long as they didn't get six, eight or 10 points ahead."

Valdosta Coach Mike O'Brien said, "We didn't play a bad ballgame, Lowndes just played an exceptional ballgame. Our kids battled in there, they didn't quit. We just couldn't pull it off at the end."

Jerome Berrian of Valdosta led all scorers with 22 points. Victor Walker had 14 and Campbell had 10. Lowndes was led by Taylor with 17 points, Butler with 12 and Carter with 10.

In the girls game, Valdosta stayed close for two quarters, but the Vikettes' superior height finally took over in the third quarter. Lowndes improved to 6-0 with the win while the Lady 'Cats fell to 2-3.

Valdosta actually beat Lowndes on the boards during much of the first half and Lowndes couldn't seem to handle the Valdosta press at first.

Valdosta took its only lead of the night, 19-18, on Shevon Peeler's 10-foot jumper with 1:10 left in the first half. Debbie Meadows scored three of Lowndes' four unanswered points in the final minute to give Lowndes a 23-19 lead at the half.

Lowndes took over on the boards after the intermission and at times Valdosta couldn't seem to buy a shot in the last two quarters. Lowndes outscored the Lady 'Cats 31-16 in the third and fourth quarters.

Lowndes head coach Steve Kebler said his team had some problems adjusting to the carpet on Valdosta's gym floor, but he was pleased with his team's overall performance.

"We've played better, but give Valdosta credit for some of that. They really scrapped with us," Kebler said. "It's nice to know that when we don't play as well as we can, we can still win big."

Girls Game

Lowndes	9	14	17	14—54
Valdosta	4	15	8	8—35

INDIVIDUAL STATS

LHS — Horn 29, Meadows 16, Williams 2, Register 2, Walker 2, March 2, Griffin 2.

VHS — Peeler 13, C. Weatherspoon 8, Melvin 6, W. Irvin 4, S. Weatherspoon 2, Henderson 2.

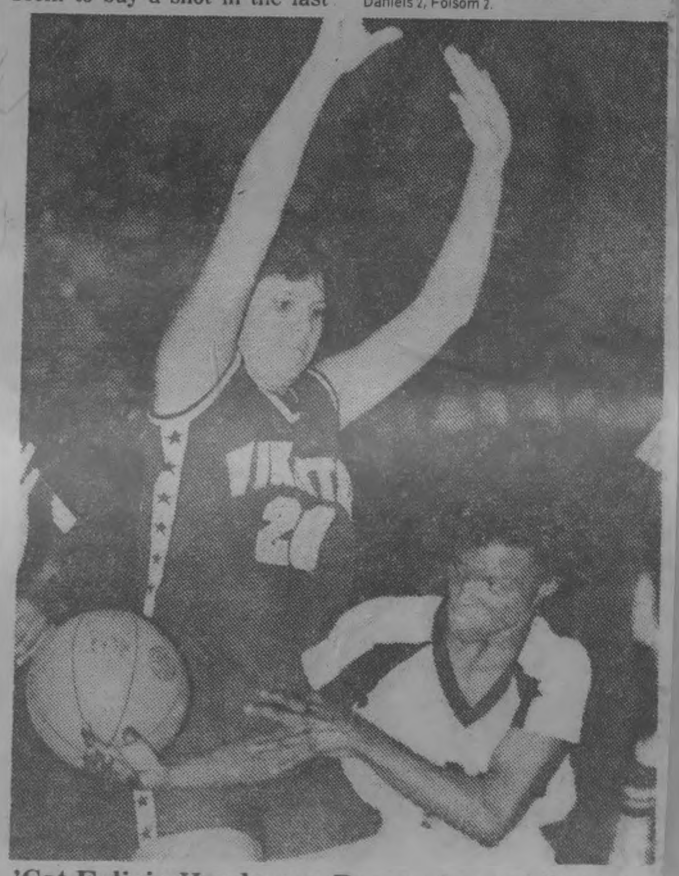
Boys Game

Lowndes	14	10	8	23—55
Valdosta	14	12	8	16—50

INDIVIDUAL STATS

LHS — Taylor 17, Butler 12, Carter 10, March 8, Mitchell 8.

VHS — Berrian 22, Walker 14, Campbell 10, Daniels 2, Folsom 2.



'Cat Felicia Henderson Passes Around Register

Sports Briefs

12/14/83 V. Daily Times

Valdosta Matmen Open Season

The Valdosta High varsity wrestling team opens its 1983-84 season tonight against Colquitt County in the VHS gym.

The first of 14 weight division matches are slated to begin at 7 p.m.

Valdosta will compete in the 26-team Cook Invitational Friday and Saturday at Cook High in Adel. Friday's matches begin at 1 p.m. with semifinals and fianls slated for Saturday.

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VHS 2-1 In Sub-region

V Times 12/14/83

'Cats Make Thomasville 5th Victim

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Thomasville was the perfect visitor as far as the Valdosta High Wildcats were concerned Tuesday night.

The Wildcats got exactly what they wanted from Thomasville — their fifth victory of the season. It came as a 62-45 win that was a little closer than it might sound.And the br

Valdosta is now 5-2 overall and 2-1 in South sub-region play. Lowndes, which defeated Central of Thomasville Tuesday night is the sub-region leader with a 3-1 record.

In the girls game, Thomasville earned a 49-38 win by overcoming an eight-point deficit in the first quarter and beating back a Valdosta rally in the third. The loss dropped the Lady 'Cats to 2-5 overall and 0-3 in sub-region play.

"Up until three or four minutes to go in the game it was anybody's ballgame," said Valdosta boys coach Mike O'Brien. "We had the lead but it was bouncing back and forth. We were not hitting our foul shots early in the fourth quarter and that's what hurt us."

The lead changed hands five times in the first quarter before the 'Cats pulled ahead for good, 12-11, on Wallace Campbell's short jumper with 2:45 left in the period. Valdosta led 19-15 at the end of the first quarter.

By the half, Valdosta had pulled ahead 32-23. The 'Cats never led by less than 10 points after the first three minutes of the second half and built their lead to 15 on several occasions.

Three straight missed field goals, all of them on the front ends of one-and-ones, enabled Thomasville to cut Valdosta's lead to 10 twice in the final period, the last time 53-43 with 3:22 remaining. But the 'Cats scored nine unanswered points in a two-minute span to finally break Thomasville's back.

"It was real close until right at the end when they started crashing the boards with everybody," O'Brien said. "We got a couple of cheap baskets at the other end with no defense."

He added, "One of the big factors in the game was that Thomasville just went cold in the second half. In the third quarter, they hit two baskets from outside of the lane. In the fourth they hit three."

The Bulldogs were also without the services of their leading scorer, Gerald Bell, in the second half. Bell, who scored 22 points in Thomasville's loss to Lowndes last Friday, was injured late in the second quarter after scoring just four points.

The nature and extent of his injury was unknown, but he did walk back out of the Thomasville dressing room after halftime and sat on the bench during the second half. His status for the Lowndes Christmas tournament this weekend is also unknown.

Campbell led the 'Cats with 22 points, including five free throws in the fourth quarter. He also had 19 rebounds. Moses Daniels had 11 points and Victor Walker had 10. Jerome Berrian had nine points to go with his nine rebounds.

The Lady 'Cats looked like they might be on their way to their first sub-region victory when they opened up a 15-7 lead with 33 seconds left in the first quarter.

Valdosta's early success was mainly due to a press which forced eight Thomasville turnovers in the first quarter. But Thomasville put on a press of its own in the second period. The Lady Bulldogs also began to assert themselves on the boards. Thomasville led at halftime 24-21.

Valdosta cut Thomasville's lead to one point, 28-27 on a 10-foot jumper by Shevon Peeler with 3:03 left in the third quarter. After two unanswered Thomasville baskets, Peeler made it a three-point game again with a layup with 33 seconds left and missed a desperation shot at the buzzer that could have brought the Lady 'Cats within one again.

Thomasville iced the game in the first six minutes of the final quarter by outscoring Valdosta 11-4.

Girls Game

Thomasville	9	24	32	49
Valdosta	15	21	29	38

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Thomasville — Bentley 22, Wilson 12, Williams 10, Hadley 5.

Valdosta — Peeler 12, Melvin 9, Henderson 6, L. Irvin 4, S. Weatherspoon 3, C. Weatherspoon 2, Elder 2.

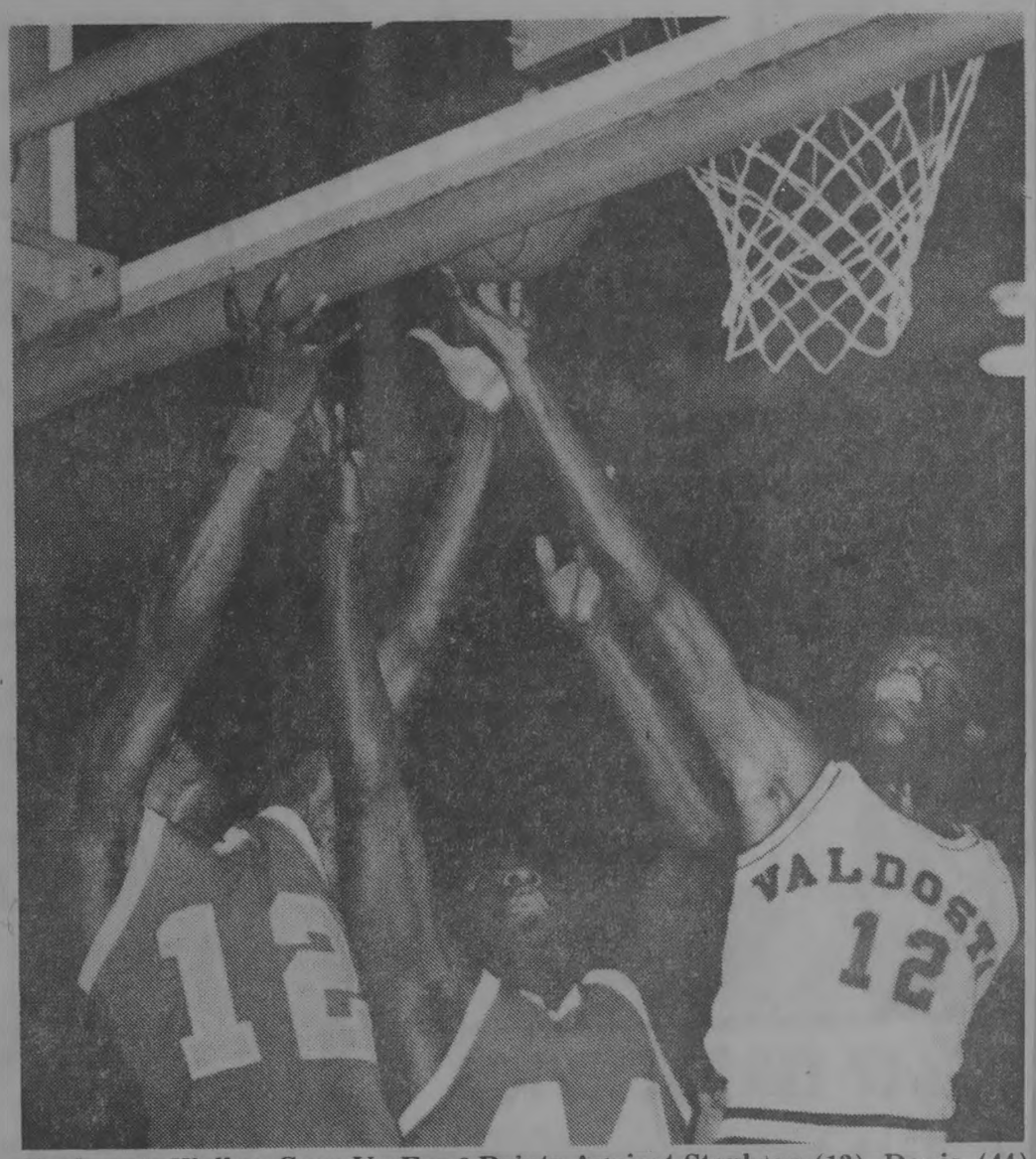
Boys Game

Thomasville	15	23	33	45
Valdosta	19	32	46	62

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Thomasville — Stephens 12, Vickers 11, Simon 6, Smith 6, Bell 4, Rayford 4, Barnes 2.

Valdosta — Campbell 22, Daniels 11, Walker 10, Berrian 9, Folsom 7, Parker 3.



Valdosta's Walker Goes Up For 2 Points Against Stephens (12), Davis (44)

Thurs., Dec. 15, 1983

Charles Corder
Times Sports Writer

'Cats Have Surpassed O'Brien's Expectations

The question wasn't meant to be funny, but Mike O'Brien laughed when he answered.

The second-year Valdosta High boys basketball coach was sitting in his office Tuesday night, his team's 62-45 win over Thomasville not yet 30 minutes old when he was asked if the Wildcats were where he had hoped they would be on Dec. 13, 1983.

"You ask that of somebody who was 3-19 last year?" he asked in return. "Yes, most definitely."

The win over Thomasville upped the 'Cats' record to 5-2 going into this weekend's Lowndes Christmas Tournament. More importantly, Valdosta improved its record in Region 1-AAAA South Sub-region play to 2-1, good enough to give the 'Cats sole possession of second place behind Lowndes. Lowndes is the only sub-region team to defeat the 'Cats this year.

Colquitt County is half a game behind the 'Cats at 2-2 (not 3-1 as reported Monday). Central of Thomasville is 1-2 and Thomasville is 1-3.

It's far too early to hang any championship banners from the ceiling of the 'Dosta Dome. But even the smallest amount of success is a welcome change for a program that has struggled through three straight losing seasons.

"The kids we had question marks about are coming around," O'Brien said. "We're getting help from our kids coming off the bench and our football players on the team are starting to get into basketball shape.

"We still have periods where we're playing a little ragged. As a coaching staff, we have to iron out those problems."

The player who has helped the 'Cats get over a lot of those rough spots this season is junior center Wallace Campbell. Campbell, who was academically ineligible as a sophomore, is leading the 'Cats in scoring and rebounding.

"Campbell has helped us in the middle," O'Brien said. "By Campbell being in the middle, it's made (Jerome) Berrian able to play outside where he can score and face the goal ... he's a much more effective player facing the goal.

"Victor Walker (at point guard) has given us more outside punch. Campbell being in the middle has also made (Bruce) Parker and (Derrick) Folsom able to get more boards.

"Campbell being in the middle has opened all of that up."

O'Brien said Campbell and the rest of the team have benefitted from an off-season program of running and weight lifting.

"It's a year-round thing now," said O'Brien. The players begin running and lifting weight as soon as school begins and continue that after pre-season practice opens. They have a month off from the end of basketball season until the start of spring basketball practice which also lasts a month. They also practice informally during the summer.

"The kids have done it on their own," O'Brien said. "You can take them down to the weight room but you can't make them do the work. They're where they are now because of their own work."

Valdosta will conclude the first half of its season in the Lowndes Christmas Tournament. The 'Cats are the tournament's No. 1 seed and the chances are good they will play Thomasville and Lowndes again.

"I'd like to make a good showing (in the tournament)," O'Brien said. "I'd like for our boys to be able to play under tournament pressure and have a good showing."

The experience might come in handy in a couple of months.

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V.D. Dec 15 1983

Valdosta Wrestlers Open Season With Win

From Staff Reports

The Valdosta Wildcat wrestling team opened their 1983-84 season with a 69-3 shellacking of Colquitt County Wednesday night at the VHS gymnasium.

The Wildcats won 13 of the 14 matches, including a record-setting performance by Frank Abney (177), who pinned Colquitt County's Derrick Bender in 16 seconds, breaking Greg Prine's record of 17 seconds.

Others Wildcats who won by a pin were Loui Gonis (107), Craig Klement (121), Mark Levy (128), Clay Powell (147), Jack Priest (169), James Wakefield (187) and Jimmy Lewis (197).

Three VHS wrestlers, Scott Richardson (114), Steve Kaiser (134) and Jerry Purvis (140) won their matches on points.

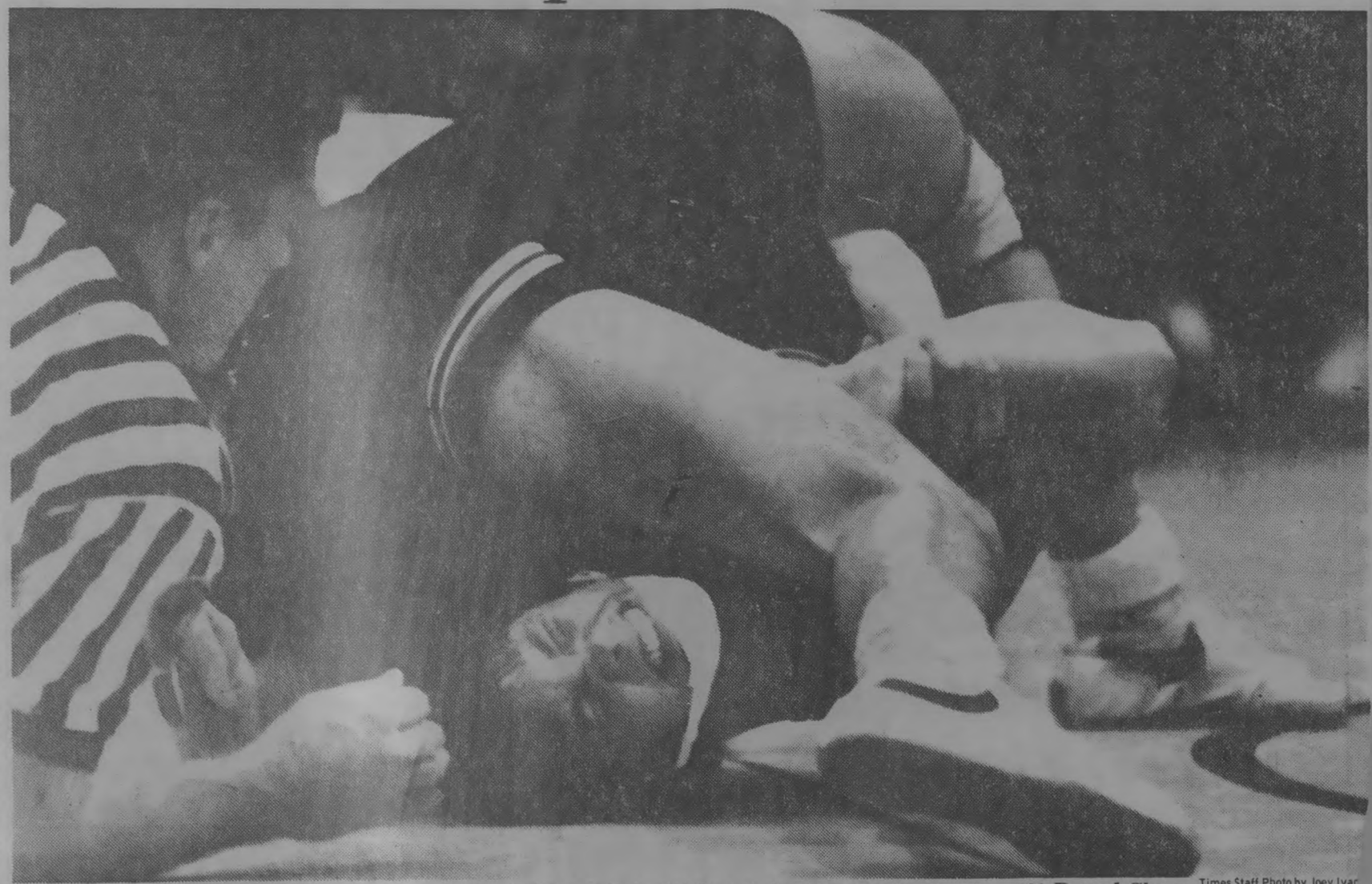
And Jason Bennett (100 pounds) and Leon Johnson (Heavyweight) each won their match by forfeit.

Colquitt County's only winner was John O'Quinn (157), who defeated Tony Johnson on points, 10-9.

"It was good to get a match under our belts," said Wildcat coach Jim Landrum. "But we looked sluggish in some our matches. We didn't work for pins very good at all.

"Frank's win was the high point of the match."

The Valdosta wrestlers will be defending their title at the Cook County Invitational Tournament Friday and Saturday.



Valdosta's Jack Priest (Top) Pinned Colquitt County's Mike Deriso In The 169-Pound Class

Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivar

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The Sport of Champions

Sign Tells All In Wrestling Action At Valdosta High Saturday Afternoon

Photo by Joey Ivansco

Valdosta Matmen Learn New Tricks In Tourney

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer V.T. Jan 8, 1984

Valdosta wrestling coach Jim Landrum says his team learned some moves they didn't even know existed before Saturday's quad-meet at the VHS gymnasium before a crowd of 500.

And in the process the Wildcats scored a 36-29 victory over Jonesboro, but suffered a 40-33 loss to Wheeler. Valdosta's record now stands at 3-1.

In other matches, Wheeler defeated Fitzgerald, and Fitzgerald whipped Jonesboro.

In a match which followed the conclusion of the quad-meet, Wheeler overwhelmed the Lowndes Vikings, 69-12. The Vikings are now 2-3.

"We saw and learned today," Landrum said. "Those are two very talented teams from Atlanta. We have to match up with competition like that if we are going to have any kind of a chance when we get into the state tournament."

The Wildcats were hampered when four wrestlers were forced to withdraw due to illness. Landrum replaced three of the four with junior varsity wrestlers, forfeiting both of the 114-pound matches.

However, the three J.V. performers were no match for the more experienced grapplers.

"All three of them got pinned twice and we gave up two matches on forfeitures," Landrum said. "I'm not knocking these kids because they tried as hard as they could.

"And I don't know if it would have made any difference or not if those four regulars would have been here. But it makes you wonder when you lose by only seven points."

In the loss to Wheeler, the Wildcats came away with seven individual wins in the 14 weight classifications. Louis Gonis (107 pounds) won by forfeit, Mark Levy (128) won a 10-7 decision, Jerry Purvis (140) won a 13-8 decision, Jack Priest (169) won by a pin, James Wakefield (187) won by pin, Jimmy Lewis (197) won a 5-4 decision and Leon Johnson (heavyweight) won by pin. Priest had the fastest pin — 27 seconds.

For Wheeler, Bobby Demerit (100) won by pin, Jerry Fulkerson (114) won by forfeit, Richard Demerit (121) won a 13-4 decision, Todd Strader (134) won by pin, Bart Dean (147) won by pin, Brad Fischrupp (157) won by pin and Hugh Meek (177) won by pin.

"We got beat hard in the lower weights," said Landrum. "And, when we won in the upper weights, we were just too far behind to catch up."

As they did against Wheeler, the Wildcats were beaten soundly by Jonesboro through the lower weights, trailing 29-9 just over halfway through the match.

But Valdosta pulled out the win by winning the last six matches.

"Two things, Jonesboro had an injury and Jack Priest came back from a 5-0 deficit to pull out his win, turned the momentum over to us in the match," Landrum said.

Valdosta had two wrestlers, Frank Abney (177) and Wakefield, to win by pin. The Wildcats also had two winners by forfeit. Mike Smear (100) did not have an opponent, while Tony Johnson (157) won after his opponent had to forfeit because of an elbow injury suffered during the match.

Winners by decision for Valdosta included Craig Klement (121), Priest (169), Lewis and Johnson.

For Jonesboro, Brian Smith (107) won by decision, Scott Shellnut (114) won by forfeit, Scott Berryman (128) won by decision, Cecil Cofield (134) won by pin, Charles Bouvette (140) won by decision and Rodney Walker (147) won by pin.

The Vikings had two winners in their match against Wheeler. Randy Gay (187) pinned Charlie Hurst in 1:27 and Mike Woodruff (107) won by forfeit.

"Wheeler is very good," said Lowndes coach Newnan Sanchez. "But we are very proud of Randy's win."

Lowndes will host Valdosta Jan. 12.

Senior At VHS Scholarship Semifinalist

By Times Staff Writer

A Valdosta High School senior has been selected as a semifinalist in college scholarship competition.

Steve Gandy will compete in the Quattlebaum honor scholarship competition at Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C.

Finalists will be selected following an interview and dinner Jan. 21 at the college.

Two full four-year tutition scholarships will be awarded along with other scholarships to the finalists.

Gandy is the son of Miriam and Dr. William E. Gandy of Valdosta. V.T. Jan 6, 1984

VHS, LHS Compete

V DT "84 JAN 07

Students from Valdosta and Lowndes high schools will be among those competing at the region 1AAAA debate competition held today at 3 p.m. in the Valdosta State College School of Arts.

"Valdosta High has placed first in this same region competition for the last two years," said Frank Hjort, VHS debate team coach.

Contestants at this year's competition will debate whether the U.S. should establish uniform rules governing the procedures of all criminal courts in the nation, Hjort said.

Other high schools participating in the match include Dougherty, Tift and Central of Thomasville, he said.

First-place winner of the VSC contest will enter the statewide debate competition scheduled for Feb. 17 at West Georgia College in Carrollton, Hjort said.

Hot-Shooting Atkinson Co. Stuns Valdosta

VDT, Jan. 28, 84

From Staff Reports

PEARSON — "They decided they didn't want to miss too many. And they didn't," Valdosta High coach Mike O'Brien said of the Atkinson County team that upset the Wildcats 81-69 in a non-region basketball game here Friday night.

Atkinson, 9-6, opened the game by scoring eight unanswered points. After that the Rebels never looked back.

The Atco girls made a clean sweep of it by whipping the Lady 'Cats 72-50 in the night's first game.

The Rebels, who shot 32 of 59 for the game, hit on eight of 13 field goal attempts in the first quarter. Valdosta shot a miserable three of 16 from the field in the first period.

"They shot well from the outside," said O'Brien. "Every time we tried to change the momentum, they would keep hitting.

"We did not do a good job on the boards, especially on the offensive boards," he added.

Valdosta's two inside men, Wallace Campbell and Jerome Berrian did almost all of the scoring for the 'Cats. Campbell led all scorers with 28 points and Berrian had 26. The other four VHS players in the game had a total of 15 points.

Scott Gillis led Atco with 20 points. Hamilton Lock had 19 and Greg Freeman added 16.

"They (Atkinson) played extremely well and we didn't," O'Brien said. "We're not that good that we can win without playing our best ... we have to be at our best every night because everybody is gunning for us. If we don't play well, we'll lose."

In the girls game, Atkinson, 13-3, led just 15-13 at the end of the first quarter. They built a 10-point lead, 36-26, at the half and blew the game open in the third quarter by outscoring the Lady 'Cats 21-14.

The loss dropped the VHS girls to 4-12.

Elaine Kay led the Rebelettes with a game-high 17 points. Priscilla Bailey had 16 and Brenda Kay and Calissa Condry had 10 apiece.

Felicia Henderson led VHS with 14 points, Ronnie Melvin scored 12 and Connie Weatherspoon added 11.

Both teams return to action Tuesday. Valdosta hosts Central of Thomasville and Atkinson plays at Charlton County.

Girls

Valdosta	13	26	40	50
Atkinson Co.	15	36	57	72

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta — Henderson 14, L. Irvin 2, S. Weatherspoon 8, C. Weatherspoon 11, Elder 4, Melvin 12, W. Irvin 6.

Atkinson Co. — B. Kay 10, E. Kay 17, Washington 6, Bailey 16, Wilson 6, Condry 10, Roberts 2, Floyd 3, Johnson 2.

Boys

Valdosta	8	32	49	69
Atkinson Co.	16	38	57	81

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta — Daniels 4, Walker 4, Berrian 26, Folsom 5, Campbell 28, Parker 2.

Atkinson Co. — H. Lock 19, Freeman 16, Gillis 20, Wesley 8, J. Lock 8, Thomas 6, Bailey 4.

Sub-region Lead At Stake

VDT. Jan 9, 84

Lowndes-Valdosta Game Could Decide South Champ

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High and Lowndes could decide who will be the Region 1-AAAA South boys' basketball champion when they meet for the second time this season Tuesday night in the Lowndes gym.

The girls will play at 7 p.m. and the boys game will follow.

In other area games Tuesday night, Georgia Christian hosts Citizen's Christian in Dasher, Berrien County hosts Irwin County in Nashville, Cook hosts Lanier County in Adel and Atkinson County hosts Echols County.

Lowndes took the lead in the sub-region with an 81-60 win over Central of Thomasville in the Vikings' last regular season game before the Christmas holidays. The Vikings are 5-5 overall.

Valdosta's only loss in sub-region play came at home against Lowndes, 55-50. The Wildcats are 2-1 in the sub-region and 7-3 overall.

REGION 1-AAAA SOUTH SUB- REGION

Standings As Of Jan. 9

BOYS		GIRLS	
Lowndes	3-1	Lowndes	4-0
Valdosta	2-1	Colquitt Co.	3-1
Colquitt Co.	2-2	Thomasville	2-2
T'ville Central	1-2	Valdosta	0-3
Thomasville	1-3	T'ville Central	0-3

The winner of Tuesday night's game will move into sole possession of first place in the sub-region.

"This is an important game for us especially," says 'Cats coach Mike O'Brien. "If we win, it would give us a split against Lowndes. That could be important in case of a tie in the sub-region.

"If they beat us, that puts them in the driver's seat."

Lowndes coach Terry Wilkes agrees. Lowndes plays three of its last four sub-region games at home including the Valdosta game. But Wilkes says that won't mean much if the Vikings don't beat Valdosta.

"It's the biggest game we've played so far," says Wilkes. "Right now we're leading our sub-region ... Sometimes you can get help from the other people in the sub-region, but you don't like to count on it. We need to do what's necessary to beat them (Valdosta) ourselves and not have to hope somebody else will do it for us.

"We're sitting about as good as we can be right now in our sub-region. We can make or break ourselves ... We definitely will be the ones to control what happens to us."

Wilkes says another reason the Vikings need a sweep of the 'Cats is that would help Lowndes in the event of a tie between the two teams. The first tie-breaker is how the teams did against one another during the regular season. The second is a team's overall region record. Lowndes is 0-3 against teams from the North sub-region. Valdosta is 2-1.

Wilkes says for his team to win, the Vikings will have to duplicate the performance they turned in December's game.

"The first time we played, we probably had our most complete game of the year, our best game of the year," says Wilkes. "I consider Valdosta one of the top teams in the region."

Both coaches say Lowndes' outside shooting will probaby be the key to the game. "They're going to zone us and we're going to have to have pretty good outside shooting to open up the inside," says Wilkes. "We've got to start hitting from the outside to make them come out of the paint."

O'Brien says, "They have good outside shooters and they got a good inside game. It's a great combination for them. We have to stop both at the same time.

"We'd love to be able to run on them. But they know that's what we'd like to do, so that's what they'll try to stop us from doing."

Stopping the Valdosta break gets back to good shooting, says Wilkes. "That comes from our shooting. We have to take high percentage shots and shoot well.

"If we're putting the ball in the hole fairly consistently, they won't get too many breaks. We don't want to get into a run-and-gun game with them."

Sports Briefs

VDT Jan 29. 1984

Valdosta Matmen Win Twice; Lowndes Splits Pair

From Staff Reports

Valdosta High swept two matches and Lowndes split a pair in a double-dual wrestling match Saturday afternoon at the VHS Gym

Valdosta beat Camden County 56-21 and Cook High 49-23, while Lowndes lost to Cook 60-21 and beat Camden 44-37. The two wins pushed the Wildcats' season record to 9-1. Lowndes is 4-6.

"In both matches against Camden and Cook we were without both four-year seniors — Scott Richardson at 114 pounds and Jack Priest at 109 pounds," said Valdosta coach Jim Landrum. "They were both out sick. Camden also had some sickness. They had to forfeit three weight classes — 107, 178 and heavyweight."

Fortunately for Valdosta, a trio of underclassmen stepped in to fill the void.

"Ralph Guarino did a good job stepping in for Priest," Landrum said.

Guarino pinned Greg Smith in the 169-pound category in 3:03.

Three matches later, Jimmy Lewis set a new school record by pinning Jimmy Jones at 197 in 9 seconds. He eclipsed Frank Abney's old record of 16 seconds set earlier this year.

Other Valdosta winners in the Camden match were: Jason Bennet (100), Louis Gonis (107), Craig Klement (121), Mark Levy (128), Steve Kaiser (134), Clay Powell (147), Frank Abney (177), Leon Johnson (heavyweight).

In the Valdosta-Cook match 'Shannon Jones of Cook pinned Jason Bennet, Gonis of Valdosta decisioned Ricky Sumner, Kevin Sumner of Cook pinned John Marconi, Klement of Valdosta decisioned Jim Kendrick, Levy of Valdosta pinned Britt Manor, Kaiser of Valdosta decisioned Kevin Breedon, Jerry Purvis of Valdosta tied Keith Phillips, Bobby Tippins of Cook decisioned Powell, Yardley Payne of Cook pinned Tony Johnson, Guarino of Valdosta won by default, Abney of Valdosta pinned Barry Hammock, James Wakefield of Valdosta decisioned Joe Lee Pitts, Lewis of Valdosta pinned Bo Caldwell, Johnson of Valdosta pinned Mike Hughes.

In the Cook-Lowndes match Jones of Cook pinned Mike Woodruff (100), Sumner of Cook pinned Joel Weldon (107), Kendrick of Cook pinned Barry Broome (121), Manor of Cook pinned Jason Rakocy (128), Breedon of Cook pinned Johnny Huff (134), Dale Mallory of Lowndes pinned Tippins (147), Payne of Cook pinned Anthony Knight (157), Tim Fortney of Lowndes pinned Jackson (169), Pitts of Cook pinned Randy Gay (187), Jimmy Lolley of Lowndes decisioned Caldwell (197), and Hughes of Cook pinned Joe White (heavyweight).

In the Lowndes-Camden match, the following Vikings wrestlers won: Woodruff by pin, Mallory by forfeit, Mallory by pin, Fortney by pin, Braswell by forfeit, Lolley by pin and White by forfeit.

Academy.

The 66-57 loss drops the Valiants' record to 10-6. It was also the first loss the Valiants have suffered in 1984.

Greg Watson, who entered the game with a 35.4 points per game average, had 28 to pace the Valiants. Rob Anderson added 12.

In the first game of the night, the Lady Valiants fell to the CCA girls, 51-39.

T 84 VDT Jan 30, 84

VHS Debaters Win JAN 30

Valdosta High's debate team compiled a perfect 4-0 record in winning the Region 1-AAAA debate tournament Friday at Valdosta State College.

But the victory was no pushover, said Frank Hjort, VHS debate director.

"This was the toughest competition in our region in years," Hjort said.

Dougherty High finished second in the tournament, he said, followed by Central of Thomasville, Tift and Lowndes.

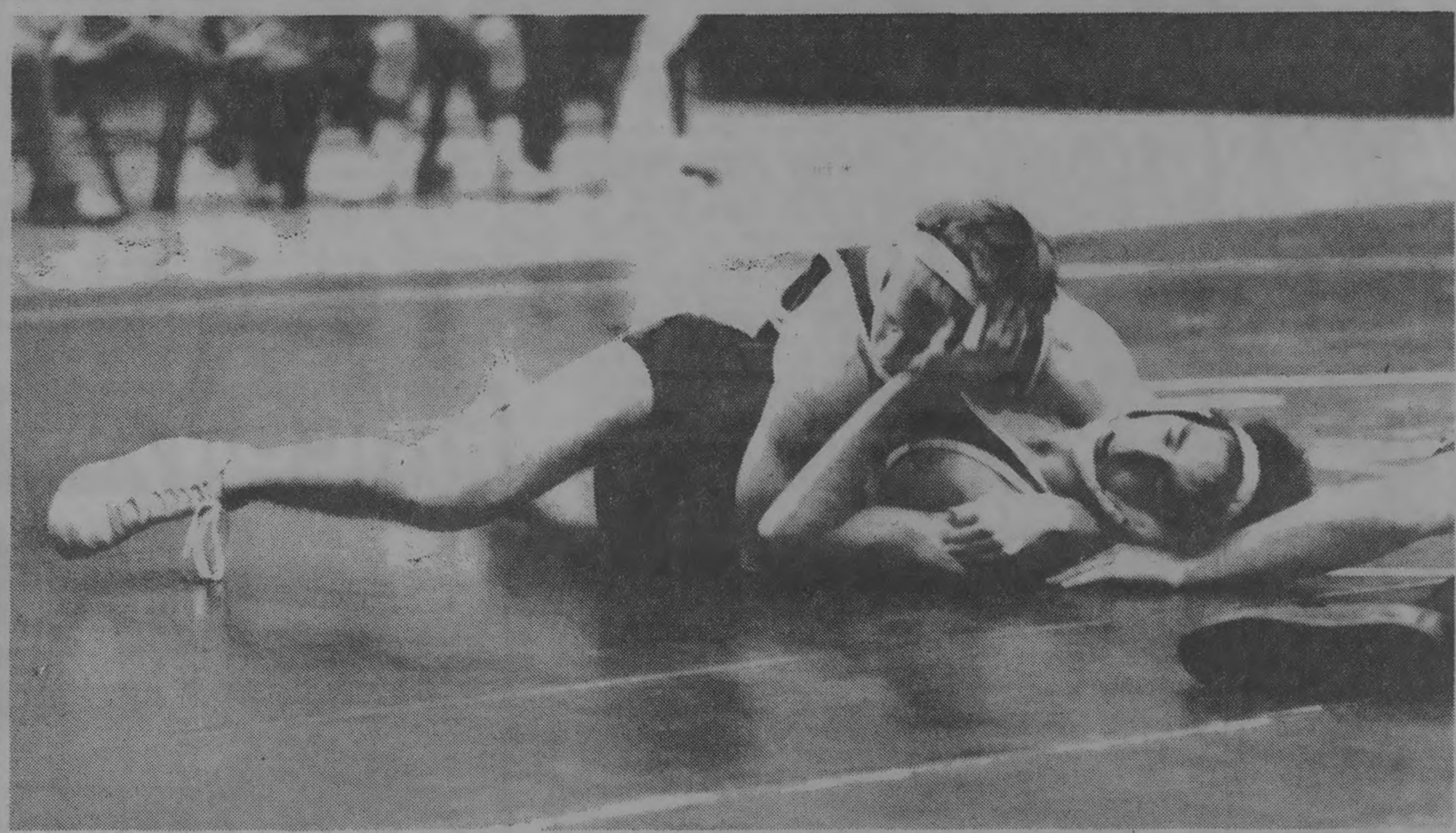
With the victory, Valdosta captured its third consecutive region championship, Hjort said. Over the last three years, he said the VHS debate teamed has been undefeated in region competion, with a 12-0 record.

"We are proud of our record in academic competition at VHS," Hjort said. "Many teachers believe debate experience is one of the best preparations for college."

The winning VHS team was represented by four students, who will represent the region at the state high school debate championship Feb. 17 at West Georgia College.

Michael Taormina and Michael Herrin, both seniors, formed the VHS affirmative team which defeated Tift High and Central of Thomasville. Taormina also won the second-place speaker award.

The VHS negative team of senior April Wagner and junior Michael Furukawa won their rounds against Lowndes High and Dougherty.



Times Staff Photo by Frank C. Williams

Valdosta's Scott Richardson (Top) Pins Joel Weldon of Lowndes In The 114-Pound Classification

'Cats Roll Over Lowndes

V.T. Jan 13, 1984

Valdosta Continues Its Domination Of Wrestling

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats continued their domination of Region 1-AAAA wrestling Thursday night with a 66-10 pounding of cross-county rival Lowndes at the Lowndes Gymnasium.

Since the sport of wrestling was introduced to the region in 1980, the Wildcats (4-1) have not lost a match against a region opponent. This is the second year Lowndes has had a wrestling program.

"I think that is a real credit to our program to have never lost to a region opponent," said Wildcat coach Jim Landrum. "It is something we should strive to keep going because the region matches are probably the most important ones we have."

Valdosta wrestled against region foe Tift County at 9:30 this morning. Results were not available at press time.

The Vikings (2-4) were forced to forfeit two matches due to illness. At the 107-pound weight, Valdosta's Louis Gonis was declared the winner. And Wildcat Leon Johnson (heavyweight) was also declared a winner without having to wrestle.

"Both of our guys were sick," said Viking coach Newnan Sanchez. "One of them had a motorcycle accident, and the other has tonsilitis."

The Vikings are not the only team suffering from illness. The Wildcats, who had four wrestlers miss Saturday's quad-meet with Wheeler, Jonesboro and Fitzgerald, had three wrestlers come back from the flu. However, two more grapplers were forced out of action by the flu.

All three returnees won their matches for the Wildcats. Jason Bennett (100-pound class) pinned Mike Woodruff in 1:27. Scott Richardson (114) pinned Joel Weldon at the 2:57 mark and Steve Kaiser took 3:28 to pin Johnny Huff.

Valdosta had four additional wrestlers to win by pinning their opponent. Craig Klement (121) had the fastest pin of the match, taking 1:26 to pin Chuck Camp. Mark Levy (128) pinned Jason Rokocy in 3:04 and James Wakefield (187) took 1:30 to pin Randy Gay.

Clay Powell (147) was one of the two wrestlers who replaced an ill Wildcat. He needed 2:54 to pin Joey Grundy.

Jerry Purvis (140) was also a substitute. However, he did not fare as well as Powell, losing to Lowndes' Jason Griner in 2:35.

Griner replaced Dale Mallory, who is in the hospital with tonsilitis.

Defending region champion Willie Knight was the other winner for the Vikings. Knight outpointed Tony Johnson, 14-6.

Valdosta also had three grapplers to win by decision. Jack Priest (169) defeated Tim Fortney, 7-4. Frank Abney (177) outpointed Troy Braswell, 14-3, and Jimmy Lewis (197) won a 16-4 decision over Jimmy Lolley.

Lolley injured his knee at the end of his match with Lewis. The extent of his injury is not yet known.

Fortney was ruled eligible by the Georgia High School Association Hardship Committee Wednesday. Fortney transferred from Warner Robins in October. He lost in the first round of the state tournament last year.

"Our kids wrestled well," said Landrum. "We are beginning to get away from the sloppiness we exhibited earlier in the season."

In the junior varsity match held prior to the varsity match, Valdosta ran its record to 5-0 with a 63-12 win over Lowndes.

Winners by pin for Valdosta included Harrison Coleman (100), Geoff Hebner (114), Art Bass (121), Sam Klement (140), Keith McClary (147), Carl Johnson (177), Simmon Lee (187) and Marty Howell (heavyweight).

Anthony Knight (157) and Larry Taylor (169) were winners by pin for Lowndes.

Winners by decision for Valdosta were Andrew Kaiser (128) and Ira Wenze (134).

The junior varsity will compete in the Cook Tournament Saturday.

Also on Saturday the Valdosta varsity will wrestle Coffee at 1 p.m. at Lowndes. The Vikings will grapple with Coffee at 3.

Area Prep Basketball

'Cats, Vikes Face Important Sub-region Games; Lanier On Rebound

VDT. Jan 16, 84

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High faces what Coach Mike O'Brien says will be the most important week of the season so far for his Wildcats.

"This is going to be a full week for us," O'Brien said. "We've got four games (counting last Saturday's win over Brooks County) in a week. Two of them are sub-region games and both are on the road."

The 'Cats, 9-3 overall and 3-1 in Region 1-AAAA South play, lead the sub-region. Lowndes and Colquitt County are tied for second place with 3-2 records.

Valdosta plays Colquitt in Moultrie on Tuesday. The 'Cats play a second sub-region game against Central in Thomasville on Friday. VHS hosts Atkinson County on Saturday.

Lowndes hosts South sub-region foe Thomasville on Tuesday and visits non-region foe Echols County in Statenville on Friday.

In other games on Tuesday: Lanier County hosts Berrien County in Lakeland, Brooks County hosts Region 1-AA East rival Macon County in Quitman, Valwood hosts Irwin Academy, Clinch County is at Region 2-A foe Long County, Georgia Christian plays at Deerfield-Windsor in Albany, Cook plays at Echols, Lowndes Christian hosts Open Bible and Atkinson County hosts Charlton County in Pearson.

Valdosta whipped Colquitt in the two teams' earlier meeting but O'Brien doesn't expect things to be as easy in Moultrie.

"We jumped on them before anybody knew anything about us," O'Brien said. "They'll be waiting for us.

"Colquitt has a good team. Everybody's so close right now that they all have a shot at the sub-region championship."

The two Thomasville teams are bringing up the rear in the sub-region. Central is 1-2 and Thomasville is 1-4.

O'Brien says his big worry right now is the flu.

"Victor Walker came to school this morning with the flu," O'Brien said. "I haven't seen the rest of them yet. After a weekend with this kind of weather, I'm scared half of them are going to come up sick.

The Lanier County Bulldogs have made a big comeback since the Christmas break. Lanier, which made it as far as the final four of the Class A state tournament last year, lost its first game after the Christmas break but since has beaten three teams, all in higher classifications. Lanier beat Valdosta at home 44-43, beat Cook 49-45 on the road and buried Irwin County 49-37 last Friday.

Lanier coach Jerry Ridley says his team is "just making a lot less mistakes. We were averaging over 22 turnovers a game in our first four or five games. Now we're averaging about 12."

The Bulldogs haven't started thinking about regaining their Region 2-A title yet.

"We're taking them one game at a time," Ridley said. "We're happy to pull back even at 6-6. We hope by the end of the season we'll be in a position where we do have a chance to compete for the region title."

Ridley says he has a team without any stars.

"It really has been a team effort. All the guys, even the ones who don't play much have been working hard in practice. We've been getting a lot more accomplished in practice than we did at the first of the year.

"I think that's what you can point to. We don't have any stars."

As for Berrien, Ridley says, "I can't believe their record is 7-8 ... they've got a real good ballclub. The games they lost must have been to real good teams."

The Rebels whipped Lanier 45-25 in a game earlier this season in Nashville. "We're hoping we will be able to give them a little more competition than we did last time," Ridley said.

Daniels' Heroics Keep Wildcats On Top Of Sub-region

V. Times 1-18-84

From Staff Reports

MOULTRIE — The Valdosta Wildcats won their second overtime game in a row Tuesday night. And Moses Daniels once again played a key role in the win.

The 53-51 victory over the Colquitt County Packers keeps the Wildcats atop the Region 1-AAAA South sub-region standings with a 4-1 sub-region mark. Valdosta is 10-3 overall.

Lowndes, which defeated Thomasville Tuesday night, is ½-game back at 4-2. Colquitt County is third at 3-3.

In the opener, the Packerettes defeated the Lady 'Cats, 74-53.

Daniels, who hit a jumper to put Saturday night's game with Brooks County into overtime, waited until overtime to pull his heroics on the Packers. Daniels hit an 18-foot jumper at the buzzer to give the Wildcats the two-point win.

"It was a tremendous win for us," said Wildcat coach Mike O'Brien. "It does a lot for our confidence to win in overtime two times in a row.

"We held the ball for the last shot. We tried to get the ball inside. Daniels was not the primary shooter in that situation. But he squared up with the basket and put the ball in the basket."

Valdosta's Wallace Campbell, who led all scorers with 25 points, forced the overtime on a baseline jumper with two seconds left in regulation.

After leading 23-22 at halftime, the Wildcats were outscored 14-7 in the third quarter and trailed 36-30.

The Packers scored the first four points of the fourth quarter to take a 40-30 lead with 5:02 remaining in regulation.

Down by 10, the Wildcats went to a full-court press.

"Colquitt County played a very smart game," said O'Brien. "They felt like they couldn't run with us, so they slowed the tempo. They were patient on offense, looking to get a high-percentage shot.

"We went into the press to force them into playing a little quicker game. It worked."

Jerome Berrian had 16 for the Wildcats.

Colquitt County was paced by Erdis Harrison with 18.

The Lady 'Cats remain in the sub-region cellar with an 0-5 mark. Overall, VHS is 3-9. Meanwhile, the Packerettes, who are 5-1, are one-game behind Lowndes, which is 6-0 after a win over Thomasville Tuesday night.

Ronnie Melvin led the Lady 'Cats with 19 points. Lisa Irvin added 10.

The Valdosta teams will travel to Thomasville to battle sub-region foe Central Friday night.

Girls

Valdosta	10	25	39	53
Colquitt County	14	35	51	74

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta — Melvin 19, L. Irvin 10, C. Weatherspoon 8, S. Weatherspoon 2, Elder 5, Henderson 8, Motes 1

Colquitt County — Stewart 22, Johnson 13, Christopher 13, G. Richardson 9, A. Richardson 8, Logan 6, Cey 3

Boys

Valdosta	10	23	30	45	53
Colquitt County	8	22	36	45	51

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta — Campbell 25, Berrian 16, Daniels 7, Walker 2, Folsom 3

Colquitt County — Blakely 6, W. Anderson 7, Harrison 18, Hawk 8, McBuzz 10, G. Anderson 2

74

... The entire match is riding on the outcome of the battle between the two heavyweights. The crowd is screaming and time is starting to run out as the visiting team's wrestler gains the advantage and forces his opponent down to the mat. The referee is checking to see if the shoulders of the man on the bottom are touching the mat. But suddenly ...

Wait a minute. Are you sure this is wrestling?

Where are the masked men, the mad Mongolians, the "death threat" commercials and the Arabs who make fire shoot out of their hands?

The "professional wrestling" on television and the wrestling at Valdosta High and Lowndes have about as much in common as *Star Wars* and the space shuttle.

Wrestling is one of man's oldest sports. The rules are fairly simple and the most expensive piece of equipment is the mat. The amateurs don't need any ropes around the ring.

In the lower classifications, speed is at a premium. But from 150 pounds on up, the matches are, more than anything, tests of sheer strength.

Valdosta's wrestling program is in its seventh year. The Lowndes team, which is coached by Newnan Sanchez, is just in its second season of competition.

VHS coach Jim Landrum says wrestling in south Georgia has come a long way since 1978.

"When we started out it was just us, Tift County, Fitzgerald and Camden County," Landrum said. Now, Cook High in Adel and every school in Region 1-AAAA has a wrestling team except Thomasville and Central of Thomasville. The region tournament will be held at VHS Feb. 10-11.

"When we started out, we weren't sure what to charge (for wrestling tickets) because we didn't know if anybody would pay to see it," Landrum said. "We'd usually have about 10 people show up."

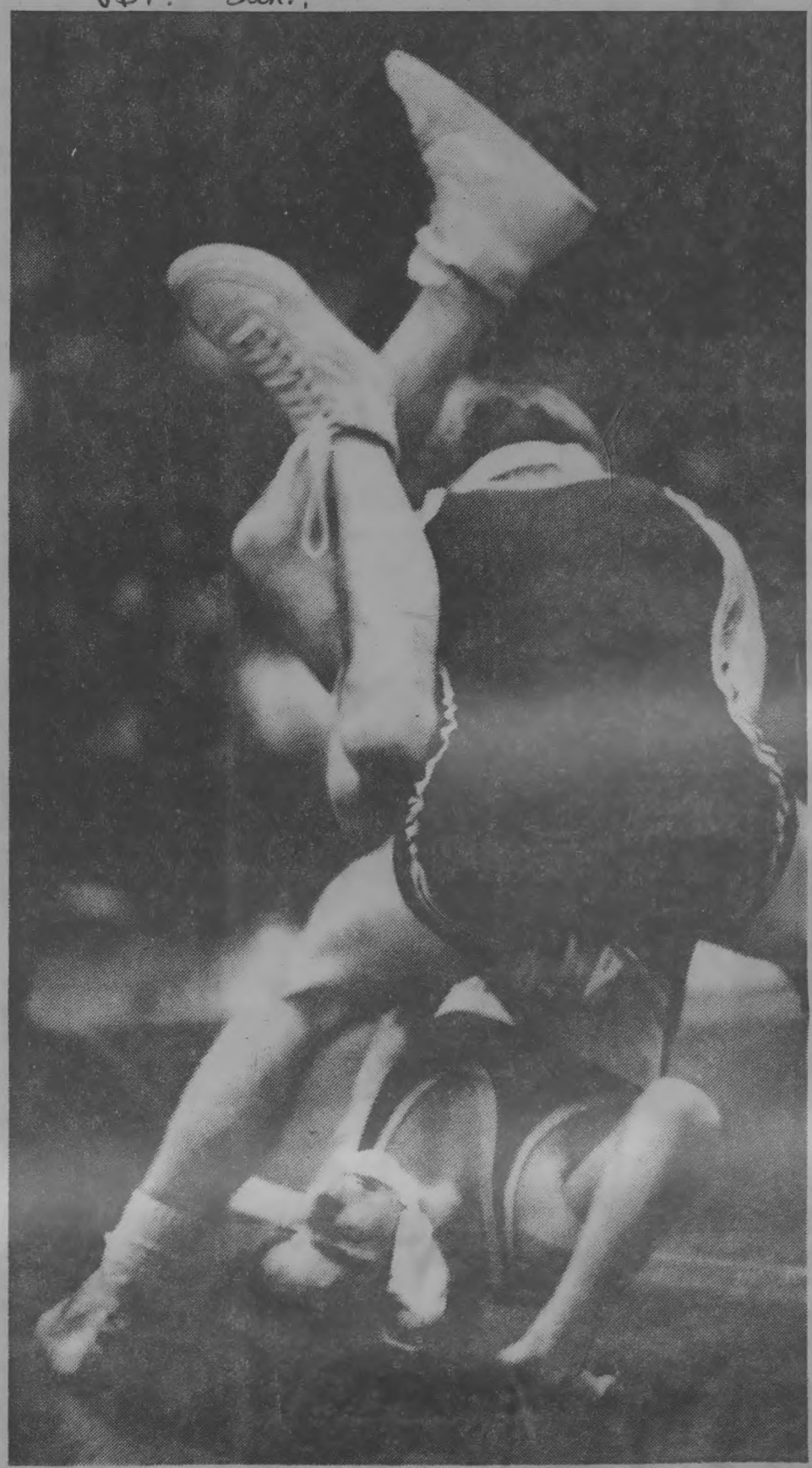
Now wrestling almost challenges basketball in popularity.

Landrum adds, "I think if you can get people to come to one match, they'll keep coming back."

Even if there are no mad Mongolians.

Story by Charles Corder Photos by Joey Ivansco

VDT. Sun., Jan. 22, 1984



Wrestling Scenes: Valdosta's Jason Bennett Works To Pin Lowndes', Mike Woodruff;

'84 Awards Ceremony

Marchin' Cats Honor Own

By RICHARD SELLERS
Times Staff Writer

A Valdosta High School senior received two top honors at the 1984 "Marchin' Cats" Band Senior Banquet and Annual Awards Ceremony held Tuesday night at the high school.

Brian Buzzeo, who received the John Philip Sousa Award and the Bandsman of the Year Award, was one of more than 70 graduating seniors honored by the VHS Band Boosters.

Other seniors getting top awards at the ceremonies were the Tex Mullis Loyalty Award going to Richard Irby and the Lucy Stewart Memorial Award to Terry Pulliam.

Also receiving awards were the following students:

— **Louis Armstrong Jazz Award** — Kenny Williams.

— **"Spirit of the Marching Cats" Award** — Stacy Broomberg.

— **"Catch a Rising Star" Award** — Stacy Broomberg

— **Senior of the Year** — Sanford Campbell.

— **Rookie of the Year** (any grade) — Robbie Hastings.

— **Section of the Year** — Trumphet Section.

Students receiving **Distinguished Service Awards** were: Kathleen Morgan, Richard Irby, Regina Cody, Debbie Willis, Carol McDonald, Donna Stewart, Pam Jacobsen and Carol Williams.

Students receiving **Directors' Awards** were: Scott Dailey, Teresa Wakefield, Greg Tomberlin, Frederica Council and Bret Busch.

Most Improved Bandsman Awards went to: Trellany Tonsil, Joey Scheubert, Danita Rosser, Doug Marshall, Steve Pruitt, Marti Gray and Steve Bristo.

In addition, Outgoing VHS Band Booster President Jim Stephan introduced the 1984-85 President-Elect, Tom Bailey.

Band Director Joe David, who is leaving VHS, was also recongized for his three years of service.

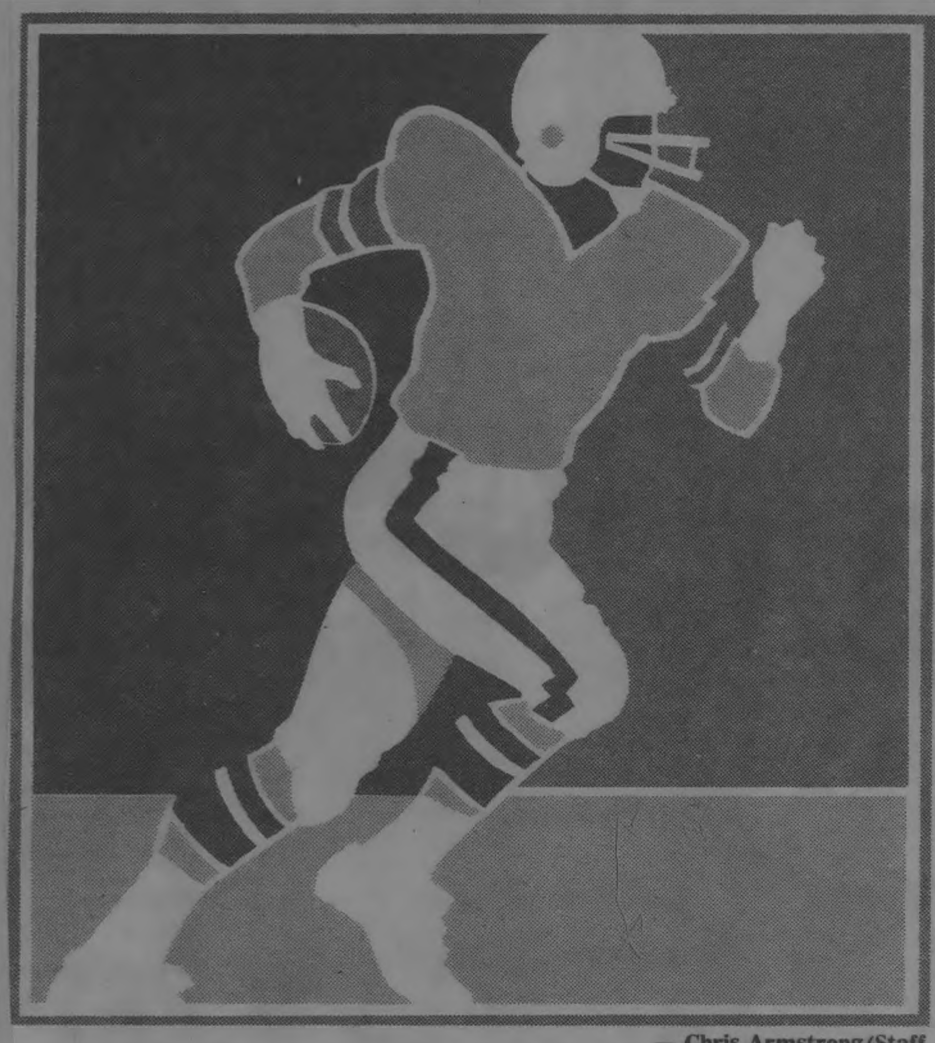
This year's John Philip Sousa Award was sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn Irby.

RICHARD IRBY
Tex Mullis Loyalty

TERRI PULLIAM
Lucy Stewart Memorial

BRIAN BUZZEO
Two Top Awards

The Georgia 11: Super



— Chris Armstrong/Staff

The best of the best

NAME	SCHOOL	HT.	WT.	YR.	POS.
John Porter	Valdosta	6-1	190	Jr	LB
Leon Johnson	Valdosta	6-1	230	Sr	DL
Eddie Gozier	Lowndes	6-1	185	Sr	DL
James Medlock	Waycross	6-3	215	Sr	RB
Brian Massingill	Tift County	6-1	205	Sr	QB
Terry Revels	Tift County	5-11	210	Sr	RB
Jimmy McBride	Pierce County	6-0	190	Sr	RB
Ricardo Ingram	Coffee County	6-1	185	Sr	DB
Barry Johnson	Camden County	5-10	170	Sr	RB
Duke Donaldson	Cairo	6-1	190	Sr	QB
Greg Folsom	Cook County	6-1	180	Sr	TE

The best of the rest

Other leading all-star candidates in the Times-Union/Journal's South Georgia circulation area:

Quarterbacks

Randy Gay, Lowndes, 6-3, 190, Jr.
Joey Hester, Cairo, 6-1, 185, Jr.
Bobby Walden, Bainbridge, 6-1, 185, Sr.
Ted West, Valdosta, 5-10, 175, Sr.
Bobby Wilkes, Glynn Academy, 6-1, 180, Sr.

Running Backs

Tony Anderson, Valdosta, 6-1, 210, Soph.
Dana Brinson, Valdosta, 5-9, 160, Sr.
Marvin Pittman, Thomasville, 5-9, 190, Jr.
Jimmy Scott, Camden County, 6-1, 175, Sr.
Lorenzo Thomas, Lowndes, 5-10, 230, Sr.
Gene Wesley, Atkinson County, 6-0, 185, Sr.

Receivers

Phillip Bryant, Bainbridge, 5-10, 170, Sr.
Gerald Mitchell, Lowndes, 6-0, 174, Sr.
Cassius Osborn, Statesboro, 6-1, 170, Sr.

Offensive Linemen

Monty Davis, Valdosta, 5-11, 215, Sr.
Tony Johns, Ware County, 6-3, 200, Jr.
Tony Smith, Waycross, 6-2, 200, Sr.
Calvin Thompson, Mitchell-Baker, 6-4, 218, Sr.

Defensive Linemen

Joel Giddens, Lowndes, 6-4, 240, Sr.
David Harper, Bainbridge, 5-9½, 180, Sr.
Leroy Mincey, Statesboro, 6-1, 200, Jr.
Pat Weils, Brunswick, 6-2, 220, Sr.

Linebackers

Edwin Calhoun, Central Thomasville, 5-11, 185, Sr.
Harold Hutchinson, Camden County, 6-1, 185, Sr.

Defensive Backs

Gerald Bell, Thomasville, 6-2, 180, Sr.
Danny Copeland, Central Thomasville, 6-2, 185, Sr.
Jeff Mangram, Brunswick, 6-0, 180, Sr.

By Daryl Bell
Sports Writer

Obviously, when it comes to picking the top football players in South Georgia, there are bound to be players worthy of recognition omitted from the list.

This year's Florida Times-Union/Jacksonville Journal South Georgia Super 11 — an all-star team comprised of those considered the 11 best players, regardless of position and class — is no exception.

Nevertheless, few can argue with this year's selections.

In the past, South Georgia has been regarded as one of the hotbeds of college football recruiting and that tradition should remain intact this year. No doubt when national letter of intent day roles around on Feb. 8, there will be several athletes from South Georgia landing scholarships to major colleges.

Porter

Johnson

Donaldson

Folsom

The members of the 1983 South Georgia Super 11 could help any collegiate program. And all of the players, with the exception of Valdosta's John Porter who is entering only his junior season, should be doing just that next fall.

Of all the major college prospects in the area, Coffee County's Richardo Ingram is without a doubt the best. An all-star baseball player who also plays basketball, Ingram is one of the reasons why Coffee County will once again be vying for the Class AAAA crown. If he can remain healthy, the 6-foot-1, 185-pounder will be the hottest major college prospect in the area. Last season, Ingram showed versatilty by playing cornerback and running back for a Coffee County team that lost only one game. There's not a coach in the area who doesn't wish Ingram was in his starting lineup.

Valdosta, as usual, will be popular with college recruiters. Last season, Valdosta won its 17th state championship when it locked up the Class AAAA crown. From that team, the Wildcats posted three members to the Super 11 team. This year, the perennial state powerhouse places two members on the team.

Porter (6-foot-1, 190 pounds) is right out of the Valdosta mold of disciplined ball players. He may have been overlooked in the pre-season scouting reports last year but that won't be the case this season. He is a tenacious, hard-hitting linebacker whose great speed gives Valdosta coach Nick Hyder the luxury of virtually having an extra defensive back on pass plays. Against the rush, Porter has the ability to roll off tackles to stop a ballcarrier in mid-stride. He knows the game and very rarely hurts the team when gambling for a turnover.

Hyder calls Leon Johnson a bull and for good reason. When injuries hampered Times-Union Super 11 and Super 24 (our postseason all-star team comprised of the best talent in both Florida and Georgia) performers Kennedy Cooper and Ricky Daniels, Johnson proved to be invaluable. The 6-foot-1, 230-pound middle guard was impressive as Valdosta marched to the state title and will be counted on heavily this season as the Wildcats look to repeat. *Street and Smith* magazine has picked Johnson, a 3-year starter, as one of the top seniors to watch this upcoming season.

While Valdosta is boasting

(See GOZIER, Page 11)

VHS Principal Ready To Retire After 13 Years

By TOM MATHER
Times Staff Writer

Lloyd Mims, principal of Valdosta High for the past 13 years, delivered a reluctantly received message to the Valdosta City Board of Education Monday night.

"I am submitting my resignation for retirement at the end of this school year," Mims told the board at its regular meeting.

After thanking board members for their support, Mims advised them to always maintain an emphasis on two things: discipline and academics.

"Never let the discipline at that school go down, or the academic side," Mims said. "Those kids that won't behave at Valdosta High, let them go home."

