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Valdosta High School Scrapbook 22, 1977 Volume 2

Valdosta High School

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porters he felt Teng and the late Mao Tse-teng, then Chinese Communist party chairman, clearly had signaled that they would accept an arrangement for diplomatic relations with the United States similar to the Japanese formula.

Kissinger said there was no U.S. timetable for breaking diplomatic relations with the Taiwan government.

J.M. McClelland, Jr., president and publisher of the Longview, Wash., Daily News; Daniel H. Ridder, editor and publisher of the Long Beach, Calif., Independent Press Telegram; Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, chairman, president and publisher of the New York Times; Robert M. White II, editor and publisher of the Mexico, Mo., Ledger; and Louis D. Boccardi, AP vice president and executive editor.

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Irish Tabbed

NEW YORK (AP) — As we were saying when we were so rudely interrupted by the end of the 1976 college football season...

Return with us now to those glory days of yesteryear — well, actually Jan. 1 of this year — when Pitt whopped Georgia 27-3 in the Sugar Bowl to nail down the national championship.

This corner picked it 28-17 to cap a perfect 11-0 record in bowl game prognostications. For the season, the score was 549 right, 222 wrong, 13 ties, for a percentage of .712.

If we had put a few bob on those bowl picks we'd probably be retired millionaires by now and wouldn't be around to make this year's picks. But we didn't. And aren't you lucky?

A small warning before plunging into the first picks of the new season — we won't get them all right.

The highlight of the new season's first big weekend is a rematch of last year's opener — Notre Dame vs. Pitt. The Panthers' 31-10 triumph in South Bend got them off and winging toward the national title. This one's

Southeastern Seer

in Pittsburgh and Pitt No. 7

Both coach psychology the

"This is no Pitt's Jackie Johnny Major

Over to you

"Pittsburgh nation and the All-American

prepared for

So had the UCLA at

ABC-TV's fi Monday night

It's also the between ran

Houston No. recruiting ye

Jackson, a Tex. — so q

Tuiasosopo... Southern C

ATLANTA (AP) — Untested Valdosta captured the No. 1 ranking in Class AAA today in an Associated Press poll of Georgia high school football teams, unseating previously top-ranked Griffin.

Griffin, which got by Central of Macon 14-7 Friday night, fell to third.

The Wildcats get a chance to live up to their reputation Friday when Valdosta travels to Cordele, Ga., to take on Crisp County.

In another major shakeup this week, East Rome, which

shut out Coosa 21-0 last weekend, bumped Commerce, a 7-0 loser to Stephens County of Class AA, from the No. 1 spot in Class A to fourth place.

In the other classifications, an AP panel of sportswriters and broadcasters selected Dalton and Lincoln County as the top teams in Classes AA and B for the second week in a row.

Warner Robins moved into second place in AAA after a 33-0 shutout of Columbus, Clarke Central was ranked fourth, Lakeside fifth,

Central of Thomasville sixth, Wheeler seventh, Richmond Academy, eighth, Wayne County ninth and R. E. Lee, a newcomer to the poll, was rated 10th.

Spencer's 7-0 shutout of Northside of Warner Robins knocked previously eighth-ranked Northside from the AAA poll.

Class AAA		
1. Valdosta (0-0)	72	
2. Warner Robins (1-0)	64	
3. Griffin (1-0)	63	
4. Clarke Central (1-0)	54	
5. Lakeside (1-0)	41	
6. Central T'ville (0-0)	38	
7. Wheeler (2-0)	35	
8. Richmond Acad. (1-0)	24	
9. Wayne Co. (0-0)	9	

Class AA		
1. Dalton (1-0)	73	
2. Americus (2-0)	63	
3. Woodward Acad. (1-0)	62	
4. Fayette Co. (2-0)	54	
5. Ware Co. (1-0)	50	
6. Dublin (1-0)	40	
7. Swainsboro (1-0)	24	
8. Stephens Co. (1-0)	11	
-tie Avondale (0-1)	11	
10. Dodge Co. (1-0)	10	

Class A		
1. E. Rome (1-0)	75	
2. Vidalia (1-0)	70	
3. Seminole Co. (1-0)	51	
4. Commerce (1-1)	37	
5. N. Springs (0-0-1)	33	

Class B		
1. Lincoln Co. (0-0)	69	
2. Buford (1-0)	65	
3. Bremen (1-0)	59	
4. Reidsville (1-0)	56	
5. Savannah Ctry. Day (1-0)	45	
6. Jefferson (2-0)	44	
7. Hogansville (1-0)	37	
8. Mt. de Sales (1-0)	22	
9. W. Point (1-1)	19	
10. Pelham (1-0)	9	

Class C		
1. Wilkinson Co. (1-0)	29	
2. Early Co. (1-0)	22	
3. Bowdon (0-1)	20	
4. Turner Co. (0-1)	18	
5. Mary Persons (1-0)	16	
6. Wilkes Co. (0-1)	14	
7. Early Co. (1-0)	12	
8. Irwin Co. (0-2)	11	
9. Johnson Co. (1-0)	10	
10. Putnam Co. (1-0)	9	

Valdosta Vaults To No. 1 Spot

Times 9-8-77

Hyder Not Overconfident

Sept 4, 1977

By MIKE CHASON
Nick Hyder has never won a single football game by relying on his press clippings. He just hopes his Valdosta High School Wildcats are as aware of that fact as he is.

Before the Wildcats have even posted one touchdown on the scoreboard this season, they have already been picked to win the toughest football league in the state. They have also been rated as the second best class AAA team in Georgia by both wire service polls.

That's enough to make anybody's head swell.

"I don't think that has affected this bunch," Hyder said. "We work them so hard they don't have time to let it affect them. Reading your press clippings doesn't help your blocking and tackling."

"But it can get to you if you let it."

Like any other coach, Hyder doesn't mind seeing his team's name in print. He chuckled over the fact the Wildcats fell from first to second in the United Press International poll after the first week, despite not playing a game.

Valdosta is also rated second in the Associated Press poll behind Griffin, last year's state runner-up to Warner Robins.

The Wildcats open their season on the road Friday in a 1-AAA north subregion tilt in Cordele against Crisp County.

For Hyder, Friday couldn't come too soon.

"We need to get out there and play," Hyder said. "We have had over 30 practices, and we need to play a game to see if we're ready to play a game. That's what it's all about... playing games."

Hyder said the Valdosta offense has been a "little more consistent" in recent



BUCK BELUE

Starting Fourth Year

practices, but that "could mean there is a problem on defense."

The offense is led by Buck Belue (185, sr.), the starting quarterback for the past three years. Belue was elected overall captain of the squad last week.

Offensive tackle Gary Guthrie (220, sr.) was named the offensive captain, and veteran linebacker and placekicker Robert Baldwin (206, sr.) was named the defensive captain.

Tight end Alvin Thomas (180, sr.) was voted the offensive co-captain, and safety Allen Worthy (170, sr.) was named the defensive co-captain.

"One of the highest honors you can get is to be elected captain of the football team," Hyder said. "And I think we've got some good ones."

Hyder said defensive tackle Curtis Wright (185, sr.) is ready to return to active practice after being slowed by an ankle injury. However, defensive end Alec Green



ROBERT BALDWIN

To Lead Defense

(175, sr.) is out for "at least three weeks" with a shoulder separation.

The Valdosta coach, about to begin his fourth year here, singled out defensive back Troy Thomas (172, jr.), defensive end Doug Conway



GARY GUTHRIE

Offensive Captain

(185, sr.), Baldwin and defensive tackle Jimbo Hancock (175, soph.) for their superior efforts in last week's practice sessions.

"Hancock has just passed some real good licks," Hyder said.

DE Club At VHS Elects Officers

Times 9-15-77

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta High School's Distributive Education Club, DECA, completed filling its board of officers for the 1977-78 school year with the election of 10 new members today.

Elected in an early morning breakfast meeting were seven seniors and three juniors to join President Rex Taylor, another senior, who was elected to that post last spring, according to DE coordinator Norman Greene.

Taylor is the son of Mr. and

Mrs. Bob Taylor.

Ellen Eanes, a senior, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Eanes, was elected vice president today, Greene said.

Others elected today included: treasurer — Wesley Wetherington, a senior, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Wetherington; secretary — Elizabeth Reddick, a senior, daughter of The Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Reddick.

Historian — Jimmy Pitts, a senior, son of the Rev. and Mrs. James E. Pitts; chaplain — Alice Mitchell, a senior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mitchell; reporter — Zoe Exum, a junior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carson Exum.

Class vice presidents, Division I — Beth Toth, a junior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F.B. Toth; Division II — Leann Johnson, a junior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester W. Johnson Jr.; Division III — Charles Spurlock, a senior, son of Mr. and Mrs. R.B. Spurlock; Division IV — Alec Greene, a senior, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Greene.

Belinda Guess, a senior, the daughter of Lowell Guess of Milledgeville and Pat Garrard of Valdosta, was elected sweetheart.

VHS, LHS 2nd, 3rd In Track Meet

By Times Staff Writer
THOMASVILLE — Host Thomasville High claimed the Region 1-AAAA (South) subregion track meet, edging Valdosta High 128-126. Lowndes High finished third with 113 points.

Thomasville scored 63 points in field events to lead its closest competitor at that time, Central of Thomasville, with 36. Valdosta had 31 field event points. Lowndes had 29.

Following the top three teams at meet's end was Central with 68, Bainbridge with 58 and Colquitt County (Moultrie) with two.

Johnny B. Williams and Chuck Jones of Lowndes grabbed two individual titles. Jones won the 100 and 220-yard dashes. Williams won the 120-yard high hurdles and the 330-yard intermediate hurdles. Nathaniel Ceasar of Valdosta was an individual

winner in the high jump. Frank Green of VHS claimed the 880-yard run.

Valdosta won the mile relay with a team composed of Frank Green, Rene Jones, Ceasar and Ronnie Scott. Lowndes was victorious in the 440-yard relay.

The top three finishers in each event qualify for the Region 1-AAAA meet at Thomasville Wednesday.

Other qualifiers from Lowndes and Valdosta were

Willie Hargett of Lowndes in the pole vault, David Wilson of Valdosta in the triple jump, David McQueen of Lowndes in the mile and two-mile, Charles Jenkins of Valdosta in the mile.

Also qualifying was Ronnie Scott of VHS in the 440-yard dash, Odell Griffin of VHS in the 120-yard high hurdles, Rene Jones of Valdosta in the 880, Ernest King of VHS in the 220-yard dash, Ceasar in the 330-yard intermediate hur-

dles, Larice Melvin of VHS in the two-mile, Jones of Lowndes in the long jump and the Valdosta No. 2 mile relay team of Griffin, Green, Jones and King.

Lowndes Track Coach Norman Sanchez said, "the meet turned out about like I expected, except much closer. Thomasville did much better in the field event than I thought they could. They and Valdosta scored in every event."

V.T. 5-3-79



Mike Times 9-8-77

Chason

Times Sports Editor

State Title Belue's Aim

Born under the sign of Sagittarius on Dec. 12, Buck Belue wants his 18th birthday present two days early this year.

The reason is simple.

Just as Sagittarius, The Archer, shoots his heavenly arrows into the universe, Buck Belue, the quarterback, airmails leather-laced pig bladders down football fields.

On the night of Dec. 10, Belue hopes to be on some frozen north Georgia field earmarking those pig bladders for touchdowns in the class AAA high school football state championship game.

His team is Valdosta, and his talents are legendary.

One veteran Valdosta watcher, who knows football like he was born on Cleveland Field, says Belue is "better than any of 'em." That list includes some mighty impressive characters like Billy Grant, Bruce Bennett, Don Golden and Stanley Bounds.

The Wildcats have had some quarterbacks in their day, but they've never had a 13-year-old just off buzz bikes and Marvel Comics step into a starting role...until Belue.

In 1974, a wavy-haired freshman with a crisp, white number seven on his back squatted down behind a black-and-gold clad center and started squeaking signals with a voice on the verge of changing. Some people laughed. Some didn't.

Ten games later, that freshman was still there.

But he had found out high school football is a game of hard knocks instead of headlines. He had found out just how much the other teams in Region 1-AAA hated the sound of Valdosta. He didn't hear that famed Wildcat victory song nearly enough because Valdosta didn't cross the goal line nearly enough.

The final record read three wins, seven losses. In the last 20 years only one other Valdosta team had lost more games.

And it hurt.

It hurt the greenhorn quarterback, and it hurt the veteran coach who had moved into a situation he didn't know existed on the high school level. Nick Hyder discovered just what it means to coach football at Valdosta High School.

But they grew together.

In 1975, the Wildcats returned 15 starters. Belue was one of them. From the opening game, it was evident the rookie's ears were dry. It was easy to see the sophomore jinx had not found another victim.

Buck Belue had come of age.

It was the year he led the entire region in passing. It was the year his arm, a solid defense led by Harold Renninger and two outstanding running backs by the names of Alton Battles and Billy Berrian marched Valdosta all the way to the region championship.

It was the first for the 'Cats since Wright Bazemore won it all and then called it quits in 1971.

In the first round of the state playoffs on a dusty field in Jesup, Valdosta was rated a solid favorite over a supposedly outmanned Wayne County team.

After picking up two touchdowns in the first half, the Wildcats looked to be on their way to the South Georgia championship game. Two quarters, two Wayne touchdowns and one two-point conversion later, Valdosta was going nowhere but home, thinking only of what might have been.

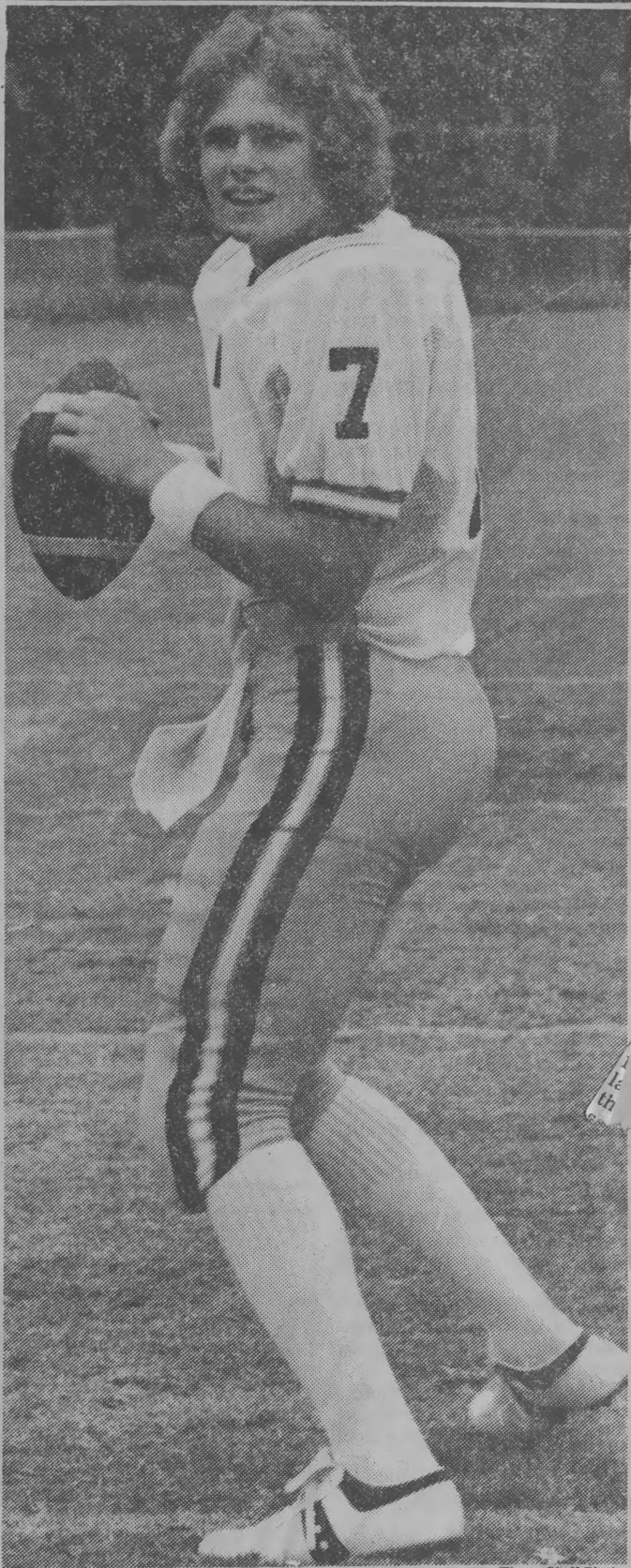
Down at one end of the field was Belue. His helmet hung limply in his hand at his side. His hair was still damp from perspiration, and his eyes were moist from another source.

Half of his high school career was over, and it showed on his face.

For Belue, 1976 was a get acquainted year. Working with an entirely new backfield and with a different type attack, the now aging junior was called upon to run more. He did less throwing, and everybody wondered why.

But the 'Cats kept winning, and nobody questioned that.

Belue wound up with the scoring title, but lost the



—Times Staff Photo

Belue Eyes Final Year At VHS

passing race to crosstown rival Lynn Pattillo of Lowndes. For one night out of each season, they were gladiators on opposite sides of an arena.

When fall finally turned to winter and winter to spring and summer, they played golf together. They were boys growing up in the same town. They were different only because they wore different uniforms on Friday nights.

No, Belue never unleashed his magic arm last season, but everybody knew it was there. Central of Thomasville's Yellow Jackets knew, but in a playoff for the region title last November, they didn't care.

The Jackets had some offensive sting of their own and Belue became a loser for only the 11th time in 33 games of his prep career.

After last season, it has become evident Buck is only human. He isn't Joe Namath or Kenny Stabler or Roger Staubach. He plays the quarterback position as well as anybody ever has.

But he needs help.

In the last two years, he has gotten it...to a degree.

Nobody wins 19 games and loses only four just because of one star quarterback who, like any other high school player, is going to have his bad nights.

Somewhere in there is some offensive linemen, sure-handed receivers, and a rock-em, sock-em defense fit in.

Valdosta might have all those ingredients this year. Mix in a goodly portion of Belue, and the Wildcats may even have a state championship in the oven.

What a birthday cake that would make ...

'Dosta Over Crisp, LHS Over Monroe

If preseason opinions turn into postseason facts, Valdosta's Wildcats ought to be sitting on top of the state come December.

But every other class AAA high school football team in Georgia is counting on the season between now and then to prove the pollsters wrong.

Crisp County's Cougars in particular are anxious to burst the Valdosta bubble in both teams' opening game in Cordele tonight.

But in this game anyway, the pigskin pickers should know what they're talking about.

Crisp has a first-year quarterback, and Valdosta has the most experienced signal-caller in Region 1-AAA. Crisp is trying to rebound from a 2-8 year, and Valdosta is coming off a 9-2 season. Crisp hasn't been a power for several years, and Valdosta has finished as one of the top three teams both the past two years.

Hoping to pad last week's 17-3-prediction record, the pick here is Valdosta, 24-7.

LOWNDES AT MONROE

For the past few years, the early season story on Monroe was that the Tornados took a few games to work themselves into fighting shape. Monroe jumped on Lowndes for a 14-0 lead in their game last year only to watch helplessly as the Vikings came storming back for a 28-14 victory. Conditioning did play a part.

This year's Lowndes' team may be in even better shape than the Vikes of '76. The 10-days-straight summer camp was a brutal test. Those 60 boys who survived it could be in the best shape of their lives.

The game should be a toned down version of "Star Wars." LHS quarterback Kenny Luke likes to throw to his "Hahira Connection" partner, Nate Burks, and Monroe quarterback Jeff Johnson just likes to throw ... to anybody.

Here's a vote for Lowndes to go upstairs and ride the "Hahira Connection" to a 21-7 win.

ATKINSON AT BERRIEN

Berrien's Rebels didn't get off to quite the glorious start they may have planned last week, but a win is a win ... and a 13-0 victory over longtime rival Cook is one that Foy Norwood's not going to throw back.

It's Berrien's home opener this week, and Norwood is ready to unveil Billy Joe Washington and Co. to the Nashville folks. Atkinson lost a 9-6 game to Vienna last week and should stay on the zero side of the win ledger tonight. Maybe, Berrien, 20-6.

SEMINOLE AT BROOKS

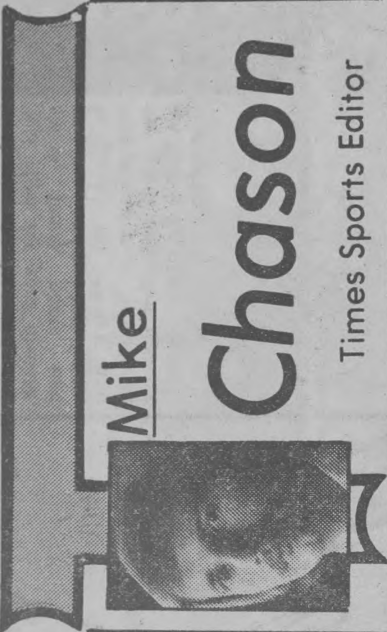
Ed Hayes had high hopes his Brooks' Trojans would get started nine games earlier this year and not wait until the

Times 9-9-77

Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor



look like today is the day. The nod goes to Coffee, 27-7.

NEWBERRY AT HAMILTON

Hamilton has seven home games this year, and the first one might be the toughest to win. Coy Whitener said last year was a time to get ready for this season. The Trojans still won a district title and finished with a 6-6 record.

Newberry isn't a district foe, but Whitener hopes to have his club ready. Like any other coach, he's always building, but Ellis Singletary ain't a bad foundation to build upon.

This first game might give Hamilton fans a hint as to just how much this year will resemble 1975 when the Trojans rolled all the way to second place in the state.

Don't know much about Newberry, but Hamilton has to be improved. The Trojans in a squeaker, 7-6.

WAKULLA AT MADISON

A month ago, Madison head coach Lavaughn Bell wasn't sure just who would show up for his team's practices. Sometimes his top players showed up, and sometimes they didn't.

When the school term began, Bell hoped to get that situation remedied. Coming off an 0-10 season, he's looking for any cure he can get. It would be nice to say the Cougars are going to give Wakulla a dose of its own medicine tonight, but the stars don't show it.

It might be another long season for Bell's boys. In other words, Wakulla, 20-0.

MARANATHA CHRISTIAN AT WESTBROOK

Westbrook's Cougars haven't scored in two games. Needless to say, the other teams have. With an 0-2 record and a roster with no depth, things are looking bleak for Buddy Ethridge.

But Maranatha Christian may be just the shot in the arm Westbrook needs. A win tonight could turn a lot of long faces into happy smiles for a week or two. Aw, why not? Westbrook, 7-0.

OTHER GAMES

The key Region 1-AAA (South) subregion game is in Moultrie tonight when Central of Thomasville comes to town. The Pack is supposed to be back, but is it back far enough to cope with Central's potentially dynamic ground game?

Don't think so, Central 24-21.

Also, Thomasville over Albany, Beaufort over Irwin, Dougherty over Tift, Appling over Fitzgerald, Worth over McIntosh, Brantley, Early over Harris, Pelham over Villa Rica over Haralson.

last game of the season to win their first game. So much for high hopes ...

The Trojans were mauled 44-6 by Early's Bobcats a week ago and probably still haven't patched up their wounds. Seminole's Indians come in with hatchets high and anxious for their second win of the season. Looks like they'll get it, Seminole, 24-14.

GLENNVILLE AT CLINCH

After losing the players Clinch lost last season, most coaches would be nailing the corners of their coffin shut right now. But Panther boss Donald Tyson seems relatively calm about the whole situation.

Tyson's a pretty calm guy anyway, but having seen Glennville lose its first two games might have something to do with his pleasant disposition.

A loss to Glennville in the opening game last season was definitely not a sign of things to come for Clinch fans. The Panthers clawed back to an 8-3 record and the Region 2-A (South) subregion title.

Without Tony Mikell, Dennis Morgan and the boys this year, that feat might be hard to repeat.

But Clinch should take a 21-0 step in that direction tonight.

COOK AT COFFEE

One of the three games the crystal ball turned into a sour ball on last week was Coffee's win over Irwin County. The Douglas troops were supposed to be restocking this year after their banner campaign of a season ago.

In Ocilla, they were talking state title again.

What has all this got to do with Cook?

Well, the Hornets lost their 12th straight game over a three-year span last week, and nobody's talking state title, region title or any kind of title.

Cook's going to win a game again one day, but it doesn't



A Tale Of Two Quarterbacks: Crisp's Bobby Roche, Left, Was Pressured All Night While Valdosta's Buck Belue Stood Calmly Behind His Team's Solid Offensive Line

—Times Staff Photos by Robert Wintler III.

Belue Triggers Valdosta's 40-14 Blastoff

By MIKE CHASON

CORDELE — For 3½ quarters, it was anybody's ballgame. For one-half quarter, the outcome of Friday night's high school football game here belonged to the number one ranked class AAA team in the state.

Grinding dangerously close to an upset in the opening game of the season, Valdosta's Wild-

VARDSRICK

First Downs	Valdosta	Crisp
Yards Rushing	193	14
Yards Passing	84	57
Passes Comp. / Attd.	8/18	3/19
Fumbles Lost	1	2
Penalties	4/37/3	8/37/1
	6/40	6/33

cats kicked into high gear in the last seven minutes and smashed Crisp Senior quarterback Buck Belue engineered the Valdosta onslaught, scoring two touchdowns, running for 95 yards, passing for 78 more and pinning the Cougars deep in their own territory with a 37.3-yard punting

average. "Buck did about all he could do," VHS head coach Nick Hyder said, glancing at possibly the top college prospect in the state standing only a few yards away. "He delivered the ball on the money. I can remember seven passes we had dropped and gosh, that's 150 yards right there."

"I don't think we played that well. They were up for us. I thought we did a really good job of coming back that second half. The offensive line did a great job of holding them out."

In a game many thought would be as lopsided as the final score in the Alamo, it took a wildcat comeback to finally subdue the gully Cougars.

Valdosta looked to have a relatively safe 24-7 lead after three quarters, but on the opening play of the final period, Crisp shocked the packed crowd and maybe even themselves with a 38-yard touchdown pass from Bobby Roche to Dwaine Slade.

Roche, who showed his inexperience as a varsity quarterback most of the game, just threw the ball high and long and waited for Slade to run under it. And he did.

In the corner of the end zone, Slade made a brilliant diving catch to beat VHS safety Jimmu

Hartman to the flag. With that play, Crisp head coach Ferrell Henry thought he had a Region 1-AAA (North) upset in the brew.

"I sure did," Henry said. "We had gained the momentum of the football game. It wasn't like they had their subs in or anything. Belue was going all out."

The touchdown did seem to rouse the native instincts in the Wildcats, who zipped down to the Crisp 45-yard-line with relative ease. But that's when the Cougars bowed their backs.

