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Valdosta High School Scrapbook 38, 1988-1989

Valdosta High School

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RON EVANS

Sports Editor

Roberts Nears UTC Season Rushing Mark

James Roberts is making a lasting impression at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. And, he is only a freshman.

Last week, the Mocs (3-6) fell, 27-17, to NCAA Division I-AA No. 3-ranked Furman and this week take on No. 1 Georgia Southern. But, in that game against Furman, Roberts rushed 30 times for 148 yards and one touchdown. He also caught three passes for 46 more yards and another score.

His totals on the year include 206 carries for 1,034 yards and seven touchdowns. He is currently fourth on the all-time list in yards gained in a season. He is 11 yards behind third place, 33 behind second and the all-time record, set by Gene Roberts in 1949, is 1,113.

Now, for the rest of the gang:

GEORGIA (5-3)
Big, big game is set for this Saturday at Jacksonville as the Bulldogs, who beat Temple, 37-10, in their homecoming, take on the Florida Gators.

Greg Talley is fast becoming a solid field general. He is 73 of 133 on the year passing for a 55 percent completion rate, 1,061 yards, six interceptions and six touchdowns. He also leads the team in total offense with 1,076 yards.

Ben Lane is still playing a lot at center.

GEORGIA TECH (4-4)
The Yellow Jackets will have the week off after trouncing Western Carolina, 34-7. Next up will be Wake Forest.

Coleman Rudolph is up to four tackles on the season.

PITT (5-1-1)
The Panthers had last week off after playing Notre Dame. However, they open back up hosting Miami. **Hosea Heard** is expected to play.

VANDERBILT (1-7)
Vandy can't get anything going. Last week was an 18-0 loss to Virginia Tech and this Saturday has Kentucky coming to call. **Wally Hubert** has five tackles, two solo, for a second-place ranking on the team among special teamers.

N.E. OKLA. A&M (7-1)
The Norsemen are ranked No. 6 in the nation among junior colleges. Already, they have been invited to the Dixie Rotary Bowl game on Dec. 2 in St. George, Utah, against host Dixie J.C., which is ranked No. 7. Last week, NEO was off but play host to Central Iowa this week.

Herbert Mingo has played in six games, carried the ball 32 times for 150 yards and two touchdowns. He also has one pass catch for two yards and six kickoff returns for 68 yards.

NAVY (2-6)
B.J. Mason has earned himself a starting spot at left halfback for the Naval Academy. In last week's game against top-ranked Notre Dame, a 41-0 loss, he had five carries for six yards and one catch for 22 more. He also returned two kickoffs for returns of 37 and 21 yards. Mason will start this Saturday against visiting Syracuse.

Linebacker Beau Laskey registered just one tackle and has 26 total for the year.

Todd Peterson kicked off and will continue to kick off.

SOUTH CAROLINA (5-3-1)
The Gamecocks took it on the chin last week as host Florida State won, 35-10. This week, South Carolina travels to North Carolina.

Ben Hogan was 0-for-4 last week and is 3-of-12 for 47 yards on the season. **Charles Steward** played but still has just three passes for 15 yards out of the tight end spot.

AUBURN (6-2)
After squeaking by Florida, 10-7, last week, the Tigers will take a breather in hosting Louisiana Tech. **Benny Pierce** made one tackle and has six, four solo, for the year as a backup linebacker.

TULANE (3-6)
The Green Wave rolled by Memphis State, 38-34, last week and next travel to Mississippi State. **Clay McCall** is still perfect at deep snapping and has three special teams tackles.

NAVAL PREP A.C.A. (9-0)
The Naval Prep Academy is perfect on the season and a big reason has been the play of freshman center **David Hazelhurst**.

Hazelhurst has started all year, done a great job and is getting better every game, according to an assistant coach at the school. The team was off last week and next travel to the Coast Guard Academy.

MORRIS BROWN (3-7)
The season is over for the school as it dropped a 46-14 decision to Albany State last week.

For the year, **Corozoa Greene** had a big year as a freshman

See Roberts, Page 3B

For Valdosta Seniors, Mission Is Completed

By **CHRIS BECKHAM**
Times Sports Writer

The seniors on the Valdosta High Wildcat football team were on a mission last week. They needed to win their last regular season game of the year to put themselves in the Region 1-AAAA playoffs. But the last game of the year was against THEM. The Lowndes High Vikings. And that was incentive enough.

That group of VHS seniors banded together Friday night and defeated their crosstown rivals, 17-0, in front of a packed and extremely vocal Martin Stadium crowd.

When the game is viewed on film

next week, it should resemble a 1989 Valdosta Wildcat highlight reel. A long run by Carlos Parker, several bone-jarring hits by linebacker Anthony Williams and yet another interception by safety Chris Hart.

The Wildcats changed nothing in their gameplan which has garnered them nine wins against only one upset loss. And their Friday night gameplan worked to perfection.

"This was typical of all of the Valdosta-Lowndes games," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "There was a lot of hard-hitting and our defense once again rose to the occasion. They did the job."

Parker finished the game in fine



form. He rushed for 150 yards on 23 carries, including a 34-yard touchdown run, and wrapped up the Region 1-AAAA rushing title with 1,082 total yards on the season. Friday night's performance pro-

pelled Parker past his nearest competitor, sophomore fullback Nathan Williams of Colquitt County who was held to only 42 yards against the Coffee High Trojans Friday night in the Packers' 26-0 win.

Williams joined in the senior parade with one of his biggest nights of the season. He totaled 13 tackles and kept the Vikings far away from any shot at the end zone. He said his final appearance in Martin Stadium was a special one indeed.

"This is a special game for me since it's the last time I'll ever play in this stadium. We all wanted to make the best of it. It meant a lot

for us to win this game in our last ever regular season," Williams said.

In the first quarter, Hart intercepted his sixth pass of the season as he ran under a Jeffrey Thomas pass that was deflected by Williams. Hart admitted that the interception was a big play. But he added that it was a big play for the whole team.

"There is no doubt that my defensive line and the linebackers made everything happen tonight. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't have gotten the first one this year," Hart said. "This is a sweet memory for me. We let it all hang out tonight and I just thank God that we could all play well tonight."



VHS quarterback Alton Hitson pulls away from a Lowndes defender and heads upfield during the Wildcats 17-0 win. Hitson found success running the ball and he also threw

a touchdown pass to Joe Wright to lead the Wildcats to their regular-season-ending victory —Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Vikings Gave It Their All

By **STAN GRUBB**
Times Sports Writer

The Lowndes High Vikings came into the Winnersville Classic fighting for their life in the Region 1-AAAA South. And when the final gun had sounded Friday at Martin Stadium, they left with their heads held high.

Although the Valdosta Wildcats claimed a 17-0 victory, Lowndes had nothing but praise for their own teammates and the Wildcat team and staff.

"None of these guys here have anything to be ashamed of," said Viking junior center Donnie Anderson. "Everyone is entitled to make mistakes, it was just unfortunate that we made more than they did. But they are a great football team and we just have to go on from here."

"We came out and played hard like I expected us too, it was just not to be tonight for us," said sophomore lineman Anthony Hargett.

"Valdosta's got class. That was nice what they did at the end of the game. That's sportsmanship. We played them as tough as we could, they are some pretty good football players."

Competing in his first Winnersville Classic, Hargett wrapped up the season as the team's leading tackler with seven against the Wildcats giving him 76 for the season.

According to Viking first-year head coach Rick Tomberlin, the Winnersville Classic was everything by experience and more.

"It was what I thought it would be," said Tomberlin. "The people of Valdosta and Lowndes County," said Tomberlin. "From the NFL all the way down to the midget leagues it's a fact that young players will make mistakes. But the key for us is that the mistakes we are making and have made this year we are in a situation where are kids were playing their hearts out."

"You have to give Valdosta all the credit in the world," Tomberlin added. "They lived up to their reputation as one of the best teams around."

For most of the Vikings players, it was the first time they had squared off against the Valdosta Wildcats. But for the 11 Lowndes seniors, it was a bitter pill to swallow to go out without any points.

"It was tough, the way I came into this thing. But it was also tough to end like this," said senior quarterback Chris Overman. "Many times on offense we were three plays and out. And you can't do that against Valdosta. But I've enjoyed it here and it wouldn't be fair to judge my entire career and what I remember about Lowndes on this one game."

"No, I'm not pleased to go out like this. When you're a senior and playing Valdosta you want to win," said senior offensive lineman Clay Green. "All of the seniors went into this game wanting a win and we all tried. I feel good about the game in the fact that nobody quit."

Here's To The Wildcats

Valdosta Claims Winnersville Classic, 17-0, Over Lowndes

By **RON EVANS**
Times Sports Editor

"Congratulations, Wildcats. Take it to state."

Those reluctant, but good-sports words of the Lowndes High P.A. announcer ended the 1989 high school football regular season.

The Valdosta High Wildcats will have that playoff opportunity now after beating rival Lowndes High Vikings, 17-0, Friday at Martin Stadium in the annual Winnersville Classic. VHS leads the series, 22-5.

Following the finale of the game, the two teams met at the center of the field to sing a rendition of "Amen." Maybe, it was because the end of the hype of Winnersville week was at hand.

More than likely, however, it was to ask forgiveness for the pounding the two teams did on each other. There were a few personal fouls and some finger-pointing, and more than likely, some name-calling.

But, after all, it was the Winnersville Classic.

With the victory, the 'Cats, 9-1 overall and 4-1 in the 1-AAAA South,

move into the playoffs beginning next week. They'll face Shaw High School (7-3), which won the North subregion despite losing Friday to Baker, 14-12. The game will be in Columbus.

Lowndes, under first-year coach Rick Tomberlin, finish the season at 2-8 and 0-5.

As for the game, witnessed by a full house, it wasn't a nail-biter. It was just hard-hitting, ground-running football.

Valdosta pretty much controlled the game. But it wasn't made easy by the young and scrappy Lowndes defense, which stayed on the field most of the night.

However, the Vikings found it hard to stop Carlos Parker. In fact, they didn't as he rushed 23 times for 150 yards and one touchdown. His 150 yards coupled with Colquitt County's Nathan Williams only rushing for 42 yards in the Packers' 26-0 victory over the Coffee High Trojans, gave the local runner the region rushing title with a total of 1,082 yards.

The 'Cats finished the game with 233 yards on 42 rushes. Add 61

yards passing and the winners of the Winnersville Classic had 294 total yards of offense.

The 'Cats defense held Lowndes' sputtering offense, which had as its deepest penetration to the 34 of VHS, to just 51 total yards — 37 rushing on 35 totes and 14 passing. Jeffrey Thomas led the Vikings with 39 yards on 12 carries.

Big linebacker, Anthony Williams, led the 'Cats with 13 tackles. Robert Fillmore added eight and one sack, and George Copeland and Fred Henton had seven each. Strong safety Chris Hart had an interception, his sixth of the year.

Lowndes was led by three sophomores, which could say something about their future. Damion Shiver had nine tackles, Randall Godfrey and Anthony Hargett had seven each. Hargett finished the season as the team's leading tackler with 76.

Valdosta turned itself away from a couple of scoring opportunities. The very first series was an example of that.

The game's opening series, which belonged to the host Vikings, ended with a great pressure punt of 42

yards out of the end zone by Matt Futch. An equally nice 20-yard return by Joe Wright set the ball up at the 25 of Lowndes. Three plays later, though, Alton Hitson was intercepted after Alonzo Williams tipped his pass into the arms of teammate Brett Whiddon.

Lowndes later returned the favor when Thomas was picked off by Hart after Williams tipped the ball.

The 'Cats then drove from the 37 of Lowndes to the eight for a first-and-goal. Three running plays, two by Parker, and one by Hitson when he was tripped up for a three-yard loss by Kashon Boswell, made the 'Cats go for three, which Dow Drury made good on from 25 yards out with 2:22 left in the first period.

Five punts later, Valdosta took over at its 47 with two minutes left in the half. On the third play, Hitson lobbed a perfect pass just before getting clobbered to a wide, wide open Joe Wright for a 37-yard touchdown with 1:28 left. Drury made the first of two PATs on the night to send the 'Cats into the lockerroom leading, 10-0. But, it could have been See Winnersville, Page 3B

Winnersville

From Page 1B

the 34 of the 'Cats. Three incomplete passes later, a fake punt was tried. It lost four yards.

The outcome was decided midway through the final quarter after Joe Wright's 19-yard punt return set the 'Cats up at their 40. A 26-yard run by Chris Chachere put the ball at the 34 of the Vikings. On the next play, Parker broke loose for the score with 5:29 left to ice the game.

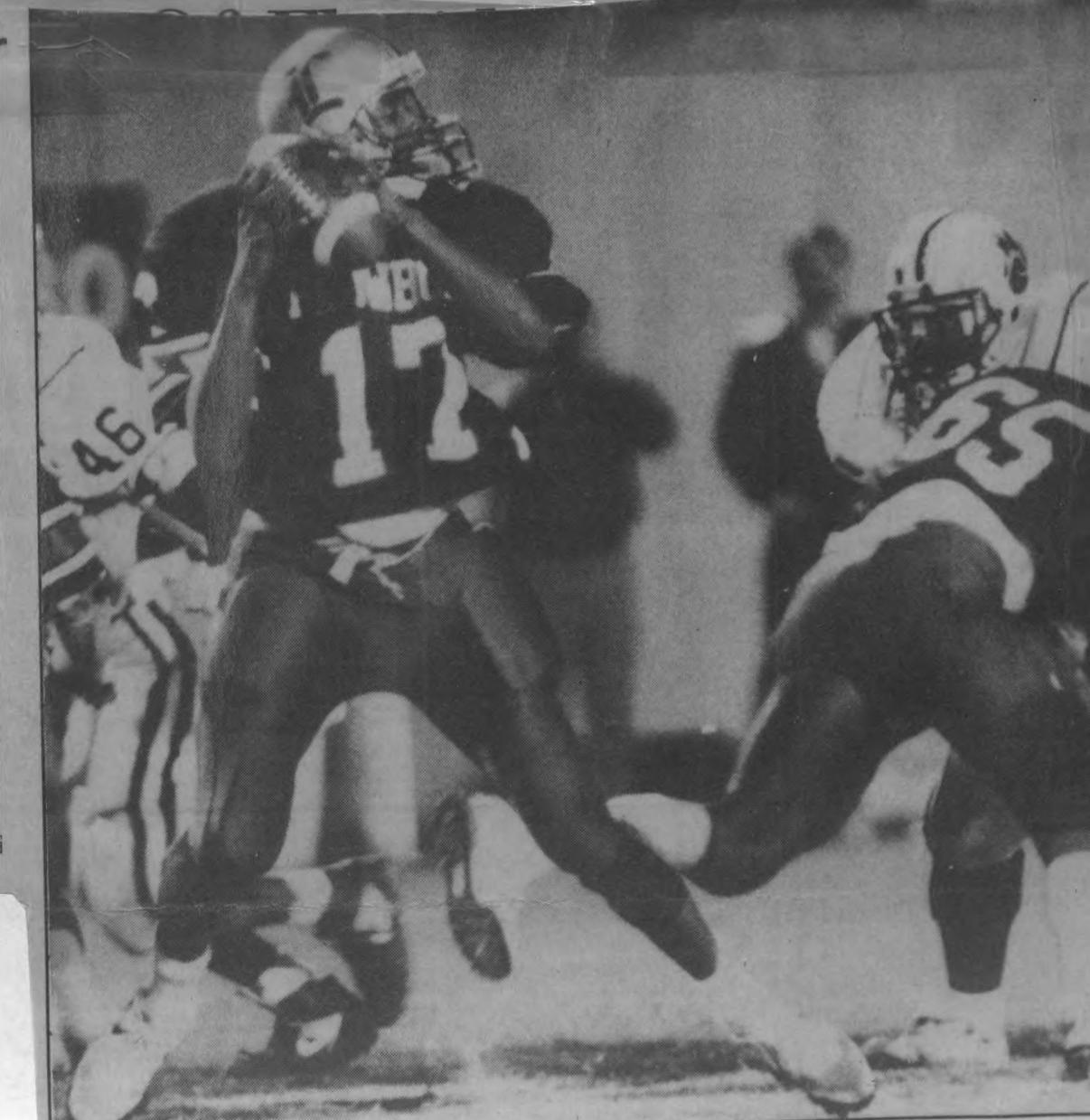
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Valdosta-Lowndes		
Wildcats		Vikings
14	First downs	6
42-233	Rushes-yards	35-37
4-12	Comp.-att.	3-13
61	Yards	14
2	Intercepted	1
3-22.0	Punting	10-35.5
6-60	Penalties	5-62
1-1	Fumbles-lost	2-0
Valdosta	3	7
Lowndes	0	0

Scoring Summary
VHS—Dow Drury 25 FG 2:22, 1st
VHS—Joe Wright 37 pass from Alton Hitson (Drury kick) 1:28, 2nd
VHS—Carlos Parker 34 run (Drury kick) 5:29, 4th

Individual Statistics
Rushing: Valdosta-Parker 23-150, Hitson 7-21, Kendrick Patrick 2-16, Deric Cotton 1-(1-3), Shawn Gay 2-7, Chris Chachere 2-28, Joe Wright 4-26; Team 1-(1-12). Lowndes-Jeffrey Thomas 12-39, F.J. Burns 6-8, Chris Overman 2-0, Chris Wright 1-(1-2), Clay Washington 9-5, Team 1-(1-13).
Passing: Valdosta-Hitson 10-4-2, 61 yards, 1 TD; Cotton 1-0-0; Wright 1-0-0. Lowndes-Thomas 12-3-1, 14; Overman 1-0-0.
Receiving: Valdosta-Mickey McSwain 2-19, Tracy Smothers 1-5, Wright 1-37. Lowndes-Chad Cowart 1-12, C.Wright 2-2.





Packed In

The sellout crowd at Martin Stadium Friday night were kept on their feet during Friday night's 27th meeting of the Valdosta Wildcats and the Lowndes Vikings. Valdosta won the contest, 17-0 — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Classic Lives Up To Billing

Quotes following the 1989 Winnersville Classic:
Q — (Head coach Rick Tomberlin): Did Valdosta live up to their reputation defensively?
A: "Yes, they sure did. They are a tremendous defensive team; the best we've seen all year."
Q — (To VHS head coach Nick Hyder): Now that the regular season is over, what are your thoughts on going into the playoffs?
A: "We're happy to be there and Shaw of Columbus is a fine team. It's nice to get this far and, from all indications, next week's game should be a very tough challenge for us."
Q — (To LHS tailback Chris Wright): What were you thinking when you touched the football for the first time in five weeks?
A: "A lot of thoughts went through my mind. I just knew to take the football and go to the defense hard and play the way I could play. If I did that, then everything would turn out all right."
Q — (To Wildcat tailback Joe Wright): What did the Lowndes defense do wrong when you got open on the long touchdown pass?
A: "We ran a screen on the play before and I was downfield all alone. I came back to the sidelines and told the coaches and we ran the play again. The pass was right there."
Q — (To LHS linebacker Randall Godfrey): What was the single difference in the game?
A: "As a defense, we came into this thing knowing we couldn't give up the big play to Valdosta and we gave them three."
Q — (To VHS linebacker Anthony Williams): How did it feel to be playing against friends of yours from Lowndes?
A: "When I'm on the field, I don't have any friends."
Q — (To LHS defensive lineman Anthony Hargett): Was the Winnersville Classic everything you thought and hoped it would be?
A: "It was definitely a hard game on every down. It was my first Winnersville Classic and it was a very emotional football game. I'm looking forward to next year."
Q — (To Brooks Akins, former Lowndes High player and current VHS starting tackle): Was their any animosity as you played against your old teammates?
A: "There was some talking and some taunting going on and I knew there would be a few of them trying to show me up. But that's football. I just tried to approach this as a regular game and this was a perfect. Winnersville Classic. There were some big licks."
Q — (To Tomberlin): Do you think that this team leaves the 1989 season with something to build on?
A: "We are just going to have to go back and certainly correct some things. We need to go from way back to payback and not just for Valdosta."
Q — (To Florida State starting tailback Dexter Carter who viewed the Winnersville Classic from the Lowndes sideline): What are your impressions of watching your first Winnersville Classic?
A: "This is incredible. At Appling County, we never played in front of crowds like this. I can't believe all of these people. This is different from any other high school football I've ever seen."

It Isn't Fun And Games For Coach's Wife



Angela Tomberlin and J.M. Tomberlin, wife and father of Lowndes head coach Rick, look on as the Vikings battle the Valdosta Wildcats at Martin Stadium — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

By ELLEN AVERY
Times Staff Writer

Angela Tomberlin rubbed her fingernails, clinched her hands together and occasionally yelled "Get him, get him," but the anguish did not help her husband's Lowndes High Vikings beat the Valdosta High Wildcats Friday.
 "They'd better enjoy it while they can," said Mrs. Tomberlin, 29, wife of Vikings head coach Rick Tomberlin, 32. "We've got a young team, and we're going to be great next year. I don't think we played badly at all this year."
 During the third quarter, Mrs. Tomberlin said she was going to have to "take a bottle of aspirin when I get home because I'm so nervous. I can't stand it."
 As the clock ticked toward the end of the game, Mrs. Tomberlin watched her husband pace the sidelines, knowing there was nothing she could do to help him win the game.
 Mrs. Tomberlin said this has been a tough season for the Viking team, which only had 11 seniors on its roster. Most of the members of this year's team were sophomores and juniors, many of whom will be better players next year, she said.
 But despite Lowndes' eight losses this season, Viking fans have been extremely supportive of their new coach and the team, Mrs. Tomberlin said. The Tomberlins have felt very welcomed in south Georgia, she said.

The people here have given us a lot of support," Mrs. Tomberlin said. "I've never seen people who are so fanatic about football. The people here live for football. They sleep it, they drink it, they eat it. I don't think there is a better place for us to be."
 Fans at Jonesboro High School, where Tomberlin coached before coming to LHS, supported their team but not nearly as strongly as residents here root for the Vikings.
 Mrs. Tomberlin said she has attended every LHS home game this season and only has missed a few away games to stay home with her daughter, Tiffany, 17 months. Mrs. Tomberlin said Tiffany likes to go to games to watch her father coach.
 "She's definitely a football fan," Mrs. Tomberlin said. "She loves to watch football on television. She calls it 'ball' because she can't say football. She comes to most of the games, but she stayed home with her grandparents tonight."
 Tomberlin's father, J.M. Tomberlin, sat with Mrs. Tomberlin during the LHS/VHS game. Mrs. Tomberlin said her father-in-law attends every one of his son's games, and he paces the sidelines when the Vikings are in a tense situation.
 The senior Tomberlin said he moved to Valdosta when his son took the head coach/athletic director job at LHS. J.M. Tomberlin said he lived in Jonesboro when his son coached there.

Winnersville Classic: A Lasting Impression

By STEVE MEADOWS
Times City Editor

It usually starts with a brother, sister or one of the children. But it lasts a lifetime.
 Both Valdosta Wildcat and Lowndes Viking fans agree — once South Georgia's best-known football rivalry "gets in your system," it's impossible to stay away from "The Game."
 "It took us over 10 years to get seats on the Valdosta side," said ardent 'Cat fan J.L. Hasty. He and his wife, Bernice, began watching this particular matchup "well over 20 years ago" during the Wright Bazemore era.
 "I'm just as big a nut (about football) as he is," said Mrs. Hasty.
 Hasty said his brother — now deceased — got him hooked on the

game "even before we had kids."
 Like Hasty, Viking fan Debbie Crosby got interested in this area's most popular Friday night pastime because of a brother and sister that attended LHS in the early 1970s.
 "I just love to watch them (Vikings) play," said Mrs. Crosby, "even though they weren't always going to win. It's exciting to watch and scream."
 Mrs. Crosby admits that pulling for the Vikes isn't always without its problems, especially since her husband Andy is a graduate of Valdosta High School. But having a son — freshman Denny — as a member of the LHS Georgia Bridgemen marching band makes the task easier.
 And which side do they sit on at the Winnersville Classic? "If he (husband Andy) wants to sit with me he sits on the Viking side," Mrs.

Crosby quips.
 Rusty Parker and wife, Charlotte, support the Vikings also, but quickly add they like the annual crosstown meeting "just to see the teams compete."
 Parker, his wife, and mother and father, Dorothy and Jake, have been coming ever since Lowndes High School was opened in the late 1960s — when Rusty was only 11-years-old. And now the younger Parkers have made their three children — Courtney, Zachary and Casey — Viking believers.
 "Maybe one day we'll be watching him (five-year-old Zachary) play," said Charlotte Parker.
 VHS graduates Pam and Buzz Akins have been attending local high school football games since the late 1950s, but it's had more meaning during the 1980s when their two

sons have been on the field.
 "There are a lot of memories in this stadium (Martin Stadium)," said Mrs. Akins, "a lot of mixed emotions." Mixed, they agree, because the couple has been forced to switch loyalties.
 Eldest son Rhett was quarterback of the Vikings in 1986 and 1987, while the youngest, VHS senior Brooks, now plays for the Wildcats.
 "So we're Lowndes and Valdosta fans," said Akins.
 Valdostans John and Lenore Dalton said the Valdosta-Lowndes game has "never lost its emotion," even through three children, and now, grandchildren.
 "We're just 'Cat fans," says Dalton.



LHS head coach Rick Tomberlin and his assistant coach Jimmy Brock view the action from the Viking sideline Friday night — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.



Viking head coach Rick Tomberlin congratulates VHS head man Nick Hyder and his wife, June, after Valdosta's victory Friday night — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Best Thing For Players' Moms

By FRANCES GOLIVESKY
Times Lifestyles Writer

Winnersville Classic Week has been the best idea to take the sting and bitterness out of a crosstown rivalry, and some of mothers of the football players said that has been the best thing for the players.
 Wylene Nichols whose son, Jason, is co-captain of the Valdosta High Wildcats, said she's had children play in the game before the Winnersville Classic was initiated and when the crosstown competition was more intense.
 "I guess the Chamber of Commerce is responsible for this idea, but I think it's the grandest thing for everyone. Even though it's pitting the boys against each other, it relieves the stress and pressure on them. It's just real healthy competition."
 Mary Overman, whose son Chris is a wide receiver and quarterback for the Lowndes High School Vikings, agrees with Mrs. Nichols. "It takes the heat off the boys because the whole community is involved."
 Mrs. Overman said the Classic is an exciting night because many of these boys have played with and

against each other since they played for the Boys Club or YMCA.
 "It feels like we are keeping it in the neighborhood though, and many of these boys will go to VSC together next year, too."
 Grace Vickers, whose son Drew is a tight end at Lowndes, said her son has been friends with Jason Nichols and Brooks Akins, who previously played for Lowndes and now plays for the Wildcats.
 The youth football programs have been the channel through which these football players learned their game, and the high schools have helped them polish their techniques. But even though players appear to have polished their techniques, some mothers still have a hard time watching their sons in action.
 Mattie Hart, whose son Chris plays safety for the Wildcats, said she is nervous even though she knows by game time the boys may not be as nervous.
 "When everyone else is looking at the play, I'm closing my eyes."
 Dow Drury, the son of Phyllis and Don Drury, kicks for the Wildcats. Even though he's in his second year of kicking and has attended kicking clinics during the summers, his mother said with the exception of two months, it's a year-round commitment.
 Mrs. Drury said for this game more family comes to town to watch this one. "The worst part of the game is the pressure I think is placed on the kicker." Like Mrs. Hart, she, too, finds herself sometimes closing her eyes and waiting for results of that all-important kick.
 Pam Akins, whose son, Brooks is an offensive tackle for the Wildcats, has had the opportunity to view the game from both sides of the field. Her older son Rhett played for Lowndes during his high school career, and Brooks played for the Vikings until this season. "We had different feelings when we were at Lowndes, but the Classic has come a long way. It's a good thing."
 Win or lose, the mothers generally agreed the week of the Classic set the mood for the game and it absorbed some tension. However, as Mrs. Nichols and Mrs. Overman said, a good many of these boys have been playing together and against each other since the Y and Boys Clubs days. Many are friends.
 "After the game many of them will be eating together, probably somewhere on Ashley Street," said Mrs. Nichols.

Continental Basketball Association
AMERICAN CONFERENCE
 Eastern Division

Albany	0	0	0
Columbus	0	0	0
Grand Rapids	0	0	0
Pensacola	0	0	0

Central Division

Cedar Rapids	0	0	0
La Crosse	0	0	0
Quad City	0	0	0
Rockford	0	0	0

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
 Midwest Division

Omaha	0	0	0
Rapid City	0	0	0
Sioux Falls	0	0	0
Topeka	0	0	0

Western Division

San Jose	0	0	0
Tulsa	0	0	0
Wichita Falls	0	0	0

NOTE: Three points awarded for a victory.

Hockey League. Traded Brian Benning, defenseman, to the Los Angeles Kings for future considerations.

COLLEGE
 JACKSONVILLE—Announced that Scott Byrd, basketball center, has withdrawn from school.
 OKLAHOMA—Suspended Ike Lewis, fullback; Reggie Finch, fullback; Fred McCline, defensive back; and Corey Mayfield, defensive end, for the rest of the season.

Nick Price	68-70-207	9,973	9. Nanci Johnson, Tulsa, Okla., 10-6, 70-64-207
Craig Stedler	70-64-207	9,859	10. Michelle Mullen, Matteson, Ill., 7-74-64-208
Leonard Thompson	69-71-208	9,071	11. Pam Buckner, Reno, Nev., 8-8, 69-71-208
Tom Purizer	69-71-208	9,042	12. Jeanne Holden, Solon, Ohio, 7-9, 70-72-209
Ed Fiori	70-72-209	9,013	
Wayne Levi	71-67-211	8,992	13. Karen Wakelield, Elmira, N.Y., 8-8, 69-67-211
David Ogryn	71-67-211	8,992	14. Denise Rothburn, Virginia Beach, Va., 10-6, 8,959
John Cook	71-67-211	8,959	15. Debbie Bennett, Akron, Ohio, 7-9, 8,899
David Edwards	71-67-211	8,888	16. Debbie McMullen, Denver, 8-8, 8,888
Jim Carler	71-71-210	8,888	17. Carol Norman, Ardmore, Okla., 7-8-1, 8,885
Billy Andrade	74-67-210	8,885	18. o-Sharon Selment, Yukon, Okla., 9-7, 8,876
Lennie Clements	71-69-210	8,872	19. Carolyn Hodges, Fair Oaks, Calif., 5-11, 69-67-210
Mike Hulbert	72-70-211	8,772	20. Sandy Postma, Lansing, Ill., 6-10, 69-67-210
Ben Cranshaw	71-71-211	8,772	21. Mary Martha Cerniglia, Springfield, Ill., 5-10-1, 8,764
Tom Byrum	70-70-211	8,764	22. Dina Wheeler, Kansas City, Mo., 6-10, 8,761
Corey Pavin	69-71-211	8,761	23. Laurie
Lon Hinkle			
Dave Rummels			

5. Frederic Liko, France, 2.5
6. Alessandra Riccietelli, Italy, 3.0
7. Phillipa Candeloro, France, 3.5
8. Lars Dresler, Denmark, 4.0

After United States

1. April 5
2. Angelika
3. Susanne
Finland, 1.2
4. Dominia
France, 1.6
5. Michelle
Canada, 2.0
6. Isabelle
France, 2.4
7. Christel
eville, Franc
8. Petra
Oshiro, West

All 1. Mandy

meeting of teams board of directors. The change in titles means Herock, who was given a three-year contract, will also serve on the board.



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'Cats Open Subregion Play Tonight



By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

No. 1-ranked Valdosta High gets its first taste of Region 1-AAAA South competition tonight when the 5-0 Wildcats travel to Bainbridge to take on the 3-1-1 Bearcats.

Kickoffs slated for 8 p.m. "Bainbridge will play tonight like their backs are against the wall," VHS head coach Nick Hyder said. "They've already lost one region game (16-10 to Colquitt County) and two losses in this region will obviously be very difficult to come back from. We feel that any loss will be difficult to come back from."

Both teams will enter the game with their share of bumps and bruises. Bainbridge's star running back, Larry Cosby, who has rushed for 552 yards on 85 carries, is reportedly banged up and is listed as questionable.

"Our scouts tell us Walker is almost Cosby's equal," said Hyder. "The only difference is that Cosby has carried the load the majority of the season but just because Walker will be in the game doesn't mean that Bainbridge won't be just as efficient on offense."

For Valdosta, James Roberts is still nursing some bumps and bruises sustained in last Friday's Statesboro game. According to Hyder, Roberts will play but junior Chris Chachere (135) is scheduled to see plenty of action from the tailback position.

"Chris has just had a great week of practice," Hyder said. "James will play but he still needs to recover a bit from the pounding he took last week, but we believe Chris will do well. He can slice very well and cut on a dime."

Matthew Butler will start at left tackle for an injured Steve Smith, but like Roberts, Smith will see action as well.

The rest of the Wildcat lineup will remain the same. Ben Hogan, who has completed 22-of-67 passes for 339 yards and four touchdowns, will start at quarterback. Isaac Ceaser will once again get the nod at fullback.

Joining Butler on the offensive line will be center David Hazelhurst, right tackle Lawrence Sharpe, right guard Andy Rykard, left guard Steve Adkins and tight end Lee Thomas.

Keith Beal and Kelly Dawsey will both see time at split end while Tracey Smothers and Joe Wright will both see action at flanker.

The 'Cats' offensive unit knows what it must do.

"Bainbridge is big and they are strong," backup tackle Ron Hasty said. "They've also got a lot of experience."

Teammate Sharpe agreed. "Bainbridge is a great team," Sharpe said. "They have a lot of size and will be tough to handle. We've just got to give our quarterback enough time to throw the ball."

Defensively, the Bearcats are led by 320-pound tackle Ben Clemmons, end Alfronzie Peterson (173), linebackers Keith Bryant (210) and Pat Arial (173) and cornerback Eddie Byrd.

Defensively for the 'Cats, Frederick Henton and Coleman will be the ends, the tackles will be George Copeland and Zabria Bell and Andre Hampton and Robert Fillmore will alternate at nose guard.

Bruce Daniels and Anthony Williams will be the linebackers, Trampis Wrice will play left cornerback, Chris Hart will play the right corner, Carlo Butler and Travis Lane will alternate at free safety and Jason Bridges will be the strong safety.

Eric Phillips will handle the punting while Dow Drury will be the place kicker.

Sports

Developing Character / A Weekly Feature About Local Young People VDT.

Cheerleaders Need More Than A Smile

By SHERRIE FARABEE
Times Staff Writer

At football games, pep rallies and cheerleading competitions these young ladies are a smiling, peppy, active group, doing jumps, tumblers, and cheers to keep the crowds pepped up and enjoying themselves. It takes long hours of hard work, practice and conditioning, and a serious commitment.

"You have to really be dedicated and really enjoy what you are doing and you have to set your standards high and be able to work with all the cheerleaders. And you just have to keep physically fit," said Valdosta High School cheerleader Meredith Stanaland.

To do those jumps and tumblers that look so easy during a game, the

girls have regular practices and attend a training camp each summer. They put in the same kind of effort as any athlete because of the skill and endurance required to put on a good, energetic show in all kinds of weather.

"It's more of a sport, you have to be more of an athlete," VHS sponsor Jana Whitehead said. "It has really turned into an athletic sort of event. Most of the girls are tumblers, they are gymnasts."

"We condition like a football team would. You have to be in very good shape," she added.

Cheerleading competitions on television often show squads involved in multi-level pyramid and all kinds of tumblers and jumps. Because of Georgia Athletic Association regulations enacted over

See CHEERLEADERS, Page 2-A



The Valdosta Cheerleaders Put Many Hours Of Hard Work Into Game Preparation

FR., Oct. 14, 1988

The Valdosta Daily Times

'Cat Line Humbly Toiling

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

In the give-and-take world of high school football, the offensive linemen often get taken. The behemoths of the offensive front are the guys who do a lot of the hard work and get little of the press. They're sore until Sunday.

The offensive lineman's reward is seeing the running back behind him scamper for a good gain. At Valdosta high this year, the linemen have been rewarded well.

Valdosta heads into its seventh contest with a 6-0 record, and the Wildcats lead Region 1-AAAA-South in rushing. Valdosta averages 251 yards per game with 24 rushing touchdowns.

The credit obviously belongs to an experienced offensive front. There is no overpowering leader in his group. The line is anchored by five seniors in center David Hazlehurst (230), guards Andy Rykard (215) and Steve Adkins (210), and tackles Steve Smith (220) and Lawrence Sharpe (265). Matthew Butler (215), considered a starter by offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker, is a junior and can play anywhere on the line.

These six have made holes just big enough for running backs Isaac Ceaser and James Roberts to bull their way through.

Others who have filled roles on the offensive front are tight ends Mickey McSwain and Lee Thomas as well as reserve linemen Ron Hasty, Andy Brindger, Jared Howell, Will Hancock, and Jason Peters.

This offensive line is by no means the biggest in recent Val-



From left to right: Linemen Lee Thomas Hazlehurst, Steve Adkins, Andy Brindger, (12), Lawrence Sharpe, Andy Rykard, David and Matthew Butler.

dosta High history. Wildcat fans can still remember the 300-plus John Wheelless and 275-pound Jodie Sprengle from the 1986 state and national championship team.

"That's the kind of line you see only once in about 10 years," said Baker. "Normally the offensive line players are the guys that are left after everyone else chooses who they want. So we've got to go out there with what we have."

"This may not be the biggest line, but I'll guarantee you it's one of the quickest."

The Valdosta coaches are famous for making due with what they have, and this quick offensive front fits in perfectly with the type of offense the team runs.

"We have a finesse type offense," said Baker. "We don't run a veer and we don't run the wishbone. Those require big guys who fire off the line and crunch the

defender. We do a lot of pulling and trapping, and because we have guys like Ceaser and Roberts, all we have to do is open a small seam."

Hazlehurst started at center last season. He and Rykard are the only returnings starters.

"Playing center is not all that tough," said Hazlehurst. "It's really like learning any other position. I'm lucky because most teams don't have a noseguard. At least they don't usually line anyone up right on me."

Hazlehurst got his nose smashed in pretty good during the Statesboro game. Adkins, however, was bleeding after the first play from scrimmage.

"We have a great coaching staff here," said Adkins. "Our play calling is good and we have good running backs. Right now I think the line is executing real well."

Sharpe played running back his first three years at Valdosta High, but was moved to the offensive line during the off-season because of his quick feet and his bulk.

"It's fun playing on the line," said Sharpe. "It's especially fun when you trap and get to hit someone when they don't expect it. A lot of us have been playing together since junior high. There's a lot of togetherness."

Thomas, a tight end, would probably prefer to be thought of for his great catches, but that has not been the case this year.

"I'm probably a better blocker than I am a receiver," said Thomas. "That's my contribution to the team. Blockers may not always get noticed but the team can't win without them."



Wildcats

Wildcat Camp

VDT 8-18-88

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor



Day three of Valdosta's football camp saw relatively mild temperatures due to heavy cloud cover. It was still hot, but not as treacherously hot as camp has been in past years, but don't try telling that to a group of sweating players nestled under layers of pads and shirts.

* * *

A war is being waged at tight end and noseguard where the Wildcat staff has the luxury of plenty of competition.

With the departure of Charles Steward, senior Lee Thomas headed into the camp as the starter there.

Putting pressure on Thomas is Mickey McSwain, a junior. Thomas is fleet of foot and is a valued senior, but McSwain has been exceptional at holding on to the ball on passes in traffic.

Robert Fillmore was the 'Cats' starting noseguard last season, but missed spring practice. Putting the heat on him right now is Andre Hampton, who has played well in the early days of camp.

Indeed, the entire defensive front of Hampton, Fillmore and tackles Zabria Bell and George Copeland is looking pretty solid.

* * *

Jason Nichols may not win the starting quarterback spot, but he should at least be named team barber.

Nichols reportedly provided several of the 'Cats with their "fashionable" preseason haircuts. Don't worry all you football mothers, it will grow out.

* * *

Most freshman don't get a chance to play varsity football at Valdosta, but one of the lucky one's this year might be receiver Kelly Dawsey.

Dawsey, a 167-pound freshman, caught the eye of receiving coach Bob Bolton in the spring and has performed well so far during camp. He has pretty good speed and goes to where the ball is tossed.

Another Wildcat receiver figuring prominently in the picture is Keith Beal, a senior.

* * *

While the tradition of holding camp at the 4-H Camp at Twin Lakes was a much respected one, it doesn't appear that the VHS coaches miss it too much.

Valdosta last went to Twin Lakes in August of 1985, and have never gone back.

After all, it's air conditioned in the Valdosta gym.

Parker's Content With Role

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

If Carlos Parker played for any team other than the Valdosta Wildcats he would no doubt be a starter and star at running back. Parker, however, is the No. 3 man at Valdosta High behind James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser, two robust running backs who weight in at 210 pounds.

Maybe the fact that he's behind two such phenoms is making it easier for Parker to wait until next year when he'll be a senior and they'll be gone. Meanwhile, Parker enjoys his role and accepts the situation with a good attitude and admiration for his fellow running backs.

Parker, a 181-pound junior, saw considerable playing time last year behind the dynamic duo, and Valdosta head man Nick Hyder refuted Parker's claim that next year will be his year.

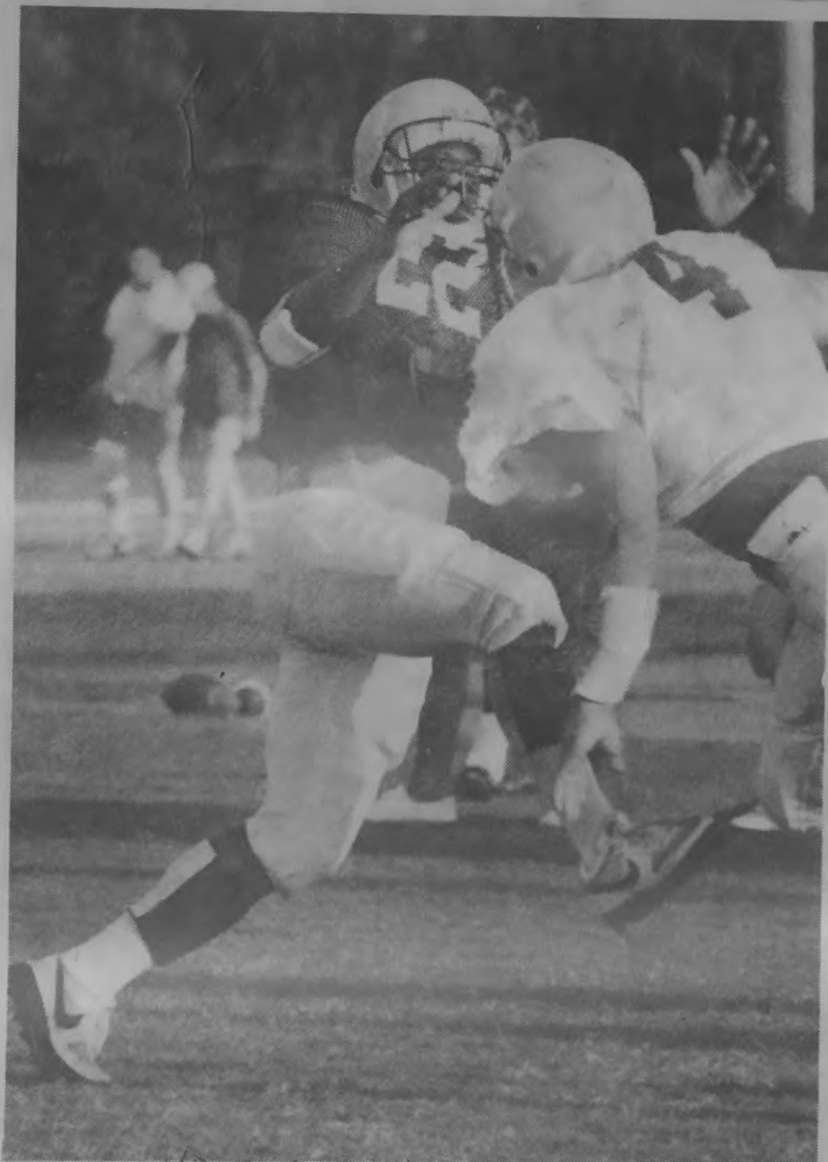
"He'll play this year," said Hyder. "He's a talented young man and extremely strong."

Parker came up through the Valdosta system, playing in the seventh grade and eighth grade at Valdosta Junior High.

Parker also played at the Valdosta Boys' Club. He has been playing football since he was seven-years-old.

"Running backs really have to be tough," said Hyder. "They take a beating and there aren't any rules to protect them. They really have to be double tough. I guess that's why running backs in the pros make so much money."

Parker is definitely tough. He ranks as a Super 'Cat in Valdosta's condi-



VDT 8-18-88

—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

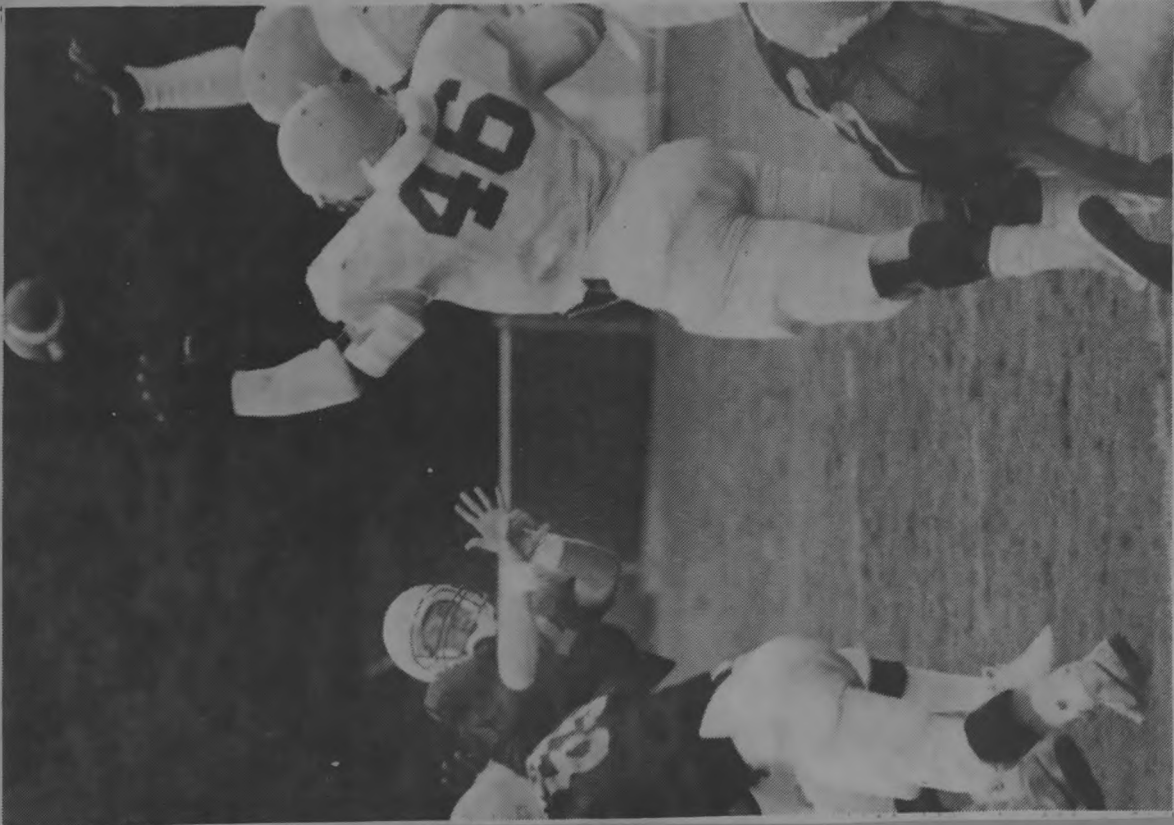
Valdosta's Carlos Parker Runs Through Camp Drills

tioning test. Hyder also said the junior was a good student and was taking college prep courses.

"James and Isaac paid their dues and deserve to be where they are,"

said Parker. "I'll get my shot at it next year. That's just the way it is.

"Right now, my job is just to help the team any way I can. If there's anything they want me to do, I'll do it."



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Jason Nichols Lofts Pass Over Robert Fillmore

'Cats Shine In Scrimmage

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

At times during their first scrimmage of the 1988 season Friday night at Cleveland Field, the Valdosta Wildcats' first team offense and defense looked to be in mid-season form.

"The first team offense and defense I thought did an excellent job tonight," said head coach Nick Hyder. "This game is a mental strain. That's why we have these scrimmages under game conditions, here under the lights, in front of the fans. This gives us the opportunity to film our progress which will enable us to assess our team and tell us what we need to work on next week."

Offensively, running backs James Roberts, Isaac Ceaser and Carlos Parker received excellent blocking from the first team unit consisting of David Hazlehurst, Lawrence Sharpe, Andy Rykard, Mathew Butler, Steve Adkins and tight end Lee Thomas to account for some impressive yards on the ground.

Ceaser rushed the ball 10 times for 96 yards and one touchdown. Roberts carried the ball eight times for 77 yards and one score while Parker ran the ball only four times but tallied 77 yards and one touchdown.

In all, Hyder incorporated 15 running backs.

Ben Hogan, Jason Nichols and Deric Cotton each saw action at quarterback. Hogan finished the night completing 5-of-16 passes for 47 yards, Nichols 6-of-13 for 44 yards and Cotton 4-of-14 for 21 yards.

Dexter Dudley was the leading

receiver with three catches. Defensively, Hyder was pleased with the efforts of linemen Robert Fillmore and George Copeland and defensive back Kenny Rose.

Copeland scored a defensive touchdown when he scored off a fumble

after a hard hit by Fredrick Henton as did Rose who intercepted a pass and behind excellent blocking, returned it 62 yards for the six. Fillmore finished with two sacks.

Eric Phillips also had a sack and a fumble recovery. Hyder also said

Jason Bridges, Zabria Bell and Chris Hart played well.

Coleman Rudolph also drew praise, not only for his defense but for his kicking. The senior was successful on all four of his extra point attempts and had a 33-yard field goal as well.



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Starting QB Ben Hogan Scrambles For Yardage As Defense Closes The Net

School Dress Codes Important Locally

By SHERRIE FARABEE
Times Staff Writer

With the beginning of school in the Valdosta area also comes an awareness of and adherence to school dress codes.

"We think it is important that our students come dressed appropriately to school. It adds to the decorum of school and we ask parents to exercise good judgement when purchasing clothes, and ask that they monitor what the child wears," said Lowndes County School Supt. Bill Sears.

While codes may vary slightly from school-to-school, all ask that students dress in a conservative, conventional manner reflecting good taste, that does not impose on the rights of other students.

Lowndes Middle School Principal Fred Davis said while some people may think the way students dress has nothing to do with academics, the dress code alleviates some stresses in the school and works to provide a learning environment that is comfortable for all students.

"Anything to do with the way a person feels about themselves affects the way they perform in school," he said.

Davis added that dress codes provide a set of standards that students from different backgrounds and family attitudes can be comfortable with.

"The school serves all people," he said. "You must set a happy medium that everyone can live with. What is acceptable in one household may not be acceptable in another."

Davis explained that students, especially those at middle school and high school level have enough to worry about without the added distraction of whether they are dressed as well or as appropriately as the person next to them.

Davis said Lowndes Middle School abides by the code outlined in the county policy manual. Some guidelines include no shorts for either sex, depending on the grade level, and no mini-skirts.

"I think our dress codes are quite liberal," he said, "and from a kid's point of view, I think they want you to be consistent."

William Aldrich, principal of Valdosta High School, said he thinks the way students dress definitely affects their behavior in school.

"If students are dressed suitably for school, nicely dressed that is, they tend to behave better," he said. "You can definitely see a change in their behavior when you let the dress code go to smack."

While they don't always agree with the dress codes Aldrich said students at Valdosta High School generally abide by them.

"Kids are kids and they gripe about some of the same things me and my fellow students griped about, they haven't really changed," he said. "The kids are basically the same, they may squawk about it, but they will do what is asked of them."

School dress codes for the Lowndes County and Valdosta City School are spelled out in policy handbooks given to the students at the beginning of school.

Valdosta's rich football tradition is 75 this year, still going strong

By Lawrence Dennis
Sports writer

The citizens of Valdosta have nicknamed their town "Winnersville, USA."

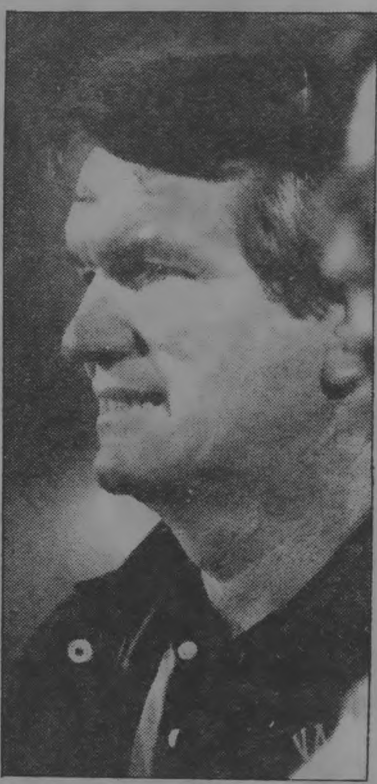
With good reason. Valdosta High's football teams are the winningest in the history of the sport — high school, college or pro. The Wildcats go into this season with an all-time mark of 638-134-32, a winning percentage of .813.

The 1988 season marks another milestone for the nation's premier high school football program. Valdosta will be teeing it up for its 75th season Sept. 2 when the Wildcats play host to Camden County.

Valdosta started playing football in 1913 and has fielded a team every year since then except 1918, when World War I called off the show. Almost all of those teams have been winners, with an average of eight victories a year.

Though Valdosta's earlier teams were always winners, the Wildcats have enjoyed an almost unbroken string of successes since 1946, when Wright Bazemore resumed his position as coach after three years in the service during World War II.

In the 26 years until his retirement after the 1971 season, Bazemore's teams won 14 state and three national championships. When Bazemore retired, his career record was an astounding 268-51-7.



Nick Hyder
155-25-1 at Valdosta

Since 1974, Nick Hyder has carried on the tradition. Under Hyder, the Wildcats are 155-25-1 (.859). The Wildcats have won four state and two national titles under Hyder. And since 1980, they've been practically unbeatable. After last year's 12-1 season,

the Wildcats are 99-8 in this decade, and that includes six 10-regular seasons. Valdosta is 77-3 in regular-season play since 1980.

Hyder, who last year became the first coach in Georgia history to win 200 games in 20 seasons, has a career record of 208-37-4 (.843). That includes the 53-12-3 mark he logged as coach at West Rome.

When the Wildcats play Camden, Hyder will be coaching his 250th game, and it'll also be the 100th home game that Valdosta has played at Cleveland Field since he became coach.

There are plenty of other indications of Valdosta's football success through the years.

- Valdosta has only had four losing seasons — 1915 (2-3-2), 1943 (2-7-1), 1963 (2-7-1) and 1973 (3-7).

- The Wildcats have gone unbeaten in 21 seasons and have had 13 perfect seasons.

- Valdosta has had four multi-year unbeaten streaks — 28 games (27-0-1) in 1952-53; 26 games (26-0) in 1956-57; 36 games (36-0) in 1960-62; and 26 games (25-0-1) in 1968-69.

- The Wildcats have had four state championship streaks — 1951-52-53; 1956-57; 1960-61-62; and 1968-69.

- The school has only had 11 head coaches, beginning in 1913 with Turner Rockwell, who coached the Wildcats for three years.

Local 4-H Members Compete At State

Times Staff Reports

Seven students from Valdosta and Lowndes County High School 4-H Clubs participated in their last day of competition in Atlanta Friday in state competition with 300 other 4-H members.

The 4-H'ers competed for a trip to Chicago for the National 4-H Congress and enjoyed banquets and a tour of the state capital.

Lowndes High School 4-H Club members Melinda Downing, Stacy Folsom, Andy Carter, Marsha Tucker, Christine Blanton, Leigh Sirmans, and Valdosta High School member Ed Casteloes are attending the competition.

Spencer Black, of Clyattville, is also attending the State Congress as a member elect of the state board of

directors. All the members have excelled in a category of competition to make it to the state level.

Melinda Downing, 15, has her main project in Conservation of Natural Resources. She has been a district winner for five years among other honors.

Andy Carter, 17, is concentrating his efforts on Soils and Fertilizers as his major project.

Ed Casteloes' is a second place winner in Dog Care and Training. He is 17 and won second place in the 1987 competition.

Stacy Folsom, 18, was a first place winner in General Recreation, stamp collecting. She is a winner of the Georgia Key Award.

Marsha Tucker, 15, is presenting a main project in Food for Fitness in which she studies seven dietary

guidelines. Christine Blanton, 17, has a main project called Consumer Education investigating consumer scams. She is a district winner and a 4-H'er of the Year.



ED CASTELOES.

August 21, 1988

VALDOSTA

FTU

1988 could be another Year of the Wildcat

By Lawrence Dennis
Sports writer

If recent history is any guide, this should be Valdosta's year.

Of course, more cynical fans of high school football in South Georgia might justifiably ask, "What year isn't Valdosta's year?"

True, the Wildcats have dominated Class AAAA football not only in South Georgia, but in the entire state in the decade of the '80s.

Valdosta has won three state championships — the Wildcats are the only team in AAAA to have won more than one state title in the decade — and five Region 1-AAAA championships. Valdosta has also won two mythical national titles in forging a 99-8 record since 1979.

But why is this year, in particular, the year of the Wildcat? Simple. Every even-numbered year since 1980, the 'Cats have won the state championship — in 1982, 1984 and 1986.

Many expected the Wildcats to win their 19th state and fifth national championship last year. Valdosta was 12-0 and ranked No. 1 in the nation by USA Today and ESPN going into the state quarterfinals.

But then the Wildcats were stunned 21-7 by unheralded Columbus Carver in what the National Sports News Service called the "National upset of the year." Dreams of second consecutive state and national titles went down the drain and, to add insult to injury, the loss came at "Death Valley," Valdosta's storied Cleveland Field, where Wildcat teams had lost only 10 games since Nick Hyder became coach in 1974.

This year, as usual, Valdosta has an abundance of outstanding athletes. The only question is, can Hyder get the right combination to make the Wildcats champions again?

"They've all got to blend together," said Hyder, who is 155-25-1 in his 14 years as coach at Valdosta. "There's always the 'X factor,' and we're nervous about that. We can only hope that it'll all work out."

Hyder has some outstanding material to work with in his efforts to solve the 'X factor.' The Wildcats return 12 starters — five starters return on offense and seven on defense.

No. 1 on the list of returning veterans is Times-Union/Journal Super 11 preseason pick James Roberts.

Roberts, a 6-foot, 210-pound senior running back, gained 1,038 yards on 142 carries (7.3-yard average) and scored 14 touchdowns last year.

Roberts, a strong and quick back who is starting for his fourth year, is widely regarded by many college recruiters as the best football player in South Georgia this season.

The second back in Valdosta's 1-2 running punch is Isaac Ceasar, a 5-11, 210-pound senior who rushed for 676 yards on 126 attempts (5.4-yard average) last year.

But, as usual, the key question at Valdosta is at the quarterback



Running back James Roberts (48) is used to finding the holes. — Staff/file

spot. The heir apparent to a rich Wildcat quarterbacking position that includes Dale Williams, Bruce Bennett, Stan Bounds, Buck Belue, John Lastinger, John Bond, Greg Talley and — last year — B.J. Mason, is senior Ben Hogan.

Hogan, a strong-armed, 6-2, 190-pound senior, didn't start a game last year, but he's hardly green. Under Hyder's system in which the backup quarterback plays split end, Hogan was a virtual starter last year and played 35-40 percent of the time as a receiver. He also played a good deal at quarterback.

But Hyder says that while Hogan may be the heir apparent, he doesn't have a lock on the position.

"He'll be our quarterback in 1988 if he earns it," Hyder said. "We've got several other options. Hogan knows he's got to produce."

Waiting in the wings are a number of alternate quarterbacks. They include Jason Nichols, a 5-10, 160-pound junior; Joe Wright, a 5-10, 155-pound sophomore who's currently ticketed to play wide receiver; and Derrick Cotton, a 6-3, 175-pound sophomore who is now at wide receiver. Hyder said Cotton has the potential to be another Charlie Ward, the standout Thomasville Central QB who signed with Florida State last year.

Whoever the quarterback is, he'll have capable receivers to throw to. In addition to Cotton and Wright, assuming they're not

THE WILDCAT DECADE

1987 — 12-1, region champion (lost to Columbus Carver in state quarterfinals).

1986 — 15-0, state, national champion.

1985 — 9-3, region runner-up (lost to Lowndes in region final).

1984 — 15-0, state, national champion.

1983 — 11-1, region runner-up (lost to Tift in region final).

1982 — 15-0, state champion.

1981 — 11-2, region champion (lost to Warner Robins in state quarterfinals).

1980 — 11-1, region runner-up (lost to Lowndes in region final).

Cumulative record since 1980 — 99-8.

playing quarterback, there's Shannon Myers (150, Jr.) and Dexter Dudley (160, Soph.) at flanker; split ends Keith Beal (175, Sr.) and Kelly Dawsey (170, Fr.) and three-year letterman Lee Thomas (190, Sr.); and Mickey McSwain (190, Jr.) at tight end.

Those will be the key players at the skill positions but, with multiple substitutions, many others will see action.

"We try to play 45 to 50 people in the first quarter," Hyder said.

"We don't always accomplish that, but we try. We play a lot of people. Our players won't get big stats."

The other players who'll see plenty of action are running backs Carlos Parker (185, Jr.) and Kendrick Patrick (195, Soph.).

Up front on offense, the 'Cats will again be big. The anchors will be Andy Rykard, a 6-1, 215-pound guard who has started for three years, and David Hazlehurst, a 6-2, 235-pound senior center. The other guard is senior Steve Adkins (6-0, 215), who moves up to a starting role this year. The tackles are Steve Smith, a 6-2, 220-pound senior, and Lawrence Sharpe, a 6-2, 275-pound senior who has been moved to the line from the fullback position he has played for the last three years.

"Lawrence has developed so much [physically] over the past three years, and we had Roberts and Ceasar, so we decided to move him to tackle," Hyder said.

Uncharacteristically, defense was a problem for Valdosta last year. The 'Cats gave up an average of 11.2 points a game, the highest figure since Hyder's first year on the job in 1984.

Though seven starters are back, the secondary is questionable.

"We've got new people in the secondary, and that could be a problem," Hyder said. "We've moved Carlo Butler (6-3, 205, Sr.) from linebacker to safety."

Jason Bridges (5-11, 165, Sr.) is back at safety, while Super 11 pick Coleman Rudolph (a 6-4, 218

QUICK LOOK

LAST SEASON: 12-1, Region 1-AAAA champion, lost 21-7 to Columbus Carver in state quarterfinals.

RETURNING STARTERS: Five on offense, seven on defense.

OFFENSE: Multiple.

DEFENSE: Multiple.

COACH: Nick Hyder; 15th year, 155-25-1 (208-37-4 career); has won two national titles (1984, '86); four state Class AAAA titles (1978, '82, '84, '86); eight Region 1 AAAA titles; one national runner-up (1982); Valdosta is 99-8 since 1980.

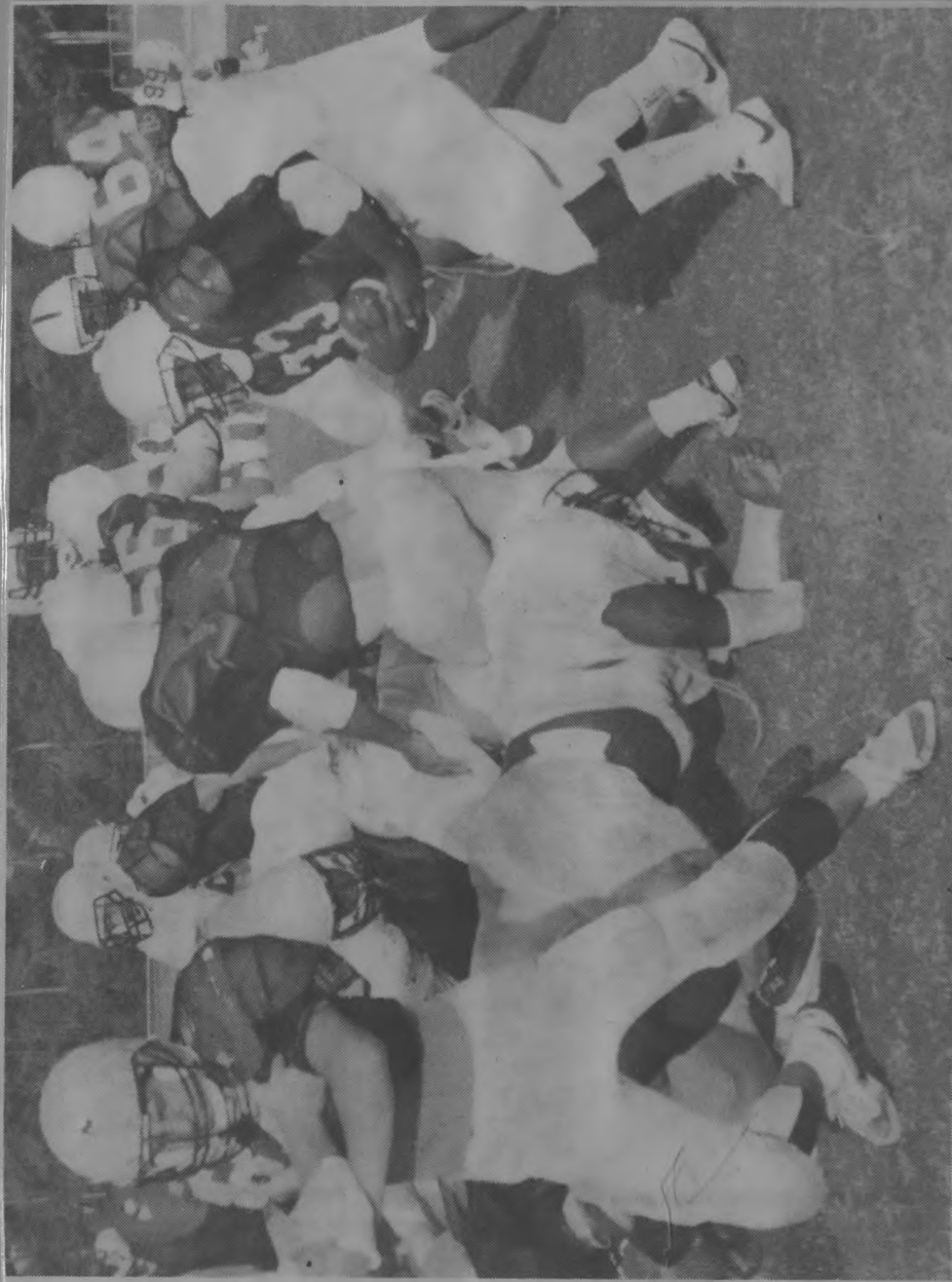
KEY TO SEASON: As usual, quarterback and the defense will be the keys for the Wildcats. Both should be strong. Ben Hogan was virtually a starter at QB last year under Hyder's patented system in which the backup quarterback plays wide receiver. Then there's also standout running back James Roberts. The defense is big and experienced, with senior DE Coleman Rudolph (218), senior tackle Zabria Bell (290), junior linebacker Anthony Williams (225) and senior safety Carlo Butler (202) among the returning seven starters.

Sept. 2	Camden Co.
Sept. 10	Greene-Taliaferro-Y
Sept. 16	Waycross
Sept. 23	Open
Sept. 30	at Warner Robins
Northside	
Oct. 7	Statesboro
Oct. 14	at Bainbridge-X
Oct. 21	at Colquitt Co.-X
Oct. 28	at Tift Co.-X
Nov. 4	Coffee-X
Nov. 11	Lowndes-X
X—Sub-region	game;
Y—Saturday	game.

senior who is the son of defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph) anchors the defensive front, along with four-year starter Zabria Bell (6-3, 290) at tackle. Other returnees on defense include Robert Fillmore (5-10, 175, Sr.) at nose guard, Frederick Henton (5-10, 180, Sr.) at end and two-year starter Anthony Williams (6-0, 225, Jr.) at linebacker.

One of Hyder's major concerns is the kicking game. Charles Steward, last year's punter, and Todd Peterson, the 'Cats' placekicker, are both gone. There wasn't a set replacement for either in the preseason. Wright and Parker were candidates for the punting chores, while Rudolph, Anthony Williams, sophomore Quinn McCormick and freshman Dow Drury are competing for the placekicking job.

Getting Prepared For Sept. 2



The Valdosta Wildcats are through with the first week of football camp, with one more yet to go in preparation for the upcoming 1988 high school football season.

The Wildcats finished last season with a 12-1 record and another Region 1-AAAA championship title.

VHS head coach Nick Hyder has a plethora of returning players with plenty of experience, especially on defense and in the offensive backfield.

Offensive hopes are being kindled by senior quarterback Ben Hogan and senior running backs James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser.

The defense will be led by linemen Zabria Bell, George Copeland, linebacker Anthony Williams, and safetys Jason Bridges and Carlo Butler.

The Wildcats open the season at home on Friday, Sep. 2 hosting Camden County in a non-region contest. Valdosta has four road games and six home games this season. Following the contest with Camden County, the 'Cats will host Greene-Taliaferro on Sat., Sep. 10, and Waycross on Sep. 16, before heading out on the road.

Times Staff Photos
By
Paul Leavy

Valdosta Players Clown Around During Break

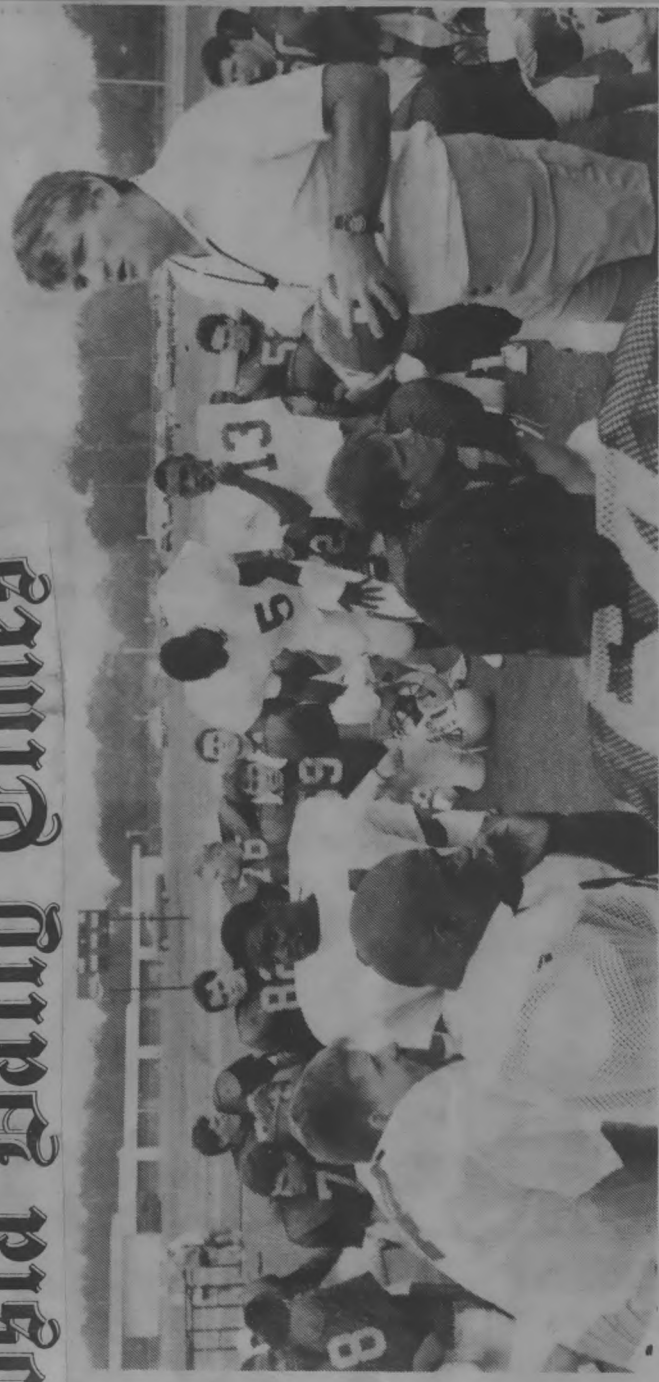


These Valdosta High Players Wait Their Turn

VDT 8-21-88

Wildcat Fullback Isaac Ceaser (33) Looks For A Block From Offensive Line

The Valdosta Daily Times



Valdosta High Head Coach Nick Hyder Instructs His Players Prior To Practice

Sun., Aug. 21, 1988

Wildcats

Wildcat Camp

VDT 8-26-88

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer



Two weeks ago Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder and his Wildcat coaching staff were starting their long journey back to what they hope will be another Region 1-AAAA and state football championship. At that time, however, Hyder was uncertain about his club's overall status. But after careful evaluations and endless conditioning workouts, Hyder sees some light.

"From day one, our preparation has been directed towards our opening season opponent Camden County," said Hyder. "The only things we needed to clear up were certain playing areas. Although we are not out of the woods by any means after two weeks of football camp, the coaching staff, as well as the players are becoming more adapted to the situations before us, and are making the necessary adjustments."

"Our receivers have worked extremely hard this camp. We feel we have made tremendous strides in the passing area, and hope to use the passing game more efficiently this season," said Hyder. "From Keith Beal, Joe Wright, Kelly Dawsey, Shannon Myers, and Dexter Dudley, along with our tight ends Lee Thomas and Mickey McSwain right on down the list, we are happy of the progress and the dedicated efforts these people have put forth."

Defensively, Hyder feels that the Wildcat secondary has molded itself into a very cohesive unit. Leading the 'Cats secondary list was senior safety Jason Bridges, corners Kenny Rose, and Chris Hart, along with Carlo Butler, freshman standout Trampis Rice, Marshun Lane, and senior Ralph Moss.

During the touchdown club ceremonies following the 'Cats controlled scrimmage Thursday night, Wildcat conditioning awards were presented.

In all there were 26 Champion Awards, 10 Super 'Cats, 4 Ultra 'Cats, and thanks to the scores posted by running backs James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser of 250, there was a new classification given out which is now called Universal 'Cats.

The Wildcats will have their final game scrimmage tonight at Cleveland Field. Gametime for the scrimmage has been set for 5:45 and, beforehand, the 'Cats will have team photos taken.

High School Coaches Praise New Rule

VDT Sun. Aug. 28, 1988

The Associated Press

Most of Georgia's high school football teams will return to the gridiron this week, with help from a new rule on blocking and a few schedule changes that will breed stiffer competition.

Some coaches are singing the praises of a rule adopted by the National Federation of State High School Associations which allows full extension of arms and open hands in blocking during high school games. Some hope it will enhance prep games as much as it has affected college play.

"The new rule is a heck of an advantage for the offense," Thomasville Coach Mike Hodges said. "The rule gives you the ability to protect the quarterback much more effectively. This rule could really change some thinking in high school."

"I want to wait and see how the officials are going to call it," said Carver of Columbus Coach Wallace Davis. "There's a natural tendency to close those hands and hold when your man is getting away."

"I like the new rule," said Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder. "People have been putting better and better athletes on defense, and this rule just gives the offensive linemen a little bit of a break."

While most teams adjust to the new rule, last year's AA champ, Central of Carrollton, will be adjusting to a new region. Central-Carrollton moved to AAA play this year, a change Coach Ronnie Burchfield said he is pleased with.

"Triple-A is a very good classification as far as competition. This is a tough classification," Burchfield said. "We've been in a region that has produced champions the past few years."

Central-Carrollton will open its season Friday night against Murray County

Valdosta, the AAAA champ in 1986 which was booted from contention last year by Carver of Columbus, is looking forward to playing Camden County Friday with unusual enthusiasm, Hyder said.

"Camden County has a wonderful offense and we're very much concerned about them," he said. "But I see a better work ethic with this bunch than I've seen in a long time. They're really willing to work."

Hyder said his offense will center on running backs James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser. "They're experienced and they're big and they're fast," he said. "This is the anchor."

Effingham County, which lost to Morrow 21-0 in last year's championship game, faces Bradwell Institute.

Valdosta Wildcats Played Ball After All In The Year 1917

The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Most historians had assumed that young men in the south Georgia town of Valdosta were too busy fighting World War I in 1917 to play high school football.

They were wrong. A Wildcats team of thirteen players, under the guidance of Coach Turner Rockwell, had six victories and one loss — to Duwall High School in Jacksonville, Fla., according to new research.

It was an early part of the powerhouse tradition at Valdosta, one of the nation's winningest high school football teams, with a winning percentage of .813 and an overall

Atkins said.

Atkins' first search led him to an Atlanta Journal article dated Dec. 2, 1917, describing Valdosta's 6-2 victory over Moultrie High School.

"My blood pressure went through the ceiling," he said. "It was a pleasant surprise."

That discovery "spurred me to more diligent research," Atkins said. Subsequent searches of newspapers in Savannah, Tifton and Jacksonville, Fla., revealed more details about the team.

He found out that there were 13 members on the team, playing both offense and defense. The team was led that season by quarterback Norman Felder, who went on to play college football at Mercer University.

"It's highly possible many members of the football team

played and then went on to the armed services," Atkins said.

That was also the last season coached by Rockwell, who later became publisher of the Valdosta Daily Times. Atkins said. Rockwell, a voluntary coach who organized Valdosta's first team in 1913, continued to support the Wildcats, and formed the Valdosta Touchdown Club in 1945.

"He set the spirit, and along with many other individuals, was just a super sports backer in Valdosta during those years," Atkins said.

The team missed the 1918 season due to a flu epidemic, but came back under J.L. Newbern to play a 1919 season of 7-0-1.

"We're not one of the oldest (teams) in the country, but as far as a continuity of tradition, the Wildcats are one of the most consistent in the country," Atkins said.

VDT Sun. Aug. 28, 1988

South Georgia Still Heavily Recruited

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

It's no secret that south Georgia is a hotbed for college football recruiters. In fact, a coach could put together a pretty good team with players from this immediate area.

From Millsaps College to Morris Brown, from Nebraska to Georgia, area players have gone on to become solid collegiate performers throughout the United States.

Valdosta High heads the list with 25 former Wildcats now playing college ball. Lowndes High has 10 and Berrien County has one.

At the University of Georgia, Greg Talley is battling Wayne Johnson for the starting quarterback job of the Bulldog team.

Head coach Vince Dooley says that right now, the two are about even, but even if Johnson keeps his job, Talley should see some playing time.

"At this point, we'll probably be using two quarterbacks," the Georgia coach said. "We will establish a number one and a number two but we'll probably end up using both."

Former Lowndes Viking David Hargett will also see plenty of action in the Bulldog secondary. Hargett is slated to start at strong safety but Dooley hopes to be able to move him to the corner. Ben Lane, who played center for Valdosta, before moving to Washington State his senior year, is a freshman on the Georgia team.

At Nebraska, wingback Dana Brinson is expected to be a major cog in the Cornhuskers' offensive machine.

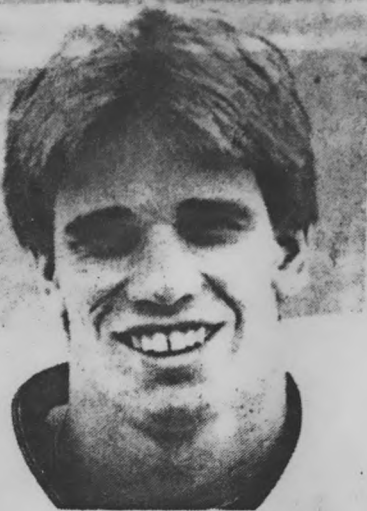
Vanderbilt University is represented by a couple of former Lowndes Vikings, offensive lineman Wally Hubert and split end Boo Mitchell.

Mitchell is ninth on the Commodore receiving list with 110 catches for 1,751 yards and four touchdowns. But that's not why Vanderbilt head coach Watson Brown appreciates his talented receiver.

"I think the thing Boo does best is that he's probably as fine a wide receiver blocker as I've ever been associated with," he said. "He's a real clutch player who seems to come up with the big play at the right time."

At Pittsburgh University, former 'Cat Hosea Heard is one of the big-play receivers on the Panther team. The University of Tennessee has another former 'Cat, defensive back Derrick Folsom.

Former Valdosta players Mike



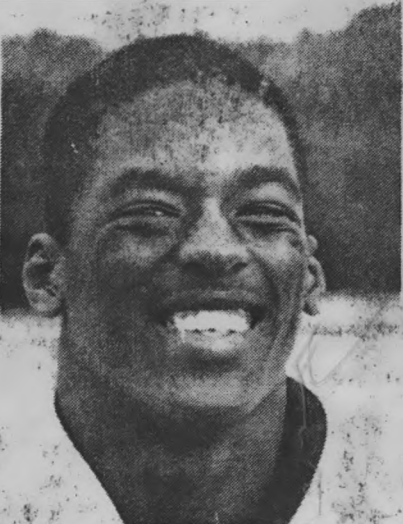
BRAD ALMON



REGINALD DANDY



DERRICK FOLSOM



DAVID HARGETT



HOSEA HEARD



BOO MITCHELL

Tolbert and Charles Steward are at the University of South Carolina. Tolbert saw considerable playing time last year. Steward will not be eligible to play as a freshman but should be an impact player once he becomes eligible.

Ex. 'Cat Willie Lewis is a tailback at East Carolina while three others are trying to make their mark at the U.S. Naval Academy. Quarterback B.J. Mason, linebacker Beau Laskey and placekicker Todd Peterson, three players off the 1987 Wildcat team, are currently at the Annapolis school.

Georgia Southern is carrying three former Vikings on its team. Defensive

end James "Wildman" Carter is listed as a starter for the 1-AA Eagles. Brad Almon and Joey Parker are also battling for playing time.

Former Wildcats Jimmy Lewis and Ernest Mangham are playing ball for Northern Illinois.

Valdosta State and head coach Mike Cavan has Dwayne Hart and Marty Howell from Valdosta and Calvin Orr from Lowndes on its 1988 squad.

Florida A&M signed a pair of Lowndes stars last year in defensive end Chuck Miller and wide receiver Rozell Orr.

Morris Brown has five local players on its team, former Viking Mark

Walker and former 'Cats Kenneth Berrian, Steve French, Bernard Hitson and Demetricus Waters.

Two more 'Cats, Reggie Dandy and Coronzoa Greene are attending Northeast Oklahoma A&M Junior College.

Two other players attending junior college are former 'Cats Tony Anderson at Navarro and Johnny Crook at Trinity.

Former Viking Andy Mansukhani is the starting tailback at Millsaps College.

Berrien County has tight end Clay McCall attending Tulane University and Ben Smith attending VSC.

WHEN THEY PLAY

(All regions will have two five-minute overtimes for regular-season tie-breaker; X-Region or sub-region same; Y-Saturday night game).

REGION 1-AAAA (SOUTH)

- Sept. 9 - Thomasville Central
- Sept. 10 - Columbus
- Sept. 15 - Columbus
- Sept. 23 - at Colquitt Co.-X
- Sept. 30 - M'cello (Fla.), Jefferson Co. (Fla.)
- Oct. 7 - Open
- Oct. 14 - Valdosta-X
- Oct. 21 - at Euraula (Ala.)
- Oct. 28 - Coffee-X
- Nov. 4 - Lowndes-X
- Nov. 11 - at Tift Co.-X

Coffee

- Sept. 2 - at Fitzgerald
- Sept. 9 - at Waycross
- Sept. 16 - Eastman Dodge Co.
- Sept. 23 - Open
- Sept. 30 - Ware Co.
- Oct. 7 - Lowndes-X
- Oct. 14 - Tift County Co.
- Oct. 21 - Tift County Co.
- Oct. 28 - at Bainbridge-X
- Nov. 4 - at Valdosta-X
- Nov. 11 - Colquitt Co.-X

Colquitt Co.

- Sept. 2 - Thomasville
- Sept. 9 - at Thomasville Central
- Sept. 16 - Columbus Kendrick
- Sept. 23 - Bainbridge-X
- Sept. 30 - Open
- Oct. 7 - at Northview (Ala.)
- Oct. 14 - Ware Co.
- Oct. 21 - at Valdosta-X
- Oct. 28 - at Lowndes-X
- Nov. 4 - Tift Co.-X
- Nov. 11 - at Coffee-X

Lowndes

- Sept. 2 - Warner Robins
- Sept. 9 - at Thomasville
- Sept. 16 - Columbus Hardaway
- Sept. 23 - Eastman Dodge Co.
- Sept. 30 - Camden Co.
- Oct. 7 - at Coffee-X
- Oct. 14 - Tift Co.-X
- Oct. 21 - Open
- Oct. 28 - Colquitt Co.-X
- Nov. 4 - at Bainbridge-X
- Nov. 11 - at Valdosta-X

Tift Co.

- Sept. 2 - Robert E. Lee (Ala.)
- Sept. 9 - at Worth Co.
- Sept. 16 - Columbus
- Sept. 23 - Tallahassee (Fla.) Godby
- Sept. 30 - at Statesboro
- Oct. 7 - Open
- Oct. 14 - at Lowndes-X
- Oct. 21 - at Coffee-X
- Oct. 28 - Valdosta-X
- Nov. 4 - at Colquitt Co.-X
- Nov. 11 - Bainbridge-X

Valdosta

- Sept. 2 - Camden Co.
- Sept. 9 - Boro Greene-Tallahassee-Y
- Sept. 16 - Waycross
- Sept. 23 - Open
- Sept. 30 - at Warner Robins Northside
- Oct. 7 - Statesboro
- Oct. 14 - at Bainbridge-X
- Oct. 21 - at Colquitt Co.-X
- Oct. 28 - at Tift Co.-X
- Nov. 4 - Coffee-X
- Nov. 11 - Lowndes-X



The Bullish Lawrence Sharpe (34) Will Be Blocking For Running Backs This Season

Wildcats Have Reason For Optimistic Outlook

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High Wildcat fans expect head coach Nick Hyder and his staff to produce a quality football team no matter what the previous year dealt. In the past, Hyder and staff have come through, and this year should be no exception.

Paced by a powerful running game, a new quarterback, and a young but talented defense, Hyder is looking forward to the 1988 season with optimism.

Returning to lead the offense are running backs James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser. Both are seniors and both weigh in at 210 pounds.

Roberts was the Region 1-AAAA offensive player of the year last season, rushing for more than 1,000 yards and Ceaser was not far behind.

The offensive line lost some key players but has some depth to protect No. 1 quarterback Ben Hogan who played a backup role to BJ Mason last season.

"Our running game should be tough," said Hyder. "Our running backs are a good group, and they have paid their dues there. Ben should help us out a lot. We weren't exactly a

dropback type passing team last season. We relied a lot on our bootlegs and reverses."

In the receiving department, Valdosta lost tight end Charles Steward, a Parade All-American, who is now at the University of South Carolina. The Charles Stewards of this world cannot be easily replaced but the 'Cats will try to go on with a group of young and quick receivers.

Valdosta's schedule is another difficult one, but the 'Cats do have six home games to four games on the road, which should work in their favor.

Valdosta opens at home against Camden County, which has established a fine football program in recent years.

"We expect them to be pretty tough," said Hyder. "They have a good program, and they usually play real well in the early season. Last year they scored a lot of points against Lowndes, and not many people do that."

Greene-Taliaferro (that's pronounced Green Tolliver) then comes to town on Sep. 10, followed by Waycross on Sep. 16.

Waycross scored 28 points against the 'Cats last season, more than any other team in recent history, but Valdosta still managed a victory.

Hyder warned that Greene-

Taliaferro has a quality program too, despite its Class AA ranking.

Valdosta plays its first road game on Sep. 30 at Northside-Warner Robins before returning home against Statesboro on Oct. 7.

Hyder predicted that Northside would probably be a state playoff team this season, if not vying directly for Class AAAA crown.

The meat of Valdosta's schedule begins on Oct. 14 with three consecutive Region 1-AAAA road games. Valdosta first makes the long trip to Bainbridge, then to Colquitt the following week, until the 'Cats wrap up the road trip against Tifton on Oct. 28.

Region foe Coffee County comes in on Nov. 4 before the 'Cats host the annual Wintersville Classic against Lowndes on Nov. 11.

Valdosta Schedule

Sep. 2	.....Camden County
Sep. 10	.....Greene-Taliaferro
Sep. 16	.....Waycross
Sep. 30	.....at Northside WR
Oct. 7	.....Statesboro
Oct. 14	.....at Bainbridge
Oct. 21	.....at Colquitt County
Oct. 28	.....at Tift County
Nov. 4	.....Coffee
Nov. 11	.....Lowndes

The offense has it on this year's team

By Lawrence Dennis
Sports writer

It's the year of the back in South Georgia.

The year of three backs in particular.

Wing back Michael Baker of Camden County and running backs James Roberts of Valdosta and Herbert Mingo of Clinch County are the cream of the crop on this year's Times-Union/Journal Super 11 preseason team.

They're three of seven offensive skill players — backs or wide receivers — on this year's squad.

The others are wide receiver Tommy Rainge of Thomasville Central, halfback Carwin Pinkney of Brunswick and fullbacks Brian Scott of Glynn Academy and Barry Boyd of Waycross.

The linemen are led by Lowndes offensive tackle Doug Hubbard, the only returnee on the team. The others are defensive end Coleman Rudolph of Valdosta and linebacker/guard Greg Taylor of Ware County.

Defensive back Mike Jones of Thomasville completes the team. Rainge is the only junior on the squad.

As usual, there's a lot of talent on the team, and Baker and Roberts may be the best.

Many college recruiters are referring to the pair as the two best senior football players in South Georgia this year, with good reason.

Baker is literally a play-anywhere athlete in the mold of Central quarterback Charlie Ward, who made the '87 Super 11 as a senior.

The 6-foot-1, 175-pound Baker had impressive stats as a junior last year, playing wing back and occasionally quarterback in Camden's run-and-shoot offense.

He caught 53 passes for 889 yards, rushed for 611 yards and had kickoff- and punt-return yardage of about 400 yards. He piled up about 1,900 yards of all-purpose offense while scoring 136 points for the Region 2-AA champions.

Baker is most at home at wing back, where the Wildcats can benefit from his running and receiving. But he may wind up at quarterback, since Camden is weak at that position. He can handle that, too. He played frequently at that position last year, starting one game after regular quarterback Miller was injured.

Roberts may not be quite as versatile as Baker, but what he does, he does well. What he does is run the ball.

The 6-0, 210-pound senior has accumulated more than 2,200 yards in his two-year career as a starter, including 1,038 yards on 142 carries (a 7.3-yard average) and 14 touchdowns last season.

That would be a respectable figure anywhere, but it's especially impressive in light of the fact that Valdosta coach Nick Hyder runs players in and out during the game.

Roberts has the size to run bullishly, but he's also quick, running a 4.5-second 40.

Mingo, like Baker, is a do-everything offensive performer, perhaps even more so.

At Class A schools like Clinch County, a star like Mingo has to carry an awful lot of freight. And the 5-10, 200-pound senior does — enough to make him the first player from a Class A team to be named to the Super 11 team in its 11-year history.

He rushed for 1,733 yards last year.

Central's Rainge is already regarded as one of the best players in the state, and he could well be the best by his senior year.

The junior has exceptional size for a wide receiver (6-3, 230), but coach Charlie Green said his bulk doesn't slow him down.

"He may be the best flier in the state as a junior," Green said.

Rainge caught 35 passes for 854 yards and 12 TDs last year, and also returned 12 punts for 221 yards and three scores.

Waycross' Boyd was also a high producer last year. The 5-10, 188-pounder rushed for 917 yards on 131 carries and scored 11 TDs.

The other two offensive players on this year's Super 11 don't have statistics as impressive as those five, but they're still the mainstays of their teams' attacks.

Brunswick's Pinkney has good height (6-1) and the potential to grow (185 pounds). He gained only 523 yards last year, but he had bursts of brilliance, especially early in the season.

Scott had a similar year at Glynn. The 5-10, 185-pounder gained 514 yards as a junior, but he showed what he could do as a sophomore, when he rushed for 831 yards for the Red Terrors.

Lowndes' Hubbard, Valdosta's Rudolph and Ware's Taylor are among the best linemen in the state. Both Hubbard (6-4, 250) and Rudolph (6-4, 218) have a lot of growth potential. Taylor is small (5-10, 165), but his tough play was good enough to make him an All-Region pick in 1-AAA as a junior last year.

Thomasville's Jones may be the best defensive back in the state, with excellent size for the position (6-2, 205).

Naturally, there's a lot of talent on this year's team. But talent doesn't always mean a Division I career — at least not immediately.

Three of the players on last year's squad are at junior colleges after failing along on the 1990 Proposition 48 academic requirements.

Ward, who was All-Everything last year at Central, signed with Florida State, but is now at Tallahassee (Fla.) Community College. Lowndes linebacker Freddie Richardson got his GED (General Equivalency Degree) and is now attending Hutchinson Junior College in Garden City, Kan. Valdosta defensive back Reginald Dandy is at Northeast Oklahoma JC in Miami, Okla.

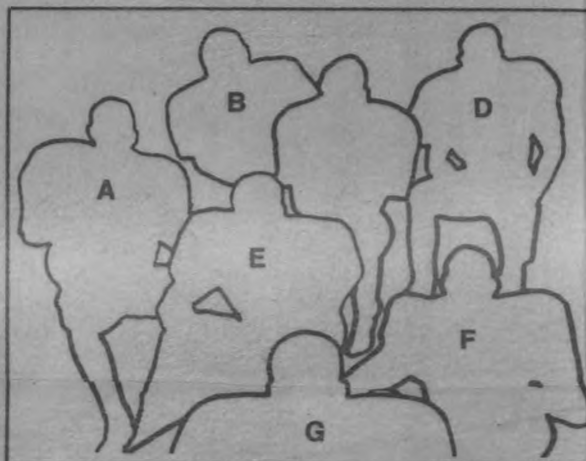


Michael Baker runs, catches for Camden.

1988 SUPER 11			
Player	School	Ht. Wt.	Cl. Pos.
James Roberts	Valdosta	6-0, 210	Sr. RB
Herbert Mingo	Clinch	5-10, 200	Sr. RB
Michael Baker	Camden Co.	6-1, 175	Sr. WR
Doug Hubbard	Lowndes	6-4, 250	Sr. OT
Coleman Rudolph	Valdosta	6-4, 218	Sr. DE
Tommy Rainge	T'ville Central	6-3, 230	Jr. WR
Barry Boyd	Waycross	5-10, 188	Sr. FB
Greg Taylor	Ware Co.	5-10, 165	Sr. DG/LB
Brian Scott	Glynn Academy	5-10, 185	Sr. FB
Carwin Pinkney	Brunswick	6-1, 185	Sr. HB
Mike Jones	Thomasville	6-2, 205	Sr. DB

WHERE '87 SUPER 11 IS NOW			
Player	School	Pos.	College now
Andy Anderson	Valdosta	OT	VSC, not playing
Scott Cooley	Central	OT	S. Carolina
Reginald Dandy	Valdosta	DB	NE Okla. JC
Shannon Flowers	Brunswick	DB	Ga. S'western
Doug Hubbard	Lowndes	OT	Lowndes*
Gilbert Reynolds	Tift Co.	OT	Tenn. St.
Bennie Pierce	Lowndes	DE-FB	Auburn
Freddie Richardson	Lowndes	LB	Hutchinson JC
Charles Steward	Valdosta	TE	S. Carolina
Eugene Tyson	Camden Co.	LB	Marion Inst.
Charlie Ward	T'ville Central	QB	T'hassee CC

*Made team last year as junior.



Cover players

— Bill Sikes/staff

Some of South Georgia's finest in 1988: A — Michael Baker, Camden County; B — Greg Taylor, Ware County; C — Jeff Jacobs, Waycross; D — Doug Hubbard, Lowndes; E — James Roberts, Valdosta; F — Brian Scott, Glynn Academy; G — Carwin Pinkney, Brunswick.



Greg Larson

Sports columnist

Football's still king in South Georgia

Friday Night Fever.

It isn't what it used to be.

That's why high school football in South Georgia is so precious.

In many areas of the nation, North Florida included, most high school football teams struggle to put 2,000 people in the stands on Friday night.

The elitist attitude in most places has ruined high school football. It's not the place to be and be seen. In these areas, the college game or the pro game or both have swallowed up the high schools and made them small-time.

But not South Georgia.

In many South Georgia locales, they get 2,000 for a junior varsity game. At a Valdosta-Lowndes game, they may turn away more than 2,000 people.

It's great to see entire towns, cities and counties get geared up for the football game on Friday night. That's a slice of Americana that's missing in the metropolitan areas because there are too many schools and the interest is fractionalized.

But in South Georgia, high school football is like church. You go to the games because you have a strong feeling that you should be there. It's not only a social scene, but a crusade as well.

If I were a criminal, I would do my dirty deeds in South Georgia on autumn Friday nights. All the policemen are either at the game or somewhere listening to it on the radio. When we at the newspaper have trouble getting a score for the early edition, we call the local police stations and they provide it.

Yes, the games are on the radio. In Jacksonville, maybe one or two schools broadcast their games. In South Georgia, many games are broadcast each week.

Stores close early on Friday nights in South Georgia as fans make their mini-pilgrimages to the football stadiums.

Yes, stadiums.

No matter how small the community in this area dotted with county schools, they all have nice stadiums. Some of them might be a bit remote, but they will include a smooth playing surface and plenty of seating, plus excellent lights.

Since the locales take such outrageous pride in their teams, with ultra-active booster clubs and outstanding facilities, there is much pressure on a coach to win. A guy won't hang around long if he strings several 4-6 seasons together.

Most everybody in town knows the players on the local roster and what players are coming up in the junior high and junior varsity teams. The outstanding players are superstars in the towns.

Kids grow up wanting to play for Valdosta, Lowndes, Waycross or Camden County, not the Georgia Bulldogs or the Atlanta Falcons. In most cases, it's a bigger deal to have been a high school star in these towns than a college star.

The standard everyone shoots for, of course, is Valdosta High. The Wildcats have a machine there that never seems to need retooling.

The secret is the outstanding lower-school system. They keep a lot of kids interested until they reach high school age. It's a numbers game that nobody seems to have been able to match on a consistent basis.

It's good for football in South Georgia to have such a dynasty. Valdosta is the New York Yankees of South Georgia. The Wildcats are the team opponents love to hate. And a rare victory against Valdosta is cause for massive celebration.

In fact, any victory is cause for celebration in South Georgia. The people like their football and they like to win.

I, for one, am jealous of this phenomenon. I wish I could be involved in such a situation.

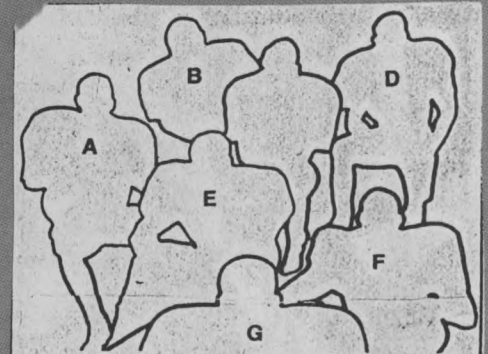
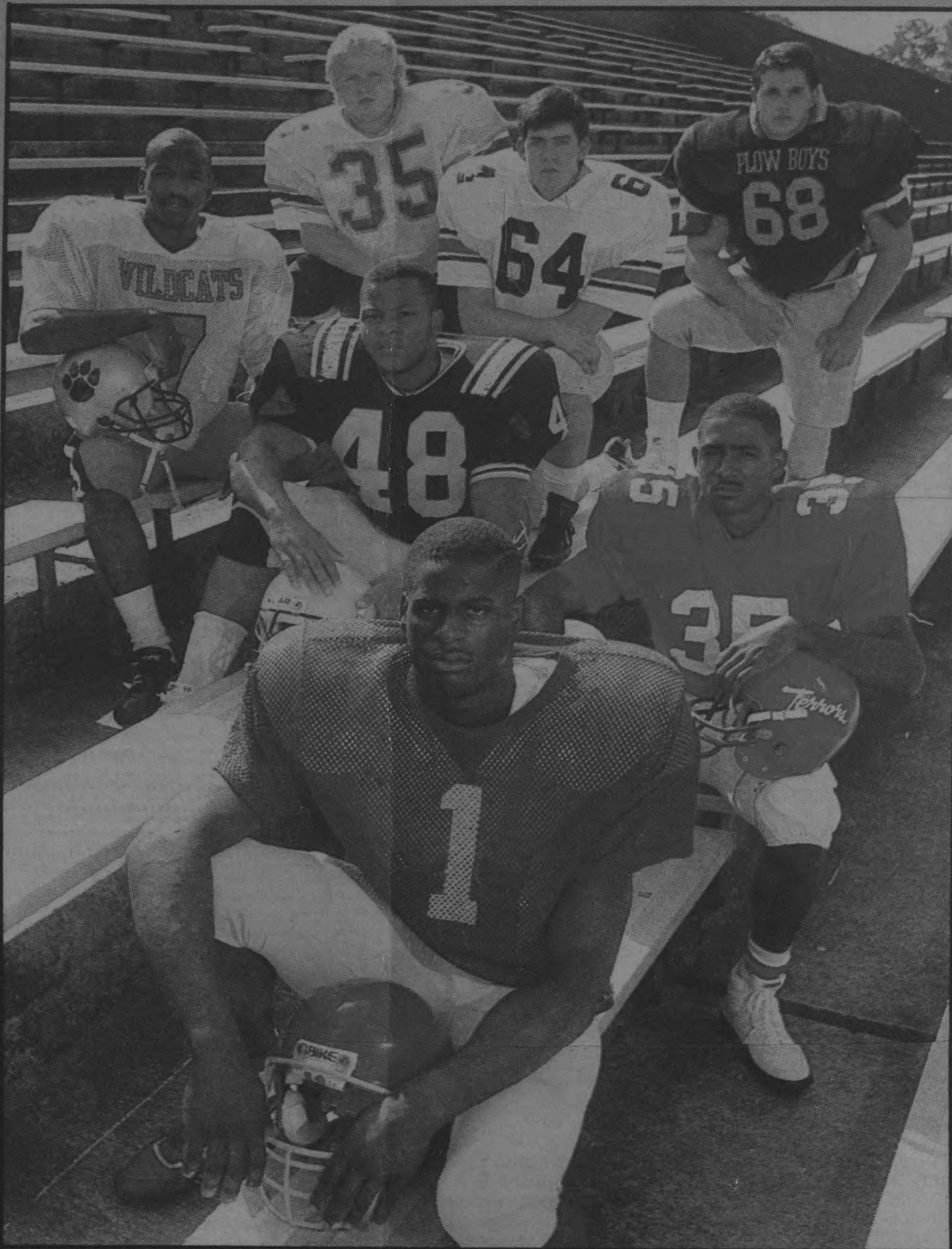
It's healthy.

South Georgia

FOOTBALL

AUGUST 21, 1988

SPECIAL SECTION



Cover players

— Bill Sikes/staff

Some of South Georgia's finest in 1988: A — Michael Baker, Camden County; B — Greg Taylor, Ware County; C — Jeff Jacobs, Waycross; D — Doug Hubbard, Lowndes; E — James Roberts, Valdosta; F — Brian Scott, Glynn Academy; G — Carwin Pinkney, Brunswick.

Sports columnist Greg Larson pays tribute to football in South Georgia. — Page 2.

Michael Baker of Camden County and James Roberts of Valdosta head Super 11 team. — Page 2.

Valdosta's Wildcats should be tough again. — Page 4.

Where do you go? The directory of stadiums tells you how to get there. — Page 34.

Complete schedules for all South Georgia teams. — Page 51.



CARLO BUTLER



TRAMPIS WRICE



JASON BRIDGES



KENNY ROSE

Acquisition Of Butler Proving Helpful

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Last season, the Valdosta High secondary was missing a big, fast player to put the crunch on a running back lucky enough to evade Freddie Waters' defensive front and Charles Tarpley's linebacking squad. Secondary coach and defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph, however, has solved the problem. It was kind of like robbing Peter to pay Paul.

The defensive coaches decided to take senior Carlo Butler away from Tarpley. Tarpley used Butler last season as a linebacker, where he performed well. Rudolph decided to turn Butler into a safety and it appears

Defensive Backfield

that Butler will make a big difference in the secondary.

Butler, a 202-pound senior, showed he was quick learner during spring practice and kept the momentum going during camp last month. He is an excellent overall athlete, and was also a key member on John Miller's basketball team last year.

Rudolph and Miller, in fact, are probably both delighted in his height and leaping ability.

"He's a quick youngster, there's no doubt about that," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder about Butler. "He gives us some height back there and he's just a good all-around athlete."

Joining Butler at the other safety spot for Valdosta will be senior Jason Bridges (156). Bridges started at that spot last season, and is the only true returning starter in the secondary.

Butler replaces last year starter Eric Toth, who was a hard-hitter, but lacked Butler's size.

Last year cornerback Reginald Dandy, a member of the all-state team, has gone on to play college ball at Northeast Oklahoma A&M Junior College. The other cornerback was Keith Henry, who has also departed.

The job of replacing the other two cornerbacks has not been too difficult so far. Because the Wildcat coaching staff

sees to it that the younger members of the playing staff see playing time during the season, Rudolph has some youngsters he can call on.

Right now, senior Kenny Rose (132)

Williams, Rudolph Are Top Prospects

and junior Chris Hart (188) have the inside track in nailing down the corner spots. Rudolph said Trampis Wrice would probably see playing time at either cornerback spot.

Williams, Rudolph Are Top Prospects

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High linebacker and defensive ends coach Charles Tarpley got it from two fronts — some players graduated and one player was stolen.

Linebacker Beau Laskey left to attend the Naval Academy while defensive ends Bobby Brooks and Kenneth Berrian have also departed.

Linebackers And Ends

Senior Carlo Butler, however, was "appropriated" by defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph for secondary purposes.

Tarpley's linebacker hopes are pinned on returning junior Anthony Williams (224) who made coaches stand up and take notice when he was a freshman. It has often been said that Williams is cut from the John Porter (now at Georgia Tech) mold, and he indeed even looks like the former Wildcat.

Williams reported to camp just a little bit heavy according to Tarpley, who would like to see Williams a little quicker on his feet.

"He could drop some weight," admitted Tarpley. "He can move quicker than he is moving now, but that will come. I'll tell you one thing — he'll knock the stew out of you."

Williams, however, is not alone. Junior linebacker Bruce Daniel (203) saw considerable action last year and Tarpley said Daniel may be just as

COLEMAN RUDOLPH

good a linebacker as Williams.

The two candidates for the starting defensive end spots were the eventual two starters there when last season ended — senior Coleman Rudolph, the son of the defensive coordinator, and junior Fred Henton, who eventually worked his way into a starting spot last season.

Rudolph (204) is tall and physical and promises to be one of the better defensive ends in the region. Henton is slightly smaller but is deceptively quick.

Backing up Rudolph and Henton are juniors Craig Johnson (169) and Maurice Dean (161).

"Both of them got some experience last year," said Tarpley. "We're fairly deep there."

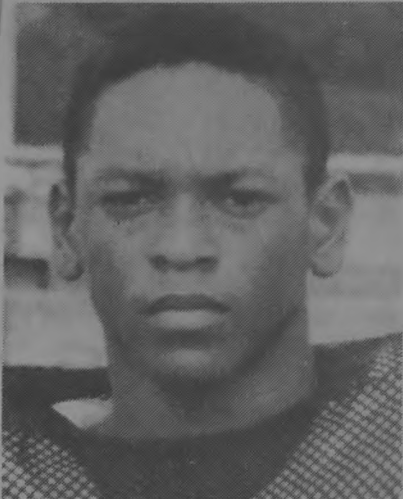
Also vying for some notice at end are sophomore Brad Tarpley, sophomore Nathan Tart, sophomore Quint McCormick, and sophomore Marcus Moss.



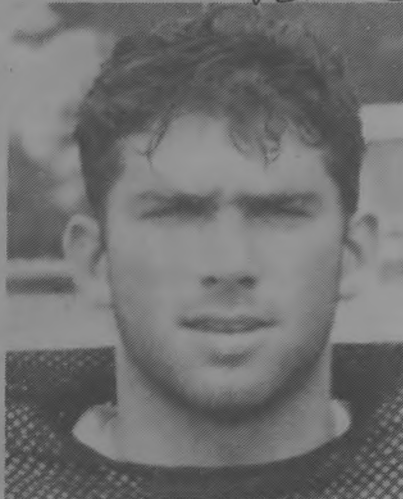
Bolton's Amigos Ready To Take Flight

VDT. Sun. Aug. 28, 1988

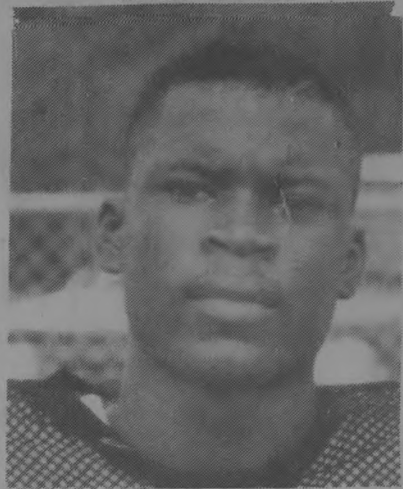
By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor



KELLY DAWSEY



LEE THOMAS



KEITH BEAL



MICKEY McSWAIN

It's hard to replace a Charles Steward and Valdosta High receiver coach Bob Bolton isn't going to try. Steward, a Parade All-American at tight end last season, has gone on to bigger and better things. Bolton, meanwhile, is going on with the business at hand. So far, Bolton likes what he sees.

Steward was not the only weapon Bolton saw depart. Flanker Bernard Hitson and Timmy Holmes also left, but this season, Bolton has a group of fleet receivers to replace them.

Oddly enough, a freshman may be one of the leading pass catchers for the 'Cats this year. Kelly Dawsey, 167, has a lot of speed and good hands, and was the surprise of spring practice and the early days of camp.

"Kelly is playing as good as anybody right now," said Bolton. "He's done an exceptional job for a freshman."

Another mainstay for the Wildcats might be junior Joe Wright. Wright (141) has shown promise returning punts and kickoffs. He is also a possible punter for the team, and is a flanker under Bolton.

Another flanker receiving some notice from the coaching staff is senior speedster Keith Beal (154). Beal mixes his speed with good size. Sophomore Dexter Dudley (162) is another greyhound.

The squad is rounded out by Shannon Myers, Wes Sullivan, Tracy Smothers, and third string quarterback Deric Cotton, who will see time as a receiver

because of his size and speed.
"I'd say we're kind of like the

Receivers

'I'd say we're kind of like the Amigos from Denver. We're not very big but we have a lot of quick little guys.'

—Bob Bolton
—VHS Receiver Coach

Amigos from Denver," said Bolton. "We're not very big but we have a lot of quick little guys."

"Actually, I'm excited about these kids. As far as depth goes, this may be the most receivers I've had in a while."

Battling it out at the tight end spot are friends senior Lee Thomas (174) and junior Mickey McSwain (177).

Thomas played behind Steward last season, and is the more experienced player. McSwain, however, has been impressive pulling down the ball in traffic.

Bolton likes the experience there and the competition, and Valdosta might be running behind two tight ends on occasion.

"Thomas has the experience and he doesn't make many mental mistakes," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "Mickey is catching the ball better than Lee is right now, and he's a little more physical," said Hyder.

Non-Specialists To Carry Kicking Game

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Kicking Game

Valdosta Wildcat fans will long remember Todd Peterson's lengthy 47-yard field goal that pushed the 'Cats to a 10-7 victory over Lowndes to end the 1987 regular season.

Peterson will certainly go down in the books as one of Valdosta's best placekickers and field goal kickers ever, and with good reason.

Not only could Peterson split the uprights, he could drive the kickoffs out of the opponent's end zone, something all defensive coaches like to see.

It's just too bad for Valdosta that he didn't have one more year to give, because he will certainly be missed.

The Wildcats also saw punter Charles Steward graduate last season. Steward, too, will be missed. He was one of the leading punters in Region 1-AAAA the last three seasons.

By the time the 'Cats held their first public scrimmage after week one of football camp, it appeared that head coach Nick Hyder had found some youngsters to pick up the slack, although none of kickers or punters appears to have an exceptionally strong leg.

Defensive end Coleman Rudolph has been the best short man on extra-point attempts, and hit all of his attempts during the scrimmage.

Rudolph has shown good accuracy on the points after. Dow Drury is likely to be the field goal man for the Wildcats, and he too showed some skill at the scrimmage, but probably won't be called on to kick many long-range field goals.

Even linebacker Anthony Williams got into the act during camp, and did his best on some extra-point tries.

"We lost two good ones in Charles and Todd, that's for sure," said Hyder. "I'm not sure if you can replace either of them, but we've some youngsters who have shown promise," said Hyder.

"Coleman is just a good athlete, and

he can kick the ball consistently for us. Joe Wright is a good kicker, too."

Wright, who is a dangerous punt return man, will probably be tabbed as the starting punter for the Wildcats. He saw the most practice there at camp. Another player who might be turned to is Eric Phillips, who has kicked some long balls but not very consistently.

Hyder also said Quint McCormick has been approached about the kicking duties.

Running Game Is Full Of Weapons

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

When it rains it pours. Fortunately for the Valdosta Wildcat football team, they have been showered with a good crop of running backs that have made the Wildcats the premier rushing team in Region 1-AAAA if not the state.

Last year, Valdosta led the region in rushing on the way to yet another region championship and 10-0 regular season.

Much of the credit belonged to Isaac Ceaser and James Roberts, a pair of returning seniors with the size and speed to be genuine college recruits.

Ceaser and Roberts tip the scales at 210. Roberts was the Region 1-AAAA offensive player of the year last season, rushing for over 1,000 yards. Ceaser was not far behind.

Despite their stature, Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder was not ready to brand this backfield as the best he's ever had.

"In 1983 we had Tony Anderson, Dana Brinson, and Pernell Bee, and that was a pretty good group," said Hyder. "In 1984 we had Anderson again, this time with Willie Lewis. In 1986, we had James Roberts and Jerome Callaway.

"I will say that this is probably the biggest backfield I've ever had," said Hyder.

Running back and quarterback

Offensive Backfield

coach Mike O'Brien is pleased with the players he has to work with, and is especially excited about his two bruisers.

But don't think the talent in the backfield is restricted to those two. Junior Carlos Parker (185) got some key experience last season, and could step right into a starting spot if he were playing for someone else.

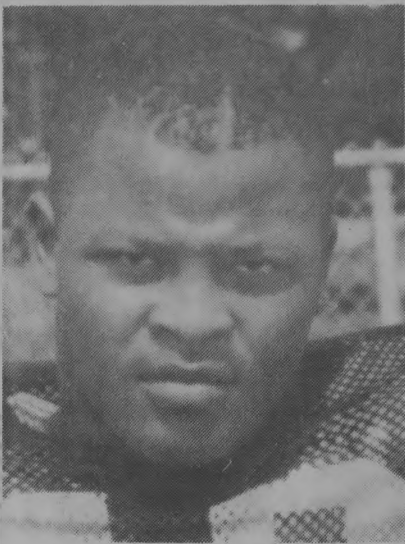
Some other youngsters to watch are Kendrick Patrick, Alton Hitson, Dexter Mitchell, Chris Chachere, Jonathan Smith, James Braswell, Sugar Ray Robinson, Michael Sirmans, and Tracy Carter.

Senior Ben Hogan is the probable starter at quarterback, after playing backup to BJ Mason last season.

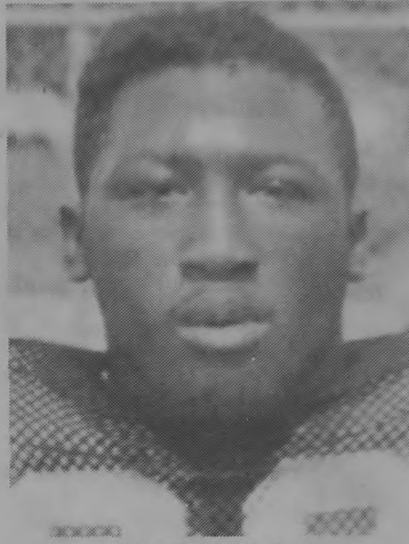
Hogan is tall with a strong arm, and the Wildcats hope he will increase their pass production.

Hogan, however, was pressured in camp by Jason Nichols, who showed quick feet and a quick release to go with it. Also impressive was sophomore Deric Cotton, a tall player with a side-arm delivery.

"Ben certainly has the inside track," said O'Brien, "but he's going to have to earn that starting spot.



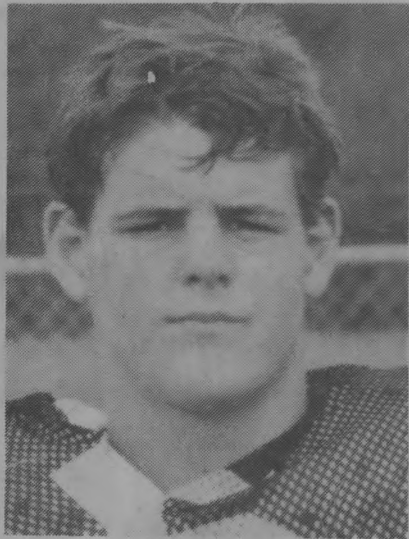
JAMES ROBERTS



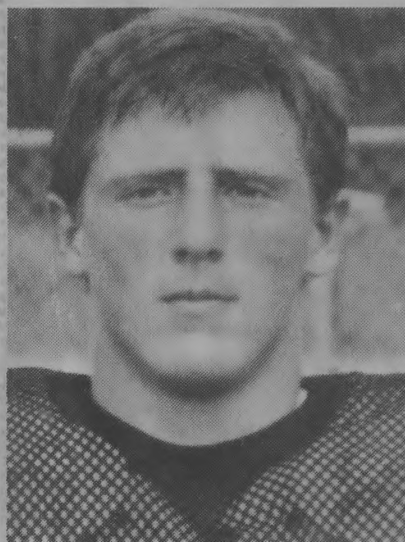
ISAAC CEASER



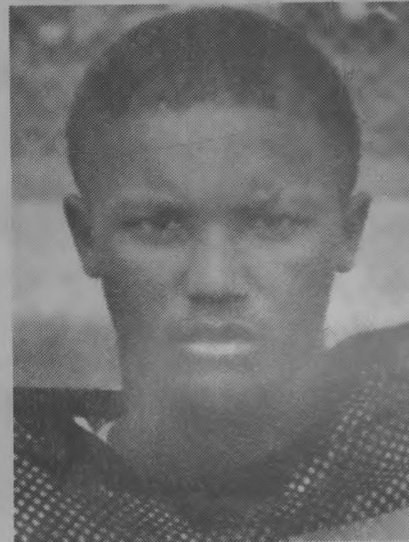
CARLOS PARKER



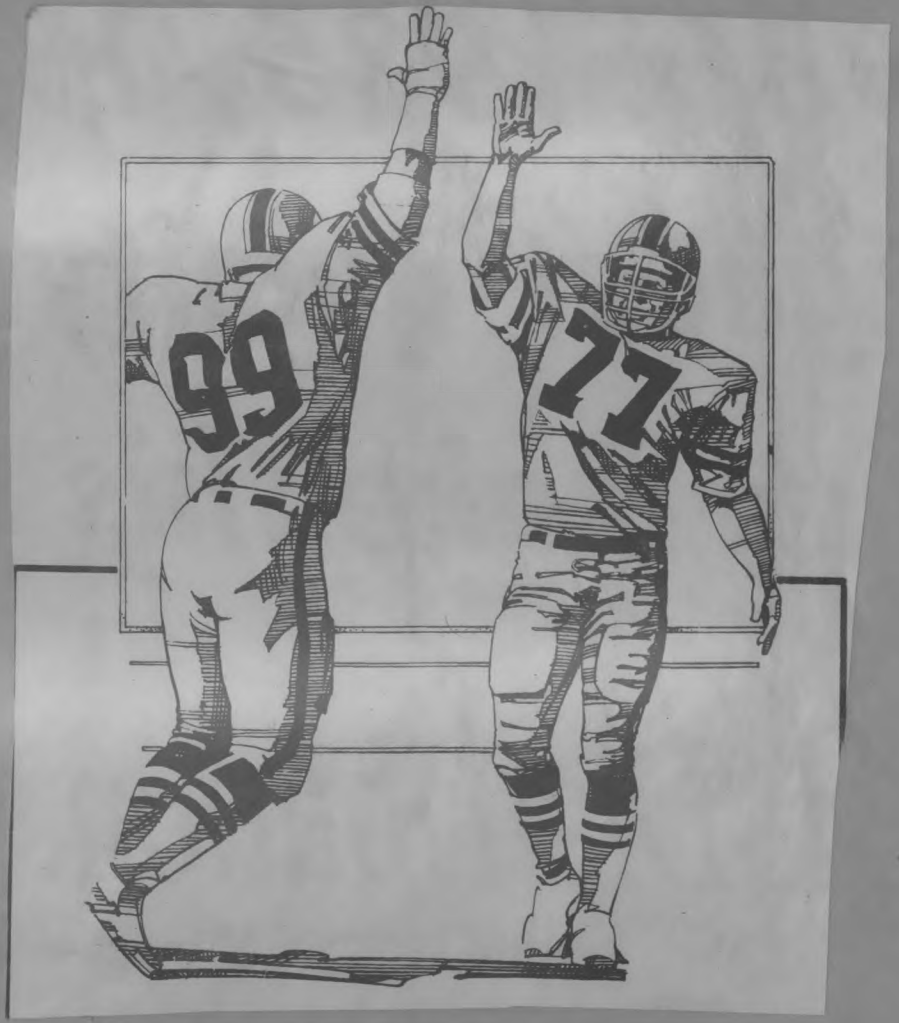
BEN HOGAN



JASON NICHOLS



CHRIS CHACHERE



Waters' Crew Backbone Of 'Cat Defense

VDT. Aug. 28, 1988 Sun.

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

The squad with the most overall talent, depth, and enthusiasm at Valdosta High just may belong to defensive line coach Freddie Waters.

Under the watchful eye of Waters

Defensive Line

and defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph, Valdosta has long been known for building impenetrable and deep defensive fronts. Normally, Valdosta is near the top of the region, if not first, in rushing defense every year; the front line can usually put some pressure on the passer.

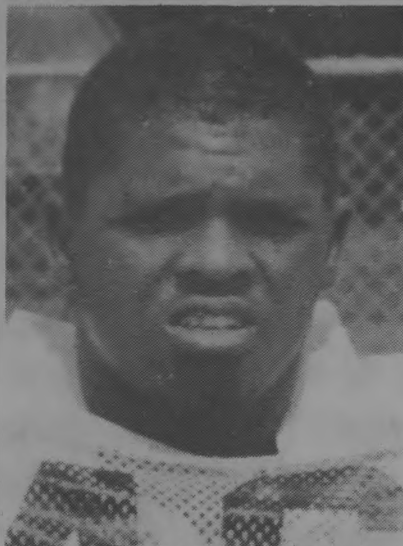
This year is no exception.

In fact, Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said this year's defensive front rivals some of the best he's had in recent years.

The ringleader of this group is senior tackle Zabria Bell (305), who is pretty much a four-year starter for the Wildcats. Bell's size makes him a natural running back stopper.

Waters, however, would like to see Bell trim down a little, just so he'll be a step or two quicker off the ball.