Speaking for the board, Chairman Joe B. Crane told Mims they were reluctant to see him retire.

"On behalf of the board, I can tell you there aren't sufficient words to thank you for all you've done," Crane said. "You've helped make our town and community a better place to live."

After the meeting, Mims said he was resigning so he could enjoy retirement while his health was still good.

"I've gotten in my 30 years," he said, "and I want to do something else."

Mims mentioned travel as one of the plans for himself and his wife, Pauline, who works as a bookkeeper at Valdosta Junior High. The Mims might also move back to their original home in Chilton County, Ala., he said.

"Right now...we may go back to Alabama," he said. "That hasn't been clearly decided right now."

No matter where he ends up, Mims said he will have fond memories of his days in Valdosta.

"It's been the most rewarding experience of my life," he said. "The students and faculty and parents have been very supportive...I don't know of any other place I would've enjoyed as much as I have Valdosta."

Before becoming principal of Valdosta High in 1971, Mims was principal at Valdosta Junior High for two years. Prior to that, Mims was principal of Clinch County High in Homerville for seven years.

Mim's retirement will be effective June 30, said Ralph Brandon, superintendent of Valdosta city schools. Even though his retirement was expected — Mims will be hard to replace, Brandon said.

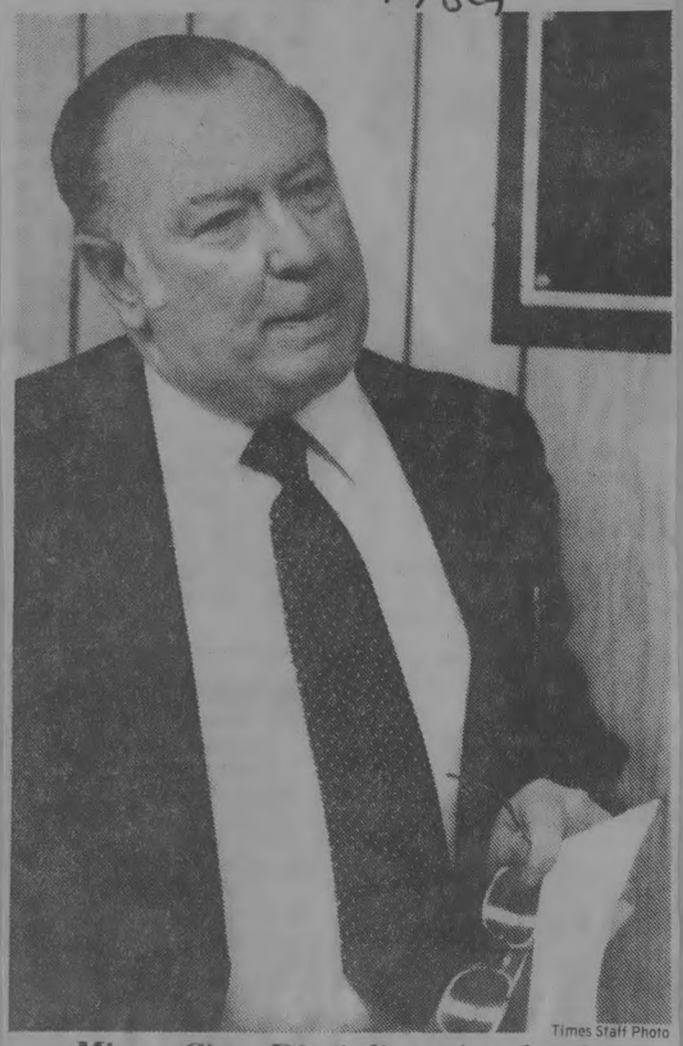
"He's going to be missed," Brandon said. "He's been a very, very vital part of the Valdosta school system for some 15 years. And he's recognized as one of the top high school administrators in the entire state."

The selection process for a new principal has already started, Brandon said.

"We don't have a timetable of when we expect to have a new principal," he said, "but it will be some time this spring."

Brandon and Assistant Superintendent Walter Altman will interview prospects, Brandon said, and then make recommendations to the board of education — who will vote for the final choice.

VDT Jan 24, 1984



Times Staff Photo

Mims: Cites Discipline, Academics

VDT Jan 20, 84

Valdosta Looks To Keep Sub-region Lead

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

When the Valdosta Wildcats travel to Thomasville tonight to take on the Central Yellow Jackets in a Region 1-AAAA South sub-region game, they will have more than just the Jacket fans pulling against them.

The Lowndes Vikings and the Colquitt County Packers both have a vested interest in the outcome of tonight's battle on the Central campus.

The Lady 'Cats will play the Lady Jackets at 7 p.m. with the Wildcat-Jacket matchup to follow.

In other high school basketball action tonight, Lowndes will meet Echols County in Statenville, Georgia Christian will play Worth Academy in Sylvester, Appling County will meet Berrien County in Nashville, Valwood will play Frederica in St. Simons, Macon County will play Brooks County in Quitman, Lanier County will meet Clinch County in Homerville, Cook will play at Waycross and Broxton will meet Atkinson County in Pearson.

The Wildcats lead the sub-region with a 4-1 record with Lowndes (4-2) a half-game back, Colquitt (3-3) one-and-a-half back and Central (1-2) two games back. Thomasville (1-5) has already been eliminated.

A win by Valdosta tonight would eliminate Colquitt County and virtually eliminate the Jackets.

The team atop the sub-region standings at the end of the year gets a bye into the finals of the sub-region tournament and an automatic berth in the region tourney.

The importance of tonight's game has not been lost on Valdosta coach Mike O'Brien.

"Until we clinch the regular-season title, every sub-region game from now on will be the most important game we have played this season," O'Brien said.

Tonight's game might be the most important the Wildcats have played this season, but they may be without Victor Walker, Derrick Folsom and Jerome Berrian, all starters.

"The flu has really hit this school hard," O'Brien said. "And we are now feeling the effects on the basketball team. I don't know if any of those will be able to play tonight. They have all been sick this week."

This will be the first meeting this season between Central and Valdosta, so O'Brien knows litte about the Jackets.

"They have most of their starters back from last year," he said, "so I thought they would win the sub-region this year."

Viking coach Terry Wilkes says Echols County is "a dangerous opponent."

"They have yet to win a game this year," Wilkes said. "That means they are a little hungrier than some teams because they are still looking for that first win."

The Vikings (8-6 overall) will enter the game with a three-game winning streak. The streak follows a three-game losing slump.

Wilkes is at a loss to explain the turnaround.

"I don't what we are doing any differently than we did while we were losing," he said. "If I did, we wouldn't have to worry about losing anymore.

"Even though we have won three in a row, there is no reason for us to be cocky. If we do, we can easily get beaten tonight.

"They are very tough at their place. They beat us in double overtime down there last year."

Wilkes experimented with his offense in Tuesday night's win over Thomasville. He put Chris Carter on the weak side and Alan Taylor on the strong side, so the Bulldogs could not cover both men while in a zone defense.

"Chris got three or four easy baskets on the weak side," Wilkes said. "For the night, he was nine of 10 from the field. Teams had been able to take both Carter and Taylor out of our offense with a zone defense, so we had to change something."

Prior to the Viking-Wildcat matchup, the Vikettes and the Kittens will tipoff at 7.

The Vikettes will bring a 15-game winning streak into the game.

The Berrien County Rebelettes will be trying to stay within striking distance of the Region 1-AAA East sub-region leading Cook Wasps when they host Appling County.

The Rebelettes, 10-5 overall and 5-1 in sub-region play, are a half-game behind the Wasps, who are 11-2 and 5-0.

Berrien County will host the Wasps Tuesday night.

A limited slate of action is on tap for Saturday night. Valdosta will host Atkinson County and Georgia Christian hosts Brookwood of Thomasville.

150 Young Gymnasts Flip And Flop

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Jan. 29, 1984—7-B—

At Facility Here

By CAS SHEARIN
Times Staff Writer

Olympic gold medal winners Olga Korbut and Nadia Comaneci probably have never heard of Valdosta, but according to Jerry Don Baker, they are indirectly responsible for the formation of Gymnastics Enterprises here.

Baker and Bill Aldrich are the owners of the business here, which was formed in 1979. But the business didn't just suddenly come to mind one day.

Baker said he was watching the gymnastics events in the Olympic games of 1976 when he realized "there was nothing like that in Valdosta. I said there's football and soccer, but nothing for the girls. The girls need something like that."

He had been student teaching gymnastics under then-Valdosta High School Coach Aldrich and decided to try some classes of his own.

With the help of the Valdosta Parks and Recreation Department, Baker began some gymnastics classes in the Valwood School gymnasium on Saturday mornings. "The first class had about 20 girls one day a week. By the third month, I had about 60 kids and I needed some help," Baker said.

Soon after that, classes were being held at the old Red Barn on Oak Street Extension four days a week, and Baker and Aldrich decided to go into business together, Baker said.

"I had no idea it would grow as it has. The reason why is the Olympic games in '76. It started it then. Every little girl was flipping and flopping around the house, wanting to be Nadia and Olga," he said.

What started into 20 girls once a week has turned into about 150 gymnastics students, both boys and girls, four days a week, in their own gym, located on Connell Road.

Not only that, the organization has put together four competitive teams which compete at least once a year on a state level and have brought home 28 trophies in the past four years, said Gary Mims, manager of the gym.

Winning on a state level is quite an accomplishment, according to both Baker and Mims, because these teams are competing against teams from areas as big as the Atlanta area.

That may not seem like much, but those teams are chosen from pools of hundreds of gymnastic students, whereas the Valdosta teams are chosen from just those Baker, Aldrich and Mims coach in their gym.

When Baker began teaching gymnastics classes, he said his was the only gymnastics club within a 100 miles from here. Later clubs were started in Nashville, Ga., Moultrie and Thomasville.

But not every student at Gymnastics Enterprises is on one of the competitive teams. In order to compete, a student has to be at least nine years old, Baker said. Some of the students at his gym are as young as three years old.

The coaches at the gym are certified by the U.S. Gymnastics Federation, and as such, are required to attend clinics and take tests every year. "We're certified just like a diving instructor," Baker said.

Watching young ones flipping, twisting, jumping, and flying through the air is something to which one must get accustomed, he said. "When I first started doing this, I was real scared. But when you've been doing this for 10 years you get used to it," he said.

"You have to know everything they do and anticipate...just like right then," Baker said, as he was "spotting" a preschooler on the uneven bars. Spotting refers to keeping a watchful eye and close hand to the student who is performing.

But even though the interest in gymnastics is building, "Georgia is still so far behind compared to other states, simply because we didn't have any schools, we just played football. And really, people just didn't know much about it," Baker said.

Aldrich agreed that until the 1972 and 1976 Olympics, just about nobody knew anything about the sport. "There was a lot more coverage of it then. It just didn't exist in the media before then," he explained.

Times Staff Photo by Frank C. Williams

Baker Helps Young Gymnast Through Motions

76

SPORTS

The Valdosta Daily Times

Valdosta Clinches Sub-region Title

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

The Big One was wild. And it was wooly.

But it wasn't close.

Valdosta High won the No. 1 seed in the upcoming Region 1-AAAA South sub-region tournament by trouncing Central of Thomasville 73-44 before a crowd of about 300 in the VHS Gym Tuesday night.

The sub-region tournament will be held at Central Feb. 16-18. The North sub-region tournament will be held at Westover of Albany at the same time.

The win also ensured the 'Cats, 13-5 overall and 6-2 in sub-region play, of a berth in the region tournament which will be held at Lowndes Feb. 24-25. Central fell to 7-8 and 3-3.

"Except for a short period of time in the third quarter, it was a perfect ballgame for us," said Valdosta coach Mike O'Brien.

The Valdosta girls completed their sub-region schedule without a win after losing to Central 60-40.

"Perfect" was a good way to describe Valdosta's effort. Whenever Central presented a problem, the 'Cats always seemed to have the solution.

Valdosta assigned Moses Daniels to Central's top scorer, Roger Henderson, in a box--and-one defense. Henderson had 20 points in Central's win over Valdosta when the two met earlier this month in Thomasivlle. Henderson scored eight points Tuesday night. And despite Central's height advantage, the 'Cats outrebounded the Yellow Jackets 34-15.

At the other end, Central tried to pack the middle but some absolutely deadly outside shooting by Jerome Berrian put an end to that. And when Central went out to get Berrian, that left Wallace Campbell wide open in the middle.

Berrian finished with a game-high 23 points and 14 rebounds. Campbell had 16 points and 10 boards. And Derrick Folsom added 11 points and five rebounds.

Valdosta never trailed in the game. It was tied once at 2-2 with 6:32 left in the first quarter. After that the game was all Valdosta's.

The 'Cats raced out to an 11-2 lead and were ahead 17-8 at the end of the first quarter. Valdosta pulled ahead 21-11 on a basket by Berrian with 6:10 left in the first half. Central would only come within ten points once after that.

Central coach Charlie Ward benched his starters after Valdosta pulled ahead 27-13 with 4:45 left in the first half.

O'Brien didn't exactly see that as a signal that Central had surrendered.

"I felt like what they were trying to do was help their first bunch get their composure back," O'Brien said, "and also to get us tired by making us run up and down the court. That's why we called those two timeouts.

"... They knew like we did it would be decided in the second half."

Region 1-AAAA South Boys Standings

Valdosta	6-2
Lowndes	5-3
Central	3-3
Colquitt Co.	3-4
Thomasville	1-6

Tuesday's Results

Valdosta 73, Central 44	Lowndes 64, Colquitt 39	Thomasville 47, Bainbridge 36

Valdosta led 32-16 at the half but O'Brien said "that third quarter was the longest I've ever been through. I thought it would never be over."

The fact that the time was kept on a digital watch didn't make it any shorter. Scorekeeper Bob Bolton had to use the watch after the scoreboard clock malfunctioned the final minutes of the girls game.

After falling behind 44-24 with 2:03 left in the third quarter, Central (whose starters had returned) switched to a full-court press on defense. The Yellow Jackets forced several VHS turnovers and outscored the 'Cats 14-4 over a three-minute stretch to pull within 10, 48-38.

The 'Cats regained their composure and went on a tear of their own, outscoring Central 14-0 over the next three minutes. Berrian capped the streak with a dunk with 3:25 left. By that time, the Valdosta fans were chanting, "All the way to state."

"The kids knew the pressure they were under to win," O'Brien said. "People had been talking about this game at school all day. They handled the pressure well and showed their pride and poise."

In the girls game, Valdosta led twice in the opening minutes but turnovers cost them six points in the first quarter alone. Central pulled ahead 10-7 at the close of the first period and led 32-17 at the intermission.

Connie Weatherspoon led Valdosta with 14 points and Ronnie Melvin had 12.

Central's Machells Petrey led all scorers with 18 points. Vivian Linton added 17.

Girls

Central	10	32	46	60
Valdosta	7	17	30	40

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Central — Wade 8, Linton 17, Petrey 18, Flounoy 9.

Valdosta — Melvin 12, Henderson 2, C. Weatherspoon 14, S. Weatherspoon 4, Elder 4, W. Irvin 2, Bass 2.

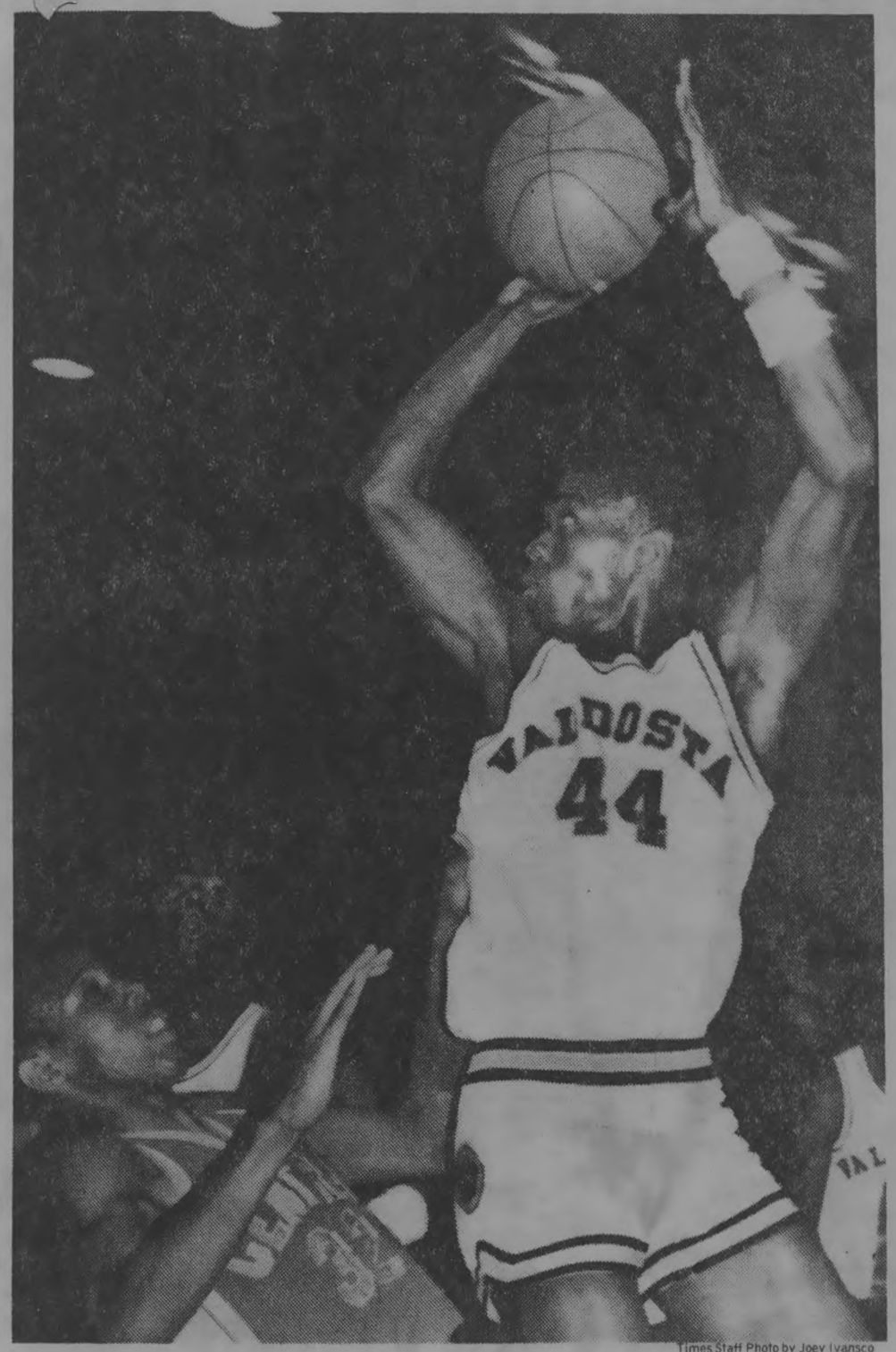
Boys

Central	8	16	32	44
Valdosta	17	34	46	73

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Central — Holton 13, Henderson 8, Payne 2, West 10, Hill 2, Farmer 6, Mitchell 2, Copeland 1.

Valdosta — Daniels 8, Walker 8, Berrian 23, Folsom 11, Campbell 16, Edwards 4, Anderson 1, Kitchens 1, Register 1.



Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

Jerome Berrian Led VHS With 23 Points And 14 Rebounds

Berrian, Campbell, Daniels All Heroes In 'Cats' Victory

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta coach Mike O'Brien had a hard time naming the heroes after the Wildcats' 73-44 pounding of Central of Thomasville Tuesday night.

"I could sit here and tell you every member of the team was the reason we won," he said.

That may be true, but forward Jerome Berrian, center Wallace Campbell and point guard Moses Daniels were the main men for the 'Cats against the taller Yellow Jackets.

"We knew they would take away Wallace on the boards," O'Brien said. "So we told Jerome it was up to him ... Jerome carried us on the boards in the first half."

Berrian, a senior, pulled down 14 rebounds and scored a game-high 23 points.

Thanks to Berrian's scoring and board work, Central had to loosen up in the middle which gave Campbell a little room to move around. He made the most of it, scoring 16 points and pulling down 10 boards.

"Central played him (Wallace) man-to-man. Most teams have zoned us," O'Brien said. "When Berrian is shooting from the outside like he was, they can't double Wallace. He's capable of taking it to the basket."

Campbell, a junior, said he and his teammates played "a smarter game" than they did when they lost to Central earlier this month. In that first game, Central had a big advantage inside when both Campbell and Berrian got into foul trouble in the first half.

"In practice, Coach O'Brien showed me the way to get a good position on their center (Darryl Holton)," Campbell said. "I played smarter this time. I didn't get any fouls this time. I think I played more aggressive, too."

Campbell seemed to take the ball to the basket with more authority than he has displayed in other games this season.

"I think I'm learning how to get open," he said. "Jerome and I talked in practice and he told me he would be open when I came in the middle."

Both O'Brien and Daniels agreed the senior guard played the best game of his career at Valdosta.

Daniels was assigned to stay with Central's Roger Henderson in Valdosta's box-and-one defense. Henderson, who scored 20 points the first time the two teams met, wasn't a factor Tuesday night as he scored just eight.

"First of all, he (O'Brien) told me I had to play man-to-man on one of their highest scorers (Henderson)," Daniels said. "Then he told me I've got to control the game."

"He (Daniels) handled the ball well," O'Brien said. "He had a bad time in the third quarter (against Central's press) and he could have quit ... he bounced back. He scored six points in the fourth quarter and he had many assists."

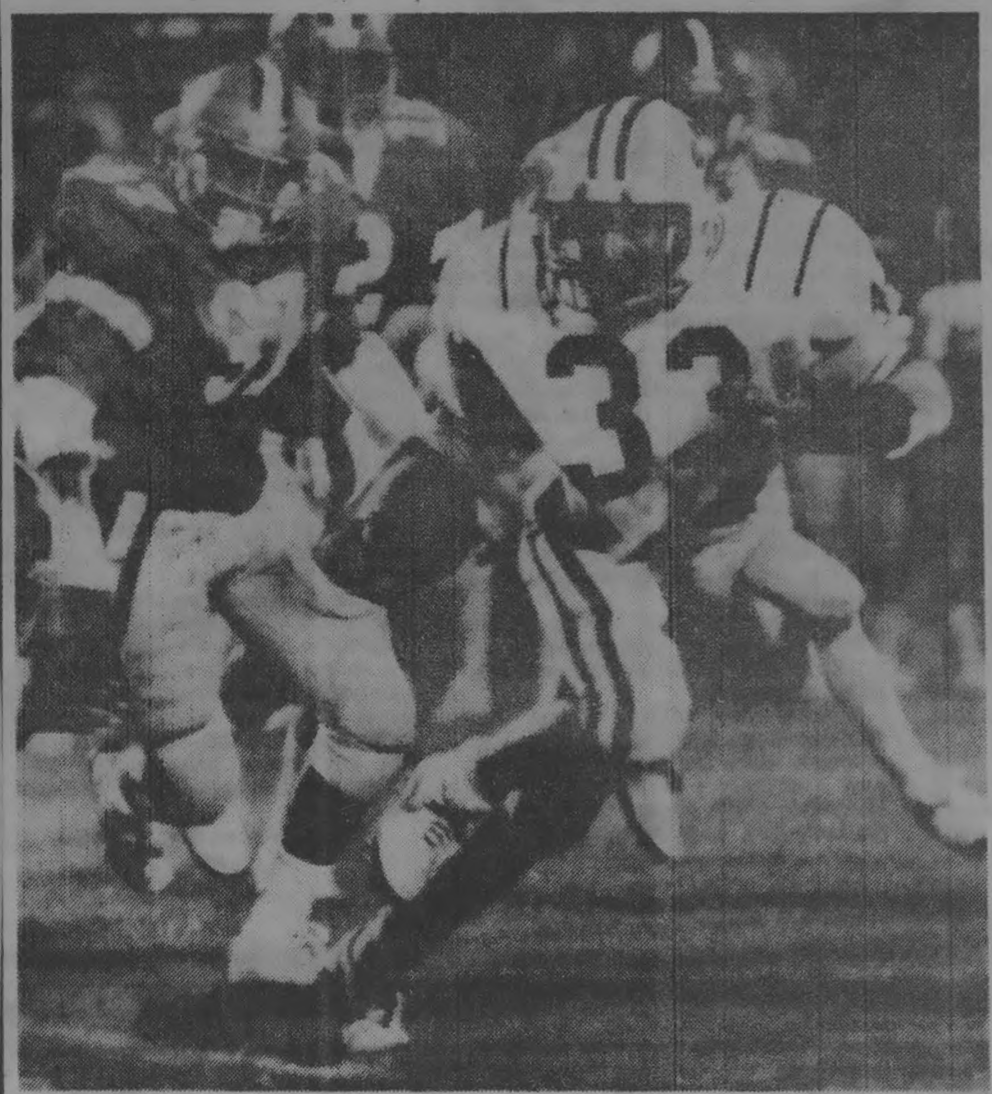
O'Brien didn't stop with those three. He said his other two starters, forward Derrick Folsom and guard Victor Walker "both did a great job.

"Derrick got 11 points (a season-high) and five boards. He also had several steals. And Victor did a great job for us on defense and he also got eight points."

O'Brien added, "Our players coming off the bench have helped us all year. Berrian got in foul trouble (in the second quarter) and (James) Edwards came in. Daniels was tired because he was on Henderson so tight and (Tim) Register came in and did a good job. (Bruce) Parker came in and gave us a lift on the boards.

"It's been that way all year. It's not a one-man show, it's not even a five-man show."

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Aug. 28, 1983—



Times Staff Photos By Joey Ivansco

Valdosta's Dana Brinson gained 77 Yards On Nine Carries

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

In Albany, AAA power Mitchell-Baker demolished Westover of Albany 42-13 Saturday night.

The Eagles, ranked No. 1, used 10 running backs to amass 354 yards rushing.

Quarterback James Jackson led the Eagles with 101 yards and three touchdowns, all coming in the first half as Mitchell-Baker built a 28-0 lead at the intermission.

Westover, which is the defending Region 1-AAAA South sub-region champs, turned the ball over five times.

The Patriots defeated the Eagles 21-20 in the season opener last year.

Valdosta 33, Waycross 7

In Waycross, the defending AAAA state champion Valdosta Wildcats lengthened the longest active winning streak in Georgia High School football as they routed AAA's Waycross 33-7 for their 16th consecutive victory.

The Wildcats, who went 15-0 last season in winning their first solo state championship since 1971, scored the first 20 points of the game and held on as the Bulldogs made an effort to get back into the game at the end of the first half.

Valdosta quarterback Ted West says he hopes the streak lasts at least the rest of this season.

"I hope we can go to 30," he said. "That would mean another state championship."

With the Wildcats leading 20-7, Bulldog tailback Victor Daniels broke off a 70-yard jaunt to the Wildcat 5 with less than 30 seconds to play. Daniels was stopped by Derrick Folsom.

The Bulldogs were unable to put any points on the board as Wildcat linebacker John Porter knocked away a pass in the end zone.

Sophomore sensation Tony Anderson led all rushers with 143 yards on 16 carries. Three of those ended with Anderson crossing the Bulldog goal line.

The first time the Wildcats touched the ball they drove 67 yards for a score.

However, the drive didn't start out looking as if it would become anything. The offensive line was called for a procedure penalty and West was sacked for a 15-yard loss on the next play. But West hit wide receiver Hosea Heard with a 42-yard bomb to get the drive on track.

Anderson finished the drive with a 15-yard scamper. He later scored on runs of 1 and 31 yards.

"They (the Bulldogs) were blitzing," said Valdosta coach Nick Hyder, "and it gave us the option play all night long."

James Medlock led Bulldog rushers with 110 yards on nine carries and scored Waycross' only touchdown on a 72-yard run.

VHS Band To Travel

The Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats Band will play during the halftime of the opening Atlanta Falcons football game Sept. 11.

Jan Bristow, publicity chairman for the Marchin' Cats' band boosters, said it is the only high school band invited to play during the Falcons' season.

"They'll use college or other bands after that," she said.

The game begins at 1 p.m. in Atlanta Stadium and will be televised, but the halftime show may not be part of the broadcast.

"They usually do other things, show highlights and interviews, during the halftime," Mrs. Bristow said.

The Falcons will play the New York Giants on that date and band members have been invited to sit in the stands and watch the game, she said.

They have played for Falcons games before as well as for the Miami Dolphins, she said.

'Cats 1 Win Away From South Title

VDT JAN 30 1984

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

The Big One is here.

Valdosta High and Central of Thomasville will probably play for the 1984 Region 1-AAAA South Sub-region boys basketball championship Tuesday night in the VHS Gym.

The winners get a free pass to the final of the sub-region tournament and an automatic trip to the region tournament. The losers will have to win two games just to get into the sub-region final.

The girls game will start at 7 p.m. and the boys game will follow.

"This is the biggie," says Valdosta coach Mike O'Brien. "This is what it's come down to. We've got to beat Central in order to get that No. 1 seed (in the sub-region tournament)."

Valdosta, 12-5 overall and 5-2 in sub-region play, has led the race almost from the beginning. The Wildcats' only losses were to Lowndes at home and to Central in Thomasville.

Central, 7-7 and 3-2, started coming on strong after Christmas. The Yellow Jackets got back into the race with wins over Valdosta and Lowndes during the last two weeks.

If Valdosta wins, the title belongs to the 'Cats. If Central wins, the Yellow Jackets just have to win one of their two remaining games to claim the title. In this case, if the 'Cats and Central were to finish with identical sub-region records, Central would win the tie by virtue of two wins over Valdosta.

Central beat Valdosta 61-56 when the two played in Thomasville on Jan. 20. The Yellow Jackets' big men, Roger Henderson (6-foot-3) and particularly Darryl Holton (6-6) were decisive factors in that first meeting.

"We got in foul trouble early," said O'Brien, who saw both of his centers, Wallace Campbell and Jerome Berrian, pick up their fourth fouls in the first three minutes of the second half.

"They (Central) were able to get on the boards a lot stronger than we were. We've got to get on the boards better (Tuesday)."

Region 1-AAAA South Boys Standings

Valdosta	5-2
Central	3-2
Lowndes	4-3
Colquitt Co.	3-3
Thomasville	1-6

Central had four players score in double figures in the first game.

"We've got to play better defense," says O'Brien. "We can't give up that many points and win."

O'Brien says his team will be physically overmatched against Central.

"They're bigger than we are," he said. "They're a lot bigger than we are ... we're probably one of the smallest teams in the region.

"We're overmatched but we feel like we can play with them. We've just got to do a better job of blocking out and get on the boards."

That's the bad news. But there is some good news.

First, O'Brien says his team appears to be in good physical shape following the cold epidemic at VHS.

"We've got a few sniffles and sneezes," he said, "but basically we're healthy."

Also, Central hasn't played that well on the road this season. Both of the Yellow Jackets' sub-region losses came on the road. Valdosta is 5-2 at home this season.

"That'll be the one good thing," O'Brien said. "At least we'll have them here."

The 'Cats have also played well when they really had to this season. They picked up a pair of critical wins on the road at Lowndes and Thomasville.

Valdosta Rolls In Tri-Match

V. Times 2-5-84

VHS Wrestlers End Season With Sweep Of 3 Albany Schools

From Staff Reports

ALBANY — Valdosta High, although still hampered by illness and missing its starting heavyweight, finished the regular season by easily sweeping a Region 1-AAAA wrestling tri-match with Albany High, Dougherty and Westover here Saturday at the Dougherty Gym.

The Wildcats, 12-2 overall and 6-0 in the region, beat Albany 69-6, Dougherty 64-11 and Westover 61-18.

"Our young wrestlers did a good job for us today," 'Cats coach Jim Landrum said. "We are still troubled with sickness and injuries."

Valdosta started two freshmen and four sophomores. It seemingly made little difference as eight of Valdosta's 14 wrestlers won all three of their matches on Saturday.

The three-time winners were: Mike Schmier (100 pounds), Louis Gonis (107), Craig Klement (121), Mark Levy (128), Steve Kaiser (134), Jack Priest (169), Jimmy Lewis (198) and Marty Howell (heavyweight).

Gonis, Levy and Priest won all three of their matches by pins.

Priest scored one of the biggest wins of the day when he pinned previously undefeated Todd Northropp of Westover in the first period. Priest is 19-0 this year.

Lewis had the day's quickest pin. He pinned Carl Sheppard of Albany in 19 seconds.

Howell, a sophomore, was filling in for the absent Leon Johnson. Johnson, a senior, was at Eastern Kentucky University this weekend on a recruiting visit.

Eight VHS wrestlers won by pins against Albany including Gonis, John Marconi (114), Craig Klement, Levy, Priest, James Wakefield (187), Lewis and Howell.

Kaiser, Clay Powell (147) and Frank Abney (177) all won by decision for Valdosta. Mike Schmier (100) and Sam Klement (140) both won by forfeit.

Albany had just one winner, Jimmy Sayler (157) who pinned Ralph Guarino.

Gonis, Marconi, Levy, Sam Klement, Guarino, Lewis and Howell all won on pins against Dougherty.

Craig Klement and Kaiser both won on decisions and Schmier won his second match by forfeit.

Dougherty scored its only points when Ernest Price pinned Wakefield, Bill Warren won a 5-4 decision against Powell and Scott Walker tied Abney.

Westover gave Valdosta its toughest match of the day by scoring three pins against the Wildcats. John Green pinned Marconi, Arcillious Redding pinned Sam Klement and Anthony Branch pinned Guarino.

But the 'Cats had little trouble as they won six pins, two decisions and three forfeits.

Schmier, Gonis, Craig Klement, Levy, Powell and Priest all won on pins for the 'Cats.

Kaiser won a 6-1 decision and Wakefield triumphed 13-3.

Abney, Lewis and Howell all won by forfeit.

Valdosta will host the region wrestling tournament Feb. 10-11. The top four wrestlers in each weight class in the region will advance to the state championships in Atlanta Feb. 17-18.

"The 'common cold,''flu' or 'post influenza,' whatever it is, has really broken our backs this year," Landrum said. "We have only been at full strength in our first match against Colquitt County back in December.

"Next week, we will pull everybody back into the lineup sick or not, to wrestle in the region (tournament)."

SPORTS

The Valdosta Daily Times

Valdosta Clinches Sub-region Title

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

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But it wasn't close.

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"Except for a short period of time in the third quarter, it was a perfect ballgame for us," said Valdosta coach Mike O'Brien.

The Valdosta girls completed their sub-region schedule without a win after losing to Central 60-40.

"Perfect" was a good way to describe Valdosta's effort. Whenever Central presented a problem, the 'Cats always seemed to have the solution.

Valdosta assigned Moses Daniels to Central's top scorer, Roger Henderson, in a box-and-one defense. Henderson had 20 points in Central's win over Valdosta when the two met earlier this month in Thomasivlle. Henderson scored eight points Tuesday night. And despite Central's height advantage, the 'Cats outrebounded the Yellow Jackets 34-15.

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"The kids knew the pressure they were under to win," O'Brien said. "People had been talking about this game at school all day. They handled the pressure well and showed their pride and poise."

In the girls game, Valdosta led twice in the opening minutes but turnovers cost them six points in the first quarter alone. Central pulled ahead 10-7 at the close of the first period and led 32-17 at the intermission.

Connie Weatherspoon led Valdosta with 14 points and Ronnie Melvin had 12.

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INDIVIDUAL STATS

Central — Wade 8, Linton 17, Petrey 18, Flounoy 9.

Valdosta — Melvin 12, Henderson 2, C. Weatherspoon 14, S. Weatherspoon 4, Elder 4, W. Irvin 2, Bass 2.

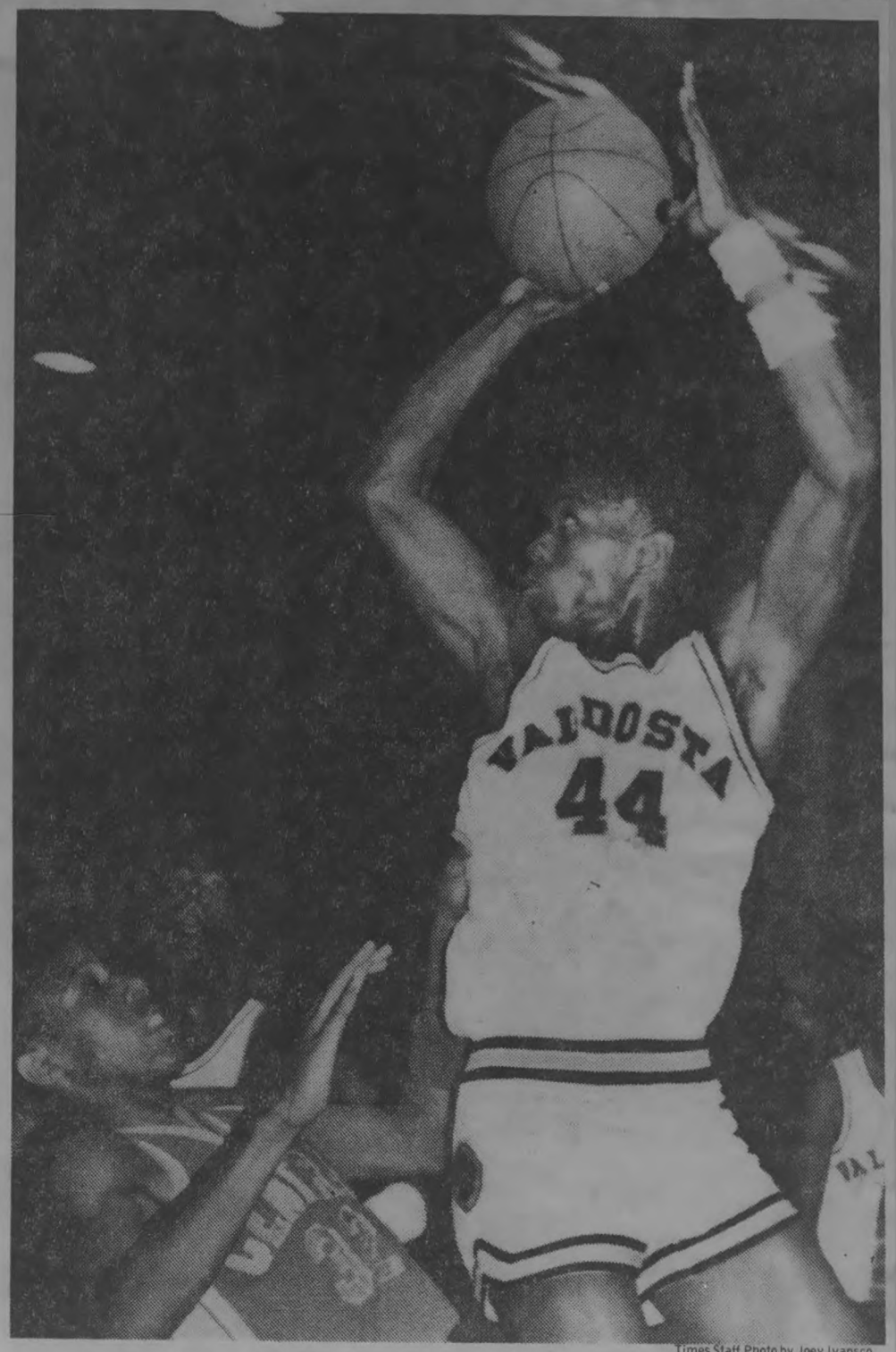
Boys

Central	8	16	32	44
Valdosta	17	34	46	73

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Central — Holton 13, Henderson 8, Payne 2, West 10, Hill 2, Farmer 6, Mitchell 2, Copeland 1.

Valdosta — Daniels 8, Walker 8, Berrian 23, Folsom 11, Campbell 16, Edwards 4, Anderson 1, Kitchens 1, Register 1.

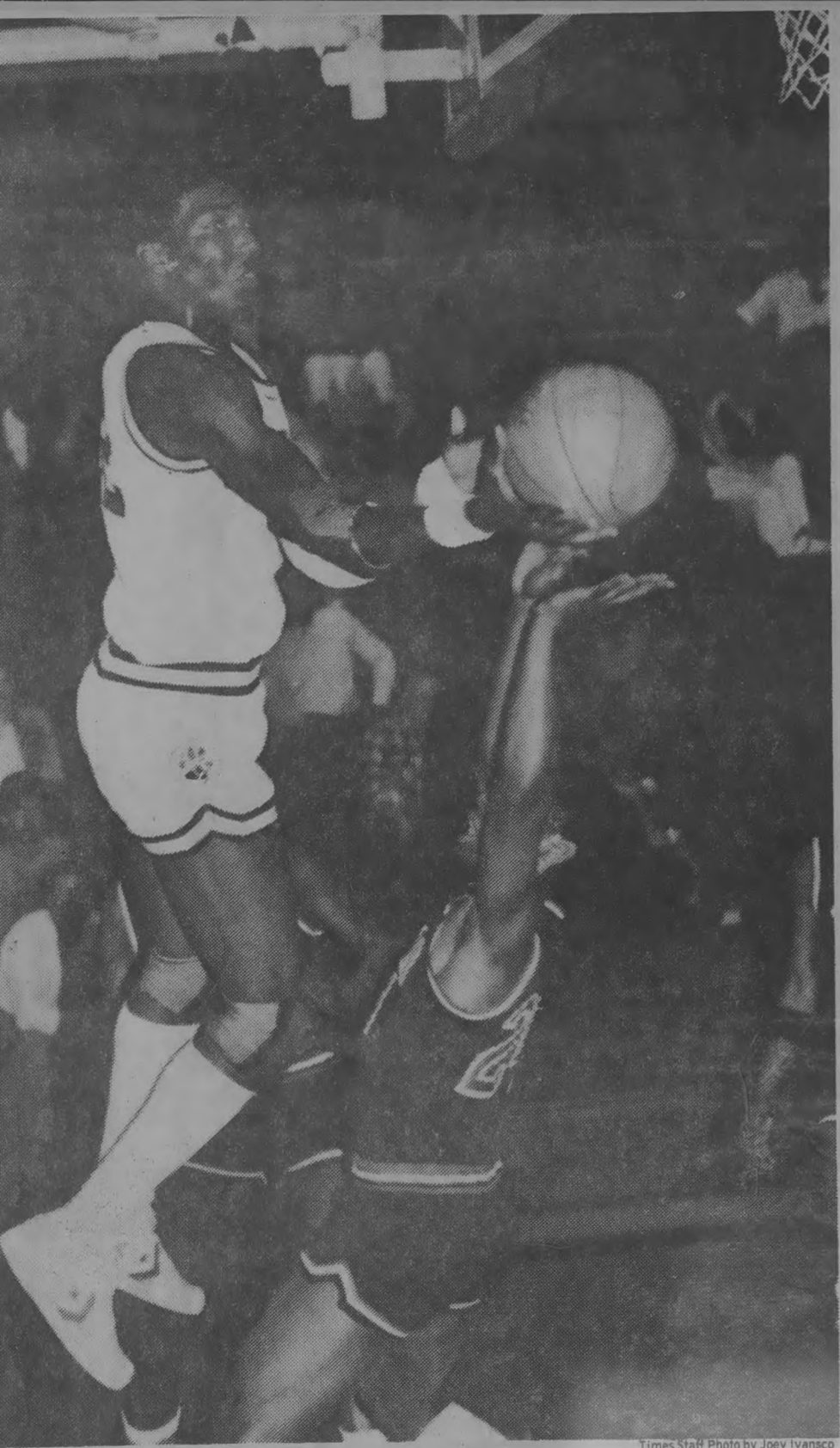


Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

Jerome Berrian Led VHS With 23 Points And 14 Rebounds

V Times 2-4-84

Wildcats Leave Lanier County With Rug Burn



Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

Valdosta's Wallace Campbell Took It To The Hoop For 13 Points

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High gave away a couple of door prizes at its final home appearance of the season in the "Carpetdome" (better known as the VHS Gym) Friday night. The recipients were the Lanier boys and girls basketball teams and their rewards for making the trip from Lakeland were a couple of bad cases of rug burn.

The Wildcats, 14-5, avenged an earlier 44-43 loss by trouncing the Lanier boys 60-28 in the nightcap.

The Lady 'Cats, 5-14, had set the tone for the evening earlier by scoring a season-high number of points in their 83-30 rout of the Lady Bulldogs.

Valdosta boys coach Mike O'Brien said the key to the game was defense — Lanier didn't have a scorer in double figures. Or more specifically, the way the 'Cats played defense against Randy Dorsey and Kyle Williams.

"Dorsey had 20 points last time and he had eight tonight," O'Brien said. "No. 11 (Williams) had 12 last time and he had four this time.

"Last time they (Lanier) scored 44 points against us and Dorsey and Williams scored 32 of them. This time, we allowed them 28 points and those two scored 12 of them."

The 'Cats also threw an array of zone defenses at the Bulldogs throughout the game including a 2-1-2, a 2-3, a triangle-and-two and a box-and-one.

"We were trying to keep them confused by changing our defenses," O'Brien said.

"They (Lanier) are a well-coached ballclub. They're not just going to run down and throw it (the ball) up. They run an offense against your defense. If you keep changing defenses, they've got to keep changing offenses."

Lanier led once in the game, 2-0. The Bulldogs played a very deliberate game on offense early to try to shut off Valdosta's fast break. The game was tied most of the first quarter (during which a technical foul was called on Valdosta for not coming out on defense fast enough) but the 'Cats pulled ahead for good when Jerome Berrian took a feed inside from Victor Walker and scored on a layup with one second left in the second period.

As far as the final outcome, that basket was the end of the game. Valdosta came out in the second quarter and outscored Lanier 10-2 in the first six minutes. The 'Cats led 22-13 at the half.

"Offensively, we were trying to get inside," said O'Brien. "In the second quarter, we got it inside seven times and we scored seven times. But other times we would make bad passes or just not hang onto the ball."

Valdosta clearly began dominating the game in the third quarter when they outscored the Bulldogs 20-5, holding Lanier scoreless for the last four minutes of the quarter.

It was also obvious that the Lanier players were being intimidated more and more by the play of Berrian, Wallace Campbell and later James Edwards under the boards. The Bulldogs began altering their shots to try to avoid having them blocked.

"That's the first time this year we've been able to do that (intimidate) against anybody," said O'Brien.

Valdosta outrebounded Lanier 30-16.

The 'Cats ran their lead to 30 points before both O'Brien and Lanier coach Jerry Ridley began emptying their benches.

It was the final home game for Berrian, who led all scorers with 20 points, as well as Moses Daniels (five points), Bruce Parker (four points and eight rebounds) and Tim Register.

Campbell also had 13 points and nine boards for the 'Cats and sophomore Tony Anderson scored a career-high six points.

Connie Weatherspoon scored a game-high 18 points to lead the Lady 'Cats to their second win of the year over the Lady Bulldogs. Also scoring in double figures for VHS were Shevon Peeler with 16, Ronnie Melvin with 13 and Stephanie Weatherspoon with 10.

Lanier did not have a scorer in double figures. Beverly Young led the Lady Bulldogs with eight points.

The Lady 'Cats poured in 20 points in the second quarter to race to a 39-18 halftime lead.

Girls

Lanier Co.	11	18	23	30
Valdosta	19	39	65	83

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Lanier Co. — Y. Carter 7, Young 8, McGriff 4, Moore 2, Riley 4, D. Carter 2, Charles 3.

Valdosta — Peeler 16, C. Weatherspoon 18, Melvin 13, S. Weatherspoon 10, Elder 5, Henderson 4, L. Irvin 8, Mots 4, Christopher 1, Longilier 2, Scott 2.

Boys

Lanier Co.	6	13	18	28
Valdosta	8	22	42	60

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Lanier Co. — Sirmans 2, Hill 6, Williams 4, Dorsey 8, Henry 2, Johnson 2, Gloster 4.

Valdosta — Daniels 5, Walker 8, Berrrian 20, Wallace 13, Parker 4, Edwards 2, Anderson 6, Kitchens 2.

V. Times 2-9-84

Students Donate Blood

A blood drive was held at Valdosta and Lowndes high schools Wednesday and the goal was to collect 150 pints. Here, VHS student Dotty Jo Brown does her part. — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

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V Times
2-8-84

6 Local Gridders Ink Scholarships

Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

Coaches Hyder, O'Brien Observed Dana Brinson's Signing

By STEVE CORRIGAN
and CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writers

Six local athletes ended speculation on where they would play college football next season by signing national letters of intent this morning.

Local players signing included Joel Giddens of Lowndes High and five Valdosta seniors — Dana Brinson, Monte Davis, Joel Jackson, Leon Johnson and John Nitschke. The signings took place at the players' high schools. Today was the first day a senior could sign a letter of intent.

Lowndes wide receiver Gerald "Boo" Mitchell is expected to sign with Vanderbilt tomorrow.

Brinson, as expected, signed with Nebraska. He had verbally committed to the Big Eight school on Jan. 5, but a visit to Iowa State last weekend led to some speculation that he might change his mind.

Brinson said there was never any doubt in his mind that he would sign with the Cornhuskers.

"I've always wanted to go there," said Brinson. "It's a big-name school that can give me some publicity."

The three-year starter at halfback for VHS said he made the visit to Iowa State "really just to have something to compare (Nebraska) with. I hadn't seen any other schools because Nebraska was the only place I visited."

Brinson said he wasn't bothered by the fact that none of the Southeastern Conference schools tried to recruit him.

"I had always wanted to go to Nebraska so it didn't really make any difference. It would have just meant more pressure and I couldn't handle the little bit that I got."

Nebraska off-campus recruiter Jack Pierce, who has been in Valdosta since Monday, was at VHS for the signing. He said the Cornhuskers were attracted to Brinson by "the fact that Dana has got such acceleration, speed and change-of-direction ... he's been an outstanding player for a long time. He wasn't just discovered. He comes from a great program."

Pierce said he was uncertain how soon Brinson would help the Cornhuskers.

"We're going to try to play him at wingback ... he also could play some as a kickoff and punt returner."

Brinson said, "I'll probably play at wingback at first and, as I gain some weight, get some time at I back."

Brinson is considered to be small by college standards (5-10, 160 pounds) but Pierce said, "His size doesn't bother me.

"Size doesn't mean that much when you're running up and down the football field. Size isn't important unless those people who are bigger than you are fast enough to catch you," Pierce said.

Giddens had verbally committed to Rice in January. Rice assistant Gary Shepard, who was at LHS to sign Giddens, said he began recruiting the 6-3, 240 defensive tackle while Shepard was still at Cincinnati under then-head coach Watson Brown. Shepard moved to Rice when Brown accepted the head coaching job there at the end of the 1983 season.

"Joel was the stocky, aggressive type of player I like to play with on a defensive line," Shepard said.

Please See 'Signings' Page 18

John Nitschke (L), Monte Davis Headed For Ga. Southwestern

Minnie Jackson Looks On As Her Son, Joel, Signs

Times Staff Photos by Joey Ivansco

Leon Johnson Signs As His Mother And Coach Hyder Look On

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VHS Hosts Region Wrestling Tourney

V. Times 2-14-84

3-Time Defending 1-AAAA Champion Valdosta Heavily Favored To Repeat

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High wrestling coach Jim Landrum sounds as if he hates to admit it, but his team is a heavy favorite to win the Region 1-AAAA wrestling championship for a fourth straight year.

The region tournament will be held at the VHS Gym on Friday and Saturday.

Weigh-ins for the tournament will be counducted from 2-5 p.m. Friday. A meeting of the region coaches will be held after that to seed the wrestlers in the tournament field. The quarterfinals will begin at 7:30.

Saturday's schedule will be: semifinals at 11:30 a.m., wrestle-backs at 1:30 p.m., consolations at 6 and the finals at 7:30.

As for the problem of being the favorite, Landrum says, "I hope so, but you don't ever know in a tournament situation."

Valdosta, 6-0 in the region and 12-2 overall, has five returning region champions: Scott Richardson (115 pounds) Mark Levy (128), two-time champion Jack Priest (170), Frank Abney (178) and Jimmy Lewis (198).

The 'Cats also have five returning region place winners including Leon Johnson (heavyweight) who finished second in the region and third in the state in 1983.

It's little wonder then when asked to make a prediction on this year's region tournament, Lowndes coach Newnan Sanchez said, "It's going to be Valdosta versus the region."

1-AAAA Wrestling Tournament
Schedule Of Events

Round 1	Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Round 2	Saturday, 11:30 a.m.
Wrestlebacks	Saturday, 1:30-4 p.m.
Consolation	Saturday, 6 p.m.
Finals	Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

Landrum said he expects Tift County and Lowndes to give the 'Cats their strongest competition. Tift finished second last year. The Vikings came in fifth in the region in their first year of competition.

Sanchez agreed with Landrum, saying he also expects his team to finish in the top three.

"I hate to say that in our second year," Sanchez said, "but I'd be disappointed if we were less than third."

The top four finishers in each weight class in the region tournament advance to the state tournament next week at Stone Mountain. Last year, Valdosta sent 14 wrestlers to the state championships.

Six Vikings advanced to the state tournament last year and Sanchez says his goal is to send the same number back this year.

"I think we've got a good possibilty of having six wrestlers qualify," Sanchez said. "That's about as good as we could do, I think."

Sanchez says his team's strength is "our people in the middle (weight classes)." The Vikings have a returning region champion in Willie Knight (155).

The Lowndes squad also includes Tim Fortney (167) who was last year's Region 2-AAAA champion while he was a student at Northside Warner Robins. Fortney did not become eligible until after the halfway point of the season.

Sanchez says Fortney "is probably the best wrestler we have on our team. But he has to wrestle probably the best wrestler in the region, Jack Priest, even though Mark Levy might object to that."

Lowndes has two more returning place winners, Dave Mallory (145) and Troy Braswell (175).

Tift, which beat Lowndes twice during the regular season, has two region champions back, Claude Webster (101) and Tony Stephens (158). The Blue Devils also have four other state tournament qualifiers returning. But they lost one of their top wrestlers, Leroy Clark (155) to an early graduation.

Three of the other five schools in the region have returning region place winners: Colquitt County (3), Westover (2) and Dougherty (3).

The other two Albany schools have no returning state tournament qualifiers. But Albany High's Chris Bruce (140) has an 8-0 record in dual-meet competition this year.

"The tournament will be decided on Saturday morning," says Landrum. "That's when most of the points will be scored.

"You get 10 points for a second place but just four more for a first. Those firsts usually don't mean anything unless things get really tight."

A wrestler who loses in the quarterfinals will be eliminated from the tournament unless the wrestler who beats him wins in the semifinals on Saturday morning. Then those wrestlers who lost in the first round will meet the semifinals losers in the wrestle-backs.

The two survivors of the wrestle-backs in each weight class will wrestle in the consolations to determine who finishes in third place.

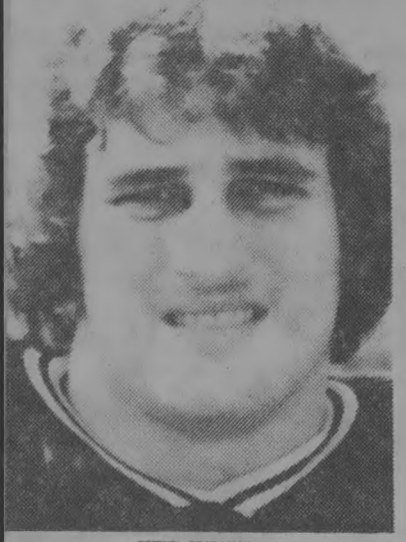
Two mats will be used in every round except the finals.

Tickets for the tournament will be $2 per session. A $5 tournament pass will also be on sale.

West, Johnson Selected Valdosta MVPs

V. Times 2-14-84

Wildcats Honored At 39th VHS Football Banquet



TED WEST
Offensive MVP

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Ted West and Leon Johnson were among the Valdosta High football heroes — past, present and future — honored at the Valdosta Touchdown Club's 39th annual football banquet Monday night.

West and Johnson were honored as part of the Touchdown Club's tribute to the current Wildcats, who were led by one of the most successful senior classes in Valdosta's football history.

Former VHS and University of Georgia quarterback John Lastinger, who kiddingly apologized to the crowd of 300-plus which attended the banquet at VHS for making them sit through one of his first after-dinner speeches ("I think I skipped all my classes last week while I was sitting in my apartment trying to think of something to say."), was on hand to talk about his past trials and triumphs

And VHS coach Nick Hyder made sure nobody left empty-handed by using the occasion to give the VHS underclassmen players and trainers their football letters.

West, a two-year starter at quarterback, won the offensive MVP award for the second straight year. He led the 'Cats to 25 straight wins, making him the most successful quarterback in VHS history. West led the region in passing yardage and completion percentage last season.

Johnson, a four-year starter at defensive guard, also received the Best Defensive Lineman award.

West and Johnson were elected captains of the 1983 Wildcats along with Monte Davis, Frank Abney and John Porter.

Lastinger, who like West has been called a "can't run, can't throw, can't lose" quarterback amused his audience with the story of his injury-riddled career at Georgia and the lessons he said it had taught him.

He recalled the summer before his freshman year at VHS ("I was 6-1 and weighed maybe 150 pounds with my pads on.") when he said he began to see himself as a starter after Hyder invited him to summer camp. But when Lastinger got to camp he found he was the scout team quarterback. "It was really a two-week nightmare for me," Lastinger said.

Lastinger said he found himself in the same situation when he went to Georgia where he stood on the sidelines for three years before he became a starter.

Senior wide receiver Steve Gandy also collected a pair of awards. He was named Best Receiver as well as the winner of the Howard Bridges Memorial Scholastic Award.

Junior Berke Holtzclaw, who was West's backup at quarterback and also played wide receiver, became the first player to receive the "Super Skinner" award twice. The award goes to the Wildcats' top underclassmen.

Other award winners included:

Frank Abney, Julian Lefiles Memorial Spirit of the Wildcats Award; Greg Sturtevant, Mark Stevens Memorial Sportsmanship Award; Jimmy Lewis, "Dynamite" Goodloe Memorial Most Improved Award; Tim Chapman, Most Loyal; Monte Davis, Best Offensive Lineman; Dana Brinson, Best Offensive Back; John Porter, Best Linebacker; and Derrick Folsom and Aundra Irvin, Best Defensive Backs.

LEON JOHNSON
Defensive MVP

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Local Schools Begin 2nd Season Thursday

V. Times 2-15-84

Top-Seeded Vikettes, Wildcats Can Relax But Vikes, Lady 'Cats Have Long Way To Go

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Steve Kebler's and Mike O'Brien's jobs are easier this week than they might normally be.

While the rest of the basketball coaches in Region 1-AAAA South are worrying about what they're going to do in the sub-region tournament which begins Thursday night at Central in Thomasville, Kebler and O'Brien can relax. As the No. 1 seeds in the tournament, Kebler's Lowndes girls and O'Brien's Valdosta boys only have to think about one game each, the sub-region championship on Saturday night.

Even that game won't be as pressure-packed as one might think. Both the Vikettes and the Wildcats are going to the region tournament at Lowndes next week regardless of what happens Saturday night. And each team has to win just one game there to advance to the state playoffs in Macon.

The Lowndes boys and Valdosta girls aren't so lucky. The Vikings, 14-8, play Thomasville on Thursday at 6 p.m. The Lady 'Cats, 7-14, play Colquitt County at 4:30. Both teams will have to win two games to reach the finals.

Lowndes finished its sub-region schedule in a tie for first place with Colquitt. Both teams had 8-2 records after beating one another and losing to Central in Thomasville. Luckily for the Vikettes, 20-2 overall, Kebler called tails in a coin toss for first place last Sunday.

There was no suspense in the boys race as the Wildcats won going away with an 8-2 record. Valdosta is 14-7 overall but lost its last two games.

"We should be pretty well rested," Kebler said after practice Tuesday afternoon. "We won't have to play but one game this week and we've played everybody at least twice already. It will give us a chance to work on some problems we've been having and iron them out.

"There's no sense in making a game plan until Friday. Then you'll know who you're going to have to play ... two of the teams we've played have beaten us once (Colquitt County and Central) and we've beaten them once. We just have to get ready to play."

Kebler says the disadvantage to being seeded No. 1 is "sitting and waiting and not being sure who you'll play ... I don't think it will take the edge off."

He also doesn't think the lack of real pressure in the championship game Saturday will hurt his team's performance either.

"It's just a matter of the kids having enough pride to get after it," Kebler said. "Which they will because it's instilled in them. There will be a supper effort Saturday night. I know that."

O'Brien counts the advantages and disadvantages of being a basketball Wildcat this week in a similar fashion.

"The good thing is that we're still not in a life-and-death situation with the game Saturday night," he said. "We still would have an outside chance to win the region (in the event of a loss).

"The bad thing is the week's layoff. We plan to start back at the basics and build up to game time."

O'Brien said, "The important thing is for our kids to be physically ready and mentally ready. It's been a long, hard season both physically and mentally. But now you come to the part of the season where you don't have too many other nights. It's either do-or-die."

The second-year VHS coach says pride will also be a factor with the Wildcats on Saturday night.

"We want to prove we're worthy of our No. 1 seeding and play one of our better games Saturday night."

Meanwhile, the Valdosta girls, seeded last in the tournament, will in the words of Coach James Studstill, "start off at the top and work our way down."

The first-year Lady 'Cats coach likes his team's chances in the tournament better now than he did two or three weeks ago.

"Out of the 21 games we played this year, there were 13 where we had one or two starters out," Studstill said. "In our last three games we had all five starters back and we won two out of three.

"We've had all of our starters back practicing together for three weeks now and I feel that will be a plus. Also, the two times we played Colquitt, we were missing at least one of our top scorers (Shevon Peeler or Ronnie Melvin).

"... I told our players we've got a complete starting lineup for the first time this year and they've had three weeks to practice together. That should give us a better shot at knocking off Colquitt."

The Lady 'Cats have also used a full-court press on defense more in recent game. Studstill said to expect more of the same against Colquitt.

"Our plan is to go out and use our speed," he said. "We plan to use the press a lot against Colquitt. It all depends on how the game goes.

"With the five we have starting now, I feel like we'll be able to do some things were weren't able to do with one or two of them out."

VHS Busy In FBLA Week

V. Times 2-16-84

Valdosta High's chapter of Future Business Leader's of America has been busy all week with activities celebrating National FBLA Week.

Some of those activities include a breakfast dinner last Saturday, a Monday trip to the pediatrics ward at South Georgia Medical Center, and a Valentine's Day dessert party on Tuesday.

Upcoming events include a party at Putt Putt Golf Course on Gronto Road 6:30 p.m. today, and a make-up demonstration Friday at Merle Norman Studio in Valdosta Mall.

On Saturday, 11 FBLA members and two advisors will travel to Albany Junior College to compete in the District FBLA competition.

Pam Williams and Stephanie Weatherspoon are FBLA Week co-chairmen. Faculty advisors for the group are Janeen Josey and Tina Strickland.

1-AAAA Sub-Region Tourney Postponed

V. Times 2-19-84

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

THOMASVILLE — The finals of the Region 1-AAAA South basketball tournament, originally scheduled to be played at the Thomasville Central Gym Saturday night, were postponed until Monday because of bad floor conditions.

According to a Central coach, who asked not to be named, a school janitor used mineral oil on the floor while he was dusting it Saturday afternoon.

The games were moved to Monday night over the objection of Valdosta High boys coach Mike O'Brien.

Valdosta was scheduled to play Central and the Lowndes girls were scheduled to Colquitt County.

Referee Jim Hunt told the coaches the floor was too dangerous to play on around 7:30 p.m. Hunt and the other official, Kenny Austin, told the coaches they had a choice between postponing the game until Monday night or trying to move the game to another site last night.

Both Central coach Charlie Ward and Colquitt coach Julian Grantham voted to postpone the games until Monday night.

O'Brien wanted to move the game to the Thomasville High Gym less than a mile away.

"My kids were ready to play," said O'Brien. "Now we've got to wait two more days. I wanted to play somewhere tonight."

He also said the delay would give the 'Cats just three days to prepare for the region tournament at Lowndes next week.

The deciding vote was cast by Lowndes coach Steve Kebler.

"When I got in there, the other three had already voted," Kebler said. "I wanted to play tonight, too. But if I had voted for that, there would have been a tie. What would have been the point in that? I just wanted to get something done."

The slick condition of the floor was apparently first noticed when the Colquitt girls went out around 6:30 to warm up. Kebler, whose team had changed into its uniforms but had not yet gone out on the floor, said Grantham pulled his team off the floor and told the officials some of his players had slipped down during warmups.

Central employees worked on the floor for approximately 45 minutes before the officials decided the floor was still too dangerous to play on and asked the coaches to vote on what they wanted to do.

"They put it to a vote of the coaches," said Grantham. "Three voted for Monday night. We had played two games and needed the rest.

"I would have preferred to have played tonight and gotten it over with. I think it's a letdown for the individual teams involved."

Kebler said he didn't think the delay would have any effect on his team.

"Our kids are ready to play and they're in good health," he said. "It (the postponement) is just one of those things."

VHS Matmen 4th At State

3 Wildcats Finish Second, 2 Vikings Take Fifth

From Staff Reports

STONE MOUNTAIN — After a 17th-place finish two years ago and a 12th-place finish last year, the Valdosta High wrestling team had its sights set on bigger and better things this year in the Class AAAA state tournament at the Stone Mountain High Gym.