Belue was forced to drop back for a fourth down

The Valdosta Daily Times

SPORTS

nerback spot as well as running back a punt 61 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter.

"I just kept going," Thomas said. "I knew I was gone when I saw the opening."

Defensive ends Lynn Roberts and Doug Conway had four tackles apiece, and senior safety Allen Worthly scooped up another Crisp fumble and ran it in for a touchdown from two yards out in the second quarter.

Senior linebacker Robert Baldwin, who kicked a 35-yard field goal in the second quarter, believes the defense is set.

"We had to get all the butterflies out this game," Baldwin said. "But I think we've got a real solid defense. We've got some pretty good experience."

The VHS defense held Crisp to a total of only 71 yards of offense, while sacking Roche numerous times behind the line of

field as a unit when Alvin Jackson cracked his 94-yard kickoff return in the second quarter for Crisp's only other score.

Valdosta's Cougar-breaking touchdowns came immediately after Thomas dived on the Crisp fumble with seven minutes left in the fourth quarter.

"I hadn't really thought about it," he said. "I'm just glad we've got that first game under our belt. I guess I'll think about it after the season is over."

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Valdosta — Gaskins 12/39, Belue 15/95, Fletcher 4/10, Council 9/38, Worley 1/2, King 1/7, Bond 3/2, Welch 1/0, Roche 14 minus 38, Mason 3/1, Barbee 3/5, Jackson 4 minus 2, Ford 6/48.

Passing: Valdosta — Belue 7/16—78, Council 1/0—0, Bond 1/1—6; Crisp — Roche 3/19—57, Pass. Receiving: Valdosta — Blair 3/27, Smith 3/46, Cross 1/5, Turner 1/6; Crisp — Oliver 1/9, Slade 1/38, Walker 1/10.

Punt Returns: Valdosta — Thomas 3/15; Crisp — Ford 1/3.

Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — Thomas 1/10, Council 1/30, Gaskins 2/23; Crisp — Jackson 1/19, Farnham 1/3.

Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Thomas 7, Roberts 4, Conway 4, Lloyd 2; Crisp — Jackson 4, King 2, Weaver 2.

Valdosta Score by Quarter: 13 9 2 14—40

Crisp Score by Quarter: 0 7 0 7—14

Scoring: Val — Belue 6 run (Baldwin kick), Val — Thomas 61 punt return (kick failed), Val — Crisp 94 kickoff return (Henry kick), Crisp — Baldwin 35 field goal (Hail), Safety on Roche, Val — Roche 38 pass to Slade (Harvey kick).

Belue and Wilson: Up to Old Tricks

By KEVIN BROWN
Times-Union Sports Writer

Buck Belue-to-Jody Wilson formed a combination that would've been heard from a lot in South Georgia football this season. They'll still be heard of a lot — but separately, not together.

Wilson, who probably would have been Belue's favorite receiver if he had remained a Valdosta Wildcat, transferred to Lowndes to play for his father. But the break-up of the combination hasn't taken anything away from the pair's star status.

Both proved that Friday night — Belue in leading a 40-14 Valdosta romp over Crisp and Wilson in doing likewise in a 26-8 Viking rout of Monroe. Their separate heroics earned them the inaugural spots as *The Times-Union* Georgia players of the week.

Quarterback Belue earned the back-of-the-week honor by running for two touchdowns, rushing for 95 yards on 15 carries and passing for 78 yards — completing 7 of 16 attempts. He also added two two-point conversions, one on a pass and the other on a run. And in his role as punter, Belue averaged 37.3 yards on four kicks, two of which were downed inside the Crisp five.

"Buck had his typical game," said Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder. "He would've completed five more passes but our receivers couldn't catch the ball. Their hands got in the way.

"You have to look at his all-around contribution to the team, just like Jody Wilson, who played defensive



Wilson



Belue

safety in addition to split end. They both add a lot to the total team effort."

The type of night Wilson had at split end against Monroe speaks for itself. It also spoke loud enough to earn the 180-pound senior lineman-of-the-week honors.

Jody caught eight passes for 122 yards and three touchdowns.

"He had a pretty good game," said father/coach Joe. "We throw to the receiver that's hot and Jody was hot. He

played a all-around game — even knocking down a touchdown pass in the end zone while he was playing safety."

Other players considered for the honor were Bud Drew of Coffee County, who gained 139 yards on 19 carries and scored one TD in the Trojans' 39-0 win over Cook County, Atkinson County's Josh Johnson, who scored twice on a 54-yard punt return and a 65-yard sweep in the Rebels' 12-9 victory over Berrien County, Charlton County's Walt Garard and Charles Doles, who combined for five touchdowns and each raced for 98 yards on 14 tries in the Indians' 46-0 rout of Brantley County, Thomasville's Roosevelt Andrews, who ran for 117 yards in 13 carries and Appling County's Harry Skipper, who took 12 handoffs for 119 yards and a score. Thomasville defeated Albany 33-14 and the Pirates ripped Jeff Davis 27-4.

'Dosta Tops Prep Poll, LHS Eighth

Times 9-14-77

ATLANTA (AP) Valdosta clung to its No. 1 ranking in Class AAA this week but Americus replaced Dalton in the top spot in Class AA as the Catamounts lost their first Georgia high school football game of the year.

An Associated Press panel of sportswriters and broadcasters voted East Rome the highest ranking in Class A for the second week in a row and Lincoln County entered its third week as No. 1 in Class B.

Valdosta received 85 points to 82 for second-ranked Warner Robins to remain No. 1 for the second week after defeating Crisp County 40-14 in its season opener. Warner Robins blasted Carver of Columbus 46-0.

Griffin, which had been ranked third last week, fell to fourth after a 14-0 victory over Rockdale County, and previously fourth-ranked Clarke Central, which belted Franklin County 40-12, moved into third.

Central of Thomasville, which lost to Moultrie 14-7, Wayne County, which was blasted 36-14 by Statesboro and Lakeside, which lost to Tucker, 15-14 were dropped from this week's AAA poll

and were replaced by Lowndes, Benedictine and Moultrie in the eighth, ninth and 10th places.

In AA, Dalton fell to seventh place after a 9-0 shutout by Murray County and was replaced in the No. 1 spot by Americus, which was idle over the weekend.

Other AA rankings remained the same as last week, with Woodward Academy following Americus at second, Fayette County third, Ware County fourth, Dublin fifth, Swainsboro sixth, Stephens County eighth, Avondale ninth and Dodge County 10th.

East Rome shut out Carrollton 25-0 to secure its top position in Class A. Ranked behind the Gladiators this week were Vidalia at second, Seminole County third, Commerce fourth, Early County fifth, Wilkinson County sixth, North Springs seventh, Mary Persons eighth and Bowdon ninth.

Turner County, which was ranked ninth in last week's poll with an 0-1 record, did not play last weekend and fell from the rankings.

Class AAA
1 Valdosta (10) 85
2 Warner Robins (20) 82
3 Clarke Central (20) 68
4 Griffin (20) 67

5 Wheeler (30) 48
6 Richmond Acad (20) 39
7 R. E. Lee (20) 27
8 Lowndes (10) 18
9 Benedictine (20) 14
10 Moultrie (10) 13
Others nominated: Cedar Shoals (21), Central T'ville (10), Kendrick (30), Lakeside (11), Newnan (10), Peachtree (20), SW DeKalb (20) and Thomasville (0).

Class AA
1 Americus (20) 85
2 Woodward Acad (20) 75
3 Fayette Co (30) 70
4 Ware Co (10) 57
5 Dublin (20) 48
6 Swainsboro (10) 39
7 Dalton (11) 34
8 Stephens Co (20) 26
9 Avondale (11) 17
10 Dodge Co (20) 14
Others nominated: Chattooga (10), Coffee (20), Gainesville (20), Lake Shore (20), Perry (30), Waycross (10) and Westminster (20).

Class A
1 East Rome (20) 86
2 Vidalia (10) 71
3 Seminole Co (20) 62
4 Commerce (21) 56
5 Early Co (20) 46
6 Wilkinson Co (20) 40
7 North Springs (10) 37
8 Mary Persons (20) 28
9 Bowdon (11) 18
10 Lamar Co (20) 17
Others nominated: Central Gwinnett (20), Claxton (20), Clinch Co (10), George (20), Johnson Co (20) and Turner Co (0).

Class B
1 Lincoln Co (10) 88
2 Bremen (30) 80
3 Jefferson (30) 72
4 Reidsville (10) 53
5 Pehlam (20) 41
6 West Point (21) 35
7 Buford (11) 33
8 Savannah Clry Day (11) 21
9 Charlton Co (20) 15
10 Rabun Co (20) 13
Others Nominated: Atkinson Co (11), Brookstone (21), Gordon Lee (30), Hogsheadville (11), Macon Co (11), Mt Zion (11), Mt Zion (10), Vienna (20) and Wheeler Co (20).

Game Two

Times 9-14-77

Valdosta Coach Not Overlooking Bearcats

By MARTIN REGISTER

Bainbridge's improved Bearcats come to town Friday with the hope of pulling off the dream of every football team...to knock off the number one team in the state

The state's top ranked AAA team is Valdosta. And Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder has no doubt about the intentions of the invading Bainbridge gridders.

"They're coming over here to beat us," he said

Bainbridge, a longtime weak sister in Region 1-AAA, initiated its season last week by shellacking Westover (Albany) 32-7

At the same time, Valdosta was bombing Crisp County in Cordele, 40-14

Although Westover has appeared extremely weak in its first two games, Hyder feels the 32 points scored against it by Bainbridge are not without importance

"Anytime a team gets over 30 points in 1-AAA, you have to stand up and pay attention," he said

"Our scouts say Bainbridge is the most improved team they've seen in 1-AAA in a long time. They're vastly improved. And they're fundamentally solid

"They're big, and they're well-coached. Miller Shealy (Bainbridge's head coach) has been around here for a long time

"They've got a fine quarterback, Kent Shealy

The Valdosta Daily Times

SPORTS

(the head coach's son). And I know this sounds like a broken record, but they're big. It seems like everyone we play is big

"They've got two defensive tackles listed at 230 pounds apiece, and a middle guard at 260. One offensive tackle weighs 230, and the other 210. And one offensive guard weighs 220

"On the offensive line, five of the front six were regulars or starters last year. And I think Clyde Mackey, their running back, is one of the toughest around. He runs as much in the fourth quarter as he does in the first.

"Their kicking game is always sound."

One of the things worrying Hyder is a Bearcat end who stands 6-7. "We have a lot of concern about the way he catches the ball," he said.

"With that height, he's a tremendous threat.

"When a team has size, speed, and the ability to throw and run with the ball, that leaves our defense with a lot of problems to solve."

Though not small, the

Wildcats will not match the Bearcats in size, according to Hyder. "We've got one offensive starter and one defensive starter who weigh 230," he said.

"The rest all weigh around 180 or 190. They've got us in size."

The Wildcats came out of last week's Crisp game relatively uninjured. "We were happy we didn't get anybody hurt," said Hyder.

"We got a lot of questions answered that we needed to get answered. We've got a lot of work to do, on blocking schemes, pass routes, execution, and kickoff coverage.

"I'm sure that was obvious to the youngest and to the oldest fans at the Crisp game."

Hyder said he was happy with the attitude of the Wildcats. "There's a special spirit about them," he said, "that makes it nice to coach."

Veteran senior quarterback Buck Belue led the 'Cats win over Crisp with his passing and running ability,



JOHN LASTINGER
May Not Play

while backup signal-caller and first team end John Lastinger sat out with a hip injury.

Hyder said Lastinger, "will play if he can" against Bainbridge, but added that another quarterback, John Bond, has shown signs of improvement.

"We're real proud of the progress of John Bond," he said. "He's showed tremendous progress in practice.

"He can give Belue a chance to sit down and rest once in a while."

Another player, captain Robert Baldwin, may also



KENNY WASHINGTON
To Get His Chance

miss Friday's game. A key defensive player and kicker, Baldwin has suffered this week with a tonsil infection.

Kenny Washington, who Hyder called "the most pleasant surprise" in the team's summer camp at Twin Lakes, has been okayed for play by doctors.

He had been sidelined with a hairline fracture of the ankle. "He'll play," said Hyder. "We're anxious to get him out there and see what he can do."

Over Valdosta

Times 9-15-77

Bainbridge Bidding For Upset Win

By MARTIN REGISTER

Bainbridge's Bearcats, in the unusual position of coming off a victory, turn potential giant-killers when they take on Valdosta's Wildcats here Friday night.

Coach Miller Shealy makes no bones about the fact he expects his Bainbridge team to at least give the Wildcats, ranked number one in the state in class AAA, a run for the money.

"We're going to play them a ballgame," he said. "I'm optimistic about it. But then, I'm always optimistic."

A year ago, when the Bearcats finished 1-9, almost no one would have entertained the thought that Bainbridge could even stay on the field with Valdosta.

The Bearcats are once again plagued with a lack of depth, which didn't bother them in last week's 32-7 romp over Westover.

But Shealy can reasonably expect few similarities between Westover and Nick Hyder's highly-touted Wildcats, 40-14 conquerors of Crisp County last week.

Shealy and the Bearcats aren't afraid of the Valdosta's top ranking, however.

"Valdosta's rank has a reverse effect on us," he said. "We feel like the better teams you play, the better you're going to get. I feel like we'll

play them a good game."

One of the team's assets is a large line, where many players top 200 pounds. It is the team's size which has given rise to the idea the Bearcats may this season rise out of their traditional spot in the cellar of Region 1-AAA.

Five offensive starters, center Gary Shoates, guard Tom Jones, tackles Bubba Eckinrod and Bill Bowen, and end Donald Barber, weigh at least 200 pounds.

But the Bearcats are critically short on depth. Jeremiah Stubbs, a 185-pound senior, starts at both offensive guard and line-backer, while Bowen will also start at defensive end.

Other members of the defensive team weighing more than 200 pounds include middle guard Maurice Baldwin, a 260-pounder, tackles Mike Rudd and Chris Cook, and safety Greg Bess.

Kent Shealy, the coach's son, quarterbacks the team. Halfback Clyde Mackey was singled out earlier in the week by Hyder as probably the Bearcats' most dangerous runner.

Barber, who stands 6-7 and weighs 210 pounds, is a prime target for passes from the younger Shealy.

"We've had to work real hard to get in shape, and

we're in pretty good shape now," said Shealy. "The boys have worked their rear ends off."

"We'll have some boys going both ways. As hot as it is right now, it's giving them a pretty hard time."

Shealy called the win over Westover and "all-around effort. It would be difficult to say one player did better than another," he said.

"The fundamentals were real good. But on defense, we've got a lot of work to do if we're going to try to stop Valdosta.

"The defense didn't read very well last week, but overall, I was well pleased."

"Of course, you're always wanting to find out what your team will do when it gets behind. We were never behind against Westover, so we didn't find out then."

"But we're going to find out what it's like to be behind before long, I'm afraid."

VALDOSTA

Offense — ends Alvin Thomas (190, sr.) and Mike Cross (160, sr.) or Fredrick Blair (153, jr.), tackles Scott Griffin (190, jr.) and Gary Guthrie (220, sr.), guards Andy Chapman (180, jr.) and Bubba Hardin (170, jr.), center Tony Blasetti (210, soph.), halfbacks Robert Smith (155, jr.) or Melvin Hunter (147, sr.) and Frank Council (182, jr.) or Ernest King (170, soph.), fullback William Gaskins (150, jr.) or Sam Fletcher (185, jr.), quarterback Buck Belue (185, sr.).

Defense — ends Doug Conway (185, sr.) and Lynn Roberts (165, jr.), tackles Ray Lloyd (235, sr.) and Jim Hancock (175, soph.) or Curtis Wright (185, sr.), middle guard Craig Simmons (185, sr.) or Clifford Johnson (182, jr.), linebackers Robert Baldwin (206, sr.) and John Branan (182,

jr.), cornerbacks Troy Thomas (172, jr.) and Rodney Gordon (160, jr.) or Carl Roe (165, jr.), safeties Allen Worthy (175, sr.) and Jimmy Hartman (178, sr.).

BAINBRIDGE

Offense — ends Donald Barber (210, sr.) and David Washington (180, sr.), tackles Bubba Eckinrod (235, jr.) and Bill Bowen (200, sr.), guards Jeremiah Stubbs (185, sr.) and Tom Jones (220, sr.), center Gary Shoates (200, soph.), fullback Rodney Parks (195, sr.), halfbacks Clyde Mackey (190, sr.) and Marcus Close (160, soph.) or Lee Walker (165, jr.), quarterback Kent Shealy (170, sr.).

Defense — ends Bill Bowen and Leroy Akins (190, jr.), tackles Mike Rudd (240, jr.) and Chris Cook (230, jr.), middle guard Maurice Baldwin (260, sr.), linebackers Jeremiah Stubbs and Mike Pointivint (170, sr.), cornerbacks and safeties Greg Bess (210, sr.), Michael Bowie (170, sr.), Ricky Jones (140, sr.), William Douglas (160, soph.) or Otis Smith (175, jr.).

Valdosta In Easy One; Lowndes In Tough One

Times 9-16-77

One year ago, Lowndes' Vikings defeated Moultrie's Packers on the high school football field for the first time in history. At 7:30 p.m. tonight, the Vikings get their chance to allow history to repeat itself.

Some observers have tabbed this game as the first real test for Lowndes. LHS head coach Joe Wilson doesn't believe that.

"Everybody says we ain't played nobody," Wilson said. "We played Tifton, and they just held the defending region champion (Dougherty) to 15 points. We can't get no respect."

Wilson made the latter Rodney Dangerfield statement before his team was picked as the eighth best in Class AAA this week. It was another first in the football history of the Vikes, who have never cracked the top 10 ranks before.

Undoubtedly, that 20-0 win over Tift and a 28-6 decision over Monroe had something to do with the pollsters' decision to sneak Lowndes into the rankings, just ahead of Moultrie in 10th place.

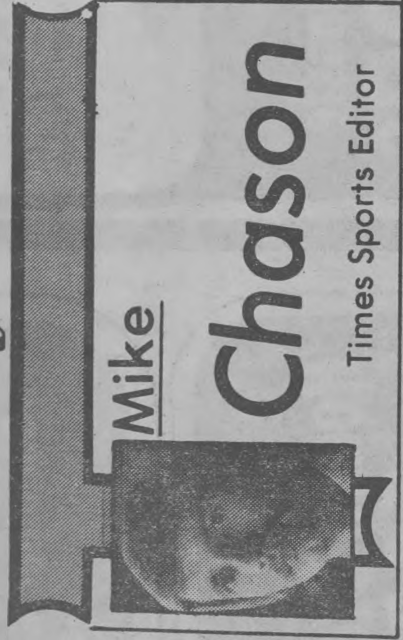
Bud Willis' Packers don't have much of a past to base a pick on this week. They have only a 14-7 victory over Central of Thomasville hanging on their scalp belts, but that was a big win indeed. It was a 1-AAA (South) game and one that might go a long way toward deciding who wins the subregion.

Lowndes has Central coming to town next week and needs a win tonight to make that game mean something. A loss to Moultrie and a win over Central wouldn't do it. If Lowndes and Moultrie wound up tied at the end of the year, Moultrie would get the playoff berth in that situation.

But everything's speculation at this point and after a 16-3 pick record last week for a cumulative total of 33-6, this writer can do a little cautious speculating of his own. In a squeaker, Lowndes, 21-20.

BAINBRIDGE AT VALDOSTA

Bainbridge blasted Westover 32-7 last week, but before the year is out, Johnny Palmer's club from Albany is



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

going to be the victim of many a blasting.

Valdosta crushed Crisp County 40-14 in a game which was close for 3½ quarters.

Judging from those two scores, both teams are capable of putting points on the scoreboard. But the Bearcats may not find it so easy crossing the goal line against Robert Baldwin and Co., particularly in the Wildcats' home opener.

Valdosta was ranked as the number one team in the state for the second week in a row this week, and nothing which happens on Cleveland Field here tonight should change that status.

Look for Valdosta's Alvin "Abu" Thomas to get in the offense a little more after failing to catch a single pass last week. Look for quarterback Buck Belue to run wide. Look for halfback Frank Council to find some yardage off-tackle with his slashing style and look for William Gaskins to pound a few yards up the middle with his bowling-ball-type running stance.

And look for Valdosta to win, 34-7.

BERRIEN AT TURNER

The last time these two teams met Turner walked away with a 49-0 win. The Ashburn boys also walked away with

the state Class A state championship last year.

Nobody's talking state title up I-75 this year, but it's a sure bet Berrien's Foy Norwood isn't exactly looking forward to taking on the Rebels in the heart of their Confederacy either.

Atkinson surprised Berrien 12-9 last week, but maybe it wasn't so surprising after all.

Norwood's team had trouble with winless Cook in its opener. Could be the Nashville team needs another week or two to get things started.

From this angle, it looks like two because the pick is Turner, 14-7.

COOK AT WORTH

On a summer day that seems like light years away now, Cook head coach Tom Bailey told this reporter his team needed to win in its first two games or it might be a long year.

Well Tom, it looks like a long year.

Cook still hasn't won, and still hasn't scored. Now the Hornets are playing the team Bailey cited as one of the toughest on his schedule that same summer day.

Playing on the road is never fun, but Rams are bullish on Hornets in Sylvester. Worth gets the nod, 24-7.

FITZGERALD AT BROOKS

This may be the pivotal game of the year for Brooks County's Trojans. Tonight, they play a team they tied in their spring game. They play a team which has one loss and one 0-0 tie on its record. They play a team Brooks' head coach Ed Hayes thinks the Trojans can beat. And he may be right.

Mistakes have been the downfall of the 0-2 Trojans so far. Blocked punts, fumbles and other game-losing tactics of that nature just don't jive with winning.

My sentimental choice would be Brooks tonight, but tradition usually means more than sentiment.

Maybe, Fitzgerald, 7-6.

CHARLTON AT CLINCH

Charlton is tough. Clinch could be tough. This is an old rivalry and a game Clinch wants to win badly. The

Panthers unloaded on Glennville 33-13 last week and are looking for their second victory tonight.

To get it, Donald Tyson and his staff are going to have to pull out all the stops. Every trick play, every razzle-dazzle ... everything.

Then the scoreboard should read, Clinch, 24-18.

HAMILTON AT HILLIARD

Hamilton's Trojans socked it to Hilliard 18-0 last season in a year the Trojans weren't supposed to be socking it to anybody.

This season, Coy Whitener's club is off and running with an 11-0 triumph over tough Newberry last week.

Just give Ellis Singletary the ball and point him in the right direction. Hamilton, 21-14.

MADISON AT BAKER

Madison's Cougars succumbed to a fourth quarter slump in their opening game last week. Their long losing streak appeared to have come to an end until Wakulla came alive for a 42-20 blitzing of the Cougars. The choice is Baker, 24-10.

WESTBROOK AT PINELAND

Westbrook rock-and-rolled its way past Maranatha Christian in a wild 33-0 romp last week. It would be nice on Buddy Ethridge's frayed nerves if his Cougars could do that every Friday night. But they can't ... not this year.

Take some more nerve pills Buddy, Pineland, 21-7.

OTHER GAMES

Albany's making some noises like it believes it may be able to whip Dougherty tonight, but the odds just aren't in the Indians' favor. The Trojans are rolling toward their Sept. 30 matchup with Valdosta and will take another step in that direction tonight.

Also, Central over Crisp, Tift over Monroe, Thomasville over Westover, Ware over Appling, Waycross over Cairo, Vidalia over Irwin, Warner Robins over Kendrick, Griffin over Newton, Claxton over Bacon, and Pepperell over Villa Rica.

Valdosta Massacres Bainbridge, 50-13

By MARTIN REGISTER
 Valdosta's Wildcats followed the pinpoint passing of Buck Belue and the flashy running of Sam Fletcher to a 50-13 massacre of Bainbridge in a Region I-AAA high school football game here Friday night.

Coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats were in command all the way in improving their

YARDSTICK		Valdosta	Bainbridge
First Downs		20	10
Yards Rushing		280	135
Yards Passing		160	64
Passes		12-23	5-10
Passes Intc. By		0	3
Fumbles Lost		1	2
Punting		3-39.7	7-34.1
Penalties		9-75	5-35

record to 2-0, as Belue connected on 10 of 14 first half passes for 131 yards.

Fletcher repeatedly rambled through the porous Bearcat defense for huge chunks of yardage, finishing with 102 yards in just seven carries.

And when Belue and much of the Valdosta first string left the game, backup quarterback John Bond engineered two Valdosta scoring drives.

In all, about 70 Wildcats saw action against coach Miller Shealy's Bearcats, who romped past Westover 32-7 in their season opener last week.

The Valdosta offense ran

roughshod through the Bearcat defensive corps, rolling up 440 total yards, 280 coming on the ground.

"We knew they were big," Hyder said of Bainbridge. "We wanted to make them run, and we did make them do that."

An expected threat by Bainbridge via its air game never materialized, as the Bearcats' 6-7 end, Donald Barber, failed to pull in a pass reception all night.

"I was pleased we were able to play so many men," said Hyder. "It gives the players a chance to learn things they couldn't learn on the practice field."

"We're very pleased with the play of John Bond at quarterback, and of William Gaskins, Sam Fletcher, Frank Council and Alvin Thomas."

Council put Valdosta on the scoreboard midway through the opening quarter when he scampered 13 yards through the Bainbridge defense to score.

The first of four successful PAT tries by Robert Baldwin made the score 7-0, and Valdosta was off and running. Thomas later pulled in a 16-yard scoring pass which was thrown as Belue was being pulled to the ground by a

Bearcat defender.

Then, split end John Lastinger dragged down a Belue pass late in the second period, on the Bainbridge five yard line. He slithered past at least three would-be tacklers into the end zone as 'Dosta blew to a 22-0 halftime advantage.

Belue encountered problems with the Bainbridge rush early in the game, and finished with minus five yards rushing, mainly on the strength of being thrown behind the line for losses four times.

But his passes were so much on target, and the Wildcat defense so dominating, that Valdosta never punted until well into the second half.

Hyder began inserting Bond and other backup players into the game in the second quarter. Reserves played much of the second half for Valdosta.

But it made no difference as far as scoring was concerned, as Valdosta racked up seemingly effortless touchdowns.

Second-string halfback Ernest King broke loose on a 63-yard scoring run in the third quarter, and defensive tackle Curtis Wright picked up a Bainbridge fumble and rambled six yards to paydirt in the third quarter as Valdosta's lead grew to 36-0.

There was a good reason, namely the Wildcat defense, why Bainbridge's side of the scoreboard remained silent through much of the excitement.

Outweighed at many positions, Valdosta defenders held the Bearcats to just two first downs in the initial half, spurred on by Lynn Roberts, who specialized in bruising tackles behind the line of scrimmage.