"I'd like to see him lose some of it," said Waters. "It's still early, though,



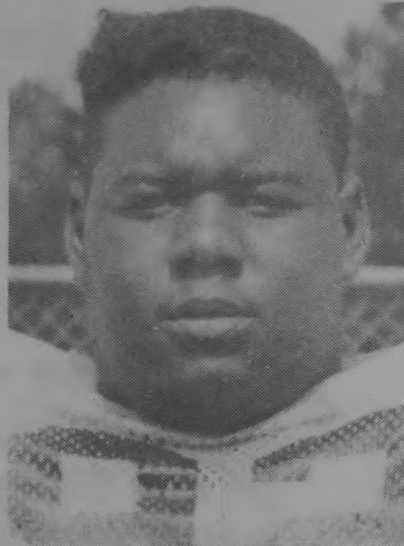
ROBERT FILLMORE

and he'll naturally lose some weight anyway."

Waters only lost two players last year, Coronzoa Greene and Scott Barton. Greene was a starter, and Barton played in a backup capacity for the Wildcats.

Junior Robert Fillmore (170) had earned the starting spot at noseguard last season, but grades kept him out of spring practice, and now he's being pushed by junior Andre Hampton (179). Hampton offers a little more size, but Fillmore may be quicker.

"Robert missed spring and that's



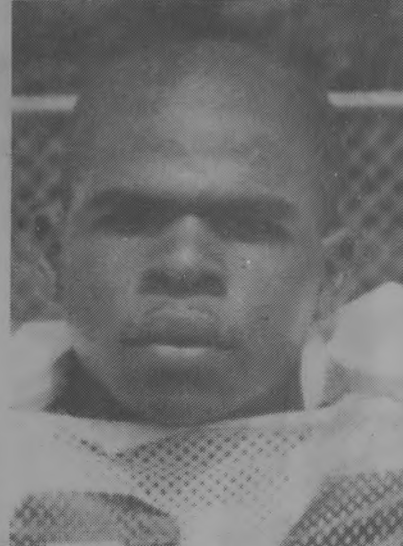
ZABRIA BELL

hurting him now," said Waters. "Andre has worked hard and he's doing a good job right now."

The other tackle spot will in all likelihood be filled by junior George Copeland (199). Copeland came on strong last season.

Waters is delighted that Bell is his only starting senior. He also has plenty of backup players to choose from.

Others who may see time on the defensive line are James Osborne, Ricky Thomas, Monty Steward, Chad Walker, MJ Johnson, Kevin Miller, Willie Simon, Eddie Rawls, Alonzo



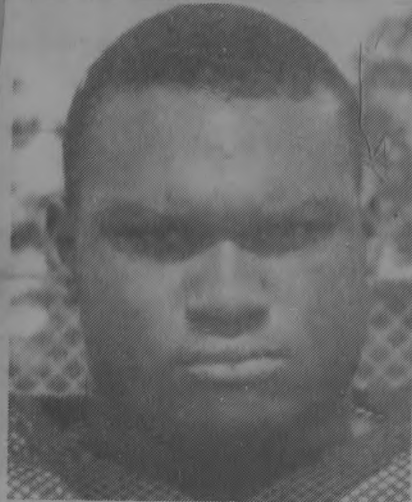
GEORGE COPELAND

Scruggs, and Dexter Daniels.

Like all the other VHS coaches, Waters finds that two weeks of camp indispensable.

"These kids really grow a lot these two weeks," said Waters. "A lot of them don't eat very good at home. Here, they get their three square meals a day and it really shows."

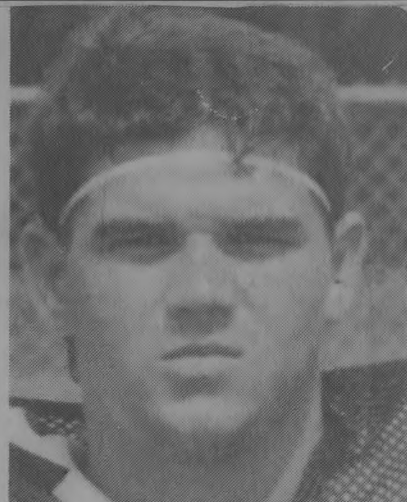
"The best thing about these kids is that the whole group is pretty young," said Waters. "Zabe is the only starting senior. I'll have lots of talent coming back for next season."



LAWRENCE SHARPE



DAVID HAZLEHURST



ANDY RYKARD

Depth Of Squad Pleases Baker

VDT. Aug. 28, 1988

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker may not have some of the behemoths he's had in the past, but he does have enough size and depth to get the job done for the Wildcat running and passing game.

The biggest starter on the line was not even an offensive lineman last year. Senior Lawrence Sharpe (270) spent his first three years as a running back for the 'Cats, but never blossomed into a starter.

Because of his size, and because of the success of backs James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser, the Valdosta coaching staff decided to give him a try on the offensive front. So far, they haven't been disappointed with their new right tackle.

"He's really got quick feet," said Baker. "When the coaches told him they wanted to move him, he said he'd do anything for the team," said Baker.

Sharpe, however, may be outdone this year by some smaller yet more experienced players.

Three returning starters are Andy Rykard, David Hazlehurst, and Steve Smith. Rykard (207) is a senior right guard, Hazlehurst (222) a senior center, and Smith (201) a senior left tackle.

According to Baker, junior Matthew Butler (197) deserves starter status by virtue of being able to play almost any

Offensive Line

position on the offensive front.

"Matthew can do it all," said Baker. "I can play him anywhere on the line and he'll do a good job for me."

Steve Adkins (204) is the senior left guard, who played a backup role last season along with Butler.

If Baker has one regret, it is the loss of Shaun Eilders. Eilders, a 255-pound sophomore, injured a knee during wrestling season. He will not play this season, but should be back and healthy next year.

"The loss of Shaun kind of put us in a bind," said Baker. "Can you imagine this front line with Shaun at one tackle and Lawrence Sharpe at another?" questioned Baker.

Others Baker is looking at are sophomores Jared Howell (215), Will Hancock (246), and junior Ron Hasty (235).

Baker said he was real pleased with Howell's work in the early part of camp.

"Jared has worked hard and has shown some real ability," said Baker.

The departure of tight end Charles Steward also hurt the front line. Steward was a big, strong tight end who could throw a mean block before working into an open position to catch

a pass.

Baker, however, said that both Lee Thomas and Mickey McSwain were capable athletes.

Rykard will perform the long snapping duties on punts and field goal attempts.

Bridges Strives For Togetherness

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

"Working together is the only way we can be successful."
That is the kind of attitude that every high school football coach in the nation would like to instill in the minds of his players. And that is exactly the kind of attitude Valdosta High senior Jason Bridges has.

Bridges, a 156-pound safety for the Wildcats, is returning for his second year as a starter on the team. He thinks this year's Wildcat defense will keep up the great tradition of tough defenses under Jack Rudolph.

"So far, we're more together than any other defense since I've been here. The others were great, but we seem like more of a unit," Bridges said. "We've got to remember to

keep a good winning attitude and just do our best."

Bridges is a former wideout who was switched to defensive back when he started playing on the VHS varsity. As a former offensive player, Bridges knows that the importance of adapting to different types of offenses.

"We've had some good quarterbacks since I've been here and practicing against them has helped me a lot. They let you get ready for what a good quarterback will do in a game. Last year, B.J. (Mason) was a real good runner but this year we have Ben and he's a good thrower. So I've had a lot of practice against both," Bridges said.

Bridges credits his on-the-field success with good off-the-field habits. During the off-season, he enjoys running and lifting weights. Although these work habits have obviously helped Bridges, he considers attitude the biggest part of the game.

"Going out on the field and just playing the best that we can is the only way we'll know how good we can be. We can't get down on ourselves if we make a mistake. We've just got to come back and do better on the next play," Bridges said. "If one person does something good for himself but it hurts the team, then it's no good. But one person does something good to help out the other ten players on the field, then it makes the defense better. And this team will do whatever it takes to be successful."

Bridges said that his goals for the

upcoming season were simple; set a good example for the younger players and help the Wildcats be as successful as they can.

"I haven't patterned the way I play after anyone. I just try to be myself and not pretend to be someone I'm not," Bridges said. "I have my own limitations."

Bridges knows that he is a part of one of the powerhouses of Georgia high school football and he knows the respect the Wildcats command. However, he made no predictions when asked how the 'Cats would do this season.

"No comment," laughed Bridges. "We just have to play our best every game and worry about one team at a time. We've got a tough schedule and nothing less than our best effort will be good enough."

from championship contention during the 1-AA playoffs. Marist, ranked third in this week's poll, face No. 2 Stephens County in an early test of wills between consecutively ranked teams.

Thomson, which squeaked by Dalton to take the No. 9 position, goes up against Class A's fifth-ranked team Greene-Falstaff, No. 4 Central-Thomasville will face Bainbridge while its cross-town rival Thomasville, ranked No. 5, goes against Colquitt County this weekend.

CLASS AA
Poll leader Robert E. Lee will cool its heels this weekend, awaiting its Sept. 9 season opener against Carrollton. No. 2 Washington-Wilkes

Sports Summary

Wednesday, August 31, 1988 1-B

'Cats Lead AAAA State Rankings

Associated Press

The preseason rankings of Georgia's high school football teams yielded few surprises this year, with Valdosta, Worth County, Robert E. Lee and Lincoln County taking top honors among The Associated Press' panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Worth County and Lincoln County are the reigning champions in their divisions. Valdosta, a AAAA powerhouse that frequently wins state and national championships, was the most popular choice among all regions, placing first on eight ballots.

Morrow, the reigning champion in Class AAAA, was demoted to No. 6,

two notches behind Effingham County, the team it beat 21-0 to take the 1987 title.

Robert E. Lee, which lost to an undefeated Central-Carrollton team 28-7 in the AA championship contest last year, may benefit greatly by Central-Carrollton's shift to AAA play this year.

CLASS AAAA
With Valdosta crowned the pre-season king in AAAA, the week's

real topics of discussion in this region are Griffin and Southwest DeKalb, ranked No. 2 and No. 3 by a five-point difference. Griffin kicks off its season Friday against Newnan, while Southwest DeKalb opens against Columbia.

Effingham County, ranked fourth, while Warner Robins opens at Lowndes. Weekend contests between Carver-Columbus and defending champ Morrow and Riverdale could breed dramatic changes in this region's rankings next week.

CLASS AAA
Worth County, which rolled over Marist 26-15 for the AAA title it now holds, will open Friday against Turner County, which disappeared

will face Class A champ Lincoln County while No. 3 Fitzgerald plays against Coffee.

Some shuffling of the ranks may take place among the last four teams — East Hall, West Rome, Manchester and Seminole County — as they face North Hall, Coosa, Spencer and Miller County respectively Friday.

CLASS A
Stewart-Quitman and Dacula, tied for No. 7 in this category, face Irwin County and North Gwinnett Friday, while Clinch County, which took Stewart-Quitman out of contention during last year's playoffs, takes on Calhoun County. No. 4 Palmetto plays Northside, and No. 5 Louisville faces Burke County.



JASON BRIDGES

Camden To Provide Problems For 'Cats

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Over the years, Valdosta High defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph has prepared his defense for many a challenge. But according to the assistant coach, few season-opening opponents have been as tough to prepare for as Friday night's foe Camden County.

Wildcat coaches have had to rely on game films of years past and through conversation with other coaches to prepare. Having never played against Camden or scouted the visiting Wildcats have made a big difference.

"At this point I don't have any idea how we'll do," he said. "I've seen Camden on film and seen what they run. But I'm still not sure about how we will go about stopping them. They're awfully tough."

According to head coach Nick Hyder, Frederick Henton will start at left end and defensive co-captain Coleman Rudolph at the right.

The tackles will be George Copeland and defensive captain Zabria Bell while the nose guard will either be Robert Fillmore or Andre Hampton.

Valdosta's starting linebackers will be Anthony Williams on the left and either Bruce Daniels or Jonathan Davis on the right. In the secondary, Chris Hart will be at the left corner, Kenny Rose at the right, Carlo Butler will play the left safety position and defensive co-captain Jason Bridges will be on the right.

"I've never known the defense to work harder," the VHS head coach

said. "But that's just a tribute to coach Rudolph, coach Charles Tarpley and coach Freddie Waters for getting them ready."

Rudolph hopes they are ready as well. According to the assistant coach, Camden operates out of a multiple offense with talented players at the skill positions. But there's more to Camden's talent than meets the eye.

"People are always saying what talented skilled players they have, and they do. But I feel people sometimes overlook the offensive and defensive lines. To me those are skill positions as well. People just don't talk about them as much," said Rudolph.

"They have talent at all their positions and I've been very impressed with what they've done with their alignments," he said. "Plus that Baker kid (Michael Baker) is probably a good a fullback as we will see all season long."

Baker is rated as one of the top college prospects in south Georgia. He also plays wingback and wide receiver.

"There's no doubt he's a very talented player," said Rudolph. "He could create problems."

As is the norm for Valdosta, Rudolph will look to rotate his troops as often as possible. He also hopes the defense will be able to control the tempo of the game, but admits that may not be such an easy task.

"If we can rest our people at key times during the game when we need to, it will allow us to stay fresh as a unit," he said. "That's a big key."

Hyder Remains Wary

Aug. 30, 1988

VDT

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

The first game of the season always provides butterflies for players and coaches, especially those on the offensive side of the ball.

For Valdosta High the problem is compounded by the fact that the Wildcats have never squared off against Camden County's Wildcats.



"I don't really know anything about their defense," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "Nobody's seen Camden yet. I know they have a couple of big kids on defense, but I don't know how they line up."

One thing is certain, the Wildcats from St. Mary's will provide a quality defense.

Camden finished up last season with an 11-2 record, claiming the Region 2-AA title before bowing out to Fitzgerald 21-7 in the state Class AA quarterfinals.

According to the Camden roster, this year's team sports 18 seniors and 10 juniors.

Hyder is sure to take whatever the Camden defense is willing to give him, and Hyder will use a high-powered arsenal to attack the Wildcats.

The backfield for Valdosta is pretty much set with Ben Hogan at quarterback and seniors Isaac Ceaser and James Roberts in the backfield.

"Carlos Parker is listed among the first team-running backs, he runs with that group," said Hyder about his talented 180-pound halfback.

Platooning may be the key at the other offensive skill positions. Senior Lee Thomas has been tabbed the starter by virtue of experience, but Hyder made it clear that Mickey McSwain would also see action there during the initial contest.

Freshman Kelly Dawsey will get the nod at split end with Dexter Dudley playing a backup role. The two flankers sharing time will be Keith Beal and Joe Wright.

Hyder announced no surprises at the front line with David Hazlehurst at center, Andy Rykard at right guard and Steve Adkins at left guard.

The two tackle spots will be filled by Lawrence Sharpe and Steve Smith. Matthew Butler is also considered a starter and can play at either guard or tackle.

Last week, Roberts was designated the overall team captain for the 'Cats. Defensive tackle Zabria Bell was named the defensive captain with defensive end Coleman Rudolph and Jason Bridges tabbed as defensive co-captains. Hogan is the offensive captain and Rykard has been named the offensive co-captain.

"Right now, we're just trying to get familiar with being back in school. That's always difficult and that's a 30-year observation. By Friday, we'll be back to our normal nervousness, if being nervous can ever be called normal."

'Cats Junior Noseguard Robert Fillmore Applies Pass Rush



Hyder Wary Of Potent Camden County

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats hope to get the 1988 football season off to a flying start when they host the Camden County Wildcats at 8 p.m. tonight at Cleveland Field.

Valdosta, which finished 1987 with an 11-1 record, enters the contest as the No. 1 ranked team in Class AAAA according to the Associated Press preseason poll. Camden, which is in its first year in Class AAA, ended 1987 with an 11-2 mark. Among Camden's 1987 victims were the Lowndes Vikings, who fell to the Wildcats 28-17.

It's that very fact that has Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder concerned.

"Of course we have a lot of respect for coach Joe Wilson and his team. They're known for having tough defenses," said Hyder. "But last year Camden scored 28 points on Lowndes. To do that you've got to have an excellent football team."

Leading the Valdosta offensive attack will be senior tailback James Roberts (210), the 1987 Region 1-AAAA offensive player of the year.



ZABRIA BELL

His running mate will be senior fullback Isaac Ceaser (210). Junior running back Carlos Parker (184) has been impressive during preseason workouts and will also see considerable playing time.

The quarterback will be senior Ben Hogan who will be starting his first game at quarterback for the 'Cats. Hogan's targets at split end will either be Kelly Dawsey or



JAMES ROBERTS

Dexter Dudley. The flanker will be either Joe Wright or Keith Beal.

Up front blocking for Roberts and company will be center David Hazlhurst (222), right tackle Lawrence Sharpe (274), left tackle Steve Smith (201) or Andy Brindger (204), right guard Andy Rykard (207) and left guard Steve Adkins (204) or Matthew Butler (197). Defensively, assistant coach Jack



DAVID HAZLEHURST

Rudolph's troops will be trying to put the clamps on Camden's all-purpose back Michael Baker.

Baker, who has played running back, wingback, wide receiver and quarterback, accounted for over 1,900 yards in total offense and scored 150 points in 1987. Fullback Rodney Rawls, who tallied over 800 yards on the ground is also back for Camden coach Bill Thombs.

Friday Sept. 2, 1988

"The Baker kid is probably as good a football player as we will see all season long," said Rudolph. "There's no doubt he is a very talented player."

It will be up to the entire defense of Valdosta to try and slow Camden down.

Up front on the defensive line will be nose guard Robert Fillmore (170) or Andre Hampton (189). The left end will be Frederick Henton (179), the right end is Coleman Rudolph (204), the left tackle is George Copeland (193) and the right tackle is Zabria Bell (304).

The linebackers will be Anthony Williams (224) on one side and either Bruce Daniels (203) or Jonathon Davis (188) on the other.

Carlo Butler (202) was moved from linebacker during the spring and will start at the left safety position. The right safety is Jason Bridges (156), the left cornerback is Chris Hart (188) and the right corner is Kenny Rose (132).

Linebacker Williams will also handle the kickoff chores, the place-kicker will be either Rudolph or Dow Drury and the punter will be Wright.

Youngsters Getting Chance

Monday Sept. 14th
The Valdosta High football program has had such continuous success in the past because the coaching staff works on giving the young kids playing time when possible. Saturday night's 38-6 win over Greene-Talafarro was a good time for the backups to see some action, and they played admirably.

Backup
quarterbacks
Jason junior
Nichols and sophomore
Deric Cotton both got into the act, and contributed.
- Nichols drove the team from



DAWSEY

Valdosta's 45 to the Greene-Talafarro 5 to set up Valdosta's last score, a 23-yard field goal by Coleman Rudolph.

Nichols completed 3-of-6 passes for 34 yards and didn't make the rookie mistake of tossing an interception.

Cotton came in during the last series and threw a couple of bullets, completing 2-of-3 passes for 15 yards.

Running back Chris Chachere, who is currently paying his dues on the VHS scout team during practice, got his name in the statistics as well. Chachere, a 135-pound junior, caught two passes out of the backfield for 29 yards and made one

run for a couple of yards.

Alton Hitson, who started for running back James Roberts, also ran the ball for 10 yards.

Missing from the lineup Saturday night was junior Carlos Parker, who has been suffering from a non-football injury. Parker didn't practice last week, but is expected to be back and running this week.

At the receiver position, sophomore Dexter Dudley pulled down a 5-yard pass, and Keith Beal snagged an 8-yard touchdown pass.

Freshman Kelly Dawsey, however, stole the show as the 'Cats leading receiver. Dawsey, a member of Bob Bolton's Amigos, caught two for 46 yards, one a 37-yard touchdown pass.

Dawsey and defensive back Trampsy Wrice are the only

freshmen who are starters for VHS.

"Kelly's caught a touchdown pass for us in each game," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "He's got good hands and is a good athlete. We've worked hard to get a kid like him out there."

Hyder compared Dawsey to Central-Thomastown's Tommy Rainge, who played at Valdosta.

"Rainge is bigger. He's about 6-5, but they both have good hands and their receiving skills are very similar."

Senior tight end Lee Thomas caught two for 33 yards and was a step away from catching another one for a touchdown.

The 'Cat defense also saw some youngster play well. Greene-Talafarro got only five first downs during the game.

Hyder was impressed with several young secondary players such as Byron Thornton, Alphonso Willis, Adrian Lewis, and Marshall Lane.

Linebacker Jonathan Davis made some vicious hits as well.

"Davis is going to be a big youngster," said Hyder. "He's already 6-2 and he's only a sophomore. Also singled out for their performances were defensive tackle Eddie Rawls and Andre Scruggs as well as defensive ends Craig Johnson and Maurice Dean.

The Valdosta defense must now ready itself for the Waycross Bulldogs, who scored 28 points against the 'Cats last season.

Eric Phillips performed the punting duties Saturday night because of an injury to Joe Wright. Phillips only had to punt twice, but had a 38.5 average.

Orr Hopes To Cast His Own Shadow

Wednesday August 24, 1988 V.D.T.

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

After three football seasons at Lowndes High School, Jason Orr is relishing the opportunity of stepping out of the shadows and into the spotlight.

At 5-foot-7, 130 pounds, Orr has previously been somewhat lost in the shuffle of the Viking receiving corps.

Last season, Orr had to share time with cousin, and former Viking standout Rozell Orr. Orr now likes the chance to be the center of attention rather than a piece of the puzzle which was enforced with his move from flanker to split end.

"I'm looking forward to my senior season with the Vikings," said Orr. "Over the years, I feel that I have been overshadowed by the other receivers due to talent and ability. But I have

worked hard in the off-season and I am ready to take over the top receiving duties at Lowndes."

Called the "Littlest Viking" by Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson, Orr has entered the 1988 training camp more determined and better equipped.

Athletic changes as well as physical changes in Orr have Viking receiver coach Drew Sauls singing the praises of the Lowndes senior.

"Skillwise, Jason has improved tremendously. Jason's speed has increased, along with his outward physical appearance," said Sauls. "He has just come into this camp better equipped. Jason seems as if he is trying to show to everyone that he is a top football receiver in Region 1-AAAA."

Although Orr's mind is set on taking a full grasp of the Viking receiving position, he admits that he wouldn't change a thing about the route his high

school career has taken.

"The past really does not bother me. I was fortunate to be able to watch such players as Rozell at the receivers spot and learn," said Orr. "I am glad that I was able to get some hands-on teaching in the pass receiving area. I learned a lot from watching the others play. At that point and time, I didn't know how important the learning process of pass receiving was, but I see now."

Along with Orr's personal views on the upcoming Viking football season, the excitement and enthusiasm shared by his teammates are proving to be an added incentive.

"Everyone is talking about winning. All of the players on this team want to win, and it is a big influence on my performances," said Orr. "The biggest single difference between this season and last has to be a higher confidence level by all of my teammates. There

are a lot of young players on this year's team, but I really don't think that will be a very big item."

"I'd like to see Jason catch over 30 to 40 passes this season. But most of all, I hope that Jason will be given the chance to play college football," said Sauls. "Everyone I'm sure will make a big deal about his height, but Jason can play the position."

Even though Orr averaged close to six yards per contest last year, he feels that an added emphasis on the finer points of the receiving game will help improve on his numbers in '88.

"I'm just looking forward to providing this team with a very dependable receiver. My focus will be to simply do what I asked of me," said Orr. "I feel that I have improved on my pass catching skills and running ability. Being better prepared in those areas will only give me an added edge in receiving."



JASON ORR

Wildcat Camp

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder refers to his kicking game as paradoxical. He certainly has a point.

In the middle of the second week of football camp, the kicking game is coming together, but it is by no means set.

The problem Hyder has right now is his best punter may also be one of his best punt returners, and one of his best place-kickers is a long snap man.

Joe Wright has shown the uncanny ability to return punts, but the 141-pound sophomore is also showing promise on the other end of the ball as a punter.

Offensive lineman Andy Rykard, a 207-pound junior, is the long snapper on specialty teams, but has been an effective place-kicker thus far.

"I would call that a paradox, wouldn't you?" asked Hyder.

"Andy is just a good athlete; he's a strong kid. We're also real pleased with the way Coleman Rudolph has been kicking extra points."

Rudolph is one of the starting defensive ends for the Wildcats. Hyder also complimented linebacker Anthony Williams for having a strong leg.

* * *
Defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said if he had to play a game



immediately, his two safety positions would go to seniors Jason Bridges and Carlo Butler. Rudolph, however, is keeping the door open.

"You never know if some of the other kids are going to come on or not," said Rudolph. "If I had to play today they would start, but that doesn't mean that's how it will be when we do play."

Rudolph is also busy looking at various cornerbacks, trying to fill the voids left by Reginald Dandy and Keith Henry.

Right now, senior Kenny Rose and Chris Hart have the inside track, and Rudolph said he has also been impressed with freshman Trampis Wrice.

* * *
Hyder had 108 players at football camp, which continues to be the highest number he's had to work with at Valdosta.

Besides those 108, there are 55 Wildcats playing on the ninth-grade squad. Hyder said that was pretty much normal for the ninth-grade team.

Student Gets Scholarship

V.T. 9-11-88

Gregory Neil Leong, son of Mun Hing and Susan Leong of Valdosta, has been awarded a Textile Education Foundation (TEF) Prestige Scholarship to attend Georgia Tech's School of Textile Engineering.

The four-year scholarship, which covers full tuition and miscellaneous expenses, is awarded on the basis of academic excellence, good citizenship, leadership ability and potential for success in the industry. The Prestige Scholarship Program is targeted towards the top five percent of high school graduates in Georgia. The TEF finances 37 undergraduate scholarships at Tech each year through a trust fund endowed by the Georgia textile

industry. Leong receives the third annual Prestige award funded by the Textile Education Foundation. Leong, a June graduate of Valdosta High School, was active in school and community functions. He participated in organizations such as the Science Club, Drama Club, Beta Club, and Key Club and served his community as a hospital volunteer. Also active in sports, he earned varsity letters in both tennis and baseball.

An exceptional ability in math enabled him to make a perfect score on the math portion of the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

Leong enters Georgia Tech this fall to pursue a bachelor's degree in textile engineering.



GREGORY LEONG
Headed For Georgia Tech

VHS Teacher Captures Rotary VOT International's Highest Award

By FRANCES GOLIVESKY
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High Business Education teacher Janeen Josey has joined an elite group of "fellows."

Mrs. Josey, 1984 VHS and Valdosta Teacher of the Year, was presented the Paul Harris Fellow Award by the Valdosta Rotary Club.

The Paul Harris Fellow Award is given "in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations between people of the world."

"This award is the most prestigious award given by Rotary International," said Dr. Ren Christie, prominent Rotary historian. "It is to Rotary what the Medal of Honor is to the military."

Harris, a Chicago lawyer, founded Rotary in 1905 and it became an international organization 10 years later. Dr. Christie said Rotary's name came from Harris' suggestion the meeting place be "rotated." He said it is the world's largest service organization with more than one

million members in 161 clubs.

The award is accompanied by a \$1,000 donation made to Rotary International's Polio Plus campaign in Mrs. Josey's name. Dr. Christie said the Polio Plus campaign's primary focus is to eradicate polio internationally.

Mrs. Josey is the wife of C. Ray Josey and they are the parents of Emily, 16, and Mark, 11. She received her bachelor's degree in business education from Georgia Southern College and a master's in the field from West Georgia College. Before moving to Valdosta, Mrs. Josey taught in the Floyd County School System, Cedartown City Schools and Gordon County Schools. She was also Teacher of the Year for Gordon County in 1975. Mrs. Josey was runner-up in the state Teacher of the Year competition in 1984.

The truth behind her becoming a Paul Harris Fellow lies in her helping to start the Rotary-sponsored Valdosta High School Interact Club in 1986 and her diligence in guiding the club to its place among the most successful Interact Clubs worldwide and ac-

comparing to Rotary member James Bridges, it may be the largest and most successful. "Our district governor was so impressed with this group when he was here recently... he is checking to see if it is the largest and most successful," he said.

"The Interact group has done outstanding work in the community here with the Salvation Army program, Polio Plus, the Adopt-A-Grandparent program, and Arrive Alive, and Janeen is the force behind it," Bridges said. "It's phenomenal what she and those students have done. Our Rotary has received a great deal of recognition statewide because of VHS Interact."

Dr. Christie said, "This Interact Club has done more in two years than the big club has done in 10. We won our district award because of this group."

Mrs. Josey was approached by VHS Principal Bill Aldrich and Rotarian Bridges in 1986 to start the Interact Club in the school for the explicit purpose of promoting international service. In nominating Mrs. Josey as a Paul Harris Fellow, the Valdosta Rotary Club has awarded Mrs. Josey its highest honor. "And it's somewhat unusual that a person who is not a full-fledged dues-paying member receives this award," said Bridges.

According to Rotary International, Mrs. Josey "symbolizes The Rotary Foundation's commitment to world understanding and peace, expressed by humanitarian programs improving the lives of millions."

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

According to Camden County head football Bill Thombs, his team's upcoming game with the Valdosta Wildcats has the entire St. Mary's community on the edge of its seat.

"At first everybody thought we were crazy for scheduling Valdosta," said Thombs. "We may be. But, everybody is really excited. It's got the whole community talking."

The Wildcats are no strangers to Region 1-AAAA, having played and defeated the Lowndes Vikings the past two years, including a 28-17 margin last season.

This will be Camden's first season

in Class AAA after being one of the more dominating teams in Class AA the last several years. In 1987, Camden won Region 2-AA, posting a 11-2 record before falling to Fitzgerald in the state quarterfinals.

"We've been fortunate to have some good athletes come through here over the years," said Thombs. "They've also been good kids to work with."

Gone is last year's starting quarterback Brad Miller but Thombs returns five starters on offense including a thoroughbred in one Michael Baker. Baker, along with Valdosta's James Roberts, is considered one of the finest college prospects at the running back position in south Georgia.

Baker will start at running back against Valdosta but Thombs said his star player could also see action at the wingback, wide receiver and maybe even at quarterback. He also plays defense. Baker, who has started Camden's last 25 games, exceeded over 1,800 yards in total offense.

"Michael scored 150 points for us last season," said Thombs. "There's no question that he's the key to our entire team."

The only other returning starter for Camden is fullback Rodney Rawls. Last season Rawls rushed for over 300 yards. The wingback will be Hamp Brown. Brown saw considerable action at the position and will again in 1988. He will also

play safety for the defense.

Camden runs out of a multiple offense but Thombs is concerned that Valdosta may be too strong for his Wildcats to be effective.

"We'll just try to work hard and execute the plays that we've been doing in practice," he said. "But against Valdosta that's not going to be easy because they have so much talent."

On defense, Thombs is even more unsure as only two starters return.

"Defensively we have a lot of young kids who really haven't seen any considerable amount of varsity action," the Camden coach said. "You could say they're going to get their baptism under fire. I'm just hoping we can slow Valdosta down."



Business Ed Teacher Janeen Josey Guides Interact Club

Thursday, September 1, 1988 1-D

Camden Excited About Valdosta Game

Camden Co.
vs.
Valdosta

- When: Friday, Sep. 2
- Where: Cleveland Field
- Time: 8 p.m.
- Records: Valdosta 0-0, Camden Co. 0-0
- Series: First Meeting
- On Deck: Greene -Taliaferro, Sep. 10

Wildcat Offense Shines

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

James Roberts is one of the brightest college prospects at running back in the state of Georgia but after Friday night's 31-14 win over Camden County, it's also apparent that teammate Isaac Ceaser is not far behind.

Ceaser ran over and through would-be Camden tacklers all night long, gaining 132 yards on just 15 carries and scoring two touchdowns. Roberts had a "fair" night as well with a team-high 17 carries for 117 yards and one score. Roberts had 83 yards at halftime.

"Offensively, we got a good effort, especially in the first half.

"We had good line blocking and Roberts and Ceaser both ran hard. In the second half we had some trouble but lets give Camden credit. They did a good job making adjustments."

— Nick Hyder
— VHS Head Coach

"The offensive line just did a great job, what else can you say," said Ceaser. "The line did their job and James and I did ours."

One of those linemen was senior tackle Steve Adkins. And according to the senior, the entire offense played good ball the first half of the game.

"I thought the line blocked very well the first half. The second half we had some trouble. We've just got to learn not to let up," he said. "But Camden has a fine team and were better prepared in the second half."

After the defense earned Valdosta a safety with just :56 elapsed in the contest, the offense took the kickoff and went right to work.

After Roberts and Ceaser combined to pick up the 'Cats' first first down of the game, quarterback Ben Hogan hooked up with Keith Beal for an 11-yard pickup to the 38 yard line. Then on the next play, Roberts hit the line on a trap play, broke into the secondary and streaked 38 yards for the 'Cats' first touchdown of the game.

VD 9-4-88



VHS Assistant Jack Rudolph Had Defense Ready

With time running out in the first quarter, the Camden punter shanked a 25-yard punt giving Valdosta the ball at the visitor's 44 yard line.

It took only 27 seconds for Valdosta to score the second touchdown of the game as Ceaser reeled off an 35-yard run down to the eight. On the next play the 210-pound fullback bulled his way over four would-be tacklers for a 16-0 lead.

Coleman Rudolph then converted the first his three extra-points on the night.

Valdosta's final touchdown was set up when Rudolph recovered a lateral on the Camden 15-yard line. Hogan made Camden pay for the fumble in a hurry as he hit a wide open Kelly Dawsey for a 15-yard touchdown.

Dawsey caught two passes on the evening for 40 yards.

"We opened up the game playing the game with a lot of intensity the first half," said Hogan. "Our backs ran well. I think we passed well and the line did an excellent job."

On the evening, Valdosta accumulated 331 total yards.

"Offensively, we got a good effort, especially in the first half," said head coach Nick Hyder. "We had good line blocking and Roberts and Ceaser both ran hard. In the second half we had some trouble but lets give Camden credit. They did a good job making adjustments."

Valdosta's Defense Held Camden's Offense Down

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph had hoped his defense would be able to set the tempo against visiting Camden County Friday night. Fortunately for the 'Cats, Rudolph's troops did exactly that.

On the first series of plays, Camden, a team known for using many different formations tried to catch the Wildcats napping, when the visitors broke into a seven-four spread with seven players split wide to the right.

But Camden coach Bill Thombs' play fooled no one.

On the snap, lineman Andre Hampton caught star back Michael Baker, the lone man in the Camden backfield, for a nine-yard loss back to the 11-yard line. Two plays later the ball was snapped high over the punter's head into the end zone for a safety and a 2-0 Valdosta lead.

"I felt we were lucky," Rudolph said. "I thought we had jumped offside when they went into the shift."

"At that point, the entire tempo of the game could have swung the other way. That first series of plays had a lot to do with the rest of the game."

Indeed it did. The Wildcat defense

young kids in there trying to tackle him. We missed some on that play but that's going to happen when you have young players in the game.

"But they've got to be in there to be able to learn from their mistakes so I don't really feel too bad about what happened."

Head coach Nick Hyder agreed.

"The defense was well prepared. Other than the long touchdown pass, that was about the only offense they had," said Hyder. "But give Camden credit. In the second half they came out fired up and did a fine job."

Even quarterback Ben Hogan, who completed 5-of-17 passes for 86 yards thought the defense set the tone for the evening.

"The defense set things up for the offense all night long," the senior said. "I'm really proud of the job they did. If it weren't for them it would have been a much closer game."

Individually, Valdosta had many stars. Sophomore Eddie Rawls recorded a sack of Blackshear as did Anthony Williams and Frederick Henton who combined on a sack early in the second quarter. Coleman Rudolph recovered a fumble on the play after the Williams-Henton sack and that set up Hogan's 15-yard touchdown pass to Kelly Dawsey. Rudolph and Hampton also recorded sacks of the Camden quarterback.



COLEMAN RUDOLPH

dominated Camden the entire first half, holding the visitors to only three total yards over the first 24 minutes of play.

Camden's first touchdown came in the second half as the result of a turnover as Baker returned a fumble 28 yards off the opening kickoff. Camden's only offensive points came when quarterback Felix Blackshear hit Lanier Jacobs for an 82-yard score against the 'Cats' second unit.

"That kid made a great individual effort. Take nothing away from him," said Rudolph. "We had some

Hyder Says

By STAN CRUBB
Times Sports Writer

After posting a 31-14 victory in their first outing of the season, one would assume that the top-ranked Valdosta Wildcats have no work left to be done.

But that is not the case according to Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder whose team begins workouts for this Saturday's action against the Class AA Greene-Taliaferro Tigers at Cleveland Field.

"Our work has just begun," said Hyder. "We got off to a great start, but there's always something else to be done in the way of offensive and defensive skills."

The Wildcats' offensive production against Camden County last Friday night was nothing short of spectacular.

The 'Cats potent running game behind the relentless work of the offensive line managed to gather 245 yards on the ground rushing. Valdosta offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker was very pleased with the

effort by his offensive linemen, but noted that there are some things to be ironed out by the next contest.

"The line worked very well early in the game. We trapped very good and opened some holes," said Baker. "But we need to be a bit more consistent offensively on the line and continue that effort throughout the game. I felt re-evaluating the films, that we could have done a better job as far as four quarters of offensive football is concerned."

The senior tandem of James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser combined for 249 yards rushing, along with three touchdowns.

With the attention turned towards the Tigers, Hyder would like his offense to show the same type of effort against what should be, and is, a very experienced Tiger defense.

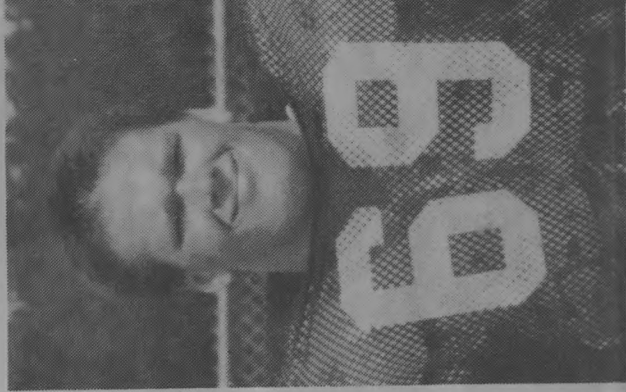
"I don't know of any teams that can always play four perfect quarters of football, but we will certainly need every bit of the same type of dedication against an experienced Greene-Taliaferro squad,"



Ben Hogan

said Hyder.

The Valdosta offense will hope to have every area of the offensive game going, especially the passing



Steve Adkins

game which the 'Cats took a special opportunity last Friday night in trying to get senior quarterback Ben Hogan some much needed experi-

Still Have Work To Be Done

encec.

"We will be working all season to develop an even flow of running and passing," said Hyder. "Against Camden, in the second half the emphasis was placed on the passing game. Although the passing game is absolutely the toughest area to teach, it can be a very big weapon."

Behind quarterback Ben Hogan (190), will be seniors Roberts (215) and Ceaser (215).

Anchoring the 'Cats' offensive line will be converted tackle senior Lawrence Sharpe (275), with senior tackle Steve Smith (220), senior David Hazelhurst (230), senior guards Andy Rykard (215) and Steve Adkins (210).

Hogan's passing targets will be freshman split end Kelly Dawsey (170), senior flanker Keith Beal (175), junior tight end Mickey McSwain (185) and senior Lee Thomas (190).

Doing the punting chores for Valdosta will be sophomore Joe Wright (160). The extra-points chores will be in the hands of senior Coleman Rudolph (220).

Wildcats, Clinch On Top

V. Times 9-7-88

The Associated Press

Valdosta and Robert E. Lee continued their AAAA and AA reigns in this week's high school football poll, while Stephens County successfully moved No. 3 Marist down the AAA rankings but failed to bump Worth County from the region's top spot.

The Associated Press panel of sports writers and broadcasters gave this week's nod of approval in Class A to Clinch County, the former No. 2 team that defeated Calhoun County Saturday in a 28-0 season-opening rampage. Formerly top-ranked Lincoln Co., which lost to No. 2 AA Washington-Wilkes 18-14, found itself in second place this week.

Defending AAAA champ Morrow, No. 6 last week, slipped further this week, landing at No. 8 behind ambitious Carver of Columbus and Warner Robins teams. Carver rose from No. 8 to No. 6 with a 28-0 victory over Monroe, while Warner Robins moved to fifth place from the No. 7 spot after its 23-13 win over Lowndes.

CLASS AAAA

Stability settled among AAAA's top three this week, with Valdosta, Griffin and Southwest DeKalb each hanging on to their slots courtesy of weekend victories. There may be some shake-up in next week's poll, as Southwest DeKalb goes at Redan, which defeated Dunwoody 13-8 last week.

The real shuffling began with Effingham County dropping from No. 4 to No. 7 and McEachern moving up one notch into the No. 4 position. No. 10 Tift County, which opened its season with a 28-0 loss to R.E. Lee of Montgomery, Ala., has vanished from the ranks.

Appearing in Tift County's place is Northside-Warner Robins, whose season starts Saturday against Butler.

Thursday, September 8, 1988 2-B

VDJ 9-8-88

Greene-Taliaferro Riding Wave Of Success

play the Valdosta Wildcats 8 p.m. this Saturday night at Cleveland Field.

"It makes me feel good to be No. 3," admitted Temple. "I just hope we don't go down. I know this game will be a tough one."

Temple has established a good football program at the Greensboro high school. Earlier this decade, the Tigers went all the way to the state semifinals before bowing out.

Although only a Class AA school, the Tigers have had some exceptional athletes. Running back Seed Miller played football and recently graduated from South Carolina State.

The Tigers have 16 starters back from last season with several playing both ways. Nine of the offensive starters are seniors with one junior

196 and 235.

Another key member of the Tiger offense is tight end Scott Glass, a 6-2, 226-pound senior.

Glass is also a linebacker on defense, and fullback Jackson lines it up at one of the defensive end positions. Four seniors man the defensive backfield.

In the past, Temple has had close to 50 players to work with, not a bad number for a Class AA school. Temple said this year the numbers have dwindled.

"I've only got about 30," said Temple. "That's something that really has me concerned going into the Valdosta game. We lost some kids because of no-pass, no-play, and some got jobs. I'm just glad our returning starters have all remained."

Valdosta

vs.

Greene-Taliaferro

- When: Saturday, Sep. 10
- Where: Cleveland Field, Valdosta
- Time: 8 p.m.
- Records: Greene 1-0, Valdosta 1-0
- Last Week: Greene 7, Thomson 0, Valdosta 31, Camden County 14
- On Deck: Waycross at Valdosta, Sep. 16

Wednesday September 7, 1988 V.D.T.

Tigers Won't Retreat

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta Wildcat defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph is not ready to kick back and be satisfied after a very impressive first-game outing by his defense against Camden County. This week brings one of the biggest teams that the 'Cats will lineup against all season long in Class AA Greene-Taliaferro, and Rudolph is naturally wary.

"I have the utmost respect for coach Tom Temple and his Greene-Taliaferro squad of players," said Rudolph. "Although I have not personally witnessed them in action, on paper this will probably without a doubt one of the biggest teams we will face defensively all year."

The Greene-Taliaferro front line of offensive performers include the likes of one 329-pound offensive tackle to go along with an average line that will tip the scales at 200-pounds.

The Tigers' multiple wishbone attack will hope to confuse the Wildcat defensive squad, and allow for numerous scoring opportunities.

"We're going to have to do in just three days what we had almost over three weeks to prepare for in Camden County," said Rudolph. "I just hope we are up to the challenge that awaits us defensively. A good solid effort for everyone is what it is going to take, because in defending Greene-Taliaferro we will be faced with ability, talent, and a very strong coaching staff."

Leading the Wildcat defensive charge in week two will be junior noseguard Robert Fillmore (180), left tackle junior George Copeland (215), right tackle senior Zabria Bell (290), and senior defensive end Coleman Rudolph (220), along with junior defensive end Fred Henton (190).

The linebackers will be juniors Anthony Williams (230) and Bruce Daniels (220).

The Wildcat secondary will be comprised of Kenny Rose (150) and Chris Hart (190) at cornerback, while Jason Bridges (165) and Carlo Butler (205) are the safeties.



The Family: Bottom Left To Right — Zabria Bell, Andre Hampton, Robert Fillmore, George Copeland. Top Left To Right — Andre Scruggs, MJ Johnson, Monte Steward

'The Family' A Hard Act To Follow

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta Wildcat defensive line coach Freddie Waters has produced himself a home away from home among the defensive interior linemen that grace the playing surface at Cleveland Field.

Waters took command of the defensive linemen back in fall of 1979. From that time forth, respect and tenacity have become trademarks of the defensive front amidst the pride and unity that surrounds the entire Wildcat football program.

The given name for Waters' bunch this year is "The Family", and they practice in what is called the barnyard.

Waters insists that it was the players who agreed on the name, and enjoys the unity that comes with "family" members.

"The term family which we commonly refer to our defensive line originated in '79, and signifies that we are a close-knit group," said Waters. "The kids rally around that fact that it has a certain meaning, and to them it means something special which no one can take away or destroy."

Fourteen of the most dedicated and loyal members of the Wildcat

strong committed group with one common team-oriented goal is important."

Waters is quick in pointing out there is not one star in the family. It is an all-for-one and one-for-all philosophy.

"Everyone is dependent upon another player, just as in a family, no one person stands any taller than another," said Waters. "Every player, however, must pull his own weight in the family. It is one cohesive group dedicated toward one common goal, and that is the Wildcats."

The rest of the 14-member family members includes junior left tackle George Copeland (215), senior left tackle Willie Simon (240), junior James Osborne (220), freshman Dexter Daniels (190), senior Chad Walker (210), junior noseguards Robert Fillmore (180) and Andre Hampton (180), sophomore noseguards M.J. Johnson (175), Rickey Thomas (195), and Monte Steward (215), along with right tackles sophomores Eddie Rawls (175), Andre Scruggs (250), and junior Kevin Miller (260).

"Attitude, leadership, and academics all are part of priorities that are stressed in the family system," said Waters. "No criticism, no disrespectful issues, just a common

bond of relying on one another is what a family member means at Valdosta High."

Noseguard Fillmore expressed it in a simpler and more direct manner.

"Getting the job done come gameday is a big issue with the family," said Fillmore. "The word of family for the defensive line group is right, one group with one purpose."

"Relying on each other is a big factor in football. That is something we strive for in the family," said Andre Hampton. "When you have the close group that we have, it make some of the tough times seem not so bad. There are a lot of pick-me-ups when you're down."

Even though Waters' family unit turned in a very sterling performance in the Wildcats' opener with Camden, he insisted that no one is resting on any laurels yet.

"Consistency goes a long way in this game. You cannot judge anybody, anytime, on just one single performance," said Waters. "No real progress has been made after just one game. After making it into the midway portion of the schedule and into region competition a lot will come into focus. But for now, I'm very pleased with the start. I just hope it continues."



FREDDIE WATERS

squad comprise this year's version of the family.

The elder statesman of the 1988 group is senior right tackle Zabria Bell (290), who is the defensive captain.

"The family to me means simply a strong togetherness among the other defensive line members, or should I say family members," said Bell. "Identifying yourself with a

'Cats, Clinch To Defend No. 1 Spots

The Associated Press

Clinch County will defend its No. 1 Class A ranking this weekend against a Wilcox County team that holds a height advantage and a logical strategy for beating Clinch's running game.

"We're hoping our bigger front line on defense can contain them enough to where we have a chance at victory," said Wilcox County Coach Donnie Clack. "We think we'd be successful if we force them to throw because that's not the strength of their game."

"They're pretty much a running team. We expect them to stay on the ground," he said.

Clinch County Coach Donald Tison said Wilcox, No. 7 in Class A, definitely holds an offensive edge in 6-4 quarterback Lee Daniels, whose passing game is stronger than that of Clinch's 5-8 quarterback Alvin Cooper.

Daniels hit nine of 11 passes for a total of 200 yards last week in Wilcox County's 40-0 victory over Macon County.

"They just throw the ball well. You've got to respect that," he said. "We don't have that kind of height on our team, but we feel good about what we have."

Tison said senior fullbacks Herbert Mingo and Jamie Spates are the focus of Clinch's running game. Clack said he will combat the Mingo-Spates combination with Charles McCoy, a 6-2, 260-pound linebacker who "should be a college prospect."

Greene-Taliaferro, ranked third in AA after its 7-0 victory over Thomson last week, will face Valdosta Saturday in a David-and-Goliath contest few expect it to win, said Greene-Taliaferro Coach Tom Temple.

But Temple said his players plan to defeat the No. 1 team in Class AAAA.

9-8-88
VOT



Just Sew-So

Davie and Barbara Edmondson of Valdosta work on a design during a convention of the Kentucky Heritage Quilt Society at Eastern Kentucky University. She was among 100 quilters from across Kentucky

and from several neighboring states to attend the three-day workshop titled "Quilter's Getaway." Participants shared ideas and techniques on the art of quilt making. — Photo Special To The Times.

VHS Student Finds Leadership Tough

V. Times 9-9-88

By SHERRIE FARABEE
Times Staff Writer

"I wanted people to know that I was down to earth, honest and dependable and that I would be a good leader if they would give me a chance," Matthew Lawrence said.

He got his chance. The 17-year-old Valdosta High School student has been elected state president of Future Business Leaders of American (FBLA), an organization with about 12,000 students



LAWRENCE

members in the state of Georgia. Matthew campaigned as seriously as any state presidential candidate at the state convention in April. It wasn't until after the votes were counted that the seriousness of what he had done hit home.

"I didn't believe it at first; then I thought, 'Oh Lord, what have I gotten

myself into,'" he said.

Matthew will serve as president of his high school FBLA chapter as well as the head of the state organization. As chapter and state president, Matthew said he has specific goals at both the state and local level.

"I would like to have greater public recognition of FBLA, as well as greater understanding of what we are and what we can offer — and increased active members," he said. "I would like to see more state and national winners at competitions that come from Valdosta High School."

As president of the VHS FBLA chapter, Matthew described himself as a public relations person.

"I am supposed to motivate members to take part in state, national and local competitions, to get involved and to make full use of the opportunities FBLA offers," he said. "FBLA is a valuable student vocational organization which can help the student become more aware of the opportunities that the business world has to offer."

Matthew has been involved with FBLA for two years because of his interest in a business career.

"I've always wanted to own my

See VHS, Page 2-A

own business or something like that," he said. "Through FBLA I would have exposure to different types and aspects of business and discover what was entailed in having an occupation in the business world."

In addition to FBLA, he is a member of Key Club, Interact and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He has some of the other interests common to teenage boys — hunting, fishing and "trying" to play the

guitar.

Mathew will serve as president until April and said he has learned a serious lesson on leadership through his involvement in FBLA.

"Having a title on your name doesn't make you any more a leader than being in a garage makes you a car," he said. "You have to earn the respect of members and you always have to think of the members and not yourself. You have to put yourself last."

VDT

9-10-88

Valdosta, Tigers Square Off Tonight

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

It will be a class struggle here at Cleveland Field tonight as the Valdosta Wildcats play host to the Greene-Taliaferro Tigers with kickoff scheduled for 8 p.m.

Valdosta comes into the game ranked No. 1 in Class AAAA with a 1-0 record. The Wildcats plundered Camden County last week, 31-14.

The Tigers are ranked third in the Class AA poll, and are coming off a 9-3 1987 season.

Both coaching staffs were probably praying for some dry weather Friday night. The Tigers and Valdosta both sport a powerful running game. While Valdosta runs out of multiple sets, the Tigers stay mainly with the wishbone attack. Greene-Taliaferro threw the ball only eight times during last week's victory.

"I have a lot of respect for their program and their coach, Tom Temple," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder.

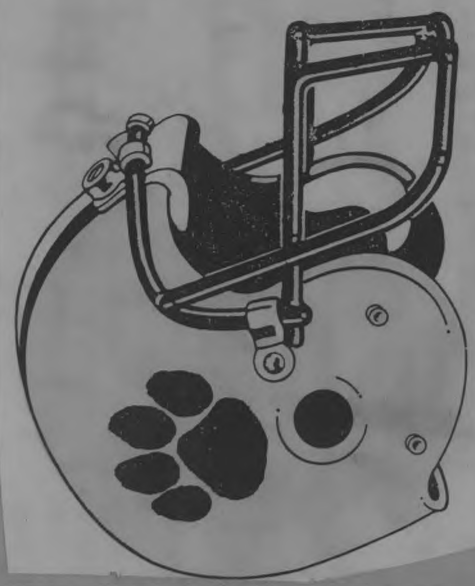
"He's built a good program up there, and has been there for most of the 1980s. He's also a member of the executive committee of the Georgia High School

Association, and not many football coaches can say that."

The Tiger player to watch is fullback Greg Jackson, a 224-pound senior who was a member of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* Super '11. Jackson is also a defensive end.

Joining Jackson in the backfield is 155-pound senior running back Marvell Edmondson, who is the speed-burner. He has been timed at 4.5 in the 40-yard dash.

Valdosta of course, will counter with two offensive powerhouses in running backs James Robert and Isaac Ceaser, a pair of seniors who tip the scales at 210 pounds.



'Cat Scouts Call Tigers Talented

V. Times 9-9-88

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

What you see isn't always what you get, especially when it comes to high school football. That's why Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder is particularly wary of Greene-Taliaferro's capabilities. The two teams tangle here at Cleveland Field 8 p.m. Saturday night.

The Tigers beat Thomson 7-0 last week in the season opener, while Valdosta clobbered Camden County 31-14. Valdosta High scouts were impressed with Greene-Taliaferro's arsenal.

"They are a very well-coached team," said Hyder. "They don't have a lot of numbers but they have good size. Greg Jackson was on the Atlanta Journal's Super 11. He's a fullback and a tight end and also kicks. Several people have told me he kicks the ball over the goalposts."

Hyder also expressed respect for tight end Scott Glass, a 6-2, 226-pound college prospect.

Last week, Greene-Taliaferro threw the ball only eight times, but Hyder says the talent is there for a dangerous offensive attack.

"They run primarily out of the wishbone, but they have a multiple approach that is very refined," Hyder said. "We'll see a lot of sets. They didn't throw much but the potential is always there. If you're not careful, they'll get a man behind you, and zip, he'll walk in the end zone with the ball."

Hyder said Thursday afternoon that he expected no major lineup changes for his team. He did say that defensive tackle Eddie Rawls has had a good week and will see some time playing behind George Copeland.

Alternate receiver Tracy Smothers should also see some playing time because of an ankle injury to Joe Wright. Hyder said he was not sure if Wright would be able to punt Saturday night. Andre Hampton and Robert Fillmore will also both see action at the middle guard spot.

Cleveland Field is reportedly in pretty good shape despite the rainfall the area has experienced this week.

Tuesday September 13, 1988 VOT
Bulldog Defense

Concerns Hyder

By STAN GRUBB
 Times Sports Writer

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder is taking nothing for granted when the Waycross Bulldogs pay his Wildcats a visit Friday night at Cleveland Field.

Although his 'Cats enter Friday's contest as the top ranked Class AAAA team in the state, the come-from-behind bid by the Bulldogs in last season's 38-29 Valdosta victory gives Hyder something to seriously consider.

"Waycross is a very well coached ballclub led by their head coach and former Wildcat, Dale Williams," Hyder said. "The Bulldogs are a team that will never quit. That was very evident in last year's game."

Waycross is coming off a tough 16-0 shutout at the hands of the Coffee High Trojans while the Wildcats are riding a 2-0 record after a 38-6 win in week two over Greene-Taliferro.

Although the roles have not been reversed, the explosive Valdosta offensive unit must contented with what Hyder describes as a very active group 8-man defensive front of the Bulldogs.

"The Bulldog defensive front is designed to do just what it looks like

it can do and that is attack the football," said Hyder. "They return ten defensive starters from last year's squad, but due to offensive depth four were moved to the offensive line. Waycross should pose numerous problems for us. We must be ready for the multiple line in which they will show."

Leading the defensive charge for the Bulldogs will be senior defensive tackle Jeff Jacobs (195). Jacobs has been described as a head hunter and leads the Waycross defense in tackles averaging over ten per game.

The rest of the Bulldogs' frontline makeup will look like this:

At left defensive end will be sophomore Messiah Porter (170), the right defensive end will be senior Andre Price (170). The down linemen will be senior Demetrius Carter (246), junior Robert Brown (222) and junior Jack Peterson (165). The linebackers will be senior Michael Frazier (180) and junior Thad Dowling (165). Seniors Joseph Evers (170) and Charles Fullwood (155) will be at the corners, while senior Kenneth Sutton (165) will be a strong safety.

The Wildcat offensive unit will try and combat the Waycross defensive

See 'CATS, Page 3-B

Wednesday, September 14, 1988 1-B



James Roberts Takes Of On One Of His Long Runs
 Times Staff Photo by Bob Feritas

Waycross, Boyd To Face 'Cats

By MIKE COLOMBO
 Times Sports Editor

Valdosta's defense has been spectacular so far this season. That defense will get another chance to sparkle this Friday night when the Waycross Bulldogs come to town.

While talking about last year's game may be fruitless, area fans will find it hard to erase the 1987 contest from their minds.

Valdosta came away with a 38-29 thriller at Cleveland Field in what was an offensive showcase.

That edition of the Waycross Bulldogs was led quarterback Bill Roach and running back Barry Boyd.

Roach has gone on to bigger and better things, but Boyd remains. Boyd had 15 carries for 153 yards against the 'Cat defense and the



BRIDGES

FILLMORE

Bulldogs had 208 yards in the air.

Waycross comes into the game with a 1-1 record. The 'Dogs opened the season with a 35-12 whipping of rival Ware County, but then were defeated by Coffee County's Trojans 16-0.

Boyd had only 63 yards rushing against the Trojans and Waycross had only 125 as a team. What cost

Waycross dearly were turnovers. An interception and two fumbles killed key drives. The interception was returned for a Coffee score.

Replacing Roach at quarterback will be a 175-pound senior Stacey Faulk, who earned the starting spot after starter Reggie Lee's lackluster performance against Coffee.

Last week, Faulk backed up Lee and completed 4-of-8 passes for 53 yards and threw no interceptions. He also ran the ball for 50 yards, and is a mobile quarterback.

Waycross runs out of a multiple offensive set. Joining Faulk and Boyd in the backfield will be senior tailback Matt Medlock (170). The wingback will be freshman B.J. Marshall (145). The tight end will be junior Steven

James (165) and the starting split end will be senior Shawn Keaton (170).

The interior offensive front for Waycross is relatively big and experienced.

The center, Hank Hurst (155, sr.) is flanked by senior guards Jeff Jacobs (200) and Bubba Mincey (215).

Jacobs is the only Bulldog going both ways. He replaces David Berryhill on the offensive line who was injured last week and may be out for the season.

Valdosta will counter with a defense that has given up only 29 yards rushing in two victories.

Once again, the defensive front will be anchored by tackles Zabريا

Bell and George Copeland, and middle guards Andre Hampton and Robert Fillmore.

The starting linebackers will be Bruce Daniels and Anthony Williams, backed by cornerbacks Kenny Rose and Chris Hart and safeties Carlo Butler and Jason Bridges.

"There's no revenge here," said Bridges, who is a defensive co-captain for the Wildcats. "We just want to go out and play a good game. I don't think we played as well as we could have last year against them."

"We just need to go out and play as a team," said Fillmore. "If we play as a team, things will be all right."

Wildcats Rout Visiting Tigers

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High running back James Roberts didn't start in the backfield against Greene-Talafarro's Tigers Friday night. Roberts, however, had a lot to do with finishing off the Tigers, and the Valdosta defense was superb as usual.



The senior running back rushed for 150 yards on 15 carries and scored three touchdowns as the No. 1 ranked Class AAAA Valdosta Wildcats whipped the Tigers 38-6 here at Cleveland Field. Alton Hisson started in the backfield in Roberts' place when the 'Cats opened the game.

The Wildcat starting defense yielded just one first down during the evening, and as a whole the 'Cat defense gave up just five first downs and 29 yards rushing. That initial first down was wasted as a Tiger receiver fumbled the ball after making the necessary yardage.

The 'Cat defensive front of Zabria Bell, Andre Hampton, Robert Fillmore, and George Copeland was ferocious. Defensive ends Coleman Rudolph and Fred Henton spent the evening in the Tiger backfield.

Greene-Tal..... 0 0 0 6-6
Valdosta..... 7 7 21 3-38

Val - James Roberts 13 run (Dow Drury kick)	
Val - Roberts 3 run (Drury kick)	
Val - Kelly Dawsey 37 pass from Ben Hogan (Drury kick)	
Val - Roberts 33 run (Dawsey kick)	
Val - Keith Beal 8 pass from Hogan (Quinn McCormick kick)	
Val - Coleman Rudolph 23 fg	
Gre - Marvinell Edmondson 6 run (pass failed)	
Gre - Edmondson 6-12, Jackson 4-11, Moore 4-10, Valdosta - Roberts 15-150, Ceaser 16-56, Hisson 4-10, Chachere 1-2, Nichols 2-(-4), Hogan 4-(-4)	
Passing	
Green - Reed 7-11-6, Moore 4-4-0-50	
Valdosta - Hogan 13-7-0-95, Nichols 6-3-0-34, Cotton 3-2-0-15	
Receiving	
Green - Glass 2-30, Edmondson 1-12	
Valdosta - Dawsey 2-46, Thomas 2-33, Chachere 2-29, Ceaser 1-10, Beal 1-8, Dudley 1-5	

The Tigers tried to roll out and throw on their first play from scrimmage, but the play fooled no one. Greene-Talafarro threw 11 times on the night and completed just five. VHS safety Carlo Butler picked one pass off.

"They ran that same play to start off their first game," said Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. "I told the team to look for it. They were hoping to get us off the line of scrimmage. Actually, I don't know why they didn't try to throw more."

"I'm very pleased with the way the whole defense played," Rudolph said. "A good number of people contributed. We got a chance to play a lot of the younger kids, and tonight, they looked like they knew what they were doing. Last week, they looked a little unsure of themselves. They scored a touchdown off the young guys but we were outclassed by their starters. As



Isaac Ceaser Struggles For Yards As Green-Talafarro Tacklers Move In

Times Staff Photo by Bob Freilag

a whole, the kids did a super job."

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder echoed Rudolph's sentiments, and also praised his offense for igniting in the second half after being held to 14 points in the second quarter.

Roberts scored twice on short run in first half to put the 'Cats up 14-0. Valdosta resembled a tank in the third period.

After taking the second-half kickoff, Roberts rambled for 49 yards on the first play from scrimmage. Quarterback Ben

Hogan then hooked up with Kelly Dawsey for a 37-yard touchdown pass to make it 21-0.

Hogan, who was 7-of-13 for 95 yard hurled another TD pass to Keith Beal. Roberts ran another one in, and Rudolph added a 23-yard field goal.

"I liked our offense in the second half," said Hyder. "They have some good athletes on that team. We just came to play. Their fullback and tight end are college prospects."

"We're proud of the way the kids

played tonight. Everyone contributed. All the quarterback looked good. Jason Nichols looked good driving the team down the field for that field goal."

Third string quarterback Deric Cotton came in during the last series and completed two passes for 15 yards and a first down.

Valdosta, 2-0, will play host to Waycross this Friday. Greene Talafarro, which entered the game ranked third in the Class AA poll, falls to 1-1.

Yards Piling Up For Cat Runners

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

The rushing yards just keep piling up for running backs James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser of Valdosta High School.

Against visiting Waycross Friday night, senior Roberts once again displayed the talents that have many considering him among the best backs in the state.

Roberts gained 129 yards on 18 carries. For the year, Roberts has now carried the ball 50 times for 396 yards and five touchdowns. Ceaser has been just as effective. The bullish fullback picked up 74 yards against Waycross to bring his total to 262 yards on 47 carries. Ceaser's three rushing touchdowns against the Bulldogs give him five on the season, and enabled the 'Cats to beat Waycross 28-6.

Against Waycross, the Wildcat offense was only stopped three times, two of which came in the fourth quarter. The only other time Valdosta failed to advance the ball and score was in the second quarter when Coleman Rudolph came up just short on a 23-yard field goal.

"I thought the offensive line blocked well," Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder said after his game Friday. "We bogged down once in the second quarter but other than that thought the kids did a fine job."

Quarterback Ben Hogan has been consistent as well. The senior has completed 16-of-28 passes for 238 yards and three touchdowns this year.

Two of those touchdowns have been caught by wide receiver Kelly

Dawsey who has grabbed seven passes for 130 yards. Keith Beal caught the other touchdown.

Defensively, the 'Cats had one major goal against the Bulldogs. That was to stop Waycross scabbard Barry Boyd at any cost.

Last year, Boyd accounted for over 200 yards in total offense but Friday night the senior found the going a little rough as defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph's troops held the talented back to only 26 yards on the ground.

"It was a little tough for us as a defense after last year's game," said Rudolph. "We wanted to show the people that we've improved since last year when we gave up 29 points."

Valdosta safety Jason Bridges agreed.

"We just wanted to redeem ourselves from last year. It was not so much revenge," he said. "We just had to go out and not make the same mistakes that we did last year. That was the main thing."

And the 'Cats had to improve. Waycross used many different formations during the game but despite the changes the 'Cats adjusted in fine fashion.

"Waycross ran several sets that were brand new to us," said Rudolph. "But the kids adjusted very well on their own. In fact, in the first half, they made adjustments without getting scored upon and that was one of the big keys in the game."

One adjustment Valdosta had to make came in the second quarter when Waycross faked a punt on a fourth-and-five from its own 25-yard line. The play worked for 19 yards



Wildcats' Tailback James Roberts Looks For Running Room As Backfield Mate Isaac Ceaser Leads The Way On Run

but that was as far as the Bulldogs went.

Waycross scored its only six points on a 19-yard run by B.J. Marshall in the fourth quarter. The score was set up when Shawn Smith hauled in a 29-yard pass that was tipped in the secondary by a Wildcat defender.

After the score, Waycross went for

a onside kick, which they recovered.

But it was at that point when the Wildcat defense stiffened. Robert Fillmore sacked the garterback on first down for a loss of two. An incomplete pass followed before Frederick Henton blasted through the line to drop the passer for a seven-yard loss forcing Waycross to punt.

—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta Bulldogs 28-6

Crushes

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

In 1987, Waycross High running back Barry Boyd ran up and over the defense of Valdosta High, accounting for over 200 total yards. But Friday night during the No. 1 ranked 'Cats' 28-6 win over Waycross at Cleveland Field, defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph's charges made the Bulldogs' senior pay.

The Wildcat defense held Boyd to only 26 yards on the ground, and except for a fourth quarter spurt by the Bulldogs, shut the visitors down. In fact, the Bulldogs didn't even cross the 50 yard line until the final period.

While Boyd and company were finding the going tough, the Valdosta running game was once again in top form.

The 'Cats accounted for 213 yards on the ground, 127 of which went to James Roberts on 18 attempts. Fullback Isaac Ceaser added 74 yards on 16 carries and scored three touchdowns.

"It was just a good hitting game on the part of both teams," Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said. "The offensive line blocked extremely well and even though we bogged down that one time in the second quarter, I thought we did fairly well."

Ceaser scored the first two touchdowns of the game. The first score came on a 1-yard run. Dow Drury kicked the first of his four extra-points and Valdosta held a 7-0 lead after one quarter of play.

Waycross..... 0 0 0 6-6
Valdosta..... 7 7 14 0-28

Val—Isaac Ceaser 1 run (Dow Drury Kick)
Val—Ceaser 5 run (Drury Kick)
Val—James Roberts 1 run (Drury Kick)
Val—Ceaser 3 run (Drury Kick)
Way—B. J. Marshall 19 run (run failed)

Way	Val
First Downs	10
Yards Rushing	17
Rushing Attempts	213
Yards Passing	40
Passes	57
Fumbles Lost	17-7-0
Punting	6-2
Penalties	6-34.5
	2-24.5
	5-40
	2-30

Rushing
Waycross — Boyd 14.26, Medlock 5.8, Thompkins 1.8, Smith 1.4, Marshall 2.21, Lee 1.21, Fleming 1.0.
Valdosta — Roberts 18.72, Ceaser 18.74, Hogan 1.1, Parker 3.9, Hinson 2.0.

Passing
Waycross — Faulk 10-50 37, Lee 5-1-0 29, Fleming 2-1-0 8.
Valdosta — Hogan 8-4-0 57.

Receiving
Waycross — Boyd 3-27, Perry 1-19, Medlock 1-(-2), Smith 2-39.
Valdosta — Dawsey 3-44, McSwain 1-13.

Ceaser's second score came on a 5-yard scamper up the middle late in the second quarter.

Leading 14-0 at the half, James Roberts accounted for the 'Cats' third score of the game when he capped a seven-play drive with a 1-yard dive which was set up when Robert Fillmore recovered a fumble on the Bulldog 29.

Ceaser added his third touchdown four minutes late when he raced into the end zone untouched from three yards out.

But it was the Valdosta defense that made the plays as Waycross head coach Dale Williams threw everything but the kitchen sink at the 'Cats in hopes of generating points.

The Bulldogs threw several different sets at Valdosta including the

wishbone and the power I, but except for a 29-yard tipped pass from Reginald Lee to Shawn Smith which set up B. J. Marshall's 19-yard touchdown run, the Valdosta defense was in top form. On the night, Valdosta allowed just 144 total yards.

"The kids were thinking a lot about last year," said Rudolph. "It was a tough pill for the defense to swallow, that is the 29 points we gave up last year.

"I think the kids just had enough pride to make at amends. And they did."

The first half, Waycross tried everything. Early in the second quarter, Waycross had a 4th-and-five when Williams had his punter, quarterback Stacey Faulk, fake a punt. The play, a pass, worked for 19 yards to give Waycross a first down. Three plays later, the Bulldogs were forced to punt.

"When you play a team the caliber of Valdosta, you have to try a little of everything," said Williams. "I just felt we had to take that gamble if we were to have a chance."

Valdosta, 3-0, was led defensively by end Coleman Rudolph who recorded two sacks and recovered one fumble.

Fredrick Henton also had two and one-half sacks while Robert Fillmore added one. Jonathan Davis assisted Henton with one sack.

"Tramps Wrice, a true freshman, had a good game as did Jason Bridges, Carlo Butler and Chris Hart," said Hyder. "The linebacker, Anthony Williams and Bruce Daniels also had fine games."



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy
Valdosta Wildcats' Fullback Isaac Ceaser Tries To Break Loose From Waycross Defender

Wednesday Sept. 21, 1988

Future Business Leaders Hold Meeting

VD T

By MINDEE BUTLER

The Future Business Leaders of America had their first official meeting Sept. 13.

President Matthew Lawrence conducted the meeting of old members, CBE students, and prospective members.

Maxine Martin, the chapter adviser, began the meeting by serving orange juice and cinnamon rolls to those who attended. Matt then asked one of the old members to stand up and give a definition of what it meant to be a part of the chapter at Valdosta High.

The 1988-1989 officers were then introduced: Matthew Lawrence, president; Jay Langdale, vice president; Chad Harris, secretary; Chassitty Loving, treasurer; Mindee Butler, reporter; Jibade Johnson, historian; Angela Brown, projects chairman; and Spencer Iverson, parliamentarian.

Matt continued the meeting by explaining the events and competi-

FBLA Officers Discuss Plans

By MINDEE BUTLER

The Valdosta High School Future Business Leaders of America officers met Aug. 26 to discuss plans for the upcoming year.

Jay Langdale, vice president, Chad Harris, secretary, Mindee Butler, reporter, and Matthew Lawrence, president, were all present. Maxine Martin, chapter adviser, and Martha Shad, Phi Beta Lambda state president, also attended the meeting.

The officers discussed their responsibilities, the conferences they will attend, and various fundraisers, community projects, and socials.

Matthew, also the State FBLA president, has had a very active summer. Since his election in April, he and his adviser, Maxine Martin, have traveled to Atlanta for State Executive Council Meeting, to Cincinnati, Ohio, for the FBLA National Leadership Conference, to Savannah for the Vocational Student Organization Conference, and to Covington where Matthew attended the Broyhill Leadership Conference.

Matthew was also a participant on the Georgia Electrification Council's 19th annual Youth Tour of Georgia. They have just recently returned from a trip to Atlanta where Matthew addressed the Georgia Business Educators Association and Mrs. Martin was recognized as the State Business Education Teacher of the Year. They then flew to Washington, D.C., and attended the FBLA-PBL Management Series.

tions that will be available for those who are interested. Members were then asked to sign up for one of the many committees within the chapter. This year, we will be having navy blue T-shirts with the FBLA symbol in white on the front in the upper right hand corner.

Angela Brown, projects chairman, gave her report about the projects she had planned for this year. She asked for volunteers to help with the

FBLA homecoming football game.

Mrs. Martin told about the Tom Wat Showcase, our major fundraiser this year. The showcase contains many little items that would be a good idea for stocking stuffers among other things.

Matt adjourned the meeting by mentioning that the guest speaker for the next meeting would be a professor from the School of Business at Valdosta State College.

Interact Meets

By ROBIN GOLIVESKY

The Valdosta High School Interact Club held its first meeting of the 1988-89 school year with President Jason Bridges, presiding.

Projects for the school year were discussed such as Polio Plus sponsored by Rotary, Arrive Alive, and Salvation Army project.

Alan Golivesky, president-elect, explained the different awards that will be given at the end of the year to outstanding Interact members.

Katherine Coleman, parliamentarian, explained the attendance policy.

Nick Gonis, treasurer, explained the dues structure.

Interact meets first and third Thursdays of the month at 7:15 in VHS Little Theater.



VHS News

Architects Targeting VHS' Leaky Ceilings

VTimes 9-21-88
By KATHLEEN McCROCKLIN
Times Staff Writer

Leaky ceilings at Valdosta High School will be a thing of the past come August as architects make headway on design of a reroofing project which is estimated to cost nearly \$1 million.

Before the roof construction begins near mid-March, a layer of asbestos felt must be removed from the present roof, Glen Gregory of McCall-Gregory and Associates Architects told Valdosta Board of Education members.

Asbestos is considered a carcinogen, Gregory said after the meeting. He said asbestos is a fibrous material which is hazardous if it is inhaled.

Gregory presented a progress report before the board and will now send the preliminary drawings and information off to Atlanta for approval. The state facilities section must approve the project since the majority of costs will be paid through state money.

The 228,000 square-foot roof has been a source of aggravation at the high school with its dripping and sagging ceilings. This new roof is guaranteed to last for 15 years through the manufacturer.

Board members asked who would be responsible for repairs if the roof turned up problems later.

"We would like to involve our school board attorney in making sure who is responsible for what," school superintendent Walter Altman said.

Sports

VHS Backs
Are Tops...

— Page 1-B



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Isaac Ceaser Takes Break During Practice

Ceaser, Roberts Rank Among State's Better Running Backs

VDT. Times Staff. Sept. 27, 1988

By ANTHONY DASHNER
Times Sports Writer

Power and speed. According to most football coaches, high school, college or pro, these are the two ingredients necessary to be a successful running back.

Valdosta High School head coach football Nick Hyder agrees. But instead of having one running back with these qualities, the Wildcat coach has two.

Led by seniors James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser, the top-ranked Class AAAA team boasts one of the more powerful running games in the state. Roberts and Ceaser are also considered two of the state's best backs.

Roberts, (6-0, 215), was voted Region 1-AAAA's Offensive Player of the Year in 1987 after he rushed for 1,038 yards and 14 touchdowns. So far in 1988, this Wildcat team captain, who runs the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds, has picked up right where he left off. Through three games, Roberts leads Region 1-AAAA South in rushing with 398 yards, good for an average of 8 yards per carry and has scored five touchdowns.

Ceaser, (5-11, 215), although he runs a 4.6, relies more on power.

Ceaser has ground out 262 yards, good for an average of 5.6 yards per rush and has also scored five times. In 1987, the bruising fullback ran for 626 yards and scored 10 touchdowns.

But despite their accomplishments, both Ceaser and Roberts are the consummate team players.

"We are always talking to each other on the field," said Ceaser. "We help each other adjust to the opponent's defense."

"We always go all out for each other. For instance, I go just as hard if I don't have the ball as I do when I'm carrying it. And James does the same."

"When I first started, I was a fullback and Isaac helped me a lot with the position," said Roberts. "We strive to help each other all the time."

"There's no real individual competition between us. Although, once in a while we may bet \$5 on who gets the most yards (laughing). But we know that we couldn't do anything if it wasn't for our offensive line. Lawrence Sharpe, Andy Rykard, all the guys up front are very good blockers. They're the ones who open the holes."

According to Hyder, his star runners have also become total team performers.

"Both of these young men compliment each other very well," Hyder said. "They both block extremely well. In fact, that's the most improved aspect of Isaac's game."

"They can also catch the ball. They're not what you call great receivers, but they give us that additional threat coming out of the backfield. And of course they're great runners."

Opposing coaches are quite aware of this fact. Friday, Northside-Warner Robins and head coach Stan Gann will get a first hand look.

"I don't know how we're going to stop them," Gann said. "We don't have many people on defense with any kind of size. We'll just hang on and hope somebody can catch up and help."

"It (the season) has been good so far," Roberts said. "Everybody's been doing their job. The offensive line, the defense, everybody's been working real hard. We've just got to keep it up."

According to Hyder, the pair scored the highest anyone has ever scored on the "Super Cat" test. The "Super Cat" test is a series of timed drills which include weightlifting, running and other specially designed calisthenics.

There are four levels in which players strive to achieve. Ultra-Cat is the highest attainable level. To be an Ultra-Cat, players must earn 225 points. Ceaser and Roberts scored 251.

"When we first started this program, we (the coaches) thought there was no way anybody could top 225 points. But both these young men did," said Hyder. "We may have to come up with a new level."

Rudolph Expects The Unexpected

V. Times

9-28-88



JACK RUDOLPH

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

When Valdosta High invades Warner Robins' International City Stadium 8 p.m. Friday night to take on Northside-Warner Robins, Wildcat defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph hopes his troops will be able to effectively deal with the Eagles' Wing-T offense.

"First of all, coach Stan Gann is a very capable head coach," Rudolph said. "He's very astute with his offensive thinking. I don't know if he picked up his knowledge from somebody or not. But he knows as much or more about the Wing-T as anybody in the state of Georgia."

Defensively, the 'Cats have given up just 26 points all season long, but Rudolph feels his defense will face its sternest test of the young season.

"Offensively, they've got some very quick kids. They do not have an overly large team but they more than make up for that with their quickness," he said. "They run a lot of diversified sets and unbalanced lines out of their multiple Wing-T. That sort of diversity makes it very tough on a defense."

Quarterback Don Hudson and running back Richard Hall are the two main cogs in the Northside attack. According to Rudolph, Hudson has displayed tremendous quickness and overall excellent athletic ability while Hall is the leading rusher for the Eagles. Currently, Hall is fourth in Region 2-AAAA in rushing with 300 yards on 48 carries and three touchdowns.

Defensively, Rudolph will stay with basically the same defensive unit that has started the previous three games. The only

exception will be freshman Trampis Wrice who is taking the place of the injured Kenny Rose at cornerback.

"Trampis is just a 9th-grader, up from the junior high team. We've always felt that he would fit into our plans but we didn't realize he would do it so quick," said Rudolph. "Normally, we alternate three cornerbacks, playing two while one rests. That's why we've been able to stay relatively fresh so far this year."

"But Trampis had to come in early during the Waycross game when Kenny got hurt and had to play the entire game. And except for when he didn't cover the inside on their touchdown pass, I was very pleased with his progress."

Up front, the 'Cats will start nose guard Robert Fillmore (180), Willie Simon (240) and Zabria Bell (305) who will share time at the right defensive tackle position. Chad Walker

will likely start at the other tackle spot with Coleman Rudolph (220) and Maurice Dean (170) seeing time at the other defensive end spot.

The starting linebackers will be John Downs and Bruce Daniels while Carlo Butler and Jason Bridges will anchor the safety positions. Hart will start along with Wrice at the corner.

"We opened up the season playing Camden, a team which runs a double Wing-T, then we played Greene County and Waycross, a pair of wishbone teams," said Rudolph. "Now we are being put up against an offense with an entirely different theory to offensive football."

"We have to be aware of their quickness and speed at all times. That and Stan's ability to call plays out of their Wing-T has us all very concerned."

VHS Student Rates Superior

V. Times

9-28-88

As a second place, Georgia state winner Ann McCranie, a freshman at Valdosta High School, was one of Georgia's entries in the National History Day competition this summer held on the campus of the University of Maryland.

Miss McCranie received a superior rating for her individual performance entitled, "MacArthur, Truman, and the Korean Conflict." She dramatically portrayed the characters of Gen. Douglas MacArthur and President Harry Truman and the events which led to Truman's dismissal of MacArthur as head of the United Nations' forces in Korea in 1951.

As an eighth grade student at Valdosta Junior High School last year, under the direction of teacher Alfred Hiers, Miss McCranie won regional and state History Day competitions which enabled her to enter the national competition.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Slade McCranie of Valdosta, and her brother, Daniel, and Hiers accompanied Miss McCranie to the national competition.

At VJHS Miss McCranie was a member of the Tomcat Band, a mat girl, treasurer of the honor society, and was selected as one of the 10 top eighth graders.

At VHS she is a member of the Marchin Cats Band and Interact Club. She is also active at First United Methodist Church.

More than 1,700 junior and senior high school students from 45 states



Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

Ann McCranie Portrays General McArthur And Truman

participated in the week-long event. The History Day competition theme

for 1987-88 was "Frontiers in History: People, Places, and Ideas."

'Cats Face Tough Defense

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High has been rolling right along on offense so far in 1987, but Friday night against Northside-Warner Robins, the Wildcats will be facing their biggest challenge of the year.

The Eagles, 2-1 after their 41-0 decision Friday over Southeast Macon, have been extremely stingy on defense. Against the Warriors, Northside allowed just 19 total yards.

Northside's only loss was a 14-7 decision to Central Macon. In that game, both of Central's points were the immediate result of turnovers. One Central touchdown came when a Northside fumble was recovered and returned 60 yards for a score. The second touchdown came when the Charger's safety returned an interception 26 yards for the six.

"Northside's defense is very quick, probably the quickest we have seen all year," Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said. "Overall, they are not all that big, but they are

very fast. That's frightening."

For the 'Cats, Hyder said his offensive starters will remain the same. However, one starter who didn't start the Waycross game, center David Hazlehurst, is back at full strength and ready to go.

Joining Hazlehurst (230) on the line will be right tackle Lawrence Sharpe (275), left tackle Steve Smith (220), right guard Andy Rykard (215), left guard Steve Adkins (210) and tight end Lee Thomas (190).

"I thought the line blocked very well the last game," Hyder said. "Steve Smith, Lawrence Sharpe, Andy Rykard, Mathew Butler and Lee Thomas stand out. Steve Adkins also played well."

James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser will once again be carrying the offensive load at tailback and fullback respectively. Roberts has gained 398 yards on 50 attempts and five touchdowns while Ceaser has added 262 yards on 47 attempts and has also scored five times.

"They've got a little bit of size on defense and the coaches tell us they are very quick," Roberts said. "But

other than that we don't know too much about them."

The quarterback for Valdosta will once again be Ben Hogan. Hogan has completed 16-of-38 passes for 238 yards and three touchdowns. Kelly Dawsey and Keith Beal will be the starting receivers.

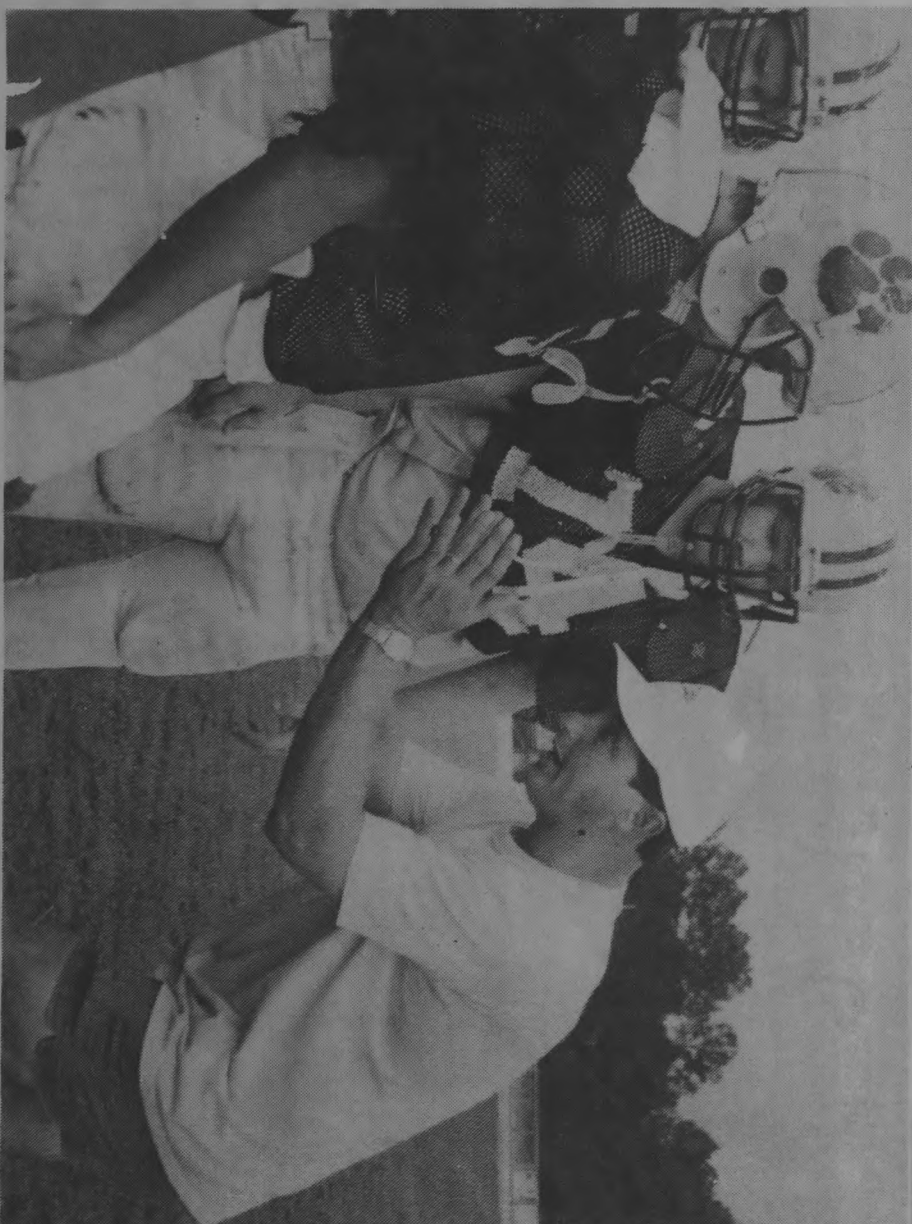
Dow Drury will handle the place-kicking duties.

On defense for Northside and head coach Stan Gann, linebacker James Wonnun, defensive back Tony Cody and defensive ends Stacy Haslem and Gil Gordon are back as the key Eagles who will try to stop the 3-0 'Cats.

Northside averages 190 pounds across the front but two of the biggest Eagles play linebacker.

Juniors Chad Averett and John Schaffer, a pair of 230 pounders, will be counted upon heavily. Steve Paris and Travis Bemby will be the cornerbacks.

"So far defensively, we have looked fairly well," Gann, who runs a multiple defense said. "But I don't think we have been truly tested yet. We will be Friday night."



Offensive Line Coach Jerry Don Baker Instructs Lineman On Proper Technique

Valdosta High School Debaters Win Top Awards

V. Times 9-28-88
By J. CONNELL

Two Valdosta High debaters won speaker awards Saturday in tournament competition.

At the Westminster Debates in Atlanta sophomore Tammy Crowe won first place and sophomore Ashley Connell won second place among novice affirmative speakers. As a team Miss Crowe and Miss Connell finished with a 3-1, won-loss record, winning decisions over teams from Brookwood, Greater Atlanta Christian, and Gainesville High Schools.

Also competing in the novice division were freshmen Matt Baker and Kevin Hiers. Finishing with a 2-2 record, Baker and Hiers defeated teams from Brookwood and Calhoun High Schools. Debating in the junior varsity division were juniors John Casker and Michelle Jones. Casker and Miss Jones were 3-1 with wins over teams from Fayette, LaGrange, and St. Pius High Schools.

In other debate news, members of the Valdosta High Debate Club worked during the summer preparing for a successful season. Four students attended

two-week debate workshops this summer where they spent their time researching and developing arguments on this year's national debate topic, "Resolved: That the federal government should implement a program to guarantee retirement security for U.S. citizens over age 65."

Ashley Connell, Michelle Jones, and J. Connell attended a workshop at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and Tammy Crowe went to West Georgia College in Carrollton. They researched issues such as court guardianship proceedings, nursing homes, population

trends, iatrogenesis, overseas military commitment, budget considerations, and crimes against the elderly.

Frank Hjort, director of debate at VHS, hopes to expand the range of the debate team this year. His new duties as literary coordinator means that students who do not want to debate can still compete and develop their speaking skills through extemporaneous speaking and oral interpretation. The club has been accepted as an affiliate with the National Forensic League, a national honor society for speech students.



VHS News
Compiled, Written by VHS Students

Three VHS Students Merit Finalists

By **SHERRIE FARABEE**
Times Staff Writer

It is nice feeling to be recognized for being a special achiever.

Three Valdosta High School students know just what that feels like. They have been recognized as semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

"I was excited, really excited," semifinalist Meredith McMillan said.

Miss McMillan, James (J.) G. Connell and Joseph (Joey) Tomberlin, have joined the ranks of 15,000 high school seniors across the country who are semifinalists in the 1989 National Merit Scholarship Competition.

The National Merit Scholarship program honors individual students for their high performance.

Students are selected as semifinalists on the basis of their Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test taken their junior year, and are the top scorers in their respective states. These students represent less than half of 1 percent of a state's seniors.

Merit Scholarship winners will be chosen from a group of about 14,000 semifinalists who distinguish themselves by becoming finalists.

Meredith is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McMillan Jr. She is a member of the Interact service club, the science club and the math team at VHS. She is vice president of the Beta Club and co-editor of the yearbook. She said she didn't do anything special to prepare for the test.

"I just did the best I could," she said.

Co-semifinalist Connell is the son of Capt. James Connell and Mrs. Julia C. Oliver. He is a member of the Debate Club which he said takes



MEREDITH MCMILLAN

up a lot of time with research. "Sometimes I wish I had a clerk to do some of it for me," he said. He is also a member of the high school jazz band.

Connell said he didn't think the PSAT was that difficult and wasn't surprised he made the ranks of the semifinalists, although he said he wasn't sure he would get it.

Joey Tomberlin, son of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Tomberlin, is a member of the band, the Interact Club and DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America). He said he was shocked when he found he was a semifinalist in the competition.

"I didn't think I had done that well," he said. "I'm really pleased about it."

Even if he does not make it into the ranks of finalists, Connell said being a semifinalist has its advantages.

"Not a lot of people make it that far," he said. "Colleges look at this and say, 'even if he did not get to be a finalist, he's still a real plus.'"

The competition for finalists is



JAMES CONNELL

more complex. Students must have outstanding academic records throughout secondary school, be endorsed and recommended by their schools, confirm their qualifying performance on a second test (SAT) and complete an application including detailed information about scholastic and extracurricular accomplishments.

With the excitement of being a semifinalist comes the concern over making it to the finals.

"I'm not sure about making that," Meredith said. "There's a lot of people out there who haven't gotten it and only a few winners. I hope I get it though."

From the finalists, 6,000 Merit Scholars will be chosen by committee who will analyze their academic and extracurricular accomplishments, test scores, demonstrated leadership, contributions to the community and written recommendations by the school principal.

The students also had to write a self description of themselves and their interests, plans and goals.



JOSEPH TOMBERLIN

"I was really trying to get myself across, what I'm about, what I do," Tomberlin said of his essay. "The essay was supposed to be a self description, what we thought of ourselves. I wanted to stress my extracurricular activities, my work, and really why I enjoyed what I do with school."

Finalists will have the chance to win one of 1,800 National Merit Scholarships worth \$2,000.

"We're extremely proud of all of these young people," Ms. Wilcox said. "I think it speaks well of our curriculum and preparation that we provide with our students."

Ms. Wilcox said these three students are well-rounded young people who are intelligent, involved in school activities and motivated, she said.

While Merit Scholarship semifinalists, finalists and winners reflect well on the school, the students also get some very important things from the competition having nothing to do with scholarships.

VHS Or Vikesettes Will Be Erased By Archrival

V. Times 9-28-88

By **CHRIS BECKHAM**
Times Sports Writer

TIFTON — Early miscues proved to be the downfall of both the Lowndes High and Valdosta High softball teams in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA softball tournament here Tuesday afternoon. Lowndes fell 5-4 to Coffee High, while Valdosta was beaten by the Colquitt County Lady Packers 7-4.

In the Vikesettes' game against the Coffee County Lady Trojans, Lowndes scored first in the bottom of the third when Georgia Butler walked, went to third on a Latina Childs' double, and scored on a single by Randi Fountain.

However, the Lady Trojans scored three times in the top of the fourth frame to take the lead 3-1.

Lowndes scored again in its half of the fourth when Kim Horne doubled and scored. Irene Brown and cut Coffee's lead to one.

Another Lady Trojan run in the fifth put the Vikesettes behind again by two when Fountain knocked in Childs who had tripled. But Lowndes could not bring in two other runners and remained down 5-3.

The Vikesettes had one more chance to win the game in the bottom of the seventh but again failed to put it away. Childs and Fountain led off the inning with a single and a double to put Lowndes in good shape. But Coffee turned a double play to put a damper on Lowndes' winning plans.

Shanell Jenkins' single brought across one run but the Vikesettes could not capitalize with two runners on and two outs, and lost 5-4.

Childs led the Vikesettes with three hits and one run scored. Shauna McKinnon and Jenkins also had two hits apiece.

The Lady Wildcats got into big trouble in the third inning of their game with the Colquitt County Lady Packers as they gave up four big runs and were down 7-0 after three and a half.

A home run by Vashti Manning in the bottom of the fourth almost sparked a Valdosta comeback. In the fifth inning, the Lady 'Cats opened up with three consecutive hits by Adrienne Cowart, DeDe Dennis and Laura Dennis and an RBI double by Cassandra Twine. Cindy Rumph knocked in the second run of the inning and Sissy Anderson blasted a double to bring in a third.

Manning added another single but the Lady Packers stopped the comeback attempt by stopping the Lady 'Cats with two runners on base.

Manning led the Lady 'Cats with two hits.

The two teams will face each other today at 4:30 in the double-elimination tournament at E.B. Hamilton Softball Complex. The winner will advance to play later in the evening.



The legendary Wright Bazemore

Wright Bazemore: The Legend Lives

V. Post 10-2-88

(Editor's Note: In a recent exclusive and lengthy interview with Valdosta Post staff writer Joseph T. Williams, Wright Bazemore - considered by some to be the greatest football coach in history - talked candidly about his remarkable career. Following is the first in a three-part series about Bazemore.)

Knute Rockne was the Wright Bazemore of college football.

Vince Lombardi was the Wright Bazemore of professional football.

Rockne and Lombardi have been dead for many years. But Bazemore, who amassed a mind-boggling record of 268 victories, 51 defeats and 7 ties in his 28-year coaching career at Valdosta High School, is very much alive and well. - And, yes, today at age 73, he is still living in Valdosta.

Through the years, including the 17 years since he retired from coaching in 1971, Bazemore has been inducted into the Valdosta Hall of Fame; the Georgia Hall of Fame; and most recently, the National High School Federation Hall of Fame.

But Bazemore says the greatest honor he has ever received was the opportunity to coach at Valdosta High School.

In a lengthy interview recently at his home, Bazemore noted that in 1940, his first year at Valdosta, he was an assistant coach.

The Wildcats won the state football championship that year, and won 14 more state titles and three national championships during Bazemore's tenure as head coach. Bazemore's teams also had 12 undefeated seasons.

He insists credit for the national honors he has received must go to "the people I've been associated with - the community, the churches, assistant coaches, and the teams I have coached. No one person can earn an honor such as the National High School Federation Hall of Fame." Coach Bazemore grew up in Fitzgerald, Ga. with two brothers and sisters. "My older brother was one of the finest athletes to ever come out of Fitzgerald," he said. "I grew up in a very athletic family, with my brothers much larger than me. A young man back then had to play football, baseball, basketball, tennis and track. I had the good fortune to play on four of Fitzgerald's finest football teams.

"We lost only two games while I was in high school, going undefeated

my junior and senior years. We beat Waycross 96-6, and went over the 100 point mark three different times. I had a great high school coach, and I was placed in Robert Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" for scoring more touchdowns than any other player in the country. After graduating in 1934, said Bazemore, he attended Mercer University, where my high school coach had been a star. "I had a fond relationship with him, he was like a father to me, and I idolized him.

"At Mercer we played teams like Georgia, Alabama, Navy, and Miami of Florida. We held our own for the first half, but we did not have enough athletes to keep from wearing down in the third and fourth quarter. "My junior or senior in high school I had made up my mind that I wanted to coach high school football. So when I was given the chance to coach at Waycross in 1938, I took it. My first year at Waycross, we tied Valdosta, 0-0, and the next year we beat them 6-0." In 1940, said Bazemore, an opening came up at Valdosta high. He visited Valdosta on a sunny spring afternoon and rode by the Valdosta State College, which he describes to this day as "one of the prettiest campuses I've ever seen."

He remembers that Valdosta "had a climate that made a young man want to be a part of it. I made up my mind never to leave it, and I took Coach Bobby Hooks up on his offer to coach the backfield.

"They had a lot of young men coming back that year, and we were able to win the state championship my first year at Valdosta. In 1941, I became head coach, we had a pretty good team, but we lost to Thomasville in the playoffs. Back then we only had around 30 or 35 players. "In 1943, I volunteered for the service. When all my ex-players and everyone else I was associated with had joined, I could not see myself, a fine young man with nothing wrong with me, sitting around not doing my part, (although) they tried to keep me from joining because they said I was necessary.

Sunday, Oct. 2, 1988
The Valdosta Daily Times



Mike Colombo
Sports Editor

'Cat Offense Rolling Along

The Valdosta Wildcats deserve a hand for a gutsy performance Friday night against Northside Warner Robins. The 'Cats stopped the Eagles 24-0 after what had to be a trying week.

The Wildcats kept their composure and shut down a very good Northside team. What's more, a lot of kids played and played well.

I'm no Nostradamus when it comes to high school football, but I'm not sure if there's anyone in the state who can bottle up the 'Cats for long.

The sheer size of running backs James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser can wear down any defense.

While there's no doubt the VHS defense is tremendous, Valdosta's ability to field a dynamic offensive team year in and year out is incredible.

I'm not belittling the importance and role of defense, but Valdosta has had the best offensive team in the state for the past three years.

The only team that even came close to matching Valdosta's offense was the 1986 LaGrange team that couldn't hang on to the ball when it really counted.

The 1986 state championship game in Class AAAA pitted Valdosta against a Clarke Central team with a good defense but only a decent offense.

Defense does win football games, but I don't think there's a defense in the state (other than Valdosta's own) that could stop the 'Cats for an extended period of time.

* * *

Sunday Oct. 2, 1988

Hyder's 'Cats Learn Lesson In Wake Of Rose's Death

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

The 1988 Valdosta High football team will long remember Friday night's contest with Northside-Warner Robins but it won't be for the 'Cats' 24-0 win.

"I believe we realized this week that there is something more important than football games," Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder said, addressing the death of senior cornerback Kenny Rose, who died last Wednesday.

"We have always believed that but sometimes we might have a tendency to overlook that fact. Sometimes you have to be put to the test. But human dignity and caring for other people are much more important than any football game."

According to Hyder, he was prepared to cancel Friday night's contest.

"It was the wish of Kenny's parents that we play the game," Hyder said. "But we were prepared to do whatever they wanted. Mr. and Mrs. Rose explained to me that Kenny was not a quitter and wouldn't stand for us quitting either. That answer gave me the direction to go ahead and play. I believe this example shows what good Christian people the Roses are and they care about other people as well."

As far as what happened on the field, Hyder was pleased with his team's performance, considering the circumstances.

"Our offense wasn't polished but collision-wise I thought we were," Hyder said. "Northside thought they

had chance to beat us and they did. It was just a Georgia stumping game on blocking and tackling."

Valdosta led 10-0 at the half but in the third quarter, the Wildcats began chewing up large hunks of yardage thanks to great offensive line blocking and strong, determined running by James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser.

Ceaser carried the ball 24 times for 112 yards and two touchdowns while Roberts added 107 yards on 23 attempts and scored once.

For the season, Roberts has carried the ball 73 times for 505 yards and has scored six touchdowns. Ceaser has rushed the ball 71 times for 374 yards and leads the team in touchdowns with seven.

"Those two young men did what college backs do, carry the ball over 20 times apiece," said Hyder. "These are tough kids. I've had youngsters who were good backs but didn't fit into that tough mold. Roberts and Ceaser are built like cement trucks."

Hyder was pleased that his team only turned the ball over two times during the game. Both turnovers were interceptions.

"The one interception Ben Hogan threw was because one of the pass protection blockers dropped his interception was because we ran an incorrect route. We wound up with two people in the same area," Hyder said. "But those are coachable mistakes and we will make the corrections. But other than that, offensively I thought we played well and the hitting on the offensive line

was very intense."

The Valdosta coach also praised wide receiver Kelly Dawsey, whose 29-yard reception sparked a second quarter drive by the Wildcats. Kicker Dow Drury also kicked well, booting a 25-yard field goal and 3-of-3 extra points. Punter Eric Phillips had a fine evening punting the ball, averaging 44.1 yards on three kicks.

"Defensively, I thought we were right on par. Coach Stan Gann is an excellent offensive coach and it took a great team effort by our defense to shut them out," said Hyder.

Northside was effective running the trap early on, picking up a couple of big first downs early in the game. But after adjustments by defensive coaches Jack Rudolph, Charles Tarpley and Freddie Waters, the 'Cat defense shut down the Eagles' inside ground game and held the Eagles in check the rest of the night. Northside only managed 70 yards in total offense, all on the ground, and did not cross into Wildcat territory but twice the entire game.

The entire Valdosta team will attend Rose's funeral Monday afternoon at 3 p.m. then begin preparation for Statesboro High which comes to Cleveland Field Friday night.

Statesboro was beaten by Tift County Friday night, but Hyder is positive the visiting Statesboro Blue Devils will pose a tremendous challenge. One side note to the Statesboro game: Blue Devil head coach Steve Brooks is the son-in-law of Clarke Central head man Billy Henderson.

Wildcat Attack

Valdosta High defensive lineman Monte Steward is shown dragging down Northside-Warner Robins running back Richard Hall. Hall, the 4th leading rusher in Region 2-A AAAA going into last Friday night's game, was held to only 30 by a tenacious Wildcat defense. — Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy

Schert To Consult Members Of VHS Team

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Death affects people in many different ways.

Ever since Valdosta cornerback Kenny Rose's death Wednesday, psychiatrist Dan Schert was asked by Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder and members of the Valdosta City School Board, to assist in the consultation of the VHS team.

Schert's successful work with friends and classmates of a boy who died at Valwood several years ago made the psychiatrist the obvious choice for the VHS's administration.

"Dan came highly recommended to us after his work with the schoolmates and friends of the young child at Valwood, and his



Nick Hyder

overall ability in this line of work," said Hyder. "The decision, oddly enough, was made on the front doorstep of the South Georgia Medical Center. School board members, along with present staff members were present and a decision was made to allow Dan to work with our players on the events that they had witnessed."

According to reports, Schert accompanied the 'Cats on Friday's road trip to Warner Robins. Schert was also asked by Hyder to work with the players throughout the season.

"I've been in the football business 42 years and I have never lost a player. I felt about as useless as a worn out tire," said Hyder. "We

Schert To Consult Members Of VHS Team

needed, I needed, some positive direction. Dan is aiding in this area."

Schert hopes he will be able to help.

"It is tough dealing with the loss of a loved one, or close friend. Basically, what I have tried to do is give the players some guidance and positive direction," said Schert. "I told the players in a personal group meeting that they should do things that would honor Kenny. Whether it be on the field, or around the community."

Hyder spoke about personal support when referring to Schert, pointing out that his work with the Wildcat team to this point has been something special.

"Dan has already given our team members a focal point and a direction," said Hyder. "In fact, the players gave Dan an ovation after his first counseling session. Dan understands our situation and our players have responded to his fine work."

"Dealing with grief and fear is very tremendous for a person after the loss of a person in which they cared for a great deal. I've tried to help the players recognize their feelings and go about their life as Kenny would have liked to had them do. The Valdosta football players are a very courageous group. I'm sure that Kenny would be proud of their positive feelings toward him and life."

Bridges' Return Sparks Wildcats

V. Times 10-8-88

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

For Valdosta High safety Jason Bridges, it was just a matter of being in the right place at the right time in VHS' 34-7 win over Statesboro Friday night.

Facing a third-and-6 from its own 6-yard line, Statesboro High decided to go with a quick kick. It turned out to be a big mistake. On the play, the Blue Devil punter shanked his punt to the 8-yard line, right into the waiting hands of Bridges. He scooted into the end zone for a quick six points, making the score 21-7 and enabling the 'Cats to take control of what had been a tight game.

On the play, Bridges appeared to signal for a fair catch but brought his hand down in time. The official let the play stand, somewhat to the surprise of Bridges.

"I had intended to signal for a fair catch. I had my hand up but then I looked and there was nobody in front of me," said Bridges. "I just cut to the right and was gone. I was just fortunate that I was able to hold on to the ball. I scored the touchdown, but it was the entire defense that set the play up. They deserve just as much credit as I do."

With the win, Valdosta moves to 5-0 on the year, heading into next week's Region 1-AAAA South opener in Bainbridge. Statesboro drops to 2-4 on the year.

"Statesboro has a very well-coached team. They did a fine job against us tonight," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "They did an excellent job disguising their offensive schemes. But then again, the 'Cats played very well too. It was a tremendous effort and I think you saw tonight just what kind of backs James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser are."

Roberts rushed the ball nine times for 161 yards. Ironically, all of Roberts' yards came in the first half of play as the 215-pound senior did not carry the ball in the second half.

Ceaser ran the ball 12 times for 102 yards, 71 of which came on a 71-yard touchdown run with 2:51 left in the third quarter to extend Valdosta's lead to 27-7. The extra-point attempt failed.

The touchdown was Ceaser's ninth on the year, tops on the Valdosta team.

"James just gave me a good lead block, I looked for daylight and then took it from there," said Ceaser. "The whole line blocked well on the play. That's what sprung me."

On the night, Valdosta, which employed eight different runners, rushed for 328 yards. It was the first time this season that the 'Cats have

Statesboro.....	7	0	0	-	7
Valdosta.....	14	7	6	7	-34

SHS — Tony Grant 49 run (Lee Collier kick)
VHS — Isaac Ceaser 2 run (Kick failed)
VHS — Ben Hogan 34 pass to Keith Beal (Jason Nichols run)
VHS — Jason Bridge 8 punt return (Dow Drury kick)
VHS — Ceaser 71 run (kick failed)
VHS — Kendrick Patrick 1 run (Soren Thusen)

	Sta	Val
First Downs	5	13
Yards Rushing	116	328
Rushing Attempts	38	39
Yards Passing	8	48
Passes	6-1-0	16-2-0
Fumbles-Lost	4-1	1-1
Punting	9-30.0	6-30.2
Penalties	4-20	5-55

Rushing
Statesboro — Grant 20-100, Nelson 7-(-13), Mincey 6-5, Douglas 5-20.
Valdosta — Roberts 9-161, Ceaser 12-102, Hogan 3-5, Nichols 4-12, Parker 8-24, Chachere 3-22, Mitchell 1-0, Patrick 2-2.

Passing
Statesboro — Nelson 6-1-0.
Valdosta — Hogan 16-2-0 48

Receiving
Statesboro — Grant 1-8.
Valdosta — Beal 2-48

rushed for over 300 yards.

Quarterbacks Ben Hogan and Jason Nichols and running backs Carlos Parker, Chris Chachere, Dexter Mitchell and Kendrick Patrick all rushed the ball for the 'Cats.

Patrick scored his first touchdown as a member of the varsity as he slipped in from 1-yard out with 1:37 left in the game to cap a 35-yard drive by the second team offense. Soren Thusen, an exchange student from Denmark, kicked the final extra point of the game. Earlier, Dow Drury was 1 for 3 on his extra point attempts.

"Valdosta did exactly what we expected them to do," Statesboro head coach Steve Brooks said. "Of course, the returned kick and the lost fumble had a lot to do with outcome of the game. We were inconsistent but Valdosta had a lot to do with that."

At first it appeared that it would be a long night for the 'Cats as Statesboro scored on the fifth play of the game. On the play, fullback Tony Grant bobbled an option pitch from quarterback Ron Nelson but regained control and scampered around the left side 49 yard to put Statesboro up 7-0. Grant rushed the ball 20 times for 100 yards on the night.

But the 'Cats roared back as Roberts took the kickoff and rambled 66 yards until he was dragged down at the Statesboro 26. Two plays later Roberts dashed 23 yards to the Blue Devil 2. Ceaser quickly took care of those small yards as he dove in with 9:13 remaining in the first. The extra-point attempt was wide.

Five minutes later, Hogan hit wide receiver Keith Beal with a touchdown pass from 34 yards out. Jason Nichols ran in the two-point conversion and Valdosta led 14-7.



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Lee

Valdosta's Lawrence Sharpe (64) And Isaac Ceaser (33) Block While Ben Hogan Passes



Vol. Sun., Oct. 9, 1988

Former 'Cat Gives Chase

Former Valdosta Wildcat and current Navy Midshipman Beau Laskey (45) gives chase to Air Force quarterback Dee Dowis

Saturday afternoon. Dowis scored touchdown on this play as the Air Force defeated Navy 34-24. — AP Laserphoto

Rudolph Says VHS Defense Profited From Statesboro

VDT, Sun. Oct. 9, 1988
By ANTHONY DASHNER
Times Sports Writer



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

second half I thought we played well," he said. "Now we've got to get ready for Bainbridge this Friday. It's our first region game, and as you well know, those are the games that really count."

"Another good thing about tonight's game was that we had to play our starters for three full quarters. That should help us condition-wise for the rest of the year."

Offensively, the VHS rushing attack was solid as ever. Valdosta totaled 328 yards on the ground.

James Roberts led the Wildcats on the ground, picking up 161 yards on just nine carries in the first half. Roberts also returned the 'Cats' first kickoff of the game 66 yards to set up Valdosta's first touchdown of the game.

Six of Roberts' runs were for over 21 yards, including one for 41 yards in the second quarter. On the year, Roberts has rushed the ball 82 times for 664 yards and has scored six touchdowns.

Isaac Ceaser, who was held to 23 yards at the half, finished the game with 102 yards.

play," VHS head coach Nick Hyder said. "He's only a junior, too. We'll see him next year. Grant reminded me a lot of Barry Boyd, Waycross' fine running back who gave us so much trouble last year."

Defensively, middle guard Andre Hampton recorded two quarterback sacks on the night, both coming on consecutive plays late in the second quarter to snuff out a Blue Devil drive. Hampton led the defense with 10 tackles on the night. Safety Carlo Butler recovered a fumble midway through the second quarter. Valdosta forced four Statesboro fumbles on the night.

The 'Cat defense also scored the third touchdown of the game. With time running out in the second quarter, a Statesboro quick kick was shanked and caught by safety Jasor Bridges, who raced into the end zone to put the 'Cats up 20-7.

While the defense obviously recovered, Rudolph was very pleased with his squad's performance, he was not satisfied with their play over the first half.

"We didn't get the intensity I was hoping for in the first half but in the

Valdosta defeated non-region foe Statesboro 34-7 Friday night, but VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph wasn't too happy when Statesboro's Tony Grant ripped off a 49-yard touchdown run early in the first quarter.

Rudolph, however, feels the long run, which came off an option pitch, could benefit his defense down the road.

"That first series of play was a nightmare," Rudolph said. "I think going in we may have been feeding our oats, reading too many of our press clippings."

"After the run, the adjustments we made for the option pitch worked well. Over the last couple of years, the option has given us a lot of trouble. Hopefully now, we can learn from what happened."

Grant, who carried the ball 20 times for 100 yards, became the first back to rush for 100 yards against the 'Cats this season.

"His run was a very well-executed

VHS Quarterback Ben Hogan Follows Blocking Of David Hazelhurst

VDT, Oct. 4, 1988 Tues.

By ANTHONY DASHNER
Times Sports Writer

Even though Statesboro High School gave up 34 points to Tift County last Friday night, Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder says the Blue Devils should not be taken for granted.

"Statesboro was only trailing Tift 20-14 in the fourth quarter and was driving before their quarterback threw an interception that Tift was able to return 72 yards for a touchdown," Hyder said. "That made the score 27-14. Another interception later in the quarter was brought back for another touchdown to account for the 34-14 final score."

Valdosta, 4-0, will host Statesboro, 2-3, 8 p.m. Friday night at Cleveland field.

For the 'Cats, this will be the final non-region game of the season before traveling to Bainbridge Oct. 14, to begin Region 1-AAAA South play.

The key to Statesboro's chances depend on how successful it is against the powerful rushing attack of the Wildcats as runners James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser continue to create havoc on opposing defenses.

Devils' Defensive Capability Concerns 'Cats



STEVE ADKINS

For the season, Roberts has carried the ball 73 times for 505 yards and six touchdowns while Ceaser has rushed the ball 71 times for 374 yards and a team-leading seven touchdowns. Carlos Parker also ran extremely well against Northside last week, picking up 31 yards on just four carries.



ANDY RYKARD

County 13-3, lost to Clarke Central 9-7 then turned around and beat Effingham County, the defending south Georgia champion, 13-6," said Hyder. "With the caliber of competition they have played, Statesboro has either won or played extremely tough. To me, that shows right there that they are a top-

quality opponent."

Defensively, Hyder says the Blue Devils will show his 'Cats a basic split-50 defense but will also use the Oklahoma, a 5-2 50 defense which the Wildcats also use.

"Like Northside, I have been very impressed with their quickness," said Hyder. "Their secondary people are all seniors and our scouts tell us that they are very good tacklers. They also have some tough linebackers."

One of Statesboro's best defenders is right end Chuck Francis. Francis (6-4, 210) has better than average speed and has been a threat to opposing quarterbacks all season long.

Left tackle Virgil Harrington (235) and linebacker Jeff Yawn (190), who will also play fullback, have also been heavy hitters so far for Statesboro. The other linebacker is junior Dewayne Trimble (180).

Seniors Tim Wilkerson (175) anchors the secondary. Bill Thatcher (170), Craig Nunnally (165) and Clay Morris (170) are all very experienced players.

The rest of the Statesboro defense includes right tackle Jeff Kiser (220), nose guard Tom Gramiak (245) and left end Dexter Perkins (185).

Local Players Reunited

vDT. Sun., Oct. 9, 1988

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

ATHENS — Although the University of Georgia's 41-22 win over the Vanderbilt Commodores was very important to the Bulldogs as far as the standings in the Southeastern Conference go, Saturday's game held a special meaning for four football players from the Lowndes County.

For the first time since suiting up for their respective schools, former Lowndes High standouts and current Commodores Gerald "Boo" Mitchell and Wally Hubert faced off against the Bulldogs' David Hargett and Greg Talley. Hargett graduated from Lowndes and Talley from Valdosta. It was the first time during their collegiate careers that all four had competed on the field at the same time.

A split end, Mitchell found the surroundings at Sanford Stadium to be very inviting. The 5-11, 191-pounder hauled in 12 passes for 129 yards on the afternoon.

"It was very strange in a way to see this many Valdosta area players in one collegiate contest," said Mitchell. "I think it says a lot for Valdosta and Lowndes High."

Mitchell, who is the sixth all-time receiver in Vanderbilt history, increased his career reception mark to 151 after Saturday's performance and should be at the top of the SEC receiving for the 1988 season.

"I'm really going to be perfectly honest with you. I don't care about the statistics," said Mitchell. "It's what we do in the W or L column that means something. Today was a perfect example of that. My stats went up, but we went down to defeat."

Hargett, a former LHS teammate of Mitchell's, expressed his feelings concerning his assignment, which was to contain Mitchell.

"Boo and I are great friends. In fact, before the game we jokingly told each other what we were going to do to each other at game time," said Hargett. "Seeing Boo and Wally brought back a lot of memories for me. Although we were on the other side of the fence today, I wish those guys the best of luck."

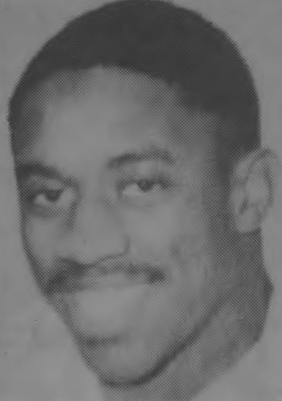
Talley, who completed 1-of-3 passes for 35 yards, enjoyed the reunion as well.

"As Boo said, it says a lot for the city of Valdosta to have four former football players from one town in one college contest," said the Georgia quarterback. "As far as the game went, I felt as if both offenses would score almost every time they had the football, and they almost did do just that."

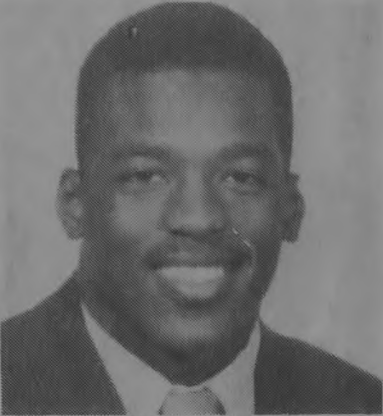
"The main focal point for us entering the game offensively, was keeping the defense off the field. In the second half, we were able to keep the defense on the sidelines. And it paid off."

Hubert, who is a member of the Vanderbilt specialty teams, played well.

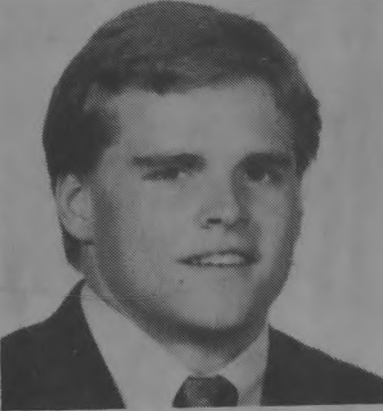
On three Bulldog returns, Hubert



GERALD MITCHELL



DAVID HARGETT



GREG TALLEY



WALLY HUBERT

was in on all three tackles.

According to Hubert, a special teams player does not get the ink that the flashy players do, but proper execution is still a must for success.

"You have to truly look at it from its proper perspective. The team is depending upon you, regardless what position you play," said Hubert. "It means a lot to me personally just to be an active member of this football team."

Hubert echoed the sentiments of Mitchell, Hargett, and Talley.

"It gave me a good feeling to see three Lowndes players and a Valdosta player in one game," said Hubert. "As far as I'm concerned, it shows that Lowndes High and Valdosta High prepared us well for a college career on the field and in the classroom."

Wildcats To Face Tough Bearcat Defense

vDT. Tues., Oct. 11, 1988

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

When 5-0 Valdosta High travels to Bainbridge Friday night to face the 3-1-1 Bearcats, the 'Cats will be playing a team which enjoys pushing opponent's offenses around.

Bainbridge has the size to do just that, especially with 320 pound defensive tackle Ben Clemmons hanging around.

"Bainbridge will be the biggest team up front that we have played this year," VHS head coach Nick Hyder said. "Clemmons and Dexter Cooper are two of their best defensive linemen. Their alternates are all around the 265 pound mark. Bainbridge wants to be able to control the line of scrimmage and with kids this size they've been

successful."

This will be the first Region 1-AAAA South game for Valdosta. Bainbridge is 0-1 in Region 1-AAAA South, dropping a 16-10 decision to Colquitt County three weeks ago.

Offensively, the 'Cats gained over 300 yards rushing for the first time this season Friday against Statesboro. Valdosta gained 328 on the ground.

James Roberts led the Wildcat attack with 161 yard on nine carries. Roberts now has rushed for 664 yards on the year and has scored six touchdowns.

Fullback Isaac Ceaser added 102 yards against Statesboro to bring his season total to 475 yards. The senior leads the 'Cats in scoring with nine touchdowns. Ben Hogan will once again get the call at quarterback.

"You judge good running backs by

their ability to block," said Hyder.

"There's an old saying that goes 'if you have ball carriers who can block, you've got money in the bank.' You can't always have backs like that.

"If James and Isaac were guards, tackles or tight ends, they would be good football players simply for their blocking ability."

Up front, the Wildcats' offensive line continues to get the job done.

Led by starters Andy Rykard, Lawrence Sharpe, Steve Adkins, Steve Smith, David Hazlehurst and alternates Mathew Butler and Andy Bringder, offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker has his troops playing up to form.

"Tackle Andy Rykard and center David Hazlehurst have picked up right where they left off last year," said Baker. "Hazlehurst continues

to grade out the highest every week and has played solid ball.

"Steve Adkins and Steve Smith dedicated themselves over the summer, worked hard in the weight room and put on about 30 pounds apiece."

Lawrence Sharpe has also played well but I don't think he has yet to reach his potential. I think he'll get a lot better."

According to Baker, Butler, who plays all five offensive line positions, will start at left tackle in place of Smith Friday. Smith injured his wrist last Friday but will see some action against Bainbridge.

Lee Thomas and Mickey McSwain will be the tight ends while Kelly Dawsey and Keith Beal will be the receivers. Both Dawsey and Beal have caught two touchdowns apiece so far on the season.

Defensively, Bainbridge, which operates out of a 4-4 defense, is third in the region in scoring defense, having given up 48 points on the year. The Bearcats have several stars.

One such star is linebacker Keith Bryant, considered one of the best athletes on the team, to be a major thorn in the Wildcats' side.

"Bryant is definitely one of the top defensive performers in Region 1-AAAA," said Hyder. "He was moved to linebacker after spending time on the offensive line last season. At 6-2 and 220 pounds, Bryant is a fine a linebacker as we will face."

Linebacker Pat Arial is another standout linebacker who Hyder feels is an all-state candidate. Arial is also the Bearcats' punter. Cornerback Eddie Byrd is considered Bainbridge's top defensive back.



Valdosta High School band member Herald Horn. — Times Staff Photo By Bob Michael Young blows some notes on a long Freitag.

VDT, Wed, Oct 19, 1988
Tooting His Own Horn

Griffin, Demons Chasing 'Cats
 Oct. 19, 1988
 The Associated Press

Class AAAA remained the same, the bottom half of Class A was dramatically remodeled and Stephens County stayed on top of AAA in this week's Georgia high school football poll.

Stephens County beat Thomasville for the top spot in AAA by one point last week, but this week Stephens took a three-point advantage and received seven number one votes from The Associated Press board of sportswriters and broadcasters. Thomasville polled four number one ballots.

Valdosta remained the unanimous choice for No. 1 AAAA, followed by No. 2 Griffin and Warner Robins, which took the No. 3 spot from Southwest DeKalb last week. Rounding out the Top Ten are Southwest DeKalb, McEachern, Carver of Columbus, Douglas County, Morrow, Newman and Redan.

Marist moved down one space to No. 8 AAA, while Thomson moved from No. 8 to No. 7. Hart County held down the ninth spot, and Crisp County emerged this week at No. 10.

Washington-Wilkes, which had tied in AA with Oconee County two weeks in a row, moved from No. 7 to No. 6. Former No. 6 AA Mary Persons dropped from the Top Ten and Early County fell from No. 3 to No. 8.

Avondale and Mitchell-Baker debuted this week at No. 9 and No. 10. Cartersville and Adairsville, ninth and tenth last week, moved up to No. 7 and No. 8, respectively, this week.

Lovett and Greene-Taliaferro moved up one notch to No. 3 and No. 4.

Many changes were afoot in Class A this week. While the top five remained unchanged, the last five were drastically altered.

