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Wildcats Remember Dynamite Goodloe

By ELLIS POPE
Times Sports Editor

Billy "Dynamite" Goodloe was not just a fan of Valdosta football — he was a tradition.

And this year's Wildcats have chosen to pay tribute to that tradition by dedicating the 1982 season to Goodloe, who died in April of a heart attack at age 62.

"I knew two people when I came to Valdosta," said Valdosta High Football Coach Nick Hyder. "One was Coach Wright Bazemore and the other was Dynamite Goodloe."

"And Dynamite has been a constant supporter of our program. He was more than a friend to me. He was the kind of friend that you could go behind closed doors and take criticism from, constructive criticism."

"Coach Bazemore started the tradition of letting Dynamite come on the sideline during the games and I've just continued it. It meant a lot to the players to have him there with us at the games. They've already said that they miss him."

In order to keep the memory of Goodloe a constant reminder of what he meant to football in Valdosta, the 1982 Wildcats will be wearing "Dynamite" and his high school number, 38, on the back of their helmets.

"We all felt like we should do something this fall in the way of honoring Dynamite," Hyder explained. "We all talked about it sort of informally. The players finally came up with the idea. We have a supper for the seniors every year in July and Kennedy Cooper stood up and said the seniors had talked it over and wanted to dedicate the season to Dynamite."

"We then got together and decided on wearing his name and number on the backs of our helmets."

Goodloe has family ties with two players on this year's team, sophomore

Jeff Davis and senior Jeff Lee. But to Dynamite you didn't have to be blood-kin to be a member of his family.

"He really considered all of the players as his boys," said his daughter Gigi.

"Last year when he heard one of the players' house caught fire and burnt, he went right out and went all over town rounding up clothes for the family. He was always sticking his nose into somebody's business when they needed help. But that was the way he was."

Dynamite's life was not devoted entirely to football. After his playing days at Valdosta High, he went on to play at Georgia Tech and later recruited for the Yellow Jackets under Coach Bobby Dodd.

But Dynamite was as well known, if not more so, for his golfing exploits. One of the top amateur golfers the state of Georgia will ever know, he was also at home at the Masters and the British Amateur. Although he remained an amateur, when Dynamite played in golf tournaments, he was as much as a celebrity as the touring professionals.

"I don't know which he loved the best," said his wife, Gwen. "When he was playing golf I would think he loved that the most, then when he was with his football teams, I thought he loved that. But then when he was on his horses, he looked like he enjoyed that the most. Oh, he loved to ride his horses."

"It seemed like what ever he was doing, he enjoyed it."

"I can tell you he really loved these football players. If he liked you, it didn't take you long to get to know him. But if he didn't like you he wouldn't have anything to do with you."

It would seem Dynamite had an abundance of friends. Whether it was talking football to a recruit in Jesup, or playing golf at St. Andrews in Scotland, Dynamite was at home with people of all walks of life.



Times Staff Photo

Mrs. Goodloe With Helmet Presented By Team

'82 All-Region I-AAAA Football Team

Wildcats Place Nine Players; Three Vikings Selected



Ben Reaves
VHS TE



Pernell Bee
VHS OB



John Porter
VHS LB



Blake Belue
VHS OL



Rob Mitchell
VHS WR



Leon Johnson
VHS DL

Pats' Lee, Dogs Pittman Led Way To Playoffs

By GARY ROBINSON
Special To The Times

ALBANY, Ga. — This year's Region I-AAAA Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year were instrumental in their respective teams making the region playoffs.

Westover halfback Gary Lee (185 sr.) and Thomasville defensive lineman Walker Pittman (220 sr.) were selected by the sports writers from the five region cities to lead the 1982 All-Region team.

Westover coach Paul Lounsberry, who directed the Patriots to an 8-2 record and the South subregion championship, was named Coach of the Year for the second straight year.

"He was the key person in our defense," Thomasville coach Jim Hughes said of Pittman, whose defensive skills helped the Bulldogs to a 7-3 record.

"He gave us the stability we needed on our defensive line," Hughes said, "and that allowed us to build around him. He has good strength when people run straight at him, but his best asset might be the way he pursues the football and the way he stays involved in plays directed away from him."

Lee spent his senior year running away from many defensive players.

He scored 12 touchdowns, including 10 rushing, to lead the region and he was second behind Tift County's Terry Revels in region rushing.

"I think he's very deserving and I think it's a reflection on the rest of the team, too," Lounsberry said. "Coach Danny Hayes did a good job working with him the last two years."

"He certainly provides us the big-play threat. Any time we had the ball, with his speed, we felt we could score throwing or running. That's quite a factor for a defense to consider."

Lee leads an offense that would cause a defensive coach to pull out his hair.

Joining Lee in the backfield are running back Revels (200 jr.), the region's lone 1,000-yard runner and quarterback Lemmie Moore of Thomasville (170 sr.).

Revels gave Tift, the region runner-up, a legitimate up-the-middle running threat to go with quarterback Brian Massingill (200 jr.), the second team quarterback.

Moore missed three games early in the season because of a disciplinary problem, but upon his return, the Bulldogs won six games in a row and made the playoffs. Not the passer Massingill is, Moore made things happen with scrambling ability.

Moore would have a pair of fine outside passing targets in all-region receivers Carl Parker of Lowndes (180 sr.) and Glenn Creech of Albany (185 sr.) Parker finished first and Creech second in region pass receiving statistics.

The first-team offensive line included tackles Anthony Wilson (210 sr.) of Thomasville and Ron Bryant (205 sr.) of Albany, guards King Brown (200 sr.) of Thomasville and David Ewing (190 sr.) of Tift County and center Blake Belue (230 sr.) of Valdosta. Ben Reaves (230 sr.) of Valdosta is the tight end. The placekicker is Westover's Ted Williams (165 sr.), who

kicked 20 of 22 extra points and five field goals.

Joining Pittman as down lineman on the first-team defense are Harry Slaughter (205 sr.) of Colquitt County and Leon Johnson (230 jr.) of Valdosta.

Flanking the trio are ends Horace Lee (184 sr.) of Colquitt County and Eddie Gosier (190 jr.) of Lowndes.

Monroe's Maverick McKinney (205 sr.), Dougherty's Ray (orhen) (210 sr.) and Colquitt County's Kirby Stewart (220 sr.) provide a trio of fast, hard-hitting first-team linebackers.

Defending against the pass are Chris Major (170 sr.) of Valdosta, Dennis Smith (155 sr.) of Westover and and Ulysses White (165 sr.) of Albany.

The first-team punter is Brian Clark (190 sr.) of Colquitt County.

Revels, Parker, Creech, Bryant, Brown, Belue, Ewing and Reaves were unanimous choices on offense. Pittman, McKinney, Major and Smith were unanimous choices on defense.

Joining Massingill on the second team offense are Thomasville's Bobby Harris and Valdosta's Pernell Bee at running back. Thomasville's Curtis Thomas and Valdosta's Rob Mitchell at wide receiver, Tift's Ashley Vickers at tight end, Valdosta's Tony McKinney and Westover's Joey Adams at tackle, Albany's Matt Mobley and Westover's Rick McMillan at guard and Westover's Steve Powell at center. Thomasville's Lloyd Marshall is the kicker.

Lowndes' Billy Hancock and Westover's Alex Loud are the defensive ends, surrounding down linemen Ricky Daniels of Valdosta, Roy Hart of Tift County and Sammy Hicks of Westover. The linebackers are Rodney Renfro of Albany, John Porter of Valdosta and Harold Rauss of Central. Thomasville's Ben Monroe, Westover's Dallis Smith and Tift's Todd Shiver are in the secondary. Monroe's Jeff Swift is the punter.

Lounsberry praised his assistant coaches when informed of his selection as Coach of the Year.

"I'm very happy," Lounsberry said. "This award has to be shared by our assistants, Norm Sims, Don Sonnemaker, Allen Fort, Danny Hayes, Ron Clanton and Tinsley Dozier. Everybody contributed. My part was very small. The assistant coaches did most of the work. I wish it was more representative of the whole staff."

The Patriots, wallowing in the swamp of football mediocrity before Lounsberry arrived in 1979, went 0-10 in each of his first two years, but made the playoffs in 1981 with a 6-4 record. He lost a majority of that team, but improved the Patriots' record to 8-2 and their first subregion championship in 1982.

Region champion Valdosta and Westover each placed nine players on the 48-man squad. Thomasville was next with eight, followed by Tift with six, Albany with five, Colquitt with four, Lowndes with three, Monroe with two and Dougherty and Central with one each.

Participating in the voting were representatives of The Albany Herald, The Moultrie Observer, The Thomasville Times-Enterprise, The Tifton Gazette and The Valdosta Daily Times.



Captain 'Cats

8-22-82

Times Staff Photo

VT

Valdosta High football players voted on the 1982 captains at the conclusion of spring drills this past week and chose Ricky Daniels, 94, as Captain of the 1982 squad. Other captains elected joining Coach Nick Hyder are William Collier (70)

offensive co-captain, Blake Beilue (67) offensive captain, Jeff Lee (18) defensive co-captain. Chris Major, who was not present, was elected defensive captain. — Times Staff Photo.

Waycross is first test for Valdosta

By Earl Fannin
Times-Union Sports Writer

8-27-82

Valdosta may be better this year than Waycross was last year.

And last year, the Bulldogs were good enough to win the Georgia Class AAA state football championship.

But Waycross lost most of its 14-1 championship team, and opens the '82 season tonight against Valdosta, which is ranked No. 2 in the first Associated Press Class AAAA poll. Some folks think the Wildcats will wind up the season No. 1 — if they can survive the Region 1-AAAA wars.

"This [game] is a super challenge for us," Waycross coach Dale Williams says. "We've worked pretty hard trying to fill all the gaps, but we won't know whether or not we're ready to play until Friday night.

"All we can do is try to prepare the best we can, do the best we can and hope for the best."

But playing at home — in the not-so-friendly confines of Cleveland Field, alias Death Valley — before a crowd of about 12,000, Valdosta will be a definite favorite to kick off the year with a victory — a win that would end Waycross' six-game winning streak. Waycross is ranked No. 7 in Class AAA this week.

"Valdosta should have a super team," Williams says. "I know their defense is real big and physical, and they've got a lot of experience and quickness."

Perhaps the biggest key to the 8 p.m. contest will be how well Waycross' young (no starters return) line handles Valdosta's two *Times-Union Super 11* defensive tackles, 6-foot-2, 252-pound Kennedy Cooper and 6-4, 215 Ricky Daniels.

Since star quarterback Todd Williams graduated, Waycross may depend more on its running game this fall, especially since senior tailback Otis Mooring is healthy. Mooring (6-0, 180) broke his wrist in the second game last year, and then re-broke it when he tried to make a comeback just before the playoffs.

He's ticketed as a starter tonight ahead of 6-3, 210 junior James Medlock, who led the Bulldogs with 1,126 yards and 18 touchdowns last year.

"Otis didn't get a chance to play last year, so he's hungry," Williams says. "He's worked real hard in practice. That's why he's in that position [starting]. James has done pretty good, but he just hasn't shown the fight and determination Otis has shown. James is a good athlete, but he'll have to work a little harder in practice."

Of course, Medlock will play, too, especially since Mooring will also start at defensive end. Mooring and *Super 11* tackle Eddie Hill (6-6, 240) are the key Bulldog linemen that have the task of trying to stop Valdosta's explosive, but balanced, offense.

While Doug Sani is solidly entrenched as Williams' replacement at quarterback for the Bulldogs, Valdosta will likely use two quarterbacks all year. Junior Ted West (5-10, 170) and sophomore Berke Holtzclaw (5-11, 160) will split the duties. Both are rated better passers than David Parker, who threw for 1,254 yards and 10 TDs last year, but West is perhaps a better runner than Holtzclaw.

"I like the two-quarterback situation," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder says. "What if something happens to one like in '78 [when John Lastinger dislocated his right shoulder in the 14th game and had to be replaced by John Bond in the state championship game]? Both of our quarterbacks will have to come through if we can be in the hunt where everybody expects us to be."

Valdosta is so deep at running back that last year's No. 2 ground gainer, fullback Ben Reaves, was switched to tight end in the spring. Pernel Bee, a three-year starter who picked up 382 yards last year, is the starting tailback, but the Wildcats have plenty of depth in converted flanker Dana Brinson and senior Herbet Lowe. And then there's freshman Tony Anderson, who may turn out to be the best of the bunch.

The Waycross-Valdosta game (their first meeting since 1973, with Valdosta holding a 32-10-2 edge) is the highlight of tonight's schedule, which includes 110 games across the state. The season actually opened last week with a few games, but tonight is the full-scale opener.

Another good game tonight should be Brunswick at Camden County. Both are playoff hopefuls, but at different levels. Brunswick is a member of Region 3-AAAA, which could be as strong as the Valdosta-led 1-AAAA, while Camden will try to prevent Waycross from winning the Region 1-AAA East title this time.

✓ Times 8-29-82



Times Staff Photo By Joey Varnisco

Glory Days

Billy Broadfoot, director of the Valdosta Boys' and Girls' Clubs, presents former Valdosta High football coach Wright Bazemore with a print of "The Valdosta Wildcats — A Winning Tradition" at a ceremony prior to a Wildcat practice session last Wednesday. The print by artist Paul Miller of Macon is to commemorate 60 years of winning tradition at VHS. Miller is known for such works as "Bobby's Boys" to honor Florida State football and "The Record Breaker" to honor University of Georgia football.

Miller is presently working on a painting for the Clemson national championship. The painting is sold by the Boys' Club. Friday a copy of the print will be given to VHS principal Lloyd Mims for the high school's trophy case in a presentation at the pep rally. "It makes you feel like a million dollars," said Bazemore after the presentation. "Any honor like this is icing on the birthday cake. It's a lasting honor. Down from the bottom of your heart you feel honored."



Preps
Earl Fannin

Times-Union Sports Writer

Valdosta's strength lies in its numbers

Just how good are the Valdosta Wildcats?

Well, if Friday night's 42-14 victory over Waycross (the defending AAA state champions) is any indication, the Wildcats are in for a very long season. As in playing-a-lot-of-playoff-games long.

"We were totally outclassed by a much better team," said Waycross coach Dale Williams, "and they had the depth to play more players in the heat."

Depth is certainly one of Valdosta's virtues. The Wildcats are 2-3-4 deep at almost every position — "except on the offensive line because that's so hard to teach," says coach Nick Hyder. How deep is deep? Well, the Wildcats even have two placekickers, sophomore John Porter and Herbert Lowe. Both kicked three PATs — without a miss — and Porter's kickoffs were consistently deep.

And then there are the Valdosta quarterbacks. Valdosta is the Quarterback Capital of the U.S.A.: Dale Williams (yes, the same guy who now coaches Waycross) quarterbacked Valdosta to back-to-back state championships in 1956-57. In recent years, the Wildcats have produced SEC starters Buck Belue (Georgia), John Bond (Mississippi State) and John Lastinger (Georgia), and 1981 QB David Parker is playing at Princeton this fall (studying to become a surgeon).

The 1982 squad has alternate quarterbacks in junior Ted West and sophomore Berke Holtzclaw. Against Waycross, West hit 3 of 7 passes for 58 yards, including a 16-yard TD to Ben Reeves, while Holtzclaw connected on 3 of 10 for 55 yards, including a 29-yard TD to Dana Brinson. Holtzclaw also rushed for 34 yards on 10 carries while West picked up 16 on 3. West also punted three times for a 38-yard average and caught a 21-yard pass from half-back Pernel Bee. Not overly impressive individual stats, but combined they read: 6 of 17 for 103 yards and two touchdowns passing plus 50 yards on 13 rushes.

"Holtzclaw is a terrific runner, but I thought Teddy ran better than he has in practice," Hyder said.

Valdosta carries two other quarterbacks disguised as wide receivers on its 80-player varsity roster — junior Steve Gandy and sophomore David Thomas. "We pretty much know who are quarterbacks are going to be for the next seven or eight years," Hyder says. "We know who they are down in the fifth and sixth grades. A quarterback is what if you don't have, you don't score."

But the second-ranked Wildcats have more than just good quarterbacks. They might have one of the most dangerous all-purpose backs in the state in 5-foot-9 155-pound junior halfback Dana Brinson. On opening night, Brinson caught a 29-yard touchdown pass from Holtzclaw, rushed for 24 yards on 4 carries, returned a punt for 21 yards and ran back two kickoffs 71 and 27 yards. That totals to 172 yards in total offense on nine plays, and he only played half the game.

Polls Mirror Last Year; Robins 1, Valdosta 2

8-25-82

V. Times

ATLANTA (AP) — After a perfect season, the Georgia AAAA championship and the national title, Warner Robins starts the season at the top of the Associated Press' first 1982 Georgia high school football poll.

Despite coach Bob Davis' protests that "we ain't played a ball game yet," the Demons racked up six first place votes and 77 points from the AP board of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters.

Cedartown took the top spot in the first AAA poll of the young season, with R.E. Lee leading the pack in AA. Commerce, last year's AA champion, is the favorite to take it all in its new class A bracket.

At Warner Robins, Davis' Demons will try to become the first Georgia team to win back-to-back AAAA titles since a running back named William Andrews led Thomasville to championships in 1973 and 1974.

"If we had everybody back, I'd say yeah (to the No. 1 ranking)," Davis said. "But we don't have everybody back."

"We've got about seven starters on defense back, but we lost nine starters on offense, and we're rebuilding the offense completely."

Davis, like most football coaches, won't admit to finding much comfort in the No. 1 ranking.

"You want to be high in the poll at the end of the year, not the beginning," he said. "Polls are great for the fans ... but they're rough on the coaches."

Returning for Warner Robins will be linebacking standout Steve Boswell, while all-state fullback Hank Williams, who rushed for more than 1,000 yards last year, leads the offense.

Ranked second, only five points behind the Demons, is Valdosta, the recipient of two first-place votes. Coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats return nine defensive starters from the squad that gave Warner Robins a 17-14 scare in the state playoffs last year.

Another pre-season favorite, Thomasville, fell to sixth after an early 16-13 upset by Cairo, the new season's sixth-ranked AAA team.

Behind Warner Robins and Valdosta are Newnan, Peachtree, Clarke Central, Thomasville, Lakeside, Central of Macon, Statesboro and Butler.

In AAA, Cedartown Coach John Hill said his top-ranked Bulldogs "ought to be pretty good, if we can stay healthy." The AP board agrees, giving Cedartown 68 points and four first-place ballots.

Points are awarded on a scale from first to 10th, with 10 points for a No. 1 vote, nine for second, and so on.

The Bulldogs, 11-1 last season, are the choice over Dalton, who defeated them for the region 7-AAA title last year. Cedartown returns senior quarterback Jeff Burger and two impressive linebackers, Randy Surret and Dennis Buffington.

Told of his club's No. 1 status, Hill replied, "Terrific — and I say that

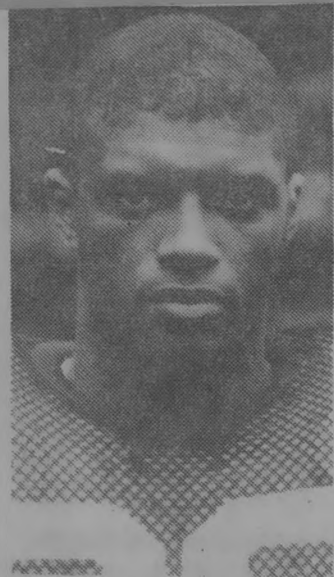


Times Staff Photo

Come On Down

A new ticket window for Valdosta High football tickets was opened Monday on North Slater Street at the Superintendent's Office. Several Valdosta businesses had handled ticket sales in the past, but Jack Kent, finance director, said the tickets could be better handled out of the Superintendent's office. The window will be open for sales to all home and away games Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Season tickets will be available through Friday for the 1982 season. Season tickets are \$20 each and can be reserved by calling the

Superintendent's office. Student tickets for all home games will be available at the high school, junior high and all elementary schools. Student tickets for away games will be sold at the new window only. Single reserve seat tickets are \$4 with general admission and end zone seats \$3. Student tickets are \$2. Kent said by selling the tickets at the new window the tickets could remain on sale at the same location all season. The Wildcats open the 1982 season Friday night in Cleveland Field against the defending state AAA champion Waycross Bulldogs.



PERNELL BEE
'Cat Running Back

sarcastically. When you start out at the top, there's just one way to go."

A strong early-season pick is third-place Bainbridge, 5-5 last year in rugged region 1-AAAA but competing this year in class AAA. The Bearcats return 14 starters from last season.

Rounding out the AAA top 10 are Gainesville, Mitchell-Baker, Cairo, Waycross, Perry and Washington County (tied) and Crisp County.

Three of last season's four AA finalists have gone to other classes this year, while the fourth, sixth-ranked Greene County, will try to rebuild from the loss of 17 seniors.

Taking over the top spot is R.E. Lee, bringing 14 starters back to Thomaston after last year's 11-2 campaign. Eight starters are back on offense, as was evident in a 47-6 spring rout of AAAA Fayette County.

"We lost some good ones on defense, but our offensive unit has looked pretty good," said Coach Tommy Perdue. "We might be No. 50 as far as I know."

The Rebels got three first-place votes, as did West Rome, which finished 11 points back. The Chieftains return six starters each on offense and defense from a 9-1 team last year, including top college prospect David McCluskey, a 6-2, 215-pound fullback-linebacker.

Trailing R.E. Lee and West Rome are, in order, Lincoln County, Mary Persons, Vidalia, Greene County, Cartersville and Oconee County (tied), Brooks County and Russell.

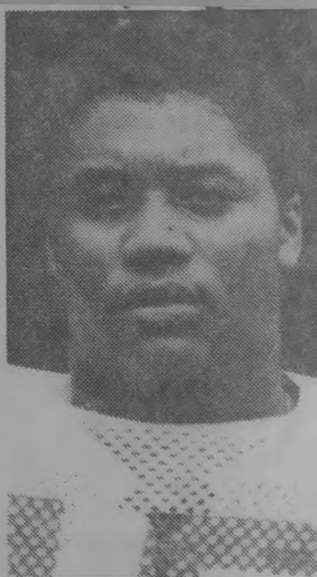
In class A, defending AA state champ Commerce, coming off a 13-1-1 season, won the top spot in its new classification, edging Palmetto.

The Tigers got just two first-place votes — Palmetto received five — but won by three points in the overall voting.

"I wish you hadn't done that," Tigers Coach Ray Lamb told the AP. "We're a long ways off. We're glad folks think that much of us ... but I'd rather be there when the season's over."

Lamb said the drop to class A may not make much of a difference.

"I don't think it'll help. The only game we lost last year was to a class A school, and that was



LEON JOHNSON
'Cat Noseguard

Buford (13-6)."

Daniel Ford, a 6-3, 210-pound lineman on offense and defense, will return for the Tigers, as will split end-turned-quarterback Hal Lamb, the coach's son and a talented senior.

"If we don't get a lot of people hurt, we'll be all right," coach Lamb said. "We've got a very tough schedule this year."

Palmetto, the 11-2 class A North Georgia champion a year ago, returns 14 starters from that team. "With a lot of work, this team can be better than last year's," said coach Thurston Taylor.

Emanuel County Institute took the No. 3 class A spot, followed by Greenville, Buford, a three-way tie between Bremen, Savannah Country Day and Calhoun County, Jenkins County and Metter.

Here is the first 1982 Associated Press Georgia high school football poll of the top teams in the four classifications, with records for teams that have played, their vote point totals and the number of first place votes received. Voting is by the AP's board of sportswriters and sportscasters. Not all voters cast ballots for 10 teams in each class.

- CLASS AAAA**
1. Warner Robins, 77, 6
 2. Valdosta, 72, 2
 3. Newnan, 61
 4. Peachtree, 39
 5. Clarke Central, 32
 6. Thomasville, 0-1, 29
 7. Lakeside, 23
 8. Central of Macon, 22
 9. Statesboro, 16
 10. Butler, 15, 1

Also receiving votes: Benedictine, Coffee, Westside, Glynn Academy, Sprayberry, Griffin, Southwest DeKalb, Laney, Habersham Central, Tift Co., Morrow and Northside of Warner Robins.

- CLASS AAA**
1. Cedartown, 68, 4
 2. Dalton, 51
 3. Bainbridge, 49, 2
 4. Gainesville, 47
 5. Mitchell-Baker, 42
 6. Cairo, 1-0, 40, 2
 7. Waycross, 27
 8. Tie-Perry, 25
 9. Tie-Washington Co., 25, 1
 10. Crisp Co., 17

Also receiving votes: Chamblee, Collins, Americus, Fulton, Walker, Marietta, Thomson, North Springs, Stephens Co., Carrollton, Woodward and Dublin.

- CLASS AA**
1. R.E. Lee, 72, 3
 2. West Rome, 61, 3
 3. Lincoln Co., 58, 1
 4. Mary Persons, 43
 5. Vidalia, 40, 1
 6. Greene Co., 29, 1
 7. Tie-Cartersville, 26
 8. Tie-Oconee Co., 26
 9. Brooks Co., 21
 10. Russell, 16

Also receiving votes: Darlington, Harlem, Claxton, College Park, Irwin Co., Seminole Co., Dooly Co., Upson, Bass, Bleckley Co.

- CLASS A**
1. Commerce, 64, 2
 2. Palmetto, 61, 5
 3. E.C.I., 51, 1
 4. Greenville, 46
 5. Buford, 43
 6. Tie-Bremen, 35
 7. Tie-Savannah Country Day, 35
 8. Tie-Calhoun Co., 35
 9. Jenkins Co., 17
 10. Metter, 16

Also nominated: Hogansville, Douglass, Montezuma, Pelham, Clinch Co., Trion, Wrens, Warren Co., Wilcox, Monticello and Montgomery Co.

Vikings, Wildcats Wrap Up First Week Of Grid Camps

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

With one week under their belts, both Valdosta High's Nick Hyder and Lowndes' Joe Wilson are pleased so far with their summer football camps. Other than a few scrapes and bruises Valdosta has been relatively injury free. Lowndes, on the other hand, has had six players sit out of practice due to various injuries.

Billy Crook is probably the most serious Lowndes injury. The senior defensive back severely sprained an ankle.

Running back Bruce Jones, defensive tackle Robert Byington and offensive guard Don Porter were hampered by shoulder injuries. And wide receiver Two Davis went out with a knee injury.

"I look for them to be back by Friday," Wilson said. Lowndes takes on Cook Friday night at Martin Stadium in the Vikings season open. "They always get well by game time," Wilson said.

One good note from the Wildcat camp. Andrew Preston, starting linebacker on last year's team is expected back at Valdosta's camp at Twin Lakes on Monday morning. Preston lost over 40 pounds, from 180 to 137, for some unknown reason. Considered one of the

The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

top linebackers in the region, Preston was taken to three different hospitals, but the cause of the weight loss was never determined.

"They couldn't find it in three hospitals in four months time," Hyder said. "The doctors have given him the okay to return to camp."

Wilson said the early starting date has not affected his team. "We're pretty well along on schedule," he said. "We had a pretty good week. Got a lot done. I've seen better, but I've also seen worse."

Wilson said the early summer start his Vikings got helped with the hurried preparation for Cook. "We did more in July than we usually do. As far as conditioning goes."

Hyder was also pleased with the way his players prepared themselves over the summer in anticipation of camp. "These youngsters showed up at camp in con-

dition," Hyder said. "It's probably the best conditioned group we've had."

Lowndes will go back to camp Monday morning and continue through Tuesday the same as it did last week. The Vikings will break camp Wednesday with the season opener Friday.

Wilson is not sure what to expect from Cook. He scouted the Hornets in the spring, but they have a new coach since then. Also their probable starting quarterback Friday did not play during the spring. That leaves two unknown elements for the Viking coaching staff to contend with.

Wilson's small offense line was still concerning him Saturday, but the offensive backfield played well last week.

"The offensive line is always critical," Wilson said. "They're real small."

"Randy (Gay, starting quarterback) threw the ball

exceptionally well. Also his backup, Bob Eason, played well.

"Lorenzo Thomas ran the ball better than I expected," Wilson said.

Offensively, Wilson said, Lowndes will be a better balanced team this year running and throwing the ball. Defense remains a question mark. "We've got the talent," he said.

Returning starters have made camp much easier for Hyder. The only real change on offense is at quarterback and 10 starters return on defense for the Wildcats.

Teddy West and Burke Holtzclaw are battling for the starting quarterback spot. "That's the main adjustment," Hyder said.

"Overall the defense at this point is always ahead," Hyder said. "Nobody has polished blocking. It takes a long time to teach blocking."

Valdosta returns to camp at Twin Lakes Monday morning and will go all week like last week. The Wildcats break camp Friday with their annual picture day slated for 3:30 that afternoon. Captains will also be elected on Friday. Picture day is open to the public.

Valdosta will have a scrimmage Friday at 5 p.m. which should last an hour.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Aug. 15, 1982-9-B-



Times Staff Photo By Robert Winter III

Valdosta Goes Through Drills At Its Camp In Twin Lakes

Valdosta Wins Third Straight

'Cat Defense Mugs Tornadoes

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor
(Final stats on Page 9)

ALBANY — The Valdosta defense didn't wait very long to establish the tempo here Friday night at Hugh Mills Stadium in the Wildcats' 35-0 pounding of Monroe.

In fact, the Valdosta defense didn't do any waiting at all in the sub-region 1-A AAAA North match.

Monroe head coach Willie Thomas must have known within the first minute of the game that his Tornadoes, now winless in three starts, would be in for a long evening against the state's top-ranked Class AAAA football team.

Only 32 seconds had ticked off the stadium clock when Valdosta linebacker John Porter stepped in front of a pass from the Tornadoes' Curtis Marshall on the game's first play from scrimmage and sauntered into the end zone from 32 yards out.

It would be that kind of night for Monroe and Marshall, who finished the game with only three completions in 11 attempts for 31 yards.

And while the Monroe offense was having trouble moving the ball, the Wildcats intercepted two passes.

As if Porter's interception return for a touchdown wasn't enough, the other theft of a Marshall pass also resulted in a TD.

That one came with 9:55 remaining in the first half when the Wildcats' Chris Major snared a Monroe pass at the Valdosta 36-yard-line, cut across to the left and blew down the sideline to score the third of Valdosta's four touchdowns of the first half.

"I think we intimidated them a little bit on defense," said Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder, whose squad stormed to its third victory in as many games. "I'd say that Porter's interception on the first play was the dominating factor in the ball game, as it turned out."

The Monroe attack never was able to mount any kind of serious threat against a Wildcat defense which was once again totally in command of the game. The Tornadoes, who would only cross into 'Dosta territory on one occasion, were held to four first downs while showing just 42 yards in total offense.

The Valdosta attack, meanwhile, ground out 13 first downs with 140 of its 235

total yards coming on the ground. Playing in a constant, downpour of rain, the Wildcats didn't attempt to execute too much in the way of fancy offense, but relied largely upon straight-ahead power.

"I thought that, for the wet

end zone came at the end of the Wildcats' first offensive possession of the night. After Porter's interception return for a touchdown gave the Wildcats a 6-0 lead, Valdosta held the Tornado offense on downs and set up on the Monroe 46.

lead with 2:41 left in the opening period.

After Major's interception return for Valdosta's third touchdown of the game, the Wildcats pounced on another Monroe miscue, turning it into six more points.

The Tornadoes fumbled the snap from center at their own 40 and the 'Cats' Jerry Freeman fell on the ball 4 yards behind the line of scrimmage to put Valdosta in business again.

With Holtzclaw at the controls this time, the Wildcats stalled after losing 2 yards to the Monroe 38, but West's punt was fumbled at the Monroe 11 and Valdosta was there to recover.

From there, it took five plays to drive into the end zone. The touchdown came when Holtzclaw spotted Mark Perry and nailed him with an 8-yard strike to give the Wildcats a 28-0 lead with 4:06 left in the first half.

Still another Monroe error resulted in a Valdosta touchdown when the 'Cats' Leon Johnson recovered a Tornado fumble at Monroe's 18. Five plays later, Brinson barreled through the left side of the Wildcat offensive front to close out the scoring.

The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

weather, we handled the ball pretty well," Hyder said. "But we were prepared for the weather, and we didn't fall apart in it."

Thirty-seven of the Wildcats' 60 offensive plays were on the ground. Fullback Tony Anderson did most of the leg work, picking up 51 yards on 14 carries. Sophomore quarterback Berke Holtzclaw carried seven times for 28 yards and Dana Brinson had 14 yards on six attempts, with two of those coming on 1-yard touchdown runs.

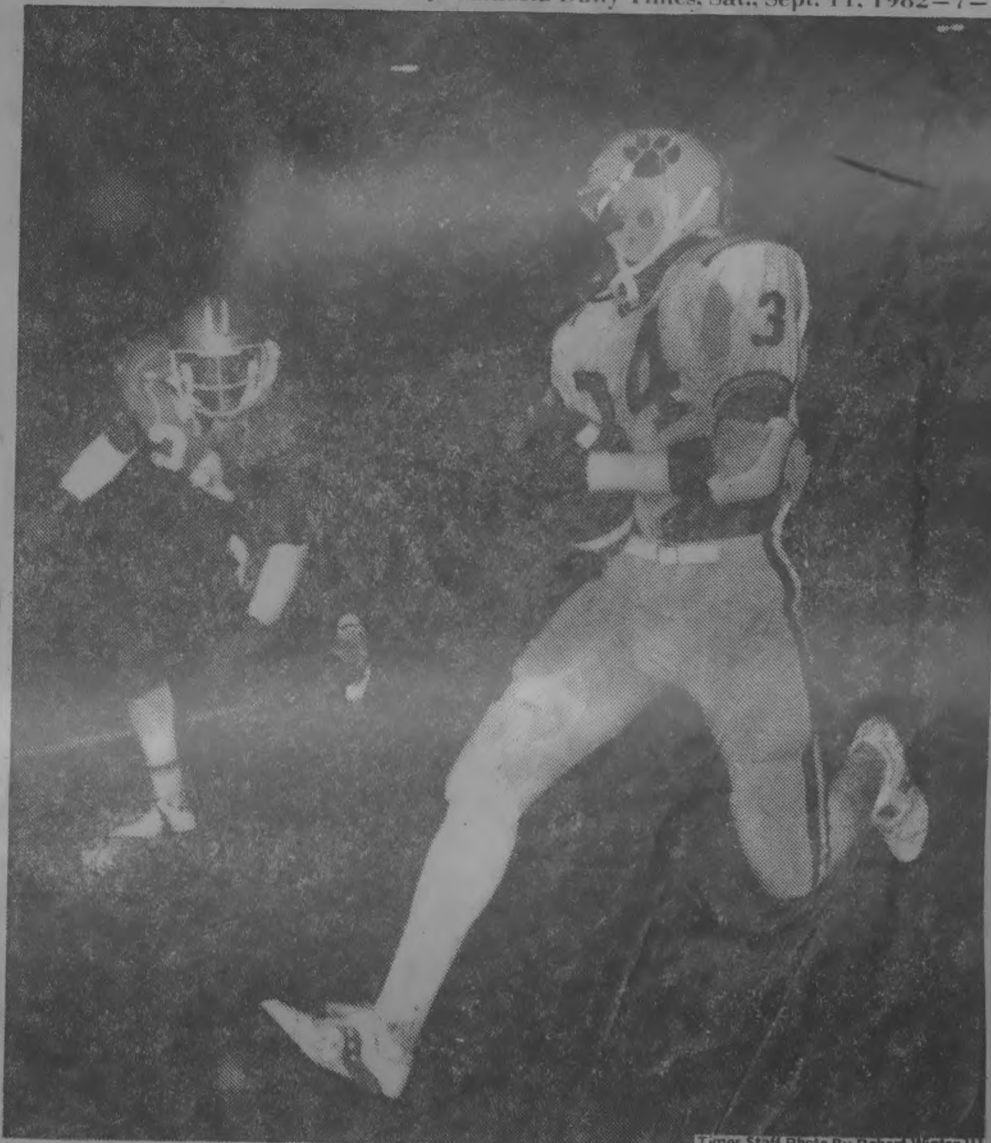
Brinson's first bolt into the

With quarterback Ted West at the throttle, the 'Cats stayed on the ground, with the exception of a 9-yard pass to tight end Ben Reaves.

In all, Valdosta used 15 plays and over six minutes of the first-quarter clock, and with a fourth-and-goal at the one, Brinson plunged over for Valdosta's second TD of the night.

Porter's first PAT attempt had failed, so the Wildcats attempted the two-point conversion and were successful on West's toss to Brad Martin to give Valdosta a 14-0

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Sept. 11, 1982 - 7 -



Times Staff Photo By Robert Winter III

Cats' Rob Mitchell Cuts Toward Sideline

'Cats Need Little Help In Whipping Westover

By DAN CHILDS

Times Sports Editor

ALBANY — The Valdosta Wildcats got a little help from their neighbor's up north Friday night, and Saturday at Hugh Mills Stadium they helped themselves out in impressive fashion as they thoroughly subdued an outmanned Westover team 27-6.

The 'Cats, now 2-0 on the year, had gone into the weekend ranked No. 2 in the Associated Press Class AAAA high school football poll, but Clark Central cleared the way for them to move to the penthouse as they handed the top-ranked Warner Robins Demons their first loss of the year.

That left Valdosta as the heir apparent to the state's top ranking, and they handled their newly-found status in a fitting manner as they overwhelmed Westover.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of the contest was the Wildcat defense which, with the exception of a 56-yard TD jaunt by Westover halfback Gary Lee in the third quarter, kept the speedy Patriot runners bottled up.

Lee's picturesque foot race into the end zone, in fact, marked the only first down the Patriots would post on the evening.

Valdosta Head Coach Nick Hyder had remarked a few days prior to the game that the speed of Lee and the rest of the Westover backs had him a little concerned. But the Patriot running attack would only garner 89 yards on a frustrating night that saw their record on the season drop to 1 and 1.

While the defense was shutting off whatever attempts at success the Westover offense made, the Wildcat attack was putting on a display of its own. Valdosta not only made the most of the opportunities presented it by the defense, but it proved capable of sustaining itself on extended drives.

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"I am proud of the entire team," Hyder said. "I think our defense made progress tonight, and the offensive line all played very well, I thought."

He also noted the performances of a pair of the Wildcat running backs, Pernell Bee and Tony Anderson. Bee was the point man for Valdosta, scoring three touchdowns and leading the rushing game with 65 yards on 11 carries. But Anderson was the workhorse, picking up 53 yards in 18 attempts.

Again, the Wildcats went with both quarterbackbacks, Ted West and Berke Holtzclaw. West, however, saw the greater share of the action as he started the game, accounting for 139 yards in total offense.

The Wildcats went to the air freely against Westover putting the ball up 31 times with 13 completions for 118 yards. West was 12 of 20 in the passing department for 121 yards.

Valdosta's well-turned attack got right down to business from the outset of the game. After nine plays on their initial possession the Wildcats found themselves facing a fourth and five at the Westover 15. The drive, however, ended on West's incomplete pass which was intended for Rob Mitchell in the end zone.

After the Patriots' ensuing possession netted nothing, the Valdosta offense was back in action. The 'Cats began at Westover's 49 and assembled a 10-play drive with the key plays coming on West's passes to Tony Brinson and Mitchell. The payoff came when Bee

squirted through the right side from three yards out, giving the Wildcats their first point two seconds into the second quarter. John Porter booted the first of his three PAT's and Valdosta led seven to nothing.

A short punt after Westover's following possession left the 'Cats looking at good field position as they started another drive at their own 47. This time, they negotiated the distance in 12 plays, the last one coming on fourth and goal at the Patriot one. Valdosta called Anderson's number and the fullback muscled through the right side of the line and across the goal line. With 5:54 remaining in the first half, the Wildcats up by a pair of touchdowns, the Westover side of the arena began to grow sullen.

It could have gotten worse for the Patriots a moment later but they momentarily dodged disaster. Lee fumbled the kickoff at Westover's 32, but four Holtzclaw passes fell incomplete and the Patriots took over on downs.

But with 1:04 remaining in the first half, the Pat's again aired, and this time they were made to pay.

A pass by Westover backup quarterback Tim Richardson was intercepted in Wildcat territory by Jeff Spivey and returned a 32 yards to the Patriot 43. From there, it took the 'Cats six plays and less than a minute to score as they took command 21-0 on the three-yard touchdown run on a pitchout to the left side.

Valdosta added its final points of the evening in the third period as they marched 80 yards in seven plays for a touchdown. Again, it was Bee applying the final touch as he swept around left end from three yards away. Porter's PAT attempt was blocked.



Valdosta's Tony Anderson Gets Sandwiched By Westover

Valdosta Regains Winning Form

VTimes 1-23-81

By Times Staff Writer
THOMASVILLE — Both the Wildcats and Lady Wildcats rebounded with victories Friday night as Valdosta returned from Central of Thomasville with two victories.

The Lady Wildcats defeated the Lady Yellow Jackets 58-43 while the 'Cats took the better end of a 71-68 count.

The Lady Wildcats improved their record to 10-4 with the win and the 'Cats upped their mark to 9-7.

The Lady Wildcats established the tempo of the game from the very outset. Valdosta jumped on the Lady Yellow Jackets with a press that forced Central into numerous turnovers that enabled Valdosta to jump out on top with a 19-4 first-quarter lead.

"We learned from our scouting reports that we

could press them," said Valdosta Head Coach Jo Ellis. "Our girls did a terrific job with the press and we got 31 steals because of it.

"Armelua Lewis had a good defensive night. She was here, there, just all over the court.

"And I was pleased to see us get on the boards like we did. Andrea Roberts led us with 11 rebounds, but most everyone did a good job of rebounding. Not rebounding is the reason we got beat Tuesday in Moultrie, so I was anxious to see how we responded against Central."

After taking a 33-16 lead at the half, the Lady Wildcats relaxed at the start of the second half and got outscored 14-10 and Central cut the Valdosta lead to 43-30. But Valdosta picked the tempo back up in the final quarter to preserve the win.

The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

Lewis and Veronica Melvin led Valdosta's balanced scoring attack with 13 and 12 points. Bridgett Harrell and Roberts were not far behind each chipping in 10 points.

The Lady 'Cats registered 26 field goals but connected on only 7-17 from the free throw line.

After a sluggish start, the Wildcats got cranked up just enough to take a one-point 33-32 lead at the half. The Wildcats never lost the lead the remainder of the game,

although the Yellow Jackets made it close.

Valdosta never led by more than seven points in the final period and Central managed to cut the Wildcat lead to just three at the buzzer.

Jerome Berrian led the Wildcats in scoring with 25 points and he also pulled down 11 rebounds. Valdosta got a big lift from Mark Artis, who came off of the bench to score 14 points.

In the "B" team game, the Wildcats won their third in a

row with a 47-31 victory over Central. Todd Gamble led the scorers with 29 points as Valdosta bettered its record to 6-2.

Valdosta is scheduled to take on Thomasville on the road Tuesday. The Thomasville girls are 6-8 while the boys are 12-2.

GIRLS		19	33	43	58
Valdosta		4	16	30	43
Central		1	1	1	1
COT (43) — Abrams 19, Thompson 8, Petray 6, Cleveland 6, Robinson 2, Edwards 2.					
Team Totals: Field Goals 19, Free Throws 5 of 10, Fouls 14.					
VHS (58) — Lewis 13, Melvin 12, Harrell 10, Roberts 10, Peeler 7, Conaway 4, C. Weatherspoon 2, S. Weatherspoon, Henderson.					
Team Totals: Field Goals 26, Free Throws 6 of 17, Fouls 15.					

Tide Stadium Could Grow

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — A University of Alabama committee is studying the feasibility of expanding the Bryant-Denny football stadium from 60,000 seats to 80,000.

University president Dr. Joab Thomas appointed the committee, headed by Roy Killingsworth, director of physical planning and facilities and a professor of civil engineering at Alabama.

Killingsworth said Friday the committee will hold its first meeting next week and will look at several alternatives for construction and financing.

Robert Wright, the university's acting vice president for financial affairs, said one possibility of raising money would be to charge higher prices for choice seats.

Valdosta Looking To Break Streak

By ELLIS POPE

Times Sports Editor

BAINBRIDGE — When the Valdosta Wildcats open the 1981 season here tonight at 8 p.m. against the Bearcats, they will be searching for a victory.

All football teams look for victories but hunting for one at Valdosta is unheard of. They are usually gathered in bunches.

Although the Wildcats finished the 1980 season with an 11-1 record, it is not one head coach Nick Hyder can look back on with much satisfaction.

"We have not won our last three games," Hyder said. "We lost the last game of the season last year to Lowndes (for the region 1-AAAA championship), we were tied in our Has-Been game in the spring and we lost to Waycross in our spring game.

"The last three games we have not been able to win and that is something this football team is going to have to think

about."

One would expect Valdosta's tradition would be enough to break that non-winning streak and present the Wildcats with their first victory of the season tonight against Bainbridge. The Bearcats won only one game in 1980 and that was by one point over Westover of Albany, a team that did not win any games. Bainbridge also has a new head coach in Ralph Jones.

"I don't understand why Jimmy Hightower would want to leave Bainbridge," Hyder wondered. "They didn't have a good record last year, but he was new and they had had some problems at Bainbridge.

"But from all our scouting reports and what we saw last year, they have some fine athletes. If their new coach can get all that talent to play for him, Bainbridge could have a fine team."

Hyder said that he wished his Wildcats were in better



DAVID PARKER
Experienced QB

physical shape to open the season.

"We've got several players with nagging type injuries and bruises that might prevent them from being full speed, but we will just have to



KEITH SAMPSON
Deadly Foot

overlook that," Hyder said.

But what Hyder cannot overlook is that two of his starting linemen will not see action.

Billy Broadfoot, a 180-pound senior offensive guard,

is still out due to a shoulder injury suffered during the first week of fall practice.

Also sidelined is all-region tight end Edwin Robinson. The 6-foot-1, 185-pounder is recovering from knee surgery and his condition is to be based on week-to-week progression.

Ben Reaves, a 196-pound junior is to start at tight end in the place of Robinson. Reaves has also worked out at quarterback and fullback.

Tony McKinney is to move in at the guard position vacated by Broadfoot. McKinney is a 215-pound junior who was expected to see plenty of action before Broadfoot's injury.

David Parker returns for his senior year at quarterback after directing the Wildcats into the playoffs last year as a junior. Ted West, a sophomore backup, has a broken thumb, but is expected to handle the punting chores.

Hyder is expecting more

speed out of his backfield than the unit generated in the spring-game loss to Waycross. Pernel Bee, who was not at full speed for the spring game, is healthy and is at fullback. Frederic Motes, one of the fastest players on the team, has been moved from flanker back to tailback.

If the Wildcat offense can put the touchdowns on the board, Valdosta has the foot to get the extra points in Keith Sampson.

Valdosta Probable Starting Lineup

OFFENSE
 TE Ben Reaves, jr. 196; T-Victor Waymon, jr. 195; G-Joe Wetherington, sr. 195; C-Blake Belue, jr. 210; G-Tony McKinney, jr. 215; T-William Collier, jr. 190 or Joe Henry, sr. 160; SE-Brad Martin, jr. 180 or Rob Mitchell, jr. 152; FLK-Mark Perry, jr. 155 or Dana Brinson, so. 153; QB-David Parker, sr. 165; TB-Frederic Motes, sr. 160; FB-Pernel Bee, jr. 178.

DEFENSE
 E-Ozell Ramsey, jr. 168; T-Horace Beaufort, sr. 170 or Ricky Daniels, jr. 180; MG-Willie Scott, sr. 172; T-Kennedy Cooper, jr. 225; E-Charles Arnold, sr. 184 or James Robinson, jr. 160; LB-Todd Edwards, sr. 202; Andrew Preston, jr. 175 or Ty Davenport, sr. 175; CB-John Porter, jr. 180; Chris Major, jr. 160 or Aundra Irvin, so. 144; SS-Derrick Folsom, jr. 155 or Jeff Spivey, jr. 140; FS-Jeff Lee, jr. 160.

Sports Briefs

Valdosta Claims Second

From Staff, Wire Reports

The Valdosta High girls' cross country team organized just three weeks ago, captured the Region 1-AAAA championship Saturday at Albany Junior College.

Valdosta finished with 24 points followed by Westover, 33, and Colquitt County 75.

The top two teams from each region advance to the state meet to be held in Atlanta Nov. 15. The seven-member girls team earned the trip, but the boys' team failed to finish either first or second. However, Robert Durham finished second overall with a time of 16:04 for three miles and will advance to the state. The top five individuals also receive invitations to the state meet.

Darlene McCormick led the girls' team with a second place finish and a time of 12:58 for two miles behind the winning time of 12:39. Veronica Melvin finished third, 13:07; Cindy Cooper fourth, 13:16; Kim Gandy seventh, 13:49 and Beverly Wilson eighth, 13:56. Karen Ingram and Linda Pitre finished 12 and 14 respectively.

11-2-80
VTimes

Valdosta Embarrasses Waycross, 42-14

The Valdosta Daily Times
SPORTS

By ELLIS POPE
Times Sports Editor

Daniels to account for the Bulldogs' points. "I don't think I have ever seen us play a better first half for our first game of the season," said Valdosta Head Coach Nick Hyder. "I was extremely proud of the way our youngsters played both offensive and defensively. About the only thing I saw wrong with the first half was that we did not score on our first possession."

"We did not do as much the second half as I would have liked. I was disappointed that we didn't get to play everybody. There were a few youngsters who did not get in the game. After we got the big lead, I was hoping we could play everyone."

Hyder did get a good look at both of his quarterbacks, Ted West and Berke Holtzclaw. West, a junior, started the game and directed the Wildcats on their first scoring drive of the night. West ran the option as if he were raised on an Oklahoma wishbone. Holtzclaw entered the game to get the Wildcats their second TD when the sophomore signal caller went to the air and lofted a 20-yard pass to Dana Brinson.

Valdosta's attack was so balanced in the first half the 'Cats had 103 yards each on the ground and through the air. Valdosta's defense held Waycross to 76 yards on the ground and 40 yards in the air the first half. The Bulldogs caught the 'Cats on statistics in the second half, but most of the yardage came in the fourth quarter against reserves after the game had been won.

"I think they (Valdosta) were looking to sting us after we beat them in that spring game," said Waycross Coach Dale Williams, who once played for the Wildcats. "Valdosta is a great team. I did not see any weaknesses. We only returned three

STATISTICS

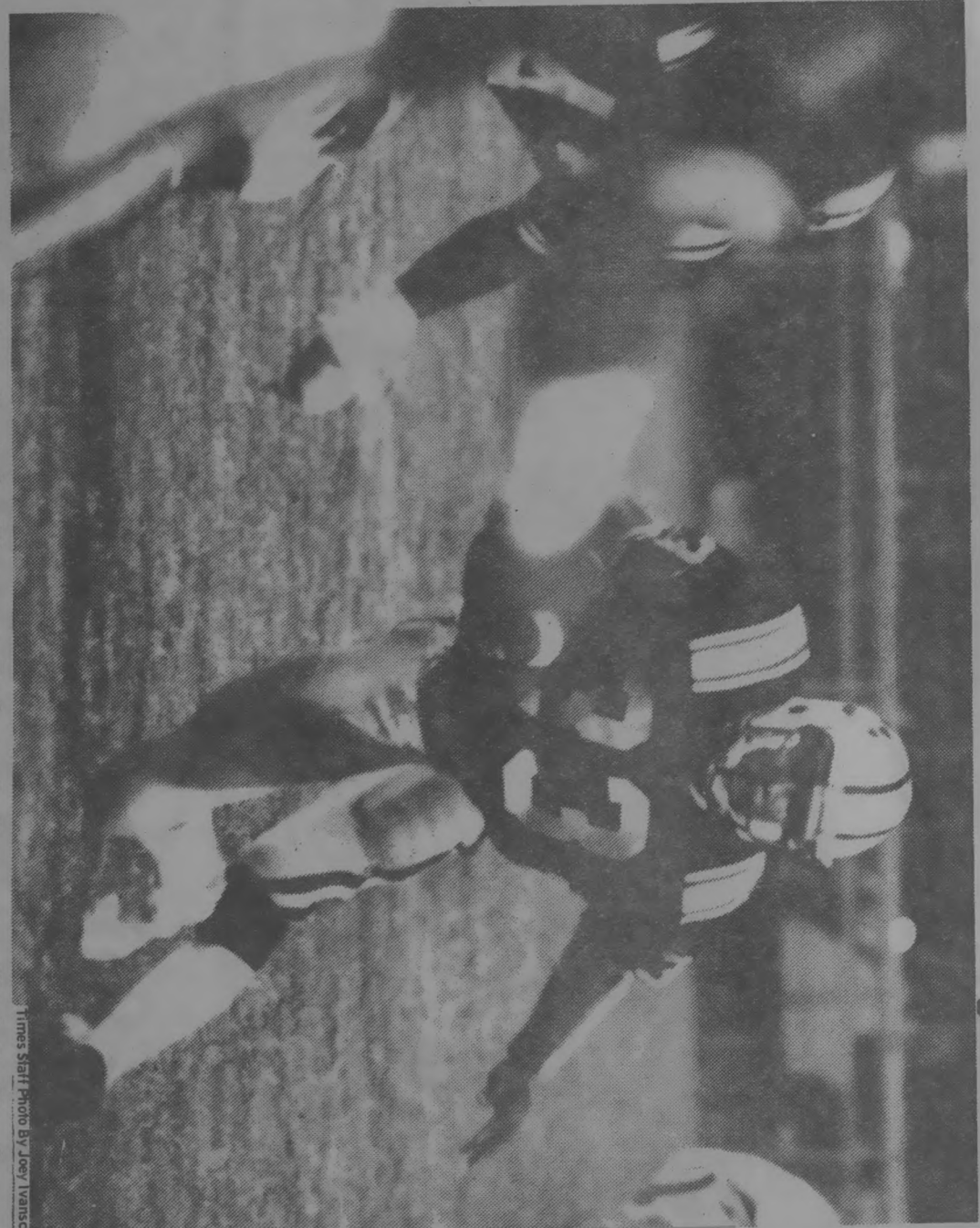
	WHS	WHS
First Downs	16	19
Yards Rushing	169	111
Yards Passing	134	111
Passes	7-18	7-19
Passes In Comp. By	5	0
Fumbles Lost	3-37	5-27
Penalties	6-60	4-29

The Wildcats dominated the game from the start and built a 28-0 lead at the half spurred by the memory of a spring football game two years ago.

"We haven't forgotten that," said senior tackle Blake Belue. "The game was over and they went for two points. There wasn't any need for them to go for two when they had already won the game. We all remembered that and that, more than anything, fired us up."

The Wildcats proved their superiority by rolling up a 35-0 lead in the third quarter scoring on the ground, through the air and on a pass interception.

When the Wildcats took the second half kickoff and drove 65 yards in seven plays to take a five-touchdown lead, it was evident the Bulldogs had been whipped with all but two minutes still to play in the second half.



Times Staff Photo By JOEY VANSCO

Dana Brinson Cuts Back On Waycross Defense In Returning Kick 71 Yards

starters on offense and four on defense and we had much game experience. We will have to regroup and hope we get better when our players' get more game time.

Valdosta's three premier running backs senior Pennell Bee, Brinson a junior and freshman Tony Anderson

The combination worked so well, the 'Cats went back to it on the next down with West rolling to his left, hitting Reaves in the flat and the big senior pushed his way into the end zone to give Valdosta a lead it would never think about surrendering. John Porter kicked the first of three straight PAT's and Valdosta led 7-0 with 2:08 left to play.

The Valdosta defense took over to get the 'Cats next two scores. Jeff Spivey intercepted a pass at the 44 on Waycross' first play following the 'Cats TD. Holtzclaw now at the controls, the 'Cats went back to the air and the sophomore passed 29 yards to Brinson, who had four steps on his defender, to give Valdosta a 14-0 lead with 56 seconds left in the first quarter.

Waycross was able to run just two plays following the second touchdown before Valdosta was back in the end zone with its third TD. Sophomore linebacker John Porter stripped in front of a Doug Sani pass at the Bulldog 17-yard line and streaked into the end zone making it 21-0 with 11:53 to go in the half.

Waycross did manage to get a first down on its next possession when 215-pound junior James Medlock ran 19 yards. But that was all the Bulldogs could gain and punted to the 'Cats at the Valdosta 49-yard line.

Valdosta then marched the 51 yards in 12 plays with Brinson scoring from the two for a 28-0 lead after Herbert Lowe kicked the PAT this time with 6:57 left to play in the half.

When the 'Cats came out the second half, it was more of the same. Valdosta took the second half kickoff at its own 35-yard line and in just seven plays found themselves leading 35-0.

West passed 31 yards to Rob Mitchell on the second play of the half to give Valdosta a first down at the Waycross 32-yard line. Bee set up the TD run with a 14-yard burst to the five. Anderson then got the call for the score.

Waycross got a break late in the quarter when Dexter Paulk recovered a Holtzclaw fumble at the Valdosta 27-yard line. Nine plays later the Bulldogs got on the scoreboard when Michael Taylor, quarterback squeezed into the corner of the end zone on third down.

Anderson scored his second TD of the night with 8:06 left to play in the game from two yards out capping a six-play drive that covered 48 yards. Anderson helped set up his own TD when he struck for two 17-yard runs along the way. Lowe's third PAT gave the 'Cats a 42-7 edge.

Waycross scored the final blow of the night down the left sideline for a 63-yard TD. Daniels rushed three times in the game for 77 yards.

Brinson, who carried the ball just four times, but had 24 yards, saw more action returning kicks. The junior speedster brought the crowd to its feet following Waycross' first TD when he returned the kick 71 yards to the Bulldog 22-yard line.

"I thought I was going to be able to score when I broke in the clear," Brinson said. "But their man cut out like I did and I thought he was going to cut in."

Valdosta Still On Top,

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Sept. 15, 1982—17—

Lowndes On The Horizon

By The Associated Press

Three of the four top-ranked teams in Georgia high school football held on this week, but a pack of upsets in class A left a new team, Bremen, standing at the top of the list.

Valdosta, 3-0, racked up 89 vote points and eight first place ballots on the way to a second week at No. 1 in class AAAA. Cedartown, with a 2-0 mark, compiled 85 points and six first place votes to top AAA, while R.E. Lee, also at 2-0, got 85 points and five nods for first in AA.

A dramatic shift in the poll came in AAAA, where Warner Robins, the defending state and national champion, came off its second loss in as many weeks and fell from the top 10 entirely, just two weeks after standing at No. 1.

Votes count on a scale of 10 points for first, nine for second and so on. Voting is by the AP's board of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters.

At Bremen, Larry Weatherington's team may be new at No. 1, but he knows what the ranking means.

"I wish you hadn't told me that," he said. "You don't always want to be up there. As soon as you get No. 1, wow — everybody's gunning for you after that."

The Blue Devils, who beat Villa Rica 33-0 last Friday, have been led by Michael Parham, the senior split end and free safety who Weatherington calls the team's "one college

AAAA

1. Valdosta 3-0, 89, 8
 2. Clarke Central 3-0, 81, 1
 3. Peachtree 3-0, 69
 4. Central Wilcox 3-0, 57
 5. Tift Co. 2-0, 51, 31
 6. Benning 3-0, 31
 7. LeGrange 2-0, 22
 8. Spalding 2-0, 21
 9. Statesboro 2-1, 16
 10. Westside 2-0, 10
- Also receiving votes: Cedar Shoals, Warner Robins, Lowndes, Columbus, Marietta, Baldwin, Newnan, Walton, Groves.

AAA

1. Cedartown 2-0, 85, 6
 2. Cairo 3-0, 82, 3
 3. Gainesville 3-0, 70
 4. Americus 3-0, 56
 5. Perry 2-0, 53
 6. Bainbridge 2-1, 35
 7. Mitchell Baker 2-1, 34
 8. Carrollton 2-0, 16
 9. The North Springs 2-0, 9
 10. The Franklin Co. 3-0, 9
- Also receiving votes: Waycross, Camden Co., Dublin, Washington Co., Dalton, Fitzgerald, Stockbridge and Crisp Co.

AA

1. R.E. Lee 2-0, 85, 5
 2. West Rome 2-0, 83, 3
 3. Lincoln Co. 3-0, 75, 1
 4. Pierce Co. 3-0, 46
 5. Cartersville 1-0-1, 42
 6. Manchesler 2-0, 28
 7. Greene Co. 2-1, 27
 8. Turner Co. 3-0, 18
 9. Claxton 2-1, 17
 10. Many Persons 1-1, 14
- Also receiving votes: Vidalia, Jackson, Feldwood, Cedar Grove, Russell, East Rome, Model, Seminole Co., Pike Co., Washington-Wilkes and Morgan Co.

A

1. Bremen 3-0, 78, 6
 2. Hogansville 2-0, 64
 3. Calhoun Co. 3-0, 63, 1
 4. Commerce 2-1, 52, 1
 5. Palmetto 2-1, 49, 1
 6. E.C. 2-1, 43
 7. Wether 2-1, 35
 8. Facell 3-0, 33
 9. Savannah Country Day 1-1, 23
 10. Atkinson Co. 3-0, 15
- Also receiving votes: S.E. Bulloch, Adairsville, Brookstone, Arnold, Mt. Zion, Warren Co., Clinch Co., Jefferson.

prospect."

Bremen's route from fourth to the top was cleared when Commerce, Emanuel County Institute and Savannah Country Day were all upset last weekend.

In AAAA, Clarke Central rode a 50-7 romp over Northeast Macon to second place with one vote for first. Peachtree

jumped a spot to third, followed by Central-Macon, Tift County and Benedictine.

LaGrange entered the rankings at No. 7, followed by another newcomer, Coffee. Statesboro placed ninth, followed by newcomer Westside.

Newnan, ranked third last week, was shut out by LaGrange

and fell from the rankings, as did Warner Robins, a 17-7 loser to Cedar Shoals.

In AAA, Cedartown sits at No. 1 for the fourth straight week, followed by Cairo, which got three first place votes. Gainesville rose from fifth to third, followed by Americus, up four spots. Perry is in fifth place, followed by Bainbridge and Mitchell-Baker. Five newcomers round out the rankings — Carrollton and four teams tied for ninth: North Springs, Franklin County, Chamblee and Stephens County.

Three losers fell from the AAA poll: Dalton, Crisp County and Dublin.

R.E. Lee, the only No. 1 team this year in class AA, stayed on top again, followed closely by West Rome, only three points behind with three votes for first. Lincoln County came in third, followed by Pierce County, Cartersville, Manchester, Greene County, Turner County, Claxton and Mary Persons. Turner County rode a 7-6 victory over Dooly County to its first appearance in the rankings, while Russell, a loser to North Springs, fell from the elite.

Following Bremen in the class A shakeup were Hogansville, up a whopping five notches with a 42-6 walk over Central-Taibotton, and Calhoun County, up three. Commerce, last week's top A team, fell to fourth with its 25-22 loss to Franklin County, while Palmetto stayed at fifth.

VHS An Obstacle For Resurgent Albany

Times 9-23-82

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

It doesn't take an expert in voice analysis to note the hint of resignation in Albany Woodham's voice when he says "We're up here trying to build a program, and once a year we run into Valdosta." Woodham, in his fourth year as head football coach at Albany High, shouldn't feel all alone as he wonders what the Wildcats have planned for Friday night's 8 p.m. battle at Cleveland Field. After all, Valdosta, the state's top-ranked team among Class AAAA schools, has been X on a tear all season and shows no signs of letting up.

Of course, that's business as usual for Nick Hyder's Wildcats. But winning, at least in recent years, has not been the normal state of affairs for the Albany Indians. Albany managed only one victory last year in 10 outings. But things seem to be on the upswing for the Indians so far in 1982—in the three games they've played they have come away winners twice. Woodham admits that he's seen signs of improvement.

"We're getting a little better each week. We're pleased," he said. "We think we'll be able to come down there and play Valdosta a pretty good football game. I know one thing for sure—we won't fold," he added. "Our kids will give it 100 percent. We'll shoot our biggest cannon, and if it's successful, that's great. If not, then we'll just go home and reload."

Whatever inroads Woodham and the Indians have made toward competitiveness in Class AAAA have not come easily, the Albany head coach said. He's still trying to establish an efficient feeder system from

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the junior high schools. And Albany, the predecessor to the city's newer high schools, is now in fact smaller than Westover, Monroe and Dougherty.

"We were among the tombstones when we first came here," Woodham said. "We're trying to gradually make things better, but it will still be awhile. I'm just afraid I'll be completely grey-haired by then, though."

Since Albany has not exactly staged scoring extravaganzas in any of its

three games this year, the Indian defense has had to come up with solid play to collect a pair of victories. The Albany defense opened the season by shutting out Thomasville Central in a 3-0 win, and last week held Colquitt to a touchdown as Albany won 8-7 by penetration in an overtime affair. The lone loss came in the second game, a 13-0 decision against Dougherty.

Of the 14 players who see extensive action defensively, 12 are seniors, a statistic

which has not escaped the eyes of Valdosta's Hyder and his scouts.

"Their defense has been tough in the middle in the games we've scouted," said Hyder, whose Wildcats will put their 4-0 record on the line against the Indians. "They have good size and good speed. They've stood up well in AAAA competition this year."

The Albany defense is led by linebacker Rodney Renfro, a 200-pound senior and three-year starter who has drawn the attention of the likes of Georgia and Auburn. His running mate at linebacker is another senior, Wayne Curtis.

Lucious Wilford, Ken Hudgins and Curt Hooks bring size to the interior defensive line. William Rivers and Anthony Holloway man the flanks.

The Albany offense, meanwhile, has yet to jel,

though Hyder says it is a potentially good unit which executes the option attack well along with a sprinkling of draws and screen passes.

The quarterback is junior Rob Archer, a 155-pounder in his first year as a starter. Joining him in the backfield is Renfro, who doubles as a running back. Bo Creech and Robert Banks are Archer's favorite receivers.

The Albany tilt will mark the second sub-region game of the year for the Wildcats, who won their first I-AAAA North game when they downed Monroe 35-0. "We win this one and we'll be 50 percent of the way there," said Hyder, whose squad still has sub-region encounters remaining with Tift and Dougherty after the Albany bout. "We should be right on schedule. I'm pleased with the progress our kids are making."

Once Again, 'Cats Are Tops In AP Prep Rankings

By The Associated Press

Last weekend's upsets juggled the rankings a bit, but the top teams in the Associated Press Georgia high school football poll emerged unscathed for another week at No. 1.

Valdosta, sporting a 4-0 record after Friday's victory over south Georgia rival Thomasville, led the pack in class AAAA for the third straight week. The Wildcats picked up 108 voting points and nine ballots for first place, the best showing of the week.

In two classes, the same teams are on top that were there at the season's beginning — Cedartown again in AAA, with 105 points and nine votes for first, and R.E. Lee at top the AA list for the fifth week, with 106 points and eight first-place ballots.

In class A, Bremen held on to No. 1 for a second week with 94 points and seven first place votes.

Voting is by the AP's board of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters, with 10 points awarded for a first place vote, nine for second, and so on.

Clarke Central again finished second in AAAA, with 99 points and two votes for first. Peachtree, Central of Macon, Tift County and Benedictine again followed in line, trailed by Coffey and two new entries — Baldwin County, a 35-14 winner over Washington County, and Cedar Shoals, which entered the

Class AAAA

1. Valdosta, 4-0, 108, 9
2. Clarke Central, 3-0, 99, 2
3. Peachtree, 4-0, 82
4. Central of Macon, 4-0, 71
5. Tift Co., 3-0, 65
6. Benedictine, 4-0, 43
7. Coffey, 3-0, 40
8. Westside, 3-0, 28
9. Baldwin Co., 4-0, 16
10. Cedar Shoals, 2-1, 11

Also receiving votes: Newnan, Walton, Werner Robins, North Cobb, Riverdale, Laney, Statesboro, Groves, Lowndes, LaGrange and Lithia Springs.

Class AAA

1. Cedartown, 3-0, 105, 9
2. Americus, 4-0, 101, 2
3. Perry, 3-0, 71
4. Cairo, 4-1, 52
5. Carrollton, 3-0, 51
6. Mitchell-Baker, 3-1, 47
7. Stephens Co., 4-0, 44
8. Tie-Bainbridge, 2-1, 32
9. East Rome, 3-0, 18
10. Franklin Co., 3-0, 28

Also receiving votes: Gainesville, Clarkston, Stockbridge, Decatur, Dodge Co., West Laurens, Dublin, George and Waycross.

Class AA

1. R.E. Lee, 3-0, 106, 8
2. West Rome, 3-0, 91, 2
3. Lincoln Co., 3-0, 86, 1
4. Pierce Co., 4-0, 73
5. Turner Co., 4-0, 46
6. Manchester, 3-0, 45
7. Carversville, 2-0, 17, 44
8. Greene Co., 3-1, 20
9. East Rome, 3-0, 18
10. Feldwood, 4-0, 15

Also receiving votes: Mary Persons, Washington-Wilkes, Russell, Cedar Grove, Lyons, Jackson, Claxton, Vidalia, Clarkston and Lovett.

Class A

1. Bremen, 4-0, 94, 7
2. Calhoun Co., 3-0, 92, 3
3. Hogansville, 3-1, 85
4. Commerce, 3-1, 53, 1
5. Tie-Metter, 3-1, 43
6. Tie-Palmetto, 3-1, 43
7. Tie-E.C.I., 3-1, 41
8. Tie-Pacelli, 4-0, 41
9. Atkinson Co., 4-0, 32
10. S.E. Bulloch, 4-0, 26

Also receiving votes: Arnold, Savannah Country Day, West Point, Greenville, Mt. Zion, Wilcox Co., Warren Co., Adairsville and Jefferson.

rankings after an off week.

LaGrange, a 24-20 loser to Riverdale, got knocked out of the top 10, as did Westside, despite a 28-0 victory over McCormick, S.C.

In AAA, Cedartown's 34-7 defeat of Rockmart helped the 3-0 Bulldogs to remain No. 1, while the juggling started at No. 2. Americus rose two spots and picked up two first-place votes after a 21-14 victory over Cairo, last week's No. 2 team.

Perry jumped up two places to No. 3, while Cairo tumbled to fourth. Carrollton rose three spots to No. 5, followed by Mitchell-Baker and Stephens County. Bainbridge dropped two spots to an eighth-place tie with Chamblee, while Franklin County finished 10th.

Gainesville, ranked third last week, fell from the AAA rankings after a 7-2 upset loss to Stephens County, while North Springs, a 27-24 loser to Buford, also fell from the elite.

In AA, the R.E. Lee Rebels, now 3-0, stayed in the penthouse suite after a 41-14 drubbing of Pike County. West Rome, which thrashed Pepperell 65-0, picked up two first-place votes on the way to a No. 2 ranking, followed by Lincoln County and Pierce County. Turner County jumped three spots to fifth, followed by Manchest, Cartersville and Greene County.

East Rome, a 39-14 winner over Coosa, entered the AA rankings at No. 9, while Feldwood, which shut out Stockbridge 14-0, came in at No. 10. Claxton, off last week, and Mary Persons, a 28-0 victor over Hawkinsville, fell from the rankings anyway.

In class A, Bremen's 20-0 whitewash of Trion gave the Blue Devils a 4-0 mark and a second week at No. 1. Calhoun County came in at No. 2 with three votes for the top spot, while Hogansville placed third. A former No. 1 team, 3-1 Commerce, got a single vote for first and a berth at No. 4. Trailing were Metter and Palmetto, tied for fifth.

Pacelli rose to a tie for seventh with Emanuel County Institute, while Atkinson County placed ninth. The only class A newcomer, S.E. Bulloch, entered at No. 10, while Savannah Country Day, despite a 49-18 victory over McIntosh County Academy, fell out of the rankings.



Works Like A Charm

Coleman Rudolph, son of Valdosta High School Coach Jack Rudolph, cheers the Wildcats on Friday night in their game against Albany. For luck, Rudolph wears a

hat belonging to the late "Dynamite" Goodloe. It must have worked because the Wildcats rolled over Albany by 67-7. — Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III.

Wildcats Play Host To

Struggling Thomasville

The Valdosta Daily Times, Thurs., Sept. 16, 1982—19—

By DAN CHILDS

Times Sports Editor

Thomasville may be off to a rocky start, but Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder remains convinced that the Bulldogs are capable of posing serious problems for his Wildcats when the two teams tangle Friday night at 8 at Cleveland Field.

The season thus far has been a thoroughly unforgettable one for the usually strong Bulldogs. They started off the year on the wrong foot, dropping their season opener to Cairo. They came back with a victory over Dougherty, then hit the skids again last week when they were bounced by Westover in an 18-0 defeat.

Aside from the two losses, the Bulldog season has been further marred by the disciplinary action which was taken by head coach Jim Hughes against Thomasville quarterback Lennie Moore.

Moore was suspended from the squad two weeks ago after he allegedly stole a purse from a parked automobile and was apprehended. Hughes set the suspension at one month, which means Moore won't be scheduled to return to the team in time for Friday night's conflict with the Wildcats.

So the Valdosta-Thomasville game shapes up as a match between a pair of rivals who would seem to be going in opposite directions — ships passing in the night, so to speak.

Valdosta, of course, has surged since it opened the season by waylaying Waycross. Victories over Westover and Monroe have come since, as has the No. 1 ranking in the state's Class AAAA high school football poll. Hyder, however, characteristically pointed out the peril the Wildcats and their No. 1

cont.

"We just don't know," Hyder added. "I'm sure they would like to have him in the game. He's a fine player who executes their offense really well. He's very quick and he's a good passer. He's the type who, if he gets loose, is all of a sudden there, then he's not."

Another face in the backfield the Wildcats will have to keep an eye on is halfback Bobby Harris, the region's fourth-leading rusher with 173 yards on 34 carries. "In the 100-yard dash, he's got 10-flat or better speed," Hyder said. "He can bust a game wide-open."

Hyder said the Bulldogs prefer to run out of their multiple offense, but can throw the ball effectively when needed.

But the defense is Thomasville's strongest area, Hyder said. "Their strength is their defensive quickness," he said. "They will have as tough a defense as any we've faced this year. It's in the same category as our own. Anything you get against them, you have to earn."

Bulldog boss Hughes, who has beaten Hyder only three times in the 12 games the teams have played over the last eight years, says he's preparing his squad for a team that has showed no major weaknesses from his vantage point. "As far as we can tell, their only weakness is that neither of their quarterbacks can throw the ball left-handed," Hughes quipped.

"We'll have to play our best football game against Valdosta," he said. "Obviously, they are a very strong football team on both sides of the ball. We'll need to keep the ball away from them, which will be very difficult because of the strength of their defense. It will be a very difficult task for us."

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status face in the Bulldogs.

"We've always had good, hard-nosed football games," Hyder said, "and we expect another one Friday night. Thomasville has had some problems this year, but we're sure they'll get those problems worked out. We know this will be a tough one for us. Coach Hughes always does one of the finest coaching jobs of anyone in Georgia."

Moore, who is regarded as one of the more talented players in the region, has been spelled by Herbert Wright, a junior who has started both Bulldog games since Moore's suspension took effect. He's carried the ball 20 times for 50 yards while throwing 30 times with seven completions for 94 yards. He's been intercepted five times.

Hyder isn't all too certain, though, that Wright will be the man calling the Thomasville signals Friday night. "We're preparing for the game as though they might play Moore," said Hyder. "Coach Hughes set the punishment, and if he decides to lift it, he's the one who can do it. It's his decision."



Thomasville Coach Jim Hughes

Times Staff Photo

WIA hood h...

Dosta's Anderson Notches Four TD's As Wildcat Attack Overwhelms Albany

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

As though in response to the national high school football poll which was released late this week and listed Valdosta the No. 2 team in the country, the Wildcats showed up at Cleveland Field Friday night and gave no quarter as they blistered Albany 67-7.

STATISTICS	
First Downs	10
Yards Rushing	22
Yards Passing	271
Passes	166
Fumbles Lost	27-13-3
Punting	15-80
Penalties	8-35-0
	1-33-0
	4-40
	3-43

In an awesome display of the form which has put them at the top of the Associated Press Class AAAA Georgia prep rankings, Valdosta, now 5-0 on the season, utterly dismantled Albany, handing the Indians their second defeat of the campaign in four starts.

Valdosta freshman fullback Tony Anderson staged the most spectacular performance of his brief Wildcat career as he wandered into the Albany end zone four times. The 191-pound Anderson carried the ball 11 times from scrimmage to pick up 154 yards rushing in addition to 63 yards in punt returns, including a 46-yarder he ran back for a touchdown.

"Four touchdowns, huh? That's all right," Wildcat coach Nick Hyder quipped.

Hyder had ample reason to be in a light-hearted mood. Not only was the young Anderson a terror, but his running mate in the backfield, Pernel Bee, put on a decent display himself,

carrying the ball eight times for 65 yards and scoring on a 76-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Ted West.

Anderson, Bee and the remainder of the leg men in the Valdosta running attack, depleted by a hip injury to junior halfback Dana Brinson, practically had the field to themselves, thanks to a Wildcat offensive line which spent much of the evening blasting crater-sized gaps in the outclassed Albany defensive front.

It was a night to shine for the Valdosta offense, which perhaps has been somewhat overshadowed by spectacular defensive efforts as of late. The Wildcats banged out 271 yards via the ground game, and quarterbacks West and Berke Holtzclaw combined for 232 more yards through the air. The Wildcat attack, which had to punt only once, monopolized the game, grinding out 22 first downs.

The Valdosta defense, though, had its moments, too. Although Albany quarterback Ron Archer completed 13 of 27 passes for 166 yards, the Wildcat defense picked off three of his passes, two of which were returned for touchdowns.

Those interception returns for TD's, a 40-yarder by Jerry Williams and a 33-yarder by Ernest Manghrann, both came in the final quarter of play to put a sweet layer of icing upon an already sweet cake. The one that resulted in a TD for Williams was the second of the evening by the junior defensive back.

"It was just a complete

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effort," said Hyder. "This was a game I felt our youngsters really needed. We had good execution, particularly in the second half. We had those three fumbles that we lost in the first half, but we've taken the philosophy that you just have to flush out the bad things that happen sometimes and forget about them."

Actually, other than the lost fumbles, there wasn't too much that happened in the first half that Albany would care to remember.

Valdosta fumbled first on its opening offensive possession, but came back on the next to drive 87 yards in seven plays, scoring on second down when Anderson burst through a mammoth hole in the center of the Indian line and sauntered 40 yards for his first TD.

Albany drove to the Wildcat 33 after that, but was stopped on fourth down. Valdosta took the ball and, two plays later, West, 2 for 4 for 102 yards in passing on the night, hit Bee in the left flat and the running back blew down the sideline to give the Wildcats a 13-0 lead after John Porter tackled on the first of his seven PAT's with 37 seconds still to be played in the first period.

Early in the final quarter, on the Wildcats' following possession, Holtzclaw, 6 of 11 for 130 yards for the game, lit the scoreboard again when he spotted Carl Scott streaking down the right sideline. Holtzclaw's pass was on the mark, and Scott had no trouble outrunning the Indian defender into the end zone for a 65-yard strike that put the Wildcats up 47-7.

Holtzclaw took the ball into the end zone himself with 6:45 left to play in the game when he swept right end on a keeper play from 12 yards out after Valdosta had driven 60 yards in 11 plays.

AHS		VHS	
Score by Quarters			
	0	0	7
	13	6	21
	27	27	27
Scoring:	VHS — Anderson 40-yard run, John Porter PAT missed; VHS — Bee, 76-yard pass, Porter PAT; VHS — Anderson, 30-yard run 2-point conversion failed; VHS — Anderson, 2-yard run Porter PAT; AHS — Creech, 46-yard pass Ron Rowe PAT; VHS — Leonard, 7-yard pass Porter PAT; VHS — Anderson, 46-yard punt return Porter PAT; VHS — Scott, 65-yard pass Porter PAT; VHS — Holtzclaw 12-yard run Porter PAT; VHS — Williams, 40-yard int. return, Porter PAT; VHS — Manghrann, 33-yard int. return PAT failed.		

TACKLES

VHS — Porter 7, Major 4, Lewis 4, Ramsey 2, Abney 2, Irvin 1, Cooper 1, Johnson 4, Lee 2, Anderson 1, Davis 1, C. Robinson 2, Spivey 1, Freeman 1, J. Robinson 1, Daniels 2, Martin 6, Mitchell 1, Williams 2, Leonard 1, Manghrann 4, Albany — Tanner 1, Lowe 1, White 2, Holloway 4, Hooks 1, Renfro 6, Hayes 6, Huggins 1, Wester 3, Curles 1, Riggins 2, Colbert 3, Williford 4, Spann 2, Lavender 2.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: VHS — Bee 84, Anderson 11-154, West 2-11, Holtzclaw 6-86, Reeves 1-4, Lowe 2-4, Patterson 2-7, AHS — Randall 30, Renfro 5-9, Williams 7-15, Archer 5-37, Banks 4-0.
Passing: VHS — West 4-2-0, 102 yds. Holtzclaw 11-60, 130 yds; AHS — Archer 27-13-3, 166 yds.
Pass Receiving: VHS — Bee 1-76, Reeves 1-26, Gandy 2-20, Scott 1-45, Leonard 3-45; AHS — Creech 5-93, Riggins 4-44, Woods 2-22, Randall 1-3, Jackson 1-7.
Punt Returns: VHS — Anderson 5-63, Mitchell 1-0; AHS — Swan 1-25, Williams 1-15, Banks 2-56.
Kickoff Returns: VHS — Reeves 1-14; AHS — Banks 4-57, Renfro 1-9, Williams 1-0.

Defense (Number of Tackles):

Interception Returns: VHS — Williams 2-42, Manghrann 1-33.



Times Staff Photo By Robert Win

Valdosta's Pernel Bee Scored On 76-Yard Air Strike

Anderson Road Show Has Punt Return Engagemen

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

MOULTREE — The Tony Anderson Road Show was not quite the extravaganza it was a week ago at Cleveland Field, but once again it provided its share of thrills as Valdosta's Wildcats lived up to their billing as the state's top-ranked Class AAAA football team with a 41-7 rout of Colquitt County here Friday night at Mack Thorpe Stadium.

STATISTICS

	VHS	CHS
First Downs	9	5
Yards Rushing	46	34
Yards Passing	125	77
Passes	25-13-0	25-11-2
Fumbles Lost	5-39	1
Punting	2	10-34-8
Penalties	4-55	4-48

Anderson, the outstanding ninth grade running back who scored four touchdowns a week ago, was bottled up at the line of scrimmage for the most part, but he got his kicks in on punt returns against the Packers, fielding six for 156 yards worth of returns, including a pair of long ones that set up Wildcat touchdowns.

Anderson, who had plowed through Albany for 154 yards a week ago on runs from scrimmage, wasn't able to locate much daylight against the stout Colquitt defensive front, having no more than 18 yards to show for seven carries.

That wasn't the case with his punt returns, however. He fielded a Packer punt late in the first quarter at the Valdosta 26, broke for the left sideline, where he found a seam, and raced down the

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field until a Colquitt defender made a last-gasp tackle at the Packer 4. It took only one play for the Wildcats to capitalize on the opportunity, scoring when Pernell Bee, who led Valdosta runners with 43 yards on eight carries, scored the first of his two touchdowns for the game with 1:16 left in the quarter, putting the 'Cats up 14-0.

Another long punt return by Anderson, this one a 60-yarder that he returned to the Packer 8, set up Valdosta's final TD of the night, a 6-yard loss from quarterback Berke Holtzclaw to wide receiver Bob Mitchell that came with 7:41 remaining to play and put the Wildcats up 41-0 after John Porter booted his fifth PAT of the evening.

"He had another good game," Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder remarked after his squad had bettered its record on the year, to 6-0. "They keyed on him from the line of scrimmage, but that opened up some things in the passing game."

Oh yes, Anderson got involved in the passing attack as well. In fact his only attempt of the evening was an unqualified success as he hit Mitchell, all alone in the end

zone, with a 15-yard strike 1:49 before the halftime break to give Valdosta a 21-0 pad.

His TD pass was one of 13 the 'Cats would connect on for the night. Quarterback Ted West was good on 10 of 18 attempts for 98 yards and Holtzclaw had two completions in six attempts for 12 yards.

Mitchell, Ben Reeves and Mark Perry all hauled in three catches.

"I thought Ted West did a good job tonight, and Berke Holtzclaw looked good on the touchdown pass to Mitchell," Hyder said.

The Packers, who dropped to 1-4 for the season, made it clear from the start of the game that they felt their best chance of stopping the Valdosta machine would be via a lively air assault. Although the Pack was able to connect on 11 of 25 passes, they could garner no more than 77 yards in the air, and as often as not, quarterbacks Darrell Funderbuck and Clay McCall were forced to dodge or buckle under a fierce rush from the Wildcat front. The heat the Valdosta charge put on Colquitt was for the most

part responsible for the 34 yards figure the Packers had to show on the ground.

Colquitt, which was forced to punt the ball 10 times, never was an offensive threat in the game, and was only able to light its side of the scoreboard late in the game when McCall completed a 60-yard drive by hitting wide receiver Eric Jordan with a 10-yard TD pass in the final 30 seconds.

On the first offensive series of the night, the Packers fumbled a handoff on an end-around play and gave the ball to Valdosta at the Colquitt 3.

Score by quarters: 14, 7-13
0, 0, 0-7

Scoring: VHS — West 1-yd run, Porter PAT
CHS — Mitchell, 15-yd pass from Anderson, Porter PAT
PAT — Mitchell, 15-yd pass from Anderson, Porter PAT
VHS — Waterfield, recovered fumble in end zone, Porter PAT
VHS — Bee, 2-yd run, PAT blocked
VHS — Mitchell, Byd pass from Holtzclaw, Porter PAT
CHS — Jordan, 10-yd pass from McCall, Thomas PAT



'Cats' John Porter Prepares To Lower Boom On Packer QB

Times Staff Photo By

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: VHS — Anderson 7, Bee 8, 49; West 13, minus 15; Holtzclaw 2, minus 3; Patterson 1, minus 1; CHS — Spiv 4, minus 3; Lewis 11, 24; Funderbuck, 5; minus 35; McCall 3, minus 30.
Passing: VHS — West 18, 10, 98 yards; Holtzclaw 6, 2, 0, 12 yards; Anderson 1, 1, 0, 15 yards; CHS — Funderbuck 12, 5, 1, 23 yards; McCall 13, 4, 1, 54 yards.
Pass, Receiving: VHS — Reeves 3, 48; Mitchell 3, 29; Perry 2, 21; Bee 3, 24; Heard 2, 14; CHS — Nelson 1, minus 5.
Punt Returns: VHS — Anderson 6, 156; CHS — McCroney, minus 1.
Kickoff Returns: VHS — Dixon 2, 32; Bee 1, 13; CHS — Lewis 5, 64.
Defense (Number of Tackles):
Valdosta — Porter 4, Irvin 3, J. Robinson 2, Mator 3, Cooper 2, Daniels 2, Johnson 4, Ramsey 1, Abney 2, Lee 2, Wakefield 3, C. Robinson 2, J. Lewis 3, Johnson 3, Smallwood 1, Nether 1, Spivey 1, Williams 1, Mangram 1, Martin 2, Armstrong 1, Heard 1, W. Lewis 2, Lastinger 1, Hart 1.
Colquitt — Lee 7, Reeves 2, Matthews 3, Stewart 2, Turner 8, R. Miller 3, Staughter 9, McCranie 4, Harper 2, Blakely 4, J. Miller 2, Weaver 3, Caldwell 1, Brinson 2.

Valdosta B's Rip Tift

The Valdosta High B-team used two touchdown passes from quarterback David Thomas and a strong defense to overwhelm Tift County B-team 37-0 Thursday afternoon in a game played at VHS.

The Wildcat defense accounted for three of Valdosta's touchdowns. It picked up three Tift fumbles and carried them into the end zone for scores.

Thomas' first TD pass was a 64-yard scoring strike to Hosea Heard. Bernard Rose was on the receiving end of the other.

Stray Cats Down Lowndes

VHS Girls Win Cross Country

MOULTRIE — Valdosta's girls cross-country team won a five team meet Saturday with 27 points to defeat host Colquitt County by seven points.

Darlene McCormick covered the 2-mile course in a record setting 12 minutes 36 seconds.

Valdosta's boys cross country team finished 4th in Moultrie Saturday with Robert Duran the top finisher.

Students In Debate

Ten Valdosta High School students will travel to Tallahassee this weekend for a debate tournament.

Frank Hjort, director of debate at VHS, said the students will compete in the Seventh Annual Warmup Tournament at Florida State University.

Debate teams are expected to enter the competition from Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Alabama, he said.

Entering varsity debate competition are Jim Rennsenhouse, Mary Taormina, Barry Herrin and Michael Herrin.

The novice four-man debate team features Laura Faussone and Gayle Robinson on the affirmative and April Wagner and Michael Furukawa on the negative.

Cammie Buerry and Paul Johnson make up the oral interpretation competitors.

The students will leave Friday and the competition ends Saturday night.

VHS DECA Tabs Officers

By Times Staff Writer
Lisa Jenkins, a senior at Valdosta High School, has been elected president of the VHS chapter of Distributive Education Clubs of America.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Yentzer.

Other new officers include Lisa Herbert, wife of Michael A. Herbert, vice president; Barbie Carmichael, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Carmichael, treasurer; and Tina Greene, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Greene, Secretary.

Also, Jay Greene, son of Norman Greene, Division One vice president; Renee Bajalia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Bajalia, Division adviser.

Also receiving votes: Arnold, Savannah Country Day, West Point, Greenville, Mt. Zion, Wilcox Co., Warren Co., Adairsville and Jefferson.

VHS Student Stone Wins Piano Honors

By Times Staff Writer
A Valdosta High School student has won for the second time the national keyboard competition sponsored every other year by the Churches of God.

Regi Stone competed with 30 other pianists throughout the country to win the national title. Stone is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Timothy Stone of Valdosta.

Stone was also selected from hundreds of competitors to sing in a select choir on the

closing night of the youth competition held in Kansas City, Mo.

Stone won National Keyboard two years ago in Dallas, Texas. Since that time, he has had several scholarship offers from colleges around the country.

Stone began his piano studies at age six, and was performing publicly for civic events, radio and television by the age of 10.

He made his first recording when he was 13 years old.

The high school student also plays the organ and the trumpet and often sings with his family at various church functions.

He accompanies the youth and adult choirs at Forrest Street Church of God where he is a member.

Stone is a piano teacher for Sandy Campbell's Music and Stereo in Valdosta, and also teaches piano to his younger brother Ron.

His piano teacher is Dr. Dorothy Lewis Griffith of Valdosta State College.

Once Again, 'Cats Are Tops In AP Prep Rankings

By The Associated Press

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Valdosta, sporting a 4-0 record after Friday's victory over south Georgia rival Thomasville, led the pack in class AAAA for the third straight week. The Wildcats picked up 108 voting points and nine ballots for first place, the best showing of the week.

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In class A, Bremen held on to No. 1 for a second week with 94 points and seven first place votes.

Voting is by the AP's board of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters, with 10 points awarded for a first place vote, nine for second, and so on.

Clarke Central again finished second in AAAA, with 99 points and two votes for first. Peachtree, Central of Macon, Tift County and Benedictine again followed in line, trailed by Coffee and two new entries — Baldwin County, a 35-14 winner over Washington County, and Cedar Shoals, which entered the

Class AAAA
1. Valdosta, 4-0, 108, 9
2. Clarke Central, 3-0, 99, 2
3. Peachtree, 4-0, 82
4. Central, Macon, 4-0, 71
5. Tift Co., 3-0, 65
6. Benedictine, 4-0, 43
7. Coffee, 3-0, 40
8. Westside, 3-0, 28
9. Baldwin Co., 4-0, 16
10. Cedar Shoals, 2-1, 11

Also receiving votes: Newnan, Walton, Warner Robins, North Cobb, Riverdale, Laney, Statesboro, Groves, Lowndes, LaGrange and Lithia Springs.

Class AAA
1. Cedartown, 3-0, 105, 9
2. Americus, 4-0, 101, 2
3. Perry, 3-0, 71
4. Cairo, 4-1, 52
5. Carrollton, 3-0, 51
6. Mitchell-Baker, 3-1, 47
7. Stephens Co., 4-0, 44
8. Tie-Bainbridge, 2-1, 32
9. East Rome, 3-0, 18
10. Franklin Co., 3-0, 28

Also receiving votes: Gainesville, Clarkston, Stockbridge, Decatur, Dodge Co., West Laurens, Dublin, George and Waycross.

Class AA
1. R.E. Lee, 3-0, 106, 8
2. West Rome, 3-0, 91, 2
3. Lincoln Co., 3-0, 86, 1
4. Pierce Co., 4-0, 73
5. Turner Co., 4-0, 46
6. Manchester, 3-0, 45
7. Carversville, 2-0, 1, 44
8. Greene Co., 3-1, 20
9. East Rome, 3-0, 18
10. Fieldwood, 4-0, 15

Also receiving votes: Mary Persons, Washington-Wilkes, Russell, Cedar Grove, Lyons, Jackson, Claxton, Vidalia, Clarkston and Lovett.

Class A
1. Bremen, 4-0, 94, 7
2. Calhoun Co., 3-0, 92, 3
3. Hogansville, 3-0, 85
4. Commerce, 3-1, 53, 1
5. Tie-Metter, 3-1, 43
6. Palmetto, 3-1, 43
7. Tie-E.C., 3-1, 41
8. Tie-Pacelli, 4-0, 41
9. Atkinson Co., 4-0, 32
10. S.E. Bulloch, 4-0, 26

rankings after an off week. LaGrange, a 24-20 loser to Riverdale, got knocked out of the top 10, as did Westside, despite a 28-0 victory over McCormick, S.C.

In AAA, Cedartown's 34-7 defeat of Rockmart helped the 3-0 Bulldogs to remain No. 1, while the juggling started at No. 2. Americus rose two spots and picked up two first-place votes after a 21-14 victory over Cairo, last week's No. 2 team.

Perry jumped up two places to No. 3, while Cairo tumbled to fourth. Carrollton rose three spots to No. 5, followed by Mitchell-Baker and Stephens County. Bainbridge dropped two spots to an eighth-place tie with Chamblee, while Franklin County finished 10th.

Gainesville, ranked third last week, fell from the AAAA rankings after a 7-2 upset loss to Stephens County, while North Springs, a 27-24 loser to Buford, also fell from the elite.

Wildcats Hold To Fourth,

Vikings Drop To Number Ten

By The Associated Press
Clarke Central's loss to Warner Robins wiped the Gladiators off the prep football top 10 list, but otherwise few changes occurred in the rankings after a weekend in which 120 teams remained undefeated.

Griffin held No. 1 in Class AAAA, Cairo led Class AAA, West Rome was top-ranked in Class AA and Hogansville held sway in Class A in the weekly poll by the AP Board of Georgia sportswriters and sports broadcasters.

The Gladiators, a perennial contender in Class AAAA, were 0-1 and ranked ninth before their 7-3 loss to Warner Robins.

As in last week's listing, Warner Robins, Tift County, Valdosta and Lakeside, in order, followed Griffin as the top five in AAAA.

Lowndes' 14-0 loss to Tift County plunged the Vikings from sixth to 10th, bringing Benedictine and Douglas County both up a notch to sixth and seventh. Butler moved to eighth, and Bradwell Institute was added to the list at ninth.

In Class AAA, Lithonia moved into a tie for third place with Woodward Academy, which opened its season Friday night with 12-

7 victory over Jonesboro. Cedartown and Dalton remained at fifth and sixth, but Americas' 20-7 loss to Waycross washed the Panthers overboard. It was the second defeat for Americas. The Panthers' disappearance boosted Crisp County, Carrollton and Chamblée, all undefeated, up to seventh, eighth and ninth. Gainesville, which defeated cross-town rival Johnson High 20-13, was brought aboard at No. 10.

Mary Persons and Dooly County held steady at second and third in Class AA behind West Rome, but Commerce

lost to Buford 13-6 and fell from fourth to eighth place. Vidalia climbed from fifth to fourth, and College Park advanced from sixth to fifth to fill the vacuum.

Claxton, 3-0 after an early start on its season, climbed from 10th to sixth in AA, while losses by Brooks

County and Duluth cost them their spots. New to the list are Pierce County, 2-0, and Manchester, 3-0.

In Class A, the top four remained the same, with Buford, Greenville and Savannah County Day, all undefeated, following Hogansville in order. The

Metter Tigers, ranked fifth last week before their first game, nosedived to 10th after Claxton of Class AA smashed them 23-8.

Palmetto climbed from seventh to fifth, bypassing No. 6 Clinch County. Trion lost to Harralson County and dropped from eighth to ninth.

and Emanuel County Institute climbed from ninth to seventh. Adairsville fell off after its loss to Cass, and Brookstone, 2-0, made the list at eighth.

Here are the top 10 teams in the four classes of Georgia high school football, their place on the AP board of sportswriters and broadcasters. Following each list are other teams nominated.

- CLASS AAAA**
1. Griffin, 2.0, 96, 8
 2. Warner Robins, 2.0, 85, 1
 3. Tift Co., 2.0, 84
 4. Valdosta, 2.0, 65, 1
 5. Lakeside, 2.0, 53
 6. Benedictine, 2.0, 45
 7. Douglas County, 1.0, 33
 8. Butler, 1.0, 21
 9. Bradwell Institute, 2.0, 13
 10. Lowndes, 1.1, 10
- Also nominated: Newman, Coffee County, Thomasville, Westover, Cedar Shoals, Westside, Central-Macon, Hardaway and Clarke Central.

VT
9-14-81

'Cat Defense Has It Together

Will anyone be able to make a dent in the Valdosta defense this season? Thus far, through four games, no one has. There have been a few dings put in the Wildcat defense here and there, but nothing major enough to threaten the Wildcats' survival.

Defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph's unit has kept the heat off Valdosta this year in each of the four victories. And, of course, when the heat is off the guys over on offense can afford to play the game they want to play, the way they want to.

The Wildcat defense so far has given up only 30 points, which of course averages out to seven and a half points per outing. Rudolph admits he's seen some things from his pupils that he likes, but the occasional lapses and breakdowns which have led to those 30 points leave him just a bit dissatisfied.

For instance, there was an extended scoring drive in the season-opening 42-14 win over Westover... then, in Friday night's 19-10 triumph over Thomasville the Cats gave up a long pass that led to a field goal along with a screen pass that set up a Bulldog touchdown.

Those occasional breakdowns are the "specifics" Rudolph is referring to when he says there are some things the Valdosta defense could be doing better. "There are some things we're doing well," Rudolph said, "but there are a world of things we need to improve on."

With that in mind, he adds, "You've got to keep trying to eliminate the mistakes and keep working on the different things you have to do from week to week. You can't remember what you did last week. People aren't interested in what you did last week. You've got to stay on your toes."

"Togetherness" is the word which Rudolph says best describes the Valdosta defense, and that cohesive feeling has helped the unit stay on it toes. "When you've been together as long as we have, it helps to learn the different offensive sets quicker and you're able to make the necessary adjustments easier. You feel more comfortable when you have a pretty good idea how the man next to you is going to react."

The Valdosta defense is a blend of youth and experience, with enough returning starters sprinkled about to give the unit a veteran look.

Rudolph and his troops are, however, having to make do without the services of veteran linebacker Andrew Preston who has missed all four games due to a mysterious malady that caused him to steadily lose weight. His condition has since stabilized somewhat, but Rudolph said it's quite doubtful he'll be able to play this year.

"I have to feel his presence would have given us another dimension out there," he said. "Frank Abney has been doing a fine job for us playing at linebacker, but Andrew was one of the most experienced players in the region."

But Preston's absence from the Wildcat defense hasn't detracted from that overall feeling of togetherness the unit has, Rudolph said. "There's a lot of unity out there. Most of the guys have been playing together for three years. They've matured together."

And, so far, no one has been able to put a dent into that togetherness.

No Use For Polls

Valdosta Wildcat head football coach Nick Hyder just hopes his squad doesn't meet the same fate Georgia gubernatorial candidate Bo Ginn did.

Like the ill-fated Ginn was, Valdosta's Wildcats seems to be everybody's favorite these days to wind up as a big winner. But Hyder, remaining true to his nature, is cautious about planning on making any kind of post-season appearance just now. If you take the polls seriously, or for that matter, the way his Wildcats have been playing lately, Valdosta looks like a shoe-in to make some noise come state playoff time.

Of course, the Wildcats, off a 67-7 romp over Albany Friday night, have been perched at the summit of the Associated Press Class AAAA prep football poll for several weeks now.

Then, late this past week someone deduced that Valdosta was the nation's No. 2 ranked high school football team, just behind Cincinnati powerhouse Moeller, in a poll that was circulated about the country.

"This guy (the pollster) calls me every Sunday afternoon and wants to know what we've done that Friday," Hyder said. "I'm glad that somebody thinks we're that good."

"Of course, everybody thought Bo Ginn was to be Governor, too," Hyder said.