"We set a goal to finish in the top five," said Valdosta coach Jim Landrum. "And we did it."

Actually the 'Cats did one step better than Landrum's expectations when they garnered 92½ points to take fourth place in the state.

Redan High won the state title with 145 points, barely edging out Wheeler with 144.

LaGrange, who had trailed Valdosta going into the final round, took third with 98½ points.

Tift County nipped Lowndes 30½-30 to take 17th. Lowndes, in only its second year of wrestling, was 18th.

"I'm proud of the kids," said Landrum. "They showed a lot of character ... At least we can see the program growing."

While Valdosta didn't have any state winners, it had three 'Cats take second places.

Mark Levy took second at 128 pounds when he lost to Scott Berryman of Jonesboro for the second time this year, 7-2. Levy posted a 28-2 record this year and a 64-6 career record at VHS. His only losses this year came to Berryman.

Jimmy Lewis was pinned by Mark Dunson of LaGrange with one second left in the match in the finals of the 198-pound class. Lewis trailed Dunson 2-1 when he was pinned.

Lewis closed out his career at Valdosta with a 44-6 record.

And finally heavyweight Leon Johnson, who lost to Leonard Ray of Northside Warner Robins in the finals, was the final 'Cat to place. His 6-3 defeat made his overall record at Valdosta 48-7.

Johnson finished third last year in the state.

Lowndes had two wrestlers finish fifth, Willie Knight at 158 and Mike Lolley at 198.

Valdosta had two wrestlers win two matches at state: Louie Gonis at 108 and Jack Priest at 170. Two other VHS wrestlers won one match: Frank Abney at 178 and Scott Richardson at 115.

Valdosta was in first place after the first round and tied for first with Wheeler after the second. The 'Cats were third until Johnson's match.

LAURA FAUSSONE
VHS Junior

TOMMY COX
VHS Junior

V. Times 2-17-84

Colquitt Sends Valdosta Home After 1st Round

V. Times 2-17-84

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

THOMASVILLE — Valdosta had its moments against the Colquitt County Packerettes in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA South tournament Thursday night in the Thomasville Central Gym.

But Colquitt County's rebounding and fast break were too good and the Lady 'Cats' shooting was too poor to keep the issue in suspense for long. And by midway through the third quarter the Packerettes were well on their way to a 63-44 victory.

Valdosta finished its season at 7-15. Colquitt County, 22-2, will play Thomasville in the semifinals tonight at 7. Thomasville upset Central 44-42 Thursday night. It was the third time the Lady Bulldogs have beaten Central this season.

Colquitt never trailed in the game but Valdosta's play kept Packerettes coach Julian Grantham up on his feet and yelling at his players for most of the first half. After trailing 10-6 at the end of the first quarter, Valdosta pulled to within two points twice in the opening moments of the second quarter.

But just when Valdosta seemed ready to make its move, their shooting got in the way. The Lady 'Cats missed a number of inside shots, including two just before the end of the first quarter that could have tied the game and two more early in the third period that would have brought them within a basket of Colquitt.

The Packerettes, meanwhile, were getting two or three shots on almost every trip down the floor. Gwen Richardson led the Packerettes with 16 points and Vanessa Stewart and Tracey Johnson had 10 apiece.

The Lady 'Cats finally played a sub-region opponent with all five starters there but not exactly in the best physical shape. Guard Shevon Peeler was slowed by what VHS coach James Studstill calls a recurring "kidney ailment" that had her "at about half-speed." Peeler finished with nine points.

And center Ronnie Melvin played with a strained knee that also limited her mobility. Despite that, Melvin led the Lady 'Cats with 15 points.

"There's no excuses, though," Studstill said. "We got outplayed. Colquitt played a good ballgame.

"I thought we played well on defense but we couldn't keep up with them on the boards ... we went out with the intention of running the press but they were beating us down the floor."

Colquitt Co.	10	26	45	63
Valdosta	6	20	32	44

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Colquitt Co. — Richardson 16, Stewart 10, Johnson 10, Richardson 8, Logan 2.

Valdosta — Peeler 9, Melvin 15, C. Weatherspoon 2, S. Weatherspoon 4, Elder 5, Irvin 9.

DAR Recognizes Its Outstanding American History Students

By ELIZABETH BUTLER
Times Staff Writer

Outstanding American history students here spoke on their favorite American patriots and other students read their winning essays to a Valdosta woman's club.

Lowndes County students with the highest averages in American history were honored by the Gen. James Jackson Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution at a meeting at the Woman's Building.

They included Jenny Bartmes, Valwood School junior; Paige Flowers and Deena Plaire, Lowndes High School sophomores, and Laura Faussone and Tommy Cox, Valdosta High School juniors.

Miss Bartmes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bartmes of Valdosta, spoke on John Ross. He was the "beloved" half-breed Cherokee leader who tried unsuccessfully to stop the U.S. government's efforts to move the Cherokees west of the Mississippi River, she said. The perilous journey, which started in 1838, became known as the Trail of Tears due to the hardships and deaths involved.

Miss Flowers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Flowers of Lake Park, and Miss Faussone, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Faussone of Valdosta, spoke on Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who lived in the 19th century and fought for the rights of women to vote.

Miss Plaire, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Plair of Valdosta, spoke on the various freedoms enjoyed in the American democracy, including freedoms of the press, religion and free trade.

Cox, son of Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Cox of Valdosta, spoke on U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt. He discussed Roosevelt's conservation efforts, economic and labor reform and his rapport with the American people.

The DAR chapter also sponored an essay contest for fifth through eighth graders. Students could write on *American Handicrafts 200 Years Ago* or *A Peacemaker of the Treaty of Paris*.

Winning students honored at Wednesday's meeting included Kathy Hathaway, Lowndes Middle School sixth grader, and Laura Broslat and Jamey Dewar, Valwood seventh graders.

Miss Hathaway, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hathaway of Valdosta, and Dewar, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Dewar Jr. of Valdosta, spoke on U.S. President John Adams. He was a peacemaker of the Treaty of Paris in 1783 which ended the American Revolution.

Miss Broslat, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Broslat of Valdosta, spoke on quilts, one of the American handicrafts 200 years ago. She talked about names given to quilts and plants used to dye the quilt material.

The DAR chapter gave certificates to the students and honored their history teachers, Sandra Stephenson of LMS, Emily Anderson of Valwood and Roy Wetherington, LHS history department head.

Before the speeches DAR Historian Margaret Langdale read a proclamation from Valdosta Mayor Ernest Nijem proclaiming February as American History Month.

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Height Abounds On All-Area Team

First Valdosta Daily Times All-Area Basketball Team Named

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Selecting members for the 1984 *Valdosta Daily Times* All-Area high school basketball team was literally a tall order. Only three of the 10 players on the boys and girls first teams are under six feet tall.

The *Times'* first all-area team was selected by the *Times* sports staff. Selections were made on the basis of the players' performance in games covered by the staff and evaluations of players by the area coaches.

Clarence "C.C." Hodge of Clinch County at 5-8 is the shortest member of a boys team whose front line would make any high school coach's job easier. So imagine how Valdosta High coach Mike O'Brien, the *Times* Coach of the Year, feels knowing that two of them are Wildcats including the *Times* Player of the Year, center Wallace Campbell (6-3). Campbell, a junior, is the only underclassman on the boys first team.

The other 'Cat on the team is forward Jerome Berrian (6-3).

The tallest man on the first team is Terrance Rayford of Brooks County (6-5). Rayford has averaged 25 points a game for the Trojans. Rayford said Florida State has shown an interest in him and the Valdosta State staff has watched him play twice this season.

The fifth member of the team is Chris Carter (6-3), a forward for Lowndes. Carter averages 15.4 points and 8.3 rebounds a game. Coach Terry Wilkes describes Carter as "a hard worker" and says, "That's his biggest asset. Even if a certain part of his game isn't going right, he's helping you in other areas."

The girls Player and Coach of the Year are also from the same school. Lowndes coach Steve Kebler's Vikettes went 20-2 during the regular season, thanks in large part to the play of junior pivot Natasha Horn (6-1). Horn is the only underclassman on the girls first team.

Melissa Myers of Cook and Elaine Kay of Atkinson County are the shortest members of the girls first team at 5-10 each.

Myers, a senior point guard, helped the Wasps break the stranglehold Berrien County had held on the Region 1-AAA title the last three years.

Kay is one of the reasons Atkinson won the Region 2-A title during the regular season. The other is her sister Brenda Kay, an honorable mention choice on this year's team.

And speaking of Berrien County, Simmie Williams (6-2) was the only returning starter off the Rebelettes team that won the Class AAA state title last year.

Clinch County and Atkinson County battled for the lead in the Region 2-A girls race all season long. Clinch, which was led by Gussie Clark (6-1), knocked off almost all comers. But the Pantherettes haven't been able to beat Atkinson yet in three tries this season.

Members of the boys second team are: Timmy Barber (Clinch), Will Collier (Echols County), Greg Watson (Valwood), Alan Taylor (Lowndes) and Tim Tomlinson (Georgia Christian).

The girls second team includes: May Neloms (Cook), Melissa "Bug" Williams (Lowndes), Debbie Meadows (Lowndes), Marla Lupo (Clinch) and Kim Lanier (Open Bible).

1983-84 Valdosta Daily Times All-Area Girls Team

FIRST TEAM

Jerome Berrien, 6-3, Sr., Valdosta
Wallace Campbell, 6-3, Jr., Valdosta
Chris Carter, 6-3, Sr., Lowndes
C.C. Hodge, 5-8, Sr., Clinch Co.
Terrance Rayford, 6-5, Sr., Brooks Co.

SECOND TEAM

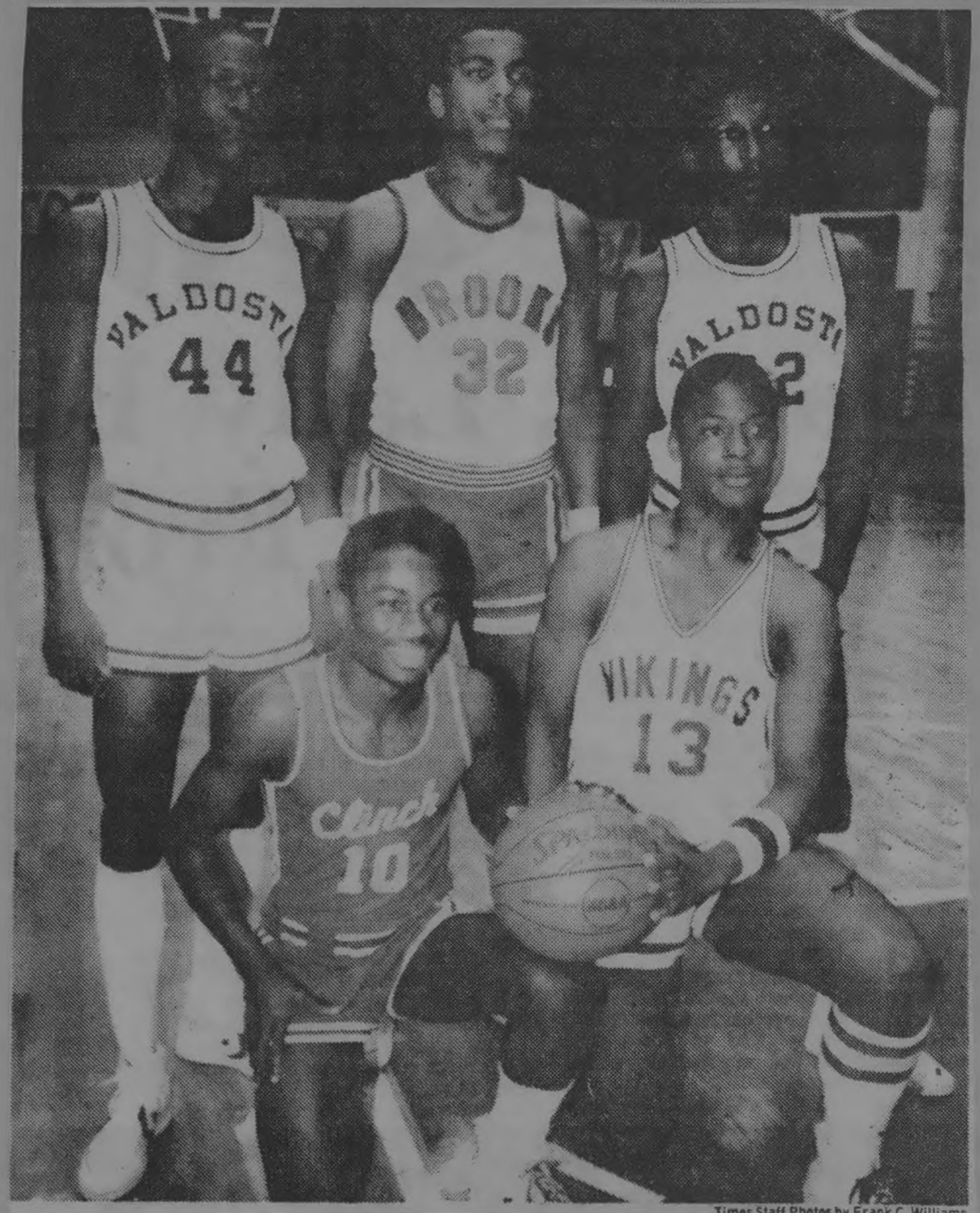
Timmy Barber, 6-8, Sr., Clinch Co.
Will Collier, 6-2, Sr., Echols Co.
Alan Taylor, 5-10, Sr., Lowndes
Tim Tomlinson, 5-11, Jr., Ga. Christian
Greg Watson, 5-11, Sr., Valwood

COACH OF YEAR

Mike O'Brien, Valdosta

HONORABLE MENTION

James Anderson, Berrien Co.
Jeff Butler, Lowndes
Moses Daniels, Valdosta
Randy Dorsey, Lanier Co.
Greg Freeman, Atkinson Co.
Scott Gillis, Atkinson Co.
Calvin Monds, Brooks Co.
Perry Thompson, Clinch Co.
Kenny Tippins, Cook
Marty Vedas, Open Bible



Times Staff Photos by Frank C. Williams

Boys Team: (kneeling l-r) C.C. Hodge, Clinch; Chris Carter, Lowndes Jerome Berrian, Valdosta; Terrance Rayford, Brooks; Campbell, Valdosta

1983-84 Valdosta Daily Times All-Area Boys Team

FIRST TEAM

Gussie Clark, 6-1, Sr., Clinch Co.
Natasha Horn, 6-0, Jr., Lowndes
Elaine Kay, 5-10, Sr., Atkinson Co.
Melissa Myers, 5-10, Sr., Cook
Simmie Williams, 6-2, Sr., Berrien Co.

SECOND TEAM

Kim Lanier, 5-10, Sr., Open Bible
Marla Lupo, 5-7, So., Clinch Co.
Debbie Meadows, 5-6, Sr., Lowndes
May Neloms, 5-11, Sr., Cook
Melissa Williams, 5-5, Sr., Lowndes

COACH OF YEAR

Steve Kebler, Lowndes

HONORABLE MENTION

Tonya Honaker, Ga. Christian
Brenda Kay, Atkinson Co.
Tracey Mackey, Berrien Co.
Ronnie Melvin, Valdosta
Melissa Odoms, Cook
Angie Patrick, Ga. Christian
Shevon Peeler, Valdosta
Tane Register, Lowndes
Tamara Ward, Valwood
Beverly Young, Lanier Co.

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VHS Was Hungrier Than CHS

Vi Times 2-21-84

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

THOMASVILLE — The answer to why Valdosta beat Thomasville Central 75-66 in the boys championship game of the Region 1-AAAA South tournament Mcnday night is simple, according to Derrick "Kool" Folsom.

"We wanted it more," Folsom said. "That's all, we just wanted it more."

Folsom scored two points and pulled down six rebounds despite a case of stomach cramps that made him the last man out of the dressing room after halftime.

Folsom, a junior forward, like his coach, Mike O'Brien, and his teammates, wasn't too happy about having to play Central on Monday instead of last Saturday. The officials postponed the game because the Central janitors used so much mineral oil while dusting the floor that it became too slippery to play on. O'Brien was the only one of the four coaches involved who wanted to move the games to another site and play on Saturday.

"We were ready to play Saturday night," said center Wallace Campbell. "We wanted to go play at Thomasville (High)."

Campbell, a junior, had 24 points and 10 rebounds Monday night. He said he was uncertain what effect delaying the game might have had.

"I can't say what would have happened Saturday. From the looks of it, it wouldn't have mattered."

Junior guard Victor Walker, who scored eight points and was singled out by O'Brien for his play on defense, said he thought the Valdosta's inside players were the key against Central.

"The difference was the two big men, Wallace and Jerome (Berrian)," Walker said. "Jerome was on the boards early and Wallace got some key baskets."

Berrian scored 29 points and had 18 rebounds.

Walker added, "Kool got on the boards. He did his job tonight. And Moses Daniels did a good job at point guard. I'm proud to be playing with these guys."

Campbell admitted he was surprised by the relative ease of Valdosta's victory.

"It wasn't easy," he said, "but it was easier than we thought it would be. We didn't let up. We played hard for all four quarters ... I wanted to play in the fourth quarter just like I did in the first.

"I think we played better than they did. Central played a good game, but we came out on top and that's what counts."

Campbell said he was already thinking about the region tournament.

"I just want us to have a good three days of practice. I think we have a good chance of playing Saturday night (in the region final) if we work in practice this week and play like we did tonight."

'It wasn't easy, but it was easier than we thought it would be ... I think we played better than they did. Central played a good game, but we came out on top and that's what counts.'

— Wallace Campbell
Valdosta High Center

The Valdosta Daily Times, Mon., Feb. 20, 1984—3—

VHS Debate Team Places Third In State AAAA

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High's debate team placed third in the State AAAA Debates at West Georgia last Friday, according to Frank Hjort, debate director and English teacher at VHS.

"This is the first time the debate team has finished this well in state competition during my five years of coaching debate at VHS," Hjort said.

VHS' 4-2 total record placed them behind first-place Parkview and second-place Griffin. West Georgia College debaters served as judges.

Valdosta's negative team had a perfect 3-0 won/loss record in the competition, while defeating teams from Evans, Griffin and Peachtree high schools. Debating for that team were April Wagner, a senior, and Michael Furukawa, a junior.

The affirmative team, composed of seniors Michael Taormina and Michael Herrin, defeated Evans High and finished with a 1-2 record. Lee Davis, a senior, accompanied the team as an alternate.

Other schools competing at the contest were Glynn Academy of Brunswick, and Northside of Warner Robins.

Valdosta's debate team earned the right to compete in the state debate finals by winning the Region AAAA tournament Jan. 27 at Valdosta State College.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Tues., Feb. 21, 1984—

BRET BUSCH

LEE DAVIS

MARGARET FUREY

MICHAEL HERRIN

BETH SINGLETARY

GREG STURTEVANT

JOEL WEAVER

'Quite An Accomplishment'

National Merit Awards Go To 7 VHS Students

By Times Staff Writer

One of the highest high school honors, the National Merit Scholarship Award, has been bestowed on seven Valdosta High students.

"This quite an accomplishment," said VHS Principal Lloyd Mims.

Normally only about three or four Valdosta High students receive the award each year, said Virginia Wisenbaker, school counselor.

The National Merit Scholarship awards are based on academic records and scholastic aptitude tests, she said. Students who are named merit scholars rank among the best in the country.

"These are supposed to be the brightest students in the nation," she said.

Winners of the award often receive scholarships at colleges and universities, Ms. Wisenbaker said, due to the prestige of the award.

"One of the ways a college ranks itself is the number of National Merit Scholars on campus," she said.

Students who received the award are Bret Busch, Lee Davis, Margaret Furey, Michael Herrin, Beth Singletary, Gregory Sturtevant and Joel Weaver.

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1-AAAA South Finals Tonight (Finally)

Mon. Feb. 20, 1984

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

No matter what happens in tonight's championship game of the Region 1-AAAA South basketball tournament, Valdosta coach Mike O'Brien says the road to Thomasville is one his team has traveled once too often.

The sub-region finals were supposed to have been played last Saturday night at Thomasville Central. But the games had to be cancelled because the floor was too slippery to play on. So the Lowndes girls will play Colquitt County tonight at 7 and the Wildcats will play Central around 8:30.

The problem arose after the Central janitors who swept the floor Saturday put too much mineral oil on their dust mops. The oil is used to pick up dust.

The Central staff spent approximately 45 minutes spraying a grease-cutter on the floor and re-mopping it Saturday night in an effort to remove the excess oil. But referee Jim Hunt decided the floor was too dangerous to play on.

"They just put too much oil treatment stuff on their mops," Central principal Hilburn Dunahoo said in a telephone interview this morning. "... It was the regular stuff you're supposed to use, they just used too much.

"They noticed the floor was slick after they mopped it but they thought it would dry by game time. But that stuff takes a long time to dry."

Dunahoo said, "We'll have it (the floor) ready tonight."

Hunt gave the four coaches involved, O'Brien, Lowndes' Steve Kebler, Central's Charlie Ward and Colquitt's Julian Grantham, a choice between moving the games to another site on Saturday night such as the Thomasville High Gym, which is approximately one mile away, or postponing the games until tonight.

O'Brien was the only coach who voted to move the games. And he's not happy about the postponement.

"It's safe to say that. (I'm) Definitely not happy about it," he said this morning.

"I felt like our kids were ready to play and then we had to wait two more days. Now we haven't played a game in a week and two days."

O'Brien said he wasn't surprised Ward and Grantham voted the way they did. Central and Colquitt both had to play two games to reach the finals while Valdosta and Lowndes, the regular-season sub-region champions, both received byes to the finals.

"Central has played two games, plus they've rested two days now. Everything is definitely in their favor now."

The 'Cats didn't practice Sunday and O'Brien isn't sure if his team will be as prepared as it was Saturday.

"We were pretty prepared," he said. "We'll just carry on what we discussed earlier and hope it carries over.

"We're just going to go over there and try to do our best. The thing about it is that the kids were ready. They had that feeling."

The loser of tonight's boys final will play Albany Dougherty in the first round of the region tournament Friday at Lowndes. Dougherty beat Albany Westover 49-43 last Saturday at the Westover Gym. The Lowndes-Colquitt loser will play North sub-region champion Albany which beat Dougherty 61-60.

Valdosta beat both Dougherty and Westover during the regular season.

But first the 'Cats are worried about Central, a team which has been almost unbeatable at home this season. O'Brien says he hopes Dunahoo is right about the floor being ready tonight. If not, he says, "We'll play in the parking lot or something.

"We've got to play tonight, no ifs, ands or buts about it."

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Feb. 22, 1984-

VHS, LHS Win Big At DE Meet

By TOM MATHER
Times Staff Writer

Students at Valdosta and Lowndes high schools made strong showings at the district competition for the Distributive Education Clubs of America.

Although Lowndes High hosted the contest, Valdosta walked away with first place overall in the standings.

"I'm very proud of our students," said Norman Greene, distributive education teacher at Valdosta High. "They worked very hard all year and it paid off in being recognized as the best in district competition."

Lowndes students had nothing to be ashamed of either. They took second place overall — losing to Valdosta by a single point.

"That was close," said Phil Walden, marketing and distributive education coordinator at Lowndes.

Greene agreed. "The competition was very keen," he said. "I know some chapters had honors students and advanced placement students in almost all contests."

Distributive education is a a cooperative program between the schools and local businesses, Walden said. D.E. students attend classes where they learn about business, he said, and then supplement that knowledge with actual work experience.

Students competing in the DECA contest came from distributive education programs in high schools all over south Georgia.

Contest winners from Valdosta High included: Kim Jenkins, first place in business vocabulary and spelling; Martin Rousch, first place in restaurant marketing; Jeff Gore, second place in service station retailing; Laura Miller, first place in apparel and accessories; Barry Teffeteller, first place in food marketing; Melissa Winfrey, second place in advertising services; Jay McLeod, second place in general merchandising; Dottie Jo Brown, first place in general marketing and second place "Student of the Year"; Tim Davis, second place in food marketing; David Sheppard, second place in finance and credit; Karmen Lyons, first place in apparel and acessories; April Wagner, fourth place in business speech; Richie Chandler, third place in service station retailing; and Valica Johnson, fourth place in restaurant marketing.

Lowndes High contest winners include: Dottie Thomas, first place in apparel and accessory marketing; Susan Upchurch, first place in advertising services; Paula Wiggins, first place in general merchandising; Kay Waldron, first place in restaurant marketing and management; Brett Reddick, second place restaurant marketing and management; Chad Plaire, first place food marketing and "Student of the Year"; David Willis, first place in service station retailing; and Denis Nolan, first place in general marketing.

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Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

South Sub-Region Champion Valdosta Wildcats Eye Berth In State Playoffs

Happy Times In Wildcat Country

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

It's great to be Mike O'Brien these days.

O'Brien is the coach of the best boys basketball team in the south half of Region 1-AAAA, the 15-7 Valdosta High Wildcats. He's got two tournament trophies and three *Times* All-Area players, including Wallace Campbell, the Player of the Year.

Heck, O'Brien has even got his own television show now, "The Wildcat Tradition," which will be shown on Channel 13 tonight at 6.

O'Brien admits that coaching a team that's one win away from the state tournament "feels good. It's a great feeling of accomplishment, both for myself and the team, mainly for the team.

"When we started out in late September, we set several goals for ourselves. The first was winning the Lowndes (Christmas) Tournament, which we were able to do. Then we wanted to win the No. 1 seed in the sub-region tournament and the sub-region championship.

"Our next goal is to go play (in the South state tournament) in Macon. And the only way we can obtain that one is by winning Friday night."

Standing in the way of O'Brien's phone call to Macon for motel reservations is Albany Westover, the team the 'Cats will play at 9 p.m. Friday in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA tournament at the Lowndes Gym. Westover, 14-8, lost to Albany Dougherty in the North sub-region final last Saturday.

The 'Cats beat Westover 60-47 in Albany before Christmas. Which, O'Brien says, means nothing except "both teams have changed a lot. And hopefully both have improved enough to be in the region finals."

On offense, O'Brien says, "Westover has been primarily an outside shooting team ... We feel like we've got to put more pressure on the outside."

He adds, "In order for us to beat Westover, we've got to play another good ballgame. We have to play good defense and control the boards. If Westover gets in their groove and starts shooting like they can, it'll be raining basketballs from half-court and they'll all be going through their basket."

O'Brien says Westover's playoff experience could also be a factor. This is the Patriots' third straight trip to the region tournament. None of the players on this year's Valdosta team have ever gotten this far.

"Westover has got the playoff experience while we don't," he said. "Even though they graduated a lot of kids last year, they have five senior starters."

But Valdosta has also won a big game or two this season.

"So far we've played well under pressure," O'Brien said. "From now on, every ballgame is a pressure game. Because every ballgame is the last one if you don't win. Our kids realize that."

'Cats Win, Vikettes Lose At Sub-Region

V. Times 2-21-84

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

THOMASVILLE — Valdosta coach Mike O'Brien had predicted trying to beat Thomasville Central in the Yellow Jackets' own gym would be like trying to rob Fort Knox.

If that's true, then the Wildcats pulled the heist of the year Monday night. They beat Central 75-66 in the boys final of the Region 1-AAAA South basketball tournament. And the trophy the 'Cats took home put them within one victory of a trip to the state playoffs.

In the girls final, Colquitt County beat Lowndes 53-40.

Valdosta will play Albany Westover, the No. 2 team from the North sub-region, at 9 p.m., Friday in the first round of the region tournament at the Lowndes High Gym. Central will play Albany Dougherty at 6.

The 'Cats, 15-8, pulled out all of the stops for Central just like they had when they beat them at VHS last month. On defense, they made Central play "Guess Which Defense?" On offense, the 'Cats put on "The Jerome and Wallace Show."

"I think we won it because our kids showed a lot of poise and pride," O'Brien said. "They threw everything at us and our kids cooly responded."

Valdosta threw a few things at Central, too, especially on defense. They came out in a 2-1-2 zone, then switched to a box-and-one, then to a triangle-and-two, and even pressed for a few minutes in the third quarter.

"We knew we couldn't let them settle into a groove (on offense)," O'Brien said. "That's why we changed our defenses so much. Every time they would adjust to one, we would try to change to something else."

On the other end of the floor, the 'Cats looked to their big men, Jerome Berrian and Wallace Campbell. And did they ever come through. Together they scored 53 points and pulled down 28 rebounds.

"They set out to stop Wallace, and Jerome burned them. When they got on Jerome, Wallace took over," O'Brien said.

Berrian scored 29 points and had 18 rebounds. Campbell had 24 points and 10 rebounds. Moses Daniels added 10 points.

Valdosta never trailed in the game. Central tied it twice, but the 'Cats took the lead for good on Campbell's three-point play with 4:52 left in the first quarter. Valdosta led 21-14 at the end of the first quarter.

Central made its strongest threat of the night in the second period when the Jackets cut Valdosta's lead to two, 27-25, on Darryl Holton's layup with 3:48 left. But the 'Cats closed out the first half by scoring six unanswered points.

Central cut Valdosta's lead to two again in the third quarter, 39-37, with 3:24 left. After Berrian's basket with 2:19 to go put the 'Cats up by four again, O'Brien had Valdosta switch to a full-court press for about a minute. Valdosta outscored Central 6-2 in that time and the Jackets never seriously threatened again.

"We were standing around on defense so we decided to press to get us moving again," O'Brien said.

Despite Valdosta's efforts on defense, Holton led all scorers with 35 points.

"We were going to try to take away their outside scoring and make them take it inside," O'Brien said. "We were still trying to pack around him to make him put it on the floor so our guards would have a chance at it. But he never did. He just kept hitting that turnaround jumper all night long.

"That (the outside shooting) is Central's game. If they can get into that, they're tough. But if they can't, they seem to stand around trying to get the ball inside to him (Holton). So we tried to make them stand around."

Still, Holton got his points, especially in the fourth quarter when he was six of six from the field. He was 13 of 19 from the field for the game.

"They had decided to go inside to try to get Wallace in foul trouble," O'Brien said. Campbell finished with three fouls.

"So we made the adjustment of moving Jerome into the middle. We intercepted several passes they tried to get inside to him. But when he touched it, he scored in the fourth quarter."

1-AAAA South Sub-Region
Basketball Tournament
Boys Final

Thomasville Central	14	25	31	66
Valdosta	21	33	47	75

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta — Daniels 10, Walker 8, Berrian 29, Folsom 2, Campbell 24, Register 2.

Central — Holton 35, Henderson 11, Payne 12, West 4, Hill 2.

Girls Final

Colquitt Co.	9	22	35	53
Lowndes	10	17	29	40

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Lowndes — Register 10, Horn 12, Williams 6, Meadows 4, Walker 3, Richardson 2.

Colquitt — G. Richardson 9, Stewart 14, Johnson 12, A. Richardson 13, Taylor 5.

Vikettes Win, Wildcats Lose In 1-AAAA Tourney

V. Times 2-25-84

Region 1-AAAA Basketball Tourney Final Round

GIRLS
Dougherty (14-9)
Vs.
Lowndes (21-3)
7:00 p.m.

BOYS
Westover (15-8)
Vs.
Dougherty (18-9)
8:30 p.m.

1-AAAA Semifinals
At Lowndes Gym
Girls

Albany	7	21	28	56
Lowndes	18	38	56	71

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Albany — Malone 4, Lane 8, Easley 2, Zachery 4, Kendrick 8, Jones 16, Cannady 3, Glaze 11.

Lowndes — Register 21, Meadows 2, Williams 8, Walker 2, Richardson 12, Hall 2, March 10, Willis 14.

Dougherty	8	16	22	32
Colquitt Co.	2	8	19	31

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Dougherty — Fields 10, Davis 4, Hall 6, Sams 12.

Colquitt Co. — Johnson 4, Logan 2, A. Richardson 8, G. Richardson 8, Stewart 9.

Boys

Westover	13	23	38	60
Valdosta	3	14	39	48

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Westover — Ford 18, Trent 11, Cooper 11, Thomas 14, Hall 4, Harpe 2.

Valdosta — Daniels 15, Walker 7, Berrian 12, Folsom 6, Campbell 8.

Central	10	26	36	52
Dougherty	16	29	42	66

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Central — Blount 2, West 9, Payne 6, Hill 6, Henderson 11, Holton 18.

Dougherty — Fudge 12, Teemer 6, G. Edwards 4, P. Edwards 2, Hines 13, Johnson 21, Marshall 8.

Continued - See V.Times 2-25-84 (1)

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Times Staff Photo by Frank C. Williams

Tane Register (20) Paced Vikettes' Victory

Westover Brings 'Dosta's Dream Season To End

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High boys basketball team's dream season finally ended in what Wildcat coach Mike O'Brien called "a total nightmare."

In the end, Albany Westover's defensive pressure and perhaps the pressure of such a big game were too much for the 'Cats Friday night in the Lowndes Gym. Westover beat Valdosta 60-48 in the semifinals of the Region 1-AAAA tournament, sending the Patriots into tonight's final with Albany Dougherty at 8:30.

Dougherty, the North sub-region champion, beat Thomasville Central, 66-52. Central finished the year 11-12.

"The first half was a total nightmare," said O'Brien, whose 'Cats finished the season at 15-8. "We couldn't shoot. We weren't rebounding. We weren't doing the things that got us here. In the third quarter we started waking up and started doing the things we do best."

Westover roared out to 13-3 lead in the first quarter, led by Derrick Thomas who scored 10 of his 14 points in the first period. Westover's outside game started heating up in the second quarter as the Patriots rolled to a 23-14 lead at the intermission.

But Valdosta got back into the game in the second quarter, thanks almost entirely to the shooting of senior point guard Moses Daniels. Daniels scored eight points. The plight of the 'Cats was obvious though, when one considers that their two top guns, Jerome Berrian and Wallace Campbell, scored a total of one point in the second quarter.

The 'Cats turned things around in the third quarter. Trailing 28-20 less than three minutes into the second half, Valdosta switched to a full-court press on defense. The 'Cats stole the ball from Westover three straight times and got a three-point play every time to pull within one point, 30-29.

Daniels, who led the 'Cats with 15 points, hit a jumper from the top of the key with 3:10 remaining in the third period to put Valdosta ahead for the first time, 31-30. Derrick "Kool" Folsom added two free throws to increase Valdosta's lead to three, 33-30. But Westover was able to keep it close with a full-court press that would trouble the 'Cats more and more as the game drew to a close.

The 'Cats led 39-38 at the end of the third quarter. Valdosta took its biggest lead of the night, 43-38, on a pair of free throws by Campbell.

Westover's outside shooting took over after that. Roger Trent scored four of the Patriots' next six points on a pair of 20-foot jump shots including one with 5:59 left that put Westover ahead for good, 44-43.

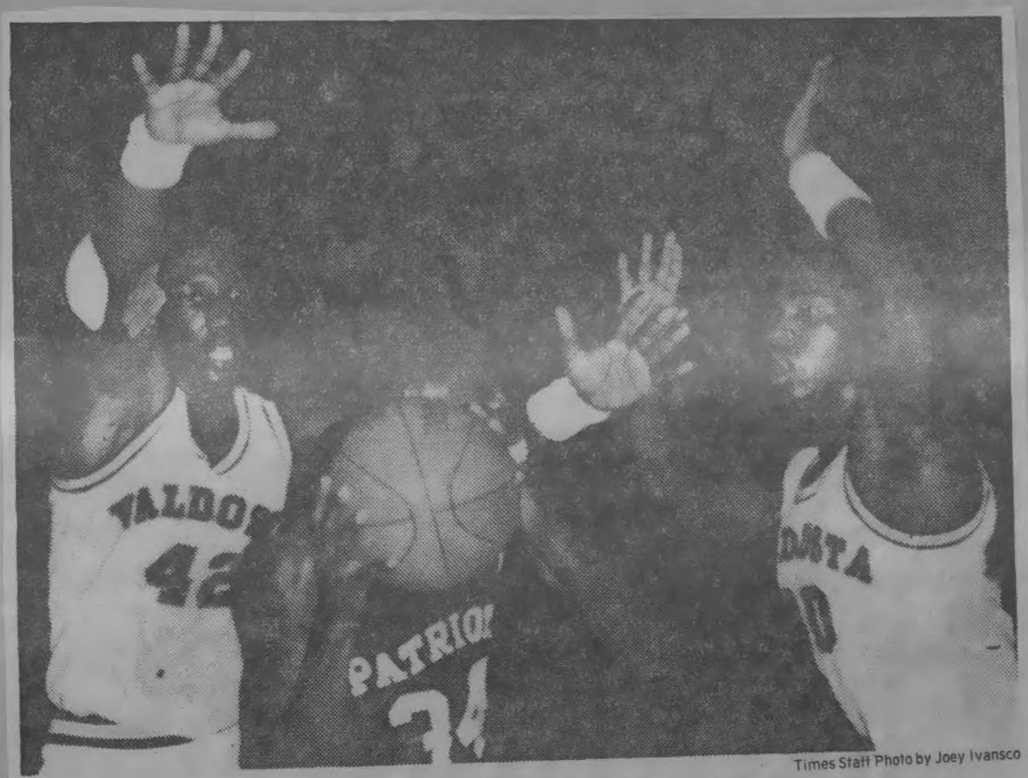
Valdosta stayed within striking distance for the next five minutes. But Westover iced the game by sinking eight free throws in eight trips to the line in the final minute.

"Our press put us back in the game,," O'Brien said of his team's third-quarter rally. "Then they started breaking it and we had to get back out of it. Then they pressed us. They hadn't bothered us all night but we had some mental breakdowns and started turning the ball over."

O'Brien said his players didn't handle the pressure of playing in a big game well.

"When you lose your composure and do things you haven't done, to me that's choking. We came out of it ... then we choked again. We had mental lapses on offense and defense."

O'Brien said the 'Cats will start thinking about next season in a few days.



Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

Campbell (1), Folsom Applied Defensive Pressure To Pats

The Valdosta Daily Times, Mon., Feb. 27, 1984-

Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams

From Left, Hjort, Herrin, Taormina, Furukawa, Ms. Wagner

Debate Team Rising At VHS

By TOM MATHER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School didn't have a debate team in 1979, when Frank Hjort first came to the school as an English teacher.

So Hjort took on the task of starting a team, he said. And although the school gave him plenty of administrative backing, he had one big problem: lack of experience.

"I started with no debate experience," he said, "and the debate team started with no experience."

Hjort, and the 15-member team, apparently learned pretty fast. The team has come a long way since then.

This January, Valdosta High's first-team debaters — April Wagner, Michael Taormina, Michael Furukawa and Michael Herrin — won first place in the Region 1-AAAA tournament at Valdosta State College.

That win enabled them to compete in the state meet last week at West Georgia College — where they placed third overall.

"This is the first time the debate team has finished this well in state competition during my five years of coaching," Hjort said.

And that is quite an accomplishment, he said, since VHS debaters must do all their preparation on their own time.

"It's an extracurricular activity," Hjort said. "We don't have a class yet. All the work is done outside of school."

Students on the debate team said they would like to see that changed. They'd like a debate class, where they could study and do research.

"That's one of the biggest problems we have — doing the research," debater Michael Herrin said.

Such preparations usually require sacrifices on the part of debaters. As Michael Taormina said: "If we know we're going to a tournament sometime in the near future...we usually have to stay after school."

But the students aren't trying to get out of work. In fact, they said they'd like to compete in even more tournaments than the three a year they now attend.

"All the best schools go to tournaments every other week, or once a month," said April Wagner. "That's what we need to gain the experience and win the state tournaments."

Coach Hjort agreed. "There's so many other things these students are involved in, that it's hard to keep them interested in debate when they only go to three tournaments a year."

Right now the debate team is in sort of a lull period, Hjort said, since the state tournament just ended. But that won't last for long.

Soon debaters will begin preparations for the region literary competition later this spring, he said. That event involves contests in extemporaneous (unrehearsed) speaking, led by April Wagner and Barry Herrin, and oral interpretation, led by senior Lee Davis.

"You prepare for that just like an actor prepares for a stage play," Hjort said.

After the literary meet, debaters still don't get a break. In fact, the team then begins preparing for next year. That's because the 1984-85 debate topics are announced in April.

"When that's settled, than the research begins," he said.

To get a jump on things, VHS debaters attend workshops at Mercer College in May and Valdosta State College in the summer.

But the time and effort involved in debating pays off for students, Hjort said. They develop research, speaking, and organization skills...and poise.

"All of the events — besides just teaching basic communication skills — require students to be at their best," he said.

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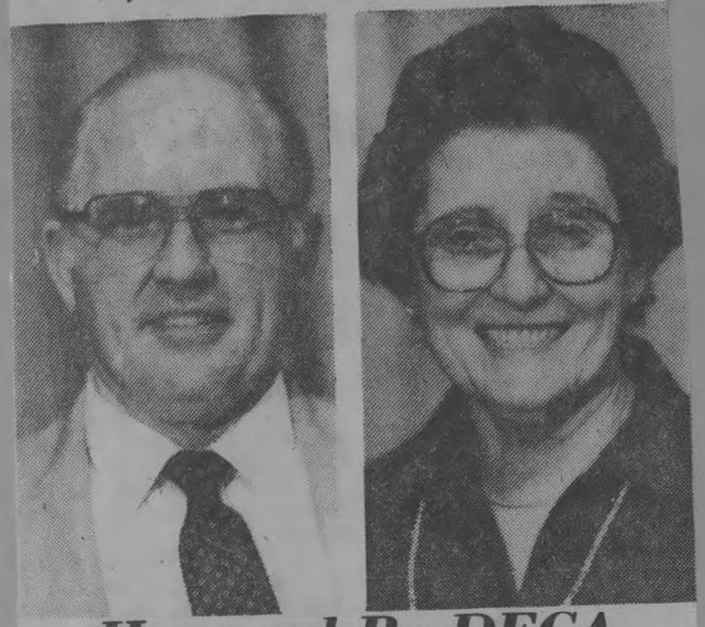
V Times 3-8-84



Honored By DECA

Ralph Brandon and Edwina Burgsteiner were honored this week by the Valdosta High School Distributive Education Clubs of America. The two were honored as lifetime members at the banquet, at which seven members of the club who are VHS students were also handed awards. — Times Staff Photos.

V. Times 3-2-84

FBLA Visits Businesses

Six Valdosta High members of Future Business Leaders of America recently visited three local businesses as part of their celebration of FBLA Week.

Tammy Payton and Altricia Payton visited Georgia Power, Lee Ann Townsend and Renee Roberts visited Southern Bell, and Kimberly Rowe and Catherine McConnell visited SAFT.

Representatives of each company led the girls on tours of their facilities and answered questions.

V Times 3-2-84

VHS Places Four Winners

Valdosta High's Future Business Leaders of America placed four winners at a recent region mini-conference held at Albany Junior College.

FBLA members competed in various events, with first and second place winners advancing to the state competition in May.

Winners from VHS included Tammy Payton, first in public speaking; Kimberly Rowe, second in clerk typist I; Lisa King, second in Ms. FBLA; and Katherine Meyer, fourth in clerk typist II.

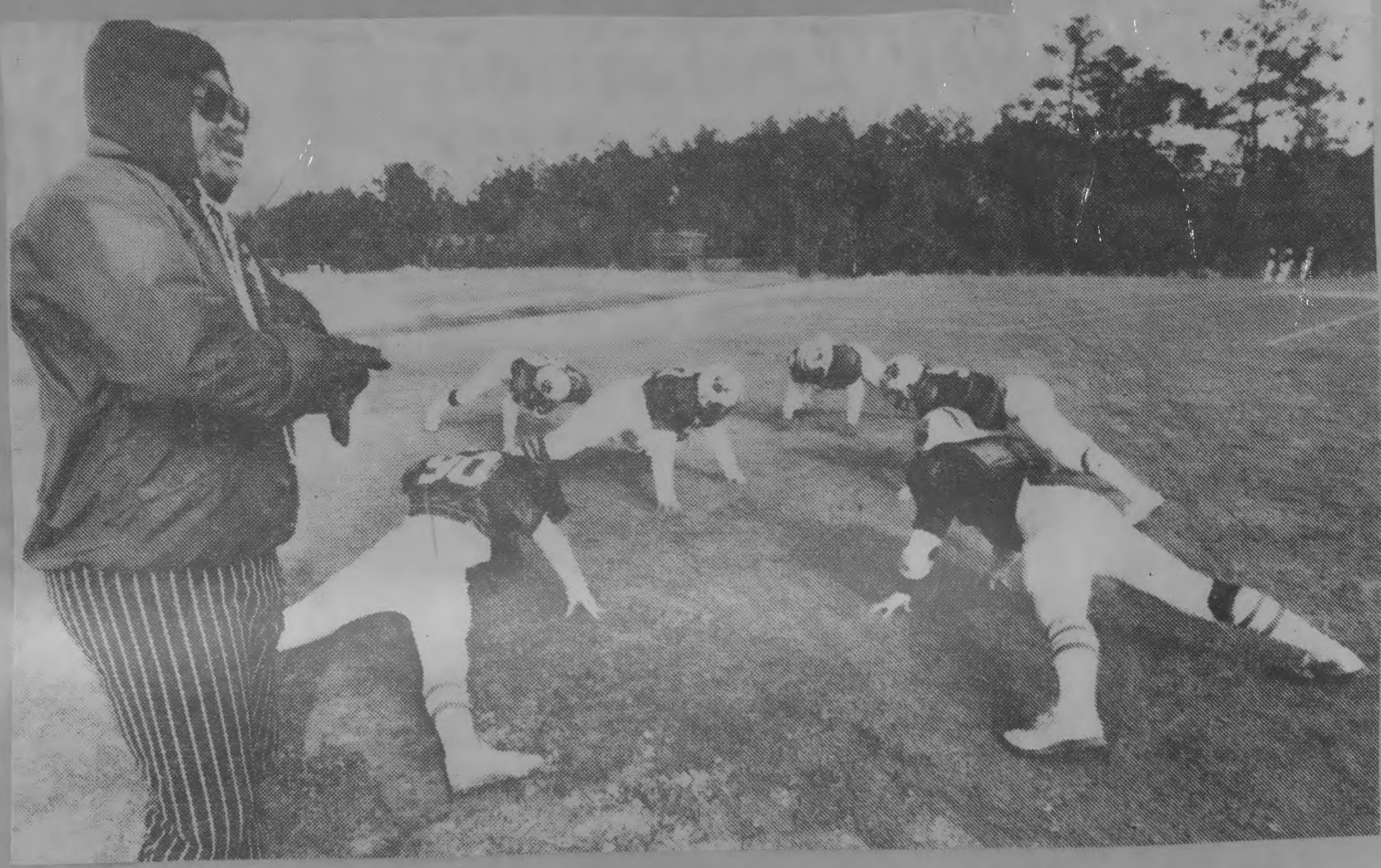
Other club members attending the conference included Vincent Dimmock, Frankie Keeling, Stefanie Roberts, Donna Faye Blankumsee, Altricia Payton, Sherry Murajda, Pam Williams and Stephanie Weatherspoon.

Wanda Hall, region vice president, presided during the conference. Advisers attending were Janeen Josey and Tina Strickland.

Spring Football?

Some people call it "Valdosta's second-favorite sport." Officially, it's known as spring football practice, but unseasonably cold temperatures this week have put a chill on the proceedings. The Lowndes Vikings began their ninth spring practice under head coach Joe Wilson (left) on Monday. Meanwhile, defensive line coach Freddie Waters (below) is going through his 11th session of spring training with the Valdosta Wildcats. Spring training is scheduled to continue four weeks and will climax with both schools' spring games on March 23. Lowndes will host Warner Robins at Martin Stadium while Valdosta will entertain Newnan at Cleveland Field. Both games will begin at 8 p.m. — Times Staff Photos By Joey Ivansco.

V Times 3-1-84



VHS, LHS Students Do Well In Regional Competition

By TOM MATHER
Times Staff Writer

Students from Lowndes and Valdosta high schools scored well last Wednesday in a regional competition for the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America.

Students competing in the contests are enrolled in either Diversified Cooperative Training or Trade and Industrial courses. While in those classes, students learn job-related skills that directly apply to trade and industry.

The VICA contests are held annually to allow students to use their skills and abilities in a competitive atmosphere.

Of the 29 contest areas, Lowndes VICA members won 11 first place awards, four seconds, and three thirds. Valdosta High's members won five first places, seven seconds and three thirds.

Other high schools competing included Cook, Colquitt, Brooks, Worth, Lanier and Tift.

Lowndes winners include: Chris Mathis, first in job interviewing; Terry Palmer, first in small engine repair; Greg Millsaps, first in carpentry; Rene James, first in commercial arts; Adonna Crocker, first in commercial food trade; Angela Cothron, first in cosmetology; Rusty Mullis, first in electrical trades; Johnny Garrett, first in elctronic product servicing; Mark Waynick, first in industrial electronics; Jeff Stalvey, first in major appliance repair; Tony Alexander, first in sheet metal; Thomas Peacock, second in extemporaneous speaking; Johnny Huff, second in prepared speaking; Jack Neece, second in cabinet making and millwork; Richard Perrin, second in plumbing and pipefitting; Deanna Dorminey, third in medical assistant; and Steve Nichols, third in air conditioning and refrigeration.

Valdosta High winners were: Charlie Johnson, first in prepared speaking; Eric Brucker, first in auto mechanics; Tony Lanier, first in architectural drafting; Steve Stanfill, first in graphic communications; Joe Wagner, first in machine drafting; Anita Donahue, second in practical nursing; Marty Carnathan, second in air conditioning and refrigeration; Tracey McKee, second in electrical trades; Carl Perkins, second in major appliance repair; Joseph Duvall, second in precision machining; Calvin Stephenson, second in welding; Tim Mills, second in air-cooled gasoline engines; Sandra Brown, third in extemporaneous speaking; Tim McEady, third in bricklaying; and Cortez Love, third in cabinet making and millwork.

Contest winners are eligible to compete in the Southwest District VICA contest to be held in Columbus, Ga., March 16.

VICA advisors for Lowndes and Valdosta highs, respectively, are Jeremiah Lawton and Levy Taylor.

V. Times 3-2-84

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Weather Hinders Spring Practice

V. Times. 3-4-84

Vikings, Wildcats Battle Rain, Cold During 1st Week Of Workouts

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Not surprisingly, the weather was the biggest problem Nick Hyder and Joe Wilson had to face last week as they sent their football teams through the first of four weeks of spring practice.

"We had a good week," said Wilson who is going through his ninth spring practice as head coach of the Vikings. "But the weather wasn't too cooperative. We had that rain on Monday and then it was pretty cold on Tuesday and Wednesday."

Hyder, who celebrated his tenth anniversary in Valdosta this week and is going through his 11th spring practice with the Wildcats, said, "I was really proud of the youngsters and coaches for enduring that biting chill factor on Tuesday and Wednesday."

Both coaches seemed pleased with what they saw on the field this week. The two teams went about their practices in decidedly different manners.

The Vikings devoted most of their practices to scrimmaging. The 75 players out for the varsity squad were divided into three teams — Red, White and Black.

"We had a three-team situation where kids played both offense and defense," said Wilson. "We found some players on defense who look like they'll be able to help us out on offense. And we found some on offense who could spell us on defense."

Wilson said the Vikings would remain divided into three teams for "two or three more days."

Lowndes lost 16 starters off last year's 8-3 Region 1-AAAA South champion team. The losses included both running backs, four of the five offensive linemen, the tight end and the entire interior defensive line.

Senior Randy Gay is back at quarterback but last year's No. 2 quarterback, junior Bobby Eason, did not come out for spring practice. Sophomore Brad Almon has been alternating series with Gay.

"We got a lot done," said Wilson. "I'm a little more optimistic than I was before (practice) ... we've had excellent participation on the varsity level. We only had one player miss practice and that was because of an injury. We got a lot of work done."

Valdosta spent the first half of its practices last week practicing by positions. The last part of practice has been used for scrimmaging and working on the kicking game.

"The first week we've accomplished pretty much what we wanted to," said Hyder. "We had some people who look like they'll be able to help us next year."

The 'Cats finished the week with 98 players on the varsity roster including 14 who started all or part of last season. Those 14 were excused from practice last week and will rejoin the team on Monday.

The returnees from last year's 11-1 North sub-region champion team include linebacker and defensive captain John Porter, fullback Tony Anderson, much of the offensive and defensive lines, back-up quarterback Berke Holtzclaw, wide receiver Hosea Heard and defensive secondary players Ernest Manghram, Elijah Holmes and Derrick "Kool" Folsom.

The upcoming freshmen also started practicing at VHS last week. Approximately 12 eighth graders who went through the six-week off-season program are practicing with the varsity while the other 55 are practicing seperately.

Hyder said several of the freshmen-to-be have looked impressive in their first week with the varsity including wide receiver-quarterback Charles Stewart. Stewart, who is 6-foot-3 and weighs 190 pounds, also punts and place-kicks. "He's just a very talented, gifted athlete," Hyder said.

Stewart is one of four quarterbacks Hyder looked at in practice last week. The others were sophomore Joey Crosby, who threw four touchdown practices in scrimmage on Friday, Greg Talley, a freshman, and Ben Hayslip, an eighth-grader.

Three VHS players missed practice last week because of injuries. Russ Rudolph and Tony Johnson are still recovering from injuries they suffered prior to the start of spring practice. Mario Smallwood missed Friday's practice because of wrist injury. Hyder said he expected Smallwood to begin practicing again on Monday.

Hyder said that when last year's starters return on Monday "we'll work them in at their spots. Then we'll have better competition.

"That's one of our objectives, to have players pushing each other ... nobody has it made. Everybody has to work for their spots.

"Our objective is to find back-up people or competition at each position."

Hyder added, "... The thing about spring practice is that you can hit every day. And that's another thing we want to find out, who can live with the bumps and the bruises from day to day."

Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

The Sun Came Out For Lowndes' Practice Last Wednesday

VHS Netters Beat Cook, T'ville

V. Times 3-11-84

The Valdosta High boys and girls tennis teams opened their 1984 seasons with two victories apiece on Saturday.

The Wildcats defeated Cook 9-0 and Thomasville 7-2 on the VHS courts.

Valdosta's Eric Anderson, Gabe Hotard, Kibby Wagner, Simon Lee and Jim Staup all won their singles matches. Reggie Merritt and Kevin Harper also picked up wins for the Cats in exhibition singles action.

Garvey Scott scored Cook's only singles victory in an exhibition march.

Cook's No. 1 doubles team of Brian Rice and Fred King swept to a 6-2, 7-6, 7-6 win.

Valdosta captured the other two singles matches 9-7 and 8-0.

The Cats, including No. 6 player Michael Furukawa, swept their singles matches with Cook.

And this time VHS' No. 1 doubles team of Hotard and Wagner led the Cats' sweep of their three doubles matches.

The Valdosta girls opened with a 2-0 win over Cook at McKey Park, which had only two girls in the match. Kristy Stabell and Ethel Mitchell scored wins for the Lady Cats.

It took two singles victories by the teams of Stabell and Mitchell, and Mandy Smitherman to give the Lady Cats a 5-4 win over Thomasville.

The Lady Cats split their singles matches with Thomasville. Stabell, Mitchell and Smitherman scored victories for Valdosta while Jeannette Guyton, Valerie Rome and Julie Ponder were winners for Thomasville.

Both Valdosta teams will return to action next Thursday in Thomasville.

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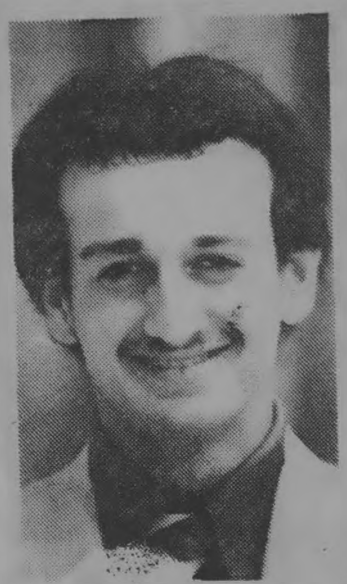
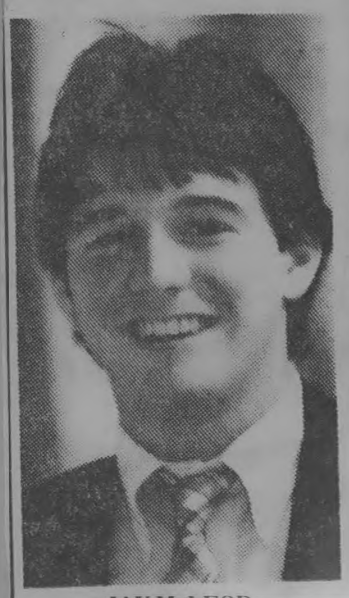
DECA Hands Out Awards

VELICA JOHNSON
Most Valuable



JAY GREENE
Outstanding Student

MARTIN ROESCH
Most Improved



JAY McLEOD
Most Improved

DOTTY JO BROWN
Student Of Year

MELISSA WINFREY
Most Dependable

V. Times 3-7-84

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School's Distributive Education Clubs of America chapter recognized seven achievers at the club's award banquet Tuesday night.

The club also awarded honorary lifetime memberships to Edwina Burgsteiner, teacher and bookkeeper for the club, and to Ralph Brandon, superintendent of Valdosta schools.

Winners were Jay McLeod and Martin Roesch, most improved. The two winners were in their second year with the club and Norman Greene, coordinator of DECA at Valdosta High, said they had achieved more in their second year.

McLeod is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John McLeod and is employed by Hudson Construction Co. Roesch is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gunther Roesch and is employed by Wendy's.

Melissa Winfrey won most dependable. She is the daughter of Dennis and Sandra Williams and is employed by Citizens and Southern Bank.

Laura Miller was chosen as rookie of the year. She is the daughter of Randie Sue and Carl Wade Miller. She is employed by Junction.

Winner of the W.E. Glenn award for most valuable was Velica Johnson, daughter of Tillie Mae Johnson. She is employed by First National Bank.

Dotty Jo Brown was chosen as student of the year. The award is based on school record and character. She is the daughter of William and Dorothy Brown. Valdosta Music is her employer.

The recipient of the Warren Horton outstanding student of the year award was Jay Greene. Jay is the son of Norman Greene.

LAURA MILLER
Rookie Of Year

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Charles
Corder
Times Sports Writer

It Was Interesting, But Not Very Close

I'm not sure what Valdosta High Coach Nick Hyder thought of Friday night's "Has Been-Will Be" Game at Cleveland Field. As soon as it was over, Hyder left town.

Hyder's departure had nothing to do with embarrassment (Hyder is going to speak at the Pacific Northwest Football Coaches Association clinic in Portland, Ore., today and Sunday). The underclassmen or Will Bes beat the senior Has Beens 25-0, as expected. And the game drew a more than respectable crowd of approximately 600 (counting the bands), considering all that was at stake and the fact that the temperature was in the 40s.

The old Wildcats looked better against the newer Wildcats than most of the teams they played during the 1983 season. The Will Bes scored all of their touchdowns on big plays or had them set up by turnovers.

Willie Lewis got the Will Bes on the board with a 38-yard touchdown run late in the first quarter. But the point-after attempt was the first of three the Will Bes would miss.

The bottom fell out for the seniors in the third quarter. Tony Anderson scored on a 2-yard run after a bad punt gave the Will Bes the ball at the 50-yard line. Junior linebacker John Porter added the third touchdown on a 48-yard return of an intercepted Steve Gandy pass.

Scott Braswell added the final touchdown in the fourth quarter when he scored on a 2-yard run. The score was set up when the Has Beens fumbled at their own 30-yard line.

But let it be said that despite the lopsided score, the Has Beens kept things interesting. The seniors earned this reporter's "Best Dressed Team" award for this season hands down. Defensive end Charles Robinson would have taken "Best Dressed Player" honors for his cutoff green baseball pants and socks if it hadn't been for Brad Lastinger. Lastinger, a defensive back, showed up for the game wearing his brother John's Georgia game jersey and a Dogs helmet. Offensive lineman Monte finished a close third for his stylish robin's egg blue helmet.

The Has Beens were even more interesting when they were on offense. It was evident from their pre-game warmups that their timing was a little off (and they got the illegal procedure and delay of game penalties to prove it.) The seniors, with offensive mastermind Ted West calling most of the plays, tried a little bit of everything: the Wishbone, the I, the shotgun, a one-back backfield, a two-back backfield, a no-back backfield and even a few plays from the Cats' own offense.

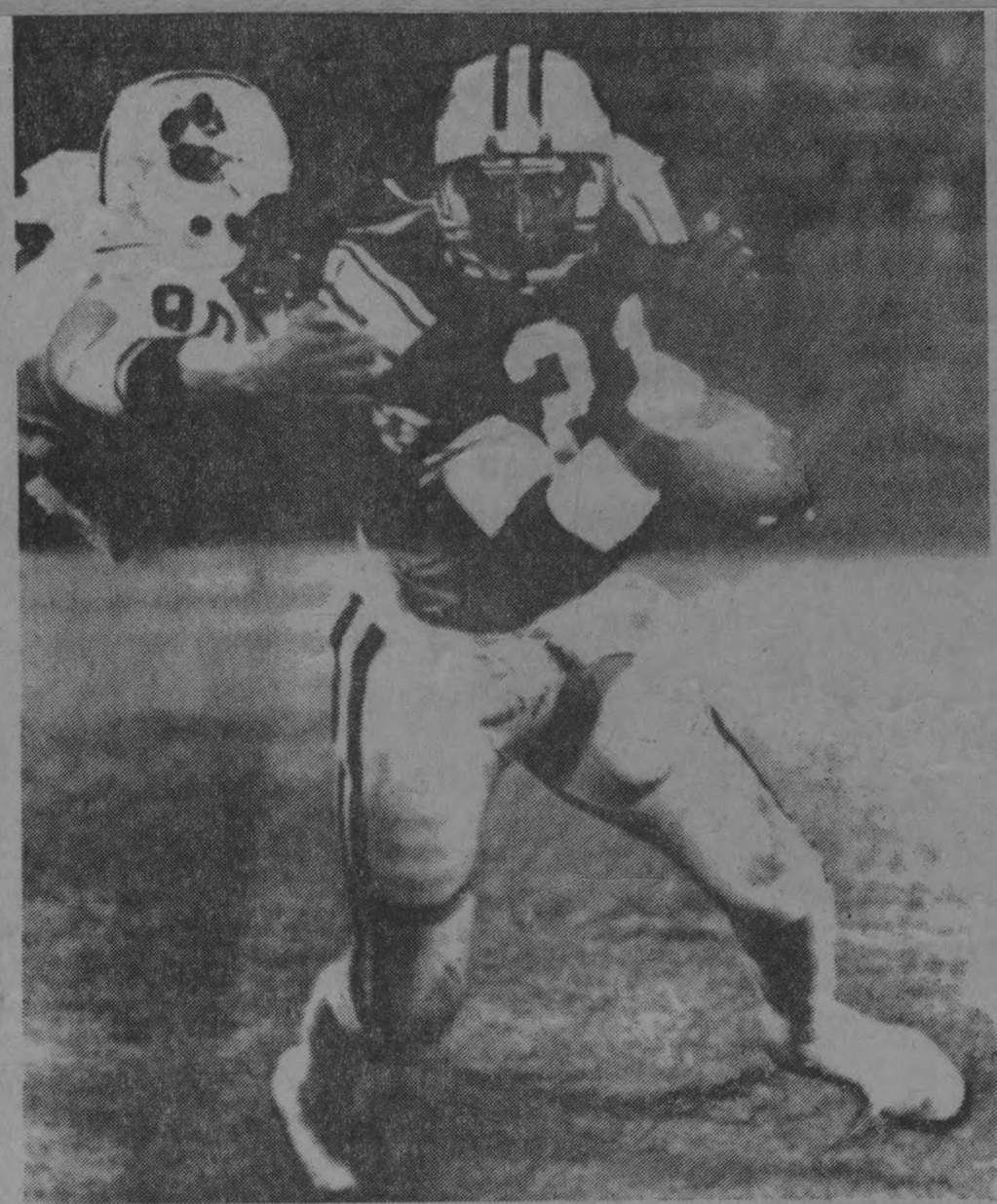
And then there were the trick plays: the center sneak, the halfback pass, hiking the ball to the fullback instead of the quarterback and leaving the ball on the ground and letting the guard pick it up and run with it.

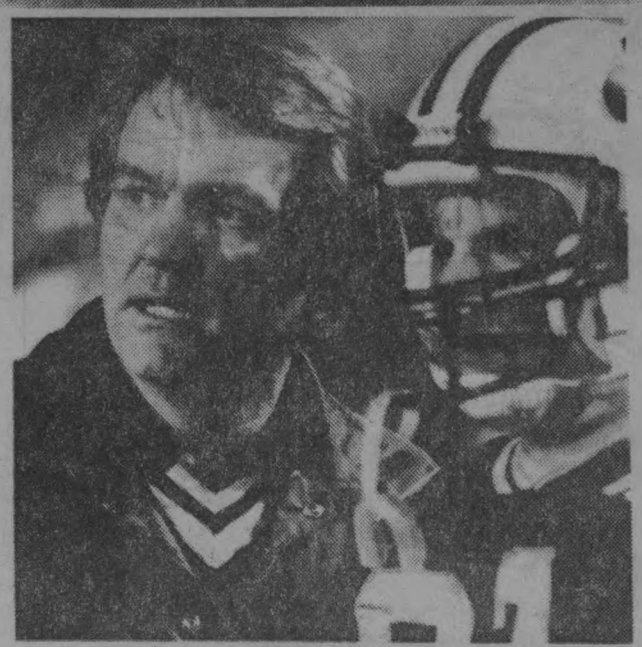
The Has Beens used running back Dana Brinson as much as they could. They put him at wide receiver, defensive safety, tailback and even quarterback on the last series of the game. If there was ever a man born to run the quarterback sneak, Brinson is it.