Claxton went from No. 6 to No. 10; Warren County went from No. 8 to No. 6; Wrens shifted from No. 9 to No. 8; and Buford left the rankings, while Heard County came in at No. 9.

Warren County remained No. 7 for another week.

'Cats Open Subregion Play Tonight

By ANTHONY DASHER
 Times Sports Writer

No. 1-ranked Valdosta High gets its first taste of Region 1-AAAA South competition tonight when the 5-0 Wildcats travel to Bainbridge to take on the 3-1-1 Bearcats.

Kickoff is slated for 8 p.m.

"Bainbridge will play tonight like their backs are against the wall," VHS head coach Nick Hyder said. "They've already lost one region game (16-10 to Colquitt County) and two losses in this region will obviously be very difficult to come back from. We feel that any loss will be difficult to come back from."

Both teams will enter the game with their share of bumps and bruises.

Bainbridge's star running back, Larry Cosby, who has rushed for 552 yards on 85 carries, is reportedly banged up and is listed as questionable.

"Our scouts tell us Walker is almost Cosby's equal," said Hyder. "The only difference is that Cosby has carried the load the majority of the season but just because Walker will be in the game doesn't mean that Bainbridge won't be just as efficient on offense."

For Valdosta, James Roberts is still nursing some bumps and bruises sustained in last Friday's Statesboro game. According to Hyder, Roberts will play but junior Chris Chachere (135) is scheduled to see plenty of action from the tailback position.

"Chris has just had a great week of practice," Hyder said. "James will play but he still needs to recover a bit from the pounding he took last week, but we believe Chris will do well. He can slice very well and cut on a dime."

Mathew Butler will start at left tackle for an injured Steve Smith, but like Roberts, Smith will see action as well.

The rest of the Wildcat lineup will remain the same. Ben Hogan, who has completed 22-of-67 passes for 339 yards and four touchdowns, will start at quarterback. Isaac Ceaser will once again get the nod at fullback.

Joining Butler on the offensive line will be center David Hazelhurst, right tackle Lawrence Sharpe, right guard Andy Rykard, left guard Steve Adkins and tight end Lee Thomas.

Keith Beal and Kelly Dawsey will both see time at split end while Tracey Smothers and Joe Wright will both see action at flanker.

The 'Cats' offensive unit knows what it must do.

"Bainbridge is big and they are strong," backup tackle Ron Hasty said. "They've also got a lot of experience."

Teammate Sharpe agreed.

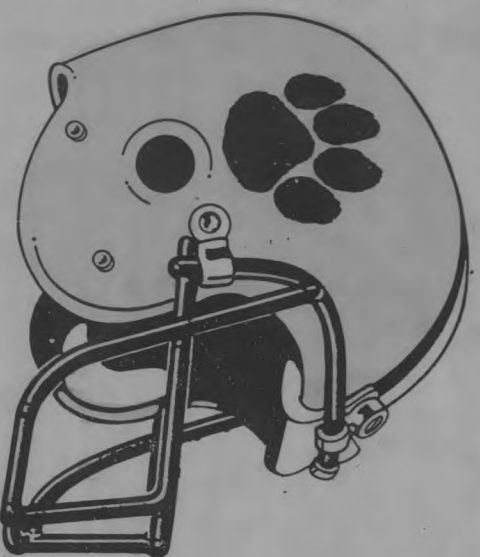
"Bainbridge is a great team," Sharpe said. "They have a lot of size and will be tough to handle. We've just got to give our quarterback enough time to throw the ball."

Defensively, the Bearcats are led by 320-pound tackle Ben Clemmons, end Alfronzie Peterson (173), linebackers Keith Bryant (210) and Pat Arial (175) and cornerback Eddie Byrd.

Defensively for the 'Cats, Frederick Henton and Coleman will be the ends, the tackles will be George Copeland and Zabria Bell and Andre Hampton and Robert Fillmore will alternate at nose guard.

Bruce Daniels and Anthony Williams will be the linebackers, Tramps Wrice will play left cornerback, Chris Hart will play the right corner, Carlo Butler and Travis Lane will alternate at free safety and Jason Bridges will be the strong safety.

Eric Phillips will handle the punting while Dow Drury will be the place kicker.



Wildcats Hope To Contain Bearcats' Cosby

VST, Wed. Oct 12, 1988

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta's powerful running back tandem of James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser has drawn attention from college recruiters throughout the nation, but area fans will get to see another fine running back when the 'Cats open their Region 1-AAAA South schedule at Bainbridge Friday night.

Prior to last week's action, Bainbridge's Larry Cosby was the subregion's leading rusher with 552 yards on 85 carries and three touchdowns.

Roberts and Coffee's Tony White overtook Cosby last week in the rushing stats as Bainbridge took the night off, but that doesn't make him any less dangerous in the eyes of VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph.

"He must be a heck of a runner if he has stats like Roberts and Ceaser have," said Rudolph. "I know he's considered a top college recruit. He



ANTHONY WILLIAMS

obviously is a threat."

Cosby is a 171-pound senior tailback and is the Bearcats' leading scorer with three touchdowns. Cosby is an all-state performer, and the

VHS scouting unit was impressed with his play against Jefferson County, Fla. two weeks ago.

Bainbridge shuttles in two running backs at fullback in 205-pound senior Gary Stubbs and 198-pound freshman Vidal Lively.

Stubbs has 129 yards on 28 carries while Lively has contributed 78 yards on 15 carries. As a team, Bainbridge has rushed the ball 201 times and has passed the ball 49 times.

The quarterback for the Bearcats is 5-9, 160-pound senior Joe Sweet. Sweet is not known as a rushing quarterback. He has, however, completed 22 of 46 passes for 360 yards and one touchdowns with one interception.

Sweet's leading receiver, oddly enough, is tight end Eric Sander, a 160-pound junior.

Sanders has pulled in 10 catches for 172 yards. Flanker Cedric Walker, a 155-pound junior, has pulled down 9 catches for 120 yards.

Bainbridge comes into the contest with a 3-1-1 record. The Bearcats



ZABRIA BELL

beat Central-Thomaspville 14-13, Monroe 27-12, and Shaw 37-0. The only loss was a subregion loss, 16-10 at the hands of Colquitt County. Bainbridge tied Jefferson 7-7 on Sep.

30.

The Bearcat offensive front is anchored by left guard John Hinson (252) and left tackle Marlowe Hinson (6-5, 257). Right tackle Eddie Grimes stand 6-2, and weighs in at 250.

Valdosta will counter with the stingiest defense in the region, and Rudolph said Tuesday that he anticipated no changes for Friday.

The secondary will be led by safeties Carlo Butler and Jason Bridges, cornerbacks Trampis Wrice and Chris Hart.

Anthony Williams will get the nod at one of the linebacker spots with Jonathan Davis and Bruce Daniel alternating at the other linebacker position.

Coleman Rudolph and Fred Henton will line up as the defensive ends. The tackles will be Zabria Bell and Georgia Copeland with Robert Fillmore and Andre Hampton alternating at middle guard.

Last week, Statesboro became the first team this season to rush for over 100 yards against the 'Cats.

Smart Expecting No Tricks From Wildcats

V. Times 10-13-88
By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

BAINBRIDGE — Bainbridge's Sonny Smart was defensive coordinator when the Bearcats lost to Valdosta 21-0 in 1985.

Now, Smart is the head coach for a 3-1-1 Bainbridge team and has to worry about both sides of the ball, but is still mostly concerned with stopping Valdosta's offense.

"Valdosta doesn't try to hide what it's going to do," said Smart. "They'll try to win it with good execution and of course they have those two big backs. It's not a matter of out-guessing them, it's a matter of how to stop them."

"Valdosta can throw the ball, but so far they haven't had too. Those running backs have been running right through people."

Smart is obviously speaking of Valdosta's James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser, a pair of 210-pound bookends that have made Valdosta the top rushing team in Region 1-AAAA South.

Bainbridge comes into the game second in the subregion against the rush, allowing just 408 yards on 153 carries.

The Bearcats, however, are last against the pass, giving up 710 yards through the air and five touchdowns. Bainbridge's offense has been going backwards, and that has Smart concerned. The Bearcats lost to Colquitt County 16-10 and then tied with Jefferson County two weeks ago, 7-7.

"So far being head coach has been good for three weeks, bad for one, and bad for another," said Smart. "We haven't been able to get our offense going. I just don't think we have played that well."

Smart also said that the loss of tight end Eric Sanders has hurt. Sanders was put out of the Colquitt game with a broken collarbone and won't be back for two or three weeks. Sanders is the Bearcats' leading receiver and is fourth in the subregion with 10 catches for 172 yards.

"He's our leading receiver and losing him will definitely hurt our passing game."

Bainbridge's offensive hopes, then, will be placed with tailback Larry Cosby. Cosby is the third-leading rusher in the subregion, and Smart considers him a certain college prospect.

"He's got the ability," said Smart. "He's not that big, but he has tremendous speed."



Valdosta Running Back Isaac Ceaser Scored Three Touchdowns For Valdosta

Ceaser Runs Wild Against Bearcats

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

BAINBRIDGE — In many respects, Valdosta's 42-7 win over Region 1-AAAA South foe Bainbridge here Friday night was a lot like the 'Cats' win last week over the Statesboro Blue Devils.

In last week's 35-7 win over the Blue Devils, Statesboro scored the first seven points of the game before the 'Cats' rolled to an easy win. Friday night, Bainbridge quarterback Joe Sweet hit wide receiver Cedric Walker from 13 yards out to give the Bearcats a 7-0 first quarter lead.

But the first quarter would be the only time Bainbridge fans would be able to cheer as Valdosta completely dominated the final three quarters.

Valdosta improves to 6-0 overall, 1-0 in Region 1-AAAA South while Bainbridge falls to 3-2-1 and 0-2 in region play.

"Bainbridge played without their star runner Larry Cosby and tight end Eric Sanders, but despite these losses played a very hard game," Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said. "But let's take nothing away from our team. We had problems with penalties and a couple of fumbles early on, but we battled back from these mistakes and played a fine game. It was just another great effort. This game made this old coach very proud of his entire team and coaching staff."

Once again, the Valdosta running attack was operating at full speed.

Fullback Isaac Ceaser led the assault with 114 yards on 21 attempts and scored three touchdowns.

Ceaser scored on runs of 16 yards and 8 yards in the second quarter as Valdosta assumed a 13-7 halftime lead.

The bruising fullback's third

Valdosta..... 0 13 14 15 — 42
Bainbridge..... 7 0 0 0 — 7

Bai — Cedric Walker 13 pass from Joe Sweet (Tyronne Darrisaw/Kick)
Val — Isaac Ceaser 16 run (Dow Drury/Kick)
Val — Ceaser 8 run (Kick/Failed)
Val — Ceaser 3 run (Deric Cotton run)
Val — Ben Hogan 1 run (Kick/Failed)
Val — Soren Thuesen 30 g
Val — Cotton 2 run (Kick/Failed)
Val — Cotton 3 run (no attempt)

First Downs	Val	Bai
Yards Rushing	20	5
Rushing Attempts	25	45
Yards Passing	52	27
Passes	14	9
Fumbles-Lost	3	4
Punting	1/25.0	7/28.5
Penalties	4/40	5/55

Rushing
Valdosta — Ceaser 21-114, Roberts 8-68, Chachere 8-72, Cotton 4-10, Hogan 3 (-3), Hinson 3-2, Patrick 1-1.
Bainbridge — Walker 5-4, Lively 3-5, Stubbs 14-38, Sweet 3-14, Close 2 (-16).

Passing
Valdosta — Hogan 12-41 51, Cotton 2-2-0-7.
Bainbridge — Sweet 8-41 31, Close 1-0-0-0.

Receiving
Valdosta — Dawsey 2-31, Beal 1-8, McSwain 1-12, Hinson 1-8, Dunder 1-9.
Bainbridge — Williams 1 (-4), Walker 3-35.

score, a 3-yard run, upped the Valdosta lead to 21-7 with 10:53 to play in the third.

Ceaser's third touchdown, his twelfth of the season, was set up when sophomore Marshun Lane recovered a Tyrone Darrisaw fumble on the opening kickoff of the second half.

The Wildcats, who finished with 255 rushing yards on 52 attempts, received a fine performance from junior tailback Chris Chachere, who replaced starter James Roberts in the second half. Chachere tallied 72 yards on just eight attempts. Roberts added 68 yards on 12 carries, all in the first half of play.

"I told you that Chris had a good week of practice. He had a fine game," said Hyder.

Quarterback Ben Hogan scored the 'Cats' next touchdown on Valdosta's next series of plays when he snuck over from the 1-yard line with

6:10 to go in the third.

Backup kicker Soren Thuesen's 30-yard field goal gave Valdosta a 30-7 lead late in the third quarter before a pair of late touchdown dives by third-string quarterback Deric Cotton, the second coming with time running out in the game.

"It feels great to be able to contribute to the team," Cotton said. "I hated that Jason (backup quarterback Jason Nichols) wasn't able to play because he was hurt but I'm glad that I was able to do my part."

Defensively, the 'Cats' received fine efforts from linemen Zabria Bell, Coleman Rudolph and linebackers Anthony Williams and Bruce Daniels, and safety Jason Bridges.

Rudolph recorded a sack and returned an interception 47 yards to stop a Bainbridge drive late in the second quarter and recorded a sack as did teammate Daniels.

One down-side to the game was when linebacker Jonathan Davis went down with a broken leg late in the second quarter.

According to the VHS medical staff, Davis broke two bones in his leg, his fibula and his tibia. It appears the sophomore could miss the rest of year.

"The play had gone to the left and I just went down," said Davis. "My leg went left but my body went right."

Perhaps the turning point of the game was when Davis was being carried off the field. The 190-pounder gestured to his teammates on the sidelines, firing up the entire Valdosta side.

"I'm sure that had something to do with it," defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said. "Anytime a teammate goes down, the rest of the guys usually try to pull together and win the game for him. That's what we did for Jonathan tonight."

Cheerleaders Need More Than A Smile

By SHERRIE FARABEE
Times Staff Writer

At football games, pep rallies and cheerleading competitions these young ladies are a smiling, peppy, active group, doing jumps, tumblers, and cheers to keep the crowds pepped up and enjoying themselves.

It takes long hours of hard work, practice and conditioning, and a serious commitment.

"You have to really be dedicated and really enjoy what you are doing and you have to set your standards high and be able to work with all the cheerleaders. And you just have to keep physically fit," said Valdosta High School cheerleader Meredith Stanaland.

To do those jumps and tumblers that look so easy during a game, the

girls have regular practices and attend a training camp each summer. They put in the same kind of effort as any athlete because of the skill and endurance required to put on a good, energetic show in all kinds of weather.

"It's more of a sport, you have to be more of an athlete," VHS sponsor Jana Whitehead said. "It has really turned into an athletic sort of event. Most of the girls are tumblers, they are gymnasts.

"We condition like a football team would. You have to be in very good shape," she added.

Cheerleading competitions on television often show squads involved in multi-level pyramid and all kinds of tumblers and jumps.

Because of Georgia Athletic Association regulations enacted over See CHEERLEADING, Page 3-A



The Valdosta Cheerleaders Put Many Hours Of Hard Work Into Game Preparation

Cheerleaders

From Page 1-A

the past few years, the squads are limited to two-level pyramids and certain jumps have been prohibited. The VHS girls, like their counterparts all over the state, have to use their creativity to get good, exciting routines.

"Because the association has really limited the pyramids and the tumblers there is a lot more emphasis on the power tumbling and the dancing and the emotion you put into your routine," squad captain Meredith Coogan said.

Because of their visibility and because they are representatives of their school, the girls' character development is just as important as

their physical development.

"These girls are examples for everyone else in the school. They should be above reproach," Mrs. Whitehead said. "It doesn't always work out that way but we certainly strive for that."

The young ladies also serve as examples for future VHS cheerleaders and Mrs. Whitehead stresses the importance of spending time with the younger students at cheerleader camp and at school. She wants the young ladies on her squad to grow as much as young people as

they do as athletes.

"I want them to be sincere, because I demand a lot of that," Mrs. Whitehead said. "I want them to know how hard it is to achieve a goal, and when they set a goal to work toward that. So many of the young people will see things and want to be given to. A lot of girls don't realize how hard it is, they want to get out there because they want the glitter and the fame. These girls aren't like that."

Mrs. Whitehead said the girls who become cheerleaders are the kind of

young ladies who stand out in other areas. They are involved in clubs and other sports activities and are dedicated students.

It's hard work, but the rewards for a job well done come from the audience and are unlike any other, according to Stanaland.

"When you see the excitement in their eyes and they are kind of sitting on the edge of their chairs, when you can just feel it like chills, when you hear them cheering along with you, then you know you are doing your job."

Griffin, Demons Chasing 'Cats

V. Times 10-19-88
The Associated Press

Class AAAA remained the same, the bottom half of Class A was dramatically remodeled and Stephens County stayed on top of AAA in this week's Georgia high school football poll.

Stephens County beat Thomasville for the top spot in AAA by one point last week, but this week Stephens took a three-point advantage and received seven number one votes from The Associated Press board of sportswriters and broadcasters. Thomasville polled four number one ballots.

Valdosta remained the unanimous choice for No. 1 AAAA, followed by No. 2 Griffin and Warner Robins, which took the No. 3 spot from Southwest DeKalb last week. Rounding out the Top Ten are Southwest DeKalb, McEachern, Carver of Columbus, Douglas County, Morrow, Newnan and Redan.

Marist moved down one space to No. 8 AAA, while Thomson moved from No. 8 to No. 7. Hart County held down the ninth spot, and Crisp County emerged this week at No. 10. Washington-Wilkes, which had tied in AA with Oconee County two weeks in a row, moved from No. 7 to No. 6. Former No. 6 AA Mary Persons dropped from the Top Ten and Early County fell from No. 3 to No. 8.

Avondale and Mitchell-Baker debuted this week at No. 9 and No. 10. Cartersville and Adairsville, ninth and tenth last week, moved up to No. 7 and No. 8, respectively, this week.

Lovett and Greene-Taliaferro moved up one notch to No. 3 and No. 4.

Many changes were afoot in Class A this week. While the top five remained unchanged, the last five were drastically altered.

Claxton went from No. 6 to No. 10; Warren County went from No. 8 to No. 6; Wrens shifted from No. 9 to No. 8; and Buford left the rankings, while Heard County came in at No. 9. Warren County remained No. 7 for another week.

Victory Pleases Hyder

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Even though his Valdosta Wildcats gave up an early touchdown to the opponent for the second week in a row during Friday's 42-7 win over Region 1-AAAA South Bainbridge, VHS head coach Nick Hyder believes his team is progressing nicely.

"I believe we played pretty consistent ball," Hyder said Saturday afternoon. "We caught the ball much better than we did last week against Statesboro.

"Bainbridge has a very large football team, and in the early part of the game there was a lot of tension and several anxious moments. But we adjusted well."

The anxious moments Hyder referred to was in the opening minutes of the first quarter.

After driving 36 yards to open the game, running back James Roberts fumbled after an 11-yard gain to give the Bearcats the ball at their own 46 yard line.

Bainbridge was able to run for one first down before the Valdosta defense held. But the punt was dropped by the 'Cats on the Valdosta 20. On third down, the 'Cats knocked quarterback Joe Sweet for a 4-yard loss but a facemask penalty by Valdosta gave Bainbridge new life at the VHS 13.

That's when Sweet hit receiver Cedric Walker in the right corner of the endzone for a 7-0 first quarter lead.

But that would be the last offense the Bearcats would generate as the Wildcat defense kept Bainbridge under wraps the rest of the evening. The defense allowed but 76 total yards.

The defense was its usual self, the kids played a great game," Hyder said. "We had the pass interception by Coleman Rudolph and we recov-



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta's Chris Hart (32) Closes In On Bainbridge Wide Receiver Tyrone Darrisaw

ered three fumbles. The defense just keeps improving week in and week out and that's a credit to coaches Jack Rudolph, Charles Tarpley and Freddie Waters."

Rudolph was also pleased. "I thought the kids played hard," he said. "We just need to get settled down quicker and get on with what we need to do. One day, it's going to hurt us.

In the second half, Hyder was able to empty his bench as several younger team members were able to see some valuable playing time.

One such player was junior running back Chris Chachere. Chachere, who weighs a scant 135 pounds, ran for 72 yards in the second half of play.

Chachere was taking the place of starter James Roberts, who was rested in the second half. Roberts did manage 68 first-half yards to run

his season total to 732.

Fullback Isaac Ceaser led the Wildcat attack with 114 yard on 21 carries and scored three touchdowns. Ceaser has now rushed for 589 yards and has scored 12 touchdowns.

Quarterbacks Ben Hogan and Deric Cotton also played well. Hogan completed 4-of-12 passes for 51 yards and scored one touchdown on a 1-yard run. Cotton completed both of his passes for 27 yards and scored two rushing touchdowns late in the fourth quarter.

"It was a good game for us to win," said Rudolph. "Number one, it was our first region win. After your first victory of the year and your first road win, your first region victory is always a big one."

The Wildcats will take on Colquitt County in Moultrie this Friday night at 8 p.m.

Wildcats Must Stop Packers' Ben Wiggins

V. Times 10-21-88

Nick Hyder's Valdosta Wildcats will be making their second consecutive road trip into hostile subregion territory tonight.

Tonight's opponents are Jim Hughes and the Colquitt County Packers.

A win would give the 'Cats a stronghold on the Region 1-AAAA South football race, as well as give the 'Cats momentum entering the "Devils Den" in Tifton next week.

The task is pretty much on the table for Valdosta. Stop Colquitt signal caller Ben Wiggins.

Due to Wiggins' athletic talents, the Packers have been able to record four consecutive victories after losing their two opening games of the year.

On paper, the Wildcats have the subregion lead in almost every statistical category, but the game will be played between the white lines.

But then again, Valdosta hasn't been too shabby on the gridiron either.

Defensively, Colquitt has been able to throw its weight around, but that will change.

The talk has been all week long about the Colquitt size and speed. Valdosta is not small by any means.

It will be a tough first quarter, nothing more. Valdosta just has too much of everything.

The 'Cats are due, however, for mistake-filled game and Colquitt is the team that can force these things to happen.

VALDOSTA by 20.



PLAYERS

OF THE WEEK

V.D.T. This is Oct. 25, 1988

EACH WEEK KENNER MOTORS will select 3 players of the Week. The selection will be based on the players that exemplify the winning spirit...dedication, performance, dependability...a real team player! We at KENNER MOTORS feel these attributes are paramount in life, and would like to express our appreciation to these remarkable young men.



VHS
James Roberts

Packers On The Upswing

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

V. Times 10-18-88

Valdosta High will be facing its stiffest test to date when the 'Cats travel to Moultrie Friday night for a Region 1-AAAA South subregion encounter with the Colquitt County Packers.

The top-ranked Wildcats, undefeated in six attempts this season, square off with a hot Colquitt County team. The 4-2 Packers have won four straight since dropping their opening two games. The latest Packer victim was Lee County 33-0 Friday night.

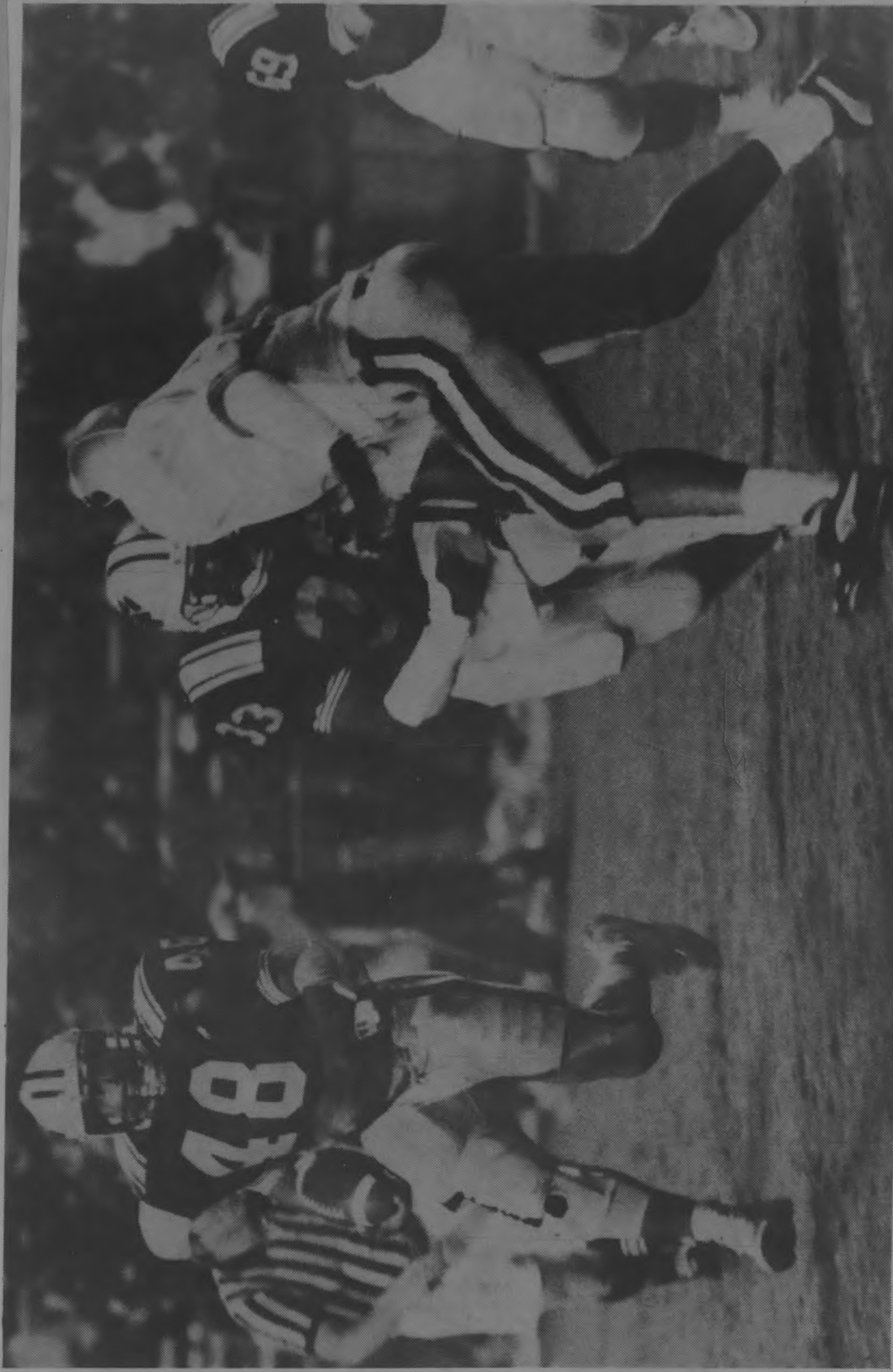
The Packers have posted these victories behind one of the strongest defensive units in the subregion.

The Packers boast an average of 275 pounds on the defensive line, while yielding just 644 yards rushing in 218 attempts.

Valdosta, on the other hand, has rolled up 1,977 yards in six games, with 24 touchdowns and 197 points scored.

"Colquitt has one of the finest defensive clubs anywhere. And it

See Packers, Page 3-B



Times Staff Photos by Paul Leavy

Wildcat Tailback James Roberts Looks For Running Room Around The End As Teammate Isaac Ceaser Leads The Way

Packers

From Page 1-B

will definitely will be our toughest test offensively to date," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "They are huge on the line, as well as quick in the defensive secondary. They hurt you by making very few mistakes."

The matchup will pit the top offensive unit in Region 1-AAAA South subregion in Valdosta, against a Packer defense that ranks third.

Heading the impressive Packer front wall is leading tackler, junior linebacker Darrius Dawson and senior linebacker Eli Mullis.

Dawson leads the team with 44 total tackles and has four quarterback sacks, while Mullis is second on the team in tackles with 31.

Colquitt's front line is led by defensive tackle senior Eric DeBruce (315) and senior tackle Don



LAWRENCE SHARPE

Hart (215).

Although the Packers' strong suit is stopping the opposition in the rushing department, the 'Cats will counter with senior tailback James Roberts and senior fullback Isaac



DAVID HAZELHURST

The Packer secondary is headed up by senior safety Marcus Ponder and junior free safety Daniel Dalton. The corners are seniors Donald Key and Jimmy Johnson.

While the Packers' defensive line

offers very little in the way of the run, it has given up 618 yards passing and three touchdowns, which is next to last in the subregion.

That is an area that Valdosta's senior quarterback Ben Hogan will try to exploit. The 'Cats have a total of 409 yards passing to date.

Among Hogan's targets will be senior tight end Lee Thomas, freshman split end Kelly Dawsey and senior flanker Keith Beal.

The key will be for the Valdosta offensive line to allow Hogan the time to complete his passes.

Leading the offensive line list for Valdosta will be senior center David Hazelhurst (230), senior right guard Andy Rykard (215), senior left guard Steve Adkins (222), senior right tackle Lawrence Sharpe (275) and senior left tackle Steve Smith (220).

V. Times 10-18-88

'Cat Line Humbly Toiling

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

V. Times 10-19-88

In the give-and-take world of high school football, the offensive linemen often get taken. The behemoths of the offensive front are the guys who do a lot of the hard work and get little of the press. They're sore until Sunday.

The offensive lineman's reward is seeing the running back behind him scamper for a good gain. At Valdosta high this year, the linemen have been rewarded well.

Valdosta heads into its seventh contest with a 6-0 record, and the Wildcats lead Region 1-AAAA-South in rushing. Valdosta averages 251 yards per game with 24 rushing touchdowns.

The credit obviously belongs to an experienced offensive front. There is no overpowering leader in this group. The line is anchored by five seniors in center David Hazlehurst (230), guards Andy Rykard (215) and Steve Adkins (210), and tackles Steve Smith (220) and Lawrence Sharpe (265). Matthew Butler (215), considered a starter by offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker, is a junior and can play anywhere on the line.

These six have made holes just big enough for running backs Isaac Ceaser and James Roberts to bull their way through.

Others who have filled roles on the offensive front are tight ends Mickey McSwain and Lee Thomas as well as reserve linemen Ron Hasty, Andy Brindger, Jared Howell, Will Hancock, and Jason Peters.

This offensive line is by no means the biggest in recent Val-



From left to right: Linemen Lee Thomas Hazlehurst, Steve Adkins, Andy Brindger, (12), Lawrence Sharpe, Andy Rykard, David and Matthew Butler.

dosta High history. Wildcat fans can still remember the 300-plus John Wheeless and 275-pound Jodie Sprenkle from the 1986 state and national championship team.

"That's the kind of line you see only once in about 10 years," said Baker. "Normally the offensive line players are the guys that are left after everyone else chooses who they want. So we've got to go out there with what we have."

"This may not be the biggest line, but I'll guarantee you it's one of the quickest."

The Valdosta coaches are famous for making due with what they have, and this quick offensive front fits in perfectly with the type of offense the team runs.

"We have a finesse type offense," said Baker. "We don't run a veer and we don't run the wishbone. Those require big guys who fire off the line and crunch the

defender. We do a lot of pulling and trapping, and because we have guys like Ceaser and Roberts, all we have to do is open a small seam."

Hazlehurst started at center last season. He and Rykard are the only returnings starters.

"Playing center is not all that tough," said Hazlehurst. "It's really like learning any other position. I'm lucky because most teams don't have a nose guard. At least they don't usually line anyone up right on me."

Hazlehurst got his nose smashed in pretty good during the Statesboro game. Adkins, however, was bleeding after the first play from scrimmage.

"We have a great coaching staff here," said Adkins. "Our play calling is good and we have good running backs. Right now I think the line is executing real well."

Sharpe played running back his first three years at Valdosta High, but was moved to the offensive line during the off-season because of his quick feet and his bulk.

"It's fun playing on the line," said Sharpe. "It's especially fun when you trap and get to hit someone when they don't expect it. A lot of us have been playing together since junior high. There's a lot of togetherness."

Thomas, a tight end, would probably prefer to be thought of for his great catches, but that has not been the case this year.

"I'm probably a better blocker than I am a receiver," said Thomas. "That's my contribution to the team. Blockers may not always get noticed but the team can't win without them."



Stan Grubb

Sports Writer

VDT. Tues., Oct. 25, 1988

'Cats, Devils Don't Need Home Field

When the Valdosta High Wildcats and the Tift County Blue Devils square off, the stakes are usually very high.

Friday night's clash will naturally, have playoff implications. Both the 'Cats and Devils are undefeated at 2-0 in Region 1-AAAA South, therefore, the winner will more than likely take home the Region 1-AAAA title.

But something weird has developed over the past several years between these two clubs, that being the home field advantage, or disadvantage, as the case may be.

Due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, the Wildcats and Blue Devils seem to dislike playing at home.

The Blue Devils always play their best football of the year in "Death Valley", while the 'Cats have rolled past Tift County in recent games at the "Devils Den".

Even when speaking with former Blue Devil players and coaches, no one can come up with a reason for this trend.

Although the Wildcats boast an impressive 8-1 record in the past nine games against Tift County, none have come easy at home. But on the road it is another cup of tea.

The 'Cats have won by almost an average of two touchdowns in Tifton.

In fact, 1983 was the last time Tift County defeated Valdosta. The interesting fact here is that during that year, both games were played in Valdosta.

In the 1983 regular season finale, the 'Cats and Devils were both undefeated entering their first game.

Game one in Valdosta saw Dana Brinson rip of a 73-yard touchdown run and Derrick Folsom returned an interception for a touchdown to rally the 'Cats from a 10-0 deficit in the fourth quarter and win 14-10.

The two teams met two weeks later, again at Cleveland Field, for the Region 1-AAAA Championship.

Tift County simply proved that they were the state's best, as they soundly defeated Valdosta 17-13. Even though the result was the same four points, the score didn't indicate the flow of the game.

On the road, it has been another story for the 'Cats. Valdosta has been a dominating force winning on the road in Tifton in 1984. In 1986, Jerome Calloway's running gave the 'Cats a 35-14 victory in Tifton.

Valdosta holds close to a two-touchdown edge on the road against the Blue Devils.

I'm sure no one will forget last seasons playoff win by Valdosta, and the controversy that surrounded the regular season contest.

The officials called that Bernard King had fumbled before he had crossed the goal line on Tift's opening possession. Did he?

But Tift County come roaring down the field for a touchdown and the two-point conversion to tie the contest.

Thank goodness that this year's game is in Tifton.

Former 'Cat Bennett Returning With UCF

VDI. Tues. Oct. 18, 1988

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Although Saturday afternoon's game against the University of Central Florida will be Valdosta State College's annual Homecoming game, for one UCF assistant coach, it will be a homecoming of a different sort.

Bruce Bennett, the defensive backfield coach for the Knights, who starred for Valdosta High during the Wildcats' 1960-61 state championship years and later starred for the University of Florida and Saskatchewan Rough Riders of the Canadian Football League, will also be returning home.

"It will certainly be good to get back home, at least for a little while," Bennett said Monday in a telephone interview with the Times. "I still have a lot of friends in town and it will be good to see them again."

Bennett, who excelled at safety, quarterback and running back while at Valdosta High, is thought by many to be one of the 'Cats' all-time

great players. "Bruce was one of the three toughest boys I ever coached," said VHS coaching legend Wright Bazemore. "He was just outstanding both as a defensive player and as an offensive player. Bruce was everything a father would like his son to be."

Bennett's reputation for toughness is well illustrated by Bazemore, who said that the former all-state athlete was never one to let an injury keep him off the field.

"One time right before the state final, on a Thanksgiving morning, Bruce was working out in the gym practicing his snaps from the center," Bazemore said. "I had been watching him and noticed that he was turning his hand upside down when he took the snap."

"Now Bruce was an all-region and all-state fullback who we moved to quarterback earlier in the year. But I did not like the way he was taking the snap with his left hand on top of the ball instead of his right hand on top. So I go over and chew him out because I never liked for my guys to go trying something new right



BRUCE BENNETT

before a big game.

"Then one of my assistant coaches looked at his hand and the whole top-side was one solid blister. His sister had spilled grease on it or something. I told him he was in no condition to play quarterback but he kept insisting that he wanted to

play. And did you know he played the whole game and didn't fumble the ball the first time?"

For Bennett, who still holds the University of Florida career interception mark with 13, giving 100 percent was something that just came natural.

"I was raised in a family where football was considered a high priority," Bennett said. "I always enjoyed playing football the way it should be played, hard and with a great deal on intensity. Anytime you go after something, whether it be football or whatever occupation you want to try, give it all you've got. If you do, you will be a success."

After graduating from Florida, Bennett went on to play professional football in the Canadian Football League for Saskatchewan from 1966 to 1972. Bennett was an All-Conference defensive player for six years.

After leaving pro ball, in 1973, Bennett went to Eastside High School in Gainesville where he coached football before returning to south Georgia where he was head football coach of Ware County High

School for nine years. Bennett joined the Central Florida staff in 1986.

Thinking back over his high school career, Bennett recalls the 'Cats' 7-0 win over heavily favored Albany and the state championship win over Avondale as two of his most memorable games. But one game stands out even more.

"I remember we went over to Augusta to play Richmond Academy for the South Georgia Championship. We won the game 2-0 on penetration," he said. "We were the underdogs in that game. Richmond had a huge team and we had hardly no size to speak of. But we had a lot of good little competitors and we also had good quickness. I guess that's what makes that win special."

But most of all, Bennett remembers the great times and valuable lessons learned while a member of the Wildcat team.

"Valdosta High provided me with a lot of opportunities, not only to go on and play collegiate and pro ball but to succeed in life overall," Bennett said. "Valdosta provided me with the foundation to do all these things."

Scrapbook/ A Times Sports Feature VDI. Tues., Oct. 25, 1988



Name: Eric Conrad

Position: Drum Major

Location: Valdosta High School

Class: Senior

Parents: Mikel & Debbie Conrad

Future: Florida; Engineering

Hobbies: Wrestling, Trumpet

Marchin' Cats Will Perform In Detroit

VDI. Sat. Oct. 22, 1988
By SHERRIE FARABEE
Times Staff Writer

The Marchin' Cats of Valdosta High School have been invited to march in the 62nd Annual Michigan Thanksgiving parade in Detroit Nov. 24.

Later in the day the band will perform at halftime at the Detroit Lions football game at the Silver Dome. The Cats are the first band in the state of Georgia to be selected for the parade.

The band will leave Friday night Nov. 18, immediately after the football game.

The band was selected on the basis of video and audio tapes and letters of recommendation. The qualifying items were sent in last February.

"On the video tape they asked for copies of half-time performances,

half-time contests and live parade performances, nothing staged," band director Steve Hankla said. "We sent our contest performance from last year, half-time films, Wintersville and the Homecoming parade from last year."

Hankla said judges selecting bands were looking for strong entertainment value.

"Usually they are looking for someone who just doesn't march right through but uses some creativity in their parades," he said.

The band will tour Ontario, Canada, including Niagara Falls and the Royal Ontario Museum.

The parade, featuring nearly 35 float, 10-air inflated helium lifted balloons, 15 marching bands and nearly 950 costumes marchers, will be Thursday, Nov. 24 and the half-time show later that same day. They will return home in time for the Friday night football game.

Four Designated Commended Students In National Merit Program

V. Times 10-19-88

Valdosta High School has been notified by National Merit Scholarship Corp. (NMSC) that Eric Conrad, Leslie Hiers, James McDaniel and Tonya Nolan have been designated Commended Students in the 1989 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Principal William E. Aldrich announced that these seniors placed in the top 50,000 of more than one million participants in the 34th annual Merit Program and will receive a Letter of Commendation in recognition of outstanding academic promise.

An official of NMSC said, "Being named a Commended Student in the extremely competitive Merit Program is a credit to these young men and women and the schools which play a key role in the development of academically talented youth. We hope the recognition these students have earned will increase their motivation to use their abilities to the fullest, for they represent an important intellectual resource which our nation needs."

The more than one million participants in the current Merit Program entered the competition by taking the PSAT/NMSQT in October 1987 as high school juniors. Although their qualifying test scores are very high, the 35,000 young people throughout the nation who are Commended Students scored

shows and other events at Valdosta State College this year. On Nov. 19 six students will compete in Americus against other high school science teams.

Officers Elected

By SANDRA WILLIAMS

The Future Homemakers of America Chapter of Valdosta High School installed 16 new members and officers for the 1988-89 school term.

Elected were president, Natarsha White; vice president, Muriel Holmes; secretary, Rhonda Crawford; public relations chairman, Sandra Williams; treasurer, Sheila Wade; honor roll Chairman, Angel Best; and community projects chairman, Flora Young.

Red and white ribbons, the colors of the F.H.A. organization, were pinned on each new member and officer during the candlelight ceremony. A reception in the Home Economics Department followed to welcome the new officers and members.

Black Achievements

Valdosta High School has been notified by National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students that Roslyn M. Johnson and Tasha Quarterman have been designated as commended students.

William E. Aldrich, principal, announced that these seniors are among 3,000 Achievement Program participants being commended to U.S. institutions of higher education. These students scored in the upper 6 percent of more than 80,000 black students who requested consid-

eration in the program.

The Achievement Program is open only to Black Americans and all program funds are used to honor and assist scholastically able participants. The program is administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corp. The students entered competition by taking the 1987 PSAT/NMSQT.

Honor Society

By MARILYN MOSS

The Calderon Chapter of the

National Spanish Honor Society of Valdosta High School elected officers.

Elected were James Inman, president; Alan Golivesky, vice president; Jamie Essinger, secretary; Katherine Coleman, treasurer; Marilyn Moss, publicity chairman; Emily Josey, parliamentarian.

To be inducted into the society, students must have at least a 93 average in Spanish during their first two years. The society inducts students during the fall and spring of the school year. This is the society's first year under the direction of Elsie Nicholas.



VHS News

Compiled, Written by VHS Students

slightly below the level required for Semifinalist standing in their respective states. Only the 15,000 Semifinalists, whose names were announced on Sept. 15, will continue in the competition for some 6,000 Merit Scholarships to be awarded in the spring.

Science Club Meets

The Science Club at Valdosta High School elected the following officers at a meeting Oct. 13.

They were Jason Bridges — president; Lee Thomas — vice president; Leslie Hiers — secretary; and Katherine Coleman — treasurer. The club plans to attend planetarian

'Cat Defense Must Keep Tabs On Wiggins

V. Times 10-19-88
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Colquitt quarterback Ben Wiggins will the focal point of the Valdosta High defense when the teams collide this Friday night in Moultrie.

Wiggins, who is Region 1-A AAAA South's second leading passer, throwing for 605 yards this season, will have the task of directing his Packers against the suburb's best defensive unit in Valdosta.

"As a defensive squad we have to be really concerned with a player the caliber of Ben Wiggins, who can pass as well as run the option," said VSC defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. "I have a lot of respect for head coach Jim Hughes and his staff and according to Hughes, Wiggins is one of the best he's ever had. To me that's high praise."

The Wildcat defensive unit enters the Packer game giving up just 316 yards rushing on 148 carries, while giving up only 273 yards passing and three touchdowns.

On paper, the 'Cats have a decided advantage in this matchup, especially when the Packers are last in the suburb in offense productivity, scoring just 88 points and gaining a total of 1,254 yards.

"We will have to play very well," said Rudolph. "Wiggins is surrounded by some very talented kids, as well as an offensive line that averages about 235 pounds."

Heading up the defensive line that will try and stop the offensive prowess of Wiggins and the Packers will be right tackle senior Zabria Bell (298) and left tackle junior George Copeland (215).

The Valdosta middle guards will be juniors Andre Hampton (180) and

Robert Fillmore (180). The Wildcat ends are senior Coleman Rudolph (220) and junior Fredrick Henton (190).

The Colquitt offense is primarily an option type setup, but the Packers have used this alignment to give Wiggins a chance to use his athletic talent.

Sophomore tailback Eric Hawkins (170) is the leading rusher for the Packers totaling 198 yards on 44 carries. Hawkins enters with a 4.4 yard per carry average.

Hawkins' running mates will be senior Vincent Yanks (180) and junior Spindola Merritt (155).

The burly Packer offensive line is led by junior guard Deon Williams (225) and senior guard Lee Pickett (235).

Senior Ryan Lamon (185) is at the center position, while senior Charles Smith (235) and junior Dusty Prit-

chett (220) will anchor the tackle spots.

When Wiggins decides to go airborne, the experienced Valdosta secondary will be waiting in the wings.

The 'Cats linebacking corps includes junior Anthony Williams (215) and junior Bruce Daniels (215).

Roaming the secondary will be senior free safety Jason Bridges, left safety senior Carlo Butler, and at the corners will be freshman Trampis Wrice, along with junior Chris Hart.

Wiggins' passing targets include the suburb's second leading receiver in junior split end Rozie McFadden. McFadden has hauled in 19 passes for 246 yards.

Junior flanker Tim Lewis, who ranks seventh among South receivers, has caught 10 passes for 141

yards.

The largest target for Wiggins will be senior tight end Scott Chafin (6-foot-3, 210-pounds).

"This is always one of our toughest road games, and places to play," said Rudolph. "The crowd will of course give them an added boost. We have to play within ourselves, and just do what we are capable of. It should be a fine game."

Wildcat Backs Cause Concern For Packers

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

MOULTRIE — Colquitt County last beat Valdosta High in 1985, and that was last time the Wildcats failed to win the Region 1-AAAAA crown. Heading into Friday night's contest in Moultrie, Packer head coach Jim Hughes knows it will require quite an effort for his team to again knock off Valdosta.

"Valdosta has an excellent football team," said Hughes. "If they have a weakness it's not readily apparent."

On paper and on the field, Hughes' assessment of the Wildcats appears to be correct.

In every offensive category but one, Nick Hyder's 6-0 Wildcats lead Region 1-AAAAA South.

Valdosta leads the subregion in rushing with 1511 yards in six games with 24 rushing touchdowns.

Valdosta leads the subregion in rushing defense, allowing only 316 net yards in six games. Valdosta leads the subregion in pass defense, allowing only a little more than 40 yards per game through the air. Valdosta also leads the subregion in scoring and scoring defense.

The only team stat Valdosta does not dominate is team passing, and there's a reason for that.

"The most obvious physical

going their way it's a four-game winning streak that has put them at 4-2, 1-0 in the subregion after beating Bainbridge.

"They don't seem to be overwhelmed," Hughes said of his team. "If they are, it will be by physical superiority. They play against Valdosta at every age level. I don't believe they will be intimidated by this opponent or any other opponent for that matter."

statement is of course the big running backs," said Hughes of Valdosta's James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser, who both tip the scales at 210 pounds.

"They have an excellent offensive line," said Hughes. "On the other side of the ball is a defense that apparently gets better every week. We will need to play our absolute best to be competitive."

If the Packers have anything

'Cats Set To Face Tough Colquitt County Packers

V. Times 10-21-88
By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Nick Hyder's Valdosta Wildcats have lost to Colquitt County only three times, and since the series between the two school began back in 1913, Valdosta has won 53 times and lost to the Packers only 12 times.

Most prognosticators would expect that trend to continue when the two meet in Moultrie's Mack

Tharpe Stadium tonight at 8 p.m. The Region 1-AAAA South game is obviously an important contest for both schools. Valdosta, Colquitt, and Tift are tied for the subregion lead with one win and no losses each.

It may be appear to be a little early in the season for a game to be termed crucial, but with only five subregion contests they all loom large.

Valdosta comes into the contest ranked No. 1 in all but one team

statistic, while the Packers have been struggling slightly on offense.

The Packers are last in the subregion in scoring, averaging slightly more than 14 points per game. One reason for the low scoring output could be attributed to Colquitt's inability to run the ball consistently.

Colquitt is second to last in rushing offense with only 619 yards in six contests and only six rushing touchdowns.

Wiggins' favorite receiver is Rozzie McFadden, who is second behind Lowndes' Jeffrey Thomas in receiving.

McFadden has pulled in 19 passes for 246 total yards and three touchdowns.

An interesting matchup will be Colquitt's defense against Valdosta's running game. Colquitt is second to Valdosta in rushing defense while the 'Cats are first in rushing offense.

The passing department, however, may be Colquitt's strength. Quarterback Ben Wiggins has led Colquitt's air attack and the Packers are second only to Lowndes in passing yardage. When passing efficiency is combined with overall yardage, the Packers are first in the subregion.

Wiggins has completed 44 of 95 passes for 605 yards, three touchdowns, and seven interceptions.

4-C Sunday, October 23, 1988

Hogan Shows Strong Arm In VHS Win Over Colquitt

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Much has been printed already about Keith Beal's great catch and the running of Valdosta High's James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser during the 'Cats' 35-14 win over Colquitt County Friday night, and rightfully so. There are others, however, who deserve some credit for the win.

First and foremost comes VHS quarterback Ben Hogan. Hogan entered the contest completing only 26 of 79 passes, but threw well Friday night.

Hogan completed seven of 15 passes with no interceptions for 102 yards. It was Roberts who threw a crucial touchdown pass to Beal to tie the game at 14-14 just before halftime, but Hogan got the drive going.

He hit Roberts over the middle for a 41-yard gain and also hit Kelly

Dawsey for 11 yards up the middle on the drive.

"He has quite a responsibility," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "He calls plays and commands the huddle and has to do skill handling of the ball. Ben ranks up there with some of the finest we've ever had. He takes the other players and makes them feel important and that's something a quarterback has to do."

Hogan's athletic skills are complemented by a fierce personal pride. He is a member of the local Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is a top-notch student.

"Ben has all his priorities straight, God, family, academics, friends, team, and that's what we try to teach here."

The offensive line of Andy Rykard, David Hazlehurst, Steve Smith, Lawrence Sharpe, and Steve Adkins dominated in the second

half, and Matthew Butler also played a large role in Valdosta's offensive line success.

"Matthew played both guards and tackle spots," said Hyder. "We consider him a starter and he gave us some help. That's a lot for one player to learn." Also contributing on the front were Andy Brindger and Will Hancock.

Hyder had high praise for his entire defense. Despite the fact that Packer quarterback Ben Wiggins threw for 157 yards, the Packers gained only 51 yards on the ground.

"Our defense played well," said Hyder. "Wiggins is a good quarterback and he and Rozzie McFadden are a good combination. They remind me a lot of Tye Cottle and Darrien Teals at VSC. If our defense hadn't played so well, there might have been some more long passes."

Backup receiver Tracy Smothers caught two passes for 19 yards.

The Valdosta Daily Times



Times Staff Photo by Bob Freilag

Wildcat Running Back Isaac Ceaser Bulls Way For Extra Yardage

Wildcats Roll Over Colquitt

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

MOULTRIE — Even Valdosta High defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph had to admit that a good offense is the best defense after Valdosta beat Colquitt County 35-14 here Friday night in a Region 1-AAAA South battle.

Valdosta's Wildcats headed into the second half tied with the Packers 14-14, but Colquitt ran only 14 plays in the second half on just two possessions.

"To be honest, the offense kept us off the field in the second half and that made the difference," said Rudolph. "In the first half they scored those 14 points but our offense really controlled the second half. They say the best defense is a good offense."

One play in the first half, however, set up the second half and changed the momentum of the game.

Trailing 14-7 in the closing moments of the second quarter, Valdosta scored with just one second left on a miracle play to tie the game.

Quarterback Ben Hogan lofted a pass to the right of the end zone and Colquitt's Marcus Ponder apparently broke the pass up as the Colquitt crowd roared. But all he did was deflect it high into the air and it fell into Keith Beal's arms as he lay on the ground on his back.

"That was a little lucky, but that's part of the game," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "We had some defenders slip down in the first half, and that was luck, too."

"I kept my eye on the ball the whole time," said Beal, who finished with two catches for 48 yards. "I work hard in practice, and just concentrate. That's probably the biggest pass I've ever caught."

"There's no doubt that was a momentum changer," said Hogan. "We were looking at being behind by seven points at halftime. I think that play definitely gave us momentum in the second half."

Like they have done so often, the Wildcats took the second half snap and rammed it down the field for a score and a permanent lead.

On the second play of the drive,

Valdosta..... 7 7 14 7-35
Colquitt County..... 0 14 0 0-14
VAL — James Roberts 4 run (Dow Drury kick)
COL — Kozie McFadden 39 pass from Ben Wiggins (Chad Fitzgerald kick)
COL — McFadden 26 pass from Wiggins (Fitzgerald kick)
VAL — Keith Beal 26 pass from Roberts (Drury kick)
VAL — Ben Hogan 1 run (Drury kick)
VAL — Isaac Ceaser 2 run (Drury kick)
VAL — Carlos Parker 4 run (Soren Thuesen kick)

	VHS	CHS
First Downs	25	13
Yards Rushing	300	51
Rushing Attempts	57	14
Yards Passing	128	157
Passes	16	8-0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Punting	1-34.0	3-39.0
Penalties	7-45	3-25

Rushing
Valdosta— Roberts 19-116, Ceaser 17-91, Chachere 8-41, Parker 6-35, Patrick 2-9, Hogan 3-6, Hilson 2-2.
Colquitt County— Yates 6-43, Hawkins 3-11, Merritt 2-8, Wiggins 3-111.

Passing
Valdosta— Hogan 15-7-0-102, Roberts 1-1-0-26.
Colquitt County— Wiggins 24-10-0-157.

Receiving
Valdosta— Beal 2-48, Roberts 1-35, Dawsey 2-22, Smothers 2-18, Thomas 1-5.
Colquitt County— McFadden 6-119, T. Lewis 2-34, Goff 1-10, Yates 1-13.

fullback Isaac Ceaser ran the ball 35 yards to the VHS 48. Tailback James Roberts then did the bulk of the running, moving the ball to the Colquitt 1 where Hogan ran the ball in. Dow Drury added his third point after and Valdosta lead 21-14.

The 'Cats totally deflated the Packers on the ensuing kickoff. Kicker Anthony Williams unintentionally squibbed the ball for a picture perfect onside kick that Maurice Dean recovered at the Packer 39.

Again, it was Roberts and Ceaser who ran the ball to daylight. It took only 11 plays for Valdosta to score when Ceaser carried the ball over from the 2 to make it 28-14.

"James Roberts is quite a player," said Hyder. "He ran the ball well, and threw a touchdown pass. That's probably the first halfback pass for a touchdown we've seen in five years."

Roberts finished with 116 yards on 19 carries. Ceaser added 91 on 17 carries. Valdosta scored its final touchdown of the game with just 5:12 left.

In that final drive that went 80 yards, youngsters Chris Chachere and Kendrick Patrick showed their talents. They, along with Carlos Parker, moved the ball with ease against a sagging Packer defense and Parker carried it over from the 4 for the final score.



Colquitt County's Ben Wiggins Gets Heavy Pressure From 'Cat End Frederick Henton
Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

Devils Full Of Youth

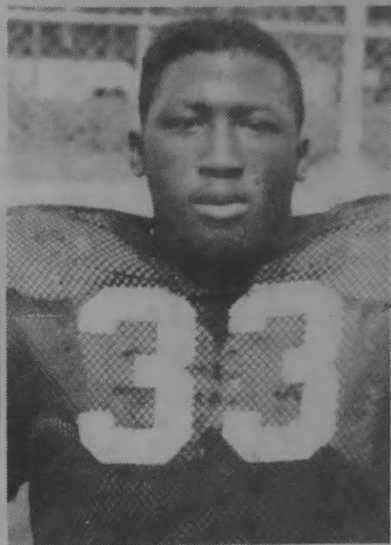
By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

VDT. Tues., Oct. 25, 1988

Even though Tift County High lost all 11 defensive starters off its 1987 football team, Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder says doesn't expect the Blue Devils to be any less a challenge.

"They had a senior club last year but the ones they have now were there too," Hyder said. "They may be young, but Tift's youngsters are as good as any that play in this league."

Tift head coach Gene Brodie just wishes they were just a little bit older with a tad more experience.



ISAAC CEASER

"We'll start four sophomores but we haven't gotten the kids to play as competitively as I would like them to have. We'd better be competitive in four days," Brodie. "Right now, they're (sophomores) playing like silly sophomores, making silly mistake. But for young kids, overall, they've been playing pretty good ball."

The Wildcats, 7-0 overall and 2-0 in Region 1-AAAA South take on the 4-3 and 2-0 Blue Devils in a key subregion matchup in the Devils' Den this Friday night at 8 p.m.

Leading the Blue Devil defense, which held Coffee County to seven points in last week's 35-7 romp over the Trojans, is free safety Derick McCant. McCant, a 178-pound senior, is the leading tackler on the Blue Devil team.

McCant is joined in the secondary by junior strong safety Dewayne Washington (170) and cornerbacks Elijah Jones (160, sr.) and Anthony Barnes (155, jr.)

"Derick McCant is one top-notch

See DEVILS, Page 3-B



VDT., Sat., Oct. 22, 1988

Valdosta Running Back James Roberts Charges Through The Colquitt County Defense

Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

apbook/ A Times Sports Feature VDT. Fri., Oct. 28, 1988



JAMES ROBERTS



Name: Margaret Mosby

Position: Cheerleading Co-Captain

Location: Valdosta High School

Class: Senior

Parents: E.R. & Gayle Mosby

Future: College

Hobbies: Cheering, Dancing

Devils VDT. Tues., Oct. 25, 1988

From Page, 1-B

football player," Hyder said. "Elijah Jones is very strong at cornerback. In fact, their entire secondary I believe has intercepted six or seven passes. They've done a fine job."

Senior Joe Rodgers (215) leads the Blue Devils' linebacker corp. He is joined by senior Mark Mullis and sophomore Mark Johnson (155).

Up front, keying Tift's 4-3 defense, is sophomore right end Gary Lupo (195), sophomore left end Bernard Simmons (190), sophomore left tackle Clay Shiver (230) and senior right tackle Ricky Wright (230).

Brodie said the key to the game will depend on how his young front four can help control the vaunted Valdosta rushing attack, led by senior running backs James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser.

"I don't think we're going to stop Valdosta," Tift's 13-year coach said. "We'll just try to slow them down. I

don't know if we can do that but that's our goal.

Their offense is really clicking on all cylinders right now. Roberts and Ceaser make up the largest, most physical high school backfield that I've ever seen. Plus they've got tremendous speed.

"You've heard of football's four horsemen. Well, those two guys are the four horsemen combined into two. They're the four horsemen all by themselves."

It's easy to understand Brodie's high praise of the two Valdosta running backs. Roberts is second in rushing in Region 1-AAAA South with 838 yards on 119 carries. Roberts has scored seven touchdowns and last week against Colquitt threw a 26-yard touchdown pass to receiver Keith Beal.

Ceaser leads Region 1-AAAA South in scoring with 13 touchdowns and has rushed for 680 yards on 121 carries.

"Our philosophy has always been for our offensive line to get us the first two or three yards and anything more than that would be up to our backs. James and Isaac have both done a super job at that," VHS offensive backfield coach Mike O'Brien said. "So far this season, it seems that no one person has been able to tackle these guys one-on-one. Thanks to our offensive line, the holes have been there and James and Isaac have been able to do the rest"

Joining Roberts and Ceaser in the Wildcat backfield will be senior quarterback Ben Hogan. Keith Beal and Kelly Dawsey will be the receivers.

Up front will be center David Hazlehurst (230), tackles Lawrence Sharpe (275) and Steve Smith (220) and guards Andy Rykard (215) and Steve Adkins (210). Mathew Butler (215) and Andy Brindger (205) will also see action on the line.

Students Attend Leadership Meet

VDT. Wed. Oct. 26, 1988
By MONICA MORRISSETTE

The Valdosta High School Vocational Industrial Clubs of America officers attended the Fall Leadership Conference Oct. 14-16 at the Radisson Inn in Atlanta.

Students attending were Kevin Dowling, Chris Tindall, Kellie Sessions, Keri Kirby, Kevin Weldon, and Monica Morrisette along with club adviser Lynne Wilson and Sharon Sessions.

The students attended rotating seminars on communications, leadership, goal setting, etiquette, ceremonies, and making meetings fun. Keri Kirby and Monica Morrisette achieved the Georgia Statesman Award.

The conference concluded with a dance.

Student Council

By NIKKI NORRIS

The Valdosta High School Student Council elected officers for the 1988-89 school year.

They are Keri Kirby, president; Ebony Robinson, vice president; Nikki Norris, secretary; Katherine Coleman, treasurer; and Chris Hart, parliamentarian.

Senior Student Council officers are Lee Thomas, president; Wendy Griffin, vice president; Jason Bridges, secretary; and Deann Dasher, treasurer. Other senior representatives are Ebony Robinson and Lara Wetherington.

Junior Student Council officers are Spencer Iverson, president; Chris Hart, vice president; Simone Allen, secretary; Jason Griffin, treasurer. Junior representatives are Dan Altman, Katherine Coleman, Myel Robinson, and Nikki Norris.

Sophomore Student Council officers are Dexter Mitchell, president; Justin Bridges, vice president; Cedric Mobley, secretary; and Michael Young, treasurer. Sophomore representatives are Laurie Bajalia, Will Coleman, Meredith Fletcher, and James Sharpe.

Freshman class officers are Michelle Hendricks, president; Ashley House, vice president; Amy Cox, secretary; and Jennifer Weaver, treasurer. The freshman representatives are Matt Baker, Ameer Smith, Jamey Waters, and Tiffany Wright.

Homecoming is the week of Oct. 31- Nov. 5 and the Student Council has made its plans. Students will be



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

asked to dress according to a different theme every day. The homecoming '88 theme is "Welcome to Wildcat Jungle." The council is also organizing the Nov. 4 parade and the dance Nov. 5.

FHA Fall Meeting

By SANDRA WILLIAMS

Delegates from the Valdosta High School chapter of Future Homemakers of America attended the fall district meeting at Peach County High School in Ft. Valley.

The 1988-89 goals of the FHA will include creating better public awareness; increase membership, leadership, and goal setting; and to build a strong positive image within the chapter.

State projects to encourage these goals include scholarship funds, Georgia Peanut Recipe Contest, home economics careers, student body fitness, family ties, camp, and cluster meetings. Through these projects within the homes, school, and community, FHA plans to accomplish these goals.

French Society

By RACHEL HILL

The Valdosta High School chapter of the National French Honor Society has appointed officers for the

1988-89 school year.

They are Jamey Dewar, president; Tasha Quarterman, vice president; Pam Hoover, secretary; Mindi Miller, treasurer; Rachel Hill, projects chairman; and Tonya Nolan, social chairman.

The society is composed of French students who are at least in their second year of French and who maintain an A average in the course. They must also have a B average in their other classes.

Some projects the club has planned for the year included holding French movie nights for the members, decorating parts of the school for Christmas, making name tags for the doors of nursing homes, and recognizing teachers on special school days.

Sharron Gandy is the chapter adviser.



Stan Grubb

Sports Writer

VDT. Fri., Oct. 28, 1988

'Cats' Luck Will Run Out In Devils' Den

A possible Region 1-AAAA playoff berth will be at stake when Tift County and Valdosta High go at it tonight in Tifton.

The 'Cats have had such great success in Tifton, and I'm sure that they feel very happy to have that going for them. But there is only one problem, they have to play the game.

For whatever reason, the Blue Devils can't seem to find the second half handle on Hyder's 'Cats. In the past several meetings, Tift County has given Valdosta fits, then falls apart in the second half.

Valdosta lives off its second half possessions. In fact, the 'Cats have scored on their first possession in the third quarter 85 percent of the time in this series.

The mark of a great football team is to drive down the field and deliver a score when the game is tight.

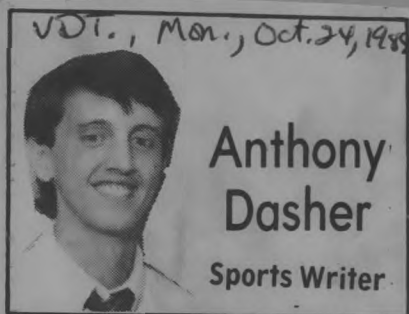
Basically, the Valdosta team has no weaknesses.

If Valdosta's running game is in top fashion, it's all over but the crying for most teams. Not Tift County.

The Devils' high octane passing power and speedy running backs always give the 'Cats a problem, not to mention special teams situations.

Although I have only missed the past two Wildcat games by a total of two points, 'Cat fans hate that I pick them to win by so many points.

Don't get mad. TIFT COUNTY by 3.



Anthony Dasher

Sports Writer

Playing Football Was Always This Writer's Dream

I always wanted to be able to play football.

Unfortunately, for someone who tips the scales at 135 pounds, that's not always the easiest, or safest thing to do.

For the little guys who play the game, more power to you. Chris Chachere, keep on trucking pal.

Chachere, a 135-pound running back for Valdosta High, and other small players like him have to prove themselves every time they step on the field. I admire them for that.

I only wish I had been a little more athletically inclined. It wasn't that I wasn't in bad shape (for a 135-pounder) or didn't love the game, but 135 pound wide receivers take their lives in their own hands every time they go out for a pass.

I say wide receiver. At least that's what I played when I'd go out to play ball with my high school friends in my grandfather's cow pasture.

To me, wide receiver was the position I played most of the time, that didn't mean I was one. Most of the time I couldn't catch a cold. But I had fun trying.

As youngsters, we had this long-standing tradition where we would play our version of the Super Bowl on Thanksgiving morning.

My family, for the past 74 years has ground sugar cane on Thanksgiving Day. And since this was the only time when all of the relatives would be together at one time, we scheduled the big game for that time.

You should have seen the plays we would try to run. There would be triple-reverses, halfback passes, statue-of-liberty plays, you name it we did it.

My high school buddy Glen used to say if the Atlanta Falcons would hire us to coach the offense, there would be Super Bowl parades down Peachtree Street every January.

I never played high school ball but I did suit up for one game. I was lucky to escape with my life.

Back in the spring of 1983, my senior year in high school we had this tradition, which has since been terminated, where the all the underclassmen from that year's varsity football team would take on the senior players, and any other senior male who felt he was man enough to strap on the pads.

Yes, I said pads. Now for the guys who were seniors on that year's team, this was no big deal. But to the rest of us sweats whose only exercise was opening the doors to our Mustangs or pickup trucks, this was another story.

No, it wasn't quite that bad. The non-players who risked life and limb to suit up were in pretty good shape from tossing hay bales and some even played other sports. Yours truly had just gotten through with baseball season and was in the best shape I have ever been in. For those who know me don't laugh to hard.

I'll skip all the gory game details because from my point of view there was really nothing much to describe. We seniors lost 28-6 and I only got in on five plays.

The last time I went into the game, I went in motion and was supposed to cut to the inside and slide back to the outside. But I ran into 255-pound sophomore Andy Dotson, who went on to play for the University of Georgia, and I was through for the day.

Looking back on that afternoon, I realize what Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder means when he talks about football being a collision sport. Unfortunately for me, when I collided, it took about three minutes for me to get up.

But that little incident never dampened my enthusiasm for the game. I guess that's why I got into sports writing.

If you can't play, then covering the games is the next best thing.

Studying to be a sports writer has ended up being the best decision I have ever made.

While still in high school, I covered the varsity team for our local paper. Then when I moved on to college I went on to bigger and better things.

I've always loved just sitting down and talking to players and coaches. In some ways I guess I'm a busy-body but I just like being involved.

That's why I came to Valdosta. If you like athletics, football in particular, then this is the town to be. Having had the opportunity to work with folks like coaches Nick Hyder, Joe Wilson, Mike Cavan and their respective staffs, has been, and I hope continues to be, very enjoyable.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Vol. 84, No. 12

Thurs., Oct. 27, 1988

Valdosta, Georgia

25 Cents

Sports Illustrated Profiles Wildcats

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

October's issue of Sports Illustrated will probably overtake cooking and fishing magazines as the coffee table bill of fare for at least a month here in Valdosta.

The magazine hits the newstands today with an 11-page article featuring Valdosta High School football, past and present.

The article features 17 color pictures and talks to many current

Valdostans and past Wildcat players. The photographs include members of the band, cheerleading squad, coaching staff, and football team, as well as other VHS supporters.

"I was well pleased with the article," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder. "They don't feature high schools very often, and this magazine goes all over the world. It is to sports like Time and Newsweek is to the news media, and we're quite honored."

Hyder also found the article time-

ly, with the four Region 1-AAAA powers squaring off this weekend when Tift County hosts Valdosta and Lowndes hosts Colquitt County.

The article sketches a brief but positive picture of the city as a whole. Former Wildcat head coach Wright Bazemore is interviewed in depth, as are several of his former players.

Bazemore said the article indicated just how good football is in the entire south Georgia area.

"Valdosta is a unique place," said Bazemore. "I don't know of any

other place in the U.S. that can compare with Valdosta as far as town support. But this whole area is knowledgeable about football.

"People in Ashburn, Homerville and Tifton all know what it takes to make a good football team."

Sports Illustrated goes into the era before Bazemore came to Valdosta, and speaks briefly about Hyder's struggle in following the famed coach.

"I think they capture the situation," said Hyder. "That's the way it's been with me. I'm just continu-

ously trying to survive. I think the comparison with Coach Bazemore was fair, and they also touched on the fact that football was here even before Bazemore. It's a part of our community and I was honored."

Hyder was also pleased that the article mentioned his priorities of God, family, academics, friends, and team, and was also pleased that his wife's efforts in helping the team were mentioned.

Hyder's only criticism was that his entire staff was not recognized,

See WILDCATS, Page 3-A

Shutouts Common Last Friday Night

VDT, Sun., Oct. 30, 1988

The Associated Press

Friday was the night of the zero-sum score.

Thirty-seven high school football teams took their victories by holding their opponents scoreless, 11 of which are ranked in The Associated Press' weekly poll.

Even two ranked teams, No. 7 AAAA Douglas County and No. 6 AA Manchester, fell victim to the zero-sum — that is, a gain for one that comes through the loss of another.

David McCord made up for three turnovers with a 57-yard touchdown run that led No. 5 A Lincoln County to a 20-0 victory over No. 8 A Wrens Friday night in Lincolnton.

Lincoln raised its record to 7-2 with this game, while Wrens fell to 7-1.

No. 7 AAA Thomson shut out Richmond Academy 30-0 in Augusta, with Dexter Reese scoring on a 2-yard run, Corbitt Reynolds adding

two more scores from 9 and 11 yards, and Anthony Tuttle taking in a 9-yard pass for a touchdown.

Perennial No. 1 AAAA Valdosta defeated Tift County 21-0 in Tifton, with two second-quarter interceptions by Valdosta's Robert Fillmore and Carlo Butler.

Valdosta improved to 8-0; Tift evened out at 4-4.

Fillmore picked off a screen pass by Ray Merritt to set up a 23-yard drive capped by a 9-yard touchdown run by Isaac Ceaser. Minutes later, Butler happened upon a tipped pass at the Tift 31-yard line that set up James Roberts' 1-yard touchdown dive.

Ceaser then added a 6-yard touchdown leap for Valdosta's final score.

Tift Coach Gene Brodie said his team made itself a victim of the zero-sum.

"Coming in we wanted to avoid the turnovers and make Valdosta drive a long way," he said. "As you can see, we didn't do that."

Wildcats

From Page 1-A

but said that he understood that space probably didn't permit that.

Another Valdostan pleased with the article was Johnny B. Lastinger, the executive vice president of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce.

"I think anytime you get that kind of national exposure it has a positive impact on the town," said Lastinger,

Wildcats

VDT, Thurs., Oct. 27, 1988

whose son is a former VHS quarterback who also played at the University of Georgia.

I know when we were ranked twice as No. 1 by the USA Today, industrial prospects and business people I dealt with mentioned that to me. Any time we get our name spelled right with that kind of coverage, the whole community benefits."

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

VDT, Thurs., Oct. 27, 1988

The Colquitt County Packers led Valdosta last week 14-7 until one second was remaining in the first half. After the final second ticked off the clock in the fourth quarter, the final score was Valdosta 35, Colquitt County 14.

Series' Margin Won't Slow Tift

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Tift County's Gene Brodie enters Friday night's contest against the Valdosta Wildcats with a 3-17 record against Nick Hyder coached Valdosta teams.

Despite the overwhelming record in Valdosta's favor, Wildcat fans know the numbers are somewhat deceptive.

Valdosta has dominated the series, but many of the games have been extremely close. Last year, Valdosta beat Tift County twice at Cleveland Field 17-10, and 24-22.

Even in 1986 when the 'Cats were crowned the state and national champs, the scores were relatively close.

Valdosta won the first game 35-14 but that game was tied 14-14 at halftime. When the two met for the region semifinals, Valdosta won 28-16.

Much of Brodie's success against Valdosta is because he is so familiar with the Wildcats, and VHS head coach Nick Hyder has always maintained it's usually harder to beat someone who knows what your particular team might do.

Tifton and Valdosta enter Friday night's Region 1-AAAA South contest with 2-0 subregion records, but Valdosta is 7-0 overall and ranked number one in the state. Tifton is 4-3 overall after drubbing Coffee last week 35-7.

Brodie is being rather tight-lipped about the game.

"I'm excited about playing them," said Brodie. "They're the measuring stick by which a lot of teams in south Georgia are measured."

The Blue Devils are second in the subregion to Valdosta in scoring, with 142 points in seven games to Valdosta's 232.

The two are close in the passing department with Tift throwing 14 less passes than the Wildcats but completing only two less.

Valdosta is the undisputed rushing leader in the subregion with 1811 yards on the ground and 28 rushing touchdowns.

Tift comes into the contest averaging about 175 yards per game on the ground.

Defensively, the Blue Devils are second to the bottom in rushing defense while Valdosta is the No. 1 team against the rush, allowing just 373 yards total in seven contests.



Reading Time

Magazine reading isn't part of Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder's normal practice session, but it was Wednesday. Sports Illustrated came out with an 11-page spread

on the Valdosta football team that should make 'Cat fans pretty happy. — Times Photo by Bob Freitag

Talley Shines In Georgia's Win Over Indians

VDT Sun. Oct. 30, 1988

The Associated Press

ATHEENS, Ga. — Tim Worley ran for a pair of touchdowns and Greg Talley threw for two others as No. 18 Georgia exploded for 35 second-quarter points Saturday and the Bulldogs went on to a 59-24 victory over William & Mary.

The Indians, 4-3-1, a Division 1-AA power, managed a 7-7 tie after the opening quarter, in front of a homecoming crowd of 80,712, before the Bulldogs erupted.

First it was Worley, who burst over from 7 yards after 51 seconds of the second quarter. Then Wayne Johnson connected on a 6-yard TD pass to Keith Henderson 2:37 later for a 21-7 lead.

After a 26-yard field goal by the Indians' Steve Christie, the Bulldogs, 6-2, put the game away.



GREG TALLEY

Talley, in relief of Johnson at quarterback, then connected with Arthur Marshall on an 81-yard TD



ARTHUR MARSHALL

reception. Less than 3 minutes later, he hit Kirk Warner with a 14-yard scoring strike.

Worley then capped the 35-point quarter by barreling 51 yards for a touchdown, giving Georgia a 42-17 halftime lead. The 42 points equalled the Bulldogs' record for points in a half, first done in 1984 in a 62-35 victory over Vanderbilt.

Worley, who now has 975 yards on the season, had 115 yards on 13 carries.

Talley, who saw only limited action in the second and fourth periods, completed four of five passes for 113 yards; Johnson was 11 of 20 for 141 yards.

The three TD passes by Georgia quarterbacks was the first time the Bulldogs had accomplished that feat since 1982 against Kentucky.

In addition, the 81-yard pass reception by Marshall, in which he

took the short pass on his own 25 and outraced two defenders the rest of the way, was Georgia's longest since the Bulldogs' last-minute 26-21 victory over Florida in 1980 when Buck Belue connected on a 93-yard scoring pass to Lindsay Scott.

Argo passed for 308 yards, hitting on 18 of 42 passes with wide receiver Harry Mehre III, catching three for 49 yards.

Mehre, William & Mary's all-time career record holder for receiving yards, is the grandson of former Georgia Coach Harry

Mehre, who coached the Bulldogs from 1928-37. Georgia's athletic complex, the Butts-Mehre Heritage hall, is named for Mehre and former Coach Wally Butts.

Sports

VHS Junior Butler Baker's Super Sub

VDG. Fri. Oct. 28, 1988
By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

When Valdosta High offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker instructs Matthew Butler to get in the football game, you may hear the junior respond, "but where?"

No, it's not that Butler doesn't know where to line up on the field. The 215-pounder is the Wildcats' version of the super substitute. Butler can, and has, played five different positions on the VHS offensive line.

For Butler, it doesn't matter where the VHS coaches want him to play, just as long as he's able to help his team win.

"I'm just enjoying playing right now," Butler said. "By being able to play more than one position, I'm able to get more playing time."

Indeed he has. Because of injuries and various other reasons, Butler has started every game for the 'Cats so far this season, but not all at the same position. Against Waycross, Butler saw his first action at center when starter David Hazlehurst was injured. Tonight against Tift County, Butler will get the starting nod at right tackle.

For Butler, one position over doesn't mean making any major adjustments.

"Physically, playing guard is a lot more difficult because you always

have to pull one way. It's just a lot more physical work involved," he said. "But mentally, tackle is a little bit tougher."

But whichever position Butler plays, the junior plays each with equal efficiency. The junior in not just a cork to fill in an extra hole. On the contrary, according to Coach Baker, Butler has filled in quite admirably when called upon.

"The key to Matt is that he's a very intelligent football player," Baker said. "He's got speed and he's also got very quick feet. I think his speed is one of his main attributes, that along with his intelligence. He's just a smart football player."

"In Matt's case, since he does play five different positions, what we try to get him to do is get a mirror of how he should play that particular position. For instance, when he's at right tackle, we try to get him to remember how he played at left tackle. In other words, use the same technique but instead of thinking in a left frame of mind, think and play in a right frame of mind. The same is true when he plays either of the guard positions. So far, he's done the job."

Butler will need to continue to do so. Against Tifton tonight, Butler and his colleagues will be facing a Blue Devil team that held Coffee to a mere seven points. Butler knows that the offensive line will be facing one of its toughest tests of the season.



VHS Lineman Matthew Butler Can Play Five Positions
Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

Wildcats Face Tift In Key Subregion Battle

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

No. 1 ranked Valdosta High School hopes to make it win No. 8 on the 1988 season when the Wildcats visit the Devils' Den tonight to take on always tough Tift County in a key Region 1-AAAA South matchup. Kickoff is 8 p.m.

Valdosta enters the game with a 7-0 mark while the Devils come in at 4-3. But more importantly, both teams are 2-0 in Region 1-AAAA South and the winner of this game will no doubt be considered the favorite to win the subregion.

"It's pretty obvious that this is a very important game," VHS head coach Nick Hyder said. "It's always a big game when we play Tift and tonight is certainly no exception."

Blue Devil head coach Gene Brodie agrees, but added that his team will need its best performance of the year if his Blue Devils are to have a chance.

"We've got to play better than we've ever played at

this point during the season. I don't think there's no question about that," he said. "If we play like we did at the first part of the season then we could be embarrassed right here on our home field."

Tift County, which returned only one starter off its 1987 team that dropped two games to the 'Cats, 17-10 and a dramatic 24-22 decision in the Region 1-AAAA championship game. For most teams, trying to replace 21 starters would be an impossible task but Hyder says the Blue Devils have recovered their losses well and anybody who believes that tonight's game with the Devils will be another runaway for the 'Cats had better think again.

"Tift always has a very physical team. This year they may have lost a lot of starters but those kids that are on the team now were there and are as good as they come by in this league," Hyder said.

The Blue Devils are led by running back Bernard King who has rushed for 625 yards on 111 carries. Fullback David Alexander has added 404 yards. When paired with King, Alexander makes the the Blue Devil offense one of the best in Region 1-AAAA South. King has been injured

of late but but has managed to play against Lowndes two weeks ago and Coffee last week.

"We're looking for Tift to try just about anything," VHS' junior linebacker Anthony Williams said. "We're going to have to go hard on every play. We just have to stick together and play as a unit."

Quarterback Ray Merritt is also a vital cog in the Tift County offense. Last week, Merritt completed the first seven passes he threw and finished the game with 96 yards, most coming in the first half of play.

270-pound left tackle Rad Calhoun and 260-pound right tackle Darrin Pitts anchor the offensive line.

Once again, the 'Cats will look to its offensive line to open the holes for powerbacks James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser.

Roberts has carried the ball 109 times for 848 yards while Ceaser has added 680 on 121 attempts. Ceaser leads the team with 13 touchdowns.

"This game will just be another test for our team, both offensively and defensively," Ceaser said. "Tift lost a lot of people but they always play us well and they've always been a hard-hitting team."

'Cats Erupt To Defeat Tift, 21-0

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

TIFTON — Turnovers kill. Just ask Tift County High which saw second quarter interceptions by Valdosta's Robert Fillmore and Carlo Butler set up two short scoring drives as the top-ranked Valdosta Wildcats blanked the Blue Devils in a key Region 1-AAAA South battle here Friday night 21-0.

"It was just another great defensive effort by our kids tonight. They really played well," VHS head coach Nick Hyder said, whose team scored all 21 points in the second quarter. "Of course the two interceptions gave us the opportunity to go ahead and score but we also had to get great blocking by our offensive line, which we did."

Valdosta, ranked No. 1 in the state among Class AAAA schools, improves to 8-0 overall and 3-0 in the subregion. Tift County evens its record at 4-4 and falls to 2-1 in Region 1-AAAA South.

The two teams fought to a 0-0 first quarter standoff but the second quarter was all Valdosta.

Noseguard Robert Fillmore's interception of a Ray Merritt screen pass set up a two-play, 23-yard drive, which Isaac Ceaser took care of with two strong runs. Ceaser's touchdown, a 9-yard jaunt, gave Valdosta all the points it would need with 11:29 to go in the second quarter. Dow Drury's kick made the score 7-0. The 'Cats would never

Valdosta.....	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Tift County.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Val — Isaac Ceaser 8 run (Dow Drury kick)								0-0
Val — James Roberts 1 run (Drury kick)								0-0
Val — Ceaser 9 run (Drury kick)								0-0
First Downs.....	VHS	TC						
Yards Rushing.....	13	7						
Rushing Attempts.....	218	65						
Yards Passing.....	46	19						
Passes.....	19	64						
Fumbles Lost.....	6-3-0	19-6-2						
Punting.....	4-35-0	6-26-6						
Penalties.....	5-40	6-70						
Valdosta— Roberts 20-71, Ceaser 23-141, Hogan 1-1, Chachere 2-5.								
Tift County— King 11-41, Alexander 5-10, Merritt 3-14.								
Valdosta—Hogan 6-30-19.								
Tift County—Merritt 17-6-2-64, King 2-0-0-0.								
Valdosta—Wright 2-10, Ceaser 1-9.								
Tift County— Jones 1-10, Ewings 3-15, Jennings 1-25, McCant 1-14.								

look back.

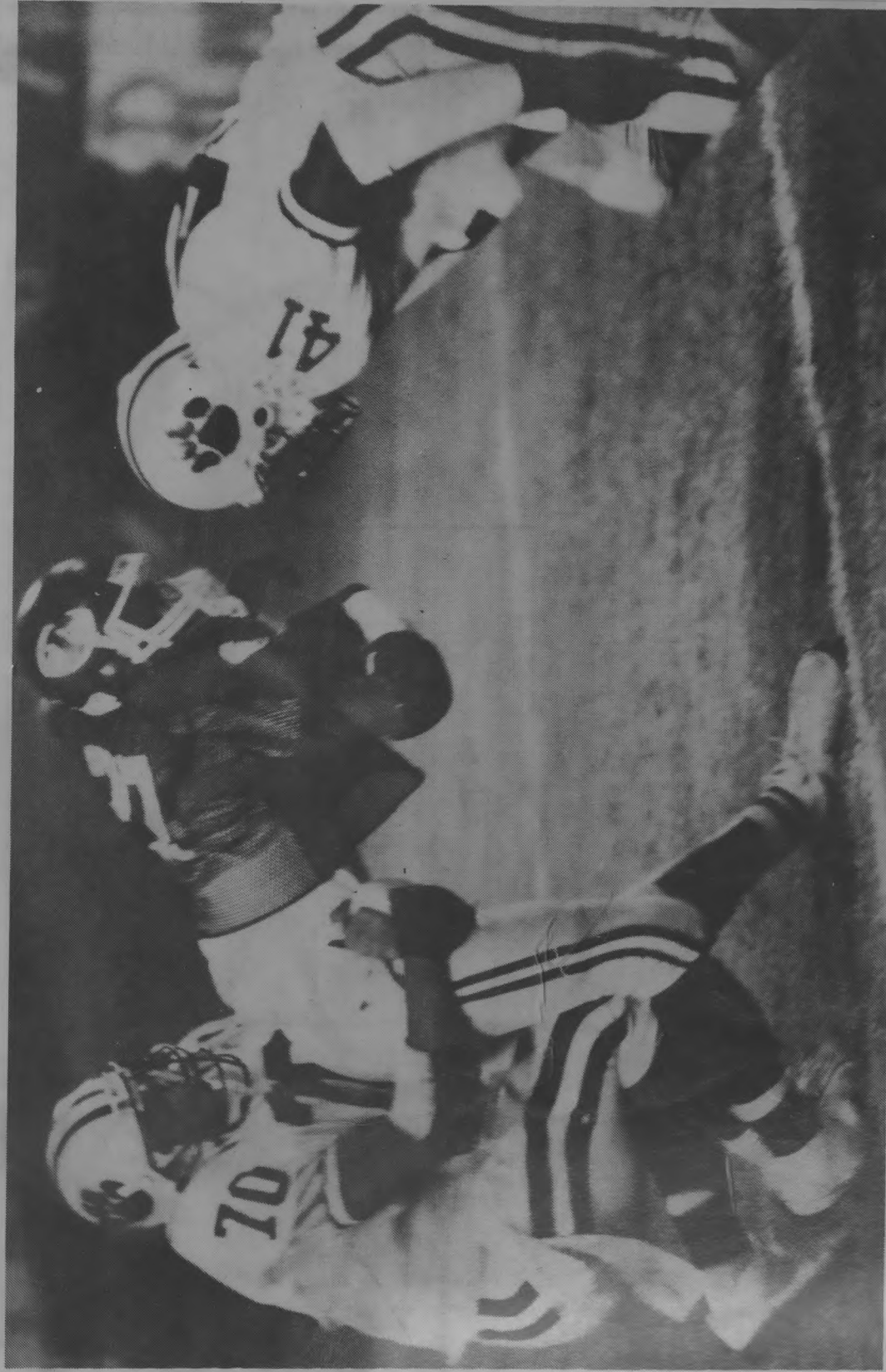
"We had gotten a lot of pressure on their quarterback on that play," Fillmore said. "I saw the back had cut back to the inside and the ball just fell in my hands."

"It was just great defensive effort. We played as a unit."

Safety Butler soon got into the act. Four minutes later, the 205-pound senior saw a tipped pass fall right into his lap at the Tift 31-yard line. Butler then outran the pursuit to the Tift 13 where tailback James Roberts capped a 4-play drive when he dove over from the 1-yard line. Drury's kick made it 14-0 Valdosta with 7:48 to go in the second.

Tift coach Gene Brodie took the loss in stride.

"Coming in we wanted to avoid the turnovers and make Valdosta drive a long way. As you can see, we



Wildcat Defensive Linemen Steve Smith (70) and Maurice Dean (41) Stop The Tift County Blue Devils' Running Back King

didn't do that," he said. "But Valdosta made their own breaks. They are about as sound as I have ever seen them. But anytime you don't score you don't win."

The 'Cats' final score came with 2:41 in the first half as Ceaser went over the right side from 6 yards out to cap a 53-yard drive. A 15-yard spearing penalty by Tift on VHS quarterback Ben Hogan keyed the drive.

Ceaser, who led the Wildcat 218-yard rushing attack, totaled 141 yards on 23 carries. The bruising fullback has rushed for 821 yards on the year and has scored 15 touchdowns.

James Roberts added 71 yards on 20 carries. Roberts has now rushed for 919 yards and has scored 8 times. But defensive was the name of this particular game as the 'Cats held Tift to just 129 total yards.

"This was a very physical, tough football game. I'm just proud of the kids," VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said. "A lot of the

The 'Cats held Tift star running back Bernard King to just 41 yards on 11 attempts. Valdosta was also on top of any trickery the Blue Devils would try as two halfback passes by Region 1-AAAA South action.

Times Staff Photo, by Paul Leavy

King fell harmlessly to the ground. "Everybody just did a great job," said Cat defensive lineman Andre Hampton, who recorded two sacks for Valdosta. "We played as a team and we got the job done."

The 'Cats will put their 8-0 mark on the line again next Friday night at 8 p.m. as the Coffee County Trojans invade Cleveland Field for another Region 1-AAAA South matchup. Coffee beat Bainbridge 10-0 Friday night and Lowndes fell to Colquitt County 17-15 in other Region 1-AAAA South action.

VHS Defense Continues To Hinder Opponents

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

While the running of James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser have garnered most of the attention for the state's No. 1 ranked Class AAAA team, Valdosta High, the Wildcat defense continues to stop opponents dead in their tracks.

Tift County found that out Friday night as the 'Cats secured their second shutout of the year, blanking the Blue Devils 21-0 in the Devils' Den. Valdosta beat Northside-Warner Robins 24-0 earlier this year.

"Anytime you can shut out Tift it really means something. Those people put a lot of effort into their total football program," VHS head coach Nick Hyder said. "Their quarterback, running backs, kicking game and defense are extremely tough, so anytime you can stop them is really a tribute to your defense."

Not only did the 'Cats limit Tift to 129 total yards, but second quarter interceptions deep in Blue Devil territory by Robert Fillmore and Carlo Butler allowed Valdosta to take command of the game with touchdown runs by Ceaser and Roberts.

Fillmore's interception of a Ray Merritt screen pass put the 'Cats in business at the Blue Devil 23 and Butler's interception gave Valdosta the ball at the 13.

"I think that was the momentum setter for us," Hyder said. "On Fillmore's interception we had a good rush, but it was also a good read by Robert. Had he not made that good read that pass would have gone for a long gainer."

"Carlo's interception was also a heads-up play. The ball was tipped and Carlo did an excellent job in adjusting to the ball. If it wouldn't have been for those interceptions, it could have been anybody's game."

Offensively, Valdosta got 141 yards from Ceaser and an additional 71 from Roberts. The 'Cats only attempted six passes, completing three for 19 yards.

"I think we blocked well. I didn't open up my thinking very much Friday as we only threw the ball six times," Hyder said. "We had James Roberts attempt to get off a halfback pass and one pass we threw we ran kind of a bootleg."

"We got a little tired in third quarter but that was mainly because of my play selection. I've got to do a better job in that respect."

"I was disappointed that we didn't field the opening kickoff of the second half cleanly and when we got down close to Tift's goal line in the third we were unable to score. We had a mixup between our quarterback and our receiver on a third down pass play but that was my fault. It was just my play selection. Whenever there is confusion on any particular play it's always the head coach's fault."

But the good way outnumbered the bad. Hyder went on to praise punter Eric Phillips, who punted four times for an average of 35 yards, and right guard Andy Rykard for his job on the offensive line.

This Friday night at Cleveland Field, the 'Cats will take on the Coffee County Trojans, a 10-0 winner over Bainbridge last Friday night.



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta's Isaac Ceaser Lowers His Head As He Picks Up Some Of His 141 Yards



Wildcat Kelvin McDowell takes a water break during Wednesday's practice. Unusually hot October temperatures kept players thirsty. — Times Photo by Bob Freitag

October Weather?
Mrs. Oct. 29, 1988
VDT.

Local Hoop Teams Open Practice

From Staff Reports

It's simply the sign of the times, as the 1988 version of the Lowndes High and Valdosta High basketball teams began fall practice.

Both schools are hoping for successful winning seasons, as well as building playoff contending squads in the new expanded Region 1-AAAA.

The Wildcats, coached by John Miller are looking forward to an enjoyable season with a good mixture of veterans and talented young stars filling this year's roster.

Miller's Valdosta team looks to be headed once again by junior guard James Manning and senior Carlo Butler.

Valdosta Lady 'Cats' head coach Susan Montgomery and her team are hoping to continue a new winning trend in girl's basketball at Valdosta High School. Montgomery's team started what she hopes will be a lasting effect upon her players.

Among Montgomery's returning players are senior center Swandolyn Phillips and junior forward Cassandra Twine.



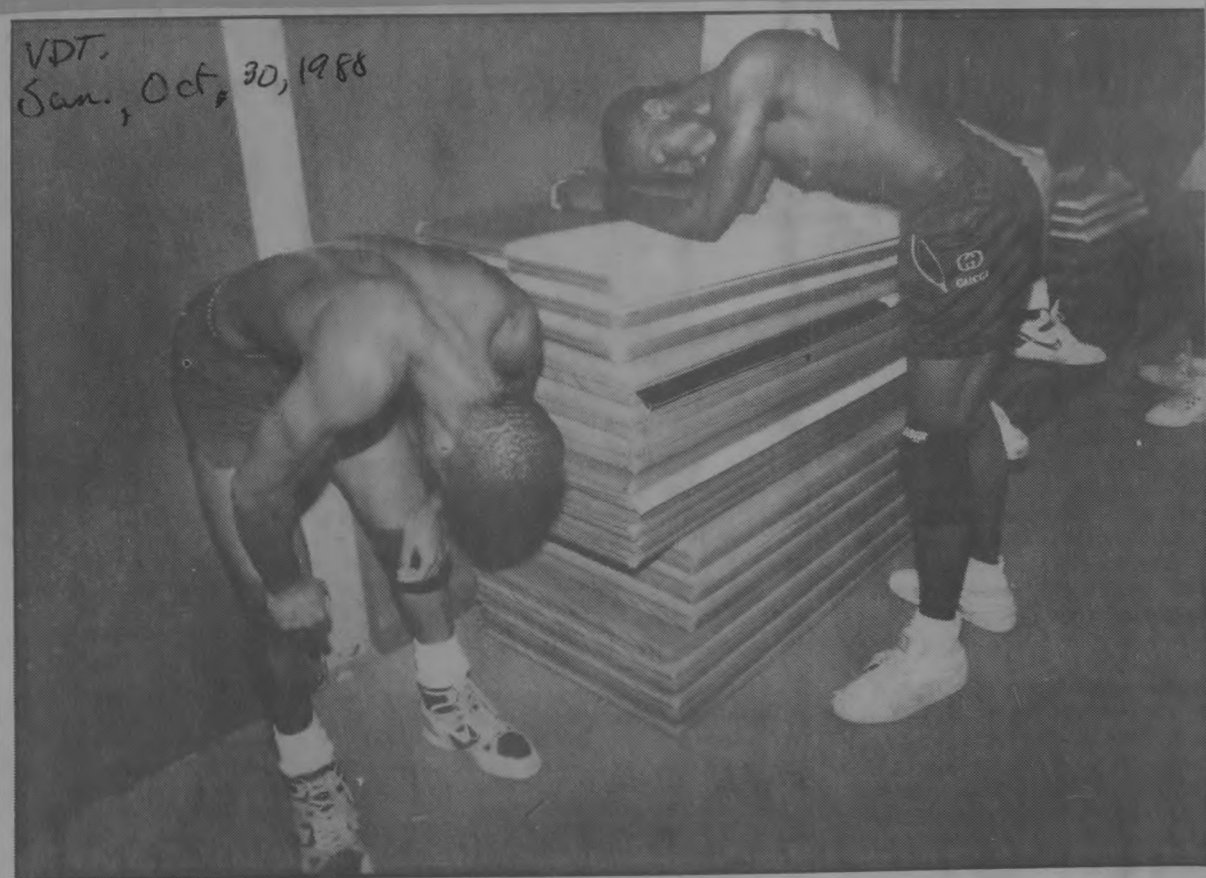
Valdosta Lady 'Cats Find The Going Rough During A Complete Team Scrimmage



'Cats' Brian Limbocker Shows Off His Ball Handling Skills



Valdosta High School Players Battle For The Rebound On A Missed Shot Attempt



Valdosta High Players Spencer Iverson And Jerry Robinson Take A Needed Break

Student Exchange Brought Local Family A New Member

Oct. 21, 1988

By **SHERRIE FARABEE**
Times Staff Writer

The first time Judy Pye laid eyes on her new daughter was a special moment.

"I thought she was beautiful and I was so glad she was there," she said.

This new addition to the Valdosta family came by air — no not by stork but by airplane — all the way from Ecuador. Fernanda Jimenez, called Nandy by her American friends and family, is part of a student exchange program and came to live with the Pyes just a few days before classes began at Valdosta High School.

Suddenly, the family had grown by one. Judy and Richard Pye already have three children, Deanna, Celina and Aaron.

"We had originally considered going with a boy but we felt it would be better companionship for the girls if the exchange student was a girl, and they would have more in

common this way. They have a lot of the same friends, and since they do a lot of the same things that really helps a lot," Richard Pye said.

To the Pyes, it was just one more teen-ager to join in the fun while Fernanda, an only child, suddenly had the chance at the experience of having a large family.

"In my family in Ecuador there are only three of us. Here I have two sisters and a brother, new experiences, they're great," she said.

It has been a time of sharing and growth for all of them. The Pyes have introduced Fernanda to such southern terms as "hey" and "ya'll" and American junk food while Fernanda has brought the songs, stories, foods and attitudes of Ecuador to her American family.

The differences in customs shows themselves continually. One of the most pronounced, according to Fernanda, is the American preoccupation with time. The concept of "hora latina" that is predominant in many Latin American countries carries a sort of "expect me when

you see me" connotation. Here, she said, it is rush, rush, rush.

"America lives with a watch," she said. "all the time I hear 'we are leaving in 10 minutes', 'we are leaving in 12 minutes'," she said. "Where I live when you are ready to go you leave the house, if you are not ready to go you don't leave the house, always I'm late."

Lateness aside, Fernanda is getting along fine in school. She plays in the Valdosta High School band and has really become a part of the family. She also joins in the early morning squabbles over who gets the first shower and who gets to load the dishwasher.

It was a difficult decision for Fernanda to leave family, friends and her native country to come to the United States, with different language and customs, but it was something she wanted to do.

"I want to have more experiences," she said. "I want to prove to myself I can do something for me, and I wanted to know more people in

See **JIMINEZ**, Page 3-A



Fernanda, Deanna And Celina Attend School Together
Times Staff Photo. by Bob Freilag

Local Bands Ready For Competition

VDT. W.d., Oct. 26, 1988
By **SHERRIE FARABEE**
Times Staff Writer

A Valdosta High School band director will be one of 10 judges in the ninth annual "Spirit of the South" marching championship hosted by the Tift County "Blue Devil Brigade Band" of Tifton.

VHS band director Terry Rountree has been invited to be one of 10 judges eyeing bands in the areas of music, marching and overall effect.

The competition will feature bands from Georgia and Florida and will be held at the Tift County High School Stadium on Saturday.

Rountree said this competition is similar to the Southern Open because bands will be judged by different judges in different areas.

Rountree said he was invited to participate because he once ran the contest and was familiar with the competition style.

The Berrien County High School Band of Nashville, Ga., and the Madison County High School Band of Madison are two local area bands participating in the competition.

"Tifton is going to be very tough and it is going to be a very good contest," Madison County High School band director Steve Myers said. "Having a size group we have it's hard to be competitive with a larger bands. There are going to be some really tough bands up there. Our goal is to be in the finals and get two shots at doing our best."

The competition will also include the Fort Walton Beach Florida High School Band, the Appling County High School "Pirate Brigade" of Baxley, Ga., the Madison City Red Raider Band of Danielsville, Ga., the Vidalia High School Marching Sound Tribe Band, of Vidalia, Ga., the Palatka High School Band of Palatka, Fla., Terry Park High School Band, Trinity Christian Academy Band and the Wolfson Wolfpack

Marching Band of Jacksonville Fla., and the Cypress Lake High School Marching Pride of Ft. Myers, Fla.,

Preliminary competition will begin Saturday morning. Participating bands will be divided into four classes determined by the number of wind and percussion students involved in each band. The seven highest scorers will participate in the finals Saturday night.

A highlight of the evening will be parade of champions when the highest scorers in each class march onto the field together to wait for presentation of trophies. The band with the highest score will take home the coveted "Spirit of the South" trophy. The Tift County "Blue Devil Brigade" led by Woody Leonard will perform in exhibition during the evening.

Tickets are \$4 for the entire event and food, programs and souvenirs will be available in the stadium.

Situation Pleases Hogan

VDT, Nov. 1, 1988

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Being a quarterback at Valdosta High School is not always the easiest position to play. Comparisons to other former Wildcat greats are bound to be made.

The list is a long one. With predecessors such as Buck Belue, John Lastinger, John Bond and Greg Talley, four quarterbacks who have achieved considerable success in college, the pressure to live up to their standards will always be present.

And while current Wildcat quarterback Ben Hogan insists that he just tries to play within himself, the senior admits there is considerable pressure involved.

"There's definitely some pressure being a quarterback here at VHS," Hogan said. "Valdosta has had such a great tradition of having outstanding quarterbacks here with Talley, Belue, Lastinger and Bond, that people are bound to make some comparisons.

"I just try not to think about that. I just try to be my own person and watch the game films and listen to coach Mike O'Brien. He, along with my teammates, are always helping me to do my best."

According to VHS head coach Nick Hyder, his quarterback is more than just an accomplished athlete.

"Ben is an outstanding student in the classroom as well," said Hyder. "As a football player he continues to get better and improve. He's a fine quarterback, to me he's a major college prospect. In fact, several schools have already shown some interest. One of which is South Carolina, which has checked with him several times."

Hogan is also president of the Valdosta High chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. According to Hogan, the FCA has helped him grow as a person. But there is more.

With the death of teammate



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leary

'Cats' Quarterback Ben Hogan Looks For Running Room

Kenny Rose, the Wildcats were faced with feelings of hurt that has been tough for some to overcome. But Hogan says the FCA helped in that regard.

"Through FCA, I think we all realize that Kenny is better off. We know that he has gone on to a better place, and we as his teammates, are happy in that respect," he said. "Kenny always gave 100 percent. He was giving 100 percent the day he died. That serves as an inspiration to the rest of the team and his dedication gives us something to work towards."

Hogan, who has completed 33-of-100 passes for 512 yards and four touchdowns, admitted he has had

peaks and valleys as far as his play at quarterback is concerned. But Hogan added that it's his teammates who should take the credit for any personal success.

"The defense has been putting the offense in good position all season long," he said. "And as far as the offense goes, the line has always given the best of their abilities. James and Isaac have certainly made it a lot easier on me and my receivers have also been great."

"Individual efforts aren't important in football. The only thing that is important is for the team to play the game hard and do well. If the team does well then you'll look better as an individual."

Coffee Defense Concerns Hyder

VDT, Nov. 1, 1988

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

The Coffee County Trojans may have lost to Tift County 35-7 two weeks ago, but Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder still believes his 8-0 Wildcats will have quite a struggle on their hands this Friday night at Cleveland Field.

"They'll go with a 4-4 defense then at times go with 6-5 goal-line type alignment. Their coach, Bonwell Royal is a solid football coach and his teams are always well coached," Hyder said. "Coffee plays a very aggressive style of defense, they really know how to go for the ball."

But to be effective, the 5-3 Trojans must be able to slow down a Valdosta offense which continues to run over opponents.

Tailback James Roberts leads the 'Cats' attack with 919 yards while fullback Isaac Ceaser is close behind with 821. Ceaser leads the team with 15 touchdowns while Roberts has added eight.

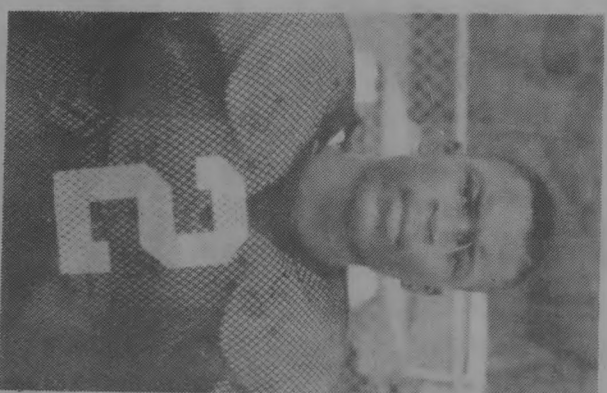
The offensive line, led by center David Hazlehurst, Steve Smith, Steve Adkins, Andy Rykard, Lawrence Sharpe, Andy Brindger, Matthew Butler, Lee Thomas and Mickey McSwain continues to impress.

"Our blocking has continued to improve and overall the entire line has played well," Hyder said. "We're continuing to work hard on our passing game."

"We've been trying to come up with some different things that we can do to make our passing game more effective. We've worked hard on our passing attack and I feel like we've got the personnel to make it work."

The personnel Hyder was referring to was quarterback Ben Hogan and his talented tandem at the wide out positions, Keith Beal and Kelly Dawsey.

The 'Cats have thrown for 613 yards through the air with Hogan accounting for 512 of those yards in completing 36-of-100 attempts. Dawsey, a freshman, has caught



KEITH BEAL

12 of those passes for 212 yards and two touchdowns. Beal has caught seven passes and has scored three times.

"Sometimes we don't throw as much as maybe we should, but just the same, we need to show that we have the capability to throw the ball as well as run it," Hyder said. "We think we have the capabilities."

Defensively, the Trojans will field a team that Hyder says is similar to Northside-Warner Robins in that it is quick and pursues very well.

Coffee is led by three-year starter, 200-pound linebacker, junior Andy Reese.

"Our scouts tell us that he is a very solid player for them," Hyder said. "Along with Clifford Kirkland, a sophomore, their other inside linebacker, Coffee is very tough at that position."

The rest of the Coffee defense is made up of left tackle Jerry Hill (174), right tackle Tim Tyson (210), left guard Dexter Lewis (205), right guard Royce Burkett (200) and outside linebackers Reggie Glover (170) and Jonathon Glover (190).

The cornerbacks are Tic Pope (170) and Tyrone Eady (140) and safety Tracy White (181).

Local Writer

By FRANK HJORT
VHS English Department

Evelyn Rosser, English teacher at Valdosta High School, was selected by the National Library of Poetry as their Editor's Choice Award for 1988.

Mrs. Rosser was presented the Commemorative Recognition Pin in honor of her achievement.

The award was presented for the poem "Walls" which was published in *On the Threshold of a Dream*. She was one of 135 out of more than 10,000 people to be honored.

Mrs. Rosser is working on her first novel. She is a member of the South Georgia Writers Guild, where she serves as corresponding secretary. She has taught English for 23 years.

VHS Homecoming

By NIKKI NORRIS

Students and teachers are participating in homecoming at Valdosta High School this week.

Monday through Friday everyone will dress according to the different days. Monday was Halloween Day, Tuesday was Sweats Day, today is Crazy Day, Thursday is Jersey Day, and Friday is theme day which is "Welcome to the Wildcat Jungle."

The homecoming parade will be Friday at 4 p.m. The parade begins at the corner of Ann and Slater Streets. The route is the same as last year with the parade going north on Patterson Street and ending at Mathis city auditorium.

The homecoming dance will be held at the Elks Lodge on Saturday from 8 p.m. until midnight. Only students with ID's will be allowed into the dance. Tickets for the dance are \$5 per couple.

Senior football players, cheerleaders, and band members along with their parents will be acknowledged before the game Friday night. The Homecoming Court will be presented and the new queen will be announced.

DECA Conference

By AMY BOWLING

Students from the VHS chapter of Georgia Distributive Education Clubs of America attended a

Wins National Award

division vice president. Norman Greene, DECA adviser and marketing instructor, also attended the conference.

Workshops were designed to develop leadership qualities to be used by DECA members in the school and community. The workshops included written events, leadership, national competition in review, and competitive events.

VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

W.D. Nov. 2, 1988 VDI
three-day conference on Jekyll Island.

The marketing education students are a part of the 13,000-member Georgia DECA organization for high school enrollees interested in marketing careers.

Officers of the VHS DECA Club who attended the Oct. 14-16 event were Catherine Kaiser, president; Laura Stump, vice president; Jill Singletary, secretary; Amy Bowling, reporter; Leslie Altman, chaplain; Rachel Hill, division vice president; and Kelly Coleman,

Miss FHA

By SANDRA WILLIAMS

Cassandra Stanford, granddaughter of Dorothy O'Neal of Valdosta and daughter of Margaret Dubard of West Palm Beach, Fla., has been selected the 1988-89 Miss FHA of Valdosta High School.

Valerie Arnold, daughter of Shirley Arnold of Valdosta and Carlos Larry, daughter of Ovedia Larry of Valdosta, have been selected as attendants.

These students will represent Valdosta High School Chapter of Future Homemakers of America in the homecoming parade.

Royal Says Wildcat

Defense Formidable

VDT, Thurs, Nov. 3, 1988

played them in quite a while," said Royal. "I would say right out looking at the stats, it's going to be almost impossible to move the ball against them," said Royal. "They have a great defensive football team and some great defensive players. It's going to be a challenge."

This is the first meeting between Valdosta and Coffee since 1982 when the Wildcats beat the Trojans 29-18 in the state playoffs. Valdosta is 17-0 against Coffee.

"This is the first time we've

'Cats Will Clinch South With Win

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

V.D. Fri, Nov 4, 1988
Valdosta High School looks to wrap up the Region 1-AAAA South title while the Coffee County Trojans hope to spoil the Wildcats' homecoming tonight at 8 p.m. for what will be one of three key subregion games throughout the area.

Valdosta is 8-0 and 3-0 in Region 1-AAAA while Coffee enters the contest with a record of 5-3 and 1-2. A loss would eliminate the Trojans from the subregion playoffs while an upset of the 'Cats would put Bonwell Royal's troops right back in the thick of the race.

In other subregion games, Tift, 4-4 and 2-1, visits Colquitt County, 5-3 and 2-1. The winner of this game will be in good position to pick up one of the two subregion playoff berths. Lowndes, 3-5 and 1-2, visits Bainbridge 3-4-1 and 0-3 in the subregion.

"If we lose the next two games, then a 4-1 mark could win the

subregion and then we would have to go through a set of tie breakers to decide what teams with 3-2 marks would get the other spot in the playoffs," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "A lot depends on this 9th game tonight. We need to win one of our remaining two ball games to become the subregion champs."

It won't be an easy task. Coffee, coming off a 10-0 win over Bainbridge is the second-leading rushing team in the subregion with 1,708 yards through eight games. The 'Cats are first with 2,029. Valdosta also enters the game first in rushing defense. Jack Rudolph's charges have allowed only 438 rushing yards all season.

"Coffee has a quick and aggressive football team," VHS safety Jason Bridges said. "We will have to be as mentally and physically ready as we have been all year."

Coffee is led by running back Tony White and quarterback Reggie Ingram. White is the leading rusher in Region 1-AAAA South with 994 yards on 142 carries. White averages seven yards every time he touches the

ball. But according to Hyder, it's quarterback Ingram who make the Trojans go.

"Their quarterback, Reggie Ingram, the brother of Riccardo is truly a quality athlete. He's one of the best athletes in the region," Hyder said. "We faced a good quarterback last week in Ray Merritt, but Ingram is a better runner."

Ingram has completed 27-of-55 passes for 411 yards and one touchdown. Ingram has also rushed for 130 yards on 30 carries.

"Coffee has a team a lot like Northside-Warner Robins in that they are not very big but they are very, very quick," quarterback Ben Hogan said. "They have a very aggressive defense, and like the University of Georgia or South Carolina, they swarm to the ball very well."

The Valdosta lineup will, for the most part, remains the same. Up front will be Lawrence Sharpe at right tackle, Andy Rykard at right guard, David Hazlehurst at center, Steve Adkins at left guard and Mathew Butler at left tackle.

Steve Smith will also see considerable action at the left tackle spot. Lee Thomas will be the tight end.

James Roberts, who has rushed for 919 yards and Isaac Ceaser, who has galloped for 821, will start in the backfield along with quarterback Ben Hogan. Carlos Parker will also see time at Roberts' tailback position.

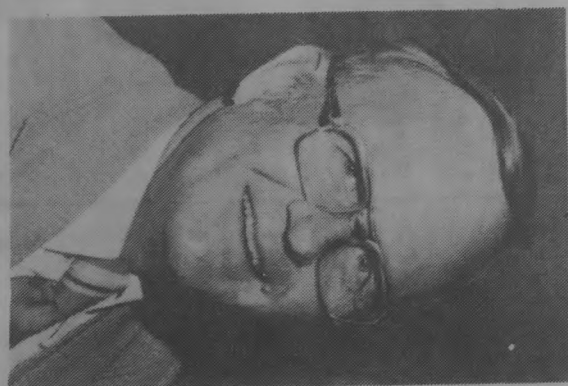
The split end will be Kelly Dawsey while Keith Beal and Joe Wright will split time at the flanker.

On defense, Coleman Rudolph will be the right defensive end, Frederick Henton the left defensive end, Zabria Bell the right tackle, Robert Fillmore and Andre Hampton will share time at noseguard and George Copeland and Eddie Rawls will split time at the left tackle position.

The linebackers will be Bruce Daniels and Anthony Williams, the left safety will be Carlo Butler, the right safety will be Jason Bridge and the cornerbacks will be Trampis Wrice and Chris Hart.



NICK HYDER



DICK STEWART

Hyder,

Friday, Nov. 4, 1988
From Staff Reports

Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder and Lowndes High head coach Joe Wilson will match skills on the football field next Friday night and will then be inducted together into the Valdosta-Lowndes County Sports Hall of Fame on Tuesday, Nov. 15.

The ceremony will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Valdosta Country Club, and the guest speaker for the banquet will be Florida State head football coach Bobby Bowden.

Hyder and Wilson are only two of five inductees. Also being honored are Dick Stewart, Dr. A.M. Buddy Culbreth, and Bobby Eason Sr.

"I'm honored to go in with Joe Wilson," said Hyder. "We've been friends for 15 years. This will do a lot to solidify the community and people in the county and the city have reason to be happy."

Tickets for the event are available from the Boys' Club board of directors and are \$25 each. Proceeds from the banquet go to support the Boys' Club.

New Inductee

Dick Stewart was the captain of the football and basketball teams in Valdosta High school in 1944 and 1945 and played under Buck Thomas.

Stewart, a tailback and defensive safety, scored four touchdowns in two straight games. He made the all-area and all-state teams his senior year.

Stewart received a football scholarship at Virginia Military Institute, and later served in the U.S. Navy. He then returned to Georgia and graduated from Georgia State with a degree in accounting.

He served as mayor of Valdosta and is currently the president of Stewart, Giles, and Company, a Valdosta accounting firm.

Stewart is also an accomplished tennis player, and won a doubles tournament in Atlanta.

Hyder has accumulated a 163-25-1 record at Valdosta in his 15 years as Valdosta's head coach.

He has an overall coaching record of 216-37-4. Hyder was the head coach at West Rome before coming to Valdosta and is the first coach in Georgia history to win 200 games in 20 years of coaching.

Hyder is a native of Elizabethton, Tennessee where he graduated sixth in his senior class. He played football at Carson-Newman College where he earned a Bachelor's of Science degree. He earned his Master's from the University of Tennessee.

Hyder is a Baptist deacon and is extremely active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.



V.P.T.
Sat., Nov. 5, 1988
Queen Wildcat

Nicole White, 17, was named Valdosta High Homecoming Queen before the Wildcats game with Coffee County. Nicole, a senior, is the daughter of Milton and Carla White of Valdosta. Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy.

VHS Wraps Up Subregion Title

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

It didn't take Coffee County long to get Valdosta High School's attention Friday night. But unfortunately for head coach Bonwell Royal's team, when the Wildcats awoke from their early slumber, it turned out to be a nightmare for the Trojans as Valdosta rolled on to a 27-7 homecoming victory and clinched the Region 1-AAAA South title.

Coffee's Tony White ripped off a 75-yard touchdown run on the first play from scrimmage as the Trojans took a 7-0 lead, but Valdosta, behind a defense which recorded nine sacks, including two each by Colman Rudolph, Anthony Williams and Zabria Bell, and one blocked punt on the evening, kept the Trojans in check the rest of the evening. Safety Jason Bridges and cornerback Chris Hart also saved a touchdown four minutes later when they knocked away a sure touchdown pass on the Valdosta 5-yard line that would have given the Trojans a 14-0 lead.

"We were able to get good pressure on Reggie Ingram, their quarterback, all night long,"

Coffee drops to 5-4 and 1-3. The Wildcats will play cross-town rival Lowndes next Friday at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field. The Vikings lost to Bainbridge 14-0 Friday night.

"Tony White showed tonight why he is considered one of the best backs in the state," Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said of the Trojans' star back who rambled for 121 yards. "But let's give credit to the 'Cat defense. Take away the first play and they pretty much shut Coffee out. We played some of our younger guys on their last series of plays and they gave up some yards. But they rose up when they had to and stopped them from scoring and that was good to see."

The 'Cats tied the game at 1:50 left in the first. Isaac Ceaser capped the 12-play, 80-yard drive when he dashed in from 11 yards out. Dow Drury's kick tied the game at 7.

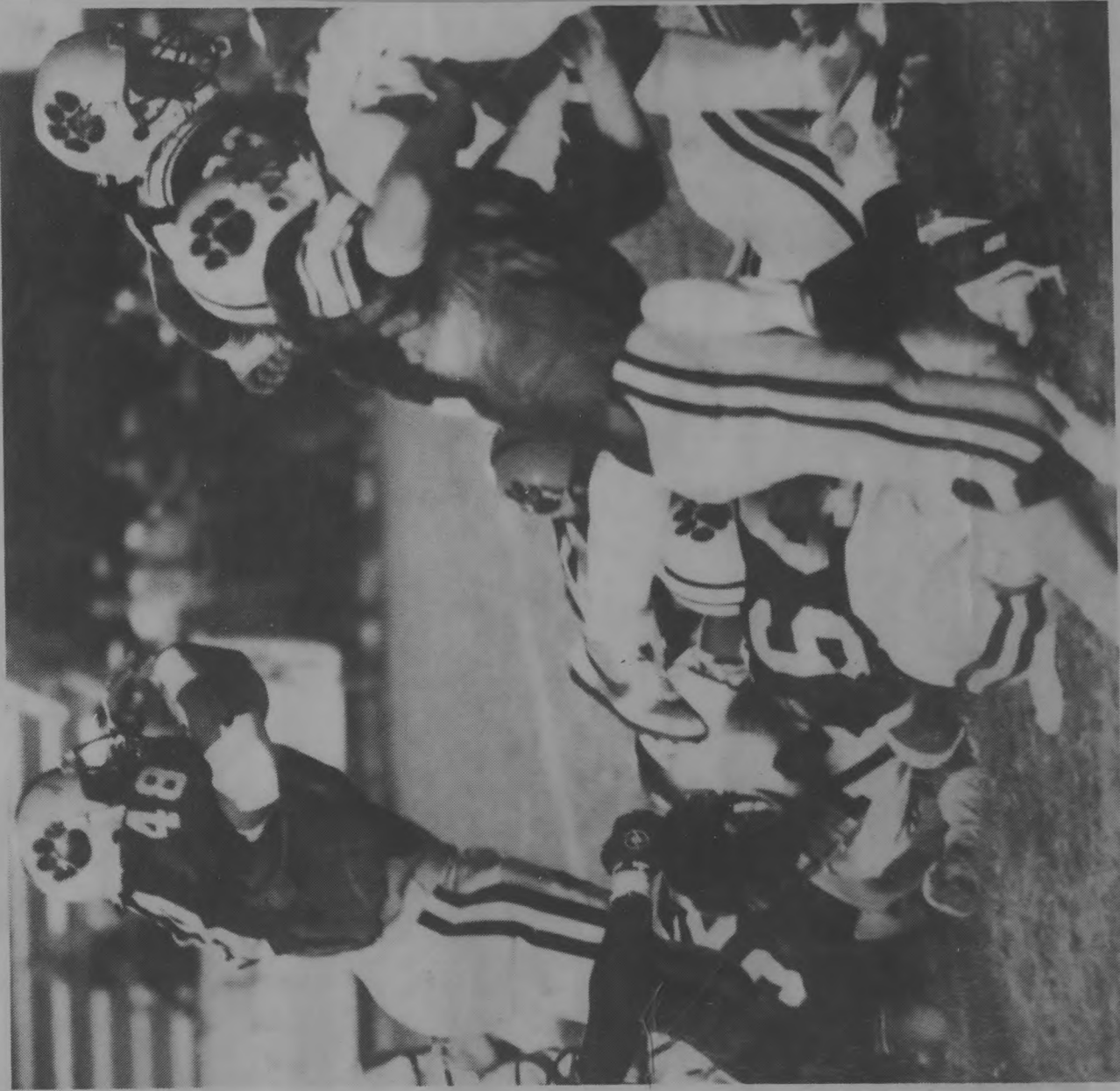
With Valdosta slowly gaining momentum, Coffee was held on its next series of plays and went back to punt from its own 31-yard line. That was when the entire complexion of the ballgame changed.

On the punt attempt, left end Frederick Henton blew through the Trojan line and blocked the Coffee kick which Eddie Rawls recovered on the 9-yard line.

Ceaser carried the ball twice to the 1-yard line before James Roberts gave the 'Cats a lead they would never lose when he dove over the top as Valdosta extended its lead to 14-7.

Running back Roberts, who entered the game as the subregion's 2nd leading rusher with 919 yards, was held to only 43 by what proved to be a hard-hitting Coffee defense, but Roberts still managed to show his stuff.

After a sack by Henton forced the Trojans to punt, the 'Cats had the ball on the their own 33-yard line. Roberts was stopped for no gain on Valdosta's first play, but on a 2nd-and-10, quarterback Ben Hogan found Roberts wide open down the



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta Running Back James Roberts Dives Over From The 1-Yard Line To Score

left side. Roberts caught the ball at the Valdosta 46 then outran the remaining two Coffee defenders to complete a 67-yard scoring play to give Valdosta a 20-7 lead. The extra-point attempt failed.

"I believe Coffee was reading the fake," Roberts said. "I was just lucky to be open. Ben did a great job getting me the ball, the line did a great job and I was able to outrun the defenders."

But what turned out to be a big contest.

Ceaser, who rushed for 101 yards on 15 carries, has now rushed for 922 yards and has scored 17 touchdowns.

Quarterback Ben Hogan had a successful night passing the ball. The senior completed 4-of-10 passes for 105 yards and one touchdown. Roberts caught two of those passes for 81 yards.

Eric Phillips, who leads Region 1-AAAA in punting, punted three times for an average of 39 yards per kick.

Wildcats Helping Children Learn

By SHERIE FARABEE
Times Staff Writer

Cats aren't allowed in school — unless they are members of the Valdosta High School Wildcats football team.

The Adopt-A-Cat program of Mrs. Barbara Bankston's second grade class is in its second year. The class has "adopted" 12 team members who come to class on Thursdays to talk to students about football, school, friends, equipment, or whatever the youngsters want to talk about.

In turn, these high school seniors have found an adoring audience they can be friends with, help, entertain, and teach.

The program started with a letter writing exercise for the students and has developed into a two-way learning experience. The youngsters are learning pride in their school and community, interest in community affairs, and valuable com-

munication skills.

The high school students are learning more about the young people who look up to them, and have discovered their responsibility as role models.

"When those football players say 'you have to work hard and do well in school,' the children listen to that," Mrs. Bankston said.

The students have a bulletin board covered with pictures and articles about their newfound heroes.

"Each week as we get to know them better they are kind of like ours," she said. "Our football players, they kind of belong to the class."

Mrs. Bankston said students learn how to ask questions and how to communicate and interact in a group situation, skills they can use all their lives.

"What is amazing is when we first started they wouldn't talk, now they want to talk and ask questions and it

See WILDCATS, Page 12-A VDT



1988
Fri, Nov 4, 1988
Wildcat Lee Thomas Signs Autographs For 2nd Graders

Wildcat Defense Gets Good Marks

VDT, Sun, Nov 6, 1988
By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Coffee High got a quick jump on the Valdosta Wildcats Friday night when Tony White scooted 75 yards for a touchdown on the first play of the game to give the Trojans a 7-0 lead. But that's when the 'Cats got mad and went on to a relatively easy 27-7 win.