Hyder said that as far as polls are concerned, be they galactic, national, state, or county, there are other things, more important things to worry about. Like being ready to play — and win — week-in and week-out.

"We work so hard, and have so many people to deal with and things to do, that the polls are pretty remote to us," Hyder offered.

"To tell you the truth, I don't care too much for polls. We try to help our youngsters realize that the playoff system at the end of the season is the whole thing."

But obviously, if the Wildcats continue to stage the kind of performances they have been lately, their standing in the state, or even the nation for that matter, may well indeed be as lofty at the end as it is now. And you can bet that if won't seem too remote to them then.

9-26-81
Hyder:

Can Packers Withstand 'Cats' Impact?

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

The way Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder sees it, there's not too much you can do but prepare yourself the best you can, then sit back and await the collision.

For Hyder and the Wildcats, riding high as the top-ranked football team in the Associated Press Class AAAA poll and coming off an awe-inspiring 67-7 bloodletting last Friday against Albany, the collision comes Friday night at 8 when Valdosta bids for its sixth victory of the year against Colquitt County at Moultrie's Mack Thorpe Stadium.

The Wildcats aren't likely to be a welcome sight for Coach Bill McCall's Packers. Colquitt, you see, has been having problems enough this year without Valdosta coming in to further complicate things.

The Packers began the season with a 2-0 victory over Dougherty, but things have slidden since then as they have dropped four straight games, scoring only nine points during that time.

Colquitt's inability to put points on the board in the first five games obviously doesn't

The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

bode well for the Packers, who will face a Valdosta team that scored touchdowns a week ago as though they were going at cut-rate prices. Hyder, however, insisted he expected no such scoring bonanza Friday night against the Pack.

"Right now, the score's 0-0," Hyder said. "We've got to play the game in Moultrie, and the people up there know the score is 0-0."

"Football is a collision sport — it's a controlled collision," he added. "When there's a collision, anything can happen. They've had some problems, but there's always that point where they could make something happen all of a sudden."

However, it's clear that judging strictly on the basis of what has transpired for the

two teams this year, Colquitt stands to suffer the most damage from the collision with the Wildcats.

Although the Colquitt offense hasn't proven capable of generating too much, the play of the defense has been respectable for the most part. Kirby Stewart, a 220-pound senior linebacker, is perhaps the top performer for the Packer stop team. He could prove to be a challenge for Wildcat blockers along with a strong, beefy defensive front that includes Darryl Slaughter (204) at middle guard, Tony Weaver (193) and Stravinsky Harper (234) at the tackles and Horace Lee and Jim Turner at the ends.

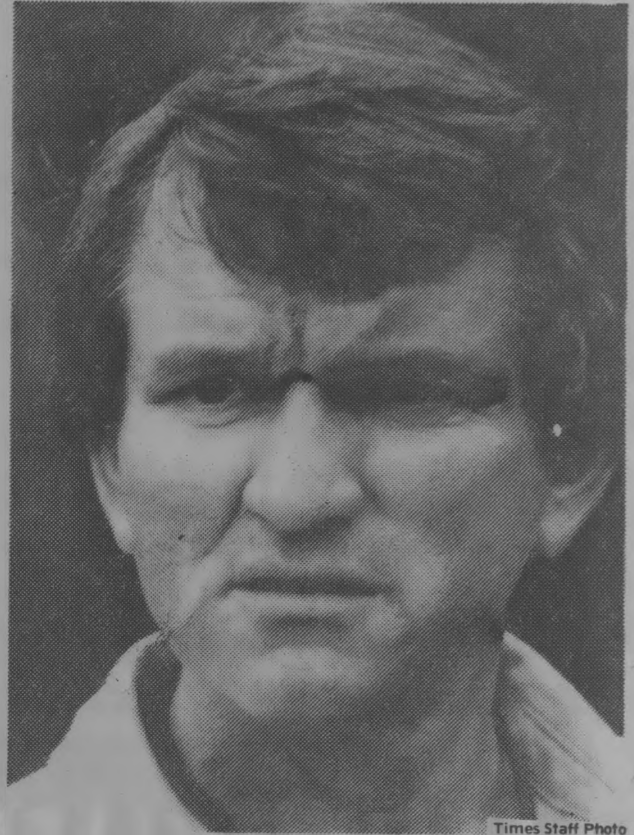
"Their emphasis is on defense, and they have a tough defensive interior," Hyder said.

Sophomore Darrell Funderburk is the Packer quarterback. He's joined in the backfield by Willie Christopher and Nathaniel Lewis. John McCraney is the top receiver and is also available for duty at quarterback should his presence be needed there.

Hyder said he's learned from his scouting reports that the Packers have been plagued by breakdowns offensively, thus the meager number of points scored by Colquitt.

"The word 'snakebit' keeps coming up in the scouting reports," he said. "They've been able to get the ball down the field, but they've had some rough luck when they've gotten the ball down inside the 10-yard-line. They've had problems with missed blocks and assignments and that sort of thing."

Hyder said that Valdosta junior halfback Dana Brinson, who missed last week's game with Albany due to a bruised hip, is still questionable for the bout with Colquitt. He said Brinson still isn't running at 100 percent strength, but that he has been working out with the team this week.



Times Staff Photo

Hyder, 'Cats Set For Colquitt Date

Warner Robins Drops To No. 6

No Question About It,

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Sept. 8, 1982-13-

Valdosta High's No. 1

ATLANTA (AP) — Warner Robins, last week's No. 1 AAAA team in the Georgia Associated Press high school football poll, went down in flames against Clarke Central and plummeted to sixth in this week's standings.

Another perennially vicious south Georgia power, the Valdosta Wildcats, moved from second to first place in AAAA after defeating Westover 27-6 in weekend action.

Elsewhere in the polls, Cedartown held the lead in Class AAA, R.E. Lee in Class AA and Commerce in Class A.

Only three new teams, Manchester and Pierce County in Class AA and

Pacelli in Class A, were added to the chosen few by the AP board of sportswriters and sportscasters. Dooly County and Vidalia in AA and Clinch County in Class A vanished from the lists.

Clarke Central, 2-0, climbed from fifth to second place after defeating Warner Robins, 1-1, by a 17-13 score. Newnan, which was idle over the weekend, and Peachtree, which shut out Tucker 17-0, held steady at third and fourth in the AAAA poll.

Central of Macon floated up a couple of notches to fifth after defeating Mays 27-6. Thomasville defeated Dougherty 21-6 but still fell from sixth into a seventh-place tie with Tift County,

AAAA	AAA	AA	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Valdosta, 2-0, 106, 8 2. Clarke Central, 2-0, 97, 3 3. Newman, 1-0, 84 4. Peachtree, 2-0, 73 5. Central-Macon, 2-0, 53 6. Warner Robins, 1-1, 46 7. Tie Tift Co., 1-0, 34 8. Tie Thomasville, 1-1, 34 9. Benedictine, 2-0, 24 10. Statesboro, 1-1, 16 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cedartown, 1-0, 95, 5 2. Bainbridge, 2-0, 90, 3 3. Cairo, 3-0, 86, 3 4. Dalton, 1-0, 82 5. Gainesville, 2-0, 66 6. Perry, 1-0, 50 7. Crisp Co., 1-0, 39 8. Americus, 2-0, 32 9. Dublin, 2-0, 24 10. Mitchell Baker, 1-1, 13 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. R.E. Lee, 1-0, 106, 7 2. West Rome, 1-0, 97, 3 3. Lincoln Co., 2-0, 87, 1 4. Mary Persons, 1-0, 84 5. Claxton, 2-0, 52 6. Russell, 2-0, 47 7. Cartersville, 1-0, 27 8. Greene Co., 1-1, 26 9. Manchester, 1-0, 15 10. Pierce Co., 2-0, 10 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commerce, 2-0, 98, 8 2. E.C.I., 2-0, 83, 2 3. Sav. Country Day, 1-0, 65 4. Bremen, 2-0, 56 5. Palmetto, 1-1, 54 6. Calhoun Co., 2-0, 52 7. Hogansville, 1-0, 34 8. Greenville, 0-1, 27 9. Metter, 1-1, 10 10. Pacelli, 2-0, 8
<p>Also receiving votes were Baldwin, LaGrange, Walton, Coffee, Northside, Warner Robins, Columbia, Lakeside, Sprayberry and Westside.</p>	<p>Also receiving votes were Thomson, Washington Co., Carrollton, Northwest Whitfield, Camden Co., North Springs, Chamblee, Stephens Co. and Waycross.</p>	<p>Also receiving votes were Morgan Co., Vidalia, Turner Co., Villa Rica, Dooly Co., East Rome, Feldwood, Washington-Wilkes, Seminole Co. and Model.</p>	<p>Also receiving votes were Douglass, Montezuma, Clinch Co., Pelham, Buford, Arnold, Adairsville, Atkinson Co., Southeast Bulloch, Jefferson, Brookstone, West Point, Social Circle and Montgomery Co.</p>

which defeated Lowndes 23-7 and moved up one notch.

Benedictine, 2-0, was tied at ninth with Statesboro, 1-1, last week but held No. 9 alone this week after Statesboro slipped to No. 10, rounding

out the AAAA top 10.

In Class A, Emanuel County Institute crushed Portal 47-16 and moved to second from a third-place tie with Bremen. Jumping to third place from sixth was

Savannah Country Day, which defeated West Hardeeville, S.C., 46-7. Palmetto, No. 2 last week, fell to fifth after losing to Class AA Russell 18-13.

Rounding out the Class A

top 10 were Bremen at fourth, Calhoun County at sixth and Hogansville at seventh, followed in order by Greenville, Metter, and a newcomer to the standings, Pacelli.

R.E. Lee and West Rome were No. 1 and 2 in Class AA this week. R.E. Lee was idle and West Rome dropped Coosa 41-7 in its season opener. Mary Persons defeated Monticello 20-8 but still dropped one notch to fourth to swap places with Lincoln County. Lincoln beat Abbeville, S.C., 17-2 to take third place.

Cartersville tied Model 0-0 to drop from fifth place to seventh in AA, trading places with Claxton, which edged Metter 18-15. Dooly County had been eighth, but after losing to Crisp County 23-0, the Bobcats were banished to the masses. Vidalia, No. 10 last week, also was thrown out despite defeating

Effingham County 21-19. They were replaced by Manchester at ninth and Pierce County at 10th. Greene County advanced from ninth to eighth.

Cedartown was tops in Class AAA despite being idle for the weekend. Dalton, No. 2 before this week, defeated Calhoun 21-14 in its season opener but nevertheless fell to fourth place. Bainbridge defeated Colquitt County 35-9 and moved from third to second. Cairo smashed Randolph Clay 56-6 and moved from fifth to third.

After Dalton in fourth were, in order, Gainesville, Perry, Crisp County, Americus, Dublin and Mitchell-Baker.

Hyder Looking For Scrap

From Winless Monroe

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

For the second straight week Valdosta's Wildcats will travel to Albany's Hugh Mills Stadium. The Wildcats handled Westover with ease there Saturday night, and Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder no doubt would savor a repeat as his team squares off against Monroe.

Hyder, however, isn't talking like he expects his 'Cats to waltz back to 'Dosta with something similar to their 27-6 win over Westover Saturday night.

There are a couple of reasons for that: For one thing, his squad is marked with No. 1 ranking among the

state's Class AAAA teams in both wire service polls. That, of course, makes Valdosta a bigger target for the Tornadoes, who are winless after two outings. And, Hyder relates, Monroe is one of those teams which always seems to prove troublesome for his team.

Valdosta moved to the top of the Associated Press football poll this week from the No. 2 spot it occupied before previously top-ranked Warner Robins was felled Friday night by Clarke Central.

"We've been there before, so we know people really like to hammer on you when you're No. 1," Hyder said. "I

imagine the ranking fires the other team up more than it fires us up. It does give us some pride, but the kids know it doesn't mean a whole lot until you get into the playoffs."

And the tilt with Monroe could have a bearing on the makeup of the playoffs as it is one of the Wildcats' four Sub-region 1-AAAA North dates.

"The bullets are flying, so you can get wounded in these games," Hyder said of the sub-region games. "The Westover game was important for us, but this one is 25 percent of the playoff picture."

Despite Monroe's 0-2 mark, Hyder said he has no reason

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to believe the Tornadoes won't be ready to put up the kind of scrap they usually do against the 'Cats.

"They sent word down here that they're saving it up for us," he remarked.

"Monroe has always played well against us,"

Hyder said. "They do a good job on defense, and they've got good athletes, a lot of track-types and basketball-types that are always tough players."

Of particular concern to Hyder are quarterback Curtis Marshall and running

back Maverick McKinney.

"Marshall's throwing is a big concern," Hyder said. "The scouting report doesn't show him running that much — he's more of a straight dropback and rollout passer. He's got a quick release and he's very accurate."

McKinney shoulders much of the responsibility of the running attack. McKinney, who also starts as a linebacker on the Tornado defense, is a 200-pound power runner who Hyder said reminded him of Tift County fullback Terry Revels, who punched through the Lowndes defense last Friday night for 187 yards.

Other standouts on the

Monroe offense include tight end Dexter Noird, a 6-foot-3, 225-pound player who doubles as a tackle on defense and offensive and defensive tackle Ameche Sims, a 215-pounder.

Hyder said he expects to get a variety of looks from the Monroe offense. "They run 12-14 different sets," he said. "I'm sure that's to gain some kind of passing advantage."

Defensively, Hyder said he's not too sure of what to expect from the Tornadoes, since they've changed their basic alignments in both of their games so far this season.

"It's hard to tell what they'll try to do defensively,"

he said. "They had a senior defense last year, but they've got about five players on this year's defense who helped carry the load last year."

Monroe comes into the game with Valdosta in search of its first win. The Tornadoes dropped their opener to Lowndes, 7-0 in overtime ("It speaks well of their defense that they could hold Lowndes to one touchdown," Hyder said.) before losing last week in a 7-6 decision against Northside of Warner Robins.

The Wildcats have rolled in both of their two games, mauling Waycross 42-14 in the season opener before stopping Westover last week.

Sports In Brief

Vikes Ready For 'Cat Fight

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

The Lowndes High Vikings worked two hours in full gear Monday afternoon in anticipation of their annual confrontation with cross-town rival Valdosta Friday night at Cleveland Field.

The Vikings are coming off a 27-19 loss to Westover last Friday in a crucial 1-AAAA South Sub-region showdown. The win assured Westover a spot in the region playoffs. Lowndes, which was gunning for playoff berth, now has to defeat Thomasville in the last game of the season to qualify.

Lowndes split time between viewing films of the Westover game and the Wildcats on film, practicing fundamentals, and running plays against the Valdosta defense.

Viking coach Joe Wilson was concerned with three areas of the Lowndes team after the Friday loss that

dropped the Vikes to 5-2 on the year. Blocking assignments, missed tackles and overthrown passes were all worked on Monday.

The Vikings are looking to

avenge a loss to Valdosta last year. But Wilson realizes it will take a super effort by his team to hope to break the Wildcat win streak that has now reached seven games

and earned them the top spot in the state prep poll for the last five weeks.

"What else can be said about the Wildcats," Wilson said. "They're big, fast,

quick, mature and well-coached. It's the best football talent Valdosta has ever had."

Wilson went on to cite the entire program from their stable of running backs to their coaching staff. "You've got to respect the people behind the Valdosta program," he said. "They're going to do what's necessary to have a successful program."

"They'll spare no money, work or feelings to have the No. 1 program in the country."

In the latest poll of the top high schools in the nation by USA Today newspaper, Valdosta is ranked No. 2 behind Cincinnati Moeller.

The 'Cats are coming off a 17-14 last second win over Dougherty last Friday. Kicker John Porter had to boot a 29-yard field goal with 25 seconds remaining to lift the 'Cats.

VHS Set For Emotional Battle

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High Wildcats are getting down to business for Friday's showdown with cross-town rival Lowndes High. This rivalry is as heated as any in the country.

Coach Nick Hyder knows the game will be filled with emotion. "It is an emotional game, but we would rather have our kids aggressive as opposed to cautious," Hyder said.

Hyder also realizes that coaching will play an important part in Friday's game. "I have great respect for Coach (Joe) Wilson. He is the dean of coaches in the region," Hyder said.

"He knows everybody and he can compare

teams to find out things about you," Hyder added. "Wilson gives them an advantage."

While each team presents Hyder with a different problem, Lowndes will bring the best passing attack in the region to Cleveland Field Friday night. "(Randy) Gay leads the region in several categories and they have a leading receiver in Carl Parker," Hyder said.

Hyder knows Lowndes has a solid defense as well. "Their defensive line is very good, and (Calvin) Orr is near or leading the region in pass interceptions," Hyder said.

The Wildcats worked on pass rush and pass defense Monday in preparation for what could turn out to be an aerial assault from the Vikings.

'Cat Cross Country Team Begins Tradition

By Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High School cross country teams will initiate this weekend what Wildcat girls cross country coach Dick Sturtevant hopes will become a fixture in future years.

The event is the Winnersville Classic, a cross country meet at the Valdosta course that will involve teams from Lowndes, Brooks

County and Colquitt County. The meet begins Saturday at 10 a.m.

"We're hoping this meet will become a tradition and one of the big events during Winnersville Classic week each year," Sturtevant said. "Hopefully, by next year, we'll be able to get the field to up around 10 teams."

Sturtevant's VHS girls

team is coming off a third-place finish last Saturday at the Brooks County Invitational meet in Quitman.

The Valdosta girls recorded 57 points in the eight-team meet, 19 points behind first-place Colquitt. Whigham finished the meet nine points off the winning pace.

The Valdosta boys, meanwhile, took a seventh place finish in the boys 10-

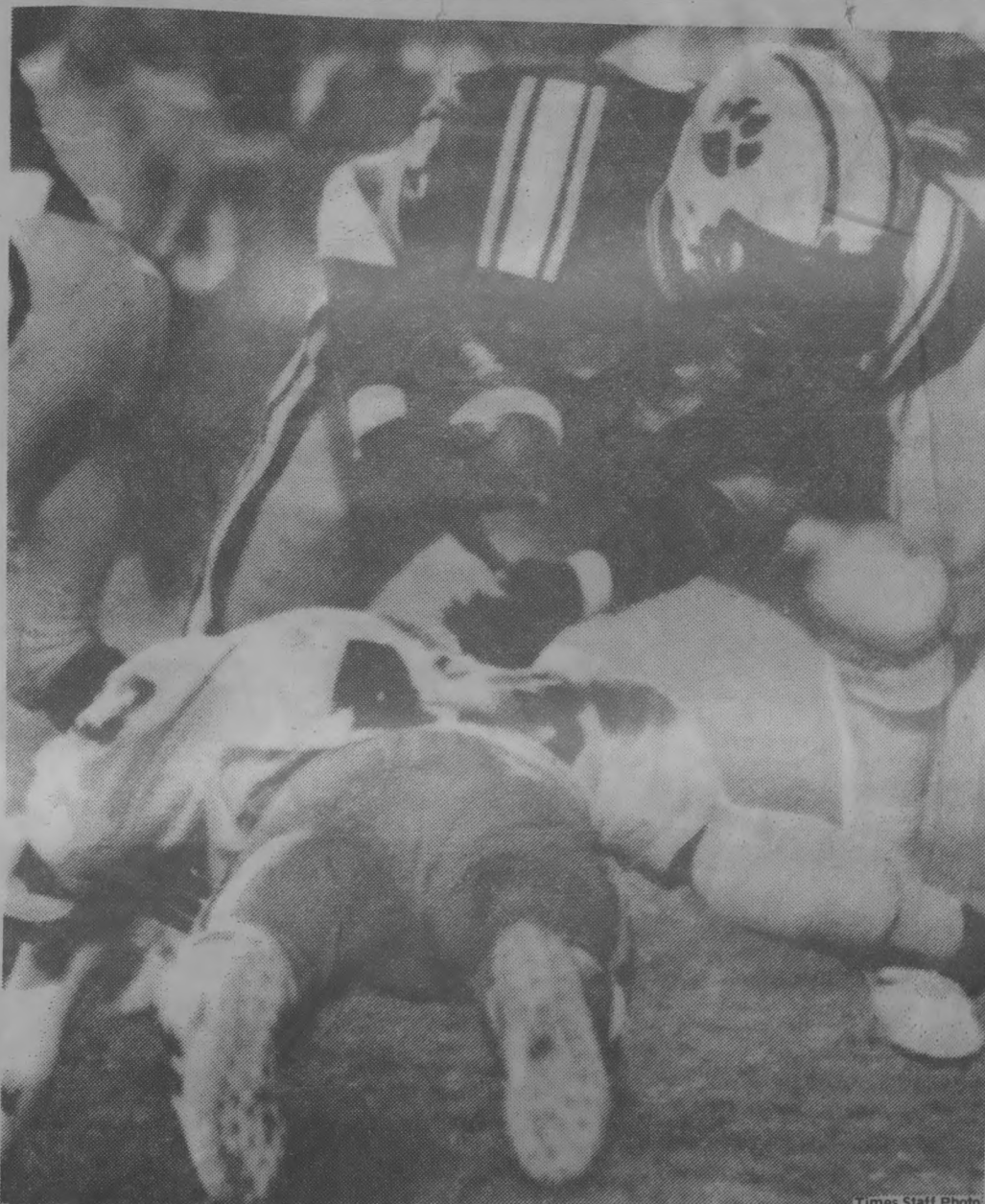
team meet. Westover took top honors, followed by Colquitt and Thomasville. The Lowndes squad closed the meet in ninth place.

Ervin Bailey turned in the best finish of the day among the Valdosta boys with a second-place finish.

For the Valdosta girls, Darlene McCormick staged her usual outstanding per-

formance with a 12:37 for the best time of the meet in girls competition. Lisa Ervin and Stephanie Witherspoon came in eighth and ninth respectively, and Melanie Skiles took a 17th-place finish while Juliette Purvis was 33rd.

The VHS girls were running without the services of No. 2 runner Carrie Oliver, who was sidelined with a knee injury.



Times Staff Photo

Valdosta's Tony Anderson Has Been A Fantastic Freshman

1982
 V.D.T. Oct. 7, 1982

"Cats, Vikes Just One Win Shy Of Region Playoffs

Bruising Dougherty Confronts Wildcats

By DAN CHILDS
 Times Sports Editor

Bumps and bruises. Come Saturday morning, Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder says, the No. 1-ranked Wildcats should have their share of bumps and bruises after scrapping with Dougherty's Trojans Friday at 8 p.m. at Albany's Hugh Mills Stadium.

While Wildcat bodies may indeed be somewhat black and blue after meeting the Trojans, the thing they have to keep untarnished, of course, is that 6-0 record. And especially that 2-0 mark in sub-region play.

The clash with the Trojans will be the third sub-region battle of the year for Hyder and the Wildcats, whose only close brush thus far this year came in a 19-10 victory over Thomasville.

If Valdosta does the expected and deals with Dougherty, the Wildcats will clinch second place in the sub-region.

But, interestingly enough, though Dougherty is 1-3 overall, the Trojans' sub-region mark is 1-0, thanks to a victory earlier this season over Albany. "They're undefeated in the sub-region," Hyder said, "so I'm sure Coach (Luther) Welsh is basing his entire season on this game."

So far, the season hasn't been one to remember for Welsh and the Trojans. With an offense that's been unproductive, they have fallen to Colquitt, Lowndes and Thomasville. The Trojans, who have put the ball into the air only 48 times on the year, completing 11 with five interceptions, don't try to finesse anybody offensively.

Basically, Dougherty comes straight ahead with a pair of beefy running backs, Ray Corben and Freddie Thomas, and tries to wear down the opposition.

"Both of the running backs are bonafide college prospects," Hyder said. "And the offensive line is very big and experienced. They haven't scored a lot of points, but if they put it all together the Cats could have their hands full."

"Physically, they're right in there with Tift and Thomasville and people like that," Hyder added. "So their problem may be one of depth — they've got three people playing both ways, and that's tough to do in our region."

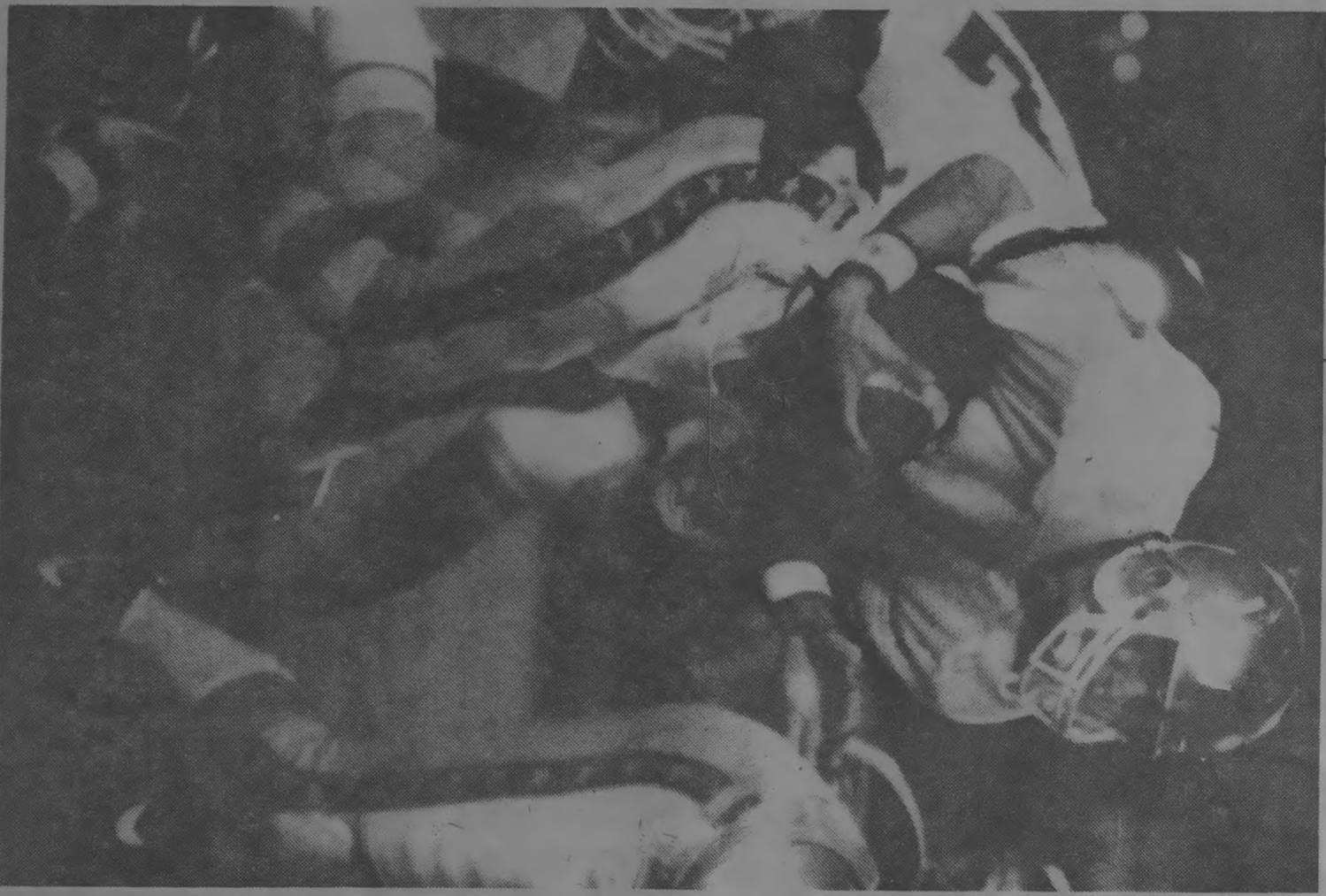
Thomas and Corben, both of whom are ranked in the top 10 in the region 1-AAAA rushing statistics, see double duty on defense at their linebacking posts. Kelton Swanigan, a former offensive guard converted to tight end, doubles as a defensive tackle.

Otis Petty has carried much of the burden at quarterback, but Kenneth Johnson and Calvin Teemer have seen extensive action as well.

"From what we saw of him in our game with Dougherty last year, Petty is a good athlete with good potential," Hyder said. "But you've got to have some semblance of a passing attack."

But on the other hand, their strength is in their defense," he added. "They're very, very physical."

WILDCAT NOTES — Running back Dana Brinson, who has missed the last two games with a hip injury, is expected to be back in action Friday night against Dougherty. "Dana has been practicing," Hyder said. "He still isn't 100 percent, but he's been tough. We expect we'll be able to use him."



Randy Gay Leads Lowndes Against Westover
 Times Staff Photo

Sports In Brief

VHS 9th Grade Whips T'ville

The Valdosta High 9th Grade team upped its record to 2-2 Thursday with a 37-14 win at Thomasville.

The Cats were coming off consecutive losses to Tift County (18-6) and to Central of Thomasville (20-8).

The Cats got untracked this week, though. Quarterback Joey Crosby threw three touchdowns, the longest was 40 yards, to lift Valdosta.

Crosby started the scoring when he hit Kester Joyner on a 22-yard touchdown pass.

Crosby followed that with a 40-yard strike to Randy Bell. Ernie Bishop added a score on the ground when he scampered 12 yards for a touchdown.

Crosby finished his scoring assault with a 35-yard TD pass to Bell.

Valdosta Girls Win Meet

The Valdosta High School boys and girls cross country teams competed in meets Saturday at their home course with the girls teams topping Westover while the boys finished in second place in four-way competition with Tift County, Westover and Lowndes.

The Valdosta girls finished the day with a perfect 15 score to outdistance Westover by 25 points. The VHS boys posted a 41, seven points behind the winning total turned in by Westover. Tift placed third and Lowndes defaulted after failing to finish five runners.

A new record on the two-mile Valdosta girls' course was set by Darlene McCormick of VHS as she finished with a 13:13 time, good for first place. Carrie Oliver came in second at 13:54, and Lisa Irvin took a third-place finish at 14:07. Melanie Skiles was fourth with a 14:12 clocking, and Juliet Purvis finished the run in fifth place at 15:23.

In the boys' competition, Westover's Brannon White covered the three-mile track in 16:01 for a first-place finish.

The top finisher for Valdosta was Irvin Daily, followed by Todd Gamble and Rob Durham.

Valdosta's teams compete again next Saturday at 10 a.m. when they run in the Brooks County Invitational in Quitman.

VIDS 10-1-82



Plant The Plowboys

Distributive education students at Valdosta High School prepare an exhibit to add to school spirit at VHS. It was all in fun as part of Winnersville Classic Week which

culminates in a football game between VHS and Lowndes High School Friday night. — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

Fla. Time 10-16-82

Valdosta knocks off rival Lowndes 22-0

More Georgia prep football coverage on page D-3.

By Daryl Bell
Times-Union Sports Writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Valdosta High, like it has done so many times in the past, overcame a stiff challenge to emerge victorious last night.

This time the Wildcats (8-0) went to work on crosstown rival Lowndes to post 22-0 non sub-region victory at Cleveland Field, a victory the Wildcats truly had to earn.

Leading 2-0 at the half, Valdosta took advantage of Lowndes' inability to move the ball and turned a turnover into the game's first touchdown late in the third quarter.

The first touchdown of the game came with 3:18 left in the third quarter when Lowndes quarterback Randy Gay threw a perfect spiral to Valdosta linebacker John Porter, who promptly turned the miscue into a 55-yard return. Porter's added the extra point to put Valdosta ahead 9-0.

Gay had a miserable evening, completing only 18 of 36 passes for 227 yards with three interceptions, two of which were recorded junior defensive lineman Leon Johnson. Gay was not the only Viking inflicted with interceptions as sophomore quarterback Bobby Deason and running-back Gerald Mitchell both lofted turnovers.

Dana Brinson scored on a 31-yard pass from quarterback Ted West with 25 seconds left in the quarter, and Porter's kick gave Valdosta a 16-0 cushion heading into the fourth quarter. By then the sellout crowd of 12,000 was beginning to file out.

Times-Union Super 11 cornerback Chris Major joined in the festivities in the fourth quarter when he intercepted Mitchell's only pass of the evening, a halfback option for 55 yards and a touchdown with 37 seconds left. The kick was no good, but Val-

Lowndes	0	0	0	0	—	0
Valdosta	2	0	13	7	—	22

V—Safely Gay intentional grounding in end zone
V—Porter 48 run with interception (Porter kick)
V—Brinson 30 pass from West (Porter kick)
V—Major 55 run with interception (kick blocked)

dosta still had a big victory.

The Wildcats, who are ranked No. 1 in the state and No. 2 in the nation according to the Associated Press, were awesome on defense, forcing three turnovers.

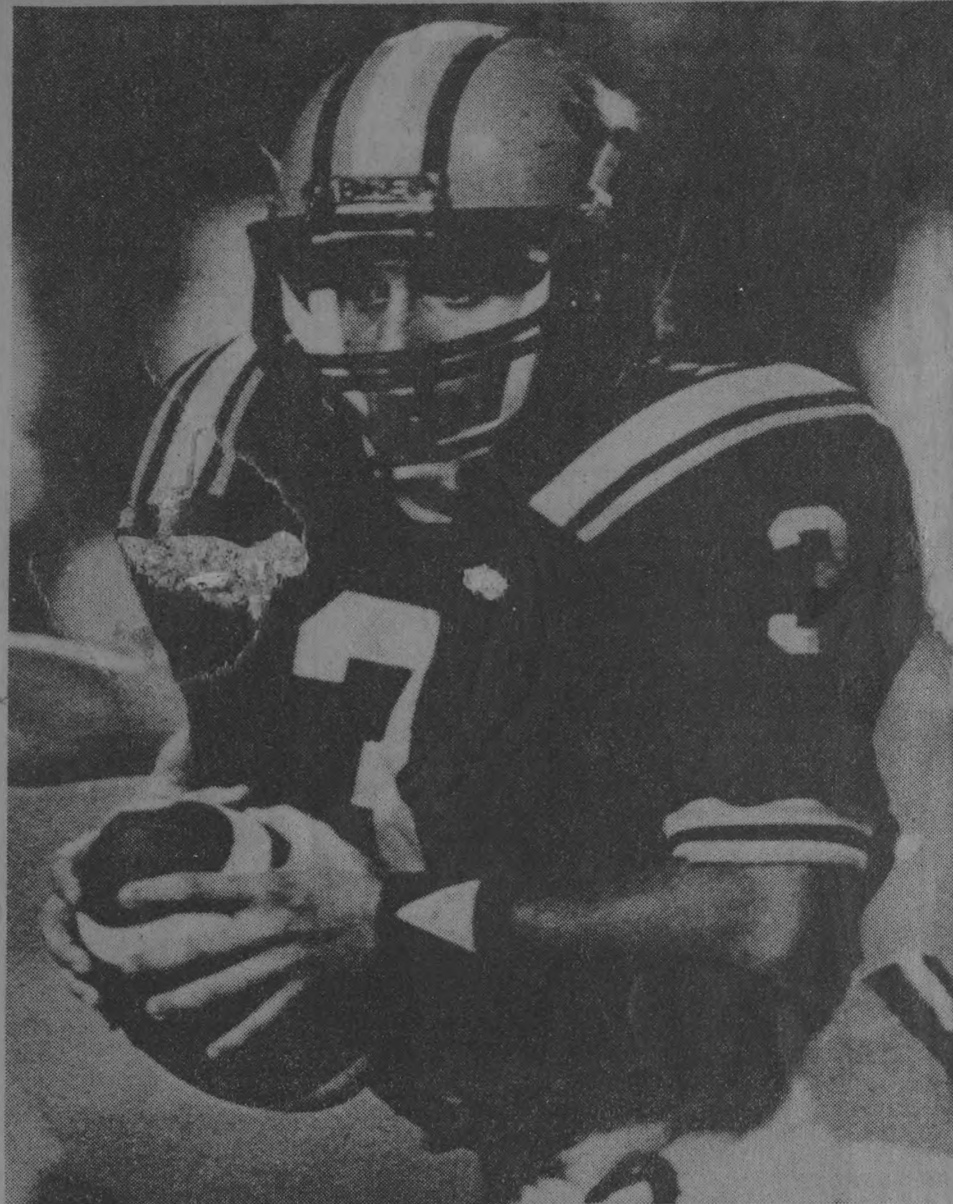
The best that the Vikings could do was a third-and-goal situation from the nine-yard line in the third quarter. With 2:29 to go, Gay dropped back in the pocket and threw the ball to Derek Folsom for a turnover. That was the only legitimate threat of the game by the Vikings.

As defensive struggles go, the first half was a gem, with neither team budging. Valdosta scored with 6:43 to go in the first quarter when Lowndes center Steve Kebler hiked the ball over Gay's head on Lowndes' first offensive series of the night. Facing a second-and-10 situation on his 19, Gay dropped back to the shotgun. Unfortunately, Kebler misfired and the ball rolled all the way to the end zone. Gay downed the ball in the end zone for the safety.

The scoring saved Valdosta from embarrassment after the Wildcats had marched the ball from their own 20 to the Lowndes 12-yard line, only to come away empty handed.

The rest of the way was just bumping and grinding as both teams tried to generate offense.

Valdosta's defense, which has played spectacularly all season long, intercepted Gay twice in the first half but the Wildcats could never do anything offensively, despite the fact they were able to get across midfield very easily.



—Bo Rader/Staff

Valdosta High School quarterback Ted West attempted to run a sweep with Lowndes County, only to run head on into the Lowndes defense. Valdosta won 22-0. in the first half of last night's game.



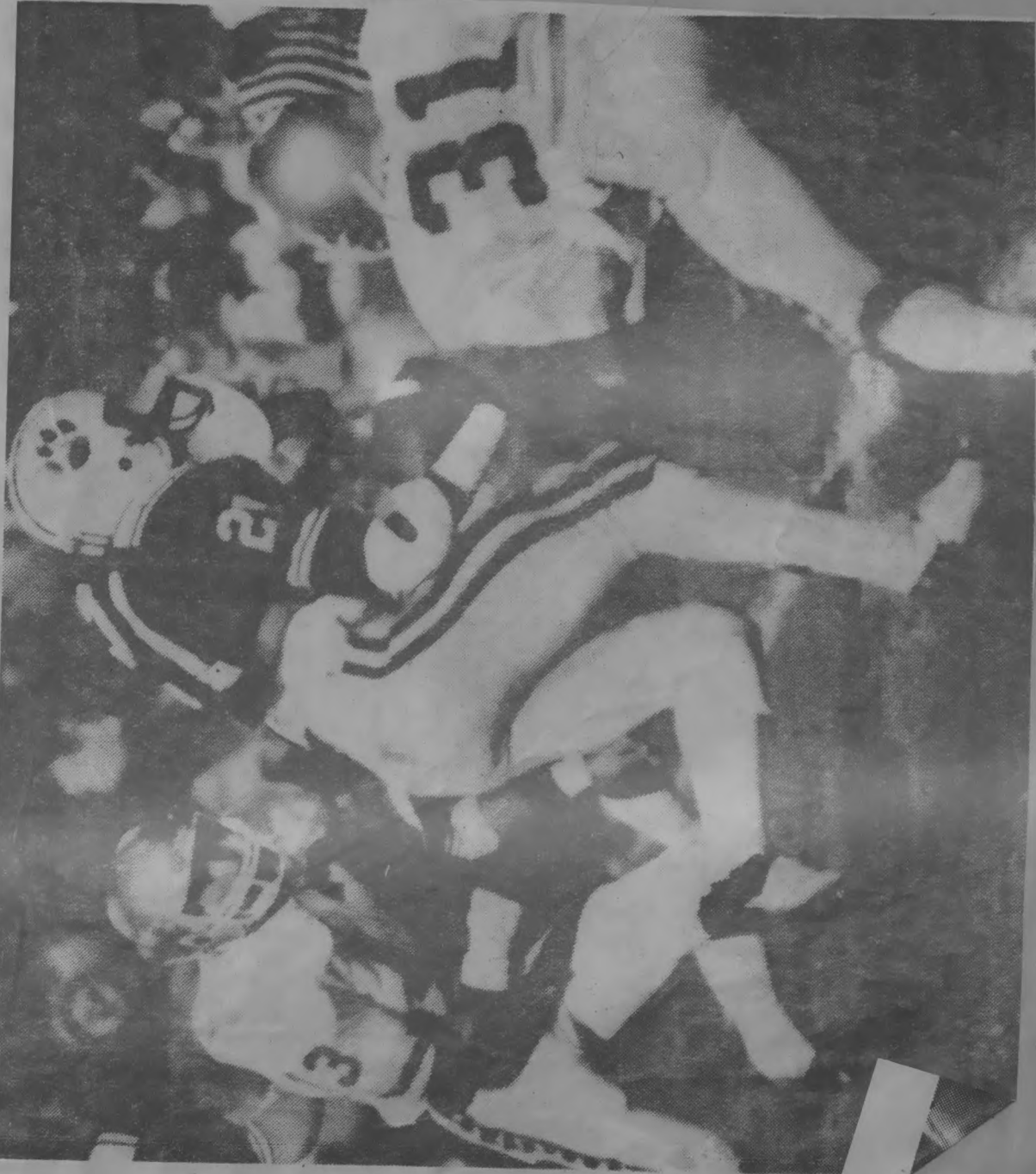
Crosstown Spirit

VDT Oct. 15, '82 Times Staff Photos

Valdosta and Lowndes high schools held their respective pep rallies Thursday night in preparation for the classic Valdosta Wildcat-Lowndes Viking football contest at Cleveland Field. At left, VHS Touchdown Club President

Bobby Greene gets fans into the winning spirit as cheerleaders and a wreath sent by Lowndes stand behind him. At right, Viking Defensive tackle Robert Byington gives a pep talk effective enough to make Plowboy

cheerleaders shout tidings of victory. Both pep rallies were held at or near the schools' respective football stadiums. The game gets underway at 8 p.m. tonight and is the main attraction of the week-long Winnersville Classic.

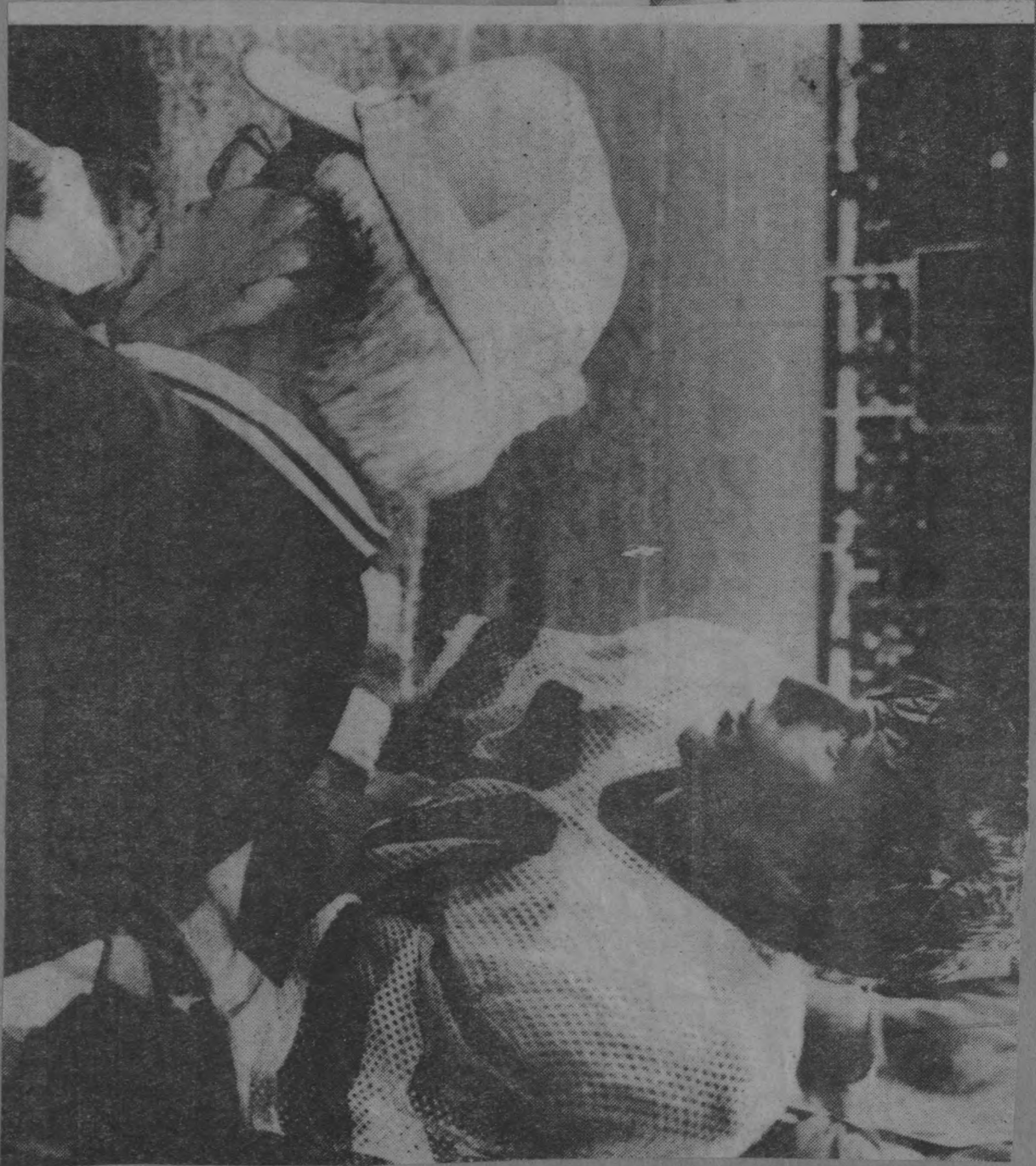
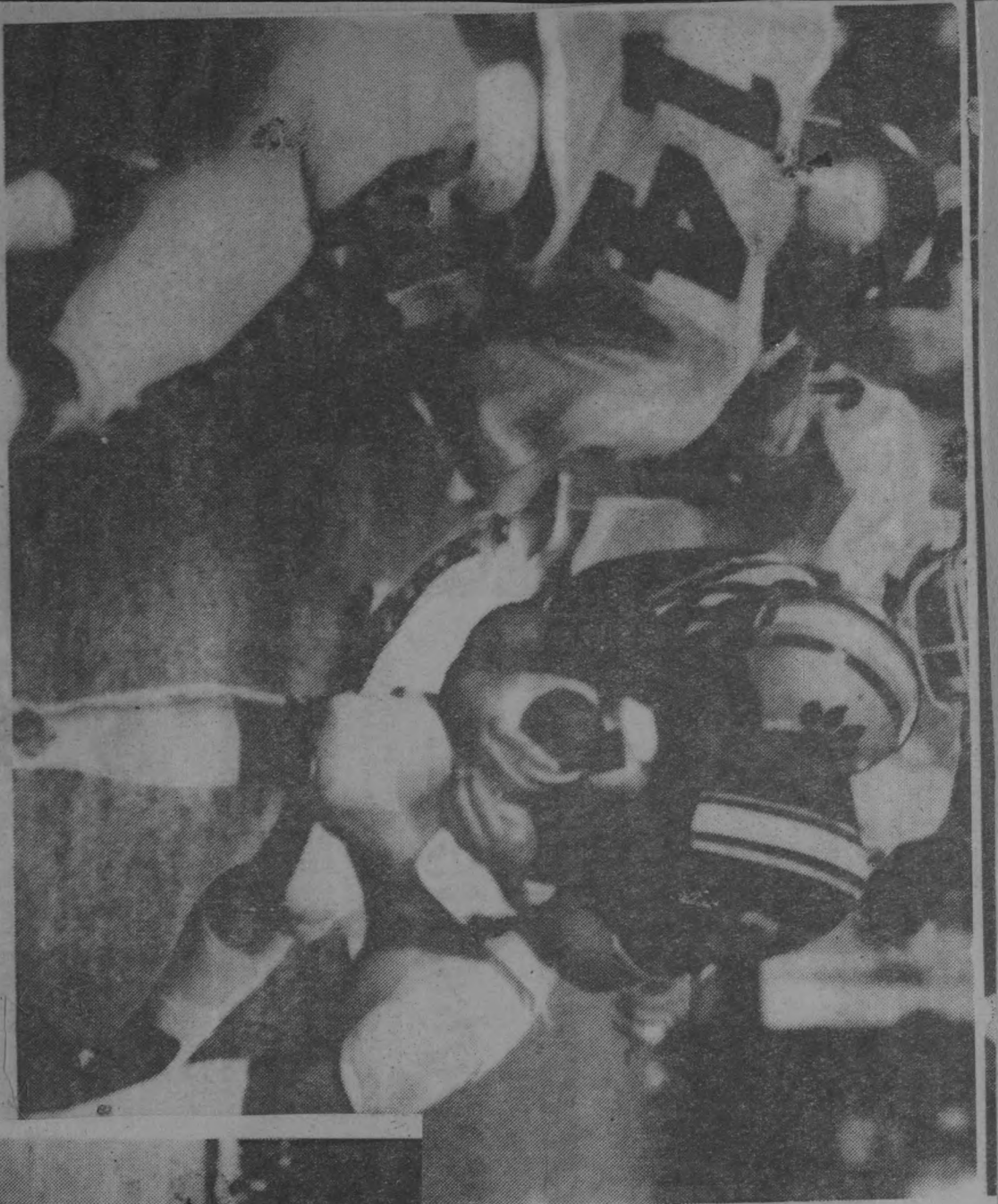


★ ★
**Scenes From
The Big Game**

★ ★
Valdosta freshman running back Tony Anderson (upper left) darts through Lowndes High defenders Billy Crook and Todd Register for yardage.

★ ★
Lowndes High coach Joe Wilson (upper right) talks it over with his all-region wide receiver Carl Parker along the sidelines.

★ ★
Wildcat quarterback Ted West (bottom right) is swarmed under by the Vikings' Billy Hancock and an unidentified Lowndes defender.



Sat.
Oct. 16, 1980

V.D.T.

Wildcats Make Feast Of Viking Turnovers

By DAN CHILDS

Times Sports Editor

It was just one play, but it told the story of Lowndes' 22-0 loss to Valdosta Friday night at Cleveland Field.

The Vikings were third-and-goal at the Valdosta 8-yard line. They had taken the opening kickoff in the second half and, trailing 2-0, driven from their own 21 in 12 plays. They had the opportunity to take control of the game.

STATISTICS	
Valdosta	Lowndes
First Downs	19
Yards Rushing	195
Yards Passing	123
Passes	78
Fumbles	52-21-7
Fumbles Lost	16-5-1
Punting	5-37.6
Penalties	9-79

Lowndes quarterback Randy Gay took the snap, looked to his left for wide receiver Carl Parker angling into the end zone and let the ball fly. For a split second, as Gay's pass spiraled toward the Wildcat end zone, it appeared that the Vikings might take command. But something happened in that split second.

Valdosta's defensive back Derrick Folsom got between Parker and the pass from Gay and snatched the ball away, stopping Lowndes' bid to get a hold on a tight game against its archrival and cross-county neighbor.

Folsom's interception was one of seven the Wildcats would claim. The pass from Gay was one of 52 the Vikings would put into the air.

That was the story of the night as Valdosta bettered its mark on the year to 8-0, entrenched itself more firmly as the top-ranked team among the state's Class AAAA teams and took a 15-3 lead in the intra-county rivalry.

Take away the interceptions, and the outcome could have been altogether

different.

Although the Viking running game was limited to only 5 yards by the stout Valdosta defense, the passing attack clicked often enough to gain 123 yards and outdo Valdosta in first downs, 19-14. But the interceptions killed the Vikings.

With the exception of a safety that gave Valdosta a 2-0 halftime lead, all the Wildcats' points were the result of interceptions. "We beat ourselves," lamented a dejected Joe Wilson, whose squad dropped to 5-3 on the year. "We had to pass too much. We couldn't make an inch running the ball."

If the Vikes beat themselves, they had some help from Wildcat linebacker John Porter and the rest of the Valdosta defense which helped themselves to five of Gay's passes, one of Bobby Eason's and another by Gerald Mitchell.

Valdosta's opportunistic behavior on defense came in most handy against an aroused Lowndes defense which held the 'Cats to one touchdown. "They've always played tough defense against us," said Valdosta offensive lineman Blake Belue. "But I think they were more physical tonight than we had thought they would be." The Wildcat offense had taken the ball after the

opening kickoff and had driven deep into Viking territory, but quarterback Ted West was sacked at the Lowndes 19 on fourth down for a 7-yard loss.

Lowndes took over, but on the second play, with Gay back in shotgun formation, the snap sailed over his head and into the end zone. Gay retrieved the ball under heavy pressure from Valdosta in the end zone and was flagged for intentional grounding when he tried to unload a desperation pass.

Neither team could generate any momentum throughout the remainder of the first half. Lowndes moved the ball well at times, driving to the Valdosta 20 midway through the second quarter before Leon Johnson intercepted a Gay pass.

On Lowndes' following possession, Gay was intercepted again, this one coming when Porter snared one at the Wildcat 43. The Wildcats took over with 6:18 left to play in the first half and drove to the Lowndes 5, but on a fourth-and-goal Pernel Bee fumbled the ball away and Lowndes ran the clock out deep in its own territory.

The Vikings could have taken the lead, and perhaps the momentum, on their drive to open the second half before Folsom made his timely interception.

On its next possession,

Lowndes again got in trouble when Gay's pass for Mitchell was grabbed by Porter at the Valdosta 45. Porter simply stepped in front of Mitchell, hauled in the pass and strolled down the left sideline and went stading into the end zone. Porter tackled on the first of two PAT's to give the Wildcats a 9-0 lead with 3:18 remaining in the third quarter.

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder still wasn't breathing any easier at that point, but he began to feel that the 'Cats might be getting a grip on the game moments later.

Valdosta
Lowndes
2 0 0 0-0
3 0 10-0
3 0 10-0

Scoring: VMS: safety (LMS) called for intentional grounding in end zone.
VMS: Porter, 55 yd interception return (Porter PAT)
VMS: Brinson 31 yd pass from West (Porter PAT)
VMS: Major 55 yd interception return (PAT blocked)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing: VMS: Anderson 17-41, 94-97; Brinson 1-4; LMS: Thomas 7-21, Jones 2-7
Passing: VMS: West 12-50-2, Hitchcock 3-0-0; Bee 1-0-0
LMS: Gay 4-18-5 1W, Eason 3-8-1 0, Parker 3-0-26, Vickary 1-1-9-1, Mitchell 1-0-10
Pass Receiving: VMS: Reeves 1-3, Bee 1-3, Mitchell 3-9, Brinson 1-3; LMS: Parker 6-9, Mitchell 17-41, Cain 5-24
Punt Returns: LMS: Thomas 1-14, Davis 1-1
Kickoffs Returns: LMS: Parker 5-20; Davis 1-12; Mitchell 1-15
Defense (Number of Tackles): VMS: Robinson 6; Major 3; Irvin 5; Robinson 2; Cooper 7; Porter 6; Spivey 6; Abney 6; Wakefield 4; Lee 3; Johnson 4; Daniels 5; Williams 3; Folsom 2; Ramsey 1; Lewis 1; LMS: George 1; Giddens 1; Collier 6; Culppepper 5; Register 4; Davis 10; Orr 7; Byington 9; Sahaun 4; Hancock 3; Newberry 4; Hubbard 1; B. Davis 1

Interception Returns: VMS: Johnson 1-2; Porter 2-40; Folsom 1-1; Lee 1-2; Spivey 1-6; Major 1-55
LMS: Culppepper 1-4

Once again, a Viking drive was stopped on an interception, this one by Jeff Lee, who returned the ball from the Valdosta 43 to the Lowndes 30.

Tony Anderson lost a yard on the first play, but on

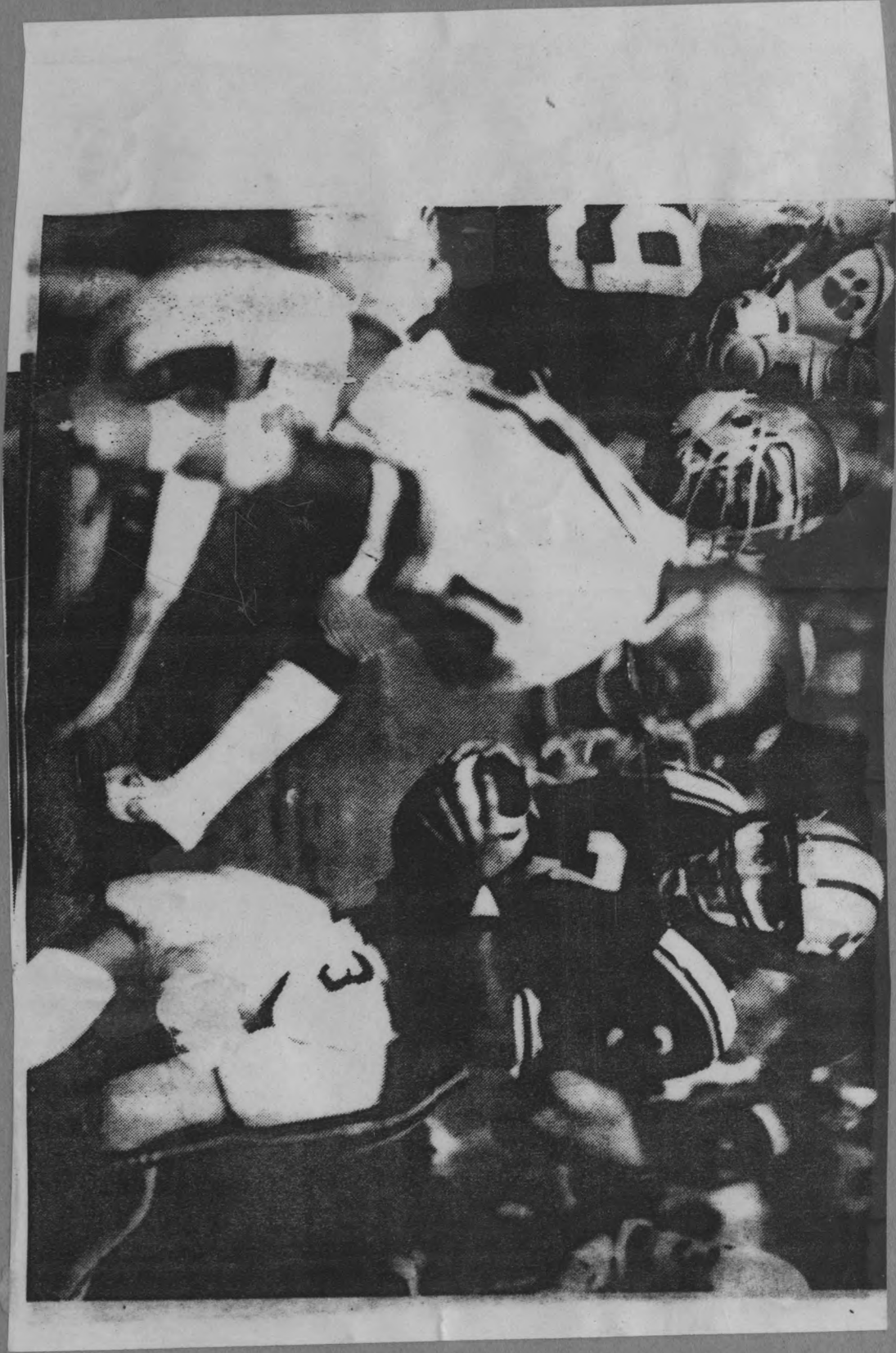
Turnovers

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Oct. 16, 1982

'Cat Quarterback Ted West Tu

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"I felt like that touchdown shifted the momentum," Hyder said. Any hopes Lowndes still had at that point probably vanished early in the final period when the Vikings faked a punt at the Wildcat 34 on fourth down. Phillip



Sat. Oct. 16, 1982

VDT

Wildcats Make Feast

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Oct. 16, 1982-9-

Of Viking Turnovers

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

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STATISTICS

	Valdosta	Lowndes
First Downs	14	19
Yards Rushing	195	5
Yards Passing	78	123
Passes	16-5-1	52-21-7
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Punting	5-37.6	1-37
Penalties	9-79	3-35

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The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

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Score By Quarters

	1	2	3	4	Final
Valdosta	2	0	14	6	22
Lowndes	0	0	0	0	0

Scoring: VHS: safety (LHS called for intentional grounding in end zone).

VHS: Porter, 55 yd interception, return (Porter PAT)

VHS: Brinson 31 yd pass from West (Porter PAT)

VHS: Major 55 yd interception return (PAT blocked)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: VSH: Anderson 17-61, Bee 8-77, Brinson 11-48, LHS: Thomas 7-21, Jones 2-minus 2, Gay 7-minus 9, Eason 1-minus 5.

Passing: VHS: West 12-50-78, Holtzclaw 3-0-10, Bee 1-0-0.

LHS: Gay 44-18-5 196, Eason 3-0-1 0, Parker 3-2-0 26, Vickery 1-1-0 1, Mitchell 1-0-10.

Pass Receiving: VHS: Reeves 1-15, Bee 1-minus 5, Mitchell 3-37, Brinson 1-31, LHS: Parker 6-91, Mitchell 7-61, Cain 5-54, Punt Returns: LHS: Thomas 1-16, Davis 1-1.

Kickoffs Returns: LHS: Parker 2-30; Davis, 1-12; Mitchell 1-15.

Defense (Number of Tackles): VHS: Robinson 6; Major 3; Irvin 5; Robinson 2; Cooper 7; Porter 8; Spivey 6; Abney 6; Wakefield 4; Lee 3; Johnson 4; Daniels 5; Williams 3; Folsom 2; Ramsey 1; Lewis 1.

LHS: George 1; Gliddens 7; Golsier 6; Culpepper 5; Register 14; Davis 10; Orr 7; Byington 9; Statum 4; Hancock 7; Newham 4; Crook 6; Cain 1; Newton 4; Wright 1; Hubbard 1; B. Davis 1.

Interception Returns: VHS: Johnson 1-8, Porter 2-60, Folsom 1-1, Lee 1-28, Spivey 1-0, Major 1-55.

LHS: Culpepper 1-0.

Once again, a Viking drive was stopped on an interception, this one by Jeff Lee, who returned the ball from the Valdosta 44 to the Lowndes 30.

Tony Anderson lost a yard on the first play, but on

Cont. On Back

Cont.



Times Staff Photo By Robert Winter III

'Cat Quarterback Ted West Turns Corner On Lowndes Defense

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"I felt like that touchdown shifted the momentum," Hyder said.

Any hopes Lowndes still had at that point probably vanished early in the final period when the Vikings faked a punt at the Wildcat 34 on fourth down. Phillip

Vickery, back in punt formation threw to Two Davis, but the play gained only a yard, 9 yards short of its destination.

The scoring ended appropriately enough with 37 seconds left to play when Wildcat defensive back Chris

Major picked off yet another interception and displayed some fancy broken field running that resulted in a 55-yard return for a touchdown.

"When we lose, it's always discouraging," Wilson said. "When we lose to them, it's double discouraging."

Fl Times 10-20-82

Big-time dreams at Valdosta

Freshman Tony Anderson growing up fast for 'Cats

By Daryl Bell
Times-Union Sports Writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — The dream had become so deeply embedded in his mind that at times it began to haunt him like a nightmare. In every recurring segment, he would see the colors black and gold flash before them as if it held some cryptic message.

The dream was to become a Valdosta High Wildcat and Tony Anderson wanted so badly for it to become a reality that he'd invent critical situations for himself.

It would be fourth-and-goal from the one with 0:01 remaining and Valdosta needing a touchdown to win. He'd break from the huddle, then go into his three-quarter stance as the quarterback called the signals. On cue, he'd receive the handoff and proceed into the pile, scoring the winning touchdown.

The dream never changed.

In Valdosta, playing for Valdosta High means more than hitting a grand slam with two out in the bottom of the ninth. It means more than hitting the winning free throws in an overtime basketball game. Playing football for Valdosta means being part of a tradition whose legacy continues to grow.

"I can remember going to the games and wanting to be a Wildcat," said Anderson. "I wanted to wear the black and gold [Valdosta's colors]. I wanted to be part of Wildcat pride. It was something I had grown up with and wanted to be. I had a chance to go to Lowndes but I wanted to go to Valdosta. I had to be a member of the Wildcats."

Anderson's dreams have become reality. He is a member of the Valdosta High football team. But even he didn't imagine the dream to be as good as it has been.

Every year, it seems there are comparisons made of players past and present. Every year there is one player who is singled out for praise. As a freshman, Tony Anderson is already facing those comparisons.

There are those who have projected him to be the next Herschel Walker, who as a prep star at Johnson County High broke just about every rushing record the state had to offer. Anderson hasn't reached that level, but there are those who feel he is only a step away from the top.

He leads Valdosta in rushing with 488 yards on 90 carries and touchdowns with eight. He is a part-time starter who, against Albany, carried the ball 11 times for 150 yards and four touchdowns. He's a bundle of talent that is just waiting to be refined.

"It doesn't bother me when people say I'm the next Herschel Walker. In fact, I look at it as an honor because he is so good," said Anderson. "I still have a lot that I have to learn. I have a lot of improving yet to do. If I get to that point, maybe then I'll be in the same class as Herschel. He's something to aim for."

Anderson looks as if he could play without pads. At 6-0, 192 pounds and still growing, he already has an impressive physique.

On the field, Anderson can either scurry around opponents or run right through them. He blocks better than many linemen, and he has plenty of speed.

"I liked him when I first saw him as a seventh grader," said Valdosta coach Nick Hyder. "He has



— Bo Rader/Staff

Valdosta High's Tony Anderson is only a freshman, but he leads the No. 1-ranked

Wildcats with 480 yards on 99 carries — and he is only a part-time starter.

all the tools and can go as far as he wants to. It's completely up to him. What impresses me the most about him is his cutting ability.

"Most players lose a step when they cut to either side. They have to take a few steps to get themselves back to full speed. Tony just goes straight ahead and cuts at full speed. The ability to do that alone gets him the extra yards he gets."

Despite scoring 32 times during his junior high career, there were those who doubted him. It got so bad that he made a worse mistake than fumbling; he began to doubt himself.

"I really didn't expect to be playing as well as I have been," said Anderson. "I knew that I could play but I was beginning to wonder whether I could play as well at the high school level. I was kind of worried about having to prove myself. I think I have proven myself to them, but there are things that I have yet to prove to myself."

Underneath his uniform, Anderson wears a gold T-Shirt with "Thunder and Lightning Inc." inscribed in big black letters. That's what the Valdosta backfield refers to itself as, and Anderson displays it proudly before a game. He considers it a sign of solidarity. The new-found notoriety has not

changed him a bit. He's still a team player.

"He gets nervous a little bit before a game but that's because he's so hyped up for it to start," said senior fullback Dana Brinson, his closest friend on the team. "He's just like everybody else, excited but by the time the game starts, he's not nervous anymore."

"In the beginning of the season, I wondered whether everyone would get an opportunity to carry the ball. We had a lot of people capable of carrying the ball. But Pernell [Bee, a senior running back], Tony, and myself have seen the ball enough. We're all trying to obtain the same thing, a state championship."

Anderson is still adjusting to the high school game.

"I'm still not used to everyone asking me questions about playing," he said. "I couldn't have done anything without the help of my teammates and coaches. They're the ones who have pushed me. Without them, I'm no different than anybody else."

Tony Anderson is still a dreamer. The last segment of his adventure is supposed to take him to the state championship. He won't get a good night's sleep until that dream becomes a reality.

Valdosta Still On Top In Class AAAA Rankings

V. Times 10-20-82

ATLANTA (AP) — For the first time all year, a high school football team — the Cedartown Bulldogs — is a unanimous choice for No. 1 in the Associated Press rankings.

Cedartown, tied for first with Perry in class AAA last week, advanced to a perfect showing and sole possession of No. 1 with a 49-6 romp over Chattooga. Perry crashed with a 27-0 loss to Dublin.

Valdosta, Cedartown, R.E. Lee and Metter repeated at No. 1 in the ninth week of the poll. Valdosta, 8-0, led the AAAA rankings for the

Class AAAA	Class AAA	Class AA	Class A
1. Valdosta, 8-0, 98, 9 2. Clarke Central, 7-0, 90, 1 3. Peachtree, 7-0, 74 4. Coffee, 6-0, 64 5. Benedictine, 7-0, 54 6. Westside, 7-0, 49 7. Walton, 7-0, 37 8. Cedar Shoals, 6-1, 36 9. Warner Robins, 5-2, 21 10. Campbell of Smyrna, 6-1, 6 Also receiving votes: Tift Co., LaGrange, Northside of Warner Robins, Baldwin, Laney, Cherokee, Riverdale, Central of Macon and Westover.	1. Cedartown, 7-0, 100, 10 2. Cairo, 7-1, 82 3. Mitchell-Baker, 6-1, 67 4. Carrollton, 7-0, 64 5. Stephens Co., 6-0, 56 6. Americus, 6-1, 44 7. Bainbridge, 6-1, 37 8. Perry, 6-1, 30 9. Dublin, 6-1, 24 10. Tie George, 6-0, 15 Tie-Gainesville, 6-1, 15 Also receiving votes: Madison Co., Camden Co., Glenn Hills, Chamblee, Washington Co. and Dalton.	1. R.E. Lee, 7-0, 97, 7 2. West Rome, 7-0, 90, 2 3. Lincoln Co., 7-0, 80, 1 4. Pierce Co., 7-0, 71 5. Cartersville, 6-0-1, 53 6. Manchester, 6-1, 45 7. Washington-Wilkes, 6-1, 34 8. Claxton, 6-1, 27 9. Turner Co., 6-1, 17 10. Feldwood, 6-1, 14 Also receiving votes: Model, East Rome, Morgan Co., Mary Persons, Russell, Vidalia and Fulton.	1. Metter, 6-1, 97, 8 2. Palmetto, 7-1, 82, 1 3. E.C.I., 6-1, 78 4. Bremen, 5-1, 65, 1 5. Montgomery Co., 6-0-1, 49 6. Commerce, 5-2, 36 7. Greenville, 5-2, 34 8. Jefferson, 6-1-1, 33 9. Atkinson Co., 6-2, 12 10. Pelham, 6-2, 11 Also receiving votes: Southeast Bulloch, Calhoun Co., Wilcox Co., Jenkins Co., Wrens, West Point, Hogansville, Adairsville and Brookstone.

seventh straight week with 98 voting points and nine votes for first after a 22-0 victory over Lowndes.

Clarke Central, 7-0, picked up the remaining first place vote and 90 points after a 38-7 victory over Forsyth County.

Voting is by the AP's board of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters, with 10 points awarded for each first place

vote, nine for second and so on. Not all board members cast ballots this week for 10 teams in all four classes.

Behind Valdosta and Clarke Central again were Peachtree, Coffee, Benedictine, Westside, Cedar Shoals, Walton and Warner Robins.

Making its debut in the rankings was 10th-ranked Campbell of Smyrna, 6-1 after a 26-13 victory over McEachern. Tift County, 5-2, fell from ninth out of the rankings with a 21-7 loss to Westover.

Cedartown, with a 7-0 record, racked up this week's maximum 100 points to lead class AAA for the ninth consecutive week.

Taking It Easy

V. Times 10-21-82

Lowndes, Valdosta Resting Up With A Week's Vacation

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

Open weeks are always a welcome sight midway through a grueling season. And for the folks at Valdosta and Lowndes Highs this Friday night without a game is almost like an oasis.

It not only allows players to savor last week's showdown between the two local high schools, but it allows both teams injured a week to recuperate.

The two schools met last Friday night in an emotional battle with Valdosta coming out on top 22-0. Now both the Vikings and the Wildcats

have a week off before returning to the gridiron. The 'Cats host Central of Thomasville in their annual Homecoming game a week from Friday while the Vikes travel to Albany for a cross-region matchup with Albany High.

Wildcat coach Nick Hyder said he uses the open date in a number of ways. "We try to reward the players," he said for the 'Cats eight straight Friday nights of football. In that span Valdosta has amassed a spotless 8-0 record and the No. 1 ranking in the state in Class AAAA. "We try to tone our practices and heal up some," Hyder said.

"We've still got a few bumps and bruises."

On the last play of the Lowndes game, four Wildcats were injured. And the time off will give them a chance to get ready for Homecoming.

Monday the 'Cats spent in the film room. Tuesday and Wednesday were used to sharpen the offensive and defensive lines. Thursday, Hyder said, will be used to sum up the week's work with a short practice and Friday the 'Cats have off.

But the week won't be all work for the 'Cats. There will be a few occasions for them to play. Tonight the Valdosta Touchdown Club is staging a

dinner for the players and Saturday Dynamite Goodloe's wife is going to have the players over for a get together. The Wildcats dedicated their season in the memory of the late Dynamite Goodloe.

Across town, though, Viking coach Joe Wilson has his team "practicing football." Wilson said the week off is welcome, but his 5-3 Vikings need the work to get ready for Albany.

"We went over films of the Valdosta game," Wilson said, "and we're trying to eliminate errors we made offensively and defensively." Wilson gave the Vikes

Monday off, but Lowndes went full force Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday before taking Friday off.

Wilson said his Vikes were concentrating on three areas of improvement: cut down on pass interceptions (Lowndes threw seven in the loss to Valdosta), bone up the running game and work on blocking.

The Vikes 1982 season comes down to the final game of the year with Thomasville. Both teams have lost to Westover for their only sub-region defeat and the one which comes out of the final game at Martin Stadium with a victory will meet Valdosta

in the region playoffs.

"Thomasville is probably as good as any team in the state with that quarterback in there," Wilson said referring to Thomasville signal-caller Lennie Moore. "We've got a lot to do in three weeks."

While Lowndes has already begun work on Albany, Valdosta will take one more look at Central of Thomasville Friday night before focusing on the Yellow Jackets.

"Before we get all their tendencies," Hyder said, "we'll take a look at their game before we finalize our scouting report."

VHS Band Boosters Meet

V. Times 10-20-82

The Southern Open invitational band tournament will be the topic of discussion Thursday at the meeting of the Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats Band Boosters.

The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. at the old band room at the board of education offices.

Vikings, 'Cats Rest, But Area Slate Full

V. Times 10-22-82

With Valdosta and Lowndes resting up after last Friday night's rumble at Cleveland Field, the prep football action in the immediate area eases up a notch or two tonight.

In the surrounding area, however, there are a couple of games that could mean an awful lot to the schools involved. The top area game slated for tonight has Cook's Hornets traveling to Waycross to face Waycross High in a crucial bout in the 1-AAA East race for the playoffs. Up in Pearson, Atkinson County plays host to Reidsville as the Atcos seek to put their seventh win of the year under their belts.

Last week's prep football picks left me at 4-1, giving me a 30-10 mark for the year.

Lady 'Cats Take Big Victory

From Staff, Wire Reports

The Valdosta High girls cross country team continued its assault on the state championship last week at the third annual Packer Invitational. In a nine-team meet, the VHS girls walked away with the title with a low score of 32.

The Lady Cats edged last year's state champion, Northeast Macon for the championship. Actually Northeast was way down the list of finishers. Host Colquitt County and Whigham tied for second with Albany, Central of Thomasville, Thomasville, Tift County, Westover and Northeast bringing up the rear.

Darlene McCormich set a new course record of 12:35 to take first place for the Lady Cats. Carrie Oliver (13:16) was seventh, Lisa Irvin (13:34) was 11th, Stephanie Weatherspoon (13:39) 12th, and Wendy Irvin (15:36) 25th.

The Valdosta High boys didn't fare quite as well. VHS did not finish five runners and defaulted. Westover won the meet with Colquitt second and Central Macon third.

Irvin Dailey finished fourth for the 'Cats with a time of 16:18 over the three-mile course.

Dec 24, 82

V. time #5-82

Continue Band Support 10/27/82

The best laid plans are often foiled by an uncontrollable force — the weather.

It seems every kind of outside event hinges finally on the old saying, "weather permitting."

Well, Valdosta High School showed the weather a thing or two this weekend.

It rained almost the entire day Saturday and it was chillier than most of us had been accustomed to. Yet Valdosta High managed to drag many of us out into the unsociable weather and keep us there all day.

That was the day the band boosters of the Valdosta High Marchin' Cats put on the seventh annual Southern Open Invitational marching band tournament.

The turnout for the event was low in the early going, but the crowd picked up considerably as the evening wore on and the Southern Open was once again a success, weather notwithstanding.

In all fairness, the weather was up against a formidable foe. It's awfully hard to compete against something as talent-laden and time-tested as the Southern Open.

Marching bands from all over the

Southeast converge at Cleveland Field once a year to entertain us, to enhance their own images and the help finance the Marchin' Cats' own band trips.

Even though winners are named at each tournament, there are really no losers. The community benefits through entertainment, and the fact that Valdosta can maintain such a prestigious event is a good reflection on us all.

The bands involved get in quality showmanship practice and the chance to see how other bands perform, even if they don't net any of the awards.

Both the Valdosta High and Lowndes High bands have shown they can sponsor quality band competition as well as reap the awards in others. They both deserve to be commended for jobs well done.

The best way we can think of to commend them is to continue to turn out for the competitions, rain or shine.

And, of course, it wouldn't hurt to follow our bands to competition outside of Lowndes County whenever possible.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Oct. 27, 1982-14-

Week Off Doesn't Affect

Valdosta's Grip On No. 1

ATLANTA (AP) — Only LaGrange, back after a six-week absence, could crack the rankings this week in the Associated Press Georgia high school football poll, as Valdosta, Cedartown, R.E. Lee and Metter remained on top.

LaGrange, 7-1, finished in the 10th spot in class AAAA after a 21-13 victory over Morrow. The Grangers entered the top 10 at No. 7 on Sept. 15, but fell back out the next week after their 24-20 loss to Riverdale.

Valdosta, 8-0, again rolled

to No. 1 in AAAA with 10 votes for first place and 108 voting points. The Wildcats, who did not play last week, face Central of Thomasville on Friday night.

Clarke Central, which defeated Parkview 28-0 to go to 8-0, again placed second with a single first place vote and 98 points.

Voting is by the AP's board of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters, with 10 points awarded for a first place vote, nine for second, and so on.

In the middle of the AAAA

Class AAAA	Class AAA	Class AA	Class A
1. Valdosta, 8-0, 108, 10 2. Clarke Central, 8-0, 98, 1 3. Peachtree, 8-0, 82 4. Coffee, 7-0, 73 5. Benedictine, 8-0, 59 6. Westside, 8-0, 55 7. Cedar Shoals, 7-1, 40 8. Walton, 8-0, 36 9. Warner Robins, 6-2, 26 10. LaGrange, 7-1, 7 Also receiving votes: Westover, Tift Co., Riverdale, Columbia, Griffin, Northside of Warner Robins and Baldwin.	1. Cedartown, 8-0, 110, 11 2. Mitchell-Baker, 7-1, 88 3. Carrollton, 8-0, 85 4. Bainbridge, 7-1, 77 5. Perry, 7-1, 56 6. Dublin, 7-1, 46 7. Cairo, 7-2, 31 8. Gainesville, 7-1, 26 9. George, 7-0, 24 10. Americus, 6-2, 18 Also receiving votes: Chamblee, Madison Co., Stephens Co., Lithonia, Dalton, Camden Co. and Washington Co.	1. R.E. Lee, 8-0, 106, 8 2. West Rome, 8-0, 99, 2 3. Lincoln Co., 8-0, 89, 1 4. Pierce Co., 8-0, 79 5. Cartersville, 7-0-1, 55 6. Manchester, 7-1, 51 7. Washington-Wilkes, 7-1, 38 8. Claxton, 7-1, 34 9. Turner Co., 7-1, 17 10. Feldwood, 7-1, 16 Also receiving votes: East Rome, Russell, Mary Persons and Morgan Co.	1. Metter, 7-1, 109, 10 2. E.C.I., 7-1, 93 3. Bremen, 6-1, 83, 1 4. Montgomery Co., 7-0-1, 69 5. Jefferson, 7-1-1, 57 6. Commerce, 6-2, 48 7. Greenville, 6-2, 37 8. Pelham, 7-2, 29 9. Palmetho, 7-2, 24 10. Atkinson Co., 7-2, 22 Also receiving votes: Jenkins Co., Adairsville, Wilcox Co., West Point, Calhoun Co., Wrens and Warren Co.

top 10 were — again — Peachtree, Coffee, Benedictine and Westside.

Cedar Shoals rose a notch to seventh with a 31-0 blanking of Newton County, while

Walton fell one to eighth after escaping a 9-7 scare from Cherokee.

Warner Robins remained at No. 9, followed by LaGrange.

Campbell of Smyrna, 10th last week, tumbled out of the top 10 after a 30-21 loss to Douglas County.

In AAA, Cedartown was the week's only unanimous choice, snagging every first place vote for a 110 total. The 8-0 Bulldogs downed Calhoun last week 28-14.

Then the shuffling begins. Last week's number two team, Cairo, dropped a 7-0 decision to Bainbridge on Friday night and dropped five spots in the rankings. Mitchell-Baker and Carrollton each rose one

place to the No. 2 and No. 3 spots, while Bainbridge jumped from seventh to fourth.

Fifth was Perry, up three places with a 17-0 victory over Americus — which fell from sixth to 10th. Coming up to No. 6 was Dublin, up three with a 24-21 defeat of Crisp County.

Cairo came in at No. 7, followed by Gainesville, up two places with a 35-7 decision over Monroe Area. George — tied for 10th last week — finished ninth. (See Week Off, Page 16)



Times Staff Photo

Rain-soaked Band Member Performs At Southern Open Saturday

Colquitt Band Wins Here

By LEE FREEMAN
Times City Editor

The Colquitt County High School Marching 50th Regiment, undaunted by the cold and rain, took a come-from-behind victory in Saturday's seventh annual Southern Open marching band competition here.

Finishing second in preliminary competition in Class A, the marching band from Moultrie bested them all in the finals to collect 92.8 points out of a possible 100 and take home the six-foot tall-victor's trophy.

This was Colquitt's first appearance in the Southern Open, which is sponsored by the Valdosta High Marchin' Cats band boosters and chaired this year by Sandy Campbell.

"One of the most impressive things about Colquitt was the way they came back in the finals," said VHS Band Director Joe David.

"They came back looking determined and sharp."

The Hillwood High School Marching Band from Nashville, Tenn., finished second with 92.2 points in the finals after managing a first place finish just ahead of Colquitt in the Class A preliminaries.

As with Colquitt, this was Hillwood High's first appearance in the competition. The band received the runnerup trophy.

Other finalists in the 19-band competition were third place Tift County High School Blue Devil Band of Tifton, fourth place Albany High School marching band and

fifth place Terry Parker High School marching band from Jacksonville, Fla.

Preliminary competition was broken down into four categories, with the Ware County High School marching band of Waycross copping first in Class B, The Brooks County High School marching band of Quitman taking Class C and the Irwin County High School marching band of Ocilla nabbing Class D honors.

The finalists and the preliminary winners all received plaques, with Colquitt's plaque reading "Southern Open Field Champions," David said.

Superior ratings netted trophies for eight color guards, six drill teams or majorette groups and 13 drum major groups as well as the top five bands.

Hillwood High was judged to have the best overall color guard and drum major sections while Brooks County High fielded the best group of

majorettes, David said.

Judging for the band score, which in itself determined the championship, was based 40 percent of music quality and ability, 35 percent on the general effect the band had on the audience and 25 percent on the marching and maneuvering prowess, David said.

Awards were presented late Saturday night by Jonna Bledsoe, Miss Valdosta and Valdosta Mayor Ernie Nijem also put in an official appearance.

The competition cranked up at 9:30 a.m. and ended about 10:30 p.m. In between exhibition performances were given by the Marchin'

Cats and the U.S. Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps.

Rain persisted throughout much of the early competition, keeping the crowd down, but the weather had cleared by the beginning of the finalist competition and the crowd picked up to an estimated 3,000, David said.

"It was cold and miserable but we had a good crowd as the nigh cleared," David said. "We really appreciate the people coming out anyway. A lot of them stayed all day with their umbrellas."

Profits from the competition go toward financing the Marchin' Cats band trips, David said.

VHS Homecoming Parade Set

A parade and dance highlight the homecoming festivities set Friday and Saturday by Valdosta High School.

The parade, expected to feature about 70 entries, is to crank up at 4 p.m. at the old Valdosta High School building on Williams Street and travel south on Patterson Street and back north up Ashley Street.

The homecoming dance is to be held from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday at Mathis City Auditorium, according to VHS Student Council President Mandy Kent.

Also on tap during the weekend is the Valdosta-Thomasville Central high school football game at Cleveland Field. Halftime festivities will include the introduction of eight homecoming representatives, two per class, and the crowning of the homecoming queen.

Senior football players also will be recognized. Further information on the homecoming plans are available from the VHS Student Council.

V. Times 10/27/82

Valdosta Rested, Ready For Central

V. I. Wm 10-28-82

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

Exam time is drawing near for the Valdosta Wildcats, so the open week the state's No. 1-ranked AAAA team is coming off may have been just what the doctor called for.

After applying a 22-0 licking to cross-county rival Lowndes two weeks ago, the Wildcats had a week to rest up and lick their wounds. And to get ready for the tests that are just around the corner.

Not all those tests will come on the field as the 'Cats gear up for the region 1-AAAA playoffs. If the pressure imposed on the Valdosta players isn't great enough with the playoffs impending, there are also mid-term classroom exams coming up.

"The open week came at a good time," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "If we had played last week, we would have had six or seven players who would not have been able to play."

"It's quite a grind for the kids with the pressure of not only athletics, but academics on top of that," Hyder added. "They not only have to practice and be ready to play, but they've got to spend at least two hours every night with their studies. It's not easy."

As for the on-field tests, the 'Cats are cramming for a date with Central of Thomasville Friday night when they celebrate

preparation on our part."

The brightest part of Central's otherwise dull season has perhaps been the aroused play of an aggressive defense that has yielded 88 points on the season. "They hit like Thomasville on defense," Hyder said. "They are very quick there. They never quit, and that worries us."

Hyder said he's hoping the Yellow Jacket defense won't get many chances to catch its breath Friday night.

"We want to get our defense on the sidelines and our offense on the field. And we want to keep it there," Hyder said. "Blocking execution is something we'll have to have to maintain any kind of consistency in moving the ball."

Hyder will stay with the same scheme in the offensive front that was employed two weeks ago against Lowndes. That alignment has Blake Belue back at center and William Collier moved back to tackle from center. Tony McKinney will be Collier's running mate at the other tackle. Monte Davis and Victor Waymon get the starting call as the guards, with John Nitschke and John Reaves also slated for extensive action at the guard spots.



Valdosta Assistant Charles Tarpley, Wildcats Gear Up For Jackets

Homecoming festivities at 8 at Cleveland Field.

On paper, it would look as though Valdosta's 8-0 season mark might not be in danger as the Yellow Jackets have managed no more than two wins in eight starts this year.

The victories have come against Brooks County and Monroe. The Jackets have

lost to Thomasville, Dougherty, Albany, Tift County, Lowndes and Westover.

Despite having scored only 48 points on the season, the Yellow Jackets have shown some proficiency offensively. Quarterback Chris West, a two-year starter, has thrown for 792 yards, good for third in

the region in passing. He's done that despite a 36 percent completion average. "He's got a good arm," Hyder remarked. "He can rifle it about 60 yards."

West's preferred target is wideout Kelvin Bean, the region's second-leading receiver with 24 catches for 401 yards and four touch-

downs.

Junior running back Chris Mulford heads up the Central running game. Mulford has carried for 236 yards in 67 carries.

"Their speed is like Westover's," Hyder said. "And they've used a lot of sets on offense, which requires a lot of work and

SPORTS

Late VHS Explosion Rips Central

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

It's hard to tell about off weeks. Sometimes, they are the best thing that can happen to a football team. Sometimes, they are a curse.

STATISTICS

First Downs	VHS 19	CHS 8
Yards Rushing	120	123
Yards Passing	226	30
Passes	21-15-1	17-3-2
Fumbles Lost	3	1
Punting	3-32-1	4-22-0
Penalties	6-59	8-76

Thomasville Central head coach Larry Green was banking that the week off Valdosta enjoyed last week would be a curse for the No. 1-ranked Wildcats. For nearly

30 minutes, it looked as though his hopes might become reality. Green's Yellow Jackets didn't make it easy for Valdosta in the first half, and the Wildcats didn't make things easy for themselves, but the 'Cats overcame their trials eventually and rolled to a 35-0 victory over Central Friday night at Cleveland Field.

"We anticipated Valdosta being flat," said Green, whose squad dropped to 2-7 as the 'Cats reeled off their ninth win against our defeats. "It was part of our plan." Valdosta did spend the better part of the opening 30

minutes spinning their wheels. The Wildcats finally put a touchdown on the board late in the half, but in the early moments of the third quarter, it still looked as though the Yellow Jackets might make a run at them.

The 'Cats had opened the second half by driving to midfield, but running back Dana Brinson fumbled the ball away after a 24-yard run and the Yellow Jackets recovered at their own 26.

They began moving the ball and marched to the Valdosta 29 as they tried to even the score. But a holding penalty backed Central up to the Wildcat 44 and the drive stalled. You could almost hear the air go out of the Yellow Jackets' balloon at that point.

"The penalty was the turning point in the game for us," Green said. "I don't want to make excuses, because we got beat by a fine team. But things like that holding penalty have happened to us all year at key times on key downs."

Of course, Valdosta had had its share of frustrations throughout the game as well, particularly in the first half. The Wildcats opened the game by driving to the Central 1, where they lost the ball when Brinson fumbled. On their next series, they were stopped in Central territory on fourth down. They lost the ball on another occasion when Brinson mishandled a punt. Those miscues kept the Yellow Jackets in the game in the first half and in the early part of the second.

"I think the complexion of the game changed when we fumbled the ball on their 1-yard-line," said Wildcat chief Nick Hyder. "But we don't complain about those things. We realize that they are

part of the game and that we just have to be able to overcome them."

It began to change back into the 'Cats' favor late in the half when Valdosta finally put points on the board after a 44-yard drive that ended with quarterback Ted West's 6-yard touchdown pass to Ben Reeves with 34 seconds left before the intermission to give Valdosta a 7-0 lead.

It was one of West's more impressive passing nights of the season. He connected on 9 of 13 attempts for 148 yards, and understudy Berke Holtzclaw hit 5 of 7 attempts for 95 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Wide receiver Rob Mitchell hauled in 6 passes for 139 yards and reserve receiver Hosea Heard had a big night as well. Heard caught just two passes, both from Holtzclaw, but both were good for touchdowns.

The 120-yard Valdosta ground attack worked well at times also. Running back Pernel Bee was credited with the bulk of that yardage, picking up 109 yards on 13 carries, including a 31-yard touchdown jaunt that put the 'Cats up 14-0 with 1:26 left in the third quarter.

Bee's TD run, which capped a nine-play, 92-yard march, came on the heels of the crucial holding call against Central and gave Valdosta was finally getting a firm grip on the game.

If there was any doubt of the Wildcats' control at that point, it quickly vanished. On the first play of the final quarter, defensive back Jeff Lee picked off a Central pass, giving Valdosta possession at the Jacket 28. On the next play West fired a strike to Mitchell, all alone at the goal line for a touchdown to put the Wildcats up 21-0 with

11:28 remaining in the game. Valdosta attempted an onside kick-off, and the play worked, giving the 'Cats the ball at the Central 32. Four plays later, reserve quarterback Berke Holtzclaw found Heard streaking down the sideline, and Holtzclaw nailed him with an 18-yard strike for a touchdown.

In the final minute of the game, Valdosta got another TD on the board on another Holtzclaw scoring pass to Heard, this one from 53 yards out.

Linebacker John Porter played extensively on defense, but he has calcium deposits on his leg and did not handle the kicking chores. Instead, the Wildcats went with reserve kicker Herbert Lowe, who proved he was up to the job as he was 5 of 5 on PAT attempts.

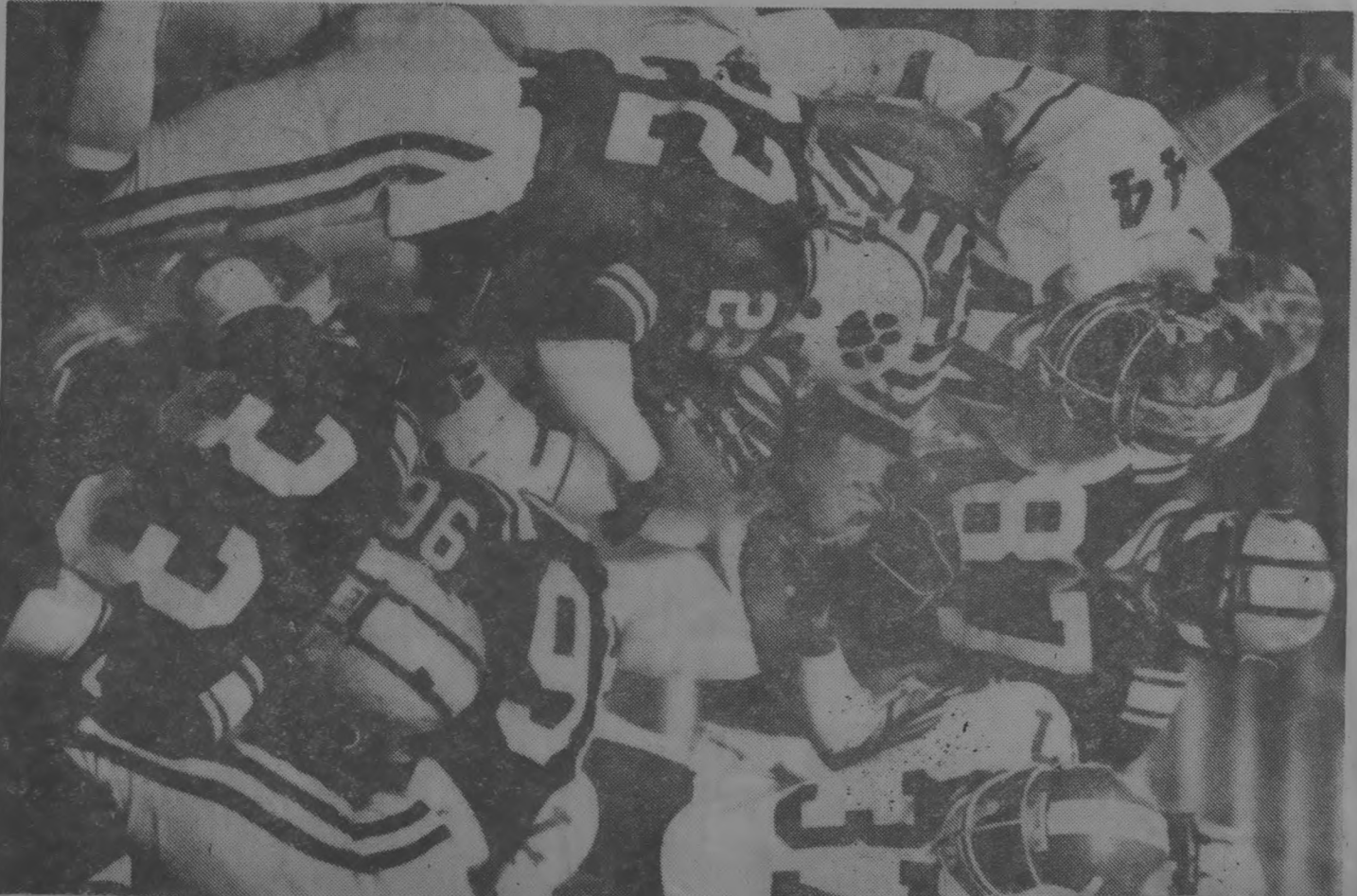
Freshman running back sensation Tony Anderson was held out of the game. Anderson has been hampered with a shin injury, Hyder said.

Score By Quarters

Central	12	3	4	7
Valdosta	0	0	0	0
Scoring:	0	7	7	21
West (Lowe PAT)	0	7	7	21
VHS: Bee, 31 yd run (Lowe PAT)				
VHS: Mitchell, 28 yd pass from West (Lowe PAT)				
VHS: Heard, 18 yd pass from Holtzclaw (Lowe PAT)				
VHS: Heard, 53 yd pass from Holtzclaw (Lowe PAT)				

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing/VHS: Brinson, 8-33; BEE, 13-109; West, 6-minus 26; Holtzclaw, 3-minus 12; Lowe, 1-5; Patterson, 1-11; CHS: Mulford, 12-99; Williams, 7-14; Henley, 1-8; Bean, 1-2; West, 6-21; Davis, 4-9.
Passing/VHS: West, 13-9-0, 148 yds; Holtzclaw, 7-5-0, 95 yds; Bee, 1-1-0, 33 yds; CHS: West, 17-3-2, 30 yds.
Pass Receiving/VHS: Mitchell, 6-139; Leonard, 1-10; Patterson, 1-8; Perry, 1-7; Reeves, 2-12; Brinson, 1-3; Heard, 2-71; CHS: Bean, 2-25; Mulford, 1-5.
Punt Returns/VHS: Brinson, 3-minus 4; CHS: Tucker, 1-8.
Kickoff Returns/VHS: Bee, 1-12; CHS: Williams, 2-25; Bean, 1-14.
Interception Returns/VHS: Lee, 11 yds; Major, 0 yds.



Result Of Fumble Recovery Draws A Crowd

Times Staff Photo By Joe

'Cats' Pernel Bee Gets Rocked Back



SPORTS

The Valdosta Daily Times

For Sub-Region Crown

'Cats Face Upset-Minded Tift

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

The Tift County Blue Devils have the opportunity to repay an outstanding debt Friday night when they host the Valdosta Wildcats.

It's the kind of debt Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder would probably just as soon see remain unpaid. He knows, however, that Tift coach Brodie and his Blue Devils insist on doing all they can to make good an old IOU.

Tift, you see, would like very much to return to Valdosta a favor the Wildcats paid the Blue Devils last year. It was this time a year ago that Tift came calling on Valdosta at Cleveland Field where the Wildcats knocked Brodie's then No. 1-ranked outfit from its perch atop the Class AAAA state rankings.

"They've been living with that for a year," Hyder said, "and I can guarantee you that they'll be coming flat after us this year. I understand that the people up

there are giving us the points in this game."

Not only will Tift be trying to avenge that 17-12 loss it suffered to the Wildcats last season, the Blue Devils will be trying to nail down the home-field advantage for the region playoffs which commence a week from Friday night. The winner of the Valdosta-Tift clash will play at home against the runner-up from the south division of region 1-AAAA. The loser will begin the playoff season on the road against south sub-region champ Westover.

Valdosta, the state's top-ranked AAAA team carries a 9-0 mark into the contest while Tift County is 7-2. Both teams are undefeated after three sub-region games, however.

The Blue Devils were ranked in the top 10 during the season's early weeks before losses to Westover and Thomasville dropped them from the elite.

When the two teams take the field, the game could become a spectacle matching the top-ranked teams in the region in rushing offense and defense. The Blue Devils' ground attack leads the region with a 183 per-game average, but Valdosta this year has shown to be the region's most effective team at stopping the ground game. Through the nine games that have been played this year, the 'Cats have held opponents to just over 44 yards per game.

Tift's defense against the rush, meanwhile, has been averaging a 62-yard per-game yield. The Wildcat rushing attack is averaging better than 164 yards per game.

The Blue Devils, like the Wildcats, are not a one-dimensional offense, however. Quarterback Brian Massingale is equally adept at moving his team on the ground and through the air.

When the Blue Devils keep

the ball on the ground, they like to go to their fullback, Terry Revels, a major college prospect who has averaged better than 6 yards per carry, a clip which has produced a region-high 957 yards for the year.

Friday's bout against Tift will be the first look the Wildcats will have had at Revels—in last year's game Revels played exclusively at linebacker, a position he still fills when the Tift defense is on the field.

"He carries the ball more than 50 percent of the time for them," Hyder said of Revels. "And he's done a good job for them all year. They do a good job with their blocking schemes, and he runs with a lot of power."

The Blue Devils are comfortable going through the air as well, though. When Massingale airs the ball out, his favorite target is Robert Massey, a 6-foot-5 tight end who just this year transferred to Tift County from Tiftarea

Academy.

"This team has come on strong with a balanced attack," Hyder said. "They've got some loaded guns."

Speaking of loaded guns, one of Valdosta's should be back in the lineup. Freshman fullback Tony Anderson was held out of last Friday's game with a shin injury. Anderson, who leads the Valdosta running attack with 487 yards, is expected to be back for the battle with Tift.

Sophomore linebacker John Porter will play extensively on defense, but for the second straight week he will not be handling the place-kicking and kickoff chores. Porter has a calcium build-up on his kicking leg which hampers his kicking motion. Herbert Lowe, who was flawless in five PAT attempts in the game against Central, will again be called on to fill in for Porter in the Wildcats' kicking game.



Times Staff Photo

Tony Anderson Expected To Be Back In Valdosta Lineup

Region Roundup

10/31/82

Prep Teams Gearing For Last Week

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

All region 1-AAA teams played out of their sub-region this weekend to tune up for the big final weekend of the regular season.

The Valdosta Wildcats led the way with a 35-0 drubbing of the Central Yellow Jackets. In other action, Thomasville whipped Monroe, 21-3. Tift County beat Colquitt County, 24-13. Westover crushed Dougherty, 31-12, and Lowndes beat Albany.