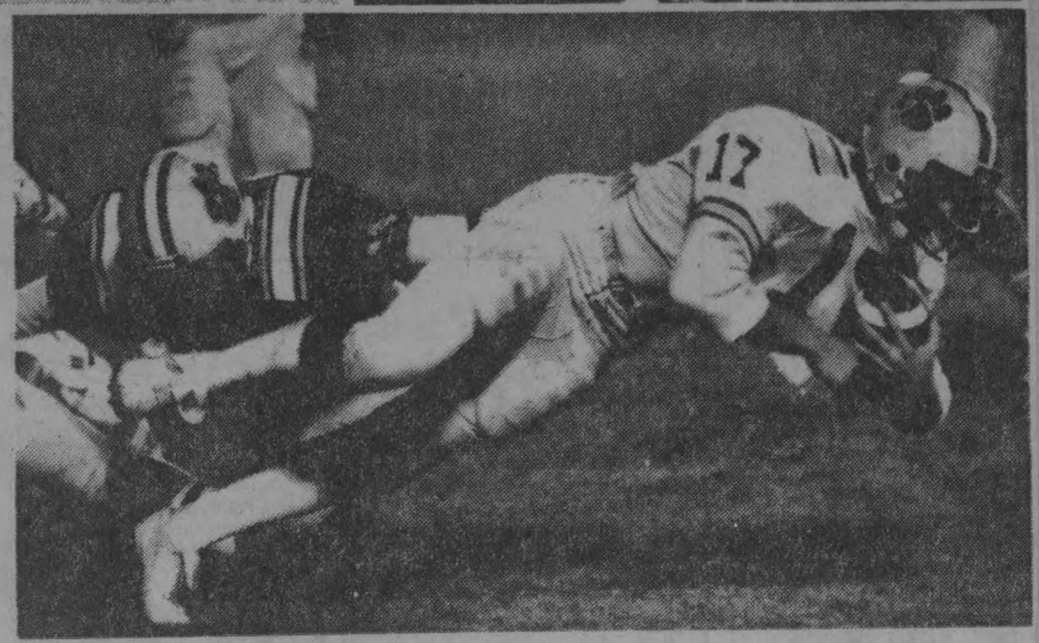
The seniors also put Leon Johnson at fullback. Johnson, who had not played on offense since he played Boys' Club football, carried the ball eight times for 40 yards and even caught a pass for 4 more.

Despite all of their efforts, the Has Beens only got inside the Will Bes' territory twice and never got closer than the 29. It's a shame the seniors didn't score — they had worked a long time on the "Fun Bunch" mass high-five they were going to do at the 50-yard line after they scored.

Now *that* would have been the play of the night.







Cats Seniors Make Last Stand

The Has Beens couldn't hang with the Will Bes Friday night as the underclassmen Wildcats beat the seniors 25-0 at Cleveland Field. (Clockwise from top left) Junior running back Tony Anderson avoids a would-be Has Been tackler. Senior defensive end Charles Robinson displays the proper uniform for playing football during baseball season. Has Been quarterback Steve Gandy gets caught on a keeper. VHS Coach Nick Hyder tells sophomore wide receiver Lyn Johnson (27) the next play. — Times Staff Photos by Joey Ivansco and Frank C. Williams.

Valdosta, Lowndes High STARs Shine Brightest

V. Times
3-13-84

KENNETH GRIM
District STAR

WILLIAM S. HAYES
First Runner-Up

By TOM MATHER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta City's and Lowndes County's STAR students couldn't have done much better than they did Monday night at the annual STAR Student-Teacher Recognition Dinner for the Second Congressional District.

Kenneth Grim of Valdosta High was named District STAR Student, while William Shelley Hayes of Lowndes was named first runner-up.

Speaking before the awards were announced, Grim said that his STAR Teacher, Jan Burns of VHS' English department, was responsible for teaching him good study habits and interesting him in school.

"She pushed me real hard and challenged me," Grimm said.

Hayes had similar praises for his STAR Teacher — and father — Billy Hayes of LHS' science department.

"He's been a great help to me — he's pushed me and counseled me," said Hayes, who drew some laughs while explaining his decision to attend college out-of-town.

"I don't think my parents are going to be able to put up with me another four years," he said.

Grim and Hayes weren't the only STAR Students honored at Monday's banquet in Valdosta State College's dining hall.

Students from 25 other school systems attended the banquet. And while paying tribute to their STAR Teachers, those students brought tears and laughter to the crowd of about 150 parents, teachers and educators.

Speaking to that group, VSC President Hugh Bailey said the STAR students and teachers had found the formula — discipline — which enabled them to excell.

"These are special people and this is a special occasion," Bailey said. "One of the great events of the life of any parent is to see their child succeed."

This year marks the 26th year the Georgia business community has recognized academic achievement and honored the teaching profession through the Student Teacher Recognition program.

STAR is sponsored statewide by the Business Council of Georgia, successor to the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores and academic averages are used to select STAR Students, who choose their own STAR Teachers. District STAR Students must have already won both high school and school system STAR honors.

Each student winner from Georgia's 10 congressional districts receives a $500 Cecil B. Day scholarship, sponsored by Day Companies of Atlanta, and an engraved silver tray from the Georgia Bankers Association.

District STAR Teachers win $125 scholarships from Atlanta Gas Light Company and the silver tray award.

Those district winners and their teachers are also invited to join a week-long education "STAR Tour of Georgia" as guests of the Business Council of Georgia. That trip feature stops at industries, colleges, universities and tourist attractions.

District winners will also compete for State STAR awards, to be announced at the state banquet, April 19 at the Atlanta Hilton.

At the Monday night banquet here, awards were also presented to groups sponsoring the STAR program.

Local sponsors receiving recognition for 25 years of service were: Thomasville/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce; Lakeland/Lanier County Lions Club; and Berrien County Chamber of Commerce.

John Sessions, assistant vice president of C&S National Bank of Valdosta, was also honored for his three years of service as coordinator of district STAR awards.

"He is our STAR Student," said A.J. Strickland while presenting the award to Sessions.

'Cats Prepare For Has Been-Will Be Tilt Friday Night

V Times 3-8-84

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High senior football players will be hoping to break a 10-year losing streak for the Wildcat "Has Beens" when they face the underclassmen in the annual VHS "Has Been-Will Be Game" on Friday night at 8 at Cleveland Field.

The Valdosta Touchdown Club sponsors the game as part of its annual spring fund-raising drive. Tickets are $2 and are being sold by the VHS football players.

The Touchdown Club will kick off its annual membership drive tonight with a chicken supper at 7 in the VHS Cafeteria

The Has Beens haven't won since Coach Nick Hyder's first spring in Valdosta. The seniors rolled to a 20-0 win in the 1974 game.

The Will Bes have won the last 10 games in a row.

"I was outcoached," Hyder said Wednesday. The seniors were coached that year by Frank Deming, who now works for a bank in Albany.

The seniors may have an edge in experience but underclassmen have the numbers. The Will Bes will use approximately 60 players. The Has Beens have 25 players on their roster, meaning several players will probably play both ways.

The Has Beens will probably be without the services of two players, quarterback Ted West and linebacker Frank Abney. West is still recovering from injuries he received in an automobile accident. Abney has been hobbled by a sprained ankle he suffered during wrestling season.

Has Beens coach Mark Dibois, who in real life coaches the VHS 9th-grade team, said West and Abney may serve as his offensive and defensive coordinators.

Steve Gandy, who started at flanker last year, is scheduled to start at quarterback for the Has Beens.

Dibois held a *very* informal workout in sweat clothes with the Has Beens after they checked out their equipment for the final time on Wednesday afternoon. So informal was the workout that Dibois let the players practice on their own.

Leon Johnson, who is better known as an all-state defensive lineman, ran a few plays at tailback, but he will probably let Dana Brinson start there Friday night. The same is true for senior manager David Bragg who played right tackle in Wednesday's practice.

Hyder said the underclassmen who will play in Friday's game would go through a light practice today while the younger players scrimmage.

Despite the Has Beens' personnel problems, Hyder said, "That's a very good football team. It ought to be a great game."

2 Vikettes, 2 'Cats, 1 Viking

V. Times 3-13-84

Named All Region

Williams, Horn, Campbell, Berrian, Carter Receive

Region 1-AAAA's Top Basketball Honors

Special To The Times

Sometimes one year can make all the difference in the career of a high school basketball player.

According to his coach, Charles Ward, that was certainly true in the case of his center, Daryl Holton, named Player of the Year on the All-Region 1-AAAA boys basketball team."

"He really deserves it," Ward said of the honor. "He made a 100 percent turnaround. He was the key to our getting in the region playoffs. When things got tough, we knew where the ball had to go.

"Every coach we played couldn't believe he was the same kid they saw as a junior. He really matured this year. We turned him loose the third game of his sophomore year and he has really worked hard the last three years."

Holton, a 6-foot-5 senior center, averaged 10 points a game last year, but this year averaged 16.9, 12 rebounds and 6 blocked shots.

"He was very valuable to us on defense," Ward said. "It has been 10 years since we had a big man in the middle. It's a conincidence that his name was Daryl, too."

Ward was speaking of Daryl Cleveland, who played when Ward was an assistant coach for the Yellow Jackets. Cleveland went on to play at the University of Louisville.

"They are very comparable," Ward said. "Holton may be a little stronger and he has a better touch on his shot. Cleveland had a better supporting cast when he played."

Ward said Valdosta State, Clark College, Albany State, Georgia Southwestern, Fort Valley State, Middle Tennessee State and several junior colleges in Florida had all expressed an interest in signing Holton.

Holton is joined on the 10-man team by three local players: Lowndes' Chris Carter and Valdosta's Wallace Campbell and Jerome Berrian.

Other members of the all-region squad include: Albany Dougherty's Reginald Johnson and Calvin Teemer, Albany Monroe's Eric Walker and Macklin Bradford, Albany Westover's Tavio Ford and Tift County's Steve Farley.

Campbell (6-3, junior) averaged 18.2 points (tops in the region) and Berrian (6-3, senior) averaged 15.1 in leading Valdosta to the 1-AAAA South title and into the region playoffs for the first time in several years.

Campbell was the only underclassmen on this year's all-region team. Campbell was also selected Boys Player of the Year by the *Valdosta Daily Times*.

Carter (6-3, senior) averaged 15.1 points for Lowndes which missed the region tournament by one game.

Johnson and Teemer were the sparkplugs behind Dougherty's winning the 1-AAAA North title and finishing second to Westover in the region final. Johnson (6-3, senior) led all Dougherty with a 16.6 average. Teemer (5-9, senior) averaged 9.5 while directing the Trojan offense.

Ford (6-0, senior) was the leading scorer (15.3) for the region champion Patriots.

Tift's Farley (5-10, senior) averaged 18.1 points to lead all North scorers.

Willie Boston, whose Westover Patriots made the state playoffs for the third straight year, was named Boys Coach of the Year. Despite returning only one starter from his 1983 1-AAAA runner-up team, Boston guided the Patriots to the region championship. They lost in the first round of the state playoffs to Northeast Macon.

Versatitlity and consistency were the keys to Colquitt County's Vanessa Stewart being named Player of the Year on the All-Region 1-AAAA girls team.

Stewart (5-9, senior) helped Colquitt keep the honor won the last two years by teammate Gwen Richardson, who joins her on the 10-player team.

Stewart averaged 14 points and 12.5 rebounds in teaming with Richardson to lead the Packerettes to a 24-3 season.

"She was our most consistent player on offense and defense," Colquitt coach Julian Grantham said. "She's very versatile. She can play inside or outside. She has a good jump shot and a good set shot. She was very valuable to us on defense. She is a good rebounder."

Stewart led the team in free-throw shooting last year and was one of the leaders this year with a 70 percent accuracy. She is being courted by Tennessee, Florida State, Georgia Southwestern, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and Albany State.

Richardson (5-9, senior) averaged 15.8 for the Packerettes.

Two local players, Natasha Horn and Melissa Williams, both of Lowndes High, were also named to the team.

Other members of the team include: Dougherty's Charlen Sams and Pam Fields, Albany's Janice Malone, Monroe's Martha Collins, Central's Michelle Petrey and Tift County's Brenda Simmons.

Horn (6-0, junior) was the South scoring leader (17.3) and a key figure in Lowndes repeating as region champion for the third straight year. Horn was also named the *Times* Girls Player of the Year.

Horn and Simmons were the only underclassmen named to the all-region squad.

Williams (5-5, senior) was the playmaker on the Lowndes squad and averaged 8.9 points.

Sams and Fields comprised the 1-2 punch that carried Dougherty to second place in the region. Sams (5-5, senior) averaged 13.7 points per game and Fields (5-6, senior) averaged 15.1.

Malone (5-10, senior) scored 14.5 a game and was instrumental in Albany making the region playoffs for the first time since 1971. Collins (5-6, junior) led the region in scoring with a 17.7 average.

Petrey (6-0, senior) averaged 11.4 for Central and Simmons (5-10, junior) averaged 15.3 for Tift.

Dougherty's Benny Rodgers was named Girls Coach of the Year after his Trojanettes stunned Colquitt 32-31 in a slowdown game in the region semifinals. Dougherty used the same strategy in the final against Lowndes and almost pulled off another upset before losing 17-16. The Trojanettes finished the season at 14-11.

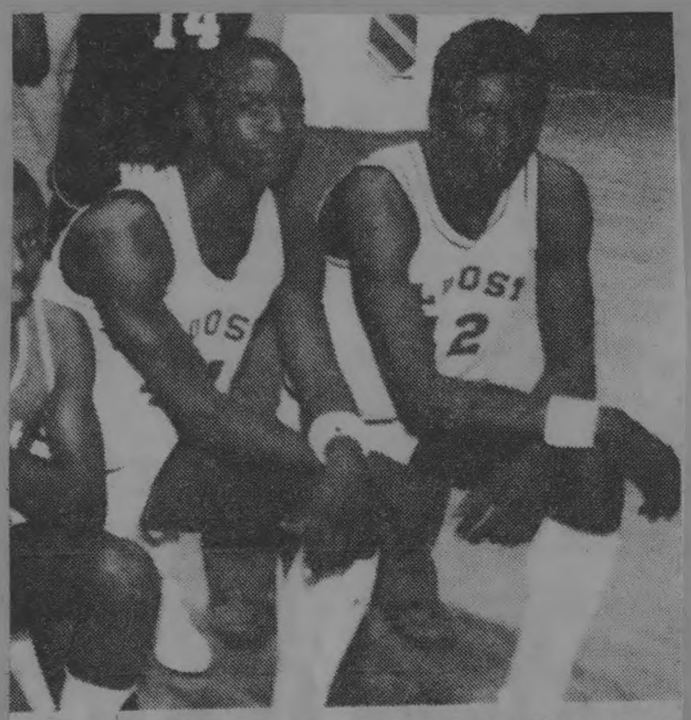
All-Region 1-AAAA Basketball Team

BOYS	
Jerome Berrian	**Valdosta**
Macklin Bradford	Monroe
Wallace Campbell	**Valdosta**
Chris Carter	**Lowndes**
Steve Farley	Tift Co.
Tavio Ford	Westover
Daryl Holton	T'ville Central
Reginald Johnson	Dougherty
Calvin Teemer	Dougherty
Eric Walker	Monroe
Coach Willie Boston	Westover

GIRLS	
Martha Collins	Monroe
Pam Fields	Dougherty
Natasha Horn	**Lowndes**
Janice Malone	Albany
Michelle Petrey	T'ville Central
Gwen Richardson	Colquitt Co.
Charlen Sams	Dougherty
Brenda Simmons	Tift Co.
Vanessa Stewart	Colquitt Co.
Melissa Williams	**Lowndes**
Coach Benny Rodgers	Dougherty

Vikettes Melissa Williams (L), Natasha Horn

Vikings Chris Carter



Wildcats Jerome Berrian (L), Wallace Campbell

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Pitching All-Important For Valdosta, Lowndes

V. Times 3-14-84

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta baseball coach Charles Tarpley and his Lowndes counterpart, Noel George, have both had major rebuilding jobs as they prepared their teams for the upcoming season.

And the two coaches agree that their teams' success will depend almost solely on how well their respective pitching staffs perform.

Valdosta Wildcats

Tarpley has guided the Wildcats into the Region 1-AAAA playoffs in each of the past three seasons. And he took his 1982 squad to the South Georgia championship where it lost to Coffee.

Last season, Valdosta finished with a 14-4 mark after losing to Tift County in the region finals.

However, he should get his toughest coaching test to date as he must replace seven starters from last year's team.

The first part of the test comes Saturday when the 'Cats host the Wildcat Classic at Bazemore Field. Valdosta plays Berrien County at 10:30 a.m., followed by Berrien against Tift County at 1 p.m. and Valdosta against Tift at 3.

Ted West, the *Times* All-Area pitcher of the year in '83, returns to lead the pitching staff, which will have to carry a young and inexperienced Wildcat team.

Joining West on the mound will be Lorenzo Matchett, who saw limited action on the mound and in right field last season. However, Matchett picked up some experience playing summer league ball.

Matchett has suffered from a sore arm and has not thrown a baseball in two weeks.

West and Matchett will also likely split time in right field.

"As far as our pitchers can carry us," answered Tarpley in response to a question on how far his team can go this season. "I think that is the case with almost every high school baseball team anywhere.

"Every once in awhile, you will find a team that has so many good hitters that the pitching becomes secondary. But that is not often."

If having to replace seven starters wasn't tough enough, Tarpley must now find a second baseman after junior Brad Coleman broke his thumb in a freak accident last Sunday.

Tarpley has a number of options to fill the void at second base.

He can move Tim Register, who he planned to start at third base, to second and alternate West and Matchett at third. Or he could alternate West and Matchett at second. Or he could alternate Tony Anderson and Jon Reaves at second, thus keeping Register at third and West and Matchett in right.

Confused? So is Tarpley.

"I got no idea what I am going to do right now," Tarpley said. "Since I have been tied up with spring football, I have had Jimmy Taw taking the team through the pre-season workouts.

"I just don't have any idea."

Catcher Mickey Hotcaveg will have a tough job in trying to replace All-Area team member Marty Shiver, who signed a grant-in-aid with Valdosta State.

Others in the starting lineup for Valdosta are expected to be left fielder Steve Gandy, center fielder David Thomas, shortstop Fred Goff and first baseman Bruce Parker.

Anderson and Reaves are expected to split time as the designated hitter.

Lowndes Vikings

George has had to replace seven — five full-time and two part-time — starters as well.

But the 25th-year coach got his younger players some experience by taking them and winning the Georgia Parks and Recreation Department Senior Division state tournament last summer.

"We had a very good summer," George said. "Most of these guys have 31 games under their belt even though most didn't start here last year."

Lowndes is coming off the second straight year in which it was denied a chance in the region playoffs after winning the Class AAAA state championship in 1981. The Vikings finished 9-6.

"We have been rebuilding ever since that state title," George said. "We are almost back on our feet again."

Lowndes will open the '84 season on the road against defending region champion Tift. The Vikings return home to face Westover Saturday at 1:30.

The biggest holes to fill are at shortstop where All-Area member Jimmy Evans scooped every ball in sight and in center field where another All-Area member, Carl Parker, patrolled.

Sophomore Bobby Eason will move over to shortstop from third base and another sophomore, Chuck Cooper, will take Parker's place.

Because of the inexperience of most of his club, George knows the pitching will play a tremendous role.

"You have to get good pitching," he said. "That has probably been the difference the last two seasons in us not getting in the playoffs. We have not been deep enough the last two years."

Right-handers Billy Hancock and Alan Taylor return to lead the pitching staff. Junior Randy Gay and sophomore Bryan Hagan are also expected to see some time on the mound for the Vikings. Hagan is the brother of Keith Hagan, who led Lowndes to the state title in '81 and is now pitching for the University of Georgia.

"We certainly wouldn't mind if Bryan happened to be as good as Keith," George said. "But we hope to get good performances out of all of our pitchers."

Hancock is also expected to be the Vikings designated hitter and Taylor will be the second baseman.

Joining Eason and Taylor in the infield will be third baseman Alan White and first baseman Paul Cobb. And right field Dodd Jones and left fielder Tony Williams will join Cooper in the Vikings outfield.

Jason Cain will be behind the plate.

VHS Math Team Takes First

V. Times 3-16-84

By Times Staff Writer

ALBANY, Ga. — Valdosta High School's math team shared first place honors with Westover High School in mathemathics competition here.

The schools tied in the Third Annual Albany Junior College Mathematics Tournament here, said an AJC spokesman.

Valdosta competed among seven Class AAAA teams with nearly 200 students from 23 schools. Michael Rogers sponsored the VHS team.

These VHS students participated in the written examinations, team and individual ciphering matches: Michael Rainey, Laura Faussone, Michelle McElwain, Michael Johns, Mike Farley, Brian Buzzeo, Brad Baldwin, Eric Anderson and Barbara Miller.

Albany High School took second place at the March 9 event. Lee County High School won Class AAA competition; Irwin County High School won Class AA and Brookstone School of Columbus, Ga., won Class A.

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Tarpley Hopes Sun Shines On 1984 Wildcat Classic

V. Times 3-16-84

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High baseball coach Charles Tarpley hopes when he wakes up Saturday morning the sun will be shining.

And with the weather problems Tarpley and his Wildcats suffered during the 1983 season, you can hardly blame the fourth-year 'Cat coach for wanting nice weather for Saturday's Wildcat Classic at Bazemore Field.

There will be three games in the Classic, starting with Valdosta against Berrien County at 10:30 a.m., followed by Tift County against Berrien at 1 p.m. and Valdosta against Tift at 3.

Rain washed away six games for Valdosta last year, including the Wildcat Classic.

"It would be a nice change from last year to get some nice weather," Tarpley said. "It is important to play these two games. They will help us get ready for the rest of the season.

"We have the first (Region 1-AAAA South) sub-region game against Colquitt County March 27, so we need the games to get ready."

Since rain forced cancellation of last year's tournament, the defending champion is Berrien, which defeated Valdosta and Lowndes to win the '82 Classic.

And Bart Shuman is back as coach of the Rebels after working on his master's degree at Valdosta State last year. In addition to the '82 Classic title, Shuman coached the Rebels to two straight Region 2-AA championships in 1981-82.

"I have had to learn a lot about a bunch of new people," Shuman said. "We have a real young team. But I think we have some potential."

The Rebels return five starters from last year. And four players who sat out the '83 season have rejoined the team. All four will start against Valdosta, including pitcher Trevor Kent, who led the Rebels in victories in '82.

"We are certainly hoping he can return to the form of two years ago," Shuman said.

Tarpley will start his ace, Ted West, in the first game against Berrien and Lorenzo Matchett against Tift.

"I want to win that first one," Tarpley said. "I don't want to be 0-1 going into the Tift contest."

Tarpley says he was not tempted to start West against the Blue Devils, who defeated Valdosta four times in '83, including twice in the Region 1-AAAA championship series.

"We play Tift again next week (March 24)," Tarpley said. "And I don't want to overexpose Ted to Tift because we may also see them in the region playoffs.

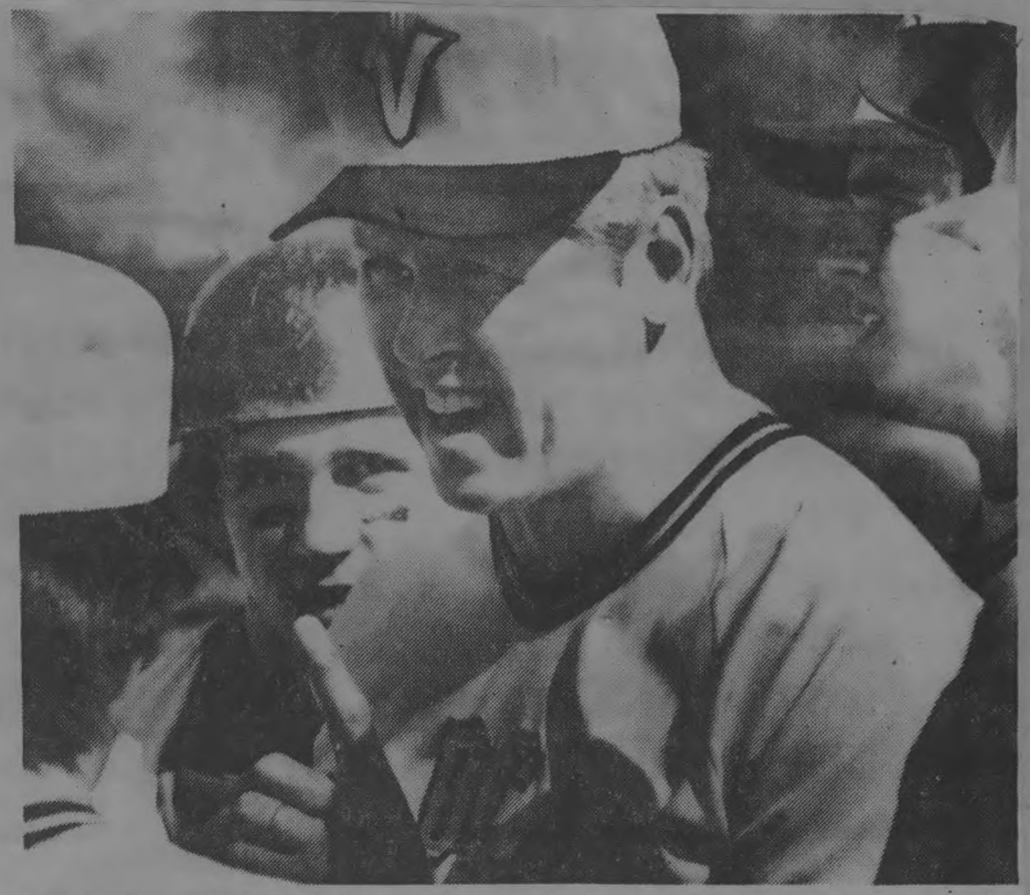
"Plus, I don't think the Tift game is any more important than the Berrien game."

Tarpley, who lost second baseman Brad Coleman to a broken thumb last Sunday, will be without the services of shortstop Fred Goff, who was scheduled to go the doctor this afternoon with a possible rotator cuff injury.

"Fred can't throw at all," Tarpley said. "And that is going to leave us extremely weak up the middle."

Tift entered this afternoon's game with Lowndes with a 1-1 record.

Valdosta won the Classic in 1977-78. The tournament was suspended for three years before its revival in '82.



Tarpley Opens His Fourth Season As VHS Baseball Coach Saturday Morning

Peeler, Berrian Named Lady 'Cats, 'Cats MVPs

V. Times 3-17-84

Wallace Campbell Takes Homes 3 Awards

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Wallace Campbell walked away with the most awards Friday night at the annual Valdosta High basketball banquet, but it was Jerome Berrian who snagged the most prestigous award.

Campbell, who was named the 1983-84 *Times* All-Area boys player of the year, took home awards for best free-throw percentage, most rebounds and best offensive player.

But Berrian, who was named to the *Times* All-Area first team, was selected the team's Most Valuable Player at the banquet held at the Gold Plate Restaurant here.

Both Berrian, a senior, and Campbell, a junior, helped the Wildcats rebound from a 3-19 season a year ago into the Region 1-AAAA South sub-region champions this year. It was the first time the 'Cats captured the sub-region title in eight years. They finished with a 15-8 record.

Shevon Peeler was the big winner for the Lady 'Cats. The senior, who was named All-Area Honorable Mention, took home the MVP and best offensive awards.

Other varsity Wildcats winners Friday night were: Moses Daniels, best defensive and most hustle; Victor Walker shared the most hustle award with Daniels; Bruce Parker, best scholastic average; James Edwards, most improved; and Derrick (Kool) Folsom, Wildcat Spirit.

Other varsity Lady 'Cats winners were: Connie Weatherspoon, best defensive; Ronnie Melvin, most rebounds; Gina Elder, best free-throw percentage and most hustle; Terri Longieliere, best scholastic average; Felcia Henderson, most improved; and Wendy Irvin, Wildcat Spirit.

B-team boys award winners were: Mack McGuyrt, most improved; Lewis Williams, best offensive; and Howard Wright, best defensive.

The boys B-team rebounded from a 3-4 start to win their last four straight and finish 7-4.

The B-team girls, who closed the season at 6-4, award winners were: Terri Longieliere, most improved; Jackie Motes, best offensive; and Kim Brown, best defensive.

The 3-5 boys 9th grade award winners were: Michael Perry, most improved; Adolphus Kimmons, best offensive; and Bernie Gaines, best defensive.

Valdosta Netters Host Lowndes

V. Times 3-19-84

The Valdosta boys tennis team will put its 3-0 record on the line this afternoon when it takes on the Lowndes Vikings at Valdosta High at 3.

Meanwhile, the Lady 'Cats, 2-1, will be trying to bounce back from a loss to Thomasville, when they host the Vikettes at McKey Park today at 3.

Valdosta Gymnast Finishes 10th

V. Times 3-19-84

ATLANTA — Becky Broadfoot of Valdosta finished 10th overall in the state Class 2 Compulsory and Optional gymnastics meet in Atlanta on Saturday at the Atlanta School of Gymnastics.

Competitors in the Olympic-style meet were required to do four compulsory routines and could do any other four routines they wanted to. Over 50 gymnasts competed in the meet.

Broadfoot, 15, is a member of the Valdosta Gymnasticats team. She had a score of 62.50 competing in the 15 and over age group.

'Cats, Vikes Set Schedules

V Times 3-14-84

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

After months of haggling, both local high schools have finally completed their 1984 football schedules. Rome, by comparison, was built in a day.

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder didn't get the last game contract returned until late last week. At one point, one of the longest-running high school football rivalries in Georgia appeared to be in jeopardy when Thomasville dropped down to Class AAA.

Hyder said he talked with Coffee County, Tallahassee (Fla.) Leon, Warner Robins, Bradwell Institute and "a couple of the Savannah schools." The difficulty in finding a game caused Hyder to say that trying to complete the 1984 schedule was "the worst time I've had since I've been in south Georgia."

Finally, VHS was able to negotiate a two-year contract with Thomasville which will bring the Bulldogs to Cleveland Field two straight years. The Wildcats open with Thomasville on Aug. 31.

Valdosta won't be home again until Sept. 21 when they host Albany Westover. Other home games this season include: Thomasville Central (Oct. 12), Albany Dougherty (Oct. 26) and Lowndes (Nov. 9).

This year will be the first time in 11 years Valdosta and Lowndes have met in the final game of the regular season. The Wildcats won 24-0 in 1973.

The 'Cats travel to Waycross for the second straight year on Sept. 7. The following week VHS goes to Albany for a Saturday night game with Monroe. The 'Cats also travel to Bainbridge (Sept. 28), Tift County (Oct. 5) and Colquitt County (Oct. 19).

By going to Waycross two consecutive years, Valdosta will have six home games in 1985.

"As always, our region (1-AAAA) is extremely tough," Hyder said of the 'Cats' schedule. "Waycross has won two state championships (AAA) in the last five years. Thomasville is traditionally tough. And now they've got Coach Mike Hodges who had the longest winning streak in the state at West Rome."

Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson had seemingly filled his schedule back in January. Then Tallahassee Lincoln decided it wanted out of its scheduled trip to Martin Stadium on Sept. 21.

Wilson heard that Clarke Central in Athens was having some scheduling problems of its own and called Coach Billy Henderson. When Henderson brings his Gladiators to Lowndes on the third Friday in September, it will be their second trip to Region 1-AAAA in three weeks. Clarke Central plays Tift County on Sept. 7.

Lowndes opens on Aug. 31 at Coffee County, which is dropping down to Class AAA. The Vikings will have to travel to Albany on back-to-back weeks to play Dougherty (Sept. 28) and Westover (Oct. 5). Lowndes plays at Thomasville Central on Oct. 26. The Vikings close the regular season by making that short trip to Cleveland Field to play Valdosta on Nov. 9.

Lowndes opens at home against Colquitt County on Sept. 14. Clarke Central comes in on Sept. 21. The Plowboys return home three weeks later to host Bainbridge on Oct. 12. Other home games include Tift County (Oct. 19) and Monroe (Nov. 2).

"It's an attractive schedule," Wilson said. "It's good for area football."

Wilson admits the schedule is a challenging one to say the least. Including the spring game, the Vikings will play four of the five teams that have won or shared seven of the last eight state championships: Tift County (1983), Valdosta (1978, 1982), Warner Robins (1976, 1981) and Clarke Central (1977, 1979). Tift's Gene Brodie won it in 1975 at Macon Central and Colquitt's Jim Hughes won it at Thomasville in 1974 and 1975.

'84 Local Schedules

VALDOSTA HIGH WILDCATS		LOWNDES HIGH VIKINGS	
Aug. 31	Thomasville	Aug. 31	at Coffee Co.
Sept. 7	at Waycross	Sept. 7	Open
Sept. 15	at Albany Monroe	Sept. 14	Colquitt Co.
Sept. 21	Albany Westover	Sept. 21	Clarke Central
Sept. 28	**at Bainbridge**	Sept. 28	at Albany Dougherty
Oct. 5	at Tift Co.	Oct. 5	at Albany Westover
Oct. 12	**Thomasville Central**	**Oct. 12**	**Bainbridge**
Oct. 19	at Colquitt Co.	Oct. 19	Tift Co.
Oct. 26	Albany Dougherty	**Oct. 26**	**at Thomasville Central**
Nov. 2	Open	Nov. 2	Albany Monroe
Nov. 9	**Lowndes**	**Nov. 9**	**at Valdosta**

Sub-region Games In Bold | **Sub-region Games In Bold**

Dibois Leaving Valdosta

V. Times 3-21-84

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Mark Dibois says he will always be a Wildcat in his his heart.

But beginning next season, the former Valdosta High head 9th grade football coach will become a Cougar — as in a Calhoun County Cougar.

Dibois resigned his position at VHS earlier this week to take over as head coach at the Edison high school where he will replace Dave Crowdis. Crowdis will remain on the Cougars staff as the defensive coordinator.

"I felt like I was ready to move on," said Dibois, who has been at VHS the last three years.

Dibois also played his high school football for the Wildcats as an offensive guard. He was a member of the 1968 and '69 state championship teams. The '69 team, Dibois' senior year, won the national championship. He was a member of the All-State team following his senior season.

After graduation from The Citadel, where Dibois was named All-South Carolina as a member of the Bulldogs' freshman team, Dibois returned to south Georgia to coach under Bobby Phillips at Cook County.

A year later he joined head coach Charlie Greene at Stephens County in Toccoa. He stayed there five years.

There he met his wife Carol. They now have four children.

"They're all real excited about going to Calhoun County," Dibois said. "We're all small-town folks. I really miss the small setting."

Calhoun County is a Class A school, the state's smallest classification, in Region 1. Other region schools are Douglass of Montezuma, Miller County, Pelham and Wilcox County.

Last year the Cougars were 1-9. The year before they finished 8-2.

"Granted I'm starting out small," said Dibois. "But I feel a Class AAA of AAAA school might be too big."

Dibois said he applied for head coach at Berrien County and Stephens County. Both schools, though, decided to go with a more experienced coach,

"I've been sorta like the bridesmaid and never the bride," he said.

But that changed with the Calhoun County job. Dibois says he will take the Valdosta system with him when he goes.

"It's proven itself time and again," Dibois said.

Even though the Cougars finished with only one win a year ago, Dibois says there is potential at Calhoun. Even though the Cougars have only been playing football for 11 years, and only the last seven with a full schedule, they have recorded seasons of 9-1, 8-2 and 8-2.

And they beat Stewart-Quitman 14-0 in the spring game two weeks ago.

But Dibois was unable to go through spring with the Cougars. He was still coaching the VHS 9th grade at that time.

That spring ended on a high note as well. Valdosta belted Waycross 38-0 in the spring game.

In that game Ben Hayslip threw for a pair of touchdowns, Tommy McMillan rushed for two and Anthony Hart threw for another.

"We were real pleased with the way the kids performed," said Dibois. "They far exceeded our expectations."

Now, though, Dibois is not looking back. He has just one thing on his mind — Calhoun's season opener against Early County.

VHS Seniors Take Essay Awards

V. Times 3-21-84

By Times Staff Writer

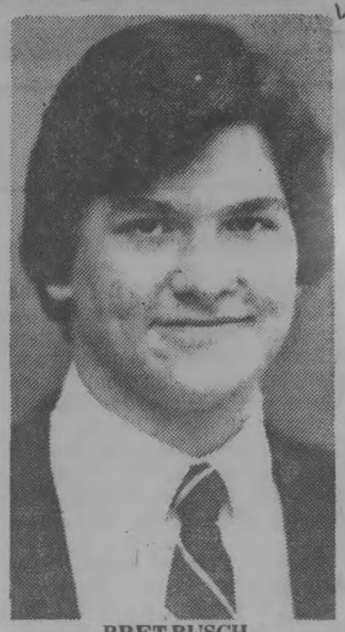
Valdosta High School seniors swept away the honors from among 32 competitors in essay competition.

Bret Busch, son of Dr. and Mrs. Trent Busch, won first in the annual Elks Lodge Americanism Essay Contest.

He was presented a $100 U.S. Savings Bond at the Elks Lodge Tuesday. Parents and students who competed were special guests at the Elks meeting, said Ray Hamel, Americanism committee chairman.

First runner-up honors went to Jerry Purvis, son of Dr. and Mrs. Jerry G. Purvis of Valdosta while Beth Singletary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Singletary of Valdosta, took second runner-up.

Their essays competed with those from Lowndes High and Valwood schools. All entries were prejudged by teachers Lee Pulliam of VHS, Faye Altman and Juanita Miller of LHS, and Ann Schutt of Valwood. Hamel said only competitive papers were submitted for final competition.



BRET BUSCH
Wins Elks Essay

"All entries were truly competitive," Hamel said, adding the content of the papers was excellent and selection of the winner difficult. The topic was *Freedom: What Price Must We Pay To Keep It Alive?*

The winning entry finally had to be selected on the basis of topic organization and technical writing excellence, he said.

Busch, 16, said he divided his paper to answer what a person should do if they have to serve in the Army, that we should pay taxes and we should vote.

Since his father is a Valdosta State College English professor, Busch said he always tries to do well on writing assignments, including the history essay contest he entered unsuccessfully last year.

He said his father helped a little by reading over his paper after he was finished, checking his grammar and if he had anything awkward.

He said his father was real proud to learn he'd won. Busch himself had forgotten to mention it when he got home the day he got the news. However, his mother called and that jogged his memory.

"She was thrilled and excited and told me to run out and tell my father," who was outside, said Busch.

Busch learned of his winning on the sly from his English teacher, Mrs. Pulliam. She got the news last week and told him after class. "I was really surprised and glad," Busch said.

He did the paper as a class assignment and Mrs. Pulliam selected the one to compete.

Busch is a National Merit Scholar who plans to attend Emory University to study medicine.

VHS Netters Split With Thomasville

V. Times 3-16-84

THOMASVILLE — The Valdosta High tennis boys and girls teams split a pair of matches with Thomasville here Thursday.

The Wildcats improved their record to 3-0 with a 7-2 rout of the Bulldogs. But the Lady 'Cats, 2-1, were not as fortunate, dropping a 5-4 decision to the Lady 'Dogs.

The 'Cats won four singles matches and all three of the doubles.

Singles winners for Valdosta included Eric Anderson, Kibby Wagner, Jim Staup and Mike Furukawa. In the doubles, the teams of Gabe Hotard/Wagner, Anderson/Simon Lee and Ismo Hamalainen/Reggie Merritt were winners.

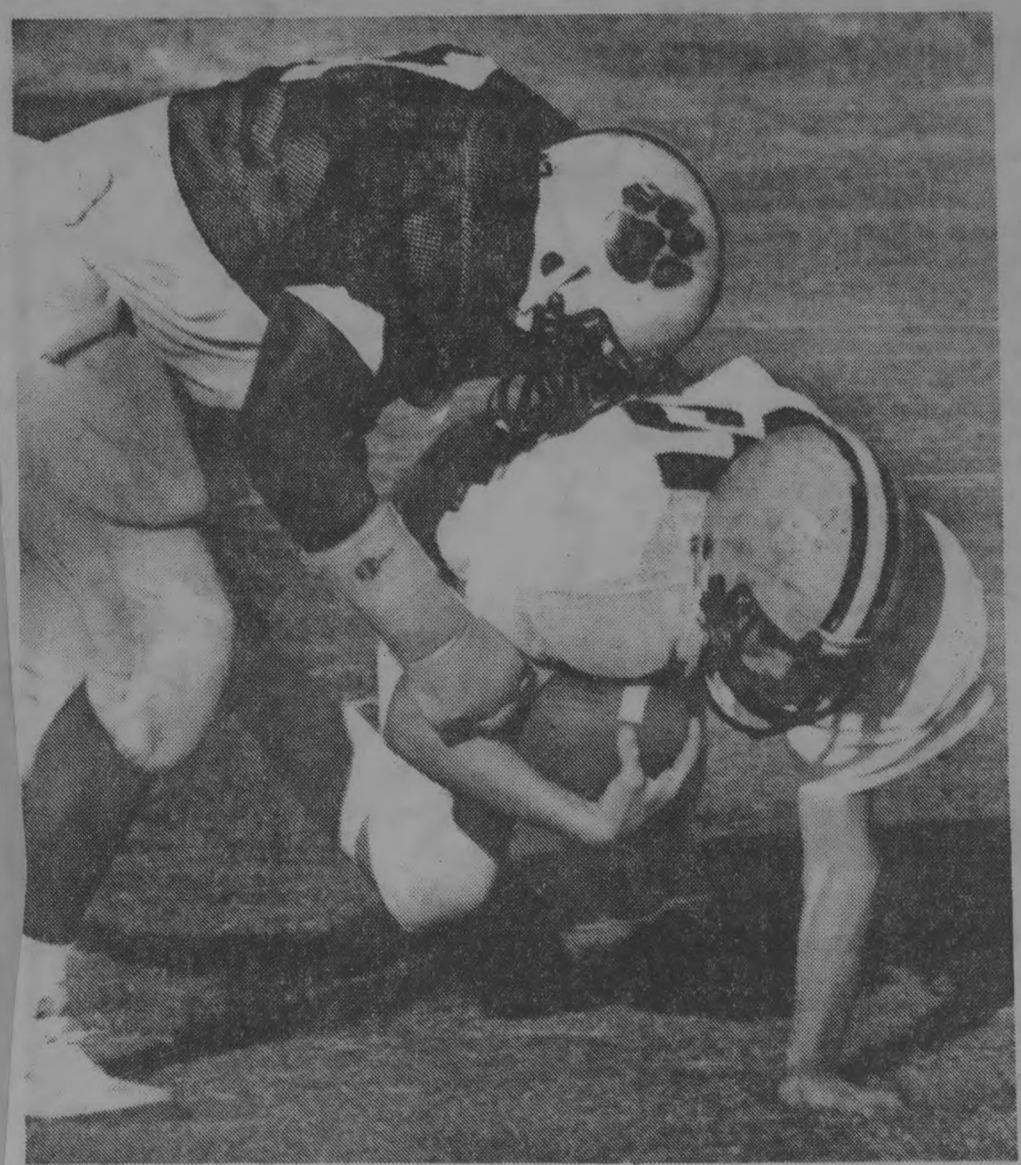
The Lady 'Cats won two singles and two doubles matches.

Ethel Mitchell won the No. 2 singles. And the Lady 'Dogs forfeited the No. 6 singles.

Mitchell teamed with Mandy Smitherman to win the No. 1 doubles. And the Lady 'Dogs forfeited the No. 3 doubles.

The Valdosta tennis teams will return to action Monday at home against Lowndes.

Hyder Hoping For 'Cats' Best Effort



Valdosta's Defense Should Play Important Role In Spring Game

V. Times 3-22-84

Valdosta Ready For Newnan Game

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

What can you expect to see when Valdosta High hosts Newnan in its annual spring football game Friday at Cleveland Field? The standard gold and black uniforms, of course. And a team that is a little more experienced than most VHS teams of the recent past. But other than that ...

"I hope we give our best effort," Wildcats head coach Nick Hyder said. "We've been practicing a long time ... this (game) culminates almost three months of work.

"... I think the youngsters have worked extremely hard. I don't expect them to be polished by any means. But I think they've shown a good, hard-working, hustling type of attitude."

Two games will be played at Cleveland Field Friday. The Valdosta and Newnan B-teams will play at 5:30 p.m. (not the ninth grade teams as stated in Wednesday's *Times*). The varsity game will follow at 8. Tickets, which will be good for both games, are $3 for adults and $1 for students.

The 'Cats have 14 full- or part-time starters back from 1983's 11-1 team. That includes quarterback Berke Holtzclaw who didn't start but saw plenty of playing time. Hyder says that number is a little more than the average. But he insists that what happened last year hasn't promised anybody a starting spot in Friday's game.

"We've tried to create situations of competiton in spring practice," Hyder said. "I think it's enabled us to look at several combinations of people. I don't think the starting lineup is 100 percent set."

One starter, whom Hyder declined to name, won't play Friday. He's among five VHS players who have been suspended from the team for academic or disciplinary reasons. Several other VHS players will also miss the game because of injuries.

Hyder said he plans to play 45-50 people in the varsity game and approximately 35 in the B-team game.

Defense would appear to be where the 'Cats are set. They return much of their secondary and defensive line as well as defensive co-captain and *Times* Top 25 member John Porter at linebacker. But VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph says he has depth problems.

"We're struggling. We're trying to put the pieces together," he said.

"It's nice to have four or five great players on defense. But a defense is only as strong as it's weakest player. When the offense finds him, they'll run at him or throw at him every time. And they find him every time."

The 'Cats should show a few new wrinkles on offense because of the presence of Holtzclaw. Holtzclaw, who also played at receiver in '83, is a little faster than his predecessor, Ted West, which should give Valdosta an option threat it hasn't had since John Bond finished in 1979.

"He (Holtzclaw) is a sprint-out, roll-out type of quarterback," Hyder said. "Teddy was a drop-back, roll-up quarterback. He would move sideways in the pocket and try to find an area where he could see through.

"Berke has a longer arm and is a little taller. He gives us a good running threat. He's improved steadily as a quarterback."

The place-kicking duties will be split between Porter and Charles Stewart, an eighth grader. Stewart will also share the punting with David Thomas.

While he may sound a little uncertain about his team, Hyder says he knows exactly what to expect from Newnan.

"We expect to see a well-coached football team ... our programs are very similar," Hyder said.

"They've got their quarterback Johnny Cash back, which will really be a challenge for our defense. He engineered them on a beautiful drive (in last year's game) ... as good as any we faced last year."

Lowndes, Valdosta Begin Focusing

V. Times 3-16-84

On Spring Games

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Both the Valdosta and Lowndes High football teams conclude their third week of spring drills this afternoon. And it should be a blessing for the Wildcats and Vikings players.

Next week the 'Cats and Plowboys will set their sights on Friday night's spring games which will mark the end of the four-week practice session. That means less intense practices and more work on getting ready for their games.

Valdosta, the defending 1-AAAA North sub-region regular-season champs, will host Newnan at Cleveland Field. Meanwhile, Lowndes, the defending 1-AAAA South sub-region regular-season champs, will host Warner Robins at Martin Stadium. Both games kick-off at 8 p.m.

The Valdosta-Newnan game has turned into an annual rite of spring. The last two years the Cougars have made the trip to Valdosta. The 'Cats won last year 28-14. And the Cougars are slated to return again next year.

Lowndes will be using its game with Warner Robins to kick off a slate that will see the Vikings face the last four Class AAAA state champions during 1984 (the Plowboys won the title in 1980). Besides Warner Robins ('81 winner), Lowndes will play Clarke Central ('79), Valdosta ('82) and Tift County ('83).

"A test," was the way Plowboy coach Joe Wilson described the Warner Robins game. "Quite a test."

'Cat coach Nick Hyder hopes to use his spring game to get a look at as many players as possible. He said he hopes to play between 50 and 60 in the varsity game.

"We gain tremendously with depth," he said. "We feel like we have two or three at each position that can play...We want to play a lot of people."

Wilson agrees that looking at a lot of faces at a lot of possitions is one of his goals. But he's hoping just a few of those faces step into starting roles.

The defensive line and running backs were two of his biggest concerns going into this spring. While he's still searching for the right combination in the backfield, the defensive line has been a pleasant surprise this spring.

"The defensive line has shown much improvement," he said. In the backfield, though, "we haven't solved all the problems by a long shot."

Returning starter James Carter and a trio of other linemen — Jimmy Gay, Ryan O'Neal and Jimmy Lolley — have helped bolster the interior defensive line.

Another surprise for Wilson this spring has been at quarterback. Battling to back up three-year starter Randy Gay are Brad Almon, Rusty Byington and two others.

Across town Hyder wishes he had more time to spend on his offensive line and defensive secondary. But he always wishes he had more time to spend with those two groups.

"I just think you don't ever get enough time to coach the offensive line and the defensive secondary," he said.

Helping to ease some of the worry on the offensive line will be returning starters Johnny Crook and Jon Reaves. Marty Howell has also come on strong during the spring. Between Crook and Howell (both are tackles) the 'Cats have over 500 pounds of beef on the line.

In the secondary Derrick Folsom, David Thomas and Elijah Holmes are returning starters.

Another benefit has been the beatiful weather the last week. Unlike the first two weeks when Lowndes and Valdosta battled cold, rain and other winter ailments, this week has been what practice is named after — spring.

But Hyder looked at the bad weather as a benefit.

"You have to play in all kinds of weather," he said. And the first two weeks he did.

"I was real proud of the youngsters," Hyder added. "Some of those days compared with the worst we'll see."

Wilson was glad to finally see the sun.

"We probably got more done this week than any given week," he said. "But we got a lot done the first two weeks."

But he said he still has a lot of catching up to do, especially in the kicking game.

"We're a little behind," Wilson said. "We hadn't worked enough on the speciality teams."

V. Times 3-22-84

VHS Eyes State Contest

By Times Staff Writer

Fourteen Valdosta High School marketing and distributive education students will attend a state conference in Atlanta Friday through Sunday.

Teacher Norman Greene said the students will attend the Georgia Distributive Education Clubs of America's 40th Annual Career Development Conference with 12 of those students competing for state awards.

Following is a list of the student who will compete in Atlanta and their categories: Dottie Jo Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willian Brown, Student of the Year Contest and General Marketing Contest.

Kim Jenkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jenkins, Business Spelling and Vocabulary.

Melissa Winfrey, daughter of Sandra Williams, Advertising Services.

Jeff Gore, son of Dr. and Mrs. Joe Gore, Service Station Retailing.

Barry Teffeteller, son of Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Teffeteller, Food Marketing Master Employee Level.

Tim Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Davis, Food Marketing Supervisor Level.

Karmen Lyons, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Lyons, Apparel and Accessories Master Employee Level.

Laura Miller, daughter of Randie Miller, Apparel and Accessories Supervisor Level.

Martin Roesch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guenter Roesch, Food Service Supervisor Level.

David Sheppard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sheppard, Finance and Credit.

Jay McLeod, son of Mr. and Mrs. John McLeod, General Merchandising Supervisor Level.

Voting delegates to the convention are Jay Greene, son of Norman Greene; Maria Moore, daughter of Leland Moore; Tabitha Black, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Black, and Richie Chandler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Chandler.

VHS Wins Literary Meet

V. Times 3-22-84

Students at Valdosta High won the region literary competition at Valdosta State College last Saturday — for the fifth consecutive year.

In winning the academic competition, VHS students scored a total of 69 points and won seven first-place honors.

Other schools in order of finish were Central of Thomasville, second, 49 points; Tifton, third, 40 points; and Lowndes, fourth, 35 points.

First place winners for Valdosta High were: Joel Weaver, boys' essay; Beth Singletary, girls' essay; Laura Faussone, girls' spelling; Michael Taormina, boys' oral interpretation; Carolyn Clark, girls' solo; Dotty Jo Brown, Carolyn Williams and Debbie Willis, girls' trio; and Teresa Wakefield, girls' piano.

Second-place winners were Kenneth Grim for boys' spelling, Leecy Davis for girls' oral interpretation, and Tina Tucker in typing.

April Wagner won third place for girls' extemporaneous speaking. Fourth place winners were Greg Sturtevant for boys' extemporaneous speaking and Cindy Holm for home economics.

Wildcat Classic V Times 3-18-84

'Cats Open Season With Classic Title

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta baseball coach Charles Tarpley says he didn't think his team could win the 1984 Wildcat Classic.

But the Wildcats proved their fourth-year coach wrong by whipping both Berrien County and Tift County to win the crown Saturday at Bazemore Field.

"I can't believe it," Tarpley said after the 11-1 win over Tift, which gave the title to the 'Cats.

Valdosta defeated Berrien in the tournament opener 7-2 and Tift whipped Berrien in the second game, 17-6.

It was Valdosta's first Wildcat Classic championship since 1978, the year the 'Cats went on to win the Class AAAA state championship.

Following the '78 season, the Classic was suspended for three years before Tarpley revived it in 1982.

Berrien captured the '82 crown and last year's tournament was washed away by rain.

Valdosta 11, Tift 1

Lorenzo Matchett, 1-0, shut down the Blue Devils, allowing just two hits, one a solo home run by Lee Burgess in the fourth inning and the other a weak infield hit by Z.B. Hamilton in the fifth.

While Matchett stifled Tift, the Wildcats, 2-0, mauled Blue Devils starter Brian Massingill for 11 runs on 13 hits in five innings.

Bruce Parker belted a three-run homer in the first and Mickey Hotcaveg added a a two-run shot in the fourth.

"Matchett did a tremendous job," Tarpley said. "And we just plain knocked the cover off the ball against Tift.

"I have to give a lot of credit to (assistant coach) Jimmy Taw. I have been with the football team in spring practice and Jimmy has done a good job in getting this team ready."

Tarpley says the win over Tift, 2-2, also takes away some of the sting of a 1-9 record against the Blue Devils in the past three years.

Last season, the Blue Devils whipped Valdosta four times, including twice in the Region 1-AAAA championship series.

"It feels good to beat them," Tarpley said. "But I don't know if this one win erases all those losses to Tift."

Valdosta 7, Berrien 2

The Wildcats put together five hits and three errors by the Rebels, 0-2, in the third inning to cross the plate six times.

Berrien committed seven errors in all.

"We killed ourselves," said Berrien coach Bart Shuman. "There is no way you are going to beat anybody when you make that many mistakes."

The Rebels squandered several opportunities to knock Valdosta starter Ted West, 1-0, out of the game.

Berrien left nine runners stranded in the game as it seemed West, who finished with 14 strikeouts, was able to get out of any scrap, no matter the size.

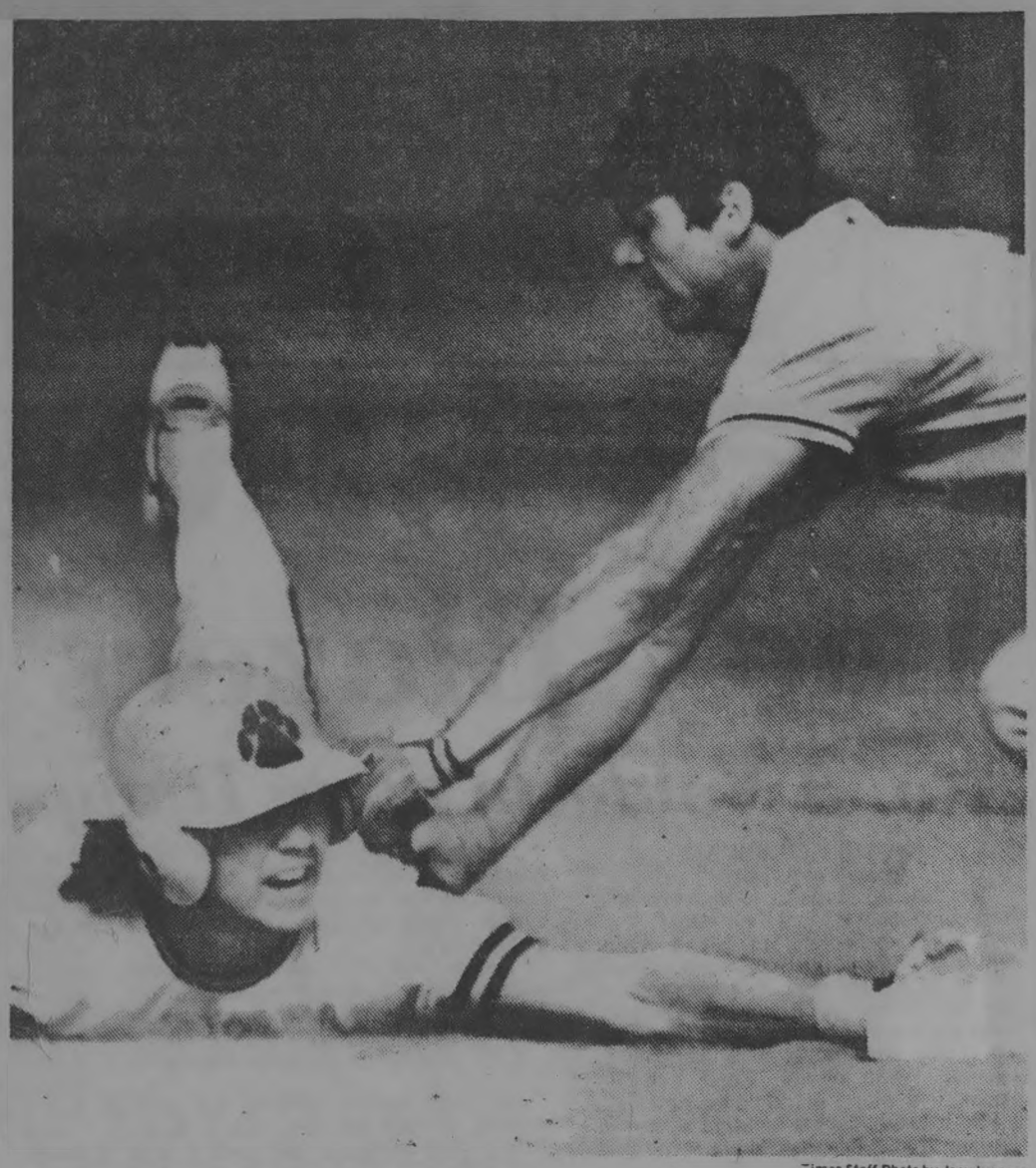
"We were one hit away in several innings from making a game of it," said Shuman. "But our young players just couldn't come through with the timely hit."

Shuman had six of his starters take part in Berrien's loss to Cook in the spring game Friday night.

"We had to play the 10:30 a.m. game," Shuman said. "And some of the players were still sore and tired from the football game."

Tarpley says he was not satisfied with his team's performance in the win over Berrien.

"Ted threw pretty well," Tarpley said. "But I was not pleased with out hitting. We benefited a great deal from their errors."



Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

Valdosta's Tony Dinkins Was Tagged Out On Steal Attempt

Tift 17, Berrien 6

The Blue Devils jumped out to a 6-0 lead with a single run in the first and five more in the second.

The Rebels closed the gap to 6-4 on Larry Green's grand slam in the second.

The Blue Devils put the game out of reach with four runs in the third.

Berrien hurt itself with seven errors against Tift as well.

Wildcat Classic
Game No. 1

Berrien	ab	r	h	bi	Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi
Green cf	4	0	1	0	Dinkin ss	4	1	2	0
Shaw 2b	3	0	1	0	Goff 2b	4	1	1	1
Kent p	3	1	2	1	West p	4	1	2	1
McCall lf	4	0	2	1	Mtchet rf	4	0	0	0
Garner 3b	4	0	1	0	Parker 1b	4	1	2	1
Paulk dh	2	0	0	0	Thomas	2	0	0	0
Rbinsn c	3	0	2	0	Gandy	2	1	1	0
Kendik rf	3	1	0	0	Rgster 3b	4	1	1	1
Hpillr ss	3	0	0	0	Reves c	3	1	1	2
TOTALS	29	2	9	2	TOTALS	31	7	10	6

Doubles — Kent. Steals — Green, Kent, Reaves. Errors — Griffin, Kent, Shaw, Hunkapillar, Kendrick, Robinson, Garner, Goff, West. LOB — B-9, V-11.

Berrien 000 110 0—2-9-7
Valdosta 006 010 x—7-10-2

	IP	R	H	SO	BB	ER
Berrien						
Kent	6	7	10	6	6	3
Valdosta						
West	7	2	9	14	3	1

Game No. 2

Tift	ab	r	h	bi	Berrien	ab	r	h	bi
Turner ss	3	4	3	3	Green cf	2	2	2	4
Taylor 2b	3	3	1	1	Shaw 2b	3	0	1	0
Dixon 2b	1	0	0	0	Kent lf	4	1	1	0
Burgess p	4	1	4	2	McCall dh	3	0	0	0
Undwod p	1	1	1	0	Garner p	4	0	2	0
Massgil 1b	1	0	0	0	Paulk 3b	3	1	1	0
Smith 1b	1	1	1	0	Griner p	1	0	1	0
Cosper rf	5	1	1	0	Rbnson c	3	0	0	0
Teals cf	3	2	2	2	Jones c	1	0	0	0
Shiver c	1	2	0	0	Kndrik rf	2	1	1	0
Taylor c	0	0	0	0	Allen rf	1	0	0	0
Hamton 3b	2	1	0	0	Willms rf	1	0	1	1
Cross 3b	1	0	0	0	Hpillr ss	1	1	0	0
Cole lf	2	0	0	0	Simmns ss	2	0	0	0
Chaney lf	2	1	1	1					
TOTALS	30	17	13	8	TOTALS	31	6	10	5

Doubles — Turner. Home Runs — Turner, Teals, Green. Steals — Turner, Massingill, Teals, Shiver 4, Hamilton, Paulk. Errors — Teals, Hamilton, Shaw 2, Kent 2, Robinson, Hunapillar 2. Balks — Garner. LOB — T-6, B-9.

Tift 154 031 3—17-14-2
Berrien 040 100 1—6-10-7

Tift	IP	R	H	SO	BB	ER
Burgess	5	5	6	7	4	4
Underwood	2	1	4	1	1	1
Berrien						
Garner	5	13	9	4	8	10
Griner	2	4	4	2	2	3

Wildcat Classic
Game No. 3

Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi	Tift	ab	r	h	bi
Dinkin ss	4	1	1	0	Turner ss	3	0	0	0
Goff 2b	3	3	2	2	Teals cf	3	0	0	0
West cf	3	2	2	1	Brgess lf	3	1	1	1
Parker 1b	4	1	3	4	Msgill p 2b	3	0	0	0
Mtchet p	3	0	0	0	Cosper rf	3	0	0	0
Andesn dh	3	0	2	1	Taylor 2b p	3	0	0	0
Gandy lf	3	0	1	0	Shiver c	2	0	0	0
Thomas ph lf	1	0	0	0	Hmilton 3b	2	0	1	0
Regter 3b	2	2	1	0	Smith dh	2	0	0	0
Htcveg c	3	2	1	2	TOTALS	24	1	2	1
Milney c	1	0	0	0					
TOTALS	30	11	13	10					

Doubles — West. Home Runs — Parker, Hotcaveg, Burgess. Steals — Dinkins 2, Goff, Register. Double Plays — T 1. Errors — Register, Smith, Hamilton, Turner. LOB — V-6, T-3.

Valdosta 301 250 0—11-13-1
Tift 000 100 0—1-2-3

	IP	R	H	SO	BB	ER
Valdosta						
Matchett	7	1	2	6	1	1
Tift						
Massingill	5	11	13	1	8	11
Taylor	2	0	0	1	0	0

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VHS Throws Mims Retirement Party

V. Times 3-18-84

By TOM MATHER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High Principal Lloyd Mims was greeted this morning with a pep rally like he had never seen.

More than 2,000 students, teachers and friends packed the VHS gymnasium to wish Mims well in his retirement, effective at the end of this school year.

Banners streamed from the walls with messages like "Mr. Mims — Most Spirited Graduate of 1984."

Mayor Ernest Nijem read a proclamation naming May 18 as "Lloyd Mims Day" in Valdosta, while commenting on his reputation as a strict disciplinarian.

"We're losing a mighty good man in Mr. Mims," Nijem said. "I tell you, he runs a tight ship at Valdosta High School, and sometimes that's what's needed."

Coach Nick Hyder said: "All my life, I've worked to be around winners...Valdosta produced a great winner in Lloyd Mims when he came here."

Valdosta High's Marchin' Cats, Jazz Cats and Chorus performed music in his honor, various departments put on humorous skits and plays, the flag corps and ROTC drill team put on shows, and cheerleaders led thousands of students to shout like they never had before.