After White's long run, Valdosta held Coffee's star back to 47 yards the rest of the night. Meanwhile, the Valdosta offense moved the ball methodically down the field while the defense continued to create havoc for Trojan quarterback Reggie Ingram who was sacked nine times during the game.

With the win, the 'Cats clinched the Region 1-AAAA South title, improving to 9-0 overall and 4-0 in the subregion. Coffee dropped to 5-4 and 1-3.

"I spoke to (Coffee head coach) Bonwell Royal after the game and he thought we really played well, which is a real compliment to our team," Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said. "But I thought Coffee played tough too but again, you've got to give credit to our defense. Coleman Rudolph, Andre Hampton, Frederick Henton, Anthony Williams all did well. Then you go to the secondary and look at Trampis Wrice, Carlo Butler, Chris Hart and Jason Bridges. These guys also played exceptional."

VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph agreed, and said that despite the hard running of White, his defense did the job.

"We told our kids that White was a good running back and I guess it took his touchdown run to get us to believe that," said Rudolph. "With that run, Coffee proved right then and there that they had the ability to score from anywhere on the field, but after White's run, I thought the kids did a good and job played well."

White carried the ball 21 times for 122 yards. It was the first time this season that a running back has rushed for over 100 yards against

the 'Cats. White has now rushed for 1,116 yards on the season.

Coleman Rudolph, Zabria Bell and Anthony Williams each contributed two sacks while Frederick Henton, Andre Hampton and George Copeland had one. Henton also blocked a punt which led to the 'Cats' second score.

"I thought our entire front five played extremely well," Rudolph said. "I am though, concerned about the fact that we have let our opponents score first, early in the game. That's hampered us for four or five games now."

"One of these days it's going to catch up with us. I don't know, maybe we're kind of like the fighter that doesn't warm up enough before the fight. Whatever the reason, we need to get better."

Offensively, the Wildcat running backs received excellent blocking from the entire offensive line. Fullback Isaac Ceaser led the charge with 101 yards on 15 carries and scored two touchdowns, his 16th and 17th of the season. James Roberts only rushed for 43 yards but scored two touchdowns, one on a 67-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Ben Hogan.

Hogan completed 4-of-10 passes for 105 yards. Hogan also picked up 43 yards rushing.

Roberts caught two of those passes for 81 yards. Wide receiver Kelly Dawsey also pulled in two passes for 21 yards.

"We've worked hard on our passing game over the course of the year," receiver coach Bob Bolton said. "We've improved a lot and seem to be gaining more confidence. We've started off with some young kids at the receiver positions but have matured a lot."

"In fact, I thought Kelly Dawsey played perhaps the best game of his career. He only made two catches but both were clutch receptions. He also blocked well."

Rotary's INTERACT Clubs Success At VHS, LHS

By **SHERRIE FARABEE**
Times Staff Writer

In 1962, Rotary International developed a new kind of service club for students in the upper three grades of secondary schools. The club name was INTERACT and the first club chartered in November of 1962 in Melbourne, Fla.

The INTERACT program has expanded to over 4,800 clubs in 80 countries and more than 100,000 members.

Three years ago INTERACT, sponsored by the Valdosta Rotary Club, started at Valdosta High School with 180 members. That number has grown to 236, making the Valdosta club the largest in the nation. This year, Lowndes High School formed its first INTERACT club and they are off and running.

The purpose of INTERACT is to provide an opportunity for young people to work together in a world fellowship dedicated to service and international understanding. Since its beginnings, Valdosta Interact members have volunteered for and participated in local community projects, as well as national volunteer campaigns.

The community has benefited from an increase in volunteer manpower and, according to Valdosta sponsor Janeen Josey, members have also benefited from their participation.

"The students have developed tremendous leadership qualities," Mrs. Josey said. "Some that have been shy and hesitant to participate have become leaders and organizers and are really enthused about it."

The club has volunteered their time and efforts to a number of projects including Cystic Fibrosis, the Lowndes County Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association, the neighborhood canned goods drive, the Salvation Army, and has pledged a total of \$6,000 over a three-year period to Polio Plus, a national project of the Rotary Club.

It has been a process of growing, learning and getting organized, but with some surprising results.

"Three years ago I was unsure because I had never done this and I was unsure of a club that large," Mrs. Josey said. "And you always have a certain percentage of a club that doesn't participate, but every year it just keeps getting a little larger and more involved. The community is finding out we are there and calling on us to do projects."



(L To R) Billy Steinberg, Becky Guest, Stephanie Adams, Tracy Bailey, Nicole Courson, Barb Ison and Matthew Lawrence At VHS

Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

The club has grown to the point each grade now has its own advisor. Nancy Hjort, Lesa Hill and Susan Lawrence have joined the advisory staff.

Mrs. Josey said she hoped the

students would learn to be more community-oriented and take greater part in leadership roles.

I hoped they would learn to be more caring, more altruistic, and just to be a better individual, to realize there are others around them who have needs that are far greater than theirs and to be able to be big enough to put themselves last when it comes to filling others' needs and there's so much that needs to be done right here in Lowndes County and Valdosta that we are trying to focus on."

With the help of Mrs. Josey and a committee of Rotarians, plans for a club at Lowndes High have come together this year.

"We really started talking about it last fall but it takes a lot of organization to get it started," Lowndes INTERACT advisor Ann Dasher said. "I didn't want to bring it in in the middle of the school year because you have so much more interest in the fall so we decided we would get everything together and have it ready to go this fall."

"It's really the top kids that are in there, the leaders of the school so to speak," Mrs. Josey said. "Freshman through seniors, boys and girls, blacks and whites, it's a gamut of the whole school populations."

Mrs. Dasher said participation develops individual and leadership qualities within a young person.

"I think we have so much good in our young people if somebody would guide them in these areas. I just think if we take time and help these young people, these are our leaders and this helps leadership ability and their character and gives them something useful and fun to do."

LHS Senior Cara Paulk, the new president of the Lowndes club said she thought INTERACT was an important addition to the school.

"It allows us as high school students to work in the community and for people to see us and see that we are willing to work and that we want to help and that we are a good, outgoing new generation coming along."

The Lowndes Club has 75 members and officers were elected last week. To be invited to join students must have and maintain a 'B' grade average and be recommended by a faculty member based on character and leadership potential.

Mrs. Dasher said the Lowndes chapter is already planning to participate in "Arrive Alive," a program to combat teen-age drinking and driving, and the Great American Smokeout and will add other projects to the service list as time goes by.

Whenever possible, she said, the Lowndes and Valdosta chapters will work together on projects.

"We want to coordinate our work and social projects together," Mrs. Dasher said. "Maybe it will be a bridge between the two schools. I think the students are ready for this too. I think we can get a lot done this way when we have this many students working together."

Wildcats

VDT, 1, Tues. Nov. 8, 1988

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats have been making a fine living all season long with its powerful rushing attack, but against the Lowndes Vikings this Friday night at Cleveland Field, Valdosta could find LHS defensive coordinator Brad Almon's charges a tough defense to crack.

For the past five years, the Vikings have used as many as ten defensive linemen on the line of scrimmage, hoping to stop the VHS runners and make the 'Cats throw the ball.

With this in mind, Valdosta coaches are busy trying to figure out a plan of attack.

"I think Lowndes feels like they have to force us to throw the ball," VHS offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker said. "Last year they had as many as nine or ten guys up front trying to get us to do just that."

"Last year we had a quarterback (B.J. Mason), who was more of a running quarterback, which gave their defense more of an advantage. This year, we feel that Ben Hogan has a good enough arm and hopefully we can take advantage of that defensive alignment if Lowndes does in fact, use nine or ten men."

But Baker admits, that trying to block nine or ten guys won't be an easy task.

"It's hard for six offensive linemen to block 10 other guys,



O'BRIEN

there's no question about that," he said. "If my math is correct, 10 is a lot more than six. But we'll work on some things and see what we can do."

The Wildcats know it won't be an easy task, but one player, running

back James Roberts believes Valdosta will be up to the challenge.

"This year, I think our blockers will be ready," he said. "Our offensive line is stronger and quicker and I think they'll be ready."

Offensive back coach Mike O'Brien said that the 'Cats' offense will just have to do what they have done all season long: execute.

"We've just got to go out there and execute," he said. "We won't go into the game saying we're going to run more or throw more. We'll just see when the time comes. If their defense dictates the run then we will run the ball. If it dictates we throw then we'll try to put it up. We won't set out to do one thing over the

Game To Be Put To Test

other. We'll just do whatever is necessary and hopefully we'll execute our plays correctly. The long passes look pretty but it takes just as much blocking to make the play work as it does to run the ball."

And running the ball is what the 'Cats do best.

Roberts has carried the ball 143 times for 962 yards and Isaac Ceaser has run the ball 159 times for 922 yards. Quarterback Ben Hogan is coming one of his best performances of the season Friday night against Coffee County, having completed 4-of-10 passes for 105 yards and one touchdown, a 67-yarder to Roberts.

See WILDCATS, Page 3-B

Wildcats

VDT, Tues. Nov. 8, 1988

From Page, 1-B

While O'Brien said that getting Roberts and Ceaser their 1,000 yards is not first on Valdosta's priority list Friday night, it would be a feather in the hats of the 'Cats' offense if they could.

"It's very definitely a team goal," he said. "Like I've said all along, we feel that our line should be able to get our backs two or three yards, then any yards after that are up to our backs."

Up front trying to open the holes in the Viking line will be center David Hazlehursts, guards Andy Rykard and Steve Adkins and tackles Lawrence Sharpe, Mathew Butler and Steve Smith, all who are scheduled to see action.

The tight end will be Lee Thomas while the wide receivers will be Kelly Dawsey, Keith Beal and Joe Wright.


According to O'Brien, despite the fact that the Vikings lost such defensive stars as Freddie Richardson and Chuck Miller, Lowndes will indeed be a formidable foe.

"The Lowndes defense may be


WDT, Tues. Nov. 8, 1988

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

EACH WEEK KENNER MOTORS will select 3 players of the Week. The selection will be based on the players that exemplify the winning spirit...dedication, performance, dependability...a real t/a/m player! We at KENNER MOTORS feel these attributes are paramount in life, and would like to express our appreciation to these remarkable young men.



Anthony Williams
Valdosta



Mike O'Brien
Valdosta

Pair Attends FBILA Conference

VDT, Wed. Nov. 9, 1988

Future Business Leaders of America State President Matthew Lawrence and his adviser Maxine Martin attended the FBILA-PBL Southern Region National Fall Leadership Conference in Mobile, Ala.

Almost 2,300 high school and college students from around the South were at the Nov. 4-6 event. Georgia was represented by a delegation of almost 40 students and advisers. Conference attendees had opportunities to attend workshops on "Getting Along with Difficult People," "The Art of Communication," and "Parliamentary Procedure Pointers."

Matthew and Mrs. Martin will next travel to Savannah Nov. 17-19 where Matt will preside over the



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

Georgia Fall Leadership Conference. An estimated 2,000 FBLA'ers and advisers from around Georgia will attend.

Hyder Admitted To SGMC

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High School athletic director and head football coach Nick Hyder was admitted to South Georgia Medical Center 9:35 a.m. Monday morning after feeling discomfort and tests are being run.

Hyder, 53, speaking from his hospital room, said he feels fine but would know more after his doctor reviews the test results this morning.

SGMC officials said Monday that

tests were being run on the VHS coach, but would not divulge information pertinent to those tests until later. Hyder arrived at SGMC under his own power and is not in intensive care. He is resting comfortably in a regular room and is listed in good condition.

"I don't think he had a heart attack," hospital spokesman Lisa Gann said. "If he did, he probably wouldn't be in a regular room."

There has been no speculation if Hyder will be able to coach Valdosta's football game Friday night

against Lowndes High. However, when contacted by telephone in his hospital room late Monday afternoon, Hyder reported that he's feeling fine.

"I'm feeling good now," Hyder said. "I felt a little strange this morning (Monday) and decided it best to just come down and get checked out."

"It was a strange feeling. I just wasn't coherent. I knew what I wanted to do but I couldn't do it."

According to Hyder, he hopes to be on the sideline Friday for the game with Lowndes High but will

leave that decision up to his doctor.

"Right now, I don't know what my situation will be. I'll do whatever directions the doctor, Dr. Richard Nijem, suggests," Hyder said. "I feel fine but I've had an awful lot of tests run."

"I hope I'll know something by tomorrow (Tuesday morning). At this point I have no idea. We'll just have to wait until we see the results of the test."

"Right now, I feel as good as I did on the first day of practice."



NICK HYDER



NICK HYDER

Hyder To Be Released Soon

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High School head football coach and athletic director Nick Hyder, a patient at South Georgia Medical Center since early Monday morning, was diagnosed as suffering from hypertension and stress, attending physician Richard Nijem said Tuesday during an afternoon press conference.

Dr. Nijem said Hyder, 53, is in good condition and should be on the sidelines Friday night when the Wildcats take on cross-town rival Lowndes in the Winnersville Classic.

"Coach Hyder is alert and doing nicely," Nijem said. "We expect to release him in 24 or 48 hours and return to his full-time duties at that time. He should be on the sidelines Friday night against Lowndes."

Nijem said tests including an EEG were

performed on Hyder and no evidence was found of a heart attack, stroke, hemorrhaging of the brain or a brain tumor. Nijem also said that all tests for diabetes or any other chemical imbalance all proved negative.

Hyder was given blood, urinalysis and liver tests. X-rays were performed to check the condition of his kidneys. These tests proved negative as well.

"Coach Hyder will be placed on a low-salt diet and as long as he maintains his current weight he should have no problems," Nijem said. "He has been a model patient. Coach Hyder knows that his health is the most important thing. We discussed his being able to coach Friday night and I said as long as he had no problems I didn't see why not. So at this point and time I suspect we'll see Nick Hyder right on the sideline Friday night as usual."

Hyder was admitted to the emergency room at SGMC at 9:35 a.m. after feeling incoherent at a

coach's meeting earlier Monday.

Hyder reportedly couldn't "get his thoughts together" and according to coaches at VHS, "appeared pale and was sweating profusely."

The Valdosta coach was taken to SGMC by his wife June. Hyder's blood pressure when he arrived at SGMC was listed at 180/108 but came down soon thereafter to 120/70. According to Nijem, most of Hyder's symptoms had disappeared soon after his arrival at SGMC.

"When he was admitted we treated it as high blood pressure and nothing else," Nijem said. "Coach Hyder has not had any of these symptoms in the past and has not had any recurrence of them. He's a very healthy man."

Nijem said that there has been a steady flow of calls and visits from players and students. He said that Hyder wished to thank the entire staff of SGMC and was very grateful to all of the concern shown by the entire community.



BRAD ALMON



JACK RUDOLPH

Almon, Rudolph

Wary Of Offenses

VDT. Wed. Nov. 9, 1988
By ANTHONY DASHNER
Times Sports Writer

The Lowndes High offense doesn't have the reputation as the offense of Valdosta High, but Wildcat defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said the Vikings cannot be overlooked.

Much of Rudolph's concern is centered around the fact that the Vikings are known for their diverse attack and willingness to run just about any play to try and score.

"There is beginning to be a trend in football for teams to be diverse and utilize the talent you have to the best of that player's ability," he said. "For example, more and more, teams are using plays specially designed for a particular individual. We've got to look out for that."

Rudolph's counterpart, LHS defensive coordinator Brad Almon, says that it's no secret what the

Cats will try to. Almon said he expects a steady diet of running backs James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser.

"I don't think I've seen two backs in the same backfield as big as those two," Almon said. "They're two great ones."

Almon also expects quarterback Ben Hogan to make his presence felt Friday night.

"Valdosta will still run the ball," said Almon. "The only difference I can see is last year they ran more sprint-out type passes, this year they are relying more on the drop-back type of passing."

As for Rudolph, the VHS coach says the Viking quarterbacks are two to be reckoned with.

Rudolph said that he has been impressed with the play of Viking quarterbacks Jeffrey Thomas and Chris Overman.

"Their quarterback situation is in See ALMON, Page 3-B

Almon

From Page 1-B

good hands," he said. "We feel that Thomas and Overman are both quality athletes and to us it doesn't make any difference which one is in the game because both can make things happen."

"Their receivers are solid and I believe they lead the subregion in receiving. This is a really strong group."

Rudolph is also impressed with Viking fullback P.J. Burns. The VHS coach said that Burns may not have the yards but the junior has to be considered a threat to score at any

time.

He also respects the Vikes' offensive line.

"With all their passing yards they must be able to do a pretty decent job of protecting their quarterback," said Rudolph said.

"They're also all seniors. They are not inexperienced. But really, at this point in the year, through nine games, nobody is inexperienced."

Valdosta nose guard Robert Fillmore just knows it will be a tough game.

"We just have to play as a unit and stay together," he said. "We



Sophomore Float

The Valdosta High School sophomore class went for the "wild" look when they created their imaginative float for

Friday's Wildcat Homecoming Parade. Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag.

VDT. Mon., Nov. 7, 1988

just have to remember what we're doing and go do it for number 39 (Kenny Rose). If we do that we should be all right."



Stan Grubb
Sports Writer

VOT. Tues., Nov. 8, 1988

The Waiting Is Over

The week that everyone in Valdosta points to is finally upon us.

And again, the Valdosta Wildcats find themselves the overwhelming favorite to romp past the Lowndes High Vikings. But who is to really say that will be the case?

The Vikings, 3-6, come into the game two games under last year's record of 5-4, while the 'Cats are where it seems they always are, at 9-0.

The last time Lowndes defeated Valdosta was 1985 when the Vikings were crowned Region 1-AAAA Champions.

From that point on, until a brief stop in 1980, the Valdosta team has a strangle hold on this series.

Each game has a special meaning to players and coaches.

Wilson, of course may choose the Region title game in '80 when his team rebounded from a 17-8 setback at the hands of the 'Cats and go on to win the state championship, behind the running of star tailback Cedric Jones. Lowndes won the rematch 6-0 at "Death Valley".

Hyder's favorite may well be the game last year when place-kicker Todd Peterson nailed a 47-yard field goal to save the 'Cats from a monumental upset.

If that game is not it, I would think that it was Valdosta's 17-8 triumph over Lowndes during their championship year in 1980. The loss not only was the Vikings' first and only one of that year, but the way in which Valdosta rolled past the powerful Vikings will never be forgotten.

Nothing is different about the game this year.

Lowndes will be looking to salvage something from a long tough season, with Valdosta hoping to stay away from the upset.

Regardless of the standings, this game is always a classic. I can still see Buck Belue's pass being picked off by Lowndes defensive back Bill Schrefler in 1977 and returned 80-yards for the Lowndes score. Although the 'Cats went on to the state finals, it has to rank high on the Viking highlight list. Of course, it was the Vikings' first win against Valdosta.

Two seasons later, Valdosta quarterback John Bond rambled down the Lowndes sideline on his way to a 76-yard touchdown, thanks to a crushing down field block by Wildcat split end Mike Ruff, giving Valdosta a 24-21 Region 1-AAAA semifinal victory at Martin Stadium.

The victory by Valdosta avenged an earlier 15-14 loss to Lowndes on a Cedric Jones score and a two-point play by Eric Thomas.

Valdosta has lost just five times to the Vikings, but the Vikings are, however, one of only five teams that have beaten the 'Cats twice in one football season.

* * *

Valdosta Hasn't Had To Depend On Kicking Game

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer V. Times
11-11-88

The Valdosta Wildcats have only attempted two field goals so far this season. No, there is nothing wrong with the VHS kicking game. It's just that most of the time, the Wildcats score a touchdown whenever they draw near to the goal line.

At the beginning of the 1988 football season, the Wildcats did not have a kicker. Last year's All-Region kicker, Todd Peterson, went

on to a college career at the Naval Academy and left a void at a critical spot for any football team.

Valdosta assistant coach Mike O'Brien, who is partly in charge of coaching the extra point and field goal kickers, said that he thinks the kicking phase of the Wildcats' game has steadily improved over the course of the season.

"During summer camp, we didn't know who would be the kicker for us this year. We knew there were some people who wanted to try out and fortunately we've had some kids

come out and do a good job," O'Brien said.

Freshman Dow Drury and junior Soren "Charlie" Thuesen have both seen some time kicking the extra points and attempting field goals this year. Drury kicked a field goal against Northside-Warner Robins and defensive end Coleman Rudolph drilled one in the first game of the season against Camden County.

Drury said he and Thuesen have worked out a lot together and that has helped each of them improve.

"I think that since we work

together, we can correct each other's mistakes and it helps both of us a lot," Drury said.

Thuesen, who is an exchange student from Denmark, said that although he's only played the game for a short time, he feels he is becoming a stronger kicker.

"I played soccer for seven or eight years in Denmark and I started playing American football about three months ago. Before then, I had never seen it," Thuesen said. "I had a 50-yarder bounce off the goalpost

the other day so right now, my longest is about 49 yards."

Thuesen added he tries to keep his kicking leg strong by lifting weights, running and working out on his own at home.

Drury was influenced by a friend to try out for the Valdosta kicking spot. Ironically, that friend was Peterson.

Another part of the 'Cats' kicking game that has seen an unknown come on and do a good job for the Wildcats is the punting game. Charles Steward, another All-Region performer, graduated last year and left another void to fill.

But Eric Phillips, a sophomore, started punting a few games into the season and is now the region leader in that category averaging 38.8 yards a kick.

June Hyder Says Husband Takes LHS Games In Stride

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Being a head football coach is not an easy job. The pressure to constantly produce winning teams is always there.

This is certainly true at Valdosta High School. But Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder doesn't face the pressure alone. Supporting him all the way is his wife, June.

Tonight, the Wildcats face cross-town rival Lowndes in the annual Winnersville Classic game. For many coaches, an impending game with a big rival such as Lowndes High, would make for one big bundle of nerves.

But according to Mrs. Hyder, her husband takes the annual tilt with Lowndes as if it were any other game.

"He's really acts about the same the week of the Lowndes game as he does any other week," Mrs. Hyder said. "He really doesn't change too much.

"Really, it's just a game with another opponent. Of course, with Lowndes being from the same town, it means more."

According to Mrs. Hyder, Coach Hyder tries to approach all games in a level-headed manner. This, she says, dates back to the Hyders' days in Rome, Georgia when her husband's West Rome team tangled with cross-town rival East Rome.

"The West Rome-East Rome game is kind of like the Valdosta-Lowndes games in that you never really know who is going to win," she said. "You can throw out all of the statistics."

Mrs. Hyder helps the Wildcat program in many ways. Besides

always being there for the players, Mrs. Hyder coordinates the Rent-A-Cat program which helps members of the team find part-time jobs.

Being involved with the program as she is, Mrs. Hyder feels for the players just as she would if they were her own children.

"Sure, I get butterflies," she said. "I always get nervous before important games."

Because of personal reasons, Mrs. Hyder has only been able to attend two games this year, but said she hopes to be in attendance tonight at 8 p.m.

"I usually don't like to get there an hour or before. I don't like to sit around," she said. "I like to get there right when it's time for the game to start."

Defensive Pressure Killed LHS Offensive

By JIMMY ESPY
Times News Editor

The Valdosta Wildcat defense, dominating for most of the first half, turned downright nasty in the second half of Friday's 41-0 demolition of Lowndes.

"About midway through the third quarter we decided if they (Lowndes) were going to get back in the game, they were going to have to pass the football," said Wildcats defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. "So we wanted to put as much pressure on their quarterback as we could."

Rudolph's call for pass rush pressure was answered brilliantly by his defensive charges. A relentless defensive front wall and a pair of blitzing linebackers shattered the Vikings pass blocking shell and netted eight quarterback sacks, as well as numerous "hurries."

from all over the field, shut down the Lowndes offense and administered some crunching hits. Defensive ends Coleman Rudolph and Fredrick Henton rushed from the outside and bagged a pair of sacks each. Two-hundred ninety-five pound tackle Zabria Bell bullded inside for two more. And linebackers Bruce Daniels and Anthony Williams added one each.

"We blitzed more tonight and that's what I love to do," said Williams, a powerhouse 230-pound junior inside backer. "But the whole defense played real well." Rudolph acknowledged the Wildcats increased use of the blitz. "We definitely blitzed more than we usually do," he said. "We wanted to put pressure on the quarterback and the blitzes helped us do that. "They weren't all out blitzes, not eight men at a time. We were using six and seven guys on the rush and playing zone defenses behind the blitz."

Rudolph pointed to the Wildcats' decision to double team Lowndes' wide receiver Jason Orr as a "helpful change in coverage." The speedy Orr had a couple of threatening catches early in the game, when he faced single coverage, but was unable to get loose for the deep strike. "He's a dangerous receiver," said Rudolph. "We made changes in our coverage. It would be awful tough having to try to cover him one on one." The Wildcat defense got contributions from almost every starter. Seven players participated in four or more tackles, led by Coleman Rudolph (eight) and Henton (seven). "This wasn't my best game, I played better against Bainbridge," said Henton, a rugged 190-pound junior. "But I helped the team win and that's what we have to do."

V. Times 11-12-88

"They rolled out a lot and so I had to work at keeping wide of them so my teammates could come from behind and make the tackle. We practiced real hard this week and the whole defense played well. We really wanted to win this game."

The Valdosta defense clearly dominated its part of the proceedings. Buoyed by the eight sacks, the Wildcats limited Lowndes to five yards rushing on 23 carries. In the air, Lowndes picked up 87 yards, completing only five of 23 attempts. Valdosta recovered two fumbles and intercepted one pass.

The offensive trickery the Vikings were expected to bring into the game never materialized.

"You never know what's going to happen," said Rudolph. "You can't prepare for everything in three days. We did try to figure out what could hurt us the most out of what formation and be prepared for that, but it didn't come up in the game."



Valdosta's Jason Bridges Shakes Hands After Game

Times Staff Photo by Bob Fretling

Tough Week For Hyder

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

The past seven days have been rather hectic for the players and coaches of the Valdosta High Wildcat team.

On Monday, head coach Nick Hyder was admitted to South Georgia Medical Center and was treated three days for stress and hypertension. Hyder was released from the hospital on Thursday and for most of the week, it was not known for sure whether he would be on the sidelines for the Friday night clash.

But Hyder was on the sidelines, calling the plays like he has in every Valdosta game for the past 15 years. Hyder commented after the game that the credit for the victory should be given to his coaching staff who led practice this week while he was in the hospital.

"All of our coaches did a fantastic job this week and they gave me the gameplan yesterday. I had about

five hours to go over it all and get it all down in my head. They carried on during the week and I just followed what they told me to do," Hyder said.

Hyder was in good spirits and showed no signs of having been hospitalized during the week. He said that if he wasn't able to be on the sidelines for the game with the Vikings, his assistants had planned to carry on with the established gameplan.

"They (the assistant coaches) had everything planned in case I couldn't make it to the game," Hyder said. "But I feel all right and I am able to think clearly. I couldn't do that Monday and that was the problem. I knew what I wanted to do but I couldn't make myself do it."

Coaching high school football can be a stressful job anywhere, but being in charge of the Valdosta Wildcats, who are year in and year out one of the nation's top prep squads, can put tremendous pressure on any coach. But Hyder said he has not thought of getting out of

coaching.

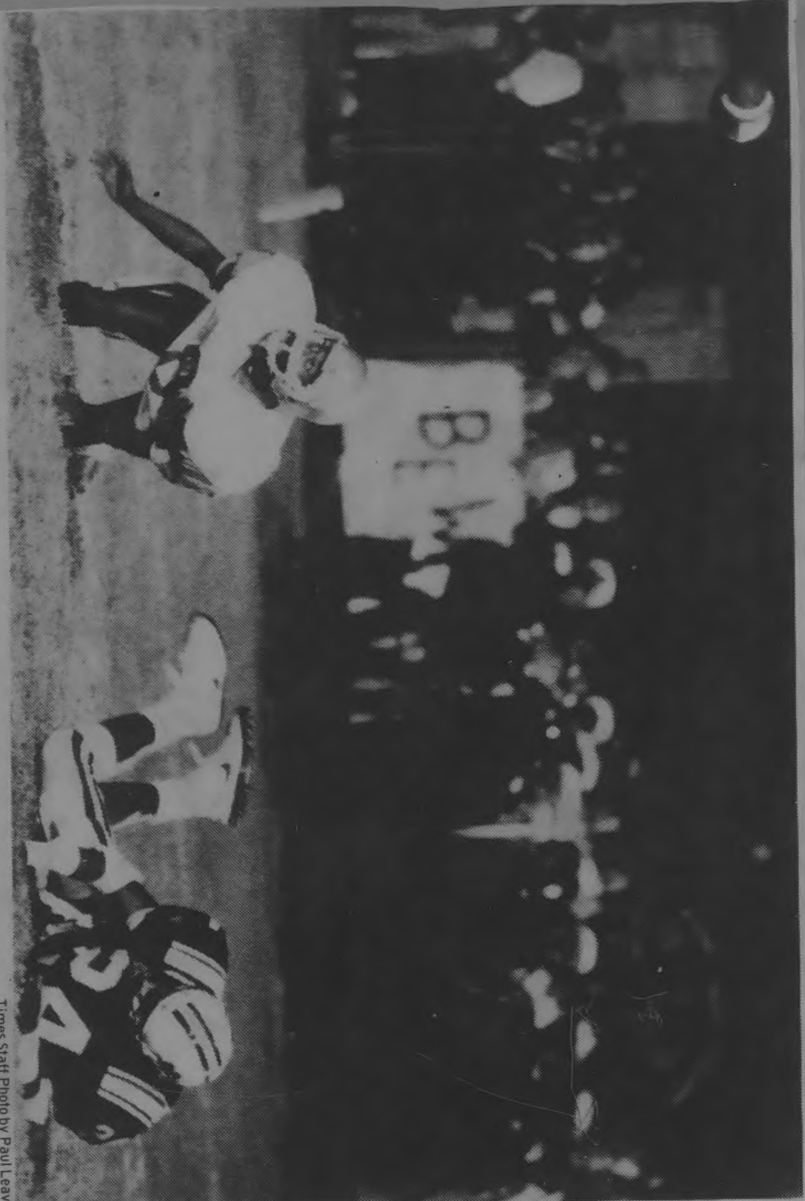
"First of all, I don't think my wife would want me around the house all day," Hyder said. "I still want to coach football and, if you want to do that, there's no better place than Valdosta."

The Wildcats didn't let their coach down as they played one of their most complete games of the year. Hyder said his team should be proud of their performance as should the coaching staff.

"Taking into consideration the kicking game, the offense and the defense, this was probably our most complete game of the year," Hyder said. "The coaching staff went to work and they make it work tonight. I did the best I could at remembering what I needed to do."

Following the 41-0 blowout of the Vikings, Hyder was asked if he had thought about staying in the hospital every week just for good luck.

"I wouldn't mind but I don't know who's going to pay for it," Hyder said.



Lowndes Vikings' Split End Jason Orr Tries To Recover To Catch Tipped Pass

Times Staff Photo by Paul Leary

Show Your Team Spirit



Vikings

V
S.

November 11, 1988



Wildcats

Bazemore Impressed With 1988 Wildcats

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Friday night at Cleveland Field, the Valdosta Wildcats continued their mastery of Region 1-AAAA high school football teams as they trounced their crosstown rivals, Lowndes High School, 41-0.

One of the many Wildcat boosters at the game was former Wildcat coach Wright Bazemore. Bazemore, one of the winningest high schools in state history during his many years as head coach at VHS thought the win over the Vikings was the epitome of Valdosta High's winning tradition.

"I thought tonight's game was well-played and well-coached. Both teams played very hard and we just got a couple of breaks early in the

game. Everyone in the country should get a chance to see a clean, hard-fought game like the one that was played tonight," Bazemore said.

As the head man at Valdosta High for 28 years, Bazemore coached his team to a phenomenal 268 wins, 18 region championships, 14 state championships and three national championships.

Obviously, Bazemore knows what it takes to be a winner and he said this year's Wildcat squad has the chance to be one of the best ever.

"I think this year's team has a lot of heart and their chances of doing well in the state playoffs are excellent if they continue to play like they are playing now," Bazemore said.

During the entire season, the Valdosta running attack has piled up

impressive yardage and Friday night was no exception. Fullback Isaac Ceaser finished with 90 yards on the night while tailback James Roberts led the team with 99 yards. Bazemore commented that, while you may contain the 'Cats backfield duo, it is next to impossible to shut them down.

"Both Isaac and James ran hard tonight. They are two of the finest backs in the country and no one is going to shut them down for the entire game. You might contain them for a series or two, but you'll never shut them down," Bazemore said. "Of course, I had some good backs whenever I coached but I don't try to compare one back to another because they all played under different conditions."

Bazemore gave much of the credit

for Friday night's victory and for the success of this year's Wildcat team to the VHS coaching staff, which he thinks may be the best in the country.

"The coaches did an excellent job tonight and I think they are the finest coaching staff in the country whether it's high school, college or pro. They all have a thorough knowledge of the game and they know how to coach these boys so that they are well prepared for the game," Bazemore said.

"The community does a great job supporting this team and it shows on the football field. I think the bands from each school should be recognized for the fine job that they did tonight. Their performances tonight deserve a lot of congratulations," Bazemore said.



V.D.T. Staff Photos by Bob Freitag
Valdosta Running Back Isaac Ceaser Rambles For Yards
Nov. 13, 1988

Lowndes.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valdosta.....	0	20	14	7	41	
VHS — Isaac Ceaser 6 run (Dow Drury kick)						
VHS — James Roberts 1 run (Drury kick)						
VHS — Ceaser 9 run (kick blocked)						
VHS — Roberts 33 run (Drury kick)						
VHS — Ben Hogan 1 run (Soren Thuesen kick)						
VHS — Carlos Parker 2 run (Thuesen kick)						
Low Val						
First Downs	6	16				
Yards Rushing	3	221				
Rushing Attempts	24	49				
Yards Passing	87	47				
Passes	23-5-1	11-5-1				
Fumbles Lost	4-2	3-1				
Punting	4-31.0	3-35.1				
Penalties	5-63	5-55				
Rushing						
Lowndes — Burnis 2(-1), Wright 6-9, Thomas 7(-10),						
Glance 3-13, Jones 2(-4), Overman 3(-7), Armstrong 1-3						
Valdosta — Roberts 11-99, Ceaser 21-90, Hogan 7(-3),						
Parker 4-16, Chachere 3-12, Cotton 2-1, Patrick 1-3						
Passing						
Lowndes — Thomas 13-3-134, Overman 10-2-0-53.						
Valdosta — Hogan 9-3-1-21, Cotton 2-2-0-26.						
Receiving						
Lowndes — Thomas 1-38, Orr 3-32, Whiddon 1-17.						
Valdosta — Wright 1-5, Smothers 1-9, McSwain 1-7,						
Stuart 1-6, Dudley 1-19						

Wildcats Classy In 41-0 Blowout

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Lowndes High School sailed onto Cleveland Field Friday night hoping their swords would be sharp enough to skin the Wildcats of cross-town rival Valdosta High. But thanks in part to a 20-point second quarter, the top-ranked team in Class AAAA went on to sink the Vikings' ship 41-0 in the annual Winnersville Classic.

The 'Cats, 10-0 overall, will now host Carver next Friday night in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs. Carver finished No. 2 in Region 1-AAAA North after losing to Kendrick 28-18 last night.

Kendrick will host Colquitt County which lost to Coffee County Friday night.

"You have to give the assistant coaches all the credit in the world tonight," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder, who spent almost four days in the hospital this week. "Coaches Bob Bolton, Mike O'Brien and Keith Middleton with the offense and Jack Rudolph, Charles Tarpley and Freddie Waters with the defense deserve all the credit. They drew up the game plan for us tonight and carried it out very well."

For the Vikings, the loss marked the end to what has been a disappointing 3-7 campaign. The loss also marks the worst defeat the Vikings have suffered at the hands of the 'Cats since the first matchup in 1968. The score of that game was 48-6.

"The kids played hard. There's really not much else to say," LHS head coach Joe Willson said. "We've struggled all year long scoring points and tonight we kept the defense on the field way too long. But heck, Valdosta is tough and they deserve a lot of praise. Nick did a fine job coaching his team tonight." Once again, the running tandem of

Lowndes.....	0	0	0	0-0
Valdosta.....	0	20	14	7-41

Lowndes — Isaac Ceaser 6 run (Dow Drury kick)
 VHS — James Roberts 1 run (Drury kick)
 VHS — Ceaser 9 run (kick blocked)
 VHS — Roberts 3 run (Drury kick)
 VHS — Ben Hogan 1 run (Soren Thuesen kick)
 VHS — Carlos Parker 2 run (Thuesen kick)

First Downs	Low	Vai
Yards Rushing	6	16
Yards Rushing Attempts	3	21
Yards Passing	23	48
Passes	87	46
Yards Passing	23-50	11-51
Fumbles-Last	4-2	3-2
Punting	4-31.0	3-35.1
Penalties	5-63	5-55

Rushing
 Lowndes — Burns 2 (-1), Wright 69, Thomas 7 (-10), Glance 3 (3), Jones 2 (4), Overman 3 (-7), Armstrong 1 (3), Valdosta — Roberts 11 (9), Ceaser 21 (9), Hogan Parker 4 (8), Chachere 3 (2), Cotton 2 (1), Patrick 1 (3)

Passing
 Lowndes — Thomas 13 3-0-34, Overman 10-2-0-53, Valdosta — Hogan 9 3-1-21, Cotton 2-2-0-26

Receiving
 Lowndes — Thomas 1-38, Orr 3-32, Winddon 1-17, Valdosta — Wright 1-5, Smothers 1-9, McSwain 1-7, Stuart 1-6, Dudley 1-19

James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser led the way for Valdosta. Roberts rushed the ball 11 times for 99 yards and two touchdowns. Ceaser carried the ball 21 times for 90 yards and he also scored two times.

With their efforts, both Ceaser and Roberts have rushed for over 1,000 yards this season. Roberts has rushed the ball 154 times for 1,061 yards and 12 touchdowns. Ceaser has carried the ball 180 times for 1,012 yards and a team-leading 19 touchdowns.

Lowndes was only able to rush for 90 total yards on the evening as the 'Cats posted their third shutout of the season.

"We knew we had to get pressure on their quarterbacks," VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said. "We used several types of blitzes tonight which is more than we normally try to do."

The Valdosta blitzing scheme confused the Viking offense the entire night as the 'Cats sacked Viking quarterbacks eight times

during the game. Coleman Rudolph, Zabria Bell and Frederick Henton had two apiece. Bruce Daniels and Anthony Williams added one each.

The two teams battled to 0-0 first quarter despite losing one fumble apiece. The 'Cats' fumble was particularly harmful as the Vikings recovered the ball the ball to stop a Valdosta drive on the Lowndes' 20-yard line.

But Hyder's 'Cats would not be denied the next time they touched the ball.

As the second quarter began, the 'Cats had the ball on their own 48-yard line. From there, Roberts and Ceaser went to work. Valdosta moved the ball to the 25-yard line.

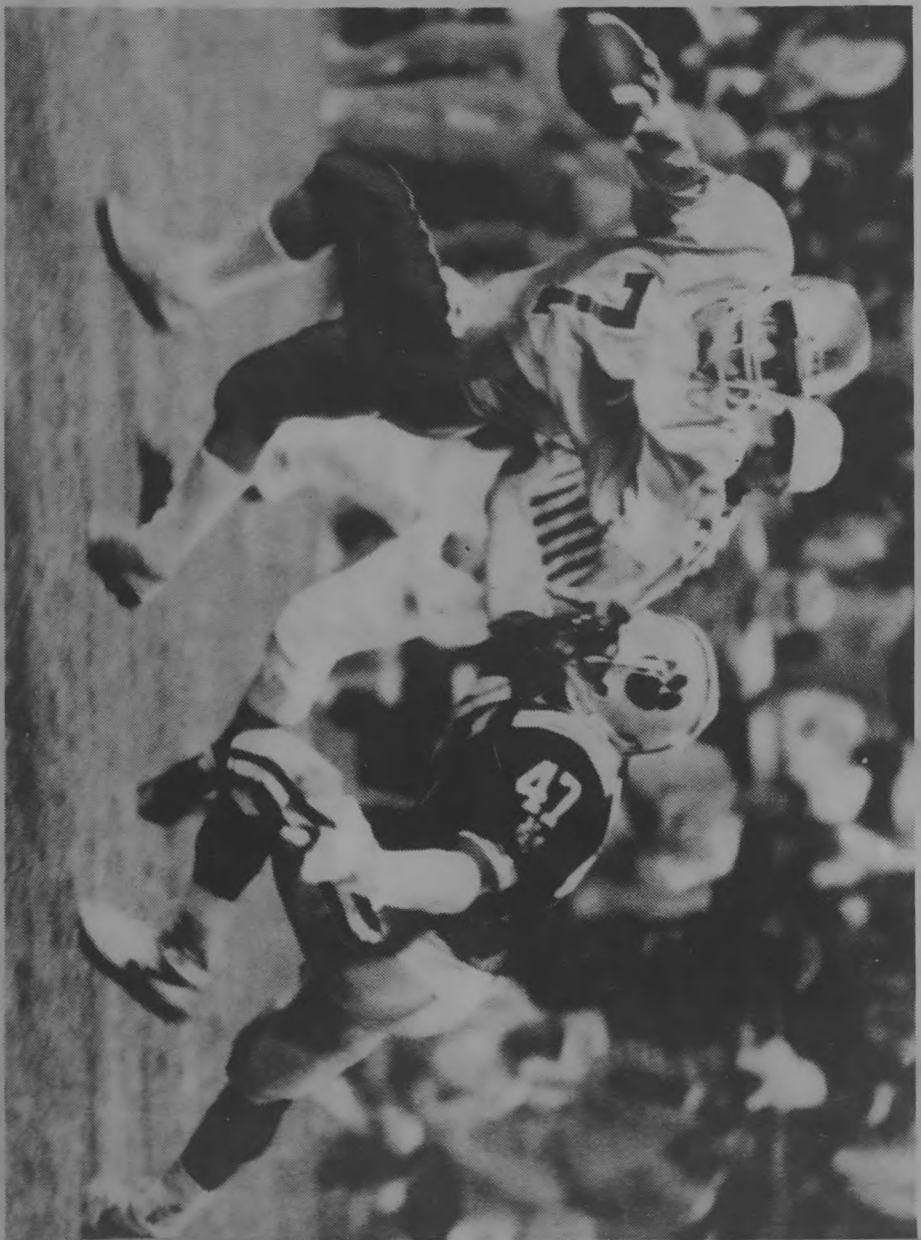
Two plays later, it appeared that Lowndes had stopped the drive when Reggie Glance snared an interception around the 16 yard line. However, a pass interference call gave the 'Cats the ball at the 12. Two plays later, Ceaser capped the 11-play drive when he ran in from the 6-yard line. Dow Drury's kick made the score 7-0 with 8:08 left in the second.

The 'Cats scored again three minutes later when a Viking fumble gave Valdosta the ball. However, the Vikings were flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct when a Viking coach argued the call and Valdosta was in business on the 6-yard line.

It took only three plays for the 'Cats to hit paydirt as Roberts dove over from the 1. Drury's kick made the score 14-0.

Lowndes was forced to punt its next series of plays giving the 'Cats the ball at their own 44.

A 31-yard run by Roberts gave Valdosta a first down on the Viking 25. This set up Ceaser's second touchdown five plays later when he ran in from the 9. The extra-point was blocked by Immanuel Kirkland. "That third touchdown changed the complexion of the game," Hyder said. "Our defense played its usual



Wildcats' Frederick Henton Puts The Pressure On Lowndes Quarterback Chris Overman

magnificent game. We got good pressure on their quarterbacks all night long. Lowndes had an expert-lined line with Doug Hubbard and center Chris Hubert. They played a hard game. Don't let the score fool you."

Valdosta received the second-half kickoff and promptly drove 62 yards for a 27-0 lead. Roberts did the honors when he scampered untouched 33 yards through the Viking defensive line.

Quarterback Ben Hogan scored on a 1-yard sneak late in the third quarter to give Valdosta a 34-0 lead after Soren Thuesen booted the first of his two extra-points.

Carlos Parker's 2-yard plunge with two minutes left in the game accounted for the 'Cats final six points.

"For us, it's a matter of reloading the wagon and go from there," said Willson. "I hate it for the kids because they deserved a better fate."

Hyder Praises Assistant's Work

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Nobody knows the importance of having good assistant coaches around anymore than Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder.

When Hyder was hospitalized for four days last week, his assistants, Jerry Don Baker, Bob Bolton, Jack Rudolph, Freddie Waters, Charles Tarpley, Mike O'Brien and Keith Middleton came up with a game plan to use against cross-town rival Lowndes Friday night. Their scheme worked to perfection as the 'Cats blanked the Vikings 41-0.

"My assistants deserve all the credit for the win," said Hyder. "They are the ones who drew up with the game plan. They handed it to me and I had only five hours to work it out. This shows what a great bunch of coaches these men are."

The 41-0 blanking of Lowndes also marked the third shutout of the year posted by the Wildcat defense. Earlier, the 'Cats defeated Northside-Warner Robins 27-0 and Tift County 21-0. Against the Vikings recorded eight quarterback sacks, two each by Coleman Rudolph, Zabria Bell and Frederick Henton and one by linebackers Anthony William and Bruce Daniels. Sophomore Adrian Lewis also had a pass interception.

"At halftime we decided that we would go out and try to get as much

pressure on their quarterbacks as we possibly could. We blitzed more that half and it helped," VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said. "We did not want number 8 (Jason Orr) to get deep. We wanted to get them to throw the ball quick and hopefully tackle them before the got upfield too quick. We did not want to give Lowndes a lot of room to work around."

Jeffery Thomas managed to get deep on one occasion for 38 yards but other than that, the Wildcat defensive pressure was a little too much for quarterbacks Chris Overman and Thomas to overcome.

"What helped us out more than anything was that our offense was able to put together several long drives and that kept the defense off the field," Rudolph said. "Those rests definitely helped us stay fresh the entire game."

The highlight offensively was James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser both going over the 1,000 yard mark the season.

Roberts rushed for 99 yards to push his season total to 1,061 while Ceaser totaled 90 to give him 1,012 on the year.

"I've been coaching for 22 years and this is the first time that I've ever known two backs from the same team to rush for 1,000 yards in just 10 games," offensive backfield coach Mike O'Brien said. "I don't know how many times its been done but I do know it's very rare when it



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Lowndes Runningback Chris Wright Tries To Pull Away From Valdosta Defensive Lineman Frederick Henton

does."

Against Lowndes, Roberts' longest runs went for 33 and 31 yards. On the 31-yarder, Roberts took a pitch from quarterback Ben Hogan after a quick fake inside to Isaac Ceaser.

"That was the old 27-35," O'Brien said. "That's been one of Valdosta's

favorite plays for years."

With the win, the 'Cats will have the opportunity to pay Carver of Columbus in the opening game of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs. Carver stunned Valdosta 21-7 in opening round of the 1987 state playoffs.

But according to Hyder, revenge shouldn't be the key motivating force Friday night. The 'Cats should want to win for the right reasons.

"You have to give Carver all the credit in the world," the VHS head coach said. "We just have to be

ready Friday night. I believe Andy Rykard and some of our other players have stated that we just need to be better prepared. We need to play better because I have all ideas that Carver will play better as well."



James Roberts
Valdosta

Location: Valdosta High School

Class: Junior

Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Rainwater

Future: College, Physical Therapy

Hobbies: Softball

PLAYERS

Nov. 15, 1988

EACH WEEK KENNER MOTORS will select 3 players of the Week. The selection will be based on the players that exemplify the winning spirit...dedication, performance, dependability...a real team player! We at KENNER MOTORS feel these attributes are paramount in life, and would like to express our appreciation to these remarkable young men.



James Roberts
Valdosta



VDT, Tues. Nov. 15, 1988
Carver Tigers' Nicky Pitts (46) Has His Eyes Set On Once Again Stopping Valdosta's James Roberts And Isaac Ceaser

Carver Defense Tough

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

When the Carver Tigers defeated the Valdosta Wildcats last year 21-7 in the first round of the Class AAAA state playoffs, coach Wallace Davis' team proved one thing; their defense was as solid as a brick wall.

This seems to be the same scenario this year. Through 10 games, the 7-3 Tigers have held six opponents to two touchdowns or less a game. Two of those opponents have been shut out and two more have been held to one touchdown or less.

It's the Tigers' stingy defense that has Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder concerned as his Wildcats prepare to take on Carver in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs this Friday night at Cleveland Field.

"I've known their defensive coordinator Larry Oswalt for 30 years now," the VHS coach said. "He's a top-notch defensive coach and his defenses are always very tough."

Carver returns several starters off of last year's team, led by junior linebacker Jonathan Thomas (6-0, 205), senior noseguard Xavier Lee (6-1, 200), senior defensive right tackle Brinston Buckner (6-2, 282), senior right guard Robert Storey (5-11, 190), freshman right end Derek Burnette and senior left tackle Suqueroy (Nicky) Pitts who almost single-handedly ended the Wildcats' 1987 season as he scored two touchdowns, blocked a punt and was in on approximately 20 tackles. Lee and Storey are three-year starters for the Tigers.

Apparently Pitts is picking up right where he left off last year, that is, according to Davis, the Carver head coach.

"Our defense has had to carry us almost the entire year because our offense has not been able to put together any kind of consistency," Davis said. "And yes, Nicky Pitts continues to be the man that sparks our defense. Our opponents have double-teamed and triple-teamed the guy but he has still been able to a great job. He puts his heart into every play. Nicky is one of the greatest players I've ever coached." Hyder agrees with Davis' sentiments exactly.

"Nicky Pitts is just a fantastic athlete," Hyder said. "He lined up at several positions last year against us, and no matter where he was, he was a constant thorn in our side."

"But on the same side, we cannot afford to overlook Lee, Burnette and

See CARVER, Page 3-B

Carver VDT, Tues. Nov. 15, 1988

From Page 1-B

Buckner either."

Last year's game statistics prove Hyder's point.

Valdosta's vaunted rushing attack attack was held to only 102 yards, including 73 by tailback James Roberts and only 21 by fullback Isaac Ceaser.

Last week against Lowndes, Roberts and Ceaser accomplished a feat rare in high school football when they each reached the 1,000 yard plateau in just their 10th game of the year.

According to Hyder, what impressed him even more about his runners' accomplishments, was how much it meant to the team.

"What really pleased me was the

attitude the offensive line took about the whole thing," Hyder said. "Andy Rykard, David Hazelhurst, Steve Adkins, Steve Smith and Lee Thorman as all wanted for those two young men to get their 1,000 yards."

"They took a lot of pride in that fact. To them, if they could help Ceaser and Roberts get their 1,000 yards in just 10 games, it meant they were doing their job as well."

Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Interact Club Participating In Smokeout Thursday

VDT, Wed., Nov 16, 1988
By ROBIN GOLIVESKY

The Valdosta High School Interact Club is joining the American Cancer Society in the nationwide Great American Smokeout Nov. 17.

On this date Interact members along with people nationwide will "adopt a smoker for the day" and ask them to quit smoking for the day.

Induction Service

By INDIA GUILY

Induction services for the VHS National Spanish Honor Society were held Nov. 13 at Christ Episcopal Church.

New members include Leslie Hiers, Chris Kelly, India Giuly, and Carolina Metroz.

Fernanda Jimenez was the visit-



VHS News
Compiled, Written by VHS Students

ing speaker. Refreshments were served afterwards to friends and family.

To be eligible for club membership, students must have a 93 or above average in Spanish.

Gift of Life

By SANDRA WILLIAMS

The Valdosta High School Chapter of Future Homemakers of America sponsored a "Gift of Life" campaign for the American Heart Association during Winnersville Week.

A contest between the homerooms was held, with John Miller's homeroom donating the most money for the cause. Hardee's of Ashley Street donated a breakfast to the winning homeroom. The donations will be made to the American Heart Association in memory of Kenny Rose, fellow classmate and friend.

VHS Debate News

By TAMMY CROWE

Senior Jay Connell and junior Michelle Jones of the Valdosta High

School Debate team won third place varsity team award at the Mercer tournament Oct. 14 and 15.

Jay and Michelle had a 4-2 record defeating LaGrange, Northside, and Mary Persons. The two defeated Lee County in the quarter finals for an ending record of 5-3.

Jay and Michelle also attended the Warner Robins tournament Nov. 4-5 and advanced to varsity quarter finals with a 3-2 record defeating Pace, Mary Persons, and Lee County.

Nov. 11-12 the debate team traveled to the Lee County tournament where sophomores Tammy Crowe and Ashley Connell ended with a 3-2 record in the open division which includes all experience levels. They won decisions over St. Pius, Carrollton, and Monticello. Tammy won third place speaker award. Jay Connell and Michelle Jones also participated in the tournament. The debate team's next tournament is at Carrollton Nov. 18-19.

The debate topic for this year is "Resolved: That the Federal Government should implement a comprehensive program to guarantee retirement security for U.S. citizens over age 65." The debate team elected Golda Christie as their new debate treasurer at the last meeting.

VDT, Thurs. Nov. 17, 1988

The Valdosta Daily Times

VHS ROTC Rates 'Outstanding'

By SHERRIE FARABEE
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High School Naval ROTC program and its cadets received outstanding ratings at the annual inspection held Wednesday.

Several cadets also received individual awards and promotions.

The 122 cadets were evaluated by Commander Robert Burns, the program's area manager and director of programs for schools in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee.

"They had personnel inspection of all the cadets in the program," Naval Science Instructor Lt. Commander Larry Cupp said. "We have a selection of and presentation of awards to some of the cadets. We had a drill team performance, then we had administrative inspection of the unit during which time the cadets gave presentations to Commander Burns concerning the operation of their units."

Four cadets were commended for exemplary appearance. They were eleventh grader Reginald Bryant, and sophomores Deric Cotton, Franklin Kier and Antonia Jones.

Five cadets who have earned promotions this semester were presented and awarded their new ranks. Cadets Benita Lopez and Ferrel Scott, were promoted from ensign to lieutenant, junior grade; and Alphonsa Willis, Charles Harrison and Craig Carter were pro-

moted from cadet Chief Petty Officer to cadet Ensign.

Cupp said a great deal of work went into preparing for the inspection, which, he said, was much like what the cadets would experience in regular military service.

"They have to clean and prepare their uniforms, they have to make sure all their rank devices and insignia and ribbons are properly placed, shoes meticulously shined. They have to make sure all the lint and little ravel and ribbons are taken off the uniform. They have to learn the chain of command, not only in their unit but also in the

Navy from the president right on down to their squad leader. The cadet officers have to be familiar with their jobs in the unit. They brief him (Burns) and he asks questions about their department, he inspects records, it is like a regular military inspection."

Cupp said Burns referred to the unit as one of the best programs in the state of Georgia and the cadets enjoyed the opportunity to show off their work and skills. Cupp said the Valdosta unit might be up for one of the four awards given to outstanding units at the end of the year.

For the unit, Cupp said the


outstanding rating means more than a plaque on the wall.

"The personal prestige is the greatest thing in the world," he said. "The ability to feel you have done well, no plaque replaces that and I think what the students strive for is not any plaque but the gratification of doing a good job."


Cupp said credit for the unit's performance also goes to cadet Lt. Commander Robert Burroughs and his assistant, Petty Officer First Class, Sam Wright. They and the other students have worked, Cupp said, and well deserve the recognition they have received.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

EACH WEEK KENNER MOTORS will select 3 players of the Week. The selection will be based on the players that exemplify the winning spirit...dedication, performance, dependability...a real team player! We at KENNER MOTORS feel these attributes are paramount in life, and would like to express our appreciation to these remarkable young men.




Jason Bridges
VHS



David Hazelhurst


VDT, Nov. 22, 1988



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Wildcats Open With Victory

VDT. Wed., Nov. 16, 1988

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High School girls' and boys' basketball teams got their seasons off to a winning note Tuesday night against Echols County. The girls won their game 66-34 while the boys' team rallied for a 63-47 win.

In the girls' game, the Lady Wildcats used their decisive size advantage to jump out to a 35-10 lead at halftime and didn't let up in the second half. VHS controlled the offensive and defensive boards throughout the game and never let the Lady Wildcats of Echols County in the game. Head coach Susan Montgomery said she was pleased with the win and said her team's size would definitely be their strong point this year.

"We missed two many inside shots but I thought we moved it around well and we took good shots. We played together as a team and everyone had a chance to play," Montgomery said. "We've got some size and some depth and what we need is consistency from our inside game this year."

Junior center Cassandra Twine led the Lady 'Cats with 22 points. She was followed by senior post player Swandolyn Phillips who had 15 and wing Sissy Anderson who chipped in nine points.

"I was pleased with the way we played and it's good to start the season off with a win. Echols is a real scrappy bunch and they did a good job. We need to improve in some areas and I hope we can," Montgomery said.

In the boys' contest, the VHS Wildcats had some trouble with the Wildcats from Echols County but looked strong in the second half to claim the win.

In the first half, VHS found themselves in a dogfight that saw the lead go back and forth until halftime. ECHS had the 'Cats down 10-5 in the first quarter before Jason King, James Manning and Michael Moore scored on three consecutive trips down the floor to tie the game at 11.

Then Echols broke a 23-23 tie with nine unanswered points to grab the lead again. But before the half, King hit two layups and Major Lynn converted a three-point play to close the lead to two at the half.

But by the end of the third quarter, the game was all sewn up for VHS. They scored 12 consecutive points to break the game open and led going into the fourth period, 51-38. Short jumpers by Vincent Williams and King and a three-point bomb from Spencer Iverson accounted for the comeback that sealed ECHS's fate.

The game never got any closer as VHS continued to use its bench



'Cats, Echols Battle For Rebound

and run the score up on the visiting Wildcats. VHS head coach John Miller said he told his team at halftime that the beginning of the third quarter would decide how the rest of the game would go.

"We needed to set the tempo in the first three minutes of the second half and we did. Echols County did a super job and they deserve a lot of credit," Miller said. "We had a lot of turnovers,

especially in the first half and I hope that was just first game jitters. We need to get them back on the floor and work at it."

King led the Wildcats with 15 points while Williams chipped in 13. Michael Barrett and Jonathon Corbitt had 15 and 13 points for Echols County. Both VHS squads will get back into action on Nov. 29 as they meet up with Lanier County.

Wildcats Taking It Cautiously

VDT. Wed., Nov. 16, 1988

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The the only thing on the minds of the Valdosta High Wildcat football players following last season's 21-7 setback at the hands of the Carver Tigers in the state semifinals was a rematch.

But according to most of the Valdosta players, respect is the single biggest key for the Wildcats entering Friday's Region 1-AAAA semifinal matchup with the Tigers.

"We were all looking forward to the possibility of playing the Tigers following the end of the season last year, but this time I would say that the total team is bent on having and showing deep respect for the Tigers this time around," said Wildcat offensive lineman Steve Adkins. "Last year was not a joke, or a mishap, they are a fine football team and deserve a lot of respect. And that is what we all have for the Carver football team."

In the contest last year, Valdosta running back Isaac Ceaser was held to just 21 yards on the night, while the entire Valdosta offensive squad was somewhat held in check by the very tenacious Carver defensive unit.

Even though Ceaser would have ample reason to speak boldly concerning the rematch with the Tigers, he was very complimentary of the Carver team and what it will take to defeat their talented squad.

"Basically, we have to play as a team every quarter," said Ceaser. "We have to have more respect for their team this time around. They have some very talented athletes. I would like to think we got caught looking ahead and didn't play our game. We'll certainly find out Friday if we are up to the challenge this time around."

"We need to go out there Friday and execute," said Valdosta tight end Lee Thomas. "Carver has good football team and will pose a big threat. This team needs to just keep focused on the situation at hand and not get caught looking ahead because Carver proved last time that they a very talented group of athletes."



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

FSU Coach Bobby Bowden Was Banquet Speaker

VHS Defense Running On All Cylinders

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta's defense has lived up to every preseason expectation, and will get a chance to further prove itself this Friday night against Carver in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs.

The Wildcats finished first in every defensive statistical category but one in Region 1-AAAA South after the regular season.

Valdosta was tops in scoring defense, yielding just 6.1 points per game in 10 contests. The 'Cats are first in rushing defense as well, yielding just 53 yards per game, and second in passing defense.

Unfortunately for Lowndes, Valdosta had its most complete game last week in throttling the Vikings 41-0. Despite the win, VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph isn't putting his defense on a pedestal just yet.

"It's probably a little early to be talking about peaks and valleys," said Rudolph. "I think against Lowndes we had reason to get motivated. They are of course our rivals, plus Coach Hyder was sick, but I don't know if you can call that

Hall Of Famers Enshrined

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta-Lowndes County Sports Hall of Fame ushered in five of some of the finest athletes and coaches in the Valdosta area Tuesday night at the Valdosta Country Club.

The five inducted members included Lowndes High head football coach Joe Wilson, Valdosta High School head football coach Nick Hyder, former Valdosta High Most Valuable Player Dr. Alex M. "Buddy" Culbreth, former Lowndes High School Golden Eagle standout player Bobby Eason Sr., and former football standout at Valdosta High School Dick Stewart.

All were recognized for their athletic skills that they have demonstrated throughout their sports career. Their induction into the Hall of Fame brings the grand total to 67 members.

Valdosta State Blazers' head football coach Mike Cavan had the distinct pleasure of introducing the guest speaker for the 11th Annual Hall of Fame banquet, Florida State

Seminoles' head football coach Bobby Bowden.

Before giving way to the inducted members, Bowden talked about his work with young athletes on a national level and spoke about what was called "IT" in athletic endeavors.

"The community and the surroundings of the Valdosta-Lowndes County area are very well known," said Bowden, as he spoke to the crowd. "Many people in athletics are searching for, 'it' — that certain thing that, as a coach and player, everyone strives for and the community of Valdosta has that certain, it."

Bowden made mention his claim to fame in the Valdosta-Lowndes County area was that he was a school mate of Wright Bazemore.

Bowden closed out his speech acknowledging that the five newly inducted members have that certain something.

As each member spoke to the crowd, each spoke about what the induction means to him on personal level as well as an athletic achievement.

No one knows better than former Valdosta High player and coach and Lowndes High head coach Joe Wilson, who announced he is stepping down from his head coaching post Monday.

"It was a somber moment for me, but this is truly the ultimate honor," said Wilson. "This means a lot to me and my family, and I am very grateful for this induction."

"It's just a tremendous feeling to be inducted into this hall, and it is one of the greatest things to have ever happened to me," said Culbreth. "I was very honored by this and it was a surprise. I didn't expect it."

"It's a deep personal thing for me to be a part of this community and hall," said Hyder. "On behalf of my family and the thousands of players and coaches, I am very grateful for this honor tonight."

"Like Joe Wilson said, it is the ultimate honor," said Stewart. "I'm just very delighted and excited about this honor."

Former VHS quarterback B.J. Mason, now a member of the Naval Academy, was named the Athlete of the Year.



CARLO BUTLER

peaking or not."

Valdosta's defense, which was solid, last year, has improved for several reasons. One of the most obvious reasons was the move of Carlo Butler from linebacker to safety.

"That has obviously helped us," confirmed Rudolph. "He gives us some added speed back there we haven't had in past years. Last year, when someone got around the cor-



ZABRIABELL

ner, we had a hard time catching them. This year Carlo has prevented that."

Rudolph, however, still warned that Carver could sneak a guy outside, and Valdosta has given up a couple of long scoring runs this season.

"If one of those Carver guys get around the corner, we may still be in trouble," warned Rudolph. "They have some tremendous athletes on



ROBERT FILLMORE

offense."

Rudolph also praised the play of his defensive front, especially Zabria Bell, George Copeland, and Andre Hampton. But defensive ends Frederick Henton and Coleman Rudolph have been equally impressive.

Rudolph also pointed out that his linebackers have played great but have gone relatively unnoticed. "Linebackers don't get noticed a

lot unless they blitz," said Rudolph. "The linebackers have played extremely well, but we didn't blitz that much until the Lowndes game."

Valdosta's linebacking squad is led by Bruce Daniels and Anthony Williams. Rudolph also praised middle guard Robert Fillmore's efforts, who has played linebacker in the wake of Jonathan Davis' broken leg.

Rudolph stressed that his linebackers must play well against Carver, especially in putting pressure on the quarterback.

Valdosta fans will remember Carver quarterback Tim Walton (6-1, 180) who threw two touchdowns passes against the 'Cats in 1987. Also returning is tight end Nicky Pitts (6-2, 210), who is also a defensive lineman.

The 'Cat defense will also face a big back in fullback Jonathan Thomas (6-0, 205), who played last year.

Valdosta's scouts were particularly impressed with Carver tailback Kevin Tisdell, a 6-0, 165-pound senior, who has tagged Tisdell with breakaway speed. Carver's offensive front averages close to 205 pounds.

Valdosta Ready To Hit The Mat

VDT, Nov. 17, 1988, Thurs.

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

When James Landrum was head wrestling coach at Valdosta High School, he built the Wildcat program into one of the most respected in south Georgia.

Landrum resigned earlier this year. But under new head coach John Davis, who assisted the highly successful Landrum for the previous five years, the Valdosta wrestling program should continue to prosper.

"The transition has been very smooth so far," Davis said. "I've gotten some good leadership from some of the kids, a lot of support from the Takedown Club as well as coach Newnan Sanchez, head wrestling coach over at Lowndes."

According to Davis, this year's wrestling team has the potential to do very well. Part of the reason for Davis' optimism is the return of Steve Peterman and Maurice Dean, two youngsters who won their weight class last year in Region 1-AAAA.

"Steve wrestled at 103 and 112 last year but this year will be at 119," he said. "Steve won the region last year, has good quickness and works very hard."

Dean, plays football for the Wildcats and won't be available until after the season is over but Davis is counting heavily on him to be a major factor in the 152-pound

weight division. Ashley Fann will wrestle at or around the 119 mark.

Another football player who hopefully will contribute is Carlos Moore. Davis hopes Moore will fit in somewhere in the 112 or 119-pound class.

According to Davis, positions on the 125-pound and 130-pound class are still up for grabs, but juniors Chuck Bonner and Jason Finland and seniors John Ramey and John Washnock will also be looked upon to help fill in some of the holes.

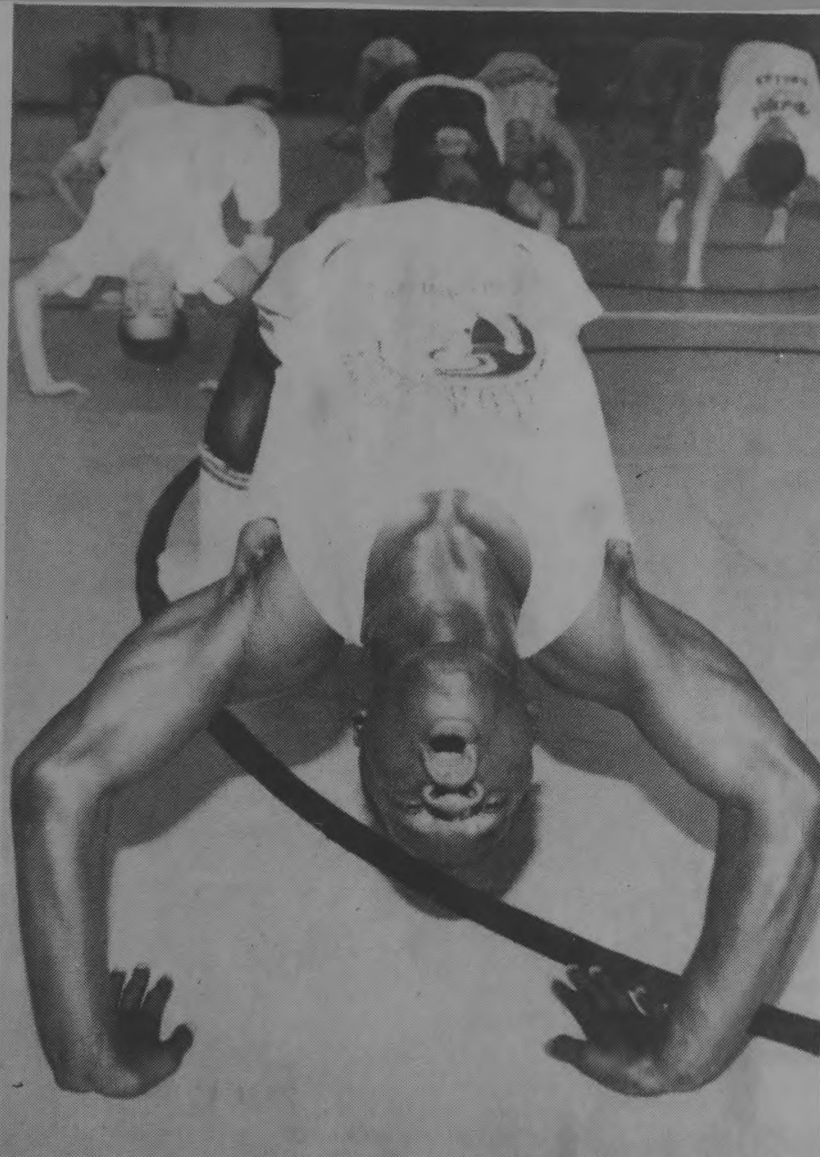
Jason Griffin, a junior, has looked good during early practice at the 152-pound division while junior Ryan Moorman is solid at 160.

"Ryan has an excellent wrestling background," Davis, who will be assisted by Bob Bolton said. "He's been with us a couple of years and is the younger brother of Ashley Moorman, who was a fine wrestler for us last year. We expect a lot of leadership out of Peterman, Dean, Moorman and Finland."

In the 171, 189 and heavyweight classes, Davis has a couple of youngsters, Kevin Adams and Dunkin Harden.

Also battling it out in the 171 and 189 weight class include twin brothers Derrick and Eric Phillips.

"Last year they both wrestled at the same weight and a couple of times had to go against each other and there was a lot of competition



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta Wrestler Art Gordan Loosens Up

See VALDOSTA, Page 4-B

Valdosta (mat)

VDT, Nov. 17, 1988, Thurs.
From Page 2-B

between those two kids," Davis said. "This year they will wrestle at different weights."

Will Hancock is another football player who will come out after the season is over and will wrestle as a heavyweight.

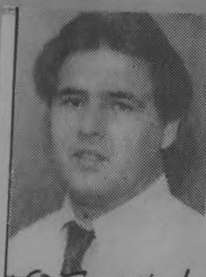
Two others who may come out once football season is over include star runningbacks James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser.

"Those two have mentioned to me before that they may be interested in coming out," I hope they do because they will definitely be an asset to our program."

Competition will indeed be tough. Both McEachern and Sprayberry, owners of two of the state's toughest programs will visit Valdosta High January 7.

The 'Cats will also be participating in a tournament in Auburn, Alabama. The two-day tournament, which takes place January 13-14, features some of the toughest teams throughout Georgia and Alabama.

Valdosta opens its season December 1, at home against Colquitt County.



Stan
Grubb

Sports Writer

'Cats Should Be Prepared For Act 2

VDT, Wed, Nov 16, 1988

Like a thief in the night, the Carver-Columbus Tigers will be returning to the scene of one of the biggest crimes of the century.

The Tigers will be looking to make it two wins in a row over the Valdosta Wildcats in the opening round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs at Cleveland Field Friday. But most would have to agree that the odds on that happening are very slim.

This year's Valdosta team looks to be the best high school football team in the past five to ten years.

I guess the entire town was somewhat taught a valuable lesson in humility last season, when we all were banking on a Valdosta rout against Carver. I myself followed up with a I Stand Corrected column after the game.

Making no predictions, or expanded forecasts for the game, the 'Cats have been impressive all year finishing up with a 41-0 whitewashing of the hard-luck Vikings from Lowndes.

The Carver Tigers' roster includes a man very familiar to Wildcats fans and players. His name is Nicky Pitts and he has been head coach Nick Hyder's worst nightmare.

Pitts, who is an All-American candidate, was all over the football field last year in the state playoffs. Pitts finished up his incredible performance with a leaping fourth-and-goal, 47-yard touchdown grab.

Last year Carver proved to everyone that Valdosta can be beaten. So, the surprise is for the most part gone.

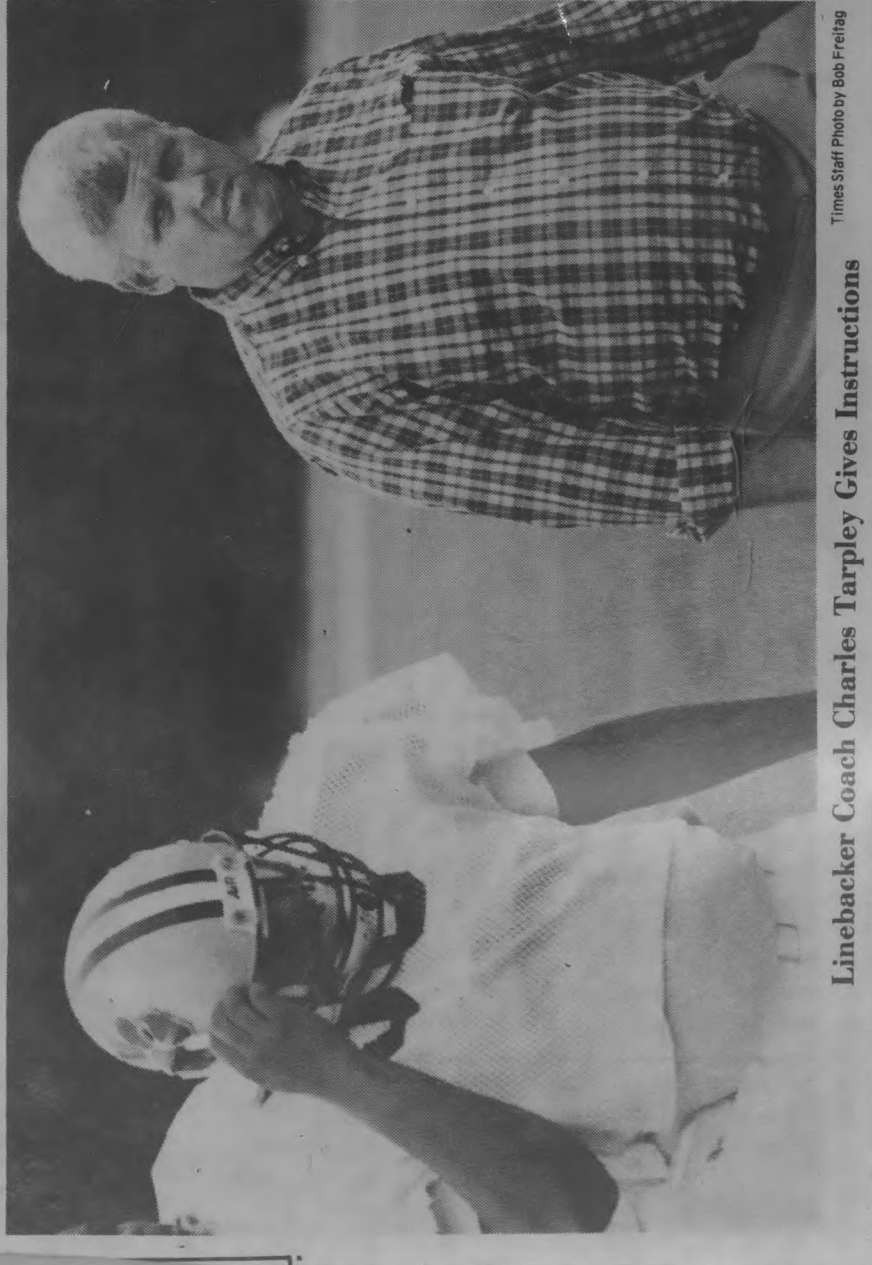
Will the 'Cats plan something special for Carver?

Not really. If they execute the way they can, and minimize mistakes the Valdosta Wildcats should have a good game. But then again, if they had just done that last season all of this would be a moot point.

When the chips are down on the table, Valdosta still is one of the greatest at taking the upper hand. In this case, the football game.

Ordinarily, I would pick a revenge rout, but I pointed out before I learned my lesson.

Carver will play Valdosta tough simply because they know it can be done, and they won't be intimidated. Valdosta, however, will win it.



Linebacker Coach Charles Tarpley Gives Instructions

Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

VHS Ready To Tackle Carver

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

For Valdosta High, the opportunity for redemption is at hand.

Tonight in Cleveland Field at 8 p.m., the Carver Tigers will hope history repeats itself as Wallace Davis' team takes on Valdosta in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs.

Last year, Carver surprised Valdosta 21-7 in the first round of the state playoffs. According to Hyder, if anything, the element of surprise should not be a factor this year.

"Last year, the element of surprise was definitely a factor," said Hyder. "This season, we know they've got a great team. We were surprised last year. This year we know."

As far as Suquero (Nicky) Pitts

(6-2, 220), the Tigers' star performer who almost single-handedly defeated the 'Cats last year is concerned, Hyder admits that a careful eye must be placed on the talent senior but Carver is far from being a one-man team.

"There is no question that Nicky Pitts has got to be dealt with," Hyder said. "He's just a great player, a super-quick athlete."

"But we have to do is watch out for the big play. Carver is a big-play capability team, as we saw last year. Their quarterback Timothy Walton is a fine athlete and their tailback Kevin Tisdale is a good, quick back."

Tisdale is the Tigers' leading rusher with 950 yards and has scored nine touchdowns. Johnathon Thomas (210) is the fullback.

See VHS, Page 3-B

Scrapbook/ A Times Sports Feature



Name: Bayh Brindger
Position: Cheerleader
Location: Valdosta High School
Class: Junior
Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Brindger
Future: Go to college
Likes: Cheering, go to football games
Hobbies: Gymnastics, cheering

VHS

VDT, Fr., Nov. 18, 1988

From Page 1-B

Senior flanker Xavier Lee and split end Anthony McHenry are both threats from their wide receiver positions. Lee also doubles as the Carver noseguard on defense.

Briston Buckner (270), Pitts, Eric Williams (205) and Robert Story (250) anchor the offensive line.

The offensive line is solidified by Daryl Burnett (273) and Darrell Day (212).

The 'Cats know it will be another tough fight.

"At this point, our intensity level is pretty good," defensive end Coleman Rudolph said. "We just need to play as a unit. Last year we didn't know much about what Carver had. This year, we know what they do and they know what we do."

Right tackle Lawrence Sharpe agreed.

"We just need to play as a unit.

They played a 9-man front against us last year," he said. "We respect Carver a lot."

Valdosta will go with the same starting lineup for tonight's game that has been used for the entire season.

The only change will be Keith Beal, who will start in place of freshman Kelly Dawsey, who injured his leg a little over a week ago.

"Hopefully we will have learned from our mistakes," junior linebacker Anthony Williams said. "We've practiced harder the week of this game than we did last year. We're taking Carver more seriously."

"We remember last year's loss but it is not something that we've been dwelling on," senior safety Jason Bridges said. "We just have to play our game and hope for the best."



Times Staff Photos by Bob Freitag

Valdosta High Safety Jason Bridges Turns Interception Upfield

'The Drive' Will Be Remembered

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

When Valdosta fans recall Friday night's 16-12 win over Carver, one thing will stand out: THE DRIVE.

Carver had put the 'Cats behind for the second time in the game 12-9 when Kevin Tisdell returned a kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown. The Tigers had all the momentum. But just when it seemed that Carver would stage its second upset in as many years, the Wildcat offense methodically drove the ball down the field, before putting the winning six points on the board.

"We wanted to go all the way," tackle Lawrence Sharpe said. "This was the best game I've ever played in. It was a team effort. We have a lot of respect for those guys. Carver was the best team we played this year."

After the Carver touchdown, James Roberts returned the kickoff 21 yards to the 28-yard line.

Then behind the running of Isaac Ceaser and Roberts, the 'Cats moved the ball 20 yards to the 48 yard line.

Quarterback Ben Hogan then completed his first pass of the game, a 10-yarder to Keith Beal down to the 42 yard line of Carver. Hogan

then kept the ball for two yards before Roberts carried it for two more, setting up a 3rd-down-and-6.

Hogan then made a clutch completion to split end Tracy Smothers on a hitch pattern for 9 yards giving the 'Cats a key first down on the 17.

Ceaser then carried the ball four straight times, the fourth being a 6-yard touchdown run which turned out to be the game-winning points for the 'Cats.

Ceaser's touchdown was the result of great blocking by the offensive line and second effort by Ceaser who bulled his way through four would-be tacklers on the goal line for the touchdown.

"I just kept thinking that I had to score that touchdown somehow," Ceaser. "I got a good block from James Roberts. The whole line did great and they sprung me. After that, it was second effort on my part. I really wanted it."

Perhaps the key play in the entire drive was when Hogan hit Smothers for the 9 yards and the first down. Had the 'Cats failed, Valdosta would have been forced to go for it on fourth down.

"I pretty much stunk it up the first half," Hogan said. "The second half, I wanted to make it up to my team. But give credit to Tracy, he made one great catch. We felt like if we

would just go out, and not make silly mistakes that we would have a chance. We just had to execute the right way."

Tight end Lee Thomas said it was a moment he will never forget.

"It was an exciting experience. I'm glad I was able to play a part," he said. "The defense did a great job. This year, everybody pretty much knew what to expect."

Senior guard Steve Adkins said pride played a big role as well.

"Valdosta had won 648 games before us and we just wanted to carry on that winning tradition. There was a lot of pride, our families were watching, Kenny Rose was watching, all the people were watching," he said. "They were quick and they were big. Isaac's touchdown run was all heart."

"I believe we tired them a little with our depth. But they were tough. Numbers 46, (Nicky Pitts), 7 (Xavier Lee) and 9 (Brinston Buckner) are some of the best players in AAAA football. Carver was the best team we played all year."

No. 1 Ranked 'Cats Have More Than One Team On The Field

MDT, Fri. Nov. 18, 1988

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta and Carver will be the main teams fans will focus on tonight in the opening game of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs. But if Wildcat fans take a closer look, they will see a third team working just as hard.

This team is easy spot. They are the waterboys and ballboys for head coach Nick Hyder's 'Cats.

This group of young men go about their jobs with just as much enthusiasm as the players themselves. They are, waterboys Lee Tarpley (7), Cliff Baker (7), Ben O'Brien (9), Ryan Gandy (9) and Andy Bolton (9). Don Baker (12) is the Wildcats' ballboy while Neal Lewis (10) serves up ice tea to thirsty 'Cats during their breaks on the sideline.

"I like having these young men around," Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder said. "I remember when I was their age and how I used to look up to the football players. These kids are the same way. They look up to the older kids on the team."

According to these junior 'Cats, having the opportunity to be around Cleveland Field and help the team is a fun way to spend football Friday nights.

"I like it when I get to run out on the field," Tarpley, a first-year waterboy said. "I like being around the 'Cats. Sometimes I come out to practice and get to hold the ball for the kickers. Before the games, we get to throw the balls around and have a

good time."

Cliff Baker, youngest son of assistant coach Jerry Don Baker has a different reason for being a ballboy.

"I like to run out on the field and see how sweaty and bloody the players can get," Baker, another first year ballboy said. "I like spraying water in their mouths and going off and on the field. I like that."

Baker's older brother, Don, is the ballboy for Valdosta. Before becoming a ballboy, Baker, like his little brother Cliff, was also a waterboy.

"It's my job to see that the balls don't get wet. If they do it's my fault," he said. "My job is just to keep the balls dry."

O'Brien, along with Bolton, are the only two-year veteran waterboys on this year's team.

"I like running out on the field. Sometimes I slide down on the grass but that's fun," O'Brien said. "I like being a waterboy. I can't wait until I can be a ballboy. Then after that, I can't wait until I'm a 'Cat."

"I like running from one end of the field to the other," Bolton said. "One time, I ran on the field and one of the player knocked me down. When I fell, all I saw was grass."

Gandy is another first-time waterboy, and like the others, his reason for being a waterboy is simple.

"I just like to hang around the 'Cats," he said. "It's fun to be able to take water to them."

Last but not least is Lewis. You may not see him run out on the field but his job is just as important as the rest.

"It's fun to be the teaboy," he said. "It's my first year doing it and I'm having a lot of fun."



Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

VHS Waterboys Give Will Hancock A Little Drink

Phillips Twins Stand Out On Football Field

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

If someone visited a Valdosta High School football practice, he might be amazed at the versatility of one particular athlete. At first glance, the athlete looks to be a sturdy offensive tackle, a speedy defensive back and a talented punter as well.

But a second glance will reveal that the talented athlete is actually two talented athletes.

Eric and Derrick Phillips are not hard to miss on the Wildcat practice field. Both are solid players, both are sophomores and the two are identical twins. Eric is the defensive back who doubles as the 'Cats punter. He started punting only this year and has found a lot of success. He holds a 35.5 yards per kick average and was named the second team All-Region punter for 1988.

Derrick is a backup right guard on

ting and I played fullback, halfback and defensive end. I just punted as a hobby and to keep in shape and this year I got the job," Eric said.

Between the two young lookalikes, they have played most of the positions on the field and obviously have a good feel for the game. They said they still evaluate each other's performance and help each other with constructive criticism.

"I think we've both learned a lot this year and we criticize each other all of the time. I think that will help us get even better in the future," Derrick said.

VHS head coach Nick Hyder thinks that the two are already ahead of the average sophomore athlete.

"Both Eric and Derrick are good, tough youngsters who have a tremendous work ethic. They come from a fine home and they just love to compete," Hyder said. "A lot of people call this Wintersville but I like to call it Competitorsville and those two are a fine example of that."



DERRICK PHILLIPS

"The Phillips's are the first set of twins that I've coached since I've been here. I've coached a lot of brother combinations, but this is the first time I've had twins," Hyder added.

In the off-season, the Phillips's stay in shape by competing on the Valdosta High track and wrestling teams. In Eric's first year of wrestling, he took third place in a tournament in Jacksonville. Last year in Atlanta, Derrick placed first in a three-way meet with Etowah and Sprayberry by defeating one of the top wrestlers in the state.

Both thought wrestling and running track helps them on the football field.

"Wrestling gives us a lot of pride and discipline and helps us with our conditioning. It's something we really like," Eric said.

Being younger members of the Wildcat team, a team that is steep in tradition, can sometimes intimidate players. But Derrick and Eric said being a member of the 'Cats has not intimidated them.

"It's just like another step on the ladder and getting to the top is our goal," Derrick said. "We think we can win another national championship or two while we're here."

Local Players Dominate First Team

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

The Coffee County Trojans finished a respectable 6-4 in their first year in Region 1-AAAA South, but without tailback Tony White, it is no telling how the Trojans would have fared.

White, a 5-11, 180-pound senior, rushed the ball 194 times for 1,223 yards and scored 14 touchdowns for head coach Bonwell Royal's Coffee team and for his efforts was named the Region 1-AAAA South Offensive Player of the Year.

White was joined by Tift County's Derrick McCant, who was selected the Defensive Player of the Year while Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder was named Coach of the Year for leading his Wildcats to a 10-0 regular season record.

See Complete List On Page 3-B

Hyder's Wildcats dominated the 1988 first-team selections placing nine on the top squad. Colquitt County was second with seven first-team picks followed by Lowndes with four, Tift County with three, Bainbridge with two and Coffee with one.

White was Coffee's only first-team member but the talented runner proved throughout the season that he was one of the toughest players around.

"I've really learned to appreciate Tony this year. I'll probably appreciate him more next year when he's gone," Royal said. "Pound for pound he is probably the toughest runner I've ever coached in my 25 years of coaching."

"He's strong and has good speed. It was just unmerciful the beating he took this year but he stayed in there, remained injury free, and good things happened to him."



ROBERTS



CEASER



HAZELHURST



RYKARD



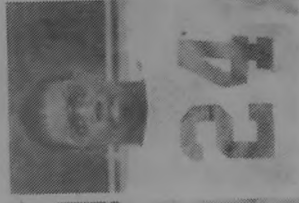
RUDOLPH



WILLIAMS



BELL



BUTLER



THOMAS



GLANCE



HUBBARD



CLARK

touchdowns.

"Ben and Rozie have been very much the leaders of our offense," Colquitt head coach Jim Hughes said. "Ben of course with his ball handling, and passing ability and Rozie with his blocking and pass catching ability. Both have made the big plays for us all season long and have figured very strongly in our offense."

McFadden is joined by sophomore Jeffery Thomas of Lowndes who was second in the subregion in receiving, grabbed 29 passes for 509 yards and scored six touchdowns.

Valdosta senior center David Hazelhurst (230) heads the list on the first-team offensive line. He is joined by teammate Andy Rykard (215) and Lee Pickett (235) of Colquitt County. The tackles are Jerry Flynt (265) of Tift County and Doug Hubbard (250) of Lowndes. Eric Sanders of Bainbridge, who caught 14 passes for 218 yards and three touchdowns was named the first-team tight end despite appearing in only six games this season due to an injury.

The placekicker is freshman Dow Drury of Valdosta. Drury connected on 27-of-34 extra-point attempts and kicked one field goal of 25 yards.

Joining McCant on the first-team defense include defensive ends Coleman Rudolph and Ricky Wright of Tift County. Rudolph recorded 18 sacks during the regular season while Wright was in on 70 tackles and sacked the quarterback eight times.

At the defensive tackle positions, Don Hart (sr. 215) of Colquitt County, Zabria Bell (sr. 305) of Valdosta and Ben Clemmons (jr. 325) of Bainbridge were named to the first team.

"Ben has had a really outstanding junior year," Bainbridge head coach Sonny Smart said. "This year he

See 1-AAAA, Page 3-B

"Every college scout that has been by here has left with their mouths watering," Hyder said. "Coupled with their great attitude, these kids are big and strong and tough. They could be street fighters if they so desired."

Joining the three runningbacks in the first-team backfield is quarterback Ben Wiggins of Colquitt County. Wiggins completed 72-of-159 passes for 1,061 yards, 11 interceptions and five touchdowns. Wiggins was also named the first-team punter. The senior averaged 36.7 yards on 29 kicks but only four were returned all year long. The longest return went for two yards.

Wiggins' teammate, senior Rozie McFadden made the first team at one of the wide receiver positions. McFadden led Region 1-AAAA South in receiving with 35 receptions for 524 yards and scored five

Wildcats. "If it were up to me I would select my entire staff. Jerry Don Baker, Mike O'Brien, Jack Rudolph, Bob Bolton, Freddie Waters, Charles Tarpley and Keith Middleton, all did a superb job this season in keeping this team together as a unit," Hyder said. "Each of these men are head coaches in their own right. They deserve the credit."

Joining White in the first-team backfield are senior runningbacks James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser of Valdosta High, both of whom rushed for over 1,000 yards this season.

Roberts (6-0, 215), the 1987 Region 1-AAAA Offensive Player of the Year, carried the ball 154 times for 1,061 yards and scored 12 touchdowns while Ceaser (5-11, 215) carried the ball 180 times for 1,012 yards and scored a team-leading 19 touchdowns.

McCant, a 6-1, 180-pound senior, was Tift County's leading tackler with 116 total tackles in 1988. 62 of McCant's tackles were of the solo variety. He also recovered two fumbles while causing five, broke up five passes and recorded one sack for Gene Brodie's 5-5 Blue Devils.

"Derrick was one of our team captains. Just his presence and leadership got us through some tough times this year," Brodie said. "We did not have a great year, consequently we had some tough moments as a team. But Derrick helped keep this team together."

"He just has a nose for the football and seems to get there quicker than anybody else. He's also is an outstanding hitter."

Hyder, who came to Valdosta as head coach in 1974, was named Coach of the Year for the sixth time since assuming his duties with the



Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

Anthony Williams Brings Down Carver Quarterback

Cherokee Offense Deserves Respect

VDT, Nov. 23, 1988

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

No team has been able to run the football down the gut of the Valdosta defense, and the Wildcats have faced and vanquished 11 opponents.

Defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph, however, is not ready to rest on his laurels just yet as Kendrick comes to town with a power offense this Friday night for the Region 1-AAAA title contest.

The Cherokees run what Rudolph call a pure wishbone offense — two tight ends and a fullhouse backfield. According to Rudolph, Kendrick rarely throws the ball, and will run right at the Wildcats. Rudolph is not so sure his defense can stop the the frontal rushing attack.

"They've been able to do it against 11 teams so far," said Rudolph, "So I'm in no position to say they can't do it against us. There's always a little mystery when it comes to playing a team you've never played. During the regulars season you can almost formulate your game plan during the week. In the playoffs when you're playing someone unfamiliar, there's usually a lot more game coaching."

Carver's defense last week was one of the best Valdosta faced all year, and Kendrick was able to put 28 points on the board in a 28-18

win against the Tigers.

In the second half of that crucial Carver-Kendrick matchup, Carver ran only 10 offensive plays. Kendrick ran 35 plays (all running plays) and accumulated 11 first downs in the second half.

"They don't throw the ball very much, but that doesn't mean they can't hurt us with the pass," said Rudolph. "They'll draw the secondary up to fill on running plays and then slip that tight end or a running back behind you, and you're in trouble."

Kendrick's largest player is 221 pounds. The front line averages close to 190 pounds. Cherokee quarterback Marcus Hudson, a senior, is a scrambler, and VHS scouts liken him to 1987 VHS quarterback B.J. Mason. Hudson weights in at only 140 pounds. Hudson has thrown only 66 passes for 25 completions and 389 yards.

In Kendrick's wishbone, fullback Tripp Busby does most of the blocking for two talented running backs. Sophomore Del McGee (5-9, 170) has carried the ball 240 times for 1,189 yards. Mike Williams has 605 yards on 135 carries.

The Cherokees also offer a talented kicker in Mike Childes. Childes has been a soccer star at Kendrick and was persuaded to give football a try this year. While he doesn't have tremendous range, he is near perfect inside the 30-yard line.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Teammork Did It For VHS

Nov. 20, 1988 Sun.

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Any football coach will testify teamwork wins football games. This was certainly true of Valdosta's 16-12 win over Carver in the opening game of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs here Friday night.

"The Carver defense had tremendous athletes. Their two corners, number 24 (Arthur Miles) and 25 (Derick Burnett) were tremendous," Valdosta head football coach Nick Hyder said. "Jonathan Thomas, their middle linebacker, Xavier Lee and Nicky Pitts were in there as well as Brinston Buckner and number (56), (Marcus Mahone). They are all terrific athletes who tackle and move well.

"But give credit to our kids. They hung with these guys and stayed with them and eventually won the game."

Hyder said the 'Cats, who got off to a slow start when there was a mixup on the handoff on the first play from scrimmage, were very tense when the game first began.

"We were real tense at first. Last year, our loss to Carver was awarded the title as the nation's biggest upset," he said. "We were spanked with that all year long and because of that situation, it created a very tense situation at the beginning of the game. When we left the ball on the ground on the first play of the game, it showed just how much intensity was involved.

"The intensity was a factor and

Carver was feeling it too. But I didn't see anybody leave the game early and I know nobody asked for their money back."

Valdosta trailed for three quarters of the game, and had to regain the lead twice.

"This was the first time all year we had trailed at the half and it was the first time we had to come back twice to win a ball game," Hyder said. "But we solved our blocking problems, thanks to Jerry Don Baker, Bob Bolton, Mike O'Brien and Keith Middleton, who communicated very well with me on how to do this."

At halftime we just told the kids if they would just hang around and keep battling, then we would have a chance to win in the fourth quarter and that is what we did."

Defensively, the 'Cats held the Tigers to just 17 yards rushing and although Carver managed 101 through the air, Hyder says the defense continues to do its usual great job.

"You just about run out of adjectives trying to describe this group and the job they have done for this team," the VHS coach said. "The momentum changer was that blocked field goal. When Robert Fillmore blocked it, right at the end of the first half, it was a momentum "leveler" for us.

"Had they made that field goal the score would have been 9-2 instead of 6-2 and believe me, that would have

been a big difference.

"Of course, Robert also blocked a punt and Coleman Rudolph and Jason Bridges had some key interceptions. We knocked away several of their passes and had some big sacks. The defense was the difference in the game."

Friday night, the 'Cats will play host to 1-AAAA North champion Kendrick for the Region 1-AAAA Championship. Kendrick defeated Colquitt County 24-21 to earn the right to play the 'Cats. Earlier in the year, Colquitt had beaten the Cherokees 7-0 but came on strong late in the year. Kendrick beat Carver 28-18 two weeks ago in the 1-AAAA North subregion championship.

Kendrick possesses what Hyder says may be the fastest team the 'Cats have faced all season long. The Cherokees run the wishbone and are led by running back Del McGee who rushed for over 1,000 yards this year.

"This will be the first time in a long time where we have not had to play a team twice during the year," Hyder said. "For years, in the Region 1-AAAA championship, we've had to play Lowndes, Colquitt and Tift, as we did last year. This year we have some new blood in there, and that's good.

"At the Lowndes game last week, Griffin scouted our game and some of their people had on shirts that said 1988 state champions," he said. "Griffin lost to Riverdale last night 6-3. I just shows you can't count your chickens before they're hatched."

Cherokees' Defense Known For Quickness And Speed

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

VDT
KOD, 22, 1988

Region 1-AAAA North champion Kendrick may not have cornered the market on the size department, but the Cherokee defense has shown throughout the year that they have the skill to stop opponents dead in their tracks.

The Cherokees have shut out four opponents, Shaw, Baker, Hardaway and Jordan this season. This, says Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder, is reason enough to fear the 9-2-Kendrick squad.

"Kendrick is small on defense, but they are very quick," Hyder said. "They are a lot like Northside Warner-Robins in that respect. We scored 24 points on Northside but I don't think that is a fair assessment of how good they were."

According to Hyder, Kendrick uses a 5-3, 5-2 defense, similar to what Lowndes uses and occasionally will install a 6-5, goal line alignment. They have also shown a 4-4.

Kendrick won the Class AAAA state track meet last season and two of those performers play on defense for the Cherokees. They are cornerbacks Ronnie Baker (6-3, 190) and Derek McLester (5-8, 140).

Baker finished 2nd in the state in the 110 high hurdles and was the anchor man in the mile relay team which finished third. McLester was also on the mile relay team.

Last Friday night in the Cherokees' 24-21 win over Colquitt in the opening game of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs, McLester intercepted Colquitt's first pass of the game and returned it for a touchdown.

Kendrick's biggest man on defense is left defensive end Stephen Clark. A senior, Clark stands 6-4 and tips the scales at 221 pounds. He is the largest man on the team. The Cherokees' other end is Greg Burns (6-3, 190). A talented player as well, Burns is also one of the teams tight ends. Burns is considered to be a

Division I college prospect.

Senior linebacker Clevon Colbert (6-2, 205) is regarded as the best athlete on the Cherokee team and along with Kevin Owens (5-9, 180) and Jeremy (6-3, 182), form the nucleus of the Kendrick defense which has given up an average of 7.4 points per game.

"Their linebackers (Colbert and Owens) may be the two best we've faced this season," Hyder said. "Their ends, Clark and Burns are also very good."

The nose guard is Troy Mahone (5-9, 175) while Anthony Thomas and Roderick Vasser will be at the tackle positions. The safety will be Willie Layfield (6-0, 180).

Kendrick's main duty, of course, will be to try and stop the ground attack of the Wildcats which has averaged 242 yards on the ground so far this season.

Leading the charge for Valdosta are running backs James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser. Roberts, who rushed for 120 yards Friday night against Carver, has now totaled 1,181 on the year and has scored 12 touchdowns. Ceaser has rushed for 1,099 yards and leads the team with 19 touchdowns.

Up front, All-Region 1-AAAA South performers, center David Hazelhurst and guard Andy Rykard, anchor the offense line which also includes stalwarts Steve Smith, Steve Adkins, Lawrence Sharpe and Lee Thomas.

Keith Beal, Joe Wright, Kelly Dawsey and Tracy Smothers will all see action at the receiver positions.

Ben Hogan will again be the quarterback. Hogan made two key completions against Carver on the 'Cats' game winning drive, but for the game went 2-for-10 for a total of 19 yards. But Hyder says Hogan's troubles were not all his fault.

"Ben had three of his passes batted down right at the beginning of the game and there were, I think, three more that were dropped," he said.

Hyder went on to say that just because the 'Cats had some problems in the passing department, not for a moment will the team abandon the passing game.



Wildcat Head Coach Nick Hyder Is Wary Of Kendrick

VHS Looking For Intensity Against Lanier

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

For Valdosta head basketball coaches Susan Montgomery and John Miller, tonight's contest with Lanier County brings mixed emotions.

Both Valdosta teams opened the season with wins over Echols County back on November 15, but according to Montgomery and Miller, the real test starts against Lanier County.

Tip-off between the two schools in Lakeland is slated for 6 p.m. for the girls game, with the boys' game to immediately follow.

"I'm really excited about this game, which will be our first road appearance, and I'm sure the girls are as well," said Montgomery. "It

has always been tough to play at Lanier because the crowd is really a big part of the game. They play in a very small surroundings, and I'm sure that they will pack the stands.

This game will get us into the swing of things. From this game on, we must be prepared to play our best every night."

Miller finds this game as a dark cloud on the horizon. For his Wildcats are winless the past seven years that he has been at Valdosta.

"It's definitely a tough place to start off on the road. Especially, when you are winless against a team such as we are," said Miller. "It will be a big test no doubt to see if we can handle the elements that are so common on the road. You have to be tough on the road if you expect to win."

But time has healed many wounds. In fact, Miller is banking on a new season and a new lineup in hopes to turn the tide in his favor.

"The only thing I can hope for is that it is new season, with new faces," said Miller. "We have some new faces, but we still must play with total intensity throughout the game. It in some ways, I'm anxious to see how our team will react under adverse situations on the road."

Montgomery pointed out that her team will need to take advantage of more than their size to defeat Lanier County.

"Lanier has always been a very aggressive, and scrappy team. They play the entire floor, with tremendous jumping ability," said Montgomery. "To be honest, we

must find a way to play our game. The only way to do that is to play from out in front and not behind.

Last season we didn't play well when we were behind, and some of that is probably due to the past history of this team. But regardless, it's much easier, especially when it is your first road game, to take an early advantage."

Montgomery's probable starting lineup includes junior center Cassandra Twine, 6-foot-2, sophomore Yashti Manning, 5-6, and senior Swandolyn Phillips, 6-0, at the forward spots. Montgomery's backcourt will consist of senior Sissy Anderson, 5-7, and sophomore Ashley Schleusner, 5-6.

Key members coming off the bench are sophomore Laura Dennis,

freshman Dede Dennis, and sophomore Stephanie Motley.

Miller echoed Montgomery sentiments, saying that his team must be prepared for the Bulldogs' full court speed.

"Obviously, you don't have to keep battling back if you are in the lead. But basically it just seems that it puts you at a disadvantage on the road to fall behind early," said Miller. "Running is not really our game, but if the numbers are right, we will run."

Sophomore center Michael Moore, 6-4, junior Jason King, 6-1, and senior Vincent Williams, 6-5, will be the forwards. The guards will be sophomores Brad Sullins and Spencer Iverson.

Region 1-AAAA South First Team

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

Quarterback — Ben Wiggins (sr. 185) Colquitt County
Running Backs — Tony White senior (sr. 180) Coffee County
 James Roberts — (sr. 215) Valdosta
 Isaac Ceaser — (sr. 215) Valdosta
Wide Receivers — Rozie McFadden (sr. 165) Colquitt County
 Jeffery Thomas — (soph. 150) Lowndes
Tight End — Eric Sanders (sr. 195) Bainbridge
Offensive Tackles — Jerry Flynt (sr. 260) Tift County
 Doug Hubbard (sr. 250) Lowndes
Offensive Guards — Lee Pickett (sr. 235) Colquitt County
 Andy Rykard (sr. 215) Valdosta
Center — David Hazelhurst (sr. 230) Valdosta

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

Defensive Ends — Ricky Wright (sr. 235) Tift County
 Coleman Rudolph — (sr. 215) Valdosta
Defensive Tackles — Don Hart (sr. 215) Colquitt County
 Ben Clemmons (jr. 325) Bainbridge
 Zabria Bell (sr. 305) Valdosta
Linebackers — Darrius Dawson (jr. 190) Colquitt County
 Anthony Williams (jr. 230) Valdosta
 Antwoine Clark (sr. 215) Lowndes
Defensive Backs — Derrick McCant (sr. 180) Tift County
 Carlo Butler — (sr. 205) Valdosta
 Marcus Ponder — (sr. 165) Colquitt County
 Reggie Gance — (sr. 185) Lowndes
Punter — Ben Wiggins (sr. 185) Colquitt County

Region 1-AAAA South Second Team

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Quarterback — Ray Merritt (sr. 205) Tift County
Honorable Mention — Chris Overman (Lowndes), Reggie Ingram (Coffee)
Running Backs — Larry Cosby (sr. 185) Bainbridge
 Bernard King — (sr. 170) Tift County
 David Alexander — (sr. 162) Tift County
Honorable Mention — Tony Eady (Coffee County), Vincent Yates (Colquitt County)
Wide Receiver — Cedric Walker (sr. 165) Bainbridge
 Michael Ewings — (jr. 165) Tift County
Honorable Mention — John Smith (Coffee), Jason Orr (Lowndes), Tim Lewis (Colquitt)
Tight End — Jonathon Jones (jr. 193) Tift County
Honorable Mention — Lee Thomas (Valdosta), Read Schofield (Coffee)
Offensive Tackles — Charles Paulk (sr. 235) Colquitt County
 Marlowe Hinson — (sr. 265) Bainbridge
Honorable Mention — Steve Smith (Valdosta), Ben O'Steen (Coffee)
Offensive Guards — Darrin Pitts (sr. 235) Tift County
 Edward Horne — (sr. 210) Bainbridge
Honorable Mention — Lawrence Sharpe (Valdosta), Scott Harper (Coffee), Deon Williams (Colquitt), Casey Choate (Tift County)
Center — Ryan Lamon (sr. 185) Colquitt County
Honorable Mention — Clay Shiver (Tift County)
Placekicker — Chad Fitzgerald (sr. 150) Colquitt County
Honorable Mention — Andy Spivey (Coffee)

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Defensive Ends — Dexter Cooper (sr. 265) Bainbridge
 Frederick Henton — (jr. 190) Valdosta
Honorable Mention — Bernard Grady (Colquitt County), Jimmy Johnson (Colquitt County)
Defensive Tackles — Clay Shiver (soph. 235) Tift County
 Kelvin Chandler — (jr. 190) Coffee County
 Robert Fillmore — (jr. 180) Valdosta
Honorable Mention — Royce Burkett (Coffee), Eric DeBruce (Colquitt County)
Linebackers — Andy Reese (jr. 195) Coffee
 Keith Bryant — (sr. 215) Bainbridge
 Joe Rodgers — (sr. 215) Tift County
Honorable Mention — Bruce Daniels (Valdosta), Eli Mullis, (Colquitt County)
Defensive Backs — Tracy White (sr. 190) Coffee
 Elijah Jones — (sr. 155) Tift County
 Dewayne Washington — (jr. 170) Tift County
 Pat Aerial — (sr. 175) Bainbridge
Honorable Mention — Tic Pope (Coffee), Eddie Byrd (Bainbridge), Jason Bridges (Valdosta)
Punter — Eric Phillips (soph. 160) Valdosta



Dow Drury Was The All-Region 1-AAAA Kicker

1-AAAA

VDT. Nov. 22, 1988

From Page 1-B

was one of our most consistent linemen. He was a leader both on and off the field."

Darrius Dawson (jr. 190) of Colquitt County, Anthony Williams (jr. 230) of Valdosta and Antwoine Clark (sr. 215) of Lowndes make up the linebacking corp. Dawson was the Packers' leading tackler with 94, 48 more than anyone else on the Colquitt squad while Williams averaged nine tackles per game for the 'Cats. Clark led the Vikings with 113 tackles and recorded seven quarterback sacks.

Along with McCant in the first-team secondary is Reggie Gance (sr. 185) of Lowndes, Marcus Ponder (sr. 165) of Colquitt County and Carlo Butler (sr. 205) of Valdosta.

Gance pulled down four interceptions for the Vikings this season while Ponder and Butler added two for the Packers and Wildcats respectively.

The second-team offense consists of quarterback Ray Merritt of Tift County, runningbacks Bernard King and David Alexander of Tift and Larry Cosby of Bainbridge. The wide receivers are Cedric Walker of Bainbridge and Michael Ewings of Tift County.

Also on the second team are guards Darrin Pitts of Colquitt and Edward Horne of Bainbridge, tackles Charles Paulk of Colquitt and Marlowe Hinson of Bainbridge. The second-team center is Ryan Lamon of Colquitt and the tight end Jonathon Jones of Tift County. Chad Fitzgerald of Coffee is the placekicker.

On the second team defense, Dexter Cooper of Bainbridge and Frederick Henton are the defensive ends while the tackles include Clay Shiver of Tift County, Kelvin Chandler of Coffee and Robert Fillmore of Valdosta.

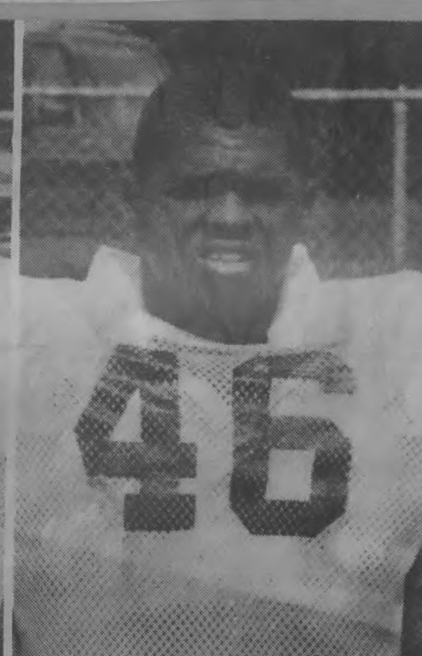
The linebackers are Andy Reese of Coffee, Keith Bryant of

Bainbridge and Joe Rodgers of Tift County. Pat Aerial of Bainbridge, Tracy White of Coffee, Elijah Jones and Dewayne Washington, both of Tift County, make up the second-team secondary. The punter is Eric Phillips of Valdosta.

Members of the 1988 All-Region 1-AAAA South team were voted on by the sports editors of the Valdosta Daily Times, Tifton Gazette, Moultrie Observer, Bainbridge Post-Searchlight and the Douglas Enterprise.



FREDERICK HENTON
2nd Team Defense



ROBERT FILLMORE
2nd Team Defense

Fillmore Says Wildcats Are Serious This Time

V. Times 11-24-88

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

If someone were to draw up what they thought would be the perfect middle guard, the following description might be given: Mountains upon mountains of bulging muscles, a huge physical frame and a mean and loud disposition.

But the starting noseguard for the Valdosta High Wildcats is a virtual opposite of these descriptions. Robert Fillmore is well-muscled, but he doesn't spill out of his uniform. He weighs 182 pounds which isn't considered to be great size for a noseguard.

But the main difference comes in attitude. Fillmore is a quiet, soft-spoken young man who is confident of his team's ability but he does not have the menacing scowl that is usually associated with a player of Fillmore's position.

And although Fillmore doesn't fit the mold, he has certainly proven that he fits the 'Cats' style of play and he has been a major factor in VHS's defensive success this year.

Fillmore, a junior and a two-year starter for the Wildcats, has faced some of the best offensive linemen in his two years with the Wildcats. But Fillmore said he had his best game of his career last week against the Carver High Tigers.

"Last week, I think it was one of the biggest wins we've had here," Fillmore said. "After I roughed the kicker early in the game, I



ROBERT FILLMORE

wanted to come back and help the team win. But they had a tough team."

Fillmore's performance was one of the main reasons the Wildcats advanced to the region championship this week against Kendrick High of Columbus. Fillmore blocked a punt early in the game that went out of the end zone for a safety and Valdosta's first points of the game.

Later, at the end of the first half, Fillmore came through again and blocked a Carver field goal attempt that would have given them

a 9-3 lead at the half and all the momentum going into the second half.

Fillmore said that the Wildcats seem to be better prepared this season for their run at the state and national championship. He hopes that their attitude pays off in their upcoming games.

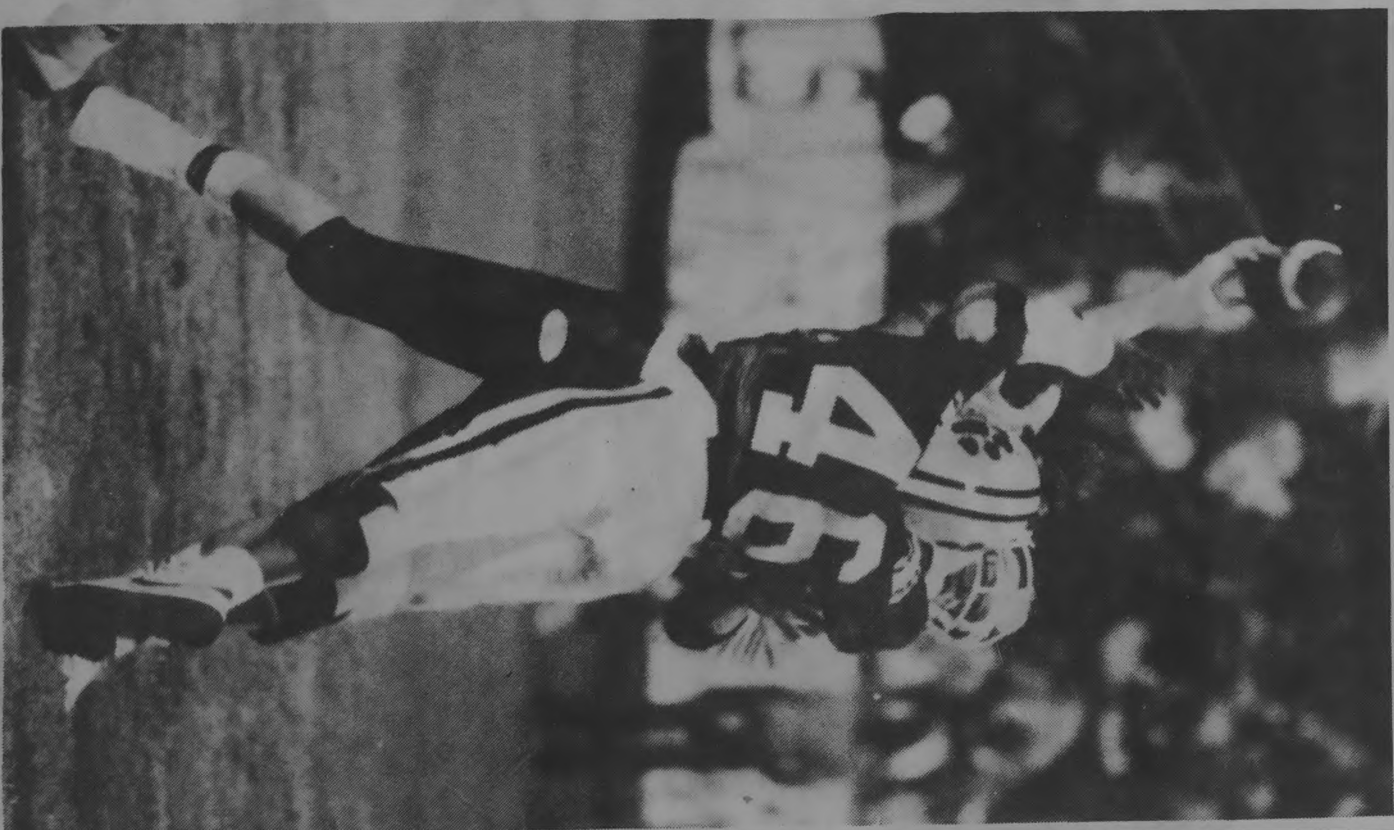
"I think our chances are pretty good this year of going all the way. Everyone is serious-minded and there's no doubt that things are going to get harder," Fillmore said.

After a successful season last year, Fillmore tore all the cartilage in his knee during spring workouts. He credits the coaches and trainers at VHS for his rehabilitation and his being able to start this year.

"I missed all of the spring and the worst thing it did was it kept me out of shape. But Coach Bolton and Coach Burroughs did a good job of getting me back in shape," Fillmore said.

Although the Wildcats faced a serious challenge from Carver last week, Fillmore said his team is still confident that they can go all the way and end their season wearing a national championship ring.

"Right now, we've got our minds on the Kendrick game. But I think if we play as a team and keep our heads up, we might go all the way," Fillmore said. "We all take pride in our season so far and we just want to go out and do the best that we can."



Robert Fillmore Puts The Pressure On

Times Staff Photos by Paul Leavy

Sports

Big Backs Will Test 'Cat Defense

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High football fans are familiar with big backs James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser rumberling through the opposition's defensive backfield. For the first time this year, Valdosta will have to defend against the same when they take on Bradwell Institute in Brunswick this Friday night in the Class AAAA state quarterfinals.

Bradwell tailback Ivan Bullard is 6-foot-2, 209 pounds and is joined by 220-pound sophomore Dupree Green.

"They run a wing-T, and their two backs are impressive," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "I think on the average, they're as big as we are."

Bullard also adds another dimension to the Tigers' passing game. In fact, he is the passing game. Bullard has caught 18 passes for 276 yards out of the backfield, and is the leading receiver on the team.

He has scored a total of 15 touchdowns, three passing and 12 running. He is no slouch when carrying the ball. He has rushed for 1,047 yards in 154 attempts.

Green has scored eight touchdowns and has 430 yards on 104 carries.

The Tiger flanker is sophomore Garrett Landers, who also has good size at 188 pounds. Landers has 931 yards on 136 carries with five touchdowns.

Bradwell's starting quarterback will be junior Mike Hughes who tips the scales at 180 pounds. Hughes earned the starting spot late in the

Bridges Making The Grade Both On And Off The Field

V. Times 11-30-88

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Although most people link size with ability on the football field, Valdosta High's Jason Bridges is living proof that there is more to playing football than just being large.

Bridges combines desire along with individual skills that make him a valuable asset to the Valdosta Wildcats.

"I just try to work hard in practice and in every game. There are a lot of good passing teams that go after us, but I just keep trying and fighting for the best of the team," said Bridges, who is a senior safety for the Wildcats. "I set no personal goals in this my senior year but to do what's best for the team. Other athletes have more to offer in the way of natural ability, but I offer my hard work and dedication to VHS."

Playing safety in the secondary for the Wildcats leaves little room for error. And according to Valdosta High defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph, Bridges is just like another coach on the football field.

"First of all, Jason has built a very strong base in which to grow. He has always had his mind made

season when Tracey Flournoy was removed from the squad.

"They have played well for Hughes," said Hyder. "I think when they made him the starting quarterback it united their efforts."

team. And we have dedicated the season to Kenny (Rose) after his passing away."

With Bridges and the 'Cats getting ready to face the Bradwell Institute Tigers Friday night, he was quick to point out that it is a tribute to the team in overcoming the memories of the 1987 season.

"This team has done a good job in putting stuff behind us that could bring us down and reaching for our goals," said Bridges. "This Friday night against Bradwell will give us a chance to prove that. If we don't win Friday, we don't practice Monday, it's that simple."

"I think Jason has the ability to play college ball, and I just hope someone will at least give him a chance," said Rudolph. "Jason may not have the tools that other kids have, but he has the heart. His hard work and his improvements both physically and athletically do not go unnoticed."

"Jason is a very hard working person in the classroom as well. As a matter of fact, I think that he was the No. 4 ranked student in the school entering his senior year. He has made some large strides and is a very important person to the coaching staff and his teammates."

the exception of the talent," said Hyder. "The last time we played, they had John Stewart and Raymond Gross. I don't think this year they have the standouts they had then, but they're more team oriented now."

On the offensive front, Bradwell matches up well with the 'Cats. Tackles Glen Teague and Mark Delafchell weigh in at 290 and 250 respectively. The two guards weigh in at 215 and 185, and the tight end is 185 pounds.

Bradwell uses two basic offensive sets. They will line up with the backs side by side and a flanker to the tight end side, or they will use a fullhouse backfield with all three running backs lined up horizontally behind the quarterback.

"They can run and throw and always presents a problem for the defense," said Hyder.

Bradwell started out its season 2-3 before rolling to six consecutive victories. In the region playoffs, the Tigers were unstoppable, beating Johnson 40-6 and Beach 43-0 for the region title.

Defensively, I think we're prepared for Friday night," said VHS defensive lineman Andre Hampton, who is part of a feared and respected Valdosta front.

"They're quick and they run the wing-T, but I think we can stop them," Hampton said.

Defensive end Coleman Rudolph said he expects a tough game from Bradwell, because of the 49-7 score in 1986.

"I think they'll be out for revenge," said Rudolph. "Even though only three of our guys played in that game and probably only a couple of them did, it still happened."

"I think some of us might be taking them a little lightly," admitted Rudolph, "but I think the 'Cats will be all right."



JASON BRIDGES

up on getting the job done on and off the football field," said Rudolph. "He is a great aid to us in many areas in the secondary. He handles our alignment calls and as secondary play goes, it's like having another coach on the field."

Bridges points out that tremendous changes concerning the Wildcats and his friendships with teammates has pulled Valdosta together.

"Right now everything is going pretty good obviously, but this year has been one big adversity after another," said Bridges. "We all have come closer together as a

Fans may recall the 1986 game when Valdosta thumped Bradwell 49-7 in the South Georgia championship contest. Hyder warns that this year's team is a lot different.

"I think this team is more versatile than they were in 1986 with

Local Schools Monitor Books Offered

By JAY JONES
Times Staff Writer

Lowndes County and Valdosta public schools systems officials say that controversy over library books is unlikely with their present policies.

Recently members of the Floyd County Board of Education were "shocked" when East Rome High School banned books on witchcraft and required students to have parental approval before checking out books that had been labeled "controversial."

In the Lowndes County school system, Supt. Willis G. Sears said each school library follows a system-wide policy concerning books.

"We have a policy that states the libraries must choose books from three nationally accepted sources," he said. "One is appropriate for primary school aged children, one for middle school aged children and one for high school students."

Sears also said if a parent finds a book objectionable, they can fill out a complaint form from the library and then have a meeting with the school board.

He added that in the 15 years the policy has been in effect, very rarely have any parents complained.

In Lowndes County schools, students chose most of their books for classroom use from a list of required reading of each course that is given out with the course's syllabus.

"The hope is for teachers and parents to work together with the

students so they can have a choice to fulfill the course requirements."

Walter Altman, school superintendent of the Valdosta city school system said his system also has had no problem with their library book policy which is similar to Lowndes County.

"We don't have any books in the libraries that we would not want our students to read," he said. "We have a library committee to chose books for (all school) libraries based on state standards."

As for parents who have a complaint concerning a book, Altman said they can file a grievance with the library committee and set a time to meet with them for discussion.

Altman also said that the state Board of Education has a set policy on the selection of library books and urges local school systems to adopt a similar policy.

At Valdosta High School, the library, or media center, has an open policy for selection of the books it stocks based on the state's policy under the Quality Basic Education Act of 1986.

"Teachers draw up their curriculum needs based on state standard," said Sandra Connell, head of the VHS media department. "Now, the teachers have pretty much stopped using book lists and have a much more open reading policy and suggests to the students what books to read."

Ms. Connell contended that it's wrong to start censorship of books but said that some control is needed.

Ms. Connell recalled one complaint last year which was resolved



Valdosta High Student Meredith McMillan Uses Book From School Library

Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

through the school system's library policy and that book was removed for foul language.

She noted that most best sellers today have warnings of explicit sex or language which is one reason she doesn't get best sellers.

"The library tries to provide books that will be essential in the

students learning," she said. "We have some Judy Bloom books, some anti-establishment books from the late 60's as well as J.D. Salinger for research."

"We have some books because we believe in the students' right to know and we try not to limit access to books."

Ms. Connell said her library does have some books on witchcraft but debated that "if the students can't get it here they can get it somewhere else."