Only in the fourth quarter, mainly against Valdosta reserves, could the Bearcats get untracked.

Lee Walker took a 36-yard pass from quarterback Kent Shealy on the Valdosta

three-yard scoring run by the Bainbridge signal-caller early in the final quarter.

Then, midway through the quarter, Clyde Mackey took a pitchout and rambled 21 yards to score, cutting the Wildcat lead to 36-13.

But Bond came back with just over three minutes remaining to score from four yards out on a keeper, then marched the team downfield in the final minute, with Gaskins going over from the five.

King wound up with 73 yards rushing for Valdosta. Mackey led Bainbridge runners with 69. Council led all pass receivers with 56 yards on four catches.

Hyder had praise for his defense, John Branam, Doug Conway, and Roberts in particular.

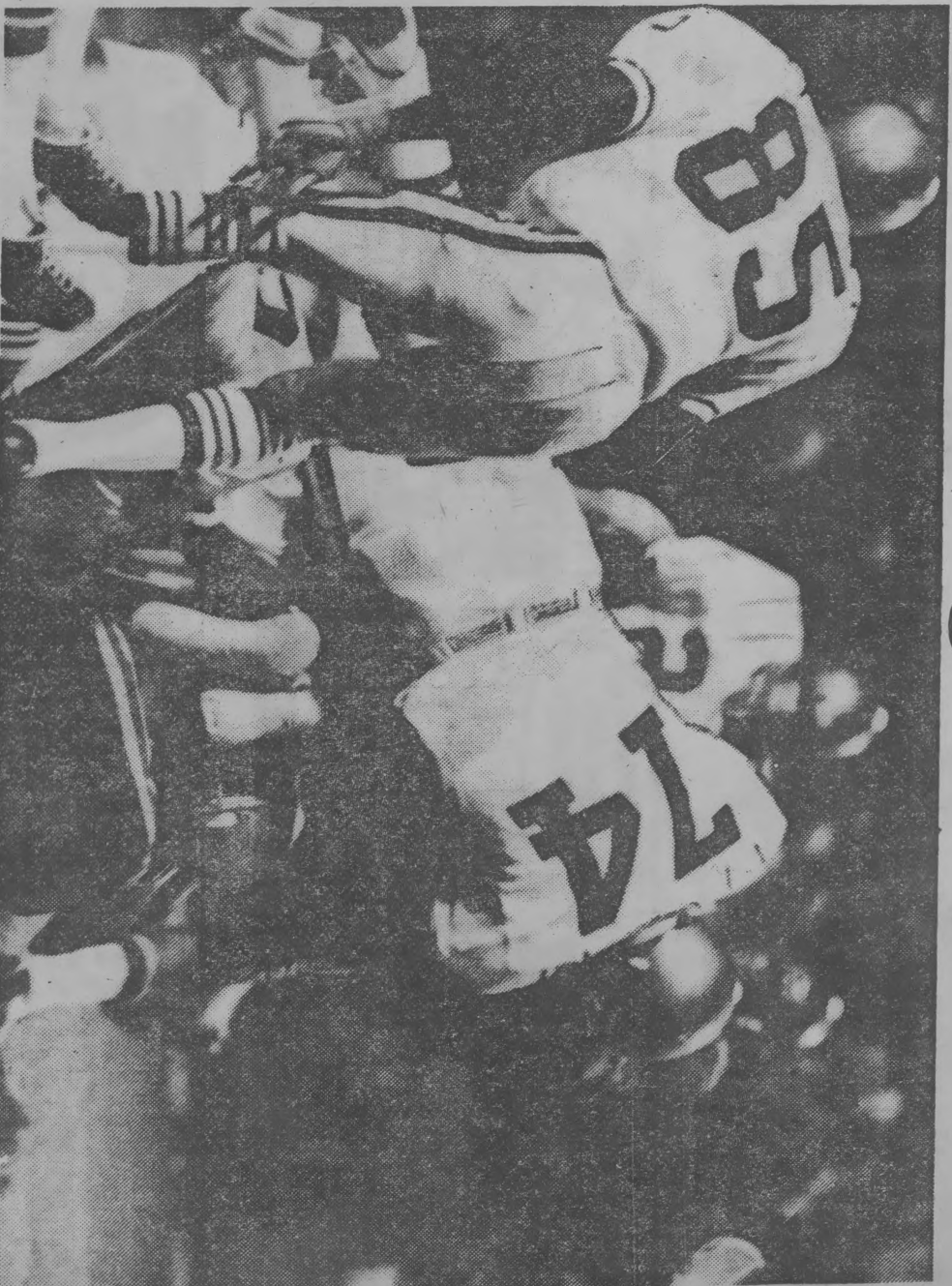
"The defense gave us good field position," he said, "and that helped. That's a main reason why we didn't punt in the first half."

Belue gave much of the credit for the team's offensive performance to the line. "They really opened up holes," he said.

"The main thing," he said, "pointing to the 280 yards the team rolled up in rushing yardage, 'is that we showed that we could run.'"

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Valdosta — Fletcher 7-102, King 7-73, Council 5-33, Gaskins 5-22, Bond 4-22, Welch 1-15, Hunter 1-8, Wilcox 1-5, Smith 4-5, Belue 6 (minus 5); Bainbridge — Mackey 15-69, Close 5-38, Shealy 10-13, Parks 3-8, Jones 2-6, Walker 5-1.
 Passing: Valdosta — Belue 10-14-131-1, Bond 2-9-29-2; Bainbridge — Shealy 5-10-64, Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Council 4-56, Thomas 3-43, Washington 2-29, Lastinger 2-28, Blair 1-6; Bainbridge — Walker 1-36, Forsyth 2-21, Jones 1-9, Parks 1 (minus 2).
 Punt Returns: Valdosta — Thomas 2-38; Bainbridge — no returns.
 Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — Council 3-44; Bainbridge — Jones 3-48, Mackey 1-15.
 Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Johnson 4, Roberts 4, Lloyd 4, Hancock 3, Clifton 3, Rickman 3, Beauford 2, Wright 2, Roe 2, Conway 2, McQuialig 2; Bainbridge — Bouie 8, Smith 7, Poliviri 6, Atkins 6, Smiley 6, Rudd 3, T. Jones 3, Douglas 2, Baukman 2, Stubbs 2.
 Score by Quarters:
 Valdosta 9 14 14 — 49
 Bainbridge 0 0 0 13 — 13
 Val. — Council 13 run (Baldwin kick)
 Val. — Thomas two pass from Belue (Baldwin kick)
 Val. — Lastinger 19 pass from Belue (Hankins pass from Belue)
 Val. — King 63 run (Baldwin kick)
 Val. — Wright six run (Baldwin kick)
 Bal. — Shealy three run (Bess kick)
 Bal. — Mackey 21 run (kick failed)
 Val. — Bond four run (Bond kick)



Valdosta's David Reaves (74) Latches On To Bearcat Ballcarrier

—Times Staff Photo

Future Business Leaders Club At VHS Elects Officers

Times 9-19-77

By Times Staff Writer

Steve Shapiro has been elected president of the Valdosta High School chapter of Future Business Leaders of America.

Elected with him at the recent meeting were: Roney Jones, first vice president, son of Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Jones; Mack Seckinger, second vice president, son of Mrs.

Helen Perry; Michele Graham, third vice president, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. B.D. Graham; Peggy Perry, recording secretary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Perry.

Paula Gombas, corresponding secretary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gombas Jr.; Jo Lynne Salter, treasurer, daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Salter Jr.; Bridget Campbell, historian, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Campbell; Karen Tyler, reporter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D.M. Tyler, and Gwyneth Padgett, parliamentarian, wife of Donnie R. Padgett.

Shapiro, a senior, was vice president last year of the VHS chapter and was state vice

president. He has been a member three years.

The club's main service project is to work with the March of Dimes as it did last year.

The FBLA was presented a plaque by the National March of Dimes at the National FBLA convention held in July in Denver, Colo.



Times 9-19-77

Let's Talk About It

Valdosta High School halfback William Gaskins either isn't sure of the play or just wants to talk things over with substitute quarterback John Bond during Friday night's game with Bainbridge high school. Whatever the last-second conference

was about, it worked well. The Wildcats downed the Bears 50-13 at Cleveland Field and both Bond and Gaskins scored touchdowns. — Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III



State Track Champions

Three members of Valdosta High School's state record setting relay teams hold the baton stating their achievement. Roseziner Jackson, Vera Dotson and Lisa Jones, from left, combined with Annie Gray, who was sick,

and not pictured, placed first in the 440-yard and mile relays in the state AAAA girls track meet. Their times of 48.5 and 3:39.2 seconds established state marks. Times Staff Photo By Robert Winter III.

Valdosta-Thomasville: Still Life-and-Death

Valdosta-Thomasville used to be a life-and-death affair — literally.

The game was a matter of civic and school pride and a traditional rivalry (the series is the oldest in South Georgia football). And the loser almost always lost a shot at the Region 1-AAA and state titles.

That's all still true — almost.

The two teams have been separated by a new sub-region setup in 1-AAA — Valdosta has been placed in the North and Thomasville in the South. That means the loser won't forfeit its hope for the title because of the outcome of their regular season game.

But the contest hasn't lost any meaning in other respects. The civic pride (the two towns are only 48 miles apart) is still there. As a matter-of-fact, Friday night's Wildcat-Bulldog contest in Thomasville is expected to draw a sellout crowd of over 10,000.

The school pride is there. Valdosta still remembers 1974, when the Bulldogs belted the Wildcats 40-0 on their way to a national championship, and Thomasville isn't forgetting the fact that it hasn't beaten the Wildcats since then.

And neither coach — heaven forbid — is taking the game any less seriously for its new non-league status.

In fact, the outcome might still have some bearing in the event of a tie in either sub-region at the end of the regular season. In such a case, the overall records would be used to determine which team would go to the playoffs.

"There's no letup as far as we're concerned," said Valdosta's Nick Hyder, whose team is coming off victories over Crisp (40-14) and Bainbridge (50-13). "In Valdosta you hope and play to win them all. You don't ever think about losing down here."

The Bulldogs' Jim Hughes has similar thoughts about Friday night, when his 2-0 Bulldogs (33-14 and 14-0 wins over Albany and Westover) take on Buck Belue & Co.



Ga. Preps Kevin Brown

"This game means an awful lot to us," said the eighth-year coach. "For one thing, it's the only game we play this week."

"We go out there to win every time we play and this game is no different. We wanted to be 2-0 right now and we want to be 3-0 after Friday night."

Hyder, typically, says that Thomasville is a team that is "capable of beating us," and when gametime comes he'll "play everyone that's ready."

The 'Cats' coach told of the pressures of the still-young season.

"First of all, there's the human factor — we're dealing with teenage youngsters. Secondly, we've been given the No. 1 tag in the polls (Thomasville was No. 10 in last week's poll) and everyone is always out to knock off the one on top. And thirdly, we have the Valdosta tradition.

"Everybody wants to beat us. Even when we were 3-7 a couple of years ago, each team took a lot of delight in knocking us off."

Hughes feels that his team can upset No. 1.

"The key is to control the ball throughout the game," Hughes said. "If we can control it, it will give Belue fewer chances to pull the trigger."

He's also quick to point out that the star quarterback is not the only player on the Wildcats' roster.

"If they put Buck out there by himself we'd be all right, but they have 21 other guys that play a whole lot, too."

Valdosta won last year, 29-9, but did it in unusual fashion — the Wild-

cats scored three touchdowns within a span of 20 seconds.

It was in the second quarter and the Wildcats had just scored on a halfback option pass. On the ensuing kickoff, the Bulldogs fumbled and Valdosta's Leon Johnson picked it up and ran it in for the score. The second kickoff was an instant replay, with Johnson picking a loose ball up again and racing to his second score.

Thomasville will think about that bizarre series of events a lot between now and Friday night.

★ ★ ★

THINGS WERE moving along very nicely for Lowndes' Joe Wilson. The Vikings have given up only six points in three games and are 3-0.

But there's been a sudden turn of events that may make it harder for the Vikings to keep that streak going.

Wilson said before the season that his biggest worry was depth, or lack of it. That lack may be beginning to haunt him now.

Viking running back Robin McElroy will more than likely be out the rest of the season following a Sunday night accident. McElroy fell and broke his leg while skating and that will probably sideline him for six-eight weeks.

McElroy had been averaging over 5.5 yards per carry. In Lowndes' 35-0 smashing of Moultrie, the junior raced 52 yards with a punt for a touchdown and also coralled a Kenny Luke aerial for another TD on a 41-yard screen pass play.

And when it rains, it pours. Wilson's son Jody is also out for two-three weeks with torn ligaments in his knee. The younger Wilson is a split end and safety and was selected *The Times-Union's* lineman-of-the-week for his performance in a 28-0 win over Monroe two weeks ago.

The Vikings host Central in another key sub-region game Friday night.

(Kevin Brown is a sports writer with *The Times-Union*.)

GRIFFIN TUMBLES

Valdosta Returns to the Top in AAA

By STEVE FIGUEROA
Constitution Prep Editor

Last week, it was Dalton. This week, Griffin.

Once again, a major upset of a top-ranked team has turned an ordinary week into a memorable one among the high school top tens.

Newton County's 3-0 shocker over AAA's No. 1 team, Griffin, sparked a revision of the AAA poll that saw the Valdosta Wildcats once again take the hot-seat as the state's top team.

Valdosta, with two straight routs, 40-14 over Crisp County and 50-13 over Bainbridge, moved easily into the top AAA perch, as Griffin's Bears dropped to No. 4.

Just to keep the ball rolling, Wheeler, No. 3 last week, lost for the first time in four outings and plunged to tenth in the latest ratings. Campbell of Smyrna, with Erwin Mattox leading the way, humbled the mighty

Wildcats, 27-10.

Kendrick was the third ranked AAA team to lose this past week, but it was not much of an upset, as the No. 10 ranked Cherokees fell, 27-6, to Warner Robins, which moved from fifth to second with the victory and the combination of the Griffin and Wheeler losses.

Kendrick fell from the elite after the region loss, making room for Lowndes, which took a big step towards the sub-region 1-AAA South crown with a 35-0 rout of Moultrie. The Vikings' impressive victory over a good Moultrie team earned them the No. 7 spot this week.

Things were a lot more stable in Class AA, as only No. 10 Dodge County lost, and that was to No. 9 Swainsboro. Dodge dropped from the poll, making room for region 3-AA foe Dublin, which knocked off previously unbeaten Johnson County, 34-12, this

past week.

There were two losers in the Class A poll, as Vidalia lost another close one to region-mate Irwin County and Lamar County was nipped by Taylor County, 20-19.

Vidalia fell to tenth in the latest poll, while Lamar County dropped from the rankings to be replaced by unbeaten Mary Persons, fresh from a 26-0 blanking of Putnam County.

In Class B, Jefferson and West Point both fell to Class A opponents, while Savannah Country Day edged by ranked region foe Reidsville, 11-7.

Oconee County nipped Jefferson, 13-12, sending the Dragons from second to fourth in the poll, while West Point fell from fifth to ninth after losing to Manchester, 12-7.

Country Day, ninth last week, fell from the rankings after its loss, making room for Gordon Lee.

High School Top Tens

Class AAA		Class A	
1. Valdosta (2-0)	2. Warner Robins (3-0)	1. East Rome (3-0)	2. Commerce (3-1)
3. Clarke Central (3-0)	4. Griffin (2-1)	3. North Springs (2-0-1)	4. Seminole County (2-0)
5. Richmond Academy (3-0)	6. Southwest DeKalb (3-0)	5. Bowdon (2-1)	6. Early County (2-0)
7. Lowndes (3-0)	8. Benedictine (3-0)	7. George (2-0)	8. Claxton (3-0)
9. Central, Thomasville (1-1)	10. Wheeler (3-1)	9. Mary Persons (3-0)	10. Vidalia (1-1)
Also receiving consideration (in alphabetical order): Butler (3-0), Campbell, Smyrna (3-1), Cedar Shoals (3-1), Dougherty (2-0), Kendrick (3-1), Lakeside (2-1), Laney (3-0), Newnan (2-0), North Cobb (4-0), Peachtree (3-0), Sprayberry (3-1), Statesboro (3-0).		Also receiving consideration (in alphabetical order): Cartersville (2-2), Central Gwinnett (3-0), Glimmer (4-0), Harlem (2-1), Irwin County (1-2-1), Jackson (2-0-1), Jeff Davis (1-2), Johnson County (2-1), Lamar County (2-1), Manchester (3-1), Milton (3-1), Russell (3-0), Taylor County (2-0), Turner County (1-1).	
Class AA		Class B	
1. Fayette County (4-0)	2. Woodward (3-0)	1. Lincoln County (2-0)	2. Bremen (4-0)
3. Americus (3-0)	4. Ware County (2-0)	3. Buford (1-1-1)	4. Jefferson (3-1)
5. Dalton (2-1)	6. Stephens County (3-0)	5. Pelham (3-0)	6. Reidsville (2-0-1)
7. Lakeshore (3-0)	8. Avondale (2-1)	7. Macon County (2-1)	8. Charlton County (2-1)
9. Swainsboro (2-0)	10. Dublin (3-0)	9. West Point (2-2)	10. Gordon Lee (4-0)
Also receiving consideration (in alphabetical order): Appling County (2-1), Cedarblow (2-0-1), Chattooga (2-0-1), Coffee (2-0), Dodge County (2-1), Gordon (2-1), Decatur (2-0), Dodge County (2-1), Gordon (2-1), Waycross (2-0), Westminster (2-1).		Also receiving consideration (in alphabetical order): Hogansville (2-1), Louisville (1-1), Metter (1-1), Rabun County (2-1-1), Sav. Country Day (1-2), Union County (3-0-1), Vienna (2-1), Wheeler County (2-0-1).	

VHS Coach Easy Target For Pointers



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

It was only two in the afternoon, but Nick Hyder's face was so flushed he looked as if he had been on a week-long hibernation with five cases of Milwaukee's finest.

Everybody knows the Valdosta High School head football coach doesn't touch the stuff, but on this devilishly hot Wednesday afternoon, even he might have been tempted to pop a top or two.

And not just because of the heat.

It's tough enough to coach in a town where fans think of state and national titles instead of region championships and just having a good year.

It's tough enough to coach in a town where the football team is rated number one in the state ... and is expected to live up to that ranking with lopsided victories every Friday night.

But to coach in a town when that town's football team has just been forced to forfeit its first two wins of the season must be a burden even Job would have had trouble carrying.

Despite watching a 2-0 record turn into an 0-2 record on the basis of Alvin Thomas' ineligibility Wednesday, Hyder was holding up remarkably well.

The 20-year veteran of the coaching profession answered every phone call, confirming the worst fears of each caller that yes, indeed Valdosta was forfeiting its first two games. A 40-14 win over Crisp County and a 50-13 blistering of Bainbridge were down the tube.

"But we're not dead yet," Hyder said to almost every caller. "We've just got to go back and start all over. We've just got to suck it up and go again. This thing's not over yet."

Hyder's right. The Region 1-AAA (North) subregion race is far from over. But with those two losses pinned to their ears, the Wildcats gave artificial respiration to every other team in the subregion.

It's really ironic. the subregion should be the saving grace for Valdosta. VHS was one of a very small minority to vote against subdividing at the February meeting this year.

"I'm just glad we got voted down," Hyder said.

If subdivision had not carried, Valdosta would be out of the region race right now. How many times has a team from the toughest football league in the state won this region with two losses?

The reason Valdosta has zero wins and two losses right now is because of that incurable disease called being human. It's a known fact mere mortals are going to make mistakes every now and then. It's just unfortunate this one had to be made at this particular point in time.

And the blame ... well, everyone always looks for somebody else to point the accusing finger at, but Hyder knows better than anyone that a lot of those fingers are going to be ultimately aimed in his direction. As head coach, he is the easiest target.

The story unfolds like this, according to Hyder.

Hyder does not check the records and birthdate of every player on his roster. He said the "clerical staff" of the school does. When the staff sent in the names and ages of the VHS football team this year, it didn't notice Alvin Thomas was born on Feb. 16, 1958. To be eligible, he would have had to have been born after May 1.

The roster arrived in the Georgia High School Association office in the preseason and was checked by GHSA officials to determine if any of the Wildcats were ineligible. Thomas' birthday was again overlooked. He was cleared to play.

Recently, Thomas' name was again sent to the GHSA office, this time on the preseason VHS basketball roster. Somebody up there in Thomaston found his birthday this time, and sent word to VHS principal Lloyd Mims that Thomas was ineligible for basketball.

Mims immediately realized if Alvin was disqualified for basketball, he should have been ineligible for football too ... which he was.

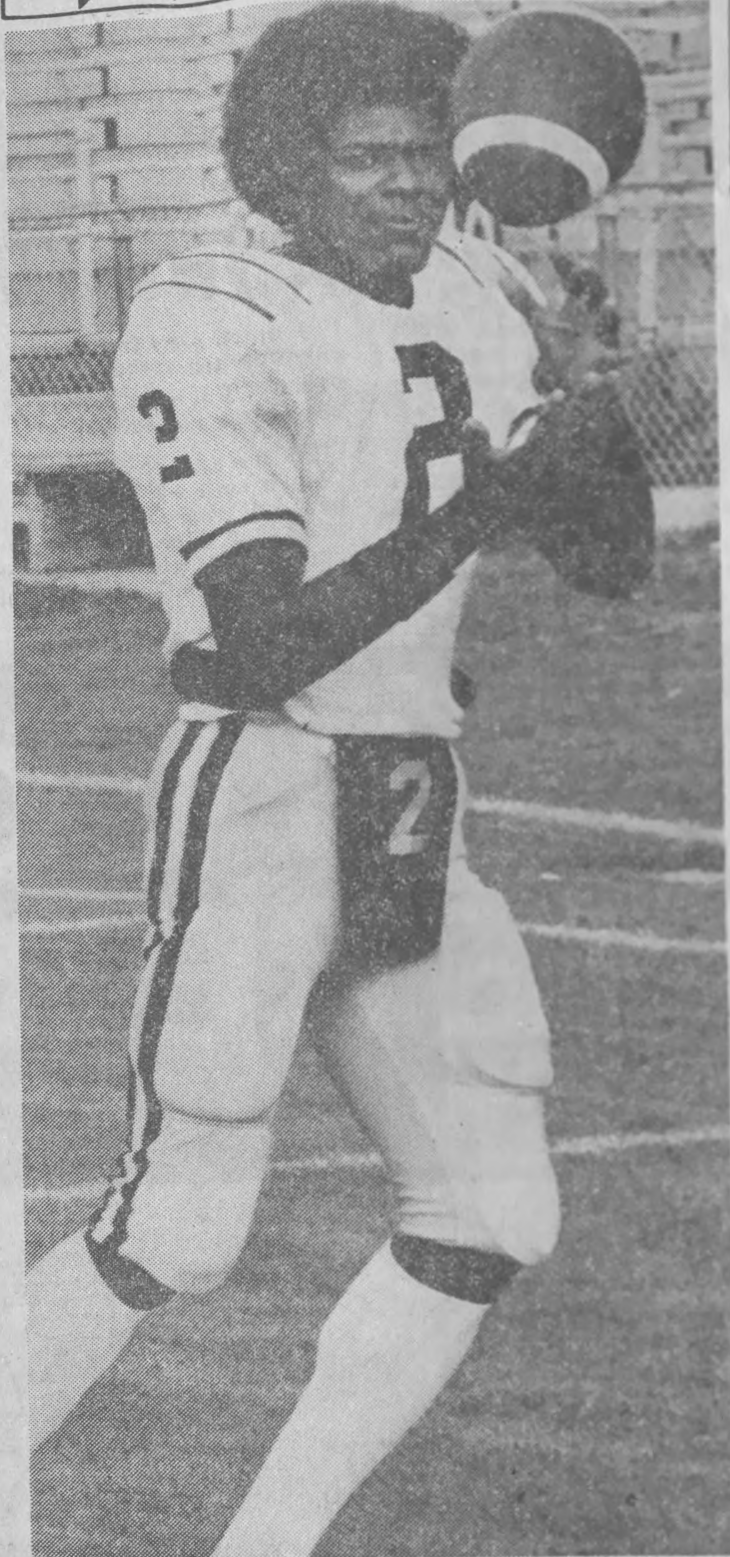
Even though the GHSA had cleared him for football, he was still ineligible, and Valdosta still has to forfeit the two games.

"There are some other things mentioned like fines and suspension, but I don't think this is a flagrant violation of the rules at all," GHSA Executive Secretary Bill Fordham said. "They turned themselves in. We evidently just ran by the date. Both those games will go down as 1-0 forfeits. I believe they have already sent letters of forfeiture to those schools.

"They didn't try to hide anything, and I've never known them to be any other way."

On a day when bright spots were as rare as spotted zebras, Hyder thought he found one.

"Well, this should get the number one thing off our



—Times Staff Photo

Alvin Thomas: VHS Career Is Over

back," he said of the Wildcats' number one ranking in the Associated Press state class AAA poll. "I thought it was a little early for that anyway."

As a team, the Wildcats seemed to take the news about as well as anybody, probably a lot better than their parents and supporters.

"I bet we're the only team in the state averaging 45 points a game with two losses," one of them said.

Most agreed it was possible to come back and still win the region title. Beating the remaining four subregion foes would almost guarantee the 'Cats being in the region playoff, unless Crisp won all four of its remaining subregion games.

And while all the excited talk and speculation was going on, Thomas stood quietly with a few friends. He looked odd in street clothes among his teammates.

It was hard not to think about those long summer camp practices, the drudgery of the two weeks of practice before the first game, playing in the first two games of what was supposed to be his final and best year and finally to be told he couldn't play any more.

Games are lifeless objects that are won and lost every day. Alvin Thomas will never win his senior year back.

Wildcats To Forfeit First Two Games

Receiver Found To Be Ineligible

By MIKE CHASON
Valdosta, the number one ranked class AAA high school football team in the state, has forfeited its first two games of the season, according to VHS principal Lloyd Mims.

"We've got to forfeit to Crisp County and Bainbridge because we played an ineligible player in those games," Mims said.

Mims said tight end Alvin Thomas has been declared ineligible after playing in Valdosta's 40-14 victory over Crisp County as well as a 50-13 win over Bainbridge.

Mims said Thomas turned 19 years old on Feb. 16 this year. He said the rule states an athlete can not turn 19 before May 1.

"We sent in our football eligibility sheets and didn't catch it," Mims said. "They didn't even catch it at the state (Georgia High School Association) office

"But then when we were sending in our basketball eligibility forms, we caught it.

"I'm just sorry for the boys. If anybody's to blame, I am. It's just one of those things."

Region 1-AAA is subdivided for the first time this season,

and Valdosta's win over Crisp was a north subregion game. Bainbridge campaigns in the south subregion.