"The Dudes" even performed a breakdancing set, which nearly brought the ceiling down.

Mims, who declined to sit in a special throne set up in his honor, reacted by laughing and occasionally wiping tears from his eyes.

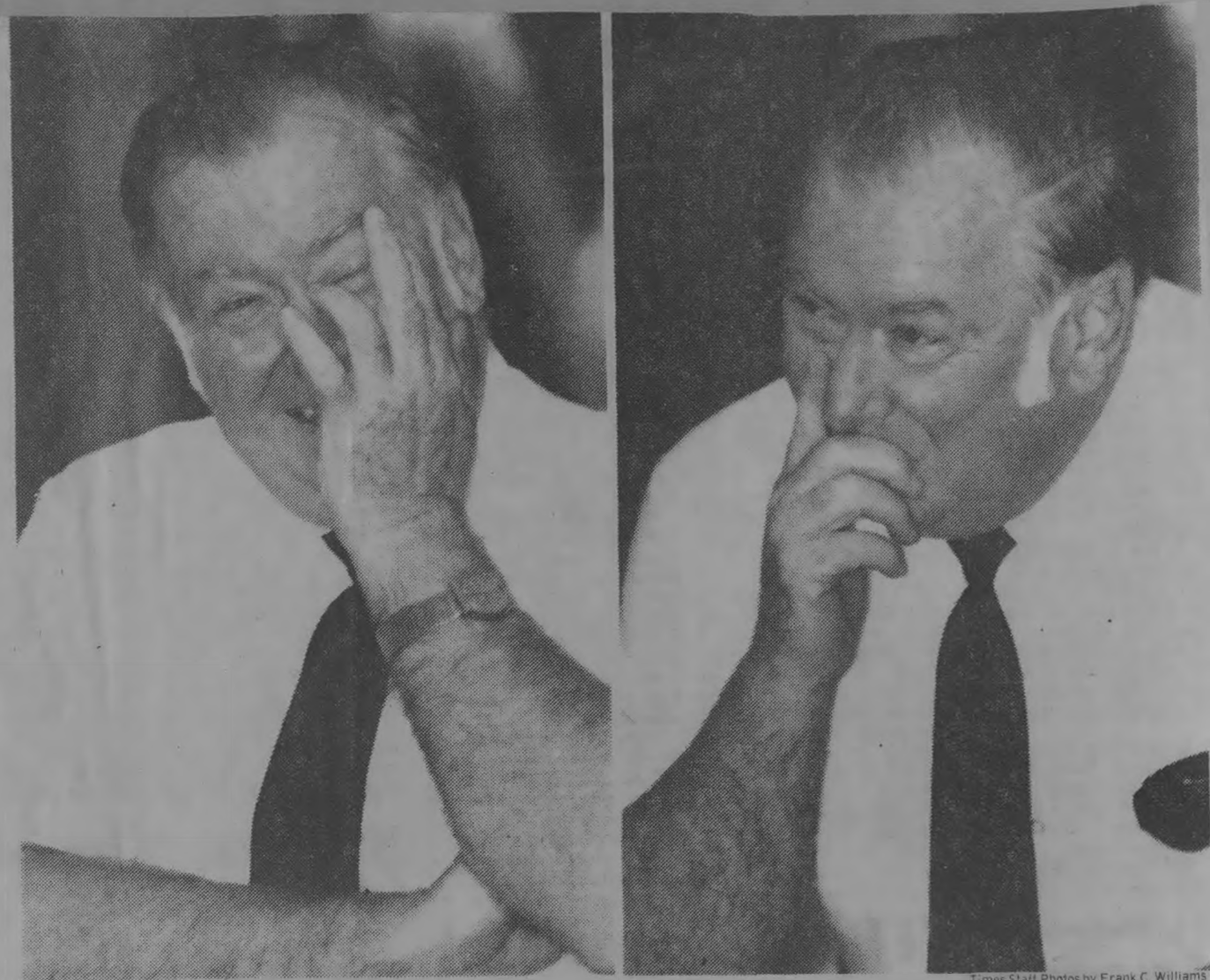
The principal's 13 years of service at VHS was also recognized with gifts, presented with drum rolls from the Marchin' Cats.

Booster clubs gave him a sterling silver coffee and tea service. And the history department gave him a "Mr. Microphone," so he could continue his well-known intercom messages in his home.

But they saved the best for last. Mims might have gotten an inkling of what was in store when someone presented him with a jersey that read "This Cat Has Gone Fishing."

Finally, after all the other presentations, they wheeled out a 14-foot bass fishing boat with a trailer and motor — all paid for by money collected among the students.

"They donated it, every penny of it," said a VHS teacher, Nancy Hjort.



Times Staff Photos by Frank C. Williams

Lloyd Mims Reacts As Valdosta High School Sends Him Off To Retirement In Style

Career Development

V. Times 3/21/85

VHS DECA Students Bound For State Conference

By GARY SOBERAY
Times Staff Writer

Twelve Valdosta High School Distributive Education Clubs of America students will be attending the Georgia DECA Career Development Conference in Atlanta this weekend.

Students will develop career awareness and have an opportunity to compete against other DECA district finalists in events that relate to their current jobs or future career objectives.

DECA is a program in which students attend school while working in career-related jobs.

Among the 12 competing students, Jane McLeod will be campaigning for Vice-President of the state organization.

The students who will be competing are:

— Lynn Peace, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Mack Peace. Miss Peace will be competing in Food Marketing.

— Jennifer Harrell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Pearson. Miss Harrell will be competing in Finance and Credit.

— Maria Moore, daughter of Mr. Leland S. Moore Jr. Miss Moore will be competing in the Free Enterprise Contest.

— Terri Worful, daughter of Ms. Susan Tibus. Miss Worful will be competing in Food Services.

— Robin Weks, daughter of Mr. R. C. Weeks. Miss Weeks will be competing in Business Mathematics.

— Karmen Lyons, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lyons. Miss Lyons will be competing in Apparel and Accessories.

— Jane McLeod, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John McLeod. Miss McLeod will be competing in General Marketing.

— Rouse Vallotton, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Vallotton. Vallotton will be competing in Job Interviewing.

— Michele Golivesky, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Golivesky. Miss Golivesky will be competing in the Reporter of the Year contest.

— Robert Bagley, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bagley. Bagley will be competing in the Business Speech contest.

— Scott Williams, son o Mr. and Mrs. Allen J Williams. Williams will be competing in Food Market ing.

— Kevin Lancaster, so of Mr. and Mrs. Joh Lancaster. Lancaster wi be competing in Petroleur Marketing and the Studer of the Year competition.

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Honored At Ceremony

VDT 3/20/85

Valdosta Student Wins Elks Essay Competition

By ELIZABETH BUTLER
Times Staff Writer

A Valdosta High School senior was honored Tuesday as the winner of the sixth annual Elks Americanism essay contest.

Michael Furukawa, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Furukawa of Valdosta, was presented with a $100 savings bond at a ceremony at the Valdosta Elks Lodge.

It was the third consecutive year the first place award went to a student from Lee Pulliam's advanced English class. Second place went to Lowndes High School student Charles Bryant Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bryant of Smith Road. Third place was won by VHS student John F. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Smith.

Students from area high schools wrote on *Our Freedom: What We Must Do To Keep It Alive*. They were judged on content of ideas, organization, style and originality of approach to the subject.

"I wrote about John F. Kennedy and how he epitomized our struggle for freedom," Furukawa said. "I told about how he used strong leadership and how he tried to communicate with other countries to bring about peace in the world."

Coordinator of the essay contest was Dr. Lamar Pearson, Valdosta State College history professor. "Patriotism is not lacking in our young people," he said. "The purpose of the Elks essay contest is to encourage young people to appreciate our freedom and the 'American way of life' and to challenge them to express their patriotism in a few, well-chosen words and ideas."

MICHAEL FURUKAWA
Second Contest He's Won

Ray Hamel, Americanism committeeman, presented the savings bond to Furukawa. "It is gratifying to know young people who can communicate on the subject of freedom and what we must pay for it (especially) when we hear of national statistics indicating that over half of the high school students cannot say the pledge of allegiance without error," he said.

It wasn't the first essay contest Furukawa had ever won. When he was in the sixth grade, he won a freedom essay contest sponsored by the Valdosta Sertoma Club and received a $25 savings bond. His essay centered around discrimination against minorities.

His other honors include being named to the list of Who's Who Among Students in American High Schools, Academic All-American and Georgia Tech Distinguished Mathematics and Science Scholar. He received a University of Georgia Certificate of Merit and National High School Award for Excellence and was a Governor's Honors Program alternate.

Furukawa was born in Tachikawa Air Force Base, Japan, and grew up mainly in Valdosta. At VHS he is president of the debate team, on the varsity tennis team and vice president of the Beta Club.

He enjoys weight lifting, playing tennis and going to the movies.

Furukawa plans to attend Georgia Tech and major in electrical engineering.

VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

V Times 3/23/85

Chapter Plans For Conference

By FRANKIE KEELING

The Valdosta High School Chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is busy making plans for State Leadership Conference to be held in Atlanta May 3-5.

At this Conference, members from all over Georgia will compete in various skill events and projects reports. Valdosta High is planning to take 15 FBLA'ers to State Conference this year. Two advisers will accompany the students.

For the first time in several years, Valdosta High is planning to run a student for a State FBLA Officer. Members will be entering many events for the first time. Enthusiasm is running high and students are looking for a successful year at State Conference.

FBLA members will be trying to raise money to help pay their way to State Conference. Anyone who needs babysitting, housework, yardwork, cars washed, etc., please call the Business Department at Valdosta High School at 242-8116. An FBLA'er will be assigned to complete the job. A car wash is being planned for Saturday, March 30 as a group effort.

Navy JROTC Cadets Bound For Camp

The Valdosta High School Navy JROTC is taking its most prestigious cadets to a Parris Island Marine Orientation Camp on March 27 thru 29, 1985. The selection of these highly deserving cadets was based on their unit participation, academic standing, personal appearance, and general conduct.

Only a few met the required standards and those very few will be participating in the same kind of trianing as the recruits stationed at Parris Island, South Carolina. Some of the most vigorous training the NJROTC cadets will be participating in consist of: firing the M16 rifle, fighting with Pugil Sticks, a Bayonet Assault Course, Hand to Hand Combat, and many others.

The VHS NJROTC unit has scheduled another trip to Parris Island during the summer.

Baseball Fever

V Times 3/22/85

Time sure flies when you're having fun, or is it time waits for no one?

Time keeps on slipping, slipping slipping into the future. Wait a minute, before you think I've flipped my lid or something of the sort.

All I'm really saying is spring forward and fall backwards. It's that time of year to break out the bats and balls and spring into action.

It's the time for "hard knocks." Not the kind that you hear on the football field that goes something like, pow! It's the kind of noise that goes bink (the sound of the modern-day aluminum bats)! In B.A. days (before alumunium) the sound was crack! It's like the sound of music to my ears.

Spring is finally here. It's officially the third day of spring, which means baseball season can't be too much farther behind.

As a matter of fact, the pros kicked off their preseason drills some three to four weeks ago.

Baseball is a lot like the spring whether. It's easy-going and laid back. Before you know it, the game will have breezed right on by without you noticing.

It's a time when you can take the family out for a picnic while taking in a game. You can even take your shirt off and holler at the opposing players or the guys in BLUE, without getting thrown in jail.

I like baseball because it was something that I could always put the blame on while growing up when I messed up those new pants that my mom told me not to play in.

I always wondered what kind of answer was she expecting when she asked, "Roger, what have you been doing? I thought I told you not to play in those pants?

"Well, pops told me that I needed to practice some more on my grounders and on the way home to change clothes, I was hit on the leg by the ball and we just started catching a few. And one thing led to another...after we got through snagging grounders, I tripped and fell and that's where all of this dirt on my pants come from."

Baseball is the only one of the three major sports which doesnt' use a clock. There's no time limit in baseball and no ties. You can play until your heart's content.

It's like Pete Rose once said, "Baseball is a kid's game that a bunch of grownups like playing." It's the all-american game, and it can bring the kid out in a lot of people, including the fans, players, coaches and just about anybody involved.

Ever since I can remember, I've had this hobby of collecting baseball caps. I've worn them since diapers were wrapped around me, and sometimes now it gets me into a little trouble.

I also had this habit like all other real baseball fans of collecting and trading baseball cards. At home (Mississippi), there are boxes on top of boxes just full of them. I have enough to probably fill up a trunk, at least.

Baseball is a game when some guys put these huge wads of tobacco to one side of their jaws and spit it allover the place to release their nervous reactions. Don't ever walk into a baseball dougout with white shoes on, because they'll look brown when you get out there.

I'll never forget the day that I tried my first chew. I put a ittle on the side like I was told to. But they forgot to tell me not to swallow it. After accidently swallowing some of the tobacco, I felt, well, drunk.

And wouldn't you know it, the first person that I had to face is my pops.

"What's the matter with you, boy, he asked? Why are your eyes all red and your eyes all turned back in your head?

About that time, I did the only thing that I could do, ask for H-E-L-P!

Well, I guess I better get used to it because tobaccoc and baseball go hand-in-hand. So, I'm ready for some more.

Take me out to the ball park, take me out to the game ... Talking baseball, Willie and the Duke.

***

All the area high school baseball teams have already started up their seasons, and the action will pick up even more in the next couple of weeks.

This is the favorite time of the year for me. Mainly because I like watching baseball and all of the strategy that is involved in the game. There's nothing like going to a baseball game except for maybe mom's apple pie and a hot dog.

Lowndes High is 1-3 so far this spring after losing two games in a tournament in Tallahassee, Fla., and once last week to Tifton. The Vikings are expected to be one of the top teams in the region, but the loss of two starters (Roger Culpepper and Alan White) to academic problems will hurt their depth.

Valdosta High is 0-2 so far in this young season, and Coach Charles Tarpley is sporting a senior-dominated team. However, he's quick to add that he has a lot of young players who are pushing for time. Tarpley adds that this is the best group of young players that he has had.

Usually teams will play two to three games a week, which means most high school teams rarely need more than two pitchers to take on the mound chores. Some teams can even get by with one pitcher, but that can catch up with you once you move into the playoffs.

Several of the area schools are anticipating big years too and this could mean a very interesting spring. Berrien County lost its season opener to Cook County Monday, and the Rebels will host their own two-day tournament at Blazer Field, starting today.

Tina Tucker Places Second

V Times 3-23-85

By KIMBERLY ROWE

Miss Tina Tucker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Tucker, placed second in Girls' Typing at the AAAA Literary Competition held at Valdosta State College, Saturday, March 16, 1985. Tina also placed second in this same event at last year's Literary Competition.

Tina is a member of Valdosta High FBLA and is also a Vocational Office Training (VOT) student, with Mrs. Janeen Josey as her Coordinator. Tina is employed in VOT at the Flint Riber Girl Scout Council local headquarters on Slater Street. Mrs. Phyllis Garland is her Supervisor.

Tina is a Senior at Valdosta High School and plans to attend Valdosta Vocational-Technical School in the Fall. Her career goal is to be an Executive Secretary in Valdosta.

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Aldrich Named VHS Principal

V. Times 3-20-84

By TOM MATHER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School has a new principal.

William Aldrich, an assistant principal at Valdosta Junior High, was named to assume the post starting in July by the Valdosta City Board of Education, Supt. Ralph Brandon said today.

The BOE made its decision Monday night in an executive session meeting following the regular board meeting, Brandon said.

"We interviewed about 25 (applicants)," he said.

The appointment was a surprise, Aldrich said today, but was something he had strived toward.

"I had applied for the position," Aldrich said. "It was something that I had always wanted and had worked at."

Aldrich said he intends to build on the program already established by Lloyd Mims, who retired in January as VHS' principal, effective June 30.

"What I'd like to do is build on the program that already exists there," Aldrich said. "We have basically the same principles as far as discipline in the schools."

Other aspects Aldrich said he intends to emphasize include career education for students, instructional supervision, and extracurricular activities. But academics must always be foremost, he said.

WILLIAM ALDRICH
Succeeds Lloyd Mims

"You want to be the best in everything you do," he said. "That's what people in the community want and will continue to want."

Following in the footsteps of Mims might be a hard task, Aldrich said, but it's one that doesn't deter him.

"People are going to ask: why would you want to follow Mr. Mims?" he said. "I'd always rather follow someone who's (administered) an excellent program."

Mims said he is confident of Aldrich's ability to handle the job.

V. Times 3-23-84

LHS, VHS Tied In All Sports Race

ALBANY — Colquitt County holds a 41-40 advantage over second-place Tift County following the winter sports season in the Region 1-AAAA All-Sports Standings as compiled by the Albany Herald.

Valdosta and Lowndes both tied for fourth with 31s. Albany Westover was third with 39.

The following five were: Albany (30), Albany Dougherty (27), Thomasville Central (25½), Albany Monroe (15½) and Thomasville (14).

Teams were awarded 10 points for first-place finish, 9 for second, 8 for third, etc., for each of the fall and winter sports — football, girls cross country, boys cross country, girls basketball, boys basketball and wrestling.

Valdosta won the region title in wrestling, finished second in football and third in boys basketball. VHS was seventh in girls basketball and did not compete in either boys or girls cross country.

Lowndes, meanwhile, was region champions in girls basketball and third in football and wrestling. LHS was sixth in boys basketball and, like Valdosta, did not field boys or girls cross country teams.

Leader Colquitt County had two first-place finishes — both in cross country — the only team in the region to accomplish such a feat. Colquitt tied for fifth in football.

Tift County had a first place in football, second in girls cross country and wrestling, and third in boys cross country.

Westover was first in boys basketball and second in boys cross country. The Patriots were seventh in football.

Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams

VHS No. 1 Singles Player Eric Anderson Won 6-0, 6-0

Valdosta Netters Sweep Lowndes

V. Times 3-20-84

From Staff Reports

The Valdosta High boys and girls tennis teams swept a pair of matches with Lowndes on Monday afternoon. VHS won both matches 9-0.

The Wildcats improved to 4-0 this season as they beat Lowndes in a match played at VHS. The 'Cats B-team also won 3-0.

Eric Anderson won his No. 1 singles match with Barry Broome 6-0, 6-0. Kibby Wagner of VHS did the same in No. 2 singles, beating Richard Joyner 6-0, 6-0.

Gabe Hotard was the only VHS player who had to go three sets as he beat Brad Woodall 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

In other singles matches, Simon Lee won 6-2, 6-1; Jim Staup won 6-3, 7-5; Michael Furkawa won 6-1, 6-0; and Reggie Merritt won 6-0, 6-1.

Wagner and Hotard swept their No. 1 doubles match with Broome and Joyner 6-0, 6-0. But the 'Cats didn't have it quite so easy in the other doubles matches. Staup and Furukawa won 7-5, 6-2, but Tom Parris and Buddy Holley went three sets to beat Brad Wood and Clint Holland 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Alan Burns and Mark Lees won their B-team singles matches 8-1 and 8-0 respectively. Simon Lee and Reggie Merritt won the only double match 6-0, 6-0.

The Lady 'Cats improved to 3-1 with their win over Lowndes at McKey Park.

VHS dominated the varsity singles as Kristy Stabell, Ethel Mitchell, Mandy Smitherman, Christie Pierce and Ronnie Bartholomew all won their matches 6-0, 6-0.

Laura Fields, the Vikettes No. 6 singles player, was the first Lowndes player to break the scoring drought. But she still lost to Denise Fields 6-1, 6-0.

The Lady 'Cats were almost as dominant in the doubles. Stabell and Smitherman, the No. 1 doubles team, beat Lane Janey and Laura Fields 6-0, 6-1. Mitchell and Denise Fields won by an identical score in No. 2 doubles action while Bartholomew and Pierce won 6-0, 6-0.

VHS also swept a B-team match 4-0. Christy Scharf, Terri Longieliere and Clarissa Coley were winners for the Lady 'Cats in singles play.

In doubles action, Scharf and Longeliere won 6-0, 6-0. Coley and Lisa Brooks won 8-1.

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Valdosta And Lowndes Play Spring Games Tonight

V. Times 3-23-84

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Most of you probably have heard the joke by now.

Question: What are the two favorite sports in Lowndes County?

Answer: Football and spring football.

That being the case, Lowndes County sports fans are faced with a veritable feast of their "second-favorite" sport tonight as both Lowndes and Valdosta play their annual spring football games.

The Valdosta Wildcats, 11-1 last year, will host Newnan, 7-4, at Cleveland Field. Meanwhile, the Lowndes Vikings, 8-3, will face Warner Robins, 10-2, at Martin Stadium. Both games will kick off at 8 p.m.

The Valdosta B-team will also play its spring game against Newnan at 5:30 p.m.

This will be the Newnan Cougars' third straight spring game in Valdosta. They will also return next year for the last game on the four-year contract.

The Cougars' first two trips to Valdosta weren't much fun. The 'Cats won 20-0 in 1982 and 28-14 in 1983.

This will be the 11th spring game at Valdosta for head coach Nick Hyder. The 'Cats are 7-1 in spring games under Hyder. Their only loss came at the hands of Waycross in 1981. The 'Cats played in four-team jamborees in 1974 and 1975.

Hyder says Newnan is an ideal spring opponent since the chances of the two playing in the fall are remote. Newnan is a member of Region 6-AAAA.

"I don't like to play a team we'd possibly have to play in the fall," Hyder said. "... One of the toughest assignments we've had here is to play people twice, especially if we win the first game."

Before Newnan, the 'Cats played Lowndes, Warner Robins and Waycross two times apiece in spring games. Valdosta and Newnan have met only once during the regular-season. That was in the 1951 state championship game which Valdosta won 14-9.

Hyder also likes playing Newnan for another reason.

"We'd prefer playing a team that gives us challenges, that gives us problems," he said.

Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson says he expects plenty of problems when his Plowboys tangle with Warner Robins.

"We're in a quandary," said Wilson. "One day the defense shuts the offense down to a drip. The next day the offense runs wild over the defense. So we don't have any consistency at this point. And that's alarming."

Wilson said he's trying not to lose sight of what spring games are all about.

"Spring games were originally meant to evaluate and train," he said. "Everybody wants to win ... but the emphasis should be on evaluating and training."

Wilson added, "One thing we have done this year more so than in the past is look at more people at more positions."

The Plowboys are 4-4 in spring games under Wilson including a 34-21 win over Cairo last year.

REGION 1-AAAA NOTES — Spring football in Region 1-AAAA will conclude with three games tonight. While Lowndes and Valdosta are playing at home, Albany Monroe will host Mitchell-Baker in Hugh Mills Stadium at 8 p.m. Mitchell-Baker is the defending Class AAA state champion.

Going into tonight's games, only three region teams have won their spring games. Defending region and state champion Tift County buried Coffee 37-7, Bainbridge, the region's newest member, beat Worth County 24-8, and Thomasville Central whipped Columbus 24-8.

The others haven't done so well. Cairo stunned Colquitt County 38-28, Americus drubbed Albany Westover 39-0, Waycross whipped Albany High 19-0, and Crisp County edged Albany Dougherty 6-0.

Valdosta, Lowndes Open Sub-Region Play

V. Times 3-26-84

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Though it is the first Region 1-AAAA South sub-region game for the Valdosta, Tuesday's game against Colquitt County in Moultrie is already shaping up as an all-important one for the Wildcats.

Game time is set for 4.

Colquitt, which has finished second to Valdosta in the South sub-region regular-season race in each of the past two seasons, opened the '84 season against hapless sub-region foe Thomasville last Friday with a 26-0 win in Moultrie.

The Packers improved to 2-0 overall with a 19-1 win over non sub-region opponent Westover Saturday.

"For the past several years, it has seemed we always play Colquitt the first sub-region game of the year," said Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley. "And the loser of this game is in a bind."

Lowndes will also open South sub-region play Tuesday when it hosts Thomasville Central at Lowndes Field at 4.

In other prep baseball action Tuesday, Ocmulgee is at Valwood and Irwin County is at Clinch County.

Valwood will host Pineland of Moultrie and Berrien County hosts Clinch Wednesday. Lowndes will also open play in a tournament in Tallahassee, Fla., Wednesday.

Valdosta will enter Tuesday's game with a 3-0 record after easing by defending region champion Tift County 15-14 Saturday at Bazemore Field. A week earlier, Valdosta won the Wildcat Classic with a 7-2 win over Berrien and a 11-1 win over Tift.

As a team, the 'Cats are batting a blistering .420.

Tony Anderson, who has played part-time in two games, leads the team with a .800 average (4-for-5). He is also tied for the lead in RBIs with five after a grand slam in Saturday's win over Tift.

Bruce Parker, who hit a grand slam in Valdosta's first win over Tift, also has five RBIs. He is batting .538 (7-13).

Among the regulars, Freddie Goff leads with a .583 average (7-12).

"I really didn't believe we would be 3-0 at this point," Tarpley said. "But we have hit the ball extremely well for three games.

"Our pitching was not that great in the second Tift game. But I think our pitchers will be ready for Colquitt."

Ted West, *Times* Pitcher of the Year in '83, will take a 2-0 record into the game. He also has a 4.02 ERA.

Greg Studdard, 1-0, is expected to start for Colquitt.

The Vikings should have an easier time in their sub-region opener against the 0-4 Yellow Jackets.

Central has managed just two runs and 11 hits in its four games. The Jackets lost twice to Whigham, 5-0 and 3-1 and twice to Worth County, 10-0 and 16-1.

"I don't know anything about Central," said Lowndes coach Noel George. "They're going to be young. They lost quite a few guys from last year."

The lone returnee, Doug Wilson, 0-1, is expected to be on the mound for the Jackets.

Meanwhile, the Vikings, 3-1, will send Alan Taylor, 2-0, to the mound.

Taylor has given up six hits in his two wins. He has a staff-leading 1.93 ERA.

The Vikings have a team-batting average of .370.

Taylor leads the team with a .643 average (9-14). He also has three RBIs and three stolen bases.

Bobby Eason leads the team in RBIs with five.

"I hope we're ready," George said. "We're still making a few little dumb mistakes."

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V. Times 3-27-84

'Dosta Dominates All-Region Team

8 Wildcats, 2 Vikings Selected To 1984 All-Region Wrestling Squad

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta wrestlers make up most of the 1984 All-Region 1-AAAA wrestling team, just as they did last year. Which is not surprising, when you consider that the Wildcats have won four straight region championships and also have not lost a dual meet with a region opponent in that time.

Eight 'Cats are on this year's 14-man team. And VHS coach Jim Landrum is region Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year.

"We're just proud of the kids," said Landrum. "They worked hard all year. The competition was good this year, probably better than it has been. And it's going to be tougher next year."

The second annual all-region team was selected by the sports writers who cover Region 1-AAAA. It is made up of the winners in each weight class at this year's region championship tournament.

Tift County, which finished second in the region, placed three wrestlers on the team. Lowndes, which improved from fifth place to third this year, had two. Albany High had one.

All but one of the Valdosta wrestlers were also members of the 1983 all-region squad. Louie Gonis, a 105-pound sophomore, made the team for the first time this year. Gonis has a record of 19-7.

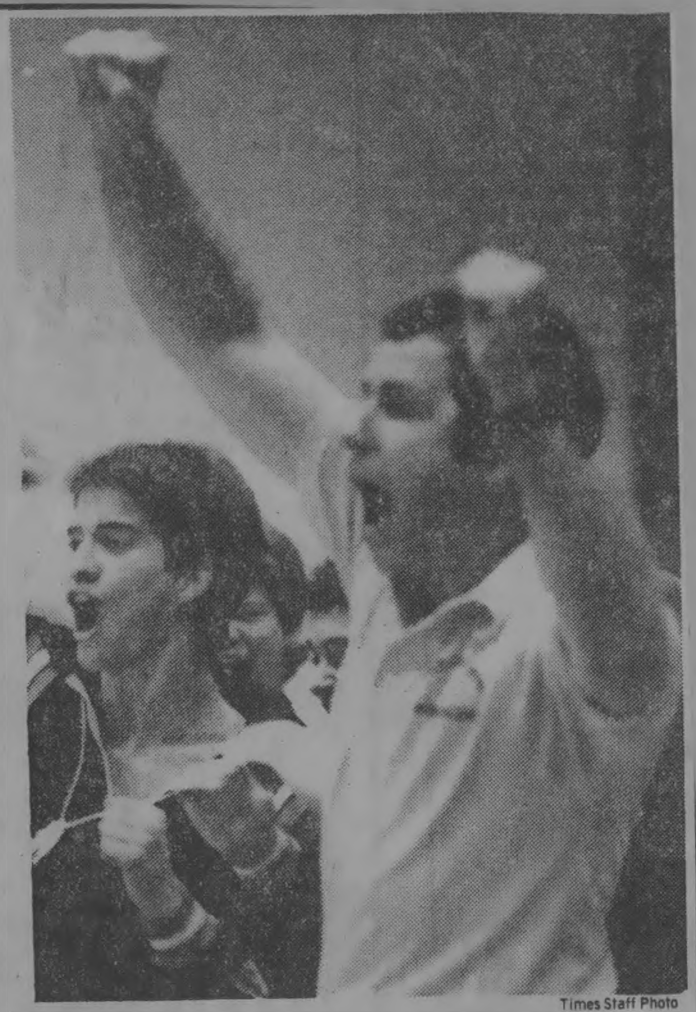
Senior Scott Richardson (112) is back, as are Craig Klement (119), Mark Levy (126), Jack Priest (167), Frank Abney (175), Jimmy Lewis (195) and Leon Johnson (heavyweight).

Levy, Lewis and Johnson all finished second in this year's state tournament. The 'Cats finished fourth overall.

Willie Knight (155) of Lowndes also made the all-region team for the second time. Dale Mallory (145) is a newcomer to the squad.

Tift placed three wrestlers on the squad including two-time member Claude Webster (98), Alfred Collier (132) and Jeffrey Jackson (185).

Junior Chris Bruce of Albany (132) made the team for the first time.



Times Staff Photo

VHS's Landrum Was Named Coach Of Year

JAN BURNS
STAR Teacher

KENNETH GRIM
STAR Student

2-23-84 V Times

Valdosta STARs Named

From Times Staff Reports

Kenneth Grim has been named 1984 STAR Student for Valdosta High, according to the Kiwanis Club of Valdosta, local sponsor of the program.

Grim chose as his STAR Teacher Jan Burns, who taught him 11th-grade English at the school.

Valdosta High's STAR student is chosen based on results from the College Board's Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and academic averages, according to Virginia Wisenbaker, school counselor.

"They must have the highest combined math and verbal SAT score, plus be in the top 10 percent of their class," she said.

STAR stands for Student Teacher Achievement Recognition.

Plowboys, Wildcats End Spring Drills Successfully

V. Times 3-25-84

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Both the Valdosta and Lowndes High football teams successfully closed out their four-week spring practice sessions Friday night with wins in their respective spring games.

Valdosta used a ferocious defense to hold Newnan to just one touchdown on its way to a 20-6 win over the Cougars. It was the third straight spring win over Newnan for the 'Cats, and head coach Nick Hyder's eighth win in nine spring games.

Meanwhile, across town 2,500 fans turned out at Martin Stadium to view Lowndes' 20-15 upset win over Warner Robins. It was the Vikings' second straight spring game win, and head coach Joe Wilson's fifth win in nine spring games.

Berke Holtzclaw, in his first varsity start for Valdosta, passed for 41 yards and rushed for 51 and one touchdown, and running back Tony Anderson rushed for 84 yards and one touchdown to pace the 'Cats.

Valdosta led 7-6 at the half after trailing 6-0 early. But VHS touchdowns in the third and fourth quarters put the game out of reach.

After a scoreless first quarter, Newnan quarterback Johnny Cash put the Cougars on the scoreboard first with a 5-yard run. The extra point failed, however, and Newnan led 6-0.

The lead was short-lived, though. Just over two minutes later Anderson capped a 72-yard Valdosta drive with a 6-yard touchdown. On the drive Anderson reeled off gains of 25 and 12 yards. Combined with John Porter's extra point, the 'Cats went ahead for good, 7-6.

And Holtzclaw closed out the scoring with a 1-yard run.

Lowndes had to hold off Warner Robins four straight times inside its own 10 yard line in the final minute of the game to preseve a 20-15 win.

Rising junior Dale Baker deflected a last-ditch pass attempt by Warner Robins quarterback Mike Creech in the end zone to seal the Lowndes' win.

Senior-to-be quarterback Randy Gay passed for 222 yards and three touchdowns — two to Eric Blades and one to Roger Culpepper — for all three of the Vikings' touchdowns.

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The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Mar. 25, 1984-

Wildcats Ease By Tift County

Valdosta Improves To 3-0 With Come-From-Behind Victory

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats were just glad they won.

Scoring two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning on an error by Tift County shortstop Brian Massingill, the Wildcats pulled out a 15-14 victory over the Blue Devils Saturday afternoon at Bazemore Field.

The win improves the 'Cats record to 3-0 this season while Tift falls to 4-4.

It is also the second win against Tift this season. Valdosta, which was 1-9 in the past three seasons against Tift, whipped the Blue Devils 11-1 in the final game of the Wildcat Classic March 17.

In the afternoon's second game, Joey Crosby pitched a three-hitter to lead the Valdosta B-team to a 4-3 win over Tift County.

"I'm glad we got some hitting because we sure didn't get any pitching," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said after the varsity game. "You have to be pleased any time your team scores 15 runs. But you also cry when your team gives up 14 runs.

"I'm just glad to get out of here alive."

After falling behind 6-2, the Wildcats exploded for five runs in the fifth off Tift starter Michael Turner.

Tony Anderson had an RBI single and David Thomas belted a three-run homer to tie the game at 6-6.

Third-baseman Tim Register, who went three for four, followed Thomas with a single.

After a pitching change brought Lee Burgess into the game, Burgess balked Register to second.

Burgess attempted to pick Register off second base but threw the ball into center field, allowing Register to put the 'Cats ahead 7-6.

The lead was short-lived as Tift right-fielder David Cosper cracked a three-run home run off reliever Lorenzo Matchett in the sixth, giving the Blue Devils a 9-7 lead.

Valdosta exploded again in the bottom of the sixth, crossing the plate five times.

Anderson capped the inning with a grand slam.

Tarpley brought starter Ted West back in after Turner belted a three-run homer in the top of the seventh to cut the Valdosta lead to one 13-12 and Chris Taylor walked.

However, West continued to struggle, giving up two straight singles, which scored Taylor with the tying run.

Massingill lofted a fly ball into centerfield where Matchett dropped it, allowing Burgess to score with the go-ahead run.

West struck out the next two batters to quell the Blue Devils' uprising.

West was the beneficiary of the two unearned runs in the bottom of the seventh. The right hander improves his mark to 2-0.

Meanwhile, Turner, who came back in to pitch the seventh, falls to 1-2.

The Wildcats, who had made three errors in the first two games, committed seven errors against Tift.

"I was really disappointed in our fielding," Tarpley said. "We can't afford to give up walks or errors on our field because there are a bunch of home runs going to be hit here. We don't want anybody on base when a homer is hit."

Valdosta opens Region 1-AAAA South sub-region play Tuesday in Moultrie against Colquitt County.

Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

Tift's Lee Burgess Slides In With Stolen Base As Valdosta's Steve Milani Reaches For Throw

Tift Co.	ab	r	h	bi
Turner p-ss	4	2	1	3
Taylor 2b	4	1	0	0
Burges lf-p	4	3	3	0
Cosper rf	5	1	2	3
Msgill ss-1b	4	3	1	1
Teals cf	3	1	1	1
Hmilton dh	3	2	0	0
Shiver c	4	0	2	3
Cross 3b	3	1	1	0
TOTALS	34	14	11	11

Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi
Dinkin ss	3	1	0	0
Goff dh	5	2	4	1
West p-cf	4	3	2	1
Parker 1b	5	1	2	0
Mtchet cf-p	3	2	1	1
Gandy lf	1	0	0	0
Smith rf	2	0	0	0
Regser 3b	4	2	3	0
Hotveg c	1	0	0	0
Martin pr	0	1	0	0
Reaves c	2	0	0	0
Adersn ph-2b	2	2	2	4
Thomas ph-lf	2	1	1	3
TOTALS	34	15	15	10

Tift Co.	023 013	5—14-11-3
Valdosta	110 155	2—15-15-7

Errors — Shiver, Burgess, Massingill, Parker, Matchett 3, Hotcaveg, Gandy, Anderson. Left On Base — T - 8, V - 8. Doubles — Shiver, Teals, Register, Goff. Home Runs — Massingill, Turner, Thomas, Anderson. Stolen Bases — Burgess, Martin, Teals, Gandy, Register.

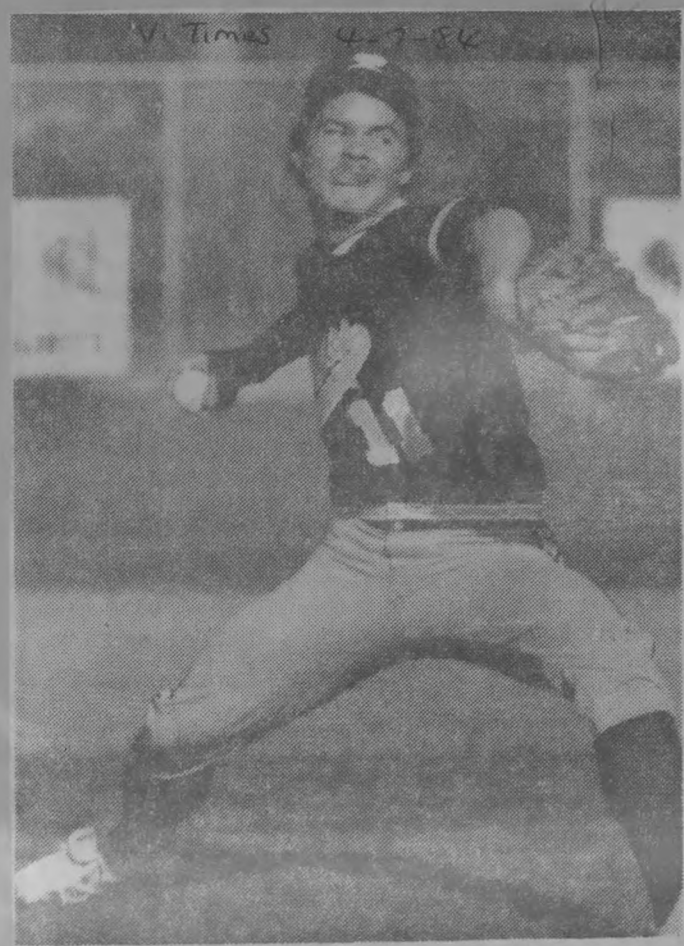
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Tift Co.						
Turner	4.1	10	10	6	6	6
Burgess	1.2	5	5	5	1	2
Valdosta						
West	4.2	7	6	4	3	6
Matchett	2.1	4	8	7	3	3

Winner — West, 2-0. Loser — Turner, 1-2. Wild Pitch — Turner 2, Matchett 3. Balk — Burgess.

V. Times 4-7-84

Valdosta Sacks Lowndes

Alan White of Lowndes High School slides into third base as Valdosta High School's Tim Register waits to make the play in Friday's baseball game at Lowndes. Valdosta walked away with a 7-4 triumph in the Region 1-AAAA affair. For details and more pictures of Friday's game, see page 8. — Times Staff Photo by Frank Williams.



V. Times 4-7-84

Taylor Suffered His First Loss Of The Season

V. Times 4-7-84

Ted West Struck Out 13 En Route To Win

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Playing Lowndes Brought Out The Best In Valdosta's Hitters

4-7-84 By CHARLES CORDER V. Times
Times Staff Writer

Hey, who was that in the black and gold uniforms at Lowndes Field Friday afternoon?

Did I hear somebody say, "Valdosta"?

Are you kidding?

Valdosta is the team that, not counting an eight-run rally in the 11th inning against Berrien County last Saturday, had scored only two runs in 17 innings prior to yesterday's game with Lowndes.

And Valdosta is the team whose batting average dropped 113 points in two games — that's no misprint — repeat, 113 points. The Wildcats were batting .420 when they went up to Nashville a week ago. But after narrowly escaping the Rebels and suffering their first loss of the season at the hands of Tift County on Wednesday, the 'Cats' average slipped to .307.

Actually Valdosta's average fell another point in yesterday's 7-4 win over Lowndes. But try telling that to Lowndes pitcher Alan Taylor, who suffered his first loss of the season. The 'Cats reached him for 10 hits including three home runs.

Fred Goff is one of the reasons Taylor is 3-1 today. Goff, Valdosta's designated hitter, went 4-for-4. He tied the game at 1-all by leading off the third inning with a home run over the right field wall.

"I was hitting fastballs," Goff said of Taylor, "except for the last time when he threw me a curve."

Taylor had trouble with his curveball for much of the day. By the time he started getting it over, the damage was already done.

"He started to throw the curveball more toward the end," Goff said. "He (Taylor) is a good pitcher. I was just trying to make contact."

The 'Cats scored two more runs in the third inning to take the lead in the game for good. Mickey Hotcaveg scored on a single by Steve Gandy in the fourth. Valdosta finished its offensive work in the fifth on a solo home run by Bruce Parker and a two-run homer by Tim Register.

Valdosta baseball coach Charles Tarpley had a simple explanation for his team's sudden hitting spree.

"Lowndes," he said.

"It's the spring holidays. Everybody has been out of school for what, nine days now? We've had baseball games or practice every day. Everybody else has been at the beach."

Of course, that breeze blowing out toward centerfield yesterday helped. But Tarpley said playing the Vikings brings out the best in his team.

"It's hard to get up for the ones that don't count."

First Baseman Paul Cobb Finds Out Ground Is Hard, Sliding In With Lowndes' Second Run

In Math Tournament

VHS, LHS Take Top Spots

V. Times 4-15-84

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High and Lowndes High placed first and second, respectively, in a regional math tournament at the Rural Development Center in Tifton.

Third-place overall was won by Tift High and fourth-place by Berrien. Other participating high schools in last week's tournament included Cook, Fitzgerald, Irwin, Lanier and Turner.

The top three teams will compete in the state math tournament in Macon on April 28.

The contest, sponsored by the Coastal Plains Co-operative Educational Service Agency, included 109 students competing in the areas of algebra I, algebra II, geometry and comprehensive skills.

Four and two-member team competitions were also held.

Local students who won individual categories included:

—Algebra I — Cindy Supp of Valdosta, first.

—Algebra II — Louis Gonis of Valdosta, first; Derren Connell of Berrien, second; Walter Page of Lowndes, third.

—Geometry — Tim Lee of Valdosta, first.

—Comprehensive — Laura Faussone of Valdosta, first; Avery Shealey of Cook, second; Michelle McElwain of Valdosta, third.

In the four-member team competitions, Valdosta won first-place and Lowndes second. Valdosta team members included Cindy Supp, Tim Lee, Louis Gonis and Laura Faussone. Lowndes team members included Sean Jenkins, Mark Conner, Shawn Hiers and Jon Peter Mikowitz.

Valdosta also won first-place in the two-member solutions team. That team included Laura Faussone and Cindy Supp.

Other members of the Valdosta math team are Yves Owens, Rusty McCay, Lucy Tomberlin, Michael Johns, Melanie Seals and Kathy Harris from Valdosta High and Steven Clark from Valdosta Junior High.

Other members of the Lowndes team are Mark Schappaugh, Mark Waynick, Christie Hendley, Curt Starling, Greg Morris, Lei Brown and Lee Bland.

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V-Times 4-9-84

Times Staff Photos by Frank C. Williams

Tim Register Gets Glad Hand From Valdosta Coach Charles Tarpley After Fifth- Inning Home Run

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'D' The Difference As 'Cats Whip Vikes

V. Times 4-7-84

VHS Takes Advantage Of 6 Lowndes Errors

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta baseball coach Charles Tarpley was worried about his team's defense before Friday afternoon's game against cross-county rival Lowndes.

Tarpley's Wildcats were mired in a four-game fielding slump which has seen them commit 20 errors, including six in a 7-0 loss to Tift County Wednesday.

However, it turned out to be the Lowndes defense, or rather the lack of Lowndes defense that proved to be the difference as the 'Cats whipped the Vikings 7-4 at Lowndes Field in a Region 1-AAAA South sub-region contest.

It was the 'Cats' fifth-straight win over Lowndes.

The Vikings, who had made 12 errors in the first eight games of the season, committed six blunders Friday, allowing Valdosta to score three unearned runs.

"We were able to take advantage of some of their mistakes," said an overjoyed Tarpley after the game. "But you have to do that to win."

"We made a lot of mistakes," said Lowndes coach Noel George, shaking his head and trying to understand what happened to his defense. "We made way too many to have a chance to win."

The 'Cats improved their overall record to 5-1. They are now 1-0 in the sub-region.

Meanwhile, the Vikings are 7-2 and 1-1.

Valdosta also broke out of a two-game hitting slump, ripping Lowndes starter Alan Taylor for 10 hits, including three home runs by Bruce Parker, Tim Register and Fred Goff.

All three home runs were to right field and helped by a wind that gusted up to 25 miles per hour at times.

"Sure, the wind helped them some," Tarpley said. "But when you hit the ball over the 375-foot mark it is still a pretty good shot with the wind or not."

Taylor suffered his first loss of the season after three wins. The right-hander walked two and struck out five.

But Taylor had trouble keeping his curve in the strike zone and kept falling behind the Valdosta batters.

Valdosta starter Ted West's mark improves to 4-0.

West gave up seven hits and four walks while striking out 13.

"We didn't hit Teddy until the end of the game," said George. "We allowed him to control the game.

"I was disappointed in our hitting."

The Vikings broke on top in the second when Alan White doubled in Chuck Cooper, who had singled and went to second on Mickey Hotcaveg's passed ball.

But it would be Valdosta which would score the next seven runs in the game.

In the third, Goff, who went four for four, led off the inning with his homer.

After Ted West doubled and went to third on a ground out, Lorenzo Matchett coaxed a walk out of Taylor.

Matchett attempted to steal second and Lowndes catcher Jason Cain sailed the throw into center field, allowing West to score easily.

Matchett scored when Lowndes center fielder Tyrone Crittendon could not pick up the ball.

Steve Gandy scored Hotcaveg in the fourth on an RBI single.

Parker hit a solo homer and Register had a two-run shot in the fifth to give the 'Cats a 7-1 lead.

Lowndes tried to claw its way back into the game by scoring single runs in each of the last three innings.

The Vikings had opportunities in each inning to climb even closer. But West was always there to close the door.

Keith Schreffler, who doubled in Paul Cobb in the fifth, led off the seventh inning by reaching on Tony Dinkins' error and scored on Taylor's ground out.

Bobby Eason doubled and Cain followed with a single.

However, West was able to strike out Billy Hancock and Chuck Cooper to end the game.

"Teddy did a great job," said Tarpley. "He was able to come up with the strikeout when he needed it."

Valdosta was scheduled to play a non-sub-region game against Berrien County today at 1 at Bazemore Field.

The 'Cats will return to sub-region play Monday in a make-up game in Moultrie against Colquitt County.

The Vikings will play a non-sub-region game against Coffee in Douglas Monday.

Lowndes' next sub-region contest will be in Thomasville April 12.

Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi	Lowndes	ab	r	h	bi
Gandy lf	4	0	1	1	Schlr 2b	4	1	1	1
Goff dh	4	1	4	1	Tyler p	2	0	0	1
West p	4	1	1	0	Eason ss	4	0	1	0
Prker 1b	4	1	1	1	Cain c	4	0	1	0
Mchet cf	3	2	0	0	Hncok dh	3	0	0	0
Andrn 3b	4	0	0	0	Coper rf 1b	4	1	1	0
Rgstr 3b	4	1	1	2	Wllms lf	2	1	0	0
Thmas rf	3	0	1	0	White 3b	3	0	2	2
Htveg c	3	1	1	0	Cobb 1b	3	1	1	0
TOTALS	33	7	10	5	Jones rf	0	0	0	0
					TOTALS	25	4	7	4

Valdosta	003	130	0—7-10-2
Lowndes	010	011	1—4-7-6

Errors — Parker, Dinkins, Eason 2, Cain, White, Crittendon. Double Plays — L 2. Left On Base — V 5, L 8. Doubles — West, White 2, Schreffler, Eason. Triples — None. Home Runs — Goff, Parker, Register. Stolen Bases — Register, Matchett, Schreffler 2, Eason, White, Cain. Sacrifice Bunt — None. Sacrifice Fly — None.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Valdosta						
West		7	4	2	4	13
Lowndes						
Taylor	7	10	7	4	2	5

Winner — West 4-0. Loser — Taylor 2-1. Wild Pitch — Taylor 2. Passed Ball — Hotcaveg.

VHS Coach Ejected

'Cats Defeat Berrien With 4 Runs In 7th

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

It's seems like there are two things you can count on when Valdosta High and Berrien County get together to play a baseball game.

They are: 1) a tight game that isn't decided until the last inning, and 2) disputes with the umpires.

Saturday's game at Valdosta's Wright Bazemore Field was no exception. The Wildcats had to score four runs in the seventh inning to edge Berrien 7-6. It was Valdosta's second win over the Rebels in a week's time.

Unfortunately, VHS baseball coach Charles Tarpley wasn't on hand to see his team's fifth win in six games this season. He was thrown out of the game for disputing a call by field umpire Jack Sharpe in the top of the fourth inning.

Last week, Tarpley said the umpires who called Valdosta's 10-2 win over Berrien in Nashville, both members of the Gold Leaf Association of Tifton, were "incompetent."

Yesterday's dispute centered around a play in the top of the fourth in which Sharpe, a member of the Deep South Association, the local officials' group, said pitcher Lorenzo Matchett had dropped a pop fly by Berrien's Stacy Griffin that allowed Dennis Robinson to score Berrien's second run.

Tarpley argued that Matchett dropped the ball as he was turning to turn toward third to make a double play and the batter should have been out. He was further enraged by what he called "bad fundamentals" by the umpires on the play.

"He (Sharpe) just blew it," Tarpley said. "He made a call he couldn't see. The home plate umpire (Tony Ferrera) should have made the call."

As for being thrown out, Tarpley said afterward, "I've been involved in 50 to 60 games a season for the last 36 years and that's the first time I've ever been kicked out of a game."

That off his chest, Tarpley said, "We didn't play well, but the kids did a good job in the clutch in the seventh."

Berrien looked as if it had put the game away in the top of the seventh by scoring three runs. With the score tied at 3-3, Ray Garner hit a single to center field that scored Scott Shaw and Trevor Kent.

Garner reached second on an error by Ted West and went to third on a wild pitch. He scored on an error by Robinson.

Valdosta, which hadn't scored a run since the third inning, appeared headed for its second loss of the season. But Rebels starter Garner gave up a walk to leadoff man Tim Register and then a double to David Thomas that brought Register home.

Berrien head coach Bart Shuman decided to pull Garner for Kent who had struck out 20 VHS batters a week earlier. This time, though, things were different.

Pinch-hitter Tony Anderson walked, stole second, advanced to third on a single by Steve Gandy and scored the tying run on an error.

Gandy ended the game when he scored the winning run on a sacrifice fly to center field by West.

It was the third loss in four games for the Rebels who fell to 5-6.

"We just couldn't get somebody to come in there and throw strikes (in the seventh inning)," Shuman said.

"You've got to give Valdosta credit, they scrapped. But that's three games this week we've lost like that in the last inning."

Two of those losses were to Valdosta and the third was a 4-3 setback at Cook.

Matchett, 2-1, the winner, gave up 10 hits. Kent, the loser, fell to 3-5.

For a time, it looked like the 'Cats and the Rebels might be in for a repeat of the previous week's 11-inning marathon.

Berrien broke on top in the first inning on a double by Kent that scored Larry Green. The 'Cats knotted the score at 1-all on a solo home run by Fred Goff in the bottom of the inning.

The 'Cats pulled ahead 3-1 in the third on a two-run double by West.

Berrien scored its second run in the fourth on Matchett's controversial error. The Rebels tied the game in the fourth on a error by Tony Dinkins that allowed Kent to score.

Valdosta travels to Moultrie for a Region 1-AAAA South game with Colquitt County on Monday. Berrien hosts Waycross in a Region 1-AAA East game on Wednesday.

B-TEAM GAME — Valdosta was also a winner in the B-team game as Joey Crosby pitched a two-hitter to lead the 'Cats to a 6-4 victory. Crosby struck out 10 Berrien batters. The VHS B-team is now 5-1.

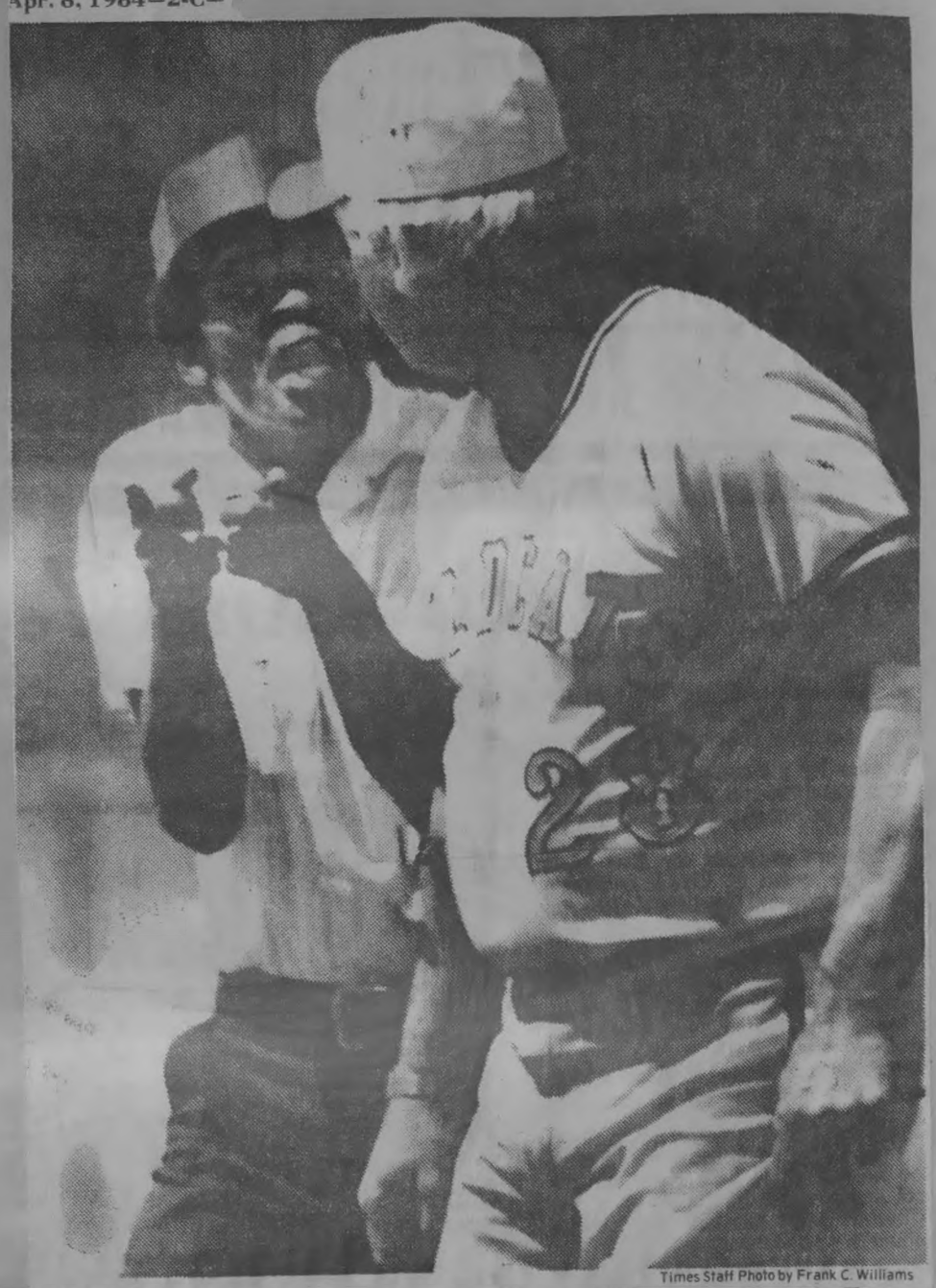
BC	ab	r	h	bi	VHS	ab	r	h	bi
Shaw 2b	4	1	1	0	Gandy lf	3	2	1	0
Green c	3	1	0	0	Goff dh	4	1	1	1
Kent cf-p	3	2	2	0	West cf	3	0	2	3
Paulk 3b	4	0	0	0	Parker 1b	2	0	0	0
Grnr p-3b	3	1	1	2	Matchett p	2	0	0	0
Rbnsn dh	4	1	2	1	Milani 2b	3	0	0	0
McCall lf	4	0	3	0	Registr 3b	2	1	0	0
Kndrcks rf	3	0	2	0	Thomas rf	3	2	2	1
Griffin 1b	3	0	0	0	Hotcaveg c	2	0	0	0
TOTALS	26	6	11	3	Andersn ph	0	1	0	0
					TOTALS	24	7	6	5

Berrien Co.	100	110	3—6-10-1
Valdosta	102	000	4—7- 7-5

Errors -- Paulk, Register, Matchett (2), Dinkins, Gandy. Double Plays — VHS 1. Left On Base — BC 7, VHS 4. Doubles — Shaw, Kent, Thomas (2), West. Triples — None. Home Runs — Goff. Stolen Bases — Kent, Kendricks, Gandy, West, Matchett, Anderson. Sacrifice Bunt — None. Sacrifice Fly — West.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Berrien Co.						
Garner	6	5	5	5	4	4
Kent	1x	2	2	2	1	0
Garner pitched to 2 batters in the 7th						
Valdosta						
Matchett	7	10	6	4	3	5

Winner -- Matchett, 2-1. Loser — Kent, 3-5. Wild Pitch -- Matchett. Passed Ball -- Green. Balk — Matchett.



Times Staff Photo by Frank C. Williams

Valdosta Coach Tarpley, Umpire Sharpe Didn't See Eye-To-Eye

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Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams

Lorenzo Matchett (9) Slipped By Mickey Doolittle With 'Cats 5th Run In 1st Game

Valdosta Drops Twinbill To Gainesville Buchholz

V. Times 4-12-84

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta was in trouble from the start of Wednesday's double-header with Gainesville (Fla.) Buchholz. And it never got any better for the Wildcats who dropped both games, 10-5 and 4-3.

The 2 p.m. start coincided with the end of Valdosta High's fifth-period classes. However, the baseball players who were in a fifth-period class were unable to get out of class early.

So Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley was forced to start the first nine players that showed up. And it showed as the 'Cats committed two errors in the first inning, allowing Buchholz to score three unearned runs.

The Wildcats made five errors in all in the first game. And Buchholz took advantage, scoring seven unearned runs.

Valdosta didn't play much better in the second game, booting two balls while Buchholz scored three unearned runs.

"It was unfortunate that we had to start some players out of position," Tarpley said. "We took ourselves right out of the game with defensive mistakes.

"We just gave Buchholz both games."

Valdosta was scheduled to play Colquitt County this afternoon at 4 in Moultrie in a Region 1-AAAA South subregion game.

Valdosta right-hander Ted West, 5-0, was expected to be the starting pitcher.

Colquitt and Valdosta will meet again Friday at Bazemore Field at 4 p.m.

Trailing 4-1 heading into the seventh inning, Valdosta closed the lead to 4-3 on Fred Goff's second home run of the season, which also scored Steve Gandy who led off the inning with a walk.

Goff's homer brought reliever Mickey Doolittle in for Buchholz starter Mark Bohne, 4-0.

Valdosta center fielder West reached Doolittle for a single and went to second on Bruce Parker's sacrifice bunt.

But the game ended when West was thrown out attempting to go to third on Lorenzo Matchett's fly ball to right field.

"Teddy could've made it," Tarpley said. "But he hesitated and they got him."

Matchett went the distance for Valdosta and suffered his second loss in four decisions.

In addition to the three infield errors by the 'Cats, Matchett also gave up two runs on wild pitches.

Junior Tony Dinkins, 0-1, made his first start of the season in the opener. The right-hander gave up 10 hits and one walk to go along with two strikeouts.

"Dinkins and Matchett pitched as well as I could've asked," Tarpley said. "But there is not much they can do when they don't get any help."

After falling behind 3-0 in the first inning, the 'Cats closed the gap to 3-1 on Gandy's first homer of the year.

Tim Register made the first of three errors in the first game in the Buchholz fourth. The error allowed Shane Andrew to score Buchholz' fourth run with two outs.

Jeff Shireman followed Andrew with a three-run homer, giving Buchholz an insurmountable 7-1 lead.

"We keep messing around," Tarpley said. "We have to play a lot better defense if we expect to win either one of the games from Colquitt.

"We will find out if we have anybody who really wants it against Colquitt."

Game 1

Buchholz	ab	r	h	bi	Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi
Wtkns cf	4	2	2	3	Gandy lf	4	1	1	1
Kmbgh lf	4	2	1	0	Goff cf-2b	3	0	0	0
Sirmn ss	4	3	2	3	West ss-cf	4	2	3	1
MNeil c	4	0	2	1	BuPkr 1b	3	1	1	1
Carns p	4	0	0	1	BiPkr 2b	1	0	0	0
Prutt 3b	3	0	0	0	Mtcht ss	2	1	1	0
Hndrn 2b	3	0	0	0	Rgser 3b	4	0	1	0
Rao pr-2b	0	0	0	0	Reavs rf	3	0	2	0
Andrw rf	3	1	0	0	Dinks p	1	0	0	0
Hrson 1b	4	2	3	0	Andrn ph	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	33	10	10	8	Thmas ph	1	0	0	0
					Htveg c	2	0	0	0
					Moore c	1	0	0	0
					TOTALS	30	5	9	3

Buchholz	300	403	0—10-10-1
Valdosta	001	020	2— 5- 9-5

Errors — Rao, West, Brian Parker, Register 3. Double Plays — V 1. Left On Base — B 6, V 9. Doubles — None. Triples — None. Home Runs — Watkins, Shireman, Gandy, West, Bruce Parker. Stolen Bases — Watkins, Shireman, Carnes, Andrew, Harrison. Sacrifice Bunt — None. Sacrifice Fly — Watkins, Carnes.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Buchholz						
Carnes	5	6	3	3	3	5
Doolittle	2	3	2	0	1	2
Valdosta						
Dinkins	7	10	10	4	1	2

Winner — Carnes 4-0. Loser — Dinkins 0-1. Wild Pitch — Carnes, Doolittle. Hit By Pitch — Henderson (by Dinkins).

Game 2

Buchholz	ab	r	h	bi	Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi
Wtkns cf	4	1	0	0	Gandy lf	2	1	0	0
Prutt 3b	3	1	0	0	Goff dh	4	1	1	2
Sirmn ss	4	0	0	0	West cf	4	0	2	0
MNeil c	4	0	3	1	Parkr 1b	3	0	1	0
Carns dh	3	1	0	0	Mtcht p	4	0	1	0
Prson 1b	2	0	0	0	Andrn 2b	2	1	0	0
Cason lf	2	1	0	0	Milni 3b	3	0	1	0
Reitz rf	3	0	1	0	Thmas rf	2	0	1	1
Rao 2b	2	0	1	0	Reavs c	2	0	0	0
Hndrn 2b	1	0	0	0	Htveg c	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	28	4	5	1	TOTALS	27	3	7	3

Buchholz	200	110	0—4-5-1
Valdosta	010	000	2—3-7-3

Errors — Rao, Milani, Anderson, Parker. Double Plays — B 1. Left On Base — B 7, V 8. Doubles — None. Triples — None. Home Runs — Goff. Stolen Bases — Watkins, Pruett, Reitz 2, Carnes 2, Cason, Anderson. Sacrifice Bunt — Parker. Sacrifice Fly — None.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Buchholz						
Bohne	6	6	3	2	4	9
Doolittle	1	1	0	0	0	0
Valdosta						
Matchett	7	5	4	2	4	5

Winner — Bohne 4-0. Loser — Matchett 2-2. Save — Doolittle 3. Wild Pitch — Matchett 3, Bohne. Passed Ball — McNeil.

Bohne pitched to two batters in seventh inning.

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Sloppy Valdosta Turns Back Rally By Central

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High is, if nothing else, consistent.

"We just did like we've been doing, we slopped around hitting and we slopped around fielding," VHS baseball coach Charles Tarpley said after the Wildcats escaped with a 6-4 Region 1-AAAA South victory over Thomasville Central at Wright Bazemore Field Tuesday.

"We played just good enough to make it come down to the seventh inning," Tarpley said.

The 'Cats seemingly had the game sewn up at the end of the fifth inning. Valdosta led 6-0, so Tarpley replaced starting pitcher Ted West with sophomore Ralph Guarino.

Guarino let Central get on the scoreboard with a two-run homer by Doug Wilson in the sixth. After a walk and two errors allowed Central to close to within two runs in the seventh, Tarpley put West back in.

The first batter West faced was Joe Stamps, who represented the tying run. But Michael Lovejoy was caught off base and thrown out at third.

Stamps singled and eventually reached third on a stolen base. The suspense came to a halt when West struck out two Central batters to end the game.

West improved to 5-0 this season with the win. He gave up four hits and struck out 10 Central batters.