She said that is why the school system has the policy it does so "when the censors do come we have a policy" to work with.

Defense Tough As Always

VPT, Nov. 26, 1988
By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The only criticism Valdosta High defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph had for his squad after VHS crushed Kendrick High 35-14 in the Region 1-AAAA title game was that the defense showed a slight lack of intensity.

VHS safety Jason Bridges' only complaint was that he was victimized by a little bit of bad luck. Both, however, had to admit that the 'Cat defense was extremely tough against the Cherokees.

The Wildcat defensive team dominated the game for the first three quarters as the Wildcats took a 28-0 lead. Kendrick's run-oriented offense didn't even make a first down until 5:33 remained in the third quarter.

On that drive, however, Kendrick scored its first touchdown, slicing the VHS defense with some solid running plays.

"I am real pleased with our overall effort," said Rudolph. "For the most part, we kept them in check. I felt we lacked some intensity near the end and that's something we can't afford to do in this part of the season."

Kendrick had just 60 total yards rushing on the night and Cherokee quarterback Marcus Hudson completed only two passes, attempting three.

One of Hudson's completions, however, was an effective one, as it provided Kendrick with a touchdown, and frustrated Bridges.

It appeared that Bridges had intercepted the ball in the end zone, but the Cherokee receiver came up with the ball. Bridges was even whistled for pass interference.

"We came across the middle and I had my hands on him, but I thought I let go before it was thrown," said Bridges. "I thought I had it intercepted. I had the ball going down, but he somehow came up with it."

"All in all I thought we played a good game," said Bridges. "We knew they were fast but all night long it was like they were starting in a hole."

"I thought we played pretty good," said VHS linebacker Anthony Williams, who made his presence felt. Williams said Kendrick did little that surprised Valdosta, but was surprised that his team played Carver last week instead of Kendrick.

"I'm surprised Kendrick beat Carver," admitted Williams. "It seems like Carver played us real tough."

Williams also registered disappointment at not registering a sack. Kendrick, however, gave the Wildcats little opportunity for sacks with its running offense.

The Valdosta defensive front was a brick wall against Kendrick's wishbone. Andre Hampton, Robert

Fillmore, George Copeland, and Zabria Bell were impenetrable.

Hampton finished with four solo tackles and four assisted tackles. Williams had four unassisted tackles and registered three assists.

The defensive end tandem of Coleman Rudolph and Fred Henton was impressive as well. Henton had the only sack of the night, and had a couple tackles for losses, making three solo knockdowns and two assists. Linebacker Bruce Daniels had three solos and three assists.

"We made some mistakes but played hard," said Fillmore, who said he was suffering from a muscle pull before the game. "On that one drive, they showed what they can do. They took it to us."

Wildcat fans probably noticed the constantly shifting VHS secondary. Rudolph said that was to keep Kendrick off-balance.

"On a lot of their sweeps and off-tackle runs in the films, they were running near the cornerback. We were just adjusting while they were checking off to show them some different looks."

Rudolph also brought safety Carlo Butler up as a linebacker on occasion, going with one safety and two cornerbacks.

"That gives us another dimension," said Rudolph. "He's an ex-linebacker and that helps us out against a team like Kendrick that uses that two-tight end lineup."

region playoffs.

"Kendrick just sat back and read us. They didn't play like Carver did. We just ran straight at them so they couldn't use their quickness," Hazlehurst said.

Sharpe said that although the Cherokee defense wasn't as big as others they had faced during the year, they did not take them lightly during this week's practices.

"We knew they would be real quick and we prepared for that this week in practice. We cut down on our splits tonight and that worked to our advantage," Sharpe said. "It might have looked easy but it wasn't and we knew it wouldn't be. We

never plan on a game being easy."

Rykard, a starting guard, said that with great running backs like Caesar and Roberts, it makes everything more gratifying for the offensive line.

"We just worked hard in practice and it feels great when Isaac or James hit the end zone. When they score a touchdown, it's like the whole team scores a touchdown. Both of them are great guys and the line enjoys blocking for them. Now we have to go back to work and get ready for the state playoffs," Rykard said.

Butler said that Kendrick's size was an advantage to the Wildcats



Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

Carlos Parker Fights Through Kendrick Defensive Line

since they could use their own quickness to combat the Cherokees' speedy defense.

"It's easier for a line like ours to come off of the ball and stay on a man instead of having to use strength. Our line is pretty quick and Coach Baker had us doing quickness drills all week to get ready for them," Butler said. "It

feels great to win the region and I'm ready for whoever else we're going to play."

See Line, Page 3-B

VHS Line Makes

Impact

VPT, Nov. 26, 1988
By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

In years past, the offensive lines at Valdosta High School have been known to outweigh nearly every opposing defensive line they faced.

This year's offensive line, with the exception of 275-pound tackle Lawrence Sharpe, is not as big as their predecessors. But a great line does not always have to have tremendous size and the young men in the VHS trenches proved that Friday night in the 'Cats' 35-14 win over the Kendrick High Cherokees at Cleveland Field.

Time after time Friday night, the VHS offensive line blew the Kendrick defenders off the line and opened up huge holes for fullback Isaac Caesar and tailback James Roberts. The two superbacks combined for a total of 212 yards and VHS offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker said he knew the offense would be able to run the ball against the Cherokees.

"Going in to the game, we knew that with some of their defenses they used earlier in the year, we could run at them," Baker said. "They just weren't as big as Carver and we

Wildcats Win Region 1-AAAA Title

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Kendrick High introduced its version of the wishbone to the crowd at Cleveland Field Friday, but when Valdosta took a tug it left the Cherokees on the short end as the Wildcats rolled to a 35-14 win in the Region 1-AAAA championship game.

With the win Valdosta improves to 12-0 overall and now earns the right to take on Bradwell Institute in the first round of the Class AAAA state playoffs. Bradwell beat Beach 43-0 in the Region 3-AAAA championship.

Bradwell will host next Friday's game, but most likely, the game will be held in Savannah's Memorial Stadium, since the Hinesville school only seats 6,000. Class AAAA schools must seat at least 8,000 to host a state playoff game.

"Once again, you have to give all the credit to the assistant coaches," VHS head coach Nick Hyder said. "Bob Bolton, Jerry Don Baker, Mike O'Brien and Keith Middleton with the offense and Jack Rudolph, Charles Tarpley and Freddie Waters with the defense, our trainer Jim Burroughs, our team doctors, everybody. We've had a lot of bumps, bruises and stress this year. These are the people who made it possible."

For all practical purposes, the game was over at halftime. Valdosta led 21-0 but it was the defense that set the tone. The Wildcats held Kendrick to five total yards and no first downs in the first half of play.

"I was disappointed with our defense but you have to give all the credit in the world to Valdosta. They have a great football team. They just physically whipped us. I'm not taking anything away from them," Kendrick head coach Buzz Busby said. "Their gameplan was excellent. Valdosta just lined up and ran right at us. They were the first team to do that all year. We just couldn't stop their big backs."

Indeed not.

Valdosta accounted for 325 yards on the ground. James Roberts led way with 109 yards on 19 attempts and Isaac Ceaser was close behind with 103 yards on 17 carries. Roberts scored three touchdowns and Ceaser scored one.

"We have so much respect for Kendrick and what they had done coming into this game," Hyder said.

Kendrick..... 0 0 7 7-14
Valdosta..... 7 14 7 7-35

VAL — Isaac Ceaser 1 run (Dow Drury Kick)
VAL — James Roberts 3 run (Drury Kick)
VAL — Roberts 5 run (Drury Kick)
KEND — Roberts 5 run (Soren Thuesen Kick)
KEND — Dell McGee 5 run (Mike Childs Kick)
VAL — Ben Hogan 21 run (Thuesen Kick)
KEND — Greg Burns 27 pass from Marcus Hudson (Childs Kick)

	KEN	VAL
First Downs	5	20
Yards Rushing	40	325
Rushing Attempts	29	30
Yards Passing	42	42
Passes	3-2-0	9-4-0
Fumbles-Lost	3-2-0	3-2
Punting	5-24.5	0-0-0
Penalties	0-0	5-25

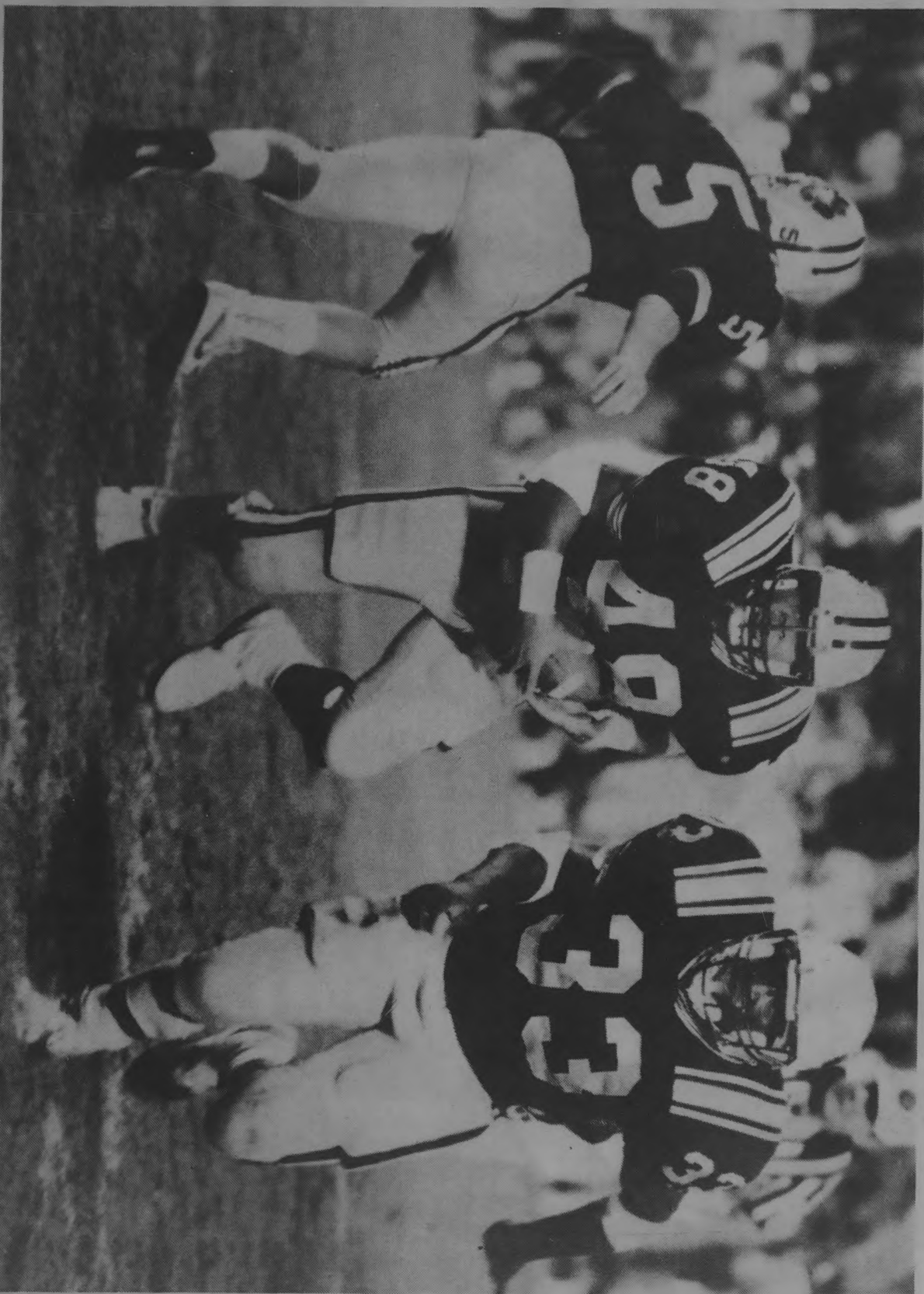
Rushing
Kendrick—McGee 18:55, Hudson 4:14, Williams 5:7, Busby 2:2
Valdosta—Roberts 19:109, Ceaser 17:103, Hogan 4:38, Chachere 5:17, Parker 3:27, Cotton 1:0, Henton 1:31

Passing
Kendrick—Hudson 3-2-0-0
Valdosta—Hogan 9-4-0-0
Receiving
Kendrick—McGee 1:22, Burns 1:27
Valdosta—Roberts 2:19, Dawsey 1:11, Ceaser 1:18

"We had exchanged films with them earlier this week. We saw them win and we saw them lose. We knew they had a good team. I was somewhat surprised that we were able to run the ball like we did. Defensively, we held them to no first downs in the first half. It was just another great effort."

The Cherokees took the opening kickoff but the Wildcat defense only gave up two yards and Kendrick was forced to punt.

It wouldn't take the Wildcats long after that as Valdosta drove the ball 52 yards on 10 plays, capped off by Ceaser's 1-yard touchdown dive. Dow Drury's first of three extra points gave Valdosta a 7-0 lead with



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta Running Back James Roberts (48) Runs For Extra Yardage As Teammate Isaac Ceaser (33) Leads The Way

4:49 to go in the first. Ben Hogan, completed two passes to Roberts for a total of 13 yards to spearhead the drive.

Kendrick was three plays and out on its next series of plays, before the 'Cats set out on their second scoring drive of the night.

Roberts' 10-yard run and Ceaser's 15-yard gallop moved the ball down to the Kendrick 36. After Roberts was stopped for no gain, Hogan hit Ceaser for an 18-yard pickup to the 18 before Roberts scored three plays

later with a 3-yard run over the right side early in the second quarter.

A 15-yard punt on Kendrick's next possession put Valdosta in business at the Cherokee 41. Eleven plays later, Roberts scampered around the left side from 5 yards out and after Drury's kick, Valdosta led 21-0 with 4:38 to go in the first half.

Valdosta's second team running back tandem of Chris Chachere and Carlos Parker saw action late in the first half and moved the 'Cats 29 yards to the Kendrick 27 before a

fumble gave the ball back to Kendrick.

Valdosta upped its lead to 28-0 after its first possession of the third quarter when Roberts scored his third touchdown of the game when he dashed in from the 5-yard line. Soren Thuesen booted the extra point, his first of two on the night, which Thuesen said were dedicated to his good friend James Studstill, who entered the hospital earlier this week.

Kendrick's Dell McGee cut the lead to 28-7 when he scampered in from the 5 with the :55 seconds to go in the third.

Wildcat quarterback Hogan broke loose on a 21-yard run with 6:06 to go in the game to account for the Wildcats' final score.

Kendrick's final points came on a 27-yard pass from Marcus Hudson to Greg Burns. Frederick Henton's 31-yard run on a fake punt late in game enabled Valdosta to run out the clock.

VHS Running Game Too Powerful

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Since the first game of the 1988 Valdosta High Wildcat football season, the 'Cats have dominated almost every opponent they have faced. And Friday night's Region 1-AAAA championship victory over Kendrick High of Columbus was the epitome of the Wildcats' success they have had with their running attack.

The Wildcats' stable of running backs, along with quarterback Ben Hogan, totaled a phenomenal 325 yards on the ground and all five touchdowns to lead VHS to the 35-14 win. Senior tailback James Roberts led all rushers with 109 yards while fullback Isaac Caesar ran for 103.

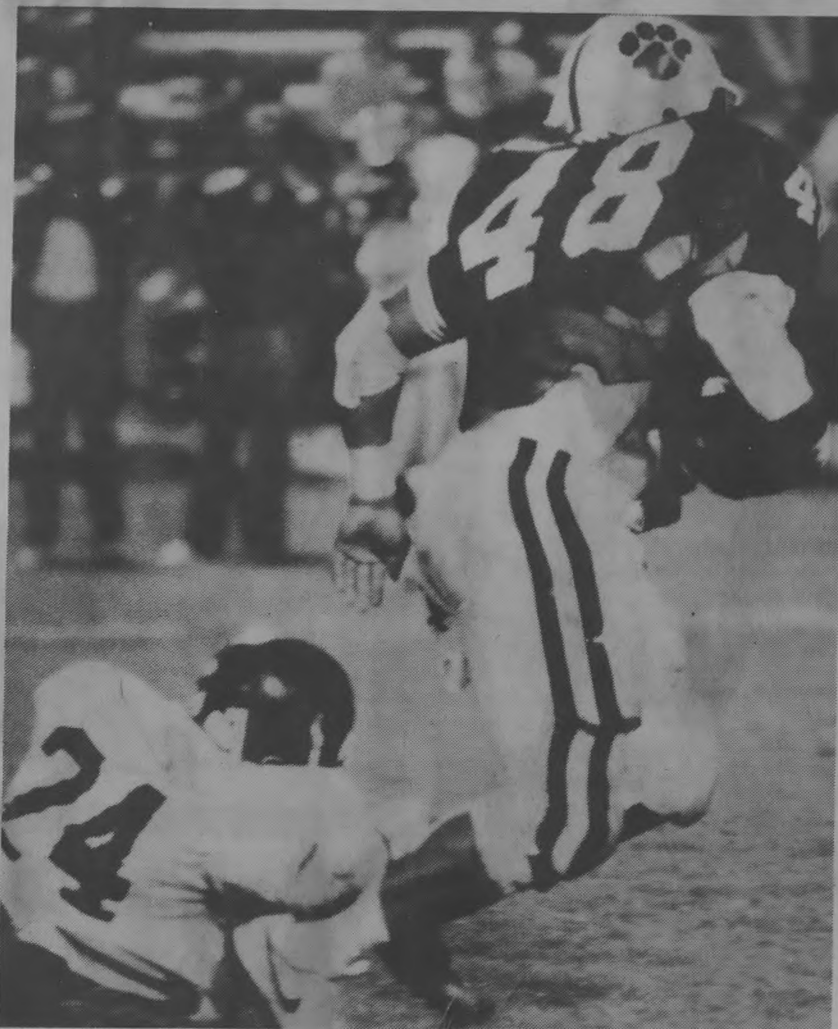
The backup running backs also got some playing time and made good use of it. Carlos Parker gained 27 yards on only three carries and Chris Chachere had 17 yards on five carries.

One young man who turned in a solid rushing performance Friday night was none other than quarterback Ben Hogan. Hogan had one of his best performances of his career against the Cherokee defense as he rushed for 28 yards on four carries including one 21-yard jaunt for a touchdown.

Hogan said the scoring play was not planned to go for a touchdown but he just took advantage of some open running room.

"When the play was called, I was just supposed to get as many yards as I could and go out of bounds. When I got around the end, I saw some open running space and I turned it upfield," Hogan said. "Andy Rykard was downfield blocking on that play and made it all happen. Our offensive line has done the job all year and I told them that if we won the region championship, I'd buy them all steaks. That's what I'm going to do."

Roberts led the 'Cats in rushing all year and scored three touchdowns in the victory on a 3-yard blast and two 5-yard runs. He said that although the Kendrick defense looked small, they were capable and put out a



Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

James Roberts Heads For End Zone

good effort.

"Their defense wasn't really easy to run on and they played a good game. Our line did well and I just used my strength to get extra yards. I kept smelling the end zone and that made me drive even more," Roberts said. "Now we have to take care of Bradwell and I'm sure they'll be looking for some revenge."

Bradwell Institute of Hinesville will be the next opponent for VHS as they defeated Beach 43-0 for the Region 3-AAAA championship. Two years ago, the Wildcats embarrassed Bradwell 49-7 in the state

playoffs.

Caesar scored the first touchdown of the night against Kendrick on 1-yard dive. He said it appeared that the momentum for Kendrick's defense was taken away early by the success of the VHS running game and they were never a factor in the second half of the game.

"It seemed like they had almost given up late in the game. They weren't really pushing us but we had figured they wouldn't be as good as Carver was last week. They just weren't as big," Caesar said. "Our offensive line is really an advantage

for us because we can run on both sides of it. Tonight, I think they had their best game of the year.

"We know Bradwell will be tough," Caesar added, "but from here on out, every team we play will be tough. If we play hard and have some good games like tonight, I think everything will go all right."

'Cats In 12th Consecutive

1-AAAA Title Game

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The top-ranked Valdosta Wildcats will be hoping to use their region playoff experience to good use tonight, as they host the Kendrick Cherokees 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field.

Valdosta, which is a perfect 11-0 on the year, will be making its 12th consecutive trip to a region championship contest.

While appearing in every region championship contest in the 1980s, Valdosta has won the title five times.

The Cherokees, however, may not be affected by Valdosta's reputation. Buzz Busby's Kendrick team enters tonight's matchup sporting a 9-2 overall mark, which includes a 24-21 opening round playoff victory last Friday over the second place finishers in Region 1-AAAA South, Colquitt County.

The 'Cats come in fresh off a



NICK HYDER

will be senior signal caller Ben Hogan.

Senior linemen center David

hard-fought 16-12 win over the talented Carver Tigers at Cleveland Field.

Even though the Wildcats have the past history in this game hanging in their favor, Valdosta head football coach Nick Hyder has been gearing his team up for another Region 1-AAAA classic.

Last season, the Wildcats held off a dramatic come-from-behind bid by the Tift County Blue Devils to take the Region 1-AAAA championship 24-22.

The Wildcats must try and find a way to fully use the talents of their senior running backs tailback James Roberts and fullback Isaac Ceaser.

Both backs have carried the mail for Valdosta all season long to the tune of over 2,000 yards each.

Ceaser's two touchdown runs against the Tigers enabled Valdosta to earn a spot in the Region 1-AAAA championship.

Leading the attack for Valdosta

Hazelhurst, left tackle Steve Smith, and right guard Andy Rykard, who are all-South subregion performers, will head the list on a very experienced Valdosta Wildcat offensive line.

Senior right tackle Lawrence Sharpe, left guard senior Steve Adkins, along with tight ends senior Lee Thomas and junior Mickey McSwain will anchor the remainder of the Wildcat front wall.

But the Valdosta squad is fully aware that they will need more than just a high octane offense to defeat the Kendrick Cherokees.

Defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph has been preparing his defensive unit for once again a very fast Kendrick offensive team.

Defensive tackle Zabria Bell and defensive end Coleman Rudolph will lead a defensive team into battle that has not yielded over an average of one score per contest to the opposition.

Junior left defensive tackle

George Copeland, along with nose guards juniors Andre Hampton, Robert Fillmore, and left defensive end junior Frederick Henton will comprise the Valdosta defensive front.

All-subregion members juniors Bruce Daniels and Anthony Williams take over the duties at the linebacker spots for the 'Cats.

Roaming the Wildcats' secondary is all-subregion standout left safety Carlo Butler.

Butler's talented secondary mates include senior right safety Jason Bridges, along with cornerbacks Trampis Wrice and Chris Wright.

In a game of this magnitude, the special teams aspect seems to always take center stage.

Leading the kicking department for Valdosta will be all-subregion place-kicker freshman Dow Drury, who has connected on 25-of-29 extra point tries, while sophomore Eric Phillips will be given the punting duties.



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta's Coleman Rudolph (4) and Frederick Henton (47) close in Marcus Hudson

Wildcats Begin Preparation

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Concern is often etched on the face of Valdosta High School head football coach Nick Hyder when it comes to the state playoffs. But this Friday's rematch with the Bradwell Institute Tigers gives Hyder and his staff reason for such concern.

In his first season at the helm for Bradwell, head coach Ron Beauchamp has guided the Tigers to a 9-3 overall mark on the year and enter the state playoff game riding the heels of a seven-game winning streak, which includes a 43-0 Region 3-AAAA championship victory over Savannah Beach last weekend.

Hyder's 'Cats come into the game undefeated at 12-0 and remain the state's top football team.

Valdosta captured the Region 1-AAAA title last Friday with a 35-14 win over Kendrick of Columbus.

Due to seating capacity at Hinesville, the opening round state contest between the two school's will be held at Memorial Stadium in Savannah.

But finding a way to stop what seems to be a runaway locomotive, or Bradwell Tigers whatever the case may be, is exactly the thing the Valdosta team must find a way to do.

"Coach Beauchamp has done a super job in taking over at Bradwell this year. I understand that some discipline areas had to be taken care of, and it seems that because of certain moves made by Beauchamp the kids have really rallied around his leadership ability," said Hyder. "It is certainly no accident that Bradwell is in the state playoffs. They are a very sound football team on offense and defense."

"It will certainly be an honor for myself and this team to lineup against the Valdosta Wildcats. When you are playing against the nations No. 3 ranked football squad, you have to be concerned," said

Beauchamp. "I'm sure that we will have a lot of enthusiasm entering the game. I just hope we generate some of that enthusiasm on to the playing field and have a respectable showing."

Both teams have had relative ease scoring this season.

Valdosta with its multiple offense, and Bradwell running its version of the Wing-T.

Bradwell is led by tailback Ivan Bullard. Bullard has rambled for over 1,000 yards this season, while junior quarterback Mike Hughes (180) has given the Tigers leadership at the controls.

Flanking Bullard in the backfield will be fullback Dupree Green. Green is one of the leading pass receivers for the Tigers coming out of the backfield.

"They are an offensive squad that can run up a lot of talent on offense," said Hyder. "Bradwell's quickness makes them a threat from anywhere on the field. They throw the ball about as well as they run."

Beauchamp is fully aware of the offensive numbers both Valdosta backs Isaac Ceaser and James Roberts have obtained and knows that a key will be to put the clamps on the Wildcats' running game.

"They do everything well. But the key is certainly those backs," said Beauchamp. "I don't know if anybody can stop them, they certainly haven't to this point. Hogan is a fine passer as well when given the time. So, we have a lot to work on as you can imagine."

The 'Cats, who have yielded just over one touchdown per game to opponents all year, will be facing one of the state's finest in Bradwell.

While the Tigers do not boast very many impressive numbers on the year, they have all-state candidate linebacker Ronald Johnson.

Johnson, who has 229 tackles in 12 outings, is a one-man gang according to Valdosta's Hyder.



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Mrs. Rose Congratulates Edgardo Foster, Winner Of Kenneth Rose Memorial Trophy As Mayor Rainwater Looks On

Teams Honored At VPRD Banquet

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

"Quitters never win and winners never quit."

That was the theme for Tuesday night's Valdosta Parks and Recreation Department 1988 All-Sports Banquet at the Gold Plate Restaurant. Three basketball, two softball, three baseball and one football team were honored as champions in their divisions at the banquet. Also, the first Kenneth Rose Memorial Trophy was awarded by Jack Rudolph, the defensive coordinator for the Valdosta Wildcats.

Rose was the 16-year old Valdosta Wildcat starting cornerback who collapsed and died in late September.

Mayor James H. Rainwater, the mayor of Valdosta and the program's Master of Ceremonies, said the program was a huge success and he commended the city of Valdosta for the support of the youth programs.

"It is a great pleasure for me to see these boys and girls sticking with what they've started and being awarded tonight. I've been associated with this program for eight years and the turnout tonight shows what good citizens we have in the community," Rainwater said. "The Kenny Rose Memorial Trophy is a tribute to how much these people work together and it shows that Valdosta is not only number one in athletics but also number one in spirit."

After a welcome by Larry Hanson, the assistant director of the VPRD, former mayor Gil Harbin introduced the guest speaker of the evening, VHS head football coach Nick Hyder. Hyder impressed upon the large crowd that the difference between a winner and a loser is simply attitude.

After dinner, the nine teams being honored were awarded trophies as were each individual on the teams. W.L. "Cut" Edwards, the VPRD youth director, and his assistant Deborah Thomas presented the

trophies to the teams.

Winners in the basketball category were the Taylor Insurance Supersonics in the midget division, the Rich's Sporting Goods Knicks in the junior division and the VPRD Bucks in the senior division. The VPRD Kittens won the midget division softball trophy while the VPRD Pacers won the junior division softball crown.

In the baseball category, the Pepsi-Cola Giants won the midget division title, the Lanier All-Stars received the junior division trophy, and the VPRD Astros won the senior division title.

The Valdosta Federal Rams won the midget division football championship.

Following the award presentations, Rudolph presented the first Kenny Rose Memorial Trophy to 12-year-old Edgardo Foster. Foster was given a standing ovation and was congratulated by the Reverend and Mrs. Booker T. Rose, Kenny's parents. The Rev. Rose said that the trophy is a tribute to

his son's inspiration of others.

"It feels great for an award to be dedicated in Kenny's honor. He still lives on in our hearts and he set an example for a lot of us. He was always willing to help another person and everything he touched was a success," Rose said. "We are very proud of him."

VPRD director Dave Christian added that the Rose Memorial Trophy was the highlight of the evening.

"It means so much for us tonight to have the Kenny Rose Memorial Trophy dedicated. I'm also proud of our staff and of the good backing we have gotten from the community," Christian said. "We were very delighted that the mayor could take some time out of his very busy schedule to come tonight and that just shows how much the people in this community care about this program. Of course, Coach Hyder gave a dynamic and inspirational speech and he got the attention of the kids more than anyone that we've ever had."

Johnson Leads Tigers' Defense

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Two years ago, Valdosta High riddled the defense of the Bradwell Institute Tigers for 49 points on their way to a 49-7 win in the 1986 South Georgia Championship game. Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder says that won't be the case this time around.

"Bradwell was a better team than the 49-7 score indicated," Hyder said. "That particular game was just one of those given nights where everything just worked very well for us."

The Wildcats will play the Tigers in the first round of the Class AAAA state playoffs this Friday night at 8 p.m. in Glynn County Stadium in Brunswick. The game was to be played in Savannah's Memorial Stadium but according to Hyder, reports were that the field at Memorial Stadium was in no condition for a game to be played.

"Bradwell has been getting a total team effort all year long," Hyder said. "I believe when we played them before, Bradwell was a team with outstanding individual athletes. This year, while they still have excellent athletes, they are playing more as a team and I think that gives them a much better shot."

The 9-3 Tigers under the leadership of head coach Ron Beaucham

11-29-88

To get to Glynn County Stadium, go to Waycross on Highway 84. Continue on 84 until you get to Brunswick. Once you get to Brunswick, 84 will change into Highway 17. Stay on 17, go past the road that leads to St. Simons Island. Go about one mile until you see the Ramada Inn. About 1/4 mile past the Ramada, there will be a sign pointing left to Brunswick Junior College. Turn left and Glynn County Stadium is located on Fourth Street and U.S. 17, adjacent to the college.

are riding the crest of a seven-game winning streak, which the Region 3-AAAA champions capped off by defeating Beach 43-0 last Friday night.

Leading the defensive charge for the Tigers is senior linebacker Ronald Johnson. An all-state candidate, Johnson has made 229 tackles this year for an average of almost 20 per game. Johnson has accounted for 15 sacks and has also blocked one punt.

"Johnson is just as good as his statistics indicate," Hyder said. "He's 5-11, 185 pounds and also excels on their kickoff team. He's just a great football player. I remember him as a real good sophomore player, two years ago when we beat them."

See JOHNSON, Page 3-B



Times Staff Photos by Paul Leavy

Valdosta Wildcats' Tailback James Roberts Drives Through The Kendrick Defensive Line

VHS Mat Men Claim Opener

V. Times 12-2-88

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

It didn't take long for the Valdosta High wrestling team to get the attention of visiting Colquitt County Thursday night.

Nick Gonis was awarded a forfeit in the 103-pound classification before the Wildcats posted seven straight pins. VHS made coach John Davis' debut as head coach a successful one as the 'Cats defeated the Packers 58-18.

"I'm proud of the work that the kids did tonight," Davis said. "We've still got a young team and have got a long way to go but everybody gave 100 percent."

VHS' Ashley Fann started the Wildcat seven-pin streak when he pinned Wandall Nosman with 26 seconds to go in the first period. Steve Petermann pinned Johnny Jones in just 20 seconds to win the 119-pound class while Jim Garber pinned John Giddens in the 125-pound class with 17 seconds to go in the first period.

Also, in the 130-pound class Justin Bridges pinned Michael Rogers in just 34 seconds. Chuck Bonner pinned Chad Walden in just 19 seconds to come out on top in the 135-pound class while Jason Finland pinned Roosevelt Jones in the 140-pound class with 52 seconds remaining in the first.

"Colquitt County did a good job here tonight," Davis said. "I'm proud of our kids. They were aggressive and never gave up."

Following Finland's pin, Wildcat John Washnock outpointed Steven Hayek in the 145-pound class 11-3. Larry Spradley then accounted for Colquitt's first win of the evening when he pinned John Ramey at 1:52.

Ryan Moorman earned a hard-fought pin over Colquitt's David Yarbrough in the 160-pound class. Colquitt's Stacy Daniels pinned VHS' Eric Conrad in the 171-pound class, Wildcat Derrick Phillips pinned Colquitt's Frederick Gardner in the 189-pound class while Charles Paulk pinned Valdosta's Duncan Harden in the heavyweight class.

"I would say this was a good team effort," Davis said. "That's the way we like to think of it instead of singling any one person out."

Bainbridge Stiff Test For 'Cats

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

The undefeated Valdosta Wildcat boys' and girls' basketball teams will face what should be their toughest test of the young season when Region 1-AAAA South foe Bainbridge comes to town Saturday night.

Tip-off for the girls' game is set for 7 p.m. in the Valdosta High gym with the boys' contest to follow.

"Bainbridge has a very fine tradition," VHS boys coach John Miller said. "We played them in summer camp in Tallahassee. We beat them twice and they beat us twice. We showed them that we could play ball with them but they still have one of the most talented teams in the region."

Point guard Charlie Burke leads the Bearcat attack. According to Miller, his 'Cats will do well to attempt to keep Burke in control.

"Bainbridge has got a physical team with some height," he said. "Burke is their best player and is college material. He's an outstanding shooter and can penetrate well."

Miller hopes he will continue to get a solid contribution from Vincent Williams (6-6) who tossed in 15 points in the 'Cats' 54-44 win Tuesday night over Lanier County.

Michael Moore (6-5), Jason King (6-2), Brad Sullins (6-0) and Spencer Iverson (6-0) round out the Valdosta starting lineup.



Valdosta High's Justin Bridges (Bottom), Who Earned A Pin, Tries Easily, — Times Photo by Bob Freitag.

Valdosta High's Justin Bridges (Bottom), Who Earned A Pin, Tries Easily, — Times Photo by Bob Freitag.

Thanks From Marchin' Cats

V. Times 12-22-88

On behalf of the Valdosta Marchin' Cats, its directors, and the booster organization I would like to thank Mayor Rainwater, the city manager, city council and the Valdosta City Police Department, especially Chief Charlie Spray, for their support of the Valdosta band program. Their total dedication is greatly appreciated by all of us.

The Marchin' Cats, directors and boosters sincerely thank the Police Department, especially Capt. Johnny Browning and Patrolman Van Hastings for their tireless efforts throughout the marching season as well as during our trip to Canada and Michigan Thanksgiving week.

These fine individuals donated their time to accompany the band to insure a safe, trouble free trip for our students. The following weekend Lt. Mike Kitchen and Patrolman Van Hastings accompanied the Marchin' Cats to Atlanta for the Macy's Parade.

In addition to the city, we owe a lot to Sheriff Carter and Lt. Carl Smith. Throughout the marching season, Lt. Carl Smith accompanied the Marchin' Cats to all football games and served as our EMT, giving all of us parents peace of mind.

It takes continued dedication from individuals such as these to make our program a success. People like these who support the band program make our job as boosters and directors a lot easier. The citizens of Valdosta and Lowndes County have a lot to be proud of in their officials and servants.

Richard J. Pye
Band Booster President
Valdosta

Richard J. Pye
Band Booster President
Valdosta

Students Honored

Two Valdosta students have been honored in separate events. William Eugene Coleman has been elected to *Outstanding High School Students of America*. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Coleman and is a sophomore at Valdosta High School.

Sara Louise Vallotton was among 376 students named to the dean's list for the fall quarter at West Georgia College in Carrollton. In order to be placed on the dean's list, a student must complete the quarter with at least a 3.5 grade point average out of a possible 4.0.

Wildcats Win In Tourney

V. Times 12-15-88

From Staff Reports

The Valdosta High Wildcats upped their record to 4-2 Wednesday with an 87-72 victory over Enterprise, Alabama here Wednesday night in the Rickards Christmas Tournament.

Spencer Iverson led the way for the Wildcats with 17 points, followed by Michael Moore with 12, Jason King 11, and Major Lynn 10.

Enterprise was paced by Shawn Jones who pumped in 22 points.

Valdosta led just 13-12 after one quarter of play, but the Wildcats outscored Enterprise in the second quarter 28-15 in the second quarter.

VHS head coach John Miller said his team would play again in the tournament Friday, but did not know when or who he would face.

'Cats, Lady 'Cats Now 2-0 On Season

11-30-88

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Bulldogs step for step.

LAKELAND— According to coaches Susan Montgomery and John Miller, the Valdosta basketball squads passed their first monumental test on the season with a sweep over Lanier County here Tuesday night.

The Lady 'Cats rode the wings of swarming defensive pressure to a 29-point 49-20 victory, while Miller used his depth to hold off the Bulldogs 54-44.

Although Miller's greatest fear of getting into a running game became a reality, his team matched the

"We were just able to survive tonight against a team like Lanier," said Miller. "They came into the game ready to play, and they played a very tough defensive ballgame."

Forward Vincent Williams was the sparkplug for the Wildcats scoring 15 points to lead all scorers, while collecting seven rebounds.

The Wildcats were very opportunistic as well. Guards Spencer Iverson and Major Lynn each accounted for five steals on the night, which all accounted for transition baskets for the 'Cats. Brad Sullins had 10 points for Valdosta.

See Valdosta, Page 3-B

... Valdosta

Continued From 1-B

Valdosta used its transition game to perfection building a 30-21 halftime lead on Lanier County.

"Major Lynn and Vincent Williams played good tonight. We have a saying, be ready when called upon, and Lynn did just that," said Miller. "Williams gave us the senior leadership that is so important on the road. It was good to see him take charge."

Lanier head coach George Sorrells had his team scrapping.

Lanier County was led by forward Tim Riley. Riley came off the bench for Sorrells and scored nine points, while collecting five boards.

The 'Cats made the nine point halftime standup, as just one single point separated the two teams in the second half of play. Valdosta scored 24 points, and Lanier County posted 23.

"We just don't really have the horses to stay with Valdosta, and it showed," said Sorrells. "Offensively, we weren't disciplined enough to come back after Valdosta built themselves a lead. Discipline comes with practice, which we need a lot of. They were well prepared tonight, and they deserved to win." After both team's combined for

just eight points in the opening quarter, the Lady 'Cats busted out of the gate with 17 second-quarter points to take a commanding 21-6 lead at half.

For Montgomery, it seemed her best offense was her team's defense. The Lady 'Cats forced the issue defensively using a zone to shut off any scoring opportunities for the Lady Bulldogs.

Guard Ashley Schluesner was the catalyst for Valdosta.

Schluesner not only scored a game high 13 points, but had seven steals and four rebounds in the game.

"I was pleased with the hustle of our team tonight," said Montgomery. "We knew going in that it was going to be tough because Lanier keeps fighting for the basketball. I was not, however, pleased with the rebound situation tonight. Although height was in our favor, we didn't use it to our advantage."

"We are 2-0 though, and I can't remember the last time both Valdosta basketball teams were 2-0 at the start of the season."

"When you aren't shooting the ball well, you are going to have problems," said Lanier County head girls coach John White. "Valdosta did a good job taking advantage of

that. We just need to improve in every area." Maxine McGriff led Lanier with 11 points before fouling out.

Boys Game

VALDOSTA (54)
Williams 15, Sullins 10, Moore 9, Lynn 9, Iverson 5, Manning 3, King 2, Robinson 1.
LANIER Co. (44)
Riley 9, Shivers 8, Bryant 8, McBride 6, J. Williams 5, Houston 4, Boone 2, T. Williams 2.
Valdosta.....14 16 11 13-54
Lanier Co.....10 11 13 10-44
Records: Valdosta 2-0, Lanier Co. 0-2.
Next Game: (Sat. Dec. 3) Bambridge at Valdosta, Lanier Co. at Echols Co.

Girls Game

VALDOSTA (49)
Schluesner 13, Manning 11, Twine 9, Motley 6, Phillips 4, D. Dennis 4, Troutman 2.
LANIER Co. (20)
McGriff 11, Gioskie 4, Brockington 2, Moore 2, Hamers 1.
Valdosta.....4 17 15 13-49
Lanier Co.....4 2 10 4-20
Records: Valdosta 2-0, Lanier Co. 0-2.

Hyder Says Adjustments Will Be Key Factor

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Top-ranked Valdosta High will look to take one more step to a possible state championship tonight at Glynn County Stadium in Brunswick when the Wildcats tangle with the Bradwell Institute Tigers in the quarterfinal round of the Class AAAA state playoffs.

The 9-3 Tigers, champions of Region 3-AAAA, will be hoping to avenge a 49-7 defeat at the hands of the Wildcats in the 1986 South Georgia Championship game. However, Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder doesn't believe that revenge will be the sole motive for coach Ron Beauchain's team.

"Well, I don't think that it (revenge) will be the main factor although I'm sure it has been discussed by them some this week," said Hyder. "It would be only natural for them to discuss it. But when the game begins, the score is 0-0 and we had better be prepared to do our best."

Once again, Valdosta will be spearheaded by by tailback James Roberts and fullback Isaac Ceaser. Roberts has rushed the ball 190 times for 1,280 yards and has scored 15 touchdowns. Ceaser has carried the ball 223 times for 1,192 yards and a team-leading 22 touchdowns.

Roberts missed Tuesday's practice because of several nagging

injuries, but according to Hyder, his star back should be ready to go.

"James is struggling right along and we are just trying to not get him beat up too much," Hyder said. "We just hope we don't bruise him up any more."

Roberts and Ceaser will have to be on the lookout for a couple of headhunters in the forms of linebacker Ronald Johnson and defensive end Keith Ray.

Johnson has totaled 229 tackles and 15 sacks on the season while Ray posted an impressive 91 per game.

Up front trying to ward of these Tiger tacklers will be left tackle Lawrence Sharpe (sr. 275), right

guard Andy Rykard (sr. 215), center David Hazelhurst (sr. 230) left guard Steve Adkins (sr. 220), left tackle Steve Smith (sr. 220) and tight end Lee Thomas (sr. 190).

The split end will be Kelly Dawsey and the flanker Keith Beal.

"The team that is able to suddenly adjust in difficult situations will be successful. That's true on both sides of the ball," Hyder said. "Bradwell has been giving a team effort all season long. They are a well-coached group with good skilled players. They have an excellent punter and kick returners with great speed. They've got great size up front, especially with their two tackles, both on the offensive and defensive side."

"We've had a good week of practice, the kids have had a good attitude all week long," said Hyder. "The warm weather we've been having for November has helped 100."

Defensively for the 'Cats, the left end will be Frederick Henton (jr. 190), left tackle George Copeland (jr. 215), nose guard Robert Filmore (jr. 180), right tackle Zabria Bell (sr. 305), right end Coleman Rudolph (sr. 220),

linebackers Anthony Williams (jr. 230), Bruce Daniels (jr. 215), left corner back Trampis Wrice (fr. 150), right cornerback Chris Hart (jr. 190) left safety Carlo Butler (sr. 215) and right safety Jason Bridges (sr. 165).

Valdosta Offense Hung Tough Despite Frustrating Events

V. Times 12-3-88
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

BRUNSWICK — Like a gambler facing a stacked deck, the Valdosta Wildcat offense was unable to deal itself a winning hand in losing to Bradwell Institute 16-14 Friday night.

Valdosta's offense, however, exited they way it entered the 1988 season, determined to get the job done.

And when this high-powered offensive unit failed to come away with the gold Friday night at Glynn Stadium, it was due in part to the Bradwell Institute Tiger defense.

Down 10-0 after one half of play, the Wildcat offense, led by the senior laden backfield of quarterback Ben Hogan, running backs Isaac Ceaser and James Roberts, drove 61 yards on its opening possession of the third quarter to cut the deficit to 10-7.

Valdosta then took advantage of a Jason Bridges fumble recovery with 8:17 remaining in the final quarter of play putting the 'Cats within striking distance at 16-14.

"We did all we could to get things shifted in our favor," said Roberts.

"It just was one of those days."

"Bradwell played a good game, but we also showed that this team has a lot of heart," said Ceaser. "No one at any time ever quit."

Roberts finished his senior campaign as the Wildcats' leading ground gainer.

Roberts carried the ball 18 times for 125 yards against the Tigers. Ceaser rushed for 86 yards on 18 carries.

But according to both backs, they would have traded any of the yardage accumulated for a victory in the state Class AAAA playoffs.

"I can't believe it's over," said Roberts. "I would trade my yardage for just one more win."

"We played tough all night, and the two scores indicate that," said Hogan. "The team tried as hard as they could to change the way things were going. If anything, I'm disappointed in the fact that we wanted to win it all for Kenny (Rose), and we didn't really finish our commitment."

Senior tight end Lee Thomas expressed his feelings on the tough defeat, and offered a word of encouragement to the future Wildcats.

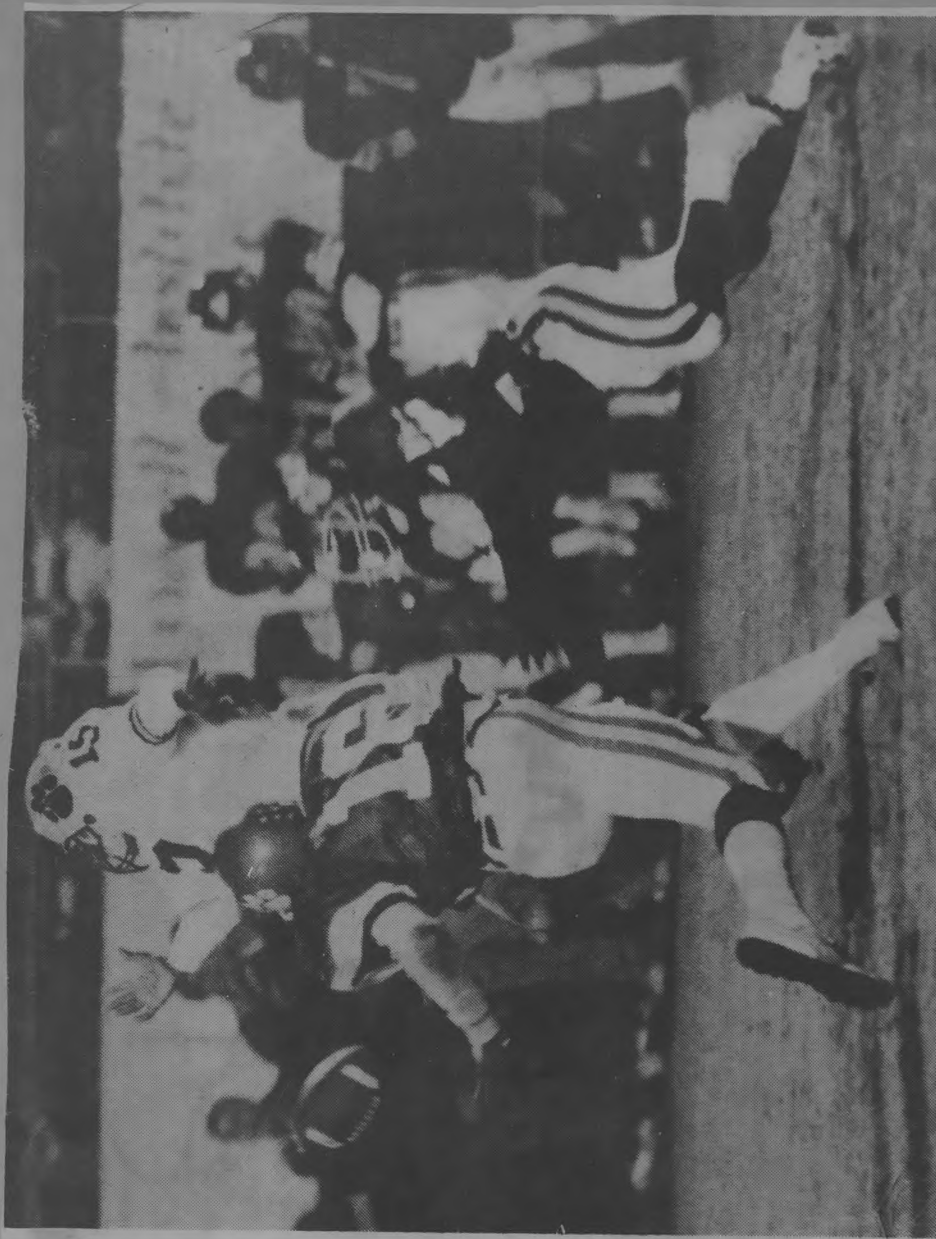
"This season was still in memory of Kenny Rose, even in defeat," said Thomas. "Kenny would have wanted it no different. This team played with heart the entire 48 minutes. I think he would have been disappointed in the outcome, yes, but as far as the representation of our school and in his memory it was not a loss."

"I hope that the future Wildcat teams just show the same type of pride that the Wildcats are accustomed to."

"What can you say about a game like this one," said Valdosta running back coach Mike O'Brien. "The kids played very hard, and have nothing to be ashamed of. Bradwell just played a great game. This team was there until the end. And that right there says a lot."

On the night, the Valdosta offensive unit finished with 209 yards in the game, but more importantly, showed the will to resist.

"This team was special to not only me but to the entire town," said Thomas. "We now must hold our heads high knowing that we gave it everything."



Kelly Dawsey (15) is unable to snag Ben Hogan pass, but he tipped it in the air just high enough for diving Bradwell defender

(right) to pick it off. — Times Photo by Bob Freitag

Librarian Spotlighted In Woman's Magazine

By FRANK HJORT
English Department
V. Times
12-7-89

A Valdosta High School librarian was featured in the Dec. 6 issue of *Woman's World*.

Sandra Connell's letter was selected as the letter of the week. In her letter, Mrs. Connell gave her views on parents and toddlers dimming out. She emphasized that parents are responsible for their youngster's behavior when they annoy other diners. She also suggested a non-child seating for those who wish.

Mrs. Connell is a published author who represents the Georgia Writer's Guild. She has been a librarian at VHS 22 years.

Win Trophies

MDT, 12-7-89
By TAMMY CROWE

The Valdosta High Debate Team won four trophies at the Central Tournament in Thomasville Friday-Saturday.

Senior Kelly Shelton won first place in dramatic interpretation. Out of five rounds Kelly was ranked first four times and second only once.

Sophomore Tammy Crowe and freshman Kevin Hiers won the first place junior varsity team award, ending with a 6-1 overall record. To advance to the final round Tammy

and Kevin had to defeat teams from Thomasville, Lee County, and Mary Persons. In the final round they again defeated Mary Persons top J.V. team. Tammy also won the 2nd place junior varsity speaker award.

Senior Jay Connell and junior Michelle Jones took the 2nd place varsity award. To achieve their 4-3 overall record they defeated teams from Thomasville, Lee County, and Tifton High School.

The debate topic for this year is "Resolved: That the federal government implement a comprehensive program to guarantee retirement security for U.S. citizens over the age of 65."

The VHS debate team is hosting a tournament Jan. 14 at Valdosta Junior High School.



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

'Cat Defense Played Strong Game

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

1/ Times 12-3-88

The Valdosta Wildcat defensive unit just was unable to overcome devastating turnovers and a talented Bradwell Institute Tigers Friday night, falling just short 16-14. But was one thing was for certain, and that was the heart and desire displayed by the Wildcat defensive team in the state playoff loss was something fans and players alike can be proud of.

"As I said earlier, this team and defensive unit has had to overcome a lot of adversity," said Wildcat senior safety Jason Bridges. "We played with a lot of heart and determination. Keep fighting and scrapping was a Wildcat trademark. We showed just that tonight."

The Wildcat defense kept putting the offensive unit in position to win the game, but it just didn't come to pass.

At the 8:17 mark of the fourth quarter, Bridges recovered a Bradwell fumble, which Valdosta converted for a score after the Wildcat had been frustrated by a Bradwell goal line stand.

The Valdosta defensive unit was once again led by senior defensive end Coleman Rudolph.

In his final game as a 'Cat, Rudolph collected 10 unassisted tackles, to go along with three assisted tackles.

"If we gave it our all, and we did just that, then I know that the dedication of the season to Kenny Rose and to this school was not broken," said Rudolph. "But life

goes on, and the sun will come up tomorrow."

Senior defensive tackle Zabria Bell finished his Wildcat career in grand fashion.

Bell collected nine tackles against Bradwell in his final appearance.

"We have nothing to be ashamed of," said Bell. "We pulled together

all night, and never gave up. This team played hard, but just came up short.

Bradwell finished with only four first downs to Valdosta's 10, and the Tigers were outgained in total yardage 208-178.

Valdosta, however, turned the ball over four times.



Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder doesn't appear too pleased with what he sees from the sidelines. — Times Photo by Bob Freitag

Interact Club Busy Helping Others During Holiday Season

By ROBIN GOLIVESKY

Valdosta High School Interact Club is involved in many commitments this holiday season.

One of the most important seasonal projects involves the canned good project with The Salvation Army. Not only does each member donate three canned goods to the project, but some of the members will be Santa's Helpers in helping to distribute the canned food today and Dec. 15.

The Arrive Alive Committee headed by Will Coleman has put a tree in the school on which students will sign an ornament pledging that they will not drink and drive during the holiday season. Students also will be asked to sign the Arrive Alive Banner denoting the same



VHS News

Compiled, Written by VHS Students

pledge.

Some Interact members helped the American Cancer Society with its tour of homes Sunday by serving in each of the tour locations while

Wins Scholarship

Y. Times 12-30-88

Susanne Grant, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John O'Neal Grant of Valdosta, was a semifinalist in the competition for E.B. Kennedy Scholarships which are full academic merit scholarships to Erskine College in Due West, S.C.

Miss Grant, a senior at Valdosta High School, has been named to *Who's Who Among American High School Students*. She is a member of VHS Debate Team and has won a drama award and the National Science Merit Award. Twenty-four of the 108 high school seniors from 10 states who competed will be invited back to Erskine Jan. 12-14 for final interviews in the competition. Two recipients of E.B. Kennedy Scholarships will be selected at that time. Semifinalists and finalists not winning E.B. Kennedy Scholarships will be offered other Erskine College academic scholarships and grants ranging in value up to \$5,000 per year.

Recipients are selected on the basis of Christian commitment, leadership potential, scholastic achievement, and "vigorous outlook."

others are helping the Valdosta Junior Service League by donating baby items to the pediatric wing of South Georgia Medical Center. In addition, VHS Interact is sponsoring a person in the Break Bread Program in Valdosta by helping to feed that person for a year. Interact has sent Christmas cards and packages to their sponsored children in Apalachia and Colombia, South America.

Science Club

By LESLIE HIERS

The Science Club of Valdosta High School has had an active fall semester.

In preparation for the Science Olympics in March, the Science Club held an Egg Drop Contest to determine the most efficient con-

tainer to drop an egg from the band tower on the VHS practice field to the ground without breaking it. The winners of the contest were Nicole Mitchell and Wendy McConnell. Tanya Bennett and Monica Morrisette won second place in the contest. The next contest will involve the construction of a mouse-trap car to be raced on a smooth surface.

Science Club sponsors took six members to Georgia Southwestern College in Americus Nov. 19 to the science competition. These students took competitive examinations in specific areas after participating in workshops. Laura Barbas attended

Causes of Violent Volcanic Eruptions and Thin Layer Chromatography; Steve Campbell, Herpetology and Causes of Violent Volcanic Eruptions; Kelly Holmes, Herpetology and Open Surgery of the Insect Heart; James Inman, Challenge, Logic, Mathematics, and History of Pharmacy and Medicine; John Peoples, Dichotomous Keying and Solar System Exploration; and Melissa Wetherington, Challenge, Logic, Mathematics and Human Perceptual and Motor Feedback.

Future projects of the Science Club include planting trees on the VHS campus, forming a science bowl team, and further preparation for the Science Olympiad.

Wednesday, December 14, 1988 13-A

Hyder Laments Mistakes

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

VDT 12/14/88

Though the Valdosta Wildcats were eliminated by Bradwell Institute 16-14 Friday night in the quarterfinals of the Class AAAA state playoffs, head coach Nick Hyder wasn't making any excuses for his team.

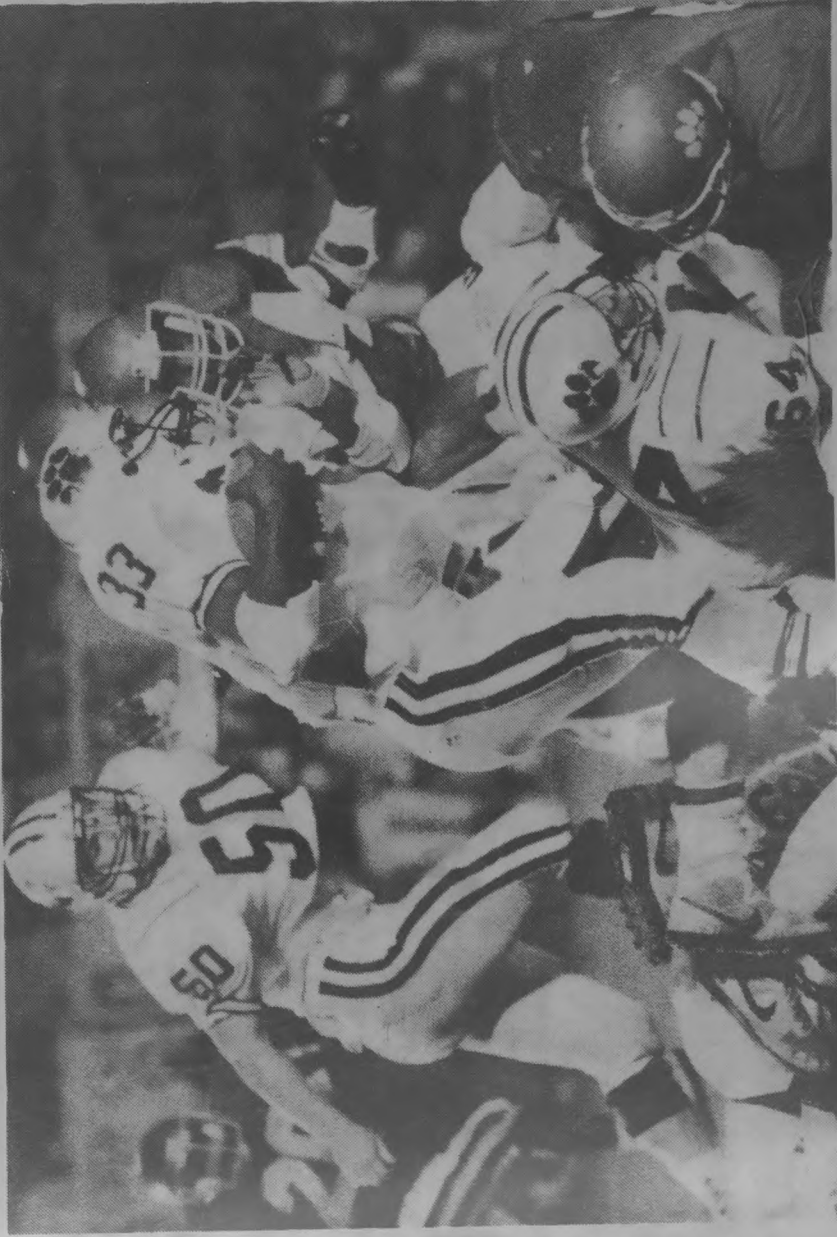
"I'm proud of the players for the way they hung in and fought back from what could have been an embarrassing situation at the rate the game was going," Hyder said of his team which trailed 10-0 at the half. "If Bradwell had scored another touchdown we would have been in a hole."

"But our backs (James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser) came back and ran hard in the second half, scoring twice. The coaches did an excellent job at the half and made adjustments to combat what was a fired up Bradwell team."

After Roberts' 5-yard run cut the lead to 16-14 with just over 7 minutes left in the game, the 'Cats appeared to have the Tigers' backs against the wall with a 3rd-down-and-12 from the 19. However, quarterback Mike Hughes hit Ivan Bullard with a 13-yard pass across the middle. That play picked up the only first down of the second half for Bradwell but it turned out to be a big one as the Tigers were able to run the clock down to 3:32 before punting the ball.

"That pass play to Bullard for the first down was a big momentum breaker," said Hyder. "If we had held then, the momentum might have shifted our way. But that's part of football. I think our seniors showed a lot of leadership but give Bradwell credit, they made the big plays when they had to."

Another big shift in momentum came when Bradwell kicker Vernon



Valdosta Wildcat running back Isaac Ceaser finished the night with only 86 yards. — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Loree booted the first of three field goals on the night, a 47-yarder, just as time was running out in the first half.

"It (the field goal) definitely gave them a boost," Hyder said. "However, it did not affect our thinking at the half. We still had to score two touchdowns anyway. Of course we did not plan on the fumbled punts and the dropped pass but Bradwell had something to do with that."

The 'Cats lost two fumbles on punts, one after a reception, and also suffered through an interception. The later two fumbles resulted directly in a pair of field goals by Loree.

"I was sort of surprised with their field goal kicker. I didn't realize his leg was that strong but once we saw him warm up in practice we realized he had a good leg," Hyder said. "The one he missed I thought he

made."

Another key play in the game was when quarterback Ben Hogan was stopped on a 4th-down-and-two from the 2-yard line. Hyder had neglected to go for a field goal but as it turned out, Bradwell ended up fumbling on the 8-yard line which set up Valdosta's second score of the night.

Hyder, however, wasn't doing any second-guessing.

"I just kept wishing we had not dropped those balls," Hyder said. "But we did and we had our best people in there (Chris Chachere and Trampis Wrice). They didn't drop the ball on purpose and were doing

the best they could. But when you make mistakes like that you have to live with it and keep going. It's just part of football."

Hyder said the disappointment associated with the loss will hurt for a while but all of Valdosta can be proud of the way the players conducted themselves after the game.

"We would like to see Bradwell go all the way," Hyder said. "Our kids kept their heads high. We stayed close and had we gotten a couple of breaks the game may have gone the other way."

Valdosta Girls Off To Big Start

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

It's been many a year since the Valdosta High girls' basketball team opened up a season with three consecutive wins. But after Saturday night's 42-41 thriller over Bainbridge, 3-0 is exactly where the Lady Cats stand.

"This is just too exciting. I can't remember the last time a Lady Wildcat basketball team opened their season at 3-0," head coach Susan Montgomery said. "I had told the girls in the locker room, I didn't care how we did it. Whether it be pretty or sloppy, either way, just as long as they won. The girls just knew what they had to do."

Bainbridge had a chance to win the game, but with seven seconds left Tess Ann Pearson missed a short jump shot from inside the paint. Valdosta took over out of bounds and was able to hold the Lady Kittens off in the final two seconds.

"We played sloppy in the second half as we had a 12 point lead but lost it toward the end," Montgomery said. "In the first half we played great defense and good offense. The second half was the other way around. But to our credit, we kept our composure and was able to hold Bainbridge off for a big win."

Swandolyn Phillips led the Lady Wildcat attack with 15 points and seven rebounds. Ashley Schleusner added 11. Cassandra Twine pulled down 10 rebounds.

Renita Hines led Bainbridge with 15 points.

In the boys' game, the John

(Boys' Game)
BAINBRIDGE (73) — Williams 5, McRae 9, West 13, Hamilton 12, Burke 19, Jones 2, Thomas 4, Perry 6, Green 3
VALDOSTA (63) — Sullins 10, King 6, Williams 12, Moore 4, Iverson 19, McCoy 2, Robinson 3, Manning 7
Bainbridge.....17 20 18 18 — 73
Valdosta.....15 12 18 18 — 63
Record — Valdosta 2, 1; Bainbridge 50, 1-1
Next Game — Colquitt County at Valdosta, Tuesday, Dec 6th

(Girls' Game)
BAINBRIDGE (41) — Herridon 5, Harrison 8, Pearson 4, Hines 15, Dixon 9
VALDOSTA (42) — Schleusner 11, Twine 7, Anderson 2, L. Dennis 4, Phillips 15, Manning 1, Motley 2
Bainbridge.....9 3 11 18 — 41
Valdosta.....8 16 10 8 — 42
Record — Valdosta 3, 0; 1-1; Bainbridge 32, 1-1
Next Game — Colquitt County at Valdosta 6 p.m.

Millers' Wildcats fell to Bainbridge 73-63.

Once in the second half, Valdosta, 2-1, managed to cut the lead to 63-58 with 4:42 to go in the game, but Bainbridge scored eight straight points down to stretch to put the 'Cats away.

"We just did not rebound tonight," Miller said. "Several times we went to far under the goal on some missed shots but the kids played hard."

"We had cut the lead to five points and had several opportunities to cut it to three but just could not come up with the offense. But I'm proud of the guys for working hard. Bainbridge has a fine team."

Spencer Iverson led three Wildcats in double figures with 19 points, followed by Vincent Williams with 12 and Brad Sullins with 10. Charlie Burke led Bainbridge with 19.

Valdosta returns to action this Tuesday night against Colquitt County, beginning with the girls' contest at 6 p.m.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

'Cats, Vikings Face Subregion Foes

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Subregion victories will be at stake tonight when both the Valdosta and Lowndes High School basketball teams take to the court.

Valdosta High will be entertaining Colquitt County, while Lowndes hosts Coffee High School. Action at both schools will get underway at 6 p.m.

For Lowndes, this will mark their Region 1-AAAA south opener and first-ever meeting with the Coffee High squad. For Valdosta, this will be their second meeting this season

versus a Region 1-AAAA opponent.

Susan Montgomery's Lady 'Cats have to feel as if they are sitting on top of the world at 3-0 and 1-0 in the subregion after their big victory over Bainbridge 42-41 last Saturday night.

Montgomery feels that there is no question that her girls have been exposed to all avenues, but it is now time to make that experience work against Colquitt County, the defending Region 1-AAAA champions.

"I really feel that we have met the early challenges of playing on the road, winning our first subregion game, and playing our first game at home. We have been able to ac-

complish what we wanted to do," said Montgomery. "But we must now stay focused on the work ahead. We need to play tough and not get caught up in playing the other team's game. We have really done a good job of that so far."

The Lady 'Cats probable starting lineup will look like this. The guards will be Sissy Anderson and Ashley Schlusener, Swandolyn Phillips and Vashli Manning and Cassandra Twine at center.

In contrast, Vickette head basketball coach Elhonor Goode is looking for some answers to her team's slow start. Through three games, the Vickettes are 1-2.

"The girls are ready to get into the subregion schedule. We need a lot of team play to have a chance. This year everyone must be a contributor," said Goode. "A loss is a loss, but we have certainly played three tough teams in Echols County, Bertien County and Cook. In fact, there is no doubt that playing those types of teams should prepare us for the subregion. Coffee is a team that only returns one starter from a team that made the state finals in AAA. I expect them to play offensively inside and put pressure all over the basketball."

Goode will send to the court guards junior Julie Eason and

senior Latonia Thomas. The forwards will be sophomore Lori Cuipepper and senior Stephanie Hall with senior Winifred Brown at center.

The Vickettes will turn to Latina Childs, Vickie Williams, and Shanell Jenkins off the bench.

Both Valdosta head boys' coach John Miller and Viking head man Terry Wilkes teams have 2-1 records and both have been relatively pleased with their team's performances the past several weeks.

Wilkes' Vikings defeated Cook County last Saturday 61-56 and must now prepare for their first subregion See 'CATS, Page 4-B

'Cats VBI, Tues, Dec 6, 1988

From Page 2-B

encounter of the year.

"To be honest, we know very little about Coffee except that they are winless in three games this season. I'm sure that they are a strong team. They were in the state playoffs last season," said Wilkes.

"I think that our team has somewhat come of age the past few games as well. Against Cook, we handled the full court pressure pretty well and that really pleased me to see us handling some tough situations. However, our rebounding and free throws must improve."

Wilkes will send to the court point guard sophomore Eric Peeler, senior Roger Thomas, Junior Leon Williams and senior Israel Brown

will be at the wings, while junior Marvin Lucas will be at the pivot.

After reeling off two straight wins, the Wildcats fell to Bainbridge Saturday, but Miller said his squad still has high hopes.

"It's an important game for us against Colquitt simply because we are coming off a loss Saturday night. We need to bounce back from that and surge forward," said Miller. "Colquitt County is a very well-coached team that likes to pressure you anywhere on the floor. Offensively, if we can break the press, we need to make them pay at the other end with a basket. Running is not why we are 2-1, but if the numbers are in our favor, we will."

Miller's probable starters are sophomore center Michael Moore, forwards senior Vincent Williams and junior Jason King. The

backcourt will be comprised of sophomore Spencer Inverson and junior Brad Sullins.

Wildcat Wrestlers Pin Tift County

V. Times 12-9-88

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High's Will Hancock said he wasn't in the best of shape for his first wrestling match of the year Thursday night. But don't tell that to Tift County's Rodney Lester.

Hancock participating in his first match since the conclusion of football season was still in good enough condition to earn an 18-13 decision over Lester as the Wildcats outpointed the Blue Devils 51-10 in a high school wrestling duel meet Thursday night in the VHS gym.

"It was a rough match from beginning to end," said Hancock, who participates in the heavyweight class. "I thought I had him at the first of the match but I couldn't quite hold him."

Midway through the first period of play, Hancock managed a near pin but Lester fought back and escaped the opening period trailing Hancock 7-4.

Hancock managed four more points in the second period to up his lead to 11-6 and in the third picked up seven points to account for the 18-13 final score.

For both wrestlers, the end of the match couldn't have come any quicker as after the third, two-minute period concluded, both athletes were pretty much worn down.

"I was out of shape," Hancock said. "I was kind of surprised. Towards the end I did not think I was going to make it. I was so tired. The other guy (Lester) stayed strong all the way."

For head coach John Davis' team, it was the second win of the year against no defeats. Valdosta defeated Colquitt County last week. Tift County drops to 2-2.

"Tift County came ready to compete and proved to be a tough

opponent," Davis said. "Coach Randy Paulk has done a great job. I expect them to be very tough in the region. They should start to peak."

As for his own team's success, Davis was very proud of his wrestlers who collected seven consecutive first-period pins.

Nick Gomis got the 'Cats their first six points of the night when he was awarded a forfeit when the Blue Devils failed to enter a wrestler in the 103-pound weight class.

In the 112-pound class, Ashley Fann made quick work of Michael Peoples when he recorded a first quarter pin.

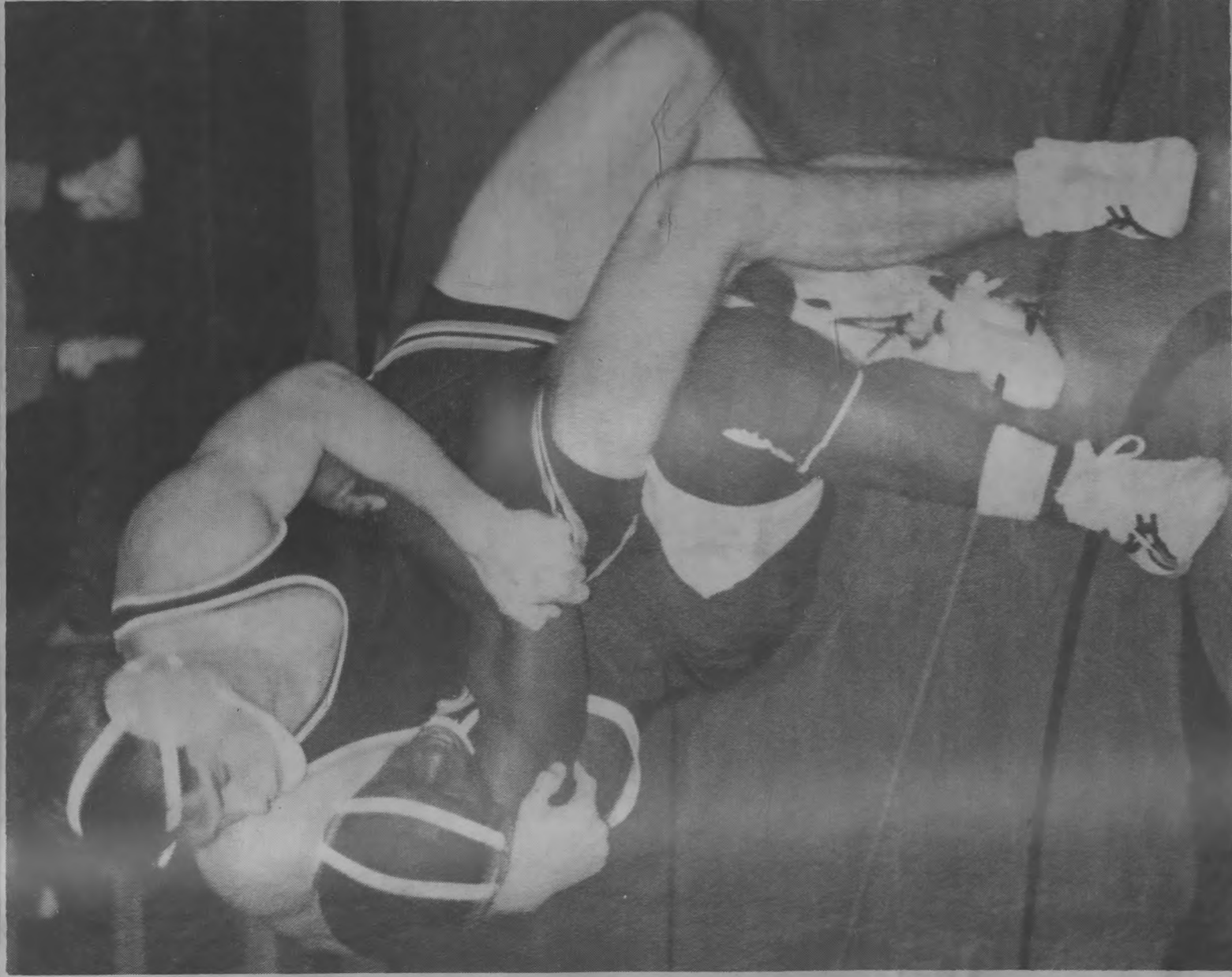
However, the Blue Devils came back to win the next two matches. In the 119-pound class, Eric Taylor outpointed Region 1-AAAA champion Steve Petermann 11-3 followed by Rodney Troupe who pinned Jim Garber in the first period of their match in the 125-pound class.

But Justin Bridges soon put an end to Tift County's two-win streak when he outpointed Michael Barron 11-0 in the 125-pound class.

Bridges' win was followed by Chuck Bonner who took a 5-0 lead over Michael Brooke in the 135-pound class before earning a pin at the 1:07 mark in the first. In the 140-pound class, Jason Finland pinned Monty Akins with 59 seconds left in the first.

Also, Eric Conrad (145) pinned Bob Lee, John Ramey (152) pinned Moses Barker, Ryan Moorman (160) rolled up Anthony Barnes, Eric Phillips (171) pinned Rob Baldwin after trailing 2-0 before his twin brother Derrick Phillips (189) pinned Keith Newell. Hancock then wrapped up Thursday's action with his win over Lester.

The 'Cats' next action will be Tuesday, Dec. 13 when Valdosta travels to Albany to take on Dougherty and Westover in a three-team meet.



Valdosta High's Eric Conrad (top) heads to day night at VHS. — Times Photo by Paul Leavy
the mat with Tift's Bob Lee. Conrad pinned Lee in the first period of their match Thurs-

'Cats, Lady Pack Win Close Games

V. Times 12-7-88

Wildcats Get Balanced Effort In Subregion Win

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Close games are sometimes hard to come by in high school basketball. But, at the Valdosta High gymnasium Tuesday night, the Valdosta boys' and girls' teams gave the Colquitt County basketball teams all they wanted and more.

The girls' contest came down to the last minute as the Lady Packers defeated the Lady 'Cats, 45-44. The Wildcats avenged the loss in the second game as they downed the Packers, 59-57.

In the first game, the Lady Packers were in control for the most of the contest. That is until the last three minutes of the fourth quarter. That's when VHS head coach Susan Montgomery's squad caught fire and reeled off the last nine points of the contest. But the run proved to be too little, too late as Colquitt County held on for the victory.

Montgomery said she was proud of her team's effort but they need to stop making mental mistakes.

"We did a great job coming back from a 10-point deficit. We showed a lot of effort and we hustled a lot but we didn't rebound well at all," Montgomery said. "That really cost us the game. No one has our height in the region and we should have rebounded better. Also, we were 4-15 from the free throw line and losing

by one point makes those misses even worse."

The Lady 'Cats were cold from the floor for much of the game until the late run. Center Cassandra Twine, who led Valdosta in scoring with 16 points, hit four of the clutch points while Swandolyn Phillips, Sissy Anderson and Vashti Manning also contributed in the waning minutes.

Montgomery said that although her team came away with a loss, their first of the year against three wins, she saw some positive signs that will help her team in the long run.

"We played well at times and we have definitely improved from last year. We just want to take our season game by game and continue to improve. If we learned some things about our team tonight that will help us down the road, then I'll take the loss," Montgomery said.

Sissy Anderson had eight points while Ashley Schlausner and Phillips chipped in six points apiece. April Williams led the Lady Packers with 25 points on the night.

The boys' game was just as close as the girls' game with the Wildcats holding the lead for most of the contest. But the Packers would not lay down and it took a balanced VHS effort to claim the win.

Head coach John Miller said his team shot the ball well and performed well down the stretch.

"Our guys hit well tonight and I'm real proud of the way they hung in and battled. At the end, they played it tough and it just seemed like Colquitt County wouldn't miss," Miller said.

One of the keys for the Wildcats' win was the outside shooting of starting guards Brad Sullins and Spencer Iverson. Sullins ended the game with seven points while Iverson had 11, but they drilled four three-pointers between them at key times in the game.

Miller said their hot hands combined with some stellar rebounding were their strong points in the win.

"Spencer, Brad and James Manning are all good shooters and they have the green light until I tell them no. Jerry Robinson and Vincent Williams also provided us with some good rebounding and leadership. Against Bainbridge, our lack of rebounds hurt us," Miller said.

Robinson led a balanced 'Cat scoring attack with 13 points while Williams added 12. Tony Williams led the Pack attack with a game-high 18 points while Mike Jackson added 12.

Valdosta will be in action again Friday night in Nashville to take on the Berrien County Rebels. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

Boys' Game	
VALDOSTA (44)	— Sullins 7, King 11, Williams 7, Moore 3, Iverson 11, Lynn 1, Robinson 13.
COLQUITT CO. (45)	— Jackson 12, Williams 18, Henry 3, Stokes 10, Troneer 9, Sailer 1, Mearlita 4.
Valdosta.....	9 17 15 17 — 59
Colquitt.....	10 11 18 18 — 57
Girls' Game	
VALDOSTA (44)	— Anderson 8, Schlausner 6, Phillips 6, Twine 16, Manning 4, Dennis 2, L. Dennis 2.
COLQUITT CO. (45)	— Baker 4, Freeman 12, Perry 2, Williams 25, Lea 2.
Valdosta.....	15 8 8 13 — 44
Colquitt.....	10 15 14 6 — 45



Valdosta's Vincent Williams drives to the hoop during Tuesday's game against Colquitt County. Williams finished with 12 points. — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Bradwell Kicks 'Cats From Playoffs

V. Times 12-3-88

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

BRUNSWICK — Very often, the kicking game is overlooked by the average football fan, but Friday night in Glynn County Stadium, there was no mistaking the kicking game of Bradwell Institute.

The Tigers used three field goals by Vernon Loree to upset the top-ranked Valdosta Wildcats 16-14 in the quarterfinals of the Class AAAA state playoffs.

Bradwell will now go on to play Warner Robins who defeated Riverdale 33-12.

Loree was 3-of-4 with his field goal attempts, connecting on attempts of 47, 32 and 42 yards as the Tigers took advantage of four Wildcat turnovers, including two fumbled punts to set the stage for the stunning upset by the Region 3-AAAA champions.

"The difference in the game was the fumbled punts and their ability to kick their field goals," Hyder said. "Even the one that he missed (a 38-yarder) looked good to me."

Trailing 16-7 late in the third quarter, Valdosta took the ball at Bradwell and drove the ball 57 yards behind the running of James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser down to the Bradwell 8-yard line.

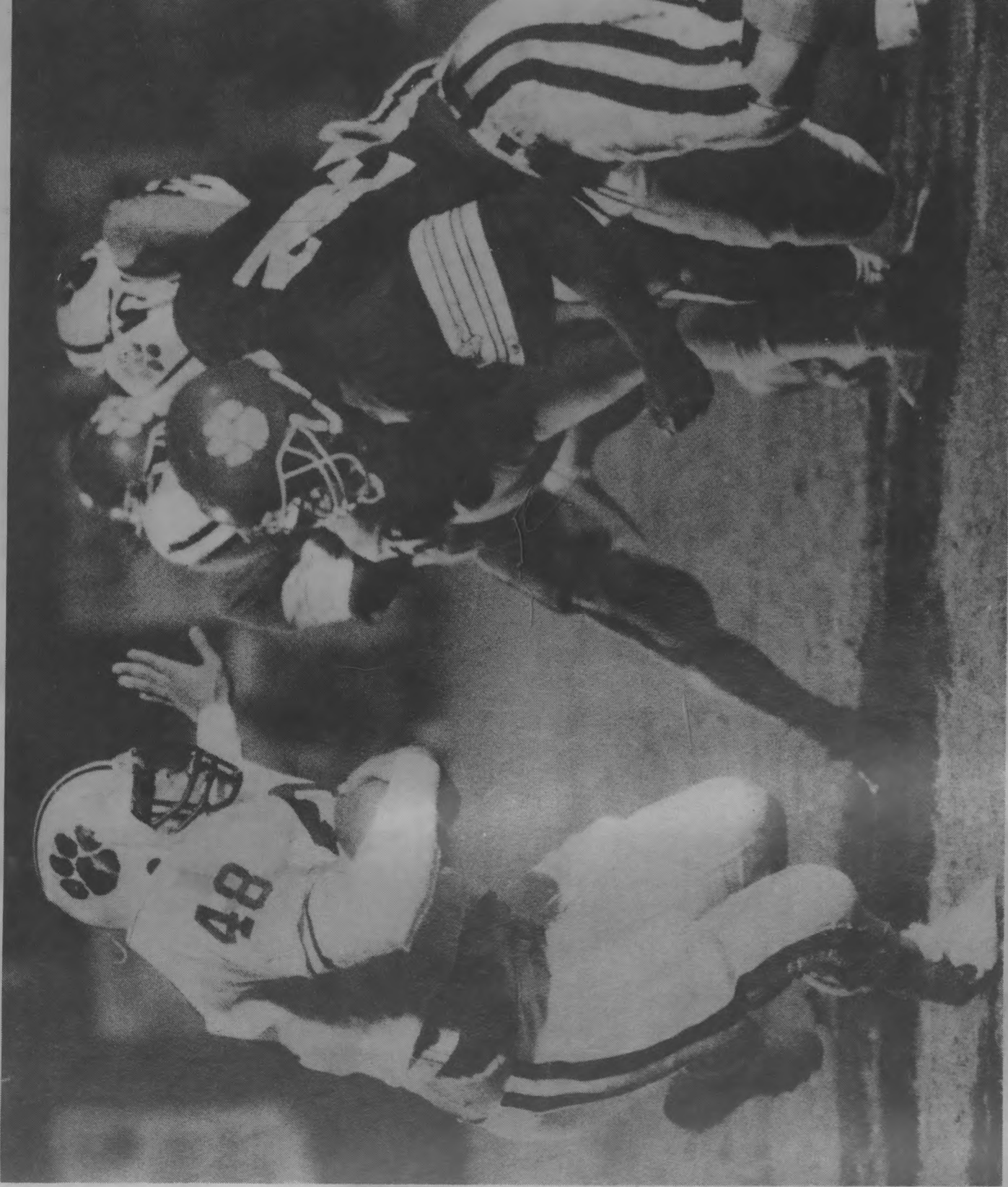
Ceaser bulled his way to the 5-yard line to set up a 2nd down-and-goal from the 3. However, three running plays by the 'Cats could not move the ball any farther. On 4th down-and-goal from the two, quarterback Ben Hogan was dropped for no gain.

But two Bradwell plays later, the 'Cats were given new life when Jason Bridges recovered a fumble by Ivan Bullard at the Tiger 8-yard line.

Ceaser carried the ball down to the 3 before Roberts bulled his way over from the 5-yard line. Dow Drury's second extra point of the game cut the lead to 16-14 with 7:29 left in the game.

Unfortunately for Valdosta, Bradwell was able to get a key first down on a 13-yard pass from Mike Hughes to Bullard. But the 'Cats were able to hold three plays later, and even with just 3:32 to go in the game it still appeared Valdosta had a chance.

With the ball at the Bradwell 29, Hogan threw incomplete before



Valdosta running back James Roberts gets ready to meet oncoming Bradwell defenders during Friday night's state quarterfinal football game between the two. Bradwell upset

Ceaser ripped off 12 yards on a draw play. However, Roberts was thrown for a four-yard loss on the next play before Tiger linebacker Ronald Johnson ran in untouched and sacked Hogan for an 8-yard loss.

Hogan's passes on third and fourth down both fell just out of the reach of the intended receivers. The 'Cats were given one last gasp after holding Bradwell on fourth down-and-six from the 24 but two incomplete passes, a draw by Ceaser, and another incomplete

pass were the only plays the 'Cats were able to attempt as time ran out and the Bradwell faithful poured onto the field.

"I'm just in complete shock right now," Bradwell head coach Ron Beauchamp said. "It's just a tribute

to our kids, coaches and our entire community. We beat a great football team in Valdosta tonight."

Bradwell jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the first quarter when running back Garrett Landers ran in for a touchdown from 38 yards out on a

misdirection play with 29 seconds to go in the first.

Loree missed a 38-yard field goal attempt that would have given Bradwell a 10-0 lead but the junior got another chance after Gerald Bacon intercepted a Hogan pass at the Valdosta 38. Loree wouldn't miss his second opportunity as he as he kicked a 47-yard field goal that just skimmed over the bar.

"Take away either one of those field goals and the game could have gone the other way," said Hyder.

"But give the young man credit. We were able to come out in the second half and run the ball effectively but like in all close games, the kicking game meant the difference.

"But I'm proud of our kids. They played very hard the entire game and never gave up."

The 'Cats took the opening kickoff of the second half and drove the ball 68 yards before Ceaser scored from 4 yards out. It was the senior's 23rd touchdown of the season.

However, Bradwell quickly put an end to the Valdosta momentum when a fumbled punt and fumble off a pass reception set the stage for Loree's field goals of 32 and 42 yards which ended up being the difference in the game.

Roberts capped off his senior season for the 'Cats by rushing the ball 18 times for 124 yards. Ceaser added 86 on 18.

The Wildcats wrap up their season at 12-1 while Bradwell improves to 10-3.

Valdosta.....	0	7	7	14
Bradwell.....	7	3	6	0-16
Bra — Garrett Landers 38 run (Vernon Loree kick)				
Bra — Loree 47 fg				
Val — Isaac Ceaser 4 run (Dow Drury kick)				
Bra — Loree 32 fg				
Bra — Loree 42 fg				
Val — Roberts 5 run (Drury kick)				

Val	Bra
10	4
188	128
43	38
10	50
10-2-1	7-4-0
53	21
334.0	535.0
0-00	2-10

Rushing
Valdosta — Roberts 18-124, Ceaser 18-86, Hogan 4-(-2), Parker 2-0, Beal 1-10.
Bradwell — Bullard 14-40, Landers 15-73, Green 8-19, Underwood 1-5, Hughes 1-0.

Passing
Valdosta — Hogan 10-2-1-10.
Bradwell — Hughes 7-4-0-50.

Receiving
Valdosta — Dawsey 2-10.
Bradwell — Brewton 1-37, Green 2-10, Bullard 1-13.



Valdosta High's Michael Moore takes down rebound between two Bainbridge defenders. Bainbridge edged the 'Cats 73-63. — Times Photo by Bob Freitag

Schleusner Known For

Dedication

By STAN GRUBB
V.P. Media, Dec. 14, 1988
Times Sports Writer

Since she was six, Ashley Schleusner has been dribbling a basketball. She is now in her second year as starting point guard for the Lady 'Cats of Valdosta High, and has quietly become one of the more steady performers on the squad.

Lady 'Cat head coach Susan Montgomery was quick to point out that Schleusner was a special player and has been one ever since her freshman season.

"She is a player that is willing to do the little things in the game to better herself. Ashley has always been a very important player to this team the past two seasons because of her attitude and her will to succeed," said Montgomery. "Players like Ashley these days are very few and far between. Whether it is just shooting baskets on her own free time, or giving a little extra effort in practice to improve on her playing skills, she really gives it her all."

Schleusner admits that the sport of basketball was one she has been intrigued with since she was a small child.

"I have been playing, or I guess you would say at least dribbling a basketball since I was six years old," said Schleusner. "My father (John Schleusner) helped me learn to play the game. I remember we use to take the ball down the road and dribble for hours."

Schleusner has definitely made large strides since her early days. In fact, the 5-foot-6, guard was a freshman starter for a Region 1-A/AAA school. That in itself drew rave reviews from her coach.

"Ashley is definitely unique in the fact that she was a starter at the guard position in just her first varsity season," said Montgomery. "Ashley has stepped in and earned her spot on this team. I'm really proud of her contributions."

In her first varsity season, Schleusner averaged 5.3 points a game along with four assists a game.

In five games played in 1988, Schleusner has upped that mark to 8 points a game in scoring and five assists a contest.



Valdosta point guard Ashley Schleusner has been making a big impact in just her sophomore season with the Lady 'Cats. Schleusner is averaging 8 points per game in five games played. — Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag.

"Everything just took a lot of getting used to my first season starting with this team," said Schleusner. "A lot of it was just getting settled in and playing the game comfortably. This season it has been a change. We all have more experience on this year's team, and coach Montgomery has really been a big motivator."

"This year it seems that everyone

has high hopes and goals, and that is important," she said. "Everyone is really enthusiastic about this season. Although we are 3-2 at this time, we feel that we have a good shot in Region play."

"The biggest single change I think that Ashley has made and that is she is giving us a big dose of leadership at the guard position," Montgomery said.

Local Wrestlers VDT. Sat., Dec. 17, 1988 Batting Hard

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

ADEL — After the first two rounds of the 10th Annual Hornet Classic held at the Cook High gym Friday night, the wrestling powers of south Georgia were pretty much where everyone expected them to be — on top.

Dublin, a powerhouse in Class AAA, leads the tournament headed into today's semifinal and final rounds with 59 points.

Valdosta, one of the best Class AAAA teams in the south Georgia area, is a close second with 57 points. The Cook Hornets, the defending Class AA state champs and winners of the tournament last year, are third with 53½ points. The Lowndes Vikings enter today's action in seventh place with 32 points.

The semifinals begin this morning at 10 a.m., followed by the wrestlebacks, the consolation round, and then the final round.

"Some of our kids really came through for us," said VHS head coach John Davis, who pushed six grapplers into the semifinal round.

Perhaps a pleasant surprise for the Wildcats was 141-pounder Chuck Bonner. Bonner, only a sophomore, pinned Cook's Brett Bishop, a senior, to advance to the semis.

"I would say it's a surprise just because of their experience level," said Cook head man Barry Davis. "Bishop's a senior and Bonner's only a sophomore, but I knew he was a tough wrestler."

Also in the semis for Valdosta are Ashley Fann (112), Steve Petermann (119), Jason Finland (136), Ryan Moorman (161), and Derrick Phillips (190).

Moorman advanced with pins in both of the first two rounds, and Petermann dominated both his opponents as well.

Davis complimented Justin Bridges (130), and Eric Phillips (172) in losing efforts.

Cook has five wrestlers vying in today's semifinal action. Hornet heavyweight Eric Postell topped things off for Cook by pinning his Colquitt opponent. Also advancing for Cook was Hank Pitts (190), Scott Morris (153), Scott Rentz (125), and Andre Durden (119).

"We'll have to wrestle better tomorrow if we're going to win this thing again," said Cook's Davis. "Valdosta has the upper hand and if we go head to head with them, we're going to have to do well."

Lowndes High head coach Newnan Sanchez saw Lee Hendricks (130) and Bobby Bramlett (153) sail into the semis.

"Some of our younger kids wrestled well, and Lee and Bobby wrestled well," said Sanchez. A disappointment for Lowndes was Jimmy Hiers (145) who was beaten in round two.

"We were hoping Jimmy could get into the semis. At least I thought he would get that far," said Sanchez. "I thought Loyd Dumas wrestled real well. He doesn't have that much experience, but he did just what we asked him to do."



Valdosta wrestler Nick Gonis (right) and Lowndes grappler Ben Austin (left) square off in their match at the Cook High Wrestling Tournament Friday night. — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Former 'Cat Brinson Ready For Monumental Battle With Miami

WT, Sun, Jan. 1, 1989

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

MIAMI, Fla. — For Nebraska Cornhusker wingback Dana Brinson and his teammates, it has been a long hard road to the 1988 Orange Bowl. In fact, it has been exactly five years since the Cornhuskers graced the grounds of the Orange Bowl, which has been the same amount of time since their last victory over their Big Eight Conference rivals the Oklahoma Sooners.

Both came to a screeching halt this year as the Cornhuskers defeated the Sooners 7-3 in the season finale to capture the Big Eight crown and an Orange Bowl invitation for the first time since the 1983-84 football season.

In a telephone interview with *The Valdosta Daily Times* recently, the former Valdosta High School Wildcat running back stated that the chance to play in the Orange Bowl was certainly worth waiting for.

"Well, I think that the Orange Bowl bid and the victory over Oklahoma was very much overdue. This team has worked extremely hard to achieve a goal that was set at the beginning of the year. That goal was of course beating Oklahoma and making it into the Orange Bowl," said Brinson.

The 'Huskers' opponent this time around is a familiar one.

For back on January 2, 1984, the Miami (Fla.) Hurricanes, behind the arm of Bernie Kosar, now quarterback with the Cleveland Browns, upset the previous No. 1 ranked Cornhuskers, not only capturing the 50th Annual Orange Bowl, but the national football championship by the score of 31-30.

It will be four years to the date tomorrow when Miami's Ken Calhoun knocked away a two-point pass from Nebraska quarterback Turner Gill to receiver Jeff Smith to preserve the Hurricane's win. Many of the Cornhuskers are looking at this year's Orange Bowl as the game of the year for them. And revenge is on their minds.

"Without a doubt, the 1984 Orange Bowl contest lingers in the minds of all Nebraska players and fans," said Brinson. "Many players on this team feel that we were still the best team that year, but that one night Miami played very good and upset us. We are hoping to return the favor Monday night."

The Cornhuskers only loss in 1988 came at the hands of

the UCLA Bruins at the Rose Bowl in the third game of the season. Nebraska fell to the Bruins 41-28.

On the other hand, the Hurricanes one loss this season was delivered to them by the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame. The 'Cats left South Bend, Ind., a 31-30 loser after a Steve Walsh two-point conversion pass was tipped away. Since 1985, the Hurricanes have lost just four times in their last 47 games played.

Brinson, who last season finished second in the nation behind this year's Heisman Trophy winner Barry Sanders of Oklahoma State in both punt and kickoff returns, can only reflect back to his high school days to find another game with the importance of this year's Orange Bowl.

"The only thing I can possibly compare this game to would have to be the 1982 state high school championship game in which Valdosta defeated Peachtree 10-7," said Brinson. "But believe me, this is a different setup entirely."

"Miami has a bunch of 'bad' dudes on their team. They are a great football team," he said. "This game will separate the men from the boys I assure you."

For the Hurricanes, not only will it mark the second straight year in the Orange Bowl, but they once again have the thoughts of a national championship dancing in their heads as they try and prepare for the Cornhuskers.

"We are in a pretty good situation if you ask me. Miami and the media has put tons of pressure on themselves. To be quite honest, everyone around the Miami area assumes that this one is in the bank," said Brinson. "We have been a solid team all year and we will find out Monday what gives. I expect a tough game. Just maybe the hype will work in our favor. We have been taking each game one at a time. This one should be no different."

And with one game yet to be played against one of the nation's best teams, Brinson, a 5-foot-9, 175-pound senior will, however, finish his Cornhusker football career the owner of some lofty statistics.

As a sophomore in 1986, Brinson led Nebraska in receiving with 14 catches for 208 yards and one touchdown, while finishing as the Big Eight leader in all-purpose yards compiling 1,104 yards for a 101.3 per-game average.

"I have had a good career stat wise at Nebraska, but winning Monday night against the Hurricanes would certainly be a very big highlight in my football playing days at Nebraska," said Brinson.



Dana Brinson of Nebraska runs back a kickoff against Kansas State University. — Photo Special to the Times

Wildcats, Vikings Try To Measure Up

By RON EVANS
Times Sports Editor

Being the last major tournament before the Area Tournament set for the first of February, wrestling coaches Newnan Sanchez of Lowndes High School and John Davis of Valdosta High School will be watching intently on how their pupils fare in the Hardaway Invitational in Columbus tonight and tomorrow.

For the Wildcats (7-1), the tourney could be on the right path of getting to the peak of competition. For the Vikings (6-2) it is an opportunity to

gain some valuable experience for some of the younger members and a tune up for some of the older ones.

"I think the kids are starting to peak right now," said Davis, whose squad finished fifth in last weekend's Swede Umback Tournament in Auburn, Ala. "This tournament is good experience for our kids because they like to wrestle against wrestlers they don't usually see. They also get keyed up to wrestle out of town."

Sanchez says the tournament, which will have a strong field of 23 teams, is a chance to polish up a bit. "Nothing counts until the area

tournament. These are polish matches," he said.

"We are in good shape physically. I think we've progressed satisfactorily. We have a pretty good blend of youth and experience."

Last year, the first appearance by both schools in the tournament, Lowndes had a champion in the 180-pound weight division and a runner-up in the heavyweight class. Both are gone.

This time around, Sanchez looks for good things out of four-year starter Bobby Bramlett in the 152 class. Others are Mark Bagley (135), Jeff Robbins (160), Jimmy

Hiers (145) and Lee Hendricks (130).

Davis said he can feel the excitement of his kids as they completed today three days of exams. "The tournament is in such a good surrounding and there is such good competition," he said. "The kids are anxious to get back."

Steven Peterman, a 103-pound junior, returns to defend his individual crown.

Justin Bridges (130) was fourth in the 125 class last year as was Chuck Bonner in the 140. Other 'Cats to watch for are Maurice Dean (152), Ryan Moorman in the 160 and Jason Finland in the 135. All finished third last week.

VD. Tues, Jan 31, 1989

Davis Sanchez Cautious

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Basketball is not the only sport that Valdosta will be challenging cross-town rival Lowndes in tonight. At 6:30 p.m. in the Wildcat gymnasium, the two school's wrestling teams, junior varsity and varsity, will go head-to-head in preparation for Saturday's area tournament.

"Well, you know it's always a challenge when we go against Lowndes," Valdosta head coach John Davis said. "Coach (Newnan) Sanchez has kept his team improving and improving all season long. He's got all of his kids wrestling tough and Lowndes looks to be strong in every weight class. This match could go either way."

Sanchez agrees.

"It's really hard to make a comment because in these matches, anytime you have Valdosta and Lowndes involved the intensity level is so great that it (the outcome) can go in any direction," he said. "You may perform much better or you may perform much worse because you try to hard."

Last Saturday, the Vikings split a pair of matches with Niceville (Fla.) and Tift County. Also on Saturday, the 'Cats took three-out-of-four matches in a four-way meet in LaGrange.

Against Valdosta, Jeff Robbins, Michael Crosby, Lloyd Dumas, Ed Bell, Ben Austin, John Griner, Mark Bagley, Rueben Dwyer, Bobby Bramlett and Jimmy Hiers are among those expected to see action for Lowndes.

See, DAVIS, Page 4-B

Davis

VD. Tues, Jan 31, 1989

From Page 2-B

For Valdosta, Nick Gonis, Jason Finland, Chuck Bonner, Jim Garber, John Ramey, Eric Phillips, Derrick Phillips, Will Hancock, Justin Bridges, Ryan Moorman, Maurice Dean and Ashley Fann area all expected to be available.

This will be the final regular-season match for both teams before the area wrestling tournament this Saturday at Valdosta.



Lowndes center Marvin Lucas, shown going up for two points against Tift County, will be counted on heavily by head coach Terry Wilkes tonight. — Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

'Cats, Vikings

Tip Off Tonight

VD. Tues, Jan 31, 1989

By STAN CRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The names have not changed but the roles have certainly been reversed.

After his team's defeat at the hands of Valdosta back on Jan. 12., Viking head basketball coach Terry Wilkes is hoping his team will respond to the challenge tonight as his Vikings square off against John Miller's Valdosta Wildcats tonight at the Lowndes gym.

On the other hand, Miller would like nothing more than to see a repeat performance of that evening which saw his team crush Lowndes by 21 points.

On the girls' side, Valdosta head basketball coach Susan Montgomery and her Lady 'Cats will not be the favorites in their battle with Elinor Goode's Vikesettes.

The Vikesettes defeated the favored Lady 'Cats 49-41 in the opening meeting between the two schools.

Tip-off for the cross-town rematch is scheduled for 6 p.m. tonight.

The Wildcats come into tonight's battle with a 7-9 overall record and 2-5 in Region 1-AAAA South. The Vikings are 10-6 and 5-3 in subregion play.

The Vikesettes are 5-10 and 3-5 while the Lady 'Cats are 7-6 and 2-5.

Tonight's game will mark Valdosta's fifth consecutive road game in the past three weeks.

According to Montgomery, her team has not played well since the first game against the Vikesettes. The first time the two teams met, the Lady 'Cats turned the ball over 25 times.

"That stat alone to me was the biggest difference in the game," said Montgomery. "The turnovers

enabled them to run with the basketball, setting up easy scoring opportunities. It is important for our team to slow things down and run our offense."

Goode is well aware of the situation surrounding tonight's rematch and feels that beating the Lady 'Cats earlier will only help her team.

"Beating Valdosta the first time certainly gives our team something to build upon for this game," said Goode. "I feel that the Lowndes-Valdosta situation will take care of itself for the mostpart. We have to be concerned about playing basketball and playing it to the best of our ability."

According to Wilkes, there is no other possible direction his team can go when it comes to playing the Wildcats.

"Well, we lost to them by 21 the first time out and if that is any indication, we have no where to go but up," said Wilkes. "I would like to certainly believe that they are not 21 points better than we are. But in credit to Valdosta, they just whipped us. They played a super game and were deserving of the win."

Although his team won handily in the first meeting, Miller is not taking anything for granted.

"I expect an entire different ballgame than the one that was played back on Jan. 12. We played the best that this team has ever played in my years as head coach. Plus, Lowndes was in all honesty, having a bit of an off night," said Miller. "But that game does give our kids momentum and tells our kids that it can be done. I've said all year that if we play as a team and play smart, we can hold our own against every team in this sub-region."

County, Coffee County and Effingham County.

"This match with Lowndes will determine a lot as far as the seeds for the area tournament go," said Davis. "When you go into a seed meet like this, what the kids do against other wrestlers during the regular season could decide if you are seeded first, second, third or fourth in this upcoming tournament."

"I just hope we can wrestle the best that we can because I know that Valdosta will," said Sanchez. "Valdosta's program has done just a fine job this year. I've got a great deal of respect for their program. John Davis has done a fine job for them."

The tournament, which begins at 9 a.m., was scheduled to be a two-day affair but was changed to one. Teams participating in the tournament include Valdosta, Lowndes, Tift County, Colquitt

3-Point Basket

Shocks Valdosta

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

When Valdosta High's Jason King hit two free throws with 38 seconds left in Tuesday night's game with Tift County High, the Wildcats took what looked to be a safe 40-38 lead.

But they didn't count on Tift County's Kyle Cromer to hit the Blue Devils' only 3-pointer of the night and steal a 41-40, Region 1-AAAA win from the Wildcats. The loss dropped the Wildcats to 5-4 and 1-2 in the region.

In the girls' contest, the Lady Wildcats dominated the Lady Blue Devils and collected a 53-34 win. With the win, VHS moves to 4-2 overall and 2-1 in region action.

After Cromer's 3-pointer, the 'Cats had seven seconds to get back the lead. But they failed to sink the shot and were stuck with the loss. VHS head coach John Miller said his team was simply not prepared to play the game.

"We just didn't play inspired basketball. Tift County did a good job but we just weren't mentally ready," he said. "We started pressing in the middle of the second quarter but it didn't work until the fourth quarter. We played hard the last four minutes of the game, but we couldn't pull it out."

Jason King led all scorers in the game with 18 points. Miller shook up his starting lineup a bit and substituted many players throughout the game. He said the changes were due to some players missing practices and the ones who played in the game had been working hard all year.

Miller said the Blue Devils' 3-point attempt with time running out was

something he hadn't planned on.

"I didn't think they would shoot it because they hadn't hit one all night. After the score, we just wanted to get it in and look to push it up the court. James Manning did just what we wanted him to do and he took a good shot, but it just didn't go in," Miller said.

Rodney Thomas led the Blue Devils with 14 points.

The girls' game was never a contest as the Lady Wildcats led the game from start to finish and both teams emptied the bench in the fourth quarter. VHS head coach Susan Montgomery said her team played well and is continuing to improve.

"We did what we wanted to do and I think it was a good sign that a lot of people played well tonight. We feel like we need to be balanced in our scoring because one person can be cut off," she said.

Swandolyn Phillips led the Lady Wildcats with 12 points and Cassandra Twine chipped in 10. Montgomery said that her inside game is coming along and that is also a bright point.

"I was real pleased with our effort inside and we want to continue to do well there. But we also need to shoot well from the outside. Our inside game is our strong point but it isn't necessarily the only part of our game," Montgomery said. "I was real pleased with our total effort and I feel like we're getting better."

Both teams will be in action again on Friday night as they play host to the Lanier County Bulldogs, two teams that both the Wildcats and the Lady Wildcats defeated earlier in the season. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

Girls' Game
TIFT COUNTY (41) — Thomas 14, Williams 10, Watson 2, Cromer 9, Robinson 6.
VALDOSTA (40) — Iverson 7, King 18, Lynn 8, Williams 2, Brantley 2, Manning 3.
Tift County..... 6 12 9 14-41
Valdosta..... 8 8 14 10-40

Boys' Game
TIFT COUNTY (34) — Vickers 10, Williams 4, Bryant 2, Lester 8, Davis 2, Hill 4, Strawler 2, Copeland 2.
VALDOSTA (33) — Anderson 7, Manning 11, Phillips 12, Schlausner 4, Twine 10, L. Dennis 4, Motley 5.



Valdosta's Swandolyn Phillips (32) goes up for two points as Ashley Schlausner (foreground) watches. Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

'Cats, Lady 'Cats Split

By DT. Sun Staff, 8/19/89
From Staff Reports

SUWANNEE, Fla. — A last-second attempt at a basket by Valdosta High School came up short as host Suwannee County defeated the Wildcats 68-67 Saturday night in high school basketball action.

In the girls' game, Susan Montgomery's Lady 'Cats defeated Suwannee 47-33 to up their record to 6-2.

With time running out, Valdosta missed a jump shot, got the rebound but missed again. According to Wildcat head coach John Miller, there was contact under the basket but no foul was called.

The 6-5 Wildcats trailed 35-15 at the half but exploded for 34 third-quarter points to cut the lead to 54-49 after three.

"We just didn't show up in the first half," Miller said. "It seemed like everything they put up they hit and everything we put up we missed. But we did keep our cool and I am proud of the effort the guys gave to get back in the game."

Spencer Iverson led the Valdosta attack with 23 points. James Manning scored 12 and Jason King and Hubie Brantley each added 10.

In the girls' game, Swandolyn Phillips did the job on both ends of the court, scoring 15 points and grabbing 26 rebounds.

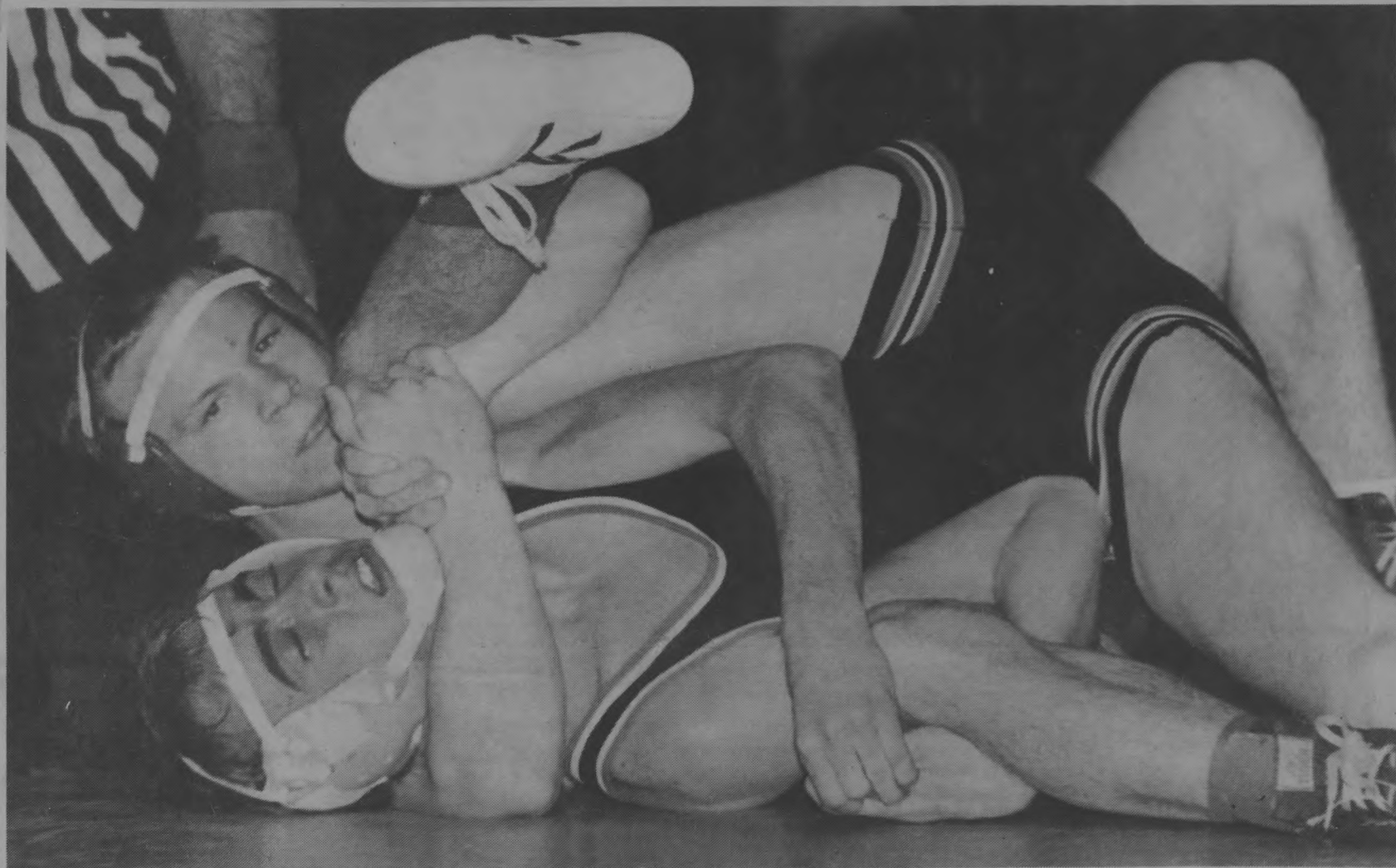
"At halftime we led only 26-23 but came out in the third quarter and outscored them 13-6 and that was a big point in the ballgame for us," Montgomery said. "There was a lot of physical contact that wasn't called tonight but we stayed in there, played tough and kept our momentum."

Laura Dennis added 10 points and Cassandra Twine 9 for the Lady 'Cats.

Valdosta will host cross-town rival Lowndes this Tuesday night beginning at 6 p.m.

Girls' Game
VALDOSTA (47) — Iverson 23, Manning 12, King 10, Brantley 10, Williams 4, Robinson 5, McCoy 3.
SUWANNEE COUNTY (48) — Edwards 10, Cook 12, Ford 8, Hennicksen 16, Brown 12, Depass 2, Baker 2, Riley 6.
Valdosta..... 7 8 34 18-67
Suwannee..... 22 13 19 14-68

Record — Valdosta 6-5
Next Game — Lowndes at Valdosta
Girls' Game
VALDOSTA (47) — Anderson 3, Schlausner 5, S. Phillips 15, Twine 9, Manning 5, L. Dennis 10
SUWANNEE COUNTY (33) — Spencer 2, Sinkerson 9, Graham 10, Singleton 2, Owens 4, Campbell 2, Johnson 5
Valdosta..... 14 12 13 8-47
Suwannee County..... 9 14 6 5-33
Record — Valdosta 6-2
Next Game — Valdosta 6 p.m.



Valdosta Wrestler Ashley Fann (bottom) struggles to get out of a hold by Matt Martin of McEachern High School. Six schools, including Valdosta, McEachern, Lowndes, Cook, Sprayberry and Bolles of Jacksonville, Fla., participated in the meet. — Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

Area Wrestlers Do Well

VDT. Sun., Jan. 8, 1989
By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Valdosta High wrestling coach John Davis said the purpose for bringing strong wrestling programs to town such as Sprayberry and McEachern was to give his team a taste of what competition is like in the northern part of the state.

And get a taste is exactly what the 'Cats, along with Lowndes, Cook and Bolles of Jacksonville, Fla., did as the six schools got together for a meet Saturday in the VHS gym.

But the local teams made a good showing as the 'Cats, Lowndes and Cook were all able to post wins over Sprayberry. However, McEachern, which is the pick to win the Class AAAA state title this year swept Valdosta and Cook, the defending Class AA champions.

Valdosta wrestled three times, the most of any school and came away with two wins. The 'Cats rolled over Sprayberry 63-6 and Bolles 57-8 before falling to McEachern in the final match of the afternoon 47-15.

Lowndes wrestled only once, that against Sprayberry and came away with a 37-27 win. Cook fell to McEachern 43-19 but regrouped to smash Sprayberry 59-18.

"Today the kids were able to get a good look at what the Atlanta schools are like. They've got the class, they're what high school wrestling is all about," Davis said. "This kind of competition should really help us in our own area competition and maybe give us an edge down the road. Even in the matches we lost today, many went down to the wire and the kids fought back. With that I'm very pleased."

In the 'Cats' match with McEachern, Steve Peterman (119) earned a first-period pin over Beau Rogers, Jason Finland (135) outpointed Eric Pickelsimer 4-3, Chuck Bonner (140) defeated Brent Henson 10-5 and Derrick Phillips (189) outpointed Conny Arnold 6-4.

Against Sprayberry, Nick Gonis, Fann, Peterman and Jim Garber each were awarded forfeit wins. Justin Bridges (130) outpointed Kevin Pounds 6-0, Finland pinned Matt Anderson, Bonner pinned Len Bowers, John Ramey (145) pinned John Wood, Maurice Dean (152) pinned Robert Brown, Ryan Moorman (160) outpointed Joe Taylor, last year's third place winner in Class AAAA, 10-7, Eric Phillips (171) pinned Phillips Rack, Derrick Phillips pinned Tripp Lichtfeld and Will Hancock (HWT) pinned Mark Brown.

In the matchup with Bolles, Gonis, Garber, Bridges, Finland, Bonner, Ramey, Dean, Moorman and Eric and Derrick Phillips all won their matches for Valdosta now 6-1 on the year.

In the Vikings matchup with
See WRESTLERS, Page 4-C

Wrestlers *VDT. Sun., Jan. 8, 1989*

From Page 1-C

Sprayberry, Ben Austin (103), Travis Herring (112) and Brandon Powell all won by forfeit. Lee Hendricks (130), Mark Bagley (135), Jimmy Hiers (145) and Ed Bell (189) each won their matches.

"We made a lot of mistakes by some very young people but that is to be expected when you go against a technically-proficient team like Sprayberry," Lowndes head coach Newnan Sanchez said. "If you make errors against people like that you are going to have to pay for it. We are still awfully young. We have but three seniors and a lot of sophomores and freshmen."

"Lee and Jimmy, two of our seniors, wrestled well tonight," Sanches said. "In a losing effort Jeff Robbins (160), led in the third period but got pinned by a kid who finished third in the state. I think he did a great job. I was also happy with Mark Bagley."

Cook, 7-3, last year's Class AA champion found McEachern a little too tough to handle but the Hornets made a good account for themselves.

Aundrell Durden (119), last year's Class AA state champion, made quick work of Beau Rogers, Darrell Wright (125), who made his weight for the first time in three weeks, outpointed Brent Glosson 5-2, Brett Bishop (140) outpointed Brent Henson 13-5, Hank Pitts (189) outpointed Maurice Wathan 11-4 and Eric Postell, the Class AA state heavyweight champion outpointed Martin Edwards 8-1.

Against Sprayberry, Mike Nettles (103), Willie Keeley (112), Durden

and Wright won by forfeit.

Allen O'Quinn (130) pinned Pounds, Bishop pinned Wood, Jason Bryan pinned Wood, Pitts outpointed Lichtefeld 17-2 and Postell pinned Mark Brown.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times



RON
EVANS
SPORTS
EDITOR

Valdosta, Here I Am And Ready To Go

Good morning, Valdosta! This is your new sports editor talking to you and I'm glad to be here.

I hope you won't be too bored but I think it would be good to introduce myself a bit and explain my personal philosophy about sports and sports writing.

First of all, I'm married to a great lady, Margot, and have two kids, Amber and Forrest. We have a lot of fun as a family and besides my strong convictions of faith, they are the most important people to me.

Lastinger Helped Georgia's Practices Run Smoothly

By ANTHONY DASHER
Assistant Sports Editor

Vince Dooley wasn't the only one who saw his last action as a Georgia Bulldog Sunday night in the Gator Bowl. Valdosta native Brad Lastinger did, too.

No, Lastinger never donned the red and black uniform for the Bulldogs like his older brother John. But if it weren't for Lastinger, who spent 1968 as the head manager for Georgia, the football team's daily activities might not have gone quite as smoothly.

"I had 11 members on my staff and was in charge of keeping them organized," Lastinger said. "As a manager, we do many different things but our main job is pretty much to organize the football practices on the field. We also do a lot of errand-running. Many people confuse being a manager with being a trainer but believe me, those are two different jobs entirely. Trainers do the taping and I do none of that." According to Lastinger, each of the managers are assigned to work

alongside an assistant coach during practice. As the head manager, Lastinger worked closely with Dooley, a thrill the senior said he will remember the rest of his life.

"I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to work very closely with Coach Dooley over this past year," Lastinger said. "Coach Dooley is a mighty fine man. He's also a mighty busy man. He's got so much going on all the time that he's got Jeff Shirman (a fellow student assistant) to keep him on his schedule. That's all the guy does."

"But it was very interesting working with Coach Dooley and it didn't really hit me until the other night that this would be the last time I would be doing this. It was fun to be part of history, so to speak, and to go out together is something that I will always remember."

Although Lastinger said that Dooley's resignation may have surprised some, the senior recalled that he had thought for a while that the 25-year coach would hang it up at season's end.

"We all really began to suspect that something was up when de-

"I had 11 members on my staff and was in charge of keeping them organized. As a manager, we do many different things but our main job is pretty much to organize the football practices on the field. We also do a lot of errand-running. Many people confuse being a manager with being a trainer but believe me, those are two different jobs entirely. Trainers do the taping and I do none of that."

Former University of Georgia head manager
Brad Lastinger



BRAD LASTINGER

"You get to meet some famous people. I met Brent Musberger of CBS and Doc Rivers of the Atlanta Hawks but the traveling is the best part of my job," Lastinger said. "LSU on a Saturday night is an exciting place to be but there is no place like Clemson and Death Valley. That was definitely the loudest place I have ever been in. Those people can make some noise."

Valdosta Wrestlers Sweep Lincoln High

From Staff Reports

The Valdosta High School junior varsity and varsity wrestling squads went below the state line to grab two victories at Lincoln High School in Tallahassee, Fla., Tuesday night. The junior varsity squad won their match 36-10 while the varsity Wildcats won 46-20.

In the junior varsity match, John Lee Story in the 112-pound class, Chris Thigpen in the 119 division and Stan Cox in the 145 all pinned their opponents for VHS wins. Kevin Barker won his match by a decision in the 140 class.

The varsity match included wins by Nick Gonis in the 103 class, Ashley Fann in the 112, Steven

Peterman in the 119, Justin Bridges in the 130, Jason Finland in the 135, Maurice Deon in the 152, Eric Phillips in the 171, Derrick Phillips in the 189 and Will Hancock in the heavyweight division.

Peterman, Bridges, Deon and Hancock won their matches by pins while Gonis, Fann, Finland, and the Phillips' brothers all won their matches by decision.

The junior varsity squad will be back in action Saturday as they travel to Bolles High School in Jacksonville, Fla. for a meet. The varsity squad will go to LaGrange for a four-team meet with LaGrange, Norcross and Roswell. Both teams will be back home for a match with the Lowrides Vikings on Tuesday.

Five Wildcat Wrestlers Place In Swede Umback Invitational

From Staff Reports

AUBURN, Ala. — Five Valdosta High School wrestling Wildcats placed in this past weekend's Swede Umback Invitational meet. There were over 20 teams from Georgia, Alabama and Florida competing.

Taking second for Valdosta, which placed fifth as a team, was Steven Peterman in the 119-pound weight division.

Third place finishers were Jason Finland (135), Chuck Bonner (140), Maurice Dean (152) and Ryan Moorman (160).

Taking the only first place for VHS at the meet were the 'Mat Girls' in the cheerleading competition.

VHS will wrestle next this weekend in the Hardaway Invitational Friday and Saturday in Columbus.

Roberts Finds Moccasins Fit

V. Times 1-20-89

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High Wildcat senior running back James Roberts became the third athlete from the school to commit to the college of his choice when he verbally agreed to play for the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Moccasins.

According to Roberts, the type of situation at the NCAA Division I-AA school was one that suited him best.

"It was just a good situation all the way around," he said. "They accepted me and told me that I would see a lot of playing time early. And that had a lot to do with my decision."

As all high school athletes, Roberts must now wait until the national high school signing date of Feb. 8, the date set aside by the NCAA for high school football players to officially sign with the school of their choice.

Roberts was very complimentary concerning the Mocs football program and stated that he was looking forward to his new challenge.

"When they were recruiting me they talked about every area of the football team and the role that I would play," said Roberts. "The

running back coach informed me that I would fit into the system. They thought that I could fill any running back spot on the team. It was an upfront talk."