Central coach Larry Green brought the Yellow Jackets to Cleveland Field and found the Wildcats flat after an off week. Valdosta could not score on Central until Ted West hit Ben Reaves with a 6-yard scoring strike with only 34 seconds left in the first half.

Early in the third quarter, the Jackets were driving for the tying touchdown, but a holding penalty stalled the drive. "When you're not winning, it's easy for something to happen that you're not able to overcome," Green said.

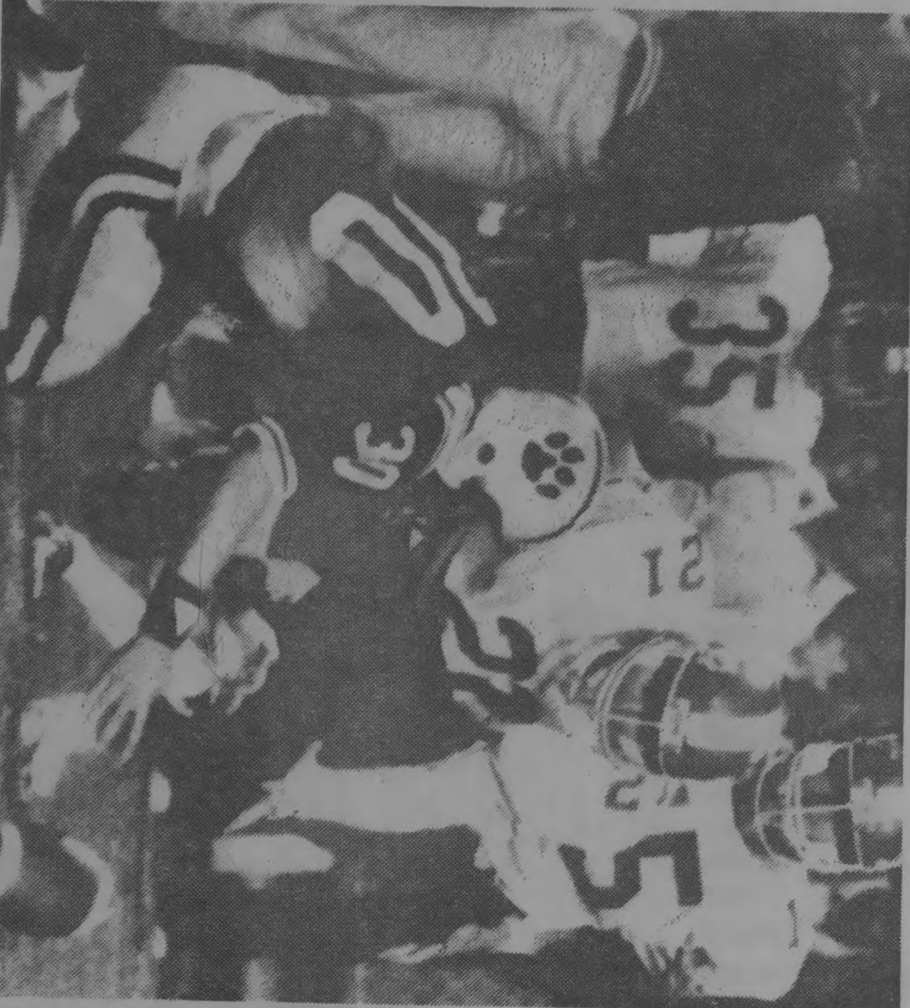
From that point on, it was all Valdosta. Pernell Bee scored from 31 yards out to put the Wildcats up 14-0.

The Wildcats scored three times in the fourth stanza to put Central away. West hit Rob Mitchell from 28 yards out after Jeff Lee had intercepted a Yellow Jacket pass at the Central 28.

With the Wildcats leading "only" 21-0, Valdosta recovered an on-side kick, and Berke Holtzclaw threw an 18-yard scoring strike to Hosea Heard.

Valdosta added its final score on a 53-yard pass from Holtzclaw to Heard.

Thomasville won its game with Monroe, but its defense gave up its first points in four



Valdosta's Mark Perry Scrambles For Loose Ball In Central Game
Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco

games. Quarterback Lennie Moore was again the star for the Bulldogs. Moore got the 'Dogs on the board in the first quarter when he raced 73 yards for the touchdown.

Monroe cut the 'Dogs lead to 7-3 with Jeff Swift hitting a 34-yard field goal on the last play of the first half.

In the second half, Moore hit Curtis Thomas with a 67-yard touchdown pass, and Wayne Morris scored from a

yard away to cap the scoring. Tift County quarterback Rick Massingale had the hot hand as he hit nine of 15 passes for 153 yards and two touchdowns.

Most of the action came in the first half with both of Massingale's scoring strikes coming before the intermission.

The leading rusher in the region, Terry Revels, scored the first touchdown for Tift County with a 2-yard run.

In Albany, Westover battered cross-town rival Dougherty, 31-12.

Gary Lee continued his assault on the region by scoring three times in the game. Lee gained 76 yards on 12 carries and caught two passes for 75 yards.

Westover put the game away in the first half with 24 points.

Lee put the first points on the board with a 1-yard plunge just two-and-a-half minutes into the game.



Homecoming Queen
Carol Johnson, 17, beams with pleasure after being crowned Valdosta High School Homecoming Queen at Friday night's game. She is the daughter of Abraham and Montez Johnson. — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

V Times
10-30-82

Potent Offenses Featured

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

The Tift County Blue Devils and the Valdosta Wildcats have clinched playoff spots, but Friday night's regular season finale will still mean a lot to both teams.

Both teams are 3-0 in the north sub-region, so the winner will be the sub-region champion. The reward for the champion is that it will play the first playoff game at home, while the loser will have to go on the road.

The two teams are evenly-matched on offense and defense. On offense, Tift County is leading the region in total offense with 369 yards per game, while the Wildcats average 310.

Tift County also leads the region in rushing with 189 yards per game. Valdosta is second with 160.

Through the air, the Blue Devils are second in the region with 180 yards, while the Wildcats are third with 151.

In the most important offensive statistic, scoring, Tift County is second, averaging 28.7, while Valdosta is first with an average of 33.1.

Tift County is led by junior fullback Terry Revels. Revels leads the region in rushing with 957 yards. He averages 6 yards on each carry. "Terry has done a good job rushing for us this year," Tift County coach Gene Brodie said.

At quarterback is junior Brian Massingale, who ranks second in passing in the region behind Randy Gay of Lowndes. Massingale has thrown the ball 176 times this season. He has completed 85. Those completions were good for 1302 yards and 14 touchdowns. Perhaps more importantly, he has thrown only five interceptions.

Massingale's favorite receiver this season has been tight end

1-A-A-A-A-A Standings

North

	Sub-Region	Overall
* Valdosta	3 0 0	9 0 0
* Tift County	3 0 0	7 2 0
Dougherty	1 2 0	2 7 0
Albany	1 3 0	4 5 0
Monroe	0 3 0	2 7 0

South

#* Westover	4 0 0	7 2 0
Thomasville	2 1 0	6 3 0
Lowndes	2 1 0	6 3 0
Central	0 3 0	2 7 0
Colquitt County	0 3 0	1 8 0

* Clinched playoff spot
Clinched Sub-Region Championship

Robert Massey, who has caught 18 passes. Those receptions have been good for 306 yards and two touchdowns. Defensively, the Blue Devils are second in total defense, giving up 149 yards per game, while the Wildcats are first, giving up 134.

The Blue Devils are second in rushing defense, giving up 64 yards per game, while the Wildcats are first, giving up 44.

Tift is second in passing defense, giving up 85 yards per game, while Valdosta is fourth, giving up 90.

Tift County gives up 7.1 points per game, while Valdosta gives up 6.4.

Brodie doesn't see that much in the statistics. "Statistics will not play a very big part in this game," Brodie said.

Tift County has had an up-and-down year. It started the year with a win against tough Lowndes and followed that up with victories over Central of Thomasville, Southwest of Macon and Monroe of Albany. The Blue Devils then stumbled against the Bulldogs of Thomasville.

Tift County then beat Albany. The next week, Tift County lost to south sub-region champion, Westover.

Since that loss, Tift County has beaten Dougherty and Colquitt County to bring its record to 7-2.

Valdosta is a perfect 9-0 on the season. Its victims this year have been: Waycross, Westover, Monroe, Thomasville, Albany, Colquitt County, Dougherty, Lowndes and Central.

The playoffs in Region 1-A-A-A-A shape up like this: the winner of this game will host the winner of the Lowndes vs. Thomasville game, while the loser will meet Westover in Albany.

Sports Shorts

Lady 'Cats Take

Region Crown

From Staff, Wire Reports

ALBANY, GA.—The Valdosta High Lady Wildcats have captured the Region 1-A-A-A-A cross country title for the third straight year. Valdosta outpointed Colquitt County and Tift County to win the region meet at Albany Junior College here Saturday.

Valdosta finished the day with a low total of 33 points which was 11 points better than Colquitt's 44. Tift County finished with 74 followed by Albany with 88 and Westover with 112.

The Valdosta boys meanwhile, finished fourth in their portion of the meet with Westover taking the top prize. Colquitt County was second and Tift County third.

Darlene McCormick maintained here unbeaten streak by winning the individual title with a time of 12:16 over the two-mile course.

Other top finishers for the VHS girls included Lisa Irvin third, Carrie Oliver 8th, Melanie Skiles, 10th, Stephanie Weatherspoon 11th, Juliet Purvis 21st, and Wendy Irvin, 27th.

Irvin Dailey of Valdosta finished second in the boys competition with other VHS finishers including Robert Durham, fourth, Rickey Foskey, 27th Tim Mitchell 38th and Danny Rector, 39th.

The girls team qualifies for the state meet in Marietta on November 13th. Individually for the boys, Dailey Durham qualified to run as an individual in the state meet.

Valdosta's Anderson Wins

Eric Anderson of Valdosta knocked off the top two seeds in the Forest Meadows invitational tennis tournament this past weekend to win the tourney's boys 16's title at the Forest Meadows Racquet Club in Tallahassee.

The tournament marked the first time the freshman at Valdosta High School has competed in 16's competition. Anderson entered the tournament unseeded.

V. Times 11-7-82

V. Times 10-5-82

'Cats Finish 10-0

With Win Over Tift

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor
TIFTON— It took a superb effort by the defense and a little tinkering with the offensive scheme to wrap it up, but the Valdosta Wildcats put the finishing touches on the 1-AAAA North sub-region championship here Friday night as they handled Tift County's Blue Devils in a 21-7 victory.

STATISTICS

	VLD.	TIF
First Downs	12	9
Yards Rushing	133	81
Yards Passing	100	72
Passes	13-6-0	24-9-1
Fumbles Lost	2	1
Punting	5-32.4	8-32.2
Penalties	5-25	6-50

The triumph was the climax to a perfect regular season for Valdosta and insured the Wildcats' continued status as the state's top-ranked Class AAAA football team.

And the win over the Blue Devils, who close the regular season 7-3 and the runners-up in the sub-region, gave Coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats the home-field advantage as they headed into the first round of the region playoffs against Thomasville, a 14-7 winner over Lowndes at Martin Stadium Friday night.

Hyder said his squad won't have an opportunity to kick up their heels in celebration too much before next Friday's battle with Thomasville, however. The 10-0 mark for the regular season is all very nice, but there are more important matters to attend to for the time being.

"It means we've got to get ready for Thomasville in a hurry," he said.

Hyder said he feared that had it not been for a little re-planning at the halftime of the Wildcats' offensive plans that Tift County might have made the outcome considerably more questionable than it was. "Our offensive coaches made the finest halftime adjustments on our sets and blocking schemes that I've ever seen," Hyder said. "I can't remember when something like that has worked better. I don't want to say what we did, though, because we might have to do it again."

That offensive adjustment helped the 'Cats finally pull ahead in the third quarter as they stretched a 6-0 halftime

lead with a touchdown in the third quarter and another in the fourth to take a 21-0 advantage.

Tift finally got a drive going in the final minutes of the game, scoring a meaningless touchdown with 32 seconds left on the clock when quarterback Jimmy Hullett hooked up with Michael Turner on a 9-yard scoring pass.

But other than that scoring march, the Blue Devils, who came into the contest as the region's top offensive team, were kept at bay by a clutching Valdosta defense. The Wildcats knew that they had to stop Tift fullback Terry Revels to stop the Blue Devils.

Valdosta did the job on that count. Revels, the top rusher in the region, was held to 43 yards in 14 carries, and that was a dandy enough performance for Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph.

"Throughout the week, we just tried to emphasize to the players what Revels meant to their football team," Rudolph remarked. "We knew that he's probably the finest running back to come out of this region in the last couple of years. We just wanted to make sure we gang-tackled him because he's a hard one to bring down."

"Any time we can beat a bunch like Tift, and hold them to one touchdown, you've got to feel good."

While Revels was spending the night running into roaming gangs of Wildcat tacklers, Valdosta running back Pernell Bee was putting on a show. Bee was the game's top ball carrier with 100 yards on 15 carries, and he not only bulled out a good portion of tough yardage, but he picked up both of Valdosta's second-half touchdowns on a pair of rather slick strolls.

The first was a 9-yard sweep around the left side that capped a 74-yard trip in nine plays. That touchdown came with 3:02 remaining to play in the third quarter and gave the Wildcats a little room to work as they built their lead to 14-0.

Bee struck again early in the fourth quarter. After a Blue Devil punt gave Valdosta the ball at its own 36, two thrusts by Bee gave the 'Cats a first down at their

46. Dana Brinson followed with a 14-yard run on the next play, and Bee took charge once more on the next as he blew through a gap opened by the left side of the Wildcat offensive line.

Forty yards later, Bee found himself in the end zone again after outrunning the Tift pursuit, and Valdosta held a 21-0 lead after kicker Herbert Lowe booted the PAT just 35 seconds into the final period.

"I thought Bee worked very well with his blocking," Hyder said. "He was part of that adjustment we made at the half."

Tift had appeared to be primed and ready to take on Valdosta for the first quarter and a half. After a scoreless first quarter, the Devils set out from their own 18 and began to drive until they faced a third-and-one at the Wildcat 26.

Quarterback Brian Massingill sneaked and made the first down, but the ball was jarred from him and Valdosta recovered the fumble.

The Wildcats began to drive with 7:23 left in the first half and moved the ball down to the Tift 26 when quarterback Ted West nailed split end Rob Mitchell on a crossing route for a 31-yard pickup.

Later in the possession, Valdosta faced a fourth-and-one at the Tift 7 and got the first down when Bee plunged for 2 yards. Two plays later, West, who ended the evening with six completions in 10 attempts for 103 yards, hit Mitchell on a slant-in pattern for a touchdown that opened the scoring with 1:16 left in the half.

Valdosta 0 4 0 7-21
 0 0 0 7-27
 Scoring: VHS — Mitchell, 6 yd. pass from West (PAT failed); VHS — Bee, 9 yd. run (West run for two points); VHS — Bee, 40 yd. run (Lowe PAT); Tift — Turner, 9 yd. pass from Hullett (Hullett PAT).

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
 Rushing: VHS — Brinson, 5-24; Anderson, 6-10; West, 5-min run, 5; Bee, 15-100; Holtzclaw, 3-3; Lowe, 1-1; Tift — Revels, 14-43; Turner, 4-7; Massingill, 7-20; Cunningham, 1-2; Hullett, 2-min run, 5; Smith, 1-17.
 Passing: VHS — West, 10-40, 103 yds.; Holtzclaw, 1-0-0; Bee, 1-0-0; Tift — Massingill, 15-3-1, 24 yds.; Hullett, 9-6-0, 48 yds.
 Punt: VHS — Mitchell, 4-51; Perry, 2-42; Tift — Smith, 1-8; Hall, 4-30; Turner, 2-15; Vickers, 1-4; Hill, 1-15.



Valdosta's Dana Brinson Looks For Daylight
 Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivanceco

VHS Has Unique Teaching Trio

By SUZANNE CARSWELL
Times Staff Writer

It all started when Sarah Dean Adams taught Beverly Hickox sophomore English at old Valdosta High School.

It was about 10 years later Mrs. Hickox taught Gnann Moser world history at the same school.

Now 16 years later all three are teaching English at the new VHS.

They discovered each other quite by accident.

"When I came back here to teach the first of the year, Mrs. (Mabel) Wolinski was showing me around," Mrs. Hickox said, when they ran into Miss Adams.

"I said, 'Oh, my goodness,' and it was like old home week," she said.

It was later in the year when Mrs. Moser was being interviewed for a job. Mrs. Hickox and Miss Adams were told if they had some free time to go in and meet her.

When they did, Mrs. Hickox recognized her former student.

The reunion for all three came about after each had been away from Valdosta and returned.

Miss Adams has taught a total of 42 years but this marks her second return to VHS.

She taught at Barwick High School in Brooks County before going to VHS the first time, then taught at Quitman High School before returning to VHS.

After that, she taught six years at North Florida Junior College in Madison, Fla., before returning



SARAH DEAN ADAMS
Taught Mrs. Hickox

again to VHS.

She chose a teaching career partly because her mother had always taught.

"If I had my time to do over again, I would do the same thing," she said.

"You can see the rewards of your labor" in teaching, she said.

She wasn't surprised when Mrs. Hickox also chose to teach.

"She was very conscientious" as a student, Miss Adams said of Mrs. Hickox.

Mrs. Hickox always sort of wanted to be a doctor—a surgeon in fact.

"But I wasn't encouraged," she said. "When I grew up, little girls were encouraged to be



BEVERLY HICKOX
Taught Mrs. Moser

nurses and little boys were encouraged to be doctors and lawyers."

She did work for a doctor for a year but after that she wanted to teach history—her first love.

She was graduated from VHS in 1958 and from Valdosta State College in 1962.

She taught in DeRidder, La., Lynchburg, Va., and at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton in between her stints at VHS.

She, also, comes from a teaching family—her sister, and her mother are, educators. But due to her social conditioning, she spent her high school years planning for a career as a secretary.



GNANN MOSER
Group's Newcomer

That idea lasted until she was a senior.

Valdostan Fredeva Ogletree taught Mrs. Hickox in American history and inspired her to change her career plans to include education.

"I thought 'if I can be half the teacher she was,' the career would be ideal," Mrs. Hickox said.

Mrs. Hickox remembers Mrs. Moser as being a precise thorough student—one who was consistent at doing her best.

"She tried to do less than her best, but I wouldn't let her because I knew she could do it," Mrs. Hickox said of Mrs. Moser.

Mrs. Moser remembers well the classes on current events.

"You didn't mess around in that class," she said.

"When she started out with current events, by golly, you had better have one. Then she gave us a test on everybody else's current events."

After her graduation from VHS, Mrs. Moser went to the University of the South in Suwannee, Tenn.

"I said when I got out, I was not going to graduate school," she said.

But one Sunday at church two years later she ran into Dr. Willa Valenica, English department head at VSC.

"She said, 'Why don't you go to graduate school this year,'" Mrs. Moser said.

"I said, 'O.K., what are you teaching this quarter,'" Mrs. Moser said.

Before she knew it, she had begun work on her master's degree.

She had taught in Savannah three years, then in Ft. Valley three years before applying for a job at VHS.

The school offered her a position teaching history last year, but she had a 6-week-old baby and was not fond of history.

That is another subject all three generations share.

All three are qualified to teach both history and English, but Mrs. Moser doesn't share Mrs. Hickox's love of history.

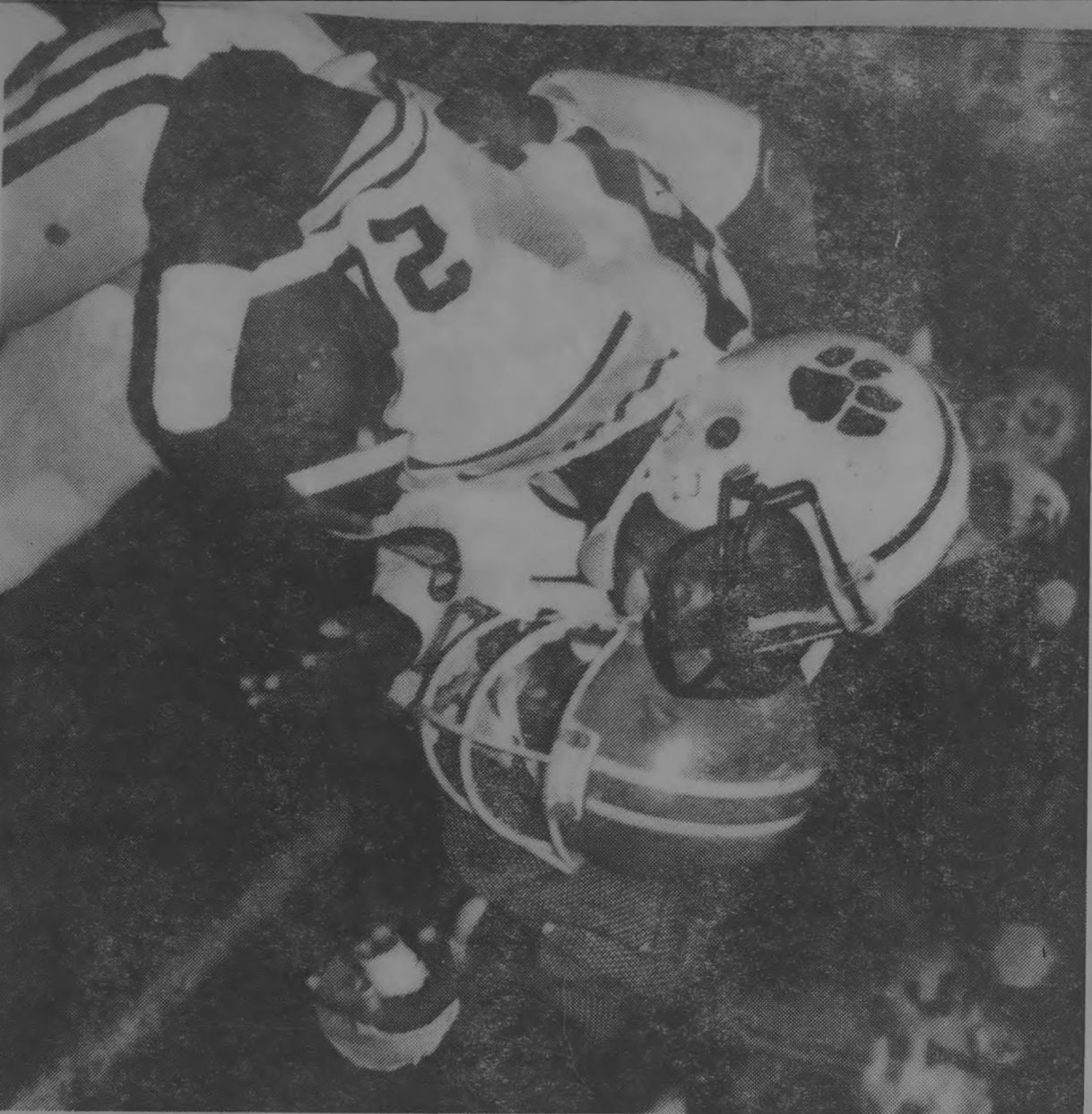
It used to be that Mrs. Hickox would rather teach history than English, but now even that has changed.

"I've done it long enough now that I'm used to it," she said.

SPORTS

The Valdosta Daily Times

The Valdosta Daily Times, Thurs., Nov. 11, 1982-17-



Valdosta's Pernell Bee Has Picked Up Burden Of Wildcat Ground Attack

Times Staff Photo

'Cats, 'Dogs Set For Scrap

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder will tell you in a minute that he has plenty of respect for the Thomasville Bulldogs. He'll tell you in a second that he has an abundance of respect for the abilities of Thomasville quarterback Lennie Moore.

Moore, of course, has been the ingredient that has made the difference for Thomasville this year. Without the senior quarterback in the lineup, Thomasville was a run-of-the-mill team. But with Moore in the lineup, Coach Jim Hughes' Bulldogs are a contender for the region 1-AAAA championship, and they will try to remain in contention Friday night at 8 when they roll into town for an appointment with the undefeated and No. 1-ranked Valdosta Wildcats at Cleveland Field.

The events surrounding Moore have contributed heavily to what has been a turbulent season for Thomasville. The Bulldogs were figured to be one of the main forces in the region this year, but their hopes for the title absorbed a serious blow early in the season when Moore was arrested on charges of theft and given a one-month suspension from the team by Hughes.

During the period that Moore was suspended, the Bulldogs struggled as they wound up losers in two of three games. But Thomasville has caught fire since its quarterback has

returned, winning six straight games and ending the season in the region playoffs as the runner up in the 1-AAAA South sub-region behind sub-region champion Westover.

Valdosta defeated Thomasville 19-10 earlier this season at Cleveland Field during Moore's period of absence from the team. And Hyder estimated that the Bulldogs his squad

VHS-T'ville

8 p.m.,

Friday

Cleveland Field

played against might be as much as 40 percent less dangerous than the squad his Wildcats will face this time. "That's saying a lot for one person," Hyder remarked.

Moore has indeed proven to be a game-breaker type. "He's a scrambler with very quick feet," Hyder said. "He can dart in on you, and then suddenly he's somewhere else."

But as treacherous as the Thomasville attack is with Moore at the controls, the defense may be the strongest aspect of the team. For instance, in those six consecutive wins the Bulldogs reeled off, the Thomasville defense gave up a total of 17 points. "They run a 4-4-3 align-

ment," Hyder said, "and they adjust awfully well out of that thing."

Valdosta will rely upon its well-balanced offense against the strong Bulldog defense. Wildcat quarterback Ted West has proven to be a reliable and steady, if not flashy, director of Hyder's attack. West has completed 66 passes in 122 attempts, good for 965 yards and six touchdowns. He's been particularly effective in the latter half of the season.

The better part of West's aeriels have gone to Wildcat split end Rob Mitchell, who, like West, beagn to come on strong down the stretch of the regular season. Mitchell, with 31 catches for 467 yards and five touchdowns, finished the regular season as the fourth-leading receiver in the region. Rob Mitchell has really emerged for us," Hyder said.

"He's been a steady player throughout the season, but recently he's caught a lot of clutch passes."

The Wildcat running game was spearheaded for most of the season by Tony Anderson, but the freshman fullback has been bothered lately by a shin injury, so his role has diminished somewhat in the last two weeks. But Dana Brinson and particularly Pernell Bee have taken up the slack for Anderson.

Bee, who leads Valdosta's rushing statistics with 609 yards on 104 trips, is coming off an outstanding performance

last Friday night against the Tift County Blue Devils which saw him pick up 100 yards and two touchdowns, including one for 40 yards.

The Valdosta defense, which yielded just under a touchdown per game over the regular season, has been magnificent. The Wildcat defenders ended the year as the region's top unit against the rush and was ranked as the third-most effective in the region at stifling opposing passing attacks.

Hyder no doubt hopes to have a continuation of the success he's enjoyed against Thomasville in past playoff games. He's faced Hughes' squads four times in past post-season games, winning all of those. "We've won all of those games," Hyder said, "but they've been tough."

Hyder said the bout against Thomasville shapes up as the Wildcats' biggest challenge so far this year, so he's understandably thankful it will be played in the friendly surroundings of Cleveland Field. "The kids seem to react pretty well to a good crowd," he said. "At Tifton last week, we had a great group of fans follow us up there, and they did a great job. When they started really getting involved in the game it really rubbed off on the kids."

Should Valdosta dispatch Thomasville Friday night, the Wildcats would meet the winner of the Tift County Westover game the following week for the region.

SPORTS

Tift-Valdosta Showdown Pairs Balanced Teams

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

When the Valdosta Wildcats met the Tift County Blue Devils two weeks ago in Tifton, the ensuing battle was one that was fought out by a pair of well-balanced teams that were nearly evenly-matched. Valdosta coach Nick Hyder can't think of a reason in the world why the case will be any different Friday night when the same teams have another go at it at Cleveland Field.

The Wildcats, however, proved to be the better team in that game as they closed out the regular season with a 21-7 victory that locked up the sub-region title for Valdosta. This time, though, the stakes will be higher since the winner of the game will walk away with the region 1-A-AAAA championship.

Both teams are coming off testing 10-7 victories: Valdosta finally subdued a tough Thomasville team last Friday while Tift came up with a touchdown in the closing seconds to defeat Westover.

Valdosta enters the game undefeated in 11 games and ranked no. 1 in The Associated Press' Class AAAA state high school football rankings. Tift, meanwhile, has lost twice, to Westover, during the regular season, and to Thomasville.

Unquestionably, Valdosta and Tift were the dominant forces in 1-A-AAAA North over the 1982 regular season, a fact which manifests itself not only in the makeup of the region championship game, but in the final regular-season statistics as well.

Tift finished the season as the region's top offensive team in both the rushing and passing categories. Quarterback Brian Massingill and running back Terry Revels have been the players who have made the Tift attack go. Massingill wound up the year

as the region's second-leading passer with 88 completions in 196 attempts for 1,331 yards and 14 touchdowns. Revels, meanwhile, won the 1-A-AAAA rushing title going away as he chugged for 1,000 yards on 172 carries.

"When you put that passing attack with Revels, who is without a doubt the premier running back in the region, it's a problem," Hyder said.

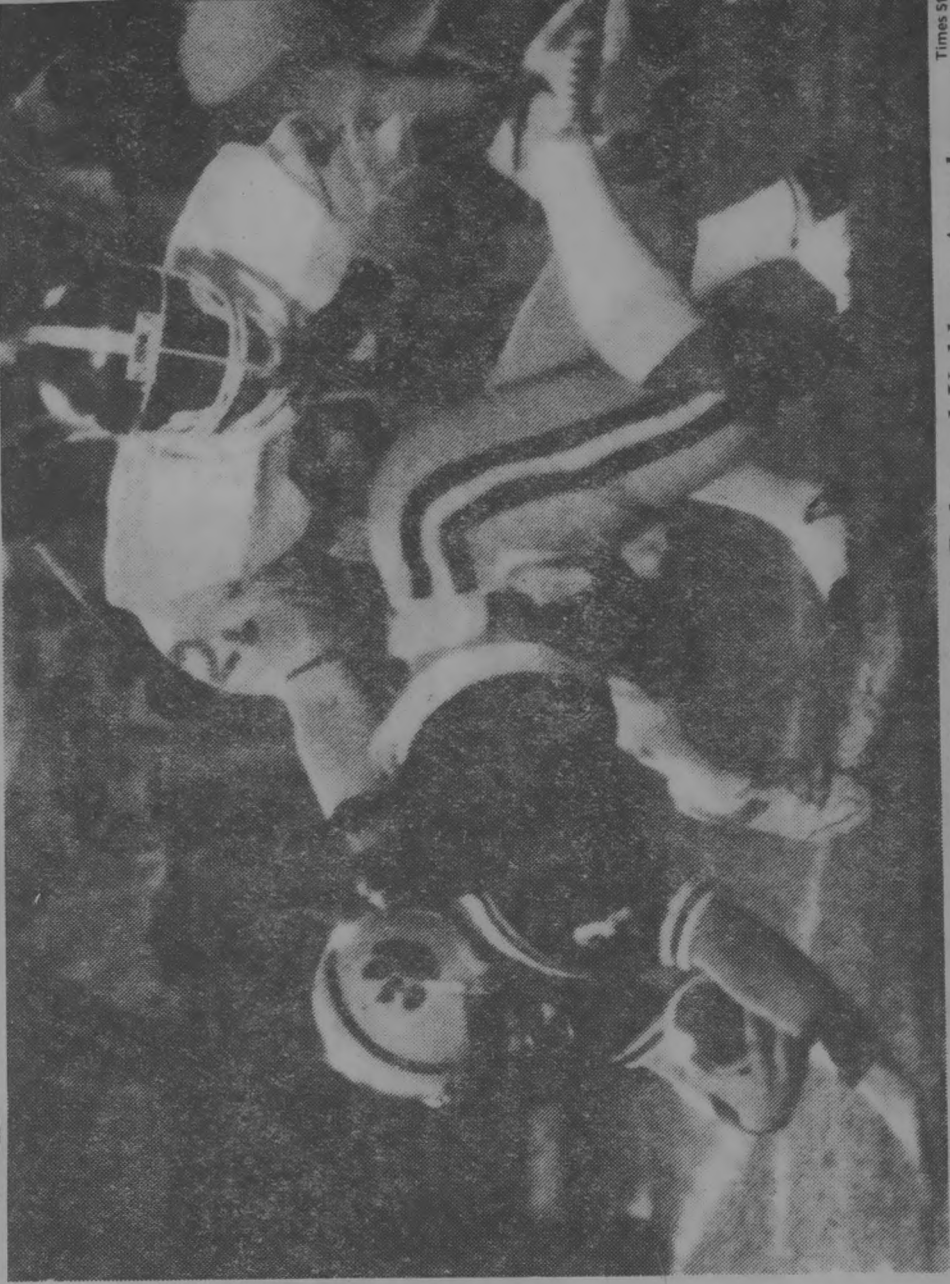
The Blue Devil attack wasn't too much of a problem for the Wildcats, however, in the regular-season finale. Revels was held to only 45 yards while Massingill could complete just three passes in 15 attempts before finally giving way to his backup, Jimmy Hullett. But then Hyder admitted the Tift game was one of the better performances by the Wildcats this season.

"We did have a good game against tift," Hyder said. "But it was a game of breaks. It definitely was a game between two very evenly-matched teams with breaks making the difference."

Tift battled the Wildcats straight up for the better part of the first half, but Valdosta finally took advantage of a Blue Devil turnover in the second quarter and marched in for a touchdown just before the half expired to take a 6-0 lead before going on to dominate in the second half.

Hyder, however, noted that Tift was playing that game without the services of tight end Robert Massey, who has been one of Massingill's preferred targets over the year. "He had a leg problem," Hyder said, "but he'll be playing against us Friday night, and that has to strengthen their chances against us."

Hyder said he was optimistic about his team's faring in the first week of the playoffs. "We beat a good team," he said of the win over Thomasville. "We might have done some things differently, but we played fairly well. I wouldn't say we hit a peak, but it took a good effort to beat them."



Quarterback Ted West Leads Balanced Valdosta Attack

1-A-AAAA Championship Final

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

Strange as it seems, both Valdosta and Tift County had to use big plays last Friday night to eke out wins in the first round of the region 1-A-AAAA playoffs. Despite having clearly superior teams, at least on paper, both had to partially block punts to get that one last chance for the win.

And the Wildcats and Blue Devils made good use of the opportunities. Both teams scored touchdowns late in the game to earn 10-7 come-from-behind victories.

Valdosta linebacker John Porter got a hand on a Thomasville punt giving the Wildcats the ball in Bulldog territory at

the big plays. But if it came down to that situation again, they would both hope Lady Luck was again on their side. "That's called luck," Brodie said of the final play that lifted Tift over Westover. "It was just a lucky break."

"I thought (Westover) was going to take a safety and get a free kick from their 20 rather than try to punt out of the end zone."

If the Patriots had taken the safety they would have still been leading 7-5 with time running out. But more importantly they would have been able to kick unhindered from their 20.

Instead, though, they punted out of their end zone, the

outcome will be decided by the Devil defense. "The key is whether we can stop their three running backs. They scare us." Brodie was referring to Valdosta's Pernell Bee, Dana Brinson and Tony Anderson.

While Tift was fortunate to get by Westover, Brodie says it will take some more Devil luck if his team is to beat Valdosta, thus moving one step closer to a state title. Brodie hopes the game comes down to the big play. "It's either going to be that or they are going to beat us bad. I don't think there's anyway we'll blow them away."

"Valdosta will have to turn the ball over several times and we will have to take advantage

of every break," he said. "We've got to be lucky. I don't think we can line up and beat them."

While the turnovers will be important, the once-potent Tift offense will have something to do with the game's outcome. The Devils went into last week's game boasting the region's No. 1 offensive team. Yet they came away from the Westover game frustrated.

Tift quarterback Brian Massingill was the second leading passer in the region during the regular season behind Lowndes' Randy Gay. But against Westover he was held to just 24 passing yards.

Like 'Cats, Tift Counts On Big Play

Wildcats, Blazers Set For Gridiron Weekend Here

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

A football weekend extravaganza this city has not seen the likes of for some time is ready to roll.

Starting tonight at Cleveland Field (kickoff is set for 8 p.m.) the Valdosta High Wildcats take on Tift County for the region 1-AAAA title and a berth in the state playoffs.

Valdosta captured the region crown last year and advanced all the way to the state quarterfinals before losing to eventual state and national champion Warner Robins.

Saturday night the Valdosta State College Blazers take on Georgia Southern in the much-awaited rematch between the two south Georgia schools.

Again the battlefield will be Cleveland Field (kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m.).

The last time the two teams met, almost two months ago, the Eagles drove the length of the field in two minutes, scored a touchdown and made good on a two-point conversion to earn a 27-27 tie with the Blazers.

That first game, though, was played in Statesboro.

The Valdosta-Tift game is a rematch as well. Just two weeks ago in the regular-season finale for both teams, the 'Cats efficiently defeated the Blue Devils 21-7 to claim the North sub-region title and the home-field advantage in the playoffs.

Getting to the region finals was no easy chore. Both teams

had to partially block punts in the waning moments of the fourth quarter to eke out 10-7 wins.

Valdosta made good use of the Thomasville High turnover by scoring a touchdown with just over four minutes left in the game.

Tift's comeback was somewhat more dramatic. The Devils had to score a touchdown with no time left on the clock to salvage their 10-7 win over Westover.

If the Wildcats can continue their win streak that has now reached 11 games, they will be on the road next week at the site of the winner of the Coffee-Statesboro game, which will decide the region 3-AAAA champion.

From there, though, the 'Cats return home for the remaining two state playoff games if successful.

VSC will conclude its initial season in NCAA intercollegiate football Saturday night. The Blazers are already assured of finishing the 1982 season at .500 on the merits of last weekend's 22-21 upset of powerful Livingston University.

A win over Georgia Southern would make the Blazers' season mark 6-4-1.

Georgia Southern is also assured of a winning season in its first attempt at football in 41 years. Under Coach Erk Russell the Eagles are 5-3-1 thus far and are coming off a 17-3 win over Mars Hill last week.

Valdosta, Brooks Seek The Answers

Two more questions involving the fortune of local and area football teams in the post-season playoffs will be answered tonight as Valdosta's Wildcats and Brooks County's Trojans continue their assault on state championships.

All that separates Valdosta from the region 1-AAAA championship is a victory over Tift County, while Brooks County has Terrell County standing in its way of the region 1-AA title. Valdosta has the Blue Devils at Cleveland Field, and Brooks entertains Terrell County in Quitman. Both games get under way at 8 p.m.

Valdosta advanced to tonight's region playoff final by coming from behind to defeat a stubborn Thomasville team 10-7 a week ago at Cleveland Field. Brooks County is in position to claim the 1-AA championship thanks to a 25-22 win over Dooly County last week. The Cook Hornets had their venture into the playoffs turned back a week ago in a 17-0 loss to the powerful Bainbridge Bearcats.

Last week, I hit correctly on all three playoff games that were scheduled in the area, bringing my total record for the year to 46-11.

VALDOSTA OVER TIFT

It's no fluke that these two teams are playing for the region title. They were, after all, the best teams in 1-AAAA throughout the year, although Tift did stumble briefly as they dropped two of three games in the middle of the campaign before losing the regular-season finale to the Wildcats.

The Blue Devils gave the Wildcats a rough go in the first half in that affair, but Valdosta took control in the final two periods to win 21-7.

Tift's offensive unit, led by quarterback Brian Massingill and fullback Terry Revels, can be a formidable outfit. But then, the Valdosta defense, with the likes of Leon Johnson, John Porter, Jeff Lee and the rest, has been awfully difficult to dent throughout the year. Tift could make a ding here and there in Valdosta's armor, but don't look for a Blue Devil breakthrough..... Valdosta, 24-14.



11-19-82

Martin's Best Was VHS Key

By STEVE CORRIGAN

Times Staff Writer
Brad Martin hadn't caught a touchdown pass all year. In fact, the Valdosta High receiver's most catches in one game was just two.

But after Friday night's 21-7 win over Tift County that advanced the Wildcats into the state quarterfinals next week against Coffee, Martin bettered one of his season marks and equaled another. The senior, who is listed in the program as a tight end but played most of the night as the Valdosta flanker, was on the receiving end of the 'Cats' only two pass completions of the night.

But more importantly was that both of those completions were for touchdowns.

Martin's first touchdown grab came on the 'Cats' initial drive of the night. After taking over at the Tift 49 following a punt, the 'Cats' drove to the Blue Devil 19 before a Ted West sack moved the ball back to the 27. Facing a fourth down and 19 from that spot, Valdosta unleashed its version of the old Atlanta Falcon "Big Ben"

play. Lining up Martin and split end Rob Mitchell wide to one side, the 'Cats' sent the pair scurrying toward the end zone. West lofted the ball up and it looked as if he was going for Mitchell.

But the pass was long. Fortunately for Valdosta, so was Martin. He slid under the toss and made the grab for the touchdown which put Valdosta up 7-0 just over four minutes into the game.

"It feels good," Martin said after the game. "The reason I was open was that Rob Mitchell was getting double coverage and that left me with single." Martin was open enough to catch those two passes for 52 yards.

"That pass," said Valdosta assistant coach Jerry Don Baker, "was meant for whoever caught it."

But receiver coach Bob Bolton saw it a little differently. "Rob was to run a post, but they held him up. Brad went ahead and ran his pattern. He just happened to be in the right place at the right

time. Rob was the primary receiver."

Martin agreed. "Teddy just overthrew Rob," he said.

Martin's second touchdown was much of the same. With the game tied at 7-7, the 'Cats' got great field position when Tony Anderson returned a Tift punt to the Devil 25. On first down the 'Cats' went for the score.

Pernell Bee, on a fullback pass, fired a 25-yard touchdown pass to Martin. Again Mitchell was the primary receiver, but when he was covered, Bee had to look elsewhere. Martin ran a fine pattern and as he was coming back for the ball in the end zone, he shook his defender and was wide open.

"I told Pernell in the huddle to look to the backside," Martin said. "Sure enough, it was there. 'I'm usually open on that play.'"

While those scores were made to look easy, Bolton said they only came about by hard work by Martin. "His hard work brought on his good luck," Bolton said.

Three Area Teams Still Have Life

Three local and area prep football teams still breathe as the playoffs enter their third week of action. Valdosta's Wildcats put their 12-0 mark and Class AAAA top-ranking on the line tonight at Douglas, where they will scrap with undefeated Coffee County, the region 3-AAAA champ, ranked No. 3 in the wire service polls.

Among area teams, Brooks County and Atkinson County will be active as well. Brooks travels to Forsyth to meet Mary Persons, while Atkinson visits Wrens after two idle weeks.

Here's a brief glance at other playoff games going on tonight across the state:

AAAA
Warner Robins (region 2) at Westside (region 4)
Sprayberry (region 5) at Peachtree (region 7)
Griffin (region 6) at Clarke Central (region 8)

AAA
Bainbridge (region 1) at Americus (region 3)
Glenn Hills (region 2) at Woodward (region 4)
Chamblee (region 5) at Dalton (region 7)
Fulton (region 6) at Gainesville (region 8)

AA
Pierce County (region 2) at Lincoln County (region 4)
Feldwood (region 5) at West Rome (region 7)
Turner (region 6) at East Hall (region 8)

A
Pelham (region 1) at Metter (region 3)
Greenville (region 5) at Palmetto (region 7)
Bremen (region 6) at Buford (region 8)

So much for the scene across the state. Let's return our attention to games involving teams closer to home.

Last week, I hit correctly on both games involving area teams. My record for playoff games is 5-0 (ahem, that's what you call performance in the clutch), giving me a 48-11 overall season record. Truth be told, however, I'm afraid I could very easily wind up getting fried with the games on tap this week.

VALDOSTA OVER COFFEE

The way Nick Hyder talks about the Coffee County Trojans, don't be shocked if he suits the Ghost up and turns him loose.

Somebody told me the other day that Andre "Pulpwood" Smith would reduce the Valdosta defense to a pulp. I don't know.

The way I see it, Valdosta can beat you in any number of ways. The Wildcats can beat you with the rushing game. They can beat you with the passing game. Or they might beat you with kicking game.

The way I see it, Valdosta will beat Coffee County with its defense. John Porter, Leon Johnson and their partners have a way of making murder pretty. Pulpwood may look pretty running the ball tonight, but he's liable to get murdered eventually.....Valdosta, 14-10.

BROOKS OVER MARY PERSONS

The Bulldogs of Mary Persons carry the state's no. 4 ranking after shocking R.E. Lee last week, 14-12. That's mighty impressive, no doubt, but the drawback is that teams often have a funny way of coming off such a feat flatter than a table top. Max Milligan's Bropoks Trojans, meanwhile, have shown they can win the tough games, too. This one could get awfully tough by the time it's over with, but I'll award this one to Max and his guys, maybe on an 88-yard field goal by Maurice Freeman with half a second left on the clock.....Brooks, 9-7.

WRENS OVER ATKINSON

It's just a hunch. The Atcos haven't played in a while. Does that mean they are sick and tired of beating each other up on the practice field and are about to take it out on the Colts? Does it mean they'll come out on the field balled up tight as a fist and not be able to find their rhythm? I wish I could say. But I can't, so I'll just go with a hunch.....Wrens, 20-7.



Brad Martin Hauled In 2 TD Catches For 'Cats'

Valdosta Daily Nov. 26, 1983

SPORTS

'Cats Whip Devils For Region Title

By DAN CHILDS

Times Sports Editor

When Tift County prepares to play Valdosta in 1983, it shouldn't be too difficult for the Blue Devils to recall what happened in the two meetings between the football rivals in 1982. All Tift coach Gene Brodie and his squad need remember is the score 21-7. That will cover both of the Blue Devils' losses to Valdosta in this season.

STATISTICS		VHS	TCHS
First Downs		10	11
Yards Rushing		119	15
Yards Passing		52	120
Passes		9-20	29-123
Fumbles Lost		0	7-37.0
Punting		8-33.5	7-37.0
Penalties		3-25	5-66

The first of those Tift losses to Valdosta came two weeks ago in the regular-season finale when the Wildcats claimed the 1-AAAA North sub-region championship. Valdosta duplicated the score Friday night at Cleveland Field and thus emerged as from the playoffs as the region champion as Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder collected his fifth region title since coming to Valdosta in 1974.

Hyder said he felt the Blue Devils gave a better account of themselves in Friday night's game than in the game played at Tifton two weeks ago. "The games had different personalities in that they elected to throw more this time," Hyder said. "And both teams were coming off nervous wins a week ago. And I think Tift just played better this time."

The victory over Tift puts

Valdosta into the quarterfinals of the Class AAAA state playoffs, where the 'Cats will face No. 4-ranked Coffee County, a 28-13 winner over Statesboro Friday night.

Although a contingent of Valdosta fans have reportedly offered Coffee County a sum of money to agree to move the site of the game to Cleveland Field, the game will be played in Douglas.

Valdosta earned the berth opposite Coffee County by staging an outstanding defensive effort and coming up with the right combination on a handful of big plays that decided the game.

Perhaps the biggest of the big plays was a 25-yard option pass from running back Pennell Bee to wide receiver Brad Martin in the second quarter that provided Valdosta with the winning points and broke a 7-7 deadlock.

The scoring play came immediately after the Wildcat defense had stopped Tift deep in Blue Devil territory, giving Valdosta the ball at the Tift County 25 after Tony Anderson's return of a 32-yard punt. On the following play, Bee took a pitchout and started to the left, planted his feet, hesitated and hurried deep to Martin in the end zone. Bee's pass was on the mark and gave the Wildcats a 14-7 lead with 4:42 remaining to play in the first half after Herbert Lowe kicked the second of his three PAT's on the night.

Bee also supplied Valdosta with tough running, carrying

the ball 15 times for 52 yards as the Wildcats stuck with the rushing game for the most part.

After Valdosta went up by a touchdown, Tift's offense threatened on several occasions, but Valdosta's defense never allowed the Blue Devils to move to within the Wildcat 18.

For the most part, the Blue Devils relied upon the passing game to propel their attack since the region's leading rusher, Terry Revels, was still ailing with a separated shoulder he suffered against Valdosta two weeks ago. Quarterbacks Brian Massingill and Jimmy Hullett attempted 29 passes while completing 12, nine of those going to wide receiver Robert Hill, who accounted for 90 of the 120 yards the Blue Devils gained through the air.

The Tift offense was lively enough to keep the game in doubt for three quarters, but the Blue Devils' only score came with 46 seconds left in the first quarter when running back Keith Cunningham shot off left tackle for a 6-yard touchdown run that capped a 52-yard drive.

That touchdown put the Blue Devils back in the game with a 7-7 tie, erasing the lead Valdosta had taken when it hit on a 27-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Ted West to Martin on the Wildcats' first offensive series of the game.

Martin made the touchdown catch in an end zone crowd that included 'Cat receiver Rob

Mitchell and Tift defensive backs, diving to make the grab with 4:04 elapsed from the clock.

The Blue Devils appeared as though they might come back to tie the score late in the first half, driving from their own 44 to the Valdosta 18, but a pass intended for Hill was swiped by Valdosta defensive back Jeff Lee at the goal line to turn back the Tift invasion.

The game continued as a defensive struggle in the third quarter. Late in the quarter, Valdosta began working the ball down the field on the ground, but the thrust ended when Tift's defense sacked West for a 6-yard loss that left the Wildcats with a third-and-16 situation that they could not successfully negotiate.

But another big play late in the game gave Valdosta the insurance it had been seeking.

It came when Anderson fielded a Tift punt at the Blue Devil 41, broke to the right and outran the Tift pursuit to the Blue Devil 19.

Score By Quarters

Valdosta	Tift
7	7
0	0
0	0
0	0
7	0

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Valdosta — Bee 15-52, Brinson 13-60, Anderson 3-10, West 9 minus 3, Tift — Turner 9-45, Cunningham 7-30, Massingill 4 minus 45, Revels 2-2, Teals 1 minus 6, Hullett 2 minus 13.
Passing: Valdosta — West 8-1-0 27, Bee 1-1-0 25, Tift — Massingill 12-4-0 73, Hullett 17-5-3-67.
Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Martin 2-52, Tift — 9-90, Hill 2-15, Massey 1-15, Cunningham 1-17.



Running Back Dana Brinson Led Valdosta Rushing With 60 Yards

Times Staff Photos. By J

Valdosta, Coffee Square Off Friday

Wildcats At Disadvantage

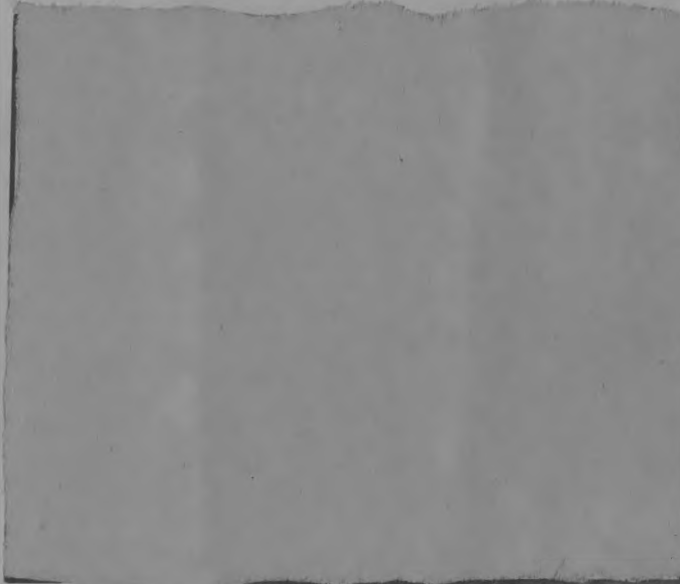
By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

If the Valdosta Wildcats have an edge going into their battle with Coffee County, Nick Hyder isn't claiming it.

The Wildcat head coach said Wednesday that the only advantage he could conceive of Valdosta having would be of the homefield variety. Since the game will be played at Douglas, the Wildcats could be in trouble, as Hyder views it.

"But sometimes the Ghost travels with us," said Hyder, whose 12-0 and No. 1-ranked squad takes on the No. 3 and likewise undefeated Trojans at 8 p.m. Friday.

What Hyder, the Wildcats, the Ghost and whoever else makes the trip to Douglas will see is a Coffee County team that has breezed through 12 games with a slightly antiquated but highly effective offense that is headlined by one Andre Smith, a.k.a. "Pulpwood." That's not all, either, Hyder says. "Their defense is very sound," he observed. "They've allowed only



four touchdowns in their last seven games.

"It would seem that this will be our toughest challenge to date."

One of the things that make this one a challenge for Valdosta is the wing-T offensive

scheme employed by Coffee coach Bonwell Royal. It's a set that was popularized in the Fifties and early Sixties, but has since fallen largely into disuse.

"It's a really fine offense that is very versatile,

especially when you've got an outstanding quarterback and running backs," Hyder said. "Their running backs could blow us out, and they possess an outstanding passing game. Their offense presents a lot of problems for us."

The Trojans racked up 392 points in 10 regular-season games with quarterback Arnold Ragsdale at the controls. Ragsdale, in the playoffs, has completed 55 percent of his passes.

Ragsdale is joined in the backfield by Max Vickers, off a 170-yard performance in last Friday's 28-13 victory over Statesboro, Clyde McClelland and Smith.

Hyder, invoking an expression out of his Tennessee heritage, compared Smith to "greased electricity. He either slips out of your hands, or he shocks you.

"He's no fly-by-night player," Hyder added. "He has the same type of movement (Thomasville quarterback) Lennie Moore has. You just never get a clear shot at him."

The 195-pound Smith and his cohorts in the backfield run behind an offensive line made up of seniors, with the exception of the tight end.

Defensively, the Trojans operate out of a 4-4-3 alignment. It's a veteran unit made up of eight seniors and three juniors. Terry Roberson and John Bryant anchor the Coffee defensive front while K.G. White and Tim McClelland solidify the linebacking posts. Hyder said he's been told defensive back Ricardo Ingram, a 195-pound junior, is one of the brightest secondary prospects in south Georgia.

"They've had outstanding teams over there for the last two years," Hyder said. "The folks up in Coffee County are saying this is the greatest team they've ever had, and I guess their record this year proves that."

The winner of the Valdosta-Coffee County game will meet the winner of Friday night's Warner Robins-Westside bout for the south Georgia title on Dec. 3.



Times Staff Photo

Valdosta's Nick Hyder Hopes Ghost Knows Way To Douglas

Success The Secret To Valdosta

The Valdosta Daily Times, Mon., Nov. 22, 1982-11-

Wildcat Tradition

By The Associated Press
At Valdosta, high school football is a way of life.

"Youngsters here grow up with the Wildcats," said John Lastinger, who has seen two sons play at Valdosta. "You don't have to be a star. It's enough to be able to wear the uniform, play in the game and walk off the field holding your girlfriend's hand."
"Football is the game in this

city," said Nick Hyder, football coach and athletic director. "No one ever makes a mistake about that."

Season tickets to Valdosta games are a prized commodity, with one in 10 townsfolk lucky enough to own them. Only 4,000 are sold each season.
Lastinger, who works for the Chamber of Commerce, tells a tale of tickets.

"A friend of mine was out in a boat that was swamped a few years ago, and it took a while for the Coast Guard to get him," he said. "He said 'I'll tell you the secret to success. The Wildcats are 12-0 this season. They are Region 1-AAAA champions and rated No. 1 in Georgia by The Associated Press. Various national rankings place the Wildcats somewhere in the nation's top five.'"
Under Hyder, the Wildcats

Valdosta Wildcats, has now been expanded to a 12,500 capacity.

The secret is success. The Wildcats are 12-0 this season. They are Region 1-AAAA champions and rated No. 1 in Georgia by The Associated Press. Various national rankings place the Wildcats somewhere in the nation's top five.

have gone to the playoffs for the past eight years. They made the state finals in 1977, losing to Clarke Central 16-14. A year later, they tied 7-7 in the title match against Griffin, a team that featured Willie Gault, Freddie Gilbert and Ricky Williams, all now major college stars.
But the tradition goes back much further, back to the 31 years of Wright Bazemore,

whose teams won 15 state titles and 290 games — losing just 43. Charlie Greene, a Bazemore assistant, was named to succeed his mentor. But after a 17-3 record over two years, he quit.
Bazemore convinced Hyder to come down from West Rome and try for the Valdosta job. He got it, but began with a 3-7 season.
Since then, however, Hyder's

teams are 86-13-1.
There are at least six major college prospects playing for the Wildcats this year, Hyder said. They include defensive end-tackle Ricky Daniels, defensive back Chris Major and center Blake Belue — the brother of Buck Belue, who took Georgia to a national championship two years ago. Valdosta's success is locally grown. Some 400 seventh- and

eighth-graders were at spring practice this year, hoping to work up to the ninth-grade, B-team and someday the varsity.

"Football is tradition," Lastinger said. "My son John (who now quarterback the No. 1-ranked Georgia Bulldogs) was a third generation Valdosta High football player, and that's not an unusual case."

11/21/82



Valdosta Will Play Coffee Next Friday

Times Staff Photo

SPORTS

The Valdosta Daily Times

Valdosta Holds Off Trojan Infantry

By DAN CHILDS

Times Sports Editor

DOUGLAS -- All week long, Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder has known it was coming. He wasn't sure his Wildcats would be able to stop it, but he knew it was coming.

TEAM STATISTICS	C	V
First Downs	14	12
Rushing Yards	39-182	33-80
Passing Yards	72	149
Passes	1-53	18-80
Punts	5-40.0	7-41.2
Penalties	4-28	4-50
Fumbles	1	0
Total Yards	254	229

It took a while, but the Wildcats finally outslugged Coffee County here Friday night at an overflowing and fog-enshrouded Jardine Stadium, taking a 29-18 victory that put them into next Friday's showdown with Warner Robins that will decide the South Georgia Class AAAA prep football championship.

The aforementioned "it" that looked at times as though it might be the death of the Wildcats' state championship aspirations was an unrelenting rushing attack owned by Coach Bonwell Royal's Coffee County squad. And rush the Trojans did, but the Coffee ground game in the end wasn't a match for Valdosta offensive balance.

For much of the night it was, however.

Valdosta had heard all week about running back Andre "Pulpwood" Smith, but Smith wasn't the only weapon in the

Trojan arsenal. It was his backfield mate, Max Vickers, who threatened to steal the show, rushing 17 times for 109 yards and a pair of touchdowns while Smith racked up 67 yards on 11 trips. Harrell Ragsdale, the Coffee quarterback, picked up 17 more.

"We chased (former Dougherty running back sensation) Lionel James for three years," Hyder said. "It was like having three of him out there tonight. Those backs have got to be good."

They were the main men in a Coffee attack that outgained the Wildcats 254-229, but they weren't quite enough to keep Valdosta pinned for the count.

They were enough, though, to make the Wildcats have to come from behind three times, twice in the first and once more in the fourth quarter.

"Our objective was to slow them down," Hyder remarked, "because you can't stop them."

The Valdosta offense would not be halted either, though. Particularly in the fourth quarter.

After Coffee County took its final lead of the game on Vickers' 3-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter, the "Cats went to work, assembling a 69-yard march that extended for 11 plays. Converting three third-down situations, Valdosta determinedly worked down the field, arriving at the Coffee

County 5 on a 17-yard burst by fullback Tony Anderson, who led the Wildcat rushing game with 46 yards. A play later, Anderson barreled into the end zone to put Valdosta out in front 22-18 with 10:25 left to play.

The Trojans twice ventured into Valdosta territory in the fourth quarter before being turned away by the Wildcat defense.

Then Valdosta wrapped it up. Facing a third-and-seven at his own 23, Valdosta quarterback Ted West looked for split end Rob Mitchell. West zipped the ball to Mitchell, but the receiver had to wrestle it away from Trojan defensive back Riccardo Ingram. Ingram fell to the turf in the scramble for the ball and Mitchell only had to keep from tripping up as he completed the 77-yard strike that sealed the victory with 1:48 left to play.

"Rob had been getting behind their coverage all night," Hyder said. "But we couldn't get our protection right. He came in at halftime and told me he was getting open, so I told him we would try to get him the ball."

"They were blitzing their linebackers more than we had expected them to, and they were getting to Ted West," Hyder added. "That was part of the problem we were having getting the ball to Rob. We didn't adjust very well to the blitz early in the game."

Still, Valdosta had managed to break at halftime in possession of a 15-12 lead.

Coffee scored first, driving 70 yards on its second possession. The Trojans were helped by a pass interference call against Valdosta's Jeff Spivey that gave them a first down at the Wildcat 41. Vickers burst through the middle for 22 yards and two plays later scored on an 8-yard run.

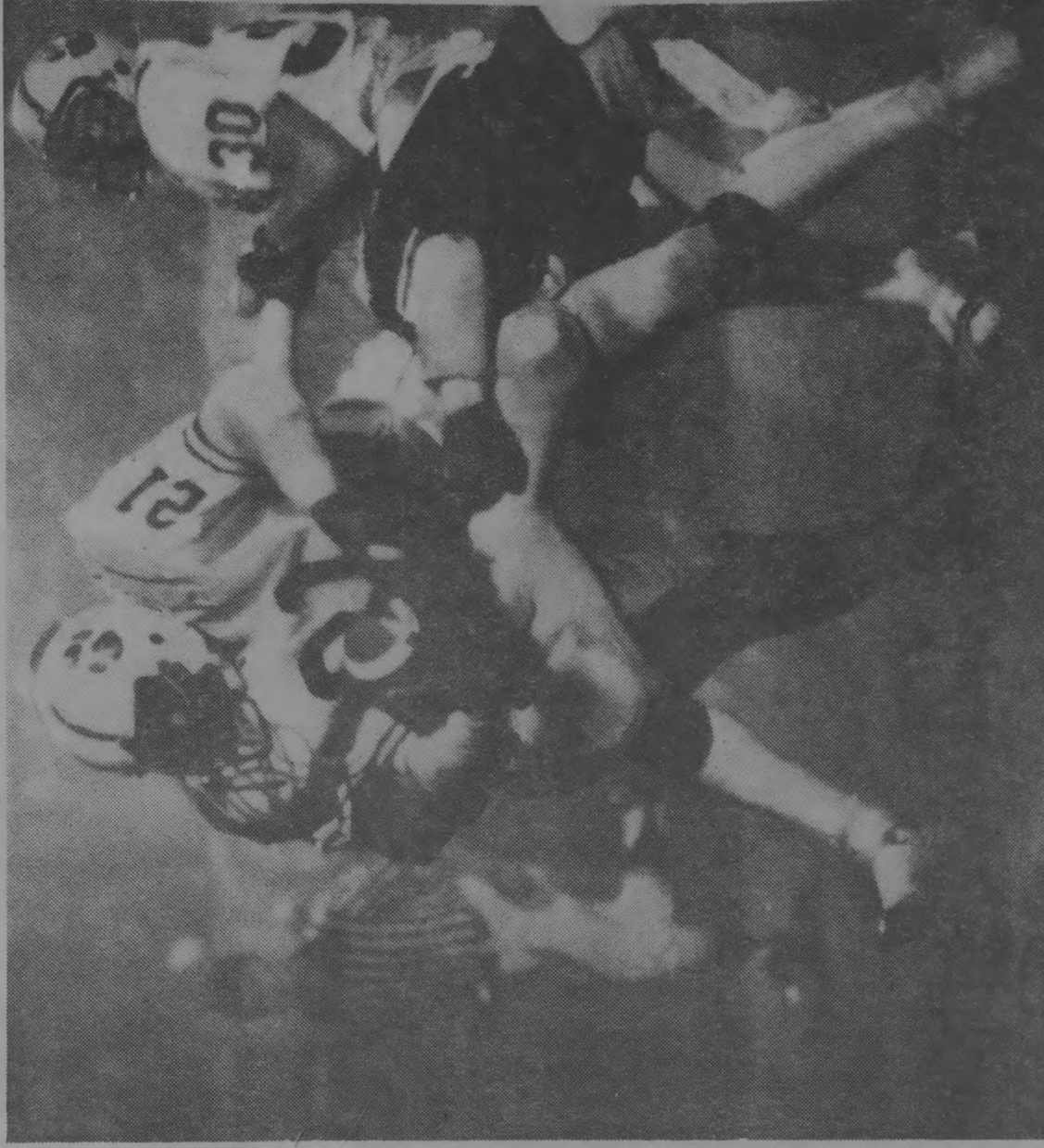
Valdosta came back in the second quarter by driving 49 yards in 10 plays, the last a 2-yard plunge by Anderson with 6:15 remaining in the half.

But Coffee regained the lead with 3:38 left in the half on a 7-yard Ragsdale pass to split end Willis Crockett. The Trojans, whose first PAT attempt had been blocked, failed on a two-point conversion try when Smith's option pass was intercepted by the Wildcats' Jeff Lee.

Valdosta jumped back into the lead with 45 seconds remaining to play in the half when West connected with Brad Martin on a 12-yard touchdown pass that was set up when Coffee fumbled a Wildcat punt deep in its own territory.

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta (Rushing) Bee 12-43, West 7-25, Brinson 5-16, Anderson 6-46, (Pass Receiving) Brinson 1-15, Mitchell 4-108, Martin 2-23, Bee 1-1, (Passing) Ted West 17-80 149, Bee 1-0-0.
Coffee (Rushing) Vickers 17-109, Smith 11-67, Ragsdale 4-17, McClelland 4-4, Ingram 3-3, (Pass Receiving) Crockett 1-7, Smith 3-40, Ragsdale 1-25, (Passing) Ragsdale 11-42 47, Smith 3-11 25.



Valdosta Freshman Back Tony Anderson Led 'Cat Rushing, Scored 2 TD

TIMES STAFF PHOTO BY JES

Coffee Hosts Valdosta

State Playoffs Get Under Way

By The Associated Press
If you just look at the schedule, it looks like someone has made a mistake. Bremen, 11-1, vs. Buford, 6-5, in the first round of the state class A high school football playoffs.

"This dern schedule has killed us," said Buford Coach Ed Cochran. "Our first six ball games, five of them were with AAA people, and one was AAAA."

"But we'll take it. They're at home packing their bags, and we're still playing."

Buford and Bremen are two of just 32 teams still playing on the 15th weekend of Georgia high school football. In other key games Friday night, Valdosta, the top AAAA team in the Associated Press rankings, visits No. 3 Coffee; Dalton, No. 4 in AAA, hosts third-ranked Chamblee; and Pierce County, third in AA, travels to second-ranked Lincoln County.

At Buford, Cochran's Wolves are No. 7 in class A, but he concedes that their 6-5 record isn't pretty. "Our record is not very impressive, but as long as

you get there, you can throw the seasonal record out," he said.

Scheduling quirks gave the Wolves those first six backbreakers, and four times, they lost. But they avenged their only class A defeat last week by beating Commerce, the defending state AA champion, 17-14, to join the elite in the state playoffs.

One player who helped Buford get there is sensational sophomore running back, Bryce Cantrell, with 1,509 yards on 184 carries.

Still, the Wolves face a stiff test in second-ranked Bremen, which got revenge for its only loss by rolling over Adairsville 31-0 last week. Leading the way has been a junior, first-year quarterback Ty Curtright, and a senior, split end Michael Parham.

Coach Larry Weathington also credited "our entire defensive football team," which has shut out nine opponents in 12 games. "They're just a bunch of little kids that enjoy playing football."

"We're very pleased to be where we are. We've had injuries from game one, but our kids just wouldn't give up."

Down in Coffee County, Coach Bonnell Royal is thinking about Valdosta. And voodoo.

"You can get into a voodoo-type thing when you're playing somebody who's supposed to be the legends," he said. "Our kids were raised up hearing about Valdosta."

It's easy to hear about Valdosta, going back to the days when Coach Wright Bazemore won 15 state championships. But Coach Nick Hyder, despite his eight trips to the playoffs in nine years, "doesn't believe in the 'voodoo.'"

"Not in the least. That might have been true in Coach Bazemore's day, but parity exists in just about everything now."

Parity certainly exists in the two teams' records; both are 12-0. Coffee has 5-11, 190-pound senior running back Andre "Pulpwood" Smith, with 31 touchdowns and more than

1,000 yards to his credit. But Valdosta has strength — and lots of it — with linemen like Ricky Daniels (6-4, 205), Kennedy Cooper (6-2, 240) and Blake Belue (6-2, 220).

At Dalton, Coach Bill Chappell's team has been fired up for two weeks, through victories over Carrollton and previously top-ranked Cedartown. But that's not necessarily good, he said.

"We've been up now for about two or three weeks, and this really concerns me. We're talking about 16- and 17-year-old kids," he said. "I hope we can get up again."

Dalton, 11-1, has had what Chappell called "a very satisfying year," led by junior fullback Tim Pender, who is over 1,200 yards for the season. But Friday night, the Cata-mounts will face a Chamblee team that is a point away from an undefeated season, having lost only to Walker in a 7-6 contest.

At Lincoln County, the 11-0 Red Devils will play host to another unbeaten team the

12-0 Bears from Pierce County. Lincoln County is led by senior quarterback Charles Glaze, who had 346 regular-season yards rushing and 523 passing in the back-oriented wishbone offense, and a defense that has allowed just 41 points all season long.

But the Bears haven't allowed many points either — just 38.

The head-to-head meeting of two tough defenses could mean that one break will decide the game. "We wear that sentence out, but it really seems that way this time," he said. "It seems like neither one of us has given up any points."

Pierce County Coach W.D. Strickland said that with a tough schedule and an inexperienced team, his Bears are just glad to be alive.

"Fourteen weeks ago everybody in Pierce County would have been satisfied with a 5-5 season — and I'm serious as a heart attack," he said. "We are very pleased."



V Times
Valdosta High School linebacker John Porter expresses the opinions of thousands of Wildcat backers who made the trek to Douglas Friday night to watch Valdosta take on Coffee. The Cats, now 13-0 on the season, came from behind

Wildcat Power 11-29-82
three times to trip the previously unbeaten Trojans, 29-18, to advance to a state class AAAA semifinal matchup with defending state champion Warner Robins. — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

Versatile Coffee Rushing

Offense Gave 'Cats Fits

KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

DOUGLAS-You would have to go back to the first game of the year to find a team that moved the ball against the Valdosta Wildcats' defense with the precision the Coffee County Trojans did Friday night here in Douglas.

Back in that first game of the year, the Waycross Bulldogs

found some weaknesses in the Wildcat defense. They exploited the Wildcats for 191 yards on the ground and another 111 through the air.

For the next 11 games, Valdosta would hold its opposition to less than 170 total yards in each.

However, the Trojans, led by running backs Max Vickers and Andre "Pulpwood" Smith,

rushed and passed for 254 yards on the highly respected Valdosta defense.

Wildcat defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph was impressed by the Trojans. "They are so quick," Rudolph said after the game. "We have a bigger team, but their quickness hurt us."

As it got tougher to run up the middle of the Wildcat

defense as the night wore on, the Trojans would slip Vickers or Smith out on a pitch.

Vickers, who finished the game with the rushing honors, picked up 109 yards on 17 carries.

The senior also finished with two of Coffee's three touchdowns on runs of 8 and 2 yards.

Meanwhile, Smith, who accounted for 31 touchdowns this season, ended the night and his career with 67 yards on 11 carries.

"They give it to No. 5 (Smith) near the goal, but Vickers is good," Rudolph said.

"They are a fine offensive team, and they opened up some good holes in our defensive line."

The Wildcats had better success against the Trojans' quarterback, Harrell Ragsdale. Ragsdale was held to 47 yards passing and one touchdown on 4 of 11 passing. He also threw two interceptions.

"The coaching staff knew about Vickers and Smith, but Ragsdale was a surprise," Rudolph said. "He surprised us

with his quickness."

Coffee, after falling behind 22-18 early in the fourth quarter, could move no closer than the Valdosta 46 in the last 10 minutes of the game.

"I don't think we did anything different in the fourth quarter," Rudolph said. "We made the adjustment at halftime of moving our ends out a couple of yards because

they were running reverses.

"A couple of our people didn't play well, and (defensive back) Chris Major saved us several times.

Next Friday night here in Valdosta, the Wildcats will face another power team in Warner Robins. "They return a great portion of their team," head coach Nick Hyder said.



V-Times 12-4-82

Victory Handshake

Valdosta High School head football coach Nick Hyder is congratulated by former player Keith Mitchell after Hyder's Wildcats nipped defending class AAAA state champion Warner Robins 14-7 in a state semifinal clash Friday night at Cleveland Field

here. It was Warner Robins which defeated Valdosta last year in a similar semifinal matchup. With the victory, the Wildcats, now 14-0 on the year, earned the right to meet Peachtree of Atlanta, which edged Griffin 17-14 Friday night for the north Georgia

championship. The state championship game is slated for next Saturday night at Cleveland Field. For stories and photos of Friday's game, see today's sports section. — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

High schools/ PLAYOFF PREVIEW

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

Thurs., Dec. 2, 1982



RANDY PILAND/Special to The Constitution
Warner Robins coach Bob Davis checks out practice



CLASS AAAA PLAYOFFS

Warner Robins, Valdosta game should be dream

By Steve Figueroa
Staff Writer

You'd think that a playoff meeting between the most successful high school football team in Georgia history (Valdosta) and the winningest team of the past 15 years (Warner Robins) would create enough interest of itself.

But there will be more at stake when the two powers clash Friday night in Valdosta for the South Georgia AAAA championship. At least there will be in the minds of Valdosta fans, who will make up the majority of the crowd of 14,000 expected to gather at Valdosta's famed Cleveland Field.

For the Wildcat faithful, Friday's meeting is a dream come true, the answer to a prayer that was made over a year ago.

It was Nov. 27, 1981 when the two titans last met. Valdosta led 14-10 in the closing minutes when Warner Robins started one final drive. The Demons moved deep into Valdosta territory when quarterback Mike Starnes was hit hard and fumbled. No Valdosta fan will have to be reminded what happened next.

"Starnes fumbled, and the ball rolled into the end zone," recalled Valdosta coach Nick Hyder. "We recovered, but the official said Starnes went out of bounds with the ball. The official watched the film later and admitted he missed it, but that's just one of those things."

Warner Robins scored a few seconds later to win the game 17-14, and the Demons then rolled past Coffee 31-6 and Newnan 21-0 to win the state championship, a title many Valdosta fans thought could have been theirs.

"I know they're going to be ready for us," said Warner Robins coach Bob Davis. "Almost everybody on their defensive team is back from last year. Of course, what they don't

tell you about that play last year is that we recovered the ball in the end zone. Boo Clark tossed the ball to the official, but the Valdosta people don't remember it that way."

Whatever happened last year, this year's task will not be an easy one for Warner Robins. The situation is almost exactly reversed from a year ago when Warner Robins was unbeaten and ranked No. 1 and Valdosta had lost a game. This year, Valdosta is 13-0 and ranked first, while Warner Robins has regrouped from two early-season losses and enters the game 11-2.

"We're just happy to still be playing," said Davis. "We can't match up with them 'Cats this year. They're just too big. But our boys are playing to the best of their ability, and I'm proud of what they've accomplished. I feel a lot better this week than when we were 1-2 earlier this year."

For Warner Robins to defeat Valdosta two years in a row in Valdosta would be quite an accomplishment, but Hyder thinks Warner Robins has the talent for such a feat.

"I think Warner Robins has a better offense than they did last year," said the coach. "They've still got Hank (Williams) the tank, and he means more to them than Herschel does to Georgia."

WARNER ROBINS (11-2) at VALDOSTA (13-0): Warner Robins has 1,600-yard rusher David "Hank" Williams and All-American linebacker Steve Boswell, but Valdosta has superior size, the home field advantage and a little added incentive. Prediction: Valdosta 17-14.

GRIFFIN (10-2) vs. PEACHTREE (13-0) at DeKalb Memorial Stadium: Peachtree's defense has yielded just 50 points all season and has recorded six shutouts. But the Patriots haven't faced a team with the offensive speed and versatility of Griffin.

Prediction: Griffin 21-14.

No Grudge Match Here, Wildcats' Hyder Says

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder says his team isn't going into it with the attitude that it's a grudge match. The Wildcats, he said, won't be seeking a vendetta. It's just one more obstacle to be cleared, another job to be done. Period.

The Wildcats have been doing the job for 13 weeks, clearing enough obstacles to land in the semifinal round of the state Class AAAA playoffs opposite Warner Robins. The two south Georgia schoolboy powers collide Friday at Cleveland Field at 8 p.m.

Of course, it was Warner Robins which shattered Valdosta's hopes for the state championship a year ago when it tipped the Wildcats 17-14 in the quarterfinals before going on to claim the state championship along with the mythical national title.

Hyder insists Valdosta isn't of a vengeful bent as it gears up for the Friday night showdown. Said Hyder, "I don't use the word 'grudge' or 'revenge.' We don't try to kill our opponents. We always work

with a high level of intensity, anyway. The approach we use is to just get the job done and play the best game that we are capable of playing."

Still, the memory of the loss to the Demons lingers, even after a year. And Hyder admits that memory has perhaps made Wildcat practice sessions come a bit more naturally for his squad. "We respect all of our opponents," he said. "But when you lost last time, that respect is reinforced. The youngsters are very attentive when you talk to them about Warner Robins."

There was plenty of talk about Warner Robins across the state after last season's Demon finish. Coach Robert Davis' outfit looked strong enough to repeat as state champion, and was accordingly voted as the No. 1 Class AAAA team before the current campaign began.

Although many Demon watchers felt this year's team possessed more talent than last year's championship squad, Warner Robins, after opening the season with a victory over Hardaway, stumbled in its sec-

ond and third games (against Athens' Clarke Central and Cedar Shoals), making room for then-No. 2-ranked Valdosta to move to the top of the polls, where the Wildcats have resided ever since.

Davis and his staff decided it was time to "get tough" with the team, as one Demon observer put it. There was dissension. A handful of players left the team. The ones who stayed turned the Demons' fortunes around, winning the next seven games to qualify for the playoffs.

That's when Warner Robins really looked to be fulfilling the potential that it seemed to have before the season began. In the playoffs, the Demons have defeated Columbus, Warner Robins Northside and Augusta Westside by a combined score of 90-0.

The Demons' offensive figures for the season bear out the feeling that this edition could indeed be better than last year's. For instance, this squad has in 13 games scored 432 points. In '81, the Demons put 417 points on the scoreboard in the 15 games that comprised



Hyder Looking Only For Victory

the regular season and playoff games.

The Warner Robins offense relies heavily on the output of senior running back David Williams, the Demons' leading scorer with 20 touchdowns. The 6-foot, 204-pound Williams has rushed for 1,621 yards. Typically, Williams' number is called 25-30 times per game.

Buster Tharpe, a 5-11, 176-pound junior, joins Williams in the Demons' backfield. Also available for duty is Joe Butler and Joe Brooks, the younger brother of former Warner

Robins and Auburn star James Brooks.

The Warner Robins multiple offense is piloted by Mike Norwood, a 5-10, 170-pound junior. Norwood is a constant threat, orchestrating the option attack and handling the ball deftly.

"Norwood is an excellent runner, probably better than (Coffee quarterback Harrell) Ragsdale," Hyder said. "He's very much of a threat and figures very heavily in their running attack."

Warner Robins Rolls In On 10-Game Hot Streak

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Their overall record is only 1-6 against the Valdosta Wildcats, but the Warner Robins Demons' one victory was a big one. Last year at Cleveland Field, the Demons came in ranked No. 1 and sporting a perfect 12-0 record, while the Wildcats were 11-1 after an early-season loss to Thomasville.

Warner Robins came from behind to beat Valdosta 17-14 on its way to a 15-0 season and the state and national championships. It was the Demons' second national title in six years.

In its victory over the 'Cats last year, Warner Robins did not complete a pass, but was able to grind out 236 yards on the ground.

This time, it will be Valdosta bringing a perfect record and the No. 1 ranking the showdown with Warner Robins. Since they are meeting a round later in the playoffs than they did last year, Valdosta is 13-0.

"I don't see how anybody is going to beat them," Demons' coach Robert Davis said.

"They have great running backs and a huge line."

Having won its last ten games in a row, Warner Robins is 11-2 on the season.

After opening the season with a 43-31 win over Hardaway, the Demons lost to Clarke Central 17-13, and Cedar Shoals 17-7, before turning the season around.

The Demons took their frustrations out on their next three opponents. Shaw and Baker of Columbus and Southwest of Macon were outscored 171-14.

The last four games of the regular season were victories over Baldwin, Central and Northeast of Macon and Northside of Warner Robins.

"I don't know if we have played any better (after the two losses)," Davis said. "It's just a case of you can't beat everybody."

Fullback David "Hank" Williams is a player Valdosta fans will remember from last year's game. The senior rushed for 112 yards against a tough Wildcat defense.

Williams has powered his way to 1,621 yards and 20

touchdowns this year.

Led by a pair of talented quarterbacks, Warner Robins likes to run the option offense.

When the running game is operating effeciently, Mike Norwood will be behind center. The junior is known for breaking off long runs. Last week against Westside, Norwood had a 73-yard touchdown run. In the Region 2-AAAA championship game against Nothside of Warner Robins, he broke open a close game with an 80-yard scamper.

If a defense has shut down the running game, Davis will go to his thrower, Jay Griffin, who is a junior as well.

Defensively, the Demons have been at their absolute best the past three weeks in the playoffs. Their three opponets (Columbus, Northside and Westside) have all failed to score.

Warner Robins is led by linebacker Steve Boswell (6-2, 212) and defensive tackles Greg McMichael (6-4, 246) and David Braunstein (5-10, 217) and defensive end Todd Jackson (5-9, 190).

Dec 2, 82

'82 All-Region I-AAAA Football Team

Wildcats Place Nine Players; Three Vikings Selected



Ben Reaves
VHS TE



John Porter
VHS LB



Perrell Bee
VHS QB



Blake Belue
VHS OL



Rob Mitchell
VHS WR



Leon Johnson
VHS DL

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE		SECOND TEAM OFFENSE	
QB—Lennie Moore	Thomasville	QB—Brian Massingill	Tift
RB—Gary Lee	Westover	RB—Perrell Bee	Thomasville
RB—Terry Revels	Tift	RB—Bobby Harris	Valdosta
WR—Glenn Creech	Albany	WR—Curtis Thomas	Thomasville
WR—Carl Parker	Lowndes	WR—Ashley Vickers	Thomasville
TE—Ben Reaves	Valdosta	TE—Tony McKinney	Westover
T—Ron Bryant	Albany	T—Joey Adams	Albany
T—Anthony Wilson	Thomasville	T—Matt Woodley	Westover
G—David Ewing	Thomasville	G—Rick McMillan	Westover
C—Blake Belue	Tift	C—Steve Powell	Westover
PK—Ted Williams	Valdosta	PK—Lloyd Marshall	Thomasville
DEF. PLAYER OF YEAR	Westover		
Gary Lee			

Pats' Lee, Dogs Pittman Led Way To Playoffs

By GARY ROBINSON
Special To The Times

ALBANY, Ga. — This year's Region I-AAAA Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year were instrumental in their respective teams' making the region playoffs. Westover halfback Gary Lee (185 sr.) and Thomasville defensive lineman Walter Pittman (220 sr.) were selected by the sports writers from the five region cities to lead the 1982 All-Region team.

Westover coach Paul Lounsberry, who directed the Patriots to an 8-2 record and the South subregion championship, was named Coach of the Year for the second straight year. "He was the key person in our defense," Thomasville coach Jim Hughes said of Pittman, whose defensive skills helped the Bulldogs to a 7-3 record.

"He gave us the stability we needed on our defensive line," Hughes said, "and that allowed us to build around him. He has good strength when people run straight at him, but his best asset might be the way he pursues the football and the way he stays involved in plays directed away from him." Lee spent his senior year running away from many defensive players.

He scored 12 touchdowns, including 10 rushing, to lead the region and he was second behind Tift County's Terry Revels in region rushing. "I think he's very deserving and I think it's a reflection on the rest of the team, too," Lounsberry said. "Coach Danny Hayes did a good job working with him the last two years."

"He certainly provides us the big-play threat. Any time we had the ball, with his speed, we felt we could score throwing or running. That's quite a factor for a defense to consider." Lee leads an offense that would cause a defensive coach to pull out his hair.

Joining Lee in the backfield are running back Revels (200 jr.), the region's lone 1,000-yard runner and quarterback Lennie Moore of Thomasville (170 sr.) Revels gave Tift, the region runner-up, a legitimate up-the-middle running threat to go with quarterback Brian Massingill (200 jr.), the second team quarterback.

Moore missed three games early in the season because of a disciplinary problem, but upon his return, the Bulldogs won six games in a row and made the playoffs. Not the passer Massingill is, Moore would have a pair of fine outside passing targets in all-region receivers Carl Parker of Lowndes (180 sr.) and Glenn Creech of Albany (185 sr.) Parker finished first and Creech second in region pass receiving statistics.

The first-team offensive line included tackles Anthony Wilson (210 sr.) of Thomasville and Ron Bryant (205 sr.) of Albany, guards King Brown (200 sr.) of Thomasville and David Ewing (190 sr.) of Tift County and center Blake Belue (230 sr.) of Valdosta. Ben Reaves (230 sr.) of Valdosta is the tight end. The placekicker is Westover's Ted Williams (165 sr.), who

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE		SECOND TEAM DEFENSE	
E—Horace Lee	Colquitt	E—Billy Hancock	Lowndes
E—Eddie Gosier	Thomasville	E—Alex Loud	Westover
E—Walter Pittman	Valdosta	E—Ricky Daniels	Valdosta
L—Leon Johnson	Colquitt	L—Sammy Hicks	Westover
L—Darryl Slaughter	Colquitt	L—Roy Hart	Tift
L—B. Mervin Wick	Monroe	L—Rodney Renfro	Albany
L—B. Kirby Stewer	Colquitt	L—Harold Rauls	Central
L—Ray Corbin	Dougherty	L—Ben Monroe	Valdosta
L—Chris Naylor	Valdosta	L—Dennis Smith	Westover
DB—Dennis Smith	Westover	DB—Todd Shiver	Tift
DB—Ulysses White	Albany	P—Jeff Smith	Monroe
P—Brian Clark	Colquitt		
DEF. PLAYER OF YEAR	Thomasville		
Walter Pittman			

kicked 20 of 22 extra points and five field goals. Joining Pittman as down lineman on the first-team defense are Darryl Slaughter (205 sr.) of Colquitt County and Leon Johnson (230 jr.) of Valdosta.

Flanking the trio are ends Horace Lee (184 sr.) of Colquitt County and Eddie Gosier (190 jr.) of Lowndes. Monroe's Maverick McKinney (205 sr.), Dougherty's Ray Corben (210 sr.) and Colquitt County's Kirby Stewart (220 sr.) provide a trio of fast, hard-hitting first-team linebackers.

Defending against the pass are Chris Major (170 sr.) of Valdosta, Dennis Smith (155 sr.) of Westover and Ulysses White (165 sr.) of Albany. The first-team punter is Brian Clark (190 sr.) of Colquitt County.

Revels, Parker, Creech, Bryant, Brown, Belue, Ewing and Reaves were unanimous choices on offense. Pittman, McKinney, Major and Smith were unanimous choices on defense. Joining Massingill on the second team offense are Thomasville's Bobby Harris and Valdosta's Perrell Bee at running back, Thomasville's Curtis Thomas and Valdosta's Rob Mitchell at wide receiver, Tift's Ashley Vickers at tight end, Valdosta's Tony McKinney and Westover's Joey Adams at tackle, Albany's Matt Mobley and Westover's Rick McMillan at guard and Westover's Steve Powell at center. Thomasville's Lloyd Marshall is the kicker.

Lowndes' Billy Hancock and Westover's Alex Loud are the defensive ends, surrounding down linemen Ricky Daniels of Valdosta, Roy Hart of Tift County and Sammy Hicks of Westover. The linebackers are Rodney Renfro of Albany, John Porter of Valdosta and Harold Rauls of Central. Thomasville's Ben Monroe, Westover's Dallis Smith and Tift's Todd Shiver are in the secondary. Monroe's Jeff Swift is the punter.

Lounsberry praised his assistant coaches when informed of his selection as Coach of the Year. "I'm very happy," Lounsberry said. "This award has to be shared by our assistants, Norm Sims, Don Sonnemaker, Allen Fort, Danny Hayes, Ron Clanton and Thinsley Dozier. Everybody contributed. My part was very small. The assistant coaches did most of the work. I wish it was more representative of the whole staff."

The Patriots, wallowing in the swamp of football mediocrity before Lounsberry arrived in 1979, went 0-10 in each of his first two years, but made the playoffs in 1981 with a 6-4 record. He lost a majority of that team, but improved the Patriots' record to 8-2 and their first subregion championship in 1982.

Region champion Valdosta and Westover each placed nine players on the 48-man squad. Thomasville was next with eight, followed by Tift with six, Albany with five, Colquitt with four, Lowndes with three, Monroe with two and Dougherty and Central with one each.

Participating in the voting were representatives of The Albany Herald, The Moultrie Observer, The Thomasville Times-Enterprise, The Tifton Gazette and The Valdosta Daily Times.



Carl Parker
LHS WR



Billy Hancock
LHS DE



Eddie Gosier
LHS DE



Ricky Daniels
VHS DL



Tony McKinney
VHS OL



Chris Major
VHS DB



Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco

'Hank The Tank's' 83 Yards Wasn't Enough For The Demons

Warner Robins TD Ignites Cat Defense

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High knew coming out in the second half that it needed to score a quick touchdown to add to the 14-0 lead already established in the first half if the Wildcats were to take charge of the AAAA South Georgia championship against Warner Robins.

But instead, it was the Demons who took the second half kickoff and drove 60 yards in 15 plays to score the early touchdown and close Valdosta's lead to 14-7 with 4:15 still remaining in the third quarter.

Mainly on the legs of Hank Williams, the hard-running Demon fullback who finished the game with rushing honors with 82 yards on 25 carries, Warner Robins took the opening second half kickoff at its own 40, and mounted the most time-consuming drive of the evening. "Tank," as Williams is known, carried the ball 11 times during the drive for 44 yards. Quarterback Mike Norwood carried the ball the final 2 yards for the touchdown.

Up by a mere seven points,

14-7, the Wildcat defense knew it was time to respond. And with the 'Cat offense being able to drive no further than the Warner Robins 33 (that was quickly negated by an offside penalty), it was essential that the Valdosta defense shut the Demons down.

The 'Cats had done just that in the first half. After the first period Warner Robins had mustered just 2 total yards. By the half it had reached 75 yards, but still no points had been scored.

That quickly changed in the second half. The Demons drove downfield and scored to make what looked like a runaway a close game.

"They drove it down our throats," said defensive captain Ricky Daniels about the second half drive that put Warner Robins on the scoreboard. "So we had to come back and do something about it."

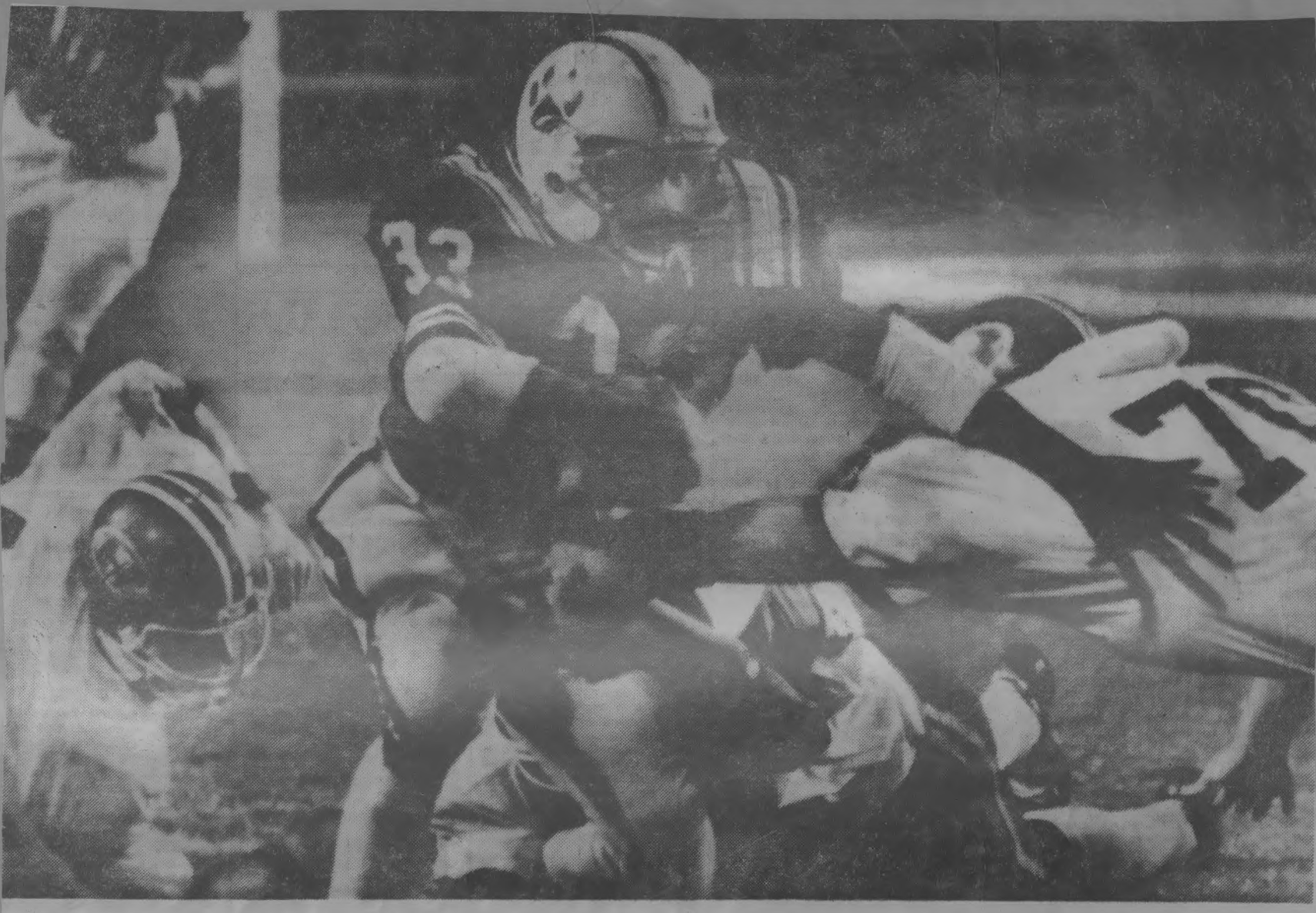
What the Wildcats did was shut Warner Robins down. After that first drive, the Demons were held to three downs

and a punt on their final three possessions of the game.

The biggest play came on the Demons final turn with the ball. After a 32-yard West punt that rolled dead at the Warner Robins 34, the Demons had just over 4 minutes to score a touchdown. Two runs netted the Demons 6 yards, and on third-and-four, the 'Cats rose to make their biggest play of the game. Norwood rolled wide, as he had done most of the night, but this time he met a host of Wildcats led by linebacker John Porter and defensive tackle Kennedy Cooper. The Demon quarterback was dropped for a 6-yard loss and Warner Robins was forced to punt.

Taking over with two minutes remaining, the 'Cats gained a first down and let the clock run out on a 14-7 win that puts Valdosta in the state playoffs next Friday at Cleveland Field against Peachtree High.

"Yeah, we both did a great job," Daniels said, "the offense and the defense."



SPORTS

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Dec. 4, 1982-9-

Wildcats Rule South Georgia

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

For the first time since 1978, the Valdosta Wildcats reign as the champions of south Georgia's schoolboy football ranks.

WARDSTICK

	Val.	W.R.
First Downs	7	7
Yards Rushing	65	145
Yards Passing	131	0
Passes	17-6-1	3-0-2
Punts	6-39.2	6-41.5
Penalties	5-40	3-15

That distinction is the result of a 14-7 victory over Warner Robins Friday night and puts Valdosta into next Saturday's state championship battle at Cleveland Field against Peachtree, a 17-14 winner over Griffin Friday night for the north Georgia title.

As has been the story for much of the year, it was a superb defensive effort by Valdosta that stood out. Warner Robins, the defending state and national champion, had relied upon on a crunching ground attack over a season that had seen the Demons emerge victorious in 11 of their 13 games. And the Demons didn't deviate from that strategy against Valdosta.

Warner Robins went to the air only three times, completing none and having two of those passes intercepted. One of those interceptions resulted in a Valdosta touchdown late in the first half.

As it was, the 145 yards the Demons picked up on the ground represented the total they would gain on the night.

The absence of a threat through the air proved damaging to Warner Robins, particularly after Valdosta took command with a pair of touchdowns.

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder agreed that the percentages were against run-oriented Warner Robins after the Demons found themselves trailing 14-0 at the half.

"If you can get ahead you

can do what you want," Hyder said in reference to Warner Robins' staunch reliance on the running game. "But it's tough to play catch-up ball with that type of offense. When you run the way they do, it's almost like you're running a wishbone offense."

In the early moments of the second half, however, Warner Robins, which had been held to two first downs in the opening 30 minutes, began to demonstrate why it likes the run. The Demons took the opening kickoff, set up at their own 40-yard line and began ramming the ball through the heart of the Wildcat defense.

Most of the ramming was done by David Williams, the workhorse fullback who finished as the game's leading rusher with 82 yards on 25 carries. On this drive of 15 plays, Williams was called upon 11 times, and he responded with an output of 44 yards.

Twice during the march it looked as though Valdosta might turn the Demon assault back, leaving Warner Robins a yard short of first downs on both occasions. But both times Williams bulled for more than the required yardage to keep the drive intact.

The touchdown march consumed 7:45 from the third quarter clock, ending when quarterback Mike Norwood sneaked over right guard for the touchdown from 2 yards out. When Mike Grier added the PAT with 4:15 left in the period, the Demons had pulled to within 14-7.

"We felt like we had to get our offense out there and make some first downs after their drive," Hyder said.

But the Valdosta offense found the going tough against Warner Robins after the Demon touchdown, so the Wildcat defense took over. Hyder admitted his concern that the

Demons' scoring drive might turn the momentum of the game, but the Valdosta defense erected a wall that kept Warner Robins from picking up another first down for the remainder of the game. In fact, the Demons had only 10 yards to show for their final three possessions of the game.

The Wildcats had their problems moving the ball, too. The running game profited no more than 65 yards, leaving the Wildcats no alternative but to open up the game a bit more than they have in recent weeks. "Had to," Hyder said. "You can't run against bricks."

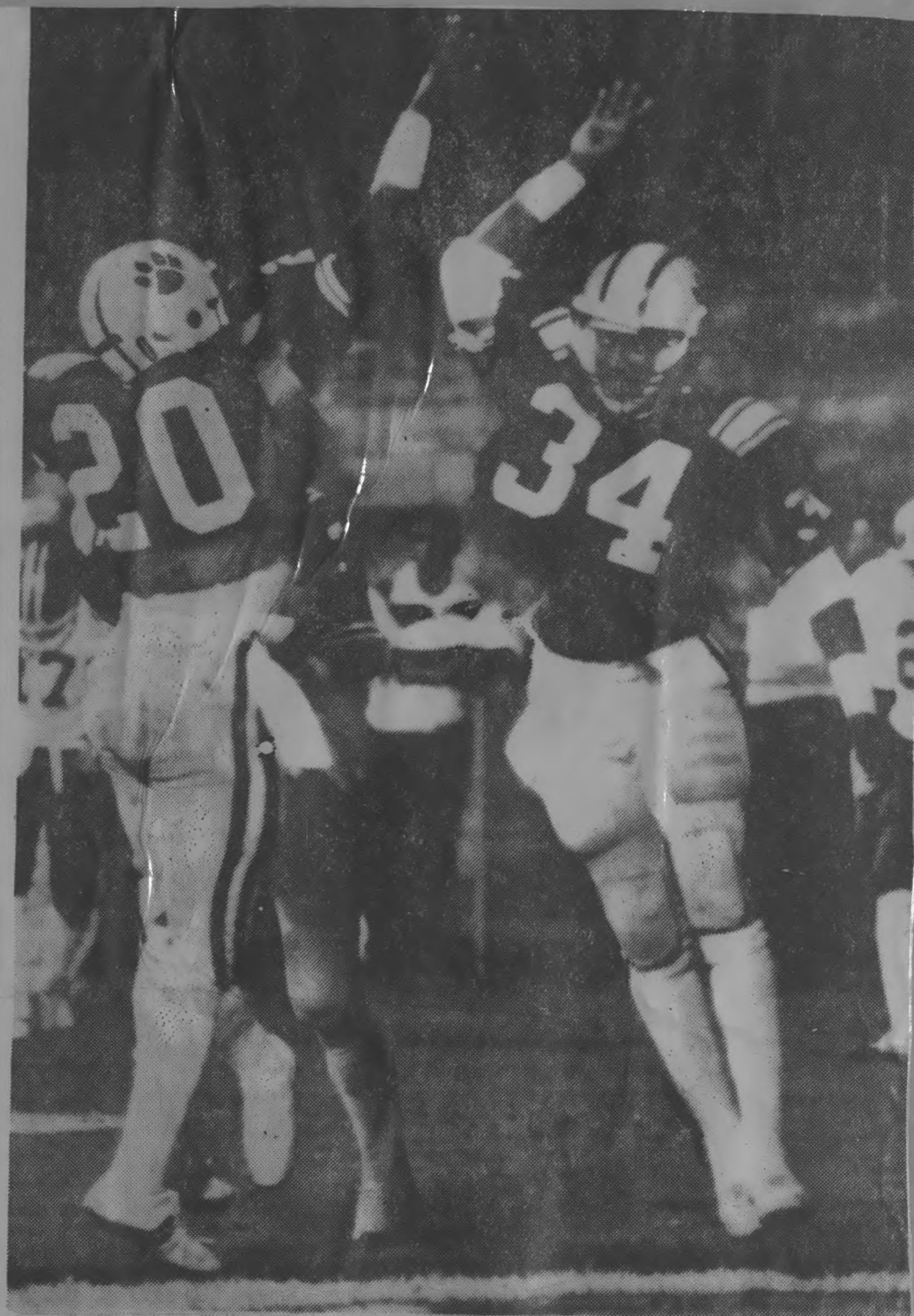
The brick wall the Demons threw up shut off the Wildcat rushing attack, but the six passes Valdosta quarterback Ted West completed in 16 attempts were good for 131 yards — and both 'Cat touchdowns.