Dewey Morris, who was replaced by Wilson in the second inning, took the loss. Morris gave up two hits and Wilson gave up six hits.

"I don't think this baseball team is mentally capable of getting a big lead," Tarpley said of his 7-1 Wildcats. "If we get three runs up, we're going to relax.

"...This team was 1-8 coming in today," Tarpley said of Central. "And they could have beaten us in the last inning."

Valdosta was scheduled to play Gainesville (Fla.) Buchholz this afternoon in a double-header at Bazemore Field.

The 'Cats, 2-0 in South subregion play, will also play back-to-back games with Colquitt County, a sub-region opponent, on Thursday and Friday. Thursday's game will be in Moultrie and Friday's will be at Bazemore Field. Both games will start at 4 p.m.

The 'Cats travel to Albany on Saturday for a double-header with Monroe. When this week is over, Valdosta will have played eight games in one week, assuming the weather holds.

The back-to-back sub-region games will put a heavy burden on the Valdosta pitching staff. The 'Cats have used four pitchers this season, but West and Lorenzo Matchett have started every game.

"There's no telling what kind of hodge-podge you're going to see out here Wednesday," Tarpley said. He said he would probably start Tony Dinkins and Matchett.

Valdosta jumped out to an early lead against Central in Tuesday's game which was played in temperatures in the low 50s.

Matchett started the second inning off by reaching on an error by the pitcher. Then Tim Register and David Thomas walked to load the bases. Mickey Hotcaveg brought all three of them home with a single.

VHS added one run apiece in the third, fourth and fifth innings.

In the third, Register hit a single that scored Matchett. Goff brought home Steve Gandy in the fourth with a double. And Tony Anderson, who had doubled, scored in the fifth on an error by the pitcher.

Central finally got on the scoreboard in the sixth inning on a home run by Wilson that barely cleared the center field wall.

Dan Stewart started the seventh inning for Central with a walk and two errors scored two runs.

Valdosta outhit Central 8-6. Hotcaveg was 2-for-3 at the plate and drove in three runs. Register went 2-for-2 and had 1 RBI.

Wilson was 2-for-4 at the plate for Central and drove in two runs.

Tarpley, who had replaced most of his starters in the seventh inning, said, "That was our second-string in there in the seventh. But there's no excuse for not being able to make a throw to first."

Central	ab	r	h	bi
Stmps cf	4	1	2	0
D Jhnsn lf ss	4	0	0	0
Wlsn ss p	4	1	2	2
VZnt 3b	2	0	0	0
Morrs p lf	3	0	1	0
Arntgn 1b	3	0	0	0
Rynlds 2b	1	0	0	0
Greene 2b	2	1	0	0
R Jhnsn rf	1	0	0	0
Lvjoy rf	2	0	0	0
Stwrt c	3	1	0	0
TOTALS	29	4	5	2

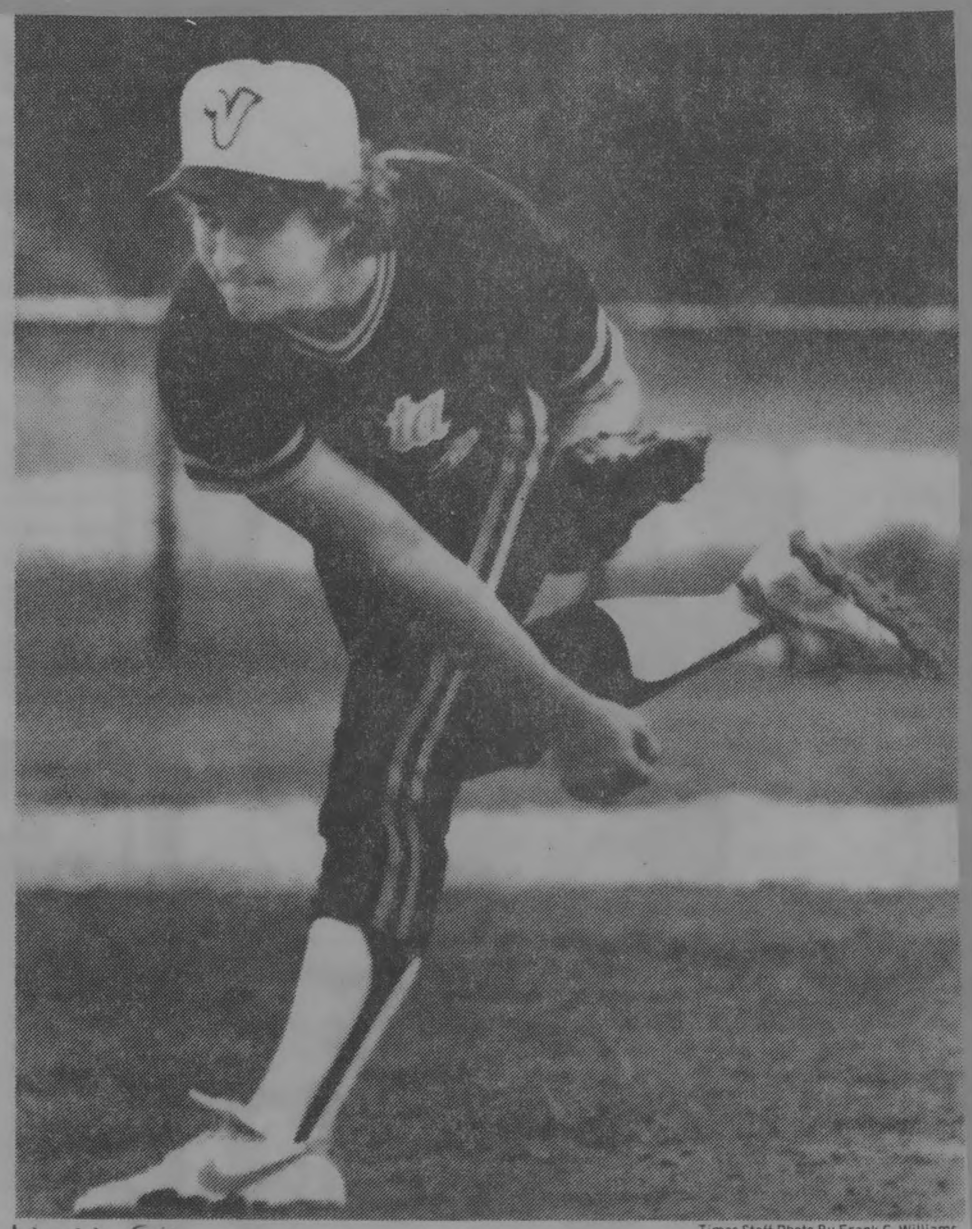
VHS	ab	r	h	bi
Gandy lf	2	1	1	0
Goff dh	4	0	1	1
West p	3	0	0	0
Martn ph	1	0	0	0
Bc Prkr 1b	2	0	0	0
Bn Prkr 1b	1	0	0	0
Mtcht cf	3	2	1	0
Smith cf	1	0	0	0
Andrsn 2b	3	1	1	0
Rgstr 3b	2	1	2	1
Milni 3b	0	0	0	0
Thms rf	1	1	0	0
Reavs rf	2	0	0	0
Htcvg c	3	0	2	3
TOTALS	28	6	8	5

T'ville Central	000 002	2—4-6-4
Valdosta	031 110	x—6-8-3

Errors — Morris, Wilson (2), Johnson, Dinkins (2), Milani. Double Plays — none. Left On Base — Central 5, VHS 8. Doubles — Morris, Goff. Triples — none. Home Runs — Wilson. Stolen Bases — Stamps, Green, Milani, Gandy, Matchett, Register, Thomas, Hotcaveg. Sacrifice Bunt — none. Sacrifice Fly — none.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Central						
Morris	1.1	2	3	2	2	2
Wilson	5.2	6	3	2	4	4
Valdosta						
West	6	4	0	0	0	10
Guarino	1	2	4	2	2	1

Winner — West (5-0). Loser — Morris. Wild Pitch — Wilson. Passed Ball — none. Balk — none. Hit By Pitch — Gandy by Wilson. Bases



Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams

4-11-84

VHS Pitcher Ted West Recorded Win No. 5

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Spring Sports

Valdosta Victorious In Yellow Jacket Relays

Track V Times 4/12/85

THOMASVILLE — Valdosta High slipped past Central-Thomasville and Brooks County to win the Yellow Jacket Relays here Thursday. Valdosta collected 80 points, including 12 first-place finishes to slip past Central, which finished with 72 points. Brooks finished in third place with 16 points.

Valdosta set a new school record and tied one other to highlight the meet. Kenneth Williams ran a 9.6 in the 100-yard Dash to break the record set back in 1971 by Clifford Bradley. Meanwhile, the 440-yard Relay team of Mark Baker, Derrick Folsom, Hosea Heard and Williams tied the school record with a 42.2.

Valdosta's next meet is Saturday in the Fitzgerald Invitational.

Central scored 78 to far outdistance its three rivals in the girls' contest.

Valdosta finished in second place with 49 points, while Colquitt was third with 40 and Brooks brought up the rear with 21.

Melisa Evans had two first-place finishes to top the Valdosta girls. Evans finished with a 16-7 in the 110-yard Low Hurdles and a 15-3½ in the Long Jump. Romana King had a 5:57.43 in the Mile Run and Julie Redding recorded a 4-10 in the High Jump to complete the first-place winners.

Second-place finishers were: Jan Hartzog 2:45.17 in the 880-yard Run, Sandra Ceasar 30-5.5 in the shot put and 74-6 in the discus. The Mile Relay team of Hartzog, Evan, Billye Jo Guess and Shannon Tinney also finished second.

Third-place finishers were: June Gartman 72-2 in the discus and the 440-yard Relay team of Evans, Tinney Hartzog and Guess with a 54.81. Julie Redding was the lone fourth-place finsher with a 13-1.7 in the long jump.

Valdosta will play host to Central and Lowndes next Monday in its next meet.

Team Scores

Valdosta 80, Central-Thomasville 72, Brooks County 16.

Individual Results

High Jump — Edwards (V) 6-0.; **Long Jump** — Lewis (V) 21-6¼, Bell (V) 21-1½, Manghrum (V); **Triple Jump** — Bell (V) 44½, Manghrum (V), Lewis (V); **Pole Vault** — Bret Tinney (V); **Shot Put** — Anderson (V) 47-2, Lewis (V) 44-2; **Discus** — Crook (V) 125-7½, Lewis (V) 112-3.

440-yard Relay — Valdosta (Baker, Williams, Folsom and Heard) 42.2 (ties school record), Valdosta (Manghrum, Boyd, Anderson and Bell) 43.51; **Mile Run** — Demps (V) 4:49.2, Edwards (V) 5:07.3; **440-yard Dash** — Heard (V) 50.6, Baker 54.41; **100-yard Dash** — Williams (V) 9.6 (new school record), Lewis (V); **120-yard High Hurdles** — Bell (V) 14.8, Folsom (V) 14.9, Rudolph (V); **330-yard Intermediate Hurdles** — Folson (V) 40.3, Rudolph (V); **880-yard Run** — Edwards (V) 2:06.9, Boyd (V); **220-yard Dash** — Heard (V) 22.0, Williams (V) 22.0, Manghrum; **Two-Mile Run** — Demps (V) 11:48, Robinson (V), Burrough (V), McLane (V); **Mile Relay** — Valdosta (Edwards, Folsom, Williams and Heard) 3:29.7; Valdosta (Baker, Boyd, Anderson, Bell) 3:41.9.

If You Mind The Dirt, Don't Play Baseball

4-15-84

VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

V Times 4/13/85

Car Wash Set

By KIMBERLY ROWE

The Valdosta High FBLA (Future Business Leaders of america) will hold a car wash Saturday, April 20, at Church's Fried Chicken on Ashley Street from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The cost to have a car washed is $1.50 and to have a truck washed is $2.50.

The FBLA CLub at Valdosta High will be taking 18 members and 2 advisers to State Leadership Conference in Atlanta May 3-5. These students are earning their money to attend this conference. Each student will be participating in a competive event at the Conference. In addition, VHS will be running a State Officer for the first time in approximately ten years. Miss Frankie Keeling will be seeking the office of Region 2 Vice President on the State Executive Council.

Tickets for the car wash may be purchased from any FBLA member. All donations will be gladly accepted, also. In addition to the car wash, if any citizen desires babysitting, yard work, or othermiscellaneous jobs to be done, call 247-4887 after 5 p.m. These students are willing and anxious to do any work t help them earn their way to State Conference. Another goal of these students is National Leadership Conference to be held in Houston, Texas, in July. Any money earned above and beyond State Conference costs will be applied toward their trip to National Conference.

Mrs. Janeen Josey is FBLA Adviser.

In Mexico

By DAWN POMPEY

On March 30 Patricia Smitherman and five of her Spanish students departed for Mexico and arrived in Merida, the capital of the Yucatan state in Mexico, the same day.

The students who accompanied Mrs. Smitherman were John Iverson, Kimberlee Minix, Veta Mobley, David Peoples and Dawn Pompey.

The vacation was spent in Merida and Cancun and the students learned about the culture, food, entertainment and many many new friends.

Participants

By KEVIN HARPER

First place winners in region of AAA literary meet participated in the state literary meet held at Mercer University April 6. Those participating from Valdosta High School were Kevin Harper, extemporaneous speaking; Jason Yost, piano solo; Christine Buel, oral interpretation.

In Europe

By PAM GULLEY

On March 29, 1985 15 students and three chaperones left the United States for a nine-day tour of France and Switzerland. Sharron Gandy, French teacher at Valdosta High School, along with her husband Bill, and Mrs. Marge Bartholomew, were the chaperones for the group.

The students on tour were Alan Burns, Steven Clark, Patrick Carlson, Billie Joe Guess, June Powers, Kim Kitchens, Beth Harris, Erin Kirk, Rosalyn Thompson, Teresa Carswell, Lucy Tomberlin, Fran Fargarson, Pam Gulley, Ronni Bartholomew, and Dean Yount.

In the space of nine days, they climbed the Eiffel Tower, walked down the Champs Elysees, stood by the grave of the unknown soldier, and saw the Mona Lisa in the Louvre. Also. they visited the castles of the Loire Valley, played in the snow in the Alps, and walked along the shore of Lake Geneva. The group returned to Valdosta early Easter morning.

Meeting Held

The Spring District Meeting of the Future Homemakers of America was held at Moultrie High school March 30 to elect the 1985-86 state officers. Delegates representing Valdosta High School were charlotte Wright, Cassandra Berrian, Felecia McKeithen, Lynn Patterson and their adviser, Karen Zahniser. Over 500 guests, advisers and delegates from surrounding high schools were in attendance.

The new state officers elected were State Vice President Annie Howard from Bainbridge High; Program Chairperson Lisa Clements from Irwin County Senior High; Public Relations Chairperson Denise Hart from Colquitt County High and Projects Chairperson Staphanie Benton, Central of Thomasville High.

Miss VHS

By WRIGHT COLEY

The 1985 Miss Valdosta High School Beauty Pageant will be held April 20 at 8 p.m. in Mathis City Auditorium. 22 juniors and seniors will compete for the title. There are two phases of the competition: evening gown and casual wear. There will be five finalists chosen from 10 semifinalists. These five finalists will each be asked an impromtu question which will aid in the judges' decision. Tickets may be purchased from the contestants or at the school for $2. They will be $3 at the door.

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Valdosta, Lowndes Have Good Days In Albany

From Staff Reports

ALBANY — Valdosta High pounded six home runs in a double-header and Lowndes High struck for a pair of grand slams in the first inning as both local high schools recorded wins here Saturday afternoon in Region 1-AAAA baseball games.

Valdosta was dumping Albany Monroe 14-2 and 11-5 at Cardinal Park, while across town Lowndes was having its way with Albany Westover 18-2.

In other area action, Cook High beat Camden County 7-1 in St. Mary's in a Region 1-AAA East game.

VALDOSTA 14-11, MONROE 2-5 — Center fielder Ted West slammed three homers, two in the first game, and second baseman Fred Goff and left fielder Steve Gandy rapped two apiece to lead the Wildcat offensive attack.

But the biggest surprise of the day was the play of sophomore pitcher Ralph Guarino who, in his first varsity start, picked up wins in both games. All told, Guarino pitched 10 innings and only gave up three runs on nine hits.

Guarino started the first game and went five innings before being pulled for reliever Gary Kelly. Kelly started the second game, but developed blisters on his pitching hand and was forced to the bench.

Kelly didn't allow a run as a reliever in the first game, but he had to be lifted following the first inning of the second game after he gave up four runs on four hits and three walks.

Guarino came on in the second and stayed until the seventh when Joey Crosby was inserted.

"The biggest thing was Guarino," said VHS coach Charles Tarpley. "He was the biggest surprise of the day."

LOWNDES 18, WESTOVER 2 — Lowndes scored 10 runs in the first inning, eight on grand slams by Billy Hancock and Paul Cobb, as the Vikings easily rolled to their 10th win of the season against three losses.

The Vikings got 13 hits off of three Westover pitchers. Loser Brian Ashton gave up just one hit but walked five Lowndes batters and gave up seven runs.

Ashton walked the first four batters he faced before Hancock hit his grand slam. Two batters later, Ashton was replaced by Rudd Northrop.

The Vikings added four runs in the third, one in the fourth, two in the sixth and one in the seventh.

Westover scored its runs in the third and fourth innings.

Bobby Eason and Alan White also had home runs for Lowndes.

Dirk Harrell went the distance on the mound to up his record to 2-0. He gave up six hits, struck out three batters and walked five.

In another game, the Lowndes B-team beat Westover 7-1. Vincent Brunson was the winning pitcher, giving up three hits and striking out 12 batters. He gave up his only run on a balk.

COOK 7, CAMDEN CO. 1 — "We just rocked along there for six innings and didn't do anything," Cook coach Mike Raynor said. "We finally woke up in the seventh."

Kevin Breeden's home run turned out to be the spark Cook needed. Breeden's game-winning homer came with one out in the seventh and set off a six-run rally by the Hornets.

The win left Cook, 11-4 overall, atop Region 1-AAA East with a 4-0 record. Camden fell to 4-4 and 2-3.

Greg Folsom, 5-1, went the distance for the win. Folsom gave up five hits and struck out seven. Kevin Pease, who gave up nine hits, was the loser.

Cook plays at Appling County on Monday. 4-15-84

Valdosta High School Pitcher Hurls The Ball Toward Plate In Recent Game

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'Cats Take Sole Possession Of Sub-Region Lead

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

MOULTRIE — Colquitt County right-hander Greg Studdard had allowed a mere two hits in the 1984 season prior to Thursday afternoon's Region 1-AAAA South sub-region battle with Valdosta.

But the Wildcats ripped Studdard for eight runs on nine hits in five innings en route to a 10-2 drubbing of the Packers in a game which had twice been postponed due to rain.

"We did hit the ball well for a change," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said after the game. "All we wanted to do is make contact and we were able to find the holes between their infielders.

"Plus, I was pleased we were able to do that against a pretty good pitcher."

The win gives Valdosta sole possession of first place in the sub-region with a 3-0 mark. The 'Cats are 8-3 overall.

Meanwhile, Colquitt is tied for second in the sub-region with Lowndes. Both teams are now 2-1.

Valdosta and Colquitt will meet again this afternoon at 4 at Bazemore Field.

Lorenzo Matchett (2-2, 4.64 ERA) is expected to start for Valdosta.

"This win definitely puts us in a good position," Tarpley said. "It takes the pressure off of us for the second game.

"They are in a position where they have to win to stay in the sub-region race."

Valdosta took full advantage of its three outs each inning, scoring seven runs after two were out. The 'Cats left five runners on base in the game but only one in scoring position, Bruce Parker, who singled in Steve Gandy in the first inning, was left stranded at second base.

"We haven't been getting the clutch hits lately," Tarpley said. "All of our players seemed to come through when we needed them."

Five 'Cats picked up two hits apiece.

Parker also had a two-run single in Valdosta's six-run fourth.

Others collecting two hits were Steve Gandy, Fred Goff, Ted West and Tim Register.

Gandy also knocked in two runs and scored three times.

While the Valdosta hitters were taking care of Studdard, West was taking care of the Packers, who entered the game averaging 14 runs per game.

West, 6-0, limited Colquitt to six hits. The right-hander struck out nine to bring his season total to 63 in 38⅔ innings of work.

"Ted did a real nice piece of work out there today," Tarpley said. "He is good enough to overcome his fielders' mistakes."

Valdosta committed three errors in the game, two by Register who has five in the last two games.

None of the miscues led to Colquitt runs.

Valdosta went ahead 2-0 in the third when West singled into left field, scoring Gandy with two outs.

Colquitt climbed into the game in the bottom of the third on a lead-off double by John McCranie and an RBI single from Darryl Funderburk.

But the 'Cats put the game away in the fourth with five of the six runs coming after two outs.

Gandy, Goff, West and Parker smacked four consecutive run-scoring singles.

The Packers scored their final run of the game in the fourth.

Louis Fordham led off with a double and scored on Yancey Spires single.

Region 1-AAAA South

Valdosta	3	0
Lowndes	2	1
Colquitt	2	1
Thomasville	1	3
Central	0	3

Friday's Games
Colquitt at Valdosta
Lowndes at Central

Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi	Colquitt	ab	r	h	bi
Gandy lf	4	3	2	2	MCrne cf	4	1	2	0
Goff 2b	4	1	2	1	Fburk ss	4	0	2	1
West p	4	1	2	1	Trner rf	3	0	0	0
Prker 1b	4	0	2	3	Ruis dh	4	0	1	0
Mtcht cf	4	1	1	0	Croft 3b	3	0	0	0
Adrsn dh	2	1	0	0	Fdham c	3	1	1	0
Rgstr 3b	4	1	2	1	Spres 1b	3	0	1	0
Thmas rf	2	1	0	1	Stdrd p	2	0	0	1
Htveg c	2	0	0	0	Rbson 2b	3	0	0	0
Milani ph	1	1	1	0	TOTALS	29	2	6	2
TOTALS	31	10	12	9					

Valdosta	101	601	1—10-12-3
Colquitt	001	100	0— 2- 6-2

Errors — Goff, Register 2, Croft, McCranie. Double Plays — C 1. Left On Base — V 5, C 9. Doubles — Matchett, Milani, McCranie, Fordham. Triples — none. Home Runs — none. Stolen Bases — Gandy, West, Register. Sacrifice Bunt — Turner, Holcaveg. Sacrifice Fly — Studdard, Thomas.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Valdosta						
West	7	6	2	2	0	9
Colquitt						
Studdard	5	9	8	7	1	2
Fallin	2	3	2	1	1	2

Winner — West 6-0. Loser — Studdard. Balk — Fallin. Hit By Pitch — Thomas (by Studdard).

4-15-84

VHS Girls Tracksters 3rd

ALBANY — The Valdosta High girls track team finished a distant third behind Whigham and Worth County here Friday at Hugh Mills Stadium in an eight-team track meet. Whigham was first with 148 points, Worth second with 63 and Valdosta third with 61.

But, as far as VHS coach Jerry Don Baker was concerned, the Lady Wildcats won.

They more than doubled the score of any other Region 1-AAAA entrant in the meet.

"We had already run against half the region," Baker said. "I wanted to run against the other half. We beat those teams pretty good."

Thomasville Central had 30 points, Albany 29, Dougherty 24, Westover 23 and Monroe 16.

Connie Weatherspoon won the 100-yard dash in 11.4 seconds and the 220-yard dash in 26.0. The only other first place for Valdosta came in the mile relay. 4-15-84

Boy's Track

Valdosta 95, Albany 36

V Times 4/17/85

Valdosta's Mile Relay team closed out the dual meet against Albany Tuesday at Valdosta High just like it started with a 3:47 time to take first place. Valdosta went on to finish with 12 of 16 first-place finishes to easily top Albany.

Shot Put — Anderson (V) 46-10½, Lewis, J. (V), Crook (V). **Discus** — Lewis, J. (V) 150-10, Crook (V), Harris (A). **Pole Vault** — Tinney (V) 8-6. **High Jump** — Holley (A) 5-8, Edwards (V), Price (A). **Triple Jump** — Bell (V) 43-2½, Manghram (V), Jones (A). **Long Jump** — Lewis, W. (V) 22-1, Bell (V), Salyer (A). **440-Relay** — Valdosta (Baker, Williams, Folsom, Heard) 44.16. **Mile Run** — Brown (A) 5:27.15. **440-yard Dash** — Edwards (V) 52.95, Baker (V), Jackson (A). **100-yard Dash** — Wright (A) 10.03, Lewis (V), Holmes (A). **120-yard High Hurdles** — Bell (V) 15.70, Folsom. **880-yard Run** — Edwards (V) 220.06, Green (A), Boyd (V). **220-yard Dash** — Wiliams (V) 23.0, Wright (A), Manghram (V). **330-Int. Hurdles** — Folsom (V) 45.41, Salyer (A), Rudolph (V). **Two-Mile Run** — Burns (A) 12:02.2, Demps (V), Burroughs (V). **Mile Relay** — Valdosta (Edwards, Williams, Folsom, Bell) 3:47.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Thurs., Apr. 18, 1985

Talking Football

By Times Staff Writer

A segment of the April 30 airing of "Georgia Digest," broadcast on Channel 8 here will feature interviews with Valdosta High School Head Football Coach Nick Hyder, linebacker John Porter, quarterback Berke Holtzclaw and Holtzclaw's mother Lorraine Dodds.

The segment, which will deal with the highly competitive world of high school athletics, will air at 10 p.m.

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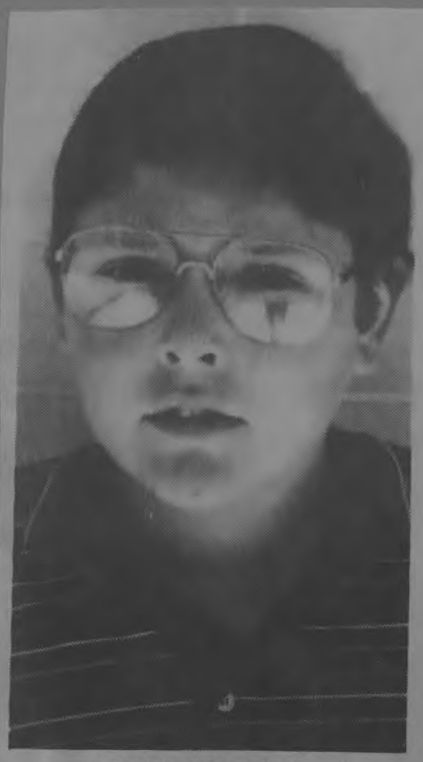
4-15-84

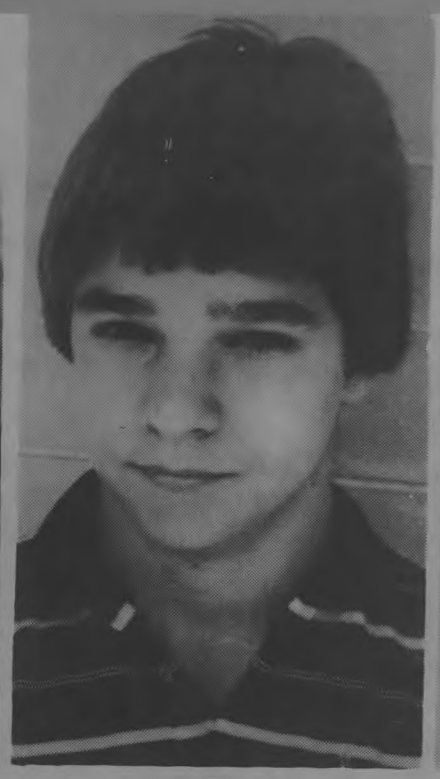
Safe At Third: Valdosta High School Wildcat Slides To Safety As Berrien Player Waits In Vain For Throw

117

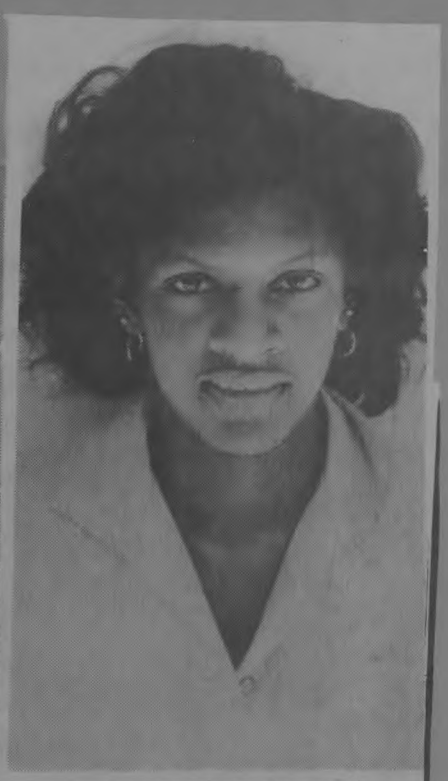


WALTER ALTMAN
VHS

DEBRA BAILEY
VHS



LOUIS GONIS
VHS



KATHRYN HARRIS
VHS

DEENA PLAIR
LHS

MICHELLE RICKS
VHS

VHS, LHS Students In Gov. Honors

V TIMES 4/18/85

By Times Staff Writer

Three Lowndes High School students and four Valdosta High School students will be attending the 1985 Governor's Honors Program at Valdosta State College June 16 through July 27.

The six week program, which about 600 Georgia high school juniors and seniors will be attending, is designed for intellectually gifted and artistically talented students.

Educational opportunities are provided for the students not usually available to them during the regular school year.

The program, coordinated by the Georgia Department of Education, provides four hours each day for which a student to investigate a major area of study, such as English, foreign languages, mathematics, science, social studies, visual art, theater, music, dance, design and executive management.

Another two hours is spent in a minor area of study.

The program is taught by the most qualified high school and college teachers available, a Georgia Honors Program spokesman said.

The three Lowndes High School students are:

— Deena Plaire, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Plaire. Miss Plaire will study social studies.

— Michelle Ricks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Ricks. Miss Ricks will study music.

— Curt Starling, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Starling. Starling will study science.

The four students from Valdosta High School are:

— Walter Altman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Altman. Altman will study vocation arts.

— Debra Bailey, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Bailey. Miss Bailey will study English.

— Louis Gonis, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Gonis. Gonis will study math.

— Kathryn Harris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Harris. Miss Harris will also study math.

CURT STARLING
LHS

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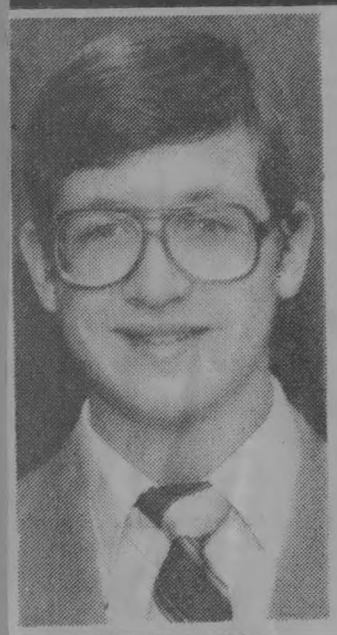
News In Brief

V. Times 4-19-84



MICHAEL HERRIN
Merit Program

BETH SINGLETARY
Del Monte

VHS Scholars Win

From Staff, Wire Reports

Two Valdosta High students were named today as winners of National Merit $1,000 Scholarships.

The awards, conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, are presented annually to some of the nation's top high school students based on academic records, leadership ability, community involvement and other criteria.

Named as local scholarship winners were seniors Beth Singletary and Michael Herrin, both of Valdosta.

Ms. Singletary is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Singletary. Her scholarship is sponsored by the Del Monte Corporation as part of its education program.

Among her academic honors, she was an outstanding junior English student, a Governor's Honor Program participant in math, and a Georgia Tech distinguished math and science scholar. She has been a member of the Beta Club, the Math Team, the Marchin' Cats band, and the Student Council.

Herrin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen W. Herrin. His scholarship is being paid from unrestricted merit program funds, which include grants from various corporations and businesses.

Herrin participated in the Governor's Honors Program and was a member of the debate team and the Beta Club. He is an Eagle Scout and a senior patrol leader for Boy Scout Troop 402.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Mon., Apr. 23, 1984

Pageant Winners

Secily Wilson, left, and Cindy Nelson, first runner-up and second runner-up in the Miss Valdosta High School pageant. Christy Scharf, whose picture is on page 1, was crowned Miss VHS. — Times Staff Photos by Joey Ivansco and Frank C. Williams.

V. Times 4-22-84

'Cats, Vikes In Title Hunt

If ever there was a must game for the Valdosta and Lowndes High baseball teams it is the one the two will play Tuesday afternoon at VHS' Bazemore Field.

The winner will most likely represent the South sub-region in the Region 1-AAAA playoffs. The loser will most likely set its sights on summer vaction.

It may be little presumptuous to go ahead and give the sub-region title to the winner, since both have more sub-region games remaining. But Valdosta's is against pitiful Thomasville, a team it beat 29-0 last Friday, Monday and Thomasville Central, a team it beat 6-4, next Thursday.

Lowndes, on the other hand, has a much harder task than its cross-county counterparts. After the Valdosta game, the Vikings close out the season next Friday in Moultrie against Colquitt County, a team that eliminated Lowndes from the sub-region title hunt last year in the regular season's final game.

If last Friday was any indication, though, Lowndes has the tools to barbeque the Porkers, er Packers. The Vikings used the long ball — five to be exact — to whip Colquitt 9-5 and take over sole possession of the sub-region lead with a 5-1 mark.

Valdosta, the only sub-region team to beat Lowndes thus far, is close behind at 4-1. Make that 5-1 with the win over Thomasville tomorrow. That's not being cocky, mind you, just being a realist. The Bulldogs are that bad.

Perhaps the only team worse than Thomasville is its cross-town rival, Thomasville Central. Thomasville is 1-5 in the sub-region; Central is 0-5. Talk about punishment.

Meanwhile, Colquitt is by no means out the race. The Packers just have to hope for a Lowndes win Tuesday, then a win over the Vikings in the season finale to send the sub-region into a three-way tie. If that happens everybody loses, says Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley, whose Wildcats won the sub-region title last year.

"A three-way tie for first screws up all three teams," he said after the Wildcats pasted Albany Westover twice Saturday.

"If Lowndes beats us, then Moultrie beats them, that would make Tifton the favorite."

Tift County, the only decent team in the North, won the region title last year by sweeping Valdosta in the playoffs.

But Tarpley is by no means looking any farther than the sub-region. Without that title, the Wildcats can kiss the region playoffs goodbye.

"Five days from today, the season's over," he said. "Whoever wins (the Valdosta-Lowndes game) wins the sub-region."

Lowndes coach Noel George, whose team hasn't won the sub-region title since 1981 when it also captured the Class AAAA state championship, knows his team must play much better than the last time it met Valdosta. In that game 'Cat pitcher Ted West baffled the Lowndes hitters and the Viking defense did its best to boot the game away.

"We must play a whole lot better this time around," George said after sweeping a double-header from Albany Monroe Saturday. "The six errors we made in the first game killed us."

V. Times 4-20-84

FBLA Winners At Valdosta High

Valdosta High's Future Business Leaders of America held their annual banquet Thursday night at the school lunchroom. Among those receiving state FBLA awards were (shown left to right): Stephanie Weatherspoon and Pam Williams, business graphics; Kimberly Rowe, clerk typist I; Frankie Keeling, economics; and Tammy Payton, public speaking. Not shown is Lisa King, Miss FBLA, as well as a number of other VHS students honored at the banquet for district, literary and other awards. — Times Staff Photos.

LHS, VHS Back In Sub-Region Driver's Seat

Jason Cain Returns To Spark Lowndes

See Box Score, Page 9
By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Before Friday's 9-5 win over Colquitt County, Lowndes High catcher Jason Cain had viewed the Vikings' previous two games in street clothes with an injured shoulder. And the layoff certainly had its effects when Cain returned to the lineup Friday.

But they were all good.

The senior made his comeback against Region 1-AAAA South foe Colquitt with a sizzling bat and a more-than-adequate mitt.

By the time Lowndes had disposed of the Packers to take over sole possession of first place in the sub-region — Valdosta remained a half-game back with a 29-0 win over hapless Thomasville — Cain had gone 2 for 2, crunched two home runs, and collected four RBIs. He also didn't allow a stolen base defensively and somehow managed to hold on to the ball in a ferocious crash at home plate in the second inning.

Not a bad day's work for a kid who wasn't even supposed to play.

"He needed that rest," said Lowndes coach Noel George, whose team is now 13-3 overall and 5-1 in the sub-region. "The whole problem with his hitting was his shoulder was hurting him."

Other than a slight twinge when throwing the ball, Cain showed no evidence of the shoulder injury. And Colquitt coach Jerry Croft, whose Packers fell to 12-4 overall and 4-2 in the sub-region, must have been convinced the shoulder was adequate. He didn't try to steal the entire game.

More important than his defense, though, was his offense. Trailing 2-0 in the second inning, due mostly to shoddy fielding that would cost Lowndes four unearned runs on the afternoon, Cain broke the game open with three-run homer to left field. After that, Lowndes never trailed.

His second home run of the game and fourth of the year, which tied him for the team lead with Billy Hancock and Bobby Eason, put Lowndes up 8-2 in the fifth.

Lowndes would score another run in the fifth to go up 9-2. But again, as earlier in the game, errors would enable the Packers to crawl back into contention.

Yancey Spires led off the sixth with a single to center field that got past Ty Crittendon and rolled to the fence enabling the Packer first baseman to reach third. Following a ground out, Terry Robinson singled to score Spires. Another single that put runners at first and second knocked Lowndes starter Alan Taylor off the mound.

Billy Hancock came on in relief to quell the uprising in the sixth and retired all three Packer batters in the seventh in order to preserve the win. Thanks to Hancock's handiwork, Taylor, who was timed by Florida State scouts in attendance at over 80 miles an hour with his split-finger fastball, was credited with the win. He is now 5-1.

It was not all easy for Hancock in the sixth, though. He hit the first batter he faced to load the bases. Then Eason mishandled what appeared to be a tailor-made double play, allowing two Packer runs to score.

"We hit the ball dang good," said George, "but we didn't field worth a toot. We booted three double-play balls. It's just a lack of concentration. They're too relaxed."

Thanks to a hearty offensive outing, though, poor fielding didn't cost Lowndes. The Vikings rapped 11 hits; five were home runs. Other than Cain's pair, Eason, Hancock and Chuck Cooper belted three straight in a spurt in the third inning that George had never seen the likes of.

"I've had two, but never three," the Viking coach said.

Eason started things off with a blast to left field. A pitch later, Hancock slapped one to almost the same spot. Cooper followed with a round tripper to center field. After it was all over Lowndes led 6-2.

Paul Cobb put Lowndes up 7-2 in the fourth when he scored from third on a passed ball. Then, following Cain's homer in the fifth, Tony Williams scored from second on Alan White's RBI single to left field.

Region 1-AAAA
South Sub-Region
Baseball Standings

	W	L
Lowndes	5	1
Valdosta	4	1
Colquitt Co.	4	2
Thomasville	1	5
T'ville Central	0	5

Friday's Results
Lowndes 9, Colquitt Co 5
Valdosta 29, Thomasville 0

Ted West Hurls No-Hitter In 29-0 Rout

See Boxscore, Page 9
From Staff Reports

THOMASVILLE — Ted West did it all Friday afternoon.

The Valdosta High senior threw a no-hitter and drove in nine runs in Valdosta's 29-0 rout of Thomasville Friday afternoon at Northside Park.

West, 7-0, became the first Valdosta pitcher to throw a no-hitter since Wayne Fugett turned the trick in 1979 against Thomasville Central, the year the Wildcats won the Class AAAA state baseball championship.

West also struck out 18 Thomasville batters, tying Fugett's record, which was set in the no-hitter against Central.

"Teddy was in complete control," said Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley. "I don't think they came close to a hit."

West had a perfect game for 4⅔ innings before walking Lee Fletcher in the fifth.

The only other baserunner to reach against West did so when third baseman Gary Kelly's throwing error pulled first baseman Brian Parker off the bag in the seventh inning.

In addition to his heroics on the mound, West ripped five hits in six at-bats, including two home runs while knocking in nine runs. One of West homers was a grand slam in the second inning.

West now has six home runs and 27 RBIs on the season.

With Lowndes ripping Colquitt County 9-5 Friday at Lowndes Field, the Wildcats moved into sole possession of second place in the Region 1-AAAA South sub-region standings with a 4-1 mark. Valdosta is 11-4 overall.

Lowndes leads the sub-region with a 5-1 record while Colquitt is 4-2.

Valdosta will host Thomasville Monday at Bazemore Field at 4 p.m. in a game which was postponed earlier in the season due to rain. The 'Cats then host Lowndes Tuesday. Valdosta will close out the sub-region schedule against Central Thursday.

"We have to stay close to have a chance," Tarpley said. "We still control our own destiny. If we win our remaining sub-region games, then we are the sub-region champs.

"If we lose to Lowndes, it could get very interesting."

Valdosta also got home runs from Tony Anderson, Tony Dinkins and Mickey Hotcaveg.

Anderson picked up three hits in three times at-bat.

Others with multiple-hits for Valdosta included Tim Register, Brent Moore and David Thomas with two apiece.

Tarpley replaced all starters but West after the second inning, in which the 'Cats scored eight times to take a 12-0 lead.

In all, 20 players had two at-bats apiece.

"I was glad to get to play everybody who made the trip," Tarpley said. "It is fun for some of those players, who wouldn't normally get to play."

The 'Cats added six more runs in the third, four in the fourth and seven in the seventh.

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Turner (25) Bowled Cain Over At Home Plate

But Cain Held On To Ball For Out

Times Staff Photos by Frank C. Williams

4/23/84

Valdosta Queens

Thomasville native is a sophomore majoring in accounting at the college. Meanwhile, Miss Scharf, a junior at Valdosta High School, was named Miss VHS. She is the 16-year-old daughter of Judy Scharf and Richard Scharf of Valdosta. — Times Photos By Joey Ivansco and Frank C. Williams.

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Wildcats To Westover: See Ya Later

V. Times 4-22-84

Valdosta Sweeps Patriots In Double-Header

See Box Scores, Page 2C

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

"See ya later!" seems to have become the official battle cry of the Valdosta High baseball team thanks to Ted West.

It follows almost every home run hit by the Wildcats and they got to say it plenty — six times in two games — as they swept a double-header with Albany Westover, 10-4 and 14-2, at Wright Bazemore Field on Saturday afternoon.

West's words still have a long way to go before they go down in history — they were first uttered less than 48 hours ago during the 'Cats' 29-0 romp of Thomasville on Friday — but given the circumstances, they just might live on for a while.

According to VHS coach Charles Tarpley, West came to bat in the second inning of Friday's game at Thomasville with the bases loaded. He took the first pitch which was low. When the home plate umpire called a strike, West turned around, looked at the official in disbelief and just shook his head.

Upon seeing this, Tarpley says Thomasville pitcher Dickey Piland shouted from mound, "Aw quit crying! You know it was a strike. Get back in the batter's box."

West complied, Tarpley said, and the next pitch from Piland was a fastball. As soon as West's bat hit the ball he yelled, "See ya later!"

When the ball came down over 400 feet away, West had a grand slam home run.

Such is the stuff sports legends are made.

There were no such moments of high drama on Saturday afternoon as Valdosta hammered Westover. The losses dropped the Patriots' record to 4-10.

"Games like this are to get our young players ready for the playoffs and for next year," said Tarpley, whose 'Cats improved to 13-4.

He substitued freely, especially in the second game where he used 20 different players including three pitchers. Tony Dinkins evened his record at 1-1 by going four innings for the victory in the second game. Lorenzo Matchett went the distance in the first game to improve his record to 3-3.

"The best thing about today was probably that four pitchers got to pitch," Tarpley said. Ralph Guarino and Joey Crosby pitched two innings and one inning respectively in relief of Dinkins in the second game.

"Dinkins was throwing the ball pretty well," Tarpley said. "Matchett pitched pretty well except that he was a little wild."

Matchett walked eight batters but he also struck out eight.

Tarpley said he plans to use both Matchett and Dinkins in Monday's home game with Thomasville and save West for Lowndes which comes in on Tuesday. He said he would also use Matchett and Dinkins when the 'Cats close out their regular season schedule against Thomasville Central on Thursday.

"We hit the ball pretty well early in both games," said Tarpley, whose 'Cats rapped out 27 hits in two games including six home runs.

Mickey Hotcaveg and Bruce Parker hit shots in the first game. Steve Gandy had two homers in the second game including one on the first pitch of the game. West and Tony Anderson also homered.

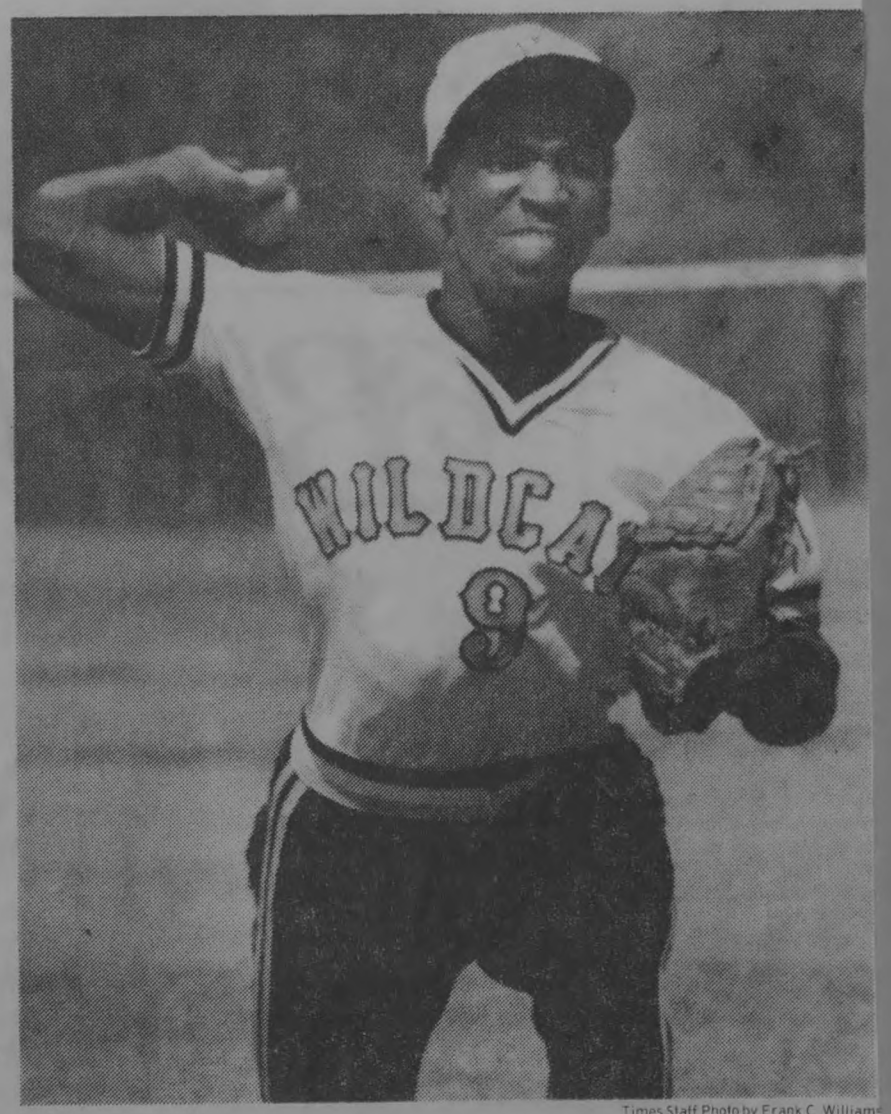
Parker led the 'Cats at the plate by going 5 for 7 for the day. West was 4 for 8 and Gandy was 4 for 9.

Matchett's biggest problem in the first game was a lack of defense behind him. The 'Cats committed four errors in the first game but none in the second.

"We had some trouble early but after that we played good defense," Tarpley said. "My biggest worry is fielding the ball ... we've had trouble in the field all year."

Next Week's Games

Monday, April 23
Thomasville at Valdosta, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 24
Lowndes at Valdosta, 4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 25
Lowndes at Berrien, 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 26
Valdosta at T'ville Central, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 27
Lowndes at Colquitt Co., 4 p.m.



Times Staff Photo by Frank C. Williams

Lorenzo Matchett Went The Distance For VHS In 1st Game

V. Times 4-25-84

VHS Beta Club Officers

Valdosta High School Beta Club elected officers and inducted new members at a meeting in the school cafeteria.

Officers are Craig Klement, president, Mike Furukawa, vice president, and Angie Hotcaveg, secretary-treasurer.

The club presented Principal Lloyd Mims with two rose bushes for the help he has given the club.

Wildcats, Vikings Have Sights Set On Playoffs

V. Times 4-29-84

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta Wildcats took a much-needed two-day break, while across town the Lowndes Vikings were slated to return to the practice field this afternoon in anticipation of the best-of-three Region 1-AAAA playoffs that get underway Tuesday.

The 'Cats, winners of the South sub-region title for the third year in a row, took the weekend off after beating Thomasville Central last Thursday to close out the regular season at 15-5 overall and 7-1 in the sub-region.

"We haven't had a weekend off in nine weeks," said Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley, "so I decided to let them have this one off."

Tarpley said his 'Cats would return to the practice field Monday. They travel to Albany Tuesday for a 4 p.m. game with Dougherty, the No. 2 team in the North sub-region, at Satterfield Park.

The 'Cats return home Thursday for games 2 and 3 if neccessary. Starting time is 2 p.m. at Bazemore Field.

Dougherty is 9-4 overall, including a pair of losses to North champion Tift County and one to Colquitt County. It will be the first meeting this season between Valdosta and Dougherty.

"We've always had real, real good luck against them," said Tarpley.

Valdosta ace Ted West is slated to get the starting nod for Tuesday's game. The senior is 8-0. Lorenzo Matchett will likely pitch the first game back in Valdosta.

"We've got to win Tuesday," Tarpley said, "then we only have to one of two Thursday."

Meanwhile at Lowndes, Coach Noel George has not yet decided who he will pitch in the Vikings' first game with Tift Tuesday night at 8 p.m. at Lowndes Field. Junior Steve Nichols pitched the Vikings into the playoffs Friday with a 15-2 triumph over third-place Colquitt County. The Vikings are now 16-5 overall and 6-2 in the sub-region.

But George said he would probably go with one of his seniors in the first game.

"It's between Billy (Hancock) and Alan (Taylor)," George said. "I haven't decided yet."

The best of three series resumes Thursday at 2:30 p.m. in Tifton.

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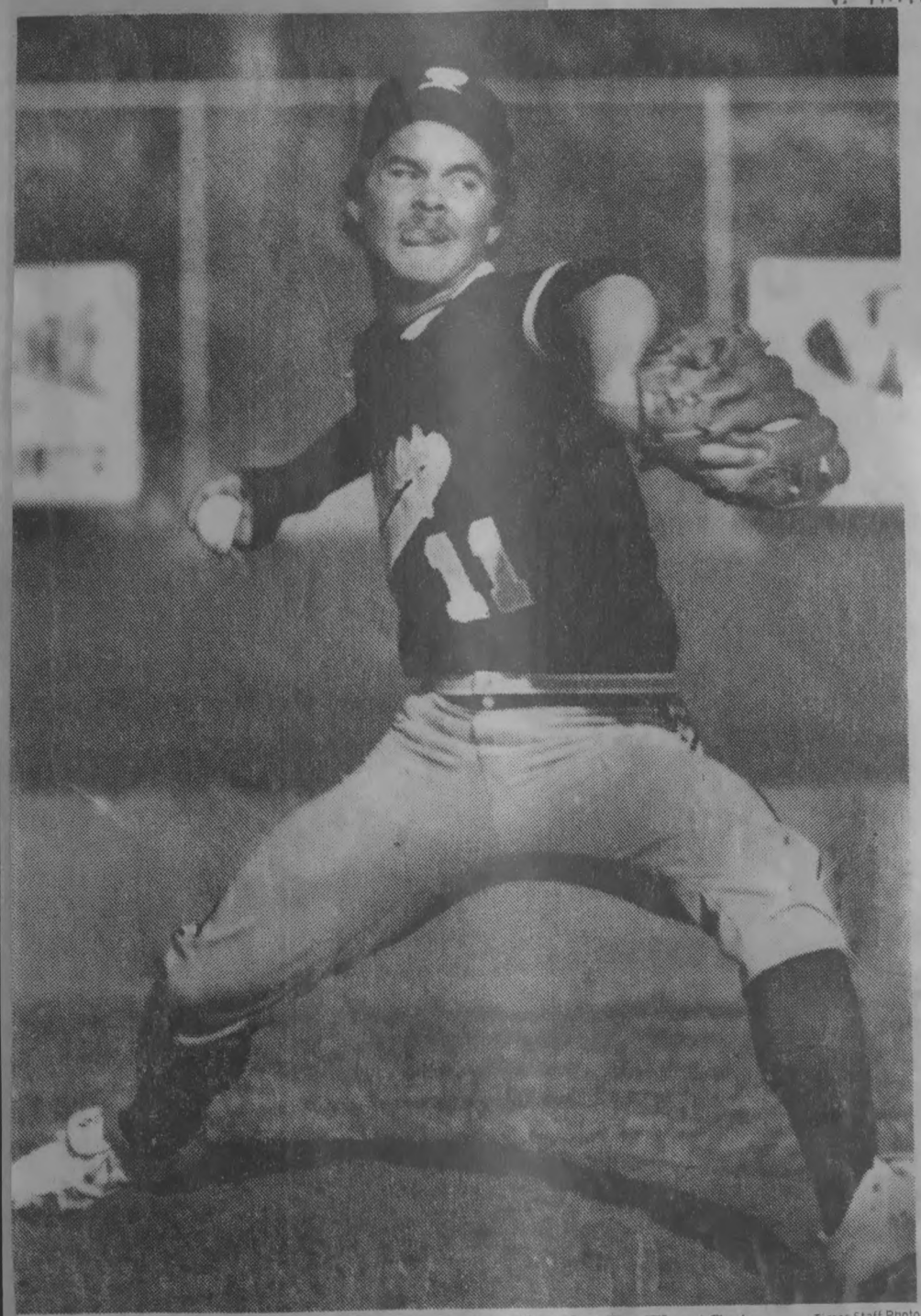
Lowndes Vs. Valdosta

V. Times 4-23-84



Lowndes' Alan Taylor Is 5-1 Thanks To The 'Cats

Times Staff Photo

Vikings, Wildcats Battle For South Sub-Region Lead

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

The Lowndes Vikings will enter Tuesday's battle with cross-county rival Valdosta on a roll.

In fact, the Vikings have won eight games in a row to push their overall record to 15-3.

But Valdosta, which has defeated Lowndes five straight, is also on a roll, having won five straight heading into this afternoon's contest with hapless Thomasville at Bazemore Field. The game was scheduled for 4.

Valdosta, 13-4, defeated Thomasville 29-0 last Friday in Thomasville.

Lowndes will enter Tuesday's game with at least a share of the Region 1-AAAA South sub-region lead.

The Vikings are alone at the top at 5-1. But Valdosta is 4-1 and could be 5-1 after the game against Thomasville.

Following Tuesday's game, both schools will close out the sub-region schedule with games on the road. Valdosta will be at Thomasville Central Thursday and Lowndes will be at Colquitt Friday.

Thomasville, 1-5, and Central, 0-5, have long since been eliminated from the sub-region race.

But Colquitt, 4-2, hangs on, one game behind Lowndes.

If Valdosta defeats Thomasville and the Vikings, the 'Cats can clinch their third straight sub-region crown with a win over Central Thursday.

With a Valdosta win, Lowndes and Colquitt would battle for the second and final playoff spot from the South sub-region.

However, Lowndes must beat Valdosta and Colquitt to win its first sub-region crown since 1981, the year the Vikings went on to win the Class AAAA state championship.

A pair of Lowndes wins would give Valdosta second place in the sub-region.

But a Lowndes win Tuesday and a Colquitt win Friday would throw the sub-region into a three-way tie for first.

In that event, a coin toss would decide which team gets a bye while the other two teams play.

The winner would meet the coin-toss winner with the survivor facing Dougherty in the first round of the playoffs. The loser would face Tift County.

Ted West (7-0, 1.62 ERA) will start for Valdosta Tuesday while Lowndes will counter with Alan Taylor (5-1, 1.83).

The Valdosta right-hander has 84 strike outs in 47⅔ innings.

West and Taylor also lead their respective teams in hitting.

West is batting .470 (31-66) with 23 runs scored and 30 RBIs. He also has seven home runs and five doubles.

Meanwhile, Taylor is batting .474 (27-57) with 24 runs scored and 20 RBIs. He has seven doubles and three home runs.

West got the best of the duel the first time around as Valdosta won 7-4.

Valdosta's Ted West Is 7-0

Times Staff

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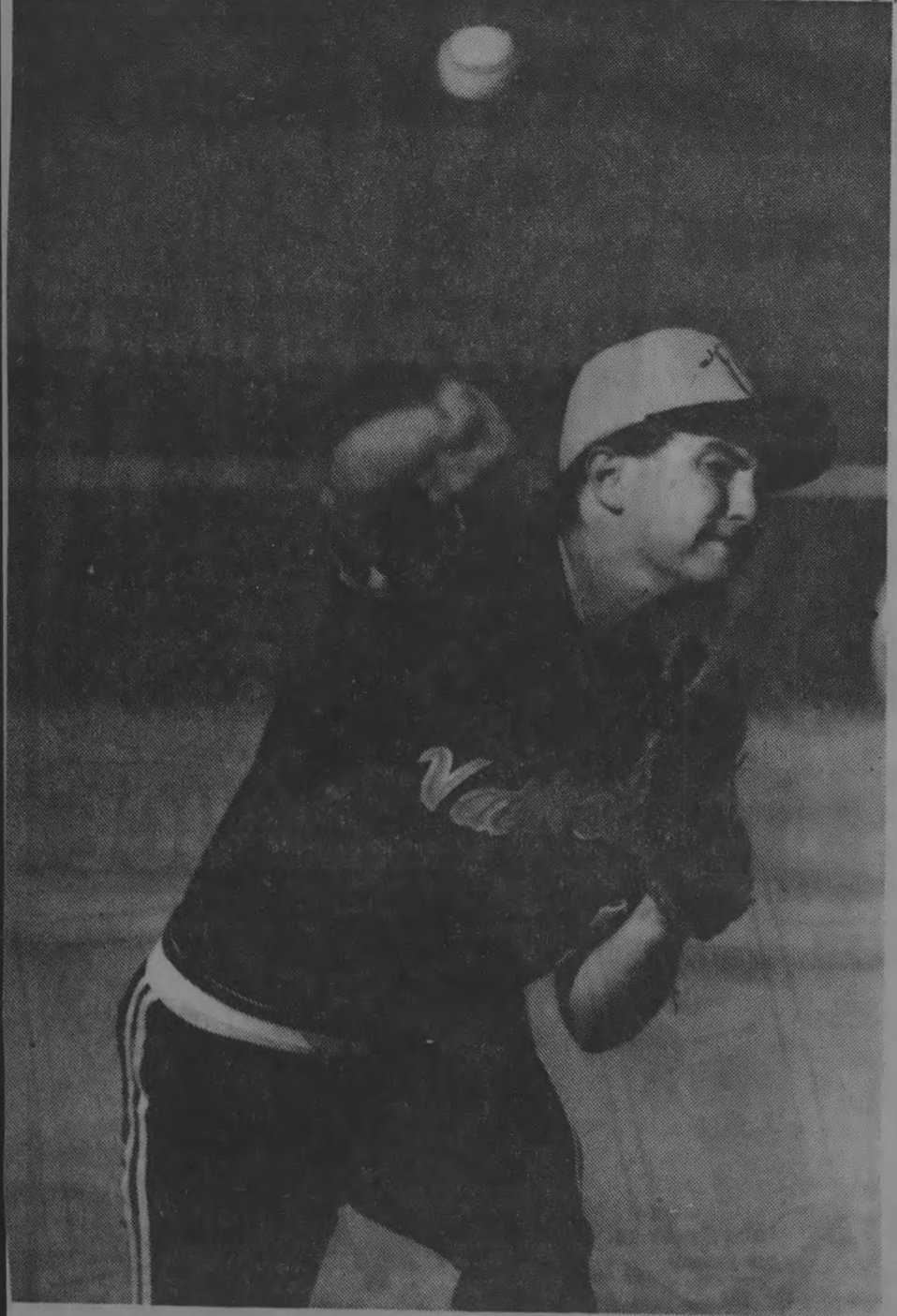
Deja Vu: Vikings Stumble, 'Cats Win

V. Times 4-25-84



Times Staff Photo by Frank C. Williams

Ted West Struck Out 11 To Pick Up 8th Win

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Hold on a second. Haven't we seen all this before? Lowndes makes all the mistakes. Valdosta scores a few runs. Then Wildcat pitcher Ted West does all the rest.

Wasn't it just 19 days ago?

Well, the same thing happened Tuesday afternoon at a jam-packed Bazemore Field. Lowndes made seven fielding miscues — four errors, two wild pitches and a passed ball. Valdosta scored four unearned runs. West struck out 11.

And Valdosta won the game 7-4.

Now all Valdosta (15-4 overall and 6-1 in the sub-region) has to do is beat Thomasville Central Thursday in Thomasville to clinch its third consecutive Region 1-AAAA South crown.

Lowndes (15-4 and 5-2), on the other hand, must beat Colquitt County Friday in Moultrie in a makeup game to qualify for the region playoffs. A loss to the 5-2 Packers would give Colquitt the berth. Lowndes has not made the region playoffs since it won the Class AAAA state title in 1981.

All this is heady stuff to Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley who was just hoping to be in contention for a region playoff berth before the season started.

"I never thought we could win the sub-region before the season started," Tarpley said. "The difference in the big games is Teddy. He strikes out 11 and we don't have to field that much.

"(West) carried them until they got on their feet."

There was no question West carried them Tuesday. Just as important as his 11 strikouts was his mere one base on balls. And other than three home runs, which you have to expect in the cracker box at VHS, the only extra-base hit was double in the last inning.

That too proved to be fruitless. Following Alan Taylor's lead-off double, the Vikings stranded pinch runner Dodd Jones at third when West enticed a pop out and two strike outs to end the game. West is now 8-0 with the win.

Taylor, along with catcher Jason Cain, led Lowndes at the plate. Taylor went 3 for 3 and scored a run, while Cain belted two homers, one 400 feet over the green wall in center.

Bobby Eason homered in the first for Lowndes' other run. But West was able to scatter the Lowndes runs, preventing a rally.

Taylor, though, survived a shakey three-run first inning only to have the nightmare return late in the game. He took the loss and is now 5-2.

Eason's homer in the top of the first gave Lowndes a brief lead before the Wildcats used two wild pitches, a passed ball, an error, two hits and two walks to go up 3-1. Steve Gandy, Fred Goff and West all scored in the uprising.

Taylor settled down over the next 2⅓ innings, sitting down seven straight 'Cats. Register ended the drought with a single in the fourth. He later scored to break open a 3-all game when Cain threw low to second base.

Lowndes used single runs in the second and fourth to tie the game at 3-all. Taylor made it 3-2 when he scored from third of West's wild pitch. Cain drew the Vikings even with his towering homer over center field.

But Valdosta went back in front in the bottom half of the fourth on Register's run and never trailed from then on.

Bruce Parker, who along with Gandy went 2 for 4 to lead the 'Cats offensively, homered to wind-blown right field in the fifth to expand Valdosta's lead to 5-3.

Cain's second homer of the day in the sixth pulled Lowndes back to within 5-4. But Valdosta put the game away in the bottom half of the inning when shoddy fielding allowed the 'Cats to score their final two runs.

LOW	ab	r	h	bi	VAL	ab	r	h	bi
Schflr 2b	3	0	0	0	Gandy lf	4	2	2	0
Eason ss	3	1	1	1	Goff 2b	3	1	0	0
Cain c	3	2	2	2	West p	3	1	0	0
Hncock dh	3	0	0	0	Parkr 1b	4	1	2	3
Coopr rf	3	0	0	0	Mtchtt ss	2	0	0	0
Taylr pl	3	0	0	0	Andrsn dh	2	0	0	0
White 3b	3	0	0	0	Regstr 3b	2	1	1	0
Wllms lf	3	0	0	0	Thoms cf	1	1	0	0
Cobb 1b	2	0	1	0	Hotcvg c	2	0	0	0
TOTALS	26	4	7	3	TOTALS	23	7	5	3

Lowndes 110 101 0—4-7-4
Valdosta 300 112 x—7-5-0

Errors — Cain, Schreffler, Tayler, Williams. Double Plays — Lowndes 1, Valdosta 1. Left On Base — Lowndes 2, Valdosta 6. Doubles — Taylor. Triples — none. Home Runs — Eason, Cain (2), Parker. Stolen Bases — Cobb, Register. Sacrifice Bunt — Hotcaveg. Sacrifice Fly — none.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Lowndes						
Taylor	6	5	7	3	6	9
Valdosta						
West	7	7	4	4	1	11

Winner — West (8-0). Loser — Taylor (5-2). Wild Pitch — Taylor (2), West (3). Passed Ball — Cain, Hotcaveg. Balk — none. Hit By Pitch — Register by Taylor.