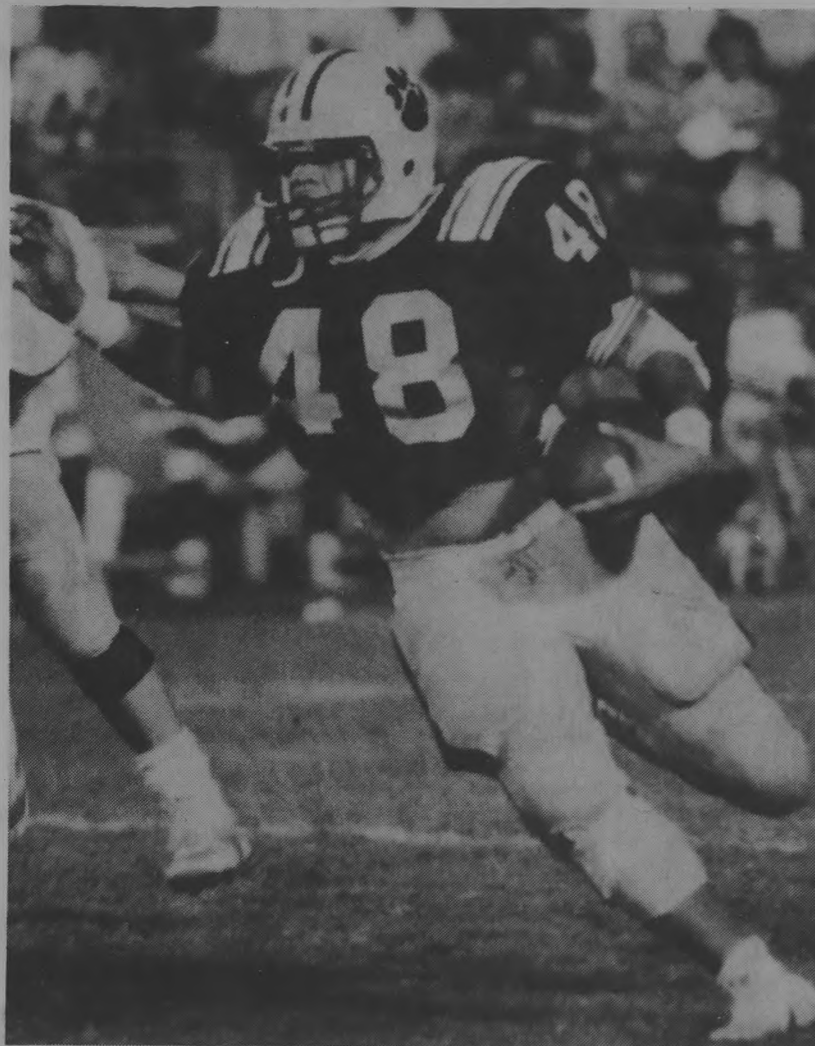
Valdosta High running back coach Mike O' Brien was quick to point out that Roberts would be a fine asset to the Tennessee-Chattanooga football program.

"I think he is a tremendous athlete with a lot of skills," said O' Brien. "As a running back, he has all the tools. James combines power with outstanding speed. In fact, he was the most complete running back I ever had the chance to coach."

"James' biggest strong point is that he is a very coachable young man. He always worked hard on and off the football field and did what was asked of him. James was as fine a high school back as one will ever see."

Roberts attributed his high school background along with the fine coaching he received as a big factor in his recruiting.

"We were always noticed in high school football and that helped out a lot," said Roberts. "Playing at Valdosta High School and receiving the coaching I did was a major boost for me in my favor. This is a big start for me, and my family has been behind me all the way. I'm looking forward to carrying the ball for the Moccasins."



Valdosta Wildcat running back James Roberts verbally committed to play football for the Tennessee-Chattanooga Moccasins Wednesday night. Tennessee-Chattanooga is a Division I-AA football member — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy.

VDT. Wed. Jan. 11, 1989

Rudolph Decides To Attend Georgia Tech

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Valdosta High senior defensive end Coleman Rudolph announced to *The Valdosta Daily Times* Tuesday that he has verbally committed to Georgia Tech to play football for head coach Bobby Ross.

Rudolph, a 6-3, 220-pounder, is a two-time member of *The Valdosta Times* All -Area team. This past season Rudolph was voted the All-Area Defensive Player of the Year. Rudolph was also named to the Region 1-AAAA South first-team defense. As the Wildcats' defensive captain, Rudolph averaged approximately nine tackles per game and recorded 20 quarterback sacks.

"I decided this past Wednesday that this was where I wanted to go," Rudolph said Tuesday night. "I'm looking forward to it."

With his decision, Rudolph will be following in the footsteps of his father, Jack Rudolph, who played for the Yellow Jackets from 1957 through 1959 before going on to a career in professional football.

Rudolph's brother Russ was also a part of the Georgia Tech team. Brother Russ was a team manager from 1986 through 1987.

"My dad had told me all along that this would be my decision to make and it was," said Rudolph.

"Actually my brother was the one who influenced me the most. He kept telling me how Georgia Tech was a great school, that this was the greatest place to go, and how much I would enjoy it."

"Coleman had his choice of several schools. He is an excellent student-athlete. He has worked his way up through junior high school. He also played YMCA ball and eventually worked his way up through the 'Cat system," Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder said. "Coleman comes from a wonderful family. He has had wonderful support all throughout his life and is a very gifted athlete."

According to Rudolph, the Yellow Jacket coaches said that they will try him at outside linebacker. This suits Rudolph just fine.

"In reality, this will be the same position that I played during high school," said Rudolph, who played right defensive end. "It's the same thing. Only the name is different."

Hyder said Rudolph should have no problem adjusting to the Yellow Jackets' system.

"He could be an excellent basketball player and is also a good golfer. He has a lot of athletic ability and is the type of individual who would make any college a fine football player," Hyder said. "I'm sure he will help Georgia Tech with their resurgence."



Valdosta Wildcat senior Coleman Rudolph decided to attend Georgia Tech to continue his football career. — Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

'Cats Post Easy Win Over Vikings

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

During halftime of the girls' game in the Lowndes-Valdosta gymnasium went out for almost eight minutes. Little did fans know that would be an indicator of things to come as the VHS Wildcats took to the court and were nearly unstoppable in the first half as they trounced the Lowndes Vikings 72-51.

The Wildcats went on a 10-2 run to open up the game and never looked back as their transition offense ran the Vikings up and down the court and into defeat. VHS head man John Miller said his squad's hot shooting makes up for their past few performances.

"We were hot and with the way we played at Suwannee Saturday night, we figured the law of averages was bound to catch up with us," Miller said. "We got a lot of good shooting tonight and we feel very fortunate to beat a team that is as fine as Lowndes High School."

The Wildcats' fast break caught the Vikings off guard early in the game and they were consistent in hitting the long-range shots. Early three-pointers by Eric McCoy and jump shots by Jason King made Lowndes change their offense. LHS head man Terry Wilkes said his team was out of sync in the first half and they could never get into their own groove.

"The game went at a quicker tempo than we would've liked," Wilkes said. "Some of our guys were shooting rainbow three-pointers to catch up with them when they got hot early. I don't have a three-point shooter in my starting five and that's not what we do best."

With 6-10 center Marvin Lucas and 6-2 forward Israel Brown, it looked as if the Vikings would have the advantage under boards. But the Wildcats' Ubie Brantley and King snared rebound after rebound and continually sank shots from inside

the lane. Miller said Brantley's performance has been a pleasant surprise to him and the team.

"Brantley is a great asset to this team. Although this his senior year, it is his first year on the team. To show how smart I am, I cut him his junior year," Miller said.

After continuing their souped-up offense in the second quarter, the VHS lead ballooned to 41-19. In the second half, Wilkes tried several combinations, including a host of three-point shooters, to get his team going. But nothing was successful.

Brown, who averaged 24 points per game before Tuesday night's game, was held to only 14 points on the night and only two in the first half. He was decoyed all evening by McCoy and the strategy worked for the Wildcats. Wilkes said VHS's ability to slow down Brown put the scoring load on the rest of his team.

"They pretty much shut Israel down in the first half and the others on our team didn't respond. I hope that does not indicate that we are a one-man team," Wilkes said.

Miller praised McCoy for his defensive work on Brown and that is what he thought it would take to beat Lowndes.

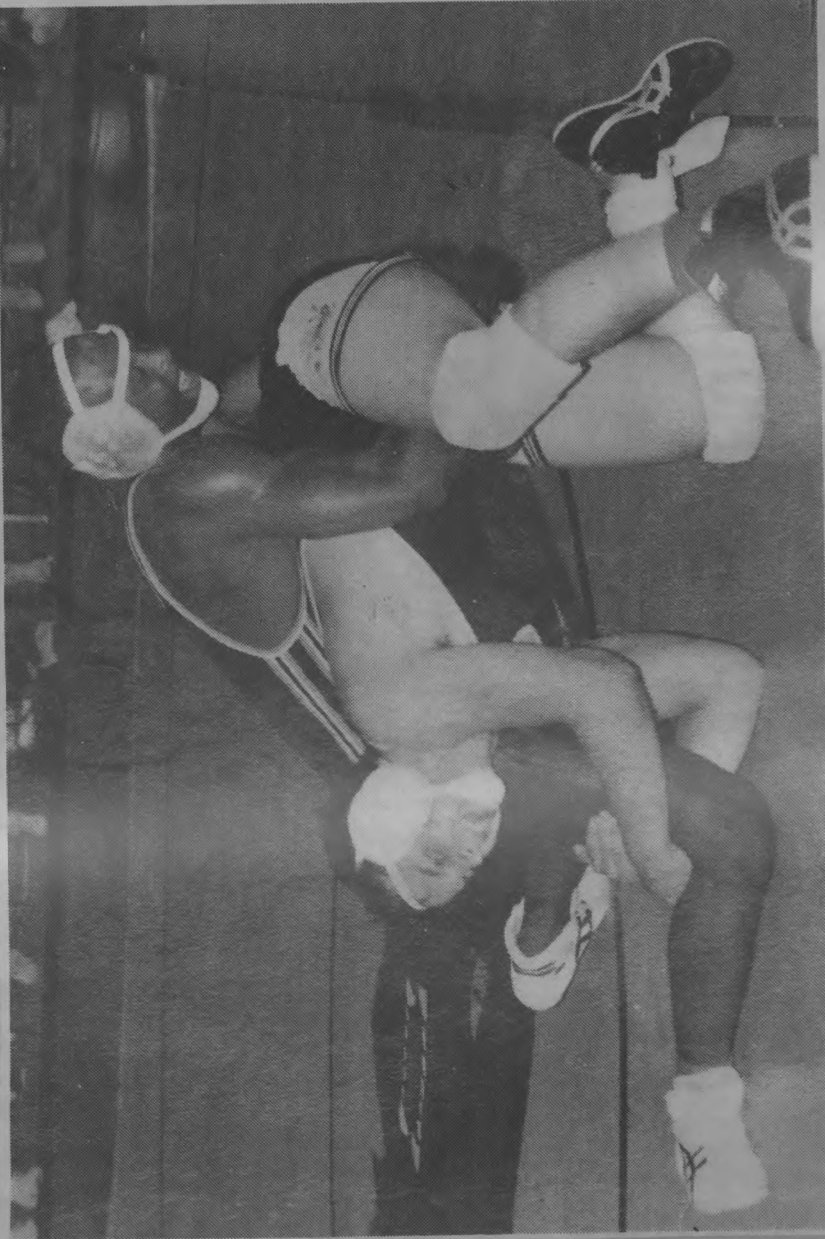
"Eric did a great job fronting Israel Brown tonight. I don't think anyone can stop him, but at least we slowed him down to 14 points," Miller said.

The victory raised Valdosta's record to 7-5 while Lowndes drops to 7-3. Both teams will be back in action this weekend as Lowndes hosts Bainbridge in another Region 1-AAAA contest. Saturday, the Wildcats travel to Staturville to battle the Echols County Wildcats.

LOWNDES (51)— Roger Thomas 4, Daron Williams 6, Marvin Lucas 9, Israel Brown 14, Leon Williams 6, Eric Peeler 0, William Sims 7, Immanuel Kirkland 2, Ollie Daniels 3, Shannon Booker, Jeffrey Thomas 0.
VALDOSTA (22)— Jason King 16, Eric McCoy 13, Spencer Iverson 12, Vincent Williams 4, Ubie Brantley 15, James Manning 6, Michael Moore 0, Jerry Robinson 4, Darryl Robertson 2, Chris Hart.
Lowndes 8 11 20 12—51
Valdosta 20 21 14 17 72



Valdosta's Jason King puts up a shot Tuesday night in the Wildcats' win over Lowndes. — Times Staff Photo by Jason Wade



Valdosta High School Wildcat wrestler Derrick Phillips tries to put Cook's Hank Pitts in pinning position. Phillips went on to score a 9-5 decision over Pitts, while VHS defeated

Couples Leads Hope Classic

The Associated Press

PALM DESERT, Calif. — Fred Couples shot a 7-under-par 65 Wednesday to take first-round lead in the five-day Bob Hope Classic.

Couples made nine birdies in his round at Indian Wells, the shortest and easiest of the four desert resort courses used for the first 72 holes of the 90-hole event.

The format calls for the 128 pros to play one round on each of the courses, each with a different team of three amateurs, before the field is cut for the pros-only finish at Bermuda Dunes on Sunday.

"I think we got a break playing Indian Wells today. With the mountains around, it probably was a little more sheltered than the others," he said. "It was chilly and windy — but

nothing ridiculous."

The scores seemed to support his observation.

Jim Gallagher, Brad Bryant and Peter Jacobsen, the other first-round pace-setters, all played at the 6,478-yard Indian Wells course.

Gallagher birdied four of his last five holes for a 66, while Bryant and Jacobsen shot 67s.

About half the large group at 68 also played at Indian Wells. They included Tom Kite, Lanny Wadkins, Tommy Armour III, Jim Beneppe and Wayne Levi.

Tim Simpson, Bob Lohr, Gary Koch, David Ogrin, Kenny Knox and Jay Don Blake, all at Bermuda Dunes, also had 68s.

Masters champion Sandy Lyle of Scotland had a 70 at PGA West, matching the best score of the day

Cook 42-25 in wrestling action Wednesday night — Times Staff Photo By deRon Coppage.

VDT. Thurs. Jan 12, 1989

Couples Leads Hope Classic

at that course. Kenny Perry, with a 70, was the best at Eldorado.

Defending champion Jay Haas — who played with the host, former President Gerald Ford and former House Speaker Tip O'Neill as his amateur partners — could do no better than a 74 at Indian Wells, where the bulk of the gallery gathered to watch the celebrity amateurs.

Arnold Palmer, a five-time winner of this title, had a 73 at Indian Wells.

The long-hitting Couples said he used a new set of irons in competition for the first time "and played really well with them."

He needed only a 6-iron and 8-iron for second shots on two of the par-5 holes and birdied them both, and made three birdie putts from 20 feet or longer.

Wildcats Surge Past Hornets

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

According to both Cook High School head wrestling coach Barry Davis and Valdosta High School head wrestling coach John Davis, the middle weight classifications would tell the story when the two teams collided. They did just that.

The VHS wrestling Wildcats captured victories in five of the middle seven weight divisions on their way to defeating the visiting Hornets 42-25 in the VHS gymnasium Wednesday night. The win improves Valdosta's record to 7-1, while Cook falls to 7-4 in mat action.

In earlier action, VHS' junior varsity defeated Cook 24-18.

"It's something when you can come away a winner against a fine wrestling team like Cook," said John Davis. "Cook is always tough to beat and tonight was no exception. I'm really pleased about this victory. Our kids worked very hard."

"Valdosta was simply stronger in the upper weight classifications, and I felt that the middle rounds were going to determine the winner," said Barry Davis. "From the 130-pound class to the 152-pound class, they were the absolute big matches. John had his team prepared and I can't take anything away from them. They wrestled a great match."

Valdosta's Nick Gonis pinned Cook's Mike Metters at the 1:34 mark of the second period to give his team an early 6-0 lead. Valdosta's lead went up to 12-0, when Ashley Fann pinned Cook's Willie Keeley with 37 seconds left in the opening period.

Cook's defending state champion Andrell Durden put his team on the board with three points as he defeated Valdosta's Steven Petermann in a decision 6-2.

Cook's Will Smith drew rave

reviews from his coach as he pinned Valdosta's Jim Garber with 19 seconds left in the third period.

"Will stepped in and did an outstanding job for us tonight," said Barry Davis. "He came through with a much-needed six points."

After the opening five matches of the night, Cook held a slim 13-12 advantage, as the Hornets' Slade Ensley scored a 11-3 decision over Justin Bridges. But two matches later, the Wildcats stormed back to take a commanding 21-13 on a second period pin by VHS' Jason Finland of Alan O'Quinn and a 11-7 decision by VHS' Chuck Bonner over Bret Bishop.

Jason Bryan's first period pin of VHS' John Ramey cut the Valdosta lead to just two points, 21-19. But for Cook, it would be one of only two matches it would capture down the stretch.

Maurice Dean and Ryan Moorman each pinned their men to give VHS a 33-19 lead. Dean pinned Tim Sellers at the 26-second mark of the second period, while Moorman scored a 1:14 first-period pin of Cook's Ken Register.

VHS' Eric Phillips then received a forfeit by Cook. Derrick Phillips put VHS on top for good at 42-19, with a 9-5 decision of Hank Pitts.

Cook heavyweight Eric Postell scored a 55-second second-period pin of Will Hancock to close out the match.

Both Cook and Valdosta will next travel to Auburn, Ala., to take part in an Invitational Tournament Friday and Saturday, Jan. 13-14. Cook then takes on Lowndes High at Lowndes Tuesday, Jan. 17, while VHS travels to Suwannee, Fla.

(Cook at Valdosta)
103 — Gonis (VAL) pin Metters, 1:12 — Fann (VAL) pin Keeley, 1:19 — Durden (COOK) dec. over Petermann, 12:5 — Smith (COOK) pin Garber, (VAL) pin O'Quinn, dec. over Bridges, 1:35 — Finland (VAL) pin O'Quinn, 1:40 — Bonner (VAL) dec. over Bishop, 1:45 — Bryan (COOK) pin Ramey, 1:52 — Dean (VAL) pin Sellers, 1:49 — Moorman (VAL) Register, 1:17 — Phillips (VAL) forfeit, 1:59 — D. Phillips (VAL) dec. over Pitts. HW. — Postell (COOK) pin Hancock.

Wildcats Take Two

At Meet

VDT. Sun., Jan. 29, 1989
From Staff Report

LaGRANGE — The Valdosta High wrestling Wildcats almost picked up three wins Saturday in a four-way meet here Saturday. But, that was almost.

After beating LaGrange (57-12) and Norcross (48-17), the Cats took on the fourth team in the meet, Roswell, and lost 34-32.

Valdosta trailed Roswell 22-0 before rallying and taking a short-lived 32-28 lead that was then lost on the heavyweight decision.

Still, VHS coach John Davis was pleased with the effort. "I was real pleased with the kids going up there and wrestling against kids they haven't seen before," he said. "We didn't have three starters and the junior varsity kids filled in well. Jason Griffin and Chris Thigpen won two matches and Duncan Harden and Steve Smith filled in at heavyweight. Overall, I felt real good."

Starring for the 'Cats, 11-2, was Chuck Bonner in the 140-pound weight class with three pins, one being the quickest of the meet at 47 seconds against a LaGrange opponent. Eric Phillips (171) and Jason Finland (135) also won three matches.

Against LaGrange, Nick Gonis (103), Finland and Bonner won on pins while Thigpen (119), Jim Garber (125), John Ramey (145), Maurice Dean (152), Eric Phillips, Derrick Phillips (189) and Harden won on decisions.

In the match against Norcross, Bonner and Ramey pinned their opponents. Ashley Fann (112), Thigpen, Garber, Justin Bridges (130), Finland, Dean, Griffin (160) and Eric Phillips won by decision.

Bridges won his match against Roswell on superior decision and started the VHS comeback. Finland and Bonner pinned their foes, Dean, Griffin and Eric Phillips won by decisions and Derrick Phillips by a pin.

Valdosta will end the regular season with a dual match at Valdosta starting at 7 p.m. Davis looks for a tough ending.

"It's going to be tough. Coach Newman Sanchez has done a great job getting his team ready," said Davis. "It could go either way."

Improved Valdosta To Battle Lowndes

Tip-off Scheduled

For 6 p.m. At VHS Gym

V. Times 1-10-89

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High gymnasium will come alive tonight as the Wildcats and Lady 'Cats host their cross-town rivals, the Lowndes High Vikings and Vikettes. Tip-off is set for 6 p.m.

The Wildcats are a much-improved team this season with a 6-5 record while the Valdosta girls have a 7-1 record. The Vikings have collected seven wins against only two losses. The Vikettes are 2-6.

Last year's matchups between the two boys' teams proved to be easy victories for the Vikings. But this year, VHS head coach John Miller hopes things will be a little closer.

"Lowndes has a fine team and are one of the teams to beat in the subregion along with Bainbridge. We hope we can be competitive with them and get off to a good start," Miller said. "We'd like to keep it close until the end because during the last few games, we've lost a couple late in the game. Maybe we're due one."

Viking head coach Terry Wilkes has seen his team beat everyone that they have matched up against except for the Berrien County Rebels who have defeated them twice. He said that the Wildcats match up with his team very well and the game could go either way.

"From watching them play on film, they are every bit as good as we are. We are two evenly matched teams and I think the home court may give them the edge," Wilkes said. "It should be a whale of a game."

Valdosta has been led by forward Jason King and guard Spencer Iverson who lead the team in scoring. Miller has started several

different players throughout the season and had not decided on his starting lineup.

The Vikings have been led all season by senior forward Israel Brown. Brown averages 24 points per game and is also the team's leading rebounder. Wilkes said his Brown's performance this season has not come as any surprise.

"Israel is always there when we need him, especially in the fourth quarter. Coming into the year, he was the only player that we knew we could count on," Wilkes said.

The rest of the Viking starting lineup includes Eric Peeler at point guard, Roger Thomas at guard, Leon Williams at forward and Marvin Lucas at center.

The girls' matchup pits the inside game of the Lady 'Cats against the balanced attack of the Vikettes. VHS head coach Susan Montgomery said her team must be mentally prepared for the showdown.

"We've got to be ready because it's definitely a big game for us," Montgomery said. "We're going to approach it the same as any other game. We've got a very definite shot at coming out on top. But we need to get into our groove and play our kind of game."

Vikette head coach Elinor Goode has yet to see her team get on track as they are below 500 for the season. She believes the fact that her team is facing their rival Lady 'Cats will be incentive enough to play a big game.

"I think just playing against Valdosta will be a motivator in itself. I've seen their team improve a lot and we've got to play better and reduce our turnovers," Goode said. "If we can do that, we'll be in the game."



Valdosta's Jason King (24) will be a very important part of the Wildcats' attack tonight against cross-town rival

VHS Girls, Brooks Boys Win In Classic

V. Times 1-26-89

From Staff Reports

Four more games were held Wednesday at the Valdosta High School gymnasium as part of the Coca Cola Classic. The round-robin tournament will last through the week with finals to be held all day Saturday.

In the first game, the Colquitt County eighth-grade girls team defeated the Valdosta Junior High seventh-grade girls 36-16. Lakeisha Wiley scored 12 points to lead Colquitt while Kisha Thomas had 6 for VJHS.

The Georgia Christian eighth-grade boys team won their game against the VJHS seventh-grade boys by the score of 34-28. Grant Sayers led the Generals' attack with 19 points while Tony McKenny had 9 points and Robert Randolph 6 for VJHS.

In the ninth-grade girls game, VHS rolled over the Brooks County girls 46-6. Esther Benjamin led the onslaught with 28 points while Natasha Johnson added 10 for the Lady 'Cats. However, Brooks County got their revenge in the ninth-grade boys

game as they defeated the Valdosta Wildcats 44-40. Terry Stewart led the Trojans with 13 points and Bryan Gregory had 11. Tharon Lane led Valdosta with 12 points and Billy Stienberg had 8.

Today's action includes an eighth-grade girls matchup between Cook High and VJHS at 4 p.m. At 5:10, the VJHS boys will take on the Coffee eighth-graders. The Lowndes' ninth-grade girls will face the Hamilton girls at 6:20 while the Hamilton ninth-grade boys team meets the Lowndes ninth-graders at 7:30.

Valdosta Awaiting Meet

Meet

WDT, Fri, Jan. 13, 1989

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Fresh off their impressive wrestling victory over the Cook High Hornets, the Valdosta High School Wildcat wrestling squad faces its toughest challenge to date when they travel to Auburn, Ala. to participate in the 1989 Sweet Umbak Classic this Friday and Saturday.

Valdosta head coach John Davis feels that the competition level of this tournament can only help his team.

"Some of the finest wrestlers around will be at this meet in Alabama, and it will be a big test for our kids as well as myself coaching wrestling," said Davis. "From top to bottom, there will be nothing but tough, hard wrestling taking place. There will be teams such as La-Grange, Troup, Cook and Dublin represented. It will serve as a good indicator of how far we have come and where we need to go."

Opening matches will take place at Auburn High School at 6 p.m. (CST) Friday and resume at 9 a.m. Saturday morning. The finals on Saturday will begin at 7 p.m.

The Wildcats, 7-1 on the year, defeated Cook High 42-25 Wednesday night at Valdosta High School. But according to Davis, the victory over Cook can work against his team if they are not careful.

"In a tournament such as this one, you have to be at your best, which I think that we are wrestling right now," said Davis. "But it can also work against you from a mental standpoint of getting the kids up for another match. I think that tournaments are so much different than any single meet that the kids might experience because it as a more one-on-one basis than a tournament."

Davis is hoping that his team will be able to use this tournament to their advantage as they head into the Region I-AAAA wrestling schedule.

Davis' wrestling lineup for the Umbach Classic will include Nick Gonis at 103 pounds, Ashley Fann (112), Steven Petermann (119), Jim Garber (125), Justin Bridges (130), Jason Finland (135), Chuck Bonner (140), John Ramey (145), Maurice Dean (152), Ryan Moorman (160), Eric Phillips (171), Derrick Phillips (189) and at heavyweight Will Hancock.

Prep Wrestling Makes Strange Bedfellows

By RON EVANS
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High wrestling coach John Davis may have a peculiar way of training his grapplers but it works, nonetheless.

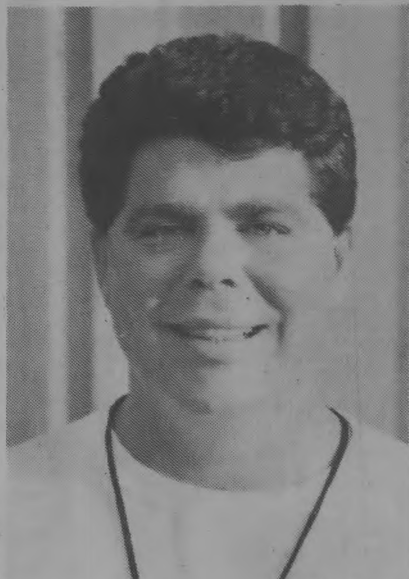
Valdosta will host five other teams — Lowndes, Cook County, Bolles of Jacksonville, Fla., and Atlanta-area schools Sprayberry and McEachern — in a meet this Saturday beginning at 11 a.m.

The Wildcats (4-0) will also serve as hosts to wrestlers from Sprayberry for a night. "The kids spend the night with one another. When we go up there like last year we spent the night with their team," said Davis. "It gives the kids a chance to get to know one another."

Besides the close confines of the respective homes, the wrestlers will get some intimate contact as Valdosta will take on Sprayberry, Bolles and McEachern. Cook County, the defending state Class AA champions, will tangle with Sprayberry and McEachern. And Lowndes (4-1) will wrestle Sprayberry.

"There should be some great competition at the meet," said Davis. "The Atlanta teams always have great technique. This will also give us a good idea what to expect at state."

McEachern will serve as host for the state meet set for Feb. 10 and 11.



JOHN DAVIS

The Wildcats will host the Area meet on Feb. 3 and 4.

For Valdosta, top wrestlers to watch for will be Steven Peterman, who wrestles at the 119-pound weight, Jason Bridges (130), Jason Finland (135), Maurice Dean (152) and Ryan Moorman (160).

From Lowndes, Lee Hendricks (130) and Bobby Bramlett (153) will be in the hunt as will Cook County defending state champion Andrell Durden (119) and Frank Pitts (190).

V. Times 1-20-89
LHS, VHS

Facing Battles

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

According to the basketball coaches at both Valdosta and Lowndes High Schools, tonight's Region 1-AAAA South subregion battles should serve as big indicators in their team's progress towards a possible playoff berth at the end of the regular season.

Both schools are hitting the road as the Lowndes High Vikings and Vikettes will be at Tift County and the Wildcats and Lady 'Cats of Valdosta will square off against the subregion's best in Bainbridge.

Viking head coach Terry Wilkes' 8-5 Vikings are expecting a complete full-court game against the Blue Devils.

According to Wilkes, the Blue Devils rely on strong defensive pressure to open up their offense.

"After talking with other coaches around the area concerning Tift County they all tell me that Tift County likes to pressure you up and down the court. The Blue Devils like to let their defense set up their offense," said Wilkes. "That will be the big question for us. How we handle the Blue Devils' pressure will be the key for us."

Wilkes reported that he anticipates a starting lineup change due to the illness of forward Roger Thomas.

Leon Williams will replace Thomas in the starting five, along with center Marvin Lucas, forward Israel Brown and a backcourt composed of point guard Eric Peeler and Daron Williams.

Vikette head coach Elinor Goode is hoping for simple execution against the Lady Devils. According to Goode, her 4-8 Vikettes and the Lady Devils are two teams facing some of the same odds.

"We have to play well despite Tift's record," said Goode. "I think when a team such as Tift County has nothing to lose and everything to gain, it makes things very tough. In fact, we are for the most part in the same situation. Executing our game plan and, by the same token, keeping the other team a little off track is important for us."

Goode's probable starting lineup will include guards Julie Eason and Catina Brown, center Lori Culpepper and forwards Winiferd Brown and Latonia Thomas.

For Valdosta head coach Susan Montgomery, this will be the second and final meeting with the Lady Bearcats. Her 7-3 Lady 'Cats defeated Bainbridge earlier this season by one point at VHS and a repeat performance is what she is hoping for.

"It's always tough to beat a team a second time around, and I'm sure that Bainbridge has improved quite a bit since we first played," said Montgomery. "What concerns me the most going into the game with Bainbridge has been our play of late. We simply have not been playing good lately."

"We must control the tempo from the opening tip," she said. "A big key, and has been all year, is we must play our game from start to finish."

Montgomery's probable lineup will be center Cassandra Twine, forwards Swandolyn Phillips and Laura Dennis and guards Sissy Anderson and Ashley Schleusner.

Wildcat head coach John Miller sees the Bainbridge game as a large stepping stone for his young team.

"Bainbridge is playing super right now, and this game is a big contest for our team in all aspects. It's a big challenge for our team, no question," he said. "To me, this game can also be a huge confidence builder as well. We have played all season and beaten some good teams, although our record is 7-6. We need to just play within ourself and play as hard as we possibly can."

The Wildcats' probable lineup will include guards Jason King and Brad Sullins, center Michael Moore and forwards Vincent Williams and James Manning.

Lowndes coaches Wilkes and Goode are trying not to put too much emphasis into playing on the road, while Valdosta's Miller and Montgomery feel that playing on the road has its disadvantages.

"It's a big game and it's on the road, but that's about it," said Wilkes. "We have to stay focused on the game and not where we are playing. Five out of next seven games are on the road, so we can't let that intimidate us."

"The fact that it is a subregion game is all we need to be concerned about," said Goode. "Where we play should not matter."

"Playing on the road is always extra tough mentally on your team," said Miller. "You have to adjust your game to the situation really."

"Playing out of town is different, but you just have to adjust," said Montgomery. "If you want to make the playoffs you must win anywhere."

In other local games of interest tonight: Clinch County hosts Atkinson County, Georgia Christian hosts Terrell Academy, Open Bible is at Valwood, Brooks County travels to Colquitt County and Berrien County travels to Adel to play Cook High.

V. Times 1-24-89

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Valdosta High wrestling coach John Davis knows little about tonight's opponent Lincoln Talahassee. But he does know his team must continue to get better if they are to be ready for the upcoming area tournament.

This afternoon's duel-meet will get underway in Talahassee at 6 p.m.

"I don't know a whole lot about Lincoln other than they wrestled

Lowndes," Davis said. "Lowndes beat them but I understand they did make several changes since then and have been getting stronger as a team."

Valdosta, which sports a 7-1 season mark, will be taking its junior varsity as well as the varsity team.

"We've been going strong

every week and every weekend for about a month now," Davis said. "But that's important. I'm hoping this recent competition will help us become a little tougher come tournament time. Hopefully it will give us a good idea of what tournament competition is like."

The tournaments Davis is referring to is the area tournament which will take place Feb. 3-4, at the Valdosta High gym. The other is the state tournament will be held the following weekend at McEachern High School in Powder Springs.



DAVIS

Last weekend, Davis' squad made an impressive showing in the Hardaway Wrestling Tournament in Columbus, finishing fourth out of 23 teams.

"We had a good tournament over in Columbus. The Hardaway coach always does a fine job," Davis said. "We went in feeling if we could place in the top five that we would have done a good job, and we did."

Davis only has one senior, Ashley Fann, on this year's team and he attributes his team's success to its strong desire to work hard.

"They have each done a great job," Davis said. "Ashley has shown a lot of leadership but some of the others have stepped forward too and took it upon themselves to show some. They make my job a lot easier. We took a team concept attitude at the beginning of the season and it has kept us going so far."

Wrestling tonight for Valdosta will be Nick Gonis, Fann, Steve Petermann, Jim Garber, Justin Bridges, Jason Finland, Chuck Bonner, John Ramey, Maurice Dean, Ryan Moorman, Eric Phillips, Derrick Phillips and Will Hancock.

'Cats, Vikings On The Road Again

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Hyder's Mom Dies
V. Times 1-20-89

From Staff Reports

Mrs. Nema Kennedy Hyder, the mother of Valdosta High School head football coach Nick Hyder died Tuesday at South Georgia Medical Center at the age of 77.

She was a native of Vonoro, Tennessee and had been residing in Knoxville, Tennessee before moving to Valdosta nine months earlier.

A memorial service will be held Sunday at 4 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Valdosta, with Rev. Mac Weaver officiating.

Some basketball fans say that there is no such thing as a home court advantage. But the Lowndes High Vikings and the Valdosta High Wildcats would disagree. The Wildcats are 3-5 on the road while the Vikings are 2-2 away from home.

But those teams will have a chance to make up some ground tonight when the Wildcats travel to Colquitt County Packers while the Moultrie for a match with the Vikings go to Douglas to face the Coffee County Trojans. Tip-off for both teams is set for 6 p.m.

In other area games, Georgia Christian will host Brookwood Academy of Thomasville, Clinch County will host Charlton Co., Lanier County will travel to Berrien County, Hamilton County hosts Lincoln High School and the Westbrook Cougars of Dixie will be at Valwood.

A win by the Wildcats and Lady Wildcats in Moultrie would be a big boost towards a higher seed in the post-season tournament. Valdosta's boys are currently 7-7 with a 2-3 mark in the subregion. The Lady

"Right now in the subregion, everyone is playing for that tournament seed. We're in the midst of playing a lot of games on the road and Colquitt County will be a tough game for us. But if we can play a game up to our capabilities, we should be all right."

John Miller
Valdosta High Head Basketball Coach

Cats are also 2-3 in the subregion and are 7-4 overall.

With the exception of undefeated and third-ranked team in Class-AAAA Bainbridge Bearcats, the rest of the boys' subregion teams are almost even. VHS head coach John Miller said that makes the game in Moultrie extremely important.

"Right now in the subregion, everyone is playing for that tournament seed. We're in the midst of playing a lot of games on the road and Colquitt County will be a tough game for us," Miller said. "But if we can play a game up to our capabilities, we should be all right."

The Packers are led by senior guard Tony Williams, senior point

guard Adolph Stokes and senior forward Drew Salter. The Pack is currently 8-6 overall and 4-4 in subregion action.

The Lady Packers are 10-6 overall and their subregion record is 6-2. One of those wins came over the Lady 'Cats earlier in the season. Guard April Williams and forward Veronica Freeman do most of the damage for the Lady Packers who like to run the fast break.

The Lowndes Vikings' win over the Tift County Blue Devils last Friday night broke a string of subregion losses that looked to have Terry Wilkes' dk

was a win over subregion opponent Tift County High. Lowndes head coach Terry Wilkes hopes his team can keep its winning streak alive.

"We played Coffee earlier in the season but they looked a little rusty. But we haven't heard anything from them lately," Wilkes said. "They had some good athletes and I'm sure that they are much improved. I just hope that we are too. This is the first time that we've ever played over there."

While the Vikings have been winning, Elinor Goode's Vickette squad has found the going a bit tougher for them. They became the only team to lose to the Lady Blue Devils of Tift County last Friday night. A win against the Lady Trojans would help get her team going on the right track going into the last couple of weeks of the season.

"We've been playing up and down and we've got to be more up. We're capable of playing better than we have been but we have to be more consistent," Goode said. "Coffee has a good team with some strong inside players and some good outside shooters. We just need a consistent ball game and score whenever we can."

Last-Second Shot V. Times 1-28-89 Dooms Cats In OT

From Staff Reports

DOUGLAS — The Valdosta Wildcats were unable to cash in on a last-second shot as the Coffee High Trojans edged past the 'Cats 60-58 in the Region 1-AAAA South subregion overtime thriller here Friday night.

The Coffee High Lady Trojans defeated the Lady 'Cats of Valdosta High 54-43 in the girls' contest. Jason King led all Wildcat scorers with 18 points. Spencer Iverson added 12 points as did James Manning.

Center Cassandra Twine scored 16 points to lead the Lady 'Cats, while teammate Ashley Schleusner added 10 more for Valdosta.

With the Wildcats clinging to a two-point lead late in the fourth period, the Trojans were sent to the foul line with 15 seconds to play in regulation and connected on a one-and-one opportunity.

The Wildcats were unable to get a last-second shot to fall and it was on to overtime.

The Wildcats shot just one free throw in the second half of play to Coffee's 10 attempts.

In overtime, Coffee jumped out to a quick four-point lead, but the Wildcats rallied to come within two at 60-58.

Once again, the Wildcats were unable to make three consecutive last-second shots fall as the Trojans held on for the subregion victory.

In the girls' contest, after Valdosta was down but one point, Coffee was able to convert on a 3-point shot at the end of first half giving the Lady Trojans a four-point halftime lead.

According to Lady 'Cat head coach Susan Montgomery, mental mistakes again cost her team. Valdosta turned the ball over four times in the final two minutes securing the win for the Lady Trojans.

VHS at Coffee Co.
(Boys' Game)

VALDOSTA (58) — King 18, Manning 12, Williams 5, Lynn 5, Brandley 4, Robinson 2

COFFEE (60) — Gardner 16, R. Ingram 12, White 12, Birch 12, Ingram 5, Carter 3

VHS.....16 17 11 12 2-58
CHS.....12 14 20 12 4-60
Records: VHS 7, 9, 2, 5

Next Game: Tuesday, Jan. 31) VHS at Lowndes
(Girls' Game)

VALDOSTA (43) — Twine 16, Schleusner 10, V. Manning 6, L. Dennis 4, Phillips 4, Anderson 3
COFFEE (59) — McClellan 18, Bennett 9, Loft 7, Paige 6, A. Manning 6, Paulk 6, Bussery 2
Records: VHS 7, 6, 2, 5



Lori Culpepper, starting center for the Lowndes collected their share of the rebounds Vickettes, and Tift County's Lisa Patterson go and defeated the Lady Devils, 59-36 — Times up for a rebound during Friday night's game. Staff Photo By Bob Freitag.

Davis Led The Wildkittens

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Over the years, the game of girls' high school basketball has improved due to rule changes, better techniques and the overall higher level of talent in the high school ranks.

This season, the Region 1-AAAA race for the girls' championship has turned into a dogfight with no one team considered a lock. But in the late 1950's and early '60's, the races were not so close. That's because the Valdosta High Wildkittens were one of the most dominant teams around and the architect behind those teams was head coach Bill Davis.

Davis coached basketball at VHS from 1949-70 and stayed on until 1976 as an assistant football coach. During that time, his teams had a high winning percentage and compiled over 350 wins. Along the way, Davis' squads also claimed two state championships in 1957 and 1961.

Davis said that while he hardly gets to see any high school games anymore, he thinks the game has changed tremendously since he stopped coaching.

"When I started coaching, we had three guards on one end of the court and three forwards on the other. It was a divided court and later, they let four players play at one end," Davis said. "They finally went to a full-court game in about 1972 so I never got to coach that style of play."

Davis picked the first state championship year of 1957 as one of his team's finest. He recalls that nearby Hazlehurst was one of his toughest competitors in that day and they defeated the VHS team during the regular season.

"Hazlehurst had a team much like ours that year. We both scored a lot of points and had great offenses. They beat us by 15 in the regular season but we came back in the state playoffs and won by four," Davis said.

Although Davis is no longer a coach, he is still involved with area high schools. He has been a chemistry teacher at Valwood school for 11 years and has been teaching school for the past 40 years. Besides chemistry, Davis has also taught physics and math.

Davis had his share of great players in his day including Evelyn

Wilkes who was a member of the 1961 championship team and an inductee last year to the Lowndes County Hall of Fame. He said that today's game features much better athletes than in the time that he coached.

"I think some of my guards could probably play today but I don't know," Davis said. "It's a lot faster and the young women today are outstanding athletes. Not only are they better athletes, but there are more of them."

Davis said that although he did enjoy some success as the head coach of many VHS girls' squads, things did not always go so easily.

"When I first started, I had some trouble and didn't have a great winning percentage. But then, there was about a 15-year swing that we really got some great athletes," Davis said. "The coach at the junior high school, Martha Jean Grant, did an excellent job of getting good young players into our system."

During his coaching days, Davis also coached under head football coach Wright Bazemore as an assistant coach. He coached offensive and defensive ends until he left the school.



Former Valdosta High girls basketball coach Bill Davis poses with one of the many awards he received during his successful career — Times Photo By Chris Beckham.

Tuned-Up Wildcats Maul The Vikings

VDT., Wed., Feb. 1, 1989

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Valdosta wrestling coach John Davis felt his Wildcats got a strong tune-up for this Saturday's area wrestling tournament. Lowndes coach Newnan Sanchez could only shake his head.

Davis' 'Cats whipped Lowndes 59-9 Tuesday night in the regular-season finale for both team.

"This was a good way to get ready for the area tournament," Davis said. "But the score was a lot closer than it looks. Coach Sanchez has done a heck of a job with his kids."

Sanchez, however, had another point of view.

"We just got humiliated. That's all. We just got beat like a dog. I'm not going to make excuses. What else can I say?" he said. "We've got a couple of kids but.... I'm just very disappointed. But I can't blame the kids. It's as much my fault as it is theirs. We just got out-classed."

The 'Cats started their match off with a bang and never looked back.

Nick Gonis (103) got things rolling when he pinned Ben Austin with 24 seconds to go in the first period. Ashley Fann (112) out-pointed John Griner 14-5 followed by Steve Petermann (119) and Jim Garber (125) who racked up back-to-back pins.

Jason Finland (135) earned a hard-fought 4-0 win over Mark Bagley followed by Chuck Bonner (140) who pinned Rueben Dwyer in the third period.

With Valdosta leading 34-0,

Lowndes' Jimmy Hiers (145) earned the first Viking points of the evening when he pinned John Ramey. Viking Bobby Bramlet followed his teammate's performance up with a 8-1 decision of Maurice Dean.

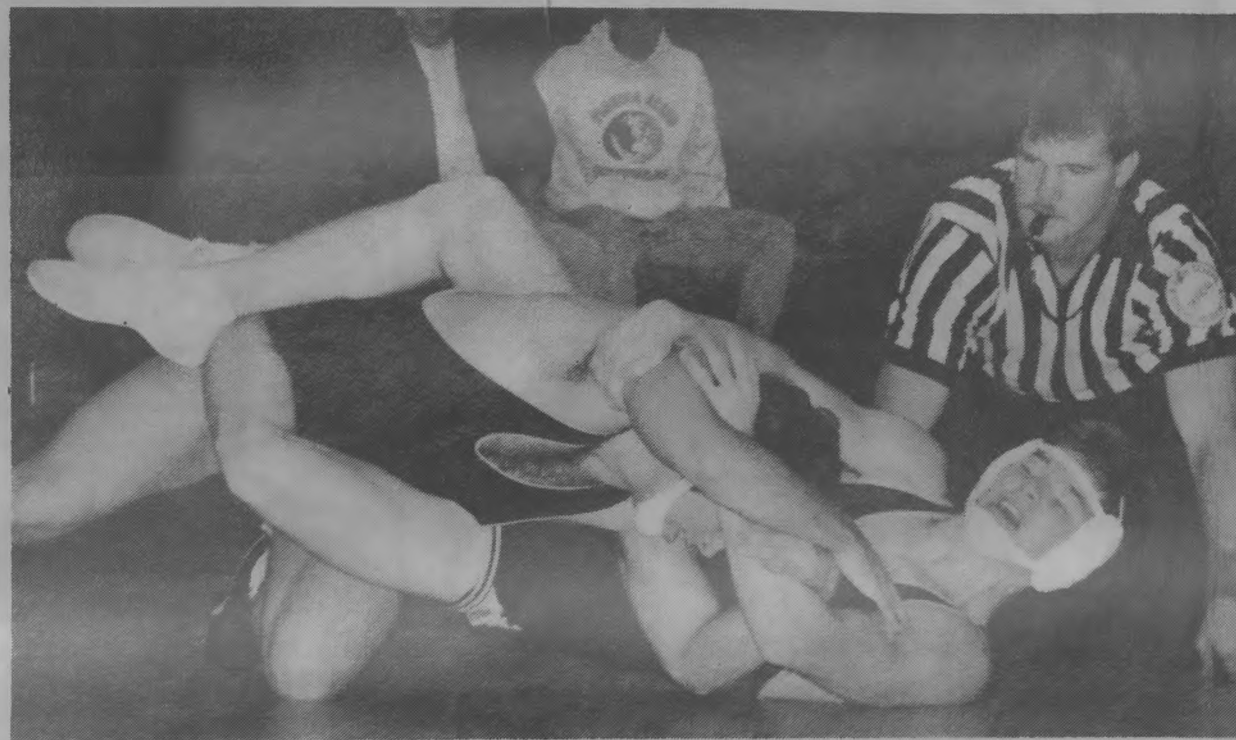
Valdosta's Jason Griffin (160) was awarded a forfeit win. Teammates Eric Phillips (171) pinned Lloyd

Dumas, Derrick Phillips (189) out-pointed Ed Bell 5-0 while Will Hancock pinned Michael Crosby in the first period.

Both Valdosta and Lowndes will now spend the next few days warming up for the area tournament which will be held at the Valdosta High gym beginning at 9 a.m.

Teams participating in the event are Valdosta, Lowndes, Coffee County, Colquitt County, Tift County and Effingham County.

"I'm excited about it all," Davis said. "In a tournament like this, there are usually four or five guys that can bring you points. But I don't think it's going to be a runaway."



The Lowndes High Vikings and the Valdosta High Wildcats took to the mat Tuesday night in high school wrestling action. The Wildcats defeated the Vikings 59-9 in front of a partisan crowd at Valdosta High School gymnasium

Valdosta Girl 'Horses' Around

By MICHAEL MORRISON
Times Staff Writer

Years ago, a comic strip named "Priscilla's Pop" featured a little girl who dreamed of only one thing: She wanted a horse.

One day, through some accident, she acquired one, named him Howard, and kept him in her bedroom... till her pop found out, anyway.

Horses have been the dreams of kids of all ages, since even before the motor car made them merely luxuries.

However, one young Valdosta woman is able to live her dream.

Lea Hemby can drive her motor car north a few miles and climb aboard her very own horse.

"He is a pet, not just an animal I ride," said Miss Hemby of her horse Champ.

"I raised him and trained him since day one."

Champ is a quarter horse paint. Quarter horse is a designation for a breed, Miss Hemby explained, "that was built to go a long time. A Thoroughbred was bred for short fast runs."

Champ, then, is a full-blooded quarter horse with paint markings.

Miss Hemby knows his ancestry because "I owned his mother

Brandy. His father was Wimpy P. I., who belonged to her uncle.

"We definitely have had some bad times," Miss Hemby admitted. "He's got his father's disposition."

Horses have been part of her life since she was five. She has owned about eight or nine horses, and has had access to many others.

Her grandfather, George Fiveash, has a farm in the Hahira area with about a dozen horses pastured in his fields.

The latest member of the herd is Punkin.

Punkin has a sad history. She was one of a couple dozen owned by somebody in Albany who abused and starved them, Miss Hemby said.

They were confiscated by the Humane Society, but three died and three others had to be put down.

Punkin was bought by a woman in north Georgia, from whom she was bought by Miss Hemby's grandfather.

"We're gonna keep her and see how much weight we can put on her. And if she gains enough weight, we're gonna train her for riding," she said.

She has already gained nearly a 100 pounds in the short time since Miss Hemby has had her. She still has troubles, though not with the humans.



Lea Hemby visits with her horse Punkin. — Times Staff Photo By Michael Morrison.

"Champ," whom she has had since the block, and because she is still underweight and nervous, the other horses will kick at and bite her and chase her away.

The forced running, of course, prevents as much weight gain as Miss Hemby would like to see. Miss Hemby is a 17-year-old

student at Valdosta High School. She is planning for college, but has not yet decided when or where to go.

She plans to study law, but "when I was little, I wanted to be a veterinarian."

She got sidetracked, though, because "I can't stand the sight of blood."

She still has not made her final choice of colleges, she said, adding the horses won't have a chance to get lonely: "I'll be home on weekends even if I have to drive hours and hours."

"I feel very fortunate," she said. "I have parents and grandparents who understand what I want in life."

Wildcats' Butler Goes With Dogs

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Carlo Butler, a three-year varsity member at linebacker and strong safety for the Valdosta Wildcats, has verbally committed to play his college football at the University of Georgia. Butler made the decision late Sunday night and becomes the fourth Wildcat this year to agree to play college football.

VHS head coach Nick Hyder said Butler will be a fine addition to the UGA squad.



CARLO BUTLER

"Carlo is a fine athlete and he's a headhunter-type player," Hyder said. "He was also heavily recruited by Auburn and Georgia Tech among several other schools. He's too good of an athlete to pass up. In addition, Carlo does a fine job in the classroom as well as on the football field."

Butler is a 6-3, 205-pounder who started at linebacker during his junior year at VHS before being moved to strong safety this season. He runs the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds and has bench pressed 275 pounds.

He said the decision to continue his career at UGA was a fairly easy one to make.

"I've always liked the Bulldogs and when I visited there, they

impressed me. Coach (Ray) Goff was my recruiter and I got along well with him," Butler said. "I think I will fit in really well up there. They have some open spots and I hope I can get some playing time."

Butler said he had narrowed his choices to all the schools in the Southeastern Conference and South Carolina before choosing Georgia.

He has passed the PSAT and will take the SAT this Saturday. He must score 700 on the test to be eligible to play next season. However, Butler said he is confident that he will pass the test.

The Lindy's Southeastern Recruiting Guide listed Butler among its blue-chip players in Georgia.

Daniels Wills

On The Vikes

Wd. Wed. Feb. 1, 1989

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Lowndes High Viking guard Ollie Daniels proved where there is a will, there is a way. The sharp-shooting guard gave his team a boost when he connected on three 3-point field goals each coming when the game was dead-locked.

In what was the Vikings' final home regular-season appearance, Daniels' 3-point accuracy and the rebounding of senior forward Israel Brown, the Lowndes High Vikings avenged an earlier loss handing cross-town rival Valdosta High School a 62-54 Region 1-AAAA South subregion victory played at Lowndes High gymnasium Tuesday night.

More importantly for the Vikings, with the win they raised their subregion mark to 6-3 on the season and clinched at least a tie for the second place seed in the subregion tournament which is scheduled for Lowndes High later this month.

Leading 38-32 after three periods, the Valdosta High Lady 'Cats held the Lowndes High Vikettes scoreless in the fourth period until the 3:15 mark and went on to post their third subregion win on the season with a 56-42 victory.

Valdosta High's Ubie Brandley (45) and Jason King (24) fight for the rebound against Lowndes High's Marvin Lucas in Tuesday night's South subregion contest at Lowndes High gymnasium. Lowndes won 63-54 — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy



VHS News

Compiled, Written by VHS Students

Wd., Wed., Feb. 1, 1989
Debate Team Wins Region Tournament

By TAMMY CROWE

The Valdosta High School debate team won their subregion tournament Jan. 21, beating teams from Tifton, Coffee County, and Lowndes high schools.

VALDOSTA (54) — Jason King 16, James Manning 11, Vincent Williams 12, Ubie Brandley 6, Spencer Iverson 3, Earnest Lowe 2, Carlo Butler 2, Jerry Robinson 2.

LOWNDES (62) — Israel Brown 22, Ollie Daniels 11, Daron Williams 8, Marvin Lucas 6, Leon Williams 6, Roger Thomas 5, William Sims 4.

Records: VHS 7 10 2 6, LHS 11 6 6 3.

Next Game: (Friday Feb. 3) VHS at TIF Co., LHS at Bainbridge.

VALDOSTA (56) — Cassandra Twine 22, Swadelyn Phillips 12, Vashli Manning 10, Laura Dennis 7, Sissy Anderson 5.

LOWNDES (42) — Lori Culpepper 17, Latonia Thomas 11, Julie Eason 8, Stephanie Hall 4, Calina Brown 2.

Records: VHS 8 6 3 5, LHS 5 11 3 6.

"This was a big win for us not because it was Valdosta, but the kids felt as if they had something to prove as far as the subregion games go," said Viking head coach Terry Wilkes. "We got behind very early in the game, but we came back and settled down pretty good. I knew going into the game that Valdosta was going to make it tough on us and they did. After losing by 21 at their place, this is a relief."

Free throws played the largest of roles in the Vikings' win over the Wildcats. The Vikings hit better than 70 percent (25-of-35) from the line.

"That was to me the biggest stat alone in the game. Lowndes lived at the line and we just cannot guard people when they are at the line," said Wildcat head coach John Miller. "I'm pleased with the effort tonight. Our guys never quit regardless of any situation. We just put them at the line too many times."

Valdosta immediately came out and took control early in the contest with leans as big as 11 points behind the shooting of forward Jason King, King, who scored 16 points to lead all Wildcats, was almost unstoppable in the early going.

The Wildcats held a nine-point, 24-15, advantage with 5:16 remaining before intermission. Then the Vikings began to wake up.

Wilkes' squad began crashing the offensive and defensive boards led by Brown and 6-foot-10 center Marvin Lucas.

Lowndes scored the next 12 points to take a 27-24 halftime lead. According to Wilkes, that was very instrumental in his team's win.

"Our team's mental attitude seemed to change after that run," said Wilkes. "The shooting picked up and we really hit the boards."

Although the game was tied five times, the Vikings never relinquished the lead the rest of the evening.

Valdosta, however, did not back away at any time. VHS center Ubie Brandley, who led his team with eight rebounds, cut the Viking lead to 55-52 under two minutes remaining. But free throws and a slam dunk by Brown in the final minute closed out the contest for the Vikings.

Brown finished as the game's leading scorer with 22 points. Daniels added 11. Brown also grabbed 13 rebounds and guard Daron Williams nine.

VHS forward Vincent Williams scored 12 points and teammate James Manning added 11.

Vikette head coach Elinor Goode found out first hand how important rebounding is in basketball. Susan Montgomery's Lady 'Cats completely outrebounded the Vikettes all night enabling her team to avenge an earlier season loss to the Vikettes.

"We really did everything right tonight. We finally played our game and dictated, for the most part, the tempo of the game," said Montgomery.

Center Cassandra Twine led Valdosta with 22 points and grabbed 14 rebounds. Teammate Swadelyn Phillips was also a terror on the boards with eight rebounds and 12 points scored.

"Valdosta just came to play and we didn't," said Goode. "We had no rebounding and gave up too many second chance opportunities. Both teams applied a lot of pressure, but the difference was that they were able to handle it and we were not."

The Lady 'Cats outscored the Vikettes 12-5 in the second period, making up a 15-10 deficit and took a 22-20 halftime lead.

The Lady 'Cats proceeded to total 34 second-half points, while the Vikettes could only muster 22.

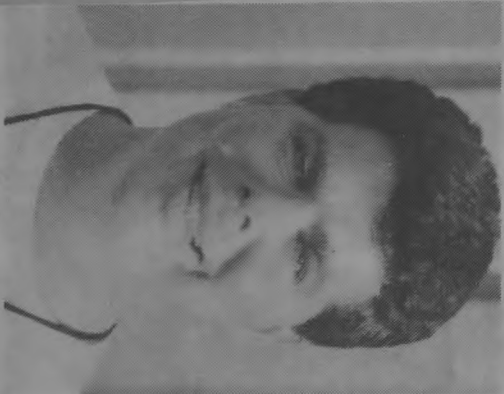
The Vikettes' first points in the 10-point fourth period came from sophomore center Lori Culpepper with under four minutes remaining. Culpepper led the Vikettes with 17 points and had eight rebounds.

Lowndes next travels to Bainbridge Friday. Valdosta High stays on its current road swing in traveling to Tift County on Friday.

Top Grapplers Converge In Area Tourney

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Some of the best high school wrestling talent in the area will gather Saturday at Valdosta High



DAVIS

School in this year's Area Wrestling Tournament. Teams from Valdosta, Lowndes, Tift County, Colquitt County, Coffee County, and Effingham County from Savannah will all be competing for the crown.

The Valdosta Wildcats' team finished up a very successful year in which they went 11-2. Head coach John Davis said that when a team goes to a tournament such as this one, prior performances no longer mean a thing.

"When you wrestle in these type tournaments, you can throw out your dual meets. Every team has four or five kids that can win it for them," Davis said. "Lowndes has some good kids and they'll be there. We haven't seen Coffee this year but they have some tough kids also. There's just no way I can call it."

The Wildcats will be without their 160-pound wrestler Ryan Moorman who is suffering from shoulder injuries. He will be replaced by Jason Griffin in the Cats' starting lineup.

The rest of the Cats team is made up of Nick Gomis in the 103-pound division, Ashley Fann in the 112, Steven Petermann in the 119, Jim Garber in the 125, Justin Bridges in the 130, Jason Finland in the 135, Chuck Bonner in the 140, John Ramey in the 145, Maurice Dean in the 152, Griffin in the 160, Eric Phillips in the 171, Derrick Phillips in the 189 and Will Hancock in the heavyweight division.

The Wildcats are young in experience with only two seniors, Fann and Garber, on the team. But Davis said they have worked extremely hard throughout the year.

"We're very excited about the tournament and this team has done a great job this season. Whether we win or lose, I'll be extremely proud of them," Davis said.

LHS head wrestling coach Newman Sanchez is hoping his team can come off of their loss to Valdosta last Tuesday night and be competitive in the tourney.

"I hope we're looking better than we looked against Valdosta. I think we'll come back," Sanchez said. "Valdosta will be, without a doubt, one of the strongest teams competing and we'll have to fight for everything we get."

The Lowndes roster will include Ben Austin (103), John Griner (112), Barbary Singletary (119), Bryan Rice (125), Lee Hendricks (130), Marvin Bagley (135), Rubin Dwyer (140), Jimmy Hiers (145), Bobby Bramlett (152), Jeff Robbins (160), Lloyd Dumas (171), Ed Bell (189) and Michael Crosby in the heavyweight division.

Sanchez added that his team has done well with their 9-4 record despite having to overcome some obstacles.

"We're basically happy with our season. We had several ninth graders who started this year and not having a smaller school to feed us wrestlers like some other schools makes it harder for us to catch up," Sanchez said.



SANCHEZ

Valdosta Squads Hope To Even Things Up

VDT. Fri., Feb. 3, 1989
By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Life just isn't fair at Valdosta High School.

The VHS boys basketball team is currently 7-10 and head coach John Miller feels that his team's record is not a true representation of their year. The reason for Miller's conclusion is that seven of his team's losses have been by six points or less.

One of the teams that handed the Wildcats a last-second loss was Tift County High School. Tonight, VHS will get a chance to avenge that loss as they travel to Tifton to face the Blue Devils in a subregion matchup.

Miller said defeating the Blue Devils will be no easier this time

around. "We're playing in their gym and that makes it that much tougher to win," Miller said. "If we can just go up there and play hard and get a good effort from our team, the scoring will come."

The Wildcats led much of the game earlier in the year until Tift County came back and Tal Kromer hit a three-pointer in the final seconds to give the Blue Devils a one-point win.

In the girls' contest, the Lady Wildcats will bring their 8-6 record into their game with the Lady Blue Devils. The Tift County girls' team has won only one game this year but VHS head coach Susan Montgomery said her team will not be overconfident going into the game.

"We talked about the game at

practice and we know we're going to have to be ready to play ball. Their fans really get into it and that might create a lot of problems for us,"

Montgomery said. "Tift County is a much-improved team and we're going to have to play our kind of game. We seem to have gotten some of our team spirit and unity back and if we're peaking now, that's great."

The Lowndes Vikings won one of their biggest games of the year Tuesday night with their win over the Wildcats. Tonight, they have one of their toughest tests of the year as they face undefeated and third-ranked Bainbridge.

The Bearcats used 41 points from Charlie Burke to blow out the Vikings in the fourth quarter earlier in the season. LHS head coach Terry

Wilkes knows the rematch will be no easier.

"We'll have to play better than we've played in any single game this year to win, but stranger things have happened. We should be playing without a whole lot of pressure since they pretty much have first place in the region wrapped up," Wilkes said. "Last time, we tried a man-to-man defense but we'll have a different strategy against them this time. We'll need to keep our heads up and not make too many mistakes to give them a good game."

The Vikings are 11-6.

Lowndes' head girls' coach Elinor Goode's team is 5-11 and one of those losses came to the Lady Bearcats at home earlier this season. She said her team's failure to score when they had the opportunity was one of their worst problems the first time

around.

"Looking back on that game, the biggest things we did wrong were turnovers and not scoring when we had the chance. We also had three opportunities to score late in the game but we didn't capitalize. We'll have to play better at their place to win," Goode said.

In other area prep basketball action for Friday night, Hamilton County will be at Monticello, Turner County will be at Brooks County, Georgia Christian hosts Crisp Academy, Broxton invades Clinch County and Berrien County travels to Waycross.

On Saturday, Valdosta will be on the road at Ware County, Lowndes goes to Cook County, Perry heads to Hamilton County, Brooks County moves to Tri-County, Terrell County hosts Georgia Christian and Clinch County will take on Waycross.

Students Learn About Post-War Aid

VOT. Thurs., Feb. 2, 1989

By MICHAEL MORRISON
Times Staff Writer

War and peace for most high school history students is an overview of the many wars and sometimes the year ends before the textbook.

And there are many adults who are not aware of foreign policy activities by the United States government after the wars, such as World War II.

Randall B. Woods, Ph.D. and Cooper Professor of Diplomacy in the Fulbright Institute of International Relations at the University of Arkansas, was in Valdosta Tuesday and Wednesday to try to help the understanding by students and adults.

His appearances at a lecture and before high school and college students was co-sponsored by the Georgia Humanities Council and the Foreign Language/International Culture Center at Valdosta State College.

Following a reception in Powell Hall Auditorium at VSC Tuesday night, Dr. Woods spoke on "The Marshall Plan: A Forty-Year Perspective."

The Marshall Plan was named for George Marshall, an army general and secretary of state under presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman.

Professor Woods, who received his doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin, referred to the modern trend of historical ignorance with a wry "Everything I talk about is irrelevant."

He added the quotation from philosopher George Santayana that "He who does not know history is destined to repeat it."

Woods said he feels at least a little optimism, though, because enrollments in history are higher, especially in upper division classes.

"People's interest in literature and humanities is increasing," he said. Certain economic factors contribute: "People are beginning to realize knowledge of other cultures is helpful," he said, noting that international corporations need employees knowledgeable about, for example, Japan.

Additionally, he said, "Liberal arts is a little more avant garde"; a liberal arts education again has become, he said, "a status symbol."

However, oppositional factors to a world awareness are still wide spread, he said, blaming "nativism" and "isolationism."

They have their most obvious presence in elements of "the modern day skinheads," he said.

"There are always going to be

Know-Nothings; there are always going to be religious bigots," Woods added.

Both nativism and isolationism, though, are ironic, he said, since nearly every American is descended from immigrants.

However, that such attitudes exist, he said, "has to do with our physical isolation," that is, we are bounded by large oceans on two sides. Our neighbor to the north is very similar in its culture and traditions, and only our southern border draws our attention to a different set of values.

Isolationists tried very hard to keep the U.S. out of World War II.

Even Harry Truman, shortly afterward president, but at that time senator, said, "The ideal situation would be for Germany and Russia to bleed each other."

However, even before the attack on Pearl Harbor, many other Americans saw Hitler and Imperial Japan and Fascist Italy as the "embodiment of the forces of evil."

World War II was a "very comfortable war," Woods said, as contrasted to the Korean and Vietnam wars which found wide opposition among the American people.

Following the defeat of the Axis Powers in 1945, Woods said, the isolationists again found voice, and many Americans were saying "Haven't we done enough?"

Woods noted that Republicans controlled congress and their attitude was also "Let's tend to our own business."

Many Americans "saw Europe as a decaying world," but internationally-minded people, said Woods, "saw us as a part of that world."

In March of 1946, at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, Winston Churchill gave his famous speech in which he said the Soviet Union was hiding behind an "iron curtain."

In June of the next year, Secretary of State George Marshall delivered a commencement address at Harvard University and outlined a plan for the rehabilitation of still war-ravaged Europe.

His definition of Europe included everything west of the Ural Mountains.

He called for the heads of all those nations, including those ruled by Communists, to meet and contribute their ideas for that rehabilitation.

Many of them did meet, but not the iron curtain leaders.

Woods said if they had joined the others, it would have meant "They would have had to open their economies."

Instead, the Soviets denounced the Marshall Plan as "a stalking horse for American imperialism."

Despite opposition, the Truman



Randall B. Woods, a professor with the Fulbright Institute of International Relations, spoke Tuesday and Wednesday to Valdosta college and high school students about the Marshall Plan, the U.S.-financed rebuilding of Europe after World War II. — Times Staff Photo By Bob Freitag.

administration got the Marshall Plan underway in 1948, and hundreds of millions of U.S. dollars were sent to Europe.

In Woods's judgment, the Marshall Plan did succeed, "Yes, wonderfully," given the goals of American foreign policy.

He points out two specifics: 1) "It prevented the communization of west Europe." 2) It relieved the U.S. of the burden of the care of Europe, and eventually created a viable market for U.S. goods.

The Marshall Plan brought the

leaders of Europe together and encouraged them to lower barriers to intra-European trading.

One serendipitous result was the modern European Economic Community, or Common Market.

Woods and Lee Bradley, director of the Foreign Language/International Culture Center, called the lecture and presentations to students "a sample program."

They have hopes of spreading the idea, saying they are "trying to get people interested in the world around them."

Berrien County's Fast Break Silences 'Cats

V.D. - Feb. 8, 1989

Taylor, Mackey Spark Berrien County Sweep

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Berrien County High School proved once again why they are considered one of the best boys and girls teams in the state of Georgia as they swept Valdosta High here Tuesday night.

Behind guard Eric Taylor and center Kenneth Green, the Rebels fast-paced attack silenced the guns of the Valdosta Wildcats in capturing their 15th win of the season with a 61-48 victory.

In the girls' contest, Larry Maffit's Rebellets jumped out to a commanding nine-point lead early and never relinquished the lead to the Lady 'Cats of Valdosta. Melissa Mackey lead the Rebellette charges with 26 points and six assists as Berrien defeated Valdosta 67-41 in the opener.

While Taylor and Green, who scored 17 and 14 points, respectively, were leading Berrien County, the shooting of Valdosta forward Jason King and center Vincent Williams kept the Wildcats within striking distance until game's end.

King scored 13 points along with six rebounds, while Williams notched 12 points and was the team's leader on the boards with seven rebounds.

But it would be the fast-breaking style of Clay Gark's Berrien County Rebels which would be the deciding factor of the contest.

Berrien successfully converted five Valdosta turnovers for points in the second half and hit close to 50 percent of their shots in the game.

"We played fairly well tonight," said Clark. "All except for the

offensive and defensive boards we did a good job against (John) Miller and his talented team. The key was keeping (Jason) King in check and we did. I think King is one of the finest in the area. He can hurt you in so many ways."

The closest Valdosta could get to the Rebels in the second half was six points, when King connected on a jumper and sank a free throw shot with 6:15 remaining. But according to VHS head coach John Miller, his team was just not mentally prepared for the Rebels.

"We have been struggling of late and I feel that we were just not mentally ready for Berrien," said Miller. "They are a very sound team and if you expect to hold your own with a team like them you have to be ready at all times. Vincent Williams, Jason King along with Major Lynn played outstanding games. Overall, we played well enough to challenge, but just wasn't ready to take advantage of situations when we had the chance to cut into the Berrien lead."

The Lady 'Cats inability to take advantage of Rebellette turnovers combined with a tenacious Berrien defense spelled the end for Valdosta in the girls' contest.

The Rebellets took a 21-12 first period lead and never looked back.

In fact, Valdosta center Cassandra Twine, who finished up with 18 points and seven rebounds for VHS, scored the opening eight first-period points for the Lady 'Cats. Not until the two-minute mark of the opening period did another Lady 'Cat dent the scoreboard.

"After coming off a tough loss to Waycross in our last game, I think the girls just wanted to show me that they could play tough for 32



Valdosta High Lady 'Cats' Laura Dennis (25) attempts to go after the ball — Times Staff tries to get the loose basketball as Berrien County's Dera Harkins (23) and Gwen Green

Photo by Paul Leavy.

minutes," said Maffit. "We adjusted in the second half closing off the post area to shut off Twine from getting the ball and it was a key for us. Our team played a very strong game and I was glad to see it."

Sissy Anderson scored 8 points for Valdosta, while teammate Swandolyn Phillips, who scored but five points, collected seven boards to tie for team honors with Twine on the night.

Rebellets' Dera Harkins tossed in 18 points and Shonda Deberry

scored 12 points. Each had seven rebounds in the game.

"We just missed too many opportunities in the game to cut the Berrien lead to eight and ten points from the field and free throw line," said Lady 'Cats' head coach Susan Montgomery. "Turnovers hurt us as well and the inability to make something happen off of Berrien turnovers. Give Berrien credit. They have a good club and a leader in Mackey to give them the spark they need."

Records: Berrien Co. 15-6, Valdosta 7-12. Next game: (Friday, Feb. 10) Coffee at Valdosta, 7 p.m.

(Boys' Game)

BERRIEN COUNTY (61)	— Eric Taylor 17, Kenneth Green 14, Michael Wiley 11, Scotty Harris 12, Mark Miller 7
VALDOSTA (48)	— Jason King 13, Vincent Williams 12, James Manning & Major Lynn 6, Spencer Iverson 2, Eric McCoy 2, Carlo Butler 1
Valdosta	20 8 16 17 — 61
Berrien Co.	14 8 16 10 — 48

(Girls' Game)

BERRIEN COUNTY (67)	— Melissa Mackey 26, Dera Harkins 18, Shonda Deberry 12, Rhonda Walker 10, Gwen Green 1
VALDOSTA (41)	— Cassandra Twine 18, Sissy Anderson 8, Ashley Schlesiener & Swandolyn Phillips 5, Dera Dennis 3, Laura Dennis 1
Berrien Co.	21 13 14 19 — 67
Valdosta	12 13 7 9 — 41

Records: Berrien County 18-2, Valdosta 9-8.

VDT, Fri., Feb. 24, 1989

Valdosta Trio Join Scouts' Eagle Rank

By SHERRIE FARABEE
Times Staff Writer

It doesn't take a lot to be an Eagle Scout — it takes everything.

"Only about three percent of boys who come into scouting achieve it," said Terry Hunt, scoutmaster of Troop 415. "It represents a lot of hard work and is a pretty broad-based program in terms of fields."

Three members of Troop 415, Todd Luke, John Ramey and Bert Eidson, were officially recognized as Eagle Scouts recently.

Troop 415 has eight Eagle Scouts altogether, but investing three at one time is really unusual, according to Hunt.

"We had a good year but competition is what makes a program like this work," he said. "They don't want to see someone ahead of them and once you get someone working

hard, the rest work to keep up with each other."

To become an Eagle Scout, Todd, John, and Bert had to earn 21 different Merit badges in subjects ranging from camping to citizenship to personal management. It takes hard work and time, according to Eagle Scout Todd Luke, son of Mike and Floie Luke.

"It was hard, I had to work real hard for it," he said. "It took me about three years. It's tough, you have to earn a lot of other things to get it."

Todd said he learned a lot while he was working on his merit badges, like the need for patience and a good attitude. Without that, he said, you'll end up quitting.

Eagle Scout Bert Eidson, son of Charles and Jennie Eidson has been a scout for six years. He said some merit badges for Eagle Scout are See EAGLE, Page 3-A



Bert Eidson, John Ramey and Todd Luke, recently been promoted to Eagle Scouts. — all of Valdosta Boy Scout Troop 45, have Photo Special To The Times.

Eagle

From Page 1-A

easier to earn than others, but through it he acquired what he calls "future skills" he can use for the rest of his life.

"I learned about conservation and personal management and some communication skills," he said. "Some of the merit badges are taught to give you future skills."

All three Scouts can go on learning and working on projects and earning Eagle Palms to complement their Eagle level accomplishments.

John Ramey, son of Barbara and Richard Ramey has been in scouting for five years and, although the Eagle has been earned, plans to continue Scouting activities.

"Well, it's kind of a peak, it seems like the Eagle is the real high point and then it's all downhill from there, but I'll keep on working," he said.

"These boys I hope will stay active because I need kids like that to help the younger boys coming in," Hunt said.

Bell Signs

VDT Times, Feb. 16, 1989
From Staff Reports

Valdosta High School defensive lineman Zabria Bell Tuesday signed a letter-of-intent to play his college football at Northeast Oklahoma Junior College.

Bell, a 6-2, 305-pounder, was a standout defensive star for Nick Hyder's 'Cats the past four years. Bell started for the 'Cats each of his four seasons in high school. This past season, Bell was a first-team member of *The Valdosta Daily Times* All Area team as well as the Region 1-AAAA South team.

"Northeast Oklahoma wants to use him as a defensive lineman," Hyder said. "He started for us for four year and in those years we had nobody who could block him. He never missed a practice and he may end up being a great football player."

"Northeast Oklahoma, for a junior college, probably searches the country as thoroughly as anybody. They think Zabria ranks up there with the best of them."



ZABRIA BELL

Lady Wildcats Send Vickettes Home

Valdosta To Face Bainbridge Friday

By STEAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Behind the inside play of forward Swandolyn Phillips and the outside shooting of guard Vashli Manning, the Valdosta High Lady 'Cats held off a late comeback bid by the Lowndes High Vickettes to advance to the second round of the Region 1-AAAA South Subregion Basketball

(Lowndes vs. Valdosta)

LOWNDES (43) —	Lori Culpepper 22,	Julie Eason 8,	Vickie Williams 6,	Latonia Thomas 5,	Shanell Jenkins 1.		
VALDOSTA (45) —	Vashli Manning 12,	Cassandra Twine 10,	Swandolyn Phillips 9,	Ashley Schlausner 7,	Sissy Anderson 4,		
Laura Dennis 2,	Debe Dennis 2.	LHS.....	6	14	8	15	— 43
Records —	LHS 13, VHS 11 9.	.....	6	16	14	9	— 45
Meet Game —	VHS vs. Bainbridge (Friday, Feb. 17)	7:30 p.m.					

Tournament with a 45-43 victory at the LHS gym Wednesday night.

The win gives the Lady 'Cats an 11-9 overall record while the Vickettes end their season at 5-15.

In earlier first round girls' action, Coffee High defeated Tift County 75-56. The Lady 'Cats will now play Bainbridge in the second round of the tournament Friday night at 7:30 p.m. The Lady Trojans will play Colquitt County Friday at 4:30.

"We played good team basketball tonight and it paid off," said Lady 'Cats' head coach Susan Montgomery. "After mistakes and the late run by Lowndes we stood our ground. Swandolyn and Vashli had good games along with Ashley Schlausner. I'm proud of this team. This is the first time in recent history for me that a Valdosta girls' team has made it into the second round of the tournament."

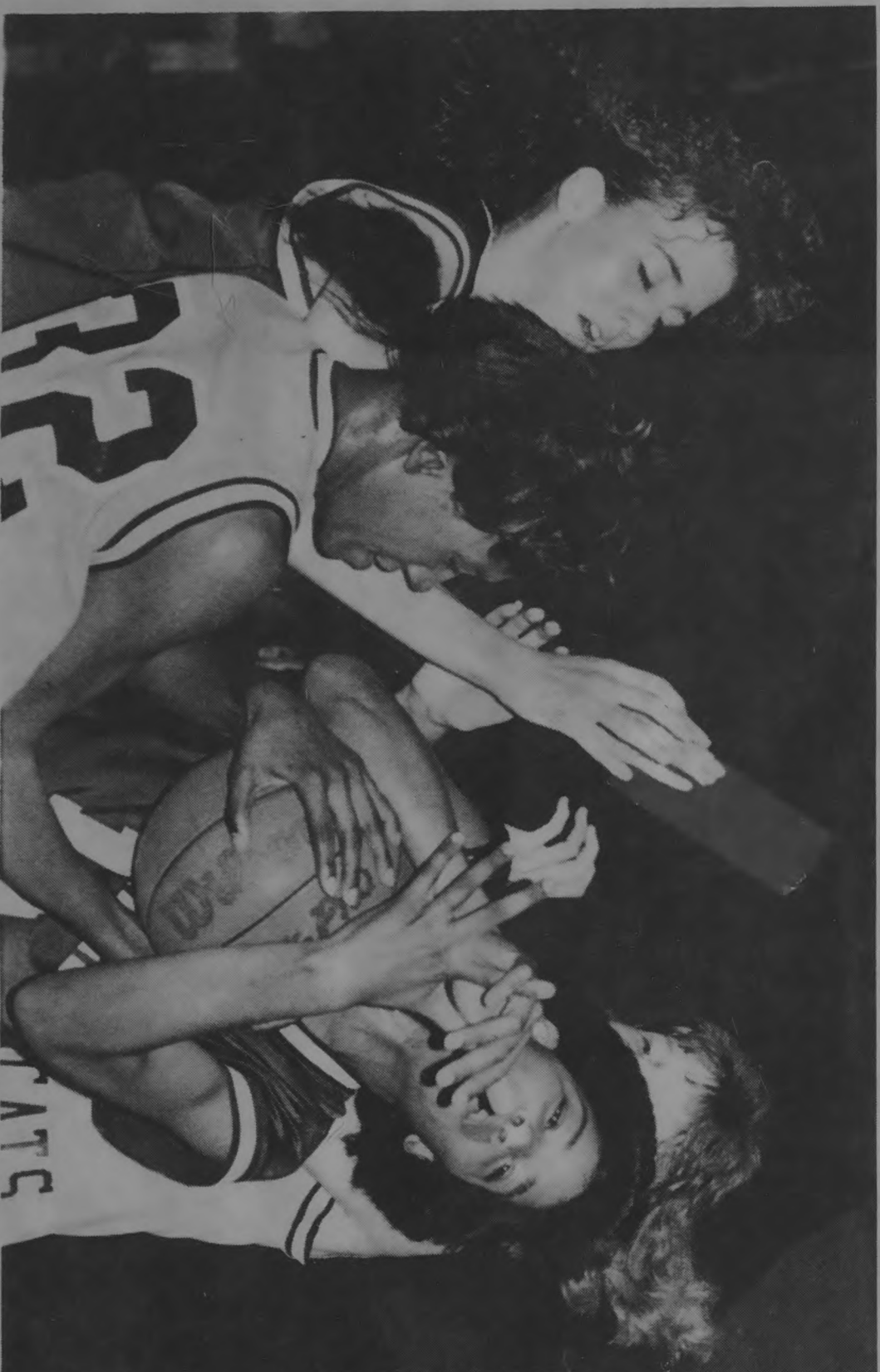
For Lowndes head coach Elinor Goode and her Vickettes, they did what they had hoped to do from the outset, be in position to win the game.

With just 4:27 remaining to be played, the Vickettes fought their way back from a six point, 41-35 deficit to cut the VHS advantage to just four points with :29 seconds to be played.

After a substitution violation on Valdosta, Vickette center Lori Culpepper canned two free throws to bring LHS within two at 45-43 with under :25 seconds to play.

But the Vickettes, despite three opportunities, were unable to get any shots to fall.

"I just can't ask any more from the girls tonight," said Goode. "We did what we had to do in order to



Valdosta High's Swandolyn Phillips (32) battles with Lowndes Vickette Vickie Williams (14) for ball during Wednesday's game in the Region 1-AAAA South tournament at the

have a chance to win the game. You can't ask for much more than that. If we had to go out, I'm pleased with the way we went out. The effort of our team was tremendous. I wish Valdosta the best of luck the rest of the way."

The Lady 'Cats were led by Manning's 12 points, teammate Cassandra Twine collected 10 points while Schlausner added nine.

Phillips led the Lady 'Cats on the boards with 14 rebounds, seven in each half of play.

"She always seems to give us a lift in the rebounding department every

time we need it," said Montgomery. The Vickettes once again rode the shooting of Culpepper. The sophomore center scored 22 points to lead all scorers. In her final Vickette appearance, Julie Eason scored eight points. Vickie Williams and Latonia Thomas each added six.

After seeing the lead change hands seven times in the first half, Valdosta managed to build its lead to 36-26 with 3:00 left in the third period.

In all, the Lady 'Cats caused seven Vickette turnovers and had a total of 33 rebounds.

LHS gym. Lowndes' Lori Culpepper (far left) and Valdosta's Sissy Anderson (far right) are shown lending a hand. — Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

"We had a chance to pull away in the second half, but made some mental mistakes and it helped them out," said Montgomery. "Our defense tonight I think was the key. Of course we didn't stop Culpepper, but thank goodness for us they were unable to get any more points from someone else. I look forward to playing Bainbridge Friday. It will be a big challenge. If we execute and do the things we are capable of things will be all right."

The Vickettes outscored the Lady 'Cats in the final period 15-9 to cut the margin to 45-43, but could not get

any closer.

Culpepper, who led the Vickettes in scoring, scored the final four points for Lowndes in the game.

"I thought Lowndes played very well and kept the game close late. We were just able to play good enough on defense to capture the victory."

Tonight, the Valdosta Wildcats will play the Tift County Blue Devils in first round boys' action beginning at 7:30 p.m.

DE Students Receive District Recognition

VDT. Sun., Feb. 19, 1989

Valdosta and Lowndes High School Distributive Education Clubs of America brought home first place wins from the District VII Conference in Vidalia.

They were among the 15 chapters from throughout Southeast Georgia participating in competitive events.

"The purpose of the conference is to allow students to compete in competitive events that relate to their classroom curriculum and on-the-job training," said Norman Greene, VHS marketing education coordinator.

First, second and third place winners will compete against the other district finalists in Atlanta March 17-19. Valdosta qualified 18 out of 19 students, winning 14 first places, three second places and one third place.

"I'm really proud of our stu-

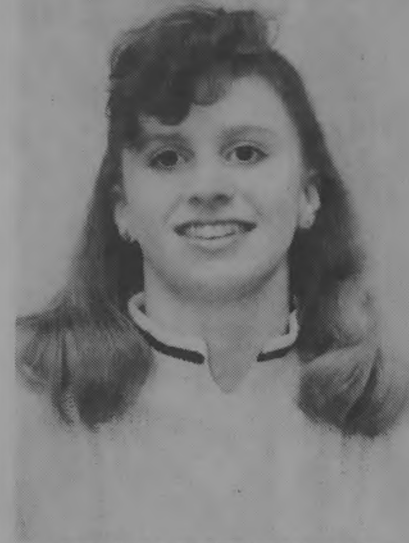
dents," Greene said. "They worked hard and it paid off. Competition was very strong as usual and I'm very proud of their effort. This is one of the best showings we have had in district competition. I can't remember when we won as many first place awards as we did this trip..."

Valdosta's first place winners and their categories were Micayle Williams, job interview; Roselyn Johnson, marketing spelling-vocabulary; Tonya Nolan, general merchandising master employee level, and Kelly Coleman, supervisory level; Leslie Altman, apparel and accessories master employee level; Chris Buescher, advertising services; Nick McKay,

vehicles and petroleum marketing; Leann Yeager, food marketing master employee level, and James



JOEY TOMBERLIN



MELISSA WETHERINGTON

Paine, supervisory level; Marilyn Moss, general marketing master employee level, and Jill Singletary, supervisory level; Chris Carlson, quick service restaurant marketing; Joey Tomberlin, economics testing; and Melissa Wetherington, math

testing.

Second place winners were Heidi Schroer, finance and credit; Ed Casteloos, full service restaurant marketing; and Nick Tomlinson, hotel-motel. Winning third place was Catherine Kaiser, business speech.

2-B Sunday, February 19, 1989

Lifestyles



MICAYLE WILLIAMS



ROSELYN JOHNSON



TONYA NOLAN



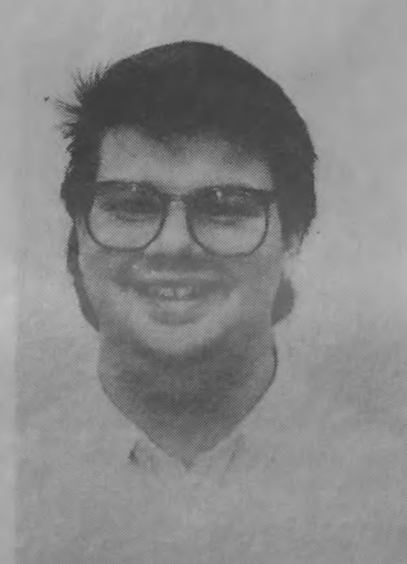
KELLY COLEMAN



NICK McKAY



LEANN YEAGER



JAMES PAYNE



MARILYN MOSS

Sun, Feb 19, 1989



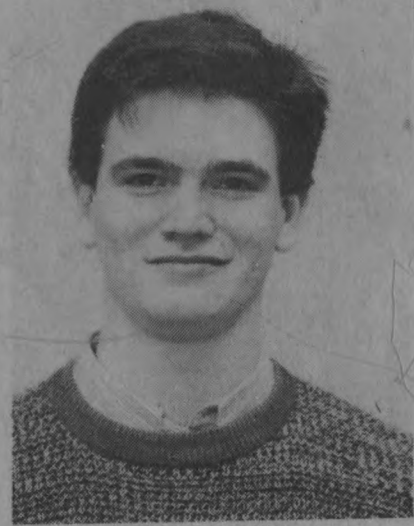
LESLIE ALTMAN



CHRIS BUESCHER



JILL SINGLETARY



CHRIS CARLSON

VDT, Sat, Feb. 17, 1989

'Cats Stir Up Coffee

Valdosta High Sweeps Subregion Contests From Coffee County

VDT, Sat, Feb. 17, 1989
By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

If someone said the word "overtime" or the phrase "close game" to Valdosta High head basketball coach John Miller before his team's final subregion game of the year against Coffee County Friday night, he probably would have cringed since his team has lost many games this year in the final minutes.

But the Wildcats broke that trend against the visiting Trojans Friday night as they fought off Coffee in overtime 54-49. The win avenged an earlier season loss to the Trojans which also went into overtime.

The Lady Wildcats also got even with the Lady Trojans for a loss earlier this year although more impressively than the boys' team as they wiped out Coffee 51-34.

The Wildcats finish their sub-region schedule at 3-7 and 8-13 overall while the Lady 'Cats assured themselves of their first winning season in many years with a 10-8 overall record and 5-5 mark in the subregion.

Miller was exhausted but ecstatic after his team's victory.

"We needed this one. We couldn't do anything right at the end of regulation and a lesser team might have given up," Miller said. "But we kept battling and finally came out on top."

VHS held a big lead throughout most of the game and were up 43-37 with only 3:13 left in the game. That is when Coffee's Tracy White scored two quick baskets and put the Trojans within two with 2:23 left.

They continued to inch closer and tied the score with 10 seconds left courtesy of a Reggie Ingram free throw. The Wildcats were unable to get a shot off and the game went into overtime and VHS guard Eric McCoy went into overdrive.



Valdosta High forward Jason King goes up strong for a rebound as his Wildcats defeated Coffee 54-49 in overtime. King finished the game with eight points and six rebounds. Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag.

(Girls' Game)

COFFEE (34) — Sanshell Bussey 3, Jill Faulkner 3, Caroline Loft 3, Monique McClelland 8, Kim Page 8, Kim Bennett 3, Amanda Manning 4, Charon Tucker 2.

VALDOSTA (51) — Cassandra Twine 8, Swandolyn Phillips 13, Ashley Schlessner 8, Sissy Anderson 10, Vashli Manning 10, Esther Benjamin 2.

Valdosta..... 6 11 9 9-24
..... 15 13 13 11-51

(Boys' Game)

COFFEE (49) — Reggie Ingram 15, Glenn Gardner 6, Orlando Ingram 5, Tracy White 17, Anthony Burch 4, James Emgram 2.

VALDOSTA (54) — Spencer Iverson 15, Eric McCoy 9, Jason King 8, Major Lynn 2, Michael Moore 2, Jerry Robinson 4, Uble Brandley 4, Carlo Butler 10.

Coffee..... 11 4 14 16 4-49
Valdosta..... 13 11 14 8 9-54

rebounds apiece. The Lady Wildcats grabbed an early 13-6 lead with just under two minutes left in the first quarter and never looked back. Using a balanced scoring attack from the inside and the outside, VHS head coach Susan Montgomery's team were in control for the rest of the game.

Montgomery said the difference between their loss in Douglas and the win at home was her team's attitude.

"We were aggressive, we had a lot of team spirit and that was the whole difference in the game. We outrebounced them and we made them turn the ball over," Montgomery said. "We also made the shots when we were open and the whole team played extremely well tonight. I'm very proud of them."

The Lady Wildcats outside shooting was one of the keys to their winning performance with forward Vashli Manning and guard Sissy Anderson contributing 10 points apiece. Forward Swandolyn Phillips led the team with 13 points. Monique McClelland and Kim Page led Coffee with eight points apiece.

The VHS squads will finish their regular season schedule tonight at home in a non-region game against Ware County. The girls' game will start at 7 p.m.

McCoy scored the first points of the three-minute period with a tip-in and added three free throws down the stretch along with two steals to ice the win for the Wildcats. Miller said that McCoy's aggressiveness was what sparked the team late in the game.

"Eric has a lot of spunk and fight but sometimes he gets out of control. But one thing about him is that he always hustles and it showed in overtime," Miller said. "Carlo Butler also came through like a real trooper and he's been an asset to the club all year."

Guard Spencer Iverson led VHS with 15 points while Butler added 10. Vincent Williams did the job on the boards collecting nine rebounds, eight in the first half. Jason King and Jerry Robinson grabbed six

Lady 'Cats Take Coffee To Wire

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The Valdosta Lady 'Cats came about as close as you could get to winning a basketball game but fell in the end to the Coffee County Lady Trojans 67-66 in the Region 1-AAAA South tournament Saturday night at the Lowndes High gym.

Trailing by 16 points as the fourth quarter began, Valdosta roared back to outscore Coffee 24-7 to take a 34-63 lead on a pair of free throws by Laura Dennis with 1:28 left in the game.

After a missed shot, Vashiti Manning drove inside the lane to up the Lady 'Cats' lead to 66-63 with 52 seconds left. But Coffee came right back and thanks to a pair of free throws by Monique McClelland, the Lady Trojans cut the lead to 66-65.

On Valdosta's ensuing possession, Esther Benjamin missed a shot, then after a pushing foul on the 'Cats, McClelland sank both ends of a one-and-one with 14 seconds left in the game to account for the final margin.

"We had an excellent effort to-night, I was proud of the way the girls came back," VHS head coach Susan Montgomery said. "We really played hard toward the end. If we just could have done it the entire game... But for coming back like they did I think the girls showed a lot of character."

Despite the loss, Valdosta will still advance to the Region 1-AAAA tournament which will begin this Friday at Columbus High School in Columbus. The Lady 'Cats' opponent Friday will be the Lady Tigers of Carver High School. Gametime will be 7:30 p.m.

Over in the boys' final, Bainbridge blasted Colquitt County 77-53.

Both teams came out shooting cold as Coffee held a slim 12-8 margin after one quarter of play. In the second, Valdosta cut the lead to 22-20 on a baseline jumper by Cassandra Twine but Coffee came back to score six unanswered points to take a 28-20 lead with 1:05 left in the second.

After trailing 29-24 at the half, Vashiti hit a jumper to cut the lead to

29-24 but five points would be as close as Valdosta would get as the Lady Trojans exploded for 27 third-quarter points to take a 56-40 lead as the fourth quarter began.

In the fourth, thanks to a pressing defense, Coffee suddenly went cold, both with their shooting and ball handling as Valdosta forced several turnovers which led directly to Lady 'Cat points. Valdosta also began moving the ball inside to their big people more effectively as Swandolyn Phillips, who scored 12 points in the fourth quarter, and Benjamin became more of a factor as the game progressed. Benjamin, a freshman, canned several pressure one-and-one free throw attempts down the stretch that helped Valdosta's cause.

"We just played smarter basketball the fourth quarter. We played more as a team, rebounded better and shot the ball better," said Montgomery. "Esther Benjamin stepped in and did a good job hitting some crucial free throws for us. It's tough for a freshman to come in and do what she did tonight."

Late in the game, Twine went down with an apparent ankle injury. After the game, Montgomery wasn't exactly sure of her status but is hopeful she will be ready by Friday night.

"Cassandra hurt the same ankle she injured earlier in the season. Hopefully with several off days, she will be able to come back. She has before," Montgomery said. "It would be nice to have all three (Twine, Phillips and Benjamin) in at the same time but if we don't it's nice to know that we have someone (Benjamin) who can step in."

Manning led Valdosta with 18 points followed by Phillips with 16 and Twine with 12. Coffee was led by McClelland with 26 points, Kim Page with 20 and Caroline Lott with 11. Valdosta is now 12-10 on the year.

COFFEE COUNTY (67) — Kim Bennett 4, Sansheli Bussey 2, Caroline Lott 11, Kim Page 20, Monique McClelland 26
VALDOSTA (66) — DeDe Dennis 6, Laura Dennis 2, Esther Benjamin 6, Vashiti Manning 18, Swandolyn Phillips 16, Cassandra Twine 12, Ashley Schuessler 2
Coffee County..... 12 17 27 11 — 67
Valdosta..... 8 14 18 28 — 66
Record — Valdosta 12-10
Next Game — Valdosta vs Carver at Columbus High School, Friday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.



Valdosta High's Laura Dennis drives through the lane between two Coffee County defenders during Saturday night's Region 1-AAAA South championship game. — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Wed, Feb. 1, 1989

Davis Led The Wildkittens

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Over the years, the game of girls' high school basketball has improved due to rule changes, better techniques and the overall higher level of talent in the high school ranks.

This season, the Region 1-AAAA race for the girls' championship has turned into a dogfight with no one team considered a lock. But in the late 1950's and early '60's, the races were not so close. That's because the Valdosta High Wildkittens were one of the most dominant teams around and the architect behind those teams was head coach Bill Davis.

Davis coached basketball at VHS from 1949-70 and stayed on until 1976 as an assistant football coach. During that time, his teams had a high winning percentage and compiled over 350 wins. Along the way, Davis' squads also claimed two state championships in 1957 and 1961.

Davis said that while he hardly gets to see any high school games anymore, he thinks the game has changed tremendously since he stopped coaching.

"When I started coaching, we had three guards on one end of the court and three forwards on the other. It was a divided court and later, they let four players play at one end," Davis said. "They finally went to a full-court game in about 1972 so I never got to coach that style of play."

Davis picked the first state championship year of 1957 as one of his team's finest. He recalls that nearby Hazlehurst was one of his toughest competitors in that day and they defeated the VHS team during the regular season.

"Hazlehurst had a team much like ours that year. We both scored a lot of points and had great offenses. They beat us by 15 in the regular season but we came back in the state playoffs and won by four," Davis said.

Although Davis is no longer a coach, he is still involved with area high schools. He has been a chemistry teacher at Valwood school for 11 years and has been teaching school for the past 40 years. Besides chemistry, Davis has also taught physics and math.

Davis had his share of great players in his day including Evelyn

Wilkes who was a member of the 1961 championship team and an inductee last year to the Lowndes County Hall of Fame. He said that today's game features much better athletes than in the time that he coached.

"I think some of my guards could probably play today but I don't know," Davis said. "It's a lot faster and the young women today are outstanding athletes. Not only are they better athletes, but there are more of them."

Davis said that although he did enjoy some success as the head coach of many VHS girls' squads, things did not always go so easily.

"When I first started, I had some trouble and didn't have a great winning percentage. But then, there was about a 15-year swing that we really got some great athletes," Davis said. "The coach at the junior high school, Martha Jean Grant, did an excellent job of getting good young players into our system."

During his coaching days, Davis also coached under head football coach Wright Bazemore as an assistant coach. He coached offensive and defensive ends until he left the school.



VHS News

Compiled, Written by VHS Students

VDT, Wed, Feb. 1, 1989

Debate Team Wins Region Tournament

By TAMMY CROWE

The Valdosta High School debate team won their subregion tournament Jan. 21, beating teams from Tifton, Coffee County, and Lowndes high schools.

The team ended with a combined 6-0 record. Junior Michelle Jones won fifth place speaker, sophomore Ashley Connell won fourth place speaker, sophomore Tammy Crowe won third place speaker, and senior Jay Connell won first place speaker.

The debate team then went on to win their region tournament, which was held at Mercer last Wednesday. The debate team beat teams from Tifton, Carver, and Hardaway high schools. They ended with a 5-1 overall record. Ashley Connell won fifth place speaker, Michelle Jones won fourth place speaker, Tammy Crowe won second place speaker, and Jay Connell won first place speaker in the region. The debate team goes on to compete at the state tournament Feb. 10-11.



Former Valdosta High girls basketball coach Bill Davis poses with one of the many awards he received during his successful career — Times Staff Photo by Chris Beckham.

VHS Seniors Finish Strong

VDT, Sun, Feb. 12, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Darryl Roberson, Ubie Brandley, Carlo Butler, Jerry Robinson and Vincent Williams. Those five are the only seniors on the Valdosta High boys basketball squad and Saturday night, they led the Wildcats to a regular-season ending win over the Ware County Gators 65-53.

The girls' contest was closer but unfortunately the result was not the same for the Lady Wildcats as they lost to the Lady Gators, 40-39.

The senior squad that VHS head coach John Miller put on the floor played like they had played together all year. They played the entire first three quarters and they stayed on the court until 6:12 left in the game

lead.

The Gators never got closer than six points in the second half as the Wildcats combined good outside shooting with some tough inside play. Robinson led the team with 15 points while Williams, Roberson and

Butler all added 12. Butler also grabbed 11 rebounds. Tracey Barrett led Ware with 18.

The VHS girls had things going their way in the first half and led 23-17 at the intermission. Most of those points came inside from Cassandra Twine and Swandoyin Phillips. But a run of six straight free throws by the Lady Gators in two minutes tied the game at 27 with just over a minute left in the third quarter.

Neither team could establish a big lead in the fourth and two free

throws by Pam Purcell gave Ware a 38-37 lead with 2:15 left. Twine responded by hitting an inside shot with 53 seconds left to put VHS up by one. But Purcell came through again with 29 seconds left by hitting a short jumper to give the Lady Gators a win.

VHS head coach Susan Montgomery said her team had a few mental breakdowns but she was proud of her team's effort.

"They beat us by 30 points over there and I'm proud that we came out tonight and played some good basketball. We know what to do when the going gets tough even though we couldn't quite get it tonight," Montgomery said. "I'm proud for my seniors in their last game here and I think this season has been a big step overall. We've accomplished a lot but it's not over. We're looking forward to the sub-

As Wildcats Roll

region tournament."

Twine led the Lady Wildcats with 15 points while Phillips added 12 more. Ware County's Kelly Durham led all scorers with 21.

The Wildcats' win gives them a 9-13 record overall while the Lady 'Cats end their season at 10-9. Both will now play in the sub-region tourney to begin Wednesday at Lowndes High gymnasium.

(Boys' Game)
WARE CO. (53) — Kevin Brooks 5, Timmy Smith 9, Ken Holder 4, Tony Wheeler 4, Tracey Barrett 18, Michael Campbell 3, David Grizzle 6, John Brandley 9, Vincent Williams 12, Carlo Butler 12, Jerry Robinson 15, Darryl Roberson 12, Jason King 5.
Valdosta.....14 8 12 17-43

(Girls' Game)
WARE CO. (40) — Lynn Lewis 6, Kelly Durham 21, Pam Purcell 11, Sabrina Tullman 2, VALDOSTA (39) — Swandoyin Phillips 12, Cassandra Twine 15, Ashley Schleusner 4, Sissy Anderson 2, Vashli Manning 4.
Ware Co.....8 9 12 11-40
Valdosta.....15 18 13 17-43

Valdosta High Students Make Honor Roll

Principal Bill Aldrich has announced the honor roll at Valdosta High School.

Brian Adams, Gina Albritton, John Allen, Dan Altman, Gordon Armstrong, Pinkey Maria Arnold, William Atkinson, Matthew Boyd Baker, Nathan Baliles, Rachel Baliles, Jeffery Ballentine, Kenneth Banks, Maria Baratta, Laura Barbas, Eric Barclay, Anita Battles, Christie Bauer, Gerald Bennett.

And Stephanie Chere Bennett, Tanya Suzanne Bennett, Robert Berrian, Tamula Berrian, Lesli Gale Bius, Lorna Dale Bius, Anna Blamar, Kelli Bland, Michelle Bostock, Amy Bowling, Latesha Bradley, Derek Alexander Branham, Justin Bridges, Brandon Brooks, Page Broomberg, Chris Brown, Jessica Brown.

Also, Christina Browning, Keisha Lynee Brunson, Allison Buie, Ada Burch, Tracy Burgsteiner, Jonathan Burns, Mindee Butler, Justin Cabral, Steven Campbell, Pamela Carter, Spence Carver, Edward Casteloes, Thomas Cato, Monica Ceaser, Latrena Cody, Todd Coker, Katherine Coleman, William Coleman, Ryan Collins.

And Ashley Connell, Jay Connell, Meredith Coogan, Chandra Cooper, Deric Cotton, Melanie Cowart, John Cowell, Amy Cox, Stan Cox, Jennifer Crane, Tamara Crowe, Michelle Cutforth, Sonja Dailey, Angela Daniels, Deann Dasher, Ivan Davis, Shannon Davis, Jack Davis, Yolanda Davis, Christopher De-

mont.

Also, Melissa Demott, Sara Nicole Demott, Glaire Dempsey, D.D. Dennis, Michelle Lee Dewitt, Suzanne Dornedon, Stephanie Drawdy, Michael Drummheller, Beth Edwards, Jane Edwards, Bert Eidson, Shaun Eilders, Jamie Essinger, Toni Essinger, Brian Christopher Faros, Andrew Clayton Ferrell.

And Meredith Fletcher, Liz Foster, Lydia Freeman, Jack Fuller, Jarrod Gage, Addison Gaitor, James Galloy, Michael Galloy, Mark Gates, Mona Gibbs, India Giuly, Brenna Goff, Alan Golivesky, Robin Golivesky, Nicholas Gonis, Sean Gorman, Felicia Gosier, Susanne Grant, Pamela Gray, Jimmy Green.

Also, Kerri Beth Greenway, Tracy Greer, Chris Gregg, Wendy Griffin, Kelly Hamm, Michael Hampton, Angela Harper, Charles Harris, Felicia Harris, Kim Harris, Chris Hart, Honey Hatcher, Kathryn Marie Hathaway, David Hazlehurst, Cynthia Helms, Marirose Henkels, Daniel Henry, Kevin Hiers, Leslie Hiers.

And Rachel Hill, Stephanie Hinton, Alton Hitson, Ben Hogan, Sam Hogan, Grant Hollenbeck, Pamela Hoover, Johnny Hosendoll, William Howard, James Inman, Barbara Ison, Spencer Iverson, Jennifer Jack, Crisie Latonja James, Micheal James, Tracy James, Karen Jamieson, Hanif Jenkins, Jaret Johnson.

Also, Natasha Johnson, Roslyn Johnson, Kevin Jones, Phaedra Jones, Stephanie Jones, Susie Jones, Tredessa Jones, Reginald Jordan, Emily Josey, Jerome Judson, Kim Kerins, Amy Kilgard, Keri Kirby, Teresa Anne Lamprey, Shannon Lancaster, Joseph Langdale, Carlos Larry, Matthew Lawrence, Nicky Legg.

And Kenneth James Lester, Samuel Lightsey, Durwin Logan, Brandon Gerard Lovett, Lewis Lynch, Debbie Mack, Kimberly Madison, Vashti Manning, Brenda Maples, Ray Maples, Gina Marafino, Anita Matchett, Kareem McClary, Wendy McConnell, Ann McCranie, James McDaniel, Maggie Kay McDonald, Gina McGee.

Also, Jason McKay, Nick McKay, Paula Hope McKnight, Meredith McMillan, Robert McMullen, Carolina Metroz, Kim Miller, Tiffany Minchew, Mary Minks, Darlene Mitchell, Nicole Mitchell, Beth Mitchell, Cedric Mobley, Kechia Moore, Pamela Moore, Rett Moore, Ryan Moorman, Lashawn Moring, Monica Morrissette.

And Margaret Mosby, Meredith Mosby, Stephanie Motley, Jill Mueller, Latammy Newsome, Tonya Nolar, Andre Norwood, Tim O'Brien, James Osborne, Angela Owens, Elizabeth Owens, Laurie Parramore, Hemali Patel, John Peoples, Katesa Peterson, Swandolyn Phillips, Vincent Phillips, Philip Pieplow, Celina Pye.

Also, Deanna Pye, Tasha

Quarterman, Sarita Rainey, Jamie Rainwater, John Ramey, Mary Rawls, Linda Crystal Ray, Jeff Reames, Angela Redden, Anjana Reddy, Catherine Register, Holly Rentschler, Mary Elizabeth Richards, David Richardson, Arthur Rizer Jr., Lisa Robbins, Sophia Roberts, Sanita Ross.

And Cathy Rowe, Coleman Rudolph, Shaun Rudolph, Herb Rumlin, Andy Rykard, Cheryl Scarbrough, Farell Scott, Michelle Scurry, Caroline Seago, Shayna Shapiro, James Sharpe Jr., Dexter Sharper, Bryan Lynn Shealy, Kelly Shelton, Dayne Shelton, Jill Singletary, Michael Singletary, Deidra Sirmans, Tangela Sirmans.

Also, Brian Lee Smith, Lakeshia Sabrina Smith, Frances Smothers, Latonya Speed, Kay Spiker, Chris Spurlock, Jennifer Staley, Cassandra Stanford, Steve Straughter, Heather Strayhorn, Jennifer Strickland, Julie Suggs, Nathan Tart, Shannon Taw, Shawna Rene Taylor, Soren Thuesen, Miriam Vendemo, Shelia Wade.

And Sholanda Wade, Sandra Wang, Natars Washington, Samuel Watson, Jennifer Weaver, Melissa Wetherington, Melissa Wheeler, Kevin Whigham, Nicole White, Elizabeth Whitfield, Melanie Wiggs, Micayle Williams, Kimberly Williams.

Also, Pamela Williams, Ginny Williams, Alfonza Willis, Ralph Wing, Barclay Woodward, Catherine Yale, Leanne Yeager, Michael Young, Shannon Yow.

DAR Chapter Honors Essay Winners

Thurs., Feb. 23, 1989

The General James Jackson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution honored students who won awards in the annual American History Essay Contest honoring February as American History Month.

At a tea held at the Woman's Building Feb. 8, seven area students were honored for their essays regarding American History Month, and Valdosta Mayor Jimmy Rainwater proclaimed February as American History Month in Valdosta.

Two seventh grade students received certificates of awards for

their essays. Those students honored were seventh grade Valwood students Kristen Ellie Wiseman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Wiseman of Nashville, Ga., who wrote a paper about George Washington, and Nikki Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Thompson of Valdosta, who wrote a paper about Benjamin Franklin. Their teacher is Emily Anderson.

Five other students received American History essay medals for their essays. Those students honored were ninth grade Valwood student Julia Clair Peterson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Peterson of

Valdosta, who wrote a paper about Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (Julia's teacher is Robert Dillingham); 11th grade Lowndes High students Leigh Sirmans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Sirmans, who wrote a paper about Martha Washington, and Richard Allen Waddell, son of Chief Master Sgt. and Mrs. J.M. Waddell of Valdosta, who wrote a paper about Viet Nam veterans, (their teacher is Clay Smith); 11th grade Valdosta High student John Casker, son of Col. and Mrs. T.W. Casker of Moody AFB, who wrote a paper about Walter Cronkite, and Ginny Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Williams, who wrote a paper about Theodore Roosevelt, (their teacher is Susan Lawrence).

Anne Cork was in charge of the program and presented the medals. Essay contest chairman was Mrs. James B. Eager. Hostesses for the



GINNY WILLIAMS
Valdosta High

tea were Mrs. Courtland Smith, Mrs. Converse Ferrell, Mrs. Adair Nunnally, and Mrs. William Pendleton. Presiding regent is Mrs. John M. Sorenson.

The Valdosta Daily Times



JOHN CASKER
Valdosta High

Lady 'Cats Pull Upset

Valdosta Dumps Top-Seed Bainbridge 47-46 In OT

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High School Lady 'Cats decided that they would create their own version of David and Goliath Friday night against the top-ranked Region 1-AAAA South subregion girls' squad the Bainbridge Kittens.

The script was played out to perfection as the Lady 'Cats took the Kittens to overtime where center Cassandra Twine nailed a pair of free throws with just 36 seconds to play sending Valdosta into the South subregion championship game with a 47-46 thriller at the Lowndes gymnasium.

"Our team pulled together and got the job done," said Lady 'Cat head basketball head coach Susan Montgomery. "I just want to thank my two assistant coaches, the players, and fans for the school support we have been given all year. Regardless of what happens against Coffee, I think we certainly deserve to be here playing for the championship and a spot in the region tournament next week."

The win gives the Lady 'Cats a 12-9 record and puts them into the South subregion championship against the Lady Trojans of Coffee High. Coffee earned its way into the finals by way of a 79-56 victory over Colquitt County.

The winner will play Jordan, which lost to Carver 67-46 in the North subregion finals Friday night in Columbus.

The Lady 'Cats were led by the inside board domination of Twine

and forward Swandolyn Phillips. The two Valdosta post players offered very few second-chance opportunities for the Kittens as they snagged a total of 43 rebounds in the contest. Twine grabbed 25 and Phillips 18.

Both players were also the game's leading scorers as Phillips scored 19 and Twine 15 points to lead the Lady 'Cats.

The Lady 'Cats jumped out to a commanding 22-9 first-half lead before Bainbridge began its comeback.

In fact, the Lady 'Cats had a chance to win the game in regulation, but a Twine free throw attempt fell off the rim.

Kitten guards Keisha Breedlove and Ashley Dixon took over the offensive end for Bainbridge as they used their outside shooting to bring the Kittens back to within seven points at 39-32 with 6:57 left in the fourth period.

Bainbridge took their first lead of the game with 1:39 left in the contest on a jumper by Dixon.

A pair of free throws by Breedlove gave the Kittens a one-point, 45-44 lead with 10 seconds left.

Twine was fouled and then sank the front end of a one-and-one opportunity with three seconds left to send the game into overtime.

BAINBRIDGE (46) — Ashley Dixon 15, Renita Hines 10, Laura Herndon 7, Keisha Breedlove 6, Tess Ann Pearson 4, Lynn Herndon 2.
VALDOSTA (47) — Swandolyn Phillips 19, Cassandra Twine 15, Ashley Schleusner 4, Sissy Anderson 4, Vashli Manning 3, DeDe Dennis 2.
Bainbridge..... 6 3 17 19 1-46
Valdosta..... 6 16 17 6 2-47
Records: Bainbridge 16-5, Valdosta 12-9.
Next Game: Coffee County vs. Valdosta in South subregion tournament championship, tonight, 7 p.m.



Valdosta High Lady 'Cat guard Nicole Manning tries to pass the basketball to open teammate in the semifinal Region 1-AAAA South Subregion tournament Friday. The

Lady 'Cats will advance to tonight's championship as they defeated Bainbridge 47-46 in overtime — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy.

VHS Cheerleaders Win Competition In Athens

Valdosta High School football cheerleaders have returned from Athens where they participated in one of the state's largest cheerleading competitions.

The girls were in the large varsity division (11 or more on a squad) and competed against 11 other schools, including some co-ed squads (boys and girls).

Judging was based on cheerleading fundamentals (motion technique, jumps, tumbling, partner stunts, pyramids), projection (facial expression, spirit, showmanship, voice), transitions (flow of routine, spacing), dance routine (creativity, execution, incorporation of jumps, stunts, tumbling), precision and timing.

After a preliminary, the girls were chosen to the top five squads and competed again. In the finals, the girls performed an "almost flawless" routine and were chosen champions in their division.

Jana Whitehead, coach of the VHS football cheerleaders, was "very pleased" with her girls' performance and thought they did "extremely well" against such tough competition since many of the squads at the event had been in Award of Excellence runoffs and had been to national competitions before.

This is the fourth competition that the VHS football cheerleaders have been in this year and the fourth first place finish. The other awards that

they have received are the Award of Excellence which qualifies them for nationals in Dallas, Texas; first place trophy at the Waycross Exchange Club competition; first place trophy at Eastern Cheerleaders Association competition; their Athens first place trophy and the spirit award at cheerleaders camp. Next on the agenda "hopefully" is a cheerleader competition at Six Flags Over Georgia in April, Mrs. Whitehead said.

Participants at the Athens competition were Meredith Coogan (captain), Nicole White, Leanne Yeager, Mindi Miller, Paige Stabell, Bayh Brindger, Meredith Stanaland, Emily Josey, Leigh Ann Braswell, Kim Harris, Mindie Butler, and Tiffany Minchew.



Valdosta High School football cheerleaders win the Classic City Cheerleader Competition in Athens — Photo Special To The Times.

Way Back When/ A Weekly Feature About Local History

Valdosta 'Cats Were Strong In 1st Title Win

By SHERRIE FARABEE
Times Staff Writer

It was a very good year.

The year was 1940 and this Way Back When photograph shows the Valdosta High School Wildcats football team. And 1940 was the year the Wildcats won their first state championship.

"Well, it was the first one they had ever won, officially," former team member Lou Blanton said. "I think Valdosta went undefeated a few times but it wasn't as organized as it is now, and that year was the first year we went into the playoffs and had to beat other teams for the south Georgia championship and Cedartown for the state championship."

The game was against Cedartown High School in Albany and for the undefeated Wildcats, there was strength in numbers.

"We were better conditioned and we had quite a few substitutes who played," said Wright Bazemore, then assistant coach of the Wildcats under head coach Bobby Hooks. "It was a hot afternoon and we wore the other team down by running fresh players in, we had a good line."

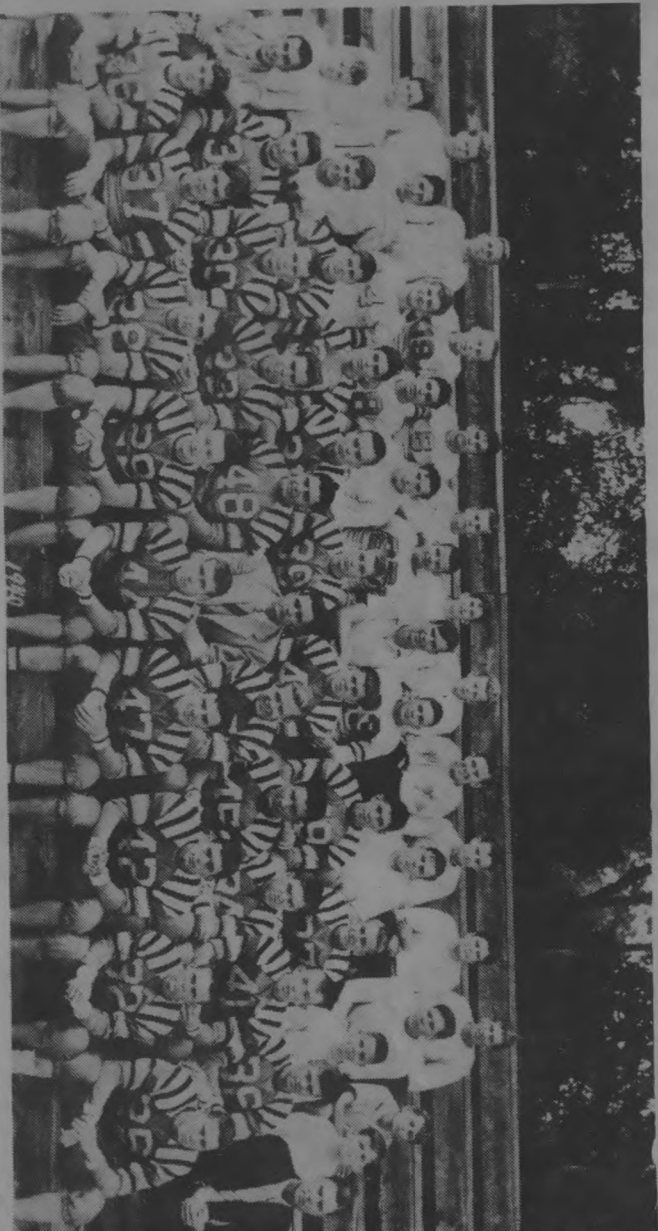
The final score of the game was 13-7, according to Bazemore. The team, he said, was outstanding that day, even though they only scored 13 points.

"We just drove the ball down the field and scored," he said. "Like I say, we had a good offensive line and a good offensive backfield and we muscled them down the field and scored."

Besides being a very successful team that year, the Wildcat players also made up a very large team. Ordinarily schools the size of Valdosta would only have between 15-17. This team picture shows 50 players — so many there weren't enough of the flasher uniforms to go around.

"Back then you went both ways," Blanton said. "The dark uniforms, that was the varsity, the people in the light uniforms were called the Bogarts," that was the junior varsity."

Blanton said when coach Hooks was in college at the University of Georgia, there was a little town near there Athens called Bogart, whom all the other high schools beat regularly. When practice went badly, Hooks (shown at right) would accuse the players of being Bogarts



The Valdosta High School Wildcats football team were strong and won their first

state championship in 1940 — Photo Special to the Times.

and after several years the name stuck to the junior varsity players. According to Blanton, that particular team was special, not just for what they accomplished that year, but for what would happen later.

"That particular team was the last one before the war started, so on that particular team quite a few of those boys were killed in the service," Blanton said.

If you have a photograph for Way Back When, send it to The Valdosta

Daily Times, P. O. Box 968, Valdosta, Ga. 31603. Please include the date of the photo and any information about people or activities shown. Please include a phone number so photographs may be promptly returned.



Valdosta High School forward Jason King (24) leaps high in the air to grab a rebound against the Berrien County Rebels Tuesday night. The Rebels, however, won the contest 61-48 — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy.

DECA Students Competing

VDT, Fri., Feb. 10, 1989

By AMY BOWLING
VHS Student

Nineteen Valdosta High School Distributive Education Clubs of America students will attend the Georgia DECA Seventh District Competition in Vidalia Saturday.

The purpose of the conference is to create an opportunity for marketing education students to compete in co-curricular events that coincide with their classroom studies and job-related activities. Three finalists will be chosen from each event to represent their school and district at the state DECA competition in Atlanta March 17-19.

Norman Greene, adult coordinator of Valdosta DECA, said there will be about 200 DECA students competing in the district events.

Students attending the conference from VHS are

In Vidalia

Micayle Williams, competing in job interview; Catherine Kaiser, competing in speech; Melissa Wetherington, in math; Roslyn Johnson, in spelling; Joey Tomberlin, in economics test; Chris Buescher, in advertising services ME; Heidi Schroer, in finance and credit; Ed Casteloes, in full restaurant service management; Chris Carlson, in quick service restaurant management; Leann Yeager, in food marketing ME; James Payne in food marketing supervisory level; Nick McKay, in automotive and petroleum ME; Marilyn Moss, in general marketing ME; Jill Singletary, in general marketing supervisory level; Leslie Altman, in apparel and accessories ME; Allison Buie, in apparel and accessories supervisory level; Tonya Nolan, in general merchandising ME; Kelly Coleman, in general merchandising supervisory level; and Nick Tomlinson, in hotel and motel services.

'Cats, Vikings Open State Tourney

VDT, Fri., Feb. 10, 1989

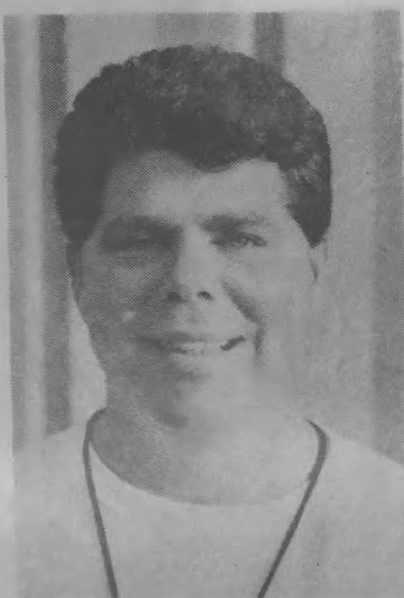
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Both Lowndes High Viking wrestling coach Newnan Sanchez and Valdosta High coach John Davis are realistic concerning the Georgia State Wrestling Tournament, but they are also hoping that the tournament will help build for a stronger wrestling team in the future.

Both the Wildcats and Vikings qualified all 13 wrestlers for the state tournament which begins today at McEachern High School in Powder Springs. The opening two rounds are slated for today with the semifinals, wrestle-backs and finals set for Saturday night, Feb. 11.

"We are just happy to be there. It will be a great pleasure to see our kids perform against some of the state's best," said Sanchez. "I'm looking at this tournament strictly as a reward for the hard work that our team gave this season. Anything we win from this point on will be gravy."

In his first season as head coach for VHS, Davis led his team to an Area Championship. But accord-



DAVIS

ing to Davis, the state meet is entirely different.

"We will now be going up against some of the state's best wrestlers. It's no added pressure for me or the wrestlers. I feel that they have worked hard all season and I feel that there is no pressure simply because it is my first year



SANCHEZ

as head coach," said Davis. "I hope the hard work will pay off and we can take some matches. We've wrestled against some of these teams that will be in the state competition and they are extremely talented."

The Wildcats will be sending four area champions to state, Nick

Gonis, Ashley Fann, Jason Finland, and Eric Phillips, while the Vikings will have two area wrestling champions Bobby Bramlett and Jimmy Hiers.

Each coach agrees that the task will be great, but it is an opportunity of a lifetime for the wrestlers and each school's wrestling program.

"The kids have had a great attitude all week. It's always a great thrill to get to this point and winning a title is what each wrestler is striving for," said Davis. "I'd like to feel that Valdosta and Lowndes can compete with some of the big teams. We will certainly get our chance."

"Anytime you can line up across from some of the state's best wrestlers it is a very big opportunity for the kids and the program," said Sanchez. "To be honest, there will be no shame in losing at any point in the state meet simply because only four Georgia wrestlers in each weight class make the state tournament. And in our case, we sent every wrestler. We will be trying our best to accomplish as much as we can. Nevertheless, it has been a fine season any way you look at it."

VHS Looking For Revenge Against Coffee

VDT, Fri., Feb. 10, 1989

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Valdosta High Lady 'Cat coach Susan Montgomery wasn't too happy with the way here team dropped a 54-43 decision to the Coffee County Lady Trojans last month.

Tonight at the Valdosta gym, Montgomery's team will have an

opportunity for revenge as Valdosta hosts Coffee for a pair of key Region 1-AAAA South games.

"We had too many turnovers and that's what cost us. I haven't checked the stats, but in the games we've won, or been close in, our turnovers have been around 20," she said. "I can live with that because we press so much, but 30 or 40 turnovers is too much. We won't win

if we do that."

The Lady 'Cats, which enter tonight's game with a record of 9-8 overall and 4-5 in the subregion, will be hoping to put themselves in good position come tournament time.

Led by Cassandra Twine (13 ppg.) and Swandolyn Phillips (12 ppg. and 12 reb.), Montgomery said her team also needs to execute the fundamentals a littl bit better.

"We've also got to rebound better with these girls. We've also got to stop doing the little mental things that costs games," she said. "Things like being sloppy on the press, not getting back on defense. After a while, four or five of those little mistakes in a row will add up and that hurts."