Thomas has been a starter for the Wildcats the past two seasons. He was named an offensive co-captain of the squad this year.

After failing to catch a pass in Valdosta's opener, the 6-3, 190-pounder latched on to three passes for 43 yards and one touchdown against Bainbridge.

Even with the losses, Valdosta still has a chance to make the region playoff with subregion games remaining against Dougherty (Albany), Tift County (Tifton), Monroe (Albany) and Albany High School.

Winning those games would assure the Wildcats of at least a playoff unless Crisp County won all its remaining subregion games.

If two teams wound up in a tie for the subregion title, the champion would be determined by which one won the two teams' regular season meeting.

If more than two teams are involved in a tie, the champion would be determined by the best regular season record among the tied teams.

With a 1-0 subregion record and 1-1 overall mark, Crisp County has the most to gain from the forfeits.

"That's sort of a shock," Crisp head coach Ferrell Henry said. "I don't know how to react. I hate for it to happen. They were off to a great start with a great team.

"I'm certain it was unintentional. I'm really shocked."

Bainbridge coach Miller Shealy said "I'm dumbfounded. I can't believe it.

"It's easy to make mistakes like they did. I'm not upset with Valdosta at all.

"I'm sorry it happened."

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder was unavailable for comment.

Lowndes Fifth Times 9-21-77

'Dosta Remains Atop AAA Poll

ATLANTA (AP) — Newton County's second victory in two years was a sweet one as it knocked off Griffin of Class AAA 3-0 over the weekend in a Georgia high school football game to drop the Bears from fourth to seventh in this week's rankings.

An Associated Press panel of sportswriters and broadcasters had little trouble picking Valdosta, Americus, East Rome and Lincoln County to maintain top spots in Classes AAA, AA, A and B. All were victorious over the weekend.

Griffin, picked by sportswriters to be a major contender for the AAA state championship this season, had managed only a 14-0 victory over Rockdale County and a 14-7 defeat of Central of Macon this month.

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

Class AAA	
1. Valdosta (2-0)	93
2. Warner Robins (3-0)	90
3. Clarke Central (3-0)	68
4. Richmond Acad. (3-0)	66
5. Lowndes (3-0)	55
6. Benedictine (3-0)	43
7. Griffin (2-1)	24
8. Peachtree (3-0)	18
9. S.W. DeKalb (3-0)	15
10. Butler (3-0)	12
tie. Thomasville (2-0)	12
Other nominated: Cedar Shoals (3-1), Dougherty (2-0), LaGrange (1-1), Lake side (2-1), Laney (3-), Newnan (2-0), Northside-W.R. (2-1), R.E. Lee (2-1), Statesboro (3-0) and Wheeler (3-1).	
Class AA	
1. Americus (3-0)	90
2. Woodward Acad. (3-0)	87
3. Fayette Co. (4-0)	74
4. Ware Co. (2-0)	60
5. Dublin (3-0)	56
6. Swainsboro (2-0)	41
7. Dalton (2-1)	36
8. Stephens Co. (3-0)	33
9. Avondale (2-1)	23
10. Lakeshore (3-0)	21
Other nominated: Appling Co. (2-1), Chattooga (2-0-1), Coffee (2-0), Decatur (2-0), Dodge Co. (2-1), Gainesville (2-1-1), Peach Co. (3-0), Perry (3-1), Ridgeview (2-0), Waycross (2-0) and Westminster (2-1).	
Class A	
1. East Rome (3-0)	99
2. Seminole Co. (2-0)	83
3. Early Co. (2-0)	67
4. Commerce (3-1)	64
5. Mary Persons (3-0)	47
6. North Springs (2-0-1)	41
7. Wilkinson Co. (2-0)	38
8. Bowdon (2-1)	33
9. Vidalia (1-1)	24
10. Central Gwinnett (0)	16
Other nominated: Claxton (3-0), Clinch Co. (1-1), George (2-0), Irwin Co. (1-2-1), Johnson Co. (2-1), Lamar Co. (2-1), Manchester (3-1) and Oconee Co. (2-0).	

Class B	
1. Lincoln Co. (2-0)	100
2. Bremen (4-0)	89
3. Pelham (3-0)	71
4. Reidsville (2-0-1)	67
5. Jefferson (3-1)	60
6. Buford (1-1-1)	39
7. Charlton Co. (3-0)	27
8. Gordon Lee (4-0)	19
9. Macon Co. (2-1)	16
10. West Point (2-2)	13
Other nominated: Atkinson Co. (1-1-1), Hogansville (2-1), Mt. de Sales (1-2), Mt. Zion (1-1-1), Rabun Co. (2-1-1), Savannah Country Day (1-2), Union Co. (3-0-1) and Wheeler Co. (2-0-1).	

Fla. Times Union Sep 22, 1977

Ineligible Player Costly to Valdosta

By LAWRENCE DENNIS
Times-Union Sports Writer

Valdosta High School, whose Wildcats are the top-ranked Class AAA football team in Georgia and were an odds-on favorite to win the Region I-AAA crown and perhaps the state title, announced Wednesday that it is forfeiting its first two games of the season because it used an ineligible player.

Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said the Wildcats used the ineligible player, tight end Alvin Thomas, in their 40-14 and 50-13 wins over Crisp County and Bainbridge, and would forfeit both games.

The move means that Albany Dougherty, unranked but 2-0 in Region I-AAA (North), takes over the inside track in the sub-region race, since the game against Crisp counted in the league standings and gives Valdosta a 0-1 record.

The Wildcats, who are now 0-2 overall, host Dougherty Sept. 30.

Thomas, one of the Wildcats' team captains, is ineligible because of age. The 19-year-old was cleared for eligibility purposes through a double clerical error — on the part of officials at Valdosta High and at the Georgia High School Association (GHS) offices at Thomaston.

"It was mistake on both levels," Hyder told The Times-Union. "It was a clerical error by both us and the GHS. We turned in his football eligibility papers in June. They came back approved."

Eligibility forms, primarily biographical information sheets, must be filed with the GHS for every player competing in high school ath-



Nick Hyder

Alvin Thomas

letics to insure that average players are not used. VHS officials filed a second set of eligibility papers for Thomas — for basketball purposes — a few weeks ago.

That's when the GHS caught the error — Thomas was 19 on Feb. 10, 1977. Association rules state that a player may be 19 on May 2 of the school year and still compete the following year.

"They caught it on the basketball form," Hyder said. "They missed it on their record for football."

Valdosta Principal Lloyd Mims received notification of Thomas' ineligibility for basketball and the

school then contacted GHS Executive Secretary Bill Fordham. "We caught the mistake and called the Association ourselves," Mims said.

"They called me immediately, informing me that the boy was over age," Fordham confirmed. "They had called the other schools involved telling them they were going to forfeit the games and said that they would send them letters to that effect."

Fordham said that, under the rule, no other course of action could have been taken. "It doesn't matter whether it was intentional or not. It's the individual school's responsibility

to know. I thanked them for calling us."

Theoretically, VHS could be suspended, fined, or placed on probation, but Fordham said that any such action by the GHS would be extremely unlikely.

"If they had played someone intentionally or done it belligerently they would be subject to suspension, but that's not the case with Valdosta."

Mims took full blame for the mix-up. "I take the blame, the full responsibility for all of this," the VHS principal said. "As principal of the school, I'm responsible for everything that goes on out here."

Hyder said that the incident was regrettable, but emphasized that there was no intentional wrongdoing on the part of anyone involved — school officials, coaches, or Thomas.

"It wasn't his fault," the Wildcat coach said. "He started school when he was 6, but almost 7. He repeated the fourth grade."

"Our main concern is for Alvin. He's the focal point of a controversy that is not his doing. We want him to stay in school. He's still going to stay with the team, as a manager or an assistant coach."

Thomas, who caught five passes and scored a touchdown against Crisp and snagged a pass for a two-point conversion against Bainbridge, was suited up for Valdosta's normal Wednesday afternoon practice.

Hyder reached practice late after answering questions from num-

bers of newspaper and television reporters who swarmed to the school.

Bainbridge Coach Miller Shealey, whose Bearcats picked up their first "win" in two years through the forfeiture, said that the whole thing was tragic.

"That's outrageous," Shealey told The Times-Union. "I hate to see 90-100 kids penalized over a clerical error. It's rough on them — they deserve to be where they are. It wouldn't have made any difference in our game if the boy hadn't played. It's too bad, but that's the rule."

Hyder's immediate concern is the Wildcats' Friday night game with undefeated and 10th-ranked Thomasville. "Psychologically, it's a problem. Anytime you have a sudden change in status it's a problem."

The result of that game, unlike the forfeit to Crisp, won't count in the sub-region standings, but could be a factor, like the forfeit to Bainbridge, if the Wildcats end the regular season in a deadlock with one of the other five teams in the league.

"We have a chance to fight back," Hyder said. "We may be down, but we're not out."

But the main worry, Hyder emphasized, was Thomas' future. "The team's main concern right now is for Alvin to stay in school. His teammates want him to stay in school. We're No. 1, and when you're No. 1 and something happens to you, everybody thinks you're down. We're just interested in Alvin."

Tech Tales of Woe Stopped by Lowe

Fla Times Union Oct 14 '77
By KARL GREEN

Times-Union Correspondent

ATLANTA — The Georgia Tech defensive secondary drew lots of attention before the season started. Tales of woe that would do Bear Bryant justice emanated from Grant Field in early September. Then the season started and the tears began to dry.

Freshman Lawrence Lowe played strong safety in the season opener against South Carolina and helped anchor the pass defense. Lowe, a native of Valdosta, returned a pass for a touchdown last week against Tennessee. It was his second pick-off of the season. Earlier he had grabbed one against Miami.

Lowe played defensive secondary for Valdosta High School last year, after moving from split end. "I like playing defense a lot better than playing split end. I just don't like the opposing split end, so I like playing defense," he said.

George Atkinson of the Oakland Raiders is the person Lowe wants to model himself after. "I really admire Atkinson. In fact, I really admire the entire Oakland secondary. They play hard and with intensity. I don't think that's dirty football.

"That's why I don't like the other team's split end. If you like the guy, you don't play with the same intensity against him," said Lowe.

Lowe, despite a tough attitude during the game, admits to getting butterflies before he takes the field. "I think everyone gets butterflies for a few minutes before the games, especially when there are 82,000 people in the stands. Once you get out on the field though you just concentrate on the game and everything settles down."

Lowe settled down last week when he picked off a Tennessee pass and returned it 49 yards for a touchdown. "I just stepped in front of the ball and caught it. I looked down field and the only orange

jersey I could see was the quarterback. Someone picked him up and I got in easily," the 6-foot-4½, 200-pounder said.

Lowe had no problems deciding to go to Georgia Tech. "I came to three or four football games last fall. The Notre Dame game was the icing on the cake. I thought Tech played my kind of football game," he said.

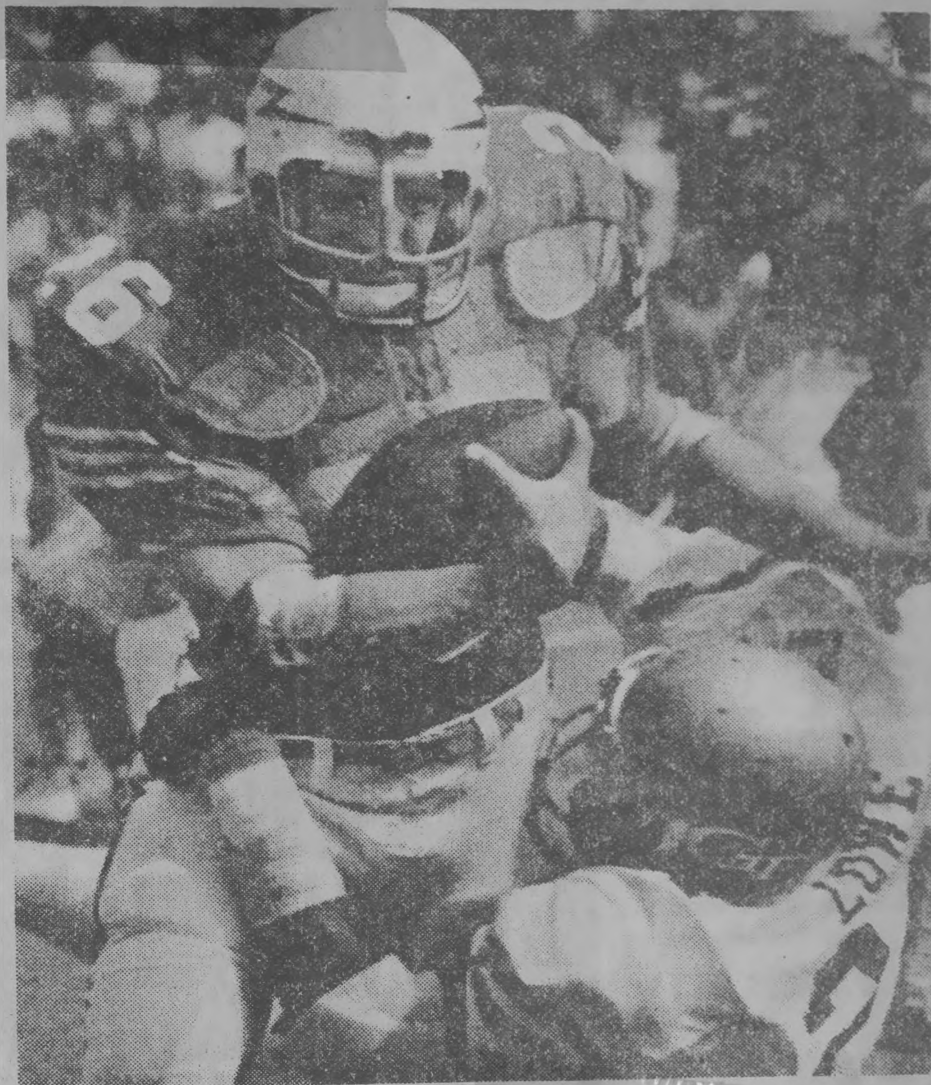
Lowe could have gone to other schools — he was actively recruited by Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina in addition to Tech. "Coach Rodgers made the difference. He is different in his approach from Bryant, (Georgia Coach Vince) Dooley and (South Carolina Coach Jim) Carlen. Rodgers made me feel like I was going to treat him like a man, and he was going to treat me like a man."

Another reason that made Lowe select Tech was his family. Lowe, the youngest of four children, wanted to stay close to home. "My mother has been sickly of late. Since I was the youngest and the last to leave, I felt like I ought to stay close to home," he said.

Lowe is a freshman playing in an inexperienced secondary. Only Don Bessilieu and Don Patterson, both juniors, had played any college football before the season started. The rest of the secondary consists of freshman or walk-ons.

Lowe has had to make several adjustments in his style of play since coming to Tech. "In high school I played the ball a lot more and got more interceptions. Now I'm more concerned with stopping the run. I play against the offensive lineman more than I did in Valdosta. Everything considered, I think our coach, Jack Westbrook (Tech's defensive backfield coach), has done a heck of a job."

Lowe hasn't had any regrets about coming to Tech. "I haven't had much time for anything other than football and studying. Still I like the atmosphere and the people. Everyone is friendly around here," he added.



Lawrence Lowe Pulls Down Air Force Runner for No Gain

UPI PHOTO

THE
ATLANTA
CONSTITUTION
Thurs., Sept. 22, 1977

SPO

GHSA RULES PLAYER INELIGIBLE

Valdosta Forced to

By STEVE FIGEUGOA
Constitution Prep Editor

Valdosta High School, The Constitution's top ranked AAA high school football team, has been forced to forfeit its first two games of the season.

Wide receiver Alvin Thomas was declared ineligible Wednesday by the Georgia High School Association because of his age. He turned 19 Feb. 10. Under GHSA rules an athlete who

reaches his 19th birthday before May 1 in the year he wants to compete is ineligible.

Thus Valdosta has to forfeit its 40-14 victory over Crisp County and 50-13 rout of Bainbridge.

"We sent in our football eligibility sheets and didn't catch it," said Valdosta High School Principal Lloyd Mims. "They didn't even catch it in the state office.

"I'm just sorry for the boys," Mims said. "If anybody is to blame, I am."

Valdosta Head Coach Nick Hyder said the problem arose when the school sought to have Thomas declared eligible for basketball season through the GHSA office in Thomas-

ton. The losses knock the Wildcats out of first place in the sub-region 1-AAA North standings. Prior to the forfeits

2-D THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, Thur., Sept. 22, 1977

Love is a

The mail:

"Tell me how you broke into my apartment and filched my diary? I read in the Monday, Sept. 12 Constitution (Atlanta's 10 Most Ineligible Bachelors) about my ex-beaus. You didn't just create those people — they exist. Half of them were (my) blind dates. You know the type—they appear at your apartment, and you wish you were blind. Or deaf. Or both.



Grizzard

"Even my brother noticed the similarity between Garret Gammel and one of my dates. Garret met an untimely demise, though, when someone dropped an ash on his leisure suit and it exploded."

Lynn Anderson
Athens

Dear Lynn: It couldn't have happened to a nicer ash

Hyder Had 7 Months Of Worry

The Valdosta Daily Times, Thurs., Oct. 20, 1977-21-

By MIKE CHASON
It was seven months ago when Valdosta whipped Lowndes 30-20 in a high school football spring game. It was also seven months ago when Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder started worrying about Friday night's regular season game against those same Lowndes Vikings.

"I started feeling the pressure right after we played them last March," Hyder said from his office Wednesday afternoon. "I started thinking then that we were going to have to play them again in October."

Despite the relative closeness of the final score of that spring game, Valdosta completely dominated the

contest. The Wildcats were leading 30-0 after three quarters. Lowndes scored all its points on VHS second and third teamers.

But come Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Lowndes' Martin Stadium, that spring game might as well not have been played. Both teams will be dealing from fresh decks.

Hyder's Wildcats are 6-0 on the season and the only unbeaten team in Region 1-AAA. Coach Joe Wilson's Vikings are 5-1 on the year and the only once-beaten team in the same region.

Valdosta is leading the north subregion with a 3-0 record, and Lowndes is tied for south subregion honors with a 2-1 record. The Vikings

have lost only to Central of Thomasville, a team the Wildcats do not play during the regular season.

Unlike Wilson, Hyder doesn't feel the non-subregion clash has lost any of its traditional appeal.

"The normal pressure is there," Hyder said. "We've just worked harder this week, trying not to create any more."

Wilson said on Tuesday he figured the game had lost a little of its "zing" because he was more interested in beating Bainbridge and Thomasville and winning the south subregion than he was in beating Lowndes' traditional cross-county rival.

"I think Lowndes has some things going for them that haven't been publicized," Hyder said. "They're leading the region in sack yardage. They're also the leading team against the rush."

"They're a real sound team because they have a good quick defense. That defense compliments their offense by giving it good field position. And with (Jeff) Stokes, they have a good kicking game."

"It's going to be tough for us to crack that."

Like many coaches, Hyder rarely takes an optimistic approach to a game. From his reaction Wednesday, he's not changing his tune for Friday night.

Of the three times he's

faced Lowndes during the regular season, his Wildcats came closest to getting whipped last season. With two touchdowns in the last five minutes, Valdosta pulled out a 14-3 win.

Hyder figures this Lowndes' team to be even tougher than last year. Again, he pointed to the balance.

"Coach Wilson has had two years with this multiple offense style of play," Hyder said. "It's the Bazemore system he (former Valdosta Coach Wright Bazemore) developed right here in Valdosta."

"He (Wilson) has been able to bring (quarterback) Kenny Luke along and this (Steve) Thomas kid is tough.

At one point, he was leading the region in rushing."

As for Lowndes' top receiver, Nathaniel Burks, Hyder said "he's a major college prospect. He's in the category with (Valdosta quarterback) Buck Belue and any number of the top players around."

Hyder has attended only one Lowndes' game this season, a 20-0 Viking win over Tift County (Tifton) in the season opener.

"I would really rather look at the game from a scouting report point of view," Hyder said. "If I watch a game myself, I let my emotions figure into it too much."

"Our scouts do a terrific job. We work from our scouting report and fit that in with our game plan."

As has always been his custom, Hyder wouldn't reveal just how he plans to aim his Wildcats at the Lowndes' defense, saying only "we'll do whatever they let us do, and they might limit us considerably."

Probable starting lineups for both teams follow:

Injuries

Lowndes Missing Some Key Players



ALLEN WORTHY
Sore Ankle

By Times Staff Writer
Fumbles, interceptions, injuries and luck... all may play a part in Friday night's Lowndes-Valdosta high school football game here.

But one day before the 7:30 p.m. kickoff at Martin Stadium, the injury factor is the only one of the four which can be accurately described.

From the mid-week survey of Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder and Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson, it seems Lowndes has the most problems injury-wise, heading into the long awaited game between the two bitter rivals.

Wilson said Tuesday that halfbacks Jody Wilson, Terry Cooper, and Robin McElroy and safety Chuck Jones "will not play."

Cooper had to have his collarbone put back into place Tuesday. Wilson (the coach's son) still hasn't recovered from a knee injury although he did get in for light action against Westover Saturday.

McElroy is scheduled to get the cast off his broken leg this week. Jones has a knee injury.

"Adam Reese (middle guard) will probably play but he has a badly bruised ankle," Wilson said. "Charles Burgman (defensive end) has one of those shoulders that one lick will put him out, and Ben Washington (linebacker) has a swelled up hand."

Hyder didn't list any player as definitely out for the game but he did say safety Allen Worthy, offensive lineman Fambly Hardin and split end Fredrick Blair were doubtful.

"Worthy has started 39 games for Valdosta High School, but he might not get to start his 40th," Hyder said. "He hurt his ankle in the second quarter of the Moultrie game."

Blair and Hardin both have banged-up knees.

"We've got a lot of other people who are bruised up," Hyder said.



TERRY COOPER
"Will Not Play"

LOWNDES
Offense — ends Kenny Coker (125, sr.) and Chester Foster (180, sr.), tackles Joe Harris (193, sr.) and Leslie Bunie (189, jr.), guards Frank Tyson (165, jr.) and Bobby Kovach (180, sr.), center Ricky Williams (180, sr.), quarterback Kenny Luke (177, sr.), fullback Steve Thomas (180, jr.), halfback Ronnie Mashburn (165, jr.) or Kevin McNeil (165, sr.), flanker Nathaniel Burks (180, sr.).
Defense — ends Charles Burgman (165, sr.) and Tim Yorkey (178, sr.), tackles Keith Hitchcock (183, jr.) and John Flythe (210, jr.), middle guard Adam Reese (155, sr.), linebackers Ben Washington (188, sr.) and Ronnie Adkins (190, jr.), cornerbacks Dennis McDonald (145, jr.) and Hal Sprengle (165, jr.), safeties Bill Schreffler (150, jr.) and Tony Crawford (145, soph.).

VALDOSTA
Offense — ends Sam Fletcher (185, jr.) and John Lastinger (174, jr.), tackles Scott Griffin (190, jr.) or Darrell Swindle (190, jr.) and Gary Guthrie (220, sr.), guards Andy Chapman (180, jr.) and Frank Boscham (170, jr.) or Rob Register (167, jr.), center Tony Blasetti (210, soph.), halfbacks Frank Council (180, sr.) or Robert Smith (155, jr.), fullback William Gaskins (150, jr.) or Ernest King (170, soph.), flanker Melvin Hunter (167, sr.) or Kenny Washington (156, sr.), quarterback Buck Belue (185, jr.).
Defense — ends Lynn Roberts (165, jr.) and Curtis Wright (185, sr.), tackles Doug Conroy (185, jr.) and Ray Lloyd (225, sr.), Carroll Johnson (201, jr.), middle guard Craig Simmons (190, sr.) or Clifford Johnson (182, jr.), linebackers Robert Anderson (206, sr.) and Troy Thomas (192, jr.) or Rodney Gordon (160, jr.), safeties Carl Roe (168, jr.) and Jimmy Hartman (178, sr.).



Nick Hyder: Feels The Pressure

—Times Staff Photo

Viking Injuries Make Valdosta Favorite

If I could pre-paint tonight's Valdosta-Lowndes game, I'd color it a high-scoring, thrill-a-minute chiller with a slam-bang finish. Maybe even have one team (it doesn't matter which one) go for two with no time on the clock to win it.

But those kind of games are predominate only in the mind of a neutral sportswriter. Scripts like that just aren't written on the high school football field on too many Friday nights.

So what kind of game will it be? One fan, who must have supreme confidence in the Wildcats, has already spotted Lowndes 28 points. Another refuses to give the Vikings any. He wants to bet the game exactly even. And if Lowndes had Jody Wilson, Robin McElroy and Terry Cooper available for action, he'd probably be right.

But the Vikings are without the services of the explosive McElroy and the reliable play of Wilson and Cooper, according to LHS Head Coach Joe Wilson. He says not one member of the trio will play. But it's going to be awful tough to keep his own son from playing against a team he played for just last season. The younger Wilson transferred to Lowndes after football season last year.

But if anybody can beat Valdosta, Lowndes is the team that has the potential. The Wildcats have already disposed of Dougherty and Thomasville and don't have to play Central. That leaves Tift and relatively weak Albany and Westover. Tift might be a problem, but not an insurmountable one. So, Lowndes could be the only team keeping the 'Cats from a perfect regular season.

There's nobody in the city or the county who wouldn't like to see the two teams meet again in the Region 1-AAA title game. If they do, somebody better reserve the Superdome.

In my mind, the real key to the game tonight is the



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

Lowndes' injury factor. But even completely healthy, the Vikings may be just a shade less talented than the Wildcats at this point. Sometimes that extra ounce of talent makes a difference. Sometimes it doesn't. Tonight, I think it will. Valdosta, 20-14.

Last week's record was 17-3 for an overall 80 percent mark of 112-28.

CLINCH AT BERRIEN

If Lowndes and Valdosta weren't playing, this would be the top game of the week in the local area. The teams are identical in almost every aspect. Both are 3-3 overall and 1-1 in the Region 2-A (South) subregion. The loser tonight can start looking toward the end of the season. The winner will still have a spark of life for a playoff berth. There's absolutely no way to distinguish between the two, so here's a nod to the Rebels because of the home field advantage and two weeks rest. Berrien, 15-14.

BROOKS AT CAMDEN

Brooks County's Trojans lost a tough one to Coffee last week and are anxious to get their helmets on straight

tonight. Camden's Wildcats have won two straight including a 16-12 victory over Coffee. Playing in the Wildcat lair might give Ed Hayes' team some problems. Camden, 14-6.

WARE AT COOK

With an 0-6 record, Cook's Hornets are playing the Rodney Dangerfield role this year and getting no respect from anyone. Ware is undefeated and putting the Gator bite on any team that bares its head. Everything points to another long night for Tom Bailey's Hornets. Ware, 35-0.