Region 1-AAAA
South Sub-Region
Baseball Standings

	W	L
Valdosta	6	1
Lowndes	5	2
Colquitt Co.	4	2
Thomasville	2	6
T'ville Central	0	6

Tuesday's Results
Valdosta 7, Lowndes 5
Thomasville 6, Central 0

Wildcats' West Used Right Mixture

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta pitcher Ted West said he used a mixture of things in his 7-4 win over rival Lowndes Tuesday at Bazemore Field.

Whatever the formula, it worked. The senior gave up four runs on seven hits to run his season record to 8-0. It was his second straight win over Lowndes this year. It also kept a winning streak alive that dated back to West's sophomore season. He has never lost to Lowndes.

"It was a mixture," last year's *Times* pitcher of the year said. "I was throwing a mix."

Besides a fastball in the low 80s, West used an assortment of curves and offspeed pitches to keep the powerful Lowndes hitters at bay. Other than three solo home runs, West only allowed one extra-base hit. That was a double by his pitching counterpart, Alan Taylor of Lowndes.

West's effectiveness was characterized by his 11 strikouts and only one walk.

"I had pretty good control," West said. "I just kept 'em off balance."

Only two Lowndes batters were able to reach West. Taylor went 3 for 3 and Jason Cain ripped a pair of home runs, one 400 feet over the green wall in center field.

The rest of the Lowndes heavy hitters were kept at bay.

"He was tough when he had to be," said Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley, who hasn't lost to Lowndes in the six tries. "Teddy's just a winner."

But Tarpley was just as surprised as West's success as were most of the Lowndes fans in attendance. The Vikings came into the game batting .375 as a team and riding an eight-game winning streak, which included wins over powerful Coffee and Colquitt County.

"When I look at their lineup, I say 'How can we contend with them?' But we've got a winner on the mound.," Tarpley said.

Much of getting ready for Lowndes is the rivalry aspect between the two local schools. And West used that to his advantage.

"Everybody gets pumped up for Lowndes," West said. "Anytime you beat Lowndes in anything — baseball, football, basketball, golf or tennis — it feels good. It's a big thrill to beat Lowndes."

There was another reason, too.

"I hadn't lost to 'em in three years," West said, "and I wasn't about to start today."

West's senior season hasn't gone unnoticed by the scouts. The Atlanta Braves had a man at the game Tuesday.

But West appears to be leaning toward college.

"I won't make my decision until after the season," he said.

He did say Florida State, Georgia and Valdosta State are the top three on his list.

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VHS's David Resigning

V. Times 4-25-84

By TOM MATHER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta City school officials hired a new band director Tuesday to replace Joe David, who resigned recently to accept a band director position at Cairo High.

Daniel Gaultney, 39, band director at Ware County High near Waycross, will replace David starting this summer, said Bill Aldrich, who succeeds Lloyd Mims as Valdosta High School's principal in July.

"He'll take over as soon as the present school year is over," Aldrich said.

Gaultney was chosen over 15 other candidates, who've been interviewed during the past few weeks by Aldrich and Asst. Supt. Walter Altman.

"We just kept working at it and working at it," Aldrich said. "The cream just rose to the top."

Aldrich said that Gaultney came with high recommendations.

"He's been very successful at Ware County High," he said. "All the band directors in the area speak very highly of him."

JOE DAVID
Goes To Cairo

Those praises were seconded by Joe David.

"He's just a very competent band director," David said. "I think he'll do a very fine job."

David said he is leaving Valdosta High to return to Cairo, where he taught for eight years before coming to Valdosta. He also directed the band at Waycross High for one year, he said.

David's resignation was accepted with regret, Supt. Ralph Brandon said.

"He's resigned on his own," Brandon said. "He's done an outstanding job for us and we'd like to see him stay."

The VHS Marchin' Cats, under David's three years of leadership, have reaped honors and awards, including top honors in the Sunbelt Marching Festival in Moultrie, and straight superior ratings in the 8th District Instrumental Festival in Waycross.

Gaultney has taught at Ware for 17 years, Aldrich said, and has directed the band there since 1973.

He is originally from Miami Beach, and graduated in 1963 from Sea Crest High School in Del Ray, Fla. He attended college at Florida State University, where he graduated in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in music education.

Currently, Gaultney is working toward a master's degree in music education at Valdosta State College and is expected to finish the program this summer.

Thank You, Joe David

Times 4-26-84

Three years of success down and most likely many more to go.

That could be Joe David's motto. The successful band director for the nationally renown Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats for the past three years is resigning to accept the band directorship at Cairo, where he taught for eight years before coming to Valdosta.

Actually, David has had more than three years' success in the field of marching bands. He also directed the Waycross High School band for one year.

But the past three years are what Valdostans will remember. He carried on a tradition of excellence started many, many years ago and is leaving us with the highest of marks. For that we extend our thanks and good wishes.

A band directorship is a high pressure job, particularly here in the Azalea City. David wasn't perfect, as none of the band directors before him were, but he came close enough. Those who expect perfection, and there are some who do, are expecting something no one can deliver.

David delivered a more than admirable string of accomplishments in his short three years at the helm of the Marchin' Cats. They include but are certainly not limited to top honors in the Sunbelt Marching Festival in Moultrie and straight superior ratings in the 8th District Instrumental Festival in Waycross.

We'll wager he'll maintain that winning style at Cairo High School.

Meanwhile, a fellow by the name of Daniel Gaultney will be filling in David's position. We don't know much about him yet, but he comes with high praise as band director of Ware County High School near Waycross.

David called him "just a very competent band director" and considering the source, we have high expectations of Gaultney.

He won't be perfect, either, but we fully expect the winning tradition of the Marchin' Cats to continue. You cannot honestly ask for anything more.

Fri., Apr. 27, 1984—

V. Times

Champs Again

Valdosta Thumps Central To Win Sub-Region Title

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

THOMASVILLE — There wasn't much hooping and hollering after Valdosta beat Thomasville Central 10-3 here Thursday afternoon to claim its third straight Region 1-AAAA South title. Instead, that was saved for the bus ride home afterward.

Actually, it was almost a forgone conclusion that the Wildcats, who closed out the regular season at 15-5 overall and 7-1 in the sub-region, were the South champs after they beat Lowndes 6-5 earlier in the week. All that was left was going through the motions at Central, and of course winning, to put the finishing touches on the title.

And that's about all Valdosta did — went through the motions. Other than a two-run third inning and an eight-run fourth, the 'Cats' bats were quiet.

But with a strong starting pitching and hitting performance by junior Lorenzo Matchett, the 'Cats didn't really need much else. Matchett didn't allow a Central base runner past second and didn't give up a hit until the fourth inning, his only one in five innings on the mound, to pick up his fifth win in eight decisions.

He also helped his cause with a grand slam homer in the fourth that highlighted an inning that saw the 'Cats bat around and score eight runs to build their lead to 10-0. Matchett finished the day 2 for 3 at the plate with four RBIs and two runs scored.

Another VHS pitcher, Ted West, who was playing center field, matched Matchett's offensive totals. West drove in two runs in the third to break open a 0-0 deadlock, then followed in the fourth with another 2-run single.

The 'Cats will now sit back and await word from the Dougherty-Tift County game this afternoon to see who they will meet in the best of three playoff series slated to begin early next week, likely Tuesday. Valdosta will face the No. 2 team from the North. The No. 1 team from the North will play the winner of today's Lowndes-Colquitt County game.

Tift beat Dougherty 5-0 Wednesday and only has to beat Dougherty to defend its North title. Tift is also the defending region champs, having knocked off Valdosta last year.

This year's Valdosta team, which has eight new faces in the lineup from last year, has already surpassed the '83 'Cats in total wins with Thursday's thumping of Central. The '84 'Cats are currently riding a seven-game winning streak.

After taking two innings to gauge slow-throwing Central starter Jason Gunter, Mike Martin doubled and Fred Goff singled to put runners on the corners with two outs. Goff stole second to set up West's two-run single up the middle.

Then, the 'Cats really unloaded on Gunter and two other Central pitchers in the fourth. Matchett started and ended the rally. He singled moved to second on a wild pitch and on to third on a passed ball. Tim Register's single to right brought him home.

Following a walk, Steve Gandy singled to score Register and put the 'Cats up 4-0. Another walk loaded the bases for West, who responded with a single to score Brent Moore and Gandy.

Yet another walk re-loaded the bases for Matchett, who promptly cleared them with a grand slam.

VAL	ab	r	h	bi	CEN	ab	r	h	bi
Gandy lf	4	1	2	1	Loveiy cf	2	1	0	0
Kelly lf	0	0	0	0	Stamps lf	3	1	0	0
Goff 2b	2	2	1	0	Wilson ss	3	0	1	0
BiPrkr 2b	1	0	0	0	VnZant 3b	2	1	1	1
West cf	3	1	2	4	Stewrt 1b	3	0	1	0
Thomas cf	1	0	0	0	Johnsn 2b	2	0	0	0
BuPrkr cf	2	1	0	0	Guntr p	3	0	0	1
Crosby 1b	1	0	0	0	Conage c	2	0	0	0
Matchtt p	3	2	2	4	Trevor ph	1	0	0	0
Shaw ss	1	0	0	0	Reynld rf	3	0	0	0
Andrsn dh	2	0	0	0	TOTALS	24	3	3	3
Dinkins p	1	0	0	0					
Regstr 3b	3	1	1	1					
Milani 3b	1	0	1	0					
Moore c	2	1	0	0					
Campa dh	1	0	0	0					
Martin rf	3	1	1	0					
Smith rf	0	0	0	0					
TOTALS	30	10	10	10					

Valdosta	002	800	0—10-10-0
T'ville Central	000	003	0— 3- 3-2

Errors — Loveiov, Reynolds. Double Plays — none. Left On Base — Valdosta 4, Central 5. Doubles — Martin, VanZant. Triples — none. Home Runs — Matchett. Stolen Bases — Goff. Sacrifice Bunt — none. Sacrifice Fly — none.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Valdosta						
Matchett	4	1	0	0	2	3
Dinkins	2	2	3	3	2	5
Guarino	1	0	0	0	0	0
Central						
Gunter	3.2	7	6	6	2	1
Morris*	0	1	3	3	2	0
Johnson	3.1	2	1	1	0	5

*Morris faced 3 batters in 4th

Winner — Matchett (5-3). Loser — Gunter. Save — none. Wild Pitch — Gunter, Morris, Dinkins. Passed Ball — Conage (2). Balk — none. Hit By Pitch — Johnson by Dinkins.

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VHS Band Director Eyes Time With His Family

By TOM MATHER
Times Staff Writer

For Joe David, Valdosta High's band director since 1981, Valdosta has only one problem. It's not small enough.

"A lot of people say 'I wouldn't like to live in a small town because everybody knows you,'" David said, "but I like that."

That's why David's decided to leave Valdosta to accept a similar position at Cairo High, he said.

"My leaving here is with much regret, because I like Valdosta High and have liked living here," David said. "The only time I've ever found it as hard to leave a place, is Cairo."

David was band director at Cairo once before, from 1972 to 1980. He left that job to accept a position at Waycross High, he said, and has regretted the move ever since.

"We've thought about it ever since we left," he said of Cairo. "Sometimes the grass looks greener, but after you move you find out things aren't as good as they look."

That doesn't mean, David said, that he hasn't enjoyed his stay in Valdosta.

"Valdosta High has a special pride and enthusiasm that is unique to any high school that I've ever been around," he said.

The school's competitive atmosphere is a healthy thing, he said, but can create a lot of pressure at times — requiring much time and effort. And Cairo, being a smaller school, should place fewer demands on his time, he said.

"Any community that's supported the program and has a fine band, like this, there's pressure to continue it," he said. "The demands there (in Cairo) — I'm better suited for those.

"It's not whether you can take it or not, but do you consider it a worthy goal, for you personally."

David said he'll use the extra time to spend with his wife, Lisa, and his three boys, Andy (Joe IV), John and Jim.

Newsmakers

. . . A Special Insight

"I hope to have more time to spend with my family—that's my primary goal," he said. "Especially before my boys get grown...and that's happening very fast."

David has another link to Cairo, he said, which goes back to his own childhood in Washington, Ga., where he attended Washington-Wilkes High.

At that time, David saw an exhibition performance by the Cairo High band, led by Major William T. Verran, a legend in band circles. Verran's band not only inspired him to pursue a career in music, David said, but led him to seek a job in Cairo many years later.

"I came home and told my parents I wanted to be a band director after I saw my first performance," David said. "He is probably the reason I'm a band director—because I was so impressed with him."

Apparently, Verran really started something. For David, who grew up in a family where no one played musical instruments, soon became proficient at trumpet, trombone and percussion.

"I started playing professionally at age 13," he said, "and paid my way through college playing."

He studied music education at Georgia Southern, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1964, and at VanderCook College of Music in Chicago, where he received his master's degree in 1976.

He played professionally for a while, he said, with organizations like the Savannah Symphony Orchestra. But teaching others to play music, he said, has always been more important to him than performing.

"I've always had this thing in my blood," he said. "I like working with young people...That, in itself, has been a reward."

David has apparently been popular as a teacher. Not too long ago, Valdosta High's students, teachers and band boosters proclaimed a special "Joe David Day" in his honor. In 1979, he was named STAR Teacher and "Teacher of the Year" for Grady County schools.

Perhaps the best way to measure David's impact is through the success of Valdosta High's band, the Marchin' Cats, during his three years as band director.

"The Lord's been good to me," he said. "It's been, I think, a successful three years...The band has received all superior ratings in every area since I've been here."

Highlights of the band triumphs include: sweepstakes champions at the Virginia Beach, Va., Music Festival in spring 1982 and at the Fountain City marching Festival in Columbus, Ga., fall 1982; AAAA field show and parade champions at the Daytona Beach Music Festival in spring 1983; and grand champions at the Sunbelt Marching Festival in Moultrie in fall 1983.

Valdosta's band should continue it's winning ways, David said, under next year's newly appointed band director, Daniel Gaultney of Ware County High.

"He's been a good friend for a long time," David said. "I really, sincerely think they've found a real good person that will do a good job."

Winning contests and awards aren't everything, David said. The small rewards of teaching—like being asked to sign students' annuals—also mean a lot, he said.

"Those things, you can't measure them monetarily, but they're ve ing," he said.

Joe David Ready For Less Hectic Lifestyle

Times Staff Photo

Automotive Workshop

Valdostans Win State Contest

V. Times 5-2-84

By TOM MATHER
Times Staff Writer

Two Valdosta High students were looking for trouble Tuesday. And by finding it, they won a statewide automotive workshop contest held in Atlanta.

Erik Brucker and Pat Gallagher, both VHS seniors, won the contest by repairing a "bugged" automobile faster than nine other student teams, according to James Bridges, vocational director at VHS.

The contest, known as the Plymouth Toubleshooting Contest and sponsored by Chrysler Motors, was held at Atlanta Tech, Bridges said. Students won the right to compete in the workshop, he said, by scoring highly on a written test held last month.

Brucker and Gallagher were one of only 10 teams selected from 40-50 schools statewide, Bridges said. Their overall winning performance was based 40 percent on test scores, he said, and 60 percent on the workshop.

"They beat the other teams handily," Bridges said.

The car they repaired included "bugs" like clogged fuel lines, faulty ignition timing, disconnected batteries and defective parts.

"They try to do things that might happen to my car or yours," Bridges said.

Students were timed on how fast they could repair the cars, he said, and how well the cars ran afterwards. All the cars were bugged exactly the same.

"There were probably 12-14 bugs in their car, of a different nature," he said.

Bridges credits the students' performance to the help of their instructor, Noah Lucas, and lots of hard work.

"They spent hundreds of hours, nights and weekends, studying," he said.

By winning the contest, Brucker and Gallagher are eligible to compete in a national troubleshooting contest, to be held this June in Arlington, Va. Winners of that contest will be awarded school scholarships, he said.

VHS Co-ed Y Officers

V. Times 5-2-84

Valdosta High School Co-ed Y members elected officers for the new club term.

Ronda Gaskins was elected president at the April 23 meeting, said Jeana Fowler, immediate past secretary.

Also elected were Charles Vinson, vice president; Christy Scharf, treasurer; Ethel Mitchell, secretary, and Sharon Hart, chaplain.

Region 1-AAAA Playoffs Start Tuesday

V. Times 4-30-84

Lowndes Hosts Tift, Dougherty Hosts Valdosta In Series Openers

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Four of the best pitchers in Region 1-AAAA will probably be on the mound when the region baseball playoffs open on Tuesday.

The Region 1-AAA playoffs are also scheduled to begin later this week.

Valdosta, the winner of the South sub-region for the third straight year, will play North runner-up Dougherty in the first game of their best-of-three series at 4 p.m. in Albany at Satterfield Park. Valdosta is 15-4 overall and 7-1 in sub-region play. Dougherty is 8-4 and 6-2.

Meanwhile, Lowndes will host North sub-region champ Tift County in the series opener at 8 p.m. Tuesday. Lowndes is 16-5 and 6-2. Tift is 15-5 and 8-0.

Valdosta will start senior Ted West against Dougherty on Tuesday. West is 8-0.

Dougherty is expected to counter with Andy Tucker, 5-3, who is considered the Trojans' best pitcher.

The Trojans, a weak hitting team, have lost twice to Tift this season and once to Colquitt County which finished third in the South sub-region.

This will be the first meeting this season between Valdosta and Dougherty. But as Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said, "We've always had real, real good luck against them."

Tift is expected to start Michael Turner against the Vikings. Turner is 6-2.

The Blue Devils rolled to their fourth straight sub-region title this season. Tift is 32-0 against North sub-region teams in the last four years. The Blue Devils have been on a tear lately, winning five straight games and 11 of their last 12.

Lowndes coach Noel George said Saturday that he would probably start either Alan Taylor (5-2) or Billy Hancock (4-1).

Lowndes and Tift split the two games they played this season. Tift won the first one 10-8 and Lowndes took the second 4-2.

Game 2 of both series will be played on Thursday with Dougherty at Valdosta at 2 p.m. and Lowndes at Tift at 2:30. A third game, if needed will be played immediately afterward.

In Region 1-AAA, Cook and Berrien County have already sewn up the East sub-region playoff berths. The two teams narrowed the sub-region field to two with wins on Saturday. Berrien shut out Ware County 2-0, and Cook beat Camden County 3-1.

Berrien finished its regular season schedule 12-8 overall and 9-3 in the sub-region. Rebels coach Bart Shuman told his team on Saturday that he might try to schedule one more regular season game, depending on when the playoffs start.

The Rebels still trail Cook, 15-6 and 8-2. Cook plays at Waycross today and finishes the regular season at home Tuesday against Appling County.

Berrien and Cook split their two games during the regular season. But a third meeting might be ahead should the Hornets lose one of their remaining games. That would force a playoff game. Two losses by Cook would give the sub-region title to Berrien.

Region 1-AAAA Playoffs

First Round
Best-of-Three Series

Tuesday's Games
Valdosta at Dougherty, 4 p.m.
Tift County at Lowndes, 8 p.m.

Look For VHS, LHS In Finals

V. Daily Times 5/1/84

The Region 1-AAAA baseball playoffs are upon us.

Both best-of-three first-round series start today. In Albany, North sub-region runner-up Dougherty hosts South champion Valdosta at 4 p.m. Later, South runner-up Lowndes will play North champion Tift County tonight at 8 at Lowndes Field.

The two sub-region champions will host Game 2 on Thursday, starting at 2 in Valdosta and 2:30 in Tifton, with the third game, if necessary, to follow.

The two survivors of the first-round series will meet for a best-of-three region championship series next week.

And look for the region championship series to be a cross-county battle between Lowndes and Valdosta.

Valdosta should have an easy time with the Trojans, who are the best of a very poor quartet of high school baseball teams in the city of Albany.

With Ted West, who is 8-0 with a 1.92 ERA, and Lorenzo Matchett, 5-3 with a 3.67 ERA, starting games 1 and 2, respectively, for Valdosta, look for the 'Cats to sweep Dougherty in two straight.

Lowndes will probably not have such an easy time with the defending region champion Blue Devils. The Vikings rebounded from consecutive losses to Valdosta and Berrien County to pound Colquitt County 15-2 in a must-win-to-qualify-for-the-playoffs situation Friday in Moultrie.

The difference in this tournament, as in most high school tournaments, could well be the pitching staffs of the two teams.

And the nod has to go to the Vikings, who will throw Alan Taylor (5-2, 1.77), Billy Hancock (4-1, 2.65) and Steve Nichols (4-2, 2.23), while Tift will counter with Michael Turner, Lee Burgess and Brian Massingill.

Look for the series to go three games with the Vikings coming out on top.

Region 1-AAA...

The Cook Hornets have a chance to win their fourth straight Region 1-AAA East sub-region crown this afternoon when they host Appling County at the Massey Road Complex.

Cook is 9-2; Berrien is 9-3.

If Cook wins today, it will host the West runner-up, which will be decided in a playoff between Early County and Mitchell-Baker.

A Cook win would also send Berrien on the road to Bainbridge, the West champions, for the one-game, first-round series.

However, if Cook loses, Cook and Berrien would meet Wednesday to decide the sub-region championship.

Region 2-A...

It appears Lanier County will host the Region 2-A playoffs in Lakeland.

If Lanier can defeat Atkinson County and Long County twice this week, it will host the three-team tournament.

Clinch County will probably face Nicholls in a one-game playoff with the winner to play regular-season champion Lanier in a best-of-three series.

Valdosta State Recruiting...

VSC baseball coach Tommy Thomas got a nice surprise this spring when former Cook High standout Steve Browning left Georgia Tech to enroll at VSC.

Browning had an outstanding high school career and was drafted by the New York Mets.

However, he turned the Mets down to sign with Georgia Tech.

Browning, who was the *Times* All-Area catcher in '83, may be reunited with a former teammate next season at VSC.

Times Player of the Year Thad Williams may forego his sophomore season at South Georgia Junior College.

The left hander is 6-1 this season, including a 3-1 win over Middle Georgia last Friday and a season-opening no-hitter against Albany State.

Williams and Browning led the Hornets to the Class AAA state finals last season before losing to Marist.

Oops...

Due to incorrect information reported to the *Times*, there was an error in my column April 24.

According to Valdosta State women's basketball coach Charles Cooper, former LaGrange girls basketball Lois Myers was interviewed by VSC. However, Cooper says she was never given an offer.

Myers will coach next season at Alabama.

LHS, VHS Tracksters Tie For 2nd

V Times 5-3-84

From Staff Reports

ALBANY — Tift County ended Valdosta High's domination of Region 1-AAAA girls track and field with a stunning victory in the region championships at Hugh Mills Stadium Wednesday.

Valdosta, which had won five consecutive region titles, and pre-meet favorite Lowndes, which won eight meets this season, tied for second with 75 points each. The Lady Devils won the meet with 85.

"It was definitely disappointing," said Valdosta coach Jerry Don Baker, who will become boys assistant track coach next season. "We were pleased. But we had a chance to win the meet."

Lowndes coach Hiram Johnson says he knows where the Vikettes were hurt.

"Tift killed us in the field events," Johnson said. "We scored all of our points in the running events. And they scored quite a few in the field events.

"We need to do better in the field events next season."

But Johnson was pleased with the Vikettes' best finish ever in the region championships.

"We finished third last year," Johnson said. "And we have to be pleased to move up one spot in the region."

Albany High finished fourth with 44 points, followed by Thomasville Central with 32 and Albany Dougherty with 31. Colquitt County, Albany Monroe and Albany Westover tied for seventh with 15 each and Thomasville was 10th with 12.

The two top finishers in each event qualified for the state meet at Lakewood Stadium in Decatur May 10-12.

Lowndes qualified seven girls in six events and Valdosta will have four girls in three events.

For Lowndes, Deidre Hampton won the 100 and 220-yard dashes. And Donna Jackson won the 440-yard dash.

Hampton teamed with Angela Brown, Carla Stanford and Melissa Williams to win the 440-yard relay.

Jackson finished second in the 880-yard run.

Stanford, Jackson, Angela Woods and Elnora Jones combined to finish second in the mile relay.

For Valdosta, Avis Weatherspoon won the long jump and Lisa Irvin finished first in the 880-yard run.

Valdosta also won the mile relay with Irvin, Rita Barnett and Avis and Connie Weatherspoon.

The Lady Wildcats did not have any second-place finishers.

Romona Wing, who was undefeated this season in the mile and two-mile runs, finished third in the mile and was forced to leave the track during the two-mile race.

Valdosta Stops Dougherty On Ted West's 2-Hitter

V Times 5-2 & VDT 5-2-84

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By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

ALBANY — Valdosta High played well enough to beat Albany Dougherty 4-0 here Tuesday at Satterfield Park. But Wildcats coach Charles Tarpley said a similar effort probably won't be good enough to beat Dougherty again on Thursday when the Trojans come to Valdosta for the second game in the two teams' Region 1-AAAA baseball playoff series.

"It's going to be different at our place because we're not going to get 10 strikeouts," Tarpley said. "We're going to have to field the ball."

The 'Cats didn't have to field it much on Tuesday. VHS pitcher Ted West threw a two-hitter for his ninth win of the season without a defeat. West struck out 10 Trojan batters and walked two. Valdosta is now 16-4.

The best-of-three series will resume at 2 p.m. Thursday at Bazemore Field. A third game, if necessary, will follow immediately afterward.

Lorenzo Matchett (5-3) will start for the 'Cats.

And for that reason, Tarpley said, "We're going to need to score some more runs. I don't think four will do it at our field."

Dougherty coach Larry Hysler said losing the first game puts a lot of pressure on the 8-6 Trojans coming into Thursday's game.

"It puts the heat on us and they're turning up the burners," Hysler said. "Now we've got to get it done twice."

Dougherty had just one runner reach second base in Tuesday's game. Two more Trojans were thrown out by VHS catcher Mickey Hotcaveg trying to steal second. And West picked off two more at first.

Valdosta, on the other hand, put plenty of runners on the bases. And most of them stayed there. The 'Cats left 11 men on base in the game.

"We must have left 10 or 12 men on base," said Tarpley. "And I think we left one on second in every inning." Actually it was every inning but the second when Tony Anderson was picked off at second base for the third out.

Region 1-AAAA Playoffs

Tuesday, May 1

Valdosta 4, Dougherty 0
Valdosta leads series 1-0

Thursday, May 3

Dougherty at Valdosta, 2 p.m.
Game 3 to follow if necessary

Tuesday, May 1

Tift Co. 11, Lowndes 2
Tift Co. leads series 1-0

Thursday, May 3

Lowndes at Tift Co., 2:30 p.m.
Game 3 to follow if necessary

The 'Cats moved one step closer to the region championship series with three runs in the third inning and one in the sixth.

Steve Gandy led off the third with a single. He scored on a throwing error by the Dougherty left fielder after a single by Fred Goff. Two outs later, Lorenzo Matchett walked. Then Anderson cleared the bases with a two-run double to the left field wall.

David Thomas led off the sixth with a single. He was replaced by pinch runner Trevor Shaw when he was shaken up on a play at second. Shaw scored on a sacrifice fly by Gandy.

"We hit pretty well," said Tarpley, whose team reached Dougherty pitcher Andy Tucker for eight hits.

"... One or two more clutch hits and we've got nine or 10 runs."

Goff went 2 for 3 at the plate for VHS and Anderson went 2 for 4.

Tucker, who is considered the ace of Dougherty's staff, fell to 5-4 with the loss.

Hysler said he will either start Tucker again or Dennis Taylor.

"A lot depends on how Tucker feels," Hysler said. "He's lost three (now four) games this year and with an average hitting team and an average fielding team behind him, he wins those games."

Tucker struck out six Valdosta batters and walked five.

VHS	ab	r	h	bi	AD	ab	r	h	bi
Gandy lf	3	1	1	1	Newell 3b	3	0	0	0
Goff 2b	3	1	2	0	Taylor ss	2	0	1	0
West p	3	0	0	0	Jones ph	1	0	0	0
Parker 1b	3	0	0	0	Johnson c	3	0	0	0
Mtchtt ss	2	1	0	0	Warren cf	3	0	0	0
Andrsn dh	4	0	2	2	Suggs 1b	1	0	1	0
Rgstr 3b	4	0	1	0	Stephens d	1	0	0	0
Thomas cf	3	0	1	0	Daniels ph	1	0	0	0
Shaw pr	0	1	0	0	Harrell 2b	1	0	0	0
Hotcaveg c	3	0	0	0	Tucker p	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	28	4	7	3	TOTALS	17	0	2	0

Valdosta	003 001	0—4-7-1
Dougherty	000 000	0—0-2-4

Errors — Register, Taylor 2, Wray, Newell. Double Plays — none. Left On Base — VHS 11, AD 1. Doubles — Anderson. Triples — none. Home Runs — none. Stolen Bases — Wray. Sacrifice Bunt — Hotcaveg. Sacrifice Fly — Gandy.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Valdosta						
West	7	2	0	0	2	10
Dougherty						
Tucker	7	7	4	4	5	6

Winner — West (9-0). Loser — Tucker (5-4). Wild Pitch — none. Passed Ball — none. Balk — none. Hit By Pitch — none.

V. Times 5-9-84

Waiting It Out At VHS

Christy Scharf, left, and Jennifer Purvis apparently were content to wait it out during honors day ceremonies Tuesday at Valdosta High School's Little Theater. The two girls served as ushers during the ceremony and resigned themselves to viewing the festivities from the back of the theater, through a window in the wall. — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

5-10-84 V Times

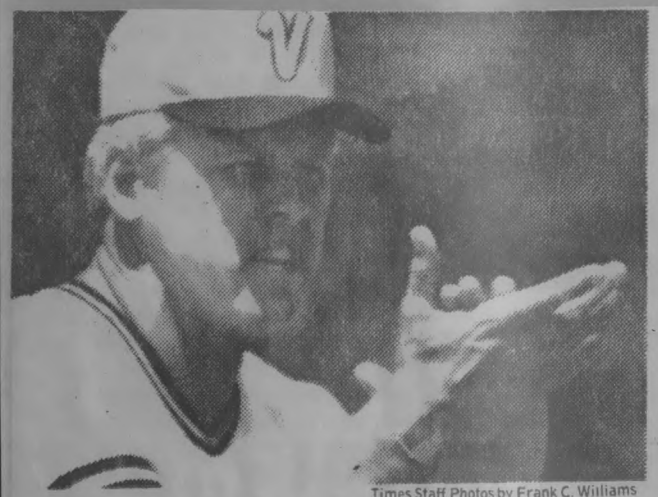
Attends Leadership Meet

A Valdosta High School student attended a leadership seminar in Atlanta.

Chalana McFarland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles McFarland of Valdosta, was selected to represent the sophomore class at the Hugh O'Brian Leadership Seminar in Atlanta, said a spokesman.

About 200 students from throughout Georgia attendanded the seminar which aimed to find and reward leadership potential in high school sophomores. Selection was based on leadership ability, sensitivity to others and a desire to learn and to share knowledge with others.

Miss McFarland was among the 10 students selected to perform at the seminar's talent show. She did a dance routine.



Times Staff Photos by Frank C. Williams

Tarpley Loses Seven Starters

Valdosta Will Rebuild Once Again

V.D.T. 5-12-84

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta baseball coach Charles Tarpley will have a major task of rebuilding for the second straight year in 1985.

When the Wildcats opened the 1984 season, there were eight new faces on the field. There will be at least seven new faces in '85.

"It will be a challenge," Tarpley said. "But you have to rebuild a high school every year. This past year and next year we have had to rebuild a little more than usual."

Valdosta will lose *Times* All-Area Player of the Year Ted West, All-Area second baseman Fred Goff, All-Area first baseman Bruce Parker, All-Area outfielder Steve Gandy, catcher Mickey Hotcaveg, third baseman Tim Register and pitcher Lorenzo Matchett.

Returnees include designated hitter Tony Anderson, shortstop Tony Dinkins and outfielders David Thomas and Mike Martin.

"Teddy was a great player during his career here," Tarpley said. "But you have to look for someone down the road to come in to fill his shoes and do the job that he did."

Filling West's shoes will not be easy. The right hander finished his career as the winningest pitcher in Valdosta history with a 29-4 record. He also hit .435 with nine home runs and 40 RBIs in his senior season.

In addition to West, Goff and Gandy both hit over .400 as well.

Dinkins and Ralph Guarino are expected to lead the pitching staff next season. Both right handers saw limited time on the mound in '84.

"We feel our hitting is going to be okay," Tarpley said. "Our pitching staff will be a question mark, though."

Valdosta will be in search of its fourth straight Region 1-AAAA South sub-region crown in '85.

After the first South title, the 'Cats defeated Colquitt County for the region championship before losing to eventual state champion Coffee in the first round of the state playoffs.

But thing have not quite so well for Valdosta the past two seasons. After disposing of first-round opponents in the region playoffs, the 'Cats have been beaten by Tift County for the region crown both seasons.

"Even though we will have a young team next year, we expect them to be hungry," Tarpley said. "When you come as close as we have the last two years, it makes you hungrier for success.

"We are definitely looking forward to next season."

'Cats Advance In Region Playoffs

V.D.T. VDT 5-4-84

Dougherty Down, Tift To Go

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta and Albany Dougherty almost didn't get their Region 1-AAAA playoff game in Thursday afternoon. Fortunately for right fielder Mike Martin and the Wildcats, though, who ended up winning the game 19-5 and the best-of-three playoff series 2-0, fate intervened.

Shortly after noon Thursday, Dougherty officials phoned VHS and asked to postpone Game 2 and 3, if necessary, until Friday because of poor weather conditions in Albany. Even though the Trojans had already departed, Dougherty said it would dispatch the Georgia State Patrol to head off the bus before it reached Tifton.

The bus was never stopped and shortly before the 2 p.m. starting time for the first game, the Trojans, much to Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley's surprise, rolled into Bazemore Field. And just as quickly as the game had been scrapped it was reinstated.

"I had already called the radio stations and newspaper to tell them the game was postponed when Dougherty's bus rolled up," Tarpley said.

Even though winds were gusting around 30 miles per hour, which just seemed to bolster the already potent jet stream blowing to right field, the rains held off throughout the game. And that was just fine for Martin.

The right fielder did everything but single in the game. He went 3 for 3, including a double, a triple and a home run, scored three runs and knocked in five more.

DOU	ab	r	h	bi	VAL	ab	r	h	bi
Newll 3b-ss	3	1	0	0	Gandy lf	5	3	3	1
Johnsn c	4	0	2	1	Gainus lf	0	0	0	0
Taylor p	0	0	0	0	Goff 2b	4	2	2	3
Hall 3b	2	1	1	0	BiPrkr 2b	0	0	0	0
Suggs 1b	4	2	2	1	West cf	5	0	1	0
Warrn cf	3	0	2	2	Kelly cf	0	0	0	0
Stephns dh	2	0	0	0	BuPrkr 1b	4	3	2	3
JDnls lf	2	0	0	0	Crosby 1b	0	0	0	0
Wray rf	3	0	0	0	Matchtt p	5	1	1	2
Harrll 2b	2	1	0	0	Andersn dh	4	2	1	2
SDnls ss	1	0	1	1	Shaw lf	0	0	0	0
Tuckr ss	3	0	0	0	Registr 3b	2	2	1	1
TOTALS	29	5	8	5	Milani 3b	0	0	0	0
					Moore c	2	3	2	0
					Hotcaveg c	0	0	0	0
					Martn rf	3	3	3	5
					Campa rf	0	0	0	0
					TOTALS	34	19	16	17

Dougherty	000	011	3— 5- 8-4
Valdosta	107	407	x—19-16-3

Errors — Harrell, Wray, Newell, JDaniels. Double Plays — Valdosta 1, Dougherty 0. Left On Base — Valdosta 6, Dougherty 8. Doubles — Martin. Triples — Martin. Home Runs — Goff, Matchett, Anderson, Martin. Stolen Bases — Gandy. Sacrifice Bunt — Moore. Sacrifice Fly — Parker.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Dougherty						
Taylor	3.1	7	10	6	4	2
Tucker	2.2	8	9	9	1	1
Valdosta						
Matchett	6	5	2	1	5	9
Guarino	1	3	3	2	0	1

Winner — Matchett (6-3). Loser — Taylor (2-2). Save — none. Wild Pitch — Guarino. Passed Ball — none. Balk — none. Hit By Pitch — Register by Taylor, Martin by Taylor.

Martin led a hitting barrage that saw the 'Cats pound two Dougherty pitchers for 16 hits, four of which were homers, and bat around twice. Besides Martin's three-run shot in the sixth, Fred Goff, Tony Anderson and Lorenzo Matchett also hit the long ball.

"There wasn't a lot of cheap hits," said Tarpley, whose 'Cats are now 18-4 overall and will face Tift County, which elimnated Lowndes in two straight in the other region playoff series next week.

Tarpley and Tift coach Tommy Seward met at the Green Frog in Adel Thursday night to flip a coin to decided game sites. Tarpley flipped, Seward picked tails and won.

The 'Cats will host the first game Tuesday at 4 p.m. The series goes back to Tifton Thursday for Game 2 and 3, if necessary, starting at 2 p.m.

"It's all gravy from now on," said Tarpley, who had to replace eight starters off last year's South sub-region championship team. "There's no way I thought I would playing for the region championship. In dreams I could picture it. But realistically I never thought it was possible."

Matchett made the dream come true Thursday. The junior pitcher went six strong innings, allowing only two runs — one earned — to pick up his sixth win in nine decisions.

Matchett didn't allow a run through four innings. Dougherty pushed across single runs in the fifth and sixth, but by then Valdosta had a hearty 12-2 lead. The 'Cats scored in every inning but the second and fifth. They closed out their last at-bat with seven more runs to make it 19-2.

Dougherty reached reliever Ralph Guarino and the rest of the VHS scrubs for three meaningless runs in the seventh.

Other leading hitters for Valdosta were Steve Gandy, Bruce Parker and Brent Moore. Gandy, a senior left fielder, went 3 for 5, including an RBI, scored three runs and stole a base. Parker, a senior first baseman, went 2 for 4, scored three runs and knocked in three more. And Moore, a catcher, went 2 for 2 and scored three runs.

Times Staff Photo by Frank C. Williams

30-MPH Winds Halted Play On Several Occasions

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Vikes Look For Better Things In '85

VDT 5-12-84

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Lowndes High baseball coach Noel George is already looking forward to the 1985 season despite the seemingly difficult task of replacing six starters off the '84 team.

George will lose *Times* All-Area Pitcher of the Year Alan Taylor, All-Area designated hitter Billy Hancock, All-Area catcher Jason Cain, second baseman-outfielder Keith Schreffler, left fielder Tony Williams and first baseman Paul Cobb. Part-timers who will graduate are Tyrone Crittendon and Jeff Cooper.

"Those are some tough players to replace," said George, who will be in his 26th season as the Vikings coach in '85. "But you lose players in high school. You can't hold onto them forever."

Lowndes will return three starters next season, including right fielder Chuck Cooper, shortstop Bobby Eason and third baseman Alan White. All three will be juniors next season.

"We have a pretty good nucleus coming back," George said. "Those three players are a foundation we can build around.

"Plus, we have some good players that didn't get a chance to play this past season. They will get an opportunity to show what they can do next year."

Dodd Jones is expected to join Cooper in the outfield next season. And Jimmy Parrish and Jimmy Gay are expected to battle for starting berths in the infield.

"We are going to try and get a couple of summer league teams together to see what some of these players can do," George said. "The summer league helped us a great deal this past season."

Lowndes qualified for the Region 1-AAAA playoffs this past season for the first time since winning the Class AAAA state baseball championship in 1981. The Vikings, who entered the playoffs as the runners-up from the South sub-region, were eliminated in the first round by eventual region champion Tift County.

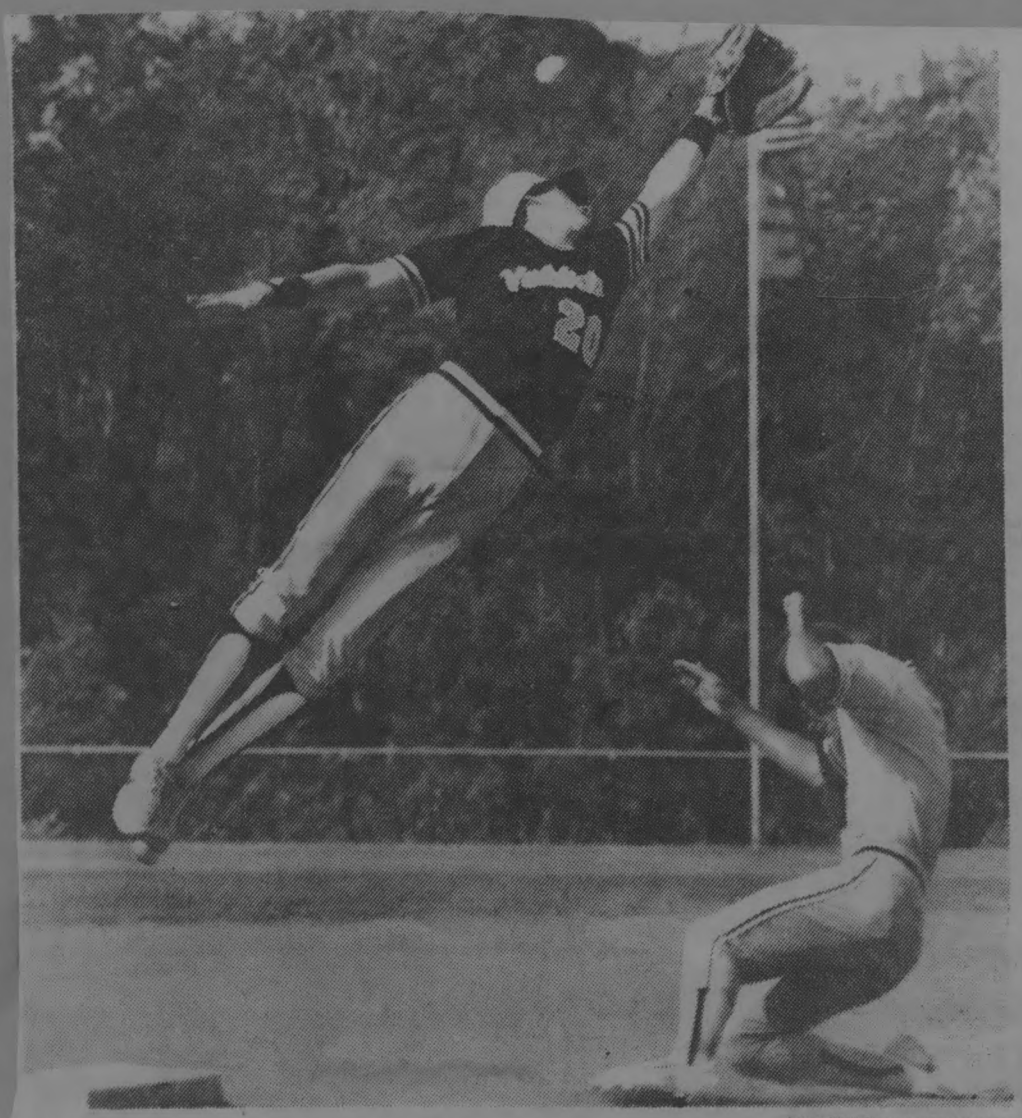
"Of course, our goal is to make the playoffs every year," George said. "But we want to do better next year. We are looking forward to the challenge."

Despite the loss of Taylor and Hancock, George expects the pitching staff to carry his ball club in the early part of the '85 season.

Steve Nichols, whose victory over Colquitt County put the Vikings into the playoffs, and Dirk Harrell will return next year.

"We had a deep pitching staff this past season," George said. "And we are counting on Steve and Dirk and the rest of the staff to be strong until we see if our hitting is going to be as strong as it was last year."

George Loses Six Starters



Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

Tift's Lee Burgess Slides In Safely As Throw Sails Past VHS' Tim Register

History Not On Valdosta's Side

V. Times 5-9-84

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

History will not be on Valdosta High's side when the Wildcats travel to Tifton Thursday to take on Tift County in the second and if-needed third games of the Region 1-AAAA championship series.

An 11-9 loss to the Blue Devils Tuesday in Game 1 put the 'Cats in a must-win situation when the two teams meet again Thursday. Game time for the first game is 2:30 p.m. at the Devil's Diamond.

A year ago the 'Cats were in the same unenviable position. After dropping the first game of the best-of-three series at Bazemore Field, Valdosta had to turn around and travel 45 miles north on I-75 with its only hope of making the state playoffs riding on a double-header sweep.

Those hopes were dashed in the first game. No double-header was even needed.

Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley hopes things turn out differently this time around. But he knows it won't be easy.

"No, it's not impossible," he said after Game 1. "It's hard. It's hard to beat any good team twice. Last year we didn't think we could beat them. This year we think we can."

The 'Cats and Tift are even in four meetings this year.

But Tift coach Tommy Seward says his team is playing much better now than it was earlier in the year.

"We've hit it well the latter part of the year," Seward said after watching his club pound out 11 hits, including five home runs, off previously unbeaten Ted West.

"We've hit the ball well against good pitching," Seward added.

The 'Cats hopes of continuing play will be riding on the arm of junior pitcher Lorenzo Matchett when the two teams meet again. Matchett, playing shortstop in the first game, belted two home runs to pace the 'Cats offensively.

"I hit the ball good," Matchett said. "The first one was a curve and the second was a fast ball."

But the junior said he has already put that game behind him.

"We're just looking to Thursday."

So is Seward.

"We're very pleased to win down here," he said. "We felt Valdosta was underrated all year. We're happy."

Seward said he would go with Chris Taylor in Game 2. But all he had was compliments for Michael Turner, his pitcher in the first game.

"Mike competed well today," he said. "They got nine hits off him. But he kept his walks down. And that's important here."

Turner struck out seven.

If the series goes to a third game, Tarpley said he may go back to West. "It just depends on how he feels."

Seward wouldn't name a starter for the if-needed game. He has Brian Massingill and Turner to chose from.

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Times Staff Photos by Frank C. Williams

Ted West (3), Catcher Mike Moore Show Anguish Of Missing A Foul Pop

'Cats Drop Series Opener To Tift Co.

Nine Homers Hit In Devils' 11-9 Win

V. Times 5-9-84

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

The jet stream, that continuously gusting wind blowing from home plate to right and center fields at Valdosta High's Bazemore Field, blew the Wildcats and pitcher Ted West away Tuesday in the first game of the best-of-three Region 1-AAAA championship series.

It also blew the 'Cats, the winners of the South subregion, into a deep hole.

They must now sweep Tift County in a double-header Thursday at the Devil's Diamond in Tifton — game time for the first game has been moved to 2:30 p.m. — if they hope to capture the region title and advance on to face the winner of the Wayne County-Coffee County series in the state playoffs.

In all, nine home runs were sent screaming out of the tiny VHS diamond — five by Tift and four, including two by Lorenzo Matchett, by Valdosta. The result was an 11-9 Tift win and a big 1-0 advantage in the series.

It was also the first pitching loss by West, the *Times* Player of the Year, in two years. He is now 9-1 on the season. The 'Cats are 18-5.

"I thought coming in that if we scored nine runs we'd win," said VHS coach Charles Tarpley.

But little did he know that the Blue Devils would reach West for 11 runs on 11 hits, including those five homers.

"He had a bad day," Tarpley said of West. "He didn't have the stuff he usually has."

In the first inning, though, it appeared West had more than just his usual stuff. The senior mowed the Devils down in order on three strikouts. As it turned out, it would be his last strikeouts for five innings.

Lee Burgess, the Tift left fielder who went 3 for 3 on day, scored four runs and knocked in two more with a homer and double to pace the Devils offensively, started things off with lead-off round tripper in the second. He also provided an RBI single in Tift's four-run third inning.

Down 1-0 in the second, Valdosta struck for a pair of runs in the bottom of the inning to take a 2-1 lead. Matchett's first homer of the day, a pop up that just seemed to keep blowing toward center until it cleared the fence, combined with Brent Moore's bounder to first that scored Tim Register from third, gave the 'Cats their only lead of the game.

The 'Cats had little time to enjoy it, though. Tift struck for four runs in the third — two on Michael Turner's homer — to go back in front 5-2.

The 'Cats drew back even in their next at-bat on Matchett's three-run homer to almost the same spot in center field.

But Tift put the game away with a pair of runs in the each of the last three innings.

"We kept creeping back," Tarpley said. "I thought we'd get back in it."

Down 7-5 in the fifth, Fred Goff's lead-off homer — one of four lead-off blasts in the game — pulled the 'Cats to within one. But VHS left runners at second and third to put an end to the uprising.

For the game, the 'Cats left seven runners on base.

Two more Tift runs in the sixth — one a Darrien Teals homer — made it 9-6. But again the 'Cats cut the lead back to one when Goff singled in Moore, and Parker sacrificed Steve Gandy home. With runners on first and second, Turner made a terrific play on a liner back to the mound to end the inning.

Turner, a converted pitcher, was credited with the win. He is now 8-2. Tift is 18-5.

A two-run Brian Massingill homer in the top of the seventh proved to be the winning margin when VHS designated hitter Tony Anderson homered in the bottom of the last inning.

REGION 1-AAAA
Championship Series
Tuesday
Tift Co. 11, Valdosta 9
Tift Co. leads series, 1-0
Thursday
Game 2, 2:30 p.m., Tift Jr. High
Game 3 to follow, if necessary

TIFT	ab	r	h	bi	VAL	ab	r	h	b
Turner p	4	1	1	2	Gandy lf	5	1	1	
Taylor 2b	4	1	2	1	Goff 2b	4	1	2	
Cosper rf	4	1	1	1	West p	2	1	0	
Burgess lf	3	4	3	2	Parker 1b	3	1	2	
Mssngll ss	3	1	2	3	Shaw pr	0	0	0	
Shiver c	4	0	1	0	Mtchett ss	4	2	2	
Teals cf	4	1	1	1	Andrsn dh	3	1	2	
Hamltn 1b	4	0	0	0	Registr 3b	3	1	0	
Cross 3b	2	2	0	0	Martin rf	3	0	0	
TOTALS	32	11	11	10	Moore c	4	1	0	
					Hotcvg c	0	0	0	
					TOTALS	31	9	9	

Tift Co.	014 022 2	—11-11
Valdosta	023 012 1	— 9- 9

Errors — Taylor, Massingill, Thomas, Moor (2). Double Plays — Valdosta 1. Left On Bas — Tift 3, Valdosta 7. Doubles — Burgess Shiver. Triples — none. Home Runs — Turner Cosper, Burgess, Massingill, Teals, Gof Matchett (2), Anderson. Stolen Bases — Burgess (2), Massingill, Cross, West. Sacrific Bunt — none. Sacrifice Fly — Parker.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	S
Tift Co.						
Turner	7	9	9	9	3	
Valdosta						
West	7	11	11	9	2	

Winner — Turner (8-2). Loser — West (9-1 Save — none. Wild Pitch — West. Passed Ba — Shiver (2). Balk — none. Hit By Pitch — Massingill by West, Anderson by Turne Register by Turner.

'Cats 2nd, Vikes 6th At Region

V.T. 5-10-84

From Staff Reports

ALBANY — The Tift County boys track team completed a sweep of the Region 1-AAAA track championships with a 19-point win over Valdosta Wednesday at Hugh Mills Stadium.

A week earlier at Hugh Mills, the Tift girls track team outpointed Valdosta and Lowndes, which tied for second.

The Blue Devils won their first region boys track title with 112 points, followed by Valdosta with 93, Albany Westover with 81, Thomasville Central with 56, Albany with 51, Lowndes with 50, Albany Monroe with 41, Dougherty with eight, Thomasville with two and Colquitt County with one.

The top two finishers in each of the 14 individual events will qualify for the Georgia Olympics in Jefferson May 17-19.

Valdosta will have six individual performers as well as its 440-yard relay team in the state meet. Lowndes will have two individuals.

"We were a bit disappointed in our showing," said Lowndes coach Hiram Johnson. "I had anticipated no less than a fourth-place showing.

"But we will look forward to the state meet and to next season."

The 'Cats will have four of their seven quailifiers enter the state meet as region champions.

Derrick Folsom won the 330-yard intermediate hurdles with a time of 39.7.

Randy Bell won the long jump with a leap of 21 feet, 1 inch.

And John Porter was a double winner. Porter took region titles in the discus with a throw of 143 feet, 4 inches and in the shot put with a toss of 47 feet, 1¾ inches.

Bell also quailified in the triple jump with a second-place finish on a leap of 44-4⅛.

Hosea Heard was second in the 440-yard dash with a time of 49.7.

Heard also teamed up with Willie Lewis, Aundra Irvin and Bozie Sirmans to come in second in the 440-yard relay at 42.33.

For Lowndes, Casey Footman and Jonathan Lazard will both enter the state meet as region champions.

Footman won the 120-yard high hurdles with a time of 15.01.

And Lazard was the winner of the 440-yard dash at 49.3.

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Upper Classmen Dominate All-Area Team

1984 Times All-Area Baseball Team: (Kneeling l-r) Jason Cain, Alan White, Bruce Parker, Steve Gandy. (Standing l-r) Billy Hancock, Alan Taylor, Perry Thompson, Ted West, Fred Goff. (Right) Top, Keith Luke; Middle, Greg Pitts; Bottom, Ray Garner.

Times Staff Photo by Frank C. Williams

4 Wildcats, 4 Vikings Selected To 13-Man Team

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

How would you like to coach a baseball team that has a team batting average of .398 and a pitching staff with a combined record of 26-6, including three no-hitters, and a 1.75 ERA?

Well, before you would-be coaches in the area start getting your resumes ready, there is no such dream team.

Instead, it is the second annual *Times* All-Area baseball team as selected by the *Valdosta Daily Times* sports staff.

Valdosta and Lowndes share the honors for the most number of players on the 13-man team with four apiece. There are two players from Cook and one each from Berrien County, Lanier County and Clinch County.

Members of the team include: from Valdosta pitcher Ted West, first baseman Bruce Parker, second baseman Fred Goff and outfielder Steve Gandy; from Lowndes pitcher Alan Taylor, designated hitter Billy Hancock, catcher Jason Cain and third baseman Alan White of Lowndes; from Berrien pitcher Ray Garner; from Lanier pitcher Sylvester West; from Clinch outfielder Perry Thompson and from Cook outfielder Greg Pitts and shortstop Keith Luke.

Ted West, Sylvester West and Garner are the only repeaters from last year's team.

The two Wests are both seniors, while Garner is a sophomore who made the team as a third baseman in '83.

Berrien coach Bart Shuman was selected as the Coach of the Year for the outstanding job he did in rebuilding the Rebels baseball program.

Shuman took over a team which had gone 3-18 in 1983 and had the Rebels in the Region 1-AAA playoffs after a second-place finish in the East sub-region with a 11-9 overall mark.

West, who was Pitcher of the Year last season, won Player of the Year honors this time around.

The senior is 9-0 this season with a 1.48 ERA after a two-hit shutout of Dougherty last Tuesday in the opening game of the first-round Region 1-AAAA playoff series. West no-hit Thomasville on April 20.

However, West won the award for more than just his pitching. He is batting a team-leading .453 for the season with eight home runs and 38 RBIs.

"Teddy is just an outstanding player," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said about the ace of his staff. "He has lifted this team above what it is capable of doing."

Pitcher of the Year honors go to Taylor, who is 5-3 with an impressive 1.95 ERA. Taylor no-hit Thomasville Central in Thomasville April 13.

Two of Taylor's losses were to Valdosta, while the other came Thursday in the region playoffs against Tift County. In the three losses, Taylor got little help from his teamamates, who committed 13 errors.

"Alan has pitched well all season," said Lowndes assistant coach Steve Kebler. "With a little help, he could have been 8-0 instead of 5-3."

Garner is 7-2 this season, including a no-hitter against arch-rival Cook.

Sylvester West led Lanier to the Region 2-A regular-season championship with a 6-1 record.

White, who along with Garner make up the only two underclassman on the squad, may be the biggest surprise on the team.

Affectionately called "Bowling Ball," by his teammates, White hit in the No. 2 spot in the Vikings lineup for most of the season.

He responded by hitting .375 with two home runs and 18 RBIs.

A pro scout says of White: "He has the potential to be a very good player."

Awards Abound At VHS Honors Night Ceremony

Valdosta High's top students were honored at the school's annual Honors Night awards Tuesday evening.

Those recognized included senior superlatives, honor graduates, National Merit Scholars, scholarship winners, departmental awards, community awards and others.

Senior superlatives included:

Joel Arthur Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Mac Weaver, Best All-Round Senior; Frank Abney, Mr. and Mrs. Sherrill Abney; Maphelia Odette Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Griffin; Gregory Richard Sturtevant, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sturtevant;

Leon Johnson, Mrs. Grace J. Reynolds; Steven Edward Gandy, Dr. and Mrs. Ed Gandy; Felecia Lenise Rosser, Mr. and Mrs. Willie F. Rosser; John Mark Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Levy; Jerry Gaines Gaines Purvis, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Purvis;

Robert Clay Powell, Mr. and Mrs. George Powell; Beth Lynn Singletary, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Singletary; Dorothy Joan Brown, Mr. and Mrs. William Brown; Bret Eliot Busch, Dr. and Mrs. Trent Busch;

Michael Anthony Taormina, Dr. and Mrs. F.E. Taormina; Ted F. West II, Mr. and Mrs. Ted F. West; Brian Dereck Buzzeo, Mr. and Mrs. William Buzzeo; Shrelda ElSonya Davis, Mrs. Gloria Hitson;

Vincent L. Dimmock, Mr. and Mrs. James Dimmock; Teresa Wakefield, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wakefield; Mitzi Elaine McDonell, Mr. and Mrs. Richard McDonell; Robert Timothy Chapman, Mrs. Grace Sineath and Mr. Clabe Chapman; Leecy Anne Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Hank Lee;

Honor Graduates, 1983-84:

Bret Eliot Busch, Dr. and Mrs. Trent Busch, First Honor Graduate; Joel Arthur Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Mac Weaver, Second Honor Graduate; Michael Gay Herrin, Dr. Glen Herrin and Mrs. Jean Williams, Third Honor Graduate (tie); Jerry Gaines Purvis, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Purvis, Third Honor Graduate (tie);

Frank Abney, Mr. and Mrs. Sherrill Abney; Brad A. Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Baldwin; Brian Derek Buzzeo, Mr. and Mrs. William Buzzeo;

Karen Ranae Croft, Mr. and Mrs. Max J. Croft; Susan Lynn Dalton, Mr. and Mrs. John Dalton; Charlton Lee Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Charlton Davis; Margaret Ann Furey, Mrs. Margit E. Furey and Mr. Robert J. Furey; Steven Edward Gandy, Dr. and Mrs. Ed Gandy;

Judity Elizabeth Hennly, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hennly; Eric J. Ingram, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ingram; Michael D. Johns, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Singleton; John Mark Levy, Mr. and Mrs. L.R. McEachin;

Michelle F. McElwain, Mr. and Mrs. John McElwain; Michael Darryl McLeod, Mr. and Mrs. James A. McLeod; Lisa Michele Murff, Mrs. Carole J. Murff; Terri Jo Pulliam, Mr. and Mrs. Berl D. Pulliam;

Elizabeth Ann Ricks, Mr. and Mrs. John Ricks; Felicia Lenise Rosser, Mr. and Mrs. Willie F. Rosser; Beth Lynn Singletary, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Singletary; Gregory Richard Sturtevant, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sturtevant; Michael Anthony Taormina, Dr. and Mrs. F.E. Taormina;

Barry S. Teffeteller, Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Teffeteller; Gregory Allen Tomberlin, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Tomberlin; Taryn S. Van Golder, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Van Gilder; Teresa Wakefield, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wakefield; Melissa Jean Winfrey, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Williams;

National Merit Scholars:

Bret Busch, Dr. and Mrs. Trent Busch; Lee Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Charlton Davis; Meg Furey, Mrs. Margit E. Furey and Mr. Robert J. Furey; Mike Herrin, Mrs. Jean Williams and Dr. Glen Herrin; Beth Singletary, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Singletary; Greg Sturtevant, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sturtevant; Joel Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Mac Weaver; and Kennety Grim, Mrs. Deanna Grim (NMS semifinalist).

Who's Who Among American High School Students, The Society of Distinguished American High School Students, and The National High School Award for Excellence:

(Seniors) Frank Abney, Brad Baldwin, Dottie Jo Brown, Bret Busch, Brian Buzzeo, Susan Dalton, Lee Davis, Shlreda Davis, vincent Dimmock, Steve Gandy, Odette Griffin, Michael Herrin, Leon Johnson, Mike Kitchens, Mark Levy, Mitzi McDonell, David McEachin, Michelle McElwain, Ellen Parnelle, Clay Powell, Jerry Purvis, Felicia Rosser, Beth Singletary, Greg Sturtevant, Michael Taormina, April Wagner, Joel Weaver, Ted West, Melissa Winfrey;

(Juniors) Brian Anderson, Scott Braswell, Martin Campa, Tom Carroll, Kristen Coleman, Laura Faussone, Michael Furukawa, Andrew Kaiser, Ethel Mitchell, Carolyn Oliver, Ginna Pilcher, John Porter, Patricia Gayle Robinson, John Smith.

United States National Leadership Merit Awards:

(Seniors) Frank Abney, Joel Weaver, Felecia rosser;

(Juniors) John Porter.

State of Georgia and University of Georgia Certificate of Merit for Juniors:

Travis S. Braswell, Joanne Brown, Tom Carroll, Suzanne Dufek, Laura Faussone, Michael Furukawa, James Godbee, Sandra Graves, Sharon Hart, Andrew Kaiser, Erin Kirk, Craig Klement, Julie Moritz, Ginna Pilcher, Patricia Gail Robinson, John S. Smith, James Staup.

Presbyterian College Junior Academic Achievement Award:

Laura Faussone, Sandra Graves, Craig Kelment, Andrew Kaiser.

Georgia Tech Distinguished Science Scholar:

Brian Anderson, Laura Faussone, Michael Furukawa, Ginna Pilcher.

Georgia Tech Distinguished Mathematics Scholar:

Brian Anderson, Tom Carroll, Julie Dennard, Michael Furukawa, Andrew Kaiser, Laura Faussone, Sandy Graves, Julie Rensenhouse, John F. Smith.

National Merit Commended Students:

Eric Ingram, Terri Pulliam.

National Achievement Scholarshipp Program For Outstanding Negro Students:

Felecia Rosser.

Governor's Honor's Participant in Music: Keith Quarles.

Georgia Scholar:

Charlton Lee Davis, Michael Herrin, Greg Sturtevant, Joel Weaver.

Scholarships Awarded: Brad Baldwin, Oglethorpe; Dana Brinson, Nebraska (Athletic); Bret Bush, Emory, National Merit Scholarship; Brian Buzzeo, Oglethorpe, University of Georgia; Lee Davis, Georgia Tech; Monte Davis, Georgia Southwestern (Athletic);

Steve Gandy, Presbyterian College, Furman University, Miami University, Dartmouth College, Tulane University, Emory University; Kenneth Grim, Emory; Stan Grubb, Florida State University (Athletic);

Michelle Harrison, Stetson University, Southwestern-Memphis, University of Georgia; Micheal Herrin, National Merit Scholarship, Emory, Oxford, Washington and Lee; Joel Jackson, Georgia Southern (Athletic); Leon Johnson, Eastern Kentucky (Athletic);

Mike Kitchens, University of Mississippi; Mark Levy, Columbia University, Georgia Institute of Technology; Michelle McElwain, Georgia Tech, General Motors Institute at Flint, Michigan; Michelle Murff, Mercer; John Nitschke, Georgia Southwestern (Athletic);

Ellen Parnell, Duke University; Anne Ricks, Southwestern at Memphis, Davidson; Beth Singletary, Emory, Georgia Tech, University of Georgia, Agnes Scott, Vanderbilt; Taryn Van Gilder, Furman; April Wagner, Valdosta State College;

Joel Weaver, Samford University; Kelvin Wiliams, Morris Brown (Athletic); Debbie Willis, Shorter; Felicia Rosser, University of Georgia; Chris Bracey, Valdosta Association of Educators Scholarship to VSC; Maurice Gray, Valdosta Alumni of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Community Awards:

American Legion Post 13, American Legion Medals (NROTC students) — Gold, Bill Burns; Silver, Ralph Turner; Bronze, Mark Scheuring; Boys State — Mark Blanchard; Andrew Kaiser; Girls State — Laura Faussone; Melissa Denmark.

Daughters of American Colonists, Merit Award (NJROTC student), Melanie Seal.

Daughters of American Revolution, Good Citizenship Award, Joel Weaver; Merit Award (NJROTC student), Kimberly Yale; Best American History Students, Tom Cox; Laura Faussone.

Exchange Club, Student of the Year, Joel Weaver.

Kiwanis Club, Star Student, Kenneth Grim; Star Teacher, Mrs. Jan Burns.

Literary Guild, Most Outstanding Senior Literature Student, Beth Singletary.

Valdosta Board of Realtors, Essay Contest winners, First Place — Steve Gandy; Second Place — Joel Weaver.