See VHS, Page 3-B

VHS

From, Page 1-B

Montgomery also stressed the need for her guards, Ashley Schleusner and Sissy Anderson to play well.

"We saw in the last Lowndes game what can happen if we get good play out of our guards," she

said. "Good guard play is very important."

Freshman Esther Benjamin, a 6-3 freshman has also made an impact of late. Against Ware County Saturday, Benjamin blocked five shots in a span of five minutes.

"She's a freshman and that hurts her some as far as experience goes

butif someone else is not playing like they should she could see more playing time," said Montgomery.

Action will tip off at 7 p.m. followed by the boys game 10 minutes thereafter. John Miller's boys come into tonight's game sporting a record of 7-12 overall and 2-7 in Region 1-AAAA South.

VDT, Fri., Feb. 10, 1989

'Cats' Hazelhurst Signs With Navy

VDT, Tues., Feb. 14, 1989
From Staff Reports

David Hazelhurst, a two-year starter for the Valdosta Wildcats at center, signed last night to attend the Naval Academy on a football scholarship. Hazelhurst will join Beau Laskey, Todd Peterson and B.J. Mason, 1987 graduates of VHS, on the Naval Academy squad.

Hazelhurst, who was also recruited by the University of Ten-

nessee-Chattanooga, said the educational opportunities is what attracted him there.

"I was impressed by the kind of education you can get there and the things that going there can do for you throughout your life," Hazelhurst said.

Hazelhurst will report to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, sometime in July. He is interested in going to flight training school.

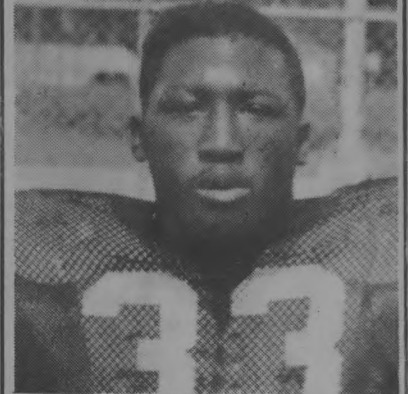


HAZELHURST

Mocs Sign Ceaser

VDT, Fri., Feb. 10, 1989
From Staff Reports

Valdosta High running back Isaac Ceaser joined Wildcat teammates James Roberts and Lawrence Sharpe at the University



ISAAC CEASER

of Chattanooga when he signed a letter-of-intent with the Southern Conference Moccasins Thursday.

Ceaser, a member of the 1988 All-Region 1-AAAA team, rushed the ball 241 times for 1,278 yards and a team-high 23 touchdowns.

The senior said he was looking forward to being able to continue his football career playing with his former high school teammates but said their presence didn't influence his decision entirely.

"It didn't have everything to do with it," Ceaser said. "I still need to work on my school work but the coach talked with my mother and said that they would have a tutor help me out and work with me. A lot of school won't do that."

Ceaser becomes the ninth Wildcat who has signed, or will sign a letter-of-intent. Other Wildcats who signed include quarterback Ben Hogan signed with South Carolina, Coleman Rudolph signed with Georgia Tech, Carlo Butler signed with Georgia and Steve Smith with Morris Brown. David Hazelhurst will sign with the Naval Academy Monday evening and Zabria is expected to also sign with Northeast Oklahoma Junior College remaining a possibility.

VDT, Wednesday, February 15, 1989



Win Third Place

Valdosta High School garnered third place honors in Class AAAA competition in the 8th annual Mathematics Tournament at Darton College in Albany. They are (seated left to right) Nicky Legg, Dan Altman,

Christie Bauer and Roslyn Johnson. Standing are Sponsor Mary Ann Saliba, Tammy Crowe, Tasha Quarterman, Craig Carter and Sponsor Fred McLeod — Photo Special To The Times.

Valdosta Youths Have 'Right Stuff'

By SHERIE FARABEE
Times Staff Writer

Jason Anders Bridges of Valdosta hasn't made a final decision about what he wants to do after he graduates from Valdosta High School, but attending the U.S. Military or Naval Academy, is at the top of the list.

Jason, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Bridges, is one of two seniors at Valdosta High School nominated by Second District Congressman Charles Hatcher for appointments to military academies. Jason was nominated to the U.S. Military and Naval Academy and Brannen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pruette was nominated to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

"I'm happy about it," Jason said. As part of the selection screaming, Jason was interviewed by Hatcher's administrative staff before Christmas. He said the main thing he wanted to get across in the

interview was he was being himself and not putting on an act of any kind.

"A lot of times it is easier to sell someone something that's not really you but it's better to sell yourself," he said.

If selected to attend the academy, Jason said he would like to study aerospace engineering or a related field. He said the academy will give him the best education available, and a lot of other advantages too.

"Discipline for one," he said. "You have to be (disciplined) to get through, a sense of pride because you did get through, and a lot of lasting friendships.

Jason is third in his senior class and academics and football practice don't leave time for much of anything else, but, he said, his football experience is a good training ground for what the academy may involve.

"It is a way to express leadership skills with your peers, it is a

See ACADEMY, Page 2-A



Valdosta High students Brannen Pruette (left) and Jason Bridges have both been nominated to attend US military academies — Times Photo By Bob Freitag.

VDT, Fri., Feb. 10, 1989

Academy

From Page 1-A

structured environment where you have to be highly disciplined to play and compete at the level Valdosta competes," he said. "And in my academics I work hard and try to do the best I can do."

Brannen Pruette wants to fly jet planes and said attending the U.S. Air Force Academy would give him the knowledge and skills he needs to do so. In spite of the numbers who enter the academy and do not finish, Brannen says he wasn't worried about making it if he attended the academy.

"Well, not really," he said. "If I go I'll be happy, it will be where I want to be."

As with other candidates, Brannen

had to write a paper explaining why he wanted to attend the academy. In the paper he said MAFB helped him choose his career and he wanted to fly and serve his country.

"I thank Charles Hatcher for nominating me and I'll do my best to represent the state of Georgia if I end up attending the academy," Brannen said.

Both young men said nothing is decided yet for them, and the nomination is just a step in the process, neither may get the appointments they have been nominated for. Both said they were optimistic about it, but if they did not get their appointments, would still pursue their careers at other colleges and universities.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Vol. 84, No. 117 Thurs., Feb. 9, 1989

Valdosta, Georgia

25 Cents

Hyder Turns Down Job At Alma Mater

From Staff Reports
VDT. Sun, Feb. 19, 1989

Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder said Saturday that he has turned down the job as athletic director at Carson-Newman College, his alma mater.

Hyder said he just wasn't ready to get out of coaching.

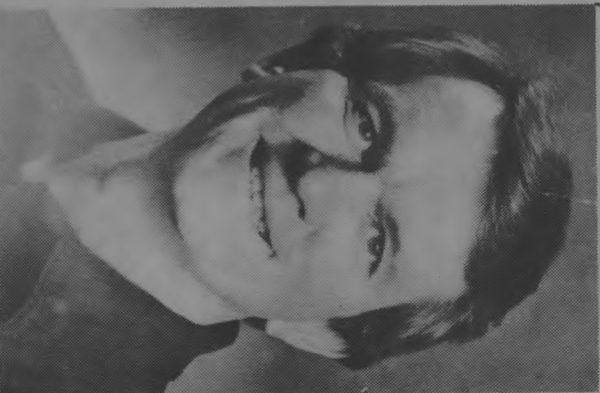
"I'm not ready to stop coaching football and if you're a coach, Valdosta is a good place to be if you don't mind the stress, pressure and expectations," he said.

Hyder, whose family has a history of going to Carson-Newman, said he was honored to be remembered by his former school.

"They called me and someone indirectly associated with the program came to see me," he said. "Carson-Newman is trying to go through the process of upgrading their program."

"For years they have had one of the most successful athletic programs on the NAIA level. They have either won or shared four national titles but they are still trying to upgrade their program. And part of that upgrading, I think, is to separate the job of head football coach from athletic director."

In other Valdosta football news, Hyder announced that assistant Keith Middleton has been named the new defensive secondary coach. In



NICK HYDER

the past, defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph had been working extensively with the secondary but with Middleton's promotion he will be allowed to spend more time with all phases of Valdosta's defense.

"What this gives us is three assistant coaches and one coordinator on defense," Hyder said. "Freddie Waters will be coaching the front line, Charles Tarpley the ends and linebackers and Keith the secondary."



Signed Up

South Georgia was once again a hot-spot for college football recruiters as 13 area players signed letters-of-intent Wednesday. Standing, from left to right are Herbert Mingo, Fred Watts, James Roberts and Coleman Rudolph. Middle row

sitting — Ben Hogan, David Hazelhurst and Lawrence Sharpe. Bottom row — Williams Sims and Doug Hubbard. See related story on Page 2-B—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Lady Wildcats Vie For Region Crown

VDT. Sat., Feb. 25, 1989

From Staff Reports

COLUMBUS — The Valdosta Lady Wildcats continue to surprise everyone as they upset the Carver High Lady Tigers here Friday night 41-38.

With the win, the Lady 'Cats will now face their Region 1-AAAA

subregion foe Coffee County High in the region championship contest. Coffee defeated Jordan of Columbus 72-66.

VHS head coach Susan Montgomery said her team's outstanding defense was the key to the win.

See WILDCATS, Page 3-B



Georgia Christian head coach Carl Walker reacts to his team's hair-raising win over Westwood Friday night in the GISA Region 1-AA Tournament. — Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

Wildcats

From Page 1-B

"Carver was a fast-break team and we slowed them down tonight," Montgomery said. "We made them play a half-court game and they only had one fast break opportunity and they missed that one. We are very excited about the win."

The game was tied at halftime and was close throughout the second half. With 20 seconds left, junior center Cassandra Twine was fouled and hit one free throw to put the Lady 'Cats up 39-38. After a Carver missed shot and a turnover by VHS, the Lady Tigers had one last shot at the victory.

With six seconds left in the game, Carver set up to throw the ball inbound. But Twine came through again. She stole the pass and went the length of the court for the

game-icing layup. She finished with 25 points to lead all scorers.

Montgomery said that although the win was the biggest of the year, it was not their best overall game.

The VHS-Coffee matchup is set to start at 7 p.m. The two teams split during the regular season with the Lady 'Cats losing by one point in the subregion championship.

VALDOSTA (41) — Cassandra Twine 25, Swendelyn Phillips 10, Ashley Schlieuser 7, Sissy Anderson 4.
 CARVER (38) — Kenya Walton 21, Tobeyette Simmons 14, Andrea Aultry 3.
 Valdosta.....12 11 9 9-41
 Carver.....13 10 8 7-38
 Next Game — 14.11.
 (Region Championship) Tonight 7 p.m. vs. Coffee



Bill Davis, local attorney, and 1953 state 4-H president, discusses changes in 4-H with district 4-H Vice President Amy Faircloth

4-H Reception Held At Chamber

VDT. Mon., Feb. 27, 1989

A reception honoring Master 4-H members, leaders and officers was held at the chamber of commerce. The Thursday event was sponsored by the chamber and the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners.

Many current and former 4-H members attended and were congratulated by local officials and community leaders. Jimmy Brooks represented the chamber and Inez Pendleton represented the county commissioners. Margery Stephens, volunteer leader, served as chairman for the activity.

Honored as 1988 National 4-H winners were Leigh

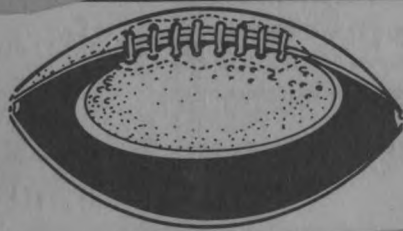
and state 4-H board member Spencer Black

— Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy.

Sirmans and Melinda Downing; state board of directors, Spencer Black; and Southwest District 4-H board of directors, Amy Faircloth. Also honored were local 4-H volunteer leaders who had recently received a \$1,000 award as one of the top six 4-H volunteer groups in the state.

Several Master 4-H members from 1950-1987 attended as special guests. These included Bill Davis, a former state 4-H president, Sue Chancy, Amanda Love, Kim Parr, Leslie Wasson, Wayne Faircloth, Ginger Fields, Randy Jones, Jackie Kirkland, Becky Rowland, Jill Sirmans, and Margery Stephens.

Touchdown



Local Teams ^{V.D.T.} Begin Bids ^{Wed, March 14, 1989} For State Title



By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

For three local basketball teams, the time has come to show the state's best what they have.

As the Georgia basketball state tournaments begin, the Clinch County Panthers, Georgia Christian Generals, and the Berrien County Rebelettes find themselves on the brink of a possible state basketball championship.

Panther head coach Allen Robbins will once again darken the floor of South Georgia College in Douglas this weekend as his team begins its quest for a Class A state championship. Robbins' Panthers will face the Claxton Tigers Friday night at 7 p.m. in the Class A quarterfinals.

Larry Maffitt's Berrien County Rebelettes will square off against Wilkerson County at 7 p.m. in the Class AA girls state quarterfinal which will be held at Abraham Baldwin College Friday night.

The Generals of Georgia Christian School will meet the Memorial Day Matadors in the Georgia Independent Schools state quarterfinals 9 p.m. Thursday in Perry with a tipoff at 9 p.m.

The Clinch County Panthers, 22-2, will have their hands full when they take the court against the Tigers.

Claxton comes in sporting a 16-7 record and are the defending Class AA State Champions before dropping down to Class A this season.

According to Robbins, Claxton returns a lot of experienced players, which will make it tough on the Panthers.

"They are the defending champions and they are a very experienced team as well. They shoot the ball

"They (Claxton) are the defending champions and they are a very experienced team as well. They shoot the ball well and it will be important for us to play good defense Friday.

"We would like to see the game turn into a fast-paced game. But of course they like to slow it down and shoot. I think we need to pick up our intensity and play better defense than we have played in recent games to have a chance."

Allen Robbins
Clinch County Head Coach

well and it will be important for us to play good defense Friday," said Robbins. "We would like to see the game turn into a fast-paced game. But of course they like to slow it down and shoot. I think we need to pick up our intensity and play better defense than we have played in recent games to have a chance."

The Panther are backed by four players who are averaging better than 16 points per game.

Leading the Clinch offensive attack is point guard Alvin Cooper who leads the team in scoring with a 17.5 points a game. Other starters include guard Mike Swinson, center Ken Brown and forward Jimmy Meriweather. All are averaging over 16 points a game. The other starter for the Panthers is forward Dondre Lacey.

"We hope we can just play our game and make some things happen," said Robbins. "Taking good shots will be important Friday night."

A win for the Panthers could set up a possible Class A state rematch between Clinch County and Calhoun County at 8:30 p.m. Saturday. Calhoun County will be taking on Twiggs in the other quarterfinal contest at South Georgia College. Although the Generals were

picked not to finish higher in the GISA Region 1-A, head coach Carl Walker and Georgia Christian hope to prove the experts wrong again as they play the speedy Matadors from Savannah.

"They are a very talented team and they are quick," said Walker. "They have good outside shooting and can push the basketball down the floor in a hurry." "Memorial Day, however, showed that they are an explosive offensive squad as it tallied 93 points in its loss to Trinity in the GISA Region 2-A championship last week.

"They are just an outstanding team," said Walker. "We will have to play well to beat them."

The Generals have also been stretched to the limit with back-to-back overtime decisions against Crisp Academy and Westwood. Walker feels that could help his team.

"We feel pretty good at this point. Our seniors Turner Armstrong, Don Christie, and John Elliott have played well as has Jon Sykes and John Lawlor," said Walker. "Our bench has been a big asset for us as well with Giz Abbas and Scott Moore."

Watch My Hands

Valdosta High girls head coach Susan Montgomery gives very explicit directions during a game earlier this season against Bainbridge. The Lady 'Cats will play Morrow in the state tournament this Friday afternoon at West Laurens High School in Dublin. Valdosta earned the right to advance to the state tournament by defeating Carver in the Region 1-AAAAA tournament Friday afternoon at Columbus High School. If the Lady 'Cats win Friday they would play again on Saturday. — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Thanks From A VHS Wrestler

On behalf of the 1988-89 Valdosta Wildcat Wrestling team I would like to thank everyone who helped make this season a great success.

I appreciate the faculty, student body, parents, takedown club members, and others who have come out to support our team. The coverage by *The Valdosta Daily Times* was also very good. Due to everyone's interest there has been

an increase in the number of spectators at home and away matches.

Thank you again and I hope we will have your support in future wrestling seasons.

Ryan Mooreman
88-89 Wildcat Wrestler
Valdosta

Lady Wildcats

VDT. Wed., March 1, 1989

Had A Dream

Valdosta Girls Get Opportunity Against Morrow Friday At 4p.m.

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

At the beginning of the year, Valdosta Lady Wildcat head coach Susan Montgomery had an idea.

Instead of telling her team what she expected of them this upcoming season she had them tell her.

So one day before the season began, Montgomery sat her team down and had them list what their goals were and what they hoped to accomplish this season. It turned out to be a pretty good idea.

"I just wanted to find out what they were thinking at the beginning of the year. I just wanted to know what they as a team felt they could accomplish," Montgomery said. "Our first goal was to do well in the subregion. Our second goal was to go to the region tournament and of course almost everyone put down to go to state. So far all of our goals have come to pass. I just hope another one was to win once we got there.

"But any team should want to do well and go to state. That's the big deal. That's what you ought to work toward."

And the Lady 'Cats have done just that. This Friday in Dublin at West Laurens High School, Valdosta has a 4 p.m. date with the Lady Mustangs of Morrow High School. Morrow (25-1) was ranked second, one point behind No. 1 Etowah, in the latest Georgia Sportswriters Association High School Prep Poll.

But this does not intimidate the Lady 'Cats.

"We don't know a lot about them other than they've won a lot of games," senior forward Swandolyn Phillips said. "But we're just looking at them as just another team. And we're going to show them we're just as good."

Montgomery also believes her team will make a good account of itself despite the fact where one loss

will the Lady 'Cats home packing.

"In the two games where we've had to win, first against Bainbridge in the subregion tournament and then against Carver in the region tournament, we've played our best ball," she said. "But in both games that followed against Coffee, we didn't play as well. I don't know if the fact that we already had a spot locked up affected us or what. But when we've had to win we've played very well. I think it will be that way Friday. I'm kind of glad we're now in a must-win situation. I'm excited about the opportunity."

Junior center Cassandra Twine agrees with her coach's assessment and adds that she and her teammates cannot afford any letdowns which she believed happened against Coffee.

"We just weren't fired up. Most of us were tired. We just were not ready to play," Twine said.

But she knows what the Lady 'Cats can do if they play up to their potential the way they did against Carver.

"We found that if we play like we can we can win on any given night," she said. "We've just got to play together and get fired up."

So far this togetherness has carried the Lady 'Cats to a record of 13-11. And while this record may not be considered outstanding by many, the Lady 'Cats are still one of 16 teams still in contention for the Class AAAA state title.

"There's just so much more team spirit. Everyone on the team is real close. Everyone is each other's best friend," senior guard Sissy Anderson said. "In the lockerroom, everybody's been clapping, getting fired up."

"We just knew what we had to do. At the beginning of the year, Coach Montgomery had us write down where we wanted to go and this (state) is it. We just realized that if we wanted to go then we had to go out and win. This was it."



Valdosta guard Sissy Anderson goes up for two points in a game played last month at Lowndes. — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

VHS Girls' Track Has Depth

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

VDT. Thurs. March 9, 1989

Like their male counterparts, the Valdosta High girls track team has more out for the team than in years past.

This season, 32 young ladies will have the running shoes on for head coach Dick Sturtevant and this has the VHS mentor in good spirits about his team.

"I'm pretty high on the girls right now," Sturtevant said. "Depth wise we should do pretty good."

Valdosta will have its first meet this Thursday in Tifton. The Lady 'Cats first home meet will be next Wednesday at home against Lowndes.

"Probably our best event will be the distance events, the 880 and the mile relay," Sturtevant said. "And as far as our relay team goes it looks pretty promising."

Leading the charge on the 880 team is freshman Maggie McDonald. Other long distance runners include Alfreda Cochran, Lisa Rabalalis and Rasheda Steward, Liz Foster and Crystal Ray, a returning letterman from last year, Susie Jones, Laura Barbas, Paige Stabell and Cynthia Anderson. In the long jump, Tanya Weatherspoon, Beth Edwards, Chantell Washington and Tiffany Wright has shown good promise.

Suzette Davidson, another returning letterman will be the mainstay for Valdosta in the long jump. Other long jumpers include Michelle Hendricks and Bayh Brindger.

Laura and DeDe Dennis will both compete in the shot put and discus.

The No. 1 team in the 440 relay is

made up of Washington, Wright, Davidson and Hendricks. Tanya Weatherspoon, Carlas Larry, Meredith Stanaland and Hendricks

make up the No. 2 team.

The No. 1 mile relay team is made up of Lauri Parramore, Wright, Brindger and Hendricks. Edwards, Felicia Ponder, Weatherspoon and Davidson will run the 2-mile relay.

Washington, Wright and Weatherspoon will run the 100 meters. Washington, and Wright will also run the 200 meter along with Edwards and Althea Cochran.

Brindger, Parramore, Larry, Felicia Ponder and Michelle Collins will run in the 400 meters. The hurdlers are Davidson, Hendricks and Merideth.

STAR Student, ^{VDT}Teacher Named At VHS

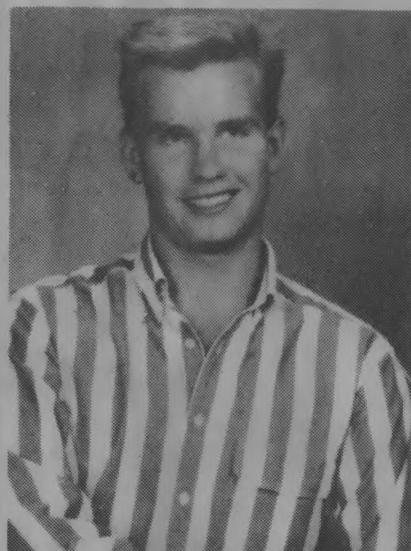
James Goodman Connell III has been named the 1989 STAR Student for Valdosta High School.

The son of Julia C. Oliver and James Goodman Connell Jr., James, who prefers to be called "J," has selected Frank S. Hjort as his STAR Teacher because of the contribution Hjort has made to his scholastic development and because of his "exceptional" support as the debate team coach.

A member of the VHS debate team, J attended debate camp at Baylor University the summer before his sophomore year and this past summer attended debate camp at Sanford University. Hjort calls J an "accomplished, articulate debator."

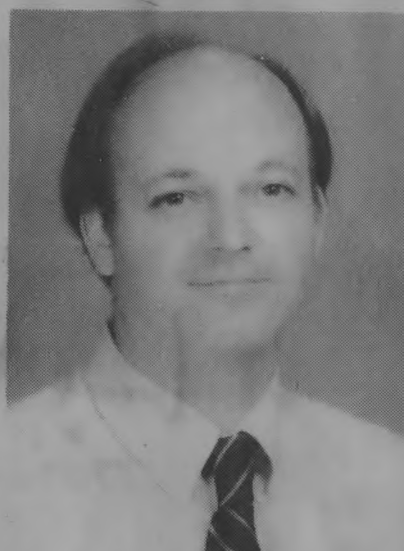
J is also active in the Jazz Band and is a member of the Academic Bowl Team. A member of Christ Episcopal Church, his hobbies include music and debating.

His STAR Teacher, Hjort, received his undergraduate degree at Valdosta State College and began his career in the DeKalb County school system teaching German. At Georgia State University he became



J CONNELL
STAR Student

certified to teach English and in 1979 joined the VHS faculty. He began coaching the debate team that same year and continues to do so. This year VHS held its third debate tournament, hosting 18 to 20 debate teams.



FRANK HJORT
STAR Teacher

The announcement of the STAR Student and Teacher was made as part of the statewide Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) Program which has been administered by the Business

Council of Georgia for 31 years, and beginning this year in partnership with the Georgia Department of Education.

Valdosta Kiwanis Club has sponsored the VHS STAR students and teachers since the beginning of the program in 1958. Selection of the STAR students is based upon the College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), class standing and scholastic averages as reported by high school principals to the Business Council.

As system winners, J and Hjort are awarded, by the Valdosta Kiwanis Club, expense-paid trips to the District STAR Banquet March 14 and to the Business Council of Georgia's State STAR Banquet. The 1989 STAR Banquet will be held at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta April 20. The following day, the District STAR students and teachers can participate in a special day of activities including a meeting with Gov. Joe Frank Harris and tour of the state capitol.

Developing Character/A Weekly Feature About Local Young People

VDT. Fri., March 3, 1989

Putting Newspapers To Work

By **SHERRIE FARABEE**
Times Staff Writer

Using the newspapers reinforces basic skills, reading, writing, comprehension, sequencing and calculation.

"It's different," Valdosta High School ninth grader Joy McMullen said.

"It" is the newspaper, sold every day at newsstands for a quarter. What's different is the fact newspapers are being used as comprehensive learning tools in the classroom as part of the Newspapers In Education program.

Joy's teacher, Joyce Lewis, is just one of many teachers in the area using newspapers as classroom resources. Each Friday in her class the newspapers are the textbooks.

"For every skill emphasized for the Georgia Basic Skills test we can use the newspaper to practice those skills," Ms. Lewis said.

Using the newspapers reinforces basic skills, reading, writing, comprehension, sequencing and calculation. Students also read up on current events in the community and get a chance to express their views by responding to columnists like Dear Abby. It also gets them into the habit of reading the news-

paper.

"Some of them come by and say, 'Can I have the paper' or 'Do you have any extra copies.'"

While Ms. Lewis is impressed with the success of newspapers in the classroom, so are many of her students, who have found out more about reading and writing, the world around them, and themselves.

"Some people in our class didn't read the newspaper," 9th grader Brian Wisemon said. "This gives us time to do that and there's some interesting stuff."

Brian, the son of Mrs. Anna Wisemon, said he likes using the newspaper in the classroom because it is interesting and because, he said, you learn more about the future by reading about what is going into it today. He said his communication has also improved through adding words to his vocabulary and reading the way other people communicate.

"I like to talk a lot," he said. "But when I first started reading the newspaper in her (Ms. Lewis') classroom, the words I said started making more sense."

Joy, daughter of Robert and Becky McMullen, said working with the newspaper was exciting and in many ways, better than working with a textbook. She has learned to make her sentences more interesting and learned new words.

"I like reading about things that have happened in the community too," she said. "You get excited finding out things you never heard."

Throughout history, newspapers have informed the common man and the lofty, squelched rumors and incited revolutions. Now they are being used to teach lessons that can't always be taught with "three R's".

"It makes me move toward the future more open-minded," Brian said.



Tracy Troutman, a ninth grader at Valdosta High, reads the newspaper as part of her class.



Defending state champion Valdosta High School's Hubert Davidson (far right) leads the pack in the 110 high hurdles against the Lowndes High Viking track team Monday at Valdosta High School. VHS defeated the Vikings by 40 points. — Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag.

Wildcats Run Over Lowndes In Track Meet

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

In just their second track meet of the season, Freddie Waters' Valdosta High boys' Wildcat track team defeated cross-town rival Lowndes High Vikings 93.5 to 53.5 at Valdosta High School Monday.

In the girls' meet, coaches Hiram Johnson and Jody George saw their Vickettes capture win No. 22 against only two losses as they cruised past the Valdosta Lady 'Cats and the Tift

County Lady Blue Devils. Lowndes' girls scored 72 points, VHS finished in second place with 47.5 points and Tift was third at 17.5.

The Wildcats finished first in nine individual events. Lowndes won five. Valdosta was also victorious in both the 440 and mile relays.

Waters was very pleased with his team's performance in what was VHS' first meet in a week.

"After a week layoff our runners did very well," said Waters. "It's hard to tell really at this stage how

we are as a team because this is just meet number two. But I thought that everyone was in great shape and they all showed a lot of heart and character."

The Lowndes girls' track team won eight individual events and was the winner in all relays.

According to Johnson and George, they expected to capture more

points, but were very happy with the win.

"Most of the girls ran very well today," said Johnson. "We were disappointed in our overall point total, but were happy with the win."

"We can do better in some of the field events," said George. "That is something that we are really working hard at right now."

"We feel that our field events will get much stronger as the season goes along," Johnson said. "We have competed in some big meets this year and we just looked a little sluggish today."

In the boys' meet, Steve Smith started things off for VHS by winning the shot put with a distar

See WILDCATS, Page 3-B

Wildcats

From Page 1-B

of 41-10½. Teammate Dexter Daniels was second at 41-9½ and Lowndes' Antwoine Clark was third.

Isaac Ceaser took first place in the discus with a toss of 129.5½. Clark was second and Dexter Daniels was third.

Lowndes won their first event of the day when Chris Bridgeforth posted a leap of 20-5 to edge out Ceaser in the long jump. VHS' Robert Filmore was third.

Lowndes sophomore Jeffrey Thomas made it two in a row for the Vikings winning the high jump with a jump of 5-4. Adrain Dawsey of Valdosta was second.

The triple jump went to VHS' Keith Beal at 41-2. Terrance Daniels of VHS was second and Jason Orr of Lowndes third. LHS' Brint Taylor won the pole vault competition at 8-6. VHS' Scott Jones was second and third went to John Brooks of Lowndes.

The Valdosta 440 relay team of Ceaser, Frederick Henton, Chris Hart and Carlo Butler won with a time of 45.5.

Scott Jones of Valdosta won the mile run at 4:59.37, Thomas took the 440 dash at 54.68 and Henton won the 100 dash with a time of 11.28. Defending 110 hurdles state champion Hubert Davidson of Valdosta High posted a 15.99 win over

teammate James Washnot. The 880 run went to Scott Jones of Valdosta with a time of 2.21.68 over LHS' Brint Taylor. Butler won the 220 with a time of 24.16. Second was Thomas. Chris Wright of LHS won the 300 intermediate hurdles with a time of 44.39 over Washnot.

The 2-mile run went to Washnot with a time of 11.51.

VHS closed things out with a win in the mile relay as the team of Butler, Demetrius Jones, Hubert Davidson and Keith Beal came away the winners.

In the girls' meet, Laura Dennis of Valdosta won the shot put with a distance of 31-10. Karen Williams of Tift County won the discus as DeDe Dennis of Valdosta came in second. Marisha Bishop of Lowndes won the long jump with a 15-7½ jump. Chantell Washington of VHS was second.

LHS team of Tammy Sheppard, Vernellia Alderman, Veronica Williams and Marisha Bishop took the 440 relay with a time of 52.97. They beat the VHS team of Chantell Washington, Tiffany Wright, Suzette Davidson and Beth Edwards.

Tammy Sheppard won the 440 with a time of 65.28 over second place finisher Bayh Brindger of Valdosta. Bishop won the 100 with a time of 12.75. The low hurdles went

to Alderman with a time of 15.90 and the 880 to LHS' Latina Childs. Her time was 2:42.0. Second was Missy Cosey of LHS.

Bishop won the 220 at 22.47. Second place was Veronica Williams of LHS.

The LHS mile-relay team of Sheppard, Childs, Williams, and Bishop posted a time of 4:24.54 in defeating the VHS team of Laurie Parramore, Wright, Davidson and Brindger.

'Cats Crank Out First Win

Rykard, Maples Spark VHS

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The unknown Valdosta Wildcat baseball team capitalized on several Lanier County mistakes to capture their first win of the 1989 baseball season Tuesday afternoon at Bazemore Field 7-3.

The game was the first of the year for the 'Cats. The loss was the first on the young season for John White's Lanier squad, which now drop to 3-1 on the season.



RYKARD



MAPLES

Valdosta was paced by the strong right arm of senior hurler Andy Rykard and leftfielder Ray Maples.

Rykard, who was the game's winning pitcher, retired six of the first ten Bulldog batters by strikeouts. Rykard pitched three innings did not give up a Lanier County run while surrendering just two base hits.

Maples led the hit parade for Valdosta going 2-for-2 on the day with three runs scored. The only other Wildcat who had two or more hits on the day was Rykard.

Lanier County's leading hitter was centerfielder Dwight Boone. Boone went 2-for-4 at the plate.

According to Valdosta High head baseball coach Charles Tarpley, his team's play was typical for an opening day performance.

"First of all, we have a lot to do in several areas, but in all I thought we played pretty well for the first time out," said Tarpley. "We have been waiting for opening day for some time. Although it was a cloudy day and cold day, a win is a win, and we will certainly take it. Lanier did, however, aid us with some key mistakes, but in all I was pleased. We played a lot of folks and our pitching wasn't too bad."

"The difference in the game was simply the play of Rykard on the mound and our inability to play solid baseball," said Lanier County head coach John White. "We just have not been getting any production out of the middle of our lineup and we've been lucky to win the games we have won."

Rykard quickly gave VHS a 1-0 lead after one inning of play when he singled Maples who had walked. VHS' lead zoomed to 3-0 on a two-run double by third baseman Ashley Bass. Bass' double plated Maples and Jason Nichols.

Lanier County's Willie Sims put the Bulldogs on the board in the fourth scoring Kevin Shaw with a deep fly ball to center.

VHS put the game away with two runs in the fifth and sixth innings. Three of the four runs were unearned as the Bulldogs committed two errors and had two passed balls and a pair of wild pitches.

Rykard and Valdosta relief pitcher Carlos Moore scored in the fifth, with Shannon Myers scoring a single run in the sixth. Maples also scored in the sixth on an RBI grounder by Alton Hitson.

Lanier scored two runs to close the game out in the seventh inning.

The Wildcats next play Atkinson County at Bazemore Field next Wednesday, March 15, at 4:30 p.m.

Lanier Co.-VHS

LANIER	abr	h	b	bi	VALDOSTA	abr	h	b	bi
Williams, 2b	c	4	0	0	Maples, lf	2	3	2	0
Boone, cf	2b	4	0	2	Gage, 2b	3	0	1	0
Lee, 3b	4	0	1	0	Nichols, c	3	1	0	0
Shaw, 1b	2	1	0	0	Hitson, ph	1	0	0	1
Howell, 1b	1	0	0	0	Rykard, p-3b	3	1	2	1
Wynn, dh	3	0	0	0	Bass, 3b	2	0	1	2
C. Phillips, p	2	0	0	0	Moore, p	1	1	1	1
Darsey, rf	1	0	1	0	Thornton, ph	2	0	0	0
Sims, rf	2	0	0	1	Cullen, ss	2	0	0	0
Flowers, ss	1	1	0	0	Jarmillo, ss	1	0	0	0
P. Phillips, c	2	0	0	0	Thomas, 1b	2	0	0	0
Watson, ph	0	1	0	0	Hogan, cf	2	0	0	0
Totals	26	3	4	1	Myers, cf	0	1	0	0
					Totals	24	7	7	4

Lanier Co.	000	100	2	3
Valdosta	102	022	x	7
E - Williams, Shaw, C. Phillips, Jarmillo, LOB - Lanier 7, VHS 6. 2B - Bass, SB - Boone 2, C. Phillips 2, Darsey, Lee, S - Wynn, Gage.				

LANIER CO.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
C. Phillips (L, 2-1)	6	7	7	4	6	5
VALDOSTA						
Rykard (W, 1-0)	3	2	0	0	1	6
Moore	2	1	1	1	3	1
Pruette	2	1	2	0	1	4
WP - Phillips, Pruette 2. PB - Williams 2, P. Phillips 2. T - 2:15.						



Lanier catcher Patches Phillips tries in vain to tag out Valdosta's Jason Nichols who scored on a double by Ashley Bass. — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Strong Turnout Has Baker Optimistic About Tracksters

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

If numbers mean anything then the Valdosta High boys track team should have a pretty good year.

According to Wildcat track coordinator Jerry Don Baker, there are currently 35 athletes out for the team and that alone has Baker feeling good about his team's chances.

"This is probably the largest number of athletes we've had out for track in some time," he said. "As the season goes on, I feel like the

team will improve. I'm anxious to see what the kids will do in our upcoming competitions."

One thing the Wildcats do have this season is speed.

"I feel as far as the sprinters and relay people go we should be pretty strong," Baker said. "We've got James Roberts, Carlo Butler, Frederick Henton, Chris Hart, Carlos Parker, Andre Hampton, Isaac Ceaser, Adrian Dawsey and Coleman Rudolph who make up our sprint core and they should do a good job."

"We've got some more who are capable of helping out and with that added depth we should be in good shape."

Baker also expects his team to be strong in the middle and long distance events. Part of the reason for his optimism is the addition of exchange student Mar van der Chijs

from Holland.

He's probably the best distance runner we've had here in 10 years," Baker said. "I would not be surprised to see him break a couple of our school records in our distance events."

Frank Henderson and Scott Jones have looked good in the half mile and mile runs with Justin Bridges and Michael McAllister have provided added depth.

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From Page 1-B

triple jump last year and freshman Terrance Daniels, according to Baker, has shown good promise.

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BAKER

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Howell, 1b	1	0	0	0	Rykard, 3b	3	1	2	1
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Watson, dh	0	1	0	0	Hogan, cf	2	0	0	0
Myers, cf	0	1	0	0	Myers, cf	0	1	0	0
Totals	24	3	4	1	Totals	24	7	4	4

Lanier Co.	ab	r	h	bi	VALDOSTA	ab	r	h	bi
Valdosta	24	7	4	4	Williams, 2b	3	2	0	1
Williams, 2b	3	2	0	1	Lanier 7, VHS 0, 2b	3	2	0	1
Boone, cf	4	0	2	1	Bass, 5b	2	1	1	0
Lee, 3b	2	1	0	0	Darsey, 1b	1	0	1	0
Shaw, 1b	1	0	0	0	Wynn, dh	3	0	0	0
Howell, 1b	1	0	0	0	Lee, 3b	4	0	1	0
Wynn, dh	3	0	0	0	Wynn, dh	3	0	0	0
C. Phillips, p	2	0	0	0	Wynn, dh	3	0	0	0
Darsey, rf	1	0	1	0	Wynn, dh	3	0	0	0
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From Page 1-B

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Coaches, Administration Upset With Football Ban

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

When the state Board of Education voted 5-4 Thursday to ban spring football practice for Georgia's public schools it created more than a stir in Valdosta and Lowndes County.

"This (the state Board) is not an elected group, it is appointed by the Governor. As an appointed group they are supposed to represent the way the Governor feels. And with the action this appointed committee took, I assume that this is the governor's opinion as well," said Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder. "I've spoken before to Gov. Joe Frank Harris about this but he never did give me an answer.

"Being an appointed committee, this board speaks for the Governor and it doesn't want spring football. To me this says that the governor does not like football."

The ruling, which takes place effect in 1990, states that spring football, long a tradition will no longer be allowed. The board also ruled that students who lose eligibility will be able to regain it as soon as they make up their missing credits.

"This is about what I expected, considering all of the information that I have been receiving," Valdosta High principal William Aldrich said. "It's not something that I wanted to see happen."

Valdosta City Schools superintendent Walter Altman did not agree with the

decision either.

"I was not in favor of any decision made by the state board of education," he said. "I like anything to do with our young ladies and young men that allows them to spend time with a team, keeps them in organized play or studies. This is to their advantage."

For Hyder, the banning of spring football even goes a step further. It ends a long-standing Georgia tradition.

"What they've done is take away a liberty fans of south Georgia high school football have enjoyed for years," he said. "With its action the state school board had told us that they don't care."

New Lowndes head football coach Rick Tomberlin agreed. Speaking from his home in Jonesboro, Tomberlin said that the loss of spring practice will be felt down the road on the playing field.

"What you're asking for is more injuries. What's going to happen is come time to go into pads (August 15), you're going to have but a couple of weeks to the first game," he said. "Coaches are going to be forced to spend additional time on fundamentals when they should be preparing for the game. You get kids on the field who aren't well versed in the fundamentals and they're going to get hurt."

"The second thing is this. It's also going to lower the level of play. A friend of mine, Max Bass, the head coach at Newnan said this and I agree. A lot of times you are going to have a kid who wants to play but is not as gifted an athlete. Spring practice would help make this person a better player. With a gifted athlete this (the

banning) might not make much of a difference. But the lesser athlete without this extra time is going to have a tough time."

Hyder also contends that athletes will suffer academically as well.

"I've worked with young men for 31 years and I can tell you that this ruling will also lower the academic level," he said. "Because of the grade requirements a student must meet before taking part in spring practice, we are able to find out what students need help in the classroom. We can find out who needs the tutoring. We can talk to the students and their teachers now if they have a problem. We can help the students now instead of having to wait until fall."

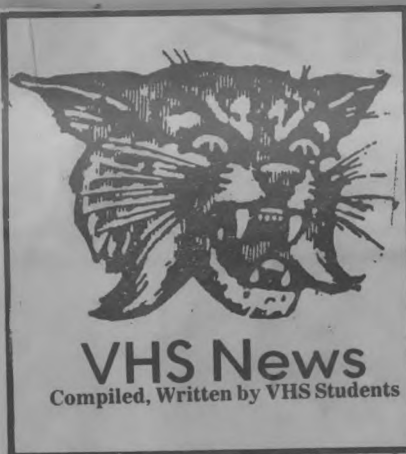
Altman said his school system has proof to back up Hyder's claim.

"Young people in this community have had a problem with too much idle time and spring football is a good wholesome activity," he said. "Last year we had 250 young people involved for a three-week period and I do not feel that any harm was felt. We also have studies that prove that our student's grades are higher during and their behavior is better when involved in an activity than when they are not."

"The fact that there will be more injuries and a decline in quality and productivity says it right there," said Tomberlin. "But the loser of this whole thing is the students. I know you've got you're lazy coaches who are glad to see the banning come into effect but for those who want to play top-quality football, it's a real blow."



Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder was more than just a little upset at the state Board of Education's decision. Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag



V.D.T. Wed., March 8, 1989

Pages Mount In Contest

By CATHY PENDLETON

86,500 pages were read last week in the "Reading Across a Drug Free America" sponsored by the VHS Media Center, bringing the total pages students have read to 892,576.

Last week's top readers were Spence Carver in first place, Michael Seago in second place, Sandra Williams in third place, Geneva McLowery in fourth place and Kim Reece in fifth place.

Wildcats Honored At Annual Banquet

VDT. Tues., March 14, 1989

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Fans, family and friends of the Valdosta High School football team got together last night at the team's annual banquet to honor the 1988 Wildcats one more time.

Former University of Georgia head football coach and current athletic director Vince Dooley was the featured speaker at the banquet which was attended by approximately 550 people.

"Whatever religion is your choice to follow, do it," he said. "Your spiritual faith is the most important thing you can have. If you stay strong in your faith, you can overcome whatever difficulties which may come your way."

After Dooley's speech, the business of handing out the various team awards began.

The Wildcat cheerleaders were the first to be so honored as each member of the cheerleading squad was given a token of appreciation.

Next the Howard Bridges Memorial Scholastic award was given to senior defensive back Jason Bridges. Bridges also won the Julian Lefiles Memorial Spirit of Wildcats

award.

Deric Cotton was the recipient of the Super Skinner award and Andy Rykard won the Mark Stevens Memorial Sportsmanship award.

Offensive lineman Steve Adkins and defensive lineman Andre Hampton were named co-winners of the "Dynamite" Goodloe Memorial Most Improved Award.

Ben Hogan, who has signed to play college football at the University of South Carolina was named the Most Loyal Wildcat. David Hazelhurst and Steve Smith were voted the Best Offensive Linemen while Zabria Bell was named the Best Defensive Lineman.

Junior Anthony Williams was named the Best Linebacker while Frederick Henton was honored for his play at defensive end.

Tennessee Chattanooga signee Isaac Ceasar was voted the Best Offensive Back and Carlo Butler was named the Best Defensive Back.

Georgia Tech signee Coleman Rudolph was named the Most Valuable Defensive Player and Tennessee Chattanooga signee James Roberts was named the Most Of-



Former University of Georgia head football coach Vince Dooley makes a point during Monday night's Valdosta High School football banquet. — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Lady Vikings Shine In Dual Track Meet With Valdosta

VDT. Thurs., March 16, 1989

By RON EVANS
Times Sports Editor

As darkness descended upon the Valdosta High School track, the outcome of the girls' team competition was very much in doubt. For visiting Lowndes High, the dual meet title, 60-49, Wednesday would be a light at the end of the tunnel.

The boys' competition was close but not so close as the Wildcats won 74¹/₂-60¹/₂.

The meet was supposed to have been a tri-meet but Cook High had to cancel.

The Lady Wildcats led 49-46 heading into the next-to-last event — the 3,200-meter run. After the event, the contest was over as Lowndes went 1-2-3, led by Cassie Campbell in time of 14:44.0. Brenda Felton was second

and Lisa Samaris third.

"This was a good test for us," said Lowndes girls' coach Hiram Johnson. "We hadn't been tested in our last two meets. It's going to get a lot more competitive now."

Lowndes was paced by Marisha Bishop, who captured the long jump (15-23³/₄), 100 dash (12.78), 220 (27.81) and was the anchor leg of the winning 1,600 relay, joining Tami Shepard, Vernellia Alderman and Latina Childs.

"She has been a big surprise for me," said Johnson of Bishop. "She has surprised me by the speed she has and the heart she has."

Campbell also won the 1,500 in time of 6:24.0. Shepard won the 400 (1:06.85), Alderman the 100 hurdles (16.47) and Childs the 800 (2:46.0) to round Lady Viking winners.

For the Lady 'Cats, Laura Dennis captured the shot put with an effort of 29-3¹/₄. Sister DeDe won the discus (77-2) and Suzette Davidson the high jump (4-6) in individual events. The 400 relay team of Cantel Washington, Tanya Weatherspoon, Davidson and Beth Edwards were clocked in 53.64.

The Wildcats were without the services of Carlo Butler, the defending region champion in the 400 and who runs in the 200, and James Roberts, who runs in the 100, 200 and anchors the 400 relay, to pulled hamstrings. They were also without middle distance specialist Mark VanDerChijs, a Dutch national junior champion, here on an exchange program, to pneumonia.

So, VHS track coordinator Jerry Don Baker was all the more pleased with the outcome of his boys team. "I was very proud of the effort," he

said.

Individually, Baker had praise to pass out. "I thought Scott Jones came through for us," he said. "He is a ninth grader and we asked him to take up the slack because VanDerChijs is out. I was very proud of his effort." Jones won the 800 run (2:19.87) and the 1,500 (5:18.0).

Baker also pointed out the efforts of Frederick Henton, who won the 100 (11.15) and 200 (23.76) and also ran on the winning 400 relay (45.63) with Isaac Ceasar, who won the long jump (20-9¹/₄), Chris Hart and Adrian Dawsey.

Justin Davidson won the 3,200 run (12:19.79) in his first year of running track. Hubert Davidson gave Baker some senior leadership running with a slight injury and capturing the 300 hurdles (43:86) and 100 hurdles (16.26).

Lawrence Sharpe won the shot put (47-53³/₄) to round out Valdosta winners.

Jeffery Thomas was a multiple winner for the Lowndes squad, capturing the high jump (5-2), 400 (54.63) and as a member of the 1,500 relay (3:47.6).

Brent Taylor took the pole vault (9-0), Reggie Glance the triple jump (41-6) and Clark the discus (111-¹/₂) for the Vikings.

Valdosta will next host Colquitt County on Monday at 4 p.m. Lowndes will be in the Florida Relays in Gainesville on March 25.

Valdosta High Teacher Honored

VDT.

By ELLEN AVERY
Times Staff Writer

Development of a class management system and desire to teach students about metal technology won a Valdosta High School trade and industry vocational education teacher national recognition recently.

Wayne Sapp, a metal technology instructor at Valdosta High, was a runner-up for the National Trade and Industrial Education Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award in 1988.

Because Sapp was named the state Trade and Industrial Education Outstanding Teacher of the Award in 1988, he was automatically in the running for the national award.

John Fields, director of vocational education at Valdosta High, said he nominated Sapp for the state award because of his innovative teaching methods.

"I've been impressed with vocational education, especially Mr. Sapp," Fields said. "When I saw what Mr. Sapp was doing with his management system and his rapport in the classroom, I nominated him for the state award."

Sapp was nominated for the state award in 1974 and 1987. He has also been the teacher of the year at Valdosta High.

Sapp developed a management system to allow his students to work on different levels and specific projects. The computerized system sets up an information file on each student, measures the student's proficiency level, keeps track of each pupil's tasks, compiles work ethics ratings for each person, generates task plans for each student and writes tests according to tasks each student has completed.

"Students work from the lesson sheets I create," Sapp said. "They pick up their lessons every day and do what the lessons tell them. The program is designed to meet the needs of the special-need students, as well as the college-bound. It's a very individualized program."



Valdosta High metal technology teacher Wayne Sapp instructs students Hal Rowe and Daron Spray on the construction of a dog cage for a pickup truck — Times Photo By Paul Leavy.

Sapp's ability to manage his classes is not the only reason he is one of the nation's top educators, said VHS Principal Wayne Aldrich. Sapp has gained the respect and admiration of his students.

"He is well liked and respected by the students here," Aldrich said. "He also goes out of his way to help teachers in other areas of the school. We're very glad to have Mr. Sapp here."

Other teachers have assisted Sapp in developing his management system and coordinate other parts of his program. Without the help of other teachers, Sapp said he would not have been able to get his management program published.

During the summer, Sapp spends much of his time teaching other

school systems how to implement his management program. He has visited schools in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee, and will travel to Connecticut this summer.

Sapp began teaching at Valdosta High 16 years ago. Valdosta Technical Institute President James Bridges asked Sapp, who graduated from Val-Tech and was working at ITT Metal Products Division here, if he would be interested in teaching. Sapp interviewed for a vocational education job at Valdosta High and started the next fall.

In addition to teaching students mathematics, blueprint reading, shop sketch reading, metal design, welding and metal working, Sapp tries to instill work ethics in his

students.

"Many people who lose jobs don't lose them because they don't have the skills. They lose them because they come to work late, they have conflicts with their bosses and other bad personality traits."

Scrapbook / A Times Sports Feature

V.D. News, Feb 15, 1987
Name: Deann Dasher
Position: Cheerleader
Location: Valdosta High School
Class: Senior
Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Dasher
Future: Go to Brenau College and transfer to Dental School
Likes: Getting involved in school activities and doing volunteer work
Hobbies: Spending time with family and friends



Tarpley Eyes Immediate Future, Cats Win 9-5

VPT, Thurs. March 16, 1989

By RON EVANS
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High School baseball coach Charles Tarpley said he was just watching. After all, it was only the second game of the season. The game was against Atkinson County Wednesday at Bazemore Field. Some things he saw he liked and some things he didn't.

Besides the end result, a 9-5 victory for the Wildcats something Tarpley says is always nice to do, he was a bit frustrated. "We aren't hitting the ball. We got what? Six, seven hits and they weren't good hits. I thought we were a good-hitting team," he said.

Actually, the 'Cats collected nine hits with Rookie Gage, Jason Nichols and Andy Rykard each having two. Gage also drove in two runs and Rykard three and stole two bases.

Tarpley tried four pitchers on the mound and tried to play 15 to 16 players, all for the purpose of finding a starting team he can go with. "We wanted each kid to get a couple of at-bats but (Atkinson County) stayed closer longer than I thought," he said. The Rebels fell to 0-4.

Carlos Moore opened up on the

mound for the 'Cats and tossed two hitless innings, walked one and struck out three. "He is just a sophomore. He could be our No. 2 pitcher," said Tarpley of Moore. "We want him to start."

After Moore, Sean Cullen came in for two innings of work and had a rougher time. He walked three, gave up three hits and four runs, three in the third with Mike Welch plating two Atkinson County runners on a single to give the visitors a 3-1 lead.

Valdosta (2-0), which scored the first run in the opening inning on Ashley Bass' single to score Nichols, who also singled, scored three in the bottom of the third to take a one-run, 4-3, lead. Rykard had the biggest hit, a two-run single. Cullen helped his cause with a sacrifice fly for another run.

Atkinson County scored once more in the fourth as Karl Evans blooped a single into left to score Ray Lanier, who walked.

Again, Valdosta answered the bell with a run in the bottom of an fourth. Ray Maples reached on an error and eventually scored on Rykard's deep fly to center.

Bass (1-0) was the third Valdosta pitcher and winner, and in his two innings he gave up an unearned run on three singles, one walk and struck out three. Senior Hoover Sermons pitched the last inning,

giving up a walk and striking out one. It was his first time to pitch ever.

Valdosta scored once in the fifth and three times in the sixth for good measure. Byron Thorton led off the fifth with a walk, was sacrificed to second by Lee Thomas and scored on Gage's single to right.

In the sixth, Alton Hinson, Gage and Nichols each had RBIs.

The 'Cats are putting together a team that should be solidified by next week's Rebel Classic tournament. Rykard will be the focal point. Against Atkinson County he was behind the plate for the first time since eighth grade and played well. But it is his bat and arm that the Wildcats rely on.

"He's strong as an ox and he is a hitter," said Tarpley, of last year's Region 1-AAAA Player of the Year. "We'll use him behind the plate. But his place is on the mound and at the plate."

Mike Welch and Evans led the Rebels with two hits each. Brian Harmon (0-2) was the loser, going six innings, yielding six hits and walking nine.

Atkinson County
Valdosta
003 101 0-5 64
103 113 X-993
Brian Harmon, Brett Tillman (7) and Curtis Williams.
Carlos Moore, Sean Cullen (3), Ashley Bass (5), Hoover Sermons (7) and Andy Rykard, WP-Bass (1-0), LP-Harmon (0-2). 2B-AC: Karl Evans; VHS: Rookie Gage; SB-AC: Mike Welch, Ray Lanier, Evans; VHS: Rykard (2).



Valdosta second baseman Rookie Gage waits for the throw from catcher Andy Rykard. The throw was in time to catch Ray Lanier of Atkinson County trying to steal

second as the Wildcats won 9-5 Wednesday at Bazemore Field. Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag

Phillips Takes Val Tech Award

By ELLEN AVERY
Times Staff Writer

Many of the students at Valdosta Technical Institute know what professions they want to go into, but only one has a winning GOAL.

Jackie Phillips, a 25-year-old X-ray technology student at Val Tech, won the school's Georgia Occupational Award for Leadership Thursday. The GOAL award is given to the most outstanding vocational student at Val Tech each year, said Butch Moser, a Val Tech public relations representative.

Ms. Phillips was one of four finalists in the competition, Moser said. The other finalists were Shannon Brooks, Brenda Kent and David Byrd.

"The judges said it was really difficult to choose a winner," Moser said. "There were a variety of people with a variety of success stories."

Approximately four weeks ago, 28 of Val Tech's best students, who were nominated for the award by their instructors, were interviewed by GOAL judges. The judges selected eight semi-finalists from the group, Moser said.

The semi-finalists were in-

terviewed two weeks ago, and four finalists were selected.

The five contest judges, Val Tech Vice President Owen Pruitt, Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce Education Committee Chairman Ray Hamil, chamber education committee member Scott Alderman, SAFT America Corporate Personnel Director Brenda Vickery and state Department of Labor Regional Director Jeanette Dickens, selected the winner.

Ms. Phillips received \$100 for winning the contest, which was sponsored by the Business Council of Georgia and the state Department of Adult and Technical Education.

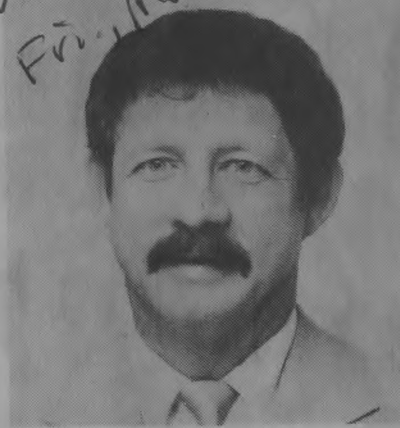
Ms. Phillips will travel to Atlanta May 30 to participate in the state GOAL competition, Moser said.

"She has a pretty good chance of winning," Moser said. "She's a bright young lady with a bubbly personality."

The winner of the state competition will receive a new car and several other prizes, Moser said. He or she will become the Ambassador for Technical Education in Georgia.

"That person represents technical schools throughout the state in the legislature and to businesses and industries," Moser said. "They also give speeches and attend graduations."

VDT, Fri. March 17, 1989



DAVID BYRD



JACKIE PHILLIPS



SHANNON BROOKS



BRENDA KENT

VHS Students Win Honors At State

VDT, Wed, March 22, 1989

Two members of Valdosta High School's Distributive Education Clubs of America organization brought home top honors from the state competition this weekend.

Joey Tomberlin and Tonya Nolan won first place awards in the free enterprise and general marketing categories respectively.

The students will participate in the national DECA competition at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., Apr. 26-30.

Six other DECA club seniors placed at the state level. Roslyn Johnson placed third in a run-off for first place in business spelling-vocabulary; Amy Bowling placed second in reporter of the year;

Catherine Kaiser placed third in business speech; Nick McKay captured fourth place in vehicle petroleum marketing; Ed Casteloes placed fourth in full-service restaurant marketing; and Kelly Coleman placed in the top six in general merchandising supervisory level.

Other students who attended the competition in Atlanta were Micayle Williams, Heidi Schroer, Leslie Altman, Chris Buescher, Leann Yeager, James Payne, Marilyn Moss, Jill Singletary, Chris Carlson and Melissa Wetherington.

All of the students who attended the state competition placed first, second or third at the regional contest.

Artist Award

VDT Sun. March 18, 1989

Sandra Wang of Valdosta has won the Florida Flute Association High School Young Artist Competition.

Ms. Wang, a student of Susan W. Mills, teaching assistant in the music department of Valdosta State College, won first place after competing with students from Georgia and Florida. Final competitions took place Feb. 3 at the University of Florida. She was awarded a cash prize and performed as featured artist at the conventions grand finale concert Feb. 5.

A senior at Valdosta High School, Ms. Wang is also a student at VSC. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Der-I Wang of Valdosta.

Rykard Keeps Rolling Along

VPT. Wed. March 22, 1989

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Despite the accolades he has received in his high school baseball career, Valdosta High standout Andy Rykard just wants to be known as a total team performer when his playing days are over.

The right-handed Wildcat senior is already drawing rave reviews from college and professional scouts.

Rykard was close to a one-man team for the Wildcats last season as he shattered the school's RBI record and was named Player of The Year for both *The Times* All-Area and Region 1-AAAA teams.

According to Rykard, past records mean nothing to him. 1989 is just another baseball year.

"Hopefully, we can win the Region 1-AAAA baseball championship," he said. "That is basically all that I would like to see happen in my senior year. I want to go out as a team contributor and always play my best for the Wildcats."

Rykard, who says that baseball is his favorite sport, hopes that his senior year will be a special one for he and his teammates.

"This is my last year in a Valdosta uniform and I want it to be special for all of us," said Rykard. "Regardless of what happens down the road, this will be a season I'll always remember."

In his junior season, Rykard led the Wildcats with a .465 batting average and drove in a record 49 RBI's, breaking a school mark of 46 which was set back in 1978 by former Wildcat and Chicago White

Sox David White. On the mound Rykard was 7-5 with a 1.90 ERA.

"He has done everything we could ask of him and more really," said Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley. "He drove in clutch runs, pitched wins for us in almost every win we had last season, and was a monster at the plate. I just hope we can get some of the same numbers out of Andy that he had last season. We will need everyone if we hope to be a contender in our region."

"With our young team this year, his leadership will be one of the biggest things we could ever hope to get out of Andy. It's almost unheard of to simply ask someone to repeat a super year, but in Andy's case you get to where you sometimes expect a bit more."

The Wildcats are unbeaten in two games so far this season and Rykard owns the opening day Wildcat win over Lanier County.

Even though it is early in the year, Rykard says that personal pressure put on himself will help his game.

"Going into this year, I wanted to put extra pressure on myself due to the year I had last season," said Rykard. "I want to work harder and progress this season. I have a couple of personal goals this season. But I'll take a championship trophy for all of them. I just want to have a productive year."

The University of Georgia, Georgia Southern, North Carolina State and Valdosta State College have all expressed interest in landing the Wildcat powerhitter. Scouts from two professional organizations

See RYKARD, Page 4-B



Valdosta High baseball player Andy Rykard poses with the Wildcat most valuable player award he won for his play in 1988. Times File Photo

Rykard

From Page 1-B
have also been keeping tabs on the Valdosta senior. But Rykard says that he has not made up his mind and will entertain any professional offers as well.

"I have a long way to go, and we have a long season ahead of us,"

said Rykard. "I haven't made up my decision on any school or professional team. I will make those decisions when it comes time to."

"Andy (Rykard) has matured from his first day out here. He has always had the physical tools and his strength has made him one fine

powerhitter," said Tarpley. "continues to work hard every day and he certainly deserves everything that he has already achieved and deserves to get what he wants baseball if he so chooses. I can't fault him. He has been an outstanding player for us at Valdosta High."

San - March 19, 1989

Noteworthy

Scholastic Honors

Robin Golivesky, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Golivesky of Valdosta, has been nominated for a National Science Merit Award upon the recommendation of James R. Burroughs, science teacher at Valdosta High School.

Robin also has been named as a 1989 Georgia Certificate of Merit winner by the University of Georgia. High school juniors who rank among the top 5 percent in their class are eligible for this award. She is Valdosta High School Interact Club reporter, member of the Spanish National Honor Society, plays on the school's tennis team and maintains a part-time job at A. Levin Department Store in Jasper, Fla.

Merit Winner

Alan Golivesky, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Golivesky of Valdosta, was named as a 1989 Georgia Certificate of Merit winner by the University of Georgia. High school juniors who rank among the top 5 percent in their class are eligible for this award.

Alan is president-elect of the Valdosta High School Interact Club, member of the Math Team, the Quiz Bowl, the Science Club, the Spanish National Honor Society and maintains a part-time job at A. Levin Department Store in Jasper, Fla.



VHS Student Honored

Matthew Lawrence, president of the Georgia Chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), receives an Award of Excellence in Vocational Education from State School Superintendent

Werner Rogers at the February meeting of the Georgia Board of Education in Atlanta. Lawrence, a student at Valdosta High School, spoke to the board about FBLA — Photo Special To The Times.

VDT

Guards Shine On All-Area Team

Mackey, Cooper Named As Top Players

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer



Valdosta girls' head coach Susan Montgomery gave plenty of the right signals to her Lady 'Cats team this past season and they responded by advancing all the way to the state playoffs for the first time in eight years. They were finally ousted in the first round by the eventual AAAA champions Morrow. rano the state playoffs for the first time in eight years — File Photo.

A.C. Cooper of Clinch County High and Melissa Mackey of Berrien County High School have been named the boys' and girls' Players of the Year for the *The Valdosta Daily Times* All-Area team.

The other five members of the All-Area boys' squad include Lowndes High's Israel Brown, Cook High's Wesley Brown, Valwood's Kip Henderson, Valdosta High's Jason King and Berrien County High's Eric Taylor. Mackey is joined by Hamilton County High's Marvis Johnson, Cook High's Julia Morris, Valdosta High's Swandolyn Phillips and Cassandra Twine and Lowndes High's Latonia Thomas.

The All-Area coaches of the year are boys' coach Allen Robbins of Clinch County High, who won the state Class A title, and girls' coach Susan Montgomery of Valdosta High, who advanced to the state tournament for the first time in several years.

Cooper, a four-year starter for the Panthers who played on two state championship teams, was the sparkplug for this year's team at point guard. He averaged 16.9 points per game and handed out eight assists per game during the regular season. Cooper continued that performance in post-season play as he scored 21 points in the state semifinal and a game-high 19 points in the state championship game. That kind of play garnered him the state Class A tournament Most Valuable Player.

Mackey also played point guard for her team, the BCHS Rebellettes, and she led her team with a scoring average of 25 points per game. The senior also shined on defense with an average of five steals per game. Mackey was the only senior on the Rebellette squad that stayed in the state's top 10 for most of the season.

Israel Brown from Lowndes was the workhorse throughout the entire season for the Vikings as he led the team in scoring almost every game from his power forward position. Brown finished the season with an average of 21 points per game and 12.5 rebounds per contest.

Cook High's Wesley Brown showed area defenses that he could shoot from the outside as well as drive to the basket. Brown led the Hornets with a 22 points per game average and also grabbed nine rebounds a contest. Kip Henderson broke every scor-

ing record that existed at Valwood as he averaged an incredible 37.8 points per game. Henderson also averaged 18 rebounds per game.

Valdosta's Jason King led his Wildcats in scoring as they had their best finish in four years. King led the balanced attack with an average of 14 points per game and he also contributed six rebounds per game. Only a junior, King will be one of many Wildcat players returning next year.

Berrien's Eric Taylor is the only sophomore on the All-Area first team with an average of 20 points per game. Most of Taylor's points came from beyond the 3-point line where he often made opposing defenses play him man-on-man.

The honorable mention list for the boys' team includes Georgia Christian guard Turner Armstrong, Clinch County senior center Ken Brown, Berrien County senior center Kenneth Green, Valdosta junior guard Spencer Iverson, Lowndes High junior center Marvin Lucas and Echols County guard Alfred Williams.

Marvis Johnson was one of the main reasons the Hamilton County Trojannette squad that was ranked as the top team in Florida's Class AA division for most of the year. Johnson averaged 19 points per game while also leading the team in rebounding with a 7.6 rebounds per game average. Cook's Julia Morris had a great

senior season for the Wasps as she averaged 28 points per game and 14 rebounds per game from her power forward position.

The Lady Wildcats of Valdosta High finished in third place in their subregion during the regular season and in second place during the post-season tourney. They kept on going until they were defeated by eventual state champion Morrow in the first round of the state AAAA playoffs. Two of the reasons behind that success was the inside play of forward Swandolyn Phillips and center Cassandra Twine.

Phillips averaged 13 points per game and led the Lady Wildcats with an average of 10.5 boards per game. Twine led the team in scoring with 16 points per game and also grabbed 8.7 rebounds a contest.

The final member of the girls' first squad is Lowndes guard On the girls' honorable mention team were: Charlotte Bell of Echols County, Lori Cuipepper of Lowndes, Shonda Deberry of Berrien County, Joy Lanier of Open Bible, Juliette Morris of Cook and Tammy Posley of Clinch County.

Latonia Thomas. When Thomas was on, the Vikettes could match up with anyone in their fast-tempo style of play. Thomas, a point guard, led the team with an average of 9.8 points per game and four steals a game.

Valdosta Daily Times

Wed March 22, 1989

All-Area Basketball

Boys Team

PLAYER, SCHOOL	Ht.	Yr.	Pts.
Israel Brown, Lowndes	6-2	Sr.	20.1
Wesley Brown, Cook	6-1	Sr.	22.0
A.C. Cooper, Clinch Co.	5-7	Sr.	16.9
Kip Henderson, Walwood	6-0	Jr.	37.8
Jason King, Valdosta	6-1	Jr.	14.0
Eric Taylor, Berrien Co.	5-6	So.	20.0

COACH OF THE YEAR — Allen Robbins, Clinch
PLAYER OF THE YEAR — A.C. Cooper, Clinch

HONORABLE MENTION

Turner Armstrong, Ga. Christian; Ken Brown, Clinch Co.; Kenneth Green, Berrien Co.; Spencer Iverson, Valdosta; Marvin Lucas, Lowndes; Alfred Williams, Echols Co.

Valdosta Daily Times

Wed March 22, 1989

All-Area Basketball

Girls Team

PLAYER, SCHOOL	Ht.	Yr.	Pts.
Marvis Johnson, Hamilton	5-9	Sr.	18.0
Melissa Mackey, Berrien Co.	5-7	Sr.	25.0
Julia Morris, Cook	6-0	Sr.	28.0
Swandolyn Phillips, Valdosta	6-0	Sr.	12.0
Latonia Thomas, Lowndes	5-6	Sr.	9.8
Cassandra Twine, Valdosta	6-1	Sr.	16.0

COACH OF THE YEAR
 Susan Montgomery, Valdosta
PLAYER OF THE YEAR
 Melissa Mackey, Berrien County

HONORABLE MENTION

Charlotte Bell, Echols Co.; Lori Culpepper, Lowndes; Shonda Deberry, Berrien Co.; Joy Lanier, Open Bible; Juliette Morris, Cook; Tammy Postley, Clinch Co.

Wildcats Young But Tarpley Still Optimistic

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

At Valdosta High School, the youth movement is in full swing for the 1989 Wildcat baseball squad.

Head coach Charles Tarpley will have just seven seniors on his 17-man baseball team as it opens the regular season today at Bazemore Field against the Lanier County Bulldogs at 4:30 p.m.

Valdosta finished with an overall record of 12-10 last season in Region 1-AAAA. Tarpley is hoping that it will be a quick maturing process for his team which competes in one of the state's toughest baseball regions.

"This year's team is young from top to bottom. But I feel that we are better prepared than we have ever been at this point in years past," Tarpley said. "I'm happy at this point. We have been hitting the ball well and I can't complain.

"We will definitely need the young players to step forward and take charge early in the year. Along with some of our returning veterans such as All-Region player Andy Rykard, we will need to mature quick in order to make the playoffs in this region."



CHARLES TARPLEY

With the addition of the Coffee High Trojans and the Bainbridge Bearcats, Region 1-AAAA now includes all eight Columbus High School's which according to Tarpley makes it the toughest baseball region in the state.

"Just looking at the new teams in Region 1-AAAA, there is certainly no time to stop and think about doing anything but playing good baseball," said Tarpley. "The Columbus schools are always tough.

But we also are welcoming Coffee High which has had a strange hold on titles each and every year. They are always great in baseball."

This season in Region 1-AAAA, only the regular season champions in both the North and South sub-region's will make the Region 1-AAAA playoff.

"Now every game is important in the standings. A loss could have you at home at the end of the regular season," said Tarpley. "The top two teams from each side are in and everyone else is out. Each team will play a 10-game region schedule."

Tarpley's team will once again be following the lead of Rykard, its star performer. Rykard, who can pitch, play first, third and catch, broke Valdosta's team RBI record last season shattering the record of former Wildcat standout David White. Rykard also batted .465 and was named Player of The Year in Region 1-AAAA.

"Everything starts with Andy. He



ANDY RYKARD

performed well beyond the call of duty last season," said Tarpley. "I hope he can at least give us close to the same this year. And hopefully we can give him some help with the remaining six seniors and our young people."

When Rykard is on the mound, Tarpley will turn first base over to junior Ashley Bass. Second base will be patrolled by senior Ray Maples and sophomore Rookie Gage, a transfer from Mississippi.

Rykard and Bass will switch time at third base. Three players will be vying for the third base position led by junior Sean Cullen, sophomore Byron Thornton, and sophomore Steve Jaramillo.

Rykard and junior Jason Nichols will take over the catching duties for the 'Cats. The Valdosta outfielders include Ray Maples, Shannon Myers, Ben Hogan, Owen Davis, Jon Smith, Lee Thomas, Tim Tillman, Alton Hitson and Carlos Moore.

Rykard will also head the Wildcats' expected six-man pitching staff for the upcoming season.

After Rykard, the 'Cats will have Sean Cullen, Brannen Pruette, Ashley Bass, Carlos Moore and Hoover Strmans.

"I hope we can produce some runs and help our pitchers," said Tarpley. "It will just take some time for some of our players, I realize that. But I'm also optimistic at this time. At times they've shown signs of playing top caliber baseball."

Vikings Aid Wildcats' Cause 7-5

VDT. Wed. April 12, 1989

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

With possible playoff implications on the line, Valdosta head baseball coach Charles Tarpley saw his Wildcats come through their crosstown encounter with flying colors.

At Lowndes Field, the Wildcats capitalized on six Viking errors and the two-hit plate performance from Rookie Gage to defeat the Vikings 7-5 in a South subregion 1-AAAA contest.

With the victory, the Wildcats are now 12-4 on the year and assured of finishing the season with a winning record. But more importantly, the 'Cats up their subregion record to 3-2, one game behind the second place Coffee High Trojans.

"We did what was needed to win," said Tarpley. "Andy (Rykard) settled down after giving up an early run and the hitting picked up tremendously. A win is a win. And I'm happy to get it in subregion play."

Viking head baseball coach Noel George admitted that he was not pleased at all with his team's play on the field.

"We were doing good until the fourth inning," said George. "From there, we played sloppy in the field and gave them early runs. We didn't play very well in the field today."

Although Lowndes starter Craig Griner gave up just five hits, the Wildcats were a very opportunistic team scoring five of their seven runs on just two hits.

Lowndes jumped out on top of the 'Cats 1-0 in the first on a throwing error by Rykard. Rykard's error allowed Richard Scoby, who was hit by Rykard, to score.

After two innings of play, the wheels simply came off for the Vikings.

In the Wildcat fourth, they scored twice to take a 2-1 lead. Byron Thornton led off with a walk. One out later, Ashley Bass singled sending Thornton to second base. An error by Roger Meeks on batter Jason Nichols loaded the bases. Then an error by Scoby plated both Thornton and Bass giving VHS a 2-1 lead.

Valdosta used just one hit, but scored three times in the fifth inning to take a commanding 5-1 lead.

Griner issued back-to-back walks to Carlos Moore and Gage to start the inning. One out later, Rykard doubled to center scoring Moore and gave VHS a 3-1 lead.

Bass' sacrifice fly to center scored Gage from third and VHS was up 4-1. An error by Chris Watson scored Rykard from second giving VHS a 5-1 advantage.

VHS went up 7-1 in the sixth on just two hits. One was a leadoff bunt by Lee Thomas and a two-run single by Gage. Gage's single scored Thomas and Steve Jarmillo, who reached on a fielder's choice.

The Vikings struck for three runs in the bottom of the sixth. Two of the runs came on a towering two-run homer by Viking catcher Danny Folsom. Folsom's homer scored teammate Mark Hightower, who walked, to start the inning off.

Two outs later, Watson scored on a pair of VHS errors to make it 7-4 VHS.

Lowndes added a late run in the seventh off of Rykard on an RBI-single by Folsom which scored Scoby, who singled in the inning.

"The biggest thing about this win is that we are still in the playoff hunt," said Tarpley. "And that's what it's all about."

Valdosta plays next at Bainbridge on Friday at 5 p.m. Lowndes, which is 4-8 overall and 1-4 in the subregion, travels to Moultrie Friday to play subregion foe Colquitt County.



Valdosta's Jason Nichols slides into second base as Lowndes' shortstop Roger Meeks tries, but couldn't come up with the ball. Times Staff Photo By Bob Freitag

Rudolph Hopes For Repeat

Mon. Apr. 13, 1989

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

In 1985, Valdosta High School's Coleman Rudolph was a perfect story of the hometown boy making good as he captured the 1985 Blue Devil Invitational Golf tournament as an excited freshman golfer.

Rudolph hopes that the fourth time will be a charm as he participates in the Ninth Annual Blue Devil Invitational Golf Tournament today held at Spring Hill Country Club in Tifton. The tournament will get underway at 9:30 a.m.

Rudolph, the son of VHS defensive coordinator and VHS golf coach Jack Rudolph, began playing golf at the age of 12. Since then, Rudolph has proven to be one of the finest golfers in his age bracket.

"I began the game at age 12 when we joined the Valdosta Country Club and I began to pick up the game," said Rudolph.

Rudolph also starred at defensive end for the Valdosta Wildcat football team and received a scholarship to play for Bobby Ross' Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets in the fall.

But Rudolph admits that he has no real preference between the two sporting events.

"There is no comparison. I like them both a great deal," said Rudolph. "The one thing to remember is that a golf ball doesn't hit you back."

Last season Rudolph finished in sixth place in the 20-team event.

Rudolph pointed out some keys to look for in this year's Blue Devil Tournament.

"When I won back in 1985 I was a bit timid and was a small freshman. This year, I have a lot more experience and I'm use to playing on that course," said Rudolph. "All the players around here are pretty good. So it will be another tough tournament."

"My distance off the tee has been a big key for me in past tournaments," he said. "I have been able to benefit from using a low iron into the green after my tee shot. I expect this year's tournament to be a strong tournament."

Other than Rudolph, past Blue Devil Invitational Champions include the likes of Georgia Southern's Billy Bulmer, University of Georgia's Paul Claxton, and Ohio State's Chad Willis.



Coleman Rudolph hopes his drive to Tifton today is successful as he leads the Valdosta High golf team into the Blue Devil Invitational. File Photo

VHS Golfers Cop Victory

WTS. Sat. 17
Apr. 15, 1989

Valdosta Wins Golf Match With Lowndes and Suwannee

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Behind the play of Chris Buescher and Coleman Rudolph, the Valdosta High School Wildcat golf team claimed another victory Friday as they defeated both the Lowndes High Vikings and Suwannee High School at the Valdosta Country Club.

The Wildcats totaled a four-man score of 327. Suwannee was second at 352 and at 354 was Lowndes.

"We are still looking for some consistency out of our fourth, fifth, and sixth golfers on the team," said VHS head golf coach Jack Rudolph. "Among those who are in the hunt for solidifying those spots for us are Tommy Roberts, Dow Drury, Dan Altman, James Inman and Sam Hogan."

Leading the way for the 'Cats was Buescher. Buescher, who finished the day with a five-over 77, but was 1-under after the first five holes of play.

The Vikings were led by Tom Price, who finished the day with a nine-over 81. Suwannee's top man

was John Spiwak. Spiwak was just three-over at 39 after nine holes, but was five-over on the back nine and finished up with a 41 for an 18-hole total of 80.

Rudolph finished the day with a seven-over 79 for Valdosta. Rudolph had nines of 39 and 40. Other VHS scores were: Altman (42-43-85), David Cason (41-45-86), Roberts (91) and Drury (94).

Bryan Stewart was second on the Vikings golf team with an 90 with nines of 41 and 49. Other LHS scores were: Jim Kilgore (45-46-91), Benji Kent (47-45-92), G.C. Radliff (98) and Travis Harrison (99).

For Suwannee, behind Spiwak's effort were teammates Shack Roberson (40-45-85), Russ Stapleton (47-46-93), Gene Nelson (94) and Brad Scarborough (96).

The Wildcats will now prepare for the Thomasville Bulldogs next Tuesday (April 18) at 4 p.m. at the Glen Arven Country Club in Thomasville. Then the 'Cats will play in a two-day tournament in Columbus Friday and Saturday, April 21-22.



Valdosta High's Laura Dennis is being counted on by Lady 'Cat head track coach Richard Sturtevant to come through in the

shot put today at the Region 1-AAAA South track meet in Douglas. — Times File Photo



BRENDA PELTON



VERONICA WILLIAMS



VERNELIA ALDERMAN



SHANNELL JENKINS



TAMI SHEPHARD



CASSIE CAMPBELL



MARISHA BISHOP



LISA SAMARAS

Local Girls On The Right Track

V.D.T. *Times* April 22/1989
Region 1-AAAA South
Track Meet Today

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

If previous success means anything, both the Valdosta and Lowndes High girls track teams should be in pretty good shape for today's Region 1-AAAA South track meet.

At stake in today's meet, which will be held in Douglas, are berths in next week's Region 1-AAAA meet in Columbus, April 26. The top three finishers in each event will advance to the region meet.

But despite the obvious pressure associated with the subregion meet, both Lowndes head coach Hiram Johnson and Valdosta head coach Richard Sturtevant are confident about their team's chances.

"Based on our performances this year, we should be strong in the running events," Johnson said. "The 4X100 and 1600 relay have been good events for us this year. We've also been strong in the 2-mile run. I think if we run strong, and if the girls perform to the level that they have so far, then our chances should be good."

Indeed they should. Making up both the 4X100 and 1600 meter relay teams are Marisha Bishop, Vernelia Alderman, Shannell Jenkins and Veronica Williams. These four have been the backbone for the Vikette track team this year. Alderman also competes in the 100 and 300 meter high hurdles.

Another Vikette runner who has performed well is Tami Shephard. Shephard has also run on the 4X100 and 1600 relay teams as well as the 100 meter and 200 meter dash. Long distance runner Lisa Samaras has been consistent all season long, placing high in both the 1 and 2-mile runs. Brenda Pelton and Cassie Campbell are two other long-distance runners who have run well this year.

"We believe in the team concept.

There may be individual events but we work together as a team," Johnson said. "This year we've gone against some strong competition, with a lot of pressure involved. We're hoping that having competed in big meets already that the girls will go out and treat this like another meet."

As for the Lady 'Cats, Sturtevant believes that having been successful against most of Region 1-AAAA South already, his team should be in good shape.

"I feel a lot better since our last meet. In Tifton we competed against 19 other teams including all of our teams from the subregion, except Bainbridge, was there. Bainbridge is the mystery team but based on what's been happening so far this season, the meet should come down between us and Lowndes," Sturtevant said. "I've been very encouraged. We seem to be peaking at the right time as far as the individual events go."

One of the reasons for Sturtevant's optimism has been the performance of high-jumper Suzette Davidson. Davidson is undefeated this year in the high jump. Laura Dennis is another Lady 'Cat the Valdosta coach is counting on come through.

"Laura has got a good shot in that particular event," Sturtevant said.

"As far as the running events go, not only are we counting one our number one relay team but also our number two. In Tifton, both of our relay teams placed in the events they were entered in. It makes a big difference in the scoring if you can get two of your teams to place in the same event."

Other individuals Sturtevant hopes will come through include Bayh Brindger in the 400 meters, Maggie McDonald in the long-distance events and Shantell Washington in the field events.



Valdosta High School graduate Anne Clark has used her talents and hard work to "make it" in the U.S. Air Force Academy—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy.

VHS Grad Survives The Academy

KATHLEEN McCROCKLIN
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta Anne Clark has used her talents and competitive spirit to take her to the top — an appointment to the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Ms. Clark, who graduated from Valdosta High School last year with many honors, including top cadet in the nation, has been enrolled in the Academy for nearly one year. Ms. Clark was the 1988 recipient of the Joe Guillian Award for the Top Academic Cadet for Naval Junior ROTC in the nation.

She was recently in Valdosta to visit family and friends on her spring break.

Ms. Clark is using her appointment to the Academy as a stepping stone for her ultimate goal — commissioned officer in the United States Air Force. She is utilizing the rigorous physical and academic requirements and exposure to people from all over the United States to develop skills which will prepare her for the Air Force.

Her father, Richard Clark, is a retired air force colonel. Ms. Clark's mother, a native of Australia, is Jacqueline Clark. The Clarks reside in Valdosta but hear from their daughter almost every day, in the form of a letter.

Even though the 18-year-old recently graduated high school, she still had to undergo the rigors of basic training as a cadet.

"You have to know how to work with people. You really have to work together. There are 29 of us right now (in Ms. Clark's squadron) and we have to do practically everything together."

Anne Clark
Air Force Academy Cadet

"You wake up at 5:30 in the morning. It's a lot like boot camp," Ms. Clark said.

Ms. Clark is expected to study about 100 minutes for every 50 minutes she spends daily in her six classes. The only problem is, there are only 24 hours in each day. And she has maintained a straight 4.0 GPA.

"You find your limits. You know how far you can go," Ms. Clark said.

She gives credit to her Valdosta High School teachers who have prepared her for the continuing academic challenges she faces daily.

"Valdosta has really come out well for me... I was ahead of a lot of my classmates," Ms. Clark said, adding that she is aiming for a career in electrical engineering in the Air Force.

As member of the Academy soccer team, not all of Ms. Clark's time is spent studying and working on problem-solving with squadron members. Her soccer team travels have taken her to Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.

perclassmen supervise much of the activities of underclassmen, the freshmen are still thought of as plebians.

But for all the hours of "humiliation" which freshmen endure from upperclassmen, there is a way to get back at the "older" Cadets.

"After meals we are supposed to do a post, or a joke. You have to write something which will embarrass them," she said.

Ms. Clark said some people are easier to get along with than others at the Academy. Working with Cadets from all over America has helped develop more people skills, she said.

"You have to know how to work with people. You really have to work together. There are 29 of us right now (in Ms. Clark's squadron) and we have to do practically everything together," she said.

Valdosta Girls Finish Third In Muscogee Tourney

VDI, Sun. April 16, 1989
From Staff Reports

The Valdosta High girls tennis team placed third in the Muscogee County School District Invitational Tennis Tournament this weekend in Columbus.

See Page 8-C For Boys Story

In the senior division (11th and 12th grades) Kelly Rowel advanced to the semifinals before losing 6-2, 6-0 to the tournaments' No. 1 seed player, Laurie Davis of Hardaway. In the girls junior division (9th and 10th grades) Stephanie Hinton advanced to the semifinals only to lose 6-3, 6-2 to Sydney Flournoy of

Brookstone, the No. 2 seeded player in the division.

In first round action Rowel defeated Kim Flecher of Columbus, the No. 11 seed, 6-3, 7-5. In the second round she beat Tyler Caselton of Pacelli 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Rowel then defeated Laura Collins of Brookstone, the No. 7 seed, 6-0, 7-5, and won her quarterfinal match against the No. 4 seed, Sage Johnson of Bainbridge, 1-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Hinton also won her opening round match in the juniors, defeating Anita Romero of Jordan 6-2, 6-1. Her drive to the semifinals included wins over La Grange's Nell Maluf, 6-4, 6-3, Suzanne Jones of Brookstone, 6-3, 6-0, and Laura Noel of Pacelli, 6-1, 6-3.

Other seniors action included singles victories by Wendy Griffin over Amy Pemberton of Harris County, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5), 6-1, and Catherine Hall of Bainbridge, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2. Miss Griffin lost 6-1, 6-1 in the quarterfinals to Davis of Hardaway. Wynne Johnson lost her opening round match 6-2, 6-2 to Patti Turner of Harris County. Kelly Edwards dropped her opening singles match 6-0, 6-1 to McCall Woodruff of Brookstone, the No. 2 seed.

In seniors doubles, Griffin and Edwards defeated Chambers and Reese of Pacelli, 6-3, 6-0, before losing in the quarterfinals 6-0, 6-1 to Woodruff and Collins of Brookstone,

the No. 2 doubles seed. Rowel and Johnson lost 6-3, 6-1 in the opening round to Oemer and Tootle of Newton County.

Other junior action included a singles win by Kelly Crago, 6-3, 2-6, 6-0, over Shannon Flanagan of Shaw. Crago dropped the match to the No. 1 junior seed Helen Waldrop of Brookstone, 6-0, 6-0. Jill Morgan lost to Harris County's Stephanie Bishop, 7-6 (7-1), 6-3. Marsha Harris lost her opening round match to Sloan Grimsley of Bainbridge, 6-1, 6-0. In doubles, Hinton and Cargo lost 6-1, 6-2 to Holley and Knight of La Grange. Jill Morgan and Martha Stalvey defaulted their doubles when Morgan injured her ankle during the first set tiebreaker.

Overall girls action saw Bainbridge in first and Brookstone second out of 14 teams. Other schools entered were Carver-Columbus, and Spencer.

"This tournament provided excellent preparation for region play next week," said VHS girls head coach Frank Hjort. "And a third place finish should give all the players a motivational boost badly needed since being shut out by region opponent Bainbridge last Wednesday."

Valdosta's boys and girls tennis teams will travel to Fitzgerald on Tuesday before entering the Region 1-AAAA subregion tournament on Monday, April 24, at ABAC in Tifton.

Tues., April 4, 1989

Valdosta High Students On Honor Roll

William Aldrich, principal at Valdosta High School, announces the honor roll students for the fourth six weeks.

Kevin Adams, Gina Albritton, Simone Allen, John Allen, Timothy Edward Allen, Angela Alligood, Mary Altman, Dan Altman, Sissy Anderson, Eric Arnold, Everett Arnold, Chiquita Latrelle Askew, William Atkinson, Matthew Boyd Baker, Nathan Baliles, Jeffery Ballentine, Maria Baratta, Laura Barbas, Eric Jason Barclay.

And Anita Battles, Christie Bauer, Jacqueline Belflower, Clinton Bellamy, Michelle Bellew, Tamula Berrian, Lesli Bius, Lorna Dale Bius, Kelli Bland, Michelle Bostock, Amy Bowling, Jay Bowling, Latesha Bradley, Eric Bramble, Derek Alexander Branham, Ubie Brantley, Justin Bridges, Chris Cled Brown.

Also, Kelvin Brown, Kevin Brown, Latechia Brown, Linda Faye Brown, Christina Browning, Freda Bruton, Allison Buie, Tracy Burgsteiner, Jonathan Burns, Mindee Butler, Justin Cabral, Chris Carlson, Spence Carver, Ed Casteloes, Thomas Cato, Dexter Ceaser, Monica Ceaser, Cheryl Clark, Helene Coibion, Todd Coker.

And Katherine Coleman, Will Coleman, Ryan Collins, Dwayne Lamar Colquitt, Ashley Connell, Meredith Coogan, Nancie Corley, Deric Cotton, Shawn Coursen, Melanie Cowart, John Cowell, Amy Cox, Jennifer Crane, Erick Crawford, Tamara Crowe, Michelle Cutforth, Sonja Dailey, Christopher Dasher, Shannon Davis, Owen Davis.

Also, Chris Demont, Scott De-

mont, Melissa Demott, Nikke Demott, Glaire Dempsey, Michelle Dewitt, Lisa Dodds, Michael Drummheller, Jane Edwards, Bert Eidson, Robert Elworthy, Jamie Essinger, Toni Essinger, Jimmy Lee Everett, Amy Faircloth, Jack Farber, Brian Faros, Lisa Nicole Felts, Andy Ferrell.

And Jason Finland, Gabriel Wayne Fisher, Meredith Fletcher, Liz Foster, Lydia Freeman, Jarrod Gage, Addison Gaitor, James Galloy, Michael Galloy, Cheryl Gamble, Gregory Gaumont, John Geier, Mona Gibbs, India Giuly, Lacarra Godfrey, Brenna Goff, Alan Golivesky, Robin Golivesky, Christopher Gomez, Nick Gonis.

Also, Cassandra Gordon, Susanne Grant, Pamela Gray, Jimmy Green, Karen Green, Kerri Beth Greenway, Tracy Greer, Chris Gregg, Ward Griffin, Jason Griffin, Wendy Griffin, Jennifer Halter, Lonnie Hambrick, Charles Harris, Kimberlee Nan Harris, Marsha Harris, Christopher Hart, Honey Hatcher, Josie Hatcher.

And Cynthia Helms, Philana Henderson, Frederick Henton, Kevin Hiers, Leslie Hiers, John Shane Higdon, William Robert Higdon, Stephanie Hinton, Alton Hitson, Bennett Hogan, Sam Hogan, Grant Hollenbeck, Pamela Hoover, Ashley House, John Houston, Bill Howard, James Inman, Barbara Ison, Spencer Iverson.

Also, Jennifer Jack, Willie Russell Jackson, Tracy James, Michelle Jamieson, Jeffery Jankosky, Cedric Johnson, Roslyn Johnson, Wynne Johnson, Jenifer Jones, Stephanie Jones, Tredessa Jones, Emily

Josey, Mark Alexander Kassum, Kim Kerins, Amy Kilgard, Teri Lamprey, Shannon Lancaster, Carlas Larry.

And Maina Lassauque, Matthew Lawrence, Nicky Legg, Kenneth James Lester, Durwin Logan, Chassity Loving, Keith Ludlum, Brenda Maples, Ray Maples, Anita Matchett, Tammy McCain, Kareem McClary, Rhonda McClendon, Ann McCranie, James McDaniel, Maggie Kay McDonald, Kenyetta McDowell, Tina McGee.

Also, Paula Hope McKnight, Robert McMullen, Gamal Merritt, Carolina Metroz, Eric Mierzejewski, Mindi Miller, Nicole Mitchell, Beth Mitchell, Cedric Mobley, Henry Christopher Moore, Kenyarda Moore, Pamela Moore, Rett Moore, Ryan Moorman, Monica Morrisette, Margaret Mosby, Meredith Mosby.

And Marcus Lamont Moss, Ralph Moss, Sarah Muntz, Latammy Newsome, Anthony Newton, Andre Norwood, James Osborne, Elizabeth Owens, Sean Panizzi, Hemali Patel, James Payne, John Peeples, Katresa Peterson, Swandolyn Phillips, John Pitcock, Catishia Prime, Joy Purvis, Deanna Pye, Tasha Quarterman.

Also, Patricia Radney, Sarita Rainey, Jamie Rainwater, John Ramey, Crystal Ray, Jeff Reames, Holly Rentschler, Mary Elizabeth Richards, Arthur Rizer Jr., Lisa Robbins, Sophia Roberts, Sanita Ross, Catherine Rowe, Cathy Rowe, James Rowe, Coleman Rudolph, Shaun Yvette Rudolph, Cynthia Rumph, Synthia Ryan.

And Andy Rykard, Julie Sadler, Steven Lamar Sanders, Wardick Sapp, Heidi Schroer, Farell Scott, Caroline Seago, Kellie Sessions, Shayna Shapiro, James Sharpe, Dexter Sharper, Kelly Shelton, Dayne Shelton, Martiele Sineath, Michael Singletary, Deldra Sirmans, Hoover Sirmans, Troy Sirmans.

Also, Lakeshia Sabrina Smith, Steven Smith, William Smith, Ann Marie Sorenson, Gregory Soshnik, Tonya Southers, Kay Spiker, Niki Spiller, Jennifer Staley, Brian Stanley, Davidae Yolanda Stewart, Lamont Stewart, Pete Stokes, George Dewey Stone, Anthony Story, Heather Strayhorn, Julie Strickland.

And Leigh Struble, Julie Michelle Suggs, Nathan Tart, Shannon Taw, Dexter Thomas, Soren Thuesen, Malcolm Tyson, Deborah Van Nus, Miriam Vendemo, Shelia Wade, Stephen Wainright, John Walker, Sandra Wang, Natars Washington, Lee Weeks, Melissa Wetherington, Kevin Whigham, Cecile White, Nicole White.

Also, Hope Williams, Kesha Williams, Kimberly Williams, Shwanda Jayne Williams, Ginny Williams, Alfonza Willis, Roger Wing, Oceana Darcelle Wooden, Barclay Woodward, Kimberly Worn, Afusso Wright, Carma Wright, Catherine Yale, Michael Young, Scott Youngblood and Shannon Yow.

In The Times/ A Weekly Feature About The Newspaper Family

Nikki Wears Many Hats At The Times

By JAY JONES
Times Staff Writer

Nikki Johnson is always wanting to help others.

As an assistant newsroom clerk at *The Valdosta Daily Times* she does a little bit of everything, from taking obituaries to wedding announcements. Miss Johnson may not be in one department at *The Times*, but her work affects practically everyone associated with the newspaper.

Working through the Cooperative Business Education program out of Valdosta High School, Miss Johnson has worked at *The Times* for the past nine months. She said some of her responsibilities include typing in church briefs, high school honor rolls, wedding and engagement announcements for the Lifestyles department and obituaries, the New York stocks and filing news articles and pictures for the news department.

She said she likes working at *The Times* because "I get to know about everything that happens. The job has given me some good business skills, too."

A senior Valdosta High, Miss Johnson said she would like to pursue a career in psychology. She said she is particularly interested in

teen counseling.

"There are a lot of troubled people out there and I want to help them," Miss Johnson said. "Teen-agers need someone to talk to, just like a good friend."

She explained that she knows about the problems teen-agers face when growing up and has seen others her age try to deal with the problems of drugs and alcohol.

"I think a lot of it has to do with family life and how much attention kids get at home," Miss Johnson said. "A lot of teen-agers don't go out just seeking drugs and alcohol, but do it to escape life."

The 17-year old Lincoln, Neb. native, said she will attend Okaloosa Junior College in Niceville, Fla. and transfer to Florida State University.

She moved to Valdosta when she was nine years old. She said she was scared of moving to Valdosta, but has enjoyed living here with her grandparents.

Although Miss Johnson has roots in Nebraska and Texas, where her mother was born, her grandparents came to the United States after World War II from the Soviet Republic of Latvia on the Baltic Sea. Her grandfather retired from meatpacking in Nebraska and moved to Valdosta.

Miss Johnson said Valdosta is a

nice place to live but she said she would like to move to New York, California or Montreal, Canada someday.

"Canada is so beautiful and it's not that far from New York," she

said.

At school, Miss Johnson is involved with the Future Business Leaders of America and several community project with Valdosta High's InterAct, sponsored by the

Rotary Club.

"We visited the elderly in nursing homes during Christmas and collected canned goods for the Salvation Army," she said. "We do a lot of community improvement stuff."



Nikki Johnson, a Valdosta High School student, works at a Valdosta Daily Times computer terminal, typing in information for

the newspaper. — Times Staff Photo By Bob Freitag.

Tues., April 11, 1989

Davis' First Season Successful, Peterman Cops MVP



Valdosta High head wrestling coach John Davis presents senior Steven Peterman the Most Valuable wrestling award at the Wildcats' 1988-89 banquet held Monday

night. Peterman finished up with an 8-2 record and a third place finish in the state tournament — Times Staff Photo by Bob Frietag.

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

In his first season as the head coach of the Valdosta High wrestling Wildcats, John Davis' squad finished with 12 wins and only two losses. Monday night Davis, assistant coach Bob Bolton and VHS Takedown Club president Glen Denmark paid tribute to their athletes at the 1989 VHS Wrestling banquet at the Sheraton.

Valdosta's wrestling team also captured the 1988-89 Region 1-AAAA Area Championship for the seventh time.

On the season, the Wildcats accumulated 643 points while allowing their opponents to score just 245 points.

Valdosta finished fourth in two regular season tournaments and had a 13th place finish out of 76 teams in the Georgia state wrestling tournament.

Coach Davis opened the ceremonies thanking the parents, mat girls, Valdosta High School members and parents for their assistance in this year's teams success.

Davis called his first season his most memorable and hoped to further the growth of the wrestling team for years to come.

VHS senior wrestler Steven Peterman was named as the Most Valuable wrestler on the team. Peterman, who had a third place finish in state competition, recorded an 8-2 record and a second place finish in the area tournament. Peterman also had the Most Pins

with 19 for the Wildcats.

The Most Outstanding wrestler for VHS was senior Jason Finland. Finland was undefeated in 13 matches on the year.

The runnerup for Most Pins was senior Ryan Moorman. Moorman, who was sidelined with injuries late in the year, finished with 18 pins.

The Coach's Award went to Eric Phillips and Derrick Phillips.

The Quickest Regular Season Pin went to senior Chuck Bonner. Bonner had a 19-second pin. Bonner was also named Most Improved by his teammates. The Quickest Pin in Tournament competition went to senior Jim Garber. Garber finished his man off in just 15 seconds.

Senior Nick Gonis won the Spirit of the Wildcats award and senior Justin Bridges was named the Most Dedicated.

The Most Outstanding Junior Varsity wrestler was Scott Jones and the Best Hustler went to Tim Garland.

The following VHS seniors were also recognized: Nick Gonis, Ashley Fann, Steven Peterman, Jim Garber, Justin Bridges, Jason Finland, Chuck Bonner, John Rainey, Maurice Dean, John Washnock, Ryan Moorman, Eric Phillips, Derrick Phillips and Duncan Harden.

The junior varsity member included Kevin Barker, John Copeland, Stan Cox, Andrew Denmark, Elliott Fann, Curt Fowler, Tim Garland, Scott Jones, Bobby Mangram, Jason Griffin, Robert McTier, David Richardson, Gary Ross and John Storey.



Valdosta High forward Jason King, (24), was named the Most Valuable Player at the 1988-89 VHS basketball sports banquet held at Valdosta High School Monday night — Times File Photo.

King, Phillips VHS MVP's

VD.T. Tues., April 18, 1989

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Jason King was named the varsity boys' Most Valuable Player as Valdosta High held its annual basketball awards banquet Monday night at the school cafeteria.

A junior, King averaged 12 points a game this past season. King was also named the Best Offensive Player.

Eric McCoy was the recipient of the Best Defensive award, Chris Hart won the Wildcat Spirit award, Vincent Williams the Most Improved and Spencer Iverson the Best Scholastic Average and Best Free Throw Percentage (72 percent). Ubie Brantley and Carlo Butler were both honored as the Best Rebounders.

Also, Darryl Robinson was the winner of the Sportsmanship Trophy, sponsored by the Valdosta Key Club, as well as the Coach's Achievement Award sponsored by Burger King.

Prior to the varsity boy's awards, Susan Montgomery and her Lady Wildcats were honored for making it all the way to the Class AAAA state

playoffs.

For the Lady 'Cats, senior Swadyn Phillips was named the Most Valuable Player and Best Rebounder (13 avg).

Junior Cassandra Twine, who averaged 12 points a game, was the Best Offensive and Vashti Manning was named the Best Defensive. Manning was also the winner of the Best Free Throw Percentage Award. Manning shot 56 percent from the line this year.

The Wildcat Spirit award went to Laura Dennis, The Most Improved to freshman Esther Benjamin, the Most Hustle to De De Dennis and the Best Scholastic Average award went to Stephanie Motley.

Also, Janie Clark was named the Outstanding Practice Player, Sissy Anderson was the winner of the Sportsmanship Trophy and Ashley Schleusner won the Coach's Achievement Award.

For the seventh-grade girls, Anitren Cowart, Tavaras Jones and Martavia Irvin were each named as winners of the Most Improved award. Kisha Thomas was the Best

Defensive, Alicia Mark the Best Offensive and Yolanda Benjamin was the MVP.

Carlos Jones was the MVP for the seventh-grade boys, Tony McKinney the Most Improved, Larry Melton the Best Offensive and Robert Randolph the Best Defensive.

For the eighth-grade girls, Yasmine Bivins was Most Improved, Tyra McCoy the Best Offensive, Lisa Vincent the Best Defensive and Shannon West was the MVP.

Andre Jones was the MVP for the eighth-grade boys, Marcus Williams the Most Improved, Steve Everson the Best Offensive and Tommy James was the Best Defensive.

For the ninth-grade boys, Billy Steinberg was the Most Improved, Theron Lane was Best Offensive and Best Defensive was Trampus Wrice.

B-team girls Most Improved award went to Natasha Johnson, Best Defensive to Esther Benjamin and Best Offensive to Tracy Troutman.

For the B-team boys, Jed Dennard was Most Improved, Ernest Lowe was Best Defensive and Corey Brazeal was Best Offensive.

Vikettes Win Subregion;

VDT, Friday, April 21, 1989

Valdosta A Close Second

From Staff Reports

Lowndes High school captured the Region 1-AAAA South girls track meet Thursday with Valdosta finishing a close second.

The Vikettes finished with 116 points followed by the Lady 'Cats with 109, Bainbridge with 66, Tift County with 40 and Coffee and Colquitt with 36 points apiece.

First place individual finishers for the Vikettes were Tami Shephard in the 400 meter dash with a time of 1:01:09, Veronica Williams in the 100 and 200 meter dash with a time of 12.42 and 26.24 respectively and Vernellia Alderman in the 100 meter hurdles with a time 15.6.

Also finishing first for Lowndes was the 400 meter relay team of Williams, Shephard, Alderman and Marisha Bishop with a time of 50.25. The same four also won the 1600 meter relay with a time of 4:16.70

Second place finishers included Jenkins in the 400 meter dash and Bishop in the 100 and 200 meter dash.

Cassie Campbell was third and Brenda Pelton fourth in the 3200 meter run, Campbell was fourth in the 1600 meter run and Catina Jones was fourth in the 800 meter run.

The number two relay team of Jones, Melissa Miller, Latina Childs and Angela Adams were fifth in the 1600 while Bishop finished sixth in the long jump and Miller sixth in the 100 meter hurdles.

For Valdosta, Laura Dennis was first in the shot put with a toss of 30.3/8, Suzette Davidson first in the high jump with a leap of 4'10".

Second place finishers for Valdosta were Davidson in the high hurdles and the 400 meter relay team consisting of Shantell Washington, Tiffany Wright, Davidson and Beth Edwards. Also finishing second was the 1600 meter relay team of Laura

Parramore, Michelle Hendricks, Davidson and Bayh Brindger.

De De Dennis was third in the 800 meters, Brindger third in the 400 meter, Washington third in the 200 meters and long jump and Maggie McDonald was third in the 1600 meter run.

Fourth place finishers were Laura Dennis in the discus, Washington in the 100 meters, Parramore in the 400 meter dash, and the 1600 meter team of Felicia Ponder, Althea Cochran, Hendricks and Edwards.

Fifth place finishers were Edwards in the 100 meters, Hendricks in the 100 meters, De De Dennis in the discus, Paige Stabell in the 1600 meter and 800 meter run, Brindger in the high jump and McDonald in the 3200 meter run.

The top four finishers in each event now advance to the Region 1-AAAAA track meet which will be held in Columbus, April 26.

Burns Takes Third

VDT, Sun, April 16, 1989
From Staff Reports

The Valdosta High boys' tennis team participated in the Muscogee Tennis Tournament in Columbus this weekend.

In the seniors division, Stephen Chitty was defeated in the first round by the No. 6 seeded player Robert Grimes of Shaw High School, 2-6, 0-6.

Greg Gaumond was defeated in the first round by Will Boyter from Columbus High, 5-7, 0-6.

Daniel Knowlton defeated David Eppes from Columbus by the score of 6-2, 6-3 in the first round. Knowlton later lost to Chris Lugert from Jordan in the second round, 6-0, 5-7, 0-6.

In the junior division, Danny Strubble received a bye in the first round, but lost to Dean Flores of Hardaway, 6-0, 6-2.

Jonathan Burns defeated Bubba Coxam from Columbus, 6-0, 6-0 in the first round and later defeated Anil Koganti from Brookstone, 6-0, 6-2 in the second round.

Burns then defeated Ken Tucker from Shaw, 6-0, 6-1 in the third round and Emil Tanjuatco from Bainbridge in the fourth round.

Burns was eliminated in the semi-finals by Jason Johnson from North Cobb, 3-6, 3-6. Johnson was the No. 2 seeded player in the junior division.

In the senior division doubles, Chitty and Knowlton were defeated in their first round by Sawtelle and Grimes from Shaw, 0-6, 1-6.

In the junior division, Burns and Strubble defeated Chalmers and Cudabac from North Cobb, 3-6, 7-6 (9-7), 6-1 in the first round.

Burns and Strubble then defeated Davidson and Fowler from La Grange, 6-2, 7-5 in the second round. Burns and Strubble were eliminated in the third round, 6-7, 0-6 to Koganti and Sigman from Brookstone.

Burns, a ninth grader, finished the singles tournament with a third place finish out of 44 entries.



VSC sophomore Chan Dixon will take her 17-3 singles record into this weekend's women's Gulf South Conference tennis tournament at Valdosta State College. — Photo Special to the Times

VHS Reading Winner Named

VDT, Thurs, April 20, 1989

By CATHY PENDLETON

Media specialist, was asked about the contest she replied, "We feel that the participation and interest of our students show that even high school students like to read. We plan to have our own in-house contest again next year, but for a shorter period of time. It's nice to see our students reading again."

Michael Seago read his way to the top position with 248,831 pages as he took part in Valdosta High School's participation of the "Reading Across a Drug Free America" reading contest. Michael's diligence earned him a \$50 U.S. savings bond.

Sandra Williams took second place with 61,961 pages winning movie passes and pizza. Third place winner, Geneva McLowery read 41,912 pages and won pizza. Fourth place readers winning t-shirts were: Hope McKnight 33,782; Yoland Reviere 33,494; Cathy Pendleton 26,067; Scott Sullivan 24,693; Kim Reese 24,150; Chandra Cooper 20,950; Ron Stone 16,594; Darlene Mitchell 15,010.

Two special top readers were Joshua Gay with 2,602 pages and Dewayne Bass with 2,184.

More than 144 students participated in the contest that ran from November 14 through April 3. Those participating read a total of 1,088,380 pages. When Mrs. Sandra Connell, the



Miss Valdosta High

VDT, Sun, April 30, 1989

Martie Sineath, left, daughter of Bill Sineath and Peggy McLeod, was named Miss Valdosta High School Saturday night. Also pictured is first runner up Kimberly Worn — Times Photo By Bob Freitag.

Valdosta Teen Readies Novel

By **SHERRIE FARABEE**
Times Staff Writer



Valdosta High sophomore Mike Mowls is working on a novel and has already received an offer from a publishing company for the rights — Times Photo By Paul Leavy.

Valdosta High School 10th grader Mike Mowls could be getting publisher's royalties before he gets his high school diploma.

The 16-year-old son of William and Veronica Mowls is writing a book.

The book, which is almost complete, is called "First Call, Last Love."

A major publishing company, which also publishes many works by author Jackie Collins, has offered to buy the rights to the book.

Mike said he has been working on the book since December. He sent one installment to the publishing company who wrote back asking for more and saying they were interested in the book.

His book, he said, is the kind of story adults and teen-agers can relate to and is based on the true story of a close friend, so it is also realistic.

"Some of the books I've read before are real trash," he said. "Some, I couldn't believe were even

printed."

Spurred on by his "I can do better" philosophy, Mike jumped right in.

"I wouldn't call it a romance," Mike said. "It has it's romantic moments, but it is also an adventure."

Mike doesn't really classify himself as an aspiring author, he just got started on a project that meant a lot to him. Now, with actual publication hanging over his head, the pressure is on, but he said he is not letting it get to him.

"The way I thought about it is I'm not writing this for publication and I'm not writing this for the money," he said. "I am writing it because I am enjoying writing the story."

Mike said he knows what 16-year-old are interested in and that will help him write a story of interest to them. For himself, he said, he like to read adventure stories, "stories that get your adrenaline flowing and make you want to jump in there with them."

If this book is well accepted, Mike said, he may consider doing another

See NOVEL, Page 3-A

Novel

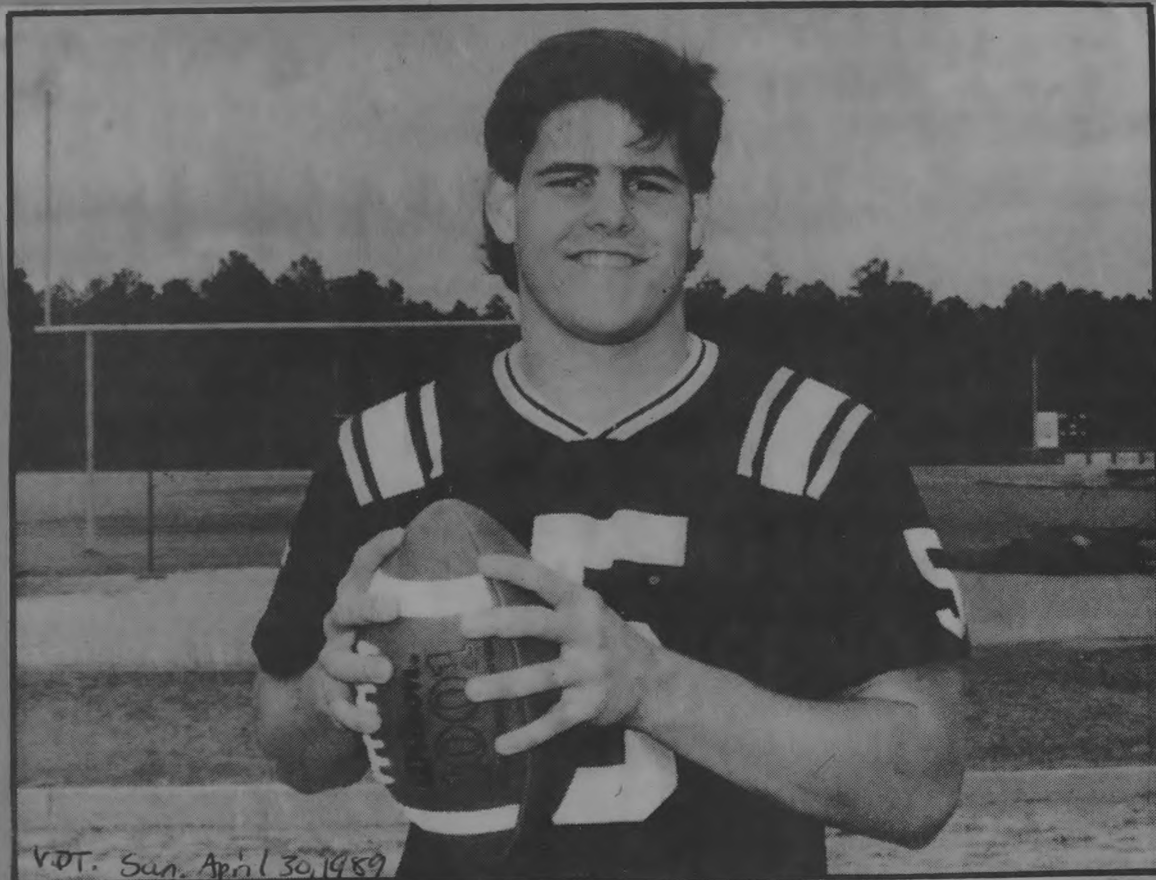
From Page 1-A

one, but he said he is not going to launch right into a writing career. He said he wants to write when he is inspired and interested in what he is doing. He said often, when reading, he can tell when the writer was writing just to get the job done and not because he or she was interested in the story.

Mike averages about five typed pages a day but doesn't push himself to write every day, not wanting to get sick of the project.

The hardest part, he said, is the fact he wants to jump ahead to the ending.

Mike said the book will probably not be finished until fall.



VDT. Sun. April 30, 1989



Valdosta High student Joseph Tomberlin and guidance counselor Sonya Wilcox put in some extra study time — Times Photo By Bob Freitag.

VHS Student Wins Scholarship

Med., Apr. 26, 1989
By ELLEN AVERY
Times Staff Writer

A Valdosta High School senior is one of 1,800 students nation-wide to win a National Merit scholarship this year.

Joseph E. Tomberlin claimed a \$2,000 scholarship today from the National Merit Scholarship Corp. Tomberlin's scholarship, which was sponsored by Avery International Corp., will pay for part of his tuition at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta.

Sonya Wilcox, a guidance counselor at Valdosta High, said Tomberlin first learned about winning the scholarship in March, but he was prohibited from revealing the award until today.

"Not every finalist wins a \$2,000 scholarship," Ms. Wilcox said. "We did receive notice Joey had won a \$2,000 scholarship. There were 14,000 finalists in the nation. There are about 1,800 kids who get a scholarship. It's really an honor to think you're one of 1,800 kids in the country who received a merit scholarship."

Tomberlin said he first learned he was in the running for the scholarship in the spring of 1988. He received one of the top 50,000 scores in the country on the Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test, which he took in October 1987.

Semifinalists for the merit scholarships were announced in September 1988, Ms. Wilcox said. Tomberlin was required to fill out an application and essay, which were used to select the 14,000 finalists. He had to include his Scholastic Aptitude Test score, which was 1490, on the application.

The 1,800 scholarship recipients were notified they had received the awards in March.

One of the requirements for students to become scholarship winners is involvement in extracurricular activities. Tomberlin is active in the DECA Club, the Interact Club, the Beta Club and the band.

"I play percussion," Tomberlin said. "I love to play the drums. I work in a music store (M&M Music) so everything I do relates to music. I love music."

The senior takes honors and

advanced placement courses in calculus, English and European history.

Tomberlin said he will study international business at Oglethorpe. He said he was not sure what type of job he would like to have after he graduates from college.

"I'd like to be working for a business firm overseas somewhere, maybe in Europe," Tomberlin said. "I haven't really thought about what I want to do."

Oglethorpe University awarded Tomberlin with another scholarship, which will pay half of his tuition, room and board costs during the four years he is enrolled at the school, Tomberlin said. He will work during the school year to pay the rest of his college costs.

Tomberlin will receive a scholarship certificate at Valdosta High's awards night May 9, Ms. Wilcox said. James Connell III and Meredith McMillan, who were National Merit Scholarship finalists, may receive scholarships from universities they plan to attend at the banquet.

VDT.
Track Stars Shine
Fri., Apr. 28, 1989

From Staff Reports

DOUGLAS — In the Region 1-AAAA South track meet, Valdosta qualified athletes for 15 events and Lowndes qualified in eight for next Wednesday's Region 1-AAAA meet in Columbus here Thursday afternoon.

In the team standings, Valdosta was second overall with 115 points followed by Lowndes with 71. Bainbridge was first with a total of 189 points. Host Coffee County was fourth with 43 points followed by Colquitt County with 39 and Tift County with 25.

Individually, first through fourth place finishers qualified for the region meet.

In all the 'Cats earned the right to compete in the shot put, discus, long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, 400 meter relay, 1600 meter run, 100 meter dash, 110 meter high hurdles, 800 meter run, 200 meter dash, 300 meter high hurdles, 3200 meter run and 1600 meter relay.

Lowndes qualified athletes in eight different events. They were the pole vault, long jump, triple jump, high jump, 400 meter dash, 110 high hurdles, 3200 run and the 1600 meter relay.

For Lowndes, Brent Taylor was first in the pole vault with a leap of 10', Leon Williams second in the long jump with a leap of 21.9.5 and Reggie Glance was second in the triple jump with a leap of 44'2".

Thomas was also second in the 400 meter dash and James Lawrence was fourth. Michael Matchette was fourth in the 110 high hurdles with a time of 16:15, Jamie March was third in the 3200 run with a time of 11:31 and the 1600 meter relay team finished third.

For Valdosta, in the shot put, Steve Smith qualified fourth with a throw of 43'7 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and Isaac Ceaser was fourth in the discus with a throw of 139'1" and fourth in the long jump with a leap of 21'3". Earnest Lowe was first in the high jump with a leap of 6'3", Terrance Daniels fourth in the triple jump with a leap of 42'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and Brandon Keith was second in the pole vault with a leap of nine feet.

The 400 meter relay team consisting of Adrian Dawsey, Frederick Henton, Andre Hampton, Carlos Butler, Chris Hart and alternate Robert Fillmore was second with a time of 42.84.

Hampton was third in the 100 meter run with a time 00 11.10 and Hubert Davidson took first in the 110 meter high hurdles with a time of 15.02 and fourth in the 300 meter high hurdles with a time of 22.59.

In the 800 meter run, Scott Jones was second with a time of 2:06.20 and James Manning fourth with a time of 2:08.21.

In the 1600 meter run, James Manning was second with a time of 4:47 and Mark Van Der Chijs was second in the 3200 meter run with a time of 10:46.

The 1600 meter relay team consisting of Demetrius Jones, Davidson, Keith Beal, Butler, Scott Jones and alternate Frank Henderson qualified second in the 1600 meter run. Their time was 3:30.65.



Valdosta catcher Jason Nichols slides in safely on the back end of a double steal as Lowndes catcher Greg Powell

waits for the throw from second. Valdosta went on to win the game 4-3. — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

'Cats Score Late To Nip Vikings

UDT, Fri., April 28, 1989

Cullen Drives In Game-Winner With Sacrifice Fly To Right

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The Lowndes Vikings did all they could to make Noel George's final game as head coach a memorable one but in the end it was Valdosta High which was doing the celebrating as the Wildcats won 4-3 Thursday afternoon at Bazemore Field in the season finale for both teams.

With the game tied at three, Rookie Gage laced his third hit of the game, a single to open the bottom of the seventh. After Gage stole second and a passed ball by Viking catcher Greg Powell, George had starter and loser Michael Johnson intentionally walk Byron Thornton and Andy Rykard to load the bases with nobody out.

Johnson got Ashley Bass to pop up to short center field but Sean Cullen picked up his teammate by lofting a sacrifice fly to right to score Gage for the winning run.

"We deserved to finally win a close game. It was about time," Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley said. "Lowndes is the only

"I don't know, I've been hunting for that snake that's been biting us all year long but I still haven't found it yet."

Noel George

team we play that is younger than us. But it was a good win. They didn't let my big guy (Rykard) hit but that's good coaching on George's part and I don't blame him for that. But we went 14-8 this year, beat Lowndes twice and came in third in the region and I don't think anybody expected us to do that."

Lowndes, which wraps up its last season under George with a record of 4-16, lost its fifth game of the year by a 4-3 margin. It was also the eighth time this year that the Vikings have lost by one run.

But Lowndes had its chances. In the second, Lowndes loaded the

base with no out only to have winner Rykard, retire the next three batters on two strikeouts and a force out at home plate.

In the seventh, thanks to a throwing error by Rykard, the Vikings had runners on second and third with no out. However, Ronnie Jackson struck out, Houston George bounced to the mound but Shannon Booker was caught in a rundown between home and third before being tagged out. Rykard, who finished the game with nine strikeouts, got out of the jam when left fielder Alton Hitson made a nice running catch of a ball hit by Chris Watson.

"I had called for the suicide squeeze with Houston at bat but my man on third didn't run. I don't know if he thought Houston wasn't going to make contact or what, but that's a sign of young team," George said. "I don't know, I've been hunting for that snake that's been biting us all year long but I still haven't found it yet."

But the Wildcats weren't exactly taking advantage of all their opportunities either. In the second Valdosta loaded the bases with nobody out and failed to score. But

in the second, the 'Cats took a 1-0 lead when Jason Nichols and Carlos Moore worked the double steal with Nichols doing the honors at home plate.

In the second, Bass delivered a sacrifice fly to drive in Thornton who had opened the inning with a double for the second run of the game.

But the Vikings would not roll over. In the bottom of the fifth, a throwing error by Bass on a ball hit by Booker, scored Richard Scoby who had doubled. The next batter Greg Powell, then blasted a two-run homer over the left field fence to give Lowndes a 3-2 lead.

Cullen tied the game at three when he hit the first of his two sacrifice flies, which like Bass', scored Thornton from third.

"Going into this year I would have been happy as the devil if we would finish at 14-8. And I am," Tarpley said. "I'm proud of all the kids. We got a pretty good effort all year long. Over the last two weeks, only two seniors started. The others didn't do much else but pinch hit but they contributed in other ways. It was just good to end the season on a positive note."

Wed May 10, 1989



Valdosta High honor graduates Jason Bridges, Leslie Hiers and Meredith McMillan talk after the school's annual honors night Monday — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

VHS Honors Top Academic Seniors

By ELLEN AVERY

Valdosta High School's honor graduates and outstanding senior were named at the annual honors night Tuesday.

Valdosta High Principal Wayne Aldrich opened the evening's ceremony by praising the students, especially the seniors, who worked hard to excel in academics during the 1988-89 school year.

Tonight I am pleased to honor our best students, Aldrich said. Tonight we honor quality. I don't think the parents here tonight could have asked for more from their children.

Leslie Hiers became the valedictorian of the Valdosta High class of 1989. Meredith McMillan was named the salutatorian, and Jason Bridges was honored as third honor graduate.

Leslie Hiers was also named best all-around senior.

Jason Bridges was the first Valdosta High student in many years to be appointed to the United States Naval Academy. David Hazlehurst was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School in Rhode Island.

John Ramey will attend the Governor's Honors Program in English, James Inman will go to the math program, and Dan Altman will attend the vocational education program.

Valdosta High's National Merit Scholars were James Connell III, Meredith McMillan and Joey Tomberlin. Tomberlin was awarded a \$2,000 National Merit Scholarship by Avery International.

Carlo Butler was named Aca-

ademic Athlete Student of the Year.

Spencer Iverson and Farell Scott were named Georgia Southern College Outstanding Black Georgia Scholars. Robin Golivesky, India Giuly, James Inman and Nicky Legg were given Presbyterian College Junior Academic Achievement awards.

Other honors which were awarded include:

- Boys' State-Jason Finland and Nicky Legg.
- Girls' State-Christie Lowe and Simone Allen.
- Valdosta Technical Institute scholarship-Hope Yolanda Williams.
- U.S. Air Force ROTC scholarship-Chris DeMont and William Robert Higdon.

2-E Sunday, May 7, 1989

VDT.

Sineath Enjoyed Pageant

By FRANCES GOLIVESKY
Times Lifestyles Writer



MARTIELE SINEATH

Spending the evening with her friends brought a Valdosta High School junior a little closer to her friends and the student body of the school.

Martiele Sineath, daughter of Bill Sineath of Valdosta and Peggy McLeod of Lake Park, was crowned Miss Valdosta High School April 29 at Mathis city auditorium.

"After I got into the pageant and realized I was with all my friends, I didn't feel nervous," Martiele said. "I thought everyone was in the pageant for fun ... so there didn't seem to be any jealousy."