CHIEFLAND AT HAMILTON

Hamilton County's Trojans fought, and I use the word in the physical sense, Chiefland for a 7-0 win last season. Coy Whitener is undoubtedly proud to have the rematch on his own field. His Trojans should make him even prouder tonight. Hamilton, 21-6.

FAMU AT MADISON

Florida A&M High School's Rattlers have sung a 3-3 melody so far this season. Madison's Cougars have emitted but one victory chant in five games. That means Lavaughn Bell might be ringing in the second half of the Madison season on a sour note. FAMU, 20-10.

OTHER GAMES

Thomasville and Dougherty square up in Albany tonight in a battle of Region 1-AAA opposite subregion toughies. Thomasville is just off that big confidence-building win over Central while Dougherty is coming off a demoralizing loss to Bainbridge. It's been awhile since Dougherty lost two straight. Dougherty, 24-16.

Also, Central over Albany. Moultrie over Crisp. Tift over Westover, Bainbridge over Monroe, Waycross over Appling, Fitzgerald over Cairo, Worth over Coffee, Early over Turner, Seminole over Mitchell, Jeff Davis over Bacon, Atkinson over Blackshear, Irwin over Brantley and Villa Rica over Model.

Valdosta Band Festival

Southern Open Next Week

By Times Staff Writer

Twenty-five high school bands, including 2,973 band members, are to perform here next Saturday in Valdosta High School's second annual Southern Open Band Festival.

Of those bands, 24 are to be competing for a gold plaque with the 25th, the host Valdosta Marchin' Cats, performing a demonstration.

The event, started last year by then VHS band director Frank Butenschon, after two years in the planning stages, has quickly grown into a prestigious affair, according to new VHS director Mike Chapman.

Included in the bands returning are four of the five finalists from the 1976 festival, won by South Cobb High School of Marietta.

The defending champions won't be able to defend their title because of a prior commitment, he said.

However, four other finalists, Largo, Fla., Sprayberry, Tift County High of Tifton, and Nathan B. Forrest of Jacksonville, Fla., are to be on hand.

Also competing are Effingham County of Springfield, Ga., which missed the finals by two tenths of a point last year and Hardaway of Columbus.

Lowndes is also entering the competition for the first time this year, Chapman said.

Ten judges are to be on hand for the contest with two each judging the bands on music performance, marching and maneuvering and general effects.

One each is to judge each band on drum majors,

majorettes, color guard and timing and penalties

In all, 90 trophies, are to be given away besides the overall winner's plaque, Chapman added.

The bands are to begin competition at 9:30 a.m. Saturday with each band allowed from five to 10 minutes of playing time. A new band is to take to the field every 15 minutes.

Tickets are good for the entire day and are now on sale for \$4 for reserve seat and \$2 for general admission.

Other bands entered in the meet include Bainbridge, Pebblebrook, Hudson, Fla., Jacksonville (Fla.) Christian, Pelham, S.E. Bulloch of Statesboro, Irwin County of Ocilla.

Madison, Fla., Florala, Ala., Berrien County of Nashville, Ga., Cook of Adel, Americus, Powers of Decatur, Carver of Columbus, Glynn Academy of Brunswick, and Albany.

Last year heavy rains plagued the contest which saw three-fourths of the tickets sold. Chapman said officials are hoping for better weather this year but nevertheless the program must continue.

The contest grossed \$13,000 and netted \$3,000 to the VHS band last year, Chapman said. He added officials are working with a \$10,000 budget again this year.

Except for a 12 noon-1:30 p.m. lunch break, the initial competition is to stretch until 5:30 p.m.

The top five finalists are to return at 8 p.m. to repeat their performances with the overall winner to be named then, Chapman said.

VALD. DAILY TIMES
SAT. OCT. 22 1977



The Belue Boogie ^{Times} 10-29-77

Tift County linebacker Ricky Booth (63) and Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue appear to be doing "the bump" at Friday night's high school football game here. Actually, Tift's Blue Devils were the only

things that got bumped, as Valdosta boogied to a 31-0 Region 1-AAA triumph. Stories of the Valdosta-Tift and other games are on pages 6 and 7. — Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III.

VHS Singers Honored ^{VT} 5-31-79

Valdosta High School's Choir and Girls' Ensemble have received top honors at the Liberty Bell Music Festival at Beaver College in Philadelphia.

According to director Herman Revels Jr., the VHS groups received an outstanding and excellent rating in the competition at the first annual event this past weekend.

The choir and ensemble were among 27 groups from Georgia, Florida, Delaware, Virginia, Connecticut and Ohio, Revels said.

The VHS Choir received an outstanding rating, the only such rating at the event. The ensemble received an excellent, one of three such ratings awarded, he said.

Revels said prominent musicians and music educators were judges in the event.

In Uniform

rst traded, I zier said. "I king for a lot igs like that. made up my ization went get me. They ne, but they ne. How do

you turn down an organization like that? We're family already, and I'm playing for the same contract I had in New York."

The flashy lifestyle is gone—no all night disco-hopping, even if he could find one—at least for now, he said.

"I sneaked into town quietly—10 o'clock at night—and that's quiet.

"I'm living with (Cavalier center) Jim Chones and his family. I haven't had time to look for a place, and it's better than a motel. There are no mirrors on the ceilings in Jim's place. He has mirrors in the living room."

Williams Fights Off Tragedy

BUFFALO (AP) — Chuck Williams is trying to concentrate totally on basketball. When he lets his mind drift, his thoughts are of tragedy.

The soft-spoken Buffalo

VHS Defenses

ted on another 15-14 contest. hlete," Hyder fic areas since n good at all of

layer," Wilson fense, and he's is kicking is a

alk about him -dandy. This is he can kick it on the field."

never beaten e within five son when they ch time on the

o late scores to

30 p.m. contest earned them the AA statewide. s high as fifth

earlier in the season but hasn't cracked the poll since a 42-8 loss to Central of Thomasville.

Statistics-wise, Lowndes is the leading passing team in the region with an average of 181.83 yards per game. Valdosta is third with a 108.83 yards per game average.

Valdosta is the second best rushing team in the region behind Dougherty (Albany) with a 208.83 yards per game average. Lowndes is 10th with a 113.67 yards per game average.

Defensively, Lowndes tops in the region against the run, holding opponents to 94.33 yards per game on the ground. Valdosta is third against the run, giving up 119.83 yards per game.

Valdosta has limited opponents to 67.33 yards per game passing for the fourth best average in the league. Lowndes is eighth against the air game, giving up 91.33 yards a game.

Valdosta tops the north subregion and the entire region in scoring with a 31.67 average. Lowndes leads the south subregion and is second overall with a 27.83 average.



ROBERT BALDWIN Can Kick Too

ed With Fine

in a game e 117-112. ejected and e remainder and another sday night suffering sucks called

The Laker record stands at 1-1 so far without Jabbar. His 7-foot replacement, James Edwards, a rookie from Washington, is expected to have difficulties when matched against established

in the Region 1-AAA playoff

Belue, Luke Modest About Clutch Roles

The long wait will be over Friday night. Vikings and Wildcats alike will rush to Lowndes High School's Martin Stadium for the annual grudge match that has become almost a ritual in recent years.

Valdosta has completely dominated its football series with the Vikings from across town. Lowndes has never beaten the Wildcats.

Valdosta fans will be hoping history will repeat itself. But across the field, Lowndes followers will be once again looking for the Vikings to tear down that which has become almost a seasonal principle; defeat at the hands of the crosstown Wildcats.

It is a unique rivalry, one which, at least this week, cannot be matched elsewhere.

Last year, Valdosta claimed a 14-3 victory after trailing for much of the game. Many Lowndes fans claimed foul when fourth-quarter calls went Valdosta's way, and swore to get revenge.

It's a big order to take revenge or to stave it off. And right smack in the middle of it all are the two teams' celebrated quarterbacks — Kenny Luke of Lowndes and Buck Belue of Valdosta.

Both are coming off strong weekend performances.

Luke completed eight of 18 passes in Lowndes' 34-14 Saturday night pasting of Westover (Albany), for a gain of 172 yards.

Belue had by far his most impressive night of the season statistically, rushing for 160 yards and three touchdowns, and passing for 146 yards and two scores, while completing nine of 20 passes against Moultrie.

Luke stepped into the spotlight this season as the replacement for Lynn Pattillo, who led the region in passing during his senior year last season.

There were doubters who warned that, as Pattillo went, so went the Viking offense. But Luke dispelled those notions by leading the team to a surprising 20-0 blanking of highly-touted Tift County (Tifton) in its first game.

He went on to take the lead in the region in the passing department, as Pattillo did last year, leading an awesome Lowndes passing game which not only features Luke, but a flock of flashy offensive tricks pulled from the sleeve of head coach Joe Wilson.

Luke later lost the passing lead to Central of Thomasville's Barney Jackson, and prior to Saturday's game, sat in second place in that department with 626 yards on 48 completions in 112 attempts.

Belue's number 7 jersey has become, to understate the situation, a familiar part of life at Valdosta High School.



Martin

Register

Times Sports Writer

Belue, a senior, is in his fourth year as the starting quarterback at VHS. He first became a regular as freshman, filling the shoes of former signal-callers who had become almost legendary at a school renowned for its gridiron program.

In his years at the school, Belue has established himself not only as a passer, but also as a runner.

Belue's style of play calls to mind the "triple threats" of yesteryear, with his passing, rushing, and punting.

He is Region 1-AAA's leading punter, with an average of just under 40 yards per kick.

Both players have had their ups and downs this time out, but both seem to have been performing well in their most recent games.

Belue's 160 yards rushing against Moultrie was more than he had piled up in five previous games this season.

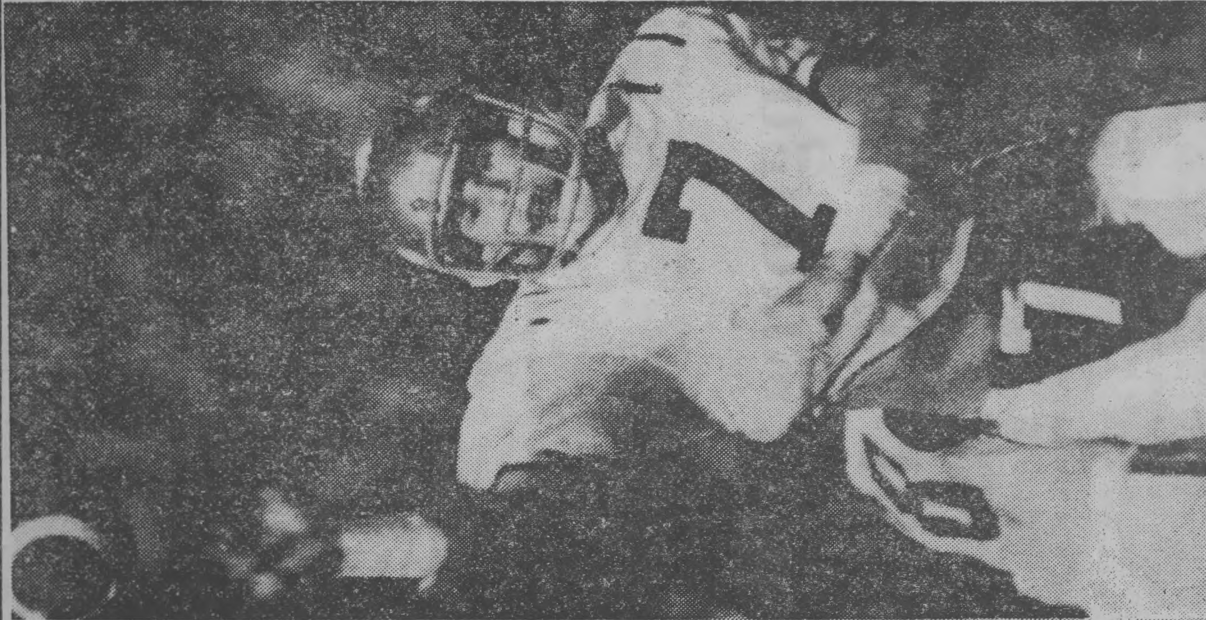
It came a week after a flat performance by the entire Valdosta team in a 13-7 squeaker over Monroe.

Luke's strong efforts the past two weeks came after passing for only 43 yards and being intercepted three times in a humiliating 42-8 loss to Central of Thomasville.

The two quarterbacks exhibit many similarities off the field, among them humility, a rarity these days, and an ambition to work with their teams instead of racking up impressive statistics.

Luke quickly passed over a question about his performance in an early-season interview, preferring instead to speak of the performance of the team and the need for improvement.

Though not noted as a runner, one of the reasons why his season rushing total is an unimpressive eight yards is that



In The Hot Seat: VHS Quarterback Buck Belue, Left, LHS's Kenny Luke Collide Friday

—Times Staff Photos.

he has frequently deliberately taken losses to protect a lead or avoid an interception.

Belue, too, has taken tackles behind the line rather than risk a poor pass, and saw his rushing statistics cut down as a result.

The Valdosta quarterback, like Luke, prefers to speak of the team's accomplishments rather than his own.

"We really opened up against Moultrie," he said when questioned about his performance. "Everybody did a good job."

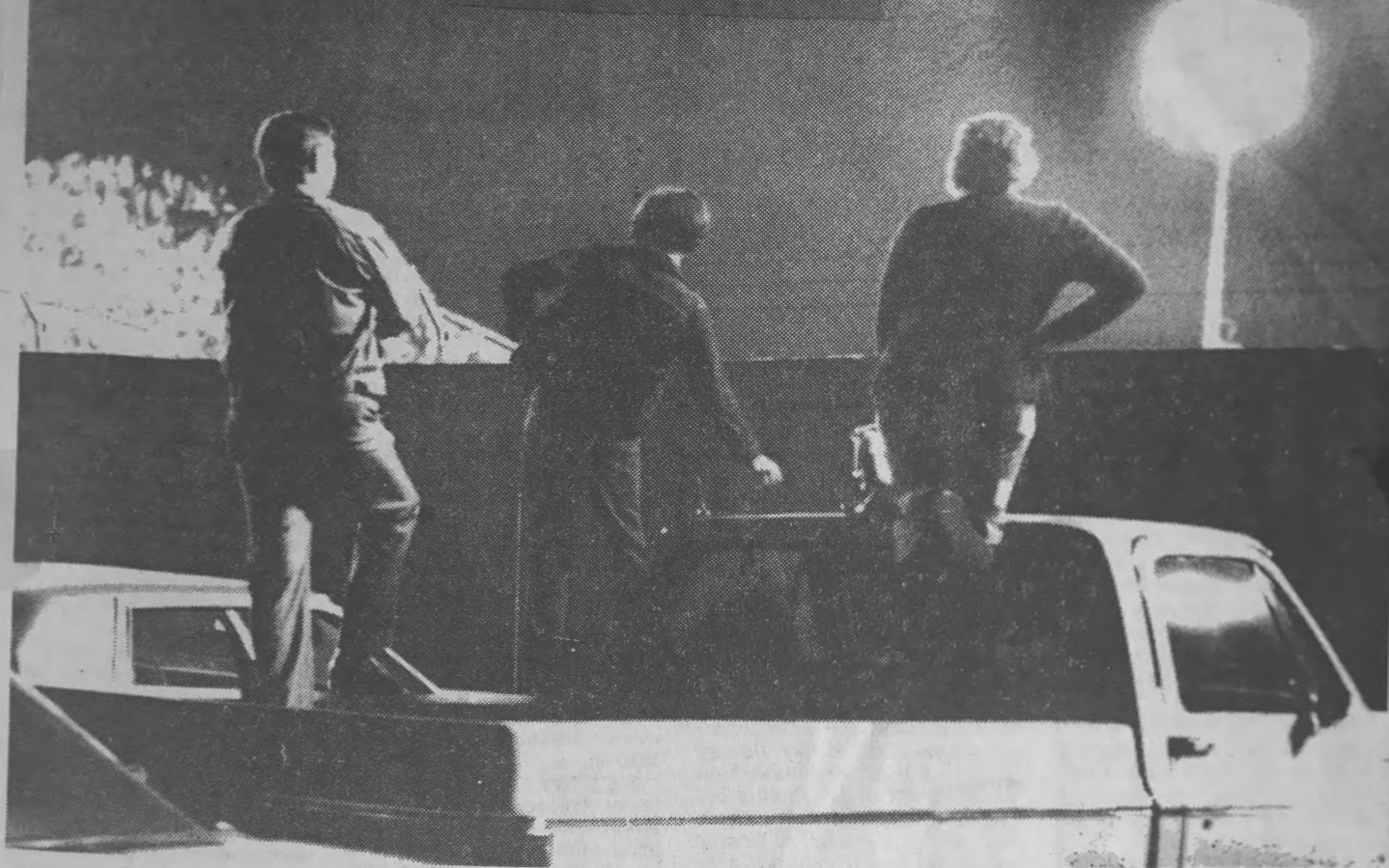
He sees the Lowndes game just as everyone else in town

and the county see it. "It's always a tough game," he said. "It stacks up as one of the biggest games of the season, not really because of the records, but because of the rivalry."

Belue and company have beaten Lowndes by scores of 20-3, 41-7, and 14-3 in the past three seasons.

It's a sure bet there will be little shyness as far as plunging into the fray at Martin Stadium Friday night is concerned for Belue and Luke.

There'll be time for humility after it's over.



'Ringside' Seats

These fans at the football game Friday night at Martin Stadium had the best seat they could find. Which, in this case was none. The more they collect

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

Wed., Nov. 2, 197

Lowndes 7, Valdosta 2

Some said it would never happen, but before a sellout crowd of 10,000 fans at Martin Stadium, it did... Lowndes beat Valdosta. The game featured the two top-scoring offenses in Region 1-AAA but both were shut down by two outstanding defensive efforts. Bill Schreffler's 80-yard interception return accounted for the lone Lowndes' score. Valdosta scored on a safety on LHS quarterback Kenny Luke. It was the first win ever for the Vikings over their cross-county rivals.

'Cats To Host Thomasville

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta and Thomasville are to meet in the Region 1-AAA high school football championship game at Cleveland Field here Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

Officials from the two schools met in Quitman this morning to flip a coin to decide the site of the game, and Valdosta won the toss.

Coach Nick Hyder's Valdosta team is 9-1 on the season and owner of a 26-0 win over Thomasville in the third game of the year.

The Wildcats claimed the north subregion title with a 5-0 record.

Thomasville, coached by Jim Hughes, is 7-3 overall and took the south subregion championship with a win over Lowndes Friday night. The Bulldogs wound up 4-1 in subregion action.

The winner of Friday's game moves on to the first round of the state playoffs against Benedictine, a Savannah school which finished its season with a 10-0 record Friday night.

Valdosta Not Out of Woods

If Nick Hyder appears a bit preoccupied these days, don't worry. He's got good reason. And so, according to several region 1-AAA coaches, does anyone else who follows the fortunes of the Valdosta High School football team.



Figueroa

Despite the fact Valdosta currently shows a 7-1 record and is coming off a very important sub-region victory over Tift County, Hyder's Wildcats may still have to sweat it out until Nov. 8, or possibly even later, before they know if a playoff berth will be coming their way.

A very interesting situation has developed in sub-region 1-AAA North from Valdosta's use of an ineligible player in the first two games of the season.

Initially, Georgia High School Association Executive Secretary Bill Fordham ruled that Valdosta would have to forfeit the two games in which the over-age player participated. That ruling was reduced to a \$1,000 fine, however, after a Valdosta appeal.

Now, the latest legal move finds an appeal of the appeal which will result in the case being heard before the full 36-member GHSA State Executive Committee on Nov. 8.

"The appeal board overturned my ruling and Crisp County protested," explained Fordham. "They can't legally protest, however, since their school wasn't part of the original decision, so I appealed for them so they could be heard."

The general feeling around 1-AAA is that Valdosta is going to lose this final appeal, which may mean only a blemish on the Wildcats' record. There is a chance, though, that an unfavorable ruling could keep Valdosta from making the playoffs.

"I think the committee is going to rule against Valdosta," said one 1-AAA head coach, who wished to remain anonymous. "Most people think the original forfeit ruling would have stood through the first appeal if it had been anybody but Valdosta."

"In other words, the feeling around here is that Valdosta bought it."

If enough members of the executive committee feel the way that coach does, Dougherty could wind up representing 1-AAA North in the region playoff. It's only a chance, but it is possible.

Here's what has to happen:

First, the appeal must go against Valdosta.

Then, Crisp County must beat both Tift County and Albany on Nov. 4 and 11, respectively.

Next, Dougherty must beat Monroe and Moultrie.

And, finally, Valdosta must beat Albany this weekend.

If all those things occur, Valdosta, Crisp and Dougherty would be tied with 4-1 sub-region records.

The championship of the sub-region would then be decided on overall record against opponents of the same classification, as specified in the GHSA rulebook, and the title would go to Dougherty, which would be 8-2 as compared to 7-3 for Valdosta and 6-4 for Crisp County.

"It's definitely possible," said Hyder. "We know it is. We're just hoping it doesn't come to that."

"We feel the original ruling (to forfeit the games) was too severe and we're hoping the executive committee agrees with us."

Until then, however, or until Crisp or Dougherty loses a game, Hyder must simply sit and wait, rather uncomfortably.

Defense! Defense! Defense!

Lowndes Knocks Off Valdosta



—Times Staff Photo By Ken Klanick

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

Letters To The Editor

State Crown Not The Only Thing

Sir: If there are numerous people in Valdosta as described in a recent sports article, then I am disappointed in these supposedly loyal Wildcat football fans. If there are only a few such individuals, then I question your taste in publishing such an article.

I have been a Wildcat fan for years. I cheer when they win and I shed a tear or two when they lose, but I have never thought that the coaching staff should be replaced when things don't go the way I think they should. Sure, I would like to have a state championship every once in a while, but I know that that's a hard thing to come by. Out of all the

the young athletes he is guiding.

I wish I could say the same for some of the other coaches in the region. I kinda think that most people want what Valdosta has, a man with integrity, pride and compassion. That's what I want leading our young people.

How anyone would call at 4 a.m. and criticize is beyond me. Do they call at 4 a.m. and praise him when the 'Cats win? I doubt it. Do they call the players who missed their assignments on plays called by the coach?

You know, if these same people would take the same interest in the rest of the school system we would certainly turn out some great scholars.

I believe that we must get this whole thing back in perspective. Football is a minor part of the school system. At least it should be. It is a high school game played by high school kids for the enjoyment of other high school kids.

Unfortunately we have some kids that range anywhere from 19 to 90 years of age. For the adults the high school game should be entertainment. Nobody makes

or loses a fortune over these games, but some people can sure make life miserable for others when a game is lost.

I for one get the best \$3 worth of entertainment that can be found. I get to see a nationally famous band, and yes, they lose once in a while. I get to see one of the better football teams in the country. I get to see a coaching staff that knows how to conduct

themselves, and I get to sit among many good and compassionate fans. I hope that I do not have to sit with the other kind, whomever they may be.

I want to wish the very best luck to the team and coaching staff regardless whether or not they are the state champions for the next 100 years.

Jack Cotterly

Enough About Hyder Is Enough

Sir: After reading an article in last Thursday's edition by sports editor Mike Chason concerning Valdosta High School football coach Nick Hyder, I feel like enough is enough.

Mr. Chason had headline stories telling of how Lowndes defeated Valdosta and I think that was more coverage than was really necessary, but when Thursday's edition came out with still another story I almost threw up.

Furthermore, I feel like someone should speak up for Valdosta High and coach Nick Hyder. Don't you think Mr. Chason was being a little

unfair when he stated how Lowndes "stuck it to Valdosta"? I hardly call a score of 7-2 sticking it to anyone no matter who won the game. The simple facts are that Lowndes got the biggest breaks, and that is how they won.

Also, what is Mr. Chason trying to prove when he suggests Coach Hyder's job may be on the line. Is he trying to divide the Valdosta High School fans, students and football players? Who would they hire anyway? Perhaps Mr. Chason thinks he could do the job. I thought it was ridiculous when they ran Charlie Greene out of town. He was a good coach,

and I believe that Nick Hyder is a good coach also.

I don't think Joe Wilson, Nick Hyder, Charlie Greene, or anyone else will ever surpass the records set by Wright Bazemore. It's time for the people around here to realize that no person, not even the Dallas Cowboys' coach, Tom Landry, will ever be able to do what Wright Bazemore did.

And I don't think the Valdosta Times will ever fully replace the late Mr. Sammy Glassman as sports editor. You certainly haven't come close as yet!

C. Jerry Bennett
107 E. Moore St.

MARANTZ

MAI

times for 83 yards in the
hit fugged the pucks
the second

Vikes In Close One, 'Cats To Win Ninth

Two years worth of Friday nights ago, I attended the Lowndes-Thomasville game in Veterans Memorial Stadium expecting exactly what I saw. The end result was a 41-0 Thomasville victory over the Vikings, who fought right to the very end but just couldn't match the Bulldog offensive fireworks.

Thomasville knew it had a date with Valdosta in the Region 1-AAA playoff. All Lowndes knew was that it was the last game of another long and dreary season.

But times have changed.

Tonight, the two teams meet again, and this time both of them know a victory means a spot in the region title game against those same Valdosta Wildcats.

Never has a Lowndes-Thomasville game meant so much.

The Vikings' never-give-an-inch defense has had a lot of success against teams which don't feature much of a passing attack. The Bulldogs are such a team but they do have in uniform one individual, Roosevelt Andrews, who's capable of cracking the long one anytime. If Andrews is contained, Lowndes should win the game.

That is, if Kenny Luke has his throwing arm warmed up the minute the Vikings take the field. If Steve Thomas is hobbled by his ankle injury, Luke may be forced to go to the air more than he has in the last three games. But as Joe Wilson says, Lowndes "makes its living throwing the ball."

Here's a 14-10 Lowndes' win to set up the showdown of showdowns against Valdosta next week.

Last week's record was 18-2 to push the overall 82 percent mark to 164-36.

WESTOVER AT VALDOSTA

At Cleveland Field here tonight, fans are going to get a chance to watch the team with the best record in Region 1-AAA going against the team with the worst record in the same league. Valdosta is the only team with just one loss, and Westover is the only team without a win.

It should make for a long night for the Patriots, and a chance for the Valdosta band to blow its heart out with numerous instant replays of the Valdosta Fight Song. Look for the Valdosta defense, which seems to be getting better and better, to hold the Patriots out of the end zone and the Wildcat offense to find the goal line at its leisure.

If you want to catch the Buck Belue show, come early. The talented senior quarterback could be playing no more than the first three quarters in what might be his last game over at Cleveland Field. The site of the region championship game is to be decided by a coin flip and all possible state playoff games are to be out of town.

Valdosta in a romp, 42-0.

COOK AT BROOKS

If you are looking for an emotion-charged game with no holds barred, this one might rank right up there with Lowndes at Thomasville. Neither Cook nor Brooks is going to win any subregion or region titles this season. All either is interested in is a win, any kind of win.

Cook's Hornets have lost 20 consecutive games over three seasons. Brooks won one game (against Cook) last season and has won only two this season. The Trojans nipped Cairo 26-21 at the final gun last week.

Make that a two-game win streak. Brooks, 21-14.

BERRIEN AT BLACKSHEAR

For a season that started out with so much hope, things just haven't fallen into place for Berrien's Rebels. With a



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

boxcar load of returning lettermen, it looked to be a promising year for the Rebs on the football field.

But the best laid plans of mice and men ...

Both teams are 3-6 heading into tonight's game. However, Blackshear has won two of its last three. Berrien has lost four straight. Blackshear, 17-14.

UNION AT HAMILTON

On paper, Hamilton's Trojans don't have the numbers in their favor. The Union team from Lake Butler is 7-1 and rated in the state's 10 best. Hamilton is 5-3 and has followed a win-lose, win-lose formula in its last six games.

But Ellis Singletary returns to the Trojan lineup tonight, and Coach Coy Whitener sees no reason why he shouldn't be at nearly full speed. That's bad news for Union, and good news for Hamilton backers.

Except for Lowndes' Ronnie Adkins, Singletary may be the best junior linebacker in these parts. Ellis also carries the ball and going against all the oddsmakers, here's a vote for him to carry the Trojans right into the state playoffs. Hamilton, 21-17.

CLINCH AT JEFF DAVIS

If Clinch had fried Bacon last week, this game might have meant something. But now it has added significance only for Jeff Davis. For the first time in three years, the Panthers are out of the running for a post-season playoff berth.

That's not going to stop Clinch from trying to make a game of it but Jeff Davis has bigger and better things planned for the future. Jeff Davis, 34-14.

JEFFERSON AT MADISON

Madison's Cougars have only two more chances at victory this season. One is tonight against Jefferson, and the other is next week against Hamilton.

With only one victory in eight games, Lavaughn Bell would like nothing better than to wind up the 1977 campaign on a high note. But Jefferson's going to do all the singing tonight. Jefferson, 24-7.

OTHER GAMES

As far as playoff spots go, only the Lowndes-Thomasville game means anything in Region 1-AAA tonight. That's right. No 3-way tie this year. The Tift-Bainbridge game might be the best of the rest. The nod goes to Tift to get its second 6-4 record under Gene Brodie.

Also, Crisp over Albany, Central over Monroe, Dougherty over Moultrie, Appling over Camden, Worth over Cairo, Fitzgerald over Coffee, Waycross over Ware, Early over Randolph, Seminole over Miller, Irwin over Bacon, Charlton over Patterson, and Turner over Terrell.

Vikes, 'Cats Open Playoffs Tuesday

By MIKE HAGOOD
Times Sports Writer

Lowndes and Valdosta are to do battle with the top two teams from Region 1-AAAA (North) on Tuesday.

Noel Goerge's 1-AAAA (South) champion Vikings host the second place team from the North at Lowndes, while the Wildcats travel to Albany to meet Dougherty, the North champions.

VHS Coach Butch Brooks plans to go with Wayne Fugett in game one of the

double elimination tournament. George is to choose between Buddy Pitzing and Jeff Stokes.

The Vikings opponent is still undecided. Tift County (Tifton) and Westover (Albany) ended up in a tie for second place after splitting a doubleheader Saturday. The two teams meet today at 4 p.m. in a tie-breaker game.

The top Westover pitcher threw Friday and in the second game Saturday and may have to pitch today.

The Valdosta Daily Times

SPORTS

From the Westover angle, George should be given an edge, for this reason. The Tift pitchers might show a few

signs of wear also, should the Blue Devils advance to the playoffs.

The tournament is set so the winners of Tuesday's games are to meet and the losers are to meet Thursday. One team in the losers bracket is to be eliminated Thursday.

The site of Thursday's games is to be decided by a coin flip. It is conceivable that Lowndes and Valdosta could meet again if they are winners Tuesday.

George and Brooks each felt that a neutral site, such as Blazer Field, would be

appropriate should the battle for Lowndes County come about.

A neutral site would allow the two local teams to split the gate receipts.

This is the first year the four-team playoff system has been used. George and Brooks had no complaints about the new system.

"It gives more teams a chance to prove themselves," George said.

While George has to wait to see who he is to meet in game one, Brooks knows just what his Wildcats are up against. Dougherty has cruised through the 1-AAAA (North) season with only one subregion defeat, that to Westover.

The Dougherty ace, Chris Norman, is expected to be on the hill, while Fugett stands his half inning. Brooks said, Fugett had won one more game than had been reported over the course of the season. Fugett appeared in four

innings, rather than three, to qualify for a win in an earlier meeting with Thomasville, making him 4-4.

Ashley DeLoach is on tap to pitch the second playoff game. David New is to be used in a reliever's role he has filled well late in the year. The junior right hander has three saves over the course of the year.

"Lowndes probably has the best all-around talent of all four teams," Brooks said. "When I say talent, I mean experience, too."

The Vikings have shown possibly the top hitting attack in the region over the course of the season, but George is not predicting instant success.

"We still have to beat them," he said. "I'll just have to play my game."

Lowndes won the region title in 1975. Valdosta has reigned in the three years after that.



V. Times 11-11-77

When In Rome ... Rob The Rich?

Valdosta High School assistant football coach Bob Bolton takes aim with a bow and arrow while math teacher Mike Rogers explains mathematical reasoning in his roman toga this morning. The two were participating in the school's Dress-Up

Day in preparation for tonight's annual homecoming football game with Westover of Albany. — Times Staff Photos by Ken Klanicki.



MARGARET AULTMAN
Glenn Award



BRYAN GRIFFIN
Rookie Of Year



BETH TOTH
Horton Award



LEW RICHARDSON
Student Of Year



SHEREA WETHERINGTON
Most Improved

VHS DE Awards Banquet Held

By Times Staff Writer
Supermarket manager James Parrish and school official Joella Blackburn are the new life members of the Valdosta High School Distributive Education Clubs of America chapter.

Parrish and Mrs. Blackburn were cited for the club's highest honors at the 31st annual Employer-Employee Banquet Thursday night.

In addition, the vocational-education club

cited five of its members for outstanding achievement during the year.

Parrish, who manages the Harvey's supermarket in Castle Park, was singled out for his life membership as he has been involved with the VHS Distributive Education program for 20 years. He has worked "long hours helping students," said DE club president Lew Richardson. Mrs. Blackburn,

chairman of the Valdosta Board of Education, was cited for being "a strong supporter of our program." Richardson said she "went above and beyond the call of duty" in helping the program.

The banquet meeting heard Valdosta State College President Hugh Bailey review the role of vocational education. He said Distributive Education provides contact with the real world of ideas

which helps to promote interest in academics.

"Distributive Education students are afforded an opportunity to form habits and attitudes which stand them in good stead in academics, and for the rest of their lives," said Bailey.

Students cited for special honors in the VHS distributive education club were:

Sherea Wetherington — Coordinator's Award as the most improved student.

Bryan Griffin — Rookie of the Year Award.

W.E. Glenn Award — Margaret Aultman.

Warren Horton Memorial Award — Beth Toth.

Student of the Year — Lew Richardson, the club president.

Distributive education is a work-study program at the high school.

Belue-Led

By MARTIN REGISTER
Valdosta's Wildcats followed the spark provided by quarterback Buck Belue to a 50-0 blasting of hapless Westover in a regular-season-ending high school football game here Friday night.

Belue rambled for 99 yards and two touchdowns on nine carries and connected to

YARDSTICK		
	Valdosta	Westover
First Downs	21	7
Yards Rushing	231	66
Yards Passing	137	79
Passes	9-18	3-9
Passes Intc. By	0	1
Fumbles Lost	1	3
Punting	2-30	6-28.6
Penalties	2-10	8-51

Valdosta receivers for 64 more yards and two more scores through the air in his final regular season high school game.

The entire available Wildcat team got into action as Valdosta, the Region 1-AAA (North) titleholder, took advantage of every break in shellacking the Patriots, who ended their season winless in ten games.

As coach Nick Hyder's Cats were romping past the Albany team, Thomasville was winning the region's southern division crown by outrunning Lowndes 28-20.

Officials from Valdosta and Thomasville were to meet today in Quitman at 10 a.m., to hold the coin flip to decide the site of next week's playoff game.

For Valdosta, 9-1, Friday's game was little more than a warmup for Thomasville, a team it has already beaten 26-0.

The Wildcats rolled up 21 first downs, ground out 231 yards along the ground and passed for 137 through the air.

For the Patriots, it was a fruitless trip. Two Westover buses were reportedly hit by a car enroute to Cleveland Field, where the team was hit by the 368-yard offensive effort of the Wildcats.

No Westover players were reported injured in the ac-

cident. Westover time and again put itself in trouble, punting short after being held deep in its own territory by a swarming Valdosta defensive unit.

Lynn Roberts gave Valdosta its first score midway through the first period when he tagged the Westover punter, who had covered a bad snap in the Patriot end zone.

Earlier, a Wildcat thrust had been halted by an interception at the Westover 5-yard-line, but Valdosta came roaring downfield to score late in the period when Belue turned a broken play into a 22-yard gallop into the end zone.

Dosta had taken the ball on downs at the Pat 42.

Minutes later, early in the second period, Belue scored for the second time on a keeper from 1 yard out. That score was set up when the luckless Patriots fumbled on their own 20-yard-line.

Valdosta blew downfield to score twice more before halftime, on drives of 61 yards, and 23 yards following a blocked punt.

Split end John Lastinger, who scored twice and passed for another touchdown, capped the longer drive with a 7-yard scoring reception from Belue.

Ernest King gave the Wildcats a 29-0 halftime bulge with a 6-yard dash late in the half.

Valdosta continued to roll up yardage in the second half despite wholesale substitutions by Hyder and his staff.

William Gaskins plunged over from the 2-yard line, and Lastinger snagged his second touchdown reception of the night from Belue, an 8-yarder.

Then, in the final quarter, Lastinger, playing at quarterback, uncorked a 29-yard scoring pass to a wide-

open Kenny W

It was L pass of the ga scoring toss of

Westover, downs by V string defens moving in moments of flood of W poured into th

But two F threats fizzled at the Wildca lines.

Hyder had for his coach the game, ter of offensive Butch Broc assistants E Jerry Don standing".

He also had defensive coo Rudolph a defensive co Tarpley and F

"That phas has been ou said. "Statist up near the te aspects of defe

He said he w with the fact t to play his e Friday's rout.

"Two of the things about ti (Westover) f goal line stan that we got to people," he sa

He was a ahead to next championship Thomasville's

"They have sound progra "When we before, they juries.

"Anybody w many points Lowndes tonig football team."

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Nov. 12, 1977-10-

Farmers Want Changes

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The chairman of the House Agriculture Committee says he has no hope for a change in federal farm price supports for producers before a planned nationwide strike, but he has promised to meet with farmers.

Rep. Thomas Foley, D-Wash., told reporters Friday that 100 percent parity to meet farmers' costs of production could lead to government-controlled agricultural production.

Foley, in Spokane for a Democratic fund-raiser, was a target for farmers protesting low prices.

About 750 farmers and cattlemen took a convoy through downtown.

"We don't want to get people mad at us, but this is the only way we can publicize our plight," said wheat rancher Art Thayer of Rathdrum, Idaho. "The government hasn't publicized low prices or strikes — they've been discouraging publicity. They don't want farm prices to go up."

In a meeting with a few farmers at his office, Foley said he will not give producers advice on whether to strike.

He promised to convene a special subcommittee hearing in the Northwest early next month to hear farmers' complaints and try to reach a compromise with them on target prices.

Farmers say they will strike Dec. 14 if Congress

101 Legals

CITATION
GEORGIA, LOWNDES COUNTY
Martin Wilson having, in proper form applied to me for Permanent letters of administration on the estate of Purcell Woods to issue to Benny Mitcham, county administrator, this is to cite all and singular the creditors and next of kin of Purcell Woods to be and appear at my office within the time allowed and show cause if any they can, why permanent administration should not be granted to Benny Mitcham on said estate.

This 9th day of November, 1977.
T. N. Holcombe, Jr.
Judge, Probate Court
11-11, 18, 25, 12-2, 1977.

NOTICE
Davis Air Conditioning Company has been duly incorporated on November 3, 1977, by the issuance of a Certificate of Incorporation by the Secretary of State, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 402 E. Mary Street, Valdosta, Georgia, and its initial registered agent at said address is Jack D. Davis.
TILLMAN, BRICE, McTIER, COLEMAN & TALLEY
ATTORNEY For Corporation
102 North Lee Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
11-11, 18, 25, 12-2, 1977.

General Motors Acceptance Corporation will sell at public sale for cash on November 23, 1977 at 2:00 p.m. O'clock at G.M.A.C., Valdosta, Ga. one 1974 Cadillac, Ser. 6D49R4Q230691. GMAAC reserves the right to bid at such sale. The collateral is presently stored and may be seen at G.M.A.C., Valdosta, GA.

GENERAL MOTORS ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION
11-4, 11, 1977

CITATION
STATE OF GEORGIA
LOWNDES PROBATE COURT
November 9, 1977

The appraisers upon application of Carolyn Williams, widow of Leroy Levorio Williams for a twelve months support for herself and two minor children having filed their return; all parties at interest are hereby cited to show cause, if any they have, at the next regular December term of this court, why said application should not be granted.

T. N. Holcombe, Jr.
Judge, Probate Court
11-11, 18, 25, 12-2, 1977.

NOTICE
Don Stickley and Gwendolyn Agnes Collins, as Executors of the Estate of W.H. Herrin, Deceased, having filed in this Court in due form their petition for Letters of Dismissal as Executors of said estate and alleging that they have fully performed all duties as such Executors, this is to cite all persons to be and appear at the December, 1977, term of the Probate Court of Echols County to show cause, if any they have or can, why the prayers of said petition should not be allowed and the said Executors receive Letters of Dismissal as prayed.

Wayne Davis
Judge, Probate Court
Echols County,
Georgia
11-11, 18, 25, 1977

101 Legals

GEORGIA, LOWNDES COUNTY
TO THE DEBTORS AND CREDITORS OF WILLIS WILBUR COLSON, DECEASED

You are hereby notified to file and undersigned all of your demands against the Estate of the above named decedent as to your claim.

Also, all persons indebted to the Estate are hereby notified to pay said indebtedness forthwith.

This 25 day of October, 1977.
MacCleta Irene Colson
As Executrix of the Estate of Willis Wilbur Colson
Route 2, Box 360
Valdosta, Georgia
31601

10-28; 11-4, 18, 1977
Floyd B. Moon
Attorney at Law
Valdosta Federal Savings Bldg.
P.O. Box 815
Valdosta, GA 31601
(912) 247-0715

CITATION
PROBATE COURT OF
COUNTY

Regarding estate of David deceased, formerly of the Lowndes, State of Georgia, not given that Katie Nell Cooper a of the deceased has filed application to declare no administrator. Said application will be heard Monday, December 5, 1977 at 10:00 a.m. and if no objection is made an order will be entered.

This 9th day of November, 1977.
T. N. Holcombe, Jr.
Judge, Probate Court
11-11, 18, 25, 12-2, 1977.

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF LOWNDES
NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Security Deed executed by Adams to The Citizens National Bank dated January 1, 1977 recorded in Deed Book 160 Lowndes County Records with Deed was transferred to and Federal National Mortgage dated February 24, 1970, and Deed Book 161, Page 552, Lowndes County, Georgia.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the said Security Deed, the property hereinafter described is the Courthouse door of Lowndes County, Georgia, during the legal hours of the first Tuesday in December, 1977.

ALL that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Valdosta County, Georgia, and being in Block "A", Section 3, Hallin Subdivision, according to a map survey thereof recorded in Book B, page 44, records of Lowndes County, Georgia. Said property is a residence dwelling designated as 1125 Durwin Valdosta, Georgia.

The note secured by said Security Deed, in default, the property of the property of Lillian Adams unpaid taxes, assessments and other indebtedness and expenses provided in said Security Deed shall be sold by the undersigned will execute a deed of purchase at said sale as provided in said Security Deed.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Valdosta — Belue 9-99, King 9-71, Lastinger 2-27, Gaskins 4-23, Bond 5-10, Council 2-4, Wilcox 1-3, Smith 1-3, Fletcher 1-2, Welch 3 minus 1, Westover — Bryant 19-71, Sancho 8-30, Strickland 1-1, Whatley 10 minus 36.

Passing: Valdosta — Belue 5-12-64, Bond 3-5-0-44, Lastinger 1-1-0-29; Westover — Whatley 2-7-0-59, Strickland 1-2-0-20.

Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Lastinger 4-55, Washington 1-29, Blair 2-18, Hankins 1-18, Smith 1-17; Westover — Bryant 1-45, Borders 1-20, Strickland 1-14.

Punt Returns: Valdosta — Thomas 1-0, Gaskins 1-0; Westover — Harden 4.

Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — Smith 1-17, Council 1-9; Westover — Strickland 4-44, Blair 2-26, Sancho 1-8, Arn 1-6.

Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Rickman 6, Simmons 6, Durham 5, Roberts 4, Hartman 3, Lloyd 3, Thomas 3, Roe 3, Baldwin 2, Branam 2, Greene 2, Skelton 2, Curtis 2; Westover — F. Goins 8, Hart 8, McInvale 7, Jones 6, Blair 5, Malone 4, Raleigh 2, Powell 2, C. Goins 2.

Score by Quarters:
Valdosta 9 20 14 7—50
Westover 0 0 0 0—0

Scoring:
Val — safety
Val — Belue 22 run (Baldwin kick)
Val — Belue 1 run (Baldwin kick)
Val — Lastinger 7 pass from Belue (kick failed)
Val — King 6 run (Baldwin kick)
Val — Gaskins 2 run (Cross kick)
Val — Lastinger 8 pass from Belue (Cross kick)
Val — Washington 29 pass from Lastinger (Cross kick)

a. Georgin, Saturday Afternoon, November 19, 1977

Early Morning Fire Guts Old Valdosta High

Wildcats Champs

Valdosta's Wildcats took advantage of four turnovers to win the game while playing a near perfect game themselves in the Region VVV-1 football championship at Cleveland Field here Friday night.

Valdosta, now 10-1, didn't turn the ball over and was tagged with only one yard penalty. Senior quarterback Buck Blue started and played for 3/4 of quarters

despite strained ligaments in his knee.

When the Wildcats had a 26-14 lead, John Lastinger took over to throw a 13-yard touch-down pass to Robert Smith and tear loose on a 70-yard scoring run.

The Wildcats meet Benedictine in the first round of the state playoffs in Savannah Friday night.

The region title was the second in three years for the Nick Hyder-coached Valdosta team.



Steve Fender, Bobby Weidon, Julian Lehman, Wendell Cooper, Rick Rutland, Jerome Harnage, James Falls, Rick Brunston, Bill Rainwater, Gene Crawford, Freddy Sealey, Glen Hancock, Roscoe Register, Tommy Bowling, Richard Williams, Randy Hill, Joe Stansell and John Robert O'Neal.

POLICE "PIGS"
Chester Wright, Dave Whitefield, Steve Owens, Steve Jaramillo, Mike Welch.

MR. T...
And though the crowd watched some still trying to remember when

HOMERVILLE — Mrs. Opia Lee Selph, 69, of Homerville died Friday at Ware Memorial Hospital in Waycross after a short illness.

She was a native of Jeff Davis County and had lived in Homerville for some time. She was a member of the Edith Baptist Church in Fargo.

Survivors include her husband, Willis Jackson, Selph; daughter, Sara Carolyn Holcombe of Titusville, Fla.; a son, William Donald Selph of Jacksonville, Fla.; two sisters, Mrs. Ruby Carter of Baxley and Mrs. Eudell Rozier of Eastman; nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services are to be at 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the Shiloh Congregational Methodist Church near Homerville. Burial is to be in Pine Forest Cemetery.

Music-Relihan Funeral Home in Homerville is in charge.

Alternator Is Taken

By Times Staff Writer
A \$135 alternator was taken from a display tractor parked at a Valdosta tractor dealership here between Monday and noon Friday, according to police reports.

Luke Wisenbaker of Southland Tractor Co. on Statenville Highway told police someone took a 12-volt alternator from a new Ford tractor parked in front of the building. The tractor is valued at \$6,600.

In other activity police reported:
—The theft of a .22-caliber rifle from Ruth Dawson's 1610 Marlon St. residence

plane exploded on takeoff from Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci airport Saturday, sending the plane in flames into a wooded area bordering the airport and killing all five Ethiopians on board, officials said.

A spokesman for the airlines said the five persons included three crew members and two security guards. The bodies of all five were found near the wreckage of the plane.

The airline spokesman refused to say why two security guards were on board. The head of airport security, however, said there was no evidence of sabotage.

Police said the plane was carrying empty cans of various sizes, placed in 11 containers. They said it also had equipment for airplanes mostly tires.

The plane, which arrived in Rome Friday just before midnight, took off at 4:11 A.M. (3:12 GMT) headed for Asmara, capital of the province of Eritrea.

Rebels there have been fighting a 16-year war for independence. But Rome spokesmen for the two leading rebel groups said they knew nothing about the crash.

Police said the plane suddenly lost altitude. It clipped tall pine trees before crashing to the ground and dragging on for hundreds of yards.

The airport, popularly known as Plumicino because that is the name of the town it is located in, was temporarily closed. Incoming flights were diverted to Ciampino Airport, normally reserved for charters and military aircraft.

Eritrean nationalists have frequently threatened at-

astic Plans

Sports

The Florida Times-Union

Jacksonville, Friday, November 18, 1977

E

Belue's Injury May Kill 'Cats

By LAWRENCE DENNIS
Times-Union Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats are having their problems again. And this time it may cost them dearly.

The 'Cats made it through the Georgia High School Association's forfeiture decisions for playing an overaged player, their record unscathed.

They lived through the turmoil of losing to crosstown rival, Lowndes 7-2. But will they make it past Thomasville, a team they have beaten four consecutive times, to win the 1-AAA title.

The reason for the concern is star quarterback Buck Belue may not be able to play.

Assistant Coach Jack Rudolph said the 6-2, 195-pound standout was

hurt Wednesday at practice. He was immediately taken to the doctor where the diagnosis was strained ligaments in his knee. Belue could not practice on Thursday.

Although down Belue feels he's not out.

"The doctor said it was strained ligaments," said Belue. "I won't be able to move around too good, but I imagine I'll be starting."

In the event Belue can't play, backup quarterback John Bond will get the nod. Bond is a sophomore. Another possibility is moving split end John Lastinger back to signal calling. Lastinger was the No. 2 man last year.

Valdosta and Thomasville have played once this year with the Wildcats handily defeating the Bulldogs

26-0, but that was with the 'Cats at full strength.

Belue has been a four-year starter at Valdosta and has consistently been with the leaders in passing, scoring and punting. His loss may be the biggest blow to the Nick Hyder's troops yet.

On the other side of the spectrum is Thomasville's Jim Hughes.

"We're just happy about playing for the title," said Hughes, whose team defeated Lowndes 28-20 for the 1-AAA (South) title last Friday. "We've been playing good ball for the last month and should be ready for the shot at the Region title."

Overall records show Valdosta with a 9-1 mark, while Thomasville's record is 7-3.

Valdosta isn't the only team that's got problems.

Take Atkinson County, for instance.

The Rebels, under new coach Ed Blount, posted their best season in 27 years (a 7-2-1) to win the Region 2-B title.

Now they get the questionable privilege that goes with the crown — playing 4-B champion Lincoln County in the first round of the state playoffs.

Lincoln is the defending state "B" champ, and for the past three years has bumped off the 2-B champ in the playoff opener. That was Charlton County, but now Atkinson gets its shot, tonight in Lincolnton.

Elsewhere, Ware and Waycross have at it in the nightcap of their dou-

bleheader, which began last week. Waycross won that one 3-0, but got nothing for its trouble but the top AA ranking in the final polls.

The winner tonight gets everything — the Region 1-AA title and the right to travel west to meet the victor in tonight's Peach County-Americus rematch in the first round of the state playoffs next week.

Jeff Davis, appropriately enough representing Region 2-A (South), travels to Lyons to tangle with North champ Vidalia for the overall 2-A diam and a playoff spot next week opposite the Washington-Wilkes-Morgan County winner.

Region 3-AAA champ Benedictine takes a week off, waiting for the outcome of the Valdosta-Thomasville game.



Buck Belue

VHS Took Mistake-Free Path To Region Crown

Nov 20, 1977

Teams that don't make mistakes win football games. Just ask Valdosta's Wildcats.

In an almost incredible display of sure-handedness in such a crucial, emotion-packed game, Valdosta played 48 minutes of high school football Friday night without a lost fumble, without a pass interception and with only one 5-yard penalty called against it.

Thomasville had three lost fumbles, one interception and was tagged with six penalties for 57 yards. The fumbles dug the Bulldogs' grave but it might have been a penalty which really threw on the dirt.

Valdosta opened the fourth quarter with a 32-14 lead and possession of the ball. But then the Thomasville defense bowed its back for three straight plays, forcing VHS Coach Nick Hyder to insert Rodney Gordon to punt from his own 14-yard line. Gordon did all the punting for Valdosta since Buck Belue was slowed by strained ligaments in his knee. Belue was the leading punter in Region 1-AAA this year.

Gordon, a junior defensive back, got the ball off but was hit by Bulldog defensive end Jeff Horton. The official on the scene didn't hesitate to throw a flag for roughing the kicker. Instead of taking over in Valdosta territory, Thomasville had to surrender the ball to the 'Cats with a first down at the 30-yard line.

It was a long shot, but the Bulldogs still had a chance with almost a full quarter of football left.

One play later, that chance was gone.

Valdosta back-up quarterback John Lastinger rolled to his right and saw nothing but friendly white jerseys ahead. He followed that wall to the sideline and then utilizing one final block by Frank Council, danced 70 yards to paydirt and leaped into the end zone. Hyder said it was the longest run from scrimmage for the Wildcats this year.

Valdosta didn't score again but with 9:51 showing on the Cleveland Field clock, it didn't have to.

"We were in it longer than before," Thomasville Coach Jim Hughes said, referring to the two teams' regular season meeting when Valdosta walked away with a 26-0 win. "But our strengths and Valdosta's weaknesses don't offset each other. Let me put that another way. Valdosta was able to exploit areas we are not strong in."

In an interview in the Thomasville newspaper last week, various coaches around the region expressed their opinion about the game. Most thought turnovers would be the ultimate difference.