The first Valdosta TD came on a 1-yard dive into the end zone by Pernel Bee to conclude the Wildcats' first offensive series of the night. The touchdown was, however, the result of an early flurry of passing activity. Split end Rob Mitchell, who pulled in five passes on the night for 93 yards, was on the receiving end of two passes on the drive, including a 32-yarder that gave Valdosta a first down at the Warner Robins 4.

That opening touchdown drive consumed 80 yards in nine plays and gave the 'Cats a 7-0 lead after Herbert Lowe booted the first of two PAT's 3:42 into the game.

With less than a minute remaining in the half, Valdosta got another opportunity when Norwood, under pressure from the Wildcats' James Robinson, threw and was intercepted by Jeff Lee, who returned the ball to the Demon 46.

After a West toss to tight end Ben Reaves gained 14 yards, Mitchell streaked downfield



Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco

'Cats Rob Mitchell (34), Played Key Role In Victory

and caught up with West's pass from 32 yards out for the deciding touchdown that came 19 seconds before the first half ended.

Warner Robins 0 0 7 0-7
Valdosta 7 7 0 0-14

Valdosta—Bee 1-yard run, Lowe kick
Valdosta—Mitchell 32-yard pass from West, Lowe kick
Warner Robins—Norwood 1-yard run, Grier
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INDIVIDUAL STATS
Rushing:
Valdosta—Bee 16-33, Brinson 8-35, Anderson 1-1, West 5 minus 4

Warner Robins—Tharpe 10-30, Williams 25-82, Norwood 11-33
Passing:
Valdosta—West 16-6-131, Bee 1-0-0
Warner Robins—Norwood 3-0-2 0
Pass Receiving:
Valdosta—Mitchell 5-93, Brinson 1-24, Reaves 1-14

SPORTS

Tues., Apr. 26, 1983—24—

'Cats Can Clinch Spot In Playoffs With Win Today

By MACK BROWNING

Times Staff Writer
THOMASVILLE — Valdosta can clinch a region playoff berth today when it takes on Central of Thomasville at Bazemore Field at 4 p.m.

The Wildcats ended any chance the Yellow Jackets had of making the playoffs with a 10-3 win Monday in a game that had been rescheduled from an early season postponement.

This week was supposed to be a crucial week for Valdosta, playing four sub-region contenders in five days.

The Wildcats passed the first test with flying colors.

Valdosta jumped on Jacket pitchers Doug Wilson and Gene Singletary for all 10 runs in the first three innings, and Ted West held Central hitless with a relentless buzz-bomb and a snapping curve ball during his three innings of work.

Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley was able to lift his ace because of the big lead, hoping to give him plenty of rest for Wednesday start against Colquitt County.

"We got everything we wanted," Tarpley said. "We won, got a big lead and was able to take Teddy out and get him ready for Moultrie."

West had nearly every batter either swinging late at his liveliest fastball of the year or off-stride on the curve.

Afterward, Tarpley declared his team ready for all comers — win, lose or draw.

"Last year we started slow,"

Tarpley said, "but we came on in the last 10 games and beat Lowndes, Thomasville and Central the last week to tie Colquitt County." Valdosta then went on to beat the Packers in the region championship to cap a near-perfect season ending.

"We've kept winning and building up to where we are now," Tarpley said. Which is at the top of the sub-region and looking more and more like a state tournament-caliber team.

Valdosta started quickly Monday against Central.

The game's second batter, Mark Perry, ripped a home run over the left field fence to give the Wildcats a 1-0 lead.

Valdosta put the game away in the next two innings with a pair of grand slams, the team's fourth and fifth of the season.

In the second inning, Ben Reeves and Blake Belue coaxed walks from Jacket starter Wilson. After Ferrell Scroggs forced Reeves out at third, Lorenzo Matchett hit a high bouncer up the middle that shortstop Mark Henley booted to load the bases.

Greg Jenkins followed one out later with a grand slam home run to give the Wildcats a 5-0 lead.

In the third, a hit batsman, single and walk loaded the bases. Central relief pitcher Singletary walked Matchett forcing in Marty Shiver with the sixth run of the game. No. 9 hitter Tommy Schunhoff followed with a grand slam,

staking the Wildcats to an insurmountable 10-0 lead.

Central scored three runs in the fourth inning off Valdosta reliever Mike Moore.

Back-to-back homers by Henley and Michael Greek produced all the runs for the Jackets. Central collected three more hits off Moore, but Valdosta shook off the final rallies.

Valdosta had chances to score off the Central ace, but stranded a lead-off base runner in every inning Greek worked.

Tarpley will start Rick Rupp against the Jackets today. Greek could probably use more time to rest, but he will probably be called on to pitch today anyway. He was the only hurler to have any effectiveness whatsoever against Valdosta Monday.

	abr	h	bi	r	bb	so
VHS	4	0	1	0	0	0
King lf	4	0	1	0	0	0
G Jenkins ss	4	1	1	4	1	1
Pyle 3b	3	1	0	0	0	0
Perry 2b	4	1	2	1	1	1
Haley ss	4	1	2	2	3	0
Greek 1b-p	3	1	1	1	0	0
Shiver c	4	1	2	0	0	0
Taylor cf	2	0	1	0	0	0
Reaves cf	3	1	0	0	0	0
Sinley dh	2	0	0	0	0	0
Belue lb	2	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scroggs if	3	1	0	0	0	0
Mitch rf	2	0	0	0	0	0
Palmer 2b	2	0	0	0	0	0
Moore p	2	0	0	0	0	0
Shaw c	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schiff dh	3	1	1	4	0	0
Brooks c	3	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	30	10	8	10	0	0

	W	L	E	R	BB	SO
VHS	145	000	0-16-63			
West	000	300	0-3-52			
Moore	4.0	5.3	2.3	0.0		
CHS	1.2	2.5	1.2	1.1		
Wilson	1.0	2.5	5.2	1.1		
Singletary	4.1	4.0	0.1	1.4		
Green						

Winner — West. Loser — Wilson. WP — Moore. BK — Greek. HBP — Stanley by West. West by Singletary.



Times Staff Photo

Ted West, Blake Belue Talk Over Strategy In Recent Game



West Makes First Drive Look Easy

By STEVE CORRIGAN

Times Staff Writer

It looked almost too easy.

The Valdosta Wildcats took the opening kickoff in Friday night's AAAA South Georgia championship win over Warner Robins and drove 80 yards in nine plays, almost exclusively on the arm of quarterback Ted West, to score the game's first touchdown, with barely three minutes elapsed from the scoreboard clock. Valdosta went on to clinch a spot in next week's state championship against Peachtree High with a 14-7 win over the Demons, but it was that first touchdown that set the tempo for things to follow.

"The first series was easy," West said. "After that they got tough."

West went on to finish the game 6 of 16 in the passing department with one interception and one touchdown. While his game stats were mediocre at best, his performance in that first drive was near flawless.

The Valdosta passing game was exploited to its fullest potential on the first scoring drive. Of the nine plays it took to drive the 80 yards to a touchdown, four were passes, three of which were completed.

On first down West hit tailback Dana Brinson for 24 yards to the 44. Two plays later, on third-and-seven from the 47, West hit wide receiver Rob Mitchell for 15 yards to the Warner Robins 38 to keep the drive alive.

Following a 2-yard gain by Pernel Bee, West lofted another pass to Mitchell for 32 yards to the 4. Mitchell had to come back for the ball and made a leaping grab deep in Demon territory, taking the ball in a tangle of two Demon

defensive backs.

From there it was merely three Bee plunges into the line for the score and a 7-0 lead.

Again it was the strong arm of West that provided Valdosta's second score less than a minute before the first half ended. Thanks to a Jeff Lee interception that gave the 'Cats the ball at the Warner Robins 46 with 40 seconds remaining in the second quarter, Valdosta took just three plays to stick the ball in the end zone.

Playoff Scores

- Class AAAA
- Valdosta 14, Warner Robins 7
- Peachtree 17, Griffin 14
- Class AAA
- Gainesville 28, Dalton 19
- Bainbridge 28, Glenn Hills 7
- Class AA
- Mary Persons 24, Lincoln Co. 13
- West Rome 34, East Hall 0
- Class A
- Wrens 20, Metter 15
- Palmetto 31, Buford 3

Following an incomplete, West hit tight end Ben Reeves for 14 yards to the 32. West and Mitchell got together again on the next play, again for 32 yards for the score.

With 19 seconds left, West layed a perfect strike in Mitchell's outstretched arms at the goal line for the score and a 14-0 lead.

Mitchell finished the game with five catches for 93 yards and one touchdown.

"I feel like we've got to run the ball to be successful," West said. "Fifteen to 20 passes a game is fine with me. A lot of quarterbacks throw the ball a lot more than I do, but they're not playing in the state championship next week. I'm not complaining."

The Valdosta Daily Times



Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco

"Hank The Tank's" 83 Yards Wasn't Enough For The Demons

West Makes First Drive Look Easy

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

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Case Roundup

Warner Robins TD Ignites Cat Defense

Sat. Dec. 4, 1982

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High knew coming out in the second half that it needed to score a quick touchdown to add to the 14-0 lead already established in the first half if the Wildcats were to take charge of the AAAA South Georgia championship against Warner Robins.

But instead, it was the Demons who took the second half kickoff and drove 60 yards in 15 plays to score the early touchdown and close Valdosta's lead to 14-7 with 4:15 still remaining in the third quarter.

Mainly on the legs of Hank Williams, the hard-running Demon fullback who finished the game with rushing honors with 82 yards on 25 carries, Warner Robins took the opening second half kickoff at its own 40, and mounted the most time-consuming drive of the evening. "Tank," as Williams is known, carried the ball 11 times during the drive for 44 yards. Quarterback Mike Norwood carried the ball the final 2 yards for the touchdown.

Up by a mere seven points,

14-7, the Wildcat defense knew it was time to respond. And with the 'Cat offense being able to drive no further than the Warner Robins 33 (that was quickly negated by an offside penalty), it was essential that the Valdosta defense shut the Demons down.

The 'Cats had done just that in the first half. After the first period Warner Robins had mustered just 2 total yards. By the half it had reached 75 yards, but still no points had been scored.

That quickly changed in the second half. The Demons drove downfield and scored to make what looked like a runaway a close game.

"They drove it down our throats," said defensive captain Ricky Daniels about the second half drive that put Warner Robins on the scoreboard. "So we had to come back and do something about it."

What the Wildcats did was shut Warner Robins down. After that first drive, the Demons were held to three downs

and a punt on their final three possessions of the game.

The biggest play came on the Demons final turn with the ball. After a 32-yard West punt that rolled dead at the Warner Robins 34, the Demons had just over 4 minutes to score a touchdown. Two runs netted the Demons 6 yards, and on third-and-four, the 'Cats rose to make their biggest play of the game. Norwood rolled wide, as he had done most of the night, but this time he met a host of Wildcats led by linebacker John Porter and defensive tackle Kennedy Cooper. The Demon quarterback was dropped for a 6-yard loss and Warner Robins was forced to punt.

Taking over with two minutes remaining, the 'Cats gained a first down and let the clock run out on a 14-7 win that puts Valdosta in the state playoffs next Friday at Cleveland Field against Peachtree High.

"Yeah, we both did a great job," Daniels said, "the offense and the defense."

Wildcats Rule

South Georgia V.D.T. Dec. 4, 1982

By DAN CHILDS

Times Sports Editor

For the first time since 1978, the Valdosta Wildcats reign as the champions of south Georgia's schoolboy football ranks.

WALDOSTA		WARNER	
First Downs	7	7	7
Yards Rushing	65	145	0
Yards Passing	131	3	0
Passes	17-6-1	3-0-2	0
Punts	6-39-2	6-41-5	0
Penalties	5-40	3-15	0

That distinction is the result of a 14-7 victory over Warner Robins Friday night and puts Valdosta into next Saturday's state championship battle at Cleveland Field against Peachtree, a 17-14 winner over Griffin Friday night for the north Georgia title.

As has been the story for much of the year, it was a superb defensive effort by Valdosta that stood out. Warner Robins, the defending state and national champion, had relied upon on a crumpling ground attack over a season that had seen the Demons emerge victorious in 11 of their 13 games. And the Demons didn't deviate from that strategy against Valdosta.

Warner Robins went to the air only three times, completing none and having two of those passes intercepted. One of those interceptions resulted in a Valdosta touchdown late in the first half.

As it was, the 145 yards the Demons picked up on the ground represented the total they would gain on the night.

The absence of a threat through the air proved damaging to Warner Robins, particularly after Valdosta took command with a pair of touchdowns.

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder agreed that the percentages were against run-oriented Warner Robins after the Demons found themselves trailing 14-0 at the half.

"If you can get ahead you

can do what you want," Hyder said in reference to Warner Robins' staunch reliance on the running game. "But it's tough to play catch-up ball with that type of offense. When you run the way they do, it's almost like you're running a wishbone offense."

In the early moments of the second half, however, Warner Robins, which had been held to two first downs in the opening 30 minutes, began to demonstrate why it likes the run. The Demons took the opening kickoff, set up at their own 40-yard line and began ramming the ball through the heart of the Wildcat defense.

Most of the ramming was done by David Williams, the workhorse fullback, who finished as the game's leading rusher with 82 yards on 25 carries. On this drive of 15 plays, Williams was called upon 11 times, and he responded with an output of 44 yards.

Twice during the march it looked as though Valdosta might turn the Demon assault back, leaving Warner Robins a yard short of first downs on both occasions. But both times Williams bulled for more than the required yardage to keep the drive intact.

The touchdown march consumed 7:45 from the third quarter clock, ending when quarterback Mike Norwood sneaked over right guard for the touchdown from 2 yards out. When Mike Grier added the PAT with 4:15 left in the period, the Demons had pulled to within 14-7.

"We felt like we had to get our offense out there and make some first downs after their drive," Hyder said.

But the Valdosta offense found the going tough against Warner Robins after the Demon touchdown, so the Wildcat defense took over. Hyder admitted his concern that the

Demons' scoring drive might turn the momentum of the game, but the Valdosta defense erected a wall that kept Warner Robins from picking up another first down for the remainder of the game. In fact, the Demons had only 10 yards to show for their final three possessions of the game.

The Wildcats had their problems moving the ball, too. The running game profited no more than 65 yards, leaving the Wildcats no alternative but to open up the game a bit more than they have in recent weeks. "Had to," Hyder said. "You can't run against bricks."

The brick wall the Demons threw up shut off the Wildcat rushing attack, but the six passes Valdosta quarterback Ted West completed in 16 attempts were good for 131 yards — and both 'Cat touchdowns.

The first Valdosta TD came on a 1-yard dive into the end zone by Pernel Bee to conclude the Wildcats' first offensive series of the night. The touchdown was, however, the result of an early flurry of passing activity. Split end Rob Mitchell, who pulled in five passes on the night for 93 yards, was on the receiving end of two passes on the drive, including a 32-yarder that gave Valdosta a first down at the Warner Robins 4.

That opening touchdown drive consumed 80 yards in nine plays and gave the 'Cats a 7-0 lead after Herbert Lowe booted the first of two PAT's 3:42 into the game.

With less than a minute remaining in the half, Valdosta got another opportunity when Norwood, under pressure from the Wildcats' James Robinson, threw and was intercepted by Jeff Lee, who returned the ball to the Demon 46.

After a West loss to tight end Ben Reeves gained 14 yards, Mitchell streaked downfield



Times Staff Photo By JOEY VANSCO
***Cats Rob Mitchell (34), Played Key Role In Victory**

and caught up with West's pass from 32 yards out for the deciding touchdown that came 19 seconds before the first half ended.

Warner Robins
Valdosta

INDIVIDUAL STATS	
Rushing:	Bee 16-33, Brinson 8-35, Anderson 1-1, West 5 minus 4
Passing:	Warner Robins—Tharpe 10-30, Williams 25-82, Norwood 11-33
Pass Receiving:	Valdosta—West 16-61 131, Bee 1-0-0, Warner Robins—Norwood 3-0-2, Valdosta—Mitchell 5-93, Brinson 1-24, Pearson 1-1

0 0 7 0—7	
7	7 0 0—14

SPORTS

Valdosta-Peachtree A Meeting Of Old And New

By Times Staff Writer

Part of an old, traditional phrase could maybe best sum up the matchup in next Saturday night's state high school football championship game at Cleveland Field. The part that says "something old and something new" tells a great deal about the two teams that will compete for the top honor in the highest classification of high school football in Georgia.

Something old definitely refers to the team that is almost without a doubt the most celebrated prep football power in the state. This past Friday night, the Valdosta High Wildcats knocked off the defending state champion Warner Robins Demons 14-7 to earn a shot at the 'Cats

17th state championship. In just the nine years Nick Hyder has been Valdosta's head coach, the Wildcats have played for state honors three times, including this coming Saturday's game. Valdosta is no stranger to championship battles.

But for Peachtree, a 17-14 win over Griffin Friday night gives the Patriots of Coach T.S. McFerrin two things they have never had before — A north Georgia championship and a shot at their first state title. The 7-AAAA champion Patriots had played for the north Georgia title on two other occasions, but until now had never reached paydirt.

The Wildcats used a deadly first-half passing game and a stout defense to

defeat their old nemesis. A strong Demon running game had been the key factor in Warner Robins' 17-14 win over Valdosta in the state quarterfinals last year. But the Demons were limited to just 145 yards on the night this time around and when Warner Robins has to pass it tends to look very ordinary.

Warner Robins senior tailback David "Hank The Tank" Williams had run the 'Cat defense ragged in last year's game, punishing Valdosta with well over 100 yards. Friday night the 6-foot, 205-pound runner gained only 82 yards on 25 carries. "We moved people over a little further this time," said Valdosta defensive coach Jack Rudolph in reference to the de-

fensive strategy that took away the Demons' outside rushing attack. "We had an extra person to take the outside," Rudolph added.

Except for a 60-yard touchdown drive that killed most of the time in the third quarter, the moves seemed to pay off well for the unbeaten Wildcats. The three times Warner Robins took to the air ended up in disasters. Two of the attempts were completed — but both times to a Valdosta defensive back.

On offense, Valdosta took to the airways early with quarterback Ted West setting up the first Valdosta score with a 32-yard strike to split end Rob Mitchell that set the 'Cats up on the Demons'

4-yard line. The other Valdosta score came with seconds left in the first half when West found Mitchell in the end zone with another 32-yard throw.

"We decided to test their secondary early," said head coach Nick Hyder. "What was unusual was that they won the toss and decided to kick off to us and we started out with the wind at our backs."

Peachtree advanced to the state championship game on a different route of sorts. The Patriots were playing host to Griffin, a team that many observers felt had the fastest team speed in the state. The Bears had also eliminated the Patriots from playoff competition several times before as well.

The Bears looked as if they might knock the Patriots out of playoff competition for a third time when quarterback Wes Treadway hit Terry Miller with a 14-yard touchdown pass to give Griffin an early lead. But several other missed chances hurt the Bears dearly as Peachtree began to dominate the game midway through the second quarter. The Patriots, behind the running of Brad Schroder, scored the game's next 17 points. The Peachtree defense thwarted Griffin by recovering two Bear fumbles and picking off three Treadway passes.

Griffin finally made it back into the Patriot end zone with three minutes to go.

Valdosta, Georgia, Sunday Morning, December 5, 1982



WINS NATIONAL HONOR — Valdosta High School student Leigh Powell is in Chicago collecting a \$1,000 scholarship for her 4-H work. She is a national winner with her dairy foods project. Also attending National 4-H Congress there is Anglia Webb of Hahira who was a state winner with her agriculture project. — Times Staff Photo.

K Times 12-1-82

Warner Robins Vs. Valdosta

Surprises In Store For Tonight?

Dec 3
1982

From Staff Reports

Last year it took a mysterious fumble in the waning moments of the game to decide the quarterfinal showdown between powerful Warner Robins and Valdosta. This year there is no telling what strange occurrence will take place.

But when Warner Robins and Valdosta meet tonight at Cleveland Field in a rematch of last year's game, there is sure to be plenty of surprises. The Wildcats boast a perfect 13-0 mark while the defending state and national champion Demons come in 11-2, having won their last 10 straight games.

It's a rematch made in gridiron heaven. The Demons

won last year 17-14 when they had to drive from midfield to the end zone late in the game for the win. But at the goal line, a Warner Robins back was hit and fumbled into the end zone. The ball rolled untouched out of bounds. The referee, though, ruled that the running back had crossed the plain of the goal before losing the ball. The Demons were awarded a touchdown.

Many said the state title was decided that night at Cleveland Field. It's quite possible that this year's state title will also be decided at Death Valley.

Valdosta coach Nick Hyder, who won part of a state championship in 1978 when his team tied Griffin, is seeking his first

sole title. And from the beginning of this year until the present, many have been saying this has been the "Year of the Cat."

Warner Robins has other ideas. While the Demons stumbled early in the season, they have come on with a show of strength lately to destroy every opponent in the playoffs. The stingy Demon defense has not given up a point in the three previous playoff games, while the potent Warner Robins offense has scored 90 points during that period. Last week the Demons destroyed Westside High of Augusta 32-0 to reach the semifinals.

Meanwhile, Valdosta has seemingly struggled past its

three playoff opponents. A blocked punt lifted the Wildcats over Thomasville and the comeback "Cats had to battle back three times last week in a 29-18 win over Coffee County.

VALDOSTA WILDCATS

Offense	
QB-Ted West	175 Jr.
RB-Pernell Bee	175 Sr.
RB-Dana Brinson	151 Jr.
WR-Brad Martin	193 Sr.
WR-Rob Mitchell	158 Sr.
TE-Ben Reeves	205 Sr.
T-William Collier	215 Sr.
T-Tony McKinney	235 Sr.
G-Monty Davis	182 Jr.
G-Victor Wayman	203 Sr.
C-Blake Belle	225 Sr.

Defense

E-Ozell Ramsey	156 Sr.
E-James Robinson	165 Sr.
T-Kennedy Cooper	248 Sr.
T-Ricky Daniels	208 Sr.
NG-Leon Johnson	221 Jr.
LB-Frank Abney	169 Jr.
LB-John Porter	197 So.
DB-Jeff Spivey	155 Sr.
DB-Jeff Lee	176 Sr.
CB-Chris Major	167 Sr.
CB-Derrick Folsom	160 So.

WARNER ROBINS DEMONS

Offense	
QB-Mike Norwood	170
RB-David Williams	200
RB-Buster Tharpe	176
FL-Danny Barnes	148

Defense

WR-Kenny Allen	140
TE-Kevin Jackson	206
T-Greg Farms	236
T-Morris Borders	198
G-Gary Singletary	179
G-Keith Lauritsen	186
C-Mike Barfield	198

Peachtree-Valdosta Matchup First Of Its Kind

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Dec. 8, 1982-

By STEVE CORRIGAN

Times Staff Writer

When Valdosta and Peachtree meet Saturday at Cleveland Field in the finals of the state playoffs, it will be the first time that two 14-0 teams have played for the AAAA championship. It's happened before in the state's smaller classifications, but never in the largest.

Despite its clean slate, Peachtree is still somewhat of an enigma to football fans in south Georgia. Oh sure, Valdostans know that the Patriots have been ranked among the elite of the state's top prep

teams all year. And when they edged Griffin, 17-14, last week in the state semifinals it just solidified the belief that Peachtree had a fine team.

But just exactly what is a Peachtree High?

"This is no fly-by-night football team," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "They have won their region five of the last seven years."

Nestled in the suburb of Chamblee, just outside of Atlanta, Peachtree High did not begin a football program until 1969. That first year the Patriots went 3-6-1 as a member of Class AA. By 1972,

Peachtree had developed into an 8-1-1 team, but it was still not consistent. The next three years the Patriots' wins could be counted on two hands.

By 1976, the first year of present Peachtree coach T.S. McFerrin, the Patriots were winning — and winning consistently. Over his seven years as the head Pat, McFerrin has a combined record of 68-13-2. And not once has he had a losing season at Peachtree.

Lakeside High coach Waymon Creel, the winningest active coach in the state, said Peachtree is "a high school version of the Dallas

Cowboys."

Hyder agrees. "Coach McFerrin has done a fine job of carving out a fine team out of a very difficult situation."

The last three years, the Patriots have been in the playoffs and finished no worse than fourth in the state. The last two years they have captured the region 8 championship and went all the way to the state semifinals, 14 games worth, before losing.

The Patriots feature a balanced attack out of their veer offense. Led by junior quarterback Todd Rampley, a

two-year starter, the Pats have an experienced, as well as capable, passer. Rampley has already passed for 1,800 yards this season and 19 touchdowns.

"These people run and throw," Hyder said. Junior running back Brad Schroeder has already rushed for over 1,000 yards this season. Complimenting the 176-pound Schroeder is sophomore Craig Goldberg. At 132 pounds, Goldberg doesn't have great size, but he does possess 4.7 speed.

The key to the Peachtree attack, though, is the play of its senior-dominated line. The

Pats are not afraid to send five players out for passes, but to do that, the offensive line has the burden of holding off oncoming pass rushers.

"Their offensive line is disciplined," Hyder said. "During the off-season they work extensively with weights. Actually, it's a year-round weight program."

Anchored by senior guard Parke Day, 6-foot, 228 pounds, the Pats feature 200-pounders from tackle to tackle except for the center. "They use great blocking schemes and they're real proud of them," Hyder said. "They protect their

passer extremely well. They have good combination schemes and they flip-flop a lot (linemen can play left side as easily as the right)."

The Patriots call audibles frequently at the line. If they see an opening, they will change the play called in the huddle at the line of scrimmage to take advantage of the weak areas.

"They'll check off to whatever's there," Hyder said. "They call routes at the line where they want it. It's unusual for a high school team to do that. We use it some, but not

nearly as much as they do."

In an effort to counter Peachtree's audibles, the Wildcats will move around a lot on defense, especially after the offensive line is set. But deception can carry the 'Cats just so far. Then it comes down to a strong pass rush and covering their five receivers.

"It's not something they do every time," Hyder said about the Pats sending five players into the Valdosta secondary, "but they are capable of doing it. The play of our defensive rush will be the key. That's why sacks are so important."

V. Times 12 8-82

By Roberts Layup Saves Lady 'Cats

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

"I knew she was going to the hole," Valdosta Lady Wildcats coach Jo Ellis said after watching Andrea Roberts hit a lay-up with only :07 remaining to give Ellis and her squad a 50-49 victory over their crosstown rivals, the Lowndes Vikettes.

The Lady Wildcats upped their record to 4-0 with the win while the Vikettes dropped to 4-2.

In Tuesday's nightcap at the Lowndes gymnasium, the Vikings shrugged off a slow first half and coasted to a 65-45 win over the Wildcats to up their record to 4-2, dropping the Wildcats to 0-4.

With 4:23 remaining in the girls game, Valdosta's Shevon Peeler hit a jumper to put the Lady Wildcats up 48-42, and it seemed that Valdosta had the game well in hand, but as they did all night, the Vikettes battled back.

After Lowndes had missed a shot, Ellis instructed her squad to run down the clock, but Lowndes put pressure on the ball and forced three consecutive turnovers by the Lady Wildcats.

Beverly Hart, who ended the night with 19 points, capitalized on the first Valdosta mistake, when she followed her own missed shot and was fouled.

With 12 of her 19 points coming as the result her seven offensive rebounds, Hart sank the foul shot to pull the Vikettes to within three at 48-45 with 3:14 showing on the clock.

Lowndes' Renee Wilson set up the next Vikettes score, when she stole an errant Valdosta pass and fed the ball to

Hart, who was fouled before she could get a shot off.

Hart made both free throws to make the score 48-47 with 1:35 left.

After Peeler missed the front end of a one-and-one, Tane Register hit a six-foot jumper which gave Lowndes a 49-48 lead with :14 remaining.

Roberts took the inbounds pass the length of the floor, uncontested, to get off her winning shot.

"It is one of those things," Vikettes' coach Steve Kebler said after the game, referring to the fact no one played defense against Roberts on her drive to the basket. "You can't explain it, or blame just one person with the loss. We were supposed to get some back-side help on the play, and we didn't."

The first half saw both teams break out to six-point leads at one time.

Ellis put a full-court press on Lowndes in the first half, and it was effective at the outset of the game.

The Lady Wildcats broke out to a 6-0 lead, thanks to turnovers by Lowndes, each of the first four trips down court.

But Kebler settled his girls down, and they started to break the press with ease. Hart put Lowndes ahead 29-23 with 2:13 left in the second quarter.

With Valdosta abandoning the press and Roberts scoring six points and Peeler adding two more, Valdosta erased a 31-28 deficit and took a 36-31 lead early in the third quarter.

Lisa Hughes hit two baskets to pull Lowndes back to within 1 at 36-35, but until they made their run late in the game, the Vikettes could not get any

closer than three points. "I was smart enough at half time to get out of the press and stay out," Ellis said.

The boy's game did not offer the same excitement that the girl's game did. With 5:14 left in the third quarter and Valdosta trailing 35-31, any hopes the Wildcats had of upsetting the Vikings vanished when Jerome Berrian had to leave the game with an injured wrist.

Berrian left the game with eight points and six rebounds to his credit. After Berrian exited Valdosta was outscored 30-14.

Lowndes coach Terry Wilkes was lucky enough to have an injured player be able to contribute. Center Cliff Godwin, who hurt his left ankle Monday night to go along with an already bad right ankle, scored 12 points and pulled down 10 rebounds.

"We gave him three ice treatments today and taped it as tight as we could," Wilkes said. "Then it was left up to him to tell me whether or not he could go because I was not going to ask him to play if he couldn't."

Valdosta 16 28 42 50
Lowndes 16 31 39 49

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta: L. Conaway 7, B. Harrell 3, A. Roberts 22, R. Meivin 4, S. Peeler 12, C. Weatherspoon 2
Lowndes: B. Hart 19, L. Hughes 12, M. Williams 2, T. Register 10, R. Wilson 6

Team Stats

Valdosta: Field Goals 23, Free Throws 4-12
Lowndes: Field Goals 20, Free Throws 9-13

Valdosta 10 27 35 45
Lowndes 12 29 43 65

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta: J. Berrian 8, B. Parker 2, M. Daniels 8, G. Wilson 4, M. Worthy 9, T. Register 6, T. Gamble 8
Lowndes: A. Taylor 12, P. March 6, D. Chandler 20, C. Godwin 12, M. Shroyer 8, J. Butler 3, C. Carter 1, P. Cobb 1, A. Robinson 2

Team Stats

Valdosta: Field Goals 19, Free Throws 7-14
Lowndes: Field Goals 26, Free Throws 13-23



Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

Lady 'Cat Andrea Roberts (35) Hassles Vikette Tane Register

Another Look At Victory

(Left) Valdosta Running Back Pernel Bee Breaks From The Grasp Of A Would-Be Warner Robins Tackler. (Right) Wildcat Wide Receiver Rob Mitchell Battles With Demmon Defensive Back For Possession Of A Pass Thrown By Dosta Quarterback Ted West. (Below) Cat Running Back Dana Brinson Pops Through A Hole In The Warner Robins Defensive Front. Valdosta Defeated The Demons 14-7 Friday Night At Cleveland Field And Is Headed For Next Saturday Night's Showdown With Peachtree For The Class AAAA State Championship. (Staff Photos By Joey Ivansco)



A new plan for Kennedy Cooper

Valdosta defensive lineman is ready for AAAA title game

By Daryl Bell
Times-Union Sports Writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Before the season began, Kennedy Cooper had his senior season laid out as if it were a road map.

A defensive lineman, he would terrorize quarterbacks and punish any offensive lineman who dared to push a running back past him. Then the recruiters would come begging him to be a part of their collegiate programs.

It was the perfect plan.

But the one thing that Kennedy Cooper didn't count on was being hampered by an injury. He also didn't count on having a sub-par season.

"I was looking forward to my senior year," said Cooper. "I wanted and expected it to be the best. Everyone hopes for their final year to be a success and I'm no different. It hurts sometimes because it hasn't gone the way I had hoped."

It's not difficult to understand his dissatisfaction. He is a hulking 6-foot-2, 252-pounder. Going into his final year, he was a three-year starter for perennial Class AAAA power Valdosta High. He developed a reputation as a rugged football player.

But along came his senior year and trouble. It began in the first scrimmage of the season under the lights at Cleveland Field. Cooper, playing hard as usual, went for a tackle and felt something snap in his right ankle. He would later learn that his ankle was cracked.

"I had never really been hurt like that before," recalled Cooper. "I didn't really know how to handle it. Being unable to perform [at 100 percent] hurt me very badly but at the same time it helped me to become a stronger person."

About a week later, the captains were voted upon by the players. Kennedy Cooper, the three-year starter, was not one of them.

"I felt so bad about not being a captain," said Cooper. "I always wanted to be a captain in my senior year but when I wasn't named to be one it hurt really bad. Coach [Nick] Hyder came up to me and said 'You know, I wasn't the captain of my football team my senior year either.' That made me feel better. He knew how much I wanted to become a captain, but just him saying that made me think it was not the end of the world."

"Last year, the only thing that was important to me was going to college. I didn't care about anything else. I wanted to play and be a part of a major college program. But when I got injured, my whole perspective changed."

So Kennedy Cooper began the season as a spot performer. Injury had whittled away both his pride and his athletic ability. It was something he wasn't used to.

When it came time to get his picture taken for the *Times-Union Super 11* football team, he felt like an over-the-hill player trying to recreate the past. Before he knew it, there were rumors around Region 1-AAAA that he was overrated. Those rumors instilled a sense of determination inside him that has yet to be extinguished.

"Kennedy is a super young man," said Hyder. "He's president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, sings in the school chorus . . . very popular. He felt like he was letting everyone down. He didn't hurt his ankle intentionally."

"Some of the coaches got angry with him because he didn't take the treatment. He wouldn't do the heat and ice [treatments] and that stuff makes you heal much faster. He may



— Staff

Things haven't gone according to plan for Kennedy Cooper of Valdosta High, but he has adjusted to his injury-plagued sea-

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have brought some of the pressure on himself but he understands now. He's got pro possibilities. He's tough when he wants to be and may be better suited for the offensive line with his build."

In the first round of the region playoffs against Thomasville, Cooper played close to his potential. He destroyed any play designed to run his way and was a catalyst behind the 10-7 victory.

In last week's Class AAAA playoff game against Warner Robins, Cooper was his old self. He was rolling off tackles and making plays that he virtually had no chance of making. Valdosta won that game 14-7.

"Being hurt has taught me to be patient," said Cooper. "I've learned not to be in a hurry. It has helped me to settle down. I have learned that everyone can be replaced. It has been a good experience."

"I got a lot of support from my teammates and trusted in God. That helped a lot. I guess being a three-year starter, I kind of brought all of this on myself. I had always been in the limelight. What I want everyone to understand is that God has given me the tools to work with and I'm doing the best that I can. I'm no Herschel Walker."

There's not too much time for Kennedy Cooper to think about what the recruiters think of him. The Valdosta Wildcats will be playing for their 16th state championship Saturday night against Atlanta Peachtree. Some schools still have expressed interest in him, but a good showing in that game will improve his damaged stock.

The original plan called for a stellar senior season. Since that fizzled, he has adopted another one calling for a fine performance in the championship game.

This is one plan that had better work.



Preps

Daryl Bell

Times-Union Sports Writer

AAAA championship matches 2 unbeatens

In August, they were all considered contenders. But by the end of September, they were separated from the pretenders.

For eight teams, two of which are from the *Times-Union* area, the quest for a state title involves one more win.

Valdosta, ranked No. 1 in the state and No. 2 in the nation, will be going for its 16th state title when it plays host to Atlanta Peachtree at Cleveland Field. The Wildcats, who have been favored all year long, will be representing Region 1 while Peachtree is representing Region 7.

The ironic thing is that never before have two undefeated teams appeared in the Class AAAA championship. Both teams are 14-0.

Bainbridge will be on the road to take on Region 8 champion Gainesville in for the Class AAA title. It is the first time that Bainbridge has ever been in a state championship position. Both teams have a record of 13-1.

"This will be the first time that the school has ever had a team in the state championship," said coach **Ralph Jones**. "In fact, it's the first time that any team in the school has been in the state championships.

"We're really excited pumped up, and ready to go. We're a little surprised to be here [in the Class AAA finals]. I'm sure the kids felt they could win the state but I felt that we would at least be competitive. When you're talking about a state championship, you're talking about a lot of luck. Anyone will tell you that."

The only drawback for the Bearcats is that they will be on the road, but they should be used to it by now. Bainbridge has only played host to one playoff game. Because it finished second to Mitchell-Baker, Bainbridge was on the road for the entire Region 1-AAA playoffs. In last week's semifinal game, Bainbridge defeated Glenn Hills 28-7 in its only home appearance.

Something should be done about the state final football format. It's not fair for officials to expect a team to be on the road for as long as six hours and be prepared for a 48-minute war on the gridiron.

If the Georgia High School Association wants to be fair, they would adopt playing all championship games at neutral sites. Now,

some school officials would say that playing the games at neutral sites would mean spending more money. They would site the costs of lodging and for use of a field as deterrents.

But there may be a major obstacle standing in the way of such a ruling — crowd participation. To play the game at a neutral site may mean losing good crowds, which recently has prompted concern among school officials. If a championship was to be played, say 200 miles away, many people would just as easily sit home and wait for the outcome on the evening news.

It's just a bad predicament that just won't get any better.

West Rome has made it to the Class AA championship game but the Chieftans are without the services of their leading rusher. Senior fullback **David McCluskey**, one of the state's top college football prospects, was absent from West Rome's 22-19 victory over East Hall last week because he had been ruled ineligible.

McCluskey, who rushed for 1,503 yards and 17 touchdowns for the 14-0 Chieftans this season, entered the ninth grade on Nov. 27, 1978. Under GHSA rules, a player is eligible for only eight semesters — which means McCluskey's time ran out two weeks ago.

"It's just one of those things," said West Rome Coach **Mike Hodges**. "The practice before I came here was to hold back a kid for an extra quarter in the eighth grade if he was having any kind of academic difficulties.

"I put a stop to that when I got here, but I came a year too late for David. There's no way around the eight-semester rule. It's been tried too many times before."

West Rome will play Mary Persons for the Class AA title Saturday.

The All-Region teams are coming in and in Region 1-AAAA, Westover coach **Paul Lounsberry** won the coach of the year award for the second consecutive season. This season he guided the Patriots to their first-ever Region 1-AAAA South sub-region title. In 1981, he led Westover to the playoffs for the first time.

The Region 1-AAA coach of the year is Mitchell-Baker's **Jack Raley**. He guided the Eagles to a Region 1-AAA West sub-region title. Last year, Mitchell-Baker captured the Region 1-AA championship.



Times Staff Photo

Michele Ingram Mixes Majors

Essay, Oboe Surprise Her In Competitions

By Times Staff Writer

It's ironic two recent honors Michele Ingram received were in areas in which she had no formal training.

The daughter of Jim and Josette Ingram of Valdosta competed among more than 3,000 essayists on an international level and also won a music scholarship to Agnes Scott College in Decatur.

The Valdosta High School graduate first won the local essay competition sponsored by the Civitan Club here. As winner she received a \$100 savings bond and got to compete on the district level.

She said she was surprised to learn her essay won first in district which made her eligible for international competition.

The topic given to write on was special interest groups and did they hurt your rights as a private citizen. Miss Ingram said they did not.

The 18-year-old said other than one attempt at an essay competition in her junior year, she'd never entered any other writing contests.

She also didn't plan on a music major before receiving an unexpected scholarship to Agnes Scott. Her plans were for clinical psychology.

The Valdosta Daily Times

PEOPLE

Marcia McRae, Editor

"Music was just a hobby, something I picked up in high school," she said.

She was a section leader in her high school band where she mostly played the oboe and sometimes the saxophone.

VHS head music director, Joe David, was her main inspiration and now she's taking lessons from Dr. John H. Curtis.

Miss Ingram said in deciding on which college to attend she did the usual. She went around to the different campuses, talked with counselors and had her mind made up on her major.

"Agnes Scott is a small college and they were kind of interested when they heard I

played the oboe," she said.

She went home, made a recording and sent it back to the college. They called and told her she had the scholarship.

"So I will double major in music and psychology and go on to graduate school in psychology," she said. "I don't know if music will continue that far."

Miss Ingram, who was editor of the VHS yearbook and member of the Drama and Beta clubs, said being an honor graduate and named senior superlative are what she feels are her biggest honors.

"They are more of an honor to me than anything else because they are handpicked by the teachers."

V Times 12-7-82

Showdown

Lowndes, Valdosta Renew Their Hardwood Wars Tonight

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

For Lowndes girls basketball coach Steve Kebler, it's been almost like receiving an early Christmas present.

Kebler knew at the outset of the season that his Vikettes had the potential to become a strong team, but he didn't realize their progress would be as rapid as it has proven to be thus far this season.

The Lowndes girls have taken the floor five times this season, and they've left the floor as winners in four of those outings, the most recent of which was a 72-57 triumph over the Wasps of Cook Saturday night. Tonight, however, Kebler and the Vikettes could find out a bit more about what kind of team they have as they host Coach Jo Ellis' Valdosta team, which has been impressive in its own right in the

early going of the season.

"I'm pleasantly surprised," Kebler said of his squad's progress this year. "I didn't expect they would play this well before Christmas. But they seem to be responding well."

The Lady Wildcats should prove to be a more-than-adequate early season challenge for Kebler's squad. The Valdosta girls have been as feisty in the early season games as Ellis had hoped they would be at the beginning of the campaign. Valdosta is coming off Saturday night's 67-27 pounding of Westover, its third victory of the season against no defeats.

Tonight's game, which gets under way at 7 p.m., should prove to be an entertaining battle between a pair of teams with similar strengths: both are capable of playing a fast-

paced running game, and both are capable of doing it quite well.

"We'll have to control the tempo of the game and rebound well to be able to win," Kebler remarked.

"We're a young team in some respects," he added, "so Valdosta has to be considered to be the favorite. They have everybody back from last year's team except for one girl. They are well-coached, and they have a lot of good athletes on the team."

The Lowndes offense looks to Renee Wilson to carry much of the scoring burden for the Vikettes. Wilson is averaging just under 20 points per game. The Lady Wildcats, meanwhile, will depend heavily upon Andrea Roberts to provide a good deal of Valdosta's scoring punch.

Tonight's battle will be the first meeting of the two teams since the Vikettes ambushed Valdosta in last year's sub-region tournament.

In the boys game, Valdosta will be seeking its first victory of the year against Coach Terry Wilkes' 3-2 Vikings.

Wildcat coach Mike O'Brien's squad has been plagued by inconsistency in its three outings so far. O'Brien hopes he can see some improvement over the most recent loss, which came in a 70-55 decision Saturday night at Westover.

"We have to be consistent," he said. "That's been our problem this year. Lowndes has an experienced team — they've played together for two or three years. If we have a couple of lax moments against them, they could blow the game open on us. We'll have to

keep our composure against them throughout the game."

One of the projects O'Brien's young team will be involved in tonight will be finding a way to shut down wing Darryl Chandler, who is averaging better than 20 points per game. The Wildcat offense, meanwhile, will likely try to get the ball to its leading scorer, Jerome Berrian, as often as possible.

"Lowndes has a well-balanced team. They can do it all," O'Brien said.

"We're struggling," he added. "It would really be a big boost for us to play well against Lowndes. I think that would really help us for the rest of the season. I feel that if we can continue to make the improvement we've made since the beginning of the season, we can have a fine team. If things will fall in line for us, we could be a factor in the region tournament."

SPORTS



Times Staff Photo

Coach Jo Ellis Hopes Her Lady Cats Can Remain Undefeated

A new plan for Kennedy Cooper

Valdosta defensive lineman is ready for AAAA title game

By Daryl Bell
Times-Union Sports Writer

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But along came his senior year and trouble. It began in the first scrimmage of the season under the lights at Cleveland Field. Cooper, playing hard as usual, went for a tackle and felt something snap in his right ankle. He would later learn that his ankle was cracked.

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The Region 1-AAA coach of the year is Mitchell-Baker's **Jack Raley**. He guided the Eagles to a Region 1-AAA West sub-region title. Last year, Mitchell-Baker captured the Region 1-AA championship.

Emory Warrick, a senior at Valdosta High School, plays a tune while his tuba shows the reflection of merry-makers at a pep rally held Friday night at Cleveland Field. The rally was held in anticipation of tonight's state class AAAA high school football championship showdown between Valdosta and Atlanta's Peachtree High School. Both teams are 14-0 on the year. A capacity crowd nearing 17,000 is expected for tonight's contest. — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

Valdosta JV's Victorious

FITZGERALD — The Valdosta Junior Varsity wrestling team was victorious in its first match of the season here Wednesday with a 32-14 decision over the Fitzgerald JV. Valdosta looks to keep it in the win column next Tuesday when it hosts Brooks County.

Winners for Valdosta Wednesday were Pat Prater, Andrew Kaiser, Craig Kliment, Jerry Furvis, Tony Alexander, Kevin Lancaster, and Jerry Stacks. Clay Powell earned a tie.

The VHS varsity wrestling team opens its season next Wednesday against Westover in the Valdosta High Gym at 7:30 p.m.



Horning In

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High schools / PLAYOFF PREVIEW

1-D...

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

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Thurs., Dec. 9, 1982

Peachtree has everything but Valdosta's tradition

By Steve Figueroa

Staff Writer
The Valdosta football program had produced 14 state champions by the time Peachtree High School fielded its first varsity team in 1969. The Wildcats added two more state championships before Peachtree won its first region title in 1976.

Obviously, there can be no comparison as far as tradition is concerned between the two programs that will play for the Class AAAA championship Saturday night at 8 in Valdosta. But between these two individual teams, very favorable comparisons can be made.

Pernell Bee (5-10, 180), the leading rusher for Valdosta, has gained 795 yards and scored 10 touchdowns this season. Brad Schroeder (5-11, 176) leads Peachtree with 798 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Valdosta quarterback Ted West (5-10, 175) has passed for 1,302 yards and 11 touchdowns. Peachtree's Todd Rampley (6-2, 178) has thrown for 1,504 yards and 14 scores.

Valdosta's leading receiver, Rob Mitchell (5-11, 160), has caught 40 passes for 669 yards and seven touchdowns. Peachtree's John Stephens has 38 catches for 597 yards and seven touchdowns.

Valdosta's offensive line, led by Blake Belue (6-2, 225) and Tony McKinney (6-1, 238), averages 213 pounds. Peachtree's offensive line, led by Tim Geiger (6-2, 217) and Herb Payne (6-2, 220), averages 207.

Valdosta averages 273.2 yards a game on offense. Peachtree averages 269.6. Valdosta yields just 118 yards a game. Peachtree gives up 153.6. Both programs are led by highly re-

CLASS AAAA PLAYOFFS

PEACHTREE (14-0) at VALDOSTA

(14-0): The two teams appear to be fairly even. Both rely on strong defenses and opportunistic offenses. Valdosta would have to be considered the favorite playing at home. But Peachtree isn't the kind of team to be intimidated by tradition. Valdosta will have to earn the title on the field. Call it an upset, but don't be surprised if Peachtree wins.

Prediction: Peachtree 10-7.

garded coaches. Valdosta's Nick Hyder has an overall record of 145-32-4, a winning percentage of .812. Peachtree's T. McFerrin has

a record of 133-35-4, a percentage of .785.

And both have veteran and talented assistants. Charles Tarpley has been with Hyder for 18 years, while Jack Rudolph, Freddie Walters and Bob Bolton each have nine years on the Valdosta staff. McFerrin has had Ray Allen with him for the past 12 seasons, while Dave Hunter came to Peachtree seven years ago with McFerrin.

"I'd say the two teams are pretty similar," said Hyder. "Both have very strong defenses and balanced offenses. And both have big, strong offensive lines. I'm really impressed with Peachtree's blocking schemes and the way the linemen carry them out. They're a well-coached football team and they've got all the ingredients of a championship club. This game should be very interesting."

Valdosta will be playing in its 21st state championship game, while this is the first visit to the finals for Peachtree. But if McFerrin's Patriots can forget that fact and not be intimidated by the boisterous crowd and the tradition surrounding Valdosta's hallowed Cleveland Field, the DeKalb County team could produce the interesting contest Hyder predicts.

"I'll take a great game on our part," said McFerrin. "Valdosta is mighty big, and mighty quick. And we've discussed the fact that Cleveland Field can be an intimidating place to play. But if the players are as high as the coaches and parents, I think we'll be OK. The whole atmosphere around school and the community is impossible to describe. It's going to be something down there Saturday."

Wildcats Prepare For Peachtree Showdown

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats took a much needed break from the everyday monotony of football practice Monday afternoon, but the vacation will be short-lived as the Wildcats get back to serious work this afternoon in anticipation of their clash with Atlanta's Peachtree High for the state AAAA championship Saturday night at Cleveland Field.

Since the championship game will be played Saturday, the Wildcats just moved their normal weekly preparation

back a day. Tuesday will be used to cover what is normally taken care of on Monday. Wednesday, in turn, will be like Tuesday, etc.

"We told the youngsters all along that if we qualified for the state finals we would take Monday off," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "To work today would have been detrimental. The rest boosted morale."

The Wildcats, who have played three games this season on Saturday, are no strangers to games played other than on Friday night. Because of that,

VHS has worked out a regimen building up to the Saturday night game.

The emphasis today will be on the Valdosta offense working against the Peachtree defense.

Wednesday will be just the reverse with the Wildcat defense working against the Patriot offense.

Thursday will be used to continue offensive work against the Peachtree defense for half of practice with the other half used for defensive work against the Pat offense.

Besides the everyday work

the 'Cats do prior to every practice such as a devotional, ABC work (agility, blocking and contact), inside-outside work (interior linemen work in one group, while receivers and defensive backs work in another), and team emphasis (offense on one end of the field with the defense on the other).

Valdosta will also continue its 12-month weight program. Tuesday and Thursday will also feature time offense and defense — the two minute drills.

Wednesday and Friday will be utilized for kicking game

situations, kickoffs and returns, punts and returns, and safeties and fair catches.

Friday will be a review day. For an hour the 'Cats will go over what they worked on all week. No scrimmage is planned.

"Friday will be our pre-game day," Hyder said. "That becomes our Thursday. It's a review for our offense and defense and specialty teams."

While efficient use of time, or the lack of it, is a continual battle for the Wildcat coaching staff, the shorter days have also had an effect on Valdosta's

practices. But Hyder said it may have worked in the Wildcats' favor.

"I think in the long run it has helped us organize our practices," he said. "It made them shorter. We can go home earlier and let the kids rest."

"We've got to remember they're still students."

The 'Cats have reached the point now where nothing new can really be added. It's just a matter of the Wildcats continuing work on the foundations already laid during the season. It's a job of getting

ready mentally. "It's mental," Hyder said. "The mental phase is the thing right now. The mental edge is what wins games."

One concern that is really not a concern at all is the Valdosta injury situation. Despite four grueling playoff games to go along with a demanding 10-game regular season, the 'Cats are in amazingly good health for Peachtree. While Hyder remains tip-lipped about his injuries, as he has all season, he would say "injuries have been kind."

Lady Wildcats Stay Unbeaten

ALBANY, GA. — The Valdosta High Lady Wildcats held off Dougherty 65-60 in a Region 1-AAAA basketball game here Friday night. The Wildcats were not as fortunate, bowing to the taller Trojans 71-46.

The Lady Wildcats remain unbeaten for the year, but it wasn't easy. "We got off to a good start," said Valdosta coach Jo Ellis. "We were told they were vastly improved and they could shoot from the outside. Well, in the second quarter those skyrockets started falling in."

The one single factor that helped the Lady 'Cats stay undefeated was their shooting from the charity line. "That saved us in the end," said Ellis. "We shot well from the line in our first game and then we slipped to around 40 percent in our last couple of games. But last night we were back up to 63 percent and it sure helped."

Ellis pointed out that a stiff Dougherty defense had taken away some of the inside Valdosta play. But the outside shooting of Bridgette Harrell and Veronica Melvin helped make up some of the difference. Shevon Peelor's driving was another key factor



NICK HYDER
Back To Work

Valdosta-Peachtree Tops

State Championship Slate

By The Associated Press

It is the most dominant team in Georgia high school football history, with 16 state championships to its credit. Saturday night, in front of their fans, the Valdosta Wildcats will try for No. 17 against Peachtree, a team that has never made it this far before.

The Wildcats and the Patriots will meet at Valdosta's Cleveland Field for the state class AAAA championship. In other championship games, Gainesville hosts Bainbridge for the AAA crown, Mary Persons hosts West Rome for the AA title and in class A, Wrens, coming off a 4-5-1 season a year ago, will go for it all against Palmetto, last year's runner-up.

Nineteen times Valdosta has played for the state championship, only three times have the Wildcats lost. But a victory against Peachtree would give Coach Nick Hyder something he has never had — an outright championship. Since taking over in 1974, Hyder has tied for the title once — in 1978, with Griffin — and lost it once — a year earlier to Clarke Central.

The 'Cats won it 14 times between 1947 and 1971 under legendary coach Wright Bazemore, and in 1940 with Bazemore as an assistant.

"We're all a little nervous this week," Hyder said. "We're

happy to be here, but we're real respectful of that fine team from Peachtree."

Hyder is always respectful of the coming opponent but Peachtree, ranked fourth in the latest Associated Press poll, is worthy of it, having what Hyder termed "a quality football team."

"All the things you normally say about a good football team — they're balanced, they don't make mistakes — this team has done it."

Coach T. McFerrin's Patriots lost the North Georgia championship to Newnan last year and to Griffin the season before. This year, with one of the state's finest quarterbacks in junior Todd Rampley, Peachtree is 14-0 after taking Griffin in the semifinals 17-14.

McFerrin has said the playoffs will be the test, but others are calling this year's squad the best Peachtree team ever.

"We hope so," McFerrin said. "Usually, if that is the case, it takes care of itself. It's sort of the general opinion, but time will tell."

Rampley is over the 1,500-yard mark in passing while junior Brad Schroeder has sparked the running game.

Valdosta, 14-0, has relied all season on two fine running backs.

Pernell Bee and Dana Brinson. But in beating Warner Robins, the 'Cats took to the air as junior Ted West threw for one touchdown and set up a second. Valdosta stars are on the line, including college prospects Ricky Daniels (6-4, 205), Kennedy Cooper (6-2, 240) and Blake Belue (6-2, 220).

In Gainesville, Coach Bobby Gruhn will be making his fourth trip to the finals with his Red Elephants, still hoping for his first title. He lost in the state finals in 1968, 69 and '72.

On the other side of the field is Bainbridge Coach Ralph Jones, whose Bearcats, behind junior quarterback Bobby Walden Jr., have made the finals in their first year down from AAAA.

"Bainbridge has a solid team both ways," Gruhn said, "and they're a better team in the playoffs than they were in the regular season."

Bainbridge, ranked first in the state, racked up a 13-1 mark as Walden, the son of the former Georgia and Pittsborough Steelers punter, threw for well over 1,200 yards while tailback Calvin Close rushed for 1,000.

Gainesville, ranked second and also 13-1, has a couple of outstanding runners in senior fullback Sammy Williams, who has returned to form since an early hamstring injury, and junior

tailback Mike Byrd, with more than 1,300 yards rushing.

At West Rome, there was concern two weeks ago when fullback David McCluskey's athletic eligibility ran out. But the top-ranked Chieftains went to 14-0 last week, routing East Hall 34-0 behind the running of Emory Chatman and the passing of junior Keith Green.

Now, however, Green is out for Saturday's game after surgery Wednesday following a knee injury in last Friday's contest.

Mary Persons, 11-3, reached the finals on the arm of sophomore quarterback Dwayne Brooks, who threw two fourth quarter touchdown passes to lead the fourth-ranked Bulldogs to a 24-13 upset of Lincoln County.

In class A, the Wrens Colts are making their first trip to the state playoffs since 1941, according to Coach Charles Rutland. Wrens' 10-2-1 record and No. 8 ranking is a dramatic turnaround from just a year ago when the Colts went 4-5-1.

"Our boys are up," Rutland said. "We felt that we could beat Metter the whole time."

That they did, knocking off the top-ranked Tigers 20-15. Leading the way for Wrens is sophomore running back Calvin Stidons, who has 1,203 yards in 10 games.

SPORTS

1982 AAAA State Final

Peachtree Vs. Valdosta



Peachtree Season

PHS 24	Dunwoody 0
PHS 17	Tucker 0
PHS 21	Stone Mountain 7
PHS 17	Redan 0
PHS 14	Lakeside 0
PHS 26	Columbia 0
PHS 21	Douglass 0
PHS 39	Washington 0
PHS 33	Henderson 7
PHS 20	SW DeKalb 3
PHS 17	Tucker 0
PHS 10	Lakeside 7
PHS 41	Sprayberry 10
PHS 17	Griffin 14

PEACHTREE PATRIOTS	
Offense	Defense
QB Todd Rampley	JR 185 E Guy Thacker
RB Craig Goldberg	SO 140 T Tony Nelson
RB Brad Schroeder	JR 180 T Wayne Crawford
TE Jeff Cole	SR 165 T Jim Petty
SE John Stephens	JR 170 LB Troy Bradham
C Robbie Davison	SR 133 LB Ricky Miller
G Herb Payne	SR 200 LB Randy Watson
G Parke Day	SR 228 CB Steve Squire
T Tim Geiger	SR 217 CB Bill Worthington
T Denver Mullinax	SO 200 S Chris Yancey
FL Lee Hicks	JR 150 S John Noren

VALDOSTA WILDCATS	
Offense	Defense
QB Ted West	JR 175 E Ozell Ramsey
RB Pernell Bee	SR 175 E James Robinson
RB Dana Brinson	JR 151 T Kennedy Cooper
WR Rob Mitchell	SR 158 T Ricky Daniels
WR Brad Martin	SR 193 NG Leon Johnson
TE Ben Reaves	SR 205 LB Frank Abney
T William Collier	SR 215 LB John Porter
T Tony McKinney	SR 235 CB Chris Major
G Monty Davis	JR 182 CB Derrick Folsom
G Victor Wayman	SR 203 S Jeff Lee
C Blake Belue	SR 225 S Jeff Spivey

Site: Cleveland Field.

Kickoff: 8 p.m.

Last week: Peachtree defeated Griffin 17-14 for the North Georgia title while Valdosta downed Warner Robins 14-7 to claim the South Georgia crown.

The records: Peachtree and Valdosta are both 14-0.

The series: This is the first meeting between the two schools. The coaches: T. McFerrin, in his seventh year at Peachtree, owns an 82-12-2 record there. That mark, along with eight years as a head coach at Sullivan Central (Tennessee), Forest Park and Lithonia has produced an overall mark of 133-35-4. Valdosta's Hyder is 145-32-4 in 15 years as a head coach. Hyder began his career at West Rome, where he took over in 1968. Since coming to Valdosta in 1974 he is 92-19-1.

Top players: Peachtree — QB Todd Rampley, RB Brad Schroeder, SE John Stephens, OG Herb Payne, DT Jim Petty, LB Troy Bradham, DB John Noren. Valdosta — QB Ted West, RB Pernell Bee, SE Rob Mitchell, C Blake Belue, DG Leon Johnson, LB John Porter, DB Chris Major.

Capsule: The Georgia Class AAAA state championship may well be decided between Valdosta's defensive front and Peachtree's offensive lines. Both are outstanding units. The Patriots like to spray opposing secondaries with as many as five receivers — they've been able to do that in the past, leaving the job of pass protection solely to the offensive interior line. If Valdosta's pass rush can mount a fierce charge and get to Rampley early and often, the Patriots could be in trouble.

Valdosta Season

VHS 42	Waycross 14
VHS 27	Westover 6
VHS 35	Monroe 0
VHS 19	T ⁿ Ville 10
VHS 67	Albany 7
VHS 41	Colquitt 7
VHS 17	Dougherty 14
VHS 22	Lowndes 0
VHS 35	Central 0
VHS 21	Tift 7
VHS 10	T ⁿ ville 7
VHS 21	Tift 7
VHS 29	Coffee 18
VHS 14	WR 7

FEB 4 '83



The Valdosta Daily Times

More Than State On The Line

Can Valdosta High School, champions of region I-AAAA and champions of South Georgia, still be considered champions even if it loses Saturday night's showdown against Atlanta's Peachtree High for the AAAA state title? Certainly it would be a disappointment not only to the Wildcat players and coaches, but to the entire city of Valdosta to reach the state finals three times in the last six years and come away with only a co-championship to show for it.

And what about Nick Hyder? The ninth-year Valdosta coach has been so close to that coveted state title so many times he is almost starting to get a Dean Smith image.

While Hyder has called the Peachtree game, which gets under way at Cleveland Field at 8 p.m., "the most important game since I've been here," and "the one we've been working for," he also said it has more meaning than merely a high school football game.

"It gives us a chance to show our hospitality" to the 2,000 Peachtree fans converging on Valdosta for the game, Hyder said. "A lot of people will be staying two nights, and since one night will be Saturday, it will give them a chance to sample our churches Sunday morning. They will also get to try our stores and restaurants."

"Isn't it ironic," Hyder added, "that our favorite activity is drawing all these people together. That's high school football."

But we still haven't answered our opening question. Can Valdosta still be champions even if it loses to Peachtree?

"We're not competing against Peachtree," Hyder said. "We are competing for each individual player playing his best. Or at least approaching his best."

So, yes, Valdosta can be

of our winning a ballgame?"

Perhaps the player who most signifies Hyder's philosophy is senior defensive back Jeff Lee.

As a child Lee was told by his grandfather that he didn't have the ability to play football for Valdosta. He was too small and slow to play for the highly-touted Wildcats.

Despite the criticism, Lee

Steve

Corrigan

Times Sports Writer



champions, even if the Wildcats lose. If each player plays up to his potential, and the Wildcats still lose, each individual Wildcat is a winner.

"My way of competing is not against someone else," Hyder said. "It is against myself. If we lose and played our best, then we are successful."

"The real reward of coaching is seeing a young man approach the maximum that he is capable of producing. And if we can get our players to do that, isn't that the best chance

has not only developed into a Wildcat, but a starting Wildcat as well. When Valdosta and Peachtree play, it will be his last game wearing the VHS black and gold at Cleveland Field. And he has his doubting grandfather to thank for the motivation.

"A lot of people thought I couldn't play," Lee said. "I've really worked on my speed and I've gained some."

But it was the people who said he couldn't that most influenced him. "It sure did,"



Wildcats Set To Put All Their Hopes On The Line Against Peachtree

Wildcats are on the verge of returning that trophy to Valdosta.

"The physical preparation is over," Lee said. "Right now I'm preparing my mind mentally. I'm going over in my

mind what I'm going to have to do, the different situations that might come up.

"For four years I've been dreaming about playing in the state."

Now it is upon us.

Lee said. "People were always telling me I was too slow. That I couldn't play. I'm a Super Cat now (a physical fitness test that tests speed, strength and endurance)."

Now Lee boasts a 4.8 in the

40-yard dash, not blazing but adequate. Yet he still finds himself defending his speed.

"You can't let things like that bother you," he said.

Now Lee, as well as the rest of the Valdosta football team,

Times Staff Photo



This Is It

Valdosta High School football coach Nick Hyder watches intently with arms in the air seconds before the Wildcats defeated Peachtree High School for the state AAAAA championship at Cleveland Field. The score was tied 7-7 until a field goal was scored in the final minute. See related story on page 13-B. — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

Fla. Times 12-13-82

Pressure is finally off Valdosta

By Daryl Bell
Times-Union Sports Writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — The valve has been turned and the pressure has been released. Now the city of Valdosta can rest easy because its Wildcats are champions again.

What began as a dream four months ago has finally become a reality. By defeating Region 7 champion Atlanta Peachtree 10-7 in front of 10,020 fans at rain-soaked Cleveland Field Saturday night, Valdosta lived up to its billing as the No. 1-ranked AAAAA team in the state. Incidentally, the Wildcats went into the game ranked No. 2 in the nation behind Cincinnati Moeller.

For the season, Valdosta wound up with a 15-0 record while Peachtree, making its initial championship appearance, finished with a 14-1 mark. Even more impressive is that Valdosta has now won 17 state championships.

But there probably was no one happier with the victory than Valdosta coach Nick Hyder. Ever since he arrived at the school from West Rome in 1974, he has been under pressure to produce a state champion. The city had become spoiled with success from the 15 state and three mythical national championships under legendary coach Wright Bazemore. In 1977, the Wildcats were beaten in the state final by Clarke Central 16-14. The frustration continued the following year when Valdosta and Griffin played to a 7-7 stalemate for the state championship.

This year, Valdosta emerged as an early favorite to take the state, putting Hyder in an almost win-or-else position. But all of that is over now because

Saturday's victory gave Valdosta its first outright title since 1971.

"I don't know how it feels," said Hyder. "The only thing I know is that the score reads 10-7, Valdosta, and that means we're the state champions. It's a feeling that I really can't describe."

The real person in the spotlight Saturday, though, was senior placekicker Herbert Lowe. A conventional kicker, Lowe kicked a 24-yard field goal with 37 seconds remaining in the game for the winning points which enabled Hyder to finally breathe a sigh of relief.

Lowe, who has been consistent all season, showed a lot of poise in the final moments, especially after Peachtree called three consecutive timeouts in an attempt to make him nervous. Surprisingly enough, the tactic worked but Lowe still managed to get the kick off on the wet turf.

"Sure I was nervous. Anyone would be in that type of situation," said Lowe. "It was there for me to win and I had to go out there and do it. When I kicked the ball, I knew it was going through but I had to watch it go through the uprights to be sure. That was the most important kick I had ever made and I wanted it to be good."

"Some of the coaches told me during the week that the game may have to come down to being decided by a field goal," he added. "They told me to be ready and I was. As the game went on and I saw that neither one of us were moving the ball all that well, I began to think back on what they told me."

"It feels great winning the championship," said Valdosta freshman running back Tony Anderson.

Valdosta edges Peachtree 10-7

By Daryl Bell
 Times-Union Sports Writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Herbert Lowe's 24-yard field goal with 37 seconds remaining gave Valdosta a 10-7 win over Atlanta Peachtree and the state Class AAAA championship last night.

The victory enabled the Wildcats to finish the season with a 15-0 record, and more importantly, it gave Valdosta its first outright state title since 1971.

Valdosta and Griffin fought to a 7-7 tie in 1978 and shared the title, that year, and it appeared that last night's game, the first half of which was played in a driving rain, was going to be a replay of that contest.

Peachtree scored in the first quarter and Valdosta knotted it at 7 in the second period, but neither team made a serious threat until the Wildcats' late march.

Valdosta got its last-gasp chance after Peachtree punter Robbie Hankins shanked a 12-yard punt from his 46 with less than six minutes left in the game, giving the Wildcats the ball at their 38.

Valdosta marched downfield to a first-and-10 at the Peachtree 22, from where quarterback Ted West hit flanker Rob Mitchell at the 10. Valdosta tried two running plays, which got the ball to the 8.

Facing a fourth-and-3, Valdosta brought on Lowe, a senior, to try his 24-yarder, but not until after Peachtree had called three consecutive timeouts.

The straight-out placement kicker split the uprights with plenty of distance to spare, sending the partisan crowd of 10,020 at Cleveland Field in to a frenzy.

Peachtree finished the season at 14-1 — the game marked the first time that two unbeaten teams had met in a Class AAAA title contest.

The win also gave Valdosta's Nick Hyder his first undisputed state crown at Valdosta, and it was the first title for the Wildcats since the glory days of former coach Wright Bazemore.

But Peachtree started strong. The visiting Patriots threatened early after Chris Yancey returned Lowe's opening kickoff 42 yards to the Valdosta 81-yard line.

Six plays later, junior placekicker Kirk Roach attempted a 37-yard field goal, but the kick was wide to the left.

Following four futile Valdosta plays, junior quarterback Todd Rampley guided Peachtree into Valdosta territory.

With sharp passes over the middle to tight end Jeff Cole and John Stephens to complement the inside running attack of burly fullback Brad Schroeder, Peachtree marched 67 yards in 11 plays to open the scoring.

With 1:38 remaining in the first quarter, Schroeder scored on a 1-yard plunge. Roach's extra-point attempt was good, and the visitors held a 7-0 advantage.

Valdosta struggled in the early going both offensively and defensively. It wasn't until the second quarter that the Wildcats could gain a first down, and it wasn't until late in the same period that the defense settled down to play the kind of rugged football that helped bring the Wildcats to the finals.

Nevertheless, Valdosta managed to get on the scoreboard with 2:18 to play in the half. Marching like a drill team, Valdosta moved the ball from its own 13, where Jeff Spivey stopped a Peachtree scoring threat with an interception of a Rampley pass, to the Peachtree 17-yard line.

Facing a fourth-and-10 situation, West hit Mitchell along the left side for a 17-yard touchdown score.

Mitchell danced along the sidelines to a beat of his own as the shell-shocked Valdosta partisans finally had something to cheer about. A Lowe PAT was good and the game was deadlocked.

But Peachtree, making its initial championship appearance, continued to play well. A sturdy defense managed to block a Valdosta punt and make an interception.

Peachtree netted 58 yards rushing in the first half, with fullback Schroeder collecting 61 on 10 carries.

Atlanta Peachtree 7 0 0 0-7
 Valdosta 7 0 0 3-10
 A—Schroeder, 1 run (Roach kick)
 V—Mitchell, 17 pass from West (Lowe kick)
 V—Lowe, 24 FG



John Porter (47) of Valdosta High School stopped Craig Goldberg (20) of Atlanta Peachtree during last night's Georgia AAAA state championship game at Valdosta.
 — Bo Rader/Staff

Dynasty Reborn: VHS Nabs Title

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

The Ghost was kicking his heels — er, excuse me, paws — up in glee Saturday night at Cleveland Field after the Valdosta Wildcats had filed away a 10-7 victory over Peachtree to claim their 17th state championship. Or, as Valdosta head football coach Nick Hyder put it, "Valdosta is Valdosta again."

Indeed, Valdosta is Valdosta again, in a way that it perhaps it hasn't been since 1971, the last year the Wildcats had a state championship to call all their own.

The Wildcats, who finish the season 15-0, had borne the No. 1 ranking among the state's Class AAAA ranks since the second week of the season, made it all

YARDSTICK		VHS		PHS	
First Downs	18	10	10	10	10
Yards Rushing	177	170	170	170	170
Yards Passing	99	22.8-2	21.9-2	5.27-6	0-0
Passes	22.8-2	5.29-8	5.27-6	0-0	2-20
Punts	0-0	0-0	2-20	1	1
Penalties	0	0	2-20	1	1
Fumbles Lost	0	0	2-20	1	1

official when place-kicker Herbert Lowe rammed in a 24-yard field goal just 33 seconds before the game ended. If there was anything left to doubt after Lowe's heroics, it disappeared on the game's final play when Valdosta linebacker Frank Abney picked off a pass from Peachtree quarterback Todd Rampley in Wildcat territory. "When Frank Abney intercepted that pass," Hyder said, "it might have been the prethiest thing I've seen since I saw my wife in her wedding gown."

In the latter minutes of the game, with neither team able to scrounge a point despite having the opportunities to do so, it looked as though Hyder and Valdosta might have to suffer the same empty feeling they experienced when they came away from the 1978 state final with Griffin with no more than a tie.

The Wildcats had gotten all they wanted from a Peachtree team that came into the Wildcats' legendary lair and fought Valdosta straight up. As Hyder said, what the Cats got, the Cats earned. "I think our kids scratched and clawed their way in," he said. "Peachtree executed just as well as I tried to convince everyone they would. That team was no accident. They deserve all the credit in the world."

"And let's not forget Herbert Lowe," Hyder added. "I think he deserves a little credit, too."

It's ironic that the weighty cloak of responsibility fell upon the shoulders of Lowe, a senior who started the season as regular placekicker John Porter's backup. It wasn't until midway through the season that Lowe began handling the kicking, taking over when Porter developed calcium deposits on his kicking leg.

The drive that led to Lowe's game-

winner began with 3:25 remaining to play as Valdosta set up on its own 38-yard-line after Peachtree's 38-yard punt rolled dead.

On second down from the 44, Valdosta quarterback Ted West rolled to his right, then slipped the ball to running back Dana Brinson on a reverse that netted 24 yards and gave the Wildcats a first down at the Peachtree 32. After Pernell Bee picked up 4 yards, Brinson got loose again, this time up the middle for 13 yards and a first down to the Patriot 15. Tony Anderson carried on the following three plays, thrusting the ball to the 8.

It was then that Lowe trotted onto the field. But it would be a while before he would have his chance to win it.

The Pats called three straight timeouts, just to give Lowe something to think about. And Lowe said the delay did rattle him a bit. "The first time-out did," he said. "After that, I didn't worry too much because my teammates gave me a little pep talk back in the huddle."

Lowe said that Hyder, early in the week, had reminded him that the game might be decided on the accuracy of his leg. "I had been thinking about it all week," Lowe said. "And when I was standing on the sidelines and saw that it was about to happen, my heart almost came through my shoulder pads."

But his kick sailed through the uprights and Valdosta was a champion again.

Throughout much of the first half, it looked as though the Patriots, who finished the season with a 14-1 mark, might become state champ for the first time in the school's history. Peachtree's defense lived up to its billing as a hard-charging and swarming unit, preventing the Wildcats from making a first down in the opening quarter. And while the Patriot defense was pinning Valdosta's ears back, the offense was moving the ball, mostly on the running of halfback Brad Schroeder, who carried 15 times for 62 yards.

On the Pats' second possession of the game, Schroeder carried six times for 48 yards as Peachtree mounted an 11-play drive that covered 67 yards, ending when Schroeder crashed into the end zone from a yard out to give the Patriots a 7-0 lead with 1:38 remaining in the first quarter.

The Pats' next possession looked as though it might strike, but Valdosta turned Peachtree back when Jeff Spivey intercepted Rampley at the Wildcat 12 early in the second period.

Peachtree looked as though it had another chance to score when Greg Holland broke through the line to block a Valdosta punt, giving the Patriots the ball at the Cats' 38. But Valdosta's defense held on three downs, forcing a Patriot

punt that rolled dead at the Wildcat 12. Starting a drive with 6:39 left in the first half, Valdosta began moving the ball, interspersing its ground attack with passes to split end Rob Mitchell, who ended the game with six catches for 81 yards. The Wildcats drove to the Peachtree 18, where they were faced with a fourth-and-10 situation.

Hyder directed Valdosta to go for the yardage, so West, who finished with seven completions in 21 attempts against an alert Pat secondary, fired the ball to Mitchell, open along the left sideline. Mitchell gathered the ball in, sidestepped two Peachtree defenders and raced into the end zone with 2:18 left in the half to complete a 15-play drive and pull the Wildcats even with the Patriots at 7-7.

The two teams battled back and forth in the third quarter, and in the final period Valdosta ventured twice into Patriot territory, giving the ball up on downs once, then handing the ball over when John Noren swiped a West pass at the Patriot 22.

Valdosta, however, would not be denied the next time it got its hands on the ball, driving close enough for Lowe to get his shot at the winning field goal.

For the record books, the victory gave Hyder his second state championship. But this one obviously is much sweeter than the one that was shared with Griffin four years ago.

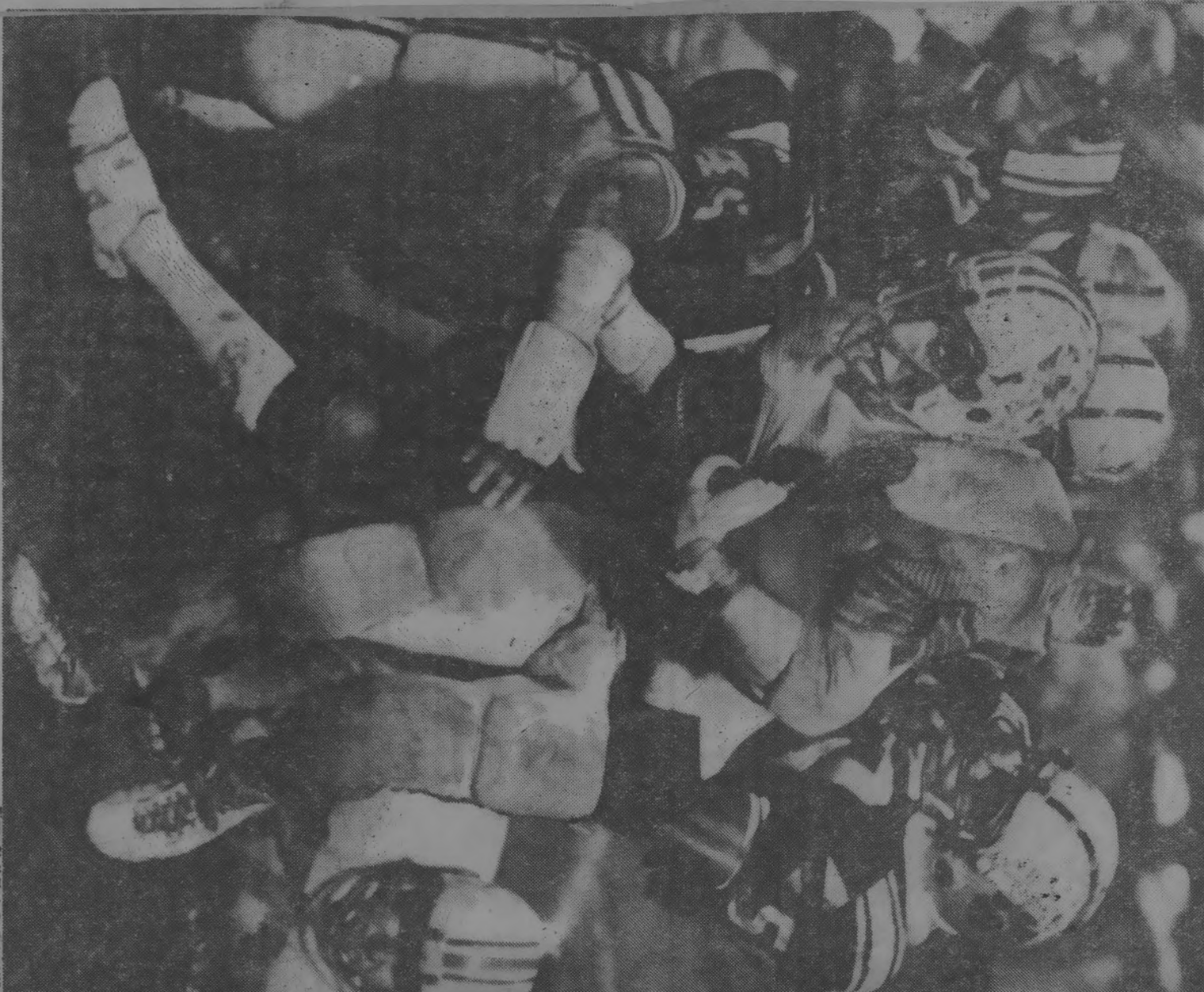
"I feel like everybody was worried about me," Hyder said. "I'm just glad for Valdosta. But I feel like I've finally arrived after nine years."

And Valdosta is Valdosta again.

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing — Valdosta: Bee, 16-62; Brinson, 6-33; Anderson, 13-56; West, 7-24; Peachtree: Goldberger, 5-11; Schroeder, 13-62; Rampley, 1-11; Bradham, 5-7.
Passing — Valdosta: West, 21-7-2, 81 yds.; Bee, 1-1-0, 10 yds. Peachtree: Rampley, 21-9-2, 170 yds.
Pass Receiving — Valdosta: Mitchell, 6-81; Martin, 1-7; Brinson, 1-11; Peachtree: Stephens, 4-81; Cole, 2-41; Schroeder, 2-24; Bradham, 1-3; Hankins, 1-11.
Kickoff Returns — Valdosta: none returned. Peachtree: Vancey, 1-41; Goldberger, 1-15.
Punt Returns — Valdosta: Anderson, 2-7; Coker, 1-2; Valdosta: Anderson, 1-15; Interception Returns — Valdosta: Spivey, 1-6; Abney, 1-12; Peachtree: Vancey, 1-6.
Tackles — Valdosta: Johnson, 4; Lee, 3; Major, 4; Ramsey, 5; Spivey, 5; Cooper, 4; Robinson, 4; Daniels, 8; Porter, 7; Folsom, 4; Abney, 2; Wakefield, 1; Peachtree: Worthington, 2; Noren, 4; Vancey, 4; Bradham, 9; Squire, 4; Thacker, 8; Miller, 13; Tucker, 8; Watson, 5; Petty, 9; Payne, 1; Nelson, 1; Crawford, 9; Herrindome, 1.

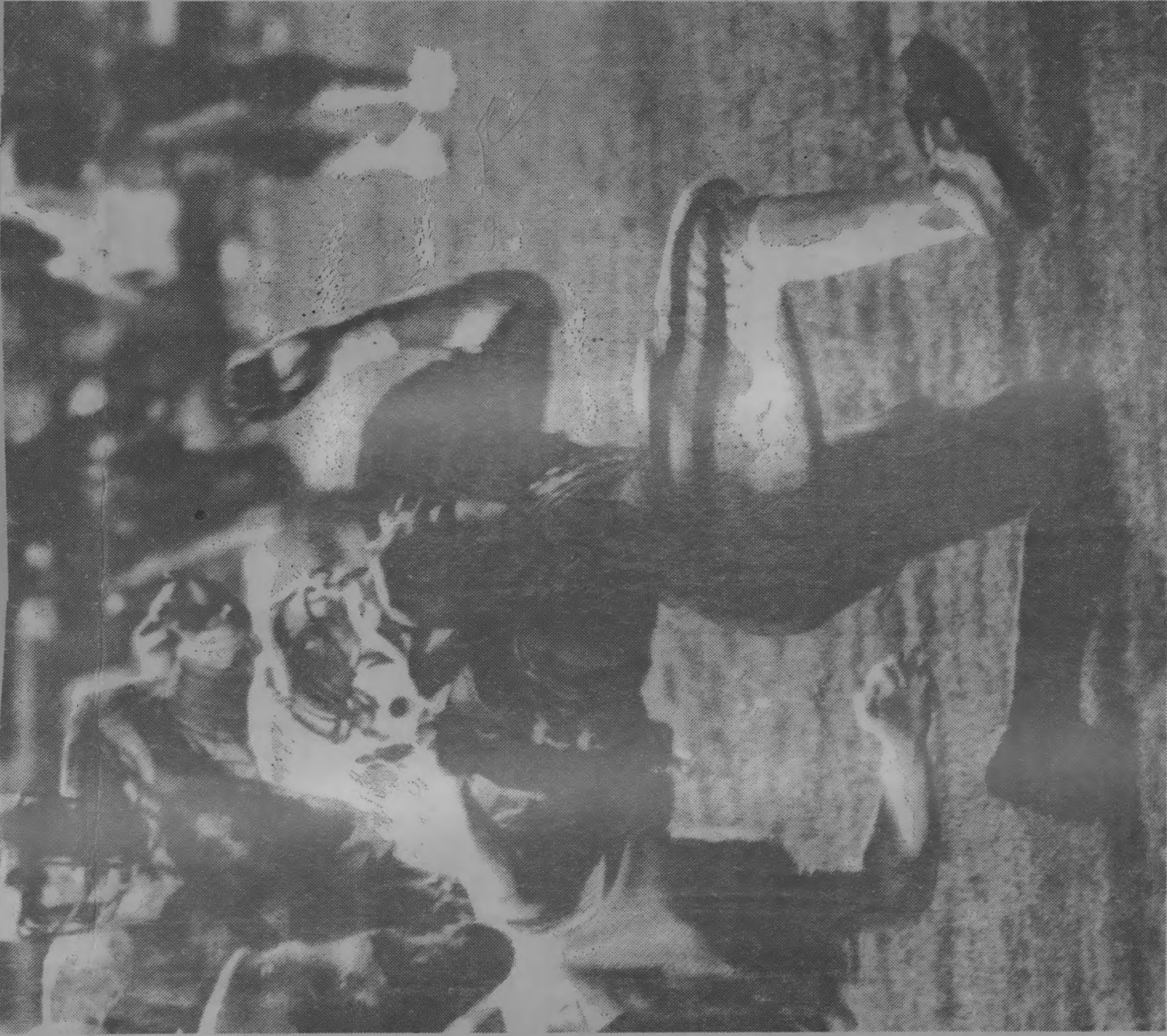
Peachtree 7 0 0 0—7
Valdosta 0 7 0 3—10
Peachtree — Schroeder, 1-yd. run, Roach kick.
Valdosta — Mitchell, 18-yd. pass from West, Love kick.
Valdosta — Lowe, 24-yd. field goal.



Tough Going: Wildcats Leon Johnson, Ozell Ramsey Bring Down Patriot

Times Staff Photo By Robert Wynn

Dec. 12, 1982



Times Staff Photo By Joey Iwancko

End Of The Line: Valdosta's Dana Brinson Comes Down Hard

Missed Chances Spell The End For Peachtree

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

"There's no doubt they were the difference in the ballgame," said Peachtree High Patriots' coach T. S. McFerrin after watching his squad lose the AAAA state championship game Saturday night to Valdosta, 10-7, on a rain-soaked Cleveland Field.

He was not, however, talking about Valdosta's Herbert Lowe, who kicked a 24-yard field goal with only :37 remaining in the contest to hand the Patriots their first loss of the year, ending their season at 14-1.

No, McFerrin was talking about three blown opportunities in the first half and another in the second half, when Peachtree was deep in Valdosta's territory and came away with no points.

"We had them on the ropes in the first half," McFerrin added. "But we were in scoring position and didn't get any points. When you're down there against a great football team like Valdosta, you have got to score."

Peachtree's first opportunity came thanks to the opening-kickoff return by defensive back Chris Yancey.

The senior returned a short kickoff 40 yards to the Valdosta 32. After running back Brad Schroeder had picked up one first down, Craig Goldberg was dropped for a 5-yard loss on third-and-three from the 15 by sophomore linebacker John Porter.

McFerrin decided to send place-kicker Kirk Roach in to try a 37-yard field goal. The junior, however, pulled it just to the left.

"It was awfully close," McFerrin said. After scoring on its next possession, Peachtree held Valdosta and took over with :46 left in the first quarter at its 46. Quarterback Todd Rampley, who ended the night 9 of 21 for 170 yards, immediately hit tight end Jeff Cole for 27 yards to the Cats 27.

With a second-and-eight at the 12 McFerrin decided to not be conservative

and play for the field goal but try to score the Patriots' second touchdown of the game. But a slant pass to flanker Paul Coker was read perfectly by Valdosta's senior defensive back Jeff Spivey, who intercepted the pass at the 2.

"There will always be the second guess," McFerrin said.

Valdosta was able to pick up two first downs and move the ball out to the 39, but Peachtree held and Ted West was forced to punt for Valdosta.

Junior Greg Holland broke through the middle of the line to block the punt and Peachtree was in business again at the Valdosta 38.

However, the Wildcats' Leon Johnson's sack of Rampley forced the Patriots into a third-and-20. Rampley was able to get 13 of those yards back when he hit Troy Bradham, but the Patriots were forced to give up the ball on a punt.

In the second half, Peachtree seemed to grow weaker and the Wildcats seemed to grow stronger. Peachtree, until after Lowe's field goal, could move the ball into Valdosta's territory only once.

On its first drive of the second half, Peachtree moved from its 36 to the Valdosta 28 on a 34 yard pass from Rampley to John Stephens, who had Spivey beaten, but he had to wait on the ball, which allowed Spivey to catch him.

On the next play, Bradham tried to run a reverse, but he dropped the slippery ball and Porter recovered for Valdosta.

"The weather kept us from doing the things we wanted to do," McFerrin said. "It hurt our passing game and our outside running game, but it was bad for the both of us."

Before Lowe's winning field goal, McFerrin tried to psyche out the senior kicker by calling three consecutive time-outs.

However, the time-outs might have been used more wisely when Peachtree got the ball back.

"We were trying to put pressure on their kicker," McFerrin said.

Dec 12, 1982

Gadget Play Vital In Valdosta Victory

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

Careful study of the Peachtree regular-season game films helped Valdosta High install a gadget play that would ultimately enable the Wildcats to beat the Patriots in the finals of the AAAA state playoffs.

Assistant coaches Mike O'Brien, Jerry Don Baker and Bob Bolton noticed that on a flanker reverse, Peachtree failed to cover its backside. Wednesday afternoon the trio went to head coach Nick Hyder about installing the reverse in the Wildcat arsenal of offensive plays. Hyder agreed, and on that Wednesday Valdosta worked on the play "six or seven times in

practice," Baker said.

The play sat unused for three quarters and part of the fourth. But when the Wildcats called on the gadget late in the fourth quarter on Valdosta's last possession of the night it worked to perfection.

Second down at the Valdosta 44, less than three minutes to play, the game tied 7-7, Hyder decided it was time to use the gadget. Tailback Dana Brinson, who had been held to minus 2 yards up to that point, was put at the flanker position. When the play began, the Valdosta surge was to the right, but Brinson came back to the left. Peachtree went with the flow and Brinson was left free to ramble 24

yards to the Peachtree 32.

Not only did it give Valdosta a much-needed first down, but it put the Wildcats deep in Patriot territory with enough time to score.

Following a Pennell Bee 4-yard gain to the 28, Brinson was again called on. And again he responded with a 13-yard burst to the 15.

Valdosta could penetrate no further than the 8, but that was all it would need. Senior Herbert Lowe was called on to kick a 24-yard field goal in the waning moments and he responded with the winning margin.

But it was the gadget play that made it all possible.

Wildcat Defense Hung Tough

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

By the end of the first quarter in Saturday night's AAAA state championship game, the Peachtree Patriots had amassed 60 yards on the ground and 51 yards in the air. But Valdosta had been held to just 14 total yards.

Both times the North Georgia champion had gotten their hands on the ball in the first half they drove at will on the supposedly stingy Valdosta defense. On their opening possession, the Patriots drove all the way to the Valdosta 20, but came away with no gain to show for the six-play, 48-yard drive when Curt Roach missed a 37-yard field goal attempt.

But Peachtree wouldn't be held off the scoreboard very long. The next time the Patriots got the ball they drove 67 yards in 11 plays to go up 7-0 with 1:38 left in the first quarter. Brad Schroeder capped the drive when he burst into the end zone from 1 yard out and it looked as if Valdosta was in for a long night.

While the Patriots were amassing 111 total yards in the first period, the Wildcats ran just six plays for 14 yards in that same time span.

"At first we looked a little shabby," said senior defensive back Jeff Lee. "We got together on the sidelines and worked some of our problems out."

"We made a few mistakes in the first quarter," explained defensive captain Ricky Daniels. "The draw was giving us trouble. Plus their offensive line was blocking well."

Dec. 12, 1982

"They ran a bunch of delay pass patterns and mixed it up well," said Lee. "We just had to settle down."

It took the Wildcats nearly two quarters to settle down, but when they finally did it was a different ballgame. Valdosta scored its only touchdown with 2:18 left before intermission and with the game tied at 7-7, the 'Cat defense went to work.

In the third quarter and most of the fourth, Peachtree could muster no more than three plays and a punt. It was a trend that would last until Peachtree's final possession.

Even though the Wildcats were able to shut Peachtree down in the second half, it took a gallant stand deep in Peachtree territory with time running out to help decide the game. Following a Ted West interception at the Peachtree 22, the Wildcat defense was called on to hold the Patriots to three downs and a punt.

Other than a 2-yard gain on first down, the Patriots were unable to move and had to kick away, giving the 'Cats one more chance at victory.

Valdosta took advantage of the break to drive downfield and kick a field goal to win it late.

"We knew we had to intercept a pass or cause a fumble or something to get the ball back," Lee said about Valdosta's strategy late in the game. "The defense just wanted to give the offense the ball in good field position. Kennedy Cooper, Leon Johnson, Ricky Daniels and our ends put good pressure on the quarterback and forced him to throw early."

Even though Peachtree attempted two passes on its next to last possession, the pressure from the Valdosta defense was enough to force junior quarterback Todd Rampley to throw the ball early.

"We saw something in one of their films," Baker said. "They pursued the wing and there was no backside protection. We put it in on Wednesday and ran it five or six times in practice. We saved it and called it at the right time."

The key to the deception, though, was being able to move Brinson, who normally plays tailback, out to the flanker position without Peachtree becoming aware of what was happening. The Patriots never noticed the switch and in the end it would cost them.

"We haven't shown that play all year," Baker said. "Dana doesn't play flanker. But we moved him out there and they never caught it."

Brinson finished the game with 35 yards on six carries.

"Give credit to Jerry Don, Mike O'Brien and Bob Bolton for that one," said Hyder. "They thought it up. It was the key play."

But Hyder said it was only out of necessity that he had to reach into his bag of tricks. "They shot our passing game down," he said of the 'Cats' eight completions for 99 yards. "So we had to go with something else — a gadget."

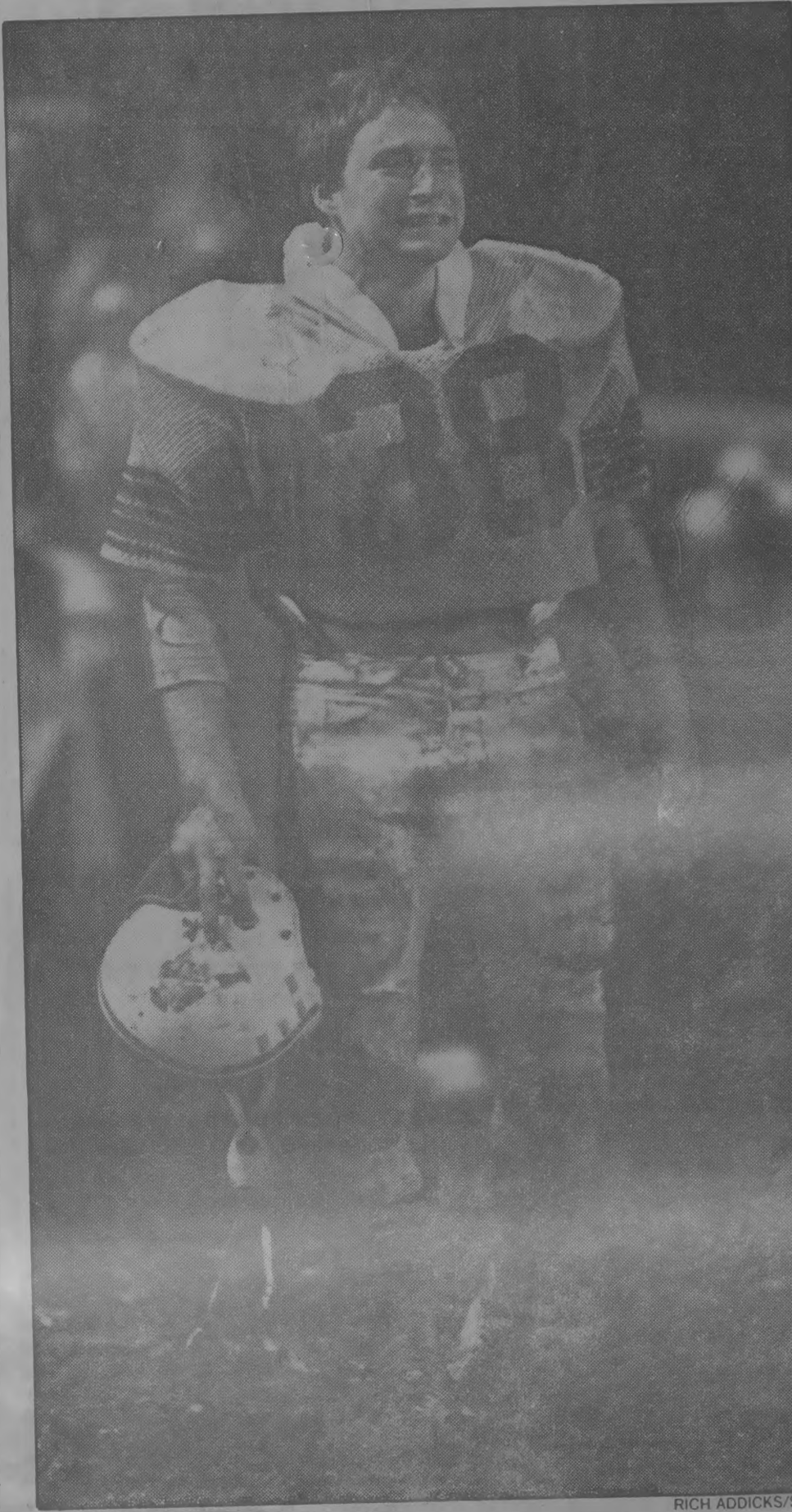
"They were going with the backs," Brinson said about the gadget. "And when we reversed it, it caught them off guard."

Atlanta Const. 12-13-82

'We didn't make the big play'

Blown chances haunt Peachtree

By Steve Figueroa
Staff Writer



RICH ADDICKS/Staff

Peachtree's P.J. Johnson had trouble coping with lose to Valdosta

Years from now, when fans who braved the steady downpour to attend Saturday night's Class AAAA state championship football game between Valdosta and Peachtree are asked to recount the tale, two very different stories are likely to be voiced.

Those who wore the black and gold of Valdosta and brandished signs reading "Paw Power" will speak proudly of the defense that bent but didn't break, of the spectacular, 88-yard, 15-play touchdown march just before half-time that tied the contest 7-7, and in particular, of Herbert Lowe's dramatic 24-yard field goal that came with just 33 seconds remaining and provided Valdosta with a 10-7 victory and the school's 16th state title.

On the other side of the field, some 2,000 fans decked out in the red, white and blue of the Peachtree Patriots — under the yellow rain gear, that is — will remember a different game. They'll recall the field goal that barely missed, the drive that ended on a pass interception at the Valdosta 3-yard line, the blocked punt that came to nothing and the fumble at the Valdosta 23 on the first possession of the all-important third quarter. To Peachtree faithful, this will always be the championship that got away.

"We had our chances early in the game, and we just didn't make the big play," said Peachtree coach T. McFerrin, whose Patriots ended their best season ever at 14-1. "The way we played in the first half, we should have won. We went down to Valdosta thinking we could win, and in no way were our boys intimidated by playing on Cleveland Field. If anything, Valdosta looked like the team that was intimidated at the start of the game.

"But we didn't take advantage of our chances. We got the ball down there four times and only got seven points on the board. That was the story of the game. I know we were just kinda hanging on there in the second half, but the game was changed around completely when we missed all those chances in the first half."

For the record, Peachtree dominated the first 16 minutes of the game, rolling up 127 yards total offense and seven first downs on 22 plays to just 14 yards and no first downs on six plays for Valdosta. But Kirk Roach missed a 37-yard field goal by just a couple of feet to end the first Peachtree possession and quarterback Todd Rampley had a pass picked off at the Valdosta 3 by Jeff Spivey to end the third Patriot drive.

Peachtree moved 67 yards on 11 plays on its second possession to go ahead 7-0 on Brad Shroeder's 1-yard run, but instead of being up 17-0, the Patriots' lead was just a touchdown. And when Peachtree failed to capitalize on a blocked punt at the Valdosta 38 on their fourth possession of the game, the host Wildcats suddenly realized they were still in the football game.

From that point on, the sleeping Valdota offense awoke and controlled the football with a powerful running attack and some timely passing by quarterback Ted West. After missing his first five attempts, West connected on 7 of his last 17 for 85 yards and some key first downs.

The Wildcats passed Peachtree in the battle of the statistics with 284 yards total offense and 18 first downs to 238 yards and 11 firsts for the Patriots. Valdosta ran 69 plays to 46 for Peachtree thanks to a 36-18 edge in the second half.