Woodman of the World, Best American History Student, Tom Carroll;

Wymodausis Club, Alice Bingle Essay Winners, First Place, Brian Buzzeo; Second Place, Beth Singletary; Third Place, Frank Abney.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, William Pompey Memorial Scholarship award, Vincent Dimmock.

Beth Burnette Scholarship, Scholarship, Susan Dalton.

Moody Officers' Wives' Club, Scholarships, Taryn Van Gilder, Greg Sturtevant, Brian Buzzeo.

Moody Enlisted Wives' Club, Scholarship, Brian Buzzeo.

Art Awards:

Most Outstanding Senior Art Student, Mason Farley; Most Outstanding Junior Art Student, (tie) James Fountain; Jane Lee; Most Outstanding Sophomore Art Student, Tony Turner; Most Oustanding Freshman Art Student, Paula Felder.

English Awards:

Most Outstanding Students in English, Freshman, Lucy Tomberlin; Sophomore, Louis Gonis; Junior, Gail Robinson; Senior, Bret Busch.

Most Oustanding in Speech and Drama, Girl, Leecy Davis; Boy, Michael Taormina.

Elks Essay Contest, First Place, Bret Busch; Second Place, Jerry Purvis; Third Place, Beth Singletary.

Foreign Language Awards:

Most Outstanding French Student, Anne Ricks; Most Outstanding Spanish Student, Ellen Parnelle.

Math Awards:

Most Outstanding Algebra I Student, Yves Owen; Most Outstanding Geometry Student, (tie) Clarissa Coley, & Timothy Lee; Most Outstanding Algebra II Student, Louis Gonis;

Most Outstanding Trig. & Pre-Calculus Student, Laura Faussone; Most Outstanding Calculus Student, Joel Weaver; Most Outstandng 1st Year Computer Math Student, (tie) Brian Anderson, & Tom Carroll;

Most Outstanding 2nd Year Computer Math Student, Michelle McElwain; Most Outstanding Senior Math Student, Michael Johns.

National Math Test, First, Laura Faussone; Second, Michael Johns; Third, Timothy Lee.

Naval Science Awards: Distinguished Cadet, First Year, Derrick Cain; Distinguished Cadet, Second Year, Joseph Gombas; Distinguished Cadet, Third Year, Scott Waddell; Distinguished Cadet, Fourth Year, Sean Cupp;

Retired Officers Association, Excellence in Leadership, Joseph Gombas.

Science Awards: Outstanding Student in Physics, Michael Johns; Outstanding Student in Chemistry, Michael Furukawa; Outstanding Student in Biology, Louis Gonis; Outstanding Student in Physical Science, Angela Alexander.

Social Studies Awards: Freshman, Lucy Tomberlin; Sophomore, Eric Anderson; Junior, Tom Carroll; Senior, Joel Weaver.

Vocational Department: Business Education, Kevin Shaw; Construction, Robert Moore; D.C.T., Charlie Johnson; Distributive Education, Dotty Jo Brown; Drafting, Tony Lanier;

Electromechanics, Marty Carnathan; Graphic Arts, Stephen Stanfill; Health Occupations, Alan Griffin; Home Economics, Cynthia Bethay; Industrial Arts, Raymond Battles; Metals, Jack Pries; Transportation, Erik Burcker.

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1984 Times All-Area Baseball Team

VDT 5/6/84

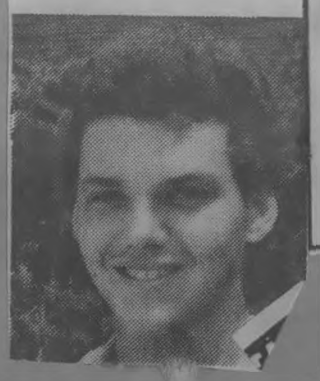
1B	Bruce Parker	Valdosta
2B	Fred Goff	Valdosta
SS	Keith Luke	Cook
3B	Alan White	Lowndes
OF	Steve Gandy	Valdosta
OF	Perry Thompson	Clinch
OF	Greg Pitts	Cook
C	Jason Cain	Lowndes
DH	Billy Hancock	Lowndes
P	Ted West	Valdosta
P	Alan Taylor	Lowndes
P	Sylvester West	Lanier
P	Ray Garner	Berrien

Ted West — Player of Year
Alan Taylor — Pitcher of Year
Bart Shuman — Coach of Year

ALAN TAYLOR
Pitcher of Year

BART SHUMAN
Coach of Year

TED WEST
Player of Year



All-Area Team

From Page 5C

"But I have had to learn to be more patient with these high school kids than we were with the college players."

West is the lone awards winner with games left to play this season.

The senior hurler will start Tuesday's Region 1-AAAA championship series opener against Tift County.

West is 9-0 this season and 17-0 over the past two seasons. For his three-year career, West is 29-3, the winningest pitcher in Valdosta High history. He was named Pitcher of the Year last year in the first *Times* All-Area team.

His last loss came to Coffee High in the Class AAAA state sectional series in 1982.

But a Player of the Year must do more than just pitch. And West does.

West is batting a sizzling .435 with nine home runs and 40 RBIs.

"Teddy is an incredible player," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said. "I didn't think this team would make it back to the region championship series this season. But Teddy has made this better than I thought it could be."

Taylor ended his season with a loss Thursday in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs to Tift. The senior was 5-3 with a 1.97 ERA. His other two losses came to Valdosta.

"Alan had a better season than his record shows," said Lowndes assistant coach Steve Kebler said. "He didn't get much help with his teammates making 13 errors in those three losses."

West, Taylor, Shuman Top Player, Pitcher, Coach

VDT 5-6-84

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

The *Times* three post-season awards have probably only one surprise winner among them.

It is no surprise that Valdosta right-handed pitcher Ted West is the Player of the Year and Lowndes right-hander Alan Taylor is the Pitcher of the Year. However, Berrien County's Bart Shuman may be a surprise as the Coach of the Year.

A coach that leads a team to an 11-9 record is not usually among the candidates for post-season honors. However, when the same team went 3-18 the year before, the coach is a candidate.

And that is why Shuman was selected for the honor.

"It has been a tough season," Shuman said. "We had to start this team almost from scratch."

Shuman left Berrien in 1983 to persue his masters degree at Valdosta State after leading the Rebels to two straight appearances in the Class AA state playoffs.

While at VSC, Shuman became a graduate assistant for the Blazers head coach Tommy Thomas.

Shuman says he learned a great deal during his tenure at VSC.

"I guess the most important thing I learned was how important the little things are," Shuman said. "I learned how to get better organized and be better prepared.

Please See "All-Area," Page 6C

The new: Valdosta is on top again

— Walt Stricklin/Staff

Valdosta coach Nick Hyder makes a point with quarterback-wide receiver Berke Holtzclaw during practice at the Wildcats' football camp.

By Lawrence Dennis
Sports Writer

After 10 years, coach Nick Hyder has a right to call Valdosta home.

Especially after bringing Valdosta High its first undisputed state Class AAAA championship since 1971, the last year of the fabled Wright Bazemore era.

The Wildcats finally made it by edging Atlanta Peachtree 10-7 for the title after several near-misses. Valdosta tied Griffin 7-7 for a co-championship in 1978 and lost in the playoffs to the eventual state champions in 1980 and '81.

But the Wildcats had to run a gauntlet of Region 1-AAAA North and playoff foes on the way to that 15-0 mark and the championship.

And — despite the return of the heart of the team (nine starters) — Hyder expects things to be tougher this year.

"We had an awful lot of close games last year," Hyder said from the Wildcats' preseason camp at Lake Park, south of Valdosta. "I'd say the competition will be very keen. The region looks much stronger overall than last year."

Hyder may have to worry about the competition, but he won't have to worry about people at the skill positions.

Valdosta probably has the most talented group of returnees in the region — perhaps in the state.

Leading the star parade is senior Ted West, a 5-foot-10, 175-pounder who started at quarterback. West will be trying to add to the offensive statistics he compiled in '82, when he was second in the region in passing with 66 completions in 122 attempts for 965 yards and six TDs.

And the Wildcats have plenty of depth at the position.

Berke Holtzclaw, a 6-foot, 170-pound junior, played enough last year to pile up 399 yards passing on 23 of 69, and may even push West for the starting job.

On the receiving end is . . . Holtzclaw, who starts at wide receiver when he isn't at quarterback a la Buck Belue and John Lastinger, who went on to fame at the University of Georgia. The other starting flanker will likely be Hosea Herd, a 6-0, 165-pound sophomore.

The Wildcats can do more than pass, although they did amass 1,471 yards through the air last year. Tony Anderson, a 6-0, 210-pounder, gained 497 of the Wildcats' 1,623 yards rushing last year as a freshman, while Dana Brinson, a 5-9, 160-pound senior, added 261

Those yardage totals may not seem overpowering, but the graduated Pernell Bee rushed for 609 yards, and Hyder platoons the running backs in his multiple offense almost as effectively as the late Bear Bryant at Alabama. Anderson averaged 5.2 yards per carry and Brinson 4.5.

If there is a problem on offense, it's on the line, where only one starter, 5-11, 218-pound senior guard Monte Davis, returns.

The defensive front is solid, and is anchored by All-Region and Times-Union/Journal Super 11 senior nose guard Leon Johnson, a 6-1, 230-pounder, and 6-2, 200-pound junior tackle James Wakefield.

The front is backed up by what Hyder called "a mighty fine pair of linebackers" — 6-0, 195-pound junior John Porter and 5-10, 185-pound senior Frank Abney.

The problem area on defense is the secondary, Hyder said. Backup quarterback David Thomas, a 6-0, 155-pound junior, has been shifted to safety and will join returning starter Derrick Folsom, a 5-10, 185-pound junior.

"We're strong offensively and defensively," Hyder said. "I'd say the key is pretty much going to be depth and clutch performances by key players. To have consistency, you've got to have depth."

Hyder: No Bets On Title In '83

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

If Nick Hyder was a betting man, he wouldn't like the odds he's given his Valdosta Wildcats of repeating as AAAA state champions. Even though the feat hasn't been accomplished since the 1973-74 Thomasville Bulldogs put together back-to-back state titles, it seems the Wildcats, who won the state title last year with a 10-7 win over Peachtree, would have a better chance than one in 97.

But that's the odds the 10th year VHS coach has given his team of repeating.

"There are 97 teams in AAAA," he said. "We've got a one in 97 chance to win. That's the same as everybody else."

With the way graduation hit last year's team that went 15-0, robbing the offense of eight starters and the defense of seven, Hyder's evaluation would seem to be right on the money for the '83 'Cats. The entire offensive line, except for one starter, is gone. The receiving corps has graduated, as has one running back. On defense, four of five linemen and three of four defensive backs were lost.

That leaves this year's 'Cats a mere shell of the championship team.

But don't let that fool you. This year's team may not equal last year's record, but they very well could.

Offensively, the 'Cats return a trio of starters in the backfield that should provide the inexperienced line time to mature. And the defense is anchored by perhaps the best linebacker and nose guard in the state.

Quaterback Ted West (Sr., 5-10, 178), and running backs Dana Brinson (Sr., 5-9, 160) and Tony Anderson (Soph., 5-11, 205) all started last year in the backfield. They give an otherwise young offense much-needed experience.

The speedy Brinson gives the 'Cats an outside threat. Anderson, meanwhile, combines speed with power. He has added 15 pounds from last year, but was able to retain he speed and agility.

Willie Lewis (Jr., 5-8, 153), Scott Braswell (Jr., 5-9, 149) and Bernard Rose (Sr., 5-4, 145) give the 'Cats depth in the backfield.

"We're pleased we have Tony and Dana," Hyder said. "And Willie Lewis has been a most pleasant surprise."

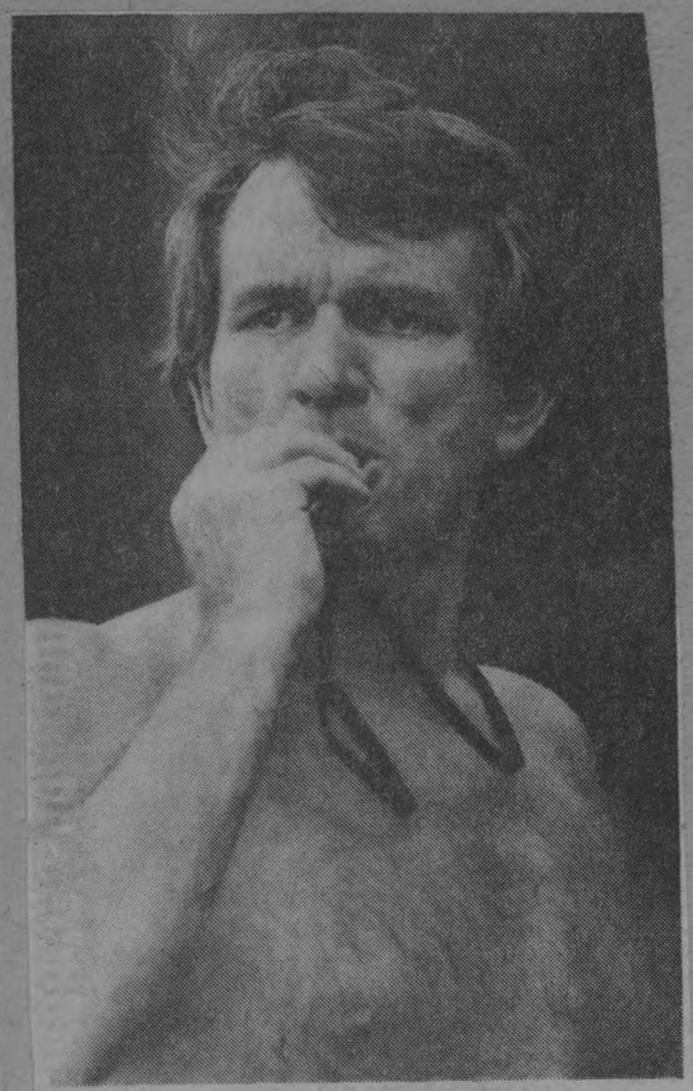
While Hyder wouldn't say Brinson and Anderson are the best pair of running backs to ever play at VHS, he would say, "Potentially they are. You've got to wait and see how they perform together."

Both Brinson and Anderson are versatile. Brinson has played flanker and running back at VHS, but Hyder says, "he

Please See Valdosta, page 2

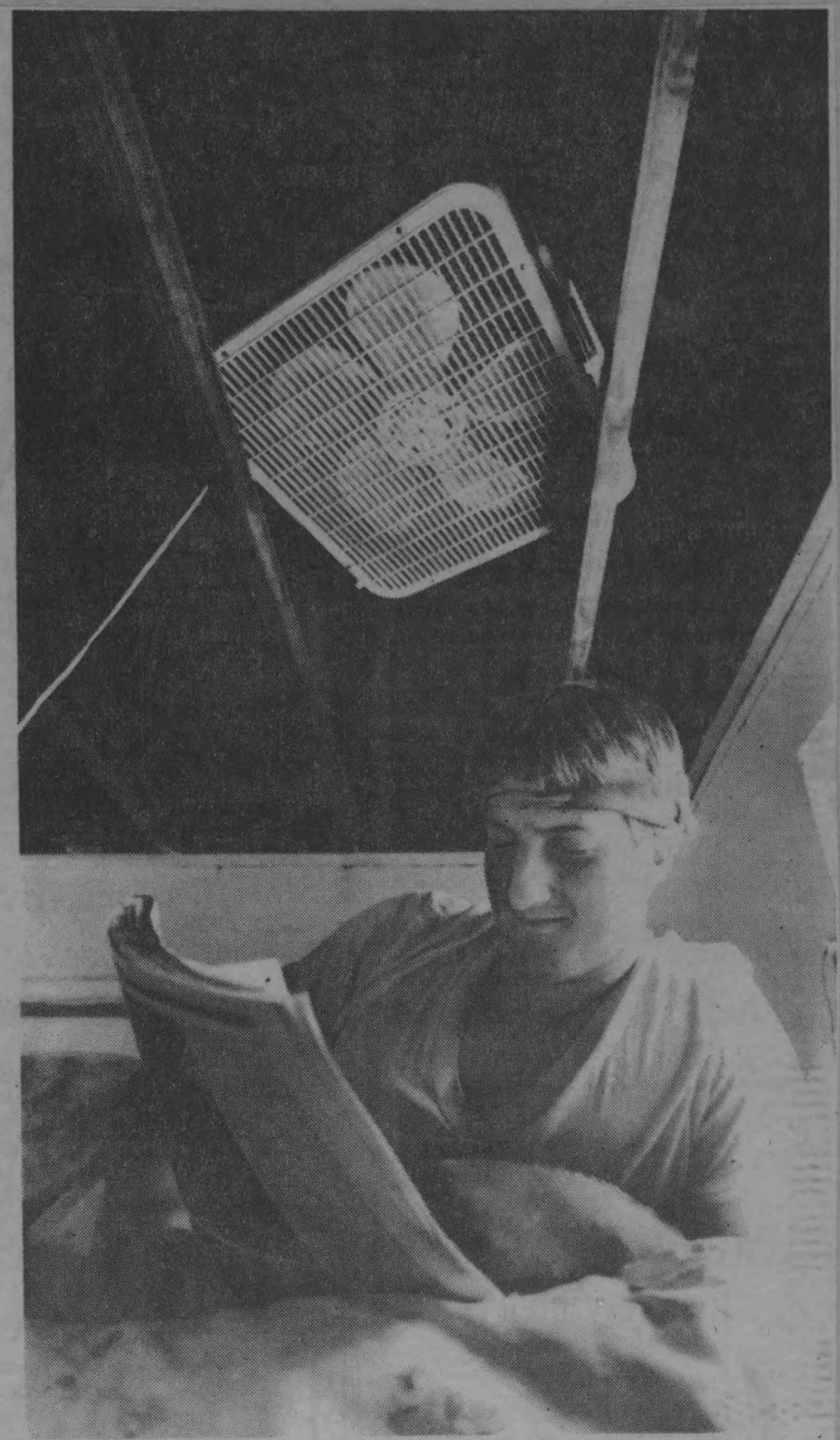
From Pre-season To The Real Thing

Football:



VHS Coach Nick Hyder At Camp

Agony Of De Heat?



VHS's John Nitschke Keeps Fan In Rafters

'Cats Romp By Monroe

Valdosta Takes 47-6 Win

By ROGER BROWN
Times Staff Writer

ALBANY — After jumping out to a 21-0 first-quarter advantage, it became a case of name that number as the No. 1-ranked Valdosta Wildcats romped past previously unbeaten Albany Monroe 47-6 at Hugh Mills Stadium Saturday night before a crowd of 9,000.

	VHS	MHS
First Downs	28	9
Yards Rushing	251	9
Yards Passing	108	185
Passes	14-8-2	24-9-1
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	4-4
Punting	2-33.5	7-33.0
Penalties	3-25	9-78

It was the third straight game in which the Wildcats have faced an unbeaten opponent and this was the first game they didn't have to come from behind to win.

Valdosta left no doubt that it was ready to play, scoring on its first possession of the game. Following a short Shed Jones punt, Willie Lewis capped a drive with a 12-yard scamper and John Porter's extra point split the uprights to open the floodgates.

After forcing another Monroe punt in three plays, the 'Cats capping a 62-yard drive with a 7-yard run by Scott Braswell. Porter's conversion made it 14-0 with 3:16 left in the initial quarter. Just before the close of the quarter, the Wildcats got a gimme when Monroe quarterback Lee Mathis was sacked by James Wakefield and fumbled the ball. After a mad scramble, Porter recovered the ball in the end zone for a touchdown and the period ended with the 'Cats ahead 21-0.

"We played good ball early and that was important because Monroe came out fired up and ready to play," said Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder. "Our guys rose to the occasion and we had good execution from our offense.

The Wildcats only score in the second period came on an 11-yard scamper by Tony Anderson with 1:14 left in the first half. Porter's extra point concluded scoring in the half.

"We were very crisp in the first half and our offense looked sharp," Hyder said. "Our offensive line had an outstanding night and they came off the ball very well."

If Monroe had any hopes of coming back, they were dashed when the 'Cats took the kickoff and marched 76 yards in five plays. Quarterback Berke Holtzclaw got the honor on a 26-yard keeper around left end. The extra point attempt by Eric Henderson was wide right and the lead remained at 34-0.

That was the final series of the night for the first-team offense, and the defense didn't last but one more series before taking the rest of the night off.

Monroe finally got on the scoreboard midway into the third period when Jones connected with Roswell Smith for a 78-yard scoring strike. The run for two points was stopped short of the goal line and Valdosta led 34-6 with 7:40 left in the third period.

Valdosta came right back and drove 60 yards in five plays, capped off by a 9-yard scoring toss from backup quarterback Greg Talley to tight end Darryl Leonard. This time Henderson was true with the extra point and Valdosta led 41-7. The Wildcats closed out the scoring on a 2-yard smash by Monroe Gamble with three minutes to play in the third period. The conversion attempt by Charles Stewart was blocked and the score remained 47-6.

Valdosta dominated the game statistically, with more than 300 yards in total offense and had 10 players carry the ball at least three times. Braswell had 68 yards on nine carries to lead the ground game, which chewed up 251 yards. Lewis followed Braswell with 59 yards, while Anderson and Holtzclaw added 53 and 50, respectively.

The win improved the 'Cats overall record to 3-0 and their Region 1-AAAA slate to 1-0, while Albany dropped to 2-1 and 0-1. Next week Valdosta will host Westover at Cleveland Field. Westover's record is 0-3.

Score By Quarters

Valdosta	21	7	19	0—47
Monroe	0	0	6	0—6

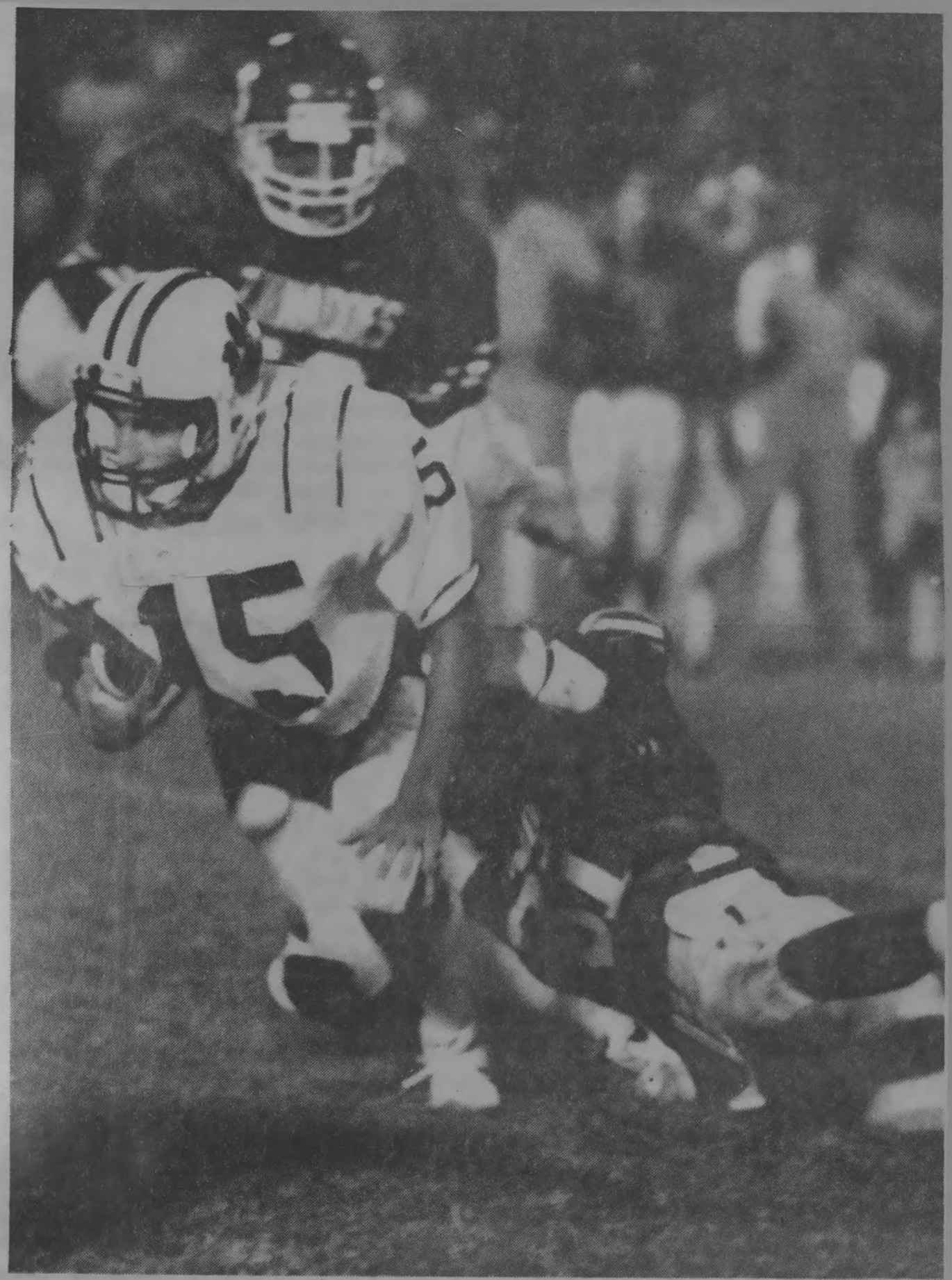
VHS — Lewis 13 run (Porter kick) 8:49 1st
VHS — Braswell 8 run (Porter kick) 3:16 1st
VHS — Porter fumble recovery in end zone (Porter kick) 2:33 1st
VHS — Anderson 11 run (Porter kick) 1:14 2nd
VHS — Holtzclaw 26 run (kick failed) 10:00 3rd
MHS — R. Smith 67 pass from S. Jones (run failed) 7:40 3rd
VHS — Leonard 9 pass from Talley (Henderson kick) 5:27 3rd
VHS — Gamble 2 run (kick failed) 3:00 3rd

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — Valdosta: Braswell 9-68; Lewis 8-59; Anderson 4-53; Holtzclaw 6-50; Gamble 9-44; Leonard 1-8; Dixon 1-0; Manghrum 2 minus 3; Talley 1 minus 5; Hayslip 2 minus 23; Monroe: Sessions 7-29; Moore 4-13.

PASSING — Valdosta: Holtzclaw 1-2-0, 14; Talley 5-8-2, 74; Hayslip 2-4-0, 20; Monroe: Mathis 6-18-1, 46; Jones 3-6-0, 139.

RECEIVING — Valdosta: Heard 2-53; Dixon 2-23; Monroe: R. Smith 3-95; Sessions 2-26.



Times Staff Photo By Laura Harris

Wildcat Quarterback Berke Holtzclaw Is Tackled By Monroe Defenders

VDT. 12-16-84

VHS Fans Knew Their Favorite Team Was Tops Before Final Gun

By CAS SHEARIN
Times Staff Writer

There was never any doubt in the minds of Wildcat fans their team would wind up being number one before the night was over.

When the final horn blasted, the gates opened and fans poured onto the field, many unintentionally. They were simply pushed out there, but no one seemed to mind. The 'Cats were number one.

The game Saturday night was reminiscent of a game played seven years ago. The teams were the same, the ups and downs were the same. The only differences were the location and, more importantly, the final score.

This time the 'Cats came out on top, but not without a fight with Clarke Central. The Gladiators and their fans pushed and pushed and screamed and screamed for the win but it just wasn't to be.

People stood at the gates passing out gold-colored signs with black letters which read "How Do The Wildcats Spell Relief? S-T-A-T-E". Those signs, the black and gold balloons and a cannon blast after every 'Dosta touchdown had to have some effect.

The Wildcats and their fans are not unknown. People from Valdosta can travel virtually anywhere in the country and when it is known where they're from, the remark most always made is something akin to "That's that place with the football team, isn't it?"

One fan familiar 'Cats followers is a gray-haired gentleman on the sidelines who begs fans to either scream or be silent, whichever he feels the situation warrants.

Before the game even started Saturday night, Herb Ross was holding up a sign which read "Yell Now Or Cry Later". He's traveled more than 5,000 miles just this year to be with the 'Cats when they won their fourth national title Saturday night.

Ross played for Wright Bazemore when the 'Cats won their first state title in 1940. Now he's living in Montgomery, Ala., and still the ol' black and gold pulses through his veins so much that he drives all that way to see his team play every fall.

Although the Gladiator fans were outnumbered in the stands by about six to one, they could be heard over bands and Valdosta fans more than once.

Groups of fans dressed in Clarke Central yellow and red stood up the entire game and never stopped screaming. Even after the 'Cats made their third touchdown, the winning touchdown, the fans didn't quit.

One man, wearing a Clarke Central letter jacket for soccer, ran up and down the front aisle pleading to the fans to keep it up and begging players not to give up. "It's not over 'til it's over!," he screamed to the players. "You've still got it. You've *got* it," he reminded them.

But the players didn't seem to hear him. Those boys were dejected. A few threw down their helmets in frustration. The clock was running out and there didn't seem to be a way to stop the black and gold on their field.

The 'Cats on the other hand, never got down. In fact, they were cautioned by coach Nick Hyder about the over confident attitude they expressed even before the game started.

He told them at half time this would be the last chance for the seniors. He said this game was for them as it was for Hyder's parents who came to see their son coach his team to a state championship as it was for all the parents of every team member.

They came out of the locker room, pounding their helmets against the tin roof outside and marched onto the field. It was their hearts that were pounding when the Gladiators pulled ahead 14-7, but then the Cat momentum picked up again and the score was 14-14, then 21-14 Valdosta and the state championship, maybe even the national championship became theirs.

Valdosta Takes Top Ranking On Road

'84-85

Wildcats Aim To Maintain Momentum At Waycross

Nick Hyder's 'Cats Are 1-0

Times Staff Photo

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

There's no place like home, and you would get little argument from Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder about that, especially after the Wildcats trounced Thomasville 21-3 last week in the season opener for their 27th consecutive regular-season win at home.

But, he says the true test of a champion is to win on the road, and that's exactly what the Wildcats will have to do this week to maintain their No. 1 ranking in Class AAAA as they visit perennial playoff contender Waycross at 8 p.m. in Memorial Stadium.

Waycross, which finished 8-3 last year, is coached by former Valdosta High standout Dale Williams, whose son is University of Georgia quarterback, Todd. The elder Williams also played quarterback at Georgia.

Due to a scheduling quirk, this is the second consecutive year Valdosta is playing at Waycross, but Hyder said it all balances out since it's the 'Cats first road game and Waycross' season opener.

Hyder is expecting a rugged, hard-nosed contest Friday with a minimum of mistakes. He said Waycross has one of the Top 10 coaching staffs in the state, and has won two state championships in the last six years.

"I thought we had a big team, but they may be bigger than us," Hyder said. "They have good speed on offense and have a big strong defense that likes to force you to pass the ball."

In last week's win over Thomasville, Hyder said he was pleased with the overall play of his team, especially the defense. The 'Cats allowed only three points on a 35-yard field goal.

He said he was also impressed with how his offense came back and put together two 80-yard marches after sufferring a couple fumbles deep in Thomasville territory.

"We didn't let the turnovers effect us and just kept plugging away," Hyder said. "I thought the interesting thing was they didn't have a turnover for the entire game, which is unusual for an offense (wishbone) like their's, especially with a new coach just coming in."

Hyder's offense will be bolstered this week with the return of Tony Anderson, who missed more than six weeks — including most of the preseason drills and the opening game — due to offseason surgery. He was the second leading rusher for the 'Cats last year and Hyder is expected to bring him along slowly.

Last week, Hyder said he played around 60 players against Thomasville, and felt like his depth was a big factor "especially in this heat" in the win.

"We try to play a lot of kids for a number of reasons and we feel like that also helps team morale," Hyder said. "I thought the coaching staff did a tremendous job of preparing them for the game, and we were glad to see them (the young kids) get some experience."

Hyder also said he was pleased with the play of the defense last week, which held Thomasville to only four first downs in the game and minus yards rushing.

He says they will have to come back with the same type of effort this week and try to shut off the balanced Bulldog attack.

"We're in pretty much the same situation that we were in last week, and we don't know very much about them because they have yet to play a game," Hyder said. "We will just have to go on what we have on them from last year and hope that will be enough."

SPORTS

Valdosta Routs Waycross, 33-7 With A Little Help From Folsom

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

WAYCROSS — Derrick Folsom was only credited with one solo tackle Friday night in Valdosta High's 33-7 season-opening win over Waycross. But Folsom, who plays in the secondary for Valdosta, just may have turned in the biggest stop of the night.

STATISTICS

	Valdosta	Waycross
First Downs	14	11
Yards Rushing	226	217
Yards Passing	114	59
Passes	13-8-1	18-5-0
Fumbles Lost	2	3
Punting	4-35.5	5-37.0
Penalties	6-30	1-5

After Valdosta jumped out to an early 20-0 lead in the first quarter on two touchdown runs by Tony Anderson and one by Dana Brinson, Waycross added a touchdown and threatened another shortly before the half.

Bulldog running back Victor Daniels bolted 70 yards with less than 30 seconds to play in the half to Wildcat 5, and he would have scored if Folsom didn't make a stop from behind pulling the junior down just shy of the goal line.

With 1 second left Waycross attempted to reach the end zone by pass which linebacker John Porter batted away.

"A score on either the long run or the second one and it might have been a different game," VHS coach Nick Hyder said after the game. "That was definitely the key."

Instead Valdosta took the emotion and a 20-7 lead into the halftime dressing room.

Early on, though, it didn't appear the Class AAA Bulldogs would give the defending AAAA state champion Wildcats a game. The first time Valdosta touched the ball, it drove 67 yards in seven plays, highlighted by a high-stepping Anderson 15-yard run for the score to go up 7-0.

Anderson's run was set up by a 42-yard pass from quarterback Ted West to wide receiver Hosea Heard to the Waycross 40. West followed that with a 25 yard completion to tight end Darrell Leonard to the 15. Anderson did the rest.

The sophomore led all rushers on the night with 143 yards on 16 carries. He scored three touchdowns on runs of 15, 1 and 31. Dana Brinson had 77 yards on 9 carries.

James Medlock, who scored Waycross' only touchdown on a 72-yard run in the second quarter, led the Bulldogs with 110 yards on nine carries. Daniels had 73 yards on five carries.

The 'Cats converted a Waycross fumble, one of three miscues by the 'Dogs, into a 13-0 lead with 5:21 left in the first quarter. Taking over at the Waycross 29 the 'Cats used just four plays to reach the end zone.

Brinson capped it off with a spectacular 20-yard run on fourth down for the touchdown.

Valdosta added its third score of the quarter when they took a short punt at the 'Dog 45 and drove to the end zone in five plays just on the hard running of Brinson and Anderson. Anderson got the scoring honors from the 1 and Valdosta was up 20-0 with 2:42 left in the first quarter.

But instead of putting the 'Dogs away, Valdosta seemed to let up after it gained the big lead. The long run by Medlock with 3:23 left in the half seemed to bring the 'Dogs to life.

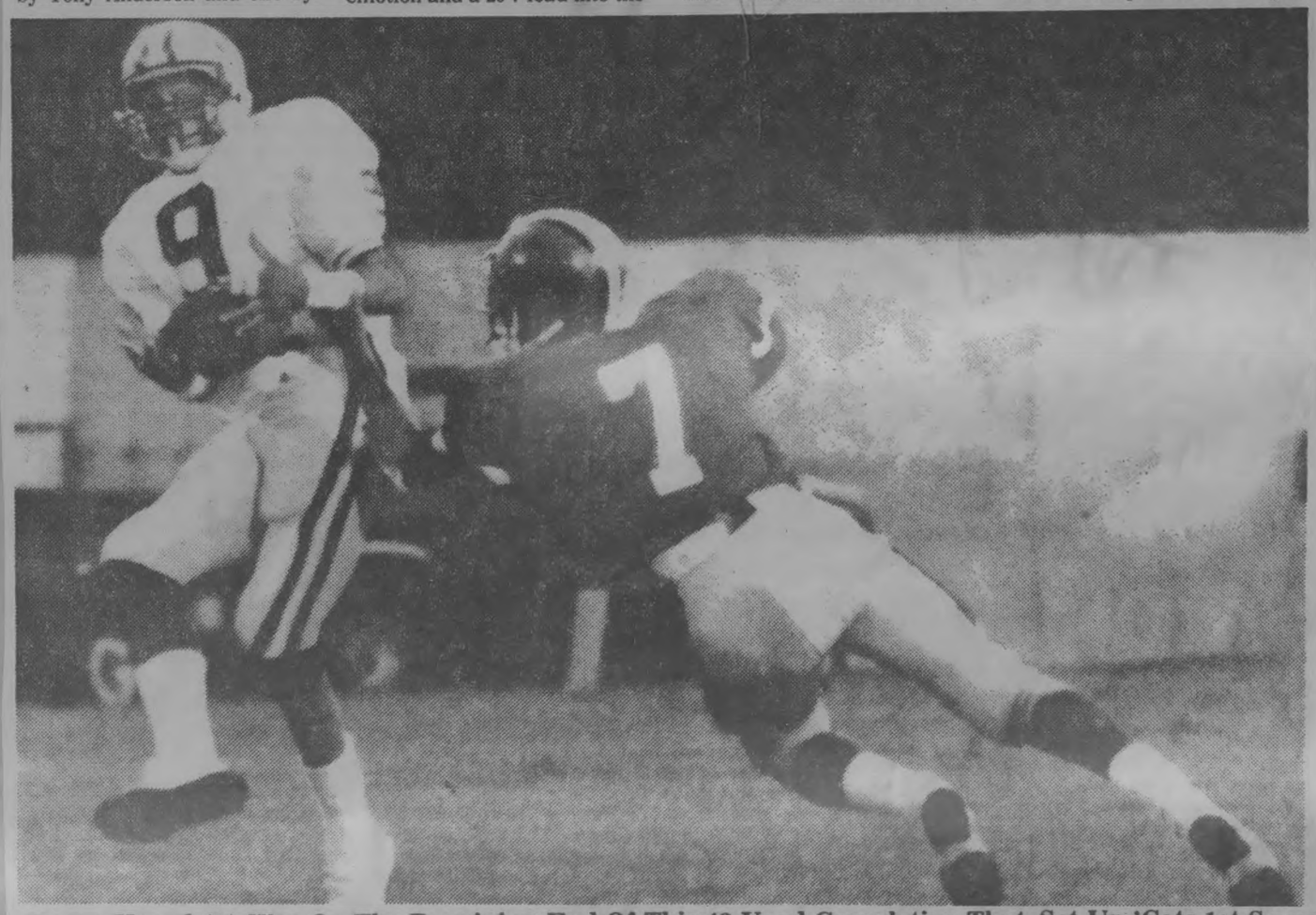
"We relaxed," said West, who threw for 109 yards completing 6 of 9 passes with one interception. "After we got that big lead, the whole team said it was going to be a blowout."

Then Daniels took a pitch wide left and rambled 70 yards to the five before Folsom brought him down shy of the goal.

Valdosta bounced back in the second half completely shutting the 'Dogs down. And the offense, which sputtered early in the third quarter, added two more scores.

Brinson scored his second TD of the night with 1:20 left in the third from 25 yards out. The two-point conversion failed and Valdosta led 26-7.

Anderson rounded out the scoring with 5 seconds left in the third when he broke two tackles on his way to a 31-yard TD run.



Hosea Heard (9) Was On The Receiving End Of This 42-Yard Completion That Set Up 'Cats 1st Score

Score By Quarters

Valdosta	20	0	13	0—33
Waycross	0	7	0	0— 7

SCORING

Val. — Anderson 15 run, Porter kick
Val. — Brinson 20 run, kick failed
Val. — Anderson 1 run, Porter kick
Way. — Medlock 72 run, Jacobs kick
Val. — Brinson 25 run, pass failed
Val. — Anderson 31 run, Porter kick

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing: VHS — Anderson 16-143, Brinson 9-77, Lewis 3-14, West 5-minus 8, Holtzclaw 7-minus 4. WHS — Medlock 9-110, Daniels 5-73, Taylor 12-10, Harris 4-10, Howard 1-13, Bethea 8-minus 5, Dixon 1-4, Springs 1-2.

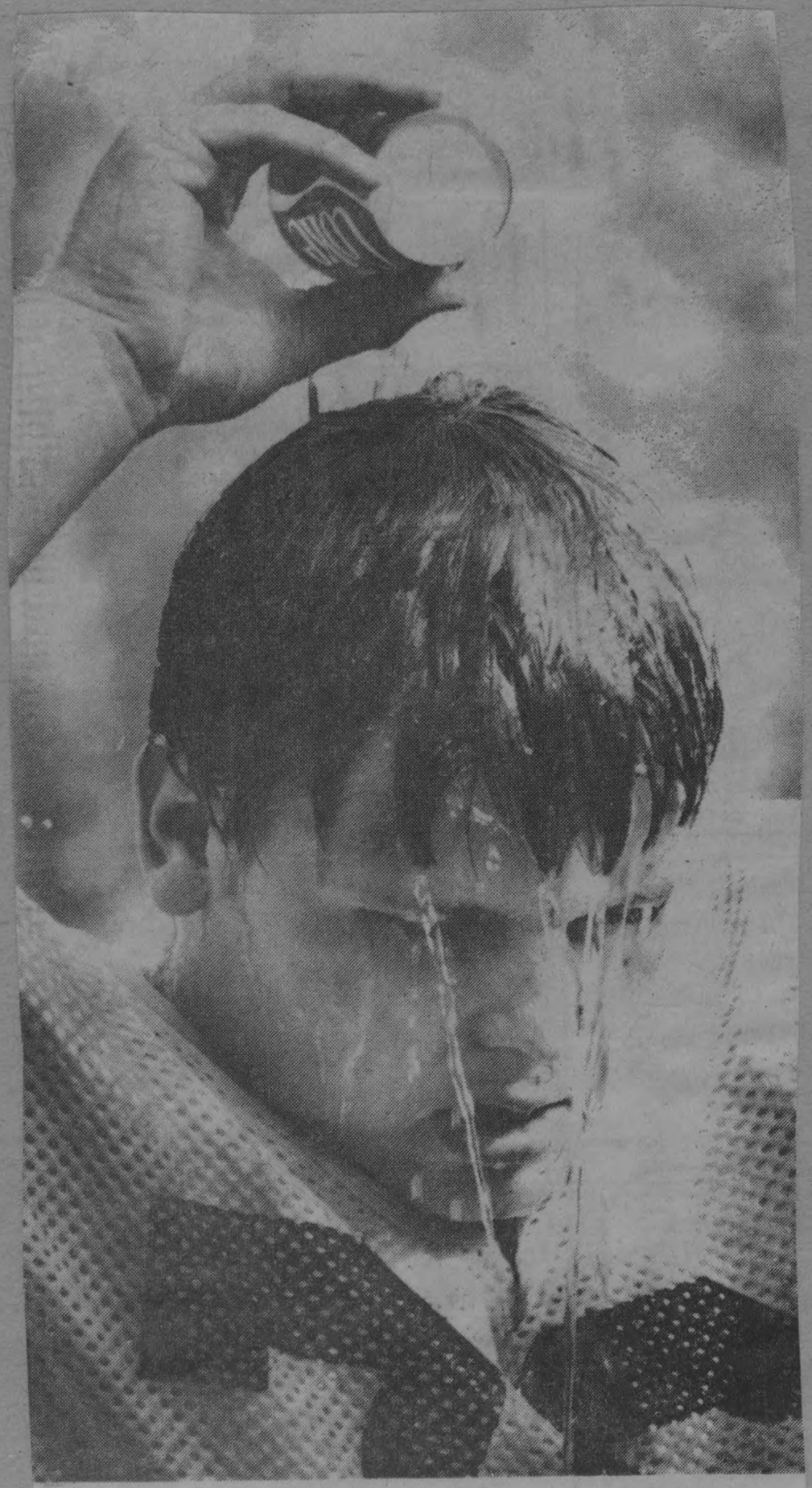
Passing: VHS — West 9-6-1, 109; Holzclaw 4-2-0, 9. WHS — Taylor 16-5-0, 59; Harris 2-0-0, 0.

Receiving: VHS — Heard 2-53, Leonard 3-35, Holtzclaw 1-16, Gandy 1-6, Foster 1-4. WHS — McAllister 2-29, Johnson 2-27, Daniels 1-3.

Tackles: VHS — Porter 6, Johnson 7, J. Lewis 2, Wakefield 2, Lewis 3, Mangram 1, Williams 1, Robinson 3, Wheeless 1, Miller 1, Abney 3, Folsom 1, Waller 1, Williams 1. WHS — Wooten 1, Davis 4, R. Wooten 3, White 6, McGauley 3, Martin 3, Baisden 3, Thomas 4, Jacobs 3, Dixon 2, Regulus 1, Medlock 2.

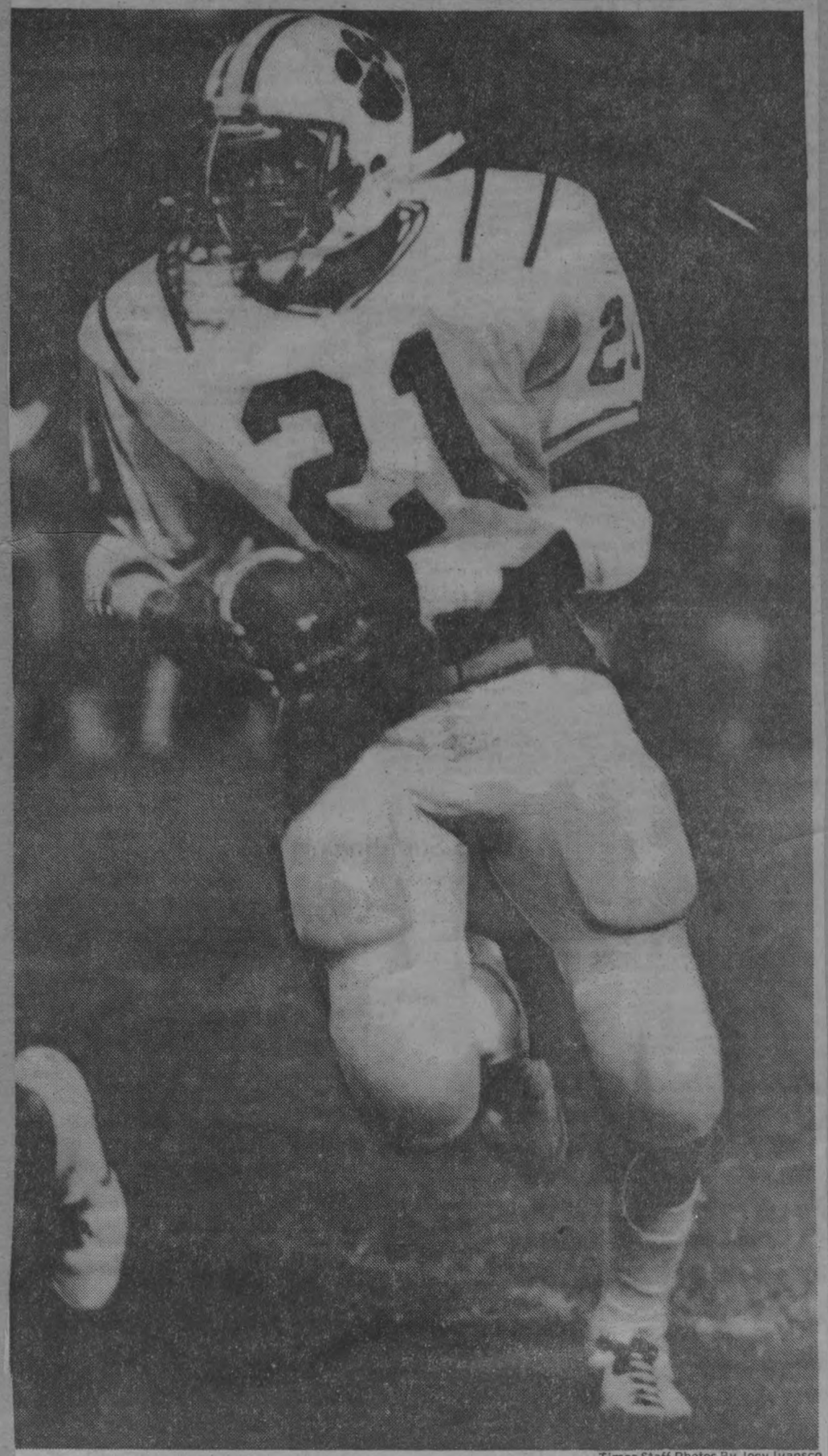
Punt Returns: VHS — Brinson 1-18.

Kick Returns: VHS — Brinson 1-26. WHS — Jacobs 2-22, Medlock 1-10, Daniels 1-4.



Wildcat Marty Howell Takes Pause That Refreshes

The Valdosta Daily Times Sat. Aug. 27, 1983



Times Staff Photos By Joey Ivansco

Anderson Scored 3 TDs, Ran For 143 Yards

Wildcats Hope To Break Waycross Winless String

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

It's been quite awhile since Valdosta High has won a football game in Waycross' Memorial Stadium — at least 10 years. It was back in 1973 that then head coach Charlie Greene's Wildcats traveled to Waycross and came away losers.

Eight years later the Bulldogs handed Valdosta a 29-17 defeat in the '81 spring game. The following fall Waycross captured the AAA state title.

But coach Nick Hyder's '83 edition of the Wildcats will be looking to break that string Friday night when VHS meets Waycross in the season opener for both teams. Kickoff is slated for 8 p.m. The 'Cats walloped Waycross 42-14 last year in the season opener, but that game was played at Cleveland Field.

More than winning in Waycross, though, Hyder says his 'Cats just need to play. After two weeks of camp, a week at VHS and, prior to that, three weeks of conditioning, the 'Cats have spent a combined total of six weeks practicing without playing.

"We need a game," Hyder said. "We need to play so we can see what adjustments we need to make."

Last year's team, which went 15-0, won more games in a single season than any other Valdosta team in history and captured the AAAA state title, was hit hard by graduation. Lost were all but one player off the offensive line, a running back, the entire receiving corps, all but one player off the defensive line and three defensive backs. The season opener will give Hyder his first chance to see the new-look 'Cats in a regular-game situation.

"All those seniors are gone," Hyder said of the '82 graduates. "They carried a leadership burden. These youngsters have to pick it up now and carry it."

Despite that, Valdosta returns a solid nucleus from the championship team. All three starters in the backfield — quarterback Ted West and running backs Dana Brinson and Tony Anderson — started last year. So did offensive lineman Monte Davis.

On defense, linebackers John Porter and Frank Abney and nose guard Leon Johnson return. Hyder says this trio is the strongest facet of his team — offensively and defensively.

Even though the offensive backfield has the potential to be one of the greatest in VHS history, Hyder says entering the season it trails the defense.

"That's not to say it doesn't have potential," Hyder said of the offensive backfield. "I think our linebackers are the strongest part of our game. Then there's Leon in the middle. That's three captains."

The 'Cats will need a strong defensive showing Friday night. Waycross boasts senior running back James Medlock who Hyder calls "maybe the finest physical specimen in the state of Georgia. He may be the next David McClusky (who played for West Rome last year and with the Georgia Bulldogs now) or Herschel Walker."

Medlock gained 135 yards in last year's meeting. But when Waycross sputtered later in the season, so did Medlock. He finished the season well under 1,000 yards and the 'Dogs went 5-4-1.

The 'Dogs may have hit bottom the following spring when they suffered a humiliating 33-0 defeat at the hands of neighboring rival Pierce County.

But defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph, whose chore it is to stop Medlock, said the spring game really doesn't mean a lot. "You never know what a team is trying to accomplish in the spring," he said.

More than winning in Waycross, though, Hyder says his 'Cats just need to play. After two weeks of camp, a week at VHS and, prior to that, three weeks of conditioning, the 'Cats have spent a combined total of six weeks practicing without playing.

5 Wildcats, 3 Vikings Named All Region

West, Goff, Parker, Gandy, Taylor Selected To 1st Team

WAYNE GRANDY
Special To The Times

MOULTRIE — Michael Turner concluded his senior year at Tift County High much as he began it — being recognized as one of the top athletes in Region 1-AAAA.

Last fall, Turner was the region's leading rusher on Tift's state-champion football team. Now, as one of coach Tommy Seward's baseball Blue Devils, Turner has been named as the region's baseball Player of the Year by area sports writers.

The shortstop-pitcher heads a list of 22 players selected to the first and second all-region teams. Tift County, which repeated as region champion, placed three players on the first team and four more on the second unit.

Valdosta's Charles Tarpley was selected as the region's top coach. Despite replacing eight starters off last year's region runner-up team, Tarpley managed to win 19 games and take his team to the region finals.

While Turner was the Blue Devils' top pitcher, compiling an 8-3 record, he was also one of the region's best all-around players and is being coveted by several major league baseball organizations for his skills as an infielder. He was selected to the all-region team as a shortstop and batted .442, hit six home runs and drove in 20 runs for the Blue Devils.

"We had to pitch him because we didn't have any natural pitchers," Seward said pf his four-year starter. "He didn't have to pitch last year because of (Todd) Shiver and (Rusty) Sowell. But he did a good job for us. He's just a good athlete."

Despite some impressive pitching statistics, college and major league scouts envision Turner as an infielder.

"Shortstop is his position," Seward said. "I can't think of anyone who plays it any better. I sure hate to see him go. He's been a large part of our success the last few years."

Joining Turner on the first team infield is Valdosta's Bruce Parker at first base, Lowndes' Alan Taylor at second and Colquitt County's Keith Croft at third. Another Blue Devil, Lee Burgess, joins Jim Turner of Colquitt County and Steve Gandy of Valdosta in the outfield. Stan Shiver of Tift is the first-team catcher.

Valdosta's Ted West and Dougherty's Andy Tucker were selected as the top pitchers.

Jim Turner and Parker led the all-region squad in home runs with seven each. Parker drove in 34 runs for the Wildcats, who went to the region final before being eliminated by Tift County. Three of Turner's home runs came in one game against Valdosta.

Alan Taylor, who also doubled as a pitcher, hit .453 for the Vikings, with four home runs and 29 runs batted in. Croft was the top clutch hitter for the 16-5 Packers, hitting .418 and driving in three game-winning runs.

Gandy, who hit .408, drove in 21 runs for the Wildcats. Burgess added 14 stolen bases and 24 runs batted in to his .423 batting average.

Shiver, who also was an all-region selection in football and has signed a scholarship to play for Bobby Bowden at Florida State, carried a .369 batting average into the state tournament and was acknowledged as the region's outstanding defensive catcher.

A fourth member of Valdosta High on the all-region first team, Fred Goff, was a legitimate designated hitter. Goff hit .440 for the Wildcats, with seven home runs and 33 runs batted in.

West was one of the region's top pitchers for three years and suffered only his first loss in two years against Tift in the region championship series. Another two-sport all-region player, West was 9-1 this year, while striking out 116 batters and posting a 2.22 earned run average.

In his three-year career with the Wildcats, West was 29-4 and appears headed for a collegiate baseball career. Tarpley gave much of the credit for the success of this year's team to the senior righthander.

"Teddy was the only one we had back," he said. "He carried us early. He won the big game for us."

The top pitcher for the North sub-region runnerup Dougherty High Trojans, Tucker was 5-4 and collected 73 strikeouts.

Tift County also placed four players on the all-region second team, including first baseman Zebe Hamiliton, outfielders Darrien Teals and David Cosper and pitcher Chris Taylor. Hamilton and Cosper batted .303 and .307 respectively for the Blue Devils, while Teals parlayed 18 stolen bases with his .337 batting average.

Joining Hamailton in the second team infield are Colquitt's second baseman Terry Robinson, Albany Monroe's third baseman Tony Reid and Thomasville's shortstop Dicky Piland. Robinson handled 76 chances for the Packers during the season and was charged with only one error. Piland batted .350 for the Bulldogs.

Catcher Freddy Walker of Thomasville joined teammate Piland on the second team.

Lowndes High's Chuck Cooper, son of Valdosta State head women's basketball coach Charles Cooper, rounded out the second-team outfield. Cooper hit .390 for Noel George's Vikings, the South sub-region runners-up. Billy Hancock, also of Lowndes, batted .424 and was selected as the second-team designated hitter.

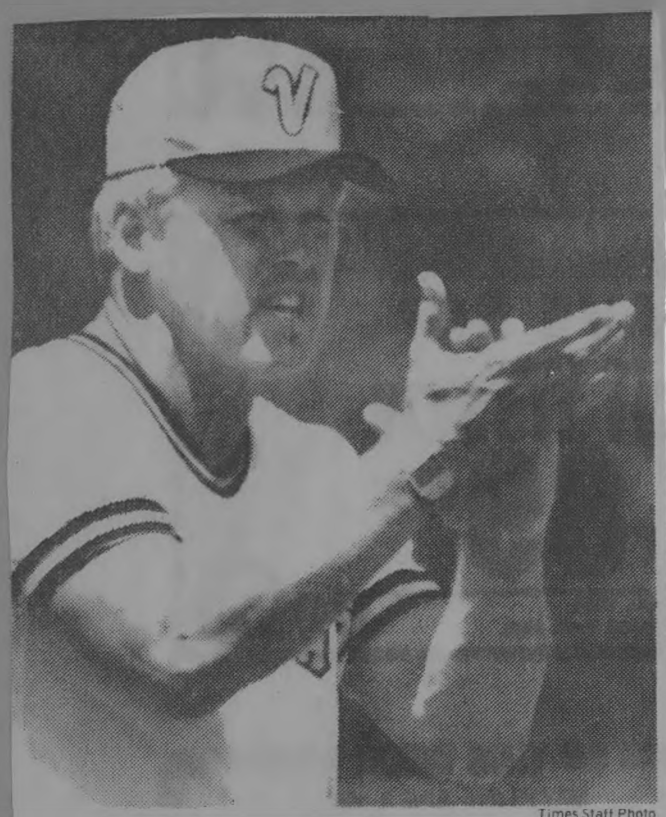
The two pitchers on the second team were Tift's Chris Taylor and Monroe's Louie Goodwin. Taylor had a 6-2 record for the region champions and took a 2.28 ERA into the state tournament. Goodwin, a righthander, was 5-3 for the Tornadoes.

Tarpley credited Valdosta's emphasis on a complete baseball program to this year's success. Of the starters on the 1983 region runner-up team, only West returned.

"We try to have a good program," he said. "We play ninth grade and B-team games and, hopefully, each year we'll have kids coming. We've got it set up so that we have some decent kids coming along to replace the ones who go."

Times Staff Photo.

1st Team All-Region — (l-r) Lowndes' Alan Taylor; Valdosta's Ted West, Fred Goff, Bruce Parker, Steve Gandy



Times Staff Photo

Coach of Year Charles Tarpley of VHS

Tues, May 22, 1984

1984 All-Region 1-AAAA Baseball Team

FIRST TEAM		SECOND TEAM
Bruce Parker, Valdosta	1st Base	Zebe Hamilton, Tift Co.
Alan Taylor, Lowndes	2nd Base	Terry Robinson, Colquitt Co.
Keith Croft, Colquitt Co.	3rd Base	Tony Reid, Monroe
Michael Turner, Tift Co.	Shortstop	Dicky Piland, Thomasville
Lee Burgess, Tift Co.	Outfield	Darrien Teals, Tift Co.
Jim Turner, Colquitt Co.	Outfield	Dave Cosper, Tift Co.
Steve Gandy, Valdosta	Outfield	**Chuck Cooper, Lowndes**
Fred Goff, Valdosta	Designated Hitter	**Billy Hancock, Lowndes**
Stan Shiver, Tift Co.	Catcher	Freddie Walker, Thomasville
Ted West, Valdsta	Pitcher	Chris Taylor, Tift Co.
Andy Tucker, Dougherty	Pitcher	Louie Goodwin

V Times 5-29-85

Nick Hyder Honored

Valdosta High head football Coach Nick Hyder was honored by *USA Today* as its Coach of the Year and linebacker John Porter was honored as a first-team All-American selection by the newspaper at the Valdosta High spring sports banquet.

Hyder was awarded a plaque (a replica of the sports page that honored the All-America team and the coach of the year) for leading Valdosta to the 1984 national championship, while Porter was also awarded a plaque for his outstanding defensive play by serving as the team captain.

It was announced at the banquet that Valdosta had finished third in Region 1-AAAA for the all-sports trophy. Colquitt County was the region winner, three points ahead Tifton and Valdosta finished six points behind Colquitt.

Each sport honored its players. The winners were:

Girls' tennis: Ethel Mitchell (spirit), Terri Longieliere (most improved), and Kristi Stabell (most valuable).

Boys' tennis: Earl Thomas (spirit), Grayden Pierce (most improved), and Eric Anderson (MVP). Anderson made it to the state for the second consecutive year.

Girls' track: Shannon Tinney (spirit), Casandra Ceasar (most outstanding), and Melissa Evans (MVP).

Boys' track: Derrick Folsom (spirit), Hosea Heard (most outstanding), and Randy Bell (MVP).

Golf: Dean Studdard (rookie of the year), Todd Hatcher (most improved), and Walter Aultman (MVP).

Baseball Banquet

Valdosta High held its annual baseball banquet Tuesday.

Sophomore Guy Belue, which compiled an 8-2 record with the varsity and junior varsity, was named the Most Valuable Player. Other awards went to: Steve Milani (most loyal), Brad Coleman (spirit), Trevor Shaw (most improved), Trevor Nance (most outstanding defensive), and Brent Moore (most outstanding offensive).

Junior Varsity awards were also given out to Art Bass (most outstanding defensive), Greg Talley (most outstanding offensive), and B.J. Mason (most outstanding ninth-grader).

Baseball Banquet

V Times 5-28-85

The annual Valdosta High School baseball banquet will be held at the high school cafeteria and little theatre at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 28.

From Alpha Kappa Alpha

Seniors Receive Scholarships

V Times 5-26-85

By Times Staff Writer

Two area seniors have been named recipients of scholarship awards from Kappa Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Veronica Adams of Brooks County High School in Quitman and Keith Marshall of Valdosta High School here will each receive a $500 scholarship award.

The daughter of Blaylock Adams and Mary Adams, Miss Adams was elected president of her senior class, is a member of Beta Club, captain of the Flag Corps, and was elected "Miss Junior." She was a first runner-up in the Miss Brooks County High School pageant and is an honor graduate and Georgia Merit Scholar.

She has been accepted to Spelman College in Atlanta where she will study music. Miss Adams is a member of Bethel AME Church and is organist for the Junior Choir.

Marshall is the son of Odell Marshall and Gwendolyn Marshall. He is a member of the marching band, Student Council, NJROTC and jazz band. He was nominated to *Who's Who Among American High School Students* and a commended student for the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students.

He plans to attend Tuskegee Institute im the fall and major in engineering.

The students were selected by the sorority on the following criteria: (1) must have taken the SAT, (2) maintained a cumulative B average or above, (3) must be accepted to a four year college or university, (4) have three reference, and (5) must write an autobiography and include philosophy of life and career goals.

Sherell Newton is president of Kappa Eta Omega Chapter. Deloris A. Thomas is chairman of the scholarship committee.

Ted West To Sign With VSC Baseball Team

U. Daily Times 5/26/84

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Ted West said Friday night he will sign a grant-in-aid to play baseball at Valdosta State. West confirmed a report he would sign with the Blazers at the Valdosta High baseball banquet where he was named the Wildcats' Most Valuable Player for 1984.

The signing is scheduled for Tuesday at his parents' home.

West, the 1984 *Times* Player of the Year and an All-Region 1-AAAA pitcher, finished this season with a 9-1 record. West was the winning pitcher in 29 of the Valdosta's 45 victories in the last three seasons. He also batted over .400 and hit eight home runs this season.

A number of schools had sought West's services including Georgia, West Georgia and Middle Georgia College. West Georgia offered West a full scholarship in baseball and football as late as Thursday morning.

West was also a member of the *Times* All-Area football team. The 'Cats were 26-1 and won a Class AAAA state championship during West's two years as starting quarterback.

West will become the Blazers' third signee of the 1984 recruiting season.

VSC baseball coach Tommy Thomas said Thursday he had received a verbal commitment from West.

"We think he (West) can help us next year," Thomas said. "We're not just going to try him as a pitcher. We're going to put him in the field and we're going to see what he can do at the plate."

Lorenzo Matchett, who was a co-captain of the Wildcats this year along with West, was named the Best Defensive Player. Matchett played outfield, shortstop and pitcher this season. He was 6-4 on the mound.

Fred Goff and Bruce Parker shared the Best Offensive Player award. Goff and Parker were also members of The *Times* All-Area and All-Region teams.

Outfielder Steve Gandy was named the Most Improved. Gandy was selected to the All-Area and All-Region teams.

The Spirit of the Wildcats award went to Brent Moore.

Art Bass was named the Best Offensive Player on the 9th grade team. Bass had 14 hits and 14 stolen bases in 10 games this year. Catcher Bill Kirby won Best Defensive Player honors.

A pair of pitchers, Ralph Guarino and Joey Crosby, shared Most Valuable Player honors for the B-team. Guarino was 5-1 and Crosby was 3-1 this season.

Manager David Bragg was also presented with a plaque for his four years of service to the baseball team.

The 'Cats, who had one returning starter, finished 18-6 this season. That is the third best finish for a VHS baseball team in school history.