Overall, their prognostication was probably correct.

Thomasville ripped off a 73-yard touchdown drive the first time it touched the football. The Bulldog defense then held, and Valdosta had to punt. Another long scoring drive would have made shambles of the first quarter clock and put the 'Cats in an early hole.

But Roosevelt Andrews fumbled on the first play of Thomasville's second possession. Valdosta recovered, and Melvin Hunter dashed 12 yards for a touchdown one play later.



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

Immediately, the whole complexion of the game had changed. Thomasville never regained Old Man Momentum.

The Wildcats still scored only one other touchdown the first half but it was becoming more and more obvious the VHS offensive line was taking control at the line of scrimmage. In his 2½ quarters in the game, Belue was never sacked and had ample time to throw the ball. When he or any other rifle-armed quarterback gets time to throw, that's nothing but trouble for the defense.

One more Thomasville fumble and one interception only minutes into the second half set up two more Valdosta touchdowns. Hughes knows as well as anyone you don't make mistakes in the big games and get away with them... and Thomasville didn't.

Take away the Bulldog turnovers, and it might have been a close game. But then again, Lastinger was doing everything in his power to keep it from being close. The 31-yard touchdown toss to Robert Smith was near perfect. He fumbled only one snap while he was in the game and for a guy who hasn't played behind the center much all year, that ain't bad.

Maybe the best thing about Lastinger's performance was seeing who the first player on the field was to congratulate him... Belue.

The only thing Valdosta did wrong had nothing to do with what went on down on the field. Ticket prices were raised to \$4 for a reserved seat and for a high school football game, that seems kinda steep. The game was not a sellout and that extra dollar could have made the difference. But around 10,000 people did show up, and that's a pile of folks all in one place.

"It was just an agreement between the two schools," Valdosta Principal Lloyd Mims said. "The officials went up from their normal price for the playoff game. Playoff games are always a bit more than the others. The expenses are always higher."

But that game is over now and Benedictine lies in wait in Savannah in the first round of the state playoffs.

"All I know is that they're a wishbone team and they're big," Hyder said.

And they are 10-0.

Big 10

yard drive in the closing minutes with another 1-yard plunge that iced the game.

N'western, 21-7

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP) — Matt Reitzug rushed for 102 yards and scored one touchdown while Dave Mishler bolted 52 yards for a TD late in the fourth quarter Saturday to lead Northwestern to a 21-7 victory over Illinois in the Big Ten season finale for both teams.

The victory was the first for Northwestern in 11 games and gave retiring coach John Pont his 98th career victory. Illinois finished the season

Rank	Team	Record	Points
1	(21)	28-5	873
2	(21)	26-4	839
3	(4)	25-7	581
4	(2)	22-2	577
5	(1)	22-2	536
6		24-5	443
7		24-2	344
8		29-3	332
9		25-5	304
10		21-7	236
11		26-4	176
12		19-9	136
13		26-4	134
14		19-8	115
15		25-6	94
16		24-3	87
17	West	22-8	84
18		23-6	82
19		25-4	73
20		22-9	63

season record, 4-4 in the Big Ten.

Barber, a 17-year-old freshman who gained 97 yards in 16 carries, broke open a close game early in the second half. Kitzmann had softened the Badgers' interior defense with three straight rushes up the middle when Barber swept right end. He bounced off two Badger tacklers at the 20 and scooted down the sidelines for the touchdown. Rogind kicked his 31st straight extra point over two seasons to tie a school record.

Mich. St., 22-16

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Tailback Steve Smith ran 10 yards for a touchdown and quarterback Ed Smith hit Jim Earley on a 2-yard touchdown pass as Michigan State defeated Iowa 22-16 in a Big Ten Conference football game completed in near darkness Saturday.

Hans Nielsen kicked field goals of 45 and 19 yards for the Spartans, increasing his Big Ten Conference record to 44 three-pointers.

Iowa kicker Dave Holszew bootied field goals of 47, 48 and 51 yards with the help of a cold, 30 mile an hour wind, breaking Hawkeye records for distance and number of field goals in a season.

Season At Tift Tuesday

two of the in the south nbridge won on. taking us z said. "They ars you have ve not. I will

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- burgh (8-1-1).
-) vs. Stanford (8-3).
- (7-4) vs. opponent
- A vs. Southern Cal (6-
- 1) vs. Southwest
- 1, Texas (10-0) or
- Oklahoma (9-1) or
- kansas (9-1).
- vs. Pac-8 champion
- CLA (7-3).
- Alabama (9-1).
- Bowl
- opponent to be named.

say that I feel like we'll be competitive."

Sainz is assisted this season by former Wildcat star Roger Rome with the B-team and Bob Bolton, who's coaching the ninth grade.

Baker also has an assistant this season, and he readily admits Karen Holmes has more than earned her keep.

"I haven't had much time to work with the girls because of football season," Baker said. "But Karen has been working with them, and she has really helped."

The Kittens, 8-12 in Baker's first year last season, return all-region guard Lisa Feix, who averaged 16 points a game in her third straight year as a starter.

Now, she's back for her senior season.

"She's a leader on the team," Baker said. "She's started every ballgame since she was in the ninth grade. She'll do a lot of things to help our ballclub."

Besides the hot shooting hand of Feix, the Kittens feature Shirley Berrian (5-7, sr.), Phyllis Stewart (5-11, sr.), Val Baker (5-7, sr.), Renee Whitehead (5-10, jr.), Maggie Powell (5-9, jr.),

Janice Evans (5-6, jr.) and Vera Crawford (5-9, jr.).

Also, Renee Skelton (5-0, soph.), Teresa Gilbert (6-0, soph.), Dana Swindle (5-8, soph.), Vera Dotson (5-6, soph.), Debbie Mair (5-2, soph.), Cindy Cooper (5-9, fresh.) and Tracy Irvin (5-8, fresh.).

"I feel like we'll have more depth this year," Baker said. "That was the thing that hurt us last year. We had five or six girls, and we had to depend on them the whole ballgame. Now, I've got 10 girls I can put on the court at any time who can do the job."

"Also, the girls are in better shape than they were at this time last year."

Baker said Feix, Powell, Crawford, Berrian, Whitehead and Baker were in line for possible starting berths. He also said Cooper and Irvin would both "see a lot of action."

Two-year VHS starter Sunnie O'Neal transferred to Lowndes this summer.

"Sunnie was a good all-round basketball player," Baker said, "but with Shirley Berrian and Cindy Cooper, we've filled that spot pretty good."

"We're not going to be as tall as some people, so we've got to become more aggressive," Baker said. "We've got to get on the boards if we're going to play with people."

Besides Lowndes and Bainbridge, Baker and Sainz will have Moultrie, Central of Thomasville and Thomasville to contend with in the south subregion.

"This may be a strong region in girls' basketball this year," Baker said.

"Everybody returns everybody, and none of them are scared of Lowndes or Bainbridge."

"We're ready to play somebody. I'm anxious to see how they'll perform under pressure."

Valdosta opens its home season Nov. 29 against Moultrie.

SCHEDULE

Nov. 22, Tift County (Tift), away; Nov. 29, Moultrie, home; Dec. 2, Monroe (Albany), away; Dec. 4, Lowndes, home; Dec. 9, Bainbridge, away; Dec. 13, Thomasville, away; Dec. 16, Central of Thomasville, away; Dec. 26-28, Lowndes Christmas Tournament, away; Jan. 3, Waycross, home; Jan. 6, Bainbridge, home; Jan. 10, Lowndes, away; Jan. 13, Crisp County (Cordale), home; Jan. 14, Waycross, away; Jan. 17, Moultrie, away; Jan. 24, Thomasville, home; Jan. 27, Albany, home; Feb. 3, Dougherty (Albany), away; Feb. 7, Central of Thomasville, home; Feb. 10, Westover (Albany), home.

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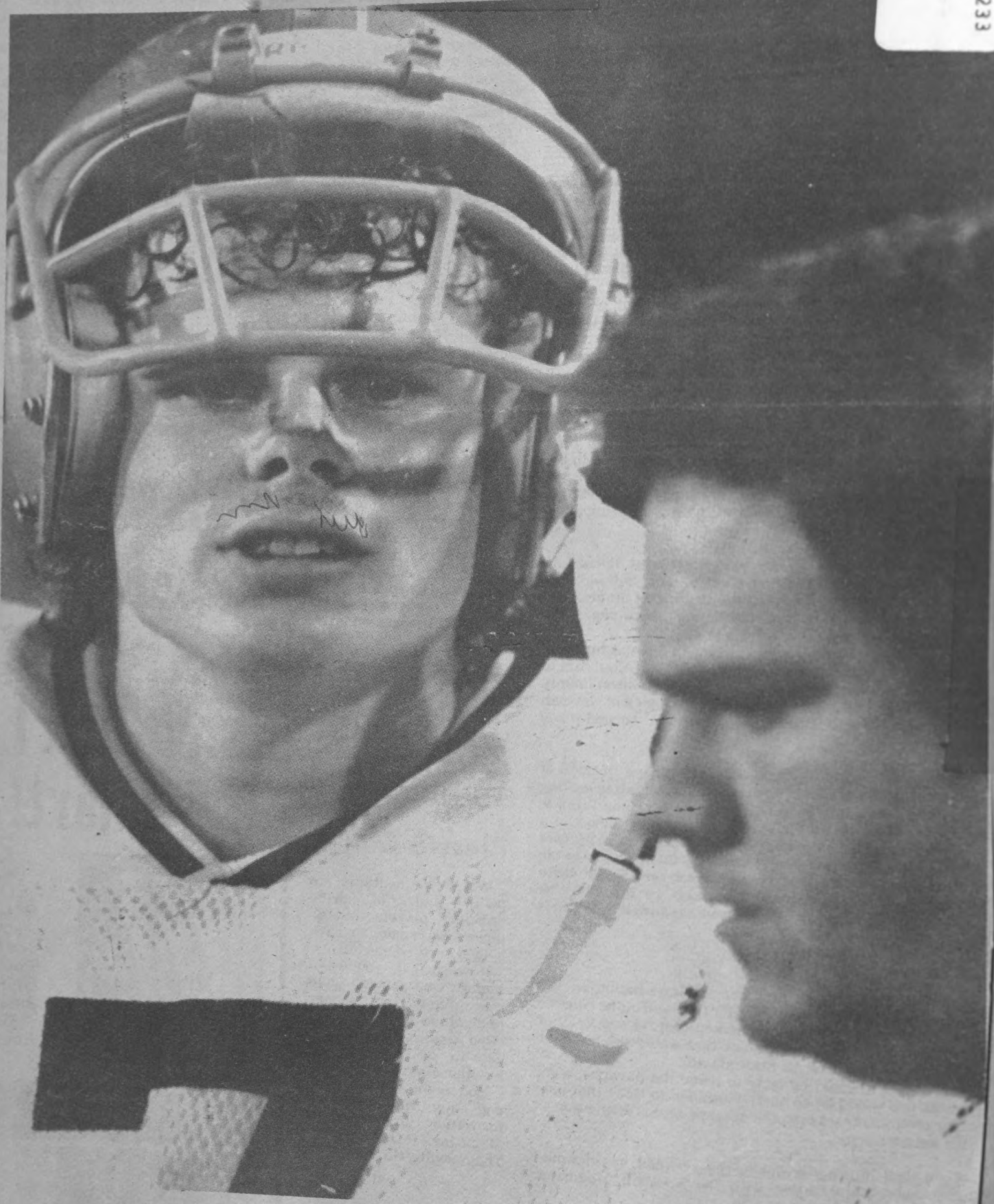
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Hawks Take Nets, 129-114

ATLANTA (AP) — Forward John Drew scored a season high of 35 points to power the Atlanta Hawks to a 129-114 victory over the New Jersey Nets in a National Basketball Association game Saturday night.

Nets' rookie forward Bernard King led all scorers with 39 points. The Nets took an early lead in the first quarter and led by seven points at 5:31 when guard Robert Hawkins' layup made the score 20-13. But the lead seasawed and with 11 seconds remaining, forward Ron Behagen hit a 16-foot jump shot to give Atlanta a 35-34 edge at the end of the first quarter.

1-00233



VALDOSTA QUARTERBACK BUCK BELUE
Top Vote-Getter In All-State Balloting

— Photo By Ken Klanicki, Valdosta Times

Nov 27, 1977
Valdosta Daily Times

VHS Defense Gave Cadets Short End Of Wishbone

I hope Gil Harbin likes boiled shrimp. Before Friday night's Class AAA state high school football playoff game in Savannah, it was announced over the public address system that Harbin, the mayor of Valdosta and the Savannah mayor were placing a small side wager on the outcome of the Valdosta-Benedictine game.

Harbin was to donate a pound of pecans for every point Benedictine was ahead of Valdosta. The Savannah mayor was to donate a pound of shrimp for every point Valdosta finished ahead of the Cadets.

As it turned out, Harbin has 13 pounds of boiled shrimp coming his way. Valdosta won, 13-0.

I hope he doesn't have as much trouble collecting on the bet as Benedictine did running against the Robert Baldwin-led Valdosta defense. If so, Valdosta might have a Red Lobster before Harbin is peeling his Savannah-born shrimp.

But after going over the first 11 games Valdosta played this year, even an untrained observer might have predicted the problems which the previously unbeaten Cadets found themselves faced with. Teams, good teams at that, which featured the running game as the number one priority in their offense just didn't find many holes in the Valdosta defense.

Tift County and Thomasville are perfect examples. Tift finished 6-4 this year but got bombed 33-0 by Valdosta, Thomasville wound up 7-3, but got blanked 26-0 by the Wildcats in the third game of the season. Thomasville was a 39-20 loser to Valdosta in the Region 1-AAA championship, but scored one of its touchdowns when the game was out of reach.

The handwriting was on the wall... the Cadets just didn't read the fine print.

Or maybe they did. James Walsh coached Benedictine to its first undefeated season ever this year. When you win 10 straight games using a run-oriented wishbone offense, you've got to have a little faith it's going to work in game number 11. But it didn't.

"I think we maybe should have put the ball up a little more," Walsh said after the game. "They were a little too strong in the middle for us. We needed to loosen them up more."

Benedictine threw only three passes in the game. Only one was caught for a gain of two yards. Valdosta was 8 of 16 through the air for 101 yards, including a 35-yard Buck Belue to John Lastinger scoring strike.

But the military school didn't really expect to pick up many yards via the airways. It did expect to be able to run the ball. However, Baldwin, Curtis Wright and Co. put a



stop to that. The Cadets had only 73 yards rushing.

"They have some real good linebackers," Walsh said, "particular Baldwin, who really hurt us."

Baldwin, playing perhaps his best game of the season, had 13 tackles including a bone-crusher on quarterback Gary Lanier. It was one of those irresistible force meets immovable object type matchups. Unfortunately for Lanier, Baldwin played both parts.

Except for the opening play of the game, Lanier was on the field only in the second half. He really didn't look any better than his back-up, Denny Dotson. However, he was playing with a special protective device for his broken jaw. Walsh said his team "might have done a few things differently" if Lanier had been completely healthy. During the time Lanier was in the game, Benedictine didn't pick up a single first down.

What was most surprising about Benedictine's offense was that it never turned into a last ditch pass-because-you-have-to type of game. The Cadets kept running, and Valdosta kept stopping them.

As far as the much talked about knee injury of Belue, it seemed much ado about nothing Friday night. Belue explained after the game.

"I came to play," he said. "It wasn't hurting at all."

Several of the Valdosta assistant coaches thought Belue was still a shade below normal. Head coach Nick Hyder said Belue had "65 percent" of his usual effectiveness.

Come Friday night in Warner Robins, Belue may need to be more than 65 percent. In fact, anything less that dead solid perfect might not be enough.

This is the big one. Either Clarke Central or Southwest DeKalb will be waiting in the state championship game but Friday's Valdosta-Warner Robins survivor will probably be regarded as the favorite to win it all.

Demons Win In OT

Valdosta, Warner Robins Set Stage For Showdown

By The Associated Press
Valdosta and Warner Robins, two powerhouses of south Georgia Class AAA high school football, set the stage for next week's semifinal tourney confrontation with narrow quarterfinal victories Friday night.

Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue passed for one touchdown and ran for the other as the Wildcats trimmed Benedictine 13-0 to spoil Benedictine's unbeaten record.

Defending champ Warner Robins, ranked No. 1 in The Associated Press poll, spotted Westside of Augusta a 21-0 lead, tied the game at 21-21 at the end of regulation

time, then won 27-21 in overtime.

Gordon plays at Cedartown tonight in Class AA quarterfinal action to complete the pairings for next weekend's semifinals in the state tourney.

In other Friday night Class AAA action, Southwest DeKalb trounced Wheeler 35-7 with junior quarterback Bob Berry scoring three touchdowns, and Clarke Central knocked off Newnan 14-7. The winners play each other next weekend.

In Class AA, top-ranked and undefeated Waycross had to squirm to beat Americus 12-7, Woodward Academy won easily over Swainsboro 20-0, and Dalton edged Stephens County 9-7 on a field goal.

In Class A, it was Early County easing past Mary Persons 14-7, Jeff Davis beating Morgan County 12-7, East Rome's defense permitting two rare scores in a 21-12 victory over North Springs, and Commerce

rambling past Turner 35-0.

In Class B, West Point and Palmetto played to a scoreless tie during regulation time, then West Point won 1-0 in overtime on penetration, and Jefferson beat Bremen 28-13. Savannah Country Day, which beat Pelham Friday night, will play its semifinal game next week against undefeated Class B defending champ Lincoln County, which was idle Friday night.

Waycross was tied at 7-7 with Americus with less than two minutes to go in their game Friday night, but Ricky Chaney's 44-yard field goal with 1:54 left gave Waycross the lead, and a last-minute safety made the final margin.

Another 44-yard field goal, this one by Dalton's David Wimpey, gave Dalton its victory over Stephens County in another Class AA game.

The semifinal pairings pit Waycross against Woodward, and the Gordon-Cedartown winner against Dalton.

Clearing The Valdosta Air

Times 10-30-77

This is not a get-back column. This is not an apology column. This is a set-the-record-straight column.

Never have I had so many people so grossly misinterpret what I wrote.

In Thursday's column on Nick Hyder's status as head coach of the Valdosta High School football team, any 100 percent objective reader would discover that it was Hyder himself who thought he was on shaky ground . . . not the writer.

It was Hyder who said "losing to Lowndes could be the death bell." It was Hyder who said "I had security in Rome, but I don't have it here." It was Hyder who said "I know there are some carnivorous people here."

Nowhere did this writer condemn or try to run Hyder out of town. Judging him only by his record, he's a good football coach. Judging him by the kind of man he is, he's a better football coach. Valdosta doesn't need another football coach, it just needs to get a small percentage of people off this one's back.

This writer is not one of those people. But, according to Hyder, there are a few of those folks around. But there are a lot more who are behind the man 100 percent. In fact, there are probably more than ever after Friday's win over Tift County.

Any coach in any sport needs the backing of his community and for the most part, Hyder has the support of Valdostans. But he made those comments in Thursday's paper in an apparent effort to show how much heat a few people could put on him.

Hyder is one of the few coaches around who teaches



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

math classes half the school day. He's also one of the few coaches around who's asked to fill church pulpits on Sunday mornings as he did at Azalea City Baptist only long hours after Valdosta lost to Lowndes. He's a unique individual with a low key personality who gets his point across without a lot of fanfare.

As far as I'm concerned, Hyder can be the Valdosta football coach for as long as the majority of the people here want him to be. But if I go to him for a story and he tells me the "death bell" may have sounded, that's what I'm going to write.

In short, and this column has been just that, the people of Valdosta may not have thought Nick Hyder was on shaky soil, but he did. Since the Thursday column and Friday night's game, he has to believe his footing is firmer than ever.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Nov. 30, 1977-3-

Locally In Brief

Friday Is 'Wildcat Day'

From Staff Reports

Friday has been proclaimed "Wildcat Day," in Valdosta in honor of Valdosta High School's Wildcats who play for the South Georgia Class AAA high school football championship that night.

Mayor Gil Harbin announced the proclamation at his regular news conference here this morning.

The Wildcats travel to Warner Robins to take on the defending state and national champion Warner Robins Deamons in International City Stadium Friday night.

Harbin said he has been contacted by Warner Robins Mayor Foy Evans, who extended the hospitality of his city to Valdosta fans.

He added, however, he did not expect Warner Robins to proclaim a "Wildcat Day" as well.

Gymnastics Classes To Begin

Gymnastics classes for beginning, intermediate and advanced gymnasts have been scheduled here beginning Dec. 10, according to an announcement.

Valdosta High School coach Jerry Baker is to teach the eight-week course for the Valdosta Recreation Department.

Beginners classes are to be held from 10-12 a.m., intermediates from 10 a.m.-noon, and advanced from noon-2 p.m. each Saturday with Baker determining which class each student is in.

The charge is \$15 per student, the announcement said.

Adkins Named Defensive Player Of Year

By MIKE CHASON

Before the 1977 high school football season even kicked off, Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson was calling Ronnie Adkins the "best linebacker in the state of Georgia."

Well, Georgia's a big state, but the 5-11, 199-pound junior is at least the best linebacker and defensive player in Region 1-AAA, according to the sportswriters who cover the 12 league schools.

Adkins is the Defensive Player of the Year on the All-Region 1-AAA team released today by the seven sportswriters.

Voting on the team were Paul McCorvey of the Albany Herald, Joe Crine of the Bainbridge Post-Searchlight, Mike Chason of the Valdosta Daily Times, Ray Willett of the Thomasville Times-Enterprise, Gary Shelton of the Daily Tifton Gazette, Harvey Simpson of the Cordele Dispatch and Gary Johnson of the Moultrie Observer.

The two other top honors went to Dougherty (Albany) quarterback Jerry Aubin for Offensive Player of the Year and Bainbridge Coach Miller Shealy for Coach of the Year.

"Adkins is a jim-dandy," Wilson said of the real stopper on his already solid defense this year. "I think he's the best in the state. I thought he was as fine a linebacker as there was in this region as a sophomore."

"I just really don't see how he can improve a whole lot for next year. He may work on getting stronger. His best



RONNIE ADKINS
LHS Linebacker

trait is anticipation. He has a knack for being in the right place at the right time."

Adkins averaged around 11 individual tackles a game this season and seemed to be in on almost every pileup. He picked up one fumble and ran it in for a touchdown and intercepted two passes.

Aubin was the leading passer in the region this season with 1,181 yards on 50 of 117 tosses. He had 17 touchdown passes with a 42 percent completion average. He was intercepted nine times.

Aubin-also ran the ball for 334 yards on 56 carries for a 5.96 yards-per-carry average. Shealy directed Bainbridge's Bearcats to a 5-5 record this season, his first as



BUCK BELUE
VHS Punter

head coach. Last year, the Bearcats were 0-10.

Bainbridge came within one game of winning the south subregion title, but got bombed 44-14 by Lowndes in the deciding game. Thomasville eventually won the subregion.

Valdosta's Nick Hyder, whose team won the region and plays tonight for the South Georgia Championship, was the other candidate for Coach of the Year.

Hyder had four of his Wildcats tabbed for first team honors and five different players cited for second team recognition.

Three Lowndes players were picked for the first team



NATHANIEL BURKS
LHS Wide Receiver

and three more for the second team.

Lynn Roberts, a 165-pound junior for Valdosta, was named first team defensive end. Allen Worthy, a 170-pound senior for Valdosta, was a unanimous pick for first team defensive back.

Buck Belue, who led the region in punting with a 39.88 yard average on 41 kicks, was the first team punter. Belue, a 6-1, 185-pound senior for Valdosta, was narrowly defeated for first team quarterback by Aubin.

Andy Chapman, a 180-pound junior for Valdosta, was a unanimous pick for first team offensive guard.

Lowndes' first team picks were Charles Burgman, a



ALLEN WORTHY
VHS Safety

165-pound defensive end, Adkins, who was a unanimous pick at linebacker and Nathaniel Burks, a 180-pound senior wide receiver.

Valdosta's second team picks were defensive lineman Curtis Wright, a 185-pound senior, linebacker Robert Baldwin, a 206-pound senior, defensive back Troy Thomas, a 172-pound junior, offensive tackle Gary Guthrie, a 220-pound senior, center Tony Blasetti, a 210-pound sophomore, Belue at quarterback and Baldwin as the placekicker.

Lowndes' second team picks included defensive back Bill Schreffler, a 150-pound junior who led the league in interception return yards.



CHARLES BURGMAN
LHS Defensive End

defensive back Ronnie Mashburn, a 165-pound junior, and punter Jeff Stokes, a 181-pound sophomore. Stokes was third in the region in punting with a 36.08 yard average on 39 kicks.

Other first team defensive picks included down linemen Ricky Wilson of Tift County (Tifton), Nathaniel French of Moultrie and Calvin Lewis of Crisp County (Cordele).

Tift's Nate Taylor and Larry Spurlin of Dougherty joined Adkins at linebacker. Roderick Hunter of Thomasville and Keith Hall of Moultrie joined Worthy as the top defensive backs.

On offense, Willie Hopkins of Central of Thomasville was named the number one tight



LYNN ROBERTS
VHS Defensive End

end, and Central's Horace Smith joined Burks as the top wide receivers.

Tift's Tim Case and Dougherty's Brent Middleton were selected as the top offensive tackles. Robin Hines of Thomasville joined Chapman as the top offensive guards.

Jerome Brinson of Crisp County (Cordele) was named the number one center. Cedric Moss of Dougherty and Roosevelt Andrews of Thomasville were the top running backs.

Coley Voyles of Central was selected as the top placekicker. Complete first and second team selections follow:

FIRST TEAM

Offense — light end Willie Hopkins (185, sr.) Central, wide receivers Nathaniel Burks (180, sr.) Lowndes and Horace Smith (180, sr.) Central, tackles Tim Case (229, jr.) Tift and Brent Middleton (210, sr.) Dougherty, guards Andy Chapman (180, jr.)



ANDY CHAPMAN
VHS Off-Guard

Valdosta and Robin Hines (190, sr.) Thomasville, center Jerome Brinson (185, sr.) Crisp, quarterback Jerry Aubin (185, sr.) Dougherty, running backs Cedric Moss (175, sr.) Dougherty and Roosevelt Andrews (180, sr.) Thomasville, placekicker Coley Voyles (220, sr.) Central. Defense — ends Lynn Roberts (165, jr.) Valdosta and Charles Burgman (165, sr.) Lowndes, down linemen Ricky Wilson (220, jr.) Tift, Nathaniel French (200, sr.) Moultrie and Calvin Lewis (180, sr.) Crisp, linebackers Nate Taylor (195, jr.) Tift, Ronnie Adkins (199, jr.) Lowndes and Larry Spurlin (220, sr.) Dougherty, defensive backs Allen Worthy (170, sr.) Valdosta, Roderick Hunter (185, sr.) Thomasville and Keith Hall (175, sr.) Moultrie, punter Buck Belue (185, sr.) Valdosta.

SECOND TEAM

Offense — light end Guy McIntyre, Thomasville; wide receivers Tom Jones, Dougherty and Larry Williford, Moultrie; tackles Gary Guthrie, Valdosta and Dain Clark, Central; guards Jeff Warts, Thomasville and Henry Walden, Central; center Tony Blasetti, Valdosta; quarterback Buck Belue, Valdosta; running backs Clyde Mackey, Bainbridge and Danny Morris, Tift; placekicker Robert Baldwin, Valdosta.

Defense — ends David Hollaway, Dougherty and Tim Donaldson, Central; down linemen Larry Meek, Dougherty, Curtis Wright, Valdosta and Jeff Copeland, Tift; linebackers Perry Weaver, Crisp, Robert Baldwin, Valdosta; and T.J. Mirms, Valdosta; offensive backs Troy Thomas, Ronnie Mashburn, Lowndes; punter Jeff Stokes, Lowndes.

South Ga. Champs

Second Half Explosion Sends 'Cats Past Demons

By MIKE CHASON
WARNER ROBINS — It wasn't even close.

Billed as the "top high school football game of the year" by one newspaper, the expected dream team matchup between Valdosta

YARDSTICK	
Valdosta	W. Robins
First Downs	14
Yards Rushing	146
Yards Passing	203
Passes	99
Passes Incl. By	7-15
Fumbles Lost	5-15
Punting	5-33.2
Penalties	2-30
	6-28.0
	5-45

and Warner Robins wound up a nightmare for Demon fans. For Valdosta followers, it really was football heaven in '77 as the Wildcats lit the fuse on their explosive offense in the second half to walk away with a 27-8 victory.

With the Class AAA South Georgia Championship locked securely away for the first time since 1971, Valdosta now looks to next Saturday night and a meeting with Clarke Central in Athens for the state title.

"And they're undefeated," Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said only a few shivering minutes after the crowd of over 18,000 fans had deserted International City Stadium here Friday night.

"But then everybody we've played lately has been undefeated. Benedictine was undefeated... Warner Robins was undefeated, and now Clarke Central. It'll be tough."

The Class AAA state championship game is scheduled for next Saturday night in Athens. Clarke Central defeated Southwest DeKalb 20-7 Friday night to earn its berth in the 7:30 p.m. game against Valdosta. The game could be played Friday night if both coaches agreed to the switch.

"Tough" was supposedly a mild adjective to describe the Demons, who had won 28 consecutive games including the state and mythical national title last season. But as the second half unfolded, even the 10-foot high candy-apple red Demon on the sideline seemed to ooze victory.

Warner Robins had of winning the game had been driven away about a half-hour earlier when VHS quarterback Belue threw a touchdown pass to Melvin Hunter to give the 'Cats a 20-0 lead.

"I'd like to take the credit, but I just can't," Hyder, who was taken off the field on the shoulders of several team members, said. "Give it all to the players and the other coaches. The difference tonight was t-e-a-m."

"You saw Valdosta playing together at its best tonight," Valdosta assistant coaches Jack Rudolph and Butch Brooks poured their post-game gravy from the same ladle as Hyder.

"It was just an overall team effort," Brooks, who helps coordinate the offense and coaches the offensive line, said. "It involved the whole bit... coaches, players, managers, everybody."

"You can't talk about just the 22 or 24 that were on the field. The special teams... all the kids just contributed to whole team effort."

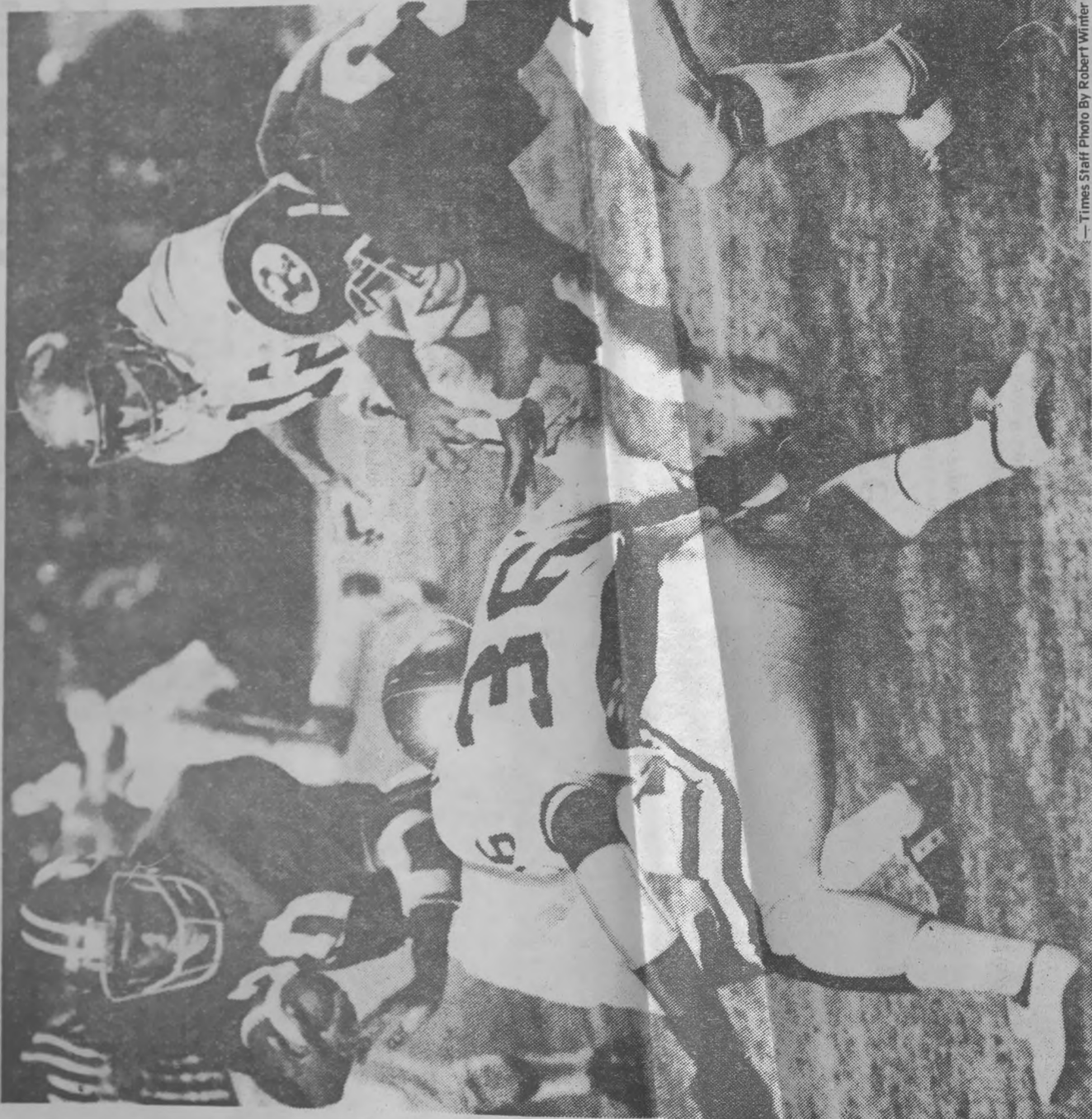
"It was a great effort, a great team effort," Rudolph, the defensive coordinator, said. "Oh sure, one individual might have made more tackles than another one. But they all contributed."

"Just like Carl Roe. He'll probably never get his name mentioned but I bet if you'll look back at the films, you'll see he had two or three big plays for us."

Never was the Valdosta gospel of togetherness preached more clearly than before the game when the Wildcat kickoff team held hands for a brief second in its huddle, much like the Baltimore Colts and a few other pro teams do.

From the start, it was obvious Valdosta was not going to have the problems offensively of the regular season opponents of the Demons did this year.

The Warner Robins defense only surrendered 40 points during the season. However, a double overtime 27-21 win over Westside in Augusta for the Demons 11th straight win might have been a sign of things to come.



—Times Staff Photo By Robert Winter III

Closing In On Cainion: Troy Thomas (36) Prepares To Tackle Demons' Jesse Cainion

quarter.

Hyder rolled his lucky 7-to-11 combination of Belue to John Lastinger for the final eight yards and the touchdown. Lastinger was wide open over the middle.

Robert Baldwin, who has become increasingly inconsistent in the extra point-kicking department as of late, missed the PAT.

Five plays into the second quarter, the 'Cats were knocking on the paydirt door.

the goal line. But he dropped the ball.

"I cut back on my left leg," Belue said later. "I thought I had the ball but that guy just hit me a good lick, and I lost it. It seemed like that kind of turned the tide the other way a little bit."

Instead of a sure score, Valdosta wound up on defense, and the Jesse Davis decided to kick the ball back to the 'Cats.

And the crowd boomed. Both teams turned super-cautious, the effect being that Valdosta's 200-yard drive was limited to a 41-yard

sprint which had touchdown written all over it until Lynn Roberts and Troy Thomas dragged down the 155-pound speedster on the Demon 48-yard-line.

Warner Robins wound up seven yards into Valdosta territory for the first time all game. But on fourth-and-

inches Demon Coach Robert Davis decided to kick the ball back to the 'Cats.

And the crowd boomed. Both teams turned super-cautious, the effect being that Valdosta's 200-yard drive was limited to a 41-yard

Only a 6-1, 185-pound number 7 stood between him and a tied ballgame.

But Belue, wearing the same number he's worn for every one but one of the past 46 straight Valdosta games, proved himself a worthy obstacle to get past.

Belue tackled Cainion 26 yards from the goal line... and then a clipping penalty brought the whole thing back. Cainion wound up with 96 yards in 17 carries but never broke another big play.

That was in stark contrast to the Wildcats, who kept their band boogeying to big plays the rest of the game.

With 2:52 showing on the third quarter clock, sophomore halfback Ernest King bounced off a pile of Demons into the end zone on a do-or-die fourth down play from the 1-yard-line.

The Valdosta defense, which was led by 10 tackles by Curtis Wright, nine by Craig Simmons and eight by Doug Conway, then rose up to stop Warner Robins on a fourth down-and-a-foot play.

Belue showed them how thankful he was by going to the air to Hunter for a 7-yard scoring strike with 11:52 to play in the game. Hunter also caught the 2-point conversion pass to give the 'Cats a 20-0 lead.

A showman all the way, Hunter danced out of the end zone with both fists raised high in the crisp December air.

Wright blocked a Mike Chester punt to give Valdosta yet another chance to score with 10:02 to play. The offense didn't oblige but Rudolph gave Wright a two-handed skin slap as he came off the field.

Stuart threw for 911 yards this season but didn't show his skill with the forward pass Friday night. He hit on five of 15 tosses for 60 yards and didn't complete a pass until the fourth quarter.

The Warner Robins quarterback completely missed his target at the five-minute mark of the final quarter, and Rodney Gordon took advantage of it.

The junior cornerback picked it off and headed 43 yards down the Valdosta sideline to the Demon 39, after Belue was sacked for the only

time in the game, William Gaskins burrowed under the Demon line for a 1-yard TD run with 3:51 on the clock.

Mike Cross' PAT kick meant time had run out on the Warner Robins' streak.

To their credit, the Demons did hurry back and finally score on a 9-yard Stuart to Byron Walker pass with 1:08 left in the game.

"They scored, and they scored on the best I had," Rudolph said. "I would have liked to have had a shutout, but in a game like this, it's just almost impossible."

"But the bottom line is what's important. If you keep a kid like Cainion out of the end zone, you know you've done a good job."

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Valdosta — King 14-45, Council 10-41, Belue 14-40, Gaskins 4-12, Hunter 2-8; Warner Robins — Cainion 3-27, Walker 2-10, Wright 2-10; Passing: Valdosta — Belue 7-150-99; Warner Robins — Stuart 15-110, Lastinger 3-67, Council 2-19; Hunter 7-16; Warner Robins — Walker 4-44, Davis 1-6; Punt Returns: Warner Robins — Cainion 2-41; Valdosta — no returns; Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — Gaskins 1-5, Warner Robins — Cainion 3-58, Dooson 1-22; Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Wright 10, Simmons 9, Conway 8, Worthy 6, Thomas 5, Baldwin 5, Roe 3, Gordon 2; Roberts 2, Brown 2, Carter 2; Warner Robins — Jordan 12, White 10, Keister 6, Smith 4, Dempsey 4, James 4, Brown 3, Niles 3, Lawson 3, Singletary 2.

Score by Quarters:

Valdosta	6	0	6	15-27
Warner Robins	0	0	0	8-8

Scoring:

Val. — Lastinger 8 pass from Belue (Kick failed)
Val. — King, 1 run (run failed)
Val. — Hunter 7 pass from Belue (Hunter pass from Belue)
Val. — Gaskins 1 run (Cross kick)
W.R. — Walker 9 pass from Stuart (Davis pass from Stuart)

Belue, VHS Had It All Together

By Times Staff Writer
WARNER ROBINS — For Buck Belue, putting it together at the right time was the real key to a 27-8 Valdosta victory over Warner Robins in the Class AAA South Georgia Championship game here Friday night.

"We've just peaked at the right time," Belue, the four-year starter at quarterback for the Wildcats, said. "I think we've just got it together right now."

Belue had it together after

and that kind of hurt us a little bit," Belue said. "But at halftime, we got this pep talk and they told us we weren't playing up to our capabilities. "John and I talked it over, and we knew they were leaving us open on a couple of pass routes. All we needed was a little bit of time, and we got it."

Belue's offensive line of Gary Guthrie, Bubba Hardin, Tony Blasetti, Scott Griffin and Andy Chapman kept such Demons as Ernest Jordan

and John White out of the VHS backfield except on one occasion when Belue sacked Jordan 9, linebacker, wound up with 12 tackles, and White, a defensive end, had 10.

"Playing the national champions and all, we had a lot of respect for them," Belue said. "But I knew if we played our game, we could stay with them."

"If anybody beats us, it'll be us beating ourselves."

Even though Clarke Central, the team Valdosta plays for the state title next Saturday, is unbeaten, the Athens team hasn't gotten the recognition of Valdosta and Warner Robins.

"Yeah, they're sorta' the underdog in a way," Belue said. "I think because Warner Robins was the defending state champion and national champion, everybody was talking about them."

But Belue, who's started 46 straight games for Valdosta, wasn't quite ready to start thinking about Clarke Central.

"I'd like to enjoy this one for a little while," he said. "It's been a long time coming."

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Valdosta One Step Away From Glory Days Of Old

By The Associated Press

Valdosta is one step away from returning to its glory days as giants of Georgia high school football after quarterback Buck Belue put the finishing touches to the defending champion Warner Robins' 28-game winning streak.

Belue, the 6-foot-1, 185-pound senior, nearing completion of a brilliant four-year career as field general of the Wildcats, passed for two touchdowns in the 27-8 rout Friday night for the Class AAA South Georgia title before a packed house of 18,000 at Warner Robins.

Next up for Valdosta, 12-1, is Clarke Central, a 20-7 winner over Southwest DeKalb for the North title.

The championship, which Valdosta won for the 15th and last time in 1971, Coach Weight Bazemore's final season, will match the two squads next weekend.

In Friday night's other semifinals, Waycross nudged Woodward Academy 9-6 and Dalton trimmed Gordon 20-12 in Class AA; East Rome edged Commerce 21-20 on penetration in two overtimes and Early County shipped by Jeff Davis 14-13 in Class A and defending champion Lincoln County defeated Savannah Country Day 22-6 in Class B.

West Point, 9-2, is at Jefferson, 9-3-1, tonight in the other Class B semifinal.

"He looked like a pro out there," Warner Robins Coach Robert Davis said of Belue, who hit on seven of 15 passes for 99 yards, including touch-

downs of eight and 7 yards and a two-point conversion, and ran for another 40 yards.

"They just whipped us," said Davis as his Demons, 11-1, dropped their first game in three seasons.

"We never got field position. They backed us up and held us there, and it seemed like every time we got something started, we'd have something stop us, whether it was Valdosta or a penalty or something," said Davis.

Jesse Cainion, the Warner Robins running back who scored four touchdowns last week in the Demons' 27-21 triumph over Northside, was the leading rusher in the contest with 94 yards in 18 carries.

Clarke Central, 14-0, scored a pair of first period touchdowns on runs of four yards by Hillary Billups and two yards by Stan Davis and held a 14-7 halftime lead as South-west, 12-1, came back on a one-yard scoring toss from Bob Berry to Mike Charmoli.

Quarterback Jim Bob Harris wrapped up the victory for Clarke with a 58-yard burst in the fourth period.

Waycross scored on a Keith Taylor to Charles Junior 74-yard pass play late in the second period for a 7-0 lead before Woodward scored on a 27-yard pass from David Archer to Reid Trimble with 9:30 remaining.

The War Eagles did not attempt to go for the two-point conversion even after a penalty put the ball on the one and one-half yard line and Ronnie Henggele's extra

point conversion even after a penalty put the ball on the one and one-half yard line and Ronnie Henggele's extra

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and John White out of the VHS backfield except on one occasion when Belue sacked Jordan 9, linebacker, wound up with 12 tackles, and White, a defensive end, had 10.

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Prep Football

By The Associated Press

Today's Game
 Class B
 West Point at Jefferson
 Friday's Semifinals
 Class AAA
 Clarke-Central 20, SW DeKalb 7
 Valdosta 27, Warner Robins 8

Pro Basketball

By The Associated Press

National Basketball Association
ALL TIMES EST
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

Philadelphia	16	5	762	5
New York	10	10	524	5 1/2
Buffalo	7	13	350	8 1/2
New Jersey	3	18	143	13

Central Division

Cleveland	6	684	11 1/2	
Atlanta	11	7	611	11 1/2
Washington	13	10	545	2
San Antonio	11	10	524	3
New Orleans	8	12	400	5 1/2
Houston	8	12	400	5 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Midwest Division

Denver	15	8	652	2 1/2
Chicago	11	9	550	3 1/2
Milwaukee	8	12	400	5 1/2
Detroit	8	13	381	6
Kansas City	7	14	333	7
Indiana	7	14	333	7

Pacific Division

Portland	17	8	850	5 1/2
Phoenix	10	11	579	7 1/2
Golden State	10	11	476	7 1/2
Los Angeles	8	13	381	9 1/2
Seattle	7	17	292	12

Friday's Games
 Seattle 111, Boston 89
 Chicago 107, Indiana 102
 Kansas City 108, Detroit 97
 Washington 108, Milwaukee 95
 Denver 126, New Jersey 92
 Portland 106, Phoenix 103

Almond Cards Hole-In-One

By Times Staff Writer

Jim Almond of Atlanta knocked in a hole-in-one at Francis Lake Golf Club near here recently.

Almond, one of the out-of-town members of the club,aced the 154-yard 12th hole with a five iron. He was playing with Don Lucas, Roy Gaskins, Billy Bray and Paul England.

Almond was identified as Jim Griffin in Friday's Times.

Buck Belue Unloads Before Outstretched Arms Of Demons' Lott Singletary



—Times Staff Photo.

Congratulations



VHS WILDCATS!
 Bring Home The State Crown!
GOOD LUCK!

—Lowndes Vikings & Supporters

Lowndes, VHS Pair Up Tuesday

By Times Staff Writer
Lowndes' Vikettes and Valdosta's Kittens draw the spotlight here Tuesday night, when they clash in a battle of unbeaten in the opening game of a Region 1-AAA basketball twin-bill.

Coach Charles Cooper's Lowndes girls have knocked off six straight foes this season, extending their winning streak to 36 games over two years.

Meanwhile, Coach Jerry Baker's Kittens have gotten off to one of the best starts ever by a Valdosta girls' team, racking up three victories without a loss.

For the first time in years, the Kittens seem to loom as a legitimate threat to their arch-rivals from across town.

The boys' game matches the 4-2 Vikings of new head coach Jerry Wilkes against

Coach Norman Sainz's struggling Wildcats, who have failed to win in three starts.

Lowndes had a four-game winning string broken Saturday in a 77-64 loss to Bainbridge.

Valdosta, handicapped because of its football team's continued participation in the state playoffs, has played its games so far with a limited roster of nine players. Over half the team plays football.

In other Tuesday night games in the area, Berrien (Nashville, Ga.) plays host to Jeff Davis (Hazlehurst) and Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.) travels to Broxton.

Echols County (Statenville) travels to Pearson for a Region 2-B (West) twin-bill with Atkinson County, Westbrook (Dixie) journeys to Bainbridge Christian, and

Area Hoop Slate

Tonight
Cook girls at Cairo College
Mississippi College Women at VSC

Tuesday
Lowndes at Valdosta
Jeff Davis at Berrien
Lanier at Broxton
Echols at Atkinson
Westbrook at Bainbridge Christian
Brantley at Clinch

College
VSC at Jacksonville University

Wednesday
NFJC at Gulf Coast

Thursday
Mt. Union at VSC

Friday
Lowndes at Thomasville
Valdosta at Bainbridge
Berrien at Brantley
Clinch at Lanier
GCS at Westbrook
Turner at Cook
Echols at Broxton
Valwood at Pineland
Worth at Brooks

Saturday
Lanier at Norman Park
Pineland at GCS
Valwood at Bainbridge Christian
Brooks at Mitchell
Fitzgerald boys at Cook College
Chipola at NFJC

Clinch County (Homerville) hosts Brantley County (Nahunta) in a Region 2-A (South) doubleheader.

In college action, Valdosta State College's Blazers carry their 6-0 record on the road, where they risk it against Jacksonville University's Dolphins.

Tonight, the Valdosta State College women entertain Mississippi College's perennially powerful Lady Choctaws, and Cook (Adel) sends its girls' team to Cairo.

Wednesday, North Florida Junior College leaves Madison to battle Gulf Coast Community College at

Panama City.

Cooper said he hasn't seen Valdosta play, but said he "thinks Valdosta has a strong ballclub."

"They have one of the most experienced players in the region," he said, referring to Lisa Feix, the Kittens' four-year starter.

"That's more experience than anybody we've got, and they've got some other girls back, like Maggie Powell, Shirley Berrian and Renee Whitehead."

The Vikettes also returned several starters, including forward Rhonda Rowell, guard Karen Parker, and Marcia Player, last season's player of the year in Region 1-AAA.

"We're looking forward to playing them (The Vikettes)," said Baker.

"It's good to be 3-0. Those

are three they can't take away from us."

Lowndes regular Sumner O'Neal started at VHS for two years before transferring across town this season.

Lowndes' boys could never quite muster enough strength last season to overcome the talented Wildcats, but have a golden opportunity this time since a good portion of the Valdosta team is still playing football.

Wilkes is anything but overconfident. "They (Valdosta) will be angry," he said. "They'll be ready for us."

"A lot of people say we have an advantage, since Valdosta is still playing football. I disagree."

"You can throw all that out when Lowndes and Valdosta play. I think it will be a good effort by both teams, and I'm expecting a good ballgame."

Valdosta Wrestling Team Opens Season At Berrien

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta High School's wrestling team hopes to continue its success of last season tonight, when it travels to Nashville, Ga., for matches with Berrien.

Coach Jim Landrum's wrestlers finished 8-2 last year, suffering defeats only at the hands of Southwest (Macon) and Fitzgerald.

Landrum said his team would be handicapped for a while because several key wrestlers are still playing football, including William

Gaskins, Melvin Hunter, Curtis Wright, Lynn Roberts and Sam Fletcher.

The Wildcats will be forced to forfeit the 185-pound category, since they have no available wrestler at that weight, according to Landrum.

Landrum said that only four of last season's regulars are to start tonight.

Both Valdosta and Berrien are to be opening their third wrestling season.

"We look for a much improved Berrien team this year," said Landrum. "They have a good, sound, year-round wrestling program, and they also sent around 15 wrestlers to camp last summer."

He said he didn't know if Berrien's Margaret Morris, a 15-year-old female who raised eyebrows last season

as the only known female high school wrestler in the state, would start this season.

Valdosta's probable starting lineup and season schedule follow:

- 98-pound class — Wade Connell or Marlon Beechum; 105-pound class — Greg Godwin or Allen Blanton; 112-pound class — Andy Jaramillo;
- 119-pound class — David Harrison or Guy Canaday; 126-pound class — David Jaramillo; 132-pound class — Jerome Young; 138-pound class — David Clifton;
- 145-pound class — John Jerbert; 155-pound class — Steve Hall; 167-pound class — Billy Redfield; heavyweight — Jay Guthrie.

SCHEDULE
Dec. 1, Berrien, away, 7 p.m.; Dec. 31, Southwest (Macon) at Fitzgerald, 10 a.m.; Dec. 31, Perry at Fitzgerald, 3 p.m.; Jan. 5, Tift County (Tifton), home, 9:30 a.m.; Jan. 7, Lincoln (Tallahassee, Fla.), home, 7 p.m.; Jan. 11, Ware County (Waycross), home, 7 p.m.; Jan. 13-14, Southwest Invitational at Macon; Jan. 17, Madison, Fla., home (B-team), 9:30 a.m.; Jan. 18, Camden County (St. Marys), home, 6 p.m.; Jan. 20-21, Lincoln Invitational at Tallahassee, Fla.; Jan. 25, Fitzgerald, away, 7 p.m.; Jan. 28, Baldwin (Milledgeville), home, 4 p.m.; Feb. 1, Tift, away, 7 p.m.; Feb. 9-10, Area 1 AAA Championships at Milledgeville; Feb. 16-18, State AAA Championships at Marietta.

Padres Looks For 'Best Game'

Padres Sign Oscar Gamble
SAN DIEGO (AP) — Padres officials signing of Chicago White Sox agent Oscar Gamble to the club leverage the kind of trade gamble to make.

...der also has ... r Buck Belue. ... pound senior ... nents in his ... go and had not ... nobility for the ... onship game. ... Belue would ... night if he's ... starting lineups ... follow:

VALDOSTA
Offense — ends Sam Fletcher (185, jr.) and John Lastinger (174, jr.), tackles Gary Guthrie (220, sr.) and Scott Griffin (190, jr.), guards Fomby Hardin (170, jr.) and Andy Chapman (180, jr.), center Tony Blasetti (210, soph.), halfbacks Frank Council (182, sr.) and Robert Smith (155, jr.) or Melvin Hunter (147, sr.), fullback William Gaskins (150, jr.) or Ernest King (170, soph.), quarterback Buck Belue (185, sr.).
Defense — ends Doug Conway (185, sr.) and Lynn Roberts (165, jr.), tackles Curtis Wright (185, sr.) and Jimbo Hancock (165, soph.), middle guard Craig Simmons (190, sr.), linebackers John Branan (