But when asked afterwards if the best team won, McFerrin frowned as if in pain and, after a long pause, said softly, "We could have won. We had 'em."

Dec. 16, 82



Taming The Shrew

Members of Valdosta High School's one-act play cast perform a scene from Shakespeare's "The Taming Of The Shrew," during a presentation of a one-act adaptation of the work this week at the high school. The group's performance last week at the Region I-AAAA meet earned it second place, while actress Cammie

Buerry was named the region's best actress, the second year in a row she has earned the honor. From left, Miss Buerry, as Katherina; Jim Resenhouse, as Petruchio; and Paul Johnson, as Baptista, Katherina's father. — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

VDT Sports Briefs Dec. 16
1982

'Cat Wrestlers Pin Westover

The Valdosta High wrestling team opened its season on a winning note Wednesday night with a 61-18 shellacking of Westover.

The Wildcats will participate in the Cook County Invitational Friday and Saturday in Adel as one of 16 teams vying for the title.

Led by nine pins, two decisions and one forfeit, the 'Cats had little trouble disposing of Westover.

The quickest pin of the night went to Valdosta's Greg Prine who downed Allen Page in just 29 seconds.

Individual Winners for Valdosta were: Jason Bennett (99 lb), Terry Wortham (106 lb), Steve Kaiser (113 lb), Greg Prine (120 lb), Mark Levy (126 lb), Craig Jenkins (139 lb), Jack Priest (146 lb), Danny McLeod (156 lb), Frank Abney (168 lb), Victor Waymon (186 lb), and Leon Johnson (heavyweight).

Valdosta JVs Defeat Cook

The Valdosta Junior Varsity wrestling team had little trouble with Cook Wednesday as it recorded a 61-12 win over the Hornets. The Wildacts' JV team is now 2-0 on the season.

Winners for the Valdosta JV were: Andrew Kaiser, Scott Richardson, Craig Klement, Jerry Purvis, Tony Alexander, Clay Powell, Kevin Lnacaster, Jerry Stacks, Mike Swank, James Wakefield and Jimmy Lewis.

Bradshaw Success Tribute To DECA

Special To The Times

One thing most students find out about D.E. is that it prepares them for today's fast-paced business. Debhra Bradshaw, a former D.E. student, agrees that the M.D.E. program is helpful to working students.

Mrs. Bradshaw joined the M.D.E. program when she was a junior in 1967. She became

interested in the program when she decided to work during her junior and senior year.

While she was an active member, Mrs. Bradshaw worked at Baytree Pharmacy and Modern Homes. She worked at the snack bar in the pharmacy where she became interested in food marketing.

Mrs. Bradshaw said, "Food marketing has also been an

interest to me because I like to meet the public and I enjoy preparing food."

After graduating in 1967, Mrs. Bradshaw did not pursue her career at once. In 1968, she had her first job at Davis Brothers Cafeteria working as a line person.

She worked her way up to cashier, assistant manager, and to her present job as manager. Mrs. Bradshaw said

she considered other careers, but she always came back to the food market.

As manager of Davis Brothers Cafeteria, Mrs. Bradshaw must know how to do everything in the restaurant. She must know everything from how to cook to running the service line.

Mrs. Bradshaw was a member of D.E. while Mr.

Greene was the instructor. Mr. Greene said "Debhra was a fine student who had a sense of pride and interest whether in class or at her job. she was the kind of student who you enjoy having in a class because she was cooperative and she had a good attitude."

He also said he is not surprised that she became a successful manager. She has all the qualities it takes to be a

successful person.

Not only was she an active member in D.E., she was also a member of Tri High Y, the Marching Cat Band, chorus, and the Pep Club.

Debhra Bradshaw recommends the M.D.E. program to students. She said it helps them learn about marketing and settles their minds on the career they want.

DECA: Leadership Of Future

Special To The Times

What is DECA?

DECA identifies the program of student activity relating to MDE-Marketing and Distributive Education. It is designed to develop future leaders for Marketing and Distribution.

DECA is the only national student organization operating within the nation's schools to attract young people to careers in marketing, merchandising, and management.

DECA and the student: MDE students have common objectives and interest in that each is studying for a specific objective.

DECA activities have a tremendous psychological effect upon the attitudes of students, and many students have no other opportunities to participate in social activities of the school or to

develop responsibilities of citizenship.

DECA members learn to serve as leaders and followers and they have the opportunity for state and national recognition that they would not have otherwise.

DECA and the school: DECA chapter activities are always school-centered, thus contributing to the school's purpose of preparing well-adjusted, employable students.

Chapter activities serve the Marketing and Distributive Education teacher as a teaching tool by creating interest in all phases of Marketing and Distribution study, and serve as an avenue of expansion for individual talent.

The chapter is the "show window" for student achievement and progress and is the public relations arm of the MDE Instructional Program.

It attracts students to the MDE Program who are interested in marketing management and distribution careers and assists in subject matter presentation.

DECA and the nation: MDE instruction and DECA activity constantly emphasize America's system of competition and private enterprise.

Self help among students is the rule rather than the exception and DECA leaders give constant encouragement to continued education.

History has proven that whenever a nation's channels of distribution fail to function, that nation is short-lived.

As DECA attracts more of our nation's youth to study marketing and distribution, the total MDE Program becomes a vital necessity to our national economy.

DECA President Motivated In Supporting Club Activities

Special To The Times

DECA's new club president for the 1982-83 school year is Lisa Jenkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Yentzer. She is a senior at Valdosta High and a very highly motivated girl in supporting her club.

As club president, her responsibilities include organizing club projects, being present during all club activities and offering her leadership at all club functions.

At 17, Lisa has excelled in many if not all of her academics at Valdosta High. She is a second-year student in marketing and distributive education and feels that the club will have a good year as it begins to prepare for the annual district, state and national competition.

The primary goal of the club, however, is the coming of their annual Marketing and Distributive Education day which is celebrated with a breakfast. It is attended by Mayor Ernest Nijem, who officially proclaims MDE Day.

The other newly-elected of-



LISA JENKINS
VHS Senior

ficers who will be attending the breakfast are Lisa Herbert, wife of Michael A. Herbert,

vice president; Barbie Carmichael, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Carmichael, treasurer; and Tina Greene, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Greene, secretary.

Also attending will be Jay Greene, son of Norman Greene, Division One vice president; Renee Bajalia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Bajalia, Division Two vice president; Billy Fisher, Division Three vice president.

Also Nichole Roesch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gunter Roesch, historian; Shannon Santos, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Santos, and Mandy Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hulyn Smith, reporters; and Richard Irby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn Irby, chaplain.

Dana Day, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Day is the Marketing and Distributive Education's Sweetheart; and Norman Greene, Marketing and Distributive Education's coordinator, is the club's advisor.

DECA Briefs

Nijem Declares MDE Day

Special To The Times

Mayor Ernest Nijem declared Dec. 17, 1982, Marketing and Distributive Education Day in Valdosta. MDE Day is sponsored by the Valdosta High School DE Club.

"This is a day we set aside to thank our employers and other people who support our club," said Norman Greene, teacher coordinator of the club.

The day was highlighted with reading of the proclamation by Mayor Nijem at a kickoff breakfast at Sambo's Restaurant this morning.

DECA Growing Rapidly

Beginning in 1947 with only 800 members in 17 charter states, the Distributive Education Clubs of America has grown to approximately 500,000 members from fifty states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, according to Norman Greene, DECA chapter advisor for Valdosta High School.

"The growth and development of DECA has been rapid," Greene said.

"Many interested educators and business organizations have given their advice, their cooperation, and their support. Past growth and plans for the future give every indication that DECA is destined to become one of the leading student organizations of our time."

MDE Has Three Purposes

There are three purposes to the Marketing and Distributive program.

The first is to assist state associations in the growth and development.

The second is to further develop education in marketing and distribution. This will contribute to occupational competence.

The third is to promote understanding and appreciation for the responsibilities of citizenship in our free, competitive enterprise system.

Activities Abound In MDE

The Marketing and Distributive Education Program at VHS is a multifaceted program.

Throughout the year MDE members participate in many activities.

The Marketing and Distributive Education Program teaches marketing, merchandising, and management and is the only national student organization operating within the nation's schools to attract young people to careers these fields.

The Marketing and Distribution Education Club is designed to develop future leaders as well as followers and help students to study for specific career objectives.

Marketing and Distribution Education members also have the opportunity for state and national recognition.

Many businesses favor hiring MDE students and many leaders in business and government have praised DECA for its civic-related activities.

MDE More Than Classroom

The Marketing and Distributive Education program consists of classroom instruction in the morning and on the job training in carefully selected business in the afternoon.

The afternoon laboratory part of the program, supervised by the employer and the coordinator, gives the students an opportunity to put into practice the related instruction received in the morning session.

The Marketing and Distributive Education program is in its 25th year at Valdosta High School. The program has developed from a class of 12 to about 75 students.

Many of the students who came through the program attribute their success to the education and guidance they received in the classroom and on-the-job training.

Students Reap Earnings

During the 1981-82 school year, the 71 students in the Valdosta High School MDE Program earned a total of \$138,865.00 while working about 43,875 hours on the job.

That means that each student in the program averages about \$1995.00 in salary and 617 work hours during the year.

Statewide, the 7,000 high school co-op students earned approximately \$16,000 while working about 5,040,000 hours at their training jobs.

Fr.

Dec. 17, 1982

V.D.T.

Christen Bracey On Jobs

Special To The Times
Christen Bracey, daughter of Tom Bracey, has always been one to do some interesting things. At the present Chris has two jobs. One of which is a typical secretarial job.

She is a secretary in the Distributive Education Department at Valdosta High School. Her other job is teaching horseback riding lessons at Winding Way Stables with Ms. Roberta Sharpless.

Chris began riding about seven years ago at Tolem Pole Ranch under Shirely Noll.

"I got my own horse when I was 12. That really helped my riding," says the junior attending VHS.

After getting her own horse, Chris began competing in shows.

"I could not believe it when I won the Jr. 4-H state competition in the English division," said Christen, who has won many other awards in the local shows.

Miss Bracey's students are basically beginners. When question about what exactly what she does she replied, "I teach them proper English equitation."

When the manager of the stable asked her if she would be interested in teaching, she jumped at the chance.

"I plan to go into the field teaching as a career after I graduate," said the ambitious young lady.

Christen says she really enjoys her job because she is helping people learn about her favorite interest.



Chris Bracey Jumped At Chance To Teach Horseback Riding



Richard Irby, Father Vaughn Irby Are A Team

Work With Family Beneficial

Special To The Times
Many students who are members of the DE Club at Valdosta High work for their parents. Some of these students include Richard Chandler, Jr., Specialty Supply Corp.; Richard M. Irby, VAGA Amusement Company, Inc.; and Jeannie Sheffield, Smith Motors.

These students find many advantages working for their parents. Richard Chandler states that he feels more at ease working for his parents. It

is also easier to get time off, which is important to Richard Irby and Jeannie Sheffield, who are members of the Marchin' Cats.

Not only do the students find advantages but so do the parents. Mrs. Chandler describes DE as a great program because there are good and hard-working students in the club.

Mr. Irby finds that students who work prepare themselves for the future in the business

world and develop a sense of pride.

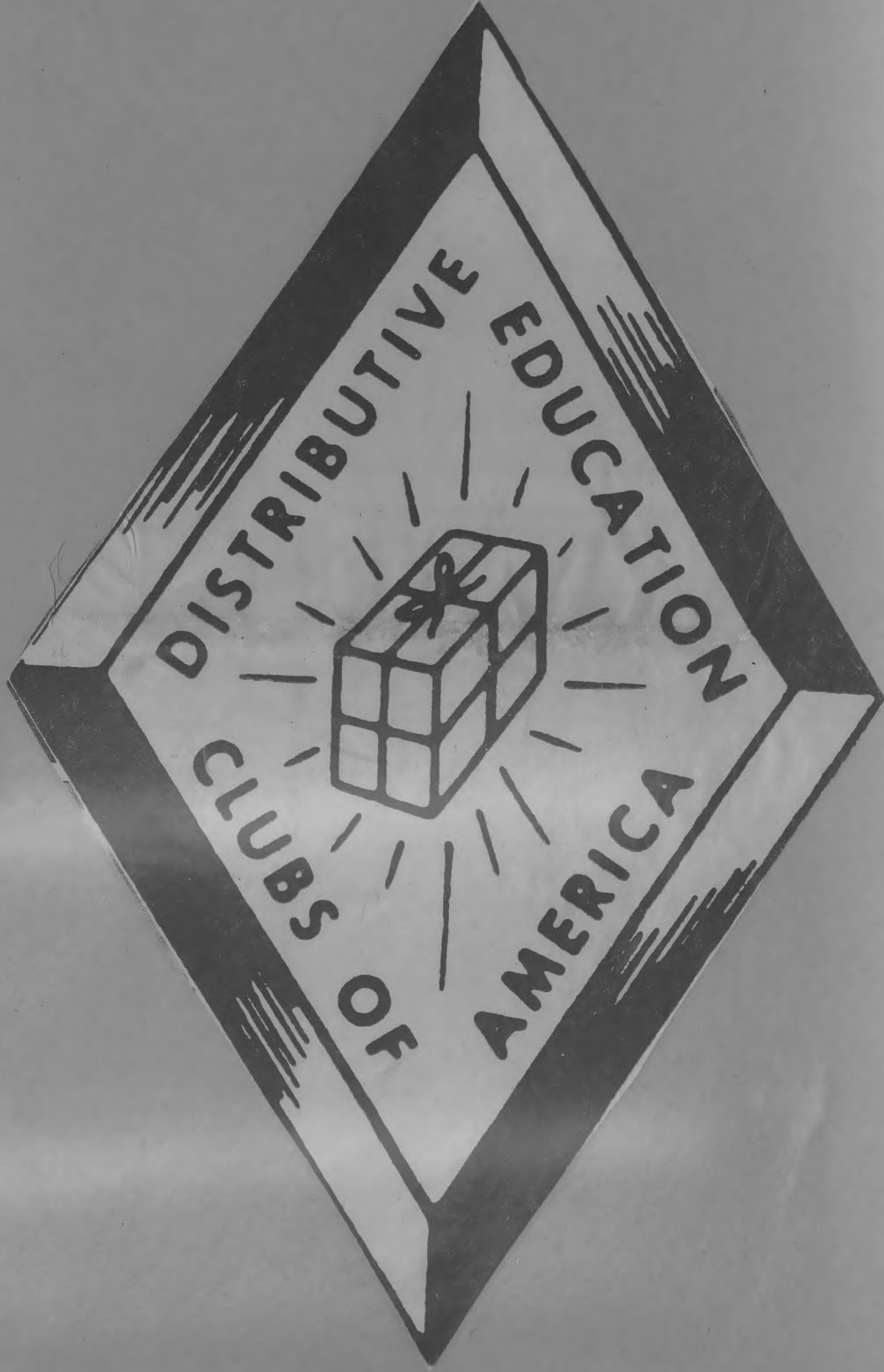
Students who work for their parents get an opportunity to see how the business is operated.

Other members of DE who work for their parents include Jennifer Richardson, Changing Times; Tommy Schunoff, Burger Chef; Ferrall Scruggs, Scruggs Concrete; David Sheppard, 10-40 Tax Service; Greg Sumner, Zant's Flower Shop; and Lisa Tinney, El Carlo Motel.

Our DECA Emblem Symbolizes

The registered emblem of the Distributive Education Clubs of America, a diamond with a wrapped package in the center, is attractive, significant and meaningful. The wrapped package symbolizes a job well done, achieved by the cooperation of school officials, students,

parents and business people all working together to develop the students' abilities. The four points of the diamond — Leadership Development, Vocational Understanding, Social Intelligence, civic Consciousness — also have symbolic meanings.





VOCATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

The Distributive Education student, participating in this unique, sound education program, is well prepared to take his place in the business world. He has acquired a first hand knowledge of merchandising management, and the opportunities available in his chosen career. This year 60 D. E. students are working in 43 different business establishments in Valdosta. This picture illustrates one of the many jobs our D. E. students handle each day.

"I believe that by doing my best to live according to these high principles, I will be of greater service both to myself and to mankind."



SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE

Through social events the DECA member is given opportunity to develop poise, and to gain a knowledge of the social graces necessary in our society. Additionally, he becomes aware of his social environment and the necessity of cooperative effort between and among all elements of society. V. H. S. DECA plans to have a skating party and a Christmas party and to go to the movies as socials this year. In the above picture students are enjoying refreshments at a club social.

'Dosta DE Active Club

Special To The Times

The Valdosta chapter of Distributive Education Clubs of America is one of the busiest chapters in the state and one of the most active clubs at VHS. The club's calendar usually includes schoolwide activities, DECA program development projects and civic affairs.

To support the Wildcats and the student body of VHS, DECA paints spirit signs, prints bumper stickers, sells homecoming mums, participates in the homecoming parade and puts up bulletin boards around the school.

Two major activities which keep the club busy are the VHS Program Development Project and the "Action Now" MDECA Youth. The Program Development project is highlighted by a newspaper spread in the Valdosta Daily Time, signs around the city, and commercials informing the public of National DECA Week.

For the Action Now DECA Youth Project, the club presents an informative fair display and billboards in heavy traffic areas around the county.

The MDE program has always been concerned with civic consciousness. In recognizing the needs of others, the club takes Christmas presents to needy families and prepares Thanksgiving baskets.

The club helps the Boys & Girls Club of Valdosta with volunteer help for special activities during the year.

As a national organization, the club is also busy with meetings of district, state, and national levels.

Each year the club strives to live up to DECA's high standards, become involved in more projects, succeed in areas of competition and attend the national conference in New Orleans, La.

Leaders And Followers

Special To The Times

The Marketing and Distributive Education Program is designed to develop future leaders in marketing and distribution.

DECA attracts young people to careers in these two fields. The members of DECA learn to serve as both followers and leaders. Many have op-

portunities in state and national contests.

DECA chapter activities are always school-centered, which contributes to the school's purpose of preparing well-adjusted, employed citizens. The members of DECA play a big role in the community as they make many studies and surveys to aid economic development.

Accurate Description Requires Name Change

Special To The Times

Many people, reading our promotion package today, have noticed a change in the name of our program. (Marketing and Distributive Education).

Distributive Education was an inaccurate description of our program offering. It told our prospective customers (students, parents, and employees) very little about our program and its services.

"Distributive Education" was an appropriate term in 1937 to describe the new federally-funded vocational education program designed to train workers in the distributive occupations. It was "distribution" that was the term used at that time to identify that area of economic activities between

production and consumption.

But, in 1960, the Committee on Definition of the American Marketing used the term "marketing" as the performance of business activities that direct the flow of goods and services from producer to consumer.

With these thoughts in mind, most people involved in Distributive Education felt that Marketing would be a more correct way of describing our program, resulting in the name change from Distributive Education to Marketing and Distributive Education.

In the near future, we will probably see the term Distributive dropped and the name become Marketing Education.

Many of our post-secondary institutions (tech schools, junior colleges, and colleges) have already adopted the Marketing Education Terminology.

Dr. Richard Lynch, professor and program leader for marketing education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, is a strong advocate of the identity change.

Dr. Lynch, who provided most of the information for this article, recently initiated the complete name change at VPI.

Dr. Lynch says, "It is our hope that other programs and departments can utilize our rationale and perhaps strengthen it to make a similar change in their departments."

The Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., Dec. 17, 1982-15-



DE Club Sweetheart Displays Emblem

DECA Emblem Full Of Meaning

Special To the Times

The DECA emblem is symbolic of all the things that the Distributive Education Clubs of America offer its members.

The emblem, a diamond, is a familiar sight around the campus.

Vocational understanding, civic consciousness, social intelligence, and leadership development are symbolized by each point of the diamond.

After participating in the Marketing and Distributive Education program, a student is well prepared to take his place in the business world. He has developed a sense of vocational understanding.

Civic consciousness is taught to the Marketing and Distributive Education program student through both class and chapter work. The student learns to recognize his obligation to the community. He does this by studying community

needs and planning community betterment.

Social intelligence is gained through activities and social events sponsored by the MDE Club. The DECA member is given the chance to develop his poise and social graces that are so necessary in our growing society.

Leadership development is the last point of the diamond. The MDE program holds many activities throughout the year which supply opportunities to participate and learn to be good leaders as well as good followers.

In the center of the DECA diamond is a wrapped package. This package stands for a job well done and a well-rounded education. This is achieved through the cooperation of the school administration, teachers, parents, and businessmen, all working together to develop the student.

A SALUTE TO VHS



DECA

STUDENTS



1982 - 1983

D.E. Students

THE DECA CREED

I believe in the future which I am planning for myself in the field of distribution, and in the opportunities which my vocation offers.

I believe in fulfilling the highest measures of service to my vocation, my fellow beings, my country and my God — that by so doing, I will be rewarded with personal satisfaction and material wealth.

I believe in the democratic philosophies of private enterprise and competition, and in the freedoms of this nation — that these philosophies allow for the fullest development of my individual abilities.

I believe that by doing my best to live according to these high principles, I will be of greater service both to myself and to mankind.



SPORTS

Lowndes Tournament

'Cats Notch Season's First Win

By STEVE CORRIGAN

Times Staff Writer
The Valdosta Wildcats' first basketball win of the 1982-83 season very nearly wasn't. Playing in the first round of the 31st Lowndes Christmas

Tournament, the Wildcats let a 56-42 lead over Tift County with two minutes left slip away. By the 44 second mark, the Blue Devils had scored nine unanswered points to pull within five at 56-51.

hard for them to come back shooting those long shots."

The 'Cats, now 1-6, face top seeded Echols County, who had a first-round bye, tonight at 6.

"I don't know if this will turn us around or not," said O'Brien of the 'Cats' first win, "but it sure will make a lot of people feel good tonight."

The Vikekites used 22 points by reserve forward Natasha Horne to drub Tift and run their record to 6-3. The win sets up a rematch with rival Valdosta, the No. 1 seeded girls team in the tournament, tonight at 7:30. Lowndes lost to the Lady 'Cats earlier in the season when Andrea Roberts drove the length of the court to score the winning layup with seven seconds left. Valdosta is 6-0 on the season.

"It's going to be a tough one," said Lowndes coach Steve Kebler of the rematch with Valdosta. "And it's good to set it up by playing a lot of people."

Kebler was able to clear his bench in the win over Tift and all but four Vikekites scored.

It was simply a case of the Vikekites having too much for the outmanned Lady Devils. At the end of the first quarter Lowndes was up 14-2. By the half it was 26-4. Tift did not score in double figures until midway through the third quarter.

Two other Vikekites, Beverly Hart with 14 and Lisa Hughes with 10, scored in double figures.

The key against Valdosta is being able to shoot consistently from the field.

"We've got to shoot well the whole game," Kebler said. "If we can shoot well, we can play with anybody. Our shot selection tonight was a lot better."

In the first game of the afternoon, Clemmie Nell Smith scored 25 points and Melissa Myers added 20 to lead Cook to a 68-33 shellacking of Echols.

Eva Banks led the losers with 12.

Cook opened a 20-8 first quarter lead and never looked back. At the half the margin had bulged to 39-15.

The Wasps face second seeded Berrien, who had a first round bye, today at 4:30.

The Berrien boys reached tonight's finals with a 53-45 win over Cook. Charlie Fuller led the Rebels with 19 points. Larry Green and Sylvester Ryan each scored 10 for the winners.

Wallace Adkins led Cook with 18. Cedric Sanford added 11.

Berrien will face Lowndes, the No. 2 seed in the tournament, tonight at 9.

Lowndes Vikekites	14	26	46	68
Tift Lady Devils	2	4	12	24

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Lowndes	— Horne 22, Hart 14, Hughes 10, Lazarus 2, Wilson 9, Register 5, Folsom 2, Walker 2, Richardson 2
Tift	— Simmons 12, Mims 2, McKenzie 2, Green 2, Denson 6

Valdosta Wildcats	14	26	40	59
Tift Blue Devils	16	26	32	52

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta	— Bailey 13, Thompson 10, Daniels 1, Folsom 7, Gamble 9, Parker 3, Perry 2, West 4, Wilson 2, Worthy 6, Stokes 2
Tift	— Dickson 8, Farley 2, Miller 6, Hall 15, Hill 15, Coney 4, Merrell 2



O'Brien's Team Captured First Victory

State Championship Not His Sweetest Victory



Nick Hyder Shouts For Wildcats



He Works Under Sideline Pressure



Helping His Players Part Of Job He Likes Best

Times Staff Photos

Valdosta Girls Make Point With Lowndes

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

If there was ever any question who had the better team after the Valdosta Lady Wildcats nipped Lowndes 50-49 two weeks ago, it was laid to rest last night as VHS returned the Lowndes Gymnasium and handed the Vikettes a 51-44 loss in the semifinals of the Lowndes Christmas Tournament.

The Lady 'Cat win sets up a showdown with Cook, who shocked second seeded Berrien 55-42 earlier in the evening, Monday night at 7.

In other semifinal action Echols County overcame a slow start to defeat Valdosta

Valdosta	10	23	35	52
Echols	13	30	41	60

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta: Bailey 13, Daniels 2, Folsom 12, Gamble 14, Perry 7, West 4
Echols: Barrett 13, Brown 16, Gilmore 10, Jarrard 2, Collier 19

60-52 and Berrien County took a slowed down 38-30 win from Lowndes.

Valdosta's Ronnie Melvin led all scorers with 16 points, all of which came from the field. Two other Lady 'Cats, Bridget Harrell and Shevon Peeler, added 10 points each.

Lowndes was led by Natasha Horne's 14 points and Lisa Hughes' 13. Hughes picked up her fourth foul with 2:10 left in the first half and missed most of the third quarter.

It was during Hughes absence that the Lady 'Cats pulled away from Lowndes. Down by one, 26-25, at the intermission, Valdosta came out in the second half and outscored the Vikettes 12-5 to take a 37-30 lead. Lowndes added a basket before the third period expired to cut Valdosta's lead

to five going into the fourth quarter.

The Vikettes kept pecking away at the Valdosta advantage and finally retook the lead, 40-39, with five minutes left in the game. The Lowndes lead was short lived, though, as VHS scored five straight points, including a three-point play by Bridgett Harrell with 4:13 left, to go back up 44-40.

Valdosta never looked back as it

Valdosta	13	25	37	51
Lowndes	12	26	37	51

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta: Conaway 4, Harrell 10, Roberts 9, Melvin 16, Peeler 10, Weatherspoon 2
Lowndes: Wilson 3, Hart 6, Hughes 13, Williams 2, Register 6, Horne 14

coasted to its seventh straight win of the season against no defeats.

Lowndes fell to 6-4.

The Vikettes counterparts, the No. 2 seeded Lowndes Vikings, suffered a similar fate, leaving the 31-year-old tournament without either of the host teams making it to the finals.

Clay Clark's Berrien Rebels jumped out to an early 5-0 lead over the Vikings with 4:43 left in the first quarter and only trailed once in the contest on their way to a berth in the finals against the top-seeded Echols Wildcats Monday night at 8:30.

Led by Larry Green's 16 points and Charlie Fuller's 10, the Rebels ran their season record to 7-3.

Lowndes, which dropped to 5-4, was led by Cliff Godwin's 16 points and Darryl Chandler's 10. It was the first time this season that Chandler failed to score over 20 points.

But Chandler was not alone in his frigid shooting. Guard Paul March who gunned

continually from the key, failed to score a field goal. At the half the Vikings were 3 of 26 from the field for a pitiful 12 percent.

Despite their poor shooting, the Vikings were only down 13-10 at the break.

By the end of the third quarter, Berrien's bulge had reached five, 23-18.

Lowndes battled back and with 3:30 left in the game the Vikings took their first and only lead of the game, 28-27. It was short lived, however, as the Rebels came right back down the court and scored to retake the lead.

Lowndes could only muster one more basket in the game as Berrien sank 5 of 7 free throws in the waning moments to ice the game.

Top seeded Echols County scored eight unanswered points to begin the fourth quarter to blow an otherwise close game wide open against Valdosta and held on to win earning a berth in Monday's finals.

Going into the final period, Echols was up by six, 41-35, but after the eight-point outburst, it was in control 49-35 with 5:30 left in the game.

Valdosta was able to trim the lead to 53-48 with just over a minute to play, but consecutive turnovers ruined any chances of an upset.

Echols, 8-1, was led by Will Collier's 19 points Willie Barrett added 13, Horace Brown 16 and Jeff Gilmore 10 for the winners.

Valdosta, 1-7, was led by Todd Gamble's 14 points. Ervin Bailey scored 13 points and Derrick Folsom 12 for the Wildcats.

Echols overcame a 13-4 first quarter deficit to take a 30-23 lead into the halftime dressing room.

In the first game of the afternoon



Lowndes High's Cliff Godwin Battle For Rebound With Two Berrien Defenders

Clemmie Nell Smith scored 34 points to lead the Cook Wasps to a 55-42 upset of second seeded Berrien. May Neloms added 17 for the winners.

Berrien was led by Lisa Leland's 14 points and Simmie Williams' 11.

With the first two rounds completed, the Lowndes Christmas Tournament will take

today off. The finals will be played Monday night with the girls' championship tipping off at 7 p.m. The boys will follow at 8:30.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Dec. 19, 1982

Cook, Berrien Capture Titles

Wasps Make Stunning Return

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

The Cook Wasps stunned the 31st Lowndes Christmas Basketball Tournament not once, but twice.

Despite coming into the tournament with only one loss, no one gave the Cook High girls team much of a chance of capturing the state's oldest prep Christmas cage tournament crown.

But after Monday night's 61-57 win over top-seeded and previously undefeated Valdosta, the Wasps made believers out of the many doubters. But unlike Cook's previous two tournament wins, a 68-33 drubbing of Echols County in the first round and a 55-42 defeat of second-seeded Berrien in the semifinals, the decision over the Lady Wildcats was no easy chore.

In the boys championship, Berrien County knocked off No. 1-seeded Echols 44-37 to claim its third Lowndes Christmas Tournament title in five years.

Without the services of junior forward May Neloms, who left the game early in the second

period with a knee injury, Cook was forced to rely solely on the play of 6-foot-2 senior sensation Clemmie Smith. And Smith responded to the challenge with a tournament-high 30 points, nearly half of the Wasps' total points. Melissa Myers helped out with 13 points.

Valdosta was led by Andrea Roberts' 20 points and Bridgett Harrell's 16.

In a game that saw Valdosta only lead briefly twice in the fourth quarter, once at 50-49 and again at 53-52, the Lady 'Cats spent most of the evening playing catch up.

The Wasps opened an early 8-2 lead and never trailed in the first half. Valdosta pulled to within one point twice in the second quarter, but that was as close as it could get as the Wasps took a 34-30 lead into intermission.

The Lady 'Cats stayed within two most of the third period. They finally took the lead on a Roberts' three-point play with 5:10 to remaining in the game. But the lead was short lived as the Wasps scored five unanswered points to take a 57-53

lead with less than two minutes to play and hung on at the end for the win.

Lady 'Cat coach Jo Ellis said her team's loss, which makes VHS 7-1 going into the new year, was not due to a letdown from an emotional win over Lowndes in Saturday night's semifinals.

"No, we knew it was going to be tough," she said. "We knew what to expect."

Despite the loss, Ellis saw several positive things from her team's performance.

"I thought we played well in every area except rebounding," she said.

Smith's play on the boards, as well as her scoring output, was the determining factor in the game Ellis said.

"We knew we had to stop Clemmie," Ellis said. "She's going to get her points. We were just hoping to keep her off the boards."

"It seemed like every time we would get some momentum," Ellis added, "something would go wrong."

But Valdosta was not the only top-seeded team to suffer

a defeat in the finals. Echols County came into the holiday tourney 8-1 and seeded No. 1. The Wildcats left with a 9-2 record and the second place trophy.

Clay Clark's Berrien team scored three straight baskets to open the second half to take a 21-17 lead and never trailed after that on the way to a 44-37 win.

Despite having only four players score, the Rebels ran their record 8-3.

Echols is 9-2.

Charlie Fuller led the Rebels with 26 points, most of which came in the second half. The senior was deadly from the free throw line making 8 of 9 attempts. James Anderson added 12 for the winners.

Echols was led by Horace Brown's 11 points and Willie Barrett's 10.

"We got the lead there in the second half and really started getting after it," explained Clark. "I'm just real pleased. This tournament win gives us a good push going into the new year. Christmas is time to go out on a good note."

Following a nip-and-tuck first quarter that saw the lead change hands six times, Echols led 7-6 at the end of the first quarter. The Wildcats stayed on top the rest of the half and carried a 17-15 lead into the half.

But the Rebels came out in the third quarter and scored six unanswered points to turn the game around. Echols was able to tie the score five times in the second half, but could never take the lead.

The Rebels finally ended the tying trend when Fuller exploded for three straight hoops to give Berrien a 35-29 advantage with 4:45 left in the game. Echols closed to within four, 35-31, but could edge no further.

Girls Championship				
Valdosta	12	30	42	57
Cook	18	34	44	61
INDIVIDUAL STATS				
Valdosta —	Conaway 6,	Harrell 16,	Roberts 20,	Melvin 5, Peeler 8, Weatherspoon 2.
Cook —	Smith 30,	Batchelor 9,	Myers 13,	Neloms 2, Odoms 5, Tennant 2.
Boys Championship				
Echols County	7	17	27	37
Berrien County	6	15	27	44
INDIVIDUAL STATS				
Berrien —	Green 2,	Anderson 12,	Fuller 26,	Ryan 4.
Echols —	Barrett 10,	Brown 11,	Gilmore 2,	Jarrard 8, Collier 6.



Smith's 30 Points Lifted Cook Over Valdosta

Times Staff Photo

State Championship Not His Sweetest Victory

Dec. 19, 1982

VPT

By DANCHILDS
Times Sports Editor

"I just enjoy coaching," Nick Hyder says, and it seems that he lives for those weekday afternoons spent tinkering and tuning and for those Friday nights on the sideline with the bands blasting, the thousands screaming and, hopefully, his Valdosta Wildcats winning.

It's something he can immerse himself in almost year-round: the conditioning workouts that crank up at 6 a.m. during January and February, a month of spring drills in March, summer camp in August and, then, the regular season, with those afternoons spent tinkering and tuning for Friday nights with the bands blasting and so on.

All of that is good, Hyder said, most enjoyable, but it's not the best part of his job. The best times are the occasions when a player brings a problem into Hyder's cramped cubicle of an office, parks in the easy chair opposite his desk and unloads.

"It's the dealing with the young men," he said, "the part that you don't see going on in the arena on Friday night. It's really a joy to see a player with a problem get his life straightened out."

Hyder said he savors the more than 25 years he has spent in football. But it seems it's not so much the game itself that constantly renews his fascination so much as the side effects the game has on the players.

He likes to draw the analogy of football representing the struggle of life in miniature.

"I don't know of any other game that can teach the things about life that this one can. When you think about it," he said, "football is a lot like life capsulized into a two-hour segment on Friday nights."

Hyder makes no secret of his Christianity. His spiritual life isn't so much of the old-fashioned hellfire-and-brimstone makeup as it is an everyday, functional guide for the conducting of a life. He reads and adheres to the views of Christian psychologists like Victor Frankl.

His philosophy for living extends to his running of the Valdosta football program. Devotionals are as much a part of the routine as agility drills. Discipline among the players is demanded.

He likes to talk about the concept of winning. Not the kind of winning that comes only after the scoreboard is lighted in one's favor, but the victory that comes only as a result of one having his priorities in the proper or-

der, whether it means winning on the football field, at home, in the classroom or elsewhere.

Hyder insists that his spiritual belief is the best resource he can call on as a head coach. "I think that if young men are headed in the right direction morally and spiritually, they'll be better football players," he says.

"That's hard to argue with, and you'll never change my opinion on that. If you're a better person, you're a better football player."

Not everyone wants the Valdosta football coach to be an evangelist in cleats, however. "I've heard all the things some people have said, like 'Hyder should stop praying and start playing,'" he said. "They have a right to do that."

The Valdosta football coach is perhaps the most admired, yet most criticized, figure in the community. Everyone has their own opinion, and Hyder stead-

fastly defends the right of his detractors to come down hard on his performance.

Just off his first sole state championship, he's probably eased at least some of the strain his job entails. He said

Bazemore Era was still a recent memory.

Bazemore had made the celebration of state championships in Valdosta a habit over three decades, and

News-makers ... A Special Insight

Wildcat fans didn't want to see Valdosta's dominance of Georgia high school football recede into no more than a memory. Hyder knew he had to win from the start.

A 3-7 record his first year didn't help the strain. He followed with 10-2 and 9-1 seasons in 1975 and 1976, then reached the state finals the next two seasons, losing to Clarke Central in '77 and

tying Griffin for a co-state championship the next year.

He was creeping closer and closer, but the strain continued to mount. His wife June perceived the toll it was taking on her husband. She didn't like what was happening to him.

She knew something of the pressure a coach must cope with — she had been a successful girls basketball coach at West Rome — but she felt that perhaps the price the Valdosta job was extracting from her husband was no bargain.

"We could have backed the truck up to the house anytime during the first five years or so. She was ready to leave," Hyder said.

"She didn't like what the job was doing to me. She thought the criticism I was taking, and the pressure I was under, was starting to whittle away at my personality."

"There are some sizeable egos in Valdosta and I was beginning to get an inferiority complex," he said. "June

didn't like that."

Some strain crept into the marriage, but the Hydersons worked things out and found a way to live with the pressure. "We just discussed it all and eventually worked it out," Hyder said. "That's just part of love. It's part of having a winning marriage."

Hyder and the Wildcats have their state title now, safely filed away along with the other 16 state crowns that date back to 1940. Yet Hyder doesn't list his first state championship among his most treasured moments.

He values it mostly as a tangible end to a struggle he endured along with his staff and his players. It's the more intangible rewards of that struggle he says he cherishes most.

"What do you gain from having that state championship?" he wonders. "What's the purpose of having it? What comes after you win it? You want to win, but you want to win only what you deserve to win."

"Each man giving the best he can give is what being a champion is all about," he said. "Yes, we'll try to win another one, but all of that comes under the heading of each player reaching his potential."

For Hyder, that is what winning is all about.

Fri. Dec. 17, 1982 V.D.T.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Through DECA activities the Distributive Education student is given an opportunity to participate in many activities designed to teach him to be not only a leader but also a follower. Our D. E. students participate in local, district, state and national leadership activities each year. Locally we have club meetings once a month that give the student an opportunity to exert leadership. During the spring DECA members have opportunities to go to district, state and national leadership conferences. While at these conferences students compete, elect new officers for the next year and attend workshops. Lisa Jenkins, above, is pictured presiding at a local club meeting.



CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS

In both his class and chapter work, the Distributive Education student learns to recognize his obligations to the community in which he lives through studying community needs and planning community development. The D. E. Club this year will be involved in Youth Center activities, food basket drives and Christmas toys for needy families. The local D. E. Club civic projects have been judged as best in the state. In the above picture D. E. students are preparing Christmas packages for a needy family.

VHS Wrestlers Win Tourney

By Times Staff Writer

ADEL-The Valdosta High wrestling team overpowered 16 other teams here Saturday night to capture its third straight Cook County Invitational tournament championship.

The Wildcats finished the tournament with 186.5 points which easily outdistanced Cook county's total of 128. Baker of Columbus was just a shade behind Cook with 127.5 points while Jordan of Columbus took fourth with 124.5. Tift County rounded out the top five with 110.5 points.

Lowndes High, fielding a wrestling team for the first time under coach Newman Sanchez, finished 11th in the tournament with 35 points.

"The kids were just super," said VHS coach Jim Landrum. "There were some pretty good teams in the tournament. Those Columbus schools were especially tough."

First place winners for Valdosta included Terry Worham in the 107-pound class, Steve Kaiser in the 114-pound class, Greg Prine in the 121-pound class, Jack Priest in the 147-pound class and Mark Levy in the 127-pound class.

Other Wildcat wrestlers who placed included Frank Abney who finished second in the 169-pound class, Andrew Kaiser who took third in the 100-pound class and Greg Jenkins, who placed fourth in the 134-pound class.

Lowndes had two fourth place finishers in Troy Braswell in the 177-pound class and Jimmy Lolley in the heavyweight division.

3-7-83

Sports Briefs

Studstill Named New VHS Coach

James Studstill has been named the new head basketball coach at Valdosta High replacing Jo Ellis who resigned last week according to announcement by VHS principal Lloyd Mims this morning.

Also named this morning as an assistant basketball coach for VHS was Lynn Willis.

Studstill, 46, has served as a coach at five different schools around south Georgia. For the last five years Studstill has worked for the state board of education. He has been out of coaching for 15 years.

A native of Lakeland, Ga., Studstill played on back-to-back state high school basketball championship teams for Fuzz Pafford at Lanier County.

Studstill graduated from Valdosta State College and the University of Georgia.

He started coaching in 1962 at Claxtonville Junior High. Two years later he took the head coaching position at Jeff Davis High in Hazlehurst.

He returned to Lowndes County in for a two-year stint at Habra High.

Studstill's last coaching position was Cook High where he served from 1966-68.

Willis is a graduate of Moultrie High and VSC. She is presently serving as an assistant at Fitzgerald High. Willis will assume Ellis' physical education classes.



Times 3-8-83

Another 'Cat Going To College

William Collier signed a scholarship to attend Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Fla. on Monday with Valdosta High coach Nick Hyder looking on.

Collier played tackle last year on the Wildcat team that won the state championship by beating Peachtree, 10-7.

VHS Looks Like Winner But Falls To Lanier

KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats, who came into the game 1-7, played perhaps their best game of the season but still came out a loser as they dropped a 50-47 decision to the Lanier County Bulldogs.

The game was a see-saw affair from the outset, and neither team could build a substantial lead.

Valdosta, with :10 seconds remaining in the third quarter, built its biggest lead of the night. With the game tied at 36, Derrick Folsom was fouled while making a lay-up and stepped to the line to extend the lead to three points. However, he missed and Todd Gamble was able to put the rebound back in to put the Wildcats up 42-38, heading into the fourth quarter.

In the night's first game, Valdosta's Lady Wildcats poured it on in a 75-20 victory over Lanier.

Jerome Berrian, who led the Wildcats with 19 points, hit a jumper to put Valdosta up 44-41 with 6:20 left in the game, but the Bulldogs would run off seven straight points to go up 48-44 with 4:14 remaining.

The Wildcats had several opportunities to close the gap or catch the Bulldogs but failed to capitalize. Using a half-court trap, Valdosta caused five turnovers by the Bulldogs, but the Wildcats only were able to convert one of the turnovers into

points, a lay-up by Mark Perry, which cut the lead to 48-46 at the 2:08 mark.

On an offensive rebound, Lanier County's Milton Jenkins, who led Lanier County with 19 points, was fouled. And he sunk both ends of the one-and-one to increase the lead to 50-46.

Valdosta's Moses Daniels, off a missed shot by Barrian, was fouled as he tried to follow the shot. After making the first free throw, Daniels shot an air-ball on the second.

With only :44 seconds remaining, Barrian had a chance to cut the lead from the foul line but missed the front end of his one-and-one.

Lanier County turned the ball over two more times, but Valdosta returned the favor by turning it over also.

"It was a hard one to lose," Wildcats' coach Mike O'Brian said after the game. "Our kids played well except in the fourth quarter. We didn't take advantage of our opportunities, and it hurt us."

The Wildcats were also hurt by poor free-throw shooting, making only 5 of 15.

"Our free-throw shooting hurt us," O'Brian added. "But it always does when you lose by three points."

The Lady Wildcats improved their record to 8-1 with the shellacking of the Lady Bulldogs.

Using a full-court press to start the game, Valdosta forced 15 first-quarter

turnovers by Lanier County, and the Lady Wildcats vaulted to a 33-5 lead at the end of the first stanza.

Andrea Roberts scored 12 of her 14 points, while Ronnie Melvin pumped in 7 of her game-high 17 points in the first quarter.

Coach Jo Ellis was able to play the entire squad after jumping out to the big first quarter lead. Even with the non-regulars in the game, Valdosta was able to extend their lead to 44-10 at the half.

The Lady Bulldogs could not score in the third quarter until 1:40 was left, and the Wildcats had padded their lead to 56-10 by that time.

Boys

Lanier County	12	23	38	50
Valdosta	10	24	42	47

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Lanier County: A. Ryan 2, Jenkins 19, West 9, Bryant 5, Hill 5, Raines 8
Valdosta: Folsom 6, Berrian 19, Daniels 6, Worthy 1, Dailey 4, Register 2, Gamble 7, Perry 2

Girls

Lanier County	05	10	12	20
Valdosta	33	44	56	75

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Lanier County: Reynolds 2, Miller 10, Young 2, Shaw 2, Carter 1, Charles 3
Valdosta: Conaway 6, Harrell 3, Roberts 14, Foster 2, Melvin 17, Peeler 11, C. Weatherspoon 5, S. Weatherspoon 2, Henderson 4, L. Irvin 8, W. Irvin 3



Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco
VHS' Roberts Strikes

The Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville, Wednesday, January 5, 1983

Lady Wildcats needed a break

By Daryl Bell
Times-Union Sports Writer

For many coaches, the holiday break can be disastrous, especially after a loss.

But Valdosta High's girls basketball coach Jo Ellis doesn't think so. She welcomed the extended vacation as though it were a pardon from prison.

The Lady Wildcats are currently 7-1 overall and in sole possession of first place in Region 1-AAAA South with a 3-0 mark. The only loss of the season occurred in the finals of the Lowndes Christmas tournament. Cook County defeated Valdosta 55-51 to take the title.

Because of it, Ellis was more than pleased about the break.

"We really needed one," said Ellis. "The girls had been going at it long enough. I felt that not only did they need a break, but I needed one as well. We didn't hold any practices during the vacation period. I felt that they had to get away from it all. It makes for better concentration."

Ellis is so scientific that the Lady Wildcats' first game of the new year will be Saturday against Lanier County, which is rather late, considering that many teams will have already resumed play.

"We scheduled it that way deliberately," explained Ellis. "We didn't want to come back from a long vacation with a game. Anything can happen. By scheduling it for the weekend, we'd get back into the groove with some practices and there's not that much pressure on us."

Ellis is hoping that her shrewd scheduling will pay off with a first-round bye in the Region 1-AAAA playoff tournament.

✓ Cook County's Clemmie Nell Smith, a 6-foot-2 senior center, is being touted as the best collegiate prospect in the area. In the Lowndes tourney, she averaged 29.7 points per game. In the championship game against Valdosta, she scored 30.

✓ Last year, Ware County's boys, in particular Kensel Bennett, were the butt of many jokes. The Gators staged a 4-17 campaign and Bennett, an imposing figure at 6-7, was being beaten on the court by much smaller players game after game.

Now the laughter has ceased. Ware is off to a 7-1 start and Bennett is leading the charge by averag-



Times-Union Sports Writer

Preps

Daryl Bell

ing 14 points per game. "He's improved so much from last year," said first-year coach Jim Dowling. "He's worked really hard, and it shows. He's one reason why we're going well."

In addition to a rejuvenated Bennett, the Gators will have another offensive weapon when they play arch-rival Waycross High Friday.

Rick Strickland, a 6-1 senior guard, has been added to the roster. Strickland played for Dowling last season at Brantley County, where he averaged 17.4 points per game. He was around that mark this season as well. A holiday break transfer, Strickland will be eligible in time for the Ware-Waycross game.

✓ Glynn Academy is off to an 0-5 start, but one bright spot has been the play of Darrell B. Thomas. The 6-4 senior is averaging 28.5 points per game, but the lack of an adequate supporting cast makes him an easy target for a box-and-one defense. Tyrone McClendon, a 6-4 1/2 football standout, takes some of the pressure off Thomas. He's averaging 8.7 rebounds per game.

✓ Camden County's girls are 7-1 largely because four players are averaging in double figures. Cornice Butler, a 5-2 guard, leads Camden in scoring with an 18.0 average. She's followed by junior forward Donna Hill [12.0], while Christel Waye and Collette Tate are averaging 10 a game.

✓ Atkinson County's girls, looking for a Region 2-A title to go with their first-ever region football championship, are 6-1 overall and 3-0 in the sub-region. Led by Keshia Freeman, who's dishing out 10 assists a game, Atkinson is beginning to look like a state title contender.

Resolution Honors 'Cats

From Staff, Wire Reports

The state football championship victory by the Valdosta High School Wildcats did not go unnoticed by the Lowndes County Commission.

At their Wednesday meeting, commissioners signed a resolution congratulating the team for its successful season and state 4-AAAA crown.

"We are proud of the accomplishments of this athletic team this year," chairman Fred DeLoach Jr. said. "They were just fantastic."

Sports In Brief

VHS Wrestlers Pin Dougherty

The Valdosta High wrestling team improved its record to 2-0 Thursday with a 52-23 win over Dougherty High School.

Winners for Valdosta were: Andrew Kaiser, Terry Wortham, Marl Levy, Jack Priest, Danny McLeod, Frank Abney, Jimmy Lewis, Randy Crews, Leon Johnson

Valdosta will put its unbeaten record on the line when it hosts Cook tonight at 7:30 at the V. H. S. gym.

Jan 7 83

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VHS Searches For 3rd Win

Over LHS

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

It is tough enough to beat a team once, even tougher to beat a team twice, and it is supposed to be nearly impossible to beat a team three times in one season. But that is the task facing Jo Ellis' Valdosta Lady Wildcats tonight when they play host to the Vikettes of Lowndes at 7:00.

Both games this season between these cross-county rivals have been played at Lowndes. The first was played back on Dec. 7 in which Andrea Roberts drove the length of the court to hit a layup with 7 seconds remaining to give the Lady Wildcats a 50-49 win.

The second meeting took place in the Lowndes Christmas Tournament. With Ronnie Melvin hitting for 16, and Shevon Peeler and Bridget Harrell adding 10 each, the Lady Wildcats took a 51-44 victory.

Even though she must take her squad into a third match

against the Vikettes, Ellis does not believe it will be a disadvantage. "I think it is to our advantage that we have won the two games," Ellis said. "They may try to use some psyche tricks on their players, since they were beaten."

Opening the 1983 part of their schedule Saturday night against Lanier County, the Lady 'Cats showed no ill effects of their 20-day break, demolishing the Lady Bulldogs 75-20.

However, Ellis was not pleased with all phases of the game. "It was not pretty, but we will take it," Ellis said after the blowout. "We were sloppy, but that is to be expected after the break. I was pleased that everybody got to play."

Meanwhile, Lowndes is coming off a big win last Friday night in Albany against Westover, 67-36.

The Vikettes, who are 7-4 on the season, are led by Renee Wilson, who is averaging 13.1 points per game, and Lisa Hughes (11.7).



Jo Ellis Looking For 3rd Win Over LHS

For Viking coach Terry Wilkes, it has been a long month. It has been a month since the Vikings last win. On Dec. 11, the Vikings beat Thomasville 69-60, but since that win, which put the Vikings at 5-2, Wilkes has seen his club lose three in a row and their record drop to the .500 mark.

Lowndes' losses have come at Central of Thomasville (53-51), against Berrien County (38-30) and at Westover (74-56).

"It has been awful (since a win)," Wilkes said. "We need to get back into the winner's column, but this is not the most ideal situation to do that."

"Valdosta is 1-7, but it has played better recently, and are ready to beat somebody."

Wilkes will have to go with two players who will be at less than full strength. Alan Taylor, who sprained his ankle at Westover, will play with it tightly wrapped. Also center Cliff Godwin will play with a virus.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Jan. 12, 1983-3-

Parker Receives DOE Award

By SUZANNE CARSWELL
Times Staff Writer

A Valdosta High School graduate has been named as the first recipient of the state Department of Education's awards for outstanding achievement by public school students.

David Parker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marion H. Parker of 2603 Rolling Hill Drive, has been named the state Scholar-Athlete for January, according to Dr. Charles McDaniel, state

superintendent of schools.

The state school board will honor individuals and schools from different curriculum areas each month, presenting the winners with medals, according to city school Superintendent Ralph Brandon.

January has been set aside for the recognition of the health, physical education, driver education and athletic areas.

Parker, who was a 1982 graduate of VHS, is now a

student at Princeton University in New Jersey, which he is attending on an academic and athletic scholarship.

He will not get to attend the state school board meeting Thursday to accept his award, but Brandon will make the acceptance on his behalf.

"It's a real honor," Brandon said of the award, "especially since it's in both categories."

Parker was top honor graduate in his class and was voted by the faculty to be the

most outstanding senior.

He participated in the Governor's Honors Program in the area of mathematics and was a member of VHS's award-winning math team.

He was selected as the school's most outstanding calculus student.

Parker was also voted Most Valuable Player on the All-Region football team in the 11th and 12th grades.

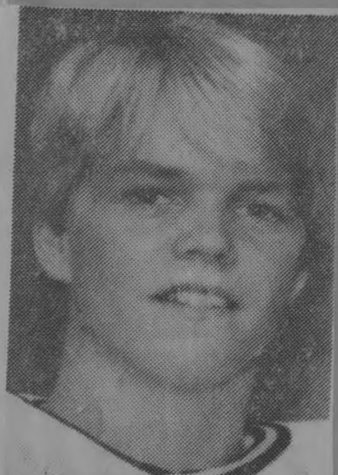
He was captain of the varsity football team in 1981 and cap-

tain of the baseball team in 1982.

He was a member of the VH golf team and the championship region wrestling team.

His memberships include the Key Club, the Beta Club Student Council, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

He was chosen by The Jacksonville Journal for the Super 11 team for 1981-82.

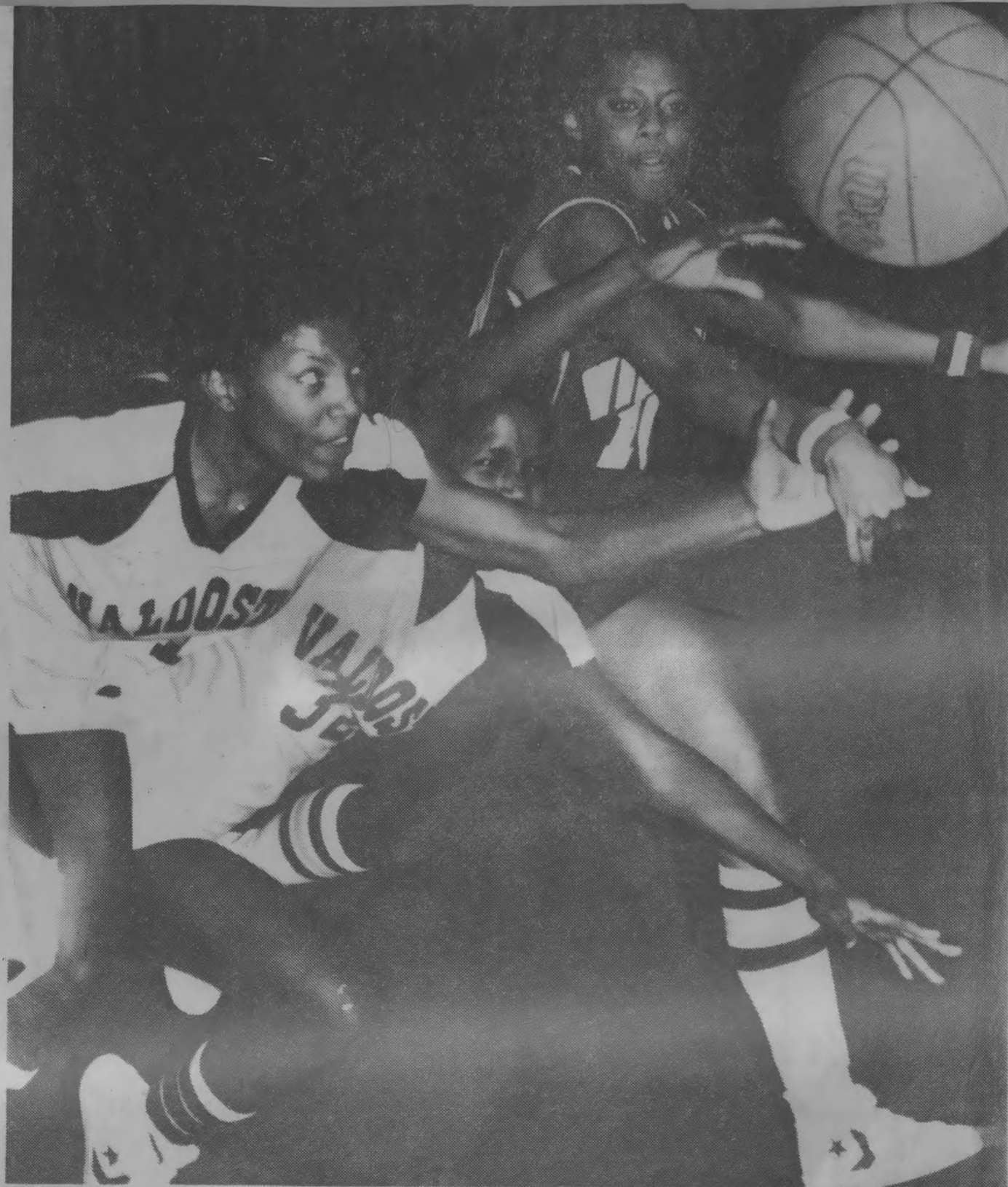


DAVID PARKER
Now At Princeton

VDT

Wed Jan 12, 1983

SPORTS



Times Staff Photos by Joey Ivansco

Lowndes' Beverly Hart (R) Battles Valdosta's Lisa Conaway And Ronnie Melvin (L)

Sports In Brief

Area Basketball

The Valdosta Daily Times

Home-Court Jinx Intact As Vikettes Nip Valdosta

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

Winning on the road is perhaps the hardest thing to do in sports. But when the Lowndes and Valdosta girls basketball teams get together just the opposite occurs.

For the last three years, neither the Vikettes nor Lady Wildcats have been able to garner a win when the cross-county rival has entered their home gymnasium.

That trend continued Tuesday night at the Valdosta Gym as Lowndes came away with an emotion-filled 36-35 victory.

The Lowndes boys made it a sweep in the nightcap by holding on to a 65-56 decision.

In the previous two meetings between the LHS and VHS girls this season, both of which were played at the Lowndes Gym, the Lady 'Cats walked away with a pair of victories by a combined total of eight points.

But on the verge of a hat trick, with the score tied 35-35 and less than 30 seconds to play, Valdosta fouled Beverly Hart with six seconds to play, sending the senior to the free-throw line to shoot a one-and-one. Hart made the first, missed the second and the Vikettes had finally knocked off their nemesis.

Hart finished the game with a team-high 13 points, three coming from the free-throw line. Valdosta's Andrea Roberts led all scorers with 15.

The only other players in double figures were Lowndes' Renee Wilson with 12 and Valdosta's Ronnie Melvin with 11.

Just moments before, Valdosta had seemingly sent the game into overtime when Bridget Harrell followed her missed shot to knot the game at 35-35. But instead of falling back into a zone defense after the basket, Valdosta stayed in its pressure man-to-man and

VHS coach Jo Ellis said that was what caused the foul late in the game.

"Mental mistakes," Ellis said, "the whole game. It was just not our night."

Early on, though, it was just the opposite. Valdosta jumped out to a 8-2 lead in the first quarter. By the quarter, Lowndes had trimmed it to 13-8.

By the half it was just one, 19-18.

Lowndes briefly led in the first half on two occasions, but in the second half the Vikettes took a 23-20 advantage and never trailed. Valdosta never fell behind by more than three points and with 4:40 left in the game Roberts connected on a three-point play to even the score at 33-33.

The next time down the floor, Natasha Horne, who finished the game with seven points, was fouled and made both free throws to put Lowndes back on top 35-33 with 3:50 left.

"It was a total team effort," said Lowndes coach Steve Kebler, whose Vikettes are now 7-4 overall and 3-2 in the 1-AAAA's South subregion. "The team played real well. Our bench came through for us."

But more importantly, the win puts the Vikettes back in the hunt for the region title. "It's a tremendous boost for us," Kebler said. "This puts us back in the thick of things. It shows that we can play with anybody."

The loss dropped Valdosta to 8-2 overall, but it was the first in the subregion.

"We're not going to have time to sit back and feel sorry for ourselves," said Ellis, whose team travels to Brooks County Saturday night.

The big difference in the loss to Lowndes, said Ellis, was foul trouble. Guard Shevon Peeler picked up her fourth foul in the

first quarter and had to sit out the rest of the half. Even though she returned in the third quarter and played the rest of the game, she was really no factor, scoring only two points.

"While I had my subs getting ready to go into the game she picked it up," Ellis said of Peeler's fourth foul. "That's what killed us. Peeler having to sit killed us."

In the boys' game, Lowndes appeared headed for a runaway victory. After building leads of 19-8 after the first quarter and 37-15 at the half, the Vikings built their biggest lead of the night, 47-21, midway through the third quarter.

But Valdosta reeled off 12 straight points to close within 14, 47-33, with 2:10 left in the third period.

With Valdosta making everything from the field combined with the Vikings inability to make a free throw (for the game Lowndes shot 48 percent from the line), the Wildcats pulled within seven, 52-43, with 6:40 left in the game.

But that was as close as Valdosta could get as Lowndes held on for its sixth win of the year against five defeats.

Valdosta fell to 1-8. "Free throw shooting was the difference," said Lowndes coach Terry Wilkes. "We missed nine one-and-ones in the second half. We had kids miss the whole goal."

Lowndes center Cliff Godwin, who was sick with a virus the night before the game, led all scorers with 22 points. At the half he had 15 points and 15 rebounds. Darryl Chandler added 20 and Alan Taylor 15 for the Vikings.

Valdosta was led by Todd Gamble and Moses Daniels who each scored 14 points. Derrick Folsom added 12.

"These pressure games are going to help down the



VICTORIOUS VIKETTE
Lisa Hughes Shows Emotion

streach," Wilkes said. "I'll take them any way we can get them."

Girls' Game				
Lowndes	8	18	29	36
Valdosta	13	19	27	35
INDIVIDUAL STATS				
LHS	— Wilson 12, Hart 13, Hughes 4, Horne 7			
VHS	— Conaway 7, Harrell 4, Roberts 15, Melvin 11, Peeler 2, C. Weatherspoon 2.			

Boys' Game				
Lowndes	19	37	49	65
Valdosta	8	15	33	56
INDIVIDUAL STATS				
LHS	— Taylor 15, March 2, Carter 3, Shroyer 3, Chandler 20, Godwin 22.			
VHS	— Berrian 2, Bailey 7, Daniels 14, Folsom 12, Gamble 14, Thompson 4, Worthy 1, Stokes 2.			

1983

Hyder Receives Another Honor

Valdosta High Wildcats coach Nick Hyder was recently honored as Georgia's High School Coach of the Year by the 100 Percent Wrong Club of Atlanta.

Hyder led the 1982 edition of the Wildcats to a perfect 15-0 season and their first sole state championship since 1971.

Wildcat players honored by the club were Jeff Lee and Herbert Lowe. Both of which played on the state championship team in 1982.

Solution For 'Cats, Vikes

Rain has really had a bearing on baseball in our area this spring. Every team has had at least one game postponed because of the wet stuff. Some teams can't count on two hands the number of rain outs.

It's gotten so bad teams are looking for new opponents to help make up for the games that have already been cancelled.

At Valdosta High head coach Charles Tarpley is becoming frustrated with the season. When the precipitation isn't cancelling games, it is having tell-tale influence on them.

Before Saturday's loss to Tift County, the Wildcats only defeat on their near-perfect ledger was directly caused by rain. The 'Cats played through the early half of a date with Tift holding a firm lead. But the clouds erupted and the game was postponed for over an hour.

When the two clubs returned to the field, it was the beginning of the end for the 'Cats. They whiffed helplessly at the ball failing to make contact, while the Blue Devils pounded the cover off.

The end result was the first mark in the 'L' column.

The 'Cats added their second scratch Saturday afternoon with a 2-1 loss to those same Blue Devils.

But Valdosta is not the only local baseball team searching to add to games to the '83 schedule as make ups. Cross-town Lowndes is in the same boat.

The Vikings were slated to play a double header against Tallahassee-Leon last weekend, but the rain gods had other ideas. Continuous showers damped any hope of getting the game in.

At almost that very same time Valdosta was planning a date with a high school from Cleveland, Tenn. But again it was just too wet for such a get-together.

On the junior high level its even worse. The Valdosta and Lowndes 9th grade and B-Teams have taken to playing each other on a regular basis just to get some games in.

So Valdosta and Lowndes are left with two open dates on their schedule and no one to fill the void.

And with the Georgia High School Association rule limiting the '83 season to 18 games, every one counts, especially if you are looking for post-season play. Games are so much more vital than any practice session.

But neither the 'Cats nor the Vikings have any clear-cut prospects to add to the shortened season. Seems like a real delimita, eh?

It shouldn't be, though. Both have the same need. Why can't both satisfy their own need, while in turn satisfying the other?

Why not play each other?

Sure, they have already played once this season — Valdosta won that meeting at the 'Cats' Bazemore Field — and they are slated to clash again on April 29 in the season finale for both teams at Lowndes Field, but a double header wouldn't weigh the schedule down.

Both have numerable open dates before the end of the year. Two games one evening at Blazer Field, preferably when Valdosta State is off or out-of-town, would be perfect. They could split the profits down the middle and the local citizenry could be treated to some good baseball.

Tarpley said he would not be opposed to such a meeting, that is if it didn't come too close to the date already set for the Lowndes-Valdosta game.

"There's no since playing two games that don't mean anything right before we play a game that means something," Tarpley said.

But as for now the prospects look dim for either the 'Cats or the Vikes to squeeze their allotted games Nos. 17 and 18 into the rain-hampered season.

Could it be that it would be too easy?

Six Gymnasts Qualify For State

ALBANY — Six Valdosta gymnasts qualified for state in a Class II and III compulsory and optional meet held Tuesday at the Albany YMCA.

Beth Harris captured first place in the all around for the 15-and-over age group, while Kellie Sessions placed third in the all around in the 9-11 age group.

Patricia Webb, participating in the 12-14 age group, won third place in the all-around.

Others qualifying for state were Becky Davis, Shannon Brooks and Becky Broadfott

Math Day Winner

TIFTON — A Valdosta High School student finished second in the junior division of Math Day competition at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College here.

A spokesman said Lovis G. Gonis received a calculator as his prize for finishing second in the annual test. It was sponsored by Mu Alpha Theta Math Club at ABAC in cooperation with the Division of Science and Mathematics and Tift County High School.

Finishing first in the junior division was a student from Peach County High School in Ft. Valley. The senior division was won by a student from Westover High School in Albany, Ga., with second place going to another Peach County High student.



BENTON ANDERSON
Georgia Tech Ahead



MARY TAORMINA
Pre-Law

Anderson, Taormina Named Merit Finalists

By Times Staff Writer

Two Valdosta High School seniors have been named National Merit finalists.

The National Merit Scholarship program awards national honors to outstanding high school scholars.

Scholarships are awarded to some National Merit finalists.

Mary Taormina, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Frank E. Taormina, and Benton Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Anderson, were the finalists from VHS.

Miss Taormina, a native of New Orleans, La., has lived in Valdosta four years.

She has been involved in debate and drama and is an editor of the yearbook at VHS.

She won third place in the region for individual debate speakers.

She plans to attend college, but doesn't know which one yet, and would like to study pre-law, she said.

Anderson, a native of Kansas City, Mo., has lived in Valdosta six years.

He is a member of the Beta Club and the Math Team at VHS.

He also attends Park Avenue United Methodist Church and is an Eagle Scout in Troop 415 which meets at the church.

He plans to attend Georgia

Tech and major in engineering, he said.

Virginia Wisenbaker, senior counselor at VHS, said National Merit winners are chosen according to their scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test and the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

Their PSAT score determines whether they get to semi-finalist status and predicts what they are expected to make on the SAT (college board), she said.

If their SAT score lives up what was anticipated by the PSAT score, they advance to finalist status.

Each state is allotted a certain number of National Merit semi-finalists on the basis of its 10th grade enrollment, Mrs. Wisenbaker said.

Finalists will find out in the spring whether they are to be awarded a scholarship, she said.

Sports In Brief

VHS Grapplers Finish 12th

From Staff Reports

MARIETTA — The Valdosta High wrestling team finished the Class AAAA state tournament here at the Cobb Civic Center with 41½ points Saturday night which was good for a 12th-place finish among the 56 teams gathered at the tourney.

Redan of DeKalb County was the overall winner of the tournament, racking up 153 points to outdistance second-place finisher Parkview, which garnered 104 points. LaGrange wound up in third place with 93½ points.

"This is the best we've ever done," said Valdosta wrestling coach Jim Landrum, "and, by gosh, we were able to do this with a young team. We'll be back next year. We'll wrestle a lot over the spring and summer, and maybe next year we'll be able to compete with some of these people."

Valdosta's Leon Johnson, wrestling in the heavyweight division, finished third in the state among the heavyweights, winning four matches and losing one. Included among his victories was a win over Tift County's Roy Hart, who defeated Johnson a week ago in the region tournament.

Also, Scott Richardson of Valdosta, wrestling in the 107-pound category, produced three wins and a sixth-place finish.

Winners of matches also included Craig Clement (121 pounds), Mark Levy (128), Jack Priest (147), Danny McLeod (158), Jimmy Lewis (177), Victor Waymon (188) and James Wakefield (198).

LHS DE Takes First

By SUZANNE CARSWELL
Times Staff Writer

The overall first-place trophy for district Distributive Education competition has gone to Lowndes High School.

Phil Walden, DE coordinator at LHS, said the students who placed in the competition "went in there and got the job done."

How the school's chapter of Distributive Education Clubs of America fares on the district level is usually indicative of how the club does in state competition, he said.

The overall trophy goes to the school which wins more contests than any other on the district level.

First-place winners from LHS were Hugh Chancey, Student of the Year; Charles Bailey, advertising services; Chad Plaire, food marketing; and Andy Hughes, business spelling-vocabulary.

Second-place winners were Katherine Carter, apparel and accessories; Mitch Bennett, restaurant marketing and management; and Kevin Bailey, job interview.

Taking third place from LHS were Mark Fletcher, service station retailing; and Lyle Tomlinson, business speech.

All those placing in the top three positions will compete on the state level April 8-10 in Atlanta.

Valdosta High School boasted two first-place winners in the competition, according to Norman Greene, DE coordinator there.

They were Lisa Jenkins, finance and credit; and Valica Johnson, restaurant marketing and management.

Second-place winners from VHS were Richard Irby, business speech; and Merinell Hamilton, business spelling-vocabulary.

Taking third place from VHS were Jennifer Richardson, job interview; Lisa Herbert, Student of the Year; Nicole Roesch, general merchandising; Barbie Carmichael, apparel and accessories; and Melissa Winfrey, advertising services.

Dennis Nolan from LHS was successful in campaigning for office at the district meet, according to Walden.

Nolan passed the state officer's candidacy test and was elected state vice president in charge of District 7, Walden said.

Campaigning for office at the state convention will be Terry Tomlinson from LHS.

Tomlinson also passed the test and will run for the office of state vice president in charge of all eight districts.

Nation 'Threatened' By Decline In Educational Standards

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is threatened by "a rising tide of mediocrity" in education that can only be stopped by tougher standards and a longer school day or school year, a blue-ribbon panel reported today.

"Our nation is at risk," the National Commission on Excellence in Education said in a blistering report being released to an audience of educators, politicians and civil leaders at the White House.

"If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war," the diverse 18-member panel declared in its unanimous report.

"The ideal of academic excellence as the primary goal of schooling seems to be fading across the board in American education," it charged.

Education Secretary T.H. Bell, who created the panel 20 months ago, said in an interview that the report documented "the quite shocking collapse in student performance" since the late

1960s.

He predicted the report would have "an enormous impact upon the country and upon American education."

The panel, chaired by University of Utah President David Pierpont Gardner, who is soon to become president of the University of California system, held public hearings and commissioned 40 papers from educational experts in arriving at its findings.

Its final, 29-page report — about 7,000 words — is labeled, "An Open Letter to the American People," and titled, "A Nation At Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform."

It urged that:

—School districts and state legislatures "strongly consider seven-hour school days, as well as a 200-to-220-day school year." U.S. schools typically have six hours of classes, 180 days a year.

—All students seeking a high school diploma be required to take four years of English; three years of math; three years of science; three years of social studies, and a half-year of

computer science. For the college-bound, it recommended two years of foreign language.

—Colleges raise their entrance standards across-the-board.

—Teachers assign high school students "far more homework than is now the case."

—Teachers get higher pay and 11-month contracts, while using "an effective evaluation system that includes peer review" to weed out or improve inferior teachers.

—Citizens provide the fiscal support to carry out the reforms, and that parents demand more of their children.

It attacked the "smorgasbord" of high school electives and likened the "homogenized, diluted and diffused" high school curricula to a cafeteria "in which the appetizers and desserts can easily be mistaken for the main courses."

The panel included: Yale President A. Bartlett Giamatti; Nobel laureate and former head of the Atomic Energy Commission Glenn T. Seaborg; former Minnesota Gov. Albert H. Quie; Norman C. Francis, president of Xavier University in New Orleans; William O. Baker,

retired chairman of Bell Telephone Laboratories, and Yvonne W. Larsen, past president of the San Diego, Calif., school board and vice chairman of the commission.

Also, former Nebraska Commissioner of Education Anne Campbell; Emerald A. Crosby, principal of Northern High School in Detroit; Charles A. Foster Jr., past president of the Foundation for Teaching Economics, San Francisco; Shirley Gordon, president of Highline Community College in Midway, Wash.; Robert V. Haderlein of Girard, Kan., past president of the National School Boards Association; Harvard University physics professor Gerald Holton; Annette Y. Kirk of Mecosta, Mich.; Margaret S. Marston of Arlington, Va., a member of the Virginia Board of Education; Albuquerque, N.M., school superintendent Francisco D. Sanchez Jr.; Jay Sommer, a language instructor at New Rochelle High School in New York and the 1981-82 National Teacher of the Year, and Richard Wallace, principal of Lutheran High School East in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.



VHS STARs Miller, Anderson, LHS STARs Cairns, Schutt Honored

City, County Have Two Of Top Four High School Seniors

By SUZANNE CARSWELL
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta and Lowndes County have two of the four top high school seniors in the 2nd Congressional District.

That was announced here Monday night at the annual district banquet for the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition program.

In a tie for district STAR student, Benton Anderson of Valdosta High School shared honors with Michael Sean Kelley of Westover High School in Dougherty County.

Another tie for the first runner-up position saw Robert Walker Cairns of Lowndes High School joined by William

Garrett Matthews of Colquitt County High School.

Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Anderson, chose Barbara Miller as his STAR teacher.

Cairns, son of Col. and Mrs. Douglas B. Cairns of Moody Air Force Base, has Ann Schutt as his STAR teacher.

Kelley's STAR teacher is Anne B. Johnson, and Matthews' is his mother, Patricia P. Matthews.

Anderson, Kelley, Cairns and Matthews, plus their STAR teachers, will be invited to take a six-day tour of Georgia sponsored by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

The students and teachers

will visit tourist attractions, businesses, industries, colleges and universities throughout the state, according to John Sessions, district chairman of the STAR program.

Cairns and Matthews will also receive \$500 scholarships.

Anderson and Kelley received \$500 scholarships and their STAR teachers received \$125 scholarships.

District winners and their teachers also received framed certificates and engraved silver trays.

They will go on to compete for state STAR honors in April, which offer more scholarships and STAR statuettes.

Mrs. Miller, Anderson's

teacher, said Monday night it had been a great pleasure to have Anderson in her math classes, both at VHS and at the Governor's Honors Program last year.

Anderson said the STAR competition had been "kind of nerve-racking for a while, but I hope I'll do well in representing the 2nd District."

Anderson is a native of Kansas City, Mo., and has lived in Valdosta six years.

He plans to attend Georgia Tech to study engineering.

Anderson is a member of the VHS Beta Club and the Math Team.

He attends Park Avenue United Methodist Church,

where he is an Eagle Scout in Troup 415.

He said earlier he chose Mrs. Miller as his STAR teacher because she taught him to think logically and "challenged me a lot more than any other teacher."

Mrs. Miller is a native of Pennsylvania and has taught at VHS six years.

She is a graduate of West Chester State College and is working toward her master's degree at Valdosta State College.

Cairns has received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and plans a career in military service.

A native of Selma, Ala., he has lived in Valdosta a year.

He is treasurer of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and a member of the LHS Key Club.

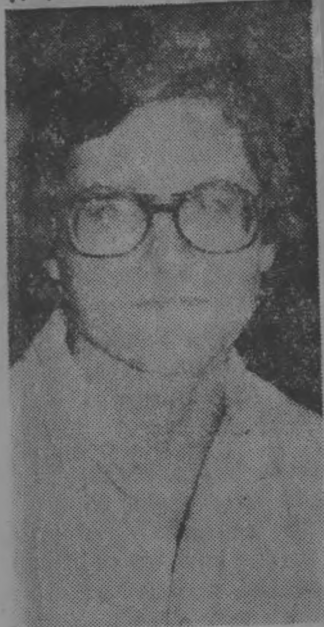
He is also on the LHS wrestling and tennis teams.

Cairns chose Mrs. Schutt because her literary research class is a tough one, but "in spite of all that, she is a friend," he said.

Mrs. Schutt is a Tifton native and has lived in Valdosta 10 years. She has taught at LHS five years.

She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and her master's degree from VSC.

V. Times 3-6-83



BENTON ANDERSON
Challenged



BARBARA MILLER
Math Teacher

Anderson, Miller Are VHS STARs

By SUZANNE CARSWELL
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School's winner of the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition program chose his STAR teacher because she helped him learn how to think logically.

That's something he'll need when he attends Georgia Tech to study engineering.

Benton Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Anderson, is this year's STAR student for VHS.

He chose Barbara Miller, a VHS math teacher as his STAR teacher.

Anderson is a native of Kansas City, Mo., and has lived in Valdosta six years.

He is a member of the VHS Beta Club and Math Team.

He was named a National Merit finalist for VHS.

Anderson attends Park Avenue United Methodist Church and is an Eagle Scout in Troop 415 which meets at the church.

Anderson said he chose Mrs. Miller partly because "she taught me a lot about the field of computers and she's always willing to help out any student who needs help."

She also "challenged me a lot more than any other teacher," he said.

Mrs. Miller is a native of Pennsylvania and has taught math at VHS six years.

A graduate of West Chester State College, she teaches a computer science course at the high school.

She has attended California State University and is working on her master's degree at Valdosta State College.

Mrs. Miller also works with the Math Team and the junior class at VHS.

She and Anderson "can't get away from each other," she said.

She taught math at the Governor's Honors Program at VSC last year and plans to do so again this year.

Anderson has been in her classes at VHS three years and was in her class at GHP last summer.

"He's a good student," she said.

Mrs. Miller was also chosen as STAR teacher last year.

The STAR student from each school is chosen on the basis of scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (college board).

The student with the highest SAT score is chosen to be the STAR student.

Each STAR student chooses a teacher to share the honors with him or her.

The STAR program is sponsored by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and is in its 24th year.

The STAR students from each school will compete for the titles of school system area, district and state STAR.

Scholarships and other awards go to those winning district and state titles.

Sports Briefs

VHS Wrestlers Top All-Region

ALBANY, Ga. — Valdosta High School dominated the first Region 1-AAAA wrestling team just the way it has dominated the sport since region wrestling began three years ago.

The Wildcats, region champions all three years, placed six wrestlers on the first All-Region team announced today.

Valdosta sent all 14 varsity wrestlers to the state tournament, meaning that all had placed in the top four in the region tournament held in Valdosta Feb. 11 and 12.

Tift County and Dougherty, second and fourth respectively in team standings, placed three wrestlers each on the all-region team, while Westover (third) and Lowndes (fifth) had one each.

Valdosta representatives included Scott Richardson at 108 pounds, Mark Levy at 129, Greg Prine at 135, Jack Priest at 148, Frank Abney at 170 and Jimmy Lewis at 178.

Dougherty's trio included George Camp at 115, Omar Melo at 122 and Michael Nix at 138.

Claude Webster at 101, Tony Stephens at 141 and Roy Hart in unlimited were Tift County's representatives.

Westover's lone choice was David Roberts at 198. Roberts went on to win the state 198-pound championship the following weekend at the Cobb County Civic Center in Marietta. He became the first region wrestler to garner a state title since the sport became recognized in the region.

Lowndes, competing in its first year of wrestling, placed Willie Knight, the 158-pound champion, on the team.

Sports Briefs

"Will-Be's" Stop Last Year's 'Cats

From Staff Reports

The Valdosta High "Will-Be's" held off the Wildcats' "Has-Been's" 14-8 in the annual affair held Friday night at Cleveland Field. The football game, matching the graduating seniors against next year's team has been a spring football tradition at VHS for years.

The "Will-Be's" jumped out to an early 7-0 lead in the opening period when junior quarterback Berke Holtzclaw tossed a 30-yard touchdown strike to Charles Foster. The younger Wildcats added to their lead when Mike Martin recovered a "Has-Been" fumble in the endzone during an attempted punt. Anthony Scurry kicked both of the "Will-Be's" extra points.

The "Has-Been's" offensive attack was led by quarterback Ben Reaves who had spent his playing days at VHS lining up at fullback and tight end. The elderly Wildcats' only touchdown came on a 30-yard pass from Reaves to split end Rob Mitchell, who recently signed with Valdosta State College. The scoring play followed a 45-yard pass from Reaves to Mitchell on the previous play. The "Has-Been's" elected to go for two and Reaves sprinted right and hit tight end Brad Martin with the conversion pass.

"We thought the younger players did well," said head coach Nick Hyder. "They made a lot of mistakes but they went out there and played hard up until the end."

Hyder also had praise for his graduating seniors who just three months before had captured the state AAAA crown. "They put a real tough team out on the field," Hyder commented, "I think they just got tired there towards the end."

The Wildcats now prepare for their annual spring game next Saturday night when they face Newnan High at Cleveland Field. Valdosta is then to hold another week of practice to finish out spring practice.

Sports In Brief

VHS Jayvees Pin Brooks

QUITMAN — The undefeated Valdosta junior varsity wrestling team ran its season mark to 4-0 Wednesday with a 45-5 drubbing of Brooks County.

Winners for Valdosta were: Louis Ganis, Patrick Prater, Scott Richardson, Jerry Purvis, Tony Alexander, Kevin Lancaster, Bill Green, Jerry Stacks and James Wakefield.

VHS Wrestlers Host Albany

The undefeated Valdosta High varsity wrestling team returns to action Friday night.

The Wildcats will host Albany High in a match that gets under way at 7:30 p.m., in the VHS Gym.

V.T.
1-16-83

News In Brief VHS Debater Wins First

QUITMAN — Valdosta High School sophomore debater Michael Furukawa placed first this weekend among 74 competitors at the fifth annual Brooks County Forensic Tournament.

Furukawa won the first place award as an affirmative speaker in the four-man division. Teammate Gayle Robinson placed 10th and the team finished in fifth place with a 3-2 record.

Debate Instructor Frank Hjort said the Valdosta competitors will compete again in the Region 1-AAAA tournament Jan. 28 at Valdosta State College.

Lee Davis and Michael Taormina finished in seventh place with a 4-1 record among negative teams in the four-man division. April Wagner and Michele Murff also entered the four-man competition on the negative and Laura Faussonne and David Furukawa participated as affirmative speakers.

Barry Herrin, Michael Herrin, Jim Rensenhouse and Mary Taormina entered the varsity competition. Cammie Buerry and Paul Johnson participated in the oral interpretation competition.

Valdosta has defeated high school debate teams from Brunswick, Warner Robins, Savannah, Berrien, Nichols and Dublin.

Jan 13 83

Fourth Quarter Burst Lifts Lady 'Cats

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

QUITMAN — The Valdosta Lady Wildcats played for three quarters like they were in a fog but in the fourth quarter they played like the No. 7 team in the state and buried the Brooks County Lady Trojans, 62-36.

In the nightcap, the Trojans beat the Wildcats 63-60.

Leading only 40-30 going into the final period, the Lady Wildcats ran off eight straight points to put any thoughts Brooks County had of an upset to rest. The victory upped Valdosta's record to 9-2 and came on the heels of a 1-point loss to Lowndes last Tuesday night.

"The team talked about pride in the locker room at halftime," said Lady Wildcats coach Jo Ellis after the game. "And I think it finally showed in the fourth quarter."

"We played well in three parts of our game," said Ellis. "We played our

defense, press and fast break very well. But like the Lowndes game, we didn't execute our offense. We are trying to force the ball inside too much. Our guards (Shevon Peeler and Bridgett Harrell) are in a terrible slump, and they will start taking extra shooting practice."

Peeler, who is the spark plug on the team and gets the break going for Valdosta, had a game that was similar to her Lowndes performance. Picking up three fouls in the first five minutes (she had four in five minutes against Lowndes), Peeler was not able to play with the same intensity she normally plays with.

Meanwhile, Harrell went 0-8 from the field and ended up with only six points. "She is not in a groove," Ellis stated. "She is just not hitting anything. Maybe the pressure is getting to her, and I may have to make some changes."

Ronnie Melvin led the Lady Wildcats with 22 points, and Andrea Roberts added

19. "They both had great games," Ellis said. "They are the only two I can count on right now to play consistently and get into double figures every night."

After opening a 31-17 halftime lead to 40-25 with 3:25 left in the third quarter, the Lady Wildcats went ice cold. But Brooks County could score but five points to cut the lead to 40-30 at the end of the quarter.

However, Brooks had several chances to close the gap in the final seconds of the quarter, but Charlotte Lambert, who led the Lady Trojans with 11 points missed a lay-up, and Tuwanna Stroud, who added seven, was called for traveling on her way to a basket at the buzzer.

"It was tough getting our girls up for this game," Ellis said. "They (The Lady Trojans) won their first game Friday night."

We have three tough games coming up next week (Colquitt County on Tuesday,

Central on Friday and Alkinson County in Pearson on Saturday," Ellis said. And they are all good teams. The way we played we are not ready."

The Trojans' Calvin English, who scored 15 points on the night, hit a pair of free throws with only 11 seconds remaining to give Brooks County their win over Valdosta, which dropped to 1-9.

Maurice Freeman and Terrance Rayford both hit 17 points to lead the Trojans.

Brooks County held a 36-26 edge in rebounding, which came to be a big factor late in the game as Rayford and Freeman repeatedly put in offensive rebounds.

After trailing by as much as eight points in the first half, Valdosta came back to gain its first lead with only 15 seconds left in the half on a lay-up by Jerome Berrian, who finished with a game-high 19 points.

At the start of the third stanza, Moses Daniels scored two of his 14 points to give

Valdosta its biggest lead of the game at 32-29. However, the Wildcats turned the ball over the next three trips down court and allowed the Trojans to run off nine unanswered points to go up 38-32.

Valdosta was able to get back to within one point on several occasions in the fourth quarter but was never able to regain the lead.

GIRLS

Valdosta 17 31 40 62

Brooks County 09 17 30 38

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta: Roberts 19, Melvin 22, Harrell 6,

Peeler 6, Weatherspoon 6, Henderson 3

Brooks County: Gleen 6, Stroud 7, Lambert

11, Stokes 2, Goss 6, Flippen 6

BOYS

Valdosta 06 30 45 63

Brooks County 13 29 46 63

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta: Folsom 3, Berrian 19, Daniels 14,

Dalley 4, Register 2, Gamble 10, Thompson 8

Brooks County: English 15, Strickland 2,

Rayford 17, Freeman 17, Brown 2, Williams

6, Holden 2, Jackson 2

Ellis Expects Test From Packerettes

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Lady Wildcats, fresh off a 62-38 victory over Brooks County, play hosts to the Colquitt County Packerettes tonight at 7:00.

Earlier in the season (Nov. 30, 1982), the Lady Wildcats had to come from behind to defeat the Packerettes 56-52 in Moultrie. After trailing by as much as 10 points in the second quarter, VHS behind Andrea Roberts, who scored 20 points, was able to pull out the victory.

In other area action tonight, Lowndes plays at Thomasville, Berrien County hosts Lanier County, Open Bible hosts Central, Valwood is at home against Irwin and Georgia Christian continues its road trip in Moultrie against Pineland.

Even though her team had just pulled out a tough win over Brooks County, Lady Wildcats coach Jo Ellis was already looking ahead to Colquitt County. "It will be tough,"

Ellis said Saturday night. "Colquitt County is a contender, and the way we've played we are not ready."

That may sound like an absurd statement coming from a coach whose team just won by 24 points, but final scores only 10 at the end of the third quarter, and Brooks County had several chances to cut the lead even further in the last three minutes of the third quarter. In the fourth period, Valdosta finally played like it can and outscored Brooks County 22-8.

Ellis had trouble getting her players emotionally ready for the Lady Trojans, who had won their first game Friday night, but she shouldn't have that smae trouble tonight.

For the Lady Wildcats, who are 9-2 overall, to beat the Packerettes, they must get better play out of their guards. Shevon Peeler scored 16 in the first meeting. She has gotten

into early foul trouble in the two previous games and has not been a factor.

The Packerettes are 7-2 on the season. They are led by Gwen Richardson, who scored 27 points against VHS.

In the boys contest, Valdosta brings a 1-9 record into the game, while the Packers are 11-2.

The Lowndes Vikings will be trying to get back on track when they play Thomasville. The Vikings won the earlier meeting 69-60 in Valdosta, but Lowndes coach Terry Wilkes knows things could be different this time around.

"They have a tough ballclub," he said. "I know they will be better this time around because a lot of their players were just starting to play due to football."

The Vikings will take a 7-6 record against the 8-6 Bulldogs, while the Vikesettes (9-5) will take on the Lady Bulldogs (8-6).



Lady 'Cat Coach Jo Ellis Looks To Colquitt

Times Staff Photo

Fourth Quarter Burst Lifts Lady 'Cats

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

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GIRLS

Valdosta	17	31	40	62
Brooks County	09	17	30	38
INDIVIDUAL STATS				
Valdosta:	Roberts 19, Melvin 22, Harrell 6, Peeler 6, Weatherspoon 6, Henderson 3			
Brooks County:	Green 6, Stroud 7, Lambert 11, Stokes 2, Goss 6, Filippens 6			

BOYS

Valdosta	06	30	45	63
Brooks County	13	29	46	63
INDIVIDUAL STATS				
Valdosta:	Folsom 3, Berrian 19, Daniels 14, Dailley 4, Register 2, Gamble 10, Thompson 8			
Brooks County:	English 15, Streckland 2, Rayford 17, Freeman 17, Brown 2, Williams 6, Holden 2, Jackson 2			

Jan. 16, 1983

Area Prep Basketball, 20-10, at intermission.

of the second quarter. After leading by as

Fason 2, Chandler 12, Goodwin 5, Butler 2, Baker 3.

Sliding Lady 'Cats Fall To Colquitt

1-11-83

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

"Mental mistakes," said Valdosta Lady Wildcats' coach Jo Ellis after watching her squad drop a 56-55 decision to the Packerettes of Colquitt County. "Again we played well enough to win except for making mental mistakes."

The loss was the Lady Wildcats' third of the season against nine wins, but more importantly, they have dropped three out of their last five dating back to the Lowndes Christmas Tournament. The loss was also the second in the sub-region for VHS, which leaves four teams (VHS, Lowndes, Colquitt County and Central) tied for the lead.

Although the Lady Wildcats made several mental mistakes down the stretch, it was the strong inside play of the Packerettes' Gwen Richardson and Vanessa Stewart that was the ultimate undoing of Valdosta.

Richardson led all scorers with 23 points as well as pulling down 13 rebounds. On defense, she was given the assignment of playing the middle of the 2-3 zone, which put her up against the region's leading scorer in Valdosta's Andrea Roberts.

Roberts was held to 15 points, four below her average. Meanwhile, Stewart had 13 points and hit what eventually

became the winning free throw with only 12 seconds remaining.

Up 43-39 entering the fourth quarter, Roberts and Ronnie Melvin hit baskets for VHS, while Richardson hit two for Colquitt County.

Melvin's basket put the Lady Wildcats up 47-43 with 6:28 showing on the clock. However, Melvin had to come out of the game due to knee problems, which she hurt last year. "She had to go to the doctor Tuesday afternoon to have some fluid drained from her knee," Ellis said. "I had to take her out because she was in so much pain."

After Melvin left the game, the Packerettes ran off 10 straight points to go up 53-47 with only 1:25 left.

On two free throws by Bridgett Harrell, and baskets by Roberts and Lisa Conaway, while Colquitt County's Sheila Williams hit two free throws to give the Packerettes a 55-53 lead at the 23 second mark.

With a chance to tie the contest after causing a turnover by Colquitt County, Ellis tried to tell her players to call a timeout, but no one heard her above the screaming crowd. "I don't know if that is the players' fault or not when they can't hear, but they are supposed to be looking toward the bench."

Melvin missed a long-range

jumper, and it was left to Stewart to hit her free throw before Connie Weatherspoon hit a meaningless lay-up at the buzzer.

In the boy's game, Colquitt County behind the 27 points of center Kirby Stewart, whipped the Wildcats 78-58.

However, Valdosta, which came into the contest with a 1-9 record, played evenly with the Packers, who were 11-2, for nearly the entire first half.

Jerome Berrian led the Wildcats with 17 points. Falling behind 13-8 in the early going, VHS came back to score eight unanswered points — the last two on a basket by Berrian to open the second quarter, which gave the Wildcats a three point lead. But then Stewart went to work, scoring 12 points in the quarter to help the Packers finally pull away.

Boys Game

Colquitt County	13	35	55	78
Valdosta	14	28	44	58

INDIVIDUAL STATS
Colquitt County: Brown 14, Summerdyke 14, Stewart 27, Cobb 6, Lee 13, Thomas 4
Valdosta: Folsom 6, Berrian 17, Daniels 8, Werhag 4, Dalley 4, Register 4, Gamble 8, Stokes 1, Perry 6

Girls Game

Colquitt County	12	31	39	56
Valdosta	12	25	43	55

INDIVIDUAL STATS
Colquitt County: G. Richardson 23, Stewart 13, J. Seay 11, S. Williams 8, A. Richardson 13
Valdosta: Harrell 6, Roberts 15, Melvin 8, Peeler 12, C. Weatherspoon 6, Conaway 8



VHS' Ronnie Melvin Was Held To Eight Points Against Colquitt
Times Staff Photos by Joey Ivansco

VDT Sports Briefs 1-22-83

'Dosta Matmen Suffer 1st Loss

Valdosta dropped its first wrestling match of the season Thursday, a 43-14 decision to Fitzgerald. The Wildcats are now 6-1 on the season.

Winners for Valdosta were Terry Wortham (107-pound class), Mark Levy (128), Greg Prine (134) and Jack Priest (147).

Priest's victory evened the match at 14, but Valdosta could not pull out another victory. "Fitzgerald is power-packed after the 147-pound class, including three state finalists," said Valdosta coach Jim Landrum.

Valdosta will travel to Fitzgerald Saturday night for matches against Warner Robins and Woodward Academy. The junior varsity travels to Moultrie for a match tonight.

Valdosta Boys Down Central

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Jan. 22, 1983-9-

Lady 'Cats Bite The Dust Again

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Scoring only eight points in the last 11 minutes and only three in the last four of the contest, the Valdosta Lady Wildcats dropped their second game in a row Friday night when they came out on the short end of a 52-45 decision to the Central of Thomasville Lady Jackets.

Valdosta has also dropped three out of its last four. All three of those losses have been in the 1-AAAA South sub-region, so the Lady Wildcats now fall to 3-3 in the sub-region and 9-4 overall.

With the win Central moves into a tie for first place in the sub-region with only two losses.

In the nightcap, the Wildcat boys won their second game of the year against 11 losses as they beat the Jackets 72-57. At the 3:00 mark of the third

quarter in the girls game, guard Shevon Peeler hit two free throws to give Valdosta what seemed like a comfortable 37-31 lead. However, the Lady Wildcats then went ice cold for the remainder of the game.

Central was able to close the gap to 39-37 at the end of the period on a basket by center Michele Petrey, who led the Lady Jackets with 17 points and eight rebounds.

Petrey scored the first two baskets of the final stanza to give Central the lead, but it was short-lived as Peeler hit a jumper and center Andrea Roberts hit a free throw for one of her 24 points to give Valdosta its last lead of the night, 42-41, with 4:11 remaining.

With 2:27 left in the game, Roberts had a chance to give the Lady Wildcats the lead, but she could only make one of two charity tosses and tie the

game.

Central was able to regain the lead, and the final blow to Valdosta came with 25 seconds left. Valdosta, down by two, had to foul. When it did, however, Central's Vivian Linton also made the three-point and converted the three-point play to give the Lady Jackets an insurmountable 48-43 lead.

Peeler scored 12 points, but more importantly, she stayed out of foul trouble and was able to play the entire contest.

Led by Moses Daniels, who had his best game of the year with 18 points, coach Mike O'Brien's Valdosta boys were never really challenged by the Jackets.

"Moses had a real good game," O'Brien said. "Some times he gets too fast for his own good though." A reference to a couple of times when Daniels played out of control.

Using a full-court press, Valdosta caused 27 turnovers, eight of those in the first quarter in which Valdosta built a 14-6 lead. Central was never closer than eight points the remainder of the game.

"We have now used the press for three games," O'Brien said. "And the kids are starting to understand it. Because we can't match up in size with other teams, we will have to use our quickness."

The victorious coach also had praise for point guard Mark Perry, who ended the night with 14 points and five assists. "Perry stabilizes our team," O'Brien said. "He anchors our defense, and he can get it inside."

The Lady Wildcats now fall to fourth in the sub-region behind Central Lowndes and Colquitt County, all of which have two losses.

for VHS in Games remain

the sub-region are against Thomasville on Jan. 25 and at Central on Feb. 1. The next game for the Valdosta teams is tonight in Pearson against Atkinson County.

1-19-83 VHS Sports In Brief

Valdosta Pins Suwannee, Fla.

LIVE OAK, Fla. — Three years is a long time to go without losing a wrestling match. But Suwannee, Florida's AAA defending champion, had gone that long without losing a match.

Valdosta High ended that streak and one of its own Tuesday night. Not only did the Wildcats end a three-year reign by Suwannee over other wrestling teams but it also ended the superiority Suwannee had over VHS for the same three years.

In 1981 Suwannee nipped Valdosta 27-24 and last year it was 32-25 loss for VHS. In a hard-fought match Tuesday, Valdosta prevailed 30-18 to up the undefeated 'Cats record to 6-0. They are also 4-0 in Region 1-AAAA.

"Tonight our wrestlers were really fired up," said VHS coach Jim Landrum of the win over Suwannee. "We're a very young team this year, but their desire to win seemed to carry them through the match."

Individual winners for Valdosta were: Andrew Kaiser (100-pound class), Terry Worham (107-pound), Steve Kaiser (114-pound), Mark Levy (128-pound, recorded only pin for Valdosta), Greg Prime (134-pound), Danny McLeod (157-pound), Leon Johnson (heavyweight). Valdosta travels to Macon Friday and Saturday to compete in the Southeast Invitation Tournament.

Boys Game

Central	06	20	36	57
Valdosta	14	30	50	72

INDIVIDUAL STATS
 Central: Holton 13, West 6, Nelsons 2, Henderson 6, Bean 6, Mitchell 8, Farmer 6, Mickens 4, Tyler 6
 Valdosta: Folsom 2, Berrian 16, Daniels 16, Parker 4, Worthy 3, Dailey 8, Gamble 6, Stokes 1, Perry 14

TEAM STATS
 Central: Field Goals 27, Free Throws 3-6, Rebounds 38, Turnovers 27, Fouls 12
 Valdosta: Field Goals 31, Free Throws 10-13, Rebounds 31, Turnovers 9, Fouls 7

Girls Game

Central	20	27	37	52
Valdosta	18	30	39	45

INDIVIDUAL STATS
 Central: Cleveland 4, Robinson 6, Thompson 12, Linton 7, Petrey 17, Graham 6
 Valdosta: Harrell 6, Roberts 24, Melvin 3, Peeler 12

TEAM STATS
 Central: Field Goals 21, Free Throws 10-12, Rebounds 18, Turnovers 10, Fouls 8
 Valdosta: Field Goals 17, Free Throws 11-14, Rebounds 24, Turnovers 14, Fouls 9



Central's Vivian Linton Works Against VHS' Bridget Harrell

Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III

Sat. 1-22-83 VDT

Lady 'Cats Dump Albany

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Andrea Roberts scored a season-high 28 points to lead the Valdosta Lady Wildcats to a 77-55 win over the Albany High Squaws Friday night. The win raises Valdosta's record to 11-5 on the year. Albany is now 4-14.

In addition to Roberts, the other four starters also scored in double figures. Ronnie Melvin had 11, while Shevon Peeler, Bridgett Harrell and Connie Weatherspoon each had 10.

Janice Malone led the Squaws with 16.

"Andrea came ready to play," said Lady Wildcats' coach Jo Ellis after the game. "In fact, they all came ready. We had a good week of practice, especially our shooting."

This breather for the Lady 'Cats comes on the heels of a stretch where they lost three games by a total of seven points, then beat Thomasville Tuesday night by seven. "We have had so many close games," Ellis said. "It is nice

to have a breather for a change."

The game was exactly as Ellis described it. Two minutes after the tip-off, Valdosta held a 10-0 lead before the Squaws were able to cross mid-court.

After falling behind 26-13 midway through the second quarter, Albany scored two baskets to cut the lead to nine, but it would be the last time the Squaws would be close.

Ellis had been concerned about her team's inability to fast break during the last few games. However, she should have no more concerns after the first half of Friday's contest.

Valdosta converted on 11 fast break opportunities throughout the first half. "I was pleased that our fast break was clicking," Ellis said. "Lately, we just weren't executing on the break."

Next Tuesday night in Thomasville, the Lady Wildcats will conclude the regular season portion of their South sub-region schedule against the Central Lady Jackets. But before they get

ready for Central, the Lady 'Cats will face a Lanier County squad tonight which they demolished 75-20 back on Jan. 8.

Meanwhile, in the second game of the evening, the Wildcats' Jerome Berrian was forced to play defense against Albany's 6-foot-7 Ben Jones. With Albany able to get the ball inside to Jones at will, it was only a matter of time before Berrian fouled out. And any hopes of a Valdosta upset would leave the court with the senior.

Berrian, who had to sit down twice because of foul trouble, fouled out with 1:32 remaining in the game and Valdosta down by three, 46-43.

With Valdosta's big man on the bench, Albany went to their four-corner offense and iced the game on easy layups and free throws.

Mark Perry led the way for the 'Cats with 13 points, while Berrian added 12. Jones led the Indians with 22, and Tim Cross had 10.

Valdosta drops to 2-14, while Albany is now 12-4.

With 5:57 left in the game,

Berrian picked up his fourth foul and coach Mike O'Brien decided to pull the center with the Wildcats leading 41-40.

Before O'Brien could get Berrian back into the game, Albany had reeled off six straight points, four of which were scored by Jones.

The Wildcats will play the Lanier County Bulldogs tonight. In their earlier meeting, the Bulldogs squeaked by 50-47.

Girls Game 07 21 37 55
Valdosta 22 41 63 77

INDIVIDUAL STATS
Albany: Lanier 6, Hill 10, Malone 16, Lane 7, Zachery 2, Hall 2, Easley 12
Valdosta: Roberts 28, Harrell 10, Melvir 11, Peeler 10, Weatherspoon 10, W. Irvin 7, L. Irvin 1

TEAM STATS
Albany: Field Goals 24, Free Throws 3 10, Rebounds 27, Turnovers 27, Fouls 12
Valdosta: Field Goals 36, Free Throws 5 14, Rebounds 33, Turnovers 20, Fouls 14

Boys Game 11 22 38 54
Valdosta 13 26 36 45

INDIVIDUAL STATS
Albany: Belk 7, Cross 10, B. Jones 22, Williams 6, Rogers 7, P. Jones 2, Washington 2, Valdosta: Perry 13, Folsom 4, Berrian 12, Worthy 6, Daniels 2, Dill 1, Folsom 2

TEAM STATS
Albany: Field Goals 21, Free Throws 14 25, Rebounds 35, Turnovers 15, Fouls 17
Valdosta: Field Goals 17, Free Throws 11-18, Rebounds 27, Turnovers 16, Fouls 20



Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III

Roberts Scored 28 Points For VHS

Jan 30, 1983

Sports In Brief

VHS Matmen Win A Pair

FITZGERALD — The Valdosta High wrestling team improved its record to 8-1 on the season with two wins on Saturday.

The first win was over Woodward Academy of Atlanta, 33-32.

Winners for VHS were Terry Wortham (107 pound class), Greg Prine (135), Jack Priest (148), Jimmy Lewis (tie at 178), Victor Waymon (185) and Leon Johnson (heavyweight). The match was all even before Johnson pinned his opponent in the final match.

In the second match, Valdosta rolled over Coffee High, 66-12.

Winners were Andrew Kaiser (101), Scott Richardson (114), Greg Klements (121), Mark Levy (128), Greg Prine, Clay Powell (140), Jack Priest, Danny McCloud (157), Frank Abney (169), Jimmy Lewis, Victor Waymon and Leon Johnson.

Valdosta will travel to Douglas to meet Coffee again Wednesday.

VHS Sweeps Pair

LAKELAND — The Valdosta Wildcats improved their record to 3-11 Saturday night with a 68-66 overtime win over the Lanier County Bulldogs.

Jerome Berrian led VHS with 25 points, and Mark Perry added 17.

The Lady Wildcats ran their record to 13-5 with a 69-18 shellacking of the Lady Bulldogs. Andrea Roberts scored 18, and Shevon Peeler had 11.

The Valdosta teams finish the sub-region schedule Tuesday night at Central of Thomasville.

Jan 31 83

Valdosta Debaters Win First

By Times Staff Writer
The Valdosta High School Debate Team has won first place in Region 1-AAAA competition at Valdosta State College.

It was the second year in a row the team took first place in regional competition, according to Frank Hjort, director of debate for VHS.

Michael Herrin and Barry Herrin made up the affirmative team and Mary Taormina and Jim Rensenhouse were on the negative team.

Individual winners were Rensenhouse, first place speaker; Miss Taormina, third; and Michael Herrin, fifth.

The four VHS students took the top prize with a 4-0 record, Hjort said.

Lowndes High School's debate team came in fourth in the competition with Penny Shaw, first affirmative; Jason Wade, second affirmative; Randall Ross, first negative; and Steve



JIM RENSENHOUSE
First Place Speaker

Dodd, second negative. Director of debate for LHS was Charles Powell.

Also placing in the competition were Tift County, second with a 3-1 record; Daugherty County, third; and Central of Thomasville, fifth.

As a result of winning the region competition, the VHS team will participate in state competition at West Georgia College in Carrollton Feb. 26.



BARRY HERRIN
Affirmative Team



MICHAEL HERRIN
Fifth Place



MARY TAORMINA
Third Place



FRANK HJORT
Debate Director

Area Prep Basketball

VHS, LHS Gear Up For Tight Derby

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

The end of the 1982-'83 regular season in Region 1-AAAA is near, and the battles for positions in the sub-region tournaments are just beginning with two big games on tap for tonight. Lowndes is in Moultrie to take on Colquitt County and Valdosta is in Thomasville to tackle Central.

The winner has already been decided in the boys side of the South sub-region. Colquitt County has a 6-0 record, and Lowndes and Thomasville each have 4-3 records with only one game left apiece.

Meanwhile in the girls half, Lowndes is ahead with a 5-2 mark, followed by Colquitt County (4-2), Central (3-2) and Valdosta (4-3).

In other area action tonight, Valwood is at Southwood, Lanier County is at Echols County and Fitzgerald is at Berrien County.

Lowndes is in an unenviable position tonight. It must go up against a team it lost to only 62-55 back on Dec. 3 at home. However, Colquitt County has steadily improved since that time, and coach Terry Wilkes knows his Vikings are going to have a struggle. "We don't match up with Colquitt County

Region 1-AAAA South sub-region

	boys	girls
Colquitt County	W 6	L 0
Lowndes	W 4	L 3
Thomasville	W 4	L 3
Central	W 1	L 4
Valdosta	W 1	L 4
Games Remaining		
Feb. 1	W 5	L 2
Colquitt County	W 4	L 2
Central	W 3	L 2
Valdosta	W 4	L 2
Thomasville	W 0	L 7

Games Remaining	Feb. 8	Feb. 11
Thomasville at Central		
Lowndes at Colquitt County		
Valdosta at Central		
Colquitt County at Central		

very well," Wilkes said. "They have the big guy (Kirby Stewart), who is about 6-foot-3, 225 pounds. We have one (Cliff Godwin), who is 6-foot-5, but he doesn't match up physically."

The Vikettes are in a good position. If they win tonight they will finish at 6-2 in the sub-region and assure themselves of no worse than a tie for first.

Led by Renee Wilson's 17 points, the Vikettes crushed

Colquitt County 69-56 in the earlier meeting.

In Thomasville, the Wildcats can move into fourth place ahead of the Yellow Jackets with a victory tonight. Valdosta is coming off just its third win of the season Saturday night, a 68-66 overtime win against Lanier County.

For the Lady Wildcats, they can assure themselves of no worse than a tie for second place and can keep alive a mathematical chance at the sub-region crown.

Valdosta was in the middle of a mid-season slump when Central came to call back on Jan. 21. After leading for nearly three quarters, Valdosta scored only eight points over the last 11 minutes of the game en route to losing 52-45.

However, Coach Jo Ellis seems to have the ship sailing on smooth waters once again with the Lady Wildcats winning their last three in a row by a total of 80 points.

Ellis has had her squad work on the delay game during the last week of practice and plans to use it if the situation arises tonight. "During the Colquitt County loss and the Central loss, I waited too long to use it," Ellis said. "I will not wait too long again."

Subs Spark VHS Matmen Past Upstart Lowndes

Despite wrestling without the services of three of their top matmen, the Valdosta High Wildcats had little trouble with the upstart Lowndes High Vikings Friday night at the VHS Gym downing the first-year Plowboys 59-16.

Valdosta was without the services of 108-pound Terry Wortham, 135-pound Greg Prine and 148-pound Jack Priest, all three of whom were region champions last year.

The Wildcat replacements stepped in and filled the void winning two of three matches. Andrew Kaiser, wrestling for Wortham, pinned Henry Towers, while Jerry Purvis, who was wrestling for Prine, also pinned his opponent Sam Dennis.

But Lowndes' Dale Mallory won the first Viking match of the night against Craig Jenkins, who was substituting for Priest, with a pin.

Mallory's victory was to begin a three-win spurt for Lowndes which would give the Vikings their only three wins of the night. Lowndes' Willie Knight followed Mallory with a pin of Danny McLeod in the 157-pound class and Troy Braswell decided (10-0) Frank Abney in the 169-pound class to complete the Viking run.

The Wildcats quickly regrouped and took the final four matches, including three pins and a 10-7 decision to end the match. All told, Valdosta registered eight pins and four decisions on its way to the win.

Valdosta is now 10-1 on the year and 5-0 in region 1-AAAA. Lowndes is 4-6 and 2-3.

Wildcat coach Jim Landrum was immediately impressed with the wrestling Vikings. "Lowndes has probably one of the best first-year teams that I've seen in a long time," Landrum said. "You can look for them to be very competitive next year. (Lowndes coach) Newnan Sanchez has done an excellent job as a first-year wrestling coach."

Complete results of Friday night's match were:

- 100-pound—Louis Gonis of VHS pinned Chase Gregory
- 107-pound—Andrew Kaiser of VHS pinned Henry Towers
- 114-pound—Steve Kaiser of VHS pinned Patrick Millirons
- 121-pound—Craig Klement of VHS decided Jeff Harper, 15-1
- 128-pound—Mark Levy of VHS pinned Jason Griner
- 134-pound—Jerry Purvis of VHS pinned Sam Dennis
- 140-pound—Clay Powell of VHS decided Bob Sutherland, 9-6
- 147-pound—Dale Mallory of LHS pinned Craig Jenkins
- 157-pound—Willie Knight of LHS pinned Danny McLeod
- 169-pound—Troy Braswell of LHS decided Frank Abney, 10-0
- 177-pound—Jimmy Lewis of VHS pinned Lee Gapp
- 187-pound—Victor Waymon of VHS pinned Robert Byington
- 197-pound—James Wakefield of VHS decided Jim Lolley, 10-7

Heavyweight—Leon Johnson of VHS pinned Jow White

Sports In Brief Feb. 6, 1983

Hyder Selected Coach Of Year

From Staff Reports

Valdosta High School football coach Nick Hyder is to be honored as a high school coach of the year by the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Feb. 19 at the Downtown Marriott Hotel in Atlanta.

Hyder is to be honored with two other colleagues from the prep ranks including Mike Hodges from West Rome and Thurston Taylor of Palmetto. During the 1982 season Hyder guided the Wildcats to a 15-0 record and the state four-a title.

The Hall of Fame is also to induct seven athletic greats including former Atlanta Falcons linebacker Tommy Nobis.

Pair Leads With 62

LAKE PARK — Steve Stanley and Fred Steedly combined for a 62 to take the first-round lead of the 10th Annual Winter four-ball golf tournament at Francis Lake Saturday afternoon.

Chasing that duo in the a-division of the championship flight was the pair of Joey Lee and Joey Dickson three strokes back at 65. Ed Hall and Nivens Robinson were third with a 66.5 average.

The b-division lead went to Eddie McLeod and Bobby Dasher who combined for a 71. Charles and Mike McLeod were right on their heels with a 72. Don Lucas and Joe Griffin made things even tighter in that division with a 72.5.

Jimmy Hathaway and Charlie Johnson fired a 66 to take a three stroke lead in the a-division of the first flight over Paul Dodge and Joe Johnson. Jake Sullivan and Ed Wyche were two strokes back at 71. Jim Dowling and Ed Blaylock combined for a 73 to come in first in the b-division. The teams of Skeeter Stone/James Tillman and Phil Grooms/Tim Hilliard both fired 74 to tie for second place.

The second flight lead belonged to Terry Smith and Joe Jordan as their 60 carried them to a two-stroke lead over Bryan Klien and Hasty Mulkey. Nelson Beene and Paul Nordon were one stroke back at 63. B.J. Surbant and Bob Respass finished the day with a 67.5 which was good enough for a half-stroke lead in the b-division. Art Lewis and Dave Selmon were second with a 68 while Eddie Williams and Jim Lyons were one stroke back at 69.

A total of 57 teams are taking part in the tournament which for the most part was played in excellent weather conditions Saturday. The final round of the tournament is to be played today.

Bowden To Speak At VHS

Florida State head coach Bobby Bowden is to be the guest speaker at the Valdosta High football banquet February 22 at the VHS cafeteria. The dinner will award outstanding players off of Valdosta's 1982 state championship team that finished the year 15-0.

In seven years at the Seminoles helm Bowden has compiled a 59-22 with FSU finishing the 1982 season with a 9-3 mark. He started his head coaching career at Samford in 1959 and also had a five-year stint at West Virginia. His career worksheet is 131-54. He has taken teams to bowl games six times.

The banquet is set to begin a 7 p.m. that evening. Dinner will be served first with the guest speaker and awards portions of the banquet to follow. Tickets for anyone not a member of the Valdosta Touchdown club are five dollars.



Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

VHS' Andrew Kaiser (Top) Credited With Pin Of Henry Towers

News Service Ranks VHS Second Behind Moeller

By Times Staff Writer

Although the Valdosta High Wildcats finished first in the state of Georgia, they could only manage a No. 2 ranking as determined by the National Sports News Service in the final national prep high school poll of 1982. The distinction of

having the top ranking fell to a school that had held that honor before, Moeller High of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Wildcats swept through the season with a 15-0 record and a 10-7 win over Peachtree High of Atlanta in the state championship game. The championship was the first for Valdosta since 1978 when the Wildcats tied Griffin 7-7 to share the top honors. The last previous outright title for the Cats came in 1971 when Valdosta overcame Avondale 64-12 to win state and national honors.

The only other Georgia School to finish in the top 20 was Peachtree, which had won 14 straight games before bowing to Valdosta in the state championship game.

Moeller finished the year with a 13-0 record marking the eighth time since taking up the sport in 1962 that they have accomplished that feat. The Cincinnati school has lost only two of its last 99 starts since 1975. This year's national crown is the fifth time the Crusaders have received the mythical award.

Another traditional Ohio power finished in the top 10 this year with Massillon finishing sixth nationally with a 12-1 record. The Tigers, who hail from Washington, Ohio, were beaten by Moeller in the state title game as a record crowd of 42,000 looked on in Columbus. Despite being constantly overshadowed by Moeller, the Tigers nevertheless managed

to attract 191,528 fans in 13 games. For the last three years, Massillon has drawn over 513,000 fans.

Other awards given by the National Sports News Service included the game of the year which saw Provo, Utah outlast Pleasant Grove, Utah 51-44 in seven overtimes. The national coach of the year was Alexander Durlley of Beaumont West Brook High School. In the school's first year of competition, Durlley guided the team to the Texas AAAAA title. The new school lost four games in September and became the first Texas champ in 32 years to win the state crown with four losses.

This was the 53rd year that

the National Sports News Service has ranked the top high school football teams in the country. Massillon heads up the list of champions with seven national titles under its belt.

FINAL 1982 PREP POLL

1. Cincinnati Moeller, OH (13-0)
2. Valdosta (15-0)
3. Pensacola Woodhams, FL (13-0)
4. Anaheim Servite, CA (11-1)
5. Ft. Bend Willowridge, TX (12-0)
6. Massillon Washington, OH (12-1)
7. Atlanta Peachtree, GA (14-1)
8. Omaha Westside, NB (12-0)
9. Newburg Castle, IN (14-0)
10. Burbank Reavis, IL (12-1)
11. Enterprise, AL (13-0-1)
12. Danville Washington, VA (14-0)
13. Jacksonville, NC (14-0)
14. Cherry Creek, CO (14-0)
15. Oradell Bergen Catholic, NJ (11-0)
16. Ruston, LA (15-0)
17. Beaumont West Brook, TX (11-4-1)
18. Farmington Harrison, MI (12-0)
19. Moon Valley Highlands, KY (15-0)
20. Ft. Thomas Highlands, KY (15-0)

Valdosta Drops Pair To Atkinson

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Despite a season-high 28 points by guard Shevon Peeler, the Valdosta Lady Wildcats were defeated by the Atkinson County Lady Rebels 75-73 Saturday night. Valdosta is now 12-7 on the year.

But Peeler figured in even more importantly when she wasn't in the game. With 5:42 left in the second quarter, Peeler, who had 10 points at the time, picked up her third foul and was forced to the bench.

With Peeler out of the game for three minutes, the Lady Rebels scored 12 unanswered points, and the Lady Wildcats were forced to play catch-up all night.

The Lady Rebels, with a 44-31 halftime lead, scored the first four points of the second half to go up by 17, which was their biggest lead of the night.

Slowly chipping away at the deficit, Valdosta was able to score nine straight points to get within four at 52-48 with 1:09 left in the third quarter, but Atkinson County scored the last six points of the quarter to take a 10-point bulge into the final period.

and hit an easy lay-up to give Valdosta a short lived one-point lead at the 2:30 mark.

Brenda Kay, who had 20 points, and Keshia Freeman, who led the Lady Rebels with 26, each hit baskets to put Atkinson County ahead 71-68.

After Ronnie Melvin hit one free throw, Peeler hit a jumper and was fouled, giving her a chance to give Valdosta the lead, but the junior could not convert the three-point play.

Tangela Thomas hit a basket to give the Lady Rebels the lead but Peeler again came down the court and tied the game at 73 with 45 seconds remaining.

Finally with five seconds showing on the clock, Freeman rebounded her own missed shot and put it in to give Atkinson County the two-point lead.

Lady Wildcats coach Jo Ellis tried to signal her team to call timeout, but Harrell did not see her and time ran out as she dribbled up the court.

"In crucial situations, this team just does not think," Ellis said. "We have been over situations like that one (last five seconds) in practice, but the girls get wrapped up in the game and do not think."

Billy Thomas scored 21 points to lead the Rebels to a 65-57 win over the Wildcats in the boys' contest.

Valdosta was forced to go without Jerome Berrian, who averages about 17 points per game. Without Berrian, who is 6-foot-5, the tallest without was six foot Derrick Folsom, who just could not keep the Rebels off the boards. Atkinson County outrebounded the Wildcats 44-31 and got many second and third chances on the offensive boards.

Mark Perry led Valdosta with 14 points. The Wildcats are 3-16.

Hyder Selected Coach Of Year

From Staff Reports

Valdosta High School football coach Nick Hyder is to be honored as a high school coach of the year by the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Feb. 19 at the Downtown Marriott Hotel in Atlanta.

Hyder is to be honored with two other colleagues from the prep ranks including Mike Hodges from West Home and Thurston Taylor of Palmetto. During the 1982 season Hyder guided the Wildcats to a 15-0 record and the state four-a title. The Hall of Fame is also to induct seven athletic greats including former Atlanta Falcons linebacker Tommy Novis.

Girls Game	
Atkinson County	14 44 58 75
Valdosta	16 31 48 73
INDIVIDUAL STATS	
Atkinson County:	Freeman 26, Brown 8,
Thomas 4, Kay 20, Floyd 6, Condry 2, Core 1,	
Washington 6, Bailey 2,	
Valdosta: Harrell 6, Roberts 19, Melvin 10,	
Peeler 28, Weatherston 4, Irvin 6	
Boys game	
Atkinson County	08 25 40 65
Valdosta	08 20 34 50
INDIVIDUAL STATS	
Atkinson County:	Johnson 14, Manning 8,
Lock 2, Matthews 1, Billy Thomas 21,	
Piccus 6, Wesley 8, Freeman 5	
Valdosta: Folsom 6, Perry 14, Worley 8,	
Daniels 6, Register 2, Dailey 10, Gamble 2,	
Thompson 2	

On the inbounds play after Roberts' last basket, Bridgett Harrell stole the pass

Area Basketball

V T

2-8-83

Outlook Hazy In I-AAAA South

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

All eyes from the south sub-region of I-AAAA will be on Central of Thomasville tonight when the Yellow Jackets and Lady Jackets play host to cross-town rival Thomasville in the only sub-region action on the card. The two matchups could go a long way toward deciding which teams will square off in the first round of the sub-region tournament in Moultrie, which will take place Feb. 17, 18 and 19.

Currently, the standings are jumbled at best. On the boys' side, Colquitt County has clinched the sub-region title with a so-far perfect 7-0 slate. Thomasville is second with a 4-3 record, while Lowndes is third at 4-4. Central is 2-4 and Valdosta is assured of going into the tournament as the last place team with a 1-7 mark.

It doesn't get any clearer when you look at the girls' side. Leading is Colquitt County with a 5-2 mark, while Central is second at 4-2. Lowndes is 5-3 and Valdosta is 4-4. The only team to know what seeding it will receive is Thomasville, which is 0-7.

In area action tonight, Valdosta hosts Brooks County, Lowndes travels to Statenville to tackle Echols, Georgia Christian School plays host to Westbrook and Ware County will beat Berrien County.

This will be the second meeting of the year between Valdosta and Brooks County with the first one in Quitman back on Jan. 15.

The Lady Wildcats allowed the Lady Trojans to remain close for three quarters before blowing them out in the fourth quarter en route to a 62-36 win. Ronnie Melvin had 22 and Andrea Roberts scored 19 to lead Valdosta to the victory.

The reason Brooks County

was able to stay with the Lady Wildcats was the early foul trouble of junior guard Shevon Peeler, who picked up three fouls in the first four minutes of the game and was never able to get into the flow.

In the last two ballgames, however, Peeler has been on fire, scoring 49 points, including 28 in the loss to Atkinson County Saturday night.

Since the win over the Lady Trojans, Coach Jo Ellis' squad has been on a roller coaster, losing its next three starts after the Brooks County game, then winning three in a row before losing the last two and dropping the Lady Wildcats' record to 12-7.

The five losses, which have been by a total of 12 points, have been difficult for Ellis to accept. "Every one of those games we could have won, but we always seem to make a mental mistake that costs us."

The Lowndes-Echols game will also be the second go-around for these two schools.

The Lowndes Vikings, behind the 21 points of Darryl Chandler and 16 by Cliff Godwin, slipped by Echols 61-56 back on Jan. 22.

With five players scoring in double figures, including 18 each by Lisa Hughes and Tane Register, Coach Steve Kebler's Lowndes Vikettes pummeled Echols 102-51 when the two teams met earlier this season.

boys	
South sub-region standings	
	W L
Colquitt County	7 0
Thomasville	4 3
Lowndes	4 4
Central	2 4
Valdosta	1 7

girls	
South sub-region standings	
	W L
Colquitt County	5 2
Central	5 3
Lowndes	5 3
Valdosta	4 4
Thomasville	0 7

Sub-region games remaining
Feb. 8
Thomasville at Central
Feb. 11
Colquitt County at Central



Times Staff Photo

Lady 'Cats' Shevon Peeler

'First Round' Begins Wednesday

Local Players Set For Grid Signings

By DAN CHILDS

Times Sports Editor

Several senior football players at Lowndes and Valdosta high schools will know more about where they will spend the next few years Wednesday, which is national signing day for colleges and universities whose football teams reap the fruits of football recruiting.

Wednesday, and the days following, will constitute the "first round" of the signing as the majority of the blue-chippers across the nation affix their names to grants-in-aid for their football services. Signings will continue throughout the next few weeks, however, as less sought-after players who were overlooked initially hook up with various college programs in the "second round".

As usual, presters from Valdosta and Lowndes have attracted the attentions of many recruiters who have passed this way on the make for fresh talent. Several are expected to sign Wednesday.

For Lowndes' Vikings, wide receiver Carl Parker is the hottest commodity. The 6-foot, 184-pounder has committed with Vanderbilt, where head coach George Machlyre has used a potent passing attack to bring a program that was recently a Southeastern Conference doormat to respectability. The Commodores capped a successful 1982 season with an appearance in the Hall Of Fame Bowl. Parker also visited South Carolina before eventually deciding upon Vandy.

Although South Carolina came up empty on Parker, the Gamecocks should snare a pair of highly south-ater Valdosta stars. The Times learned Saturday that Wildcat defensive

lineman Ricky Daniels and defensive back Chris Major had verbally committed to South Carolina.

Coaches in region 1-AAAA recently rated the region's seniors to be used as a pre-selection for the Georgia High School All-Star game, and Daniels and Major turned up as the No.1 and No. 2 players respectively. Both players are specimens — Daniels is a 6-foot-3, 218-pounder with 4.9 speed in the 40-yard dash and Major, a 5-10, 173-pounder clicks off the 40 in 4.5 seconds.

Daniels and Major earlier this week had planned on doing a bit of sightseeing at Ole Miss along with teammates William Collier, Rob Mitchell and Perrnell Bee, but declined shortly before the trip when they arrived at the decision to go with the Gamecocks.

Ole Miss saw films of the Wildcats in action and invited the five to Oxford for a visit. After Daniels and Major committed with South Carolina, only Bee, Collier and Mitchell were left to make the plane trip to Ole Miss Friday.

Collier was rated as the No.1 offensive tackle by region coaches, while Bee was rated as 1-AAAA's top offensive performer. The 182-pound running back possesses 4.5 speed in the 40.

Wildcat center Blake Belue, ranked second overall among the region's players, appears to be headed for Mississippi State, although no commitment has been reported.

Defensive lineman Kennedy Cooper has had a firm offer from Florida A&M and seems headed there. Cooper, a 6-foot-1, 248-pounder, had drawn the attention of scouts from larger schools, but his stock reportedly dropped due

to problems with academic marks.

Valdosta's Jeff Lee was rated the No.3 defensive back in the region. Lee has expressed an interest in Duke, but he has yet to make a visit to Durham. He has, however, visited The U.S. Naval Academy, Dartmouth and Yale.

Ben Reeves, rated the top tight end in the region, has not made a commitment, but appears to be leaning toward the University of Cincinnati should an offer come from there.

Offensive tackle Tony McKinney, guard Victor Waymon and wide receiver Brad Martin have been approached by Jacksonville State. McKinney also has been contacted by Tulane.

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said he anticipated interest on the part of some junior colleges in Wildcats Jeff Spivey, Ozell Ramsey and James Robinson, all members of the VHS defense last year.

Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson said he expected other of his charges besides Parker would attract interest, probably in the "second round" of the signings. Two Davis, in fact, has already made a visit to Mississippi State, and Steve Kebler, Fred Statum and Keith Mize have visited Prebyterian College in South Carolina. Wilson said defensive lineman Robert Byington also could draw interest from colleges.

Elsewhere across the region, Dougherty linebackers Ray Corben and Freddie Thomas look to be all but decided. Thomas, in fact, reportedly has committed with Tennessee, but Corben is torn between Auburn



Times Staff Photo

VHS Back Perrnell Bee Yet To Commit

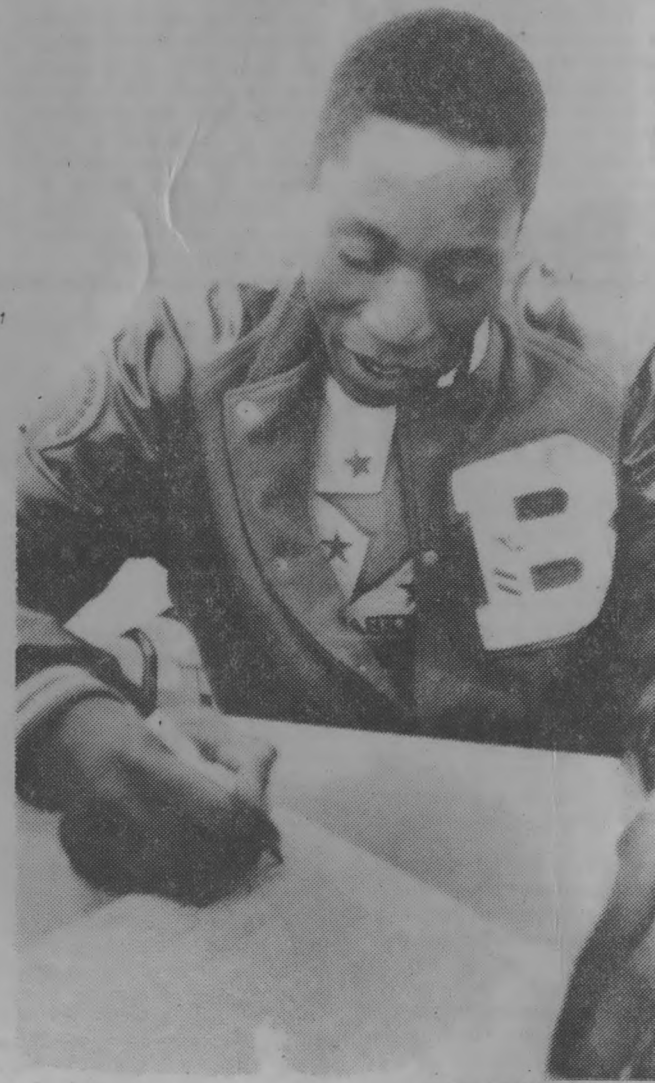
and Georgia. Westover running back Gary Lee reportedly has narrowed his choices to

Georgia Tech and Auburn. Monroe linebacker Maverick McKinney has committed to

FAMU. Tift County tight end Robert Massey appears bound for Georgia Tech.



Wildcats (L-R) Ricky Daniels, Kennedy Cooper, Chris Major Signed Wednesday



Brooks' Maurice Freeman FAMU Bound

USC, FAMU, Vandy Ink Local Grididders

From Staff And Wire Reports

The University of South Carolina snared a trio of highly regarded defensive players from Valdosta High's state championship football team Wednesday, and Vanderbilt drew upon Lowndes High to bolster its potent passing attack.

Ricky Daniels and Chris Major of Valdosta signed grants-in-aid with South Carolina Wednesday morning after making verbal commitments with the Gamecock program last week. Kennedy Cooper elected to attend Florida A&M University after making an earlier verbal commitment. Carl Parker of Lowndes was landed by Vanderbilt.

Daniels and Major both had been approached by Mississippi State as well as South Carolina. In addition, Georgia and Tennessee-Chattanooga had

also shown interest in Daniels, and Ole Miss and Texas-El Paso had made overtures for Major. South Carolina and Mississippi State had contacted Parker, and the Viking wide receiver visited the Columbia and Starkville campuses before signing with Vanderbilt.

Daniels, Major and Parker were all members of the 1982 1-AAAA all-region team.

Daniels, a 6-foot-3, 218-pound defensive end with 4.9 speed in the 40-yard dash, was rated by 1-AAAA coaches as the top senior defensive player in the region. The 5-10, 170-pound Major was assessed as the No. 2 defensive senior. Major has 4.5 speed in the 40. Cooper is a 248-pound interior defensive lineman.

Parker was ranked by 1-AAAA coaches as the top senior wide receiver in the region. The 6-foot, 184-pounder owns 4.6 speed in the 40.

Daniels, Major and Parker were all named first team all-region.

In addition to Valdosta's Cooper, Florida A&M also signed receiver-placekicker Maurice Freeman of Brooks County's Trojans.

Several other players from Valdosta and Lowndes are expected to sign grants in the next few weeks.

One of the state's hottest high school football prospects, linebacker Henry Harris of Columbia High School in Decatur, has signed a national letter of intent with the University of Georgia.

The Bulldogs, who have 27 scholarships available after being stripped of three by their NCAA probation, signed 19 players on Wednesday, the first day high school stars could officially ink grants-in-aid.

Georgia Tech, coming off its



Times Staff Photo: by Robert Winter

LHS' Carl Parker, Parents Eye Vandy Pact

first winning season in four years, signed 19 players on opening day, including five huge linemen — 260-pound John

Lawrence of Monroe, 260-pound Ivery Lee of Statesboro High, 275-pound John Davis of Gilmer High in Ellijay, 275-pound

Gerald Williams of Washington County High and 265-pound Rocky Karriker of East Mecklenburg in Charlotte, N.C.

SPORTS

The Valdosta

Wildcats Lose

Lady Wildcats Whip Brooks

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Lady Wildcats played perhaps their best basketball since the Christmas break in the first half Tuesday night en route to a 81-34 whipping of the Brooks County Lady Trojans.

"Maybe we are peaking," Lady Wildcats' coach Jo Ellis said. "You are supposed to peak at this time of the year. And hopefully we can play like this against Monroe also."

After falling behind 4-2 a minute into the game, the Lady Wildcats ripped off 17 straight points to blow open the contest. It was a contrast to the earlier matchup between these teams in Quitman, where Brooks County trailed by only 10 late in the game before Valdosta pulled away at the end.

"It took us a couple of minutes, but we played a pretty good first half," Ellis said. "Usually, we are sluggish in the first half and play better in the second, but not tonight."

Leading the rampage in the first half was 1-AAAA's leading scorer, Andrea Roberts, who scored 20 of her 24 points

before the intermission.

Also playing well for Valdosta was Ronnie Melvin. The junior poured in 16 for the night, including 10 in the first half.

However, the first player Ellis had praise for was her senior guard, Bridgett Harrell, who was four of four from the field and hit all of those points from long range. "Bridgett is getting her confidence back," Ellis said. "And we need her to be on." With Harrell hitting from the outside, opponents are not able to clog up the middle which opens up opportunities for Roberts.

The win gives the Lady Wildcats a 13-7 mark on the season. As hot as the Lady Wildcats were in the first game, both the Wildcats and the Trojans were ice cold in the first half of the boys' game.

However, the Trojans warmed up in the second half and beat the Wildcats, 57-39.

The lead changed hands five times in the first half before Brooks County's John Strickland hit a jumper at the buzzer to give the Trojans a

19-18 lead, which the Trojans never relinquished in the second half.

Jerome Berrian, who was coming back from the flu, scored 17 points to lead Valdosta, which falls to 3-17.

For Brooks County, Calvin English, Terrance Rayford and Strickland had 10 points each.

The Valdosta teams finish the year Friday night in Albany against Monroe.

Girls Game

Brooks County 04 16 28 34
Valdosta 17 48 65 81

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Brooks County: West 2, Glenn 10, Stroud 4, Henderson 8, Filippin 6, Rose 4
Valdosta: Harrell 8, Roberts 24, Melvin 16, Peter 12, C. Weatherston 6, S. Weatherston 2, Henderson 2, L. Irvin 4, W. Irvin 4, Baly 3

TEAM STATS

Brooks County: Field Goals 7, Free Throws 0-6, Rebounds 20, Turnovers 38, Fouls 14
Valdosta: Field Goals 36, Free Throws 9-18, Rebounds 44, Turnovers 19, Fouls 12

Boys Game

Brooks County 10 19 35 57
Valdosta 10 18 28 39

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Brooks County: English 10, Strickland 10, Rayford 10, Freeman 6, Williams 8,monds 5, Jackson 2, Brown 4, Linder 2
Valdosta: Berrian 17, Daniels 3, Dailley 2, Folsom 2, Garride 2, Perry 3, Worthy 6, Thompson 12, West 1

TEAM STATS

Brooks County: Field Goals 25, Free Throws 7-13, Rebounds 42, Turnovers 17, Fouls 19
Valdosta: Field Goals 14, Free Throws 11-24, Rebounds 34, Turnovers 31, Fouls 12



Times Staff Photos by Joey Vansco
Andrea Roberts Scored 20 of Her 24 Points In First Half

Prep Basketball Roundup

'Cat Wrestlers Favorite In Region Tournament

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats wrestling team, which is led by Steve Kaiser, Greg Prine and Jack Priest, shape up as the favorite to capture its third straight region 1-AAAA championship.

The tournament will take place in three sessions. The first will start at 7:30 p.m. Friday, followed on Saturday with sessions at 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$2 per session or \$5 for a ticket which will allow entrance into all three sessions.

In the two previous two championships, which were both held in Moultrie, Valdosta easily outdistanced its nearest competitor. In 1981, the Wildcats tallied 237½ points, while Colquitt County was second with 133½. Last year, VHS won with a score

of 234½ and second place Dougherty finished with 139½.

Kaiser, who was the region champion in the 101-pound class last year, has moved up to the 115-pound class this year and has produced a 17-3 mark.

To win his second region crown, Kaiser will have to beat Dougherty's George Camp, who finished second in last year's tournament. Camp is undefeated this year, including a win over Kaiser earlier this year.

In the 134-pound class, Prine returns as the two-time region champion. The senior has a 19-2 record.

Prine's stiffest competition should come from a pair of wrestlers from Albany. Goldwyn Redding of Westover, who is 9-0-1, and Victor Camp of Dougherty, who was third in these

championships last year.

Priest returns at the 147-pound class to defend his region title against Tift County's Raymond Dixon, who lost to Priest to finish second last year.

Other seniors on the squad include Terry Wortham (108), Danny McLeod (158) and Victor Waymon (188).

Wortham, who finished second last year, will face competition from Jerome Harris of Westover. Wortham is 20-1 on the year.

"The 158-pound class could end up being a real wild affair," said Valdosta coach Jim Landrum. It could be that way because there is no favorite in this class."

Lowndes, which has a wrestling team for the first year, brings the only undefeated wrestler into the match in Willie Knight, while Tift County's Leroy

Clark has dropped only four matches.

Any of a trio of wrestlers could take the 188-pound class crown this year. Mike Nix of Dougherty, who was third last year, handed Waymon one of his three losses earlier in the year. Also expected to be in the hunt is Tift County's Jeff Jackson.

Only one other Wildcat wrestler has any experience in a region tournament and that is heavyweight Leon Johnson. A third-place finisher last year, Johnson will have to beat out last year's champion, Roy Hart of Tift County.

New wrestlers for Valdosta will be Andrew Kaiser (101), Craig Klement (122), Mark Levy (128), Clay Powell (141), Craig Jenkins (141), Jimmy Lewis (178) and James Wakefield (198).



VHS' Louis Gonis, LHS' Chase Gregory

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Feb. 13, 1983-2-B-

VHS Class Of '58

Valdosta High School's 1958 graduating class is to have a reunion planning meeting Feb. 21, said spokesman Marsha Rudolph of Valdosta.

The meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. at the residence of Sidney Morris at 3339 Plantation Drive.

Any class members living in the area are welcomed to attend the meeting. The reunion is set for July 2.

Class members wanting more information about the meeting may contact the co-chairmen, Mrs. Rudolph at 242-6581 or Wade Coleman at 244-4605.

SPORTS

The Vald

VHS Leads Meet, But Tift Is Close

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

Glancing at the team standings after the first day of the region 1-AAAA wrestling tournament being held at Valdosta High, VHS coach Jim Landrum remarked that the results were much as he would have guessed they would be.

What Landrum saw Friday night at the conclusion of the quarterfinals was a listing which had his Valdosta squad occupying first place with 37½ points, just ahead of Tift County with 36 points. The next closest pursuer Friday night was Dougherty with 24, followed by Westover (20), Colquitt (16), Lowndes (8), Monroe (4) and Albany, which did not take a point.

Landrum wasn't ready to call the region tournament a probable neck-and-neck derby between Valdosta and Tift County, though, with the region's teams heading back to the mats for the semifinals which got under way this morning at 11:30 — too much could happen then and again in tonight's 7:30 final round to be making any calls.

Still, Landrum, whose Wildcats entered the tournament with an excellent shot of taking their third straight region trophy, liked the way things had gone in Friday night's action.

"It went pretty much the way I had felt it would go," he said. "It looks good so far, but tomorrow morning will tell the tale."

Valdosta drew byes in the 108, 129, 188 and 198 weight categories, then survived the opening round with victories in the remaining 10 divisions. So not a Wildcat fell by the wayside Friday night. "We got all 14 (wrestlers) in. That's the best thing," Landrum said.

For Valdosta, Andrew Kaiser (108 pounds) opened the evening by pinning Westover's

Stanley Roberts, and Steven Kaiser of Valdosta (115) followed with a pin of Monroe's Reginal Swan. Craig Clements (122) notched another VHS win, pinning Albany's Bobby Spargo, and the 'Cats' Greg Prine (135) pinned Monroe's John Floyd. At 141, VHS got another pin when Clay Powell handled Westover's Kenny Sapp. Jack Priest (148) pinned Colquitt's Mike Deariso and Danny McCloud (158) decisioned Dougherty's Jimmy Meas. Frank Abney (170) pinned Darrell Mack of Tift. Jimmy Lewis (178) pinned Lowndes' Lee Goff and Leon Johnson (heavyweight) pinned Lowndes' Joe White.

Lowndes, meanwhile, started off with a victory in the 101-pound division that came when Chase Gregory pinned Monroe's Casonoble Clems. Henry Jowers (108), however was the victim of a pin by Colquitt's David Moore. In the 115-pound class, Lowndes' Patrick Millions was pinned by Colquitt's Greg Fetterman, and Jeff Harper (122) of Lowndes was pinned by Dougherty's Omar Mello. Westover's Jim Howard (129) was a winner by a pin over Lowndes' Jason Griner and Viking Steve Dennis (135) was pinned by Colquitt's Gary Cleveland. Bob Sutherland of Lowndes (141) pinned Monroe's Sammy Hill, but Lowndes' Dale Mallory (148) was the victim of a pin by Tift County's Raymond Dixon. Tift's Sam Haggins (198) pinned Jimmy Lolley of Lowndes.

Lowndes drew byes in the 155, 167 and 188 weight classes.

"Things didn't go badly for us at all," said Lowndes coach Newnan Sanchez. "We really weren't expecting out 101-pounder to come through like he did," Sanchez said. "We're sure glad to see him in there. We were a little disappointed at 198, though. We thought Lolley really had a good chance to win."



Blue Devils' Craig Sears Goes Up Against Westover's Kegler

Times Staff Photos by JOEY VANTASCO

Nine Students Honored

By DAR Chapter

SUN. Feb 20, 1983



JOEL WEAVER
Valdosta High School

By Times Staff Writer
Four students with the highest scholastic averages in American history from two schools here and five essay winners were honored by the Gen. James Jackson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In celebration of American History Month, the boy and girl with the highest averages in American history from both schools wrote a paper on the American patriot which had influenced him or her the most.

Miss Murff is a member of the VHS Beta Club, Debate Team and Science Club.

She is the daughter of Carole J. Murff of Valdosta.
Weaver said he was inspired by Warren Trimm, a Pennsylvania farmer in 1877 who moved to Kansas to seek his fortune.



MICHELE MURFF
Valdosta High School

The homesteader pre-served against locust, wild animals and the drought of 1878 to 1879, Weaver said.

Trimm is the embodiment of the American spirit, Weaver said. He said it was the Warren Trimm of America who passed down the American ideals of initiative, hard work and freedom.

Weaver is a member of the VHS Beta Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, math team, Model U.N., basketball team and Student Council.

He is the son of Mac and Judy Weaver of Valdosta.
The essay contest, which was open to fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth graders, was on "Every Day Life in Early America." Among the different areas students wrote about were

government, recreation and education in colonial America.

Following Legends Is Demanding

Much has been made of the difficulty involved in following a legend. Phil Bengston learned something of that when he took over as head coach of the Green Bay Packers after the retirement of Vince Lombardi in 1968. Johnny Griffith found out about it when he became head football coach at the University of Georgia after the retirement of Wally Butts. Lord help the man who comes in on the heels of Bear Bryant at Alabama.

It's happened nearly everywhere. The comparisons are inevitable. "Why does Bengston do it THIS way? After all, Lombardi did it THAT way." Or, "Butts did THIS, so why does Griffith do THAT?"

It's happened in Valdosta.

Charlie Greene heard the comparisons and felt the pressure when he took over as head coach at Valdosta High after Wright Bazemore's retirement following the 1971 football season. Greene stayed on for two seasons, winning 17 of 20 games over the 1972 and 1973 seasons before turning in his resignation and thus ending an association with VHS that dated back to his playing days and a 10-year stint as a Bazemore assistant.

"I had always wanted to be the head coach at Valdosta," said Greene, now head football coach at Stephens County High in Toccoa. "When I got the job, I felt that it would be like having a dream come true, although I knew that it might be only an interim type of situation."

And Greene found that the expectations did indeed run high. "I felt like everyone expected that I would be another Coach Bazemore," he said, "and after I left I think they realized there would never be another Coach Bazemore. People have to realize there will never be another one. There's only one Coach Bazemore."

"The eternal comparison with Wright Bazemore..." Hyde sighs. "It's just a fact in Valdosta. I come to work each day understanding that."

He's been coming to work in Valdosta for nine years, and during that span he's won 90 games, lost 20 and tied one. The record is glittering, almost gaudy. But the state championships which came so frequently in the days of Baze have been elusive since the Greene-Hyder era began. Since Bazemore's departure as head coach the Wildcats have gotten their hands on the state crown only once. As Hyde points out, many Valdostans don't like to number that 1978 title among the 16 Valdosta High has claimed because it was shared with Griffin, that the result of a tie in the state championship final.

Since the head coach is something of a marked man in a football-wise community that has an insatiable appetite for victory, Hyde finds himself the target of criticism at times. He says that 25 years of coaching have taught him that the criticism is to be expected, as much a part of his job as organizing practices and scouting opponents.

"There are a lot of great people in Valdosta, and I defend their right to disagree with me," Hyde said. "You just have to develop an alligator skin."

And you must find your own solution to dealing with the pressure. Hyde said that, for him, the answer was to accept the pressure as a part of the Valdosta scenery. "There is continual pressure," he said. "I'm not trying to relieve it. I understand it. I just want to try to be a buffet between the pressure and the players -- the game is there for them to enjoy."

"The only thing that pressures me," Hyde added, "is the thought of standing before my Maker and having Him tell me if I've done what I was put here to do. I think I was put here to help young men bring out the best in themselves and to try to point out spiritual and moral values to them. There's no amount of money you could give me that would mean more than seeing every kid in our program develop a winning attitude."

I was telling Hyde the other day that I've had a foreboding about tonight's game with Warner Robins all season -- one of those funny feelings one gets from time to time. But looking at the game objectively, I see three points in Valdosta's favor.

First, the game is at Cleveland Field. Also, the Wildcats' memory of last year's loss, and the circumstances surrounding it, have to be some kind of factor. Thirdly, I've been told by a writer from Macon who has covered the Demons throughout the season that Warner Robins' special teams have a susceptibility to giving up big plays. Of course, this is the kind of game where a big play by a special team could decide the outcome.

I'll give the nod, shaky though it may be, to Valdosta. A 28-22 score sounds reasonable.

SPORTS

The Valdosta Daily Times

Tournament Starts Today In Moultrie

Girls Sub-Region Tournament Up For Grabs

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

Jo Ellis says its the most evenly-matched sub-region tournament since she's been at Valdosta. Steve Kebler says anybody is capable of winning it.

What the respective Valdosta High and Lowndes High girls coaches are talking about is the 1-AAAA's South sub-region basketball tournament that gets under way today at Moultrie's Colquitt County High.

Valdosta tips off the three-day tournament today at 4 p.m. when it takes on host Colquitt. The Lady Wildcats, the pre-season favorite to win the sub-region, are seeded fourth in the five-team tourney with a 4-4 sub-region mark. Colquitt, 5-3 in the sub-region, is seeded third.

Later in the evening at 7, Kebler's Vikesettes, the No. 2 seed in the tournament by virtue of a coin toss, battle Thomasville, the No. 5 seed. Lowndes finished with a 5-3 sub-region mark, while lowly Thomasville was 0-8.

The winners of the above brackets meet Friday at 7 p.m. to determine who will play No. 1 seeded Central of Thomasville Saturday night for the sub-region crown.

Central's 6-2 sub-region record was good enough to earn the Jackettes the regular season title. They also have byes through the first two rounds of the tournament.

In the boys' bracket, Valdosta and Lowndes are in action today also. The Vikings, the No. 3 seed in the tournament with a 4-4 mark, take on

Central of Thomasville at 5:30. Central is 3-5.

At 8:30 p.m. Valdosta takes on Thomasville. The Wildcats, 1-7, are seeded last in the tournament, while Thomasville acquired the No. 2 spot on the merits of its won-lost record against the North sub-region.

In other area tournament action, the Georgia Christian girls advanced to the semifinals of the SEALS Region 5-AA tournament with a 40-31 win over Douglas' Citizen Christian Academy Wednesday night. The Lady Generals, who are hosting the tournament at the GCS gym along with their male counterparts, play Randolph Southern tonight at 7.

Meanwhile, the top-seeded Generals, who received a first-round bye, take on Crisp Academy tonight at 8:30.

Region 2-A's West sub-region tournament starts tonight in Lakeland. Host Lanier County has the top seed in the boys bracket, while Atkinson County has top billing in the girls bracket. Echols County's boys are seeded second.

If the Valdosta and Lowndes boys can win tonight, they will face each other Friday night at 8:30 in the semifinals. The winner there will face top-seeded Colquitt Saturday night at 8:30 for the sub-region title. Host Colquitt is 8-0 in sub-region play.

The two teams reaching the finals in the sub-region tournament in both the girls and boys bracket advance to the region tourney next Friday and Saturday at Albany's Westover High.

But before Lowndes and Valdosta can start setting their sights on the region tourney, they must first get through two rounds of the sub-region tournament.

The Vikesettes may have the easiest path to Westover. Lowndes knocked off its first-

round opponent, Thomasville, twice during the regular season. In the earlier meeting at LHS, the Vikesettes won by 11.

But when the two met in Thomasville, Lowndes was happy to escape with a 1-point

overtime win.

The Vikesettes have been on a roll since Christmas winning nine of their 12 games. And the three losses came to powerful Berrien and Cook outside the region and to Colquitt.

Lady Wildcats need to advance may come in Ellis' return to her native Moultrie.

Also working in the Lady Cats favor is playing on the road. All four of Valdosta's sub-region losses came in the

VHS gym.

"I think it's going to be a dog fight," said Kebler of the tournament. "I think Central is in the driver's seat. And everybody else is fighting to play them."

No.3 Lowndes
(4-4)

BOYS

No.3 Colquitt
Co. (5-3)

GIRLS

Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, 4 p.m.

No.4 Central,
T^vville (3-5)

No.4 Valdosta
(4-4)

No.2

Friday, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, 7 p.m.

Thomasville
(4-4)

No.2 Lowndes
(5-3)

Thursday, 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, 7 p.m.

Saturday, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, 7 p.m.

No.5 Valdosta
(1-7)

No.5
Thomasville
(0-8)

No.1 Colquitt
Co. (8-0)

No.1 Central,
T^vville (6-2)

The Valdosta Daily Times

Vikings Advance, While 'Cats Falter

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

MOULTRIE — With an all Valdosta-Lowndes semifinals hanging on their game with Thomasville, the VHS boys basketball team overcame a 28-16 halftime deficit to pull within four points late in the game only to fall to the Bulldogs 47-43 in first-round action of the 1-AAAA's South sub-region tournament at Colquitt County's Gladys Espy Gymnasium Thursday night.

Earlier the Valdosta girls and both Lowndes teams advanced to the semifinals by downing their respective first-round opponents.

But the Wildcats, who out-scored Thomasville 11-5 in the third period and 16-14 in the fourth, couldn't make up an awful second quarter that saw the 'Cats score only four points in the entire eight-minute period, while the Bulldogs were scoring 14 in the same time span to take a 12-point lead into half time.

Terry Wilkes' Lowndes Vikings didn't have the any problems with their Thomasville opponent, Central of Yellow Jackets, 76-54.

Cliff Godwin scored 25 points and Darryl Chandler had 23 to lead the Vikings into the semifinals against Thomasville.

Both Viking front liners had 19 at the break as Lowndes took a 48-22 bulge into intermission.

"That was probably the best two quarters we have ever played," Wilkes said after the game of the first and second periods that saw the Vikings score 24 points in each stanza.

It was clearly Chandler's and Godwin's night. Godwin, the

6-foot-5 senior center, not only led all scorers, but he pulled down seven rebounds and had three blocked shots.

"I thought (Godwin) played super," Wilkes said. "He was jacked up. You could hear him hollering for the ball. He wanted it."

"I was a little worried when he picked up his second foul in the first quarter," Wilkes continued. "But he never really got in any foul trouble."

Meanwhile, Chandler was second in the scoring column, but he made up for it with a season-high 19 rebounds, many coming on the offensive glass that he and Godwin controlled. As a team the Vikings pulled down 44 rebounds.

By the 6:30 mark of the fourth quarter, with the Vikes up 67-37, Wilkes was able to clear his bench. It was only then that the Jackets began making a run.

By 3:05 Central had cut the lead to 69-49. Following a Lowndes turnover, Central was within 18. But that was as close as the Jackets could draw.

Lowndes is now 12-10 on the season and take on Thomasville tonight at 8:30 in Moultrie to determine who will play No. 1-seeded Colquitt in the finals Saturday.

Central finishes the season at 5-16.

"It's a great feeling to get that behind," Wilkes said of the first-round win. "The challenge is there now for us to go out and do it tomorrow night."

Valdosta guard Mark Perry scored 16 points to lead all scorers, but it was not enough to counter Thomasville's Jerry Dukes, who led the Bulldogs with 13, and Gerald Bell's 12 as

the Wildcats put the finishing wraps on the 1982-83 basketball season with a 3-19 record.

Perry was the only 'Cat in double figures.

Despite finishing the year on a losing note, Valdosta coach Mike O'Brien had nothing but praise for his team.

"I was extremely proud of our kids," he said after the 47-43 loss. "We were down by a bunch at the half. But our kids fought back and showed the pride they have."

After a close first quarter that saw neither team build more than a four-point lead, the 'Cats went tomb-stone cold in the second as the 'Dogs scored 11 unanswered points to take a 25-12 lead with 4:14 left in the half.

Jerome Berrian, who finished with 8 points, ended the drought when he hit a layup with 3:57 left.

"We just couldn't get it to fall," explained O'Brien. "We hit that cold spell in the second quarter and they couldn't miss."

Viking Box

Central of Thomasville 8 22 35 54

Lowndes 24 48 62 76

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Lowndes — Butler 3, Taylor 2, Merch 6,

Carier 9, Shroyer 6, Chandler 23, Baker 2,

Godwin 25

Central — Williams 4, Bean 8, Henderson 23,

Mitchem 2, Neloms 8, Holder 8, Drew 1.

Wildcat Box

Valdosta 12 16 27 43

Thomasville 14 28 33 47

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta — Gamble 3, Dalley 5, Perry 16,

Thompson 8, Folsom 3, Berrian 8,

Thomasville — Stephens 3, Dukes 13,

Lovejoy 4, Bell 12, Sanders 5, Young 8, Davis 2.



Another Belue Bulldog

V D T. 2-14-83

Blake Belue, an all-region and all-state center for Valdosta's state champion Wildcat football team, signed a football grant-in-aid Sunday evening at his home with Mississippi State

University. Looking on are Belue's mother, Sandra, brothers Guy and Buck and father Ben. (Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III)

Sports In Brief

Valdosta Ruggers Win Second

The Valdosta Rugby Club bettered its record on the season to 2-4 Saturday at Vinton Park as it registered a 16-7 victory over Armstrong State.

Leading 10-4 in a tight, 17-minute-contested match, Valdosta finally put the game away with a try from about 50 yards out. Wolf David McQueen scored a try from about 50 yards out. Wolf Manz was successful on the two-point conversion kick to give Valdosta its 16th point.

Armstrong cut the margin late in the contest on a successful three-point penalty kick.

Students Honored By DAR Chapter

VDT
Sun 2-13-83

By Times Staff Writer
Four students with the highest scholastic averages in American history from two schools here and five essay winners were honored by the Gen. James Jackson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Fred Wetherington and Amy Lazarus of Lowndes High School, Michele Murff and Joel Weaver of Valdosta High School and essay winners, Deanna Ward and Holly Davis of Valwood School, Becky Bramlett, Kerri Rochester and Jack Hewett of Lowndes Middle School were honored at the meeting at the Woman's Building.
DAR Historian Margaret Langdale said February has

been proclaimed American History Month by Valdosta Mayor Ernest Nijem.
In celebration of American History Month, the boy and girl with the highest averages in American history from both schools wrote a paper on the American patriot which had influenced him or her the most.



MICHELE MURFF
Valdosta High School



JOEL WEAVER
Valdosta High School

Miss Murff is a member of the VHS Beta Club, Debate Team and Science Club.
She is the daughter of Carole J. N. of Valdosta.
Weaver said he was inspired by Warren Trimm, a Pennsylvania farmer in 1877 who moved to Kansas to seek his fortune.

The homesteader pre-served against locust, wild animals and the drought of 1878 to 1879, Weaver said.
Trimm is the embodiment of the American spirit, Weaver said. He said it was the Warren Trimm of America who passed down the American ideals of initiative, hard work and freedom.

Weaver is a member of the VHS Beta Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, math team, Model U.N., basketball team and Student Council.
He is the son of Mac and Judy Weaver of Valdosta.
The essay contest, which was open to fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth graders, was on "Every Day Life in Early America." Among the different areas students wrote about were

government, recreation and education in colonial America.

Ellis Resigns Lady Wildcat Post

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Jo Ellis, coach of the Valdosta Lady Wildcats, announced her resignation today. Ellis handed in her letter of resignation last Monday but waited to make the statement public this morning.

"I have found myself in a professional rut," Ellis said. "I see friends getting into coaching on the college level, and I feel like I'm capable of coaching on that level as well."

Ellis will remain at VHS as a teacher until the end of the 1983 school year. Then she plans to start at the University of South Carolina during the summer session to work on her masters degree.

"When I was in college, my roommate and I set one goal — to reach the state tournament level in the sport we were coaching in within five years," Ellis said. "I have reached that

goal."

VHS Athletic Director Nick Hyder was sorry to see Ellis leave.

"She is going to seek advancement in her career as well as her education," Hyder

"I have found myself in a professional rut. I see friends getting into coaching on the college level, and I feel like I'm capable of coaching on that level as well."

—Jo Ellis

said.
"We hate to see her leave. She was a fine asset to this school," Hyder added.

"We regret it so much," Superintendent of Valdosta Public Schools Ralph Brandon

said. "She had done so much for our program. She is a fine person as well as a fine coach."

Ellis took over a Lady Wildcat basketball team that was consistently in the cellar of Region 1-AAAA. Coming to

asville.
In 1981, Valdosta went 21-6 and won the region crown. The Lady Wildcats lost to the eventual state champions, Northeast of Macon, by five points in the state tournament.
However, '81 would provide Ellis with her most thrilling moment as a coach. Cross-town rival Lowndes carried a 122-game winning streak into the two team's meeting on Lowndes home floor. Valdosta upset Lowndes that night.

"That was the most unbelievable night," Ellis said.
This past season saw the Lady Wildcats 15-8, losing the eight games by a total of 39 points.

As they would be in 1981, the Vikes were again Ellis' nemesis, knocking the Lady Wildcats out of the sub-region playoffs last week in Moultrie.
Ellis is also proud of the six players she has sent to college

under scholarships, including Andrea Roberts from this year's team.

Ellis has coached for eight years, six of which have been as a head coach. Before coming to VHS, Ellis was the head coach at Echols High School for one year, where she led her team to the runner-up spot in Region 1-A.

Starting her career at Irwin County High as an assistant coach for the 1976-77 seasons before becoming head coach in 1978.

Irwin County won the AA state championship during Ellis' stay in Ocella.

"I was content to coach at the high school level for these years," Ellis said. "I could have stayed here and been a winner, but I need new challenges to conquer, whether they be in basketball or not."
A replacement for Ellis had not been named at press time.



Times Staff Photo

Ellis Returning To College For Masters

Valdosta Wrestlers Rack Up Third Straight Region Title

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High wrestling team won its third consecutive region championship Saturday night as VHS had six individuals win their respective weight classes.

With a total of 250 points, the Wildcats easily defeated second place finisher, Tift County, whose team finished with 183. Lowndes, which fielded a team for the first time this year, finished a respectable fifth with 80. The Vikings had one winner and two second place finishers.

Leading the way for VHS was Mark Levy, who was named the tournament's most outstanding wrestler after winning the 129-pound class.

This marks the first year that VHS has hosted the region tournament.

The Wildcats under the guidance of

Coach Jim Landrum will participate in the state finals next Friday and Saturday in Marietta at the Cobb County Civic Center.

The referees vote on the most outstanding award and Landrum felt it could have gone to either Levy or Jack Priest, who won the 148 class. "We are very proud of the fact that the award went to Levy," Landrum said.

Levy's strong showing in the earlier matches had impressed the referee. In the quarterfinals and semifinals, Levy had pinned both of his opponents in the first period. In the finals, Levy had to wait until the 54 second mark of the second period before pinning Tift County's Al Collier.

Priest, who also won the crown last year, won the title this year despite a foot injury. The junior dropped a weight on his foot, breaking the end of one of his toes

completely off. It was bad enough that doctors could not suture the wound. Still, Priest pinned Tift County's Raymond Dixon at the 1:37 mark of the third and final period.

Greg Prine became the Wildcats first three time region champ when he pinned Goldwynn Redding at 1:22 of the final period.

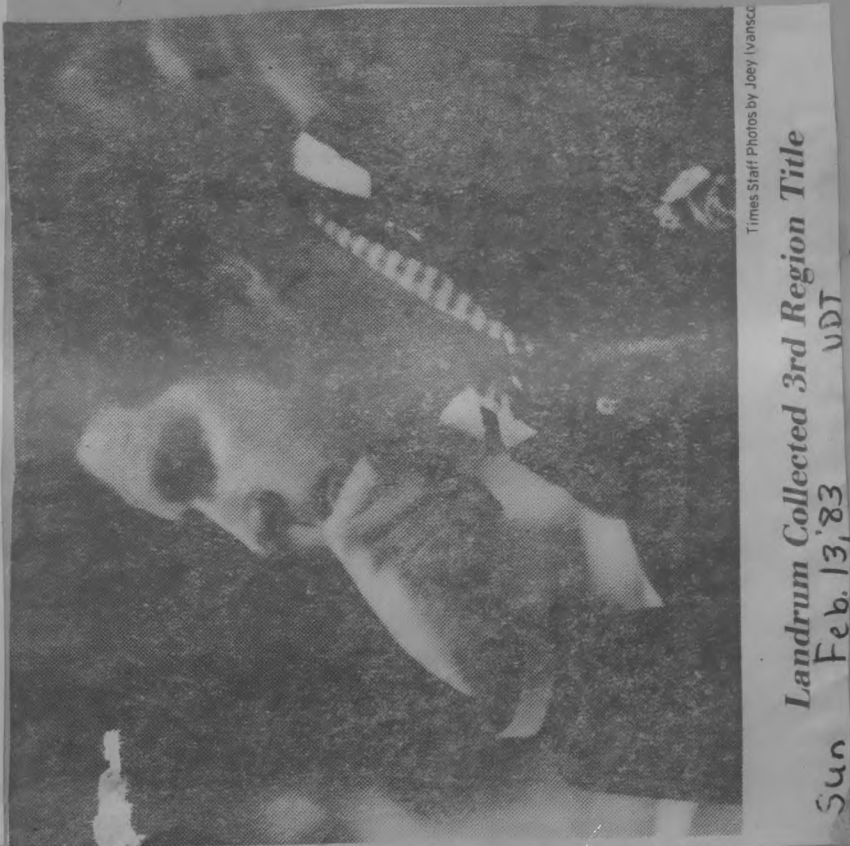
Winning the first title for Valdosta on the night was Scott Richardson, who at the beginning of the tournament was not considered one of the favorites in the 108 class. Richardson pinned Westover's Jerome Harris at 1:03 of the third period.

In the 170 class, Lowndes' Troy Braswell was pinned by Valdosta's Frank Abney, and Jimmy Lewis won the 178-pound class with a pin of Westover's Tommy Roberts with only 32 seconds remaining in the match.

Lowndes' Willie Knight finished off a great first year for the Vikings by winning the 158-pound class over Valdosta's Danny McLeod. This match had to go to overtime before Knight won a decision 3-2.

Lowndes coach Newman Sanchez knew that only his wrestlers' inexperience kept them from doing even better in their first year. "Braswell and (Bob) Sutherland are better athletes than are their opponents, but their opponents whipped them on technique, heart and desire," Sutherland lost to Tift County's Tony Stephens in overtime 8-2 in the 140-pound class.

Sanchez had praise for Valdosta and their program. "Valdosta knows the sport," he said. "They know exactly what they're doing. At the start of the season, I didn't even know how to score a match."



Landrum Collected 3rd Region Title
Sun Feb. 13, 83 VDT

Times Staff Photos by Joey Ivansco



Valdosta heavyweight Leon Johnson gets a handshake from Coach Jim Landrum Saturday afternoon during the semifinals of the region 1-AAAA wrestling meet held this weekend at

Congrats

VDT 2-13-83

Valdosta High. The Wildcat grapplers won their straight region crown Saturday night. (Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco)

SPORTS

VHS, LHS Girls Meet In Semis

By DAN CHILDS
Times Sports Editor

MOULTRIE — Valdosta's and Lowndes' girls basketball teams followed a scenario here Thursday that could have been penned by the same author.

Both, at times, looked to be headed for oblivion in the first round of the 1-AAAA South

Thomasville	10	22	26	43	45
Lowndes	10	19	31	43	48

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Thomasville — Bentley 14, Williams 12, Hadley 6, Brown 3, Bush 2.
Lowndes — Hart 22, Wilson 11, Horne 7, Williams 4, Hughes 4.

Valdosta	10	23	33	53
Colquitt	11	31	44	48

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta — Roberts 18, Melvin 14, Peeler 10, Weatherspoon 7, Irvin 2, Herrell 2.
Colquitt — Robertson 22, Sear 14, Stewart 10, Williams 2.

man-to-man pretty good at times," Kehler said. "We knew they were big and slow, so we thought it would work pretty well."

It did. And it helped the Vikettes gather momentum after they had taken a beating under the boards all evening from Thomasville. Lowndes had struggled to stay within

sub-region tournament being played at Colquitt County High. But both managed to reverse their apparent destinies, thus advancing to a clash with each other in tonight's semifinal round. The winner of tonight's battle will meet top-seeded Thomasville Central in the final round Saturday night.

Coach Jo Ellis' fourth-seeded Valdosta squad opened the tournament by coming from behind in the fourth quarter to claim a 53-48 win over No. 3 seed Colquitt County. And Steve Kehler's, No. 2 seeded Lowndes Vikettes, meanwhile, went to overtime before they finally toughed out a 48-45 decision over Thomasville, the tournament's fifth-seeded girls team.

arm's length of the Lady 'Dogs throughout the first three quarters. "We just couldn't find the right combination," Kehler said.

But the Vikettes began to get untracked in the final period. They went in trailing 36-31. With 3:48 left to play in the game, Thomasville went up 42-35, but Lowndes closed to 42-40 after a steal by Lisa Hughes was converted into a layup by Renee Wilson, who totaled 11 points for the game.

Finally, the Vikettes sent the game into overtime when Wilson connected from the free-throw line with 20 seconds left to play.

Senior Beverly Hart sparked the Vikettes with a game-high 22 points as Lowndes overcame a 10-point lead that Thomasville had established by the late stages of the third quarter.

What probably aided the Vikettes more than anything was the shift from a zone defense into a man-to-man setup after the Lady 'Dogs took command by 10. "We play the

Jump shots by Hart and Hughes gave Lowndes a 47-45 lead in the overtime period, but it wasn't until Hart sank the first shot on a one-and-one opportunity with 26 seconds left that the Vikettes were safe.

"They were jittery," Kehler said of the Vikettes. "Of course, we're a young team, so that can happen. But they finally did what they had to do. I'm really proud of them."

The Thomasville attack was led by Len Bentley's 14 points.



Andrea Roberts Sparked Valdosta's Resurgence In 4th Quarter

Veronica Williams added 12. Like Lowndes, the Lady Wildcats seemed to have a foot in the grave before roaring back late to survive.

For nearly three and a half quarters Colquitt appeared to have the game well under control. The Packerettes had cashed in in for seven straight points to close out the third quarter, giving them a 44-33 lead.

coltrolled game, but began to press: the high-pressure Valdosta defense kept the Packerettes rattled as Valdosta began to chip away at Colquitt's lead.

By the 3:34 mark of the final quarter, Valdosta had evened the game at 44-all on a Lisa Irvin jump shot. The Lady Wildcats finally regained the lead, 46-44, with 2:20 remaining to play when Connie Weatherspoon's hook shot found the net.

Then, with 26 seconds showing on the clock Irvin ran down an errant Packerette pass to all but ice the game. Colquitt had no other recourse but to foul intentionally to regain possession of the ball. Shevon Peeler drew the foul and hit both attempts on the one-and-one. With 18 seconds left, Colquitt down 51-48, Weatherspoon picked off a Packerette pass to seal the Valdosta victory.

Colquitt soon increased the bulge to 13, as the fourth quarter opened but wouldn't strike again for nearly six minutes.

Valdosta, meanwhile, went to work. The Lady 'Cats had played an uncharacteristic

score twice within the next 56 seconds, but with 1:05 left Weatherspoon connected on the front end of a one-and-one to put the Lady Wildcats up 49-48.

Andrea Roberts ignited the Lady Wildcats with 18 points. Ronnie Melvin added 14, and Peeler had 10.

For Colquitt, Gwen Robertson topped the scoring chart with 22 points.

S

Mack Browning

Times Sports Writer



Will Bass Meet His Match In The Ghost?

At Valdosta High, the ever-present Ghost which roams Cleveland Field casts an impenetrable force from which few visitors escape. It oversees and sometimes, people say, aids a VHS victory.

At Newnan High, they have their own strange-but-true, larger-than-life tales. But they haven't a ghost. The being behind these strange occurrences is head coach Max Bass.

Bass' presence goes beyond X's and O's and the wing-T offense. Coaches and players who have competed against Bass-coached teams at Newnan swear the rotund man goes overboard in his efforts to give the Cougars an advantage. Most would say he never gives the other team a fair shake. When Newnan plays at home the chances of a visiting team going home a winner is next to nil.

Bass, at close to 300 pounds, is an intimidating sort. Even so, one would think he would have a tough time buffaloing the gruff Georgia High School Association and Executive Secretary Bill Fordham. But the Newnan coach toys with a few of the rules. Teams aren't supposed to wear jerseys the color of the football, though every home game Newnan trots out in their brown tops.

"They're harvest gold," Bass insists. So much for rules.

The matter of playing in brown jerseys may not seem overly important, but try to follow a running back when he's holding a ball on his hip the same color as his jersey. Newnan has always been blessed with speedy backs. Last year's edition was Warren Newsom, who'll be attending Georgia in the fall. With his quickness the least of the opponent's worries deserved to be what color jersey he wore. But Newnan attacks on offense with mis-direction plays to take full advantage of the jersey color.

Lax accommodations for the visiting teams have also been a favorite ploy. Griffin seemed to be the usual recipient of Newnan's sourpuss attitude. Griffin, a region rival in 6-AAAA and also a perennial contender for the state championship, is an easy target since the confrontation between the two schools often has serious region and state implications.

One former Griffin High football manager, now attending the University of Georgia, recalled several rough visits to Newnan.

In addition to stopping at the many red lights, unusual for comparatively small Newnan, the Griffin team was not exactly welcomed with open arms. Or open doors for that matter.

"They have visitors' dressing rooms," the former Griffin manager said, "but they weren't ever open." In fact, Griffin head coach Lloyd Bohannon and his staff would make sure that equipment taken in every trip to Newnan would include bolt cutters and pliers, to make their way through any Bass-type trap. Bohannon also became an adept electrician. He had to, the manager said, to get the head phones to work. While Newnan coaches gabbed away with press-box staff to hammer out strategy, Griffin was mired in confusion. Another calling card, courtesy Max Bass.

But even a character like Bass has his ups and downs. Valdosta folks must have wondered where The Ghost was when the Wildcats went 3-7 in 1974. Likewise, it was a surprise when a talented 1982 Newnan team went 7-4. Even with guys like Newsom, running back Joe Reese (Valdosta State) and 6-6, 210-pound lineman Otis Jones (Georgia), the Cougars were dumped unmercifully in the region playoffs. Bass couldn't parlay those winning chips into a great season.

The Ghost meets Max Bass. It should be an interesting matchup. But away from Newnan, Bass may need all the tricks he can muster to defeat Valdosta. I suspect Bass is about to be dealt his comeuppance.

Students In Bus Incident Punished; Driver Rebuked

V Times
3-22-83

By SUZANNE CARSWELL
Times Staff Writer

Students who refused to get off a bus at Valdosta High School last week have been punished and a bus driver who left the school with them still on the bus has been reprimanded.

That's according to city school board Chairman Dr. Joe Crane.

Larita and Charles McFarland appeared before the board Monday night to protest the fact that the driver took a busload of students to the school system's bus barn after they refused to unload the bus.

They also protested the fact

that their daughter, one of those on the bus, had to write 25 pages of homework as a punishment.

Mrs. McFarland gave the following account of what happened Thursday morning:

It had been raining when bus 21 driven by Doris Smith picked up students at the intersection of West Gordon and West streets and drove them to the high school.

She parked the bus and told the students to get out, but they told her to pull up to a different location so they wouldn't have to step in some water.

She refused to move the bus and they refused to get off.

She left the bus parked at the high school with the door open for two or three minutes, then left the high school and drove to the bus barn on Slater Street to ask her supervisor, Don Simmons, how to deal with the problem.

Simmons apparently told her to drive back to the high school, which she did.

A vice principal met the bus and talked with the driver, who asked that all the students on the bus be suspended for three days for disobeying her.

The vice principal said the students would not be suspended, but would have to write 25 pages of homework instead.

"Why had no one (at the high school) noticed that no one got off the bus," Mrs. McFarland asked.

"Anything could have been wrong. It could have been a hijacking or anything," she

said.

Mrs. McFarland said her daughter told her when one student got up to get off the bus during the incident, other students threatened to beat him up if he didn't sit back down.

Board members took no action on the matter Monday because Mrs. McFarland had only requested to come to the meeting and make a statement to them, city school Superintendent Ralph Brandon said.

Crane said today if further action is necessary it will be taken, but he thinks the situation has been appropriately resolved.

"The students were disciplined for what they did, which they should have been," he said.

"They were wrong."

Brandon met with the bus driver and told her and other drivers if a similar incident occurs in the future, they are to leave the bus at the school and get an assistant principal to handle the matter, Crane said.

If they are not satisfied with the way the situation was handled, Mr. and Mrs. McFarland can request a formal hearing before the board of education, Brandon and Crane said.

School officials did not pay much attention when the bus left because there are two unloading areas at VHS and they thought the driver was going to let the students off in the other location, he said.

County at the Valdosta track.

Rainout Gives 'Cats Problems

Rains washed away a scheduled baseball game between Valdosta and Colquitt County for the second time in less than a week Monday.

The game has been rescheduled a second time for April 27 in Moultrie, two days before the Wildcats take on Lowndes.

Valdosta plays a relatively light schedule this week, beginning with Brooks County in Quitman Wednesday.

But next week, the Wildcats play four crucial sub-region games, two against Central of Thomasville and one each against Colquitt County and Lowndes, in the space of five days. Three of those games are on the road.

VT April 19, 1983

VHS Band On TV 4-18-83

The Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats Band will be on television April 23 and April 30.

The band will be featured on a taped version of the Fountain City Marching Festival, which they won in Columbus, Ga., last November.

The programs will be aired on Cable Channel 8 at 4 p.m. both Saturdays, according to a spokesman for the VHS Band Boosters.

Steve

Corrigan

Times Sports Editor



VT 4-17-83

Solution For 'Cats, Vikes

Rain has really had a bearing on baseball in our area this spring. Every team has had at least one game postponed because of the wet stuff. Some teams can't count on two hands the number of rain outs.

It's gotten so bad teams are looking for new opponents to help make up for the games that have already been cancelled.

At Valdosta High head coach Charles Tarpley is becoming frustrated with the season. When the precipitation isn't cancelling games, it is having tell-tale influence on them.

Before Saturday's loss to Tift County, the Wildcats only defeat on their near-perfect ledger was directly caused by rain. The 'Cats played through the early half of a date with Tift holding a firm lead. But the clouds erupted and the game was postponed for over an hour.

When the two clubs returned to the field, it was the beginning of the end for the 'Cats. They whiffed helplessly at the ball failing to make contact, while the Blue Devils pounded the cover off.

The end result was the first mark in the "L" column.

The 'Cats added their second scratch Saturday afternoon with a 2-1 loss to those same Blue Devils.

But Valdosta is not the only local baseball team searching to add to games to the '83 schedule as make ups. Cross-town Lowndes is in the same boat.

The Vikings were slated to play a double header against Tallahassee-Leon last weekend, but the rain gods had other ideas. Continuous showers damped any hope of getting the game in.

At almost that very same time Valdosta was planning a date with a high school from Cleveland, Tenn. But again it was just too wet for such a get-together.

On the junior high level its even worse. The Valdosta and Lowndes 9th grade and B-Teams have taken to playing each other on a regular basis just to get some games in.

So Valdosta and Lowndes are left with two open dates on their schedule and no one to fill the void.

And with the Georgia High School Association rule limiting the '83 season to 18 games, every one counts, especially if you are looking for post-season play. Games are so much more vital than any practice session.

But neither the 'Cats nor the Vikings have any clear-cut prospects to add to the shortened season. Seems like a real dilemma, eh?

It shouldn't be, though. Both have the same need. Why can't both satisfy their own need, while in turn satisfying the other?

Why not play each other? Sure, they have already played once this season — Valdosta won that meeting at the 'Cats' Bazemore Field — and they are slated to clash again on April 29 in the season finale for both teams at Lowndes Field, but a double header wouldn't weigh the schedule down.

Both have numerable open dates before the end of the year. Two games one evening at Blazer Field, preferably when Valdosta State is off or out-of-town, would be perfect. They could split the profits down the middle and the local citizenry could be treated to some good baseball.

Tarpley said he would not be opposed to such a meeting, that is if it didn't come too close to the date already set for the Lowndes-Valdosta game.

"There's no since playing two games that don't mean anything right before we play a game that means something," Tarpley said.

But as for now the prospects look dim for either the 'Cats or the Vikes to squeeze their allotted games Nos. 17 and 18 into the rain-hampered season.

Could it be that it would be too easy?



Look Sharp

VTimes Apr 16, 1983

Capt. William Allen Lawler, left, of Charleston, S.C., inspects the troops in the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at Valdosta High School as City School Superintendent Ralph Brandon, center, looks on. The ROTC students were prepared for

their annual inspection by Lt. Commander Larry Cupp, naval science instructor at VHS, and his assistant, Petty Officer 1st Class Sam Wright. — Times Staff Photo by Frank Williams.

Valdosta Netters Fall To Colquitt

VTimes 4-14-83

Valdosta's Eric Anderson remained undefeated on the 1983 tennis season in six matches Thursday afternoon with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Colquitt County's Kyle Hiers, but his boys and girls teammates were not as fortunate, dropping both team matches to the Packers.

Anderson's win was the only one for the boys as the Wildcats fell 8-1. The VHS girls, playing without a No.1 singles and doubles team, stumbled 7-2. The Valdosta girls are now 3-4 on the year.

Singles winners for the Valdosta girls were: Ethel Mitchel, a 6-3, 6-3 winner over Colquitt's Cheryl McClendon; and Mandy Smitherman, a 6-3, 6-3 winner over Kim Cornelius.

SPORTS

Valdosta Rally Edges Monroe

6-Run Explosion Gives Wildcats 1-0 Lead In Region Playoffs

By MACK BROWNING
Times Staff Writer

ALBANY — Valdosta ran into a much tougher foe than was expected Wednesday, and the Wildcats had to scrap their way back for a 7-4 win over Monroe at Cardinal Park.

The victory gives Valdosta (13-2) a 1-0 advantage in this best-of-three semi-final series in the 1-AAAA championships. Game 2 was scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. this afternoon at Bazemore Field. Game 3, should the Tornados win game 2, would be played today.

The Wildcats trailed Monroe 4-1 going into the seventh inning, but starter Danny Williamson walked the first three batters and an error later Marty Shiver homered to win the game.

"They were much better than we ever thought they were," said Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley after the game. "We thought we could take it by showing up. Our players will come out tomorrow mentally prepared."

Monroe got the early advantage as Valdosta left the bases loaded in the first inning. The Tornados then shocked all-area pitcher-of-the-year Ted West for two home runs in their half of the inning to build a 2-0

lead.

"It looked easy right off the bat," Tarpley said, "but we didn't score, and they hit two home runs. That got their kids up."

Monroe (11-6) took a 3-0 lead in the third on Bruce Mock's second homer of the game and extended that lead to 4-0 the next inning as West threw wildly to third trying to force a runner.

In the sixth, Valdosta got one of those runs back.

West opened with a single and scored on Ben Reaves double that got past the center fielder. But Williamson got out of further trouble, leaving Reaves stranded as he got Blake Belue to fly out and Ferrell Scruggs to strike out.

One pitch told the story of the seventh inning. And if one batter hurt Williamson Wednesday it was designated hitter Tommy Schunhoff.

Schunhoff had struck out and walked in his first two plate appearances, and he was looking for at least a walk to start off the seventh in order to get a rally underway.

It seemed like a losing proposition, since Williamson had walked only two and allowed but five hits through six innings.

"I don't know why we couldn't hit him," Schunhoff said. "He had a mediocre fastball and he didn't throw anything else."

Schunhoff admitted things looked bleak, especially after

outside," Schunhoff said.

Williamson, visibly shaken by the call, walked the next two batters — Lorenzo Matchett and Greg Jenkins — without getting close to the strike zone. With the bases loaded and no

three hits. Three walks and a horrendous error gave the Wildcats the win.

But Monroe proved it could play with Valdosta. The Tornados ripped West from beginning to end. West got Monroe three up and three down in the seventh, but two balls were hit hard in that inning — including one that left fielder Scruggs made a running knee-high catch.

Tarpley said his team was fortunate to win.

"We won one we shouldn't have," he said.

Rick Rupp (3-2) starts game 2 today.

"They were much better than we ever thought they were. We thought we could take it by showing up."

— Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley

Valdosta managed to reach Williamson for only a run in the sixth after Reaves' double.

"I kind of thought we'd get beat," Schunhoff said, "but we've got the kind of team that can come back and never give up."

Schunhoff, leading off the seventh, ran the count to three balls and two strikes and fouled off several good pitches to stay alive. Williamson then came with a fastball low on the corner that was called ball four, though the pitch looked perfect.

"It was kind of low of and

outs, second baseman Mark Perry drove the ball to deep center. Center fielder Darren Spurling only had to move a step or two, but he dropped the ball and two runs scored.

After West drove in the tying run with a single, Monroe coach Walter Stubbs took Williamson out and put in Jeff Swift.

Swift was greeted by Shiver's blast over the left field screen.

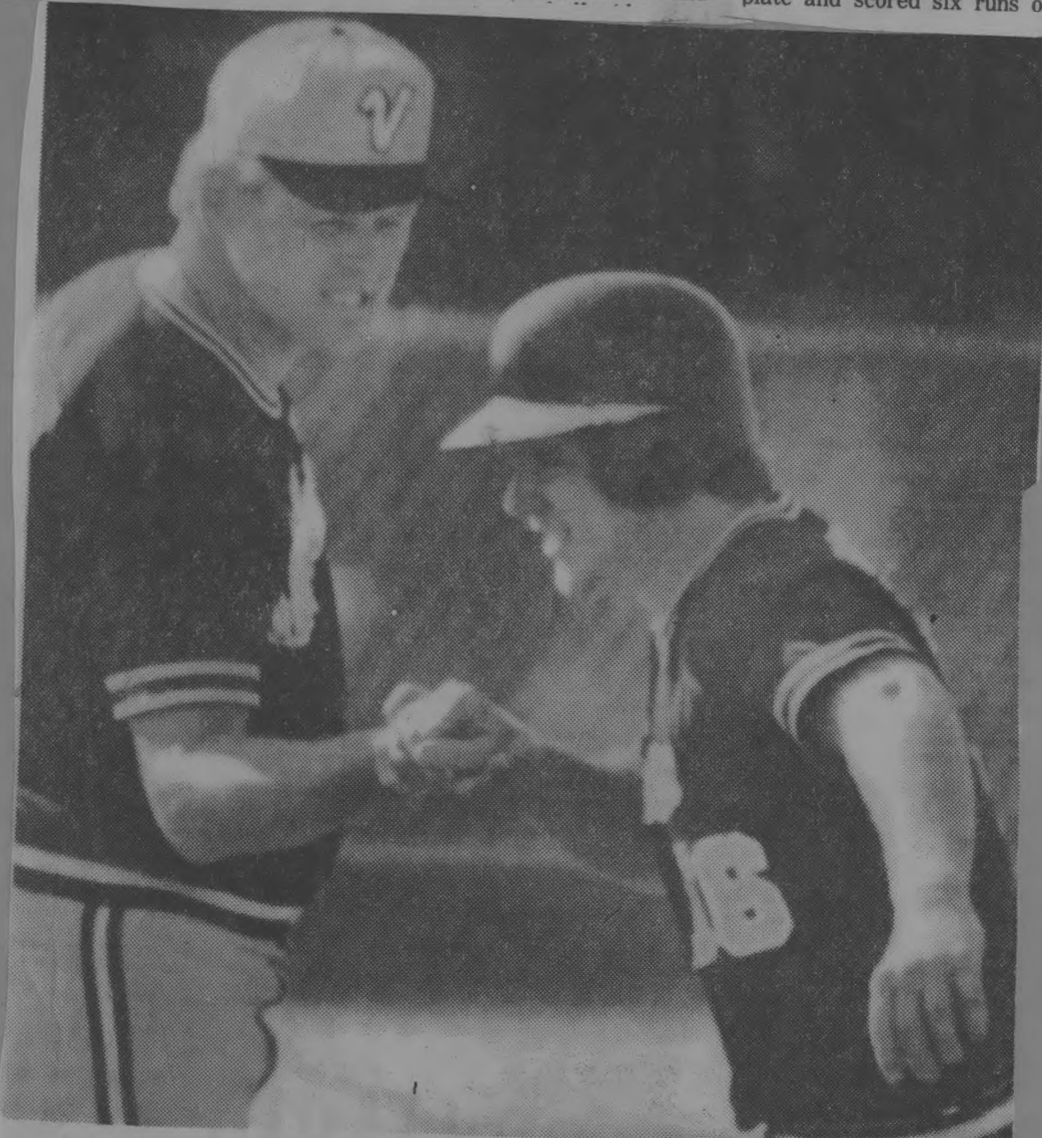
Valdosta sent 10 men to the plate and scored six runs off

VHS	abr	h	b	i	MHS	abr	h	b	i	
GJnkns	ss	2	1	1	0	Mthis	lf	4	1	2
Perry	2b	4	1	1	0	Works	3b	4	0	0
West	p	4	2	2	1	Mock	s	4	2	2
Shver	c	4	1	2	3	Knight	1b	4	0	2
Rves	cf	4	0	2	1	Smith	c	4	0	1
Belue	1b	4	0	0	0	Spurling	cf	3	0	1
Scruggs	lf	4	0	0	0	Reid	2b	3	1	1
Schoff	dh	2	0	0	0	Redding	rf	3	0	0
Prvis	pr	0	1	0	0	Williamson	p	3	0	0
Mitch	rf	1	1	0	0	Swift	p	0	0	0
TOTALS		29	7	8	5	TOTALS		32	4	9

VHS 000 001 6-7-8-4
MHS 201 100 0-4-9-2
E — Redding, Spurling, West 2, G. Jenkins, C. Jenkins. DP — MHS 1. Left — MHS 7, VHS 7. 2B — Knight, Reaves. HR — Mathis, Mock 2, Shiver. SB — Reid, Reaves.

VHS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
West	7	9	4	3	0	9
MHS						
Williamson	6	6	6	5	5	7
Swift	1	2	1	1	0	1

Winner — West. Loser — Williamson. PB — Smith 2. HBP — G Jenkins by Williamson.



Marty Shiver's Homer Broke Game Open In Last Inning

Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco

Essay Contest Won By Senior

VDT
Wed Mar 16
1983

By Times Staff Writer
A Valdosta High School senior won the annual Elks Americanism essay contest.

Mary Frances Taormina was awarded a \$100 U.S. savings bond Tuesday at the Elks lodge meeting, said Ray Hamel, Americanism committee chairman.

Miss Taormina wrote on the subject of "Freedom, the Foundation of Americanism."

The daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Frank E. Taormina of Valdosta was selected over 42 other contestants from Georgia Christian School, Lowndes High School, VHS and Valwood School.

"Our judges had a very difficult task in choosing the best entries because the schools had already weeded out those essays which were not highly competitive," Hamel said.

"The technical aspects of writing also had to be evaluated because of the overall excellence of expression and content of the essays."

Hamel said only one essay came in directly from a student to the committee without first being evaluated by teachers from the respective schools. That paper was written by Lowndes High School ninth grader Paige Flowers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Flowers of Lake Park. She finished third.

"This was quite an accomplishment for a freshman competing against some tough seniors like Miss Taormina," Hamel said.

Finishing third was Terry Richards, a GCS senior and son of Mr. and Mrs. Ward Richards of Lake Park.

Winning essay contests is nothing new to Miss Taormina.

She won first place 1-AAAA essay and third place 1-AAAA essay in the state.

Miss Taormina was also named Good Citizen from VHS by the Gen. James Jackson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Part of the judging was on an essay written on the subject of "Our American Heritage and our Responsibility for Preserving It."

Her other high school honors include Outstanding Freshman, Sophomore and Junior English student, National Merit Semifinalist, Who's Who Among American High School Students, America's Outstanding Names and Faces and National High School Award for Excellence.

She is yearbook editor-in-chief, secretary of the debate team which won the region trophy last year and a member of the Beta Club and Academic Bowl team.

Last year she was the student director and this year she plays a supporting role in the school's one-act presentation.

Miss Taormina is a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and has spent time delivering hot meals to shut-ins.

Her future plans include attending college and majoring in pre-law with a minor in computer science.



MARY TAORMINA
Eyes Pre-Law



The Associated Press

Almost like the real thing

Atlanta Const.
3-13-83

VALDOSTA, Ga. — A Saudi Arabian "oil minister" portrayed by Michael Herrin of Valdosta High School pushes past a cadre of Iraqi "troops," who were also high school students, prior to the start of a model United Nations General Assembly held Friday at

Valdosta State College. The annual one-day event sponsored by the college's department of international studies attracted about 350 Georgia and Florida high school students. Student delegations represented all the nations of the U.N. General Assembly.

Area Teams Vying For Wildcat Classic

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Pitching will be the key when four area high school baseball teams square off Friday and Saturday in the Wildcat Classic at the Valdosta High field.

Lanier County and host Valdosta get things rolling Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. Defending champion Berrien County and Lowndes round out the teams. The Rebels and Vikings meet Saturday morning at 10 a.m.

Winners from the first two rounds tangle for the tournament crown Saturday afternoon at 3:15 p.m. Losers from the previous rounds meet first in a 12:45 start Saturday afternoon in the consolation round.

"Anybody who gets a good pitching performance should be able to win it," said Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley. "One pitcher could make the difference."

Lanier County, a member of Georgia's smallest classification, will be going up against AAAA Valdosta and Lowndes and AAA Berrien. But the Bulldogs return two pitchers off both Lanier's 1981 and '82 teams that played for the Class A state title.

Berrien, which took last

year's Wildcat Classic title by whipping both Valdosta and Lowndes, also returns a starter, a lefthander, off the '82 team. In fact he was the same pitcher who knocked off the Vikings in the Classic finals. The Rebels also captured the region title last year and played for the South Georgia championship before being knocked off.

Despite both Berrien's and Lanier's firepower, Tarpley said the Classic crown should come from either Lowndes or Valdosta.

"Us and Lowndes should be the favorite," Tarpley said. "But the other two teams have gone a long way in the playoffs."

"We've got the most experience," Tarpley added, "but Lowndes is going to have a good ball club."

Tarpley plans to start senior Mike Moore in the first game against Lanier. Junior Lorenzo Matchett will pitch the second game Tarpley said. Teddy West, a 12-game winner last year, has hurt knee to go along with duties to the football team where he is starting quarterback and will not pitch in the Classic. Tarpley did say, though, that if West's bat was needed he may call on the

junior.

Tarpley is right on the money when he talks about his Wildcat experience. Four of the five starting infielders are seniors, the catcher is a senior and two of the outfielders are nearing graduation.

"I'll probably start eight seniors," Tarpley said. "This is their fourth year together. All were members of our first ninth grade team and played together on the B-team before joining the varsity."

The 'Cats went 23-7 last year and won the sectional before losing the South Georgia championship to Coffee County, which went on to win the state tournament.

Five returning starters off last year's team hit over .300, and three, outfielder Ben Reaves, first baseman Blake Belue and catcher Marty Shiver, all hovered around the .380 mark. Incidentally, all three were named captains for the upcoming season.

"I would have to say our hitting is our strong point," Tarpley said.

But if everything falls in to place as he hopes, "I ought to have a good baseball team," Tarpley said.

VT. 3-17-83

VHS To Rebuild Toward Title

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

Rebuilding a team that was severely depleted on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball was the unenviable task facing head coach Nick Hyder when defending AAAA state champion Valdosta High went to work last week in the opening of spring football drills.

Fifteen starters and two key reserves graduated off last year's team that went 15-0 and captured Hyder's first sole state crown since coming to Valdosta ten years ago.

Names like Daniels, Cooper, Major and Lee have left the defense, while names like Belle, Reaves, Mitchell and Martin are only memories on offense. "And most of those guys got scholarships," noted Hyder of the nine former Wildcats who inked pacts with colleges and universities.

"That was a pretty good group of seniors," Hyder added.

But those names are history as far as VHS is concerned. Now the Wildcats have set their sites on the rapidly approaching spring game and the upcoming 1983 season.

"You don't cry in Valdosta," Hyder said. "That's the nature of coaching. We've got a lot of work to do."

And the 'Cats have just under two weeks to do it in Saturday, March 19, Valdosta hosts Newnan in the annual spring game at Cleveland Field. They conclude the spring the following Friday.

Valdostians, though, will have an opportunity to get a sneak preview of the '83 'Cats Friday night in the annual "Has-Been, Will-Be Game." Kickoff is set for 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field.

The VHS Touchdown Club is sponsoring a supper Thursday night at 7 p.m. at VHS where fans will get a chance to meet the Will-Bes.

Hyder said an excellent off-season program should help VHS counter the lack-of-experience factor. Over 100 kids turned out for the beginning of spring practice and the majority have stayed. Last Friday 117 were dressed for practice.

"It was one of the best first weeks we've had in a long time," Hyder said. "We thought the defense was sound. We're still experimenting with a lot of players. But with that nucleus back from the state championship team, we're in good shape. We've got to rebuild the offensive line. And that will take patience."

Only one starter returns to the offensive line. Rising senior Monte Davis will head the list of fillers for the four holes left by departed offensive linemen.

"We've got a lot of hard work to do on the offensive line," Hyder said. "All you can say is that the youngsters are there. They came up through the program. They just haven't been tested under fire."

Defensively, graduation hit hardest on the line and in the secondary. Three defensive backs will have to be replaced and four linemen positions



Wildcats' Line Coach Jerry Don Baker Watches His Players

(Times Staff Photo)

filled. Nose guard Leon Johnson, a stellar performer all last year, is expected to provide invaluable experience on the defensive line.

The biggest aid to 'Cats, though, will be the linebacker corps, perhaps the best in region 1-AAAA. Led by rising sophomore John Porter and rising senior Frank Abney, the 'Cats boast an incredible one-two punch. "And put the guy at middle guard in there with

them," Hyder said, "and that's quite a trio."

The offensive backfield, minus All-Region fullback Pernel Bee, returns in tact. Led by rising senior Ted West at quarterback, the experience in the 'Cat backfield will go a long way until the offensive line matures.

Running backs Dana Brinson and Tony Anderson should give VHS a reliable ground game. That is, if they remain eligible. "We're having some trouble

academically with some of those people," Hyder said. "If they pull their potential, they'll be alright."

Hyder has also experimented with several players in unfamiliar positions. Backup quarterback Berke Holzclaw is being looked at at split end. "That's what we did with John Lastinger and John Bond," Hyder said. "I don't think you can afford the luxury of having an athlete with the talent of Holzclaw standing on the side-line."

Sports Briefs

VDT 3/15/83

VHS Tennis Teams

Roll Over Madison

The Valdosta Wildcats and Lady 'Cats tennis teams routed the Madison (Fla.) High teams 9-0 and 7-2, respectively Monday. Eric Anderson led the route for the Wildcats as he demolished Tony Reed 6-0, 6-0 in the No. 1 singles. David Johnson defeated Ray Morse 6-1, 6-1. Sean Miller whipped Craig Burnett 6-0, 6-0.

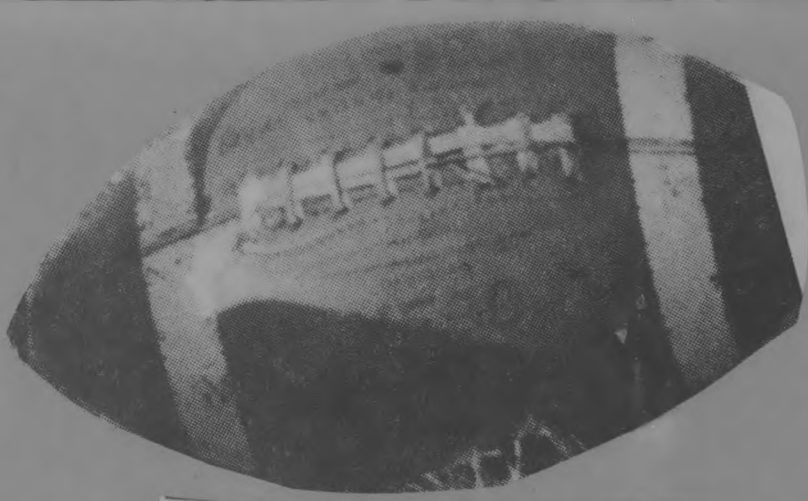
In the No. 4 singles, Alan Alverado defeated Gard Gardner 6-1, 6-1. Jon Paris whipped John Grant 6-1, 6-0 and Kibby Wagner crushed Curtis Castner 6-0, 6-0.

In the doubles matches, Johnson/Miller defeated Reed/Gardner 6-0, 6-0. Alan Burn/Alverado beat Morse/Burnett 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 and Mike Furukawa/Jim Staup defeated Grant/Castner 6-0, 6-0.

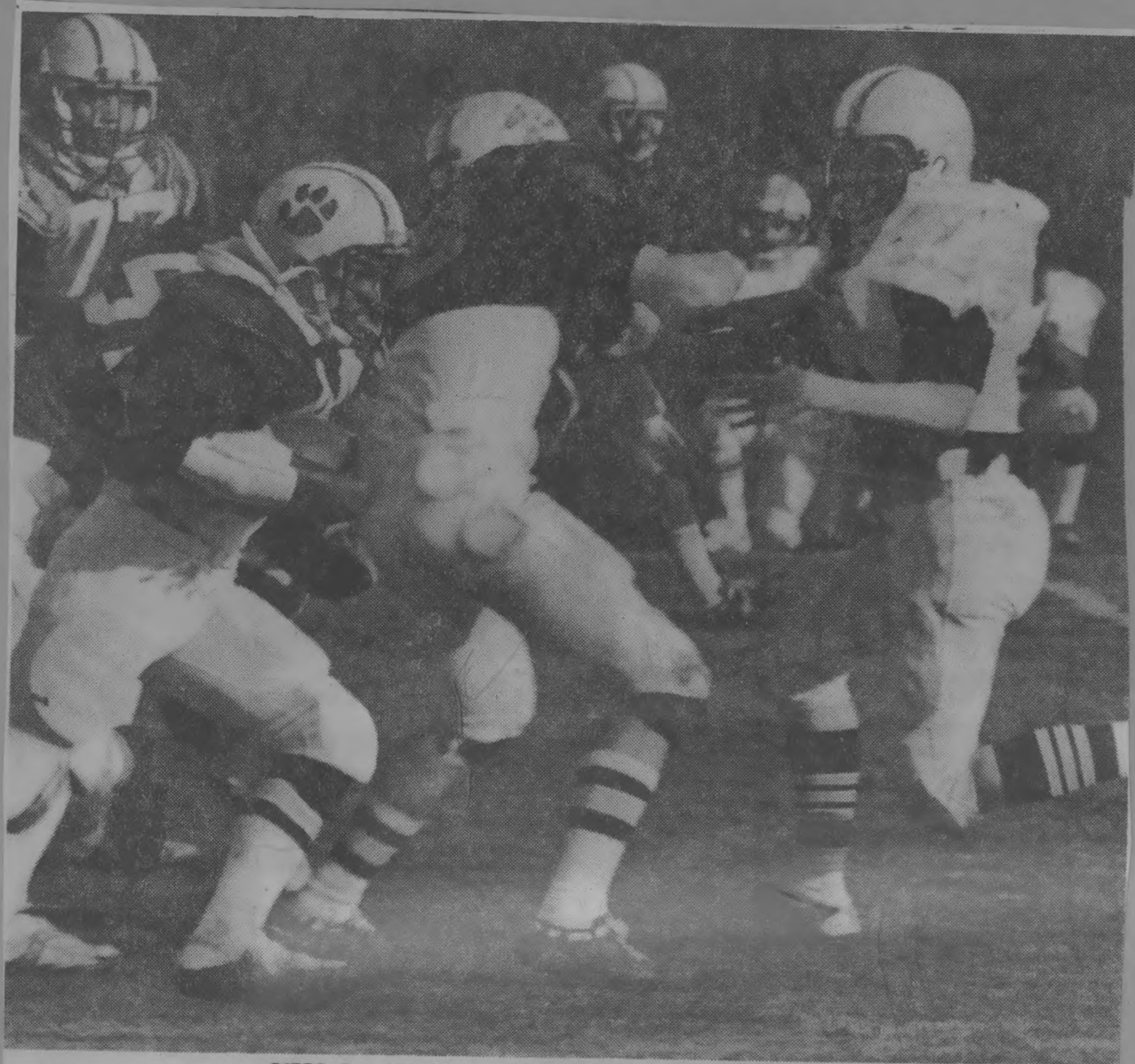
After dropping the first two singles matches, the Lady Wildcats came back to claim the remaining seven matches. Melanie Nelson dropped a 6-4, 6-4 match to Linda Anderson, while Angie Gould lost 6-1, 6-1 to Laura Wilson.

Alden Dowling got the Lady 'Cats on the right road with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Kim Harmsen. Following that win, Carloine Malik defeated Traci Sherrard 6-3, 6-1. In the No. 5 singles, Ethel Mitchell whipped Kathy Maxwell 6-0, 6-2. Mandy Smitherman won the last singles match with a 6-4, 6-4 decision over Colleen Latta 6-4, 6-4.

Nelson/Dowling defeated Anderson/Wilson in the No. 1 doubles 7-5, 7-6. Gould/Malik whipped Stewart/Bibb 6-3, 6-3 and Mitchell/Smitherman 6-4, 7-6. Winning B-team singles matches was Ginna Pitcher and Cindy Nelson.



Valdosta, Ga., Sunday, March 13, 1983



VHS Sends Troops Through Padded Workout

A Brand New Year

It's that time of year again.

With warm weather signaling the arrival of spring, sports enthusiasts usually think of spring sports such as tennis, golf and baseball.

However, football, dormant during the winter months, rears its head in the spring for spring drills. These drills are held so coaches can evaluate and select the players to return in the fall.

The Valdosta Wildcats started their spring practices on March 7 and will conclude on March 25. The Wildcats will host Newnan High School March 19 in their annual spring game.

In 1982, Coach Nick Hyder led the 'Cats to their first sole state championship since 1971, slipping by Peachtree 10-7 at Cleveland Field in the final game.

Lowndes began its drills on Feb. 28. They will culminate in a spring game against Cairo High School on March 18.

After winning the state title in 1980, the Vikings have missed making the playoffs the last two seasons but are looking forward to returning in '83.

In their first season of competition, the Valdosta State Blazers were able to provide fans with many thrills and a 5-5-1 record.

However, the Blazers will have to go without the best passing combo in the Gulf South Conference in '82. Quarterback James Owens owns the record for most yardage passing in one season while wide-receiver Carl Armstrong owns the most receptions and receiving-yardage records.

Currently, the Blazers are going only through conditioning drills. Coach Jim Goodman will begin spring practice on April 4.

Story By

Kevin
Price

Photos By
Robert
Winter III



SPORTS

The Valdosta Daily Times

The Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., Mar. 18, 1983-11-

Valdosta Takes Offense To Newman

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Ted West has been pleased with his spring. So has Tony Anderson. The pair make up two-thirds of the Valdosta High offensive backfield that will take on Newman Saturday night at Cleveland Field. Kickoff for the varsity game is set for 7 p.m. The VHS B-team will take on Newman at 4 p.m.

After three weeks of spring practice both West, the quarterback, and Anderson, the tailback, are ready to play a game. But the grind of practice has taken its toll on West who will enter the Newman game with a knee injury.

"It's about 85 percent," West said Thursday after Valdosta's two-and-a-half hour workout. He said it should be ready for the game, though.

Anderson, a sensation as a freshman rushing for over 500 yards in his first year as a Wildcat, is ready to go.

"We're anxious to see what we have to do," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder who enters his 10th year at the Wildcat helm. "This game will give us an opportunity to see what we need to do in the second offseason."

By scheduling the game a week early, the Georgia High School Association allows for four weeks of spring practice. Valdosta will be able to work out kinks that develop in the Newman game.

"We planned it that way," Hyder said of playing the spring game after the third week. "We wanted to have the extra week to work on our mistakes."

"We'll be able to concentrate

on the game," he added, "come back and make corrections. Then we'll be able to start looking to Waycross."

Valdosta opens the 1983 regular season at Waycross.

But more than evaluating players at set positions, the spring game allows the VHS coaches the opportunity to look at players in other than their natural surroundings.

"Another thing we wanted to do was look at people at other positions," Hyder said. "For instance, Tony Anderson is an excellent secondary man. We also want to look at some younger people a little bit more."

Newman should provide an excellent test for the Wildcats. The Cougars went 7-4 last year before being knocked out in the first round of the region playoffs. Newman's wing-T offense is the same offense Coffey County employs. It will give the Cats a sneak preview of things to come.

"It's really infested north Georgia," Hyder said of the wing-T. "It hasn't quite caught on heavily in the south except for at Coffey."

Newman's offense relies on misdirection running plays and bootleg, roll-out passes. VHS will not be able to pursue on defense.

"It's a misdirection offense," Hyder said. "It puts pressure on everybody to stay at home. You can't have gang tackling. I'd say it puts pressure on the linebackers more than anybody else."

The VHS linebacker corps may be the strongest facet of the Cats' defense. Both rising junior John Porter and rising senior Frank Abney return

from last year's state championship team that went 15-0. Combined with nose man Leon Johnson, the Cats should be able to contain Newman's running game.

Defensively Newman runs multiple sets. "Basically they're a 4-3-4 team," Hyder said. "But they could go 4-4 and sometimes they go into a 6-1 or an Oklahoma."

Giving different looks on defense could confuse Valdosta's young offensive line. Five of the six starters off the Cats' interior line have graduated. Only tackle Monte Davis returns.

"They've made good strides," Hyder said of his line. "Of course, Monte returns. Then John Nitschke played a lot at guard and John Reaves played some at center."

The play of the offensive line will be important for VHS to establish a running game. All the receivers' off last year's team graduated and the present group is untested. But the Cats' backfield has proven itself.

Hyder said he would not rely on any one facet of his offense. "We like to think we can run and throw," he said. "We like to think we're balanced. We go into each game thinking we can run and throw."

But the running game may be the key against Newman.

"I think it was sound," Hyder said of last year's running game. "We didn't dominate, but we were able to move the ball."



Tailback Tony Anderson Is Ready For Spring Game

Times Staff Photo

Steve

Corrigan

Times Sports Editor



Academia Dictates

Prepsters

March 20, 1983

If you were at Valdosta High's spring football game Saturday night and noticed that one of your favorite ballplayers was absent from the proceedings on the Cleveland Field gridiron, don't be concerned about the lad's health. He's probably in better shape than you and I.

No, injuries weren't the cause of the 14 Wildcats missing VHS's 24-14 win over Newnan. Grades were.

Under Georgia High School Association rules, a player, no matter the sport, must pass at least four subjects during the preceeding quarter to be eligible to compete. Not four academic subjects mind you, just four subjects period. They could be art, music, shop and physical education as far as the GHSA is concerned. The governing body just wants four passing grades.

Those 14 that missed the Newnan game had not met the requirements.

While the GHSA stipulation does not apply to spring games, Valdosta High coach Nick Hyder decided to hold the players out anyhow. It was a way of getting attention.

Last fall when the 'Cats went 15-0 and won the state championship, seven players were ineligible for the title game against Peachtree. Hyder had had enough and he did something about it.

"We had to do something to get their attention," he explained. Standing on the sideline as the 'Cats thumped Newnan Saturday night was his way of saying "pass your school work or you don't play."

As it turned out the missing players were hardly noticed as the 'Cats beat Newnan 24-14. "And we did it with some pretty good people not playing," Hyder said. "We did it with the best running back in the state sitting on the sideline.

"It's good to see that we could win without those boys with academic problems," Hyder added. "We gambled that we could win without them."

Hyder's lesson is a good one. I hope more coaches around the state follow his lead.

"All we ask is that they pass," Hyder said, "not to make A's. That's not too much to ask."

Or is it? No other high school student is forced to pass. Band members aren't monitored to make sure four subjects were passed. So why should football players?

Certainly, the rule is a good one. Perhaps it should be widened to encompass all students who are participating in extra-curricular activities. But for now, we should feel proud the rule is being applied to athletes and being upheld by the coaches.

This rule is even more important when you realize that under new NCAA guidelines, an athlete must make at least a 700 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the college entrance examination, to be eligible to compete in college sports. But merely passing four subjects each quarter is still not enough to raise students' SAT scores above the minimum requirement. But it is a start.

"I think it makes our school academically strong," Hyder said of the academic guidelines.

After all, what is high school for? It's not for playing football games.

"The football team is the servant of the school," Hyder said. "I don't believe the school is the servant of the team. Hence, they're (the players) going to have to meet their academic requirements."

Or, as happened Saturday night, they will be watching the game from the sideline.

V. Times

3-25-83



Spring Practice?

Bob Bolton, coach of the receivers for Valdosta High School's football team, turned out for spring football practice Thursday looking more like it was the middle of winter. The

weather certainly seemed that way, with an early spring cold snap that brought gusty winds and low temperatures to the Valdosta area. — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.

Sports Briefs

Mar 23, 83

Hyder Receives Another Honor

Valdosta High Wildcats coach Nick Hyder was recently honored as Georgia's High School Coach of the Year by the 100 Percent Wrong Club of Atlanta.

Hyder led the 1982 edition of the Wildcats to a perfect 15-0 season and their first sole state championship since 1971.

Wildcat players honored by the club were Jeff Lee and Herbert Lowe. Both of which played on the state championship team in 1982.

April 19 - 1983

VHS Sets Energy Saving System

By ROBERT BOHLER
Times Staff Writer

In a move to nip escalating power bills at Valdosta High School, city school board members will lean on a computerized energy management system next school year to monitor utility consumption at the school.

Automated Logic Corporation of Atlanta offers the system which School Superintendent Ralph Brandon said could save the city system the computer's \$35,750 cost within a year's time.

Brandon said the Dalton, Ga., city school system averaged a 24 percent to 26 percent reduction in costs over a four-year period.

"If we could save just 20 percent, it would pay for itself in no more than twelve months," said Brandon.

He said that the high school's increase in utility costs greatly exceeds Georgia Power Co.'s figures for average increase. For the period studied, Brandon said the high school's bills had increased by 14 percent, compared to Georgia Powers average figure of just under 10 percent.

"When the high school was built, energy was no a factor," said Brandon, "at least not as evidenced by the utility bills."

Brandon said that the school's bills continued to climb despite reductions in kilowatt usage.

According to Brandon, the greatest increases in the city system are at the schools with centralized heating and cooling systems.

"It's impossible to balance a building as big as the high school," said Brandon.

Monthly electric bills at the school are currently running in excess of \$14,000, according to school officials.

In other business:

—The board accepted the low bid of \$276,377 from Tom Hutchinson Construction Co. for renovations at Valdosta Jr. High School.

Brandon said the work would include interior painting at the school, lowering of ceilings, enclosure of windows, and lighting installation.

—The board accepted the low bid of \$38,038 from Abner Pope and Sons, Inc. of Ocilla for a facelift of the south stands at Cleveland Field.

Brandon said the contract called for the sandblasting of the stands, including the pressbox, with a finish coat of epoxy paint. He said the job, which carries a five-year guarantee, would be paid solely out of athletic funds.

—Board Treasurer Lamar Newbern told the board that, with the delay in state tabulations needed for compiling a school budget, the date for figuring the preliminary budget would probably be pushed back from May to June.

—Board members agreed to kick in \$15,000 to the Valdosta Area Technical School and to renew the practice of annual contributions. The figure will be matched by the county school system, according to Newbern.

—The board adopted a resolution to roll back property taxes for the full amount of state taxes forwarded to the schools. Brandon estimated the figure at \$525,000.

Newbern told the board there was "fighting chance" of a minute reduction in the school millage rate. He said later he doubted the cut would be reflected in a reduced budget. "It never does," he said.

With the purchase of twelve 66-passenger and two 36-passenger busses, the board will auction as surplus nine school buses, ranging from one 1966 model to five 1975 models.

Brandon said the net gain of three buses would increase the system's number of spares to six.

4-20-83

Showdowns Set In Area Baseball

The sub-region baseball races are heating up, particularly in 1-AAAA, and thanks to the unusually wet weather, defending champ Valdosta will play four of its closest rivals in one fell swoop.

Lowndes, given new life in the sub-region race because of Colquitt County's recent win over Central of Thomasville, plays its hectic, rain-altered schedule this week.

Four teams from the south sub-region have a chance to participate in the region playoffs beginning May 2. Valdosta would seem a lock because the Wildcats are undefeated in sub-region play while every other team has at least one loss.

But beginning next Monday, Valdosta plays Central on the road, Central at home and Colquitt County on the road on successive days. Then the 'Cats must play at Lowndes, which will probably have much more at stake, on the regular season's final day next Friday.

The busy week promises to be no easy task for Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley, whose slim pitching staff will be sorely tested. So far this year, Ted West has pitched against every major sub-region opponent (not Thomasville which is the league doormat). At least two of those games will probably rest on the shoulders of Rick Rupp or Mike Moore. Neither have been placed on that type of pressure situation this year.

And though it doesn't seem likely, two losses could even put the Wildcats out of the playoffs.

Lowndes coach Noel George isn't concerned about hanging on to any kind of a lead in the standings. He's got to be concerned with just getting enough wins to get him into the playoffs.

The Vikings have two sub-region losses on the year, tying them with Colquitt County — a team they've beaten once already. The big games for them come Thursday and Friday.

Lowndes hosts Central Thursday. A win would boost the Vikings into a three-way tie for second in the sub-region and in a position to make the playoffs. That became possible when Colquitt beat Central 12-4, last Friday in Moultrie. Lowndes then must travel to Moultrie Friday for a game with Colquitt.

Since Central must still play Valdosta twice, with two losses a distinct possibility, the game between Lowndes and Colquitt could decide the No. 2 team in the sub-region.

The battle in the north sub-region is almost as difficult to call. Tift County looks like a shoe-in. The Blue Devils have beaten defending state champion Coffee this year and have beaten Valdosta twice and Lowndes. The other team in the playoffs could be Westover or Dougherty. Westover has one loss in that sub-region, and Dougherty has one good pitcher who has carried them this year.

In area baseball, Cook appears solid in 1-AAA with Berrien County or Fitzgerald the likely No. 2 team in the East. But in the West, Cook will find difficult opponents to wade through in its attempt to get back to the state tournament. Cairo, last year's runner-up, and Bainbridge should make the playoffs.

Winless Brooks County appears destined for a year of wondering what went wrong. The Trojans, playing out of their class, were humiliated by Valdosta 32-3 a week ago and are scheduled to play the Wildcats again today in Quitman. However, Tarpley said he would play his 11th-graders against Brooks.

As bad as that sounds, though, Brooks will have a shot at the playoffs. Every team in 1-AA South — Brooks, Turner County, Macon County and Dooly County — will play a single-elimination series with the winner to play probably Seminole County for the region championship.

Turner is the favorite, but the Rebels lost to Cook 14-3 last week. Brooks plays Turner in a double header Saturday in Quitman. A win could boost the Trojans' confidence heading into the tournament.

In 2-A, the season boils down to two confrontations — Clinch County versus Lanier County in the South and Nicholls versus Broxton in the North. The winners of those two series will play for the region title.

Clinch, with the youngest program in the region, may be the favorite. Clinch has beaten Nicholls, which Lanier coach Jack Hart considered the best in the region this year. Lanier, the defending South Georgia champions, have had problems this year. A shoulder injury to star player Sylvester West kept him from pitching effectively in several ball games. As a result, Lanier dipped to an uncharacteristic sub-.500 record.

Based on games played to date, you have to like Valdosta's, Cook's and Clinch's chances to make the state playoffs. Valdosta, because the only team to beat them — Tift — hasn't faced West yet. Cook, because it's incomprehensible to think how anyone can stop Thad Williams and Steve Browning. And Clinch, because you have to like the underdog.

But in the next week and a half, it's probable that Lowndes, Berrien and Lanier will have something to say about the title

V. Times 3-6-83

LHS, VHS Win History Meet

By Times Staff Writer

Students from Lowndes High School and Valdosta Junior High School placed first in competition at National History Day in Waycross recently.

Winners on the high school level from LHS were Paige Flowers, first; Steve Dodd, second; and Kerrie Plump, third.

The LHS students won for their essays on the turning points in history, according to their teacher, Ximena Holcombe.

In the junior division from VJHS were Susan Burne, Kristen Greene, Laura McMillan, Jen-

nifer Moody and Pat Smith, first place, group performance.

The girls won for the skit "Famous American Women."

Lang Culbreth, Leslie Hagen, Jodi McDonald and Joy Myddelton placed first in group project for theirs on "Eli Whitney and His Invention."

Second place for an individual project went to David Cole for his on computers.

Rusty McCall and Paul Rainey took second in the group project division for their work on "The Revolutionary Computer Chip."

Third place winners from VJHS included

Laura Bailey, Dana Dailey, Christie Grimes, Jenny Lazaroff and Lisa Scherer, junior group performance; Charles Crosby, historical paper; Amy Burch and Tracey Loftis and Cathy Oliver and Stephen Pruitt (tie), junior group project; and Michael Schmier, junior group project.

The VJHS students were from Alfred Hierns' and Lisa Harper's classes.

National History Day was sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Mrs. Holcombe said.

Students placing first or second, if their point totals are high enough, will compete in state contests April 30 in Atlanta.

Valdosta Tennis

Both of the Valdosta High tennis teams went into Tuesday's match with Tift County with perfect 2-0 records — both teams came out with imperfect 2-1 marks. The Lady 'Cats were overpowered 8-1, while the Wildcats didn't fare much better, losing 7-2.

In the girls No. 1 singles, Melanie Nelson dropped the match to Paige Johnson 6-0, 6-4. At No. 2, Angie Gould lost to Susie Moorman 6-4, 6-1. No. 3 Alden Dowling was

beaten by Terri Folley 6-3, 6-0. No. 4 Caroline Malik was whipped by Marcie Brooks 6-2, 6-1.

The lone winners for the Lady Wildcats came in the No. 3 doubles where Malik and Gould teamed up to beat Perry and Tonya Gilbert 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

In two B team singles matches, Valdosta had a pair of winners. Ginna Pitcher defeated Kelly Couvillon 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, and Denise Fields whipped Kim Couvillon 6-2, 6-3.

The Wildcats started off on

Mitchell and Smitherman were beaten by Folley and Moorman 6-1, 6-1.

The lone winners for the Lady Wildcats came in the No. 3 doubles where Malik and Gould teamed up to beat Perry and Tonya Gilbert 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

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The Wildcats started off on

No. 4 Sean Miller lost to Skip Hill 7-5, 6-1.

Paige Johnson, Tift County, def. Melanie Nelson, Valdosta, 6-0, 6-4.

Susie Moorman, Tift County, def. Angie Gould, Valdosta, 6-4, 6-1.

Terri Folley, Tift County, def. Alden Dowling, Valdosta, 6-3, 6-0.

Marcie Brooks, Tift County, def. Caroline Malik, Valdosta, 6-2, 6-1.

Kappa Paddy, Tift County, def. Ethel Mitchell, Valdosta, 6-1, 6-0.

Monica Perry, Tift County, def. Mandy Smitherman, Valdosta, 6-3, 6-2.

Johnston/Brooks, Tift County, def. Nelson/Dowling, Valdosta, 6-1, 6-4.

Folley/Moorman, Tift County, def. Mitchell/Smitherman, Valdosta, 6-1, 6-1.

Malik/Gould, Valdosta, def. Perry/Tonya Gilbert, Tift County, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

Eric Anderson, Valdosta, def. William White, Tift County, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1.

Reg Holden, Tift County, def. Steve Gandy, Valdosta, 6-2, 6-2.

Robby Wright, Tift County, def. David Johnson, Valdosta, 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

Skip Hill, Tift County, def. Sean Miller, Valdosta, 7-5, 6-1.

Chad Barfield, Tift County, def. Gabe Hotard, Valdosta, 6-1, 6-1.

Chris Fickle, Tift County, def. Jon Parriss, Valdosta, 6-2, 6-2.

Holden/Hill, Tift County, def. Anderson/Gandy, Valdosta, 6-2, 6-1.

Wright/Barfield, Tift County, def. Johnson/Miller, Valdosta, 6-0, 6-2.

Hotard/Parriss, Valdosta, def. Childs/Brinson, Tift County, 6-2, 6-4.

Team Tumbles To Tift County

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Folley/Moorman, Tift County, def. Mitchell/Smitherman, Valdosta, 6-1, 6-1.

the right foot, winning the No. 1 singles. Eric Anderson got past William White 4-6, 7-5, 6-1.

However, after the opening win, it was all downhill for the Wildcats until the No. 3 doubles when Gabe Hotard and Jon Parriss defeated Mike Childs and Patrick Brinson 6-2, 6-4.

In other singles matches, No. 2 Steve Gandy was beaten by Reg Holden 6-2, 6-2. David Johnson lost 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 to Robby Wright in the No. 3 singles.

No. 4 Sean Miller lost to Skip Hill 7-5, 6-1.

Paige Johnson, Tift County, def. Melanie Nelson, Valdosta, 6-0, 6-4.

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The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Mar. 20, 1983—9-B—

Valdosta State's Season Is Over

of our worse games of the year." The Pantherettes led 39-35 at halftime, and opened up a 49-39 advantage with 15:50 remaining on a 10-foot jumper by Paris McWhirter (game-high 22 points).

With some scrappy defense and crisp passing, Valdosta State whittled the lead down to 51-47 on a basket by Sherri France (12 points) with 13:40 left. However, an 8-2 tear by Virginia Union boosted the lead back to 10 (59-49) just over three minutes later.

France and 6-foot-5 center Pam Johnson tossed in two buckets to help the Lady Blazers close to within 61-57. The baskets by Johnson, who finished with a dozen points, came off beautiful lobbs on inside plays.

Cooper's crew then had several chances to cut the gap to two, but could not get the ball to drop.

The winners controlled the tempo from start to finish, but could not put away the determined Lady Blazers until the final

moments. Union survived the Lady Blazers run, and reeled off six straight points to take a 67-57 lead with 4:10 to play.

A three-point play by McWhirter made it 72-61 with a minute left, and the closest VSC could manage to get from that point was nine points (72-63).

An impressive effort on the boards immensely aided the Virginia Union cause. The Pantherettes moved quickly to the glass all night. In the first half alone, they outrebounded the taller Lady Blazers by a 20-11 margin (32-23 overall). More importantly, they kept VSC off the offensive boards all night.

"Virginia Union is a good team," noted Cooper, "They're real quick and were tough to handle on their home court."

In the early going, it looked as if the Lady Blazers might extend their 11-game winning streak. They had early leads of 4-0, 6-4 and 10-8, and had the game tied at

10 and 12. But the Pantherettes rolled to a 30-23 lead.

Cheryl Johnson single handily brought VSC back. She scored most of her team-high 17 points towards the end of the first half and poured in the Lady Blazers last 12 points before intermission.

Her basket at 1:37 gave Valdosta State its' last lead of the night at 33-32.

Pam Johnson led the South Regional champion Lady Blazers with 11 rebounds and two blocked shots.

Valdosta State	35	30-45
Virginia Union	39	34-75

INDIVIDUAL STATS
 Valdosta State: Patrick 6, France 12, P. Johnson 17, Bezemian 8, Cooper 4, Washington 6, C. Johnson 17
 Virginia Union: Wooten 16, McWhirter 22, Williams 10, Nicholson 14, Walker 6, Woods 7
 Valdosta State: Field Goals 26-58, Free Throws 19-16, Rebounds 23, Fouls 17
 Virginia Union: Field Goals 33-75, Free Throws 9-15, Rebounds 32, Fouls 17



VSC's Washington (L) Fights Wooten For Rebound

AP Laserphoto

SPURDS 'Cats' 28-14 Win Exceeds Expectations

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High coach Nick Hyder went into Saturday night's spring game with Newman as he does for every game — hoping for a balanced attack. What he got was more pleasing than he had ever imagined.

	VHS	NHS
First Downs	17	8
Yards Rushing	103	71
Yards Passing	253	57
Passes	40-1-1	14-0-2
Fumbles Lost	1-3-0	6-3-8
Punting	4-30	4-28
Penalties		

His Wildcats rolled up 356 total yards — 103 on the ground and 253 through the air — as Valdosta whipped Newman 28-14 before 1,000 fans at Cleveland Field. The Wildcat defense, meanwhile, was holding the Cougars to 71 rushing yards and 57 passing. And in the second half the 'Cats surrendered only one first down and that came late in the fourth quarter.

After giving up a touchdown with just over a minute gone in the game, the Wildcats came to life to score two TDs in the first quarter and one in the second to take a 21-14 lead at halftime.

Newman's first score was set up when Greg Hadley, who led the Cougars with 41 rushing yards, returned the opening kickoff 80 yards to the Wildcat 15. Three plays later quarterback Johnny Cash scored from three yards out to put Newman up 7-0.

The Cougars lead was short-lived, though, as the 'Cats pulled to within 7-6 with 8:30 left in the first quarter. Quarterback Ted West, who passed for 245 yards on 10 of 16 attempts, hit wide receiver Hosea Heard on a 53-yard touchdown bomb. The point-after failed leaving the 'Cats short a point.

Oddly enough, the touchdown was set up by a Tony Anderson interception. Ron Cannon picked off the batted ball and returned it to the Valdosta 24, but he fumbled the ball away to the 'Cats.

The 'Cats waived just one play before West and Heard teamed up for the score. Valdosta grabbed its first lead of the game shortly before the half when West and Heard teamed up for yet another bomb, this time for 71 yards. Reserve quarterback Berke Holtzclaw hit Darrell Leonard for the two-point conversion and a 14-7 lead that VHS would never

relinquish.

The 'Cats made it 21-7 early in the second quarter when they drove 49 yards in five plays. Anderson capped the drive when he burst into the end zone from six yards out. The rising sophomore led the 'Cats rushing attack with 101 yards and two touchdowns.

Newman didn't roll over, though, when it fell behind by 14 points. With 7:21 left in the half, the Cougars mounted perhaps the most impressive drive of the game. In 15 plays, Newman drove 75 yards to paydirt. Cash capped the drive when he hit Mitch Johnson on an 8-yard scoring pass.

"Give Newman credit," Hyder said after the game. "They fought extremely hard. They'll be vastly improved over last year." The Cougars went 7-4 in 1982.

Twice Valdosta drove deep into Newman territory in the third quarter, once all the way to the 6. But each time the Cougars turned the 'Cats away.

Valdosta finally got on the board late in the fourth quarter. After driving from the Newman 40 to the 1, Anderson bulldozed his way into end zone for the 'Cats final score.

"We would have liked to have scored more," Hyder said. "We got inside their 20 four times and came away with no points."

Other than that, Hyder had only one concern. "I guess the only real disappointment of the game was on the opening kickoff when they returned all the way inside our 20."

	1	2	3	4	Total
Newman	7	7	0	0	14
Valdosta	14	7	0	7	28

NHS—Hadley 3-yard, Stephens PAT, 10:30
VHS—Heard 53-yard pass from West, PAT, fails, 8:15
VHS—Heard 71-yard pass from West, 2-point conversion Leonard pass from Holtzclaw, 1:30
VHS—Anderson 6-yard run, Porter PAT, 7:30
NHS—Cash 8-yard run, Stephens PAT, 15:30
VHS—Anderson 1-yard run, Porter PAT, 3:13

INDIVIDUAL STATS
Rushing — VHS — Anderson 18-101, West 4-runs 24, Holtzclaw 415, Dixon 14, Lewis 3-7, NHS — Head 2-runs 2, Hadley 13-41, Johnson 3-2, Cash 7-24, Bolton 1-2, Holiday 3-4.
Passing — VHS — West 16-10-0, 245, Anderson 1-0-1, 0, Holtzclaw 3-1-0, 8, NHS — Cash 14-6-2-57.
Pass Receiving — VHS — Heard 4-161, Dixon 1-10, Holtzclaw 18, Gandy 2-20, Leonard 2-4, Smallwood 18, NHS — Hadley 3-25, Thompson 18, Holiday 1-15, Johnson 1-2.
Interceptions/Returns — VHS — Porter 2-0.



Times Staff Photo By Joey Vanasco

Wildcats' Tony Anderson Ran Past Cougars For 101 Yards

VHS Opens Season With Wins

Wildcats Take Two From Lanier

V. 3-27-83

By MACK BROWNING
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta used three-hit pitching in the first game and survived an eight-run giveaway in the nightcap to sweep previously unbeaten Lanier County 7-2 and 11-9, at Bazemore Field Saturday.

The defending 1-AAAA champions looked like anything but titleholders during parts of the day, but the Wildcats came up with key plays to take both ends on opening day.

In the first game, Valdosta struggled at the plate against starting pitcher Sylvester West. The right-hander gave up only two hits and one earned run through four innings, but had control problems which eventually led to his removal from the game. West's replacement, David West, was jumped on for five runs in just two innings. When it looked as if the Bulldogs might pull back into the game, Valdosta's Ted West and Ben Reaves salted away the game with towering homers.

West's blast cleared the wall in dead center, 355 feet away.

As the fifth inning of the first game was the big-play extravaganza, so was the fifth inning of the nightcap.

Wildcat shortstop Greg Jenkins turned from goat to hero in a matter of minutes.

Jenkins' three errors in a two-inning span cost Valdosta a huge lead and gave Lanier a 9-8 lead.

Jenkins came to the plate in the fifth inning with a runner on base, and he delivered the winning blow — a shot over the left field fence.

After the games, however, Wildcat coach Charles Tarpley wasn't as happy about his team's comeback effort as he was concerned about his team's lack of defense in the second game.

"We've been practicing 10 weeks now," Tarpley said. "I don't feel we should have played the way we did."

"Any time you win, you're happy," he said, "but our team has six starters returning, and I didn't expect we'd play the way we did."

The numbers speak for themselves: In 14 innings of baseball Saturday afternoon, Valdosta committed six errors. Lanier had an even more lackluster showing, committing eight errors. "But they've just got back four players who were on the basketball team (that reached the state tournament)," Tarpley said. "They've only been together two weeks."

But what the two teams lacked in defense, they made up for in offensive fireworks. In all, six homeruns were hit,

and even though the wind was blowing out most of the afternoon all were tape-measure jobs.

"If you can get it up in our ball park, you can get it out," Tarpley said. "Out here the wind is often blowing out, and you can sometimes get a cheapie."

Valdosta's Ben Reaves got no cheapies, towering a homerun in each game. Lanier County's Sylvester West, who went three-for-six for the two games, hit stroked a homerun in the nightcap. Darrell Phillips, playing only the second game for the Bulldogs, gave Lanier a brief lead in the second game with a grand slam, culminating a furious comeback.

"We had a good chance to get beat," Tarpley said. "But we came back, and that's to our credit."

Ted West was the most effective picture for Valdosta of the four used during the double header. In addition to hitting the first Wildcat homerun of the year, West pitched shutout ball, while striking out five. Tarpley's starter in the second game, front-line pitcher Rick Rupp, was hit hard but was also the victim of most of his teammates' miscues.

He gave up eight hits and nine runs in the second game win but only one of those runs was earned. Rupp struggled with

keeping the ball low in the strike zone. Valdosta will need more solid play for its next game — against sub-region rival Colquitt County Tuesday at Bazemore Field.

VHS	abr	h	bi	LCHS	abr	h	bi
CJnkns 3b	2	1	0	LRyan cf	4	0	0
Rgislr 3b	1	0	0	Srmans ss	3	0	0
GJnkns ss	3	0	0	SWest p rf	2	0	1
Moore ph	1	0	0	Smpson 3b	3	0	0
Perry 2b	1	2	0	DWest rf p	2	0	1
Huling 2b	0	0	0	O'Guin rf	0	0	0
TWest p rf	1	1	1	Foster lb	3	1	0
Shivr c	3	1	1	Eubnks c	3	1	1
Hfveeg c	0	0	0	Wilms lf	2	0	0
Reaves cf	3	1	2	Bwning 2b	1	0	0
Purvis cf	0	0	0	Gray ph	0	0	0
Belue lb	3	0	0	MRyan pr	0	0	0
Prker lb	0	0	0	TOTALS	x	2	3
Shiff rf	1	1	0				
Mtcht p	0	0	0				
Scrgg lf	2	0	1				
Goff ph	1	0	0				
Ruff lf	0	0	0				
TOTALS	x	7	4				

LCHS	000	000	2-2-3			
VHS	011	050	x-7-4			
E — L. Ryan, Sirmans, G. Jenkins, Purvis.						
LOB — LCHS 5, VHS 4. 2B — Shiver, HR — T. West, Reaves. 5B — C. Jenkins, G. Jenkins, Perry, T. West, Scruggs. SAC — Browning.						
IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	
VHS	5	2	0	0	2	5
T. West	2	1	2	0	3	3
Matchett						
LCHS	4	1	2	1	5	3
S. West	2	3	5	2	3	
D. West						
Winner — T. West. Loser — S. West. WP — Matchett. 2B — Shiver, Hotcaveg						

Sports Briefs

VT 3-29-83

Valdosta Names Ticket Manager

From Staff Reports

Jack Puckett has been named Valdosta High School's new ticket manager for the 1983 season.

Puckett is replacing Linda Hart, who is to become Ralph Brandon's (superintendent of the Valdosta school system) secretary.

"My duties will include handling the athletic funds," Puckett said, "as well as handling tickets for all athletic sports."

A retired civil-service worker, Puckett, who was stationed at Moody Air Force Base for 26 years, has been with the Valdosta school system for five years.

In October 1982, Puckett was transferred from the migrate program into the athletic program. Puckett trained under Hart until March 15 when the job became his alone.

"Mr. Brandon sets all policies having to do with any concern of the tickets," Puckett said. "I am here just to carry out those policies."

"There will be no basic changes in the way tickets are handled. I would just like to sell more than we did last year."

One area of the ticket program Puckett would like to see strengthened is the policies concerning season ticket holders' having the first right to tickets to an away game.

"We are going to take care of our season ticket holders," Puckett said.

Puckett worked in the Georgia migrant program for three years, working with migrant children in connection with the national office in Little Rock, Ark.

"Migrant children move around quite a bit while their families are doing different kind of work," Puckett said. "That creates the need for a national computer which is set up in Little Rock to keep track of all the children's records and papers."

Lady 'Cat Tracksters Nip Tift

TIFTON — The Valdosta High girls track team won eight of 13 events Monday afternoon in a dual meet with Tift County, but it took Carry Oliver's win in the two-mile run, the final race of the afternoon, for VHS to secure a 55-51 win in its first outing of the season. Oliver ran 13:20 to win the two-mile.

Just moments earlier the VHS mile-relay team, consisting of Connie Weatherspoon, Avis Weatherspoon, Valerie Bell and Ann Barnett, had tied the meet with a winning time of 4:21 to set up Oliver's heroics.

The four-time defending region 1-AAAA Lady Wildcats were running without the services of Darlene McCormick, who won the mile and half-mile in the region meet last year. She is expected to be back for Valdosta's next meet at Thomasville, April 4. The Lady Wildcats travel to Lowndes High April 6.

Valdosta's only two-event winner was Melody Skiles, who filled McCormick's spot with wins in the mile (6:10) and the half-mile (2:33).

VHS also won both relay events. Besides the mile, the Lady Cats, anchored by Sonia Davis, Avis and Connie Weatherspoon, and Bell, won the 440 relays.

Connie Weatherspoon posted a win in the 440-yard dash as well with a time of :62.

Juliet Purvis took the long jump with a 16 feet, three-quarter-inch leap.



Jenkins' Homer Atoned For Early Errors

Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco

APR 13 83

VHS Overcoming Youth

Wildcats Wrapup Spring

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Any concerns Valdosta High coaches had about their youthful team as the Wildcats entered spring practice four weeks ago were effectively dismissed Saturday night when VHS thumped Newman 28-14 in the spring game. And defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph is as pleasantly surprised as any of the Cat coaches.

"We probably did a little better in the spring game than we thought we would," Rudolph said Thursday. "You are always surprised and pleased," he added. "But you could come back next week and they might look awful."

Such is the nature of a young team. The Cats lost 15 starters off the 1982 team that went 15-0 and captured the AAAA state championship. But the 22 starters VHS fielded Saturday night didn't look like rookies.

The Cats made just one turnover in the 48 minutes of football. And that came on Tony Anderson's halfback pass

that was picked off. But VHS got the ball right when the Newman safety fumbled the ball on the return.

Anderson, a rising sophomore, made up for the one miscue with 101 rushing yards. "Tony did well," Rudolph said. "And the offensive line did well blocking for him."

The offensive line was one of the crucial facets for the Cats coming into the game. The entire interior line from the championship team graduated. Their replacements Saturday night, though, were effective.

They gave rising senior quarterback Ted West time to throw and he responded with close to 300 yards passing and three touchdowns.

"That was an area where we lost a good many people," Rudolph said of the offensive line. "When you lose that many people it's always a concern."

While Rudolph is out of his element when speaking of the offense, he can talk at length about his defense. And while

graduation was as brutal on his defense as it was on the offense, the Cat defenders looked strong against Newman, allowing under 200 total yards to the Cougars. In the second half, the defense only surrendered one first down and that came late in the game.

"Two experienced linebackers helped," Rudolph said speaking of John Porter and Frank Abney. "Some of the play of the younger kids on the defensive line also looked good. The jury is still out on the secondary, though."

The secondary is probably where graduation hit hardest on defense. All starters from last year are gone. "From my standpoint that's my most concern," Rudolph said. "I don't know that we have the total team speed we had last year. I don't know that our depth will be as good as it was last year."

In an effort to sure up some depth, the VHS coaches dismissed most of the starters from practice this week to

work solely with the younger kids. "We took the top 17 kids and excused them from the last week of practice," Rudolph explained. "We're spending these four days trying to develop depth. The younger kids needed a little more attention and work, so we are working solely with them."

The Newman game was an excellent opportunity for the younger players to get some game experience and Rudolph said it should help in the upcoming season when the Cats set out to defend their state championship.

"We got to play a lot of kids," he said. "We got to see how some kids performed under pressure."

Valdosta opens the '83 season at Waycross Aug. 26. The Cats home opener is the following week, Sept. 2, against Albany Westover, the defending 1-A AAAA South sub-region champ. The Cats will go to summer camp Aug. 8 at the 4-H camp in Twin Lakes.



VHS's Rudolph Tries To Shake Off Chill
Times Staff Photo By JOEY IVANSCO

Anderson Leads VHS Netters

The Valdosta boys' tennis team swept a pair of dual matches over the weekend, downing Thomasville 8-1, and edging past Columbia of Lake City, Fla., 5-4.

The girls split, beating Thomasville 9-0, and losing to Columbia 7-2. Eric Anderson, the No. 4-ranked player in the state, led the way in both Wildcat wins. Playing at No. 1 singles, Anderson disposed of Thomasville's Reginald Delancy 6-1, 6-0, and Columbia's Craig Broome 6-1, 6-1. And it was Anderson who teamed with Alan Alvarado against the Lake City team to win the clinching match in doubles 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, over Al Tunsil and Bruce Pike.

Valdosta (2-1) swept Thomasville in singles, recording wins from Steve Gandy, David Johnson, Sean Miller, Alvarado and Gabe Holard. Thomasville's two wins came in doubles against substitute players.

The Lady Wildcats (2-2) swept Thomasville in singles as Melanie Neilson, Angie Gould, Alden Dowling, Caroline Malik, Ethel Mitchell and Mandy Smitherman all won.

VT
3-29-83

Sports Briefs

Roberts, Perry Valdosta MVPs

From Staff Reports

Andrea Roberts and Mark Perry were named Most Valuable Players for the 1982-83 Valdosta High girls and boys basketball teams last weekend at the annual awards banquet held at the Gold Plate Restaurant.

Roberts, the 1-AAAA Female Athlete of the Year, averaged over 19 points a game for the 15-8 Lady Wildcats. She also received the rebounding and best offensive awards.

Perry played guard on the Wildcat team that finished the year at 3-18.

Other varsity girls receiving awards were: Felicia Henderson and Veronica Melvin (tie), Wildcat spirit; Connie Weatherspoon, most improved; Shevon Peeler, most hustle and best defense; Sam Baly, best scholastic average; Bridgett Harrell, best free throw percentage.

Varsity boys award winners were: Irvin Dailey and Todd Gamble (tie), Wildcat spirit; Lorenzo Thompson, most improved; Moses Daniels, most hustle; Bruce Parker, best scholastic average; Perry, best free throw average; Jerome Berrian, most rebounds and best offense; Derrick Folsom, best defense.

Walt McVey, 30, 1983
VT
MVP

SPORTS

The Valdosta Daily Times

VHS Clips Colquitt In Error-Filled Tilt

V.Times 3/30/83

By MACK BROWNING

Times Staff Writer
Valdosta opened defense of its sub-region crown Tuesday at Bazemore Field with a 10-7 win over last year's runner-up, Colquitt County.

The Wildcats (3-0, 1-0) rocked the Packers' top two pitchers of a year ago, Gregg Studdard and Barry Bell, for eight hits and 10 runs over five-and-one-third innings. Lorenzo Matchett accounted for the 'Cats first run with a solo homerun in the second inning off Studdard. Ben Reaves provided the winning runs with a three-run blast off Bell in the sixth inning.

Meanwhile, Ted West (2-0) was handcuffing the Packers, giving up just four hits in six-and-one-third innings of work.

But the error bugaboo struck Valdosta hard once again, coughing up six unearned runs — four by shortstop Greg Jenkins, his eighth in three games.

Both Valdosta pitchers didn't help themselves, though, committing one error apiece to dig themselves into further trouble.

West was able to stave off disaster early in the game. After retiring the first six batters in the game, the first two batters in the third inning reached base via an error. After striking out Studdard, West walked Jamie Horne, loading the bases. But West bore down and struck out the next two batters to end the threat.

The Wildcats clung to a 1-0 on Matchett's homer until the

fifth inning when they struck for five runs. Two errors hurt Colquitt, and Marty Shiver drove in two runs with a single.

As it turned out, the six-run lead would not be enough as the Packers came storming back in the sixth with four runs of their own. No. 8 hitter Louis Fordam provided the power in that inning with a three-run homer that hit the flagpole.

But Valdosta put the game away its next turn at bat putting together its best inning of the game offensively. The Wildcats sent 10 men to the plate and pounded out five hits, including Reaves' homer, to score four runs.

"I was pleased with our hitting," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said. "Last year we went 4-1 against Colquitt and no one was scoring big. We shelled Bell, and he was the pitcher that beat us last year."

Tarpley said he hoped the defensive lapses were over now that the first big ball game is out of the way.

"There may have been a lot of pressure on the team because so much was expected," Tarpley said. "This game put the loser behind the eight-ball. It was a big game."

In tough sub-region 1-AAAA South, every game is critical.

"Colquitt's got to win two out of the next three (against Valdosta and Lowndes) to stay in it," Tarpley said. "We could win one out of those three and still have a tie."

West had another good outing on the mound, of the six-strikeout variety, even though he had to be taken out during

Colquitt's final turn at bat. "Teddy kind of gave out," Tarpley said. "He hadn't gone this far yet, and it's still early in the season. And he shouldn't have had to stay out there that long."

West will have to start asking for hazard pay if he goes through too many more games like the past two. Through three games, 18 runs have been scored against Valdosta — only two have been earned. That's incredible.

The Wildcats are idle until next Tuesday when they face another sub-region opponent — Thomasville.

"I think they'll start relaxing now," Tarpley said. "We're going to practice Wednesday and Thursday, and I'm going to give them Easter off. Then we'll get ready for Thomasville Tuesday."

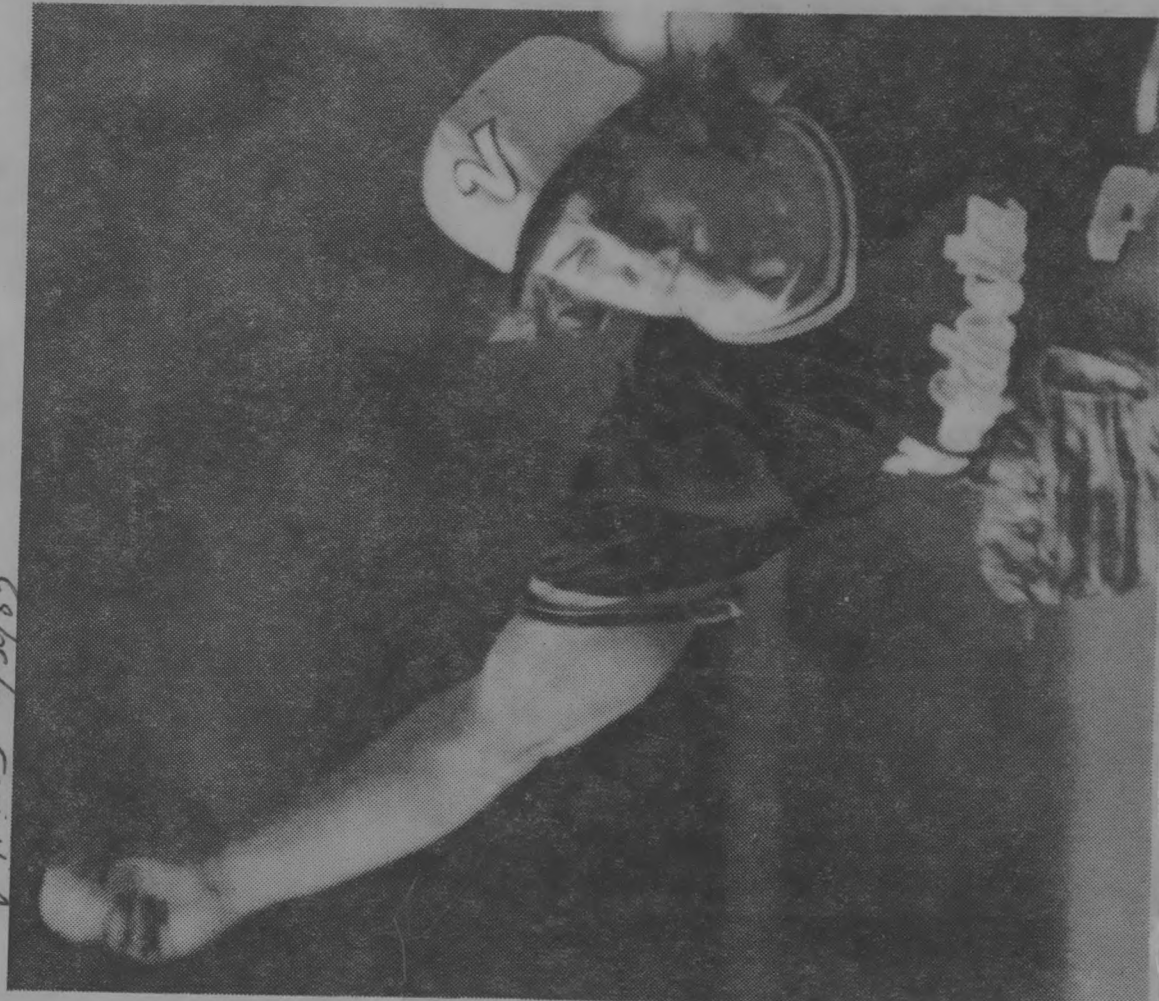
CCHS	ab	r	h	bi	VHS	ab	r	h	bi
Horne 2b	3	0	1	0	Jenkins	4	2	1	0
Brinson c	4	1	0	0	Perry 2b	4	2	2	0
Bell ss p	3	2	0	0	West	4	3	1	0
Clark 3b	4	0	0	0	Rupp	0	0	0	0
Thomas lb	3	1	1	1	Shiver c	3	2	2	2
Croffitt	4	1	1	1	Reaves c	4	2	2	3
Berry lf	4	1	1	0	Beale 1b	4	0	1	0
Fordam c	4	1	2	3	Purvis pr	0	0	0	0
Studdard	4	1	2	3	Scriffitt	3	0	1	0
Reaves	1	0	0	0	Michliff	4	1	1	2
TOTALS	x 7	5	5	5	Schroff dh	2	0	0	0
					Jenkins pr	0	1	0	0
					Moore 3b	0	0	0	0
					TOTALS	x 10	10	17	7

CCHS	000	004	3-	7-	54
VHS	010	054	x-	10-	107
E	Clark, Croffitt, Thomas, Berry, G. Jenkins				
4	West, Perry, Rupp, DP	None	Left		
CCHS	7	VHS	9	2B	Berry, G. Jenkins,
Reaves, HR	Fordam, Reaves, Matchett, SB				
	Perry, Matchett, C. Jenkins, SF	Stud			

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
VHS	6.1	4	6	1	3
West	0.2	1	1	0	0
Rupp					
CCHS	4.0	4	4	2	3
Studdard	1.1	4	6	4	2
Bell	0.2	2	0	0	0
Turner					
Winner	West, Loser	Studdard, WP			
Studdard	PB	Fordam, HBP	Shiver by		
Bell					

Mar. 30, 1983

Errors Coat II



Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco

Ted West Threw Hard Against Packers Tuesday



REGI STONE
Pianist
VT. 4-1-83

Stone Wins Contest In Atlanta

By Times Staff Writer
A Valdosta High School senior has won a full scholarship to Brevard Music Center in Brevard, N.C.
Regi Stone, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Timothy Stone of Valdosta, won one of three Brevard scholarships given by the Atlanta Music Club, said his piano teacher, Dr. Dorothy Lewis-Griffith of Valdosta.
Stone was among 40 students who competed for the scholarships for the summer session at Brevard. For the March 19 competition he played a Bourree from the Second Parita by Bach and Lisle joyeuse by Claude Debussy.
He went to Atlanta Sunday to record the winning selections to be played this spring on WABE, his teacher said.
Stone plans to attend Valdosta State College in the fall and major in piano.

Overconfidence No Problem In 'Cats' Rout Of Thomasville

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

The only problem facing Valdosta High Monday afternoon in its 1-AAAA South sub-region game against Thomasville was a slight case of overconfidence. Most of the Wildcats were on hand last week when cross-town Lowndes drubbed the Bulldogs 16-1. And many of the VHS players knew a similar rout was in store when the 'Dogs came to Bazemore Field.

The 'Cats premonition turned out to be correct as Valdosta struck for runs in every inning except the sixth on its way to a 23-5 rout of the Bulldogs. The win extends the 'Cats record to 4-0 and 2-0 in the sub-region. Thomasville, meanwhile, fell to 0-4.

VHS fell behind early after the first inning. The 'Dogs reached 'Cat starting pitcher Rick Rupp for two runs on a Keith Mobley homer with a

man aboard. But Rupp quickly settled down and gave up just one more hit and no runs in his three-inning stint on the way to the win.

From then on it was all Valdosta. After scoring a single run in the bottom half of the first to make it 2-1 Thomasville, the 'Cat bats went to work pounding Bulldog starter Mobley for eight runs over the next one-and-a-third innings to build a 9-2 lead midway through the third inning.

Reliever Mike Moore, who subbed for Rupp in the fourth, gave up a two up runs in the fourth, but the 'Cats quickly offset the pair with eight runs of their own in the bottom half of the inning. Valdosta closed out its scoring barrage with four runs in the fifth.

After it was all over the Valdosta offensive had erupted for 23 runs on 20 hits. VHS also belted four homers in the marathon game that last well

over two hours.

Shortstop Greg Jenkins and second baseman Mark Perry led the way for VHS at the plate. Jenkins went 2 for 3 including a grad slam home run, double and four RBIs. Perry went 3 for 4 and knocked in a team leading five runs.

Right fielder Ted West went 2 for 3 including a homer and two RBIs. Ben Reaves and Tommy Schunhoff added the other two VHS homers.

"We hit the ball real well," said VHS head coach Charles Tarpley. "And the pitching did all right. It's hard to get them to concentrate in a game like that."

Valdosta was slated to return to action this afternoon in a game at Tift County. Tarpley said he will probably go with the same trio of pitchers that saw action against Thomasville. "Either Rupp or Moore will start against Tift," Tarpley

said. "(Lorenzo) Matchett will pitch the B-team game."

Tittle	ab	r	h	bi	vid	ab	r	h	bi
Perry	4	1	1	0	0	Jenkins	3	2	4
Lee	4	1	1	0	0	Goff	2	1	0
Willis	4	0	1	1	0	Perry	4	2	3
Mobley	4	0	1	1	0	Hill	2	1	0
Smith	4	0	2	2	0	West	3	3	2
Easton	3	0	0	0	0	Shaver	2	1	1
Bush	3	1	0	0	0	Hovey	4	1	0
Perry	4	1	1	1	0	Rives	3	2	2
Pitcher	4	0	1	1	0	Linger	3	2	2
TOTALS	33	5	11	5	0	Belue	3	1	1

Tittle	ab	r	h	bi	vid	ab	r	h	bi
Perry	4	1	1	0	0	Jenkins	3	2	4
Lee	4	1	1	0	0	Goff	2	1	0
Willis	4	0	1	1	0	Perry	4	2	3
Mobley	4	0	1	1	0	Hill	2	1	0
Smith	4	0	2	2	0	West	3	3	2
Easton	3	0	0	0	0	Shaver	2	1	1
Bush	3	1	0	0	0	Hovey	4	1	0
Perry	4	1	1	1	0	Rives	3	2	2
Pitcher	4	0	1	1	0	Linger	3	2	2
TOTALS	33	5	11	5	0	Belue	3	1	1

Tittle	ab	r	h	bi	vid	ab	r	h	bi
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Lee	4	1	1	0	0	Goff	2	1	0
Willis	4	0	1	1	0	Perry	4	2	3
Mobley	4	0	1	1	0	Hill	2	1	0
Smith	4	0	2	2	0	West	3	3	2
Easton	3	0	0	0	0	Shaver	2	1	1
Bush	3	1	0	0	0	Hovey	4	1	0
Perry	4	1	1	1	0	Rives	3	2	2
Pitcher	4	0	1	1	0	Linger	3	2	2
TOTALS	33	5	11	5	0	Belue	3	1	1

Schunhoff Gets Congrats After Homer



Over For LHS B-1 team

play for Georgia last fall because of grade trouble, has withdrawn from the university. "I could have gone back this spring if I'd wanted to, but I felt it best that I withdraw," Browner said.

*Cat Tracker Roll

Valdosta swept a track meet from Thomasville Monday, the boys winning 77-50 and the girls coming out on top 70-38.
The boys won nine events, and were led by Jeffrey Spivey and Todd Gamble who each took first in three events. Spivey won the long jump and high hurdles then ran on the first-place 440-yard relay team. Gamble won the high jump, 880-yard run and ran with the

winning mile relay team.

Chris Major took two firsts — the 440 relay and the triple jump — and two second-place finishes.
Valdosta also took top honors in the 220-yard dash as Rob Mitchell was clocked in at 23.9, and the 2-mile run on Dailey's 10:57 finish.

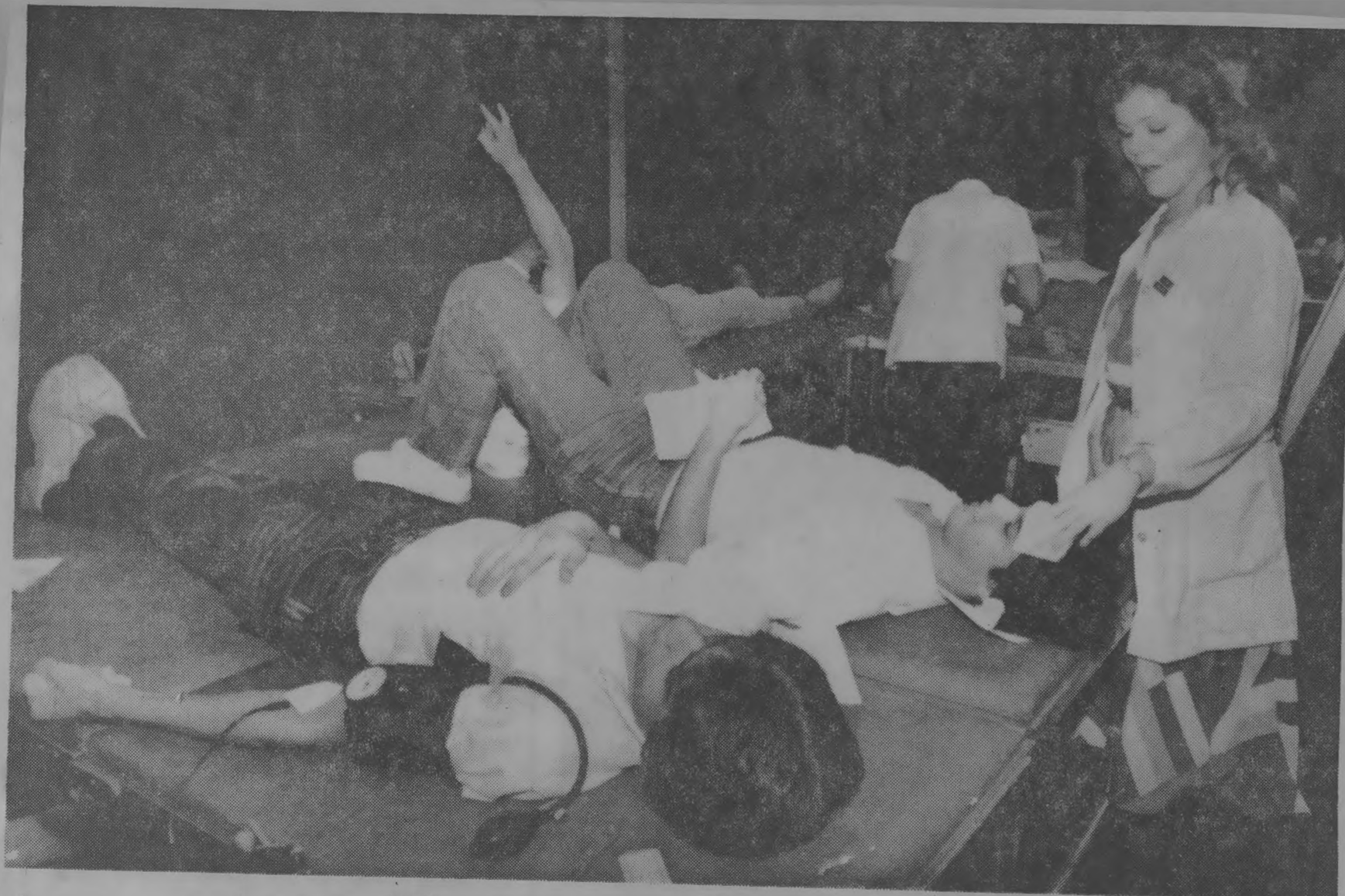
The Lady Cats turned in 11 first-place finishes on the afternoon to lead the romp of Thomasville.
Valerie Bell turned in five wins on the afternoon to lead the Lady 'Cats, sprinting to victories in the 100- and 220-yard dashes, and helping the mile and 440-yard relay teams to wins. Bell picked up her final first-place finish in the high jump.

VHS Wrestlers Hold Banquet

Heavyweight Leon Johnson walked off with the most valuable trophy Thursday night at the Valdosta High School Takedown Club.
Johnson finished third in the state tournament, leading the Valdosta team to a 12th place finish.
The Wildcats won their third consecutive Region 1-AAAA crown and took all 14 wrestlers to the state meet in 1983.
Greg Prime won the award for quickest pin (29 seconds) and also won a special award. Mark Levy also received two awards — most pins (21) and best hustler.
The most improved award is to be shared by Craig Klement and Jimmy Lewis. Splitting the spirit of the wildcats award are Terry Worham and Danny McCleod. Most dedicated went to Jack Priest.
Most outstanding 9th grade went to Louie Gounas, and Kevin Lancaster won the most outstanding junior varsity award.

V.T
April 5, 1983

4-6-83



They've Got A Lot To Give

The American Red Cross blood drive at Valdosta High School brought out 160 persons who registered to give blood. The final results showed 140 were able to donate so that 140 pints were collected. Among the 160 students at the drive Wednesday, which began at 9 a.m. and continued until 3 p.m., were Tim Keller, 17,

left, and Tim Davis, 17, center. This is the second year VHS has had the blood drive, a spokesman said. They collected 15 more pints this year than last. The drive was sponsored by the health occupation classes and ROTC, in conjunction with the American Red

Cross. Mandy Kent, 17, shown at right and a member of the health occupations class, was the coordinator. Beverly Smith is the health occupations teacher and registered nurse for the drive. Sam Wright is the ROTC commander. — Times Staff Photo.

By DAR Chapter Here

Students Named Good Citizens

By ELIZABETH BUTLER
Times Staff Writer

A Lowndes High School student has been chosen for the Good Citizen award by Gen. James Jackson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Leo Saguiguit is to represent the chapter here in district competition, a spokesman said.

Mary Taormina was the Good Citizen winner from Valdosta High School. Kent Coppage and Saguiguit tied for the Good Citizen winner from Lowndes High School.

The students were chosen by their respective school faculties on the basis of leadership, dependability, service and patriotism.

The overall winner was chosen by a DAR committee on the basis of an essay each wrote, letters of recommendation and the student's school, community and church activities.

All three are to be honored by the chapter here at its March 16 meeting at 3:30 p.m. at the Woman's Building.

Saguiguit was listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students in both the 11th and 12th grades. He was the recipient of the United States Student Council Award and will be featured in the United States Achievement Academy Na-



LEO SAGUIGUIT
Overall Winner

tional Awards yearbook.

The LHS student also competed in jazz music on the state level. He was honored by being able to participate in the Georgia Association of Jazz Educators State Clinic.

He is president of the LHS Beta Club and a member of the band.

At Moody Air Force Base Catholic Chapel he serves as an acolyte and choir member.

The son of Remigia and Dr. Gil Saguiguit, a military



KENT COPPAGE
LHS Co-Winner

physician, Saguiguit plans to attend a liberal arts college and is leaning toward a medical career although he plans to continue his music education.

In addition to music, Saguiguit enjoys playing tennis and is on the LHS varsity tennis team.

Coppage is editor in chief of the LHS newspaper, The Saga, and vice president of the LHS Student Council.

During his senior year he has



MARY TAORMINA
VHS Winner

Lowndes-Valdosta Symphony as a violinist. His composition, Theme and Variations for the Piano, won first place in the state Georgia Music Teachers' Association competition.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Orrie L. Coppage of Rte. 2, also enjoys reading and learning about his ancestry.

Miss Taormina was outstanding freshman, sophomore and junior English student at VHS and National Merit semifinalist. She received the National High School Award for Excellence, first place in 1-AAAA essay and third place in the state AAAA essay competition.

She was named to Who's Who Among American High School Students and America's Outstanding Names and Faces.

Miss Taormina has held the offices of yearbook editor in chief and debate team secretary.

She is a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and has spent time delivering hot meals to shut-ins.

Miss Taormina plans to attend college and major in pre-law and minor in computer science.

The daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Frank Taormina of Valdosta enjoys participating in the varsity debate team and performing in plays.

been named to Who's Who Among American High School Students and has received the United States Student Council Award.

Coppage is active in the youth group at Central Avenue Church of Christ. With this group he has assisted in devotionals at local nursing homes.

He plans to attend a liberal arts college and law school.

Coppage enjoys music and has performed with the

VHS Overcoming Youth

Wildcats Wrapup Spring

By STEVE CORRIGAN

Times Sports Editor
Any concerns Valdosta High coaches had about their youthful team as the Wildcats entered spring practice four weeks ago were effectively dismissed Saturday night when VHS thumped Newman 28-14 in the spring game. And defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph is as pleasantly surprised as any of the 'Cat coaches.

"We probably did a little better in the spring game than we thought we would," Rudolph said Thursday.

"You are always surprised and pleased," he added. "But you could come back next week and they might look awful."

Such is the nature of a young team. The 'Cats lost 15 starters off the 1982 team that went 15-0 and captured the AAAA state championship. But the 22 starters VHS fielded Saturday night didn't look like rookies.

The 'Cats made just one turnover in the 48 minutes of football. And that came on Tony Anderson's halfback pass

that was picked off. But VHS got the ball right when the Newman safety fumbled the ball on the return.

Anderson, a rising sophomore, made up for the one miscue with 101 rushing yards. "Tony did well," Rudolph said. "And the offensive line did well blocking for him."

The offensive line was one of the crucial facets for the 'Cats coming into the game. The entire interior line from the championship team graduated. Their replacements Saturday night, though, were effective.

They gave rising senior quarterback Ted West time to throw and he responded with close to 300 yards passing and three touchdowns.

"That was an area where we lost a good many people," Rudolph said of the offensive line. "When you lose that many people it's always a concern."

While Rudolph is out of his element when speaking of the offense, he can talk at length about his defense. And while

where graduation hit hardest on defense. All starters from last year are gone. "From my standpoint that's my most concern," Rudolph said. "I don't know that we have the total team speed we had last year. I don't know that our depth will be as good as it was last year."

In an effort to sure up some depth, the VHS coaches dismissed most of the starters from practice this week to

graduation was as brutal on his defense as it was on the offense, the 'Cat defenders looked strong against Newman, allowing under 200 total yards to the Cougars. In the second half, the defense only surrendered one first down and that came late in the game.

"Two experienced linebackers helped," Rudolph said speaking of John Porter and Frank Abney. "Some of the play of the younger kids on the defensive line also looked good. The jury is still out on the secondary, though."

The secondary is probably where graduation hit hardest on defense. All starters from last year are gone. "From my standpoint that's my most concern," Rudolph said. "I don't know that we have the total team speed we had last year. I don't know that our depth will be as good as it was last year."

In an effort to sure up some depth, the VHS coaches dismissed most of the starters from practice this week to

work solely with the younger kids. "We took the top 17 kids and excused them from the last week of practice," Rudolph explained. "We're spending these four days trying to develop depth. The younger kids needed a little more attention and work, so we are working solely with them."

The Newman game was an excellent opportunity for the younger players to get some game experience and Rudolph said it should help in the upcoming season when the 'Cats set out to defend their state championship.

"We got to play a lot of kids," he said. "We got to see how some kids performed under pressure."

Valdosta opens the '83 season at Waycross Aug. 26. The 'Cats home opener is the following week, Sept. 2, against Albany Westover, the defending 1-AAAA South sub-region champ.

The 'Cats will go to summer camp Aug. 8 at the 4-H camp in Twin Lakes.

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Scruggs' Home Run Not Enough For VHS

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

The Tift County Blue Devils used some sloppy play by Valdosta to score two unearned runs and whipped the Wildcats 2-1 Saturday afternoon at Bazemore Field.

The win improves Tift County's record to 9-5, while Valdosta drops to 6-2.

Both Valdosta losses have come at the hands of the Devils. In Tifton, Tift hammered out a 8-3 win.

The game was not, however, a 1-AAAA South sub-region game, so the Wildcats stay atop the standings with a 3-0 record. That fact was of little consolation to Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley.

"I know the game didn't count," Tarpley said after the game. "But I hate to lose any game. We work too hard to lose."

Tift's right-fielder David Casper scored the first run of the game in the third inning when he doubled over Ben Reaves' head, and a fly ball by Michael Turner was dropped by Ferrell Scruggs.

The Devils added their second run in

the fourth. Jimmy Hullett reached on Greg Jenkins' error and later scored to complete a double play.

"We just gave the game to them," Tarpley said. "We gave them extra outs in each of those innings."

"On the double play, I decided to play the infield back because the track was very wet and very slow. And I knew if we got a ground ball, we could turn the double play. But for some reason, Mark bounced his throw to first base and Blake couldn't dig it out."

"I'm just real upset we didn't field the ball well."

Tift's left-hander Rusty Sowell went the distance, improving his record to 4-2.

After the first inning, in which the Wildcats got two hits and stranded the two runners, Valdosta never threatened Sowell until the bottom of the seventh.

Scruggs led off the inning with a blast off the green wall in center field on the first pitch from Sowell. However, Sowell retired the next three batters to end the game.

"We hit the ball well," Tarpley added.

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"We hit the ball well," Tarpley added.

"We just hit it right at people." The losing pitcher was Rick Rupp, who went five innings before being lifted for a pinch-hitter. Rupp gave up five hits and walked only one.

The Wildcats will host sub-region foe Colquitt County Monday afternoon at 4. Right hander Ted West is expected to start for Valdosta.

TC	abr	h	b	i	Vid	abr	h	b	i
Teals	3	1	0	0	G. Jenkins	3	0	0	0
Casper	3	1	0	0	Perry 2b	3	0	0	0
Turners	4	0	0	0	Westrl	3	0	0	0
Mssngill 1b	3	0	1	0	Shivrc	2	0	1	0
Hitt 3b	3	1	0	0	Reaves c	3	0	0	0
Bressif	2	0	1	0	Belle lb	3	0	0	0
Tyler 2b	3	0	1	0	Scruggs lf	3	1	2	1
T. Shvr dh	2	0	0	1	Rupp	1	0	0	0
S. Shals	3	0	0	0	Huling dh	3	0	0	0
TOTALS	26	2	6	1	C. Jenkins 3b	0	0	0	0
					Schiffman	1	0	0	0
					AVCH 1b	1	0	0	0
TC	001	000	0-2-61		TOTALS	26	14	11	
Vid	000	000	1-1-43						
E—Scruggs, G. Jenkins, Hullett, Moore, DP									
V-1, Left TC B, V & 2B — Casper, HR —									
Scruggs, SB — Turner SH — Teals.									
TC	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO			
Sowell	7	4	1	1	2	7			
Vid									
Rupp	5	5	2	0	1	1			
Moore	2	1	0	0	2	0			
Winner — Sowell, Loser — Rupp, WP —									
Rupp, HBP — Massingill by Moore.									



Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco
VHS's Rudolph Tries To Shake Off Chill



Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams
Scruggs Gets Glad Hand After Home Run

VHS Tracksters Take Lowndes Meet

From Staff Reports

With the Lowndes Vikings hosting a dual meet with Valdosta and the Vikings hosting a four-way meet, the events ran longer than scheduled Wednesday afternoon, and the final event of the day, the girl's mile relay, had to be run under the lights, or more accurately, through the lights.

Since there are no lights at the Lowndes High track, spectators were asked to pull their cars up to the track and turn their lights on in order that there be enough light to run the final event.

The Lady Wildcats won the dual meet with 64 points, while Lowndes finished with 44. Valdosta won first place in nine events, including the mile relay. Connie Weatherspoon, Rita Barnett, Valerie Bell and Darlene McCormick teamed up to win the event with a time of 4:23.

Winning the two-mile run was Valdosta's Carrie Oliver (15:10). Second was Meline Skiles and Jennifer Dills finished third. Darlene McCormick ran a 5:34 to win the mile. Skiles again won second, while Oliver was third.

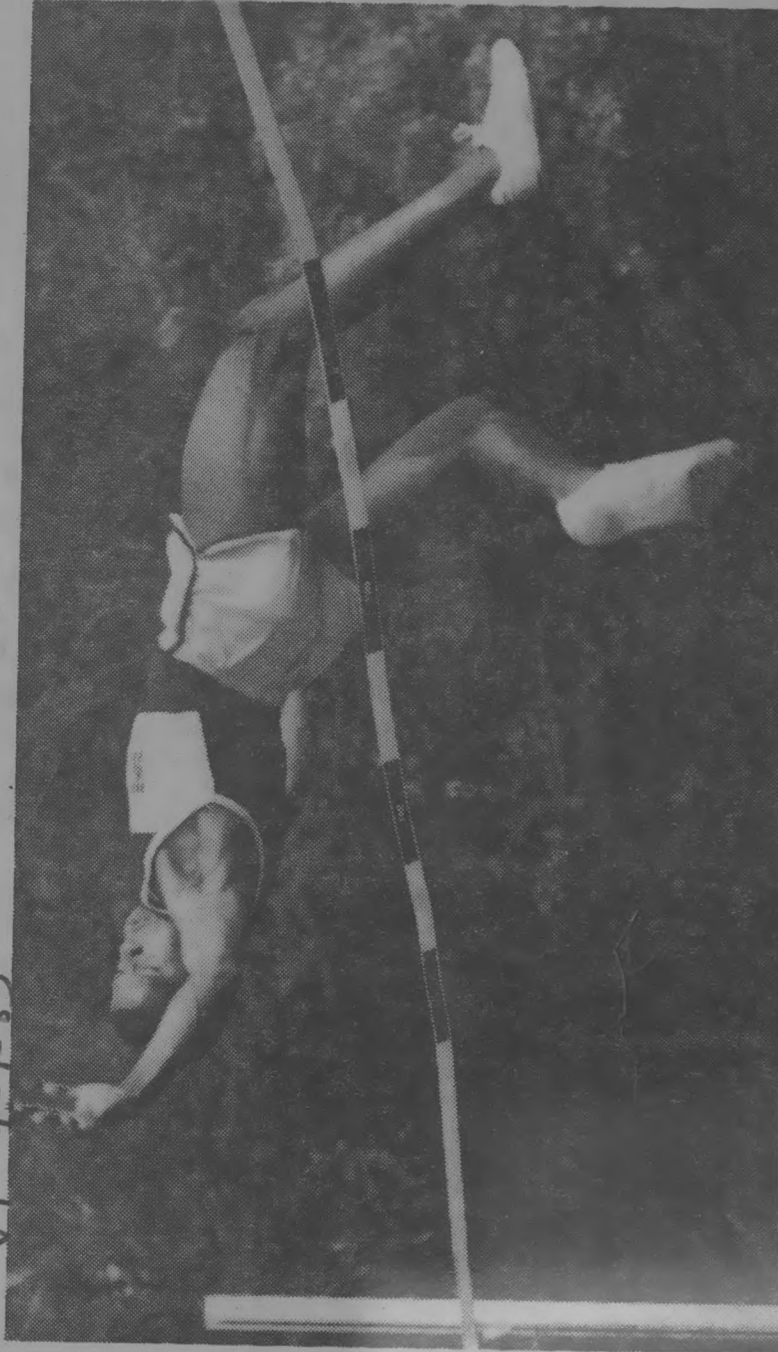
Other first place finishers for Valdosta were Angela Bell (shot put and discus), Valerie Bell (high jump and 220), Connie Weatherspoon (440), Sonya Davis (100), McCormick (880) and Michelle Johnson (110-low hurdles).

The Lady Wildcats 440 relay team of Davis, Avis Weatherspoon, Connie Weatherspoon and Valerie Bell won with a time of 52.1.

Valdosta won the boy's track meet with 81 points, while Lowndes finished with 66, Tift County had 65½ and Cook was fourth with 37½.

Lowndes' Don Hampton (100 and 220) and Casey Footman (120 high hurdles and 330 intermediate hurdles) remained undefeated on the season. Lowndes also won the 490 and mile relays.

Valdosta will host a three-way meet with Tift County and Monroe Monday. Lowndes will host Valdosta and Madison, Fla., on Tuesday.



Times Staff Photos By Joey Ivansco

Valdosta's Todd Gamble Won High Jump With Leap Of 6-foot-2

From Staff Reports

TIFTON — Valdosta dropped a rain-delayed, five-inning decision to Tift County Wednesday afternoon, 8-3.

The loss brings the Wildcats record to 4-1 on the season. It was not a sub-region contest, so Valdosta remains 2-0 in the South sub-region.

With the Wildcats leading 3-0 with one out in the bottom of the third, rain forced a one-hour postponement and Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley knew

the rain was going to hurt his team.

"The rain ate us alive," Tarpley said. "But both teams had to play in the rain."

Starting pitcher Rick Rupp, who had given up only one hit and struck out three before the rain, would not retire a batter after the game started back up.

Rupp, who is now 2-1, was charged with eight runs, seven of which were earned. Mike Moore came on and pitched the final

two-and-two-thirds innings, giving up only one hit.

The game was called after the fifth inning because of darkness.

The Wildcats were led by catcher Marty Shiver, who went two for two and knocked in one run. Blake Belue picked up the only other RBI for Valdosta.

Valdosta will get back into sub-region play today in Thomasville against Central, who is 1-0 in the sub-region.

"Right now it is the biggest game," Tarpley said. "Of course, every game that comes up is the biggest one at the moment."

"The winner will be the only unbeaten team in this sub-region. And if they beat us, they will have beaten Lowndes and Valdosta both. One of us (Lowndes or Valdosta) have won the sub-region title for the last several years, and it would be a big win for Central."

Ted West (2-0) will start for

Rain Hampers Valdosta's Bid At Tift

VT. 4-7-83

Valdosta will return home to play a double header Saturday at Bazemore Field against Cleveland, Tenn.

Tuesday, Lowndes will travel across town to play the Wildcats. Brooks County will be in Valdosta on Wednesday. The Wildcats will return to the road on Thursday with a game in Moultrie against Colquitt County.

With a chance to gain some revenge, the Wildcats will host Tift County Saturday, April 16.

VHS	abr	h	bi	TC	abr	h	bi
Jenkins ss	4	0	0	Teals cf	4	1	0
Perry 2b	2	1	0	Taylor 2b	2	1	0
West rf	3	1	1	Hiett 3b	1	1	0
Shiver c	3	1	2	Missill lb	3	1	2
Belue lf	3	0	0	Turners	2	1	0
Belue lf	3	0	1	Bregess lf	3	1	0
Casper lf	3	0	0	Casper lf	3	1	1
Jenkins 3b	3	0	0	T Shur dh	2	1	0
Schiff dh	2	0	1	S Shur c	2	0	1
TOTALS	24	3	2	TOTALS	22	8	5
THCa	107	800	352	THCa	107	800	352
E - V - C - Jenkins, G. Jenkins	0	0	0	E - V - C - Jenkins, G. Jenkins	0	0	0
TC - Burgess, Casper, T. Shiver, S. Shiver	6	0	3	TC - Burgess, Casper, T. Shiver, S. Shiver	6	0	3
Tift Co. Sowell	6	0	3	Tift Co. Sowell	6	0	3
Vald	21	5	8	Vald	21	5	8
Rupp	22	1	0	Rupp	22	1	0
Moore	1	0	0	Moore	1	0	0
Winner - Sowell, Loser Rupp 201, WP -				Winner - Sowell, Loser Rupp 201, WP -			
Rupp 2, Sowell 1, HBP - Tift - Taylor,				Rupp 2, Sowell 1, HBP - Tift - Taylor,			
Turner.				Turner.			

Track Meet Correction

In the Lowndes-Valdosta girls track meet that was held Wednesday at Lowndes High School, it was incorrectly reported that Sonya Davis of Valdosta won the 100-yard dash. The correct winner was Lowndes' Deidre Hampton.

Also incorrectly reported was the winner of the 110-yard hurdles. The correct winner was Lowndes' Elnora Jones.

The Vikettes also won the 440-yard relay.

Hampton won the long jump, while Natasha Horne was the high-jump winner.

The final score of the meet was incorrectly reported as Valdosta winning 64-44. The correct score was 65-43.

VT. 4-1-83



Wildcat Becomes Blazer

Ben Reaves signed a scholarship to play college football with the Valdosta State Blazers Thursday morning as his mother and father (L.) look on. Valdosta High football coach Nick Hyder (R.) was also on hand.

Reaves was selected as the No. 1 tight end and the sixth best overall offensive player in Region 1-AAAA by region coaches.

Reaves is 6-foot-2, 225 pounds and runs the 40-yard dash in 5.0 seconds.

VT. 4-1-83



Spring Blossoms

Leslie Davis, 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hank Lee of Valdosta, takes time out to enjoy some Azalea and Dogwood flowers. Times photographer Robert Winter III caught Ms.

Davis in the act of enjoying the recent warm spring days at the corner of Slater Street and Cranford Avenue. Ms. Davis is a student at Valdosta High School.

It's Valdosta Vs. Lowndes On The Diamond

Vikings Must Contend With Hot 'Cat Hurler West To Move To No. 1

VT 4-11-83 By MACK BROWNING
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta is trying hard to hang on to the 1-AAAA baseball title it took from Lowndes last year — the first time in three years the Vikings had been forced from the state playoffs.

Tuesday if the first day since last spring Lowndes has had to get back at its cross-town rival. Valdosta won both games from Lowndes last year, playing at Valdosta State's Blazer Field. The series reverts back to home-and-home this year.

And if the Vikings (5-3-1, 2-1) can upend the Wildcats (4-1, 2-0) in the 4 p.m. contest at Bazemore Field, it would throw the sub-region into a logjam among the two and Central of Thomasville.

Both teams have been idle since the middle of last week because of the rains, so players on both sides should be well rested.

Lowndes is coming off its best game of the season, a 3-2 win over sub-region foe Colquitt County last Tuesday. Philip Vickery and Billy Hancock, the two pitchers Lowndes coach Noel George has relied on all season, combined to set back the Packers. One of those two will be asked to start against the heavy-hitting Wildcat team.

But the biggest factor for Lowndes may be the hitting. A deep concern of George early in the season, the hitting came around in the latest game. Though the Vikings scored only three runs, they pounded out nine hits and smacked two home runs off one of the best pitching staffs in the sub-region in Colquitt County.

However, the Vikings will face one of the hottest pitchers in the region in Valdosta's Ted West. West is undefeated on the season and has been in little trouble. Lowndes will have to scrap for every run against him.

The key to the game, and Lowndes' hopes of winning, will depend on how well Vickery or Hancock cool the Valdosta bats.

Valdosta has had solid hitting throughout the lineup with West, Ben Reaves, Marty Shiver and Greg Jenkins leading the way. Lowndes has relied on solid hitting from Carl Parker, Jimmie Evans and Hancock. Hancock has homered in each of his last two games.

The Vikings and the Wildcats have faced two common opponents, Tift County and Colquitt County. Lowndes is 2-1 in those games, splitting with North sub-region foe Tift. The 'Cats downed Colquitt 10-7 early in the season as they bombed Packer pitchers Gregg Studdard and Barry Bell. Tift upset Valdosta 8-3 in a rain-shortened game last Wednesday in Tifton.

In other games this week, Valdosta is at home Wednesday to face AA neighbor Brooks County. Friday, the 'Cats travel to Moultrie to play the Packers and Saturday Valdosta gets a chance for revenge at home against Tift County.

Lowndes hosts Central Friday and travels to Albany Saturday for a double header against Westover and Albany high schools.



Wildcat's Blake Belue Takes Instruction From Coach Tarpley
Staff Photo by JOE IVANCO

Valdosta, Lowndes Headed

On Collision Course

By MACK BROWNING
Times Staff Writer

Both Valdosta and Lowndes baseball teams play crucial sub-region games this week, and if the Wildcats and the Vikings can end the week on positive notes next Tuesday's clash of the two bitter rivals would take on an even greater significance. But first, Valdosta (3-0, 1-0) must get by a hectic schedule which has it playing five games in five days, including two against sub-region competition — today at home against Thomasville in a game that was scheduled for a 4 p.m. start and Thursday against unbeaten Central of Thomasville on the road. Lowndes (4-3-1, 1-1) plays three games this week, beginning today against Colquitt County in a scheduled 4 p.m. start, culminating in Saturday's double header with Lincoln of Tallahassee, Fla. Today's game is vital for both the Vikings and the Packers since both have one loss each in the sub-region. The top two teams in each sub-region meet in the 1-AAAA

playoffs at the end of the regular season. In my mind, early in the season, I figured this week would be one where we might look ahead to Lowndes," said Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley. "But we have to play Central Thursday, and they beat Lowndes."

"No, we can't look ahead to Valdosta," Lowndes coach Noel George said. "We've got to win Tuesday. It's going to be a big game for us and them, too. We both need to win."

Today's opponent, Colquitt, is considered a contender this year after taking second place in the sub-region a year ago. The Packers lost their only sub-region game of the year last week to Valdosta.

Lowndes split with Colquitt last year, the Vikings winning in Moultrie and the Packers returning the favor at Lowndes.

The Vikings could face veteran Colquitt pitcher Barry Bell. Bell pitched in both games against Lowndes last year, and began the Packers' sub-region chase this year with a relief appearance

against Valdosta. The Wildcats hit Bell hard, a turnaround from their '82 confrontation, and Viking coach George said he hopes his team can do the same.

"If we hit the ball, which we hadn't been doing much of lately, we'll be all right," George said.

Lowndes may have gotten the bats out of the icebox Saturday with a 16-1 pounding of Thomasville in which the Vikings ripped 17 hits.

George had not decided Monday afternoon whether Philip Vickery or Billy Hancock would start on the mound. Hancock pitched the complete game in Saturday's win.

Valdosta may do the same to the Bulldogs today, but Wednesday and Thursday promise to be stiff competition.

The Wildcats play at Tift County Wednesday and may have to face Blue Devil ace Todd Shiver. Shiver gave Lowndes fits in the two games he threw, striking out 25. Having to face Shiver puts added pressure on Rick Rupp, Lorenzo Matchett and Mike

Moore, the pitchers Tarpley said would most likely be called on. Rupp was slated to start today's game with Matchett to come on in relief, Tarpley said. Tarpley said he would split the game today between the two so both could pitch Wednesday.

Ted West (2-0) will try to help Valdosta move into sole possession of the sub-region lead when he starts against Central Thursday.

Valdosta, with a week off since its win over Colquitt last Tuesday, has spent time going over infield practice and throwing — a severe problem area for the Wildcats over the first three games.

Tarpley said shortstop Greg Jenkins, who has made seven errors, and several other Wildcats worked out for three-and-a-half hours on their own Easter Sunday to iron out their problems.

"They work together all the time," Tarpley said. If Valdosta shores up the defense, and if Lowndes keeps hitting, next week's encounter could be a battle for No. 1.

V.T. - April 7, 83 VHS Senior Is Winner Of Merit Scholarship

A Valdosta High School senior was among 1,500 winners of National Merit Scholarships announced Wednesday. Benton Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Anderson, received a scholarship from Owens-Illinois Inc.

The mill provides the scholarship for the sons or daughters of employees who are finalists in the National Merit Scholarship program.

Anderson was named a National Merit finalist in February. He is a native of Kansas City, Mo., and has lived in Valdosta six years.

He is a member of the Beta Club and the Math Team at VHS. He received the district award for the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition program and is entered in state STRA competition.

He attended the Governor's Honors Program in mathematics and has received a University of Georgia Certificate of Merit for his scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test. Anderson attends Park Avenue United Methodist Church, and is an Eagle Scout in Boy Scout Troop 415.

He plans to attend Georgia Tech and major in engineering. Additional scholarships for National Merit finalists will be announced later.



BENTON ANDERSON
Scholarship Winner

Valdosta Jumps On Lowndes

April-13-83

V. Time

By MACK BROWNING

Times Staff Writer

"The Game" wasn't really all it was cracked up to be.

Lowndes starter Philip Vickery walked three of the first four Valdosta batters and was removed from the game without recording an out. One out later, reliever Billy Hancock was greeted by Blake Belue's grand slam, and that was the ball game.

Lowndes made runs at the sub-region leaders, in fact out-hitting the Wildcats 9-7 for the game, but pitcher Ted West and catcher Marty Shiver thwarted every rally for a 10-3 Valdosta win Tuesday at Bazemore Field.

"We didn't get the big hits," said Lowndes coach Noel George. "And we couldn't throw a strike to save our lives. We got behind five runs, and we had to play catch-up all day."

Though behind the eight-ball early, Lowndes was still in the game until Valdosta scored four runs in the sixth to put the game away.

Lowndes scored two runs in the fifth and a single run in the sixth, but the Vikings has numerous scoring opportunities throughout the game. Twice the Vikings had

the leadoff batter on only to have him thrown out. In one other inning, the fourth, No. 8 hitter Tony Williams reached on a base hit. Dean Wood then hit a sharp grounder toward the hole between third base and shortstop, but Wildcat third baseman Craig Jenkins made a diving stop and threw to second base to initiate the double play.

Vikings Bobby Eason and Carl Parker started rallies in the second and fifth innings, respectively, but both were out trying to swipe second on throws by Valdosta catcher Shiver.

In both cases, Valdosta pitched out — even though the situation, the Vikings five runs down, didn't appear to call for a steal.

"Noel just likes to steal," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said. "We knew when Parker got on base he was going to try to steal."

"We had the hit-and-run on," George said. "It wasn't just a naked steal, but the batter missed the ball on the first one, and they pitched out on the second."

"I don't like to play it too safe," George added. "We had to make something happen."

Getting those two lead-off runners thrown out turned out

to be unfortunate for Lowndes. In both cases, West gave up a walk and a couple of hits. In the fifth, after Parker was nabbed, Alan Taylor followed with a walk and leading hitter Jimmie Evans singled. West then walked Hancock to load the bases.

Steve Kebler delivered a liner just over the Craig Jenkins' glove at third, scoring two runs to pull within 5-2.

West, who is still undefeated on the season, had his problems at times, but managed to withstand a furious Viking rally.

"They've got a good hitting team," West said of the cross-town rivals. "I expected them to hit the ball."

"I had control problems," West added. "Sometimes my curve would work and then it wouldn't. Sometimes my fastball would work, then it wouldn't."

Still, Lowndes could only manage the three runs while Valdosta was making every hit count.

Valdosta got one of the Lowndes runs back in the

bottom of the inning on Shiver's home run.

The Vikings countered with an RBI single by Evans in the sixth, scoring Tyrone Crittendon, pinch running for Wood who had walked.

The 'Cats put the game on ice in their final at-bat as Ferrell Scruggs and Mark Perry delivered home runs. Until the sixth, Valdosta had been to just two hits, both home runs. Valdosta rapped three singles, in addition to Scruggs' and Perry's homers, in the four-run outburst.

For Valdosta, the win on its home field was especially sweet. The win was the first over Lowndes at Bazemore Field since 1977 when Buck Belue led Valdosta to the state championship. Both games last year were played at Blazer Field.

Valdosta plays what should be a breather for them today at 4:30 against Brooks County at Bazemore Field. Friday, the Wildcats travel to Moultrie for a sub-region game against Colquitt County.

Lowndes faces possible exile from the state tournament for

the second straight year unless it beats Central of Thomasville Friday. The Vikings, at 2-2 in the sub-region, must upend unbeaten Central to get back into the playoff chase.

Valdosta is 3-0 in the sub-region and seems to be a shoe-in for one of the two sub-region playoff spots, though the 'Cats must still face Colquitt and Central twice. Last week's game between Valdosta and Central in Thomasville that was postponed by rain has been rescheduled for April 25, the day before the final meeting of the two teams in Valdosta.

LHS	abr	h	bi	VHS	abr	h	bi
Prker cf	3	0	1	G. Jnkns ss	2	2	1
Tylor 2b	3	1	0	Perry 2b	3	1	1
Evans ss	3	1	2	West p	3	1	1
Hnck dh-p	3	0	0	Shver c	3	2	1
Kbler 1b	4	0	1	Reaves cf	4	1	0
Eason 3b	4	0	1	Schnoff dh	1	0	0
Laney ph	1	0	0	Mtchett rf	3	1	1
Grson rf	3	0	1	TOTALS	x	10	7
Grshaw ph	0	0	0				
Willms lf	4	0	2				
Wood c	2	0	1				
Crittendon pr	0	1	0				
TOTALS	x	3	9				

LHS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Vickery	0	0	3	2	3	0
Hancock	5	6	7	7	3	0
Gay	1	1	0	0	0	1
VHS						
West	7	9	3	3	6	5

Winner — West. Loser — Vickery. WP — Hancock. HBP — G. Jenkins (by Hancock).



Blake Belue (5) Gave Wildcats Upper Hand With Grand Slam

Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco

32-3 Rout

'Cats Crunch Bumbling Brooks

April-14-83

UT

V Times 4/14/83

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley realized after his Wildcats outclassed Brooks County Wednesday afternoon 32-3, that the game was of little benefit to his starting nine. Other than allowing the starters the luxury of hitting off a live pitcher, rather than a batting-practice hurler, the game was a waste.

"What can you say," Tarpley said of the win that ran his Wildcats' record to 6-1. "Brooks' coach called up wanting to play and I was looking for games. I couldn't get Berrien, Cook or any of the Albany schools to play, so I scheduled Brooks."

While the victory was of little use to the starters, it did help the 'Cat 11th graders who

replaced the VHS starters after the first inning. And next Wednesday, when VHS is slated to travel to Quitman to complete the home and away agreement with Brooks, Tarpley said he will send the 11th graders to take on the 0-8 Trojans.

"This game did help the 11th graders," Tarpley said. "But as far as the older kids, it was a total waste."

Tarpley left his starters in for just one inning. But in that time, they erupted for 13 runs on 8 hits as they batted around twice. The 'Cats rocked starting Brooks pitcher Wilbur Williams for nine of those runs, before he was removed for reliever Fred Manning.

By the time the game was mercifully called after six innings, Valdosta had faced five

Brooks pitchers. But none were able to solve the VHS puzzle as the 'Cats pounded out 19 hits on the day including eight doubles and one triple.

Valdosta was able to tally runs in every inning except the fourth. The 'Cats pushed across five runs in the third and fifth innings, before closing the rout with eight runs in the sixth.

"You just can't tell your young kids to go up there and miss the ball," Tarpley said.

Rick Rupp got credit for the Valdosta win. He pitched two hitless innings, while striking out two Brooks' batters and walking two.

The Trojans scored their first run of the day off reliever Mike Moore, who subbed for Rupp

after two innings. Brooks final two runs came in the last inning off Lorenzo Matchett.

Tarpley saved pitcher Ted West for Friday's sub-region tilt against Colquitt County in Moultrie. The 'Cats are undefeated in sub-region play and a win against the Packers would virtually eliminate Colquitt from the race.

"If we need Rupp," Tarpley said, "we'll use him. If Teddy goes all the way, I'll pitch Rupp against Tift."

The 'Cats, whose only loss came at Tift County four games ago, will hope to avenge that early defeat when they take on the Blue Devils at Bazemore Field Saturday at 3 p.m.

BC	ab r h bi	Vid	ab r h bi
Dean 2b	4 0 1 0	Jnkns ss	1 2 1 0
Boyes 1b	3 0 0 0	Golf ss	5 2 1 1
Dniels c	1 0 0 0	Perry 2b	2 1 1 1
Seay c	0 1 0 0	Huling 2b	2 3 1 0
Wilms p	3 1 1 0	West rf	2 2 1 0
Linder ss	3 1 1 1	Mtchtt ph/p	2 2 1 2
Arnold 3b	3 0 0 0	Shiver c	2 2 2 0
Still lf	2 0 0 0	Htveg c	1 0 0 0
Vnson rf	0 0 0 0	Purvis ph	1 2 0 0
Hollis cf	0 0 0 0	Reaves cf	1 2 1 3
Manning ph/p	1 0 0 0	Linger cf	2 1 0 0
Bess ph	2 0 1 1	Belue lb	0 2 0 0
TOTALS	x 3 4 2	Prker lb	2 1 1 0
		Talley ph	1 1 0 0
		Scrgs lf	2 0 1 1
		Ruff lf	3 2 1 1
		C. Jkns 3b	2 1 1 2
		Register	2 3 1 2
		Schnoff dh	2 2 2 1
		Gandy	4 1 3 3
		TOTALS	x 32 19 17

Brooks	0-0-0	102-	3-	4-6		
Valdosta	13-1-5	058-	32-	19-2		
2B	- BC	None	VHS	- Golf, Matchett,		
Reaves, Ruff, Jenkins, Schunhoff, Gandy.	3B	- BC	- None	VHS - Parker, HR - None.		
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO

Brooks	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Williams L	0.2	6	9	8	3	0
Manning	1.2	8	9	2	2	2
Dean	2.1	5	6	5	6	4
Linder	0.2	3	6	6	4	0
Daniels	0.2	3	2	2	2	1
Valdosta						
Rupp W	2.0	0	0	0	2	2
Moore	2.0	1	1	0	0	3
Matchett	1.0	2	2	2	1	1



First Baseman Blake Belue Makes Effort For Foul Ball

Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams

'Cat Tracksters Run Past Vikes

Valdosta swept a triangular meet at Lowndes Tuesday against Lowndes and Madison, Fla. The Wildcats finished with 67 points, Madison 54½ and Lowndes 48½. The Lady 'Cats scored 64 points, Lowndes 49 and Madison 21. Darlene McCormick pulled in an impressive triple at the meet, winning the high jump, mile run and 880-yard run. She was also a member of the winning mile-relay team. Connie Weatherspoon took first in the 440 dash and was also on the mile relay team. Valdosta's only other first-place winner was Carrie Oliver in the two-mile run. The Valdosta boys results were unavailable earlier today. Lowndes had impressive showings in the sprints, with Deidre Hampton taking both the 100- and 220-yard dashes, Don Hampton won both the 100 and the 220 as well, clocked in at 10.2 in the 100. Jonathon Lazard of Lowndes won the 440 in 53.7. Other winners for Lowndes were Casey Footman in the 330 hurdles, boys mile relay, Pansy March in the shot put, Linda Berrian in the long jump and the girls 440 relay team. Valdosta will host its next meet Monday at 3:30 against Lowndes and Thomasville.

V Times 4-13-83

Wildcat Tracksters Beat Tift Co., Cook

The Valdosta Wildcat and Lady Wildcat track teams remained unbeaten Monday with wins. The Wildcats (3-0) finished first in a three-way meet with 87 points. Tift County was second with 29, while Cook was third with 20. Meanwhile, the Lady 'Cats (4-0) were winning a dual meet with Tift County. Valdosta scored 62 points, while Tift Co. had 42. The Valdosta teams' next meet will be today at Lowndes at 3:30.

UT Sports Briets 4-12-83

Region Playoff Plots Thickening In Area Races

April 24, 1982

By MACK BROWNING

Times Staff Writer

With a week to go in the high school baseball season, most of the sub-region and region playoff spots are still up for grabs. And area teams are right in the thick of things.

Valdosta, Cook, Lanier County and Clinch County control their destiny as far as playoff positioning is concerned.

Valdosta tops the list of teams apparently headed for post-season play. But even though the Wildcats are 4-0 and in first place in 1-AAAA South, a playoff spot is not assured. Conceivably, Valdosta could lose three or four of its remaining games and lose a spot to Colquitt County or Lowndes.

Valdosta plays in Thomasville Monday against Central, then plays the Jackets at Bazemore Field Tuesday. Valdosta plays its third straight game Wednesday in Moultrie. If the Packers win, they clinch

a playoff spot. If Valdosta wins, then Lowndes could be Colquitt for second if it beats Valdosta Friday.

Lowndes could have sewn up a playoff berth Friday, but the Vikings, instead, helped Colquitt to the driver's seat as the Packers won 4-3.

The South champion will play the North sub-region runner-up in one best-of-three series while the South runner-up would play the champion of the North.

As it stands now, Valdosta would have the home-field advantage against either Dougherty or Westover. Either Colquitt County or Lowndes would play Tift County. The Blue Devils, with the strongest pitching staff in the region and conquerors of Valdosta and defending state champ Coffee twice each, appear to be the early favorites.

Cook is currently undefeated in 1-AAA East at 6-0, a half game ahead of Camden County, whose only sub-region loss came

to Fitzgerald. The two teams meet in a double header in Adel May 2 in a series that should decide the sub-region winner.

Regardless of the outcomes both are virtually assured of making the playoffs to meet the top two teams from the West. Bainbridge, which finished fourth in 1-AAAA South last year, is the scourge of AAA this year after dropping down a classification. The Bearcats captured the state football title in December and are trying to add a baseball trophy to the shelf.

The Bearcats are a solid No. 1 in the West and would play Camden in a best-of-three series if the Wildcats and Cook split their double header and Cook wins the remainder of its sub-region games.

Cook would then play either Cairo or Early County, though the Syrupmakers look like the odds-on favorite. The Hornets played Cairo five times last year

and beat them four times, including twice in the region championships.

Coach Jim Gawriluk's Brooks County Trojans haven't won a game, but the 1-AA East tournament could make their season. All four teams in the sub-region will compete in the tournament. Turner County, the host, is the favorite in the East.

Brooks is hoping to play either Macon County or Dooley County in the semifinals, as neither of those teams are enjoying good seasons. But Brooks may get the fourth seed since they haven't won any games and have to play Turner in the opening round.

The winner of the sub-region advances to the region playoffs in Donaldsonville. The West favorite is Seminole County. The Indians should have little trouble wading past Randolph-Clay, Terrell County and Stewart-Quitman. One of the most interesting sub-region

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Valdosta

Defeats

T'ville N.T

From Staff Reports

THOMASVILLE — At 0-6 in the sub-region, no one expected the Thomasville Bulldogs to stay with front-runner Valdosta.

Yet, Wildcat pitcher Ted West had his problems early, walking the first three batters he faced and giving up an RBI single. Through four innings, Valdosta clung to a 3-1 lead.

But then the 'Cats exploded, putting the distance between them and the Bulldogs that everyone expected, to win 21-3.

Valdosta scored four times in the fifth to put the game away, then added 14 for good measure in the sixth.

"We just unloaded," Cat coach Charles Tarpley said. "We started hitting the ball really well."

West and Blake Belue struck for four of Valdosta's six home runs, hitting two apiece. West got Valdosta off and running in the first inning with a two-run blast, then got the 14-run sixth off to a good start with a solo

Blue, on a three-for-five day at the plate, accounted for six of the 'Cats' runs. After Ben Reeves stroked a two-run homer in the fifth, Belue followed with a blast to put Valdosta up 6-1. Belue hit a three-run homer in the wild sixth inning.

After spotting the Wildcats an early 2-0 lead, Thomasville came back with one in the first. But the Bulldogs' inability to get more runs could have cost them momentum.

West struggled early, walking three and allowing a hit, but struck out three Bulldog batters with the bases loaded to get out of the inning virtually unscathed.

Thomasville scored two more meaningless runs in the seventh inning, but Valdosta had already recorded the damage.

In the Wildcat sixth inning, 19 batters came to the plate and pounded out nine hits. Four walks and three errors kept up the barrage.

Following West's and Belue's homers, Tommy Schunhoff, Lorenzo Matchett and Greg Jenkins loaded the bases. Mark Perry then hit a grand slam.

Valdosta host Monroe in a double header Saturday beginning at 1 p.m.

Next week, the last of the regular season, is a crucial one for Valdosta. The Wildcats meet the top three teams in the sub-region — Central of Thomasville (twice), Colquitt County and Lowndes in a five-day span.

THS	ab r h b	VHS	ab r h b
Pilard	3 1 1 0	Gunkins	2 1 0 2
Leib	3 1 1 0	Perry 2b	5 2 2 4
Willis	3 1 1 0	West	5 3 3 3
Mohr 2b	2 0 1 1	Snyder	5 3 3 3
Smith	4 0 0 0	Reaves	5 3 3 3
Burns	4 0 1 0	Belue 1b	5 3 3 6
Esson	4 0 3 2	Schroff	3 3 1 0
Fitcher dh	4 0 0 0	Mitchell	3 1 1 0
Pilard 2b	2 0 0 0	Huling 2b	2 0 0 0
Poules rf	0 0 0 0	Godt ss	1 0 1 0
TOTALS	29 3 7 3	Priker 1b	1 0 1 1
		Purvis cf	1 0 0 0
		Rupp	1 0 0 0
		Talley rf	1 0 0 0
		Moore lf	1 0 0 0
		Rosler 3b	1 0 0 0
		TOTALS	45 21 18 19

VHS	201	0-4-14	0-21-18-2
100	0-0-0-2	2-3-7-4	
E — Pilard, Willis, Mopley, Bush, Pilard, Poules, Godt, Reaves, Left, Reaves, HR — 11, 7b Perry, West 2, Reaves, Belue 2, 5b — Huling, SH — Matchett, SF — Belue			
VHS	H	R	ER
West	5	4	1
Rupp	2	3	2
THS	5	12	10
Pilard	2	6	10
Mopley	2	6	10
Winner — West, Loser — Pilard.			

playoffs

The 3-AAAA winner (probably Coffee or Wayne County) would have the home-field advantage against either Valdosta or Lowndes. If Cook made the state playoffs, it would have to make the trip up I-75 to play the 3-AAA winner (perhaps Peach County, Perry or Jones County).

Should Brooks pull off the upset, the Trojans would play the 3-AA winner, on the road — probably either Jackson, Pike County or Robert E. Lee. Lanier or Clinch would play the 4-A winner on the road. Likely opponents in that first-round state matchup could be Glascock County or Wrens.

As the brackets are drawn, all previously mentioned area teams would be at home in the second round of state except Lanier or Clinch. The South Georgia champions host the state championship series in AAAA and AA.

SPORTS

V. Times
Tues., Apr. 26, 1983-24-

'Cats Can Clinch Spot In Playoffs With Win Today

By MACK BROWNING

Times Staff Writer

THOMASVILLE — Valdosta can clinch a region playoff berth today when it takes on Central of Thomasville at Bazemore Field at 4 p.m.

The Wildcats ended any chance the Yellow Jackets had of making the playoffs with a 10-3 win Monday in a game that had been rescheduled from an early season postponement.

This week was supposed to be a crucial week for Valdosta, playing four sub-region contenders in five days.

The Wildcats passed the first test with flying colors.

Valdosta jumped on Jacket pitchers Doug Wilson and Gene Singletary for all 10 runs in the first three innings, and Ted West held Central hitless with a relentless buzz-bomb and a snapping curve ball during his three innings of work.

Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley was able to lift his ace because of the big lead, hoping to give him plenty of rest for Wednesday start against Colquitt County.

"We got everything we wanted," Tarpley said. "We won, got a big lead and was able to take Teddy out and get him ready for Moultrie."

West had nearly every batter either swinging late at his liveliest fastball of the year or off-stride on the curve.

Afterward, Tarpley declared his team ready for all comers — win, lose or draw.

"Last year we started slow,"

Tarpley said, "but we came on in the last 10 games and beat Lowndes, Thomasville and Central the last week to tie Colquitt County." Valdosta then went on to beat the Packers in the region championship to cap a near-perfect season ending.

"We've kept winning and building up to where we are now," Tarpley said. Which is at the top of the sub-region and looking more and more like a state tournament-caliber team.

Valdosta started quickly Monday against Central.

The game's second batter, Mark Perry, ripped a home run over the left field fence to give the Wildcats a 1-0 lead.

Valdosta put the game away in the next two innings with a pair of grand slams, the team's fourth and fifth of the season.

In the second inning, Ben Reaves and Blake Belue coaxed walks from Jacket starter Wilson. After Ferrell Scruggs forced Reaves out at third, Lorenzo Matchett hit a high bouncer up the middle that shortstop Mark Henley booted to load the bases.

Greg Jenkins followed one out later with a grand slam home run to give the Wildcats a 5-0 lead.

In the third, a hit batsman, single and walk loaded the bases. Central relief pitcher Singletary walked Matchett forcing in Marty Shiver with the sixth run of the game. No. 9 hitter Tommy Schunhoff followed with a grand slam,

staking the Wildcats to an insurmountable 10-0 lead.

Central scored three runs in the fourth inning off Valdosta reliever Mike Moore.

Back-to-back homers by Henley and Michael Greek produced all the runs for the Jackets. Central collected three more hits off Moore, but Valdosta shook off the final rallies.

Valdosta had chances to score off the Central ace, but stranded a lead-off base runner in every inning Greek worked.

Tarpley will start Rick Rupp against the Jackets today. Greek could probably use more time to rest, but he will probably be called on to pitch today anyway. He was the only hurler to have any effectiveness whatsoever against Valdosta Monday.

CHS	abr	r	h	b	VHS	abr	r	h	b
Kling	lf	4	0	1	0	Glinkness	4	1	1
Pyle	3b	3	1	0	0	Perry	2b	4	1
Shiley	1b	4	1	2	2	West	rf	3	0
Greek	1b-p	3	1	1	1	Shiver	c	4	2
Taylor	cf	2	0	1	0	Reaves	cf	3	1
Smiley	dh	2	0	0	0	Belue	3b	2	0
Wilson	p	0	0	0	0	Scruggs	lf	3	1
Singletary	p	2	0	0	0	Matchett	rf	1	0
Palmer	2b	2	0	0	0	Moore	rf	2	0
Shaver	c	0	0	0	0	Schunhoff	ph	3	1
BROOKS	c	3	0	0	0	TOTALS	30	10	8
TOTALS		25	3	5	3				

VHS	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	R	BB	SO
CHS	145	000	0	10	8	3										
E	000	300	0	3	5	2										
CHS 1	VHS 1	Left	CHS 4	VHS 5	2B											
Moore	3B	Shiver	HR	Henley	Greek											
Perry	G	Jenkins	Schunhoff													

VHS	W	L	E	R	BB	SO
West	3	0	0	0	1	6
Moore	4	0	5	3	2	3
CHS	1	2	2	5	1	2
Wilson	1	0	2	5	5	2
Singletary	1	0	4	1	0	1
Greek	4	1	4	0	0	1

Winner — West. Loser — Wilson, WP — Moore, BK — Greek, HBP — Stanley by West, West by Singletary.



Ted West, Blake Belue Talk Over Strategy In Recent Game

Times Staff Photo

Valdosta's West Approaches Peak Efficiency

April 26, 1983

V.T. Times

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

THOMASVILLE — Ted West was throwing so well Monday afternoon against Central of Thomasville that the Valdosta High ace wanted to continue pitching.

But Wildcat coach Charles Tarpley opted to lift the junior after three innings with Valdosta leading 10-0. In his short stay West pitched to just one more than the minimum, while striking out six and giving up no hits.

"I felt good in the three innings I pitched," said West after the 10-3 VHS win over the Yellow Jackets that moved the Cats to within one victory of a berth in the region playoffs. "I wanted Coach Tarpley to let me go one more inning."

The Jackets scored their three runs off "Cat reliever Mike Moore who subbed for West in the third inning. Moore started out slow, giving up all his runs in the fourth inning. But the senior settled down to hold Central scoreless in the final three at bats as

Valdosta upped its season mark to 9-2 overall and 5-0 in the 1-AAAA's South sub-region.

It was West, though, who set the tempo early, baffling the Jacket hitters, while the Valdosta batters erupted for 10 runs in the first three innings on three home runs, two of which were grand slams.

West said it was his curve, which was unusually active, that kept the Jackets off stride. "It was breaking sharper than it usually does," he said.

As it looks right now, West will take today off when these same Jackets pay a return visit to VHS's Bazemore Field. He will return to action Wednesday when the Wildcats travel to Moultrie to take on Colquitt County in an all-important sub-region game.

"And if I feel like I can go Friday, I'll pitch against Lowndes," West said of Friday's season finale against the cross-town Vikings.

"Today he threw as well as he has all year," said Tarpley of

West. "He really pitched well. He seems to be building for a peak and that's what you strive to do in any sport."

But West is the only pitcher that Tarpley has been able to count on in the big games. When tournament time comes and the Cats are faced with playing games on successive days, West won't be able to continue pitching day after day. Despite that West said there are other pitchers on the Cats' staff that can come through if needed.

"I've got Rick (Rupp)," West said of the Cats No. 2 pitcher. "He's a good pitcher. And Moore showed he could pitch today after he settled down. I've got confidence in either Moore or Rupp."

And then there's the VHS defense that has been able to stymie runs with excellent plays in the field. "Marty Shiver helps a great deal," West said of his catcher. "Any time anybody gets on base, he throws them out if they try to steal."

Lady 'Cat Tracksters

V.T. 4.27.83

Take Region Title

From Staff Reports

ALBANY — For the fifth straight year, Valdosta High won the Region 1-AAAA girls' track meet held at Hugh Mills Stadium Tuesday.

The Lady 'Cats finished with 102 points, while Tifton ended up with 82 to take the runner-up spot.

The Lowndes Vikes placed third (72) and Albany finished the meet in fourth with 60.

The AAAA state meet will be held in Atlanta at Lakewood Stadium May 5-7. The top two finishers in each event qualified to compete at the state level.

Valdosta had five individuals qualify for the state, along with two relay teams. Meanwhile, in addition to its two relay teams, Lowndes will send three to participate in individual competition.

"I thought this year the region was a lot tighter," said Valdosta coach Jerry Don Baker. "It was more balanced. The calibre of

girls running is getting better.

"I think our depth helped us this year."

The Vikes were competing for only the second year. In 1982, Lowndes finished eighth in the region.

Deidre Hampton of Lowndes won the 100-yard dash with a time of 11.14. Valdosta's Valerie Bell came in second (11.20).

Becoming the only Vike to qualify in two events, Hampton won the 220 in 25.72.

In the 800, Valdosta had Darlene McCormick win with a time 2:24. McCormick also won the mile run (5:30).

McCormick has never lost a mile or an 800 at the region level during her four-year career at Valdosta.

Vikette Donna Jackson ran a 2:38 to place second in the 800.

The final Vikes to qualify for the state meet was Linda Berrien, who won the long jump with a jump of 16-feet-10³/₄.

Sonja Davis of Valdosta finished second in the long jump.

The Lady 'Cats dominated the 440 with Connie Weatherspoon and Rita Barnette finishing first and second respectively.

Weatherspoon won the race with a time of 1:00, edging out her teammate by one second.

Finishing second in the discus was Weatherspoon, who became the only Lady Wildcat to qualify for state in two events.

Lowndes and Valdosta swept the two relay races as each took a first place and a second to qualify all four teams for the state meet.

In the 440, Lowndes won it with a time of 50.77 seconds.

Members of the Vike 440 team included Berrien, Carla Stanford, Angela Brown and Hampton.

Bell, Davis, Connie Weatherspoon and Avis Weatherspoon made up the Lady Wildcats, who came in second in the 440.

Also running on the mile relay team for Valdosta was Bell and Connie Weatherspoon, who along with Barnett and McCormick combined to take the mile-relay crown with a time of 4:08.

At 4:19 and in second place was the group from Lowndes. Jackson was joined by Patricia Montgomery, Elinora Jones and Carla Stanford.

Thomasville with 30 points finished fifth in the meet. Central of Thomasville was sixth as it tallied 18.

Coming in seventh was Westover of Albany. The Patriots finished the meet with 16.

Monroe of Albany tallied 15 to end the meet in eighth, while Colquitt with eight finished ninth.

Dougherty did not score in the meet and was tenth overall.

In the AAAA state meet, it appears Columbia and Gordon will be the favorites.



Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco

Valdosta Coach Charles Tarpley (L) Encourages Team, Hopes To Earn Playoff Spot This Week VT

Magic Number For Wildcats: 2

April 25 - 1983

Lowndes' Playoff Hopes Rest With Valdosta-Colquitt Outcome

By MACK BROWNING
Times Staff Writer

The magic number for Valdosta's baseball team is two.

If the Wildcats can sweep Central of Thomasville today and Tuesday, they will defend their region championship in the playoffs next week.

Wednesday, the Wildcats can earn the sub-region championship by beating Colquitt County in Moultrie.

Foul weather forced several postponements in the Valdosta schedule. The result was two additions — today's game with Central and Wednesday's game in

Moultrie — to the final week's schedule.

The week should put a strain on the Wildcat pitching staff, but Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said he's not worried.

"I'm more worried about the hitting," Tarpley said. "If we hit the ball, I don't worry. I feel like our pitchers can get the ball over the plate and do all right."

Junior Ted West has been Tarpley's main man in '83. West has yet to lose a game, and has been the pitcher called upon in every crucial sub-region game this year.

West pitches today and Wednesday, while Rick

Rupp is slated to pitch at Central Tuesday.

Rupp gets one of his most critical assignments of the spring, trying to knock down the Jackets to clinch a playoff spot — assuming the Wildcats beat Central today.

Rupp won three playoff games last year, including a win against Kendrick in the state playoffs. However, his most difficult test this year came against Tift County, a game he lost.

The biggest game of the week, whether or not Valdosta has clinched a playoff spot or not, is Friday. The season's final regular game pits the Wildcats against

Lowndes in a game most important to the Vikings.

If Valdosta beats Colquitt Wednesday, Lowndes can tie for second and force a one-game playoff with the Packers if it beats Valdosta.

Tarpley said he hopes the game becomes that critical for Lowndes.

"We're going to try to win them all," Tarpley said. "But the big game is Friday against Lowndes."

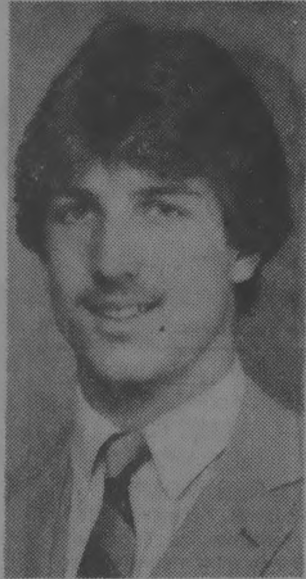
"I hope they're still in it when we play them," Tarpley added. "I hope we beat Colquitt, then Lowndes. We'd have a better chance to win if they have something to gain. If they're out of it,

they might be relaxed. They could play tight if they're playing for the playoffs."

Tarpley said he would ask West to pitch Friday's game if the junior said he was ready following the two games he was already scheduled to play this week.

If West was unable to go, Rupp, or possibly Mike Moore, could pitch against Lowndes. Pitching West Friday could be a gamble with the playoffs beginning next Tuesday.

Lowndes, almost certainly, will have to go to the entire staff, if necessary, to beat Valdosta or else the season will be over.



JEFFERY LEE
Pre-Med

Valdosta Student Of Year Heads For Dartmouth

By MARDY JACKSON
Times Staff Writer

It looks like Dartmouth College will have a South Georgia Chili Dog next year.

Valdosta Student Of The Year Robert Jeffery Lee said that is most likely where he will begin his pre-med studies.

Lee has been offered a \$6,000 scholarship at Dartmouth. He also has been offered scholarships at Yale and the Naval Academy.

He was named Student Of The Year by the Valdosta Exchange Club Thursday. Davie Edmondson of the Exchange Club said Lee was selected from seniors submitted by schools throughout the county for his award.

Lee is called "Jeff" by most of his teachers, but because of his tall, lanky features a few years ago, fellow students gave him the nickname "Chili Dog."

Edmondson said the Exchange Club looks for seniors that have had a well rounded career in school; students with outstanding records in academics and athletics.

This describes Lee. He was defensive captain of the Valdosta High School football team and president of the Beta Club in his junior and senior years. Beta club is an honorary academic organization.

"He's an outstanding young man," Edmondson said. Lee will receive \$500 from the Exchange Club and represent it at the state level in a similar competition he said.

In the meantime, Lee has been offered an appointment at the Naval Academy and \$6,000 scholarships at Dartmouth and Yale. All three want him to play football. Right now, Lee says he is leaning towards Dartmouth, "mainly because the social life at that college is best of all three," he said. "It has more opportunities of things to do."

Cont.

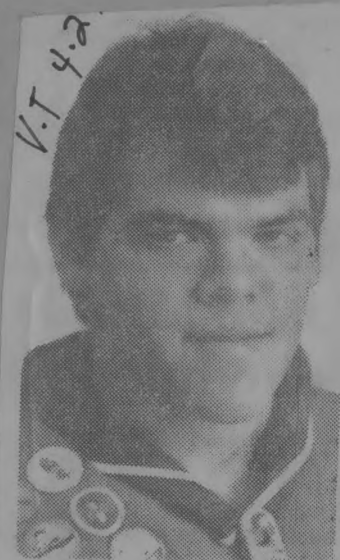
Lady Wildcats Defeat Brooks

The Valdosta Lady Wildcats track team ran its record to 8-0 with a 71-29 win over the Lady Trojans of Brooks County.

Valdosta won 11 of 13 events.

Winners for the Lady Wildcats included: Angela Bell, shot put; Sonya Davis, long jump and 100-yard dash; Darlene McCormick, high jump; Connie Weatherspoon, 440; Valerie Bell, 220; Melanie Skiles, mile and 880; Carrie Oliver, two-mile.

V-Times April 21-83



V.T. 4.27.83
EAGLE SCOUT - Quentin Lawson Jr., son of Joan and Dr. Quentin Lawson Sr. of Valdosta, has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. The younger Lawson is a member of Boy Scout Troup 403 sponsored by First Baptist Church here and led by Scoutmaster Tom Bailey. The Eagle Scout is active in the art department at Valdosta High School where he is a senior. He is employed by Dr. Joe Crane, Valdosta veterinarian. — Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams.

After Dartmouth and a degree in pre-med, Lee plans to head south again to Emory or the University of Georgia to medical school, then begin a practice in this area of the country.

"I look forward to college to get a chance to play football four more years, but academics come first."

Lee said he learned that priority at Valdosta High.

"Coach Hyder has always stressed academic excellence. People that don't pass, don't play. We had two players that did not play in the championships because their grades (were too low)."

"I believe there is a lot of pressure on a football player at Valdosta or Lowndes, but that pressure made me a more mature person. It was always tough on me during the season; always hard to keep grades up to par, but it was a rewarding feeling to have a game against a big rival and same day do well on a really hard test."

"Being part of a team is something that will be with me forever."

While Lee was pleased with his award from the Exchange Club, he felt he was in the running for it. "I felt like I had a good chance because of achievements in a variety of areas."

"I enjoy playing football, learning how to work with people, how to communicate. I have learned you have to work hard to accomplish something."

Valdosta Wins Two

V.T. 4.22.83
The Valdosta tennis teams won their final matches of the season Thursday as a tuneup for the 1-AAAA region tournament to be held at ABAC in Tifton Monday.

The Lady Wildcats won 5-4 over the Lady Bulldogs to run their season record to 6-4.

Meanwhile, the Wildcats won 7-2 and finished the year at 7-2.

Melanie Nelson, Alden Dowling and Ginna Pilcher all won singles matches for the Lady Cats. Nelson and Dowling combined to win the No. 1 doubles. Ethel Mitchell and Mandy Smitherman, both of whom dropped their singles matches, teamed up to win the deciding doubles match.

The Wildcats were never tested as the first four singles matches went to Valdosta. Eric Anderson, who finishes the season 9-0, Steve Gandy, David Johnson and Sean Miller gave the Wildcats a 4-0 lead.

Valdosta, after dropping the Nos. 5 and 6 singles, swept the three doubles matches.



Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams

Valdosta Pitcher Rick Rupp Had It Easy As His Teammates Scored 26 Runs To Sink Central Of Thomasville For Second Day In Row

'Cats Roll, While Central Folds

V.T. 4-27-83

By MACK BROWNING
Times Staff Writer

Terrible thing happened to Central of Thomasville on its way to the region baseball playoffs: The Jackets fell apart.

No, it was worse than that.

Members of Central's pitching staff, a group epoxied together throughout most of the year by ace left-hander Michael Greek, fell on their collective faces the last two weeks of the season. The result was a six-game losing streak to close out a season that had begun so promisingly.

And each defeat was not your typical nip-and-tuck ball game.

The pitching staff now a frazzled group, opposing hitters bombed away sending Central home with lopsided defeat after lopsided defeat.

Valdosta dealt the final, humiliating blow Tuesday afternoon at Bazemore Field,

whipping the Yellow Jackets 26-9 to clinch a playoff spot in 1-AAAA.

The Wildcats can clinch the sub-region championship today with a win over Colquitt County in Moultrie. Ted West is slated to pitch for Valdosta.

Having cemented in place the final nail in Central's coffin Monday with a 10-3 win in Thomasville, Valdosta exploded for 12 first-inning runs. The 'Cats sent 17 men to the plate in the inning and hit three home runs, two by Marty Shiver. Shiver's first homer in the inning followed West's solo shot.

For the game, Valdosta smacked eight home runs, none of which were in doubt.

Valdosta starting pitcher didn't exactly fool anybody, giving up seven hits and seven earned runs in five innings of work. But his performance seemed sterling next to the five

Central hurlers'.

Give little Mark Henley, the Jackets' fourth pitcher, credit for a moral victory. He lasted over four innings on the mound, giving up 10 hits and four earned runs. His three predecessors, Ray King, Gene Singletary and Michael Greek, managed only one full inning between them. In that span, reaching into the second inning, Valdosta got 12 hits and 16 runs.

Amazingly, every run scored in the big first inning was scored after two were out. In fact, the Wildcats first two batters of the game flied out before West hit his homer, only his first of two on the afternoon.

Valdosta could have gotten more, but over 30 minutes later, the third base umpire called Blake Belue out for not tagging third base while on his way to score off Rupp's single.

As well as Valdosta has hit the ball lately, no one would be amazed at the high score — except that two weeks ago Central was undefeated in the sub-region and appeared in good shape for a playoff bid.

However, Central coach Sam Sweat had worked through the sub-region schedule with lefty Greek, his best pitcher by far. When rainout created several back-to-back games, Central was in trouble.

Sweat has used King, Singletary, Henley and Doug Wilson — in addition to Greek — but none have been effective. Even Greek, pressed into service on days he might otherwise be resting, faltered late.

One could see late last week the Valdosta onslaught coming.

Still, who could have imagined a combined total of 36 runs against a team in contention most of the season.?

CHS	ab r h bi	VHS	ab r h bi
Taylor cf	4 1 0 0	GJnkns ss	2 2 1 1
Pyle lf	2 1 2 0	Hling ph-ss	2 1 1 0
Filwood lf	1 1 0 0	Perry 2b	4 2 2 5
Henley ss-p	3 1 2 1	Gandy ph-2b	2 2 1 3
Grk c-p-1b	3 2 1 3	West rf	4 3 2 2
Stewart 1b	0 0 0 0	Purvis ph-cf	2 0 1 1
Singletary 1b-p	3 1 1 1	Shiver c	4 2 2 3
Stanley rf	1 0 0 0	Goff ph-c	2 1 1 0
King p-1b-lf	3 0 0 1	Reaves cf	4 3 3 1
Morris lf	1 0 0 0	Rgstr ph-3b	1 1 1 1
Brooks rf-c	3 1 2 1	Belue 1b	3 1 0 0
Palmer ph	1 0 0 0	Parker ph-1b	1 1 1 2
Wilson 2b-ss-p	3 0 0 0	Scruggs lf	3 2 3 1
Harrell dh	2 1 0 0	Ruff ph-lf	1 0 0 0
TOTALS	30 9 8 7	Rupp p	2 1 1 1
		Moore p	1 0 0 0
		Schnoo dh	3 2 2 1
		CJnkns 3b	1 1 0 0
		Talley rf	1 1 1 0
		TOTALS	43 26 23 22

CHS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
King	0.2	6	9	8	3	0
Singletary	0.1	3	3	0	1	0
Greek	0.0	3	4	4	1	0
Henley	4.1	10	9	4	1	2
Wilson	0.2	1	1	1	0	0
VHS	5.0	7	7	7	2	3
Rupp	2.1	1	2	2	1	0
Moore	2.9	6	5	5	1	3

Winner — Rupp. Loser — King. WP — King, Singletary 2, Henley 3, PB — Brooks, HBP — Harrell by Rupp.

7-2 Win Gives 'Cats Sub-Region Championship

V.T. 4-28-83

From Staff Reports
MOULTRIE — Valdosta scored four runs in the first inning Wednesday against Colquitt County and made them hold up for a 7-2 win to clinch the sub-region championship for the second straight year.

Wildcat coach Charles Tarpley gave first baseman Blake Belue the hit privilege on a three balls and no strike count in the first inning, and the senior responded with a

three-run home run off Packer starter Keith Croft.

Ted West (6-0) picked up the win for Valdosta (11-2, 7-0). The junior, who handcuffed Central of Thomasville on no hits through three innings on Monday, went the distance against Colquitt giving up seven hits and one earned run.

In addition, West struck out 11 Packer batters and walked none.

Valdosta, with one game remaining against Lowndes

Friday, opens the 1-AAAA playoffs Tuesday on the road against possibly Westover or Dougherty. The Wildcats would play games two and three, if necessary, at Bazemore Field in the best of three series.

Shortstop Greg Jenkins reached in the first inning after being hit by Croft. He ran to third after stealing second when catcher Brian Clark, the hero of the Colquitt-Lowndes game, threw wildly into center field.

With one out, West singled scoring Jenkins. Croft then hit Marty Shiver and struck out Ben Reaves, setting the stage for Belue.

Colquitt got one run back in the fourth inning as Philip Brinson and Croft both lined one-out singles. First baseman Bob Thomas, who got three of the Packers' seven hits, plated the first run with a single.

Valdosta added three more runs in its half of the fifth. Mark Perry doubled and

scored on West's single. After Shiver forced West at second, Belue and Ferrell Scruggs walked loading the bases.

Designated hitter Tommy Schunhoff produced two runs

with a single.

Colquitt must now wait on the outcome of Friday's Valdosta-Lowndes game.

VHS	000	030	0-7-8-2
CCHS	000	101	0-2-7-2

E — Jenkins, Belue, Clark 2, DP — VHS 0, CCHS 1. Left — VHS 7, CCHS 7. 2B — Perry, Matchett, Thomas. HR — Belue. SB — Jenkins 2, West, Shiver.

Valdosta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
West	7.0	7	2	1	0	11
Colquitt Co.						
Croft	4.2	6	7	7	4	3
Bell	2.1	2	0	0	1	4

Winner — West 6-0. Loser — Croft. WP — Croft 2, Bell. HBP — Jenkins by Croft, Shiver by Croft.

Vid	ab r h bi	Clgt	ab r h bi
GJnkns ss	1 1 0 0	Horne 3b	4 0 1 0
Perry 2b	4 1 1 0	Berry lf	4 0 0 0
West p	3 1 2 2	Bell ss	4 0 1 0
Shiver c	3 2 0 0	Clark c	3 0 0 0
Reaves cf	4 0 0 0	Brinson cf	3 1 1 0
Belue 1b	3 2 2 3	Croft p	3 0 1 0
Scruggs lf	3 0 0 0	Turner rf	3 1 0 0
Schnoo dh	4 0 1 2	Thomas 1b	3 0 3 2
Mitchell rf	3 0 2 0	Smryke 2b	2 0 0 0
CJnkns 3b	0 0 0 0	Fordhm 2b	1 0 0 0
TOTALS	28 7 8 7	TOTALS	30 2 7 2

4-25-83

V.T



Teen Queens

Mitzi McDonell, center, is surrounded by her court Saturday night after being crowned Miss Valdosta High School. Miss McDonell, 17, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard McDonell of Valdosta and is a junior at VHS. Other beauties are, left to right,

Michelle Harrison, daughter of Marie S. Harrison, second runner-up; Dotty Jo Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Brown, first runner-up; Melanie Nelson, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John W. Nelson, third

runner-up; and Secily Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dugas, fourth runner-up. The pageant was sponsored by the junior class at VHS. — Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco.



V.T 4-27-83

Runners-up

Runners-up in the finals of the Miss Valdosta Pageant pose for Times Staff Photographer Frank Williams Tuesday night. At left is first-runner-up Melanie Nelson, a Valdosta High School senior the 17-year-old daughter of Dr.

and Mrs. John Nelson. At right is Harriet Madison, the 21-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Madison Jr. of Warner Robins, a student at Valdosta State College and second-runner-up.

Vikes' Playoff Hopes Dashed By Wildcats

V.T. 4.30.83

By MACK BROWNING

Times Staff Writer
Lowndes saw its playoff dream shattered Friday afternoon as Valdosta completed a clean sweep of sub-region competition by nipping the Vikings 5-4.

Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said his team accomplished what it had set out to do.

"We didn't want to lose a game (in the sub-region)," Tarpley said, "we wanted to beat Colquitt to give Lowndes a chance, because we didn't want anybody to say we threw a game to give anybody the advantage, and then we beat Lowndes to knock them out of it. So, I'm pleased."

"Valdosta's a little stronger than we are," Viking coach Noel George said. "They've got a good ball club."

Indeed, Tarpley's team had written a good script.

Monday, the Wildcats clobbered Central of Thomasville on the road to eliminate the Yellow Jackets from playoff consideration. Wednesday, they beat sub-region runner-up Colquitt in Moultrie to thrust Lowndes back into the spotlight.

But Friday, Valdosta finished its four-game week with a flourish despite a sterling effort by the Vikings.

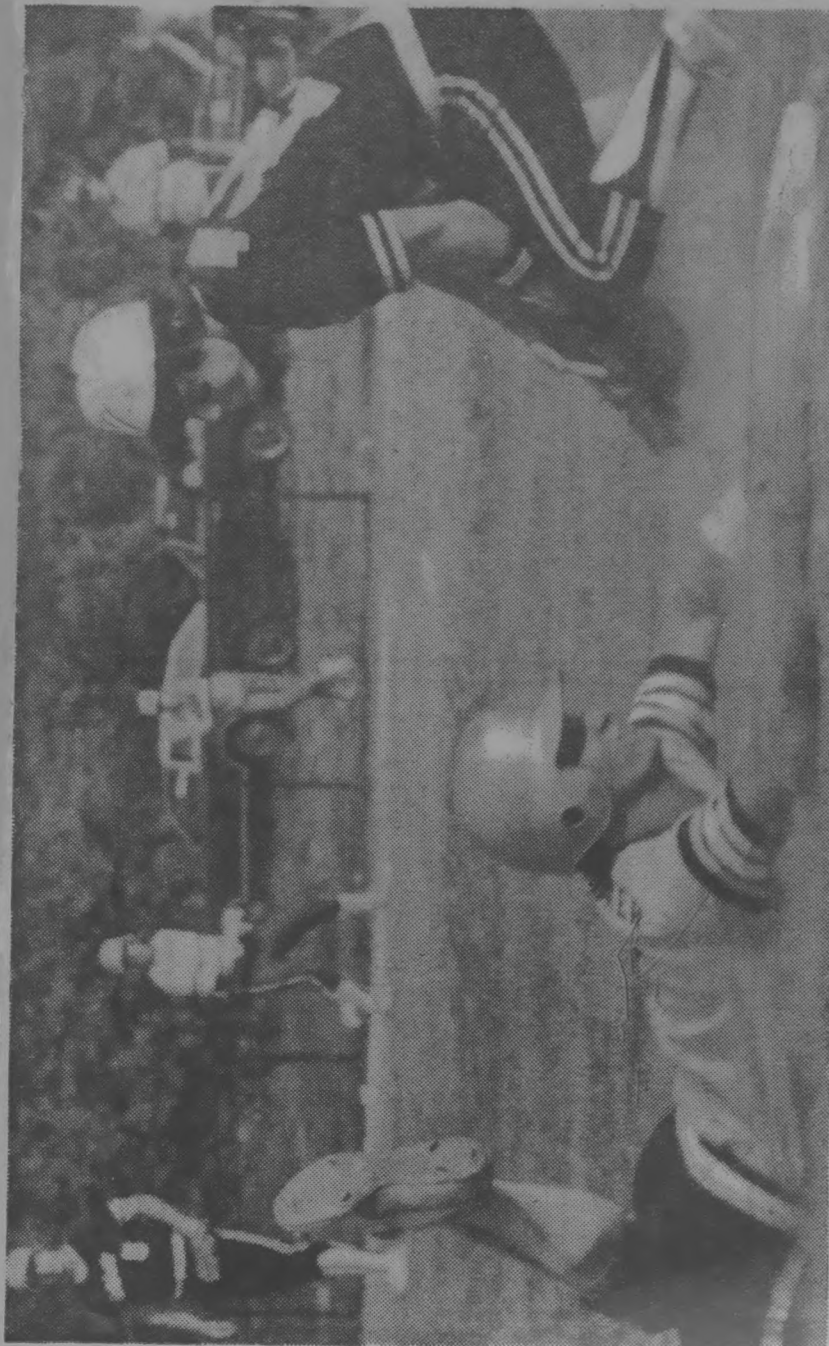
Alan Taylor, starting his second straight game on the mound for Lowndes after only one other previous appearance, pitched a gutsy game. Only fanning two batters, Taylor relied on his defense, which was perfect, to get out of several major logjams.

Valdosta left the bases loaded in the third and fourth innings with only one run scoring.

But Taylor had control problems trying to keep the ball away from the powerful Wildcat hitters. He walked eight batters in his five innings before giving way to Randy Gay. At least two Valdosta runs could be directly attributed to the free passes.

"He did a good job," George said of Taylor's performance. "He appeared to have a couple of bad spells and he couldn't get anything over the plate."

Still, Lowndes had a shot until the end. The Vikings held a 2-1 lead going into the sixth when Valdosta erupted for four runs. But Lowndes got single runs in the sixth and seventh to make it close.



Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams

Vikes' Carl Parker Goes Headlong Into Third

in his glove, his elbow came down on one of the advertising signs jarring the ball loose.

An error by shortstop Greg Jenkins on a ball hit by Mike Crenshaw put the tying run at the plate, but West retired the next three hitters, including a strikeout of Carl Parker to end the inning.

In the seventh, a dropped fly ball by right fielder Lorenzo Matchett put the Vikings' Jimmie Evans on first. Designated Billy Hancock drove a ball to the gap in right center that hit the fence, narrowly missing a game-tying homer.

How far West would be able to go in the game was a question mark before the game since the junior had pitched Monday and Wednesday. But he came through with flying

popped to first, and Lowndes and Gay appeared ready to get out of the jam.

But Marty Shiver bolted the 'Cats to a 5-2 lead with a towering home run that cleared the first row of trees beyond the left field fence.

"Randy came in in a crucial situation," George said. "He did well to get the first two outs, but then he gave up a good fat one."

Lowndes got one of the runs back immediately as third baseman Doug Laney, starting ahead of regular Bobby Eason, drove a ball deep to left that Ferrell Scruggs had pop out of

his glove over the fence for a home run. Scruggs got under the ball at the fence and had to reach over the fence to make the catch. After he got the ball

The loss to Valdosta was reminiscent of Lowndes' loss to Colquitt County last Friday.

The Vikings could have clinched a playoff spot in Moultrie, but a two-run seventh inning homer by Brian Clark sent the Packers home a 4-3 winner. Again, it was a homer that rocked the Vikings, but Taylor wasn't around this time.

After giving up back-to-back singles to Tommy Schunhoff and Lorenzo Matchett and a walk to Greg Jenkins to open the sixth inning, George brought in right-hander Gay to try and get out of the mess.

Gay got the first batter he faced, Mark Perry, to lift a medium fly ball to left field which scored pinch runner Jerry Purvis from third to tie the game at 2. West then

colors.

After giving up the fourth run to Lowndes on a ground out, West struck out Steve Kebler and got pinch hitter Eason to fly to center.

"I never got concerned about Teddy West," Tarpley said. "He is the one kid that nothing affects. He's just a dang winner. He does the things that it takes to win."

Lowndes finishes the year third in the sub-region, 9-6-1 and 4-4.

Valdosta, 11-2 and 8-0, plays Monroe of Albany Tuesday at Monroe High School at 4:30 p.m. in game one of the best-of-three semi-final series for the 1-AAAA championship.

Games two, and three if necessary, will be played in Valdosta Thursday at 2 p.m.

VHS	ab	r	h	bi
G Jenkins	2 1 0 1			4 0 1 0
Perry 2b	2 1 1 0			2 1 1 0
West 3b	3 0 0 0			3 1 2 0
Shiver c	4 1 1 3			3 0 1 1
Reaves cf	4 0 2 0			2 0 0 1
Belue lb	1 0 1 0			4 1 1 1
Gandy pr	0 0 0 0			3 1 1 1
Scruggs lf	3 1 0 0			1 0 0 0
Schroff dh	3 0 1 0			3 0 0 0
Purvis pr	0 1 0 0			3 0 0 0
Matchett	3 1 1 0			0 0 0 0
TOTALS	25 5 7 5			28 4 7 4

VHS	000	104	0-573
LHS	000	111	1-47-0

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1	7	7	4	3	5
2	1	1	1	1	1
3	5	6	4	4	8
4	2	1	1	1	1
5	1	1	1	1	0

E - Perry, G. Jenkins, Matchett, DP - LHS
 2. Left - VHS 10, LHS 9, 2B - Reaves,
 Hancock, HR - Shiver, Kebler, Laney, SH -
 Scruggs, SF - Perry, Hancock.

Winner - West, Loser - Taylor



Noel George Needs Season Split With Valdosta

Lowndes Faces Must-Win Situation In Regular Season Finale Against 'Cats

By MACK BROWNING
Times Staff Writer

V.T. 4. 28. 83

The Lowndes Vikings baseball team faces another season of playoff elimination unless it beats arch-rival Valdosta Friday at Lowndes Field.

Valdosta, undefeated in the sub-region, has already won the 1-AAAA South title and will probably play either Colquitt or Dougherty in the first round of the region playoffs Tuesday. Lowndes can't look ahead that far.

The Vikings, 4-3 in sub-region play, are a half game behind Colquitt County for second place and an automatic region playoff berth.

If Lowndes beats Valdosta Friday, the Vikings and the Packers would tie for second and the two teams would play a one-game playoff Monday to determine a playoff participant. The site of the game would be settled by a coin flip.

Lowndes had an opportunity to clinch a playoff spot last Friday when earlier in the season it appeared all hope was lost. The Vikings led Colquitt, in Moultrie, 3-2 heading into the seventh inning. But Packer catcher Brian Clark knocked a two-run homer with one out in the last inning to lift the Packers into playoff contention.

Wednesday, however, Valdosta kept Lowndes in the playoff picture by beating Colquitt. Now, the Vikings must knock off a Wildcat team that has won three games in a row this week — two lopsided wins over Central of Thomasville and one over Colquitt. With a week's rest, Lowndes coach Noel George can go with any, or all, of four pitchers against the Wildcats. Any of them will have to be at their best to match Valdosta's West.

Valdosta coach Charles Tanglep said Wednesday night that if West felt ready to go against Lowndes, he would start. West is West felt ready to go against Lowndes, he would start. West is

undefeated this year, including two wins this week and one earlier against Lowndes.

In the first meeting between the two teams, Viking pitcher Philip Vickers walked three of the first four Valdosta batters and the Wildcats erupted for five first-inning runs to win going away 10-3.

West went the distance in that game, pitching seven innings and giving up three earned runs and nine hits. West was far from unshakable in the game. Lowndes had runners in every inning, and twice the Vikings got the lead runner on base only to have him thrown out attempting to steal.

Valdosta managed only seven hits in the first ball game but, as usual, made them count. Blake Belue, Marty Shyer, Mark Perry and Ferrill Scroggs hit home runs for Valdosta against Lowndes, accounting for nine runs.

Lowndes left 11 men on base. Clearly, the Vikings will have to get the key hits off West to win the game and earn a playoff berth. But that may be easier said than done.

Monday, West didn't allow anything to Central as the Wildcats beat the Yellow Jackets 10-3 in Thomasville. Wednesday, when Colquitt managed seven hits off West, the junior still managed to record the crucial outs to get a complete-game victory.

Game time is 4:30 p.m., back a half hour from the previously scheduled time. Should Lowndes win against Valdosta and again versus Colquitt, the Vikings would play at home Tuesday in the first round of the region playoffs against probably Tift County. Games two and three, if necessary, would be played Wednesday in Tifton in the best of three series.

Valdosta vs. Lowndes

V.T. 4. 29. 83

The Valdosta Wildcats ran off and hid from the rest of the 1-AAAA's South sub-region. Everybody else was left battling for leftovers.

The 'Cats clinched their second straight sub-region title Wednesday with a win over Colquitt County. But that win also had influence on the race for second place and a berth in the region tournament.

Lowndes, who was virtually out of the race earlier in the season, now has new life with Valdosta's victory. If the Vikings can topple the 'Cats this afternoon at Lowndes Field, it will assure them of a tie for second with Colquitt, forcing a one-game playoff to see who will advance to the region.

Valdosta, it appears, has nothing left to play for. But any time Lowndes and Valdosta get together, it is something to play for...

—VSC head coach Tommy Thomas had hoped that the Lowndes-Valdosta game would be moved up to allow the baseball fans the chance to take in both games. Instead, the Blazers are slated to start their double header at 5...

'Cat Netters Whip Trojans

V.T. 4-12-83

The Valdosta Wildcat JV tennis team whipped Brooks County 7-2 Monday.

Singles winners for the Wildcats included Kibby Wagner, Jon Parris, Jim Stamp, Mike Furukawa, Brad Baldwin and Billy Gibbs.

Mark Lees and Simon Lee teamed up to win the No. 1 doubles for the Wildcats. However, the doubles teams of Alan Burns-Jon Howell and Reggie Merritt-James Trent dropped the Nos. 2 and 3 matches.

The Lady Wildcats JV team fought to a 2-2 draw with Brooks County. The Lady Trojans had only two players, and the match was called after the fourth singles match.

The Valdosta JV teams will return to action in Thomasville April 21.

V-times May 10, 1983

SPORTS

Tues., May 10, 1983-6-

Valdosta Lets Game 1 Slip Away, 10-9

By MACK BROWNING

Times Staff Writer
Valdosta let one slip away Monday.

Trailing 9-4 entering the seventh and final inning, Tift County struck for six runs to upset the Wildcats 10-9 at Bazemore Field and take a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three series for the 1-AAAB championship.

"This is the biggest disappointment I've had here since Kendrick beat us in the state playoffs in 1977," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said afterward. "That year, we had a ball hit the chalk, two runs score and the umpire called it foul. Kendrick went on the win the game and the series and went on and won the state title. "This is just as bad."

The game failed to live up to its billing on several counts. Tift starter Todd Shiver, who re-entered the game in the seventh to pick up a save, was shelled for five runs in an inning and a third. Five walks and two wild pitches over that span brought out Blue Devil coach Tommy Seward who relieved Shiver in favor of left-hander Rusty Sowell.

Shiver came into the game with an earned run average of just over 1.00 and an impressive strikeouts-to-innings-pitched ratio.

But the Tift hitters, not known for their power, ripped 14 hits in the game — 12 off starter Ted West. Two of the hits came off reliever Rick Rupp who picked up the loss.

And West, normally at his

best in the clutch, walked two batters in the seventh then couldn't retire the side, giving way to Rupp.

The shocking turnabout means that Valdosta will have to sweep Wednesday afternoon's double header in Tifton to repeat as region champions and earn another trip to the state tournament.

"The outcome was completely different than I thought it would be," Tarpley said. He said Saturday he expected West and Shiver to battle tooth and nail — 3-2 being a likely score.

But Shiver was totally ineffective, and Sowell had to recover from several Tift errors to keep the Wildcats from scoring even more.

West had base runners on in every inning but one and, as usual, did a good job of stranding them — until the seventh.

West walked Brian Massingill to open up the seventh. Lee Burgess followed with a home run over the right-center field fence to pull the Blue Devils to within 9-6. After West struck out Stan Shiver, Sowell walked and Jimmy Hulet and Chris Taylor followed with singles to load the bases.

Tarpley took West out and brought in Rupp to face the top of the lineup and Darrien Teals.

In what might have been the biggest play of the day, Rupp got Teals to fly to left where Ferrell Scruggs made the catch. Pinch runner Johnny Davis scored on the sacrifice and Hulet, with the play in front of him, attempted to go to third.

Scruggs' short throw was mishandled by third baseman Craig Jenkins let the ball get through, allowing the potential game-ending out to reach third.

"I thought it was a very, very stupid play, the runner going to third on that play," Tarpley said. "Our third baseman should've made the play."

Still ahead 9-7, Valdosta got another chance to record the final out when David Cosper drilled a shot toward the gap in left-center. Cat center fielder Ben Reeves made a diving effort and had the ball in his

glove, but it popped out when he hit the ground. The double by Cosper drove in Hulet to close the gap to 9-8.

No. 3 hitter Michael Turner, 0-for-4 on the afternoon prior to his final at-bat, greeted Rupp with a liner up the middle, scoring Taylor and Cosper.

Valdosta had enough of Murphy's Law in one inning Monday to last a lifetime — if not one ball game.

In the bottom of the seventh, Seward had to put Shiver back into the game since Sowell was lifted for a pinch runner in the top of the inning.

Blake Belue started where the rest of the team left off against Shiver, belting a solid single to left field. But pinch runner Steve Gandy, running for Belue, was doubled off first when Scruggs popped up a sacrifice bunt attempt.

"There again, my senior pops up the bunt," Tarpley said, "and our most intelligent player on the team keeps on running. I don't know whether he didn't see the ball or what. I didn't ask him."

Tift scored two unearned runs off West in the first inning, but the Wildcats came back to take a 5-2 lead in the second.

Valdosta sent 10 men to the

plate in the second. Greg Jenkins' three-run home run just to the right of the center field wall was the big blow. Marty Shiver drove in one run with a double.

Valdosta one run in the third and three more runs in the fifth that appeared to ice the game. Two Tift errors broke open that inning for the Wildcats.

Rupp (5-3) starts game 2 for the Wildcats. All three losses

Rupp and the Wildcats have suffered have been at the hands of the Blue Devils.

"It seems like we're snake-bitten," Tarpley said. "I thought if we won this one it would turn things around. Now, they've got the idea they can beat us."

"But I still think we're just as good as they are," Seward said after the game he wasn't sure of his starter for

Wednesday's 2:30 start, but Shiver would be a safe bet since the right-hander pitched just two and two-thirds innings Monday.

Tarpley said West would pitch game 3, should the series go that far.

And if that happens, Tarpley said, both team's pitchers will be tired and the finale could be a slugfest.

abr	h	bi	VHS	abr	h	bi
TCHS	4	1	1	GJenkins	3	1
Teals	3	2	2	Perry	2	3
Cosper	5	0	1	West	3	0
Turners	3	2	2	MShiver	3	1
Massingill	3	1	1	Purvis	0	0
Burgess	3	1	1	Reaves	0	0
Shiver	4	0	0	Belue	1	1
TShiver	1	0	1	Gandy	0	0
Sowell	0	1	0	Scruggs	3	3
Davis	0	1	0	Schnhoff	3	1
Hulet	4	2	2	Huling	0	0
Taylor	2	1	3	CJenkins	2	4
TOTALS	32	10	14	TOTALS	29	9

TCHS	VHS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
200	110	6-10-14-3					
051	020	0-9-7-2					
E — Massingill, Sowell, Turner, C. Jenkins 2.							
DP — TCHS 1, Left — TCHS 8, VHS 6, ZB.							
Cosper, Taylor, M. Shiver, Reeves, Schnhoff.							
HP — Massingill, Burgess, G. Jenkins, SB —							
Perry, SH — Cosper, SF — Vurges, Cosper,							
Teals.							

TCHS	VHS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
2.2	3	5	5	6	4		
4.1	4	4	0	1	1		
6.1	12	9	6	3	5		
0.2	2	1	1	0	0		

Winner — Sowell, Loser — Rupp. Save — T. Shiver. WP — T. Shiver 2.

Blue Devil Gamble

Pays Off With Win

May 10, 1983

By STEVE CORRIGAN

U D T

Times Sports Editor

Tift County coach Tommy Seward knew it was a gamble to lift relief pitcher Rusiy Sowell for a pinch runner in the top of the seventh inning in the Blue Devils' opening game of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs against Valdosta High Monday afternoon.

But Seward had no other choice. His team was trailing the Wildcats 9-4 in final inning of the first game of the best-of-three series. And when Sowell drew a walk off "Cat starting pitcher Ted West, who had already given up a two-run homer moments earlier Seward went to his bench for speed on the basepaths.

Sowell came on in the second inning for Devil starter Todd Shiver, who was having control problems. Shiver had already given up five runs on three hits and six walks, when Sowell entered the game with one out in the second.

Sowell allowed four runs on four hits, none of which were earned, in his four and one-third innings on the mound. But when Seward needed a faster runner on base in the top of the last inning, he did not hesitate going to his bench.

Down 9-4, Seward knew that if the Devils didn't score five runs in the final inning, Tift would be down a game going back to Tifton for Games 2 and 3, if necessary. That left Sowell dispensable.

The gamble paid off as Tift struck for six runs in the last inning to take a 10-9 lead with just one Valdosta at-bat remaining.

But Seward had already pulled Sowell in the Devils' final turn at the plate. Under high school rules, though, a starter can be reinserted into a game one time. So Seward went back to Shiver, who had started the game.

Shiver was now put into the position of saving a game he had originally started. And the Tift ace responded with a strike out and a double play to end the game.

"Hell yes, it was a gamble," Seward said after the game. "But we felt like we had to do it if we were going to have a chance to win."

The win put Tift up 1-0 in the series that now heads back to Tifton for the final two games. Just one win in either of those two games would assure Tift of the region title and a berth in the state playoffs.

But by throwing both of his top two pitchers in the first game, Seward is faced with the task of going back to either Sowell or Shiver in the final two games. Even though he has not named a starter for either game, Seward is not concerned.

"Sowell's got a rubber arm," he said. "He can pitch back-to-back days."

Sowell is 3-0 against Valdosta this year. It was his two pitching performances during the regular season that gave the Wildcats their only two losses. And his showing Monday afternoon, made it three off Valdosta.

"It seems to be we're getting snake bit against them," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said.



Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams

Tift's David Cospier Slides By A Leaping Marty Shiver To Score Winning Run In Devil's 10-9 Victory

VT. 5-1-83

5 Wildcats Anchor 1st All-Area Squad

Berrien Freshman Top 3rd Sacker

By MACK BROWNING
Times Staff Writer

Five Valdosta players, including pitcher-of-the-year Ted West, head the 13-man all-area baseball team chosen by the Times sports staff.

West, 7-0, was one of four pitchers selected and he joins teammates Mark Perry at second base, designated hitter Marty Shiver and outfielders Ben Reaves and Ferrell Scruggs.

West was also one of three underclassmen to be selected by the Times.

Lanier County pitcher Sylvester West, a junior, made the team as did Berrien County third baseman Ray Garner, a freshman who can become the first player to win the award four times.

"I was surprised to be named," Garner said. "I didn't have any idea I'd make it."

Garner, who was the starting nose guard and center on last fall's Rebel football team, is one of the offensive and defensive leaders for a team loaded with freshmen and sophomores.

Garner is batting well over .300 and has made just one error at third. However, he says his future may be on the mound. Garner split some time this year with James Bennett, one taking the mound while the other played third.

The current year has been disappointing for Berrien as the team has dropped to under .500 from a year ago when it advanced to the AA state playoffs.

But Garner, and his young teammates, can look forward to next year when just one current starter will be absent.

"We'll have everybody back," Garner said, "including Trevor Kent." Kent was one of the team's top pitchers a year ago, but he had to sit out this season with grade difficulties.

Other members of the team include Lowndes outfielder Carl Parker and shortstop Jimmie Evans, Lanier County first baseman Ulysses Foster, Clinch County pitcher Bo Glaze and Cook's super-charged battery of catcher Steve Browning and player-of-the-year Thad Williams on the mound.

Mike Raynor of Cook was named the first all-area coach-of-the-year. His team is currently 15-2-1 and in first place in 1-AAA East.

Two of the best players in the field may be two catchers. All-area choice Browning has the professional scouts drooling. His strong arm and powerful bat has attracted 21 pro scouts to Adel, Raynor said.

Browning, a tough catcher to steal on, is also batting .550 with 10 home runs.

Shiver could have an argument for his being named all-area catcher. Playing all but one game behind the plate for Valdosta, Shiver

gunned down most runners by two to three feet with his shotgun arm. Pitcher-of-the-year West said he has had games where he would lose his control and walk batters only to have his defense back him up with sterling play.

Many times, Shiver would be the key to stopping opponent's rallies.

Lowndes coach Noel George, who likes to have his players run at will, found out the hard way how well Shiver can throw. He had two runners thrown out in the first meeting, and in Friday's 5-4 loss to Valdosta one man was thrown out by Shiver.

But Shiver helped himself make the all-star team as DH with his hitting. He leads the Wildcats in hitting with a .560 average. Friday he assured Valdosta of an undefeated sub-region mark when he hit a three-run homer 400 feet in the sixth inning against Lowndes.

Two of the team's pitchers, Glaze and Sylvester West, faced off in Lakeland Thursday with West winning the battle.

Glaze has been the mainstay for upstart Clinch this year in its drive for its first regional tournament appearance ever. Glaze is the senior leader on a team which primarily consists of freshmen and sophomores.

Glaze was wild against Lanier and lifted early. But in four plate appearances against the hard-throwing West, Glaze collected three hits when many of the other Panthers were whiffing. Glaze is batting over .400 for the Panthers.

West lead the Bulldogs in doubles and is hitting at a .431 pace. On the mound, he is one of the hardest throwers around despite the fact he has an awkward motion, getting little body into his pitches.

West struck out eight in his last appearance against Lanier's biggest ball game of the year against sub-region rival Clinch.

Teammate Foster may be the hottest hitter in the area. The 6-foot-6 first baseman has hit over .700 the last two weeks and is well over .400 for the year.

Without question, Lowndes shortstop Evans is the slickest fielder of the all-star selections. Against Valdosta, Evans made three difficult plays — hard-hit liners — look routine, turning one into a double play to end a Valdosta threat. He led the Vikings in hitting, batting over .400.

Parker has the strongest arm of any of the outfielders and is going to Vanderbilt on football scholarship. Parker said earlier this year he hoped to play baseball at Vanderbilt.

Valdosta second baseman Perry leads the Wildcats in runs batted in and outfielder Scruggs, one of the surprises of the team, came on to earn a starting position in the Wildcat outfield while batting over .300.



The 1983 All-Area Baseball Team: Front row, Thad Williams, Sylvester West, 2nd Row, L To R, Ben Reaves, Bo Glaze, Ted West, Mark Perry, Back Row, L To R, Ulysses Foster, Carl Parker, Marty Shiver, Steve Browning, Jimmie Evans, Ray Garner, Ferrell Scruggs.

By MACK BROWNING
Times Staff Writer

Things have fallen into place for the Cook Hornet baseball team this year.

Head coach Mike Raynor said he hoped the pitching, with four regulars returning from last year's state playoff team, could carry the team until the offense came around. Five starters, all good hitters, graduated leaving some big numbers to be made up on offense.

Fortunately for Raynor, and the Cook baseball team, pitcher-hitter extraordinaire Thad Williams had the type of year that won him the Times player-of-the-year award. With Williams, all-star catcher Steve Browning and shortstop-pitcher Greg Folsom leading the way, Raynor managed to buy time until he found the right pieces to fill the rest of his team.

The result is a 15-2-1 record overall and 10-0 sub-region record with two games against Camden County still on the schedule.

Accordingly, Raynor, in his third year as coach of the Cook baseball team, is the Times area coach-of-the-year.

"I'm sure thrilled about it," Raynor said. "It's a tribute to the kind of young men we have here. We lost five starters, and six regulars overall, and we felt we would give up a lot.

"But our players have done everything we asked of them," he said.

Raynor's team have not lost a sub-region game since he's been there, winning 26 straight. His combined record is 53-13-1.

Early in the season, Raynor said, the brunt of the hitting was by the three aforementioned sluggers. Since then four or five have been on a tear, and Saturday, in a 14-1 whipping of Berrien, the Hornets pounded out 18 hits.

Player-of-the-year Williams went four-for-five, including two doubles.

Williams, one of four pitchers used by Raynor, set a new school record with 94 strikeouts and he has one more start — Monday against Camden County. He has been one of the most reliable pitchers in the area, but has rarely gone past three or four innings.

When the Hornets get their customary big lead, Raynor lifts Williams so that the left-hander is fresh for his next appearance.

And how's this for effectiveness:

In 48 and two-thirds innings Williams has walked only 13 batters and given up but 25 hits.

"I feel good about being named to the team," Williams said. "I worked pretty hard, and I've had a real good year hitting."

Williams, like his catcher Browning, is hitting over .500, though Williams says "I haven't hit the ball real well lately."

Unlike Cook, a team that can rely on a solid four-man staff, Valdosta has leaned heavily on the arm of Ted West.

West has gotten the call in every important sub-region game, and the junior has responded with a 7-0 record. His impact on the Valdosta team earned him pitcher-of-the-year honors.

"My goal before the year was to hit over .400 and to have an ERA blow two," West said. West heads into his next start against Monroe in the 1-AAA playoffs with a .378 batting average and a 1.26 ERA.

"I'm pretty satisfied with my year," West said. "But it won't be complete unless we win the state championship."

Led by the area's two top superlatives — Thad Williams and Valdosta.

Wildcats Second In Region Track, Lowndes Seventh

11 5.5.43
From Staff Reports

ALBANY — Valdosta finished second at the 1-AAA track meet at Hugh Mills Stadium Wednesday, and qualified six for the state meet in Jefferson next week.

The top two finishers in each event qualify for the state meet. Jeff Spivey was a double qualifier, running on the winning 440-yard relay team and finishing second in the long jump with a leap of 21 feet, 4 1/2 inches.

Spivey, Rob Mitchell, Pernel Bee and Aundra Irvin ran the 440 in 42.9 to win the region title.

Ervin Dailey won the mile run in a time of 4:28.08. Robert Durham won the two mile in a time of 9:57.5, and he finished third in the mile. Dailey finished third in the two-mile.

Todd Gamble qualified for state with a second-place finish in the 880, finishing with a time of 1:58.11.

Westover of Albany won the team championship with 92 points, and Valdosta followed with 88. Albany and Tift County scored consistently as well finishing with 86 and 80 points, respectively.

Lowndes finished seventh with 42 points, but had four qualify for state.

Casey Footman won the 120 high hurdles in a time of 14.61, just one-one hundredth of a second off the region record. Footman also won the 330 intermediate hurdles in 39.59.

Footman ran on the second-place mile relay team along with Jonathan Lazard, Roderick Williams and Don Hampton.

Three region records were set, all by Albany High runners.

Ulysses White's leap of 22 feet, 8 1/2 inches set a new mark, as did his leap of 45 feet, 11 3/4 inches in the triple jump. Teammate Reginald Kendrick set a new mark in the 440 with a time of 48.48.

Valdosta had other members of its team to place in events, though not qualifying for state.

Valdosta's Irvin finished third in the 100 with a time of 9.9. The Cats' Gamble finished fourth in the high jump with a leap of 6 feet, 2 inches; Kennedy Cooper finished fourth in the discus with a spin of 121 feet, 1 1/4 inches; Chris Major finished fourth in the triple jump with a leap of 41 feet, 10 3/4 inches; and Spivey finished fifth in the triple jump with a mark of 41 feet, 10 inches.

The state meet — the Georgia Olympics — is May 12-14 at Jefferson.

Ted West — Valdosta's Mr. Dependable



Valdosta Rally Edges Monroe

V. 5.5.83

6-Run Explosion Gives Wildcats 1-0 Lead In Region Playoffs

By MACK BROWNING

Times Staff Writer

ALBANY — Valdosta ran into a much tougher foe than was expected Wednesday, and the Wildcats had to scrap their way back for a 7-4 win over Monroe at Cardinal Park.

The victory gives Valdosta (13-2) a 1-0 advantage in this best-of-three semi-final series in the 1-AAAA championships. Game 2 was scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. this afternoon at Bazemore Field. Game 3, should the Tornadoes win game 2, would be played today.

The Wildcats trailed Monroe 4-1 going into the seventh inning, but starter Danny Williamson walked the first three batters and an error later Marty Shiver homered to win the game.

"They were much better than we ever thought they were," said Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley after the game. "We thought we could take it by showing up. Our players will come out tomorrow mentally prepared."

Monroe got the early advantage as Valdosta left the bases loaded in the first inning. The Tornadoes then shocked all-area pitcher-of-the-year Ted West for two home runs in their half of the inning to build a 2-0

lead.

"It looked easy right off the bat," Tarpley said, "but we didn't score, and they hit two home runs. That got their kids up."

Monroe (11-6) took a 3-0 lead in the third on Bruce Mock's second homer of the game and extended that lead to 4-0 the next inning as West threw wildly to third trying to force a runner.

In the sixth, Valdosta got one of those runs back.

West opened with a single and scored on Ben Reaves double that got past the center fielder. But Williamson got out of further trouble, leaving Reaves stranded as he got Blake Belue to fly out and Ferrell Scruggs to strike out.

One pitch told the story of the seventh inning. And if one batter hurt Williamson Wednesday it was designated hitter Tommy Schunhoff.

Schunhoff had struck out and walked in his first two plate appearances, and he was looking for at least a walk to start off the seventh in order to get a rally underway.

It seemed like a losing proposition, since Williamson had walked only two and allowed but five hits through six innings.

"I don't know why we couldn't hit him," Schunhoff said. "He had a mediocre fastball and he didn't throw anything else."

Schunhoff admitted things looked bleak, especially after

outside," Schunhoff said.

Williamson, visibly shaken by the call, walked the next two batters — Lorenzo Matchett and Greg Jenkins — without getting close to the strike zone. With the bases loaded and no

"They were much better than we ever thought they were. We thought we could take it by showing up."

— Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley

Valdosta managed to reach Williamson for only a run in the sixth after Reaves' double.

"I kind of thought we'd get beat," Schunhoff said, "but we've got the kind of team that can come back and never give up."

Schunhoff, leading off the seventh, ran the count to three balls and two strikes and fouled off several good pitches to stay alive. Williamson then came with a fastball low on the corner that was called ball four, though the pitch looked perfect.

"It was kind of low of and

outs, second baseman Mark Perry drove the ball to deep center. Center fielder Darren Spurling only had to move a step or two, but he dropped the ball and two runs scored.

After West drove in the tying run with a single, Monroe coach Walter Stubbs took Williamson out and put in Jeff Swift.

Swift was greeted by Shiver's blast over the left field screen.

Valdosta sent 10 men to the plate and scored six runs off

three hits. Three walks and a horrendous error gave the Wildcats the win.

But Monroe proved it could play with Valdosta. The Tornadoes ripped West from beginning to end. West got Monroe three up and three down in the seventh, but two balls were hit hard in that inning — including one that left fielder Scruggs made a running knee-high catch.

Tarpley said his team was fortunate to win.

"We won one we shouldn't have," he said.

Rick Rupp (3-2) starts game 2 today.

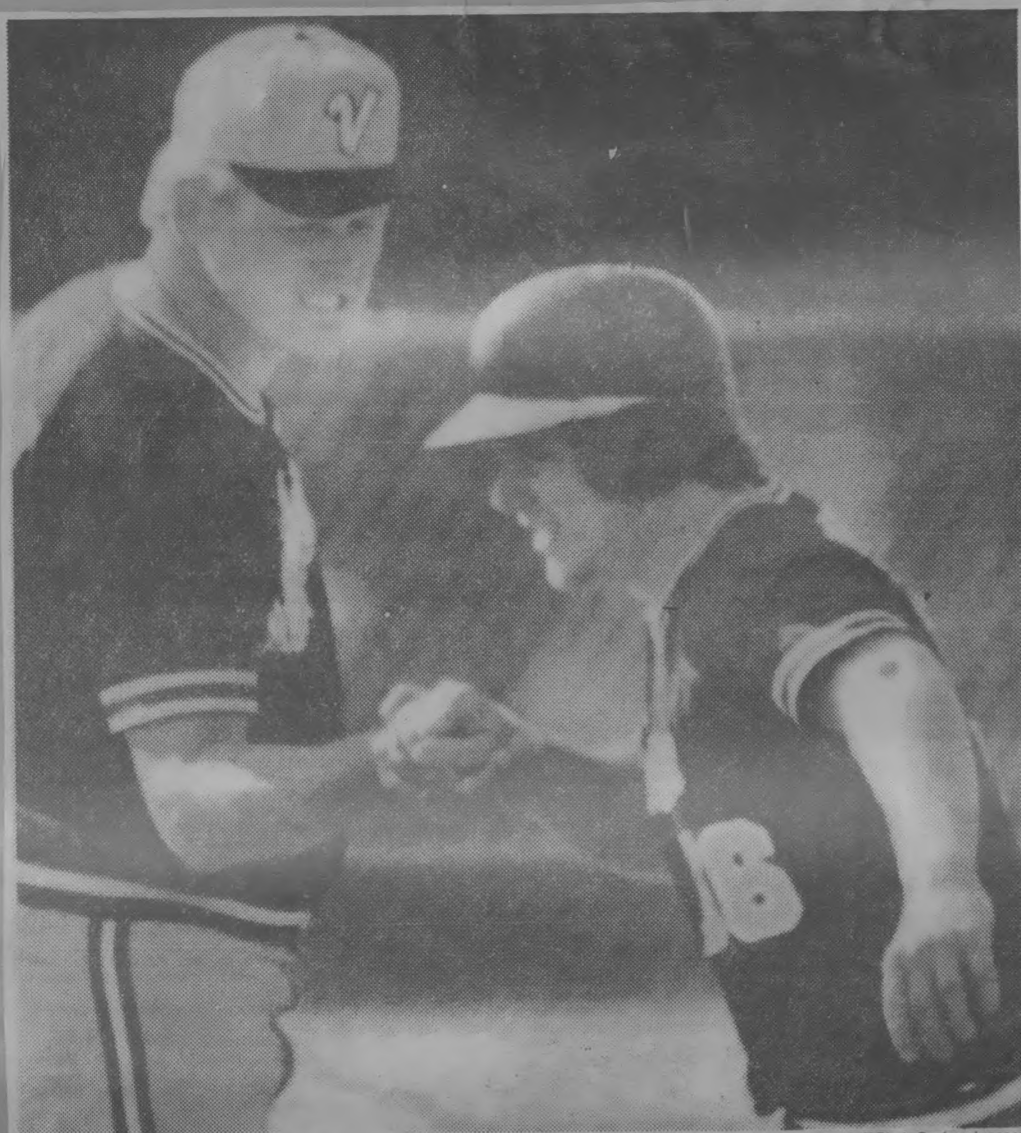
VHS	ab	r	h	bi	MMS	ab	r	h	bi
GJnkns ss	2	1	1	0	Mthis lf	4	1	2	1
Perry 2b	4	1	1	0	Works 3b	4	0	0	0
West p	4	2	2	1	Mock s	4	2	2	2
Shver c	4	1	2	3	Knight lb	4	0	2	0
Rves cf	4	0	2	1	Smith c	4	0	1	0
Belue lb	4	0	0	0	Spring cf	3	0	1	0
Scruggs lf	4	0	0	0	Reid 2b	3	1	1	0
Schoff dh	2	0	0	0	Rdding rf	3	0	0	0
Prvis pr	0	1	0	0	Wilmson p	3	0	0	0
Mitch rf	1	1	0	0	Swift p	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	29	7	8	5	TOTALS	32	4	9	3

VHS	000	001	6-7-8-4
MMS	201	100	0-4-9-2

E — Redding, Spurling, West 2, G. Jenkins, C. Jenkins. DP — MMS 1. Left — MMS 7, VHS 7. 2B — Knight, Reaves. HR — Mathis, Mock 2, Shiver. SB — Reid, Reaves.

VHS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
West	7	9	4	3	0	9
MMS						
Williamson	6	6	6	5	5	7
Swift	1	2	1	1	0	1

Winner — West. Loser — Williamson. PB — Smith 2. HBP — G. Jenkins by Williamson.



Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco

Marty Shiver's Homer Broke Game Open In Last Inning

'Cat Bats Go Quiet At Monroe

V.T. 5.5.83

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

ALBANY — A major case of overconfidence very nearly spelled defeat for the Valdosta Wildcats Wednesday afternoon in the rain-delayed first game of the semifinals of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs.

The series was originally slated to start Tuesday afternoon at Monroe High's Cardinal Field with a day off Wednesday before today's second and if-needed third games, but heavy rains forced the series back a day. It also gave the Wildcats an extra day to think about Monroe.

And VHS head coach Charles Tarpley said his 'Cats didn't take the 'Tornados' bid for their first region title very seriously. In fact, it was Monroe's first appearance ever in the region playoffs and they came out hungry.

"I knew coming over here we weren't mentally prepared to play," Tarpley said. But still the Wildcat coach tried to warn his players about Monroe and the possibility of an upset forcing the 'Cats to win both games today.

It didn't take long for the Wildcats to realize how good Monroe actually was. The Tornados struck for two runs in the first and a single run in the third, all coming on homers off Wildcat ace Ted West, to take a 3-0 lead after three innings.

"They're a much better ball club than we thought they were," Tarpley said. "We thought it would be easy. I think it scared them. I know it scared me."

The 'Cats threatened to get both runs back in the first, advancing runners to second and third with just one out. But the

next two Wildcats whiffed helplessly at Danny Williamson fastballs to end the threat and close out the inning. The hard-throwing Williamson ended the game seven strikeouts. Monroe added another run in the fourth to go up 4-0 and the suddenly quiet VHS bats made the bulge appear even more ominous.

All season the 'Cats had counted on their hitting to win the big games. At Lowndes, the VHS lumber kept bringing the 'Cats back until they finally won 5-4.

But at Monroe the 'Cats could manage only five hits through the first six innings when they finally pushed across their first run. For the game VHS had eight hits. But from the sixth through the ninth batters, VHS did not get a single hit.

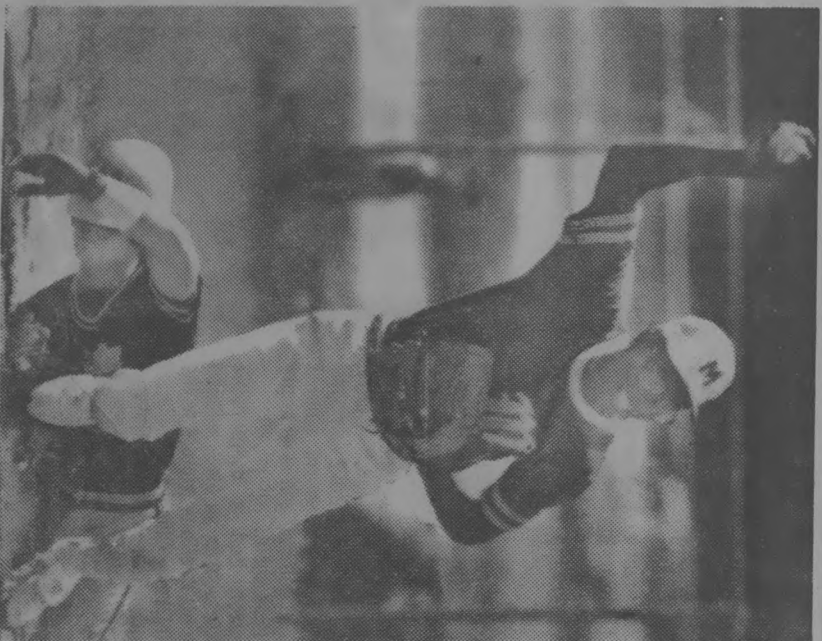
"I don't understand it," Tarpley said. "Who knows? We just flat didn't hit the ball."

Down 4-1 going into the last inning, it appeared the 'Cats needed a total breakdown by Monroe if they were going to be able to salvage a win. And that's exactly what they got.

Williamson walked the first three batters in the inning to load the bases. Valdosta's Mark Perry followed with a routine fly ball to center that the outfielder dropped allowing the 'Cats to score their second and third runs of the game.

Then, and only then, the 'Cat offense came alive. West belted an RBI single. And catcher Marty Shiver crunched a three-run homer to give VHS its 7-4 winning margin.

"The three walks were the biggest plays of the game," Tarpley said. "They got two runs and got up. They put some pressure on us and we didn't handle it. We're just lucky."



Greg Jenkins Was Thrown Out At Third

Times Staff Photo By Jeff VANCE

Rupp Solidifies Wildcat Pitching Staff

V.T. 5.6.83

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta's win over Monroe High of Albany Thursday at Bazemore Field gave the Wildcats a sweep of the Tornados in the best-of-three series and put them in position to win their second straight Region 1-AAAA title. And going into next week's Tarpley said he is content with the performance of his pitching staff.

Wildcat ace Ted West was shelled in the first game of the series against Monroe Wednesday, but a VHS comeback in the last inning kept the junior's unbeaten streak alive at 8-0.

Senior Rick Rupp followed that up with a distance-encompassing performance Thursday afternoon in the deciding game against the Tornados, allowing only six hits in a 6-2 Wildcat win. He struck out two and walked two. The victory upped the right handers record to 4-2.

Oddly enough, Rupp's only two losses, which were also Valdosta's only two this year, came against Tift County. But Rupp doesn't think the Blue Devils can

take three in a row from the 'Cats.

"I know them pretty well," Rupp said. "Their first three hitters are tough. But I think it's going to be very hard for them to beat us three times, then three out of five."

Even though Rupp got off to a slow start this year, he said the win over Monroe should put him back into the right frame going into the showdown with Tift.

"I'm real happy about today," he said. "And I'm glad we'll be playing next week."

Rupp said it was his curve ball that kept the same Tornados which pounded three home runs the day before off pace. "They're a good hitting team," he said. "I saw that they had a lot of trouble with the curve. I was concentrating on getting ahead so I could throw it."

Wildcat catcher Marty Shiver agreed. "He had his curve working today," Shiver said. "They could hit a fastball, but they couldn't hit a curve."

Rupp allowed a single run in the first inning off a Darren Spurling homer to left and a single run in the sixth. Shiver said Rupp wouldn't have allowed the last run but, "I think he might have been getting tired. But

he'd bear down when he needed to."

Tarpley attributed the lack of stamina to the weather. The rain not only hampered many of his games, but his pitching staff as well. Rather than pitching earlier in the season, the Wildcats spent much of the time indoors.

"I worry about them (the VHS pitching staff) in the fifth, sixth and seventh innings because they haven't pitched that long," Tarpley said.

Even though Rupp was cruising along toward a win late in the game, Tarpley was faced with the possibility of leaving him in or going to the bullpen. Reliever Mike Moore had seen little action during the regular season and none in the playoffs. Tarpley said he wanted to get Moore some playoff experience.

"I was sitting here on a see-saw trying to decide whether to bring Moore in," Tarpley said. "But I left Rupp in because he needed the mental aspect of going the distance."

Besides playing baseball, Rupp also doubles as a VHS golfer. But he said baseball is more important. "I try to work golf in when I can," Rupp said. "Baseball, though, is my main priority."

McCormick Finishes Fourth

V.T. 5.6.83

ATLANTA — Valdosta's Darlene McCormick finished fourth in the mile run Thursday in the first day of the girl's AAAA state track meet being held at Lakewood Stadium.

McCormick also won her heat and qualified for the finals in the 800 with a time of 2:19, which is just two seconds off the state record.

Teaming up with Connie Weatherspoon, Rita Barnette and Valerie Bell, McCormick led the Lady Wildcat mile relay team to a victory in their heat.

Meanwhile, Lowndes Deidre Hampton qualified for the finals of the 100-yard dash by winning her heat with a time of 10.9.

Hampton also won her 220 heat with time of 24.5, which tied the state record. Later, in another heat, however, that mark was broken.

The Vikeite 440-relay team also qualified for the finals. Members of that team include Linda Berrian, Carla Stamford, Angela Brown and Deidre Hampton.

'Cats Set To Defend Region Title

May 8, 1988



Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams

Tarpley: I Expect The First Game To Be A Pitchers Duel

Valdosta Faces Tift In Game 1 Monday

By MACK BROWNING

Times Staff Writer

Valdosta opens defense of its 1-AAAA baseball championship Monday at 4 p.m. at Bazemore Field against Tift County in game 1 of the best-of-three championship series.

Game 2, and game 3 if necessary, is scheduled for Wednesday in Tifton.

The Blue Devils handed the Wildcats their only two losses of the year, beating Valdosta 7-3 in Tifton and 2-1 at Bazemore Field.

Rick Rupp took the losses in both contests.

The first game Monday is expected to be a battle of the two top pitchers in 1-AAAA this year. Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said Saturday he would go with Ted West (8-0) in the first game. Tift coach Tommy Seward is expected to throw curve-balling Todd Shiver (11-2).

But even though the first game may be a pitchers duel, the overall series may come down to the 'Cats hitting and Tift's pitching. The Blue Devils' strength this year has been pitching and defense. Valdosta has been a fine-tuned run-scoring machine this year.

Shiver isn't the only pitcher Tift can count on. Rusty Sowell, who beat Valdosta twice earlier this year, is a left-hander who shut out Colquitt County in the playoffs 2-0 on just three hits.

"I expect it to be a low-scoring first game and a low-scoring series," Tarpley said. "Hopefully, we'll get good pitching and clutch hitting."

Tarpley said his team will have to get good pitching and timely hitting in Monday's game in order to beat Shiver.

"Teddy and Shiver's got to be the two best pitchers in the region," Tarpley said. "I would think it would be a pitchers duel."

"One or two clutch hits would be the difference," he said.

Tift County has beaten Valdosta seven times in the last eight meetings. The two teams split last year. Tift lost to Colquitt in three games in the opening round of the region playoffs. Valdosta beat Westover and Colquitt to win the title.

"By far, they're the only team to have that type of record against Valdosta in the last few years," Tarpley said.

Tarpley said he wasn't too disappointed with his team after the two losses to Tift earlier in the season, and was hopeful for a favorable outcome this time. Rick Rupp, tagged with both losses against Tift, pitched well in Valdosta but dropping a one-run decision.

In Tifton, Rupp held a 3-0 lead until the fourth inning when the game was delayed by rain. When play resumed, Rupp was wild, hitting two batters and walking a couple. A couple of hits later, Rupp was down 7-3.

But Tarpley said he is confident his pitcher will do well in Tifton Wednesday.

"Rupp usually never walks anybody," Tarpley said. "He makes them hit it. The bigger ball park up there (in Tifton) will be to his benefit."

But it will be up to West to get Valdosta off to a good start. If everything holds true to form, the first game — with West and Shiver pitching — will be a classic pitchers duel.

Shiver has pitched 85 innings this year and allowed only 14 earned runs — a 1.11 ERA. In addition, Shiver has an excellent strikeout-walk ratio, fanning 118 and walking 50.

In his last appearance, the senior right-hander went the distance against Colquitt in game 1 of their

playoff series and gave up one earned run, struck out 13, walked eight and allowed three hits.

West, on the other hand, has pitched considerably less in '83, going 47 and one-third innings. The junior right-hander has an ERA of 1.78 and has struck out 58 while walking 21.

In his last appearance, West hurled a complete game against Monroe of Albany and struck out nine and walked no one.

The junior right-hander throws hard but has not been overpowering in every instance in '83. Most of the 12 earned runs given up this year have come from the home run ball. Monroe hit three off West.

But Tift doesn't have a record of hitting like Monroe does.

"Teddy's a clutch pitcher," Tarpley said. "He's the same way in baseball that he is in football."

West, though one of the shortest and slowest quarterbacks in the region last year, led Valdosta to the state championship.

"He's got good, athletic sense," Tarpley said. "If he's playing football, he'll step up in there and take a loss. So instead, it's third-and-seven instead of third-and-seventeen, or eighteen."

West has also developed a good pick-off move that has helped him get out of tight spots. He stopped a Monroe rally in the sixth inning of the first game when he threw out a runner on first, with another runner on third and no out.

"If we get beat Monday," Tarpley said, "I feel like it will be because we left runners on and didn't get a clutch hit."

"If we win, it's going to be because somebody stepped up there and got the clutch hit to win it," Tarpley added. "That's how close I think it's going to be."

Valdosta Sweeps Monroe In Region

V.T. 5-16-83

Semis

Wildcats To Meet Tift Next Week For 1-AAAA Title

By MACK BROWNING
Times Staff Writer

Like game 1 of the 1-AAAA region semi-final series, Valdosta's bats were silent for all but one inning Thursday.

But in that one inning, in this case the third, Valdosta scored five times and beat Monroe of Albany 6-2 to sweep the series two games to none and advance to the region championships against Tift County next week.

Tift swept Colquitt County, winning game 2 of that series 2-0 Thursday in Tifton.

The Valdosta-Tift matchup should be a toss-up, Tift beat the Cats 7-3 and 2-1 for Valdosta's only two losses of the year, but neither coached pitched his No. 1 pitcher in the two games — Ted West for Valdosta and Todd Shiver for Tift.

Wednesday, Monroe surprised Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley and the Wildcat players with its play. Thursday, the Tornados looked more like a rag-tag bunch in every phase of the game except

hitting and pitching.

Six errors in the first three innings led to six unearned runs for Valdosta. And base-running blunders kept Monroe from staging any comebacks. The Tornados' Bruce Mock was picked off third to end the game.

"This game reminded me of yesterday," Tarpley said. "We didn't get a clutch hit," except for the third when, with the help of an error, Valdosta scored six runs after two were out.

"Next week, we're going to face much better pitching," Tarpley said. "Maybe that means we'll be due to get clutch hits."

Monroe started game 2 like they did the first game in Albany.

After one out, center fielder Darren Spurling — who made the critical error Wednesday that allowed two runs to score — homered over the left-center field fence to give the Tornados a 1-0 lead. Valdosta tied it in its half of

the inning. After two outs, Ted West doubled and went to third on an infield hit by Marty Shiver. As usual in high school with runners on the corners, Shiver tried to steal second.

Monroe catcher Willie Smith made an accurate throw that would have nailed Shiver easily and ended the inning, but second baseman James Lawrence apparently tried to tag Shiver before he had the ball and the throw went through his legs into center field scoring West.

Valdosta was frustrated in the second, loading the bases with no outs and failing to score.

Though Monroe failed to get an out on two consecutive sacrifice bunts, Valdosta couldn't capitalize. Craig Jenkins popped to Lawrence for the first out. Greg Jenkins then hit to third baseman Leonard Works who turned the double play, going home and on to first.

In the third, Monroe ran out of luck.

After getting two quick outs, Tornado pitcher Freeman got a soft roller off the bat of Shiver toward Lawrence who, once again, made a misplay allowing the ball to roll between his legs.

That opened the floodgates for the Wildcats who got five straight hits, beginning with Ben Reaves' towering home run over the left field fence. Tommy Schunhoff drove in one run with a single, and Craig Jenkins drove in two with a single.

On both of those hits, Monroe outfielders bungled the balls leading to extra bases. Monroe got one run back in the sixth on Lee Mathis' RBI single.

Starter Rick Rupp (4-2) went the distance, and had more luck against the Tornados than did West Wednesday. Rupp gave up six hits, four of those coming in the last few innings after Valdosta had built a big lead.

Now, Valdosta must turn its attention to a tougher foe — the

Tift County Blue Devils.

"I think we're as good as they are," Tarpley said.

Tift owns two wins over defending AAAA champion Coffee this year and has perhaps the best pitching staff in the region. But, Tarpley said, Tift is not as good a hitting team as Monroe.

MHS	ab	r	h	bi	VHS	ab	r	h	bi
Lwrence 2b	2	0	0	0	G Jenkins ss	4	0	0	0
Reid 2b	1	0	0	0	Perry 2b	4	0	1	0
Spring cf	4	1	1	1	West Jr	4	1	1	0
Mock ss	2	1	0	0	Shiver c	3	1	1	0
Knight 1b	3	0	0	0	Reaves cf	4	1	2	2
Smith c	3	0	1	0	Belue 1b	3	1	2	0
Smith c	2	0	0	0	Scruggs lf	2	1	2	0
Switt lf	1	0	1	1	Schiff dh	2	1	1	1
Mathis lf	1	0	1	1	Clinkens 3b	3	0	1	2
Works 3b	3	0	1	0	TOTALS	29	6	11	5
Timmons rf	1	0	0	0					
Riddinger rf	1	0	0	0					
Poole pf	1	0	0	0					
Ferman p	2	0	1	0					
Ammon ph	1	0	1	0					
Broback pr	0	0	0	0					
TOTALS	26	2	8	2					

MHS 100 001 0-2-44
VHS 105 000 x-6-113

E — Lawrence 2, Smith, Freeman, Spurling, Thompson, G. Jenkins, C. Jenkins 2, DP
MHS 1, VHS 2, Left — MHS 6, VHS 7, 2B —
West, Scruggs, HR — Spurling, Reaves, SH —
Scruggs, Schunhoff.

MHS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Freeman	6	11	6	0	2	2
VHS	6	6	2	2	2	2
Rupp	6	6	2	2	2	2

Winner — Rupp, Loser — Freeman.



Rick Rupp Went Distance In Valdosta's 6-2 Win Over Monroe
Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams

Leaving shadows behind

McCormick outruns the field in Valdosta

By Daryl Bell
Times-Union Sports Writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — When it comes to running, Darlene McCormick is literally never in anyone's shadow. As far as distance running goes, she's about the best there is in South Georgia as her achievements ever so eloquently speak for themselves.

For the past four years, McCormick has been an integral part of the Valdosta High track program. In the mile, 2-mile, and 880, there aren't too many better than she is. She holds the school records in those events with times of 4:14, 2:17 and 11:41. With times like those, it's a wonder why college recruiters haven't flocked to Valdosta.

"I want to go to school and I will," said McCormick. "I like running but I also like music. In college, I'd like to take it up. I play the piano and sing. I like them both very much and would love the opportunity to further myself in both. I doesn't bother me that I haven't been offered a scholarship."

Getting a track scholarship would be McCormick's reward for such an outstanding career. However, there is one honor that she will never attain — a state championship.

At last weekend's state Class AAAA track and field championships at Lakewood Stadium in Atlanta, the coveted prize eluded her for the fourth and final time. She placed second in the 880 with a time of 2:19.1 behind Stacy Shelton of Lakeside whose 2:17.1 broke a state record that had stood since 1979. The old mark was 2:17.7.

McCormick figured that the mile was hers but Lassiter's Laura Kemp was thinking the same thing. The best that McCormick could do was a fourth place finish with a time of 5:09.1 while Kemp broke a



— Walter Stricklin/Staff

Darlene McCormick owns the Valdosta High records in the mile, 2-mile and 880.

year-old state record with a winning time of 5:09.1. The previous mark was 5:09.3.

She didn't run the 2-mile but she did anchor Valdosta's mile relay team which finished second with a 3:57. Valdosta finished fifth in overall team scoring.

"I ran my best, so I'm pleased with what I was able to do at states," said McCormick. "Of all the things I wanted to do, I wanted to become state champion. While I wasn't able to become one, I did make it to states. A lot of good runners never make it that far."

"When I first got there [at the state championships her freshman year], I didn't think there was any one better than I was. But I soon found out differently. Since then, I have come to realize that there are better runners than I am. That's something that I have to live with and can cope with."

Darlene McCormick has a good

attitude about both life and athletics. She knows that she's good and doesn't let it go to her head. Only one person, Thomasville High grad Olga Turner, has ever crossed the finish line before her in dual competition. She won't forget it. The incident happened her freshman year.

"Darlene is a good athlete and a good person," said Valdosta High coach Jerry Baker. "She can run with anyone and stays in shape. She also runs cross country and has high jumped before. She's got good speed and endurance, those are the things you look for in a distance runner. She will pace herself and very rarely alter it."

"A few schools have inquired about her and she'll hear from some more," said Baker. "She's too good not to be running for somebody. She'll be an asset to any athletic program."

At 5 feet-2, McCormick gives a lot in terms of strides to larger runners but what she lacks in size, she makes up with endurance. She became interested in track in the seventh grade after her brother, Roosevelt, began participating. Since then, she has become one of the premier distance runners in the state. Her freshman year was simply outstanding. As for the other three, they have been productive but there's something about that first year.

"My ninth grade year was the best and it's been hard to do the things that I did that year," said McCormick. "I'm proud of what I did then and I think I'm still a good runner."

"I realize that the Lord gave me those gifts and he can easily take them away. I just pray that He doesn't. I still hold the school records and they speak for themselves."

Show Features Students' Work

By Times Staff Writer

The Annual Spring Art Show by Valdosta High School students has a new location this year.

It is to be at the Valdosta Mall today through Sunday, said art teacher Stephanie Summers. The show is to close about 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

Works to be shown will be both two and three dimensional. They are to include a variety of media. Many are to be offered for sale.

Works are by art students of Patsy Smith, department head, Cheryl Howard and Mrs. Summers.

experts using old-styled hand tools.

Quilting, weaving and spinning, plametto hat construction, clogging and ethnic foods will also be featured.

Admission is \$5 per day for adults and \$1 for children. A weekend adult pass is offered at \$12.

VT 5-16-83 Marchin' Cats Win

The Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats band brought back seven awards from the Daytona Beach Music Festival held over the weekend.

The band took first place in AAAA field show competition and parade competition, according to Jan Bristow, publicity director for the Marchin' Cats boosters.

The VHS students also were named overall winners in parade competition, she said.

"We were the only band to get a standing ovation" in field show competition, she said.

The VHS flag corps was named best in the field show and parade competition.

Other parade competition winners were the VHS rifle team and color guard, Mrs. Bristow said.

Other bands in the contest included those from Texas, Virginia, Ohio, Florida and North Carolina.

Friday, May 20, 1983



'Cat Signings

Four members of the Valdosta High Track Team signed grants-in-aid with Albany State Wednesday at Valdosta High School.

Seated from left to right: Irvin Dailey (mile and two mile); Todd Gamble (880 and high jump); Robert Durham (mile

and two mile); Jeff Spivey (long jump, triple jump and high hurdles).

Standing watching the signings are Valdosta coaches' Freddie Waters and Mark DiBois. Times Staff By Frank Williams.

V.T. 5.16.83

'Cats Lose Toss, Host 1st Game

Game 1 the 1-AAAA championship series between Valdosta and Tift County will be played Monday at Bazemore Field.

Valdosta lost a coin toss for the right to have the home-field advantage in the playoff series.

Game 2, and 3 if necessary, is scheduled for Wednesday in Tifton.

Wildcat coach Charles Tarpley said early this morning that losing the coin flip may be a blessing in disguise.

"Teddy West's going to pitch Monday," Tarpley said, "and I think he's better suited for our park. And I think (Rick) Rupp will do better up there."

Valdosta (14-2) won its semi-final series with Monroe of Albany two games to none. Tift (17-5) also won its series in two game, beating Colquitt County.

Tift beat Valdosta both times the two teams met this year.

The Blue Devils began the season in mediocre fashion, dropping five of their first seven decisions. But since, Tift has reeled off 15 straight wins with Valdosta and defending AAAA champ Coffee among the victims.

Two of the best pitchers in the region will battle at Bazemore Field Monday. Undefeated West goes for the 'Cats against he throwing Todd Shiver. Neither pitcher pitched in either game this year.

Valdosta High

'Cats Loaded For Run At New Sub-region

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

One week each football season is set aside for something known as the Winnersville Classic. Five days of parades, bonfires, pep rallies and parties are topped off with a foot-brawl on Friday night between the two local high schools—Valdosta and Lowndes.

In the past, though, the game had little meaning, as far as the standings in Region 1-AAAA were concerned. Valdosta and Lowndes sat on opposite sides of the fence in the region—Valdosta in the North, Lowndes in the South. Other than for traditional bragging rights and sheer enjoyment of a great football game with all the pageantry, the game lacked substance.

No more. When Valdosta and Lowndes meet Nov. 9 at Cleveland Field, the game will be worth more than a year's worth of ribbing. It very well could decide the South sub-region champion and the home-field advantage in the region playoffs.

For the first time since the 1-AAAA's inception in 1978, Valdosta will be in the South sub-region, the sub-region Lowndes won last year with a 4-0 regular-season mark. Valdosta captured the North sub-region last year also with an unbeaten slate and advanced all the way to the finals of the region playoffs before Tift County, a team the Wildcats beat in the regular-season finale, eliminated the 'Cats.

It was Valdosta's first loss in 26 straight games spanning two years and only its second in three years. There was little consolation in knowing that they were the second-best team in Georgia after Tift went on to win the state, drubbing LaGrange 59-6 in the Class AAAA final.

No. 2 may have been fine for the 'Cats in '83, but 11th-year Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder, whose record at VHS stands at 104-21-1, isn't ready to play second fiddle this time around. And if the pre-season is any indication, he has the horses to get back on top.

"Our secret is hard work," Hyder says. "You earn it." The secret's out, though. *U.S. Today*, a national publication, is expected to list the 'Cats as its top-ranked team in the America. But Hyder is more occupied with preparing his 'Cats for their Aug. 31 season opener against Thomasville to worry about such trivial things as polls.

"I'm not concerned about polls," he says. "I appreciate the recognition for the high school. But you've got to earn it on the field."

With a defense that features seven returning starters, including pre-season prep All-American linebacker John

Porter (210, sr.), and an offense built around a pair of massive bookend tackles, proving their worth on the field should be a breeze.

"The experience is on defense," says Hyder.

Returning starters Jimmy Lewis (211, sr.) and James Wakefield (210, sr.) at tackles should plug the hole left by all-state nose guard Leon Johnson. John Wheelless (273, so.) has the responsibility of playing nose guard this year. Michael Spencer (177, sr.) gives the 'Cats depth at nose guard.

Earnest Mangrum (170, sr.) is back at defensive end. On the other side Earnie Bishop (176, jr.) was No. 1 defensive end in the spring. He is being challenged by Seaborn Williams (150, so.), a surprise at summer camp who could start, and Joey Matchett (179, jr.).

The secondary should be as strong as ever with three returning starters, including one of the state's top recruits, Derrick "Kool" Folsom (170, sr.). Also back are Elijah Holmes (155, sr.) and David Thomas (159, sr.). Pushing for playing time at safety is Trevor Shaw (144, sr.). Dwayne Hart (160, jr.) and Mike Martin (152, sr.) are battling at the other cornerback.

Porter should tie the defense together from his linebacker position. "He's a player-leader," Hyder says of Porter, "a coach's dream." Tony Johnson (164, jr.), who is in his third VHS camp, is the other probable linebacker. Bill Kirby (165, so.), Troy Toth (147, jr.) and Freddie Richardson (189, fr.) give the 'Cats experience.

The offensive line, which includes returning starters Johnny Crook (245, jr.) and Marty Howell (272, jr.) at tackles, should give the inexperienced backfield time to find its form. "No team is any better than its offensive line," Hyder says. And this one is indicative of the rest of the team.

Experience is provided by Jon Reaves (180, sr.), who was moved from center to guard, and Eric Henderson (190, sr.), who started four games last year. Jeff Davis (195, jr.) takes over at center.

"There's some size on the offensive line," Hyder says. "And Reaves gives us leadership. He's the type to make it go."

Depth on the line is provided by Jody Sprengle (212, so.) and Todd Hatcher (186, jr.) at tackle; Micheal "Doc" McBride (175, jr.) and Jim Godbee (178, sr.) at guard; and Matt Stanaland (192, jr.) and Greg Bryant (151, sr.) at center.

Darrell Leonard (190, sr.) returns at tight end.

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The Nick Hyder Record at Valdosta

1974.....	3-7-0.....	300
1975.....	10-2-0.....	857
1976.....	9-2-0.....	818
1977.....	12-2-0.....	857
1978.....	14-0-1.....	967
1979.....	8-4-0.....	667
1980.....	11-1-0.....	917
1981.....	11-2-0.....	846
1982.....	15-0-0.....	1,000
1983.....	11-1-0.....	917
Total.....	104-21-1.....	829



Times Staff Photo

Hyder Says 'Cats Secret Is Hard Work



Marchin' Cat Members Take A Breather From Marching Drills

Former Wildcats, Plowboys Now Playing College Football Valdosta High

Nat Ceasar.....	Auburn.....	Defensive Back
Chris Major.....	South Carolina.....	Defensive Back
Ricky Daniels.....	South Carolina.....	Defensive End
Dana Brinson.....	Nebraska.....	Running Back
Leon Johnson.....	East Kentucky.....	Nose Guard
Kennedy Cooper.....	Florida A&M.....	Defensive Lineman
Dante Jones.....	Georgia Tech.....	Linebacker
Ben Reaves.....	Valdosta State.....	Tight End
Kelvin Williams.....	Morris Brown.....	Defensive End
John Nitschke.....	Georgia Southwestern.....	Offensive Tackle
Monte Davis.....	Georgia Southwestern.....	Offensive Guard
Joel Jackson.....	Georgia Southern.....	Offensive Tackle
Joey Sullivan.....	Georgia Southwestern.....	Offensive Guard
Aundra Irvin.....	Georgia Southwestern.....	Defensive Back
Steve Gandy.....	Furman.....	Wide Receiver
Pernell Bee.....	Valdosta State.....	Running Back
William Collier.....	Bethune-Cookman.....	Offensive Line
Billy Broadfoot.....	Alabama.....	Offensive Guard
Fred "Rex" Motes.....	Austin Peay.....	Running Back
Jimmy Kehoe.....	Austin Peay.....	Offensive Guard
Earnest King.....	Northwestern.....	Running Back
David Parker.....	Princeton.....	Quarterback
Jeff Lee.....	Dartmouth.....	Defensive Back



Homecoming Queen

Paige Greene, 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harris Greene Jr. of Valdosta, is Valdosta High School's homecoming queen. The announcement came in pre-game activities before the

VHS-Albany Dougherty game. The senior plans to continue her education after high school and major in fashion merchandising. — Times Staff Photo By Laura Harris.