The only aspect of the pageant that did make her nervous was anticipating the question the pageant emcee would ask of her in the final competition. The question asked of her concerned her father's hot air balloon and her connection with it. "I really don't fly a lot, but I love it. Sometimes I go up, but mainly I am part of the chase crew which follows the balloon. It has brought me and my dad closer," she said.

Martiele gives her mother cred-

it for helping her win the pageant. "She did everything for me. She took all my stuff except my make-up for me to the pageant. She helped me do everything when I would walk off the stage. She even cleaned up for me after the pageant ... I couldn't have done it without her."

Martiele's immediate plans include finishing the semester and spending the summer in the VHS cheerleading program. After graduation she plans to study business and maybe one day having a clothing store. Her other hobbies besides the balloon include playing tennis with her mother and skiing at Twin Lakes. "I love living at the lakes...that's where everyone wants to be."

Wildcats Have Potential

VDT. Tues., May 2, 1989
By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High track coordinator Jerry Don Baker knows what his team is up against; speed, experience and great athletes. But he thinks the Wildcats have the potential to compete.

The Wildcats will be competing in the Region 1-AAAA boys track championship starting Wednesday at Kinett Stadium which is on the campus of



BAKER

Columbus' Shaw High School. Last year, region foe Kendrick High School of Columbus won the state AAAA championship and Baker feels all of the teams in the north subregion will be tough to beat.

"They do an excellent job with their track programs up there and with them, it's a year-round thing. I know that Carver has a lot of speed and Spencer will do well in the distance and sprints. Bainbridge is also tough but we're looking forward to seeing how we can do," Baker said.

Fourteen Wildcats will be competing in the championships after qualifying by finishing in the top four last week in the subregion meet. The Wildcats finished behind only Bainbridge to land in second.

Ernest Lowe, a freshman, will be competing in the high jump competition and senior Isaac Caesar will be in the long jump and discus throw. The two Valdosta sprinters, Andre Hampton and Frederick Henton, will both compete in the 100 meter dash.

The relay entries will be Hampton, Henton, Adrian Dawsey and Carlo Butler in the 400 meters and Butler, Demetrius Jones, Hubert Davidson and Keith Beal in the mile relay. Davidson will also compete in the 110 high hurdles.

Terrence Daniels will be competing in the triple jump and freshman Scott Jones will be in the 880-yard dash. Jones was hurt when he qualified for the region meet last week and still finished in second. James Manning also finished second in the mile run and freshman Brandon Brooks will be in the pole vault.

Long distance runner Mark Van Der Chijs was ill with an intestinal virus last week and he failed to qualify for the one mile run at the subregion meet. But he did qualify in the two-mile event where he should be a favorite.

Baker said all of his participants have a chance to do well, but the competition will certainly be keen.



Valdosta High School senior Coleman Rudolph will be making his final appearance in the Region 1-AAAA golf tournament in Columbus. The Wildcats finished in third place last season. — Times File Photo.

VHS, LHS Go After Titles

VDT. Thurs., May 4, 1989
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Although the Valdosta High Wildcat and Lowndes High Viking golfing teams have taken different paths at times during the 1989 season. However, their paths will meet in Columbus in the Region 1-AAAA Golf Tournament today at Bull Creek Country Club beginning at 9 a.m.

Ironically, the paths of the Wildcats and Vikings had just crossed Tuesday on the fairways of Francis Lake in the final regular season match of the season. The Wildcats downed the Vikings by 25 strokes.

But, according to VHS golf coach Jack Rudolph, it will be an entirely different situation in Columbus.

"Our team is playing pretty well right now, but in an earlier match in Columbus we had some problems," said Rudolph. "In our last couple of matches against Waycross and Lowndes we hit the ball well and made some good scores. But the course in Columbus is very challenging for our kids."

Head LHS golf coach John Bradley admits that while his team has not had a year to remember, his team is playing well presently.

"We are playing fair at this point. Our best score this year has been 320 and we will need a score like that in Columbus to stay in the hunt," said Bradley. "The top two teams in this year's field has to be Hardaway and Tift County."

Valdosta, which finished third last season, will have a strong group of golfers which include Coleman Rudolph, Chris Buescher, David Cason, Dow Drury, Dan Altman and Sam Hogan.

The Lowndes golfers headed for region competition will be Tom Price, Jim Langdale, Brian Stewart, Benji Kent, G.C. Ratliff and Travis Harrison.

VHS Golfers Finish 5th, LHS 8th

VDT. Fri., May 5, 1989
From Staff Report

COLUMBUS — The Valdosta High School golfers finished fifth and the team from Lowndes eighth in the 12-team Region 1-AAAA championship at Bull Creek Golf Course Thursday.

The Wildcats shot a team-total 336 and the Vikings a 343. Hardaway won the team title with a 316, one shot better than Tift County. Both teams will move on to the state tournament.

The top players for both local schools — Jim Langdale of Lowndes and Chris Buescher of Valdosta — shot 80 to lead their respective squads.

Rounding out the Valdosta team was Coleman Rudolph with an 82, Dan Altman with an 86, David Cason 88, Dan Drury 90 and Sam Hogan 96.

For Lowndes, Tom Price was second with an 84, Brian Stewart followed with an 86, Benji Kent 93, Travis Harrison 94 and G.C. Ratliff 97.

Michael Bassett of Tift County was the individual medalist with a 72. Chris Purvis of Coffee was second at 76.

Following Hardaway and Tift County in team standings was Colquitt County third (325), Coffee (327), Columbus and Valdosta (336), Shaw (341), Lowndes, Bainbridge (355), Spencer (386), Jordan (394) and Baker, who had individuals compete.

Lanier's Lee The All-Area Player Of The Year

1989 Times All-Area Baseball Team

Pos.	Player, School	Yr.	Avg.	RBI
1B	Alex Lee, Lanier Co.	Sr.	.524	48
2B	Vic Correll, Berrien Co.	Sr.	.348	18
SS	A.C. Cooper, Clinch Co.	Sr.	.480	17
3B	Ashley Bass, Valdosta	Jr.	.346	20
DH	Andy Rykard, Valdosta	Sr.	.472	46
C	Ronnie Ash, Berrien Co.	Sr.	.328	15
LF	Chuck Phillips, Lanier Co.	Sr.	.397	28
CF	Jamie Spates, Clinch Co.	Sr.	.419	11
RF	Jason Bell, Clinch Co.	Sr.	.400	12

Pitchers

Player, School	Yr.	Rcd.	ERA
Jonathan Rodgers, Cook	Jr.	6-3	1.61
Jason Hamil, Berrien Co.	Sr.	6-2	1.66
Richard Lindsey, Hamilton Co.	Sr.	9-3	2.73



ALEX LEE

Player of the Year



BOB OWSLEY

Coach of the Year

HONORABLE MENTION

- P _ Dwight Boone, Lanier Co., Richie Carpenter, Lowndes Christian, Lance Cowart, Cook, Michael Johnson, Lowndes;
- 2B _ Rookie Gage, Valdosta, Jerome Williams, Lanier Co.;
- SS _ Fred Edmunds, Clinch Co.; C _ Marshall Hisaw, Cook.



ANDY RYKARD

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

All season long, Alex Lee was the spark that carried Lanier County to the Region 2-A championship.

And, even though Lee was not able to carry the Bulldogs past eventual champion Clinch County, his performance during the regular season was enough to warrant his selection as *The Valdosta Daily Times* Player of the Year.

Lee finished the regular season with a batting average of .524 with 43 hits, 40 runs scored, 15 doubles, two triples, seven home runs, 48 RBI and 28 stolen bases. Lee, who in April signed a grant-in-aid to play baseball at Columbus College, edged out Valdosta's Andy Rykard and Clinch County's Alvin 'A.C.' Cooper for Player of the Year honors. All members of the All-Area team were selected on the bases of their performances during the regular season only.

"Alex stepped in three years ago as a sophomore and has made steady progress each and every year," Lanier head coach John White said. "He's played any position I've asked him to. Alex is probably one of the better players to come out of Lakeland in 10 years."

Coach of the Year honors went to Bob Owsley of Cook High. Owsley has led the Hornets to a 16-7 record heading into Tuesday's opening game of the Class AA state playoffs



ASHLEY BASS

against Robert E. Lee in Thomson.

"We thought we would have a tough time coming into this year, especially after having lost seven seniors. But we felt like we could play with folks if our kids played up to their potential," Owsley said. "I was concerned for our pitching after losing Andy Baker and Derrick Merritt to graduation but we've had some younger kids step in and they've performed well. It's easy when you have kids who really want to work hard. When they do that the skies the limit."

One of the players that has helped Cook attain its current success is pitcher Jonathan Rodgers. Rodgers, one of two juniors on the All-Area team, finished the regular season with a record of 6-3, 78 strikeouts and 15 walks in 65 innings pitched and an ERA of 1.61, heads the list of three area pitchers who were named to the All-Area team.

Joining Rodgers on the team are Berrien County's Jason Hamil and Hamilton County's Richard Lindsey. Hamil finished the year with a record of 6-2, giving up 39 hits in 50 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings, 58 strikeouts, 32 walks, 12 earned runs and an ERA of 1.66. Lindsey, 9-3, was the workhorse for the 10-11 Trojans. The senior tossed struck out 102 in 80 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings, walked 29, gave up 32 earned runs and had an ERA of 2.73.

The rest of the All-Area team was selected position by position.

Joining Lee, who got the nod at



JASON BELL

first base, is Berrien County second baseman Vic Correll. Correll, who played third during the Rebels' 1988 state championship year, hit .348 in 19 games including 24 hits, four home runs and 18 RBI. Correll added three more homers in the Region 2-AA semifinals in a losing effort against Brantley County.

At shortstop is Clinch County's Cooper. Cooper, a three-sport star for the Panthers, finished the regular season with an average of .480 and 25 runs scored.

The third baseman is Valdosta's Ashley Bass. Bass, the other junior, batted a solid .346 for Charles Tarpley's Wildcats with four home runs and 20 RBI.

Rykard was tabbed the All-Area designated hitter. The talented senior, who was the Region 1-AAAA and *The Times* Player of the Year last season, followed up his spectacular 1988 season with



JAMIE SPATES

another super year in 1989. In fact, Rykard's statistics were very close to that of Lee's. Rykard batted .472 with seven home runs and 46 RBI. A solid pitcher as well, Rykard went 6-5 with an ERA of 2.91.

The catcher is Berrien County's Ronnie Ash. A solid defensive player, Ash helped himself with the bat as well hitting .328 with one home run and 15 RBI.

Two Clinch County Panthers are among those holding down two of the outfield positions. In right is Jason Bell, who batted .400, while teammate Jamie Spates, who batted .419, patrols center field.

The left fielder is Lanier's Chuck Phillips. Phillips, known more for his pitching prowess than his fielding and hitting still did an excellent job. He batted .397 with one home run and 28 RBI.



Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder is preparing his team for the opening of spring football practice. — Times File Photo

Wildcat Defense Could Be One Of Hyder's Quickest Units Ever

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Valdosta High School head football coach Nick Hyder has always been very careful when it comes to comparing Wildcat teams of the past. He'd rather leave that up to the fans.

However, Hyder, whose team starts spring practice Monday afternoon, speaks with cautious optimism when discussing the 'Cats' defense for the upcoming year.

"This year's defense looks to be as quick as any I've seen in my 16 years at Valdosta High," he said. "You start up front and you have to look at Frederick Henton, Robert Fillmore, George Copeland, Andre Hampton, Marcus Moss, Eddie Rawls, Andre Scruggs, Ricky Thomas, Dexter Daniels and Anthony Williams. You have Trampis Wrice and Adrian Lewis in the secondary as well as Marshun (Lane) and Travis Lane. These are all quick, super-cat kids. The big question is what will our offense be able to do against these people? That's the real key."

The 'Cats will practice at the school for three weeks and will conclude with what Hyder terms a "doubleheader-type" scrimmage Friday, May 26 at Cleveland Field.

The exact time is yet to be determined.

The first part of the scrimmage will be devoted to the younger players and during the second part the 'Cats will be divided up into two equal squads for the remainder of the night.

Hyder said there may also be a scrimmage at Cleveland Field on May 19 but that is also yet to be fully determined.

Perhaps the biggest project for Hyder will be to try and find replacements for All-Region running backs James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser. Roberts rushed for 1,404 yards and Ceaser for 1,192 and 22 touchdowns. For most teams, this would seem like a near-impossible task but Valdosta has plenty of young backs ready to step in and try.

"In the backfield we'll have Joe Wright (160 pounds) who we moved from wide receiver to running back. Joe's a two-year varsity performer and a fine athlete. He's got Dana Brinson-type quickness. I don't mean he's as fast as Dana is now but at similar stages in their careers,"

Joe compares very favorably," Hyder said. "We also have Carlos Parker (195). Carlos saw considerable playing time last year and could have started for a lot of folks we played last year. There is also

Kendrick Patrick (205), Albert Edmunds (190), who had an outstanding ninth-grade year and Dexter Mitchell (160)."

Missing from this group is Chris Chachere, who is one of 14 players ineligible for spring practice. However, Hyder is hopeful that all 14 will be eligible come August.

Another hole in the offense that must be filled will be at quarterback where Ben Hogan played before signing a letter-of-intent with South Carolina.

Battling for the all-important position will be 1988 backups Jason Nichols, Deric Cotton and Jamie Watson. Cotton, however, is still recovering from surgery and will miss spring drills but will return come August.

"Both Jason and Deric are contrasting quarterbacks. Both are good young quarterbacks," Hyder said. "Cotton, being the taller possesses tremendous range and has displayed pin-point accuracy. Nichols is a little quicker and I've always felt good with Jason during our scrimmages before."

On the offensive line, Hyder welcomes the return of right tackle Shaun Eilders (265), who missed the entire 1988 season because of a knee injury. A rising junior, Eilders started four games as a freshman in 1987.

Hyder is looking at Jason Peters (220) at center, Giles Godwin (190) at left guard, Mathew Butler (210) at left tackle and Lowndes transfer Brooks Akins (225) at right guard.

Eddie Wooten will alternate at tackle and Kevin Wilkerson at guard. Mike Griffin and Derrick Phillips are also expected to see time on the line.

Mickey McSwain and Craig Hunt are back at tight end.

Tracy Smothers, Alton Hitson, Dexter Dudley, Steve Jarmillo, Carlos Moore, Shannon Myers, Justin Bridges, Terrance Daniels and Scott Stuart will all get an opportunity at wide receiver.

The 'Cats also return All-Region punter Eric Phillips and placekicker Dow Drury from last year's team. The two kickoff men, Carlos Parker and Anthony Williams are also back.

Defensively, joining Wrice, Hart and Travis and Marshun Lane in the secondary will be Kelly Holmes, Steve Sanders and Byron Thornton. On the defensive front, M.J. Johnson and James Osborne and Kevin Miller are two more 'Cats that Hyder is expecting to hear from.

Other defensive ends include Craig Johnson, Durwin Logan, Brad Tarpley and Maurice Dean.

Henton Achieves Ultra-Cat Status

VDT. Tues. May 9, 1989

From Staff Reports

Frederick Henton scored a 230 on the Valdosta High School Physical Fitness Test Friday thus becoming the only Wildcat football player this spring to earn the prestigious title of Ultra-Cat.

The test, coordinated by VHS strength and conditioning coach Bob Bolton, consists of activities that test a player's strength, speed, agility and endurance.

Players are scored according to their performances on the bench press, power clean, hip sled, 40-yard dash, 10-yard dash, Edgren Slide Test, over-and-unders and the 1 1/2 mile run. Players are tested every six weeks.

Once their final scores are tabulated, the players are grouped together in certain levels with Ultra Cat being the highest level a player can achieve.

To become an Ultra-Cat, a player must score at least 225 or above. Other levels include Superior-Cat (200-224), Super-Cat (175-199) and Champion Club (150-174).

The following is a list of those players who made Superior-Cat and their scores: Chris Hart (222), Carlos Parker (220), Andre Hampton (211), Robert Fillmore (210), Brooks Akins (209), Jason Peters (208), Bruce Daniels (201), George Copeland (200) and Adrian Lewis (200).

Super-Cats: Alfonso Willis (198), Dexter Daniels (198), Tracy Smothers (194), Sherman Moore (193), Jason Nichols (189), Kevin Wilkerson (188), Ricky Thomas (187), Shannon Myers (186), Joe Wright (184), Marcus Moss (182), Anthony Williams (182), Mickey McSwain (176), Marshun Lane (175), James Osborne (175) and Steve Sanders (175).

Champion Club: Mathew Butler (172), Dexter Dudley (170), Tim McClain (170), Tracy Carter (169), Andre Zanders (166), Craig Johnson (165), Carlos Moore (165), Eric Phillips (162), Kendrick Patrick (160), Albert Edmunds (160), Travis Lane (158), Derrick Phillips (158), Carlos Folsom (158), Jason Griffin (155), Durwin Logan (154), Eddie Rawls (154), Chris Chachere (153), Shawn Eilders (153), M.J. Johnson (153), Reginald Bryant (152), Stan Mathis (152), Trampis Wrice (152), Andre Smith (151), Andre Scruggs (150) and Brad Tarpley (150).



FREDERICK HENTON



High School Football Springs Into Action

VDT.

Tues. May 9, 1989

....Meanwhile, at Valdosta High School, Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder put his troop through its paces. Hyder was happy with the overall

workout but his team's performance during special team drills greatly displeased him. Times Staff Photos by Bob Freitag

VHS Attends FBLA State Meeting

By MINDEE BUTLER

Valdosta High School chapter of Future Business Leaders of America attended the State Leadership Conference held in Atlanta the weekend of April 21.

Representatives from the school competed in events such as Business Law, Shorthand, and Computer Concepts. Those competing and their events were Karen Jamieson, Ms. CBE Student of the Year; Fernanda Jimenez, Shorthand II; John Washnock, Informatin Processing Concepts; Jay Langdale and Sandra Wang, Entrepreneurship; Rob Higdon, Computer Concepts; Lisa Robins, Business Law; Mindee Butler, Business Math; and Sophia Roberts, Business Calculations. Others attending the conference as voting delegates were Jamie Essinger, Ann Sorenson, and Gina Marafino.

After the competitions were held Friday afternoon, a general meeting was conducted by the State President Matthew Lawrence, who is also president of the Valdosta chapter of FBLA.

Voting delegates participated in region meetings Saturday morning. A second general meeting took place in the afternoon followed by an awards banquet Saturday night.

Awards won by VHS students were Matthew Lawrence, recipient of the Atlanta Business and Pro-

fessional Women's Club Award; Mindee Butler, third place in Business Math; Jay Langdale and Sandra Wang, fourth place in Entrepreneurship; Maxine Martin, Adviser of th Year; Matthew Lawrence, Who's Who in FBLA; and VHS, Excellent Chapter of the Year.

VICA Banquet

By TRACY GREER

This year's annual VHS VICA Employee-Employer banquet was held May 1 at the Sheraton. Several awards were given which included honorary lifetime memberships given to Paula Parker, a teacher at VHS and to Scott Jacobson, manager of Five Points Pizza Hut.

The members of the Opening and Closing Ceremony Team also received certificates. They were Kevin Dowling, Tracy Greer, Kelvin Weldon, Kellie Sessions, Chris Tindall, Monica Morrissette, Keri Kirby, and Kim Kerins.

Most Outstanding VICA Student was Stephanie Motley; Most Dependable VICA Student was Sholanda Wade; and Most Valuable VICA Student was Tasha Quarterman.

Jeff Geier ws recognized for winning second place in State competiion in Graphic Arts. John Field, vocational supervisor, expressed appreciaiton to employers for



working with the students and supporting VHS Diversified Cooperative Training

Spanish Competition

Carolina Maria Metroz placed third in the state of Georgia in the native speaker category of the National Spanish Exmaination.

Carolina, who was born in Spain, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Stephen Metroz Sr. Mr. Metroz is based at Moody Air Force Base. Mrs. Metroz is a native of Spain. The family has lived in Illinois, California, Spain and Italy.

Carolina has been active in the Spanish National Honor Society of

Valdosta High School where she is a student of Elsie Nichols.

VHS Spring Concert

A spring concert was presented by the Valdosta High School Wind Ensemble, VHS Concert Band, and the VJHS eighth grade band at Mathis city auditorium April 30.

VHS All-state flautist Sandra Wang played a solo and was accompanied by Junior High All-state flautist Sarita Rainey, Michelle Priest, Betsy Richards, Cindy Clark and Leslie Hiers.

A brass quintet consisting of John Casker on trombone, Christ Kelly on trumpet, Tim Ethridge on trumpet, Kim Williams on French Horn, and Michael Linger on tuba presented several pieces.

Selections by the VHS wind Ensemble were given as well. Ronald Evans, band director for Gainesville High School in Gainesville, Ga., directed the combined Wind Ensemble and Concert Band. The West Gordon Sixth grade band, the Southeast Sixth grade band, and the VJHS band joined the Concert band and Wind Ensemble in the finale.

A narrative was presented by Holly Rentschler, Nickey Legg, and Chris DeMont. Band directors are Steven Hankla, Curtis Harrell, Victor Holladay, and Terry Rountree.

The Valdosta Daily Times

VHS Marchin' Cats Hold Banquet

VDT. Tues. May 23, 1989

By DOUG MANAHAN
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School's Band Banquet took on special meaning for a couple of different reasons Monday night.

Band director Terry Rountree, who is resigning after this year to enter into a business career, issued a heartfelt farewell to his students, several of them seniors who enjoyed a successful year under their mentor.

The awards ceremony itself took on special meaning when Fluker G. Stewart presented the award named for his daughter, Lucy Stewart, who was killed in an automobile accident in 1973 when she was 19 years old. The winner of this year's Lucy Stewart Memorial Award was senior Tawanna Wilson. Marguerite Ford, one of the co-founders of the award, was also in attendance.

In presenting the award, Stewart said his daughter was a tremendously dedicated band performer who was also blessed with an excellent voice.

"Lucy didn't have to be turned on by drugs or alcohol, she was turned on by the Marchin' Cats band," he said.

Stewart also remembered he was told by band members before his daughter died that she encouraged her fellow members after they were marching off the field after failing to defend their "The Best Band in Dixie" title in New Orleans, La.

"There were several members that had their heads down and were sobbing as they were leaving the field after they found out they had just lost the competition by one-tenth of a point," Stewart said. "She went up and down the line and told each member to smile and hold



Richard Pye, band booster president (right) presents Valdosta Police Chief Charlie Spray Monday night with the plaque naming

him an honorary member of the Marchin' Cats band. —Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy.

their heads up high, because 'we're still the best band in Dixie.' I know all of you out there tonight feel the same way."

That spirit was still evident when outgoing band president and Senior of the Year award recipient, Leslie Hiers, addressed her teachers, classmates and their parents.

"Band has taught me loyalty, responsibility and the value of good friends," Miss Hiers said. "In the fall of my sophomore year, the Marchin' Cats had a rough marching season. Even though we cringed at

the insults, we held our heads high until it was over.

"We've learned to congratulate ourselves and be proud of it even if our accomplishments weren't spotlighted on the football field. This year I experienced the pride of being in all-around superior organization."

Other high school award winners included Sandra Wang, who received the John Philip Sousa Award for being the outstanding band member; Chris Kelly, recipient of the Tex Mullis Loyalty Award;

and John Allen and Bert Eidson, Bandsmen of the Year.

Junior high students honored included Tasha Conrad, outstanding musician; Christine Snyder and Julie Gordon, most improved musicians; Angela Walker, Alfie James Myers Memorial Loyalty Award; and Wilson Faircloth and Lauren Harris, drum major leadership.

In addition, Valdosta Police Chief Charlie Spray was inducted as an honorary Marchin' Cat band member and was honored as such with a plaque.

CONTRIBUTORS TO HONOR'S DAY

MR. DONALD ALLISON

COCA-COLA

CRACKIN'GOOD BAKERS

MR. JIMMY GRIFFIN

HOLIDAY MARKETS, INC.

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TOM'S CHIPS

VALDOSTA CITY SCHOOLS FOOD SERVICES

VALDOSTA HIGH SCHOOL LUNCHROOM STAFF



May 13, 1989

Valdosta High School

HONOR 'S DAY
MAY 12, 1989

WELCOME.....MRS. FAITH COOPER

SPEAKER.....MRS. VICKIE BURT

AWARDS

BD AWARDS.....MRS. MARCIA COLLINS

- Special Olympic Volunteers
- Most Outstanding English
- Most Outstanding Vocational
- *Most Dedicated

NINTH GRADE AWARDS.....MISS DENISE LEE

- Most Outstanding Math
- Most Outstanding Reading
- Most Outstanding Health
- Most Outstanding Vocational
- Most Outstanding Work-In
- Most Outstanding Work-Out
- Most Improved
- Best Dressed
- Best Attendance
- *Best All Around

TENTH GRADE AWARDS.....MRS. JACQUITA LEE

- Most Outstanding Math
- Most Outstanding Reading
- Most Outstanding Health
- Most Outstanding Vocational
- Most Outstanding Work-In
- Most Outstanding Work-Out
- Most Improved
- Best Dressed
- *Best All Around

ELEVENTH GRADE AWARDS.....MRS. SANDY BONNER

- Most Outstanding Math
- Most Outstanding Reading
- Most Outstanding Health
- Most Outstanding Vocational
- Most Outstanding Work-In
- Most Outstanding Work-Out
- Most Improved
- Best Dressed
- Best Attendance
- *Best All Around

SPECIAL AWARDS.....MRS. FAITH COOPER

- Most Outstanding Artist
- Most Outstanding in Home Economics
- Most Athletic Male and Female

TWELFTH GRADE AWARDS.....MRS. FAITH COOPER

- Most Outstanding Math
- Most Outstanding Reading
- Most Outstanding Health
- Most Outstanding Vocational
- Most Outstanding Work-In
- Most Outstanding Work-Out
- Most Improved
- Best Dressed
- Best Attendance
- *Best All Around Male and Female
- *The Charles Donald Allison Memorial Award
for Most Outstanding Senior

CONCLUSION OF PROGRAM

*DENOTES PLAQUE

Sports

Rykard, Gage Land On All-Region Team



ANDY RYKARD

From Staff Reports

Colquitt County High outfielder Marcus Ponder has been named the 1989 Region 1-AAAA South Player of the Year. Ponder, who batted .457 with six doubles, three triples and three home runs, was one of 15.

See Page 4-C For Complete List

members of this year's team which was selected recently by the sports departments from area newspapers. The Valdosta High Wildcats, who finished third in the region behind Ponder's Packers and the Coffee County Trojans, had two players selected to the first team. Senior Andy Rykard, who was named the Player of the Year last season,

claimed the designated hitter spot while sophomore second baseman Rookie Gage was also tabbed.

The Packers placed five players on the team, while Coffee had four. Along with Valdosta, Tift County and Bainbridge High placed two each. The Lowndes Vikings, who finished last in the subregion and had a trouble-filled season, did not nominate any players and placed none.

The squad is made up of four outfielders, four pitchers, five infielders, one catcher and one designated hitter.

Rykard followed up his great junior season with an equally excellent senior campaign. He hit .472 with seven home runs, 46 RBI and 19 walks. Valdosta High head baseball coach Charles Tarpley said

Rykard did everything that was asked of him during the year and more.

"Andy just carried us all year. All of our region wins this year came with Andy pitching and he had most of his RBIs at the beginning of the year," Tarpley said. "Late in the year, everyone just walked him. He had two games where he walked four times."

Rykard was a three-year starter for the Wildcats where he pitched, played third, was the designated hitter and caught. Tarpley said several schools have contacted Rykard about continuing his career in baseball but he was not sure who his young star would sign with. Georgia, Middle Georgia and Valdosta State have all expressed interest.

Gage moved to Valdosta this past year after growing up in Mississippi and his first year with the Wildcats was indeed a success. He turned in great numbers both offensively and defensively. He batted .366 and also maintained a .975 fielding percentage.

But Gage helped the Cats most with his ability to get on base. Along with his high batting average, Gage drew 20 walks in 20 games and put his on-base percentage well over .500. Tarpley said he is looking forward to having Gage on the squad for the next two years.

"He hit second in our lineup and had a low number of strikeouts. He is a leader and a winner who just loves to play baseball. He works hard to get better and this summer,



ROOKIE GAGE

1988 ALL-REGION 1-AAAA BASEBALL TEAM

VD.T. 1
Sun, May 14 '89

POS.	PLAYER, SCHOOL	YR.	AVG.
INF	ROOKIE GAGE, VALDOSTA	SO.	.366
INF	BEN WIGGINS, COLQUITT CO.	SR.	.360
INF	ANDY REASE, COFFEE CO.	SR.	.322
INF	JEFFREY SAULS, TIFT CO.	SO.	.393
INF	MIKE HARRELL, BAINBRIDGE	JR.	.397
OF	MARCUS PONDER, COLQUITT CO.	SR.	.457
OF	REGGIE INGRAM, COFFEE CO.	JR.	.462
OF	FRANCES BIVENS, COFFEE CO.	SR.	.355
OF	RODNEY CLOSE, BAINBRIDGE	JR.	.385
P	JON BUCKNER, COLQUITT CO.	JR.	7-1
P	ERIC BOZEMAN, COLQUITT CO.	JR.	5-1
P	GLENN GARDNER, COFFEE CO.	SR.	6-2
P	CHUCK BEALE, TIFT CO.	FR.	5-4
C	KEITH WHATLEY, COLQUITT CO.	SR.	.279
DH	ANDY RYKARD, VALDOSTA	SR.	.472



PLAYER OF THE YEAR
MARCUS PONDER



COACH OF THE YEAR
JERRY CROFT

Valdosta High Senior Enjoys Classified Work

By JAY JONES
Times Staff Writer

Facing graduation in June, most high school seniors have thoughts of the graduation trip or which college to attend in the fall.

Amy Leynes also has plans, but for now she turns her thoughts toward helping customers in the classified department of *The Valdosta Daily Times*.

A Valdosta High senior, Miss Leynes is one of the youngest workers in *The Times* and has been at her job since September through the VICA program at Valdosta High. With some work experience, Miss Leynes said her plans for the future are not complete outside of attending college.

"I plan to go to Valdosta State for a couple of years and then transfer to a larger institution, but I'm not sure I want to do that. I don't even know what I'm going to study," Miss Leynes said. "I guess I will be a professional student for the rest of my life."

As a classified clerk, Miss Leynes said some of her duties include taking ads over the phone and from people walking in the office and working on classified billing. Miss Leynes also has the responsibility at the end of the day of running the classified ads through the typesetter

to be placed in the next day's paper. "I love working here. It gets hectic sometimes but you always know it will get better," she said. "And then there's Friday."

She rolls her eyes back and explained the deadline pressure every Friday of people trying to get ads in the weekend papers by 4 p.m. "On Friday we get ads for three days' papers and there's a lot of work to get them all in," Miss Leynes said. "It's like doing three days work in one day."

Miss Leynes said everybody pulls together in the classified department and said she has developed strong friendships with her co-workers at *The Times*.

"I really like the people here like Ann Jordan (another classified clerk). She's great," Miss Leynes said. "She would stay a couple of hours after she's supposed to get off and help me with my work. She has helped me at times from staying here all night. Karen Tattersall is no longer here, but she was great to work with too."

Being the youngest worker in the advertising department at *The Valdosta Daily Times*, co-workers have dubbed Miss Leynes "Baby Amy."

"Fred Hall (*Times* advertising manager) gave the name to me one day and I didn't think much about



Amy Leynes, a Valdosta High School senior who works part-time in the classified advertising department at *The Daily Times*, enjoys

both the hectic pace and co-workers associated with her job — *Times Staff Photo by Bob Freitag.*

it then," she said. "Now everybody calls me 'Baby Amy.' Even Mr. Morrell (*Times* publisher) calls me that."

Miss Leynes lives in Valdosta with her parents Bob and Patricia. She enjoys swimming and water skiing.

"We have a house on the Suwannee River and I enjoy going out there. In the summer, I'm happy and in the winter Tim Howard"

Wildcats End Spring Drills Tonight

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta head football coach Nick Hyder and the Valdosta Wildcat football squad will finish off the 1989 Spring Football workouts with a two-team scrimmage at Cleveland Field tonight beginning at 6 p.m.

According to Hyder, the Wildcats will be split into a young and veteran group to hold two separate scrimmages. The younger Wildcats will begin at 6 with the veteran Wildcats taking the field at 8 for the final spring scrimmage.

Hyder feels that this spring has been a very good one for his 'Cats and holding two separate scrimmages allows his coaches to get a better look at the Wildcat players.

"We've had some very good workouts this spring, some of the best in recent years," said Hyder. "In fact, I think that our scrimmage last week was one of the best we have had in a while. We played a lot of players

and saw some good games out of several of the athletes."

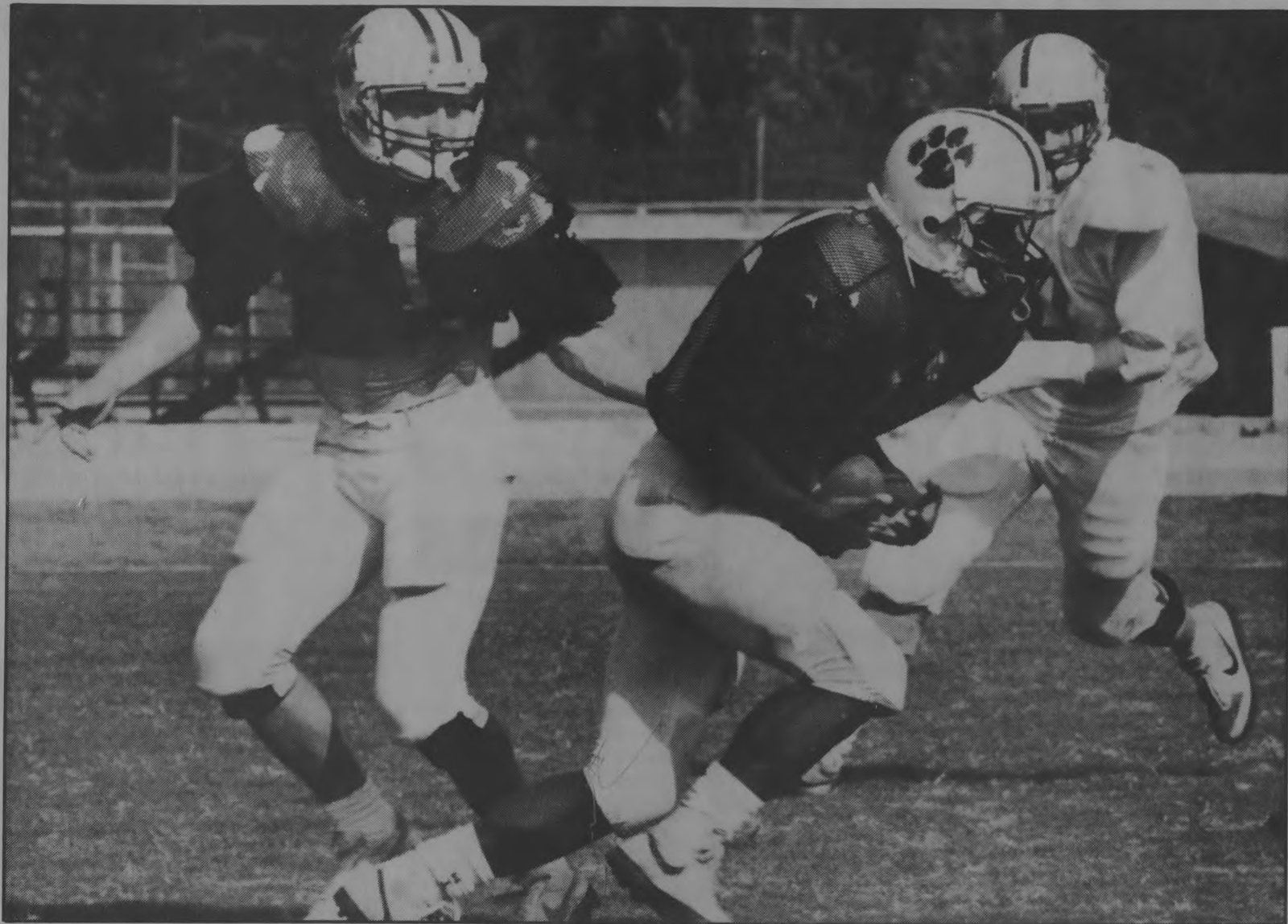
Due to some bad weather that forced the Wildcats indoors, Hyder pointed out that it allowed his team to get more time in the weight room. But did take away from the on-field instruction.

"We had some bad weather a couple of days ago, and we took the players inside the weight room for more weightlifting. But it took away from on-field instruction that is so important in spring workouts," said Hyder. "We had a fine three-hour practice on Wednesday and look to do the same Thursday before the scrimmage on Friday."

Tickets for the Wildcats' scrimmages can be purchased from any Wildcat team member.

"We are looking forward to a good scrimmage on Friday to finish out a good overall spring workouts," said Hyder. "The coaches and players have done a fine job working on the things to make us a better football team."

VDT, Fri, May 12, 1989



Valdosta High quarterback Jason Nichols hands off to running back Joe Wright Tuesday during the Wildcats' afternoon workout. The 'Cats and the Lowndes Vikings will continue their workouts this week. Valdosta will scrimmage under the lights at Cleveland Field this Friday night at 7 p.m. — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Area Spring Practice Now In Full Swing

VDT, Wed., May 17, 1989
 By ANTHONY DASHER
 Assistant Sports Editor

The weather is not the only thing that is hot in Valdosta and Lowndes County. Spring football is heating up the area as well.

At Lowndes High School, Viking head coach Rick Tomberlin is slowly trying to mold his young squad into a competitive unit. Meanwhile across town, Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder is busy preparing his team for what looks to be yet another successful season.

Unlike the Wildcats, the Vikings are undergoing a period of transition with a new head coach and coaching staff. But Lowndes appears to be adjusting to the change.

"Naturally, there's been a period of transition. But I have to credit

my assistant coaches for helping tremendously in that aspect," Tomberlin said. "They've taken a lot of the pressure of me. We don't cuss, snatch the players around or abuse them in any way. We treat them like young men and so far they've responded."

Valdosta has been responding as well. Tuesday, both the defensive and offensive units put in a good afternoon's work. That's all Hyder asks of his charges and so far he's been pleased.

"I like this bunch. What's the old saying? When the going gets tough that's when the champions have already gone. And right now our guys are playing good hard-nosed football," he said. "We've had seven days of tough football practice. Both the offense and defense looked good but they've got to try and get better."

Hyder's players agree.

Quarterback Jason Nichols is pleased with the way the offense has been performing, adding that it is all due to everybody giving their all.

"We've got a great attitude right now and everybody is working very hard at getting the job done right," Nichols said. "The offensive line is working hard and the backs and receivers are working hard. The offense is running together as a team."

And how does the rising senior assess his own performance?

"Overall, I'm satisfied but the key with me, as it is with any position, is to keep improving," he said. "Most of the mistakes I'm making right now are mental errors. I need to eliminate those and do a better job with the passing routes."

Defensively, Hyder has already called this year's unit one of the

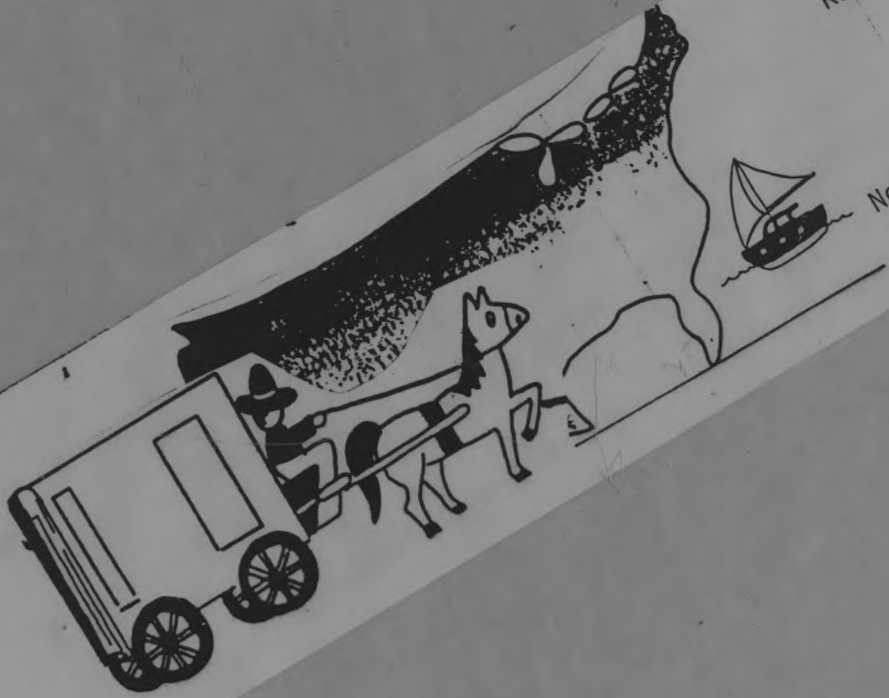
quickest he's ever had at Valdosta. One of the main figures in this impressive young stable is line-backer Anthony Williams. Williams, a talented senior, says this year's defense has a lot of potential.

"We've got a lot of quickness but we've got to learn how to control it," Williams said. "But if we play up to our potential this could really be a good defense. Last year we had a really big line with some good juniors and seniors. We lost some good players but with the ones we have back this year we should have more speed, quickness and possibly strength."

Practice for Valdosta and Lowndes will continue this week. At 7 p.m. Friday night, Valdosta will have a full scrimmage at Cleveland Field. It will be open to the public. Lowndes, at this time, does not have a scrimmage scheduled.

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2. Read anything
3. Report number of pages read each Thursday

Trojans Silence Wildcat Bats For 10-4 Victory

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Coffee High Trojans proved Monday afternoon why they are considered one of the best baseball teams in Region 1-AAAA as they pounded out nine hits to defeat the Valdosta Wildcats 10-4 in a South Subregion clash at Bazemore Field.

Charles Tarpley's Wildcats, however, gave the mighty Trojans all they could handle early pulling within one run on two separate occasions.

Facing a one run deficit at 5-4 in the fourth inning, the Trojans erupted for four runs to put the game out of reach for Tarpley's Wildcats.

The big hit in the inning was delivered by Coffee's Andy Spivey, who drilled a three-run homer over the left field fence. Spivey led the Trojans with two hits in four at-bats and four RBI.

Although his team suffered their first loss in subregion play, Tarpley was pleased with his team's performance.

"We lost to a good team. They did all the things needed to win and we didn't," said Tarpley. "I talk about leaving men on and stuff, but today we hit the ball with people on and Coffee made some good defensive plays."

Coffee improves to 7-2 overall and 3-0 in the subregion. VHS drops to 9-3 and 2-1.

The Trojans jumped out to an early 3-0 lead in the first inning off of VHS' starter and loser Andy Rykard.

Spivey singled in centerfielder Reggie Ingram, who reached on a fielder's choice. Then CHS' Scott Taylor singled in Andy Reese, who was hit by a pitch, to make it 2-0. Spivey later scored on an error by the VHS shortstop and Coffee was out in front 3-0.

The 'Cats came back to make it 3-2 in the second inning.

Rykard got the rally started as he singled to center. Teammate Byron Thornton singled sending Rykard to second. Then designated hitter Sean Cullen was walked to load the bases.

One out later, Wildcat first baseman Lee Thomas' sacrifice fly plated Rykard to put VHS on the scoreboard.

Ben Hogan then reached on a strikeout error by the Coffee catcher

to once again load the bases. Carlos Moore was walked and Thornton came in for the second VHS run of the inning. But the 'Cats were unable to score again in the inning leaving the bases loaded.

Coffee quickly answered for a pair of runs in the third inning to stretch their lead to 5-2. After a walk to Ingram, he stole second base. Then scored on an error by the Wildcat shortstop.

Reese, who reached on the shortstop's error, later scored on an error to make it 5-2.

In the Wildcat fourth, Rykard was again the man of the hour as he led off the inning with a towering blast over the green wall in centerfield.

Thornton then singled and later

Valdosta Edges Clinch

VDT, Thurs., April 6, 1989
From Staff Reports

HOMERVILLE — Ashley Bass blasted a solo home run as Valdosta slipped away with a 7-6 win over Clinch County here Wednesday night.

Pitcher Sean Cullen went the distance for Valdosta. Jamie Spates took the loss for Clinch.

Valdosta, 10-3, won the game despite leaving 15 runners on base including the bases loaded four times. Both teams had seven hits.

Clinch, 9-4, led 5-3 after four innings of plays but the Wildcats scored four times in the fifth on the just one hit. Four Clinch errors was the difference in the inning. Clinch committed seven errors on the night.

The Valdosta B-team also won, defeating the Panthers 8-7.

LANIER COUNTY 13, IRWIN COUNTY 9 — LAKE LAND — Dino Bryant drove in four runs and Dwight Boone picked up his fifth win of the year as Lanier County posted a 13-9 win over Irwin County here Wednesday afternoon.

Bryant drove in two runs with a double and two more with a pair of sacrifice flies. Kevin Shaw also contributed with a pair of doubles for Lanier which banged out 13 hits on the afternoon.

Lanier's B-team also won Wednesday. The junior Bulldogs whipped Irwin 9-4. Chris Phillips was the winning pitcher for Lanier which wrapped up its season at 8-2.

COOK 10, WAYCROSS 5 — ADEL — Lance Cowart went 2-for-4 with four RBI as Cook whipped Waycross in a Region 2-AA West game 10-5 Tuesday afternoon.

Lance Cowart was the starter and winner for the Hornets which upped their record to 8-5 overall and 1-0 in the region.

Cook will host Berrien County 7 p.m. Friday night in a key Region 2-AA West contest.

scored on a throwing error by the Coffee catcher.

In fact, Rykard and Thornton combined had four of the seven Wildcat hits on the day and scored all four runs.

"We didn't hit the ball well when we had some chances, but then again, Coffee's defense stopped us at times," said Tarpley. "We looked a bit lethargic. I don't understand it either. It was one of the biggest games and we didn't have too much enthusiasm."

Valdosta next plays at Homerville tonight against the Clinch County Panthers beginning at 7 p.m. in the first night game at Clinch County. The VHS and Clinch B-Team will play at 5 p.m.

Wildcat Tracksters Win Third Straight

From Staff Reports

DOUGLAS — The Valdosta High track team won its third meet in three tries as the Wildcats won a four-team meet in Coffee County Wednesday afternoon.

Valdosta finished with 93 points followed by Wilcox County with 55 1/2, Coffee County with 44 1/2 and Irwin County with 39.

Individually, Andre Hampton placed first in the 200 meter with a time of 25:41 and the 100 meter with a time of 11:27. Also, Mar van der Chijs came in first in the mile run with a time of 4:47:87 and the 3200 meter run with a time of 11:14:91.

Hubert Davidson won the 110 meter high hurdles with a time of 15:59. In the 800 meter run, Scott Jones was first with a time of 2:08:67.

In the relay events, the team of Isaac Ceaser, Frederick Henton, Adrian Dawsey, and Carlo took the 400 meter relay with a time of 44:28. In the 1600 relay Jones, Davidson, Keith Beal and Butler were first with a time of 3:33:68.

The Valdosta track team will return to action next week.

10-A Thursday, April 6, 1989

Student's Art Work Earns Note

TIFTON — Kelly Coleman, a student at Valdosta High School, finished second in the recent art competition of the annual "Pegasus" Literary Contest at Abraham Baldwin College.

The competition involved high school students in the categories of art, poetry, and short stories. "Pegasus" is the campus literary magazine published each year in the spring quarter.

Coleman has been enrolled in art classes taught by Sherrie Bennett and Patsy Smith. The high school senior is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Coleman of Valdosta.

The first place winner in the art



KELLY COLEMAN
Art Work Honored
competition was Kym Branch from Tift County High School.

VALDOSTA 330, THOMASVILLE 346 — THOMASVILLE — Coleman Rudolph and Chris Buscher both shot an eight-over-par 80 as the Valdosta High golf team defeated Thomasville 330-346.

David Cason chipped in with an 83, Sam Hogan a 87, Dow Drury a 91 and Tommy Roberts added a 92. Valdosta will travel to Colquitt County next Tuesday.

Wed, April 9, 1989

Training Athletes Is His Job

By STAN CRUBB
Times Sports Writer

For the past 11 years, Valdosta High School's Bob Bolton has made strength and conditioning for athletic performers a way of life.

Bolton has been a member of the Valdosta High School coaching staff since 1974 and in 1979, was named the strength and conditioning coordinator by head football coach and Athletic Director Nick Hyder.

The Valdosta native is the immediate past Vice President of the National Strength and Conditioning Association, which is the largest organization in the world. The association boasts over 12,000 members.

Bolton is now up for election of the Region 2 Director of the NSCA. If chosen by his peers, he will be in charge of directing nine areas including Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Washington D.C.

"I started lifting weights in high school and then in college and it just became second nature," said Bolton. "The importance of the conditioning of the athletes has always intrigued me. I have dedicated the past 11 years to promoting proper strength and conditioning for the high school athletes."

Bolton is one of two finalists that may be chosen by Sports America of Washington D.C., in association with the State Department, to travel to Sudan and assist in the training of the Sudanese athletes and coaches.

"It's just an honor to be consid-

ered by the organization for this special assignment," said Bolton. "If chosen, I will leave June 11th."

The use and education of the strength and conditioning programs around the nation for athletes has built a very broad base since it's inception.

"Through the years, we have used charts, films, and correction of techniques to improve the quality conditioning for the athletes," said Bolton. "In fact, the biggest single factor for most of the high school athletes is that a proper technique in lifting weights is not common. If high school athletes will spend more time on the technique, heavier weights will come."

Every year Bolton attends the National NSCA meetings and speaks at up to four clinics throughout the year.

"Over the past 12 years, we have learned a tremendous amount from the eastern-block countries," said Bolton. "The trends in athletic training have changed and we have changed our methods."

In 1984 Bolton spoke at the NAAHPERD meeting in Los Angeles, California and in 1988 he spoke at clinics at Auburn University, Tennessee University, and Fort Myers, Florida at the Southwest Florida Strength and Conditioning clinic.

Bolton listed some of the training tips of strength conditioning.

One included a higher emphasis on not just the lifting of the weights. Two, lifting of the weights is for a specific sporting event. Three, Not all athletes are a like and the training methods are subject to

change. Four, the biggest change has been in the sport of professional baseball where the athletes lift weights more often during the season. Five, flexibility is a top concern of all conditioning coaches. Six, more time is devoted by the coach on injury prevention and rehabilitation. Seven, more agility drills are set up for the basic purpose of the athletes speed. Eight, agility drills are done by plyometrics. Ten, nutrition is a focal point for all coaches and athletes.

"The biggest difference in strength coordinating for a high school athlete is the time element involved. In college, the athletes seen to have a very flexible schedule and in the professional ranks, most pro athletes lift the weights and stay in condition because it is part of their job," said Bolton. "The only drawbacks to this is that a lot of pro athletes do not want to sacrifice a possible injury due to the money that is involved."

Bolton takes pride in his work with the fighter pilots at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta.

Col. Joe Prater and Col. Stu Mosbey has invited Bolton to help train the pilots to overcome g-force.

"Along with Fuzzy Zeller, the wing life support officer, we train the pilots to be able to withstand the g-forces," said Bolton. "For the pilots, we work the legs, chest, abdomen, and arms and neck. The neck and the back are the keys for the support for the pilots. We work the legs and the abdomen to keep the blood from pooling in the legs."

See BOLTON, Page 2-A



Valdosta High strength and conditioning trainer Bob Bolton is taking his expertise to national, and possibly international, levels — Times Photo By Paul Leavy.

Bolton

From 1-A

Prevention of blackout by the pilot is a tremendous concern."

"I must say that although I have loved working in this area of athletic training, it would not at all be possible without the hard work of the kids, and the support of the VHS school administration, Coach Hyder and the football coaching staff," said Bolton. "Given the support from the staff and the kids they have made it possible to have a strength and conditioning program at Valdosta High School. The program is made by the players, not the individual running them."

Valdosta Falls To Tift Co.

VDT, Wed, April 12, 1989
From Staff Reports

102 1/2 to 100 1/2 in a high school track meet here Tuesday.

Berrien County finished third with a total of 26 points, Colquitt County was fourth with 14 and Brooks County had 10.

In the shot put, Terrence Daniels finished third, Steve Smith was fourth. In the triple jump, Keith Beal was third and Daniels finished fourth. In the 400 meter relay, the

team of Beal, Carlos Parker, Robert Fillmore and Adrian Dawsey finished fourth.

Frederick Henton took first place in the 100 meter dash, with Andre Hampton finishing second. Pole vault finishers for VHS included Brandon Brooks in fourth and Scott Jones fifth. The 1,600-meter run had Mark VanDerChijs in second and James Manning third. Hubert Davidson finished second in the 110 hurdles and John Washnock third.

High jump finishers were Earnest Lowe in fourth and Adrian Dawsey fifth. The VHS team of Chris Hart, Henton, Hampton and Carlo Butler won first place in the 400 relay. Demetrius Jones was second in the 400 dash. Scott Jones won first place in the 800 run. Henton was first in the 200 dash and Hampton was second.

VHS took second in the 3,200 relay with the team of Demetrius Jones, Scott Jones, Jubert Davidson and Keith Beal. Davidson finished second in the 300 hurdles and Washnock was third. VanDerChijs was second in the 3200 and Justir Bridges third.

And in the last event of the day, VHS took third in the 3,200 relay with the team of Frank Henderson, Daniels, Dawsey and Hart.

VHS' next meet is Thursday, April 13 in Douglas at the Coffee County Invitational.

Cullen On Daviess County's Mind

Sun. April 2, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

The Daviess County High baseball team from Kentucky, who are playing baseball games on their way to spring break in Florida, will keep many memories of their recreational vacation. But when they think of their stop in Valdosta, they will probably have the memory of Valdosta High pitcher Sean Cullen.

See Box, Page 2-C

Cullen pitched the Wildcats to a 2-1 win over the Panthers Saturday afternoon at Bazemore Field. The junior righthander went the distance and recorded 10 strikeouts, allowed no walks, gave up four hits and only one run. Cullen also provided some punch at the plate and singled in the 'Cats game-winning run in the sixth inning.

"It was all Sean Cullen today," said VHS head baseball coach Charles Tarpley. "He pitched well against Brooks County earlier this year but this is probably his best game ever. He has an awkward delivery and that makes the ball move a lot. He also got the hit that won it for us."

For the first three innings, the game was scoreless as Cullen and Daviess County starter Tony Yeckering battled brilliantly. Cullen allowed only one hit until the fourth while Yeckering gave up two. The Panthers scored first in the fourth when left fielder Harper Cook reached base on an error and scored on a single by first baseman Joey Embry.

That lead didn't last long when, in the bottom of the fourth, right fielder Byron Thornton got on base with a single to left. Cullen followed with a single and Ben Hogan drove in the tying run with a double that hit the top of the center field fence. Tarpley said on any other day, Hogan's shot would have been a home run.

"Ninety-nine percent of the time, the wind is blowing out of the park, but today it was blowing in and that took away a home run. But that was a big hit for us," Tarpley said. "Thornton's bunt was also big. It might have won the game for us."

That bunt came in the sixth and it advanced the winning run, Shannon Myers who was pinch-running for Ashley Bass, to second base where he was knocked in by Cullen to win the game. The Panthers had one more chance to tie or win the game in the seventh but Cullen finished his strong showing by striking out the side.

Valdosta advances to 8-2 on the year and they will be in Lakeland Monday afternoon for a matchup with the 14-3 Lanier County Bulldogs.



Valdosta High Wildcats' Ray Maples slides into double-play. The Wildcats defeated Daviess, from second base attempting to keep Daviess County Kentucky, at Bazemore Field Saturday 2-1 — Times second baseman Brent Clayborne from turning a Staff Photo by Paul Leavy.

Valdosta Netters Sweep

VDL Times, Apr. 6, 1989
From Staff Reports

Lowndes High's Nancy Smith, the top-ranked Georgia girl tennis player in the 16-under division had no problem with Wendy Griffin (6-0, 6-0) but the Vikettes lost the war as the Lady 'Cats defeated their cross-town rivals 6-3 in high school tennis action Wednesday.

The Wildcats had an easier time as they swept all seven matches from the Vikings.

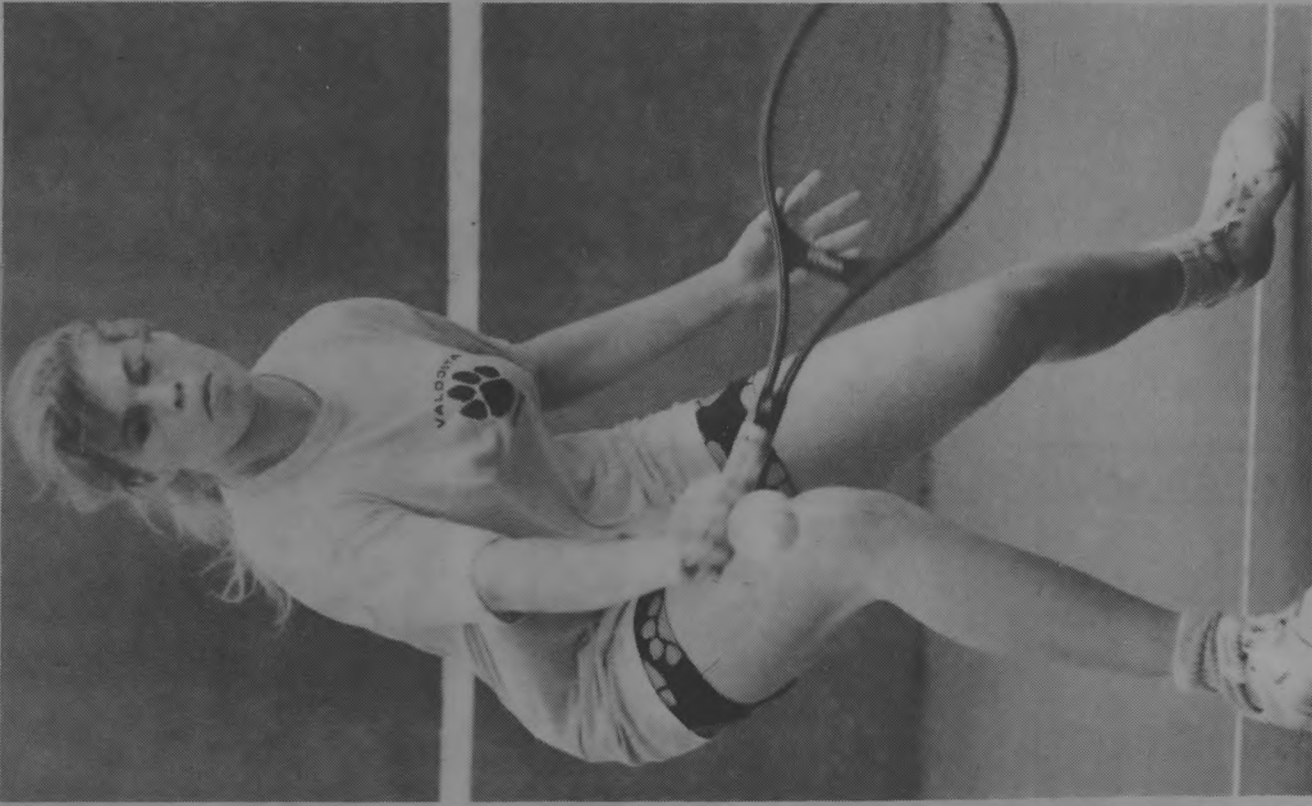
Individual winners for the Valdosta were Kelly Edwards (6-1, 6-2), Kelly Rowel (7-6, 4-6, 6-3), Wynne Johnson (7-6, 6-7, 6-3) and Stephanie Hinton (6-4, 6-1).

Doubles winners for Valdosta included the team of Rowel and Johnson (8-6) and Hinton and De-mott (8-5).

Beside Smith, the other individual winner for Lowndes was Lene Soerbraaten (6-7, 3-6).

The doubles team of Smith and Lee Bradford were awarded a forfeit.

Individual winners for Valdosta's boys were David Coleman (6-1, 6-0), Jonathon Burns 6-1, 6-0), Stephen Chitty (6-0, 6-1) James Inman (6-3, 6-1), Chad Harris (6-1, 6-1), Leigh Struble (6-2, 6-1) and Kevin Barker (6-3, 5-7, 6-1). Doubles winners for Valdosta were the Chitty and Struble 4-6, 6-7), Coleman and Inman (6-3, 6-1) and Burns and Barker (6-0, 6-0).



Valdosta High's Wynne Johnson returns a backhand Wednesday afternoon during her match against Lee Bradford of Lowndes. Johnson won 7-6 (7-5), 6-7 (5-7), 6-3.....



..... Things didn't get any better for Vikette Julie Eason. Eason, shown delivering a backhand of her own, was defeated by Kelly Rowel 7-6 (7-2), 4-6, 6-3. — Times Staff Photos by Paul Leavy

Tuned-Up Wildcats

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Valdosta wrestling coach John Davis felt his Wildcats got a strong tune-up for this Saturday's area wrestling tournament. Lowndes coach Newnan Sanchez could only shake his head.

Davis' 'Cats whipped Lowndes 59-9 Tuesday night in the regular-season finale for both teams.

"This was a good way to get ready for the area tournament," Davis said. "But the score was a lot closer than it looks. Coach Sanchez has done a heck of a job with his kids."

Sanchez, however, had another point of view.

"We just got humiliated. That's all. We just got beat like a dog. I'm not going to make excuses. What else can I say?" he said. "We've got a couple of kids but.... I'm just very disappointed. But I can't blame the kids. It's as much my fault as it is theirs. We just got out-classed."

The 'Cats started their match off with a bang and never looked back.

Nick Gomis (103) got things rolling when he pinned Ben Austin with 24 seconds to go in the first period. Ashley Fann (112) out-pointed John Griner 14-5 followed by Steve Petermann (119) and Jim Garber (125) who racked up back-to-back pins.

Jason Finland (135) earned a hard-fought 4-0 win over Mark Bagley followed by Chuck Bonner (140) who pinned Rueben Dwyer in the third period.

With Valdosta leading 34-0,

Maul The Vikings

Teams participating in the event are Valdosta, Lowndes, Coffee County, Colquitt County, Tift County and Effingham County.

"I'm excited about it all," Davis said. "In a tournament like this, there are usually four or five guys that can bring you points. But I don't think it's going to be a runaway."

Dumas, Derrick Phillips (189) out-pointed Ed Bell 5-0 while Will Hancock pinned Michael Crosby in the first period.

Both Valdosta and Lowndes will now spend the next few days warming up for the area tournament which will be held at the Valdosta High gym beginning at 9 a.m.

Lowndes' Jimmy Hiers (145) earned the first Viking points of the evening when he pinned John Ramey. Viking Bobby Bramlet followed his teammate's performance up with a 8-1 decision of Maurice Dean.

Valdosta's Jason Griffin (160) was awarded a forfeit win. Teammates Eric Phillips (171) pinned Lloyd



The Lowndes High Vikings and the Valdosta High Wildcats took to the mat Tuesday night in high school wrestling action. The Wildcats defeated the Vikings 59-9 in front of a partisan crowd at Valdosta High School gymnasium.

VHS, LHS Face

Crucial Games

VPT. Ft. Jan. 27, 1989
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

must control the pace of the game. Tempo is very important to this team. Execution would help as well."

The Vikes are 4-10 overall and 2-5 in subregion play.

Tonight's game will mark the fourth consecutive road game for Wildcat head coach John Miller and Lady 'Cats' head coach Susan Montgomery. Each have posted identical 2-4 subregion marks to this point in the season and are facing must-win situations.

"Coffee is a solid basketball team and they make you work," said Montgomery. "We want to get into a good half-court game. We feel that we can press Coffee a bit. And due to the youth on their team, we may be able to rattle them some. The main thing we need is to play well, and play well the entire game. We've played good in spurts all season but that just will not cut it."

The Lady 'Cats are 7-5 overall entering the Coffee game.

"According to the other coaches in the area, Coffee is coming on very strong since the early part of the year," said Miller. "Coffee is a very aggressive team with a lot of speed. At 7-8 overall and 2-4 in the subregion, we need a win badly. Of course, we will take them anyway we can get them."

In other local basketball games of interest tonight will include Brooks County taking on Seminole County, Clinch County is at Lanier County, Madison County is at Hamilton County, Berrien County travels to Fitzgerald and Valwood is at Tift area.

Saturday, Jan. 28, there will be five local basketball teams taking to the court — Echols County travels to Hamilton County, Brooks County is at Mitchell-Baker and Berrien County will host Atkinson County.

Both Valdosta High School and Lowndes High School will be facing crucial Region 1-AAAA South sub-region battles tonight in local basketball action.

The Wildcats and Lady 'Cats of Valdosta will be trying to keep their playoff hopes alive as they travel to Douglas to play Coffee High School, while the Vikings and Vikes will take to the court at Lowndes High School in a rematch with Tift County.

Viking head basketball coach Terry Wilkes is looking for another physical contest against the Blue Devils. Last week, the Vikings defeated the Blue Devils in Tifton and now the roles are reversed.

At 10-5 overall and, more importantly, 5-2 in the subregion, Wilkes knows the importance of this game.

"Last year, we won over in Tifton and they beat us at home. I hope that we can keep that from happening again," said Wilkes. "We are in a position to really help ourselves as far as the playoff seeds are considered. With a win against Tift County and Valdosta, we will be in good shape to finish no lower than second. But first we must get past Tift County. They are without a doubt one of the most powerful teams in the subregion."

After falling to the Lady Devils by three points last week, Vikes head coach Elinor Goode is hoping to see a more determined demeanor on the faces of her squad this time around.

"Our gameplan was certainly not what beat us before, we were just not aggressive enough," said Goode. "We just were never really in the game. To turn things around, we

Daniels Wills

On The Vikes

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

(Boys' Game)

VALDOSTA (54) — Jason King 16, James Manning 11, Vincent Williams 12, Ubie Brandley 6, Spencer Iverson 3, Earnest Lowe 2, Carlo Butler 2, Jerry Robinson 2.

LOWNDES (62) — Israel Brown 22, Ollie Daniels 11, Daron Williams 8, Marvin Lucas 6, Leon Williams 6, Roger Thomas 5, William Sims 4.

VHS.....14 10 14 16 — 54

LHS.....11 16 13 22 — 62

Records: VHS 7-10, 2-6, LHS 11-6, 6-3

Next Game: (Friday Feb. 3) VHS at Tift Co., LHS at Bainbridge.

(Girls' Game)

VALDOSTA (54) — Cassandra Wine 22, Swandolyn Phillips 12, Vashti Manning 10, Laura Dennis 7, Sissy Anderson 5.

LOWNDES (42) — Lori Culppepper 17, Latonia Thomas 11, Julie Eason 8, Stephanie Hall 4, Catina Brown 2.

VHS.....10 12 16 18 — 56

LHS.....15 5 12 10 — 42

Records: VHS 8-6, 3-5, LHS 5-11, 3-6.

"This was a big win for us not because it was Valdosta, but the kids felt as if they had something to prove as far as the subregion games go," said Viking head coach Terry Wilkes. "We got behind very early in the game, but we came back and settled down pretty good. I knew going into the game that Valdosta was going to make it tough on us and they did. After losing by 21 at their place, this is a relief."

Free throws played the largest of roles in the Vikings' win over the Wildcats. The Vikings hit better than 70 percent (25-of-35) from the line.

"That was to me the biggest stat alone in the game. Lowndes lived at the line and we just cannot guard people when they are at the line," said Wildcat head coach John Miller. "I'm pleased with the effort tonight. Our guys never quit regardless of any situation. We just put them at the line too many times."

Valdosta immediately came out and took control early in the contest with leans as big as 11 points behind the shooting of forward Jason King. King, who scored 16 points to lead all Wildcats, was almost unstoppable in the early going.

The Wildcats held a nine-point, 24-15, advantage with 5:16 remaining before intermission. Then the Vikings began to wake up.

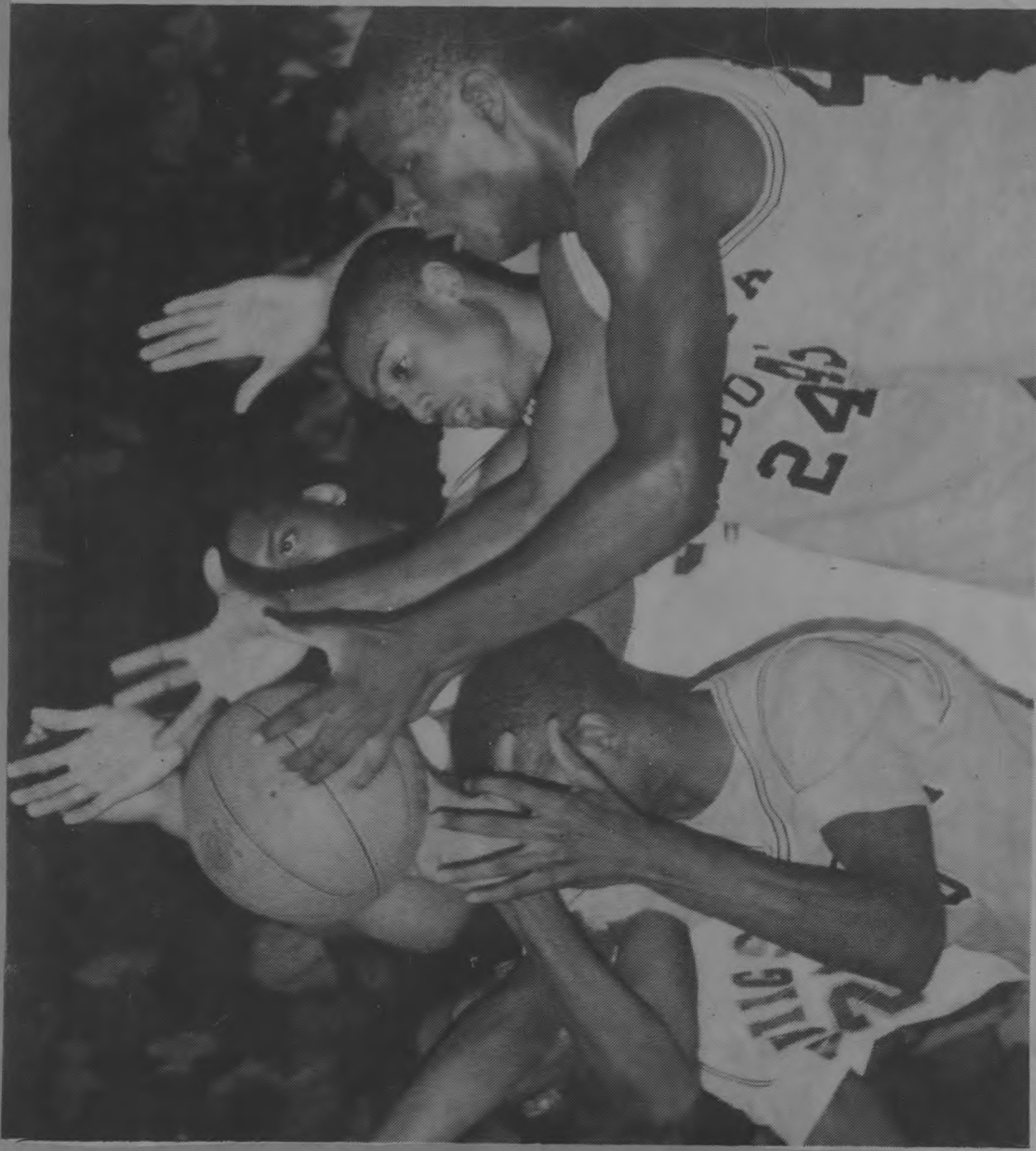
Wilkes' squad began crashing the offensive and defensive boards led by Brown and 6-foot-10 center Marvin Lucas.

Lowndes High Viking guard Ollie Daniels proved where there is a will, there is a way. The sharp-shooting guard gave his team a boost when he connected on three 3-point field goals each coming when the game was dead-locked.

In what was the Vikings' final home regular-season appearance, Daniels' 3-point accuracy and the rebounding of senior forward Israel Brown, the Lowndes High Vikings avenged an earlier loss handing cross-town rival Valdosta High School a 62-54 Region 1-A AAAA South subregion victory played at Lowndes High gymnasium Tuesday night.

More importantly for the Vikings, with the win they raised their subregion mark to 6-3 on the season and clinched at least a tie for the second place seed in the subregion tournament which is scheduled for Lowndes High later this month.

Leading 38-32 after three periods, the Valdosta High Lady 'Cats held the Lowndes High Vikettes scoreless in the fourth period until the 3:15 mark and went on to post their third subregion win on the season with a 56-42 victory.



Valdosta High's Ubie Brandley (45) and Jason King (24) fight for the rebound against Lowndes High's Marvin Lucas in Tuesday night's South subregion contest at Lowndes High gymnasium. Lowndes won 63-54 — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Lowndes scored the next 12 points to take a 27-24 halftime lead. According to Wilkes, that was very instrumental in his team's win.

"Our team's mental attitude seemed to change after that run," said Wilkes. "The shooting picked up and we really hit the boards." Although the game was tied five times, the Vikings never relinquished the lead the rest of the evening.

Valdosta, however, did not back away at any time. VHS center Ubie Brandley, who led his team with eight rebounds, cut the Viking lead to 55-52 under two minutes remaining. But free throws and a slam dunk by Brown in the final minute closed out the contest for the Vikings.

Brown finished as the game's leading scorer with 22 points. Daniels added 11. Brown also grabbed 13 rebounds and guard Daron Williams nine.

VHS forward Vincent Williams scored 12 points and teammate James Manning added 11.

Vikette head coach Elinor Goode found out first hand how important rebounding is in basketball. Susan Montgomery's Lady 'Cats completely outrebounded the Vikettes all night enabling her team to avenge an earlier season loss to the Vikettes.

"We really did everything right tonight. We finally played our game and dictated, for the most part, the tempo of the game," said Montgomery.

Center Cassandra Twine led Valdosta with 22 points and grabbed 14 rebounds. Teammate Swandolyn Phillips was also a terror on the boards with eight rebounds and 12 points scored.

"Valdosta just came to play and we didn't," said Goode. "We had no rebounding and gave up too many second chance opportunities. Both teams applied a lot of pressure, but the difference was that they were able to handle it and we were not."

The Lady 'Cats outscored the Vikettes 12-5 in the second period, making up a 15-10 deficit and took a 22-20 halftime lead.

The Lady 'Cats proceeded to total 34 second-half points, while the Vikettes could only muster 22.

The Vikettes' first points in the 10-point fourth period came from sophomore center Lori Culppepper with under four minutes remaining. Culppepper led the Vikettes with 17 points and had eight rebounds.

Lowndes next travels to Bainbridge Friday. Valdosta High stays on its current road swing in traveling to Tift County on Friday.



The Valdosta Wildcats of the future got a chance to show their stuff prior to the varsity's scrimmage yesterday at Cleveland Field. Here, an unidentified member of the Val-

dosta junior varsity gets the chance to show what he can do on the field. — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy.

'Cats Wrap Up Spring Drills

MDT Sat, May 27, 1989

Wildcats Hold Final Scrimmage Friday At Cleveland Field

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

When the Valdosta Wildcats left Cleveland Field after their final spring scrimmage Friday night, they knew two things: they had wrapped up what may be their last spring scrimmage ever and they felt very comfortable on the defensive side of the ball.

The Wildcats divided their team into two practice teams. The Black squad defeated the White squad 10-0. However, the Black squad got seven of their points courtesy of the defense.

Backup quarterback Alton Hitson dropped back to pass and was hit by defensive lineman Frederick Henton. The ball bounced off of the ground and into the hands of line-backer George Copeland, who ran

27 yards into the end zone for the game's first score. Dow Drury kicked the extra point to make it 7-0.

Drury provided the other three points in the fourth quarter when he booted a 26-yard field goal. The field goal was made possible by an interception and 59-yard return by defensive back Chris Hart.

The scrimmage was a show for the defense as both offenses only mustered 141 total combined yards. Sixty-two of those were through the air by quarterback Jason Nichols, who played with both teams, and 79 were on the ground. The leading rusher for either team was Carlos Parker who totaled 53 yards. Kendrick Patrick also had 30 yards.

Head coach Nick Hyder viewed the scrimmage as a successful end to the spring workouts.

"I think we made more progress

than we thought we would this spring. Jason Nichols had to play every down except for two or three tonight and that will make him a better quarterback," Hyder said. "Our defense was outstanding and several players made great hits and had super springs. We were also pleased with Joe Wright who returned punts for us tonight.

"We still have about 15 players who missed the spring due to academic problems and they will be hard-pressed to catch these players who have done an excellent job. Our coaching staff has worked harder this spring than I have ever seen them work and that's what I wanted to see," Hyder added. "Fourteen weeks from tonight, we host a very talented Camden County team and that is only the first of many tough teams we'll see next year."

The great play of the 'Cat defense, which included three interceptions by Hart, Dexter Daniels and Alfonza Willis, pleased VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. However, Rudolph would not compare the 1989 defense to those in the past.

"Oh no, not yet. Ask me when the season is over. That's when you start to rate the defense," Rudolph said. "I was pleased with the way they hit tonight and the goal-line stand by the White squad that kept the other team down. Chris Hart, George Copeland, Frederick Henton and Dexter Daniels all did a very good job. I hope we can continue and mesh by the time the season starts."

Going both ways may have taken its toll on Nichols who finished the night with nine completions in 19 attempts and had three interceptions.

Valdosta Pulling For Bazemore

VDT Sat, May 27, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Monday, the city of Valdosta and football fans everywhere were shocked to hear the news that legendary Valdosta High football coach Wright Bazemore had suffered a stroke late Sunday night. However, none was more concerned or devastated than Bazemore's own family.

Bazemore's wife, Betty, and son, Curt, have been staying with him since he was admitted to South Georgia Medical Center. When they are not both at the hospital, they split time so that one is there all the time. In an interview with *The Times* Friday, Mrs. Bazemore said it has been the support of good friends and the family's faith in God that has pulled her husband through the rough week.

"Every day has been a little better but it's going to be slow. When it happened, it was a devastating feeling. But they say that God sends a numbness and I guess he really

did," Mrs. Bazemore said. "We have our family and the Lord on our side so we can't lose."

She said her husband's condition has continued to improve and the support from the community has been outstanding. Ironically, she said the outpouring of affection on the part of the community has surprised her husband, who sees himself as nothing special.

"All the flowers and the cards and the phone calls really brightened his days and lifted him up. I think he thought it was very strange because it never soaked in that he was any different. There have been a lot of people that he doesn't even know that have called or sent their best wishes," she said.

One case of how well Bazemore was known was exemplified in a letter sent by a woman from Alabama. She had never seen the Wildcats play. But she followed them and sent a card wishing the former coach well. See **BAZEMORE**, Page 2-A



Wright Bazemore, famed former football coach for the Valdosta Wildcats (right), confers with current coach Nick Hyder in this file photo. Bazemore was recently hospitalized for a stroke. —Times Staff Photo.

Bazemore

Sat, May 27, 1989

From Page 1-A

Although Mrs. Bazemore has kept a smile on her face to others throughout this past week, she admits that it has not been at all easy. She said she unwinds after going home at night. She said it has been more comforting to know that a local hospital such as SGMHC has done "such a wonderful job in taking care of him."

Bazemore's son Curt, who is a physical therapist in Atlanta, has also been keeping a close eye on his father. He said that although his father has been very ill, the fighter in him has stayed alive.

"Sometimes when no one else is watching, he will start to try and move his right leg. He won't give up. He'll also grab his right arm with his left one and try to get it going. There is still a lot of fire left in him," he said.

Another example of Bazemore's restlessness occurred as Mrs. Bazemore was being interviewed. While she was talking, the coach attempted to rise and get out of bed. She stopped and had to get him situated before continuing.

Curt said that his father should remain in the hospital for another ten days to two weeks. After that, he will go to a rehabilitation unit somewhere away from Valdosta, most likely in Warm Springs. He said he heard about his father's stroke in a phone call late Sunday night and was in Valdosta by 1:30 a.m.

"The first day I was down, I was just relieved that he lived. The first 24 hours is the time that most people usually don't make it. The second day, I was depressed. But I personally worked through it and as he improves, my attitude does also."

Friday, June 2, 1989
The Valdosta Daily Times

Goings On

VHS Baseball

The VHS Baseball Boosters will host their annual baseball banquet Friday in the lunch room at VHS. All members are welcome. Fee is \$4 per plate.

The Valdosta Daily Times

June 1, 1989

Graduations Set

Valdosta High School will graduate its seniors June 6 at 8 p.m. also at the P.E. Complex at VSC.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

'Cats, Vikings Face Subregion Foes

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Subregion victories will be at stake tonight when both the Valdosta and Lowndes High School basketball teams take to the court.

Valdosta High will be entertaining Colquitt County, while Lowndes hosts Coffee High School. Action at both schools will get underway at 6 p.m.

For Lowndes, this will mark their Region 1-AAAA south opener and first-ever meeting with the Coffee High squad. For Valdosta, this will be their second meeting this season

versus a Region 1-AAAA opponent.

Susan Montgomery's Lady 'Cats have to feel as if they are sitting on top of the world at 3-0 and 1-0 in the subregion after their big victory over Bainbridge 42-41 last Saturday night.

Montgomery feels that there is no question that her girls have been exposed to all avenues, but it is now time to make that experience work against Colquitt County, the defending Region 1-AAAA champions.

"I really feel that we have met the early challenges of playing on the road, winning our first subregion game, and playing our first game at home. We have been able to ac-

complish what we wanted to do," said Montgomery. "But we must now stay focused on the work ahead. We need to play tough and not get caught up in playing the other team's game. We have really done a good job of that so far."

The Lady 'Cats probable starting lineup will look like this. The guards will be Sissy Anderson and Ashley Schleusner, Swandolyn Phillips and Vashti Manning and Cassandra Twine at center.

In contrast, Vikette head basketball coach Elinor Goode is looking for some answers to her team's slow start. Through three games, the Vikettes are 1-2.

"The girls are ready to get into the subregion schedule. We need a lot of team play to have a chance. This year everyone must be a contributor," said Goode. "A loss is a loss, but we have certainly played three tough teams in Echols County, Berrien County and Cook. In fact, there is no doubt that playing those types of teams should prepare us for the subregion. Coffee is a team that only returns one starter from a team that made the state finals in AAA. I expect them to play offensively inside and put pressure all over the basketball."

Goode will send to the court guards junior Julie Eason and

senior La'Tonia Thomas. The forwards will be sophomore Lori Culpepper and senior Stephanie Hall with senior Winifred Brown at center.

The Vikettes will turn to Latina Childs, Vickie Williams, and Shannel Jenkins off the bench.

Both Valdosta head boys' coach John Miller and Viking head man Terry Wilkes teams have 2-1 records and both have been relatively pleased with their team's performances the past several weeks.

Wilkes' Vikings defeated Cook County last Saturday 61-56 and must now prepare for their first subregion

See 'CATS. Page 4-B

'Cats

From Page 2-B

encounter of the year.

"To be honest, we know very little about Coffee except that they are winless in three games this season. I'm sure that they are a strong team. They were in the state playoffs last season," said Wilkes. "I think that our team has somewhat come of age the past few games as well. Against Cook, we handled the full court pressure pretty well and that really pleased me to see us handling some tough situations. However, our rebounding and free throws must improve."

Wilkes will send to the court point guard sophomore Eric Peeler, senior Roger Thomas. Junior Leon Williams and senior Israel Brown

will be at the wings, while junior Marvin Lucas will be at the pivot.

After reeling off two straight wins, the Wildcats fell to Bainbridge Saturday, but Miller said his squad still has high hopes.

"It's an important game for us against Colquitt simply because we are coming off a loss Saturday night. We need to bounce back from that and surge forward," said Miller. "Colquitt County is a very well-coached team that likes to pressure you anywhere on the floor. Offensively, if we can break the press, we need to make them pay at the other end with a basket. Running is not why we are 2-1, but if the numbers are in our favor, we will."

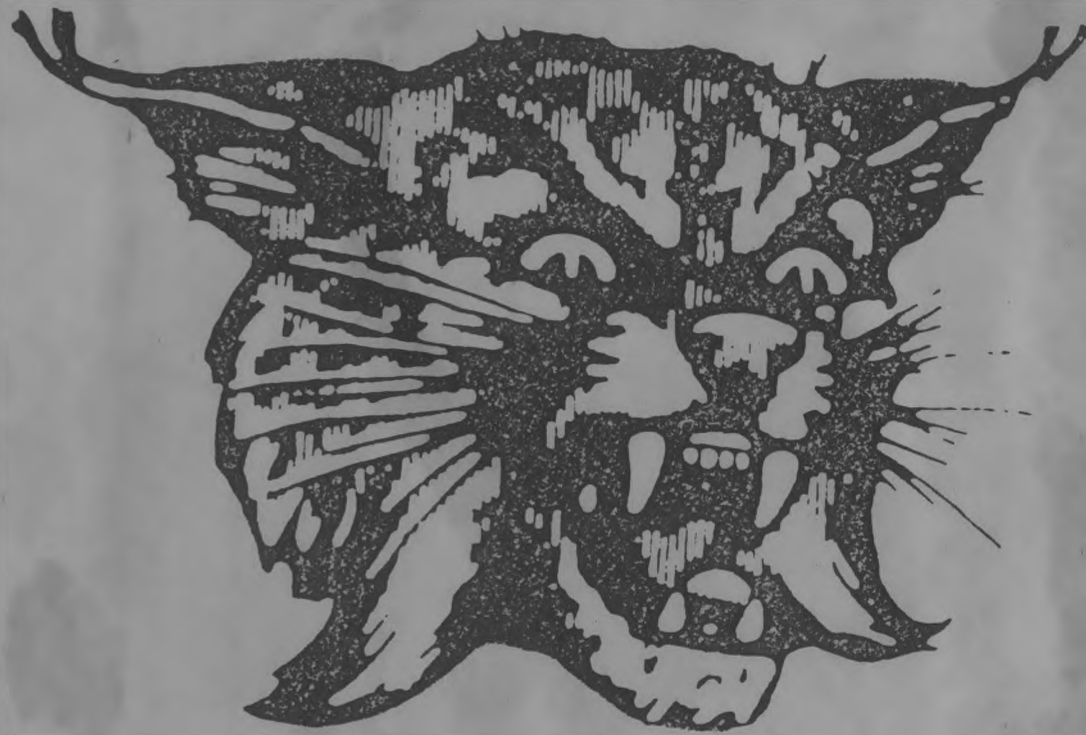
Miller's probable starters are sophomore center Michael Moore, forwards senior Vincent Williams and junior Jason King. The

backcourt will be comprised of sophomore Spencer Inverson and junior Brad Sullins.



Valdostan Stephanie Everette has been a hard worker in the Classic Car Club's efforts to raise money for the Empty Stocking Fund. Times Staff Photo By Bob Freitag.

VALDOSTA WILDCATS



VALDOSTA WILDCATS SCHEDULE Colors: Black and Gold

September	2	CAMDEN COUNTY
September	10	GREENE-TALIAFERRO
September	16	WAYCROSS
September	30	AT NORTHSIDE, WR
October	7	STATESBORO
October	14	AT BAINBRIDGE
October	21	AT COLQUITT COUNTY
October	28	AT TIFT COUNTY
November	4	COFFEE COUNTY
November	11	LOWNDES

'8888

120

The offense has it on this year's team

By Lawrence Dennis
Sports writer

It's the year of the back in South Georgia.

The year of three backs in particular.

Wing back Michael Baker of Camden County and running backs James Roberts of Valdosta and Herbert Mingo of Clinch County are the cream of the crop on this year's Times-Union/Journal Super 11 preseason team.

They're three of seven offensive skill players — backs or wide receivers — on this year's squad.

The others are wide receiver Tommy Rainge of Thomasville Central, halfback Carwin Pinkney of Brunswick and fullbacks Brian Scott of Glynn Academy and Barry Boyd of Waycross.

The linemen are led by Lowndes offensive tackle Doug Hubbard, the only returnee on the team. The others are defensive end Coleman Rudolph of Valdosta and linebacker/guard Greg Taylor of Ware County.

Defensive back Mike Jones of Thomasville completes the team. Rainge is the only junior on the squad.

As usual, there's a lot of talent on the team, and Baker and Roberts may be the best.

Many college recruiters are referring to the pair as the two best senior football players in South Georgia this year, with good reason.

Baker is literally a play-anywhere athlete in the mold of Central quarterback Charlie Ward, who made the '87 Super 11 as a senior.

The 6-foot-1, 175-pound Baker had impressive stats as a junior last year, playing wing back and occasionally quarterback in Camden's run-and-shoot offense.

He caught 53 passes for 889 yards, rushed for 611 yards and had kickoff- and punt-return yardage of about 400 yards. He piled up about 1,900 yards of all-purpose offense while scoring 136 points for the Region 2-AA champions.

Baker is most at home at wing back, where the Wildcats can benefit from his running and receiving. But he may wind up at quarterback, since Camden is weak at that position. He can handle that, too. He played frequently at that position last year, starting one game after regular quarterback Robert's injury.

Robert's injury was a versatile as Baker, but what he does, he does well. What he does is run the ball.

The 6-0, 210-pound senior has accumulated more than 2,200 yards in his two-year career as a starter, including 1,038 yards on 142 carries (a 7.3-yard average) and 14 touchdowns last season.

That would be a respectable figure anywhere, but it's especially impressive in light of the fact that Valdosta coach Nick Hyder runs players in and out during the game.

Roberts has the size to run bullishly, but he's also quick, running a 4.5-second 40.

Mingo, like Baker, is a do-everything offensive performer, perhaps even more so.

At Class A schools like Clinch County, a star like Mingo has to carry an awful lot of freight. And the 5-10, 200-pound senior does — enough to make him the first player from a Class A team to be named to the Super 11 team in its 11-year history.

He rushed for 1,733 yards last year.

Central's Rainge is already regarded as one of the best players in the state, and he could well be the best by his senior year.

The junior has exceptional size for a wide receiver (6-3, 230), but coach Charlie Green said his bulk doesn't slow him down.

"He may be the best flier in the state as a junior," Green said.

Rainge caught 35 passes for 854 yards and 12 TDs last year, and also returned 12 punts for 221 yards and three scores.

Waycross' Boyd was also a high producer last year. The 5-10, 188-pounder rushed for 917 yards on 131 carries and scored 11 TDs.

The other two offensive players on this year's Super 11 don't have statistics as impressive as those five, but they're still the mainstays of their teams' attacks.

Brunswick's Pinkney has good height (6-1) and the potential to grow (185 pounds). He gained only 523 yards last year, but he had bursts of brilliance, especially early in the season.

Scott had a similar year at Glynn. The 5-10, 185-pounder gained 514 yards as a junior, but he showed what he could do as a sophomore, when he rushed for 831 yards for the Red Terrors.

Lowndes' Hubbard, Valdosta's Rudolph and Ware's Taylor are among the best linemen in the state. Both Hubbard (6-4, 250) and Rudolph (6-4, 218) have a lot of growth potential. Taylor is small (5-10, 165), but his tough play was good enough to make him an All-Region pick in 1-AAA as a junior last year.

Thomasville's Jones may be the best defensive back in the state, with excellent size for the position (6-2, 205).

Naturally, there's a lot of talent on this year's team. But talent doesn't always mean a Division I career — at least not immediately.

Three of the players on last year's squad are at junior colleges after failing around the NCAA's Proposition 48 academic requirements.

Ward, who was All-Everything last year at Central, signed with Florida State, but is now at Tallahassee (Fla.) Community College. Lowndes linebacker Freddie Richardson got his GED (General Equivalency Degree) and is now attending Hutchinson Junior College in Garden City, Kan. Valdosta defensive back Reginald Dandy is at Northeast Oklahoma JC in Miami, Okla.



Michael Baker runs, catches to Camden. — Staff file

1988 SUPER 11				
Player	School	Ht. Wt.	Cl.	Pos.
James Roberts	Valdosta	6-0, 211	Sr.	RB
Herbert Mingo	Clinch	5-10, 200	Sr.	RB
Michael Baker	Camden Co.	6-1, 175	Sr.	WR
Doug Hubbard	Lowndes	6-4, 250	Sr.	OT
Coleman Rudolph	Valdosta	6-4, 218	Sr.	DE
Tommy Rainge	T'ville Central	6-3, 230	Jr.	WR
Barry Boyd	Waycross	5-10, 188	Sr.	FB
Greg Taylor	Ware Co.	5-10, 165	Sr.	DG/LB
Brian Scott	Glynn Academy	5-10, 185	Sr.	FB
Carwin Pinkney	Brunswick	6-1, 185	Sr.	HB
Mike Jones	Thomasville	6-2, 205	Sr.	DB

WHERE '87 SUPER 11 IS NOW				
Player	School	Pos.	College now	
Andy Anderson	Valdosta	OT	VSC, not playing	
Scott Cooley	Central	OT	S. Carolina	
Reginald Dandy	Valdosta	DB	NE Okla. JC	
Shannon Flowers	Brunswick	DB	Ga. Southern	
Doug Hubbard	Lowndes	OT	Lowndes*	
Gilbert Reynolds	Tift Co.	OT	Tenn. St.	
Bennie Pierce	Lowndes	DE	FB Auburn	
Freddie Richardson	Lowndes	LB	Hutchinson JC	
Charles Steward	Valdosta	TE	S. Carolina	
Eugene Tyson	Camden Co.	LB	Marion Inst.	
Charlie Ward	T'ville Central	QB	Thassee CC	

*Made team last year as junior.



Greg Larson

Sports columnist

Football's still king in South Georgia

Friday Night Fever.

It isn't what it used to be.

That's why high school football in South Georgia is so precious.

In many areas of the nation, North Florida included, most high school football teams struggle to put 2,000 people in the stands on Friday night.

The elitist attitude in most places has ruined high school football. It's not the place to be and be seen. In these areas, the college game or the pro game or both have swallowed up the high schools and made them small-time.

But not South Georgia.

In many South Georgia locales, they get 2,000 for a junior varsity game. At a Valdosta-Lowndes game, they may turn away more than 2,000 people.

It's great to see entire towns, cities and counties get geared up for the football game on Friday night. That's a slice of Americana that's missing in the metropolitan areas because there are too many schools and the interest is fractionalized.

But in South Georgia, high school football is like church. You go to the games because you have a strong feeling that you should be there. It's not only a social scene, but a crusade as well.

If I were a criminal, I would do my dirty deeds in South Georgia on autumn Friday nights. All the policemen are either at the game or somewhere listening to it on the radio. When we at the newspaper have trouble getting a score for the early edition, we call the local police stations and they provide it.

Yes, the games are on the radio. In Jacksonville, maybe one or two schools broadcast their games. In South Georgia, many games are broadcast each week.

Stores close early on Friday nights in South Georgia as fans make their mini-pilgrimages to the football stadiums.

Yes, stadiums.

No matter how small the community in this area dotted with county schools, they all have nice stadiums. Some of them might be a bit remote, but they will include a smooth playing surface and plenty of seating, plus excellent lights.

Since the locales take such outrageous pride in their teams, with ultra-active booster clubs and outstanding facilities, there is much pressure on a coach to win. A guy won't hang around long if he strings several 4-6 seasons together.

Most everybody in town knows the players on the local roster and what players are coming up in the junior high and junior varsity teams. The outstanding players are superstars in the towns.

Kids grow up wanting to play for Valdosta, Lowndes, Waycross or Camden County, not the Georgia Bulldogs or the Atlanta Falcons. In most cases, it's a bigger deal to have been a high school star in these towns than a college star.

The standard everyone shoots for, of course, is Valdosta High. The Wildcats have a machine there that never seems to need retooling.

The secret is the outstanding lower-school system. They keep a lot of kids interested until they reach high school age. It's a numbers game that nobody seems to have been able to match on a consistent basis.

It's good for football in South Georgia to have such a dynasty. Valdosta is the New York Yankees of South Georgia. The Wildcats are the team opponents love to hate. And a rare victory against Valdosta is cause for massive celebration.

In fact, any victory is cause for celebration in South Georgia. The people like their football and they like to win.

I, for one, am jealous of this phenomenon. I wish I could be involved in such a situation. It's healthy.

Wildcat Defense Made The Plays

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

When Carver High School of Columbus visited Valdosta in last year's first round of the state playoffs, the Tigers shocked everyone with a huge upset win.

Friday night, Carver came in again as a heavy underdog and almost pulled off another amazing upset.

But this year's VHS team remembered last year's loss and came up with the plays when it had to, claiming a 16-12 come-from-behind win.

The defensive squad came up with several big plays to stop the Tigers cold. Two of the games' biggest were made by noseguard Robert Fillmore. Fillmore blocked a Tiger punt for a safety and gave the Wildcats their first points of the game.

Then, just before halftime, Fillmore burst through the Carver offensive line again and blocked a field goal attempt that would have given the Tigers a 9-2 lead and might have changed the complexion of the entire game. Fillmore said he thinks the blocks, especially the blocked field goal, gave his team momentum for the second half.

"On the field goal attempt, I slipped down and thought I had missed it. But I hit the ball with my elbow and I got it. We needed something like that to get things going for us. I think it changed the way we played from then on," Fillmore said.

Defensive end Coleman Rudolph had an interception and a sack and kept the pressure on the Carver quarterback throughout the game. He thought the crowd's support in the second half pumped the 'Cats up.

"This is the first time this season that the fans really got into it. They don't know how much that helps us. I think the whole team and the whole city stood strong in the fourth quarter and refused to go down," Rudolph said.

Linebacker Anthony Williams led the Wildcats with seven tackles including a sack for a loss of seven yards. He said the Carver offense did not surprise him, and his team was prepared for what they might throw at them.

"They pretty much ran the same things they've been running. When the offense drove down in the second half, it gave the defense more momentum. We knew we could win it," Williams said.

Safety Jason Bridges also gathered an interception for the Wildcats and he agreed that the Tigers' offense was about what he expected.

"They didn't do anything different, just better," Bridges said. "I think this team grew up a lot tonight. There are a lot of teams out there who can beat us and we've got to keep playing hard like we did in the second half tonight."

One thing that all of the Wildcat players agreed upon was that Carver might have lost the game, but they gained everyone's respect.

"Carver has a great bunch of athletes," Rudolph said. "About six of them had to play both ways and, in the fourth quarter, that proved to be to our advantage. They've got a great team, but they just don't have the numbers."



Isaac Ceaser Bursts Through Hole In Line
Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Rudolph Happy Team Responded

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

16-12 is an unusual score for a football game. But then again, the Friday night matchup between Carver High School and the Valdosta Wildcats was an unusual game.

Although 12 points is hardly ever considered to be an outstanding amount of points for an offense, many high school offenses would give anything to be able to score at all against the Wildcats. The 'Cats have had three shutouts this year and the most points scored against them was 14 by Colquitt County.

The Tigers from Carver threw some unusual offensive alignments against Valdosta in hopes of confusing the 'Cats' defense. But according to VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph, his defense showed what they were made of late in the game by not giving up.

"I'm very happy that we didn't just wilt late in the game. I think it's important for kids of this age to learn how to keep their heads up when things get rough," Rudolph said. "A win like this builds confidence and 20 years from now, these same kids may think back to tonight and how they didn't give up. They certainly showed a lot of guts tonight."

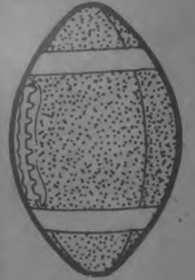
The Carver offense was led by quarterback Timothy Walton who proved that he could throw effectively if he was given enough time. However, he learned the hard way that the Wildcats were not generous about giving him that time in the pocket.

Although the Wildcat defense was shaken early, Rudolph said his defense corrected their mistakes in the second half and prevented any more Tiger big plays.

"We knew that we made some mistakes early. It was like we were mesmerized and we just stood around watching them. Of course, that Nicky Pitts is one hell of an athlete but the way we broke on their last four passes was as active and as good as we've done all year," Rudolph said. "We realized our mistakes and corrected them late in the game."

Though Carver did come close to upsetting the Wildcats, the defense only allowed one big play. After Carver recovered a fumble deep in VHS territory, Walton hit Anthony McHenry with a 22-yard touchdown pass to give Carver a 6-0 lead. The Tigers' other score came on a 93-yard kickoff return by Kevin Tisdell.

One different look that the Wildcat defense had was a double defensive end alignment where one of the ends dropped back to cover a receiver while the other rushed the passer. The move paid off when defensive end Coleman Randolph intercepted his second pass of the season on an errant Walton pass and helped turn the tide of the game.



Valdosta.....16
Carver.....12

Fitzgerald.....14
Cook.....7

Kendrick.....24
Colquitt Co.....21

Thomasville.....21
Cen-Thomasville....3

Riverdale.....6
Griffin.....3

Wash.-Wilkes.....29
Morgan Co.....6



Saturday
November 19, 1988

VHS Holds Off Carver Bid For Upset

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High's worst nightmare almost came true Friday night in the Region I-AAAA playoffs.

But just when it seemed that the Cats may be doomed for their second straight defeat at the hands of Carver, the Wildcats put together a drive that fans will be talking about for years as Valdosta came back to subdue the Tigers 16-12.

Trailing 12-9, the Cats took over at their own 28-yard line with 11:34 left in the game. Valdosta then drove the ball 72 yards in 12 plays, capped off by Isaac Ceaser's second touchdown run of the game. Ceaser rambled 6 yards for the touchdown, the last yard driving through four would-be tacklers. The drive took 5:40 off the game clock.

"I just kept thinking that I had to score that touchdown somehow," Ceaser said. "I got a good block from James Roberts. The whole line did great and they sprung me. After that, it was second effort on my part. I really wanted it."

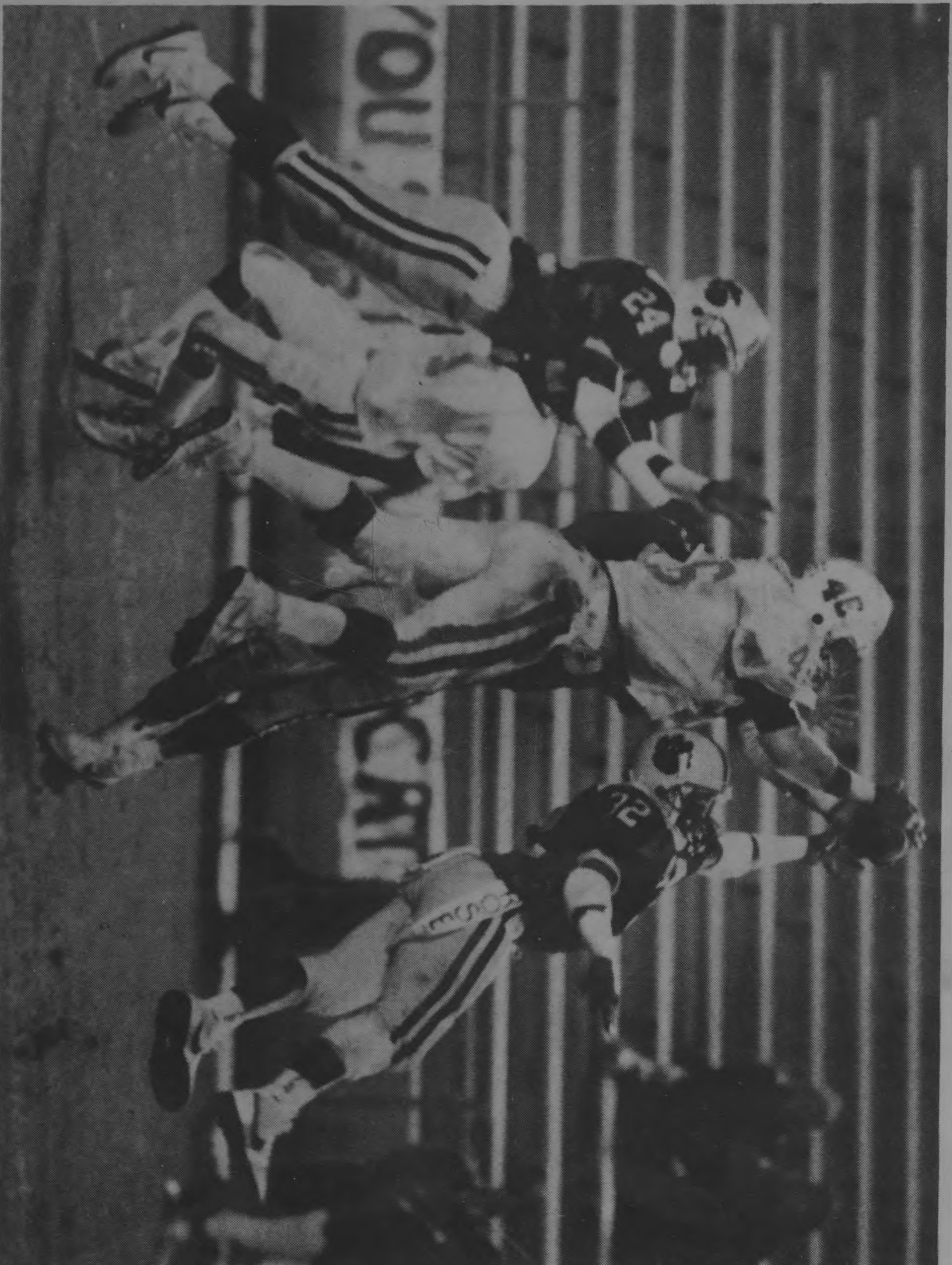
On its ensuing possession, Carver managed a 17-yard pass to Anthony McHenry but after that the Wildcat defense said no more. Coleman Rudolph picked up his 19th sack when he brought down quarterback Timothy Walton at the 38. Walton then tried twice to go deep to tight end Nicky Pitts but both times the Tigers came up short.

Carver then punted the ball away and Valdosta was able to run out the last 3:57 of the clock.

With the win, Valdosta now earns the right to host Kendrick in the Region I-AAAA championships. Kendrick edged Colquitt County 24-21 last night in Columbus.

"That drive and Ceaser's run was pure, vintage Wildcat football," VHS head coach Nick Hyder said. "On that last drive, a lot of credit goes to the coaches. It was just a great football game. Carver has a strong, fast, exciting team."

"Our kids played well tonight but Valdosta just did the type of things you must do if you want to be a championship team," Carver head coach Wallace Davis said. "Valdosta has a great football team." James Roberts' 56-yard run late in



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Three Valdosta Wildcats, Including Chris Hart (32) And Carlo Butler, Try To Knock The Ball Away From Nicky Pitts

the third quarter set up Ceaser's first touchdown, a six-yarder which came on the first play of the fourth quarter. Dow Drury's first of two extra-points gave Valdosta a 9-6 but it didn't take but a few seconds for Carver to score again.

Valdosta's drive was set up when Coleman Rudolph intercepted a Walton pass at the Carver 28. On the ensuing kickoff, Kevin

Tisdal returned the ball 93 yards for a touchdown, shocking the Cleveland Field crowd. The two-point conversion pass failed. Fortunately, the wind was not quite out of the Wildcats' sails.

"We knew we still had time to come back and do it," Hyder said. "In a close game that can go either way. But Wildcats don't quit and they showed that tonight."

On their game-winning drive, Roberts and Ceaser drove the Cats down to the Carver 26 yard line, setting up a 3rd-down-and-6.

On the next play, quarterback Ben Hogan, who had completed only 1-of-7 prior passes, hit Tracy Smothers for a 9-yard reception and a key first down at the 17. Ceaser did the rest as he drove the ball the remaining yards for the score.

"Tracy Smothers made a big, clutch reception for us," VHS assistant coach Bob Bolton said. "Tracy doesn't have the natural ability but he goes out on every play and gives 100 percent on every play."

Carver was forced to have several players play two positions for most of the game. According to Hyder, this, combined with the Wildcats'

superior depth, allowed Valdosta to finally come out on top.

"I think fatigue may have been a factor," Hyder said. "In the fourth quarter, we began to pick up yards on plays that they had been stopping earlier on in the first and second quarters."

Carver took a 6-0 first quarter lead, thanks first to a Valdosta fumble on its opening possession of the game, and second, on a roughing the kicker call on a 54-yard field goal attempt.

The personal foul gave Carver the ball on the Wildcat 22 where on the very next play, Walton hit Anthony McHenry in the right corner of the end zone for the first six points of the game. The extra-point attempt was wide.

Jason Bridges had an interception later in the first quarter to stop a Carver drive but Valdosta could not take advantage of the mistake and were forced to punt themselves.

But Carver still could not penetrate the Valdosta defense and on a 4th down-and-12 from its own 15, Robert Fillmore broke through to block the punt back through the end zone for a safety as the Cats cut the lead to 6-2.

Fillmore made his presence felt on the last play of the first half when he blocked a 29-yard field goal attempt by Carver.

Roberts led the Valdosta attack with 120 yards on 17 carries, followed by Ceaser with 87 on 26 attempts.

Carver.....	6	0	0	6	-12
Valdosta.....	2	0	0	14	-16
CAR — Anthony McHenry 22 pass from Timothy Walton (kick failed)					
VAL — Safety, punt blocked out of end zone					
VAL — Isaac Ceaser 6 run (Dow Drury kick)					
CAR — Kevin Tisdal 93 kickoff return (pass failed)					
VAL — Ceaser 6 run (Drury kick)					

Carver.....	6	0	0	6	-12
Valdosta.....	2	0	0	14	-16
CAR — Anthony McHenry 22 pass from Timothy Walton (kick failed)					
VAL — Safety, punt blocked out of end zone					
VAL — Isaac Ceaser 6 run (Dow Drury kick)					
CAR — Kevin Tisdal 93 kickoff return (pass failed)					
VAL — Ceaser 6 run (Drury kick)					

First Downs	CAR	VHS
Yards Rushing	12	17
Rushing Attempts	15	20
Yards Passing	20	30
Passes	101	19
Yards Punting	15	6-2
Punting	10	2-1
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties	5-34.0	5-32.4
	4-25	3-25

Carver — Walton 8-17, Tisdal 2-4, Gregory 2-3, Albright 5-(5), McHenry 1-(7)	Rushing
Valdosta — Roberts 17-120, Ceaser 26-87, Hogan 5-(1), Wright 2-9	Receiving
	Passing
Carver — Walton 15-67-101	
Valdosta — Hogan 10-2-119	
Carver — McHenry 2-39, Lee 1-14, Gregory 2-24, Pitts 1-24	
Valdosta — Beal 1-10, Smother 1-9	

Four Designated Commended Students In National Merit Program

Valdosta High School has been notified by National Merit Scholarship Corp. (NMSC) that Eric Conrad, Leslie Hiers, James McDaniel and Tonya Nolan have been designated Commended Students in the 1989 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Principal William E. Aldrich announced that these seniors placed in the top 50,000 of more than one million participants in the 34th annual Merit Program and will receive a Letter of Commendation in recognition of outstanding academic promise.

An official of NMSC said, "Being named a Commended Student in the extremely competitive Merit Program is a credit to these young men and women and the schools which play a key role in the development of academically talented youth. We hope the recognition these students have earned will increase their motivation to use their abilities to the fullest, for they represent an important intellectual resource which our nation needs."

The more than one million participants in the current Merit Program entered the competition by taking the PSAT/NMSQT in October 1987 as high school juniors. Although their qualifying test scores are very high, the 35,000 young people throughout the nation who are Commended Students scored

shows and other events at Valdosta State College this year. On Nov. 19 six students will compete in Americus against other high school science teams.

Officers Elected

By SANDRA WILLIAMS

The Future Homemakers of America Chapter of Valdosta High School installed 16 new members and officers for the 1988-89 school term.

Elected were president, Natarsha White; vice president, Muriel Holmes; secretary, Rhonda Crawford; public relations chairman, Sandra Williams; treasurer, Sheila Wade; honor roll Chairman, Angel Best; and community projects chairman, Flora Young.

Test Offered

STATENVILLE — Echols County High School students are being offered a standardized test, the Preliminary American College Test (PACT), on Oct. 25.

The test is given as a service to the students as it is preparatory of the American College Test which, along with the Scholastic Aptitude Test, is an admission requirement now in University System of Georgia schools.

Both the PSAT, which is primarily for juniors, and the PACT, which is normed for sophomores, return test booklets, answers and correct answers for strengthening skills before the admissions tests.

Red and white ribbons, the colors of the F.H.A. organization, were pinned on each new member and officer during the candlelight ceremony. A reception in the Home Economics Department followed to welcome the new officers and members.

Black Achievements

Valdosta High School has been notified by National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students that Roslyn M. Johnson and Tasha Quarterman have been designated as commended students.

William E. Aldrich, principal, announced that these seniors are among 3,000 Achievement Program participants being commended to U.S. institutions of higher education. These students scored in the upper 6 percent of more than 80,000 black students who requested consid-

eration in the program. The Achievement Program is open only to Black Americans and all program funds are used to honor and assist scholastically able participants. The program is administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corp. The students entered competition by taking the 1987 PSAT/NMSQT.

To be inducted into the society, students must have at least a 93 average in Spanish during their first two years. The society inducts students during the fall and spring of the school year. This is the society's first year under the direction of Elsie Nicholas.

Honor Society

By MARILYN MOSS

The Calderon Chapter of the



VHS News

Compiled, Written by VHS Students

slightly below the level required for Semifinalist standing in their respective states. Only the 15,000 Semifinalists, whose names were announced on Sept. 15, will continue in the competition for some 6,000 Merit Scholarships to be awarded in the spring.

Science Club Meets

The Science Club at Valdosta High School elected the following officers at a meeting Oct. 13.

They were Jason Bridges — president; Lee Thomas — vice president; Leslie Hiers — secretary; and Katherine Coleman — treasurer. The club plans to attend planetarian

'Cat Defense Must Keep Tabs On Wiggins

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Colquitt quarterback Ben Wiggins will be the focal point of the Valdosta High defense when the teams collide this Friday night in Moultrie.

Wiggins, who is Region 1-AAAA South's second leading passer, throwing for 605 yards this season, will have the task of directing his Packers against the subregion's best defensive unit in Valdosta.

"As a defensive squad we have to be really concerned with a player the caliber of Ben Wiggins, who can pass as well as run the option," said VSC defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. "I have a lot of respect for head coach Jim Hughes and his staff and according to Hughes, Wiggins is one of the best he's ever had. To me that's high praise."

The Wildcat defensive unit enters the Packer game giving up just 316 yards rushing on 148 carries, while giving up only 273 yards passing and three touchdowns.

On paper, the 'Cats have a decided advantage in this matchup, especially when the Packers are last in the subregion in offense productivity, scoring just 88 points and gaining a total of 1,254 yards.

"We will have to play very well," said Rudolph. "Wiggins is surrounded by some very talented kids, as well as an offensive line that averages about 235 pounds."

Heading up the defensive line that will try and stop the offensive prowess of Wiggins and the Packers will be right tackle senior Zabria Bell (298) and left tackle junior George Copeland (215).

The Valdosta middle guards will be juniors Andre Hampton (180) and

Robert Fillmore (180). The Wildcat ends are senior Coleman Rudolph (220) and junior Fredrick Henton (190).

The Colquitt offense is primarily an option type setup, but the Packers have used this alignment to give Wiggins a chance to use his athletic talent.

Sophomore tailback Eric Hawkins (170) is the leading rusher for the Packers totaling 198 yards on 44 carries. Hawkins enters with a 4.4 yard per carry average.

Hawkins' running mates will be senior Vincent Yanks (180) and junior Spindola Merritt (155).

The burly Packer offensive line is led by junior guard Deon Williams (225) and senior guard Lee Pickett (235).

Senior Ryan Lamon (185) is at the center position, while senior Charles Smith (235) and junior Dusty Prit-

chett (220) will anchor the tackle spots.

When Wiggins decides to go airborne, the experienced Valdosta secondary will be waiting in the wings.

The 'Cats linebacking corps includes junior Anthony Williams (215) and junior Bruce Daniels (215).

Roaming the secondary will be senior free safety Jason Bridges, left safety senior Carlo Butler, and at the corners will be freshman Trampis Wrice, along with junior Chris Hart.

Wiggins' passing targets include the subregion's second leading receiver in junior split end Rozie McFadden. McFadden has hauled in 19 passes for 246 yards.

Junior flanker Tim Lewis, who ranks seventh among South receivers, has caught 10 passes.

The largest target for Wiggins will be senior tight end Scott Chafin (6-foot-3, 210-pounds).

"This is always one of our toughest road games, and places to play," said Rudolph. "The crowd will of course give them an added boost. We have to play within ourselves, and just do what we are capable of. It should be a fine game."

Wed. Oct. 19, 1988

Packers On The Upswing

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High will be facing its stiffest test to date when the 'Cats travel to Moultrie Friday night for a Region 1-AAAA South subregion encounter with the Colquitt County Packers.

The top-ranked Wildcats, undefeated in six attempts this season, square off with a hot Colquitt County team. The 4-2 Packers have won four straight since dropping their opening two games. The latest Packer victim was Lee County 33-0 Friday night.

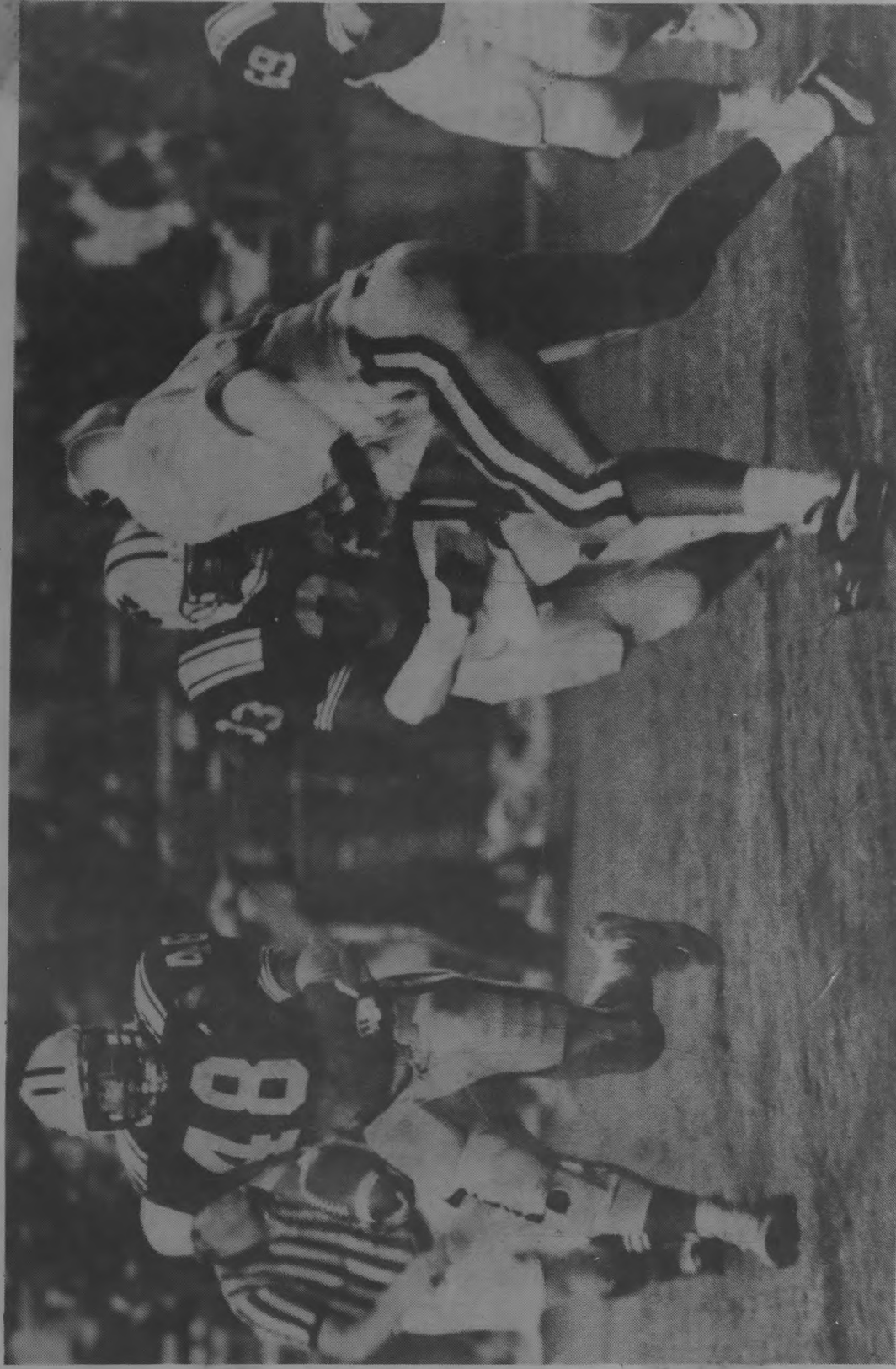
The Packers have posted these victories behind one of the strongest defensive units in the subregion.

The Packers boast an average of 275 pounds on the defensive line, while yielding just 644 yards rushing in 218 attempts.

Valdosta, on the other hand, has rolled up 1,977 yards in six games, with 24 touchdowns and 197 points scored.

"Colquitt has one of the finest defensive clubs anywhere. And it

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Wildcat Tailback James Roberts Looks For Running Room Around The End As Teammate Isaac Ceaser Leads The Way

Times Staff Photos by Paul Leavy

The Valdosta Daily Times

Tuesday, October 18, 1988 3-B

Packers

From Page 1-B

will definitely will be our toughest test offensively to date," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "They are huge on the line, as well as quick in the defensive secondary. They hurt you by making very few mistakes."

The matchup will pit the top offensive unit in Region 1-AAAA South subregion in Valdosta, against a Packer defense that ranks third.

Heading the impressive Packer front wall is leading tackler, junior linebacker Darrius Dawson and senior linebacker Eli Mullis.

Dawson leads the team with 44 total tackles and has four quarterback sacks, while Mullis is second on the team in tackles with 31.

Colquitt's front line is led by defensive tackle senior Eric DeBruce (315) and senior tackle Don

Ceaser.

Roberts' 732 yards on 90 carries leads the South subregion, while Ceaser has accumulated 589 yards on 104 carries.

"Offensively for us, it will be another great challenge to just succeed and try to get done what is necessary to accomplish our goal, which is winning the football game," said Hyder. "Coming into a tough game such as this one, I am proud to see our younger kids responding very well, such as running back Chris Chachere, lineman Jared Howell, Will Hancock, Ron Hasty and Jared Johnson."

Rounding out the Packer defensive alignment will be senior noseguard DeWayne Williams (215). Williams' 25 tackles is third on the team.

The Packer defensive ends are seniors Eddie Palmer (205) and Stephen Carter (205).



LAWRENCE SHARPE

Hart (215).

Although the Packers' strong suit is stopping the opposition in the rushing department, the 'Cats will counter with senior tailback James Roberts and senior fullback Isaac



DAVID HAZELHURST

The Packer secondary is headed up by senior safety Marcus Ponder and junior free safety Daniel Dalton. The corners are seniors Donald Key and Jimmy Johnson.

While the Packers' defensive line

offers very little in the way of the run, it has given up 618 yards passing and three touchdowns, which is next to last in the subregion.

That is an area that Valdosta's senior quarterback Ben Hogan will try to exploit. The 'Cats have a total of 409 yards passing to date.

Among Hogan's targets will be senior tight end Lee Thomas, freshman split end Kelly Dawsey and senior flanker Keith Beal.

The key will be for the Valdosta offensive line to allow Hogan the time to complete his passes.

Leading the offensive line list for Valdosta will be senior center David Hazelhurst (230), senior right guard Andy Rykard (215), senior left guard Steve Adkins (222), senior right tackle Lawrence Sharpe (275) and senior left tackle Steve Smith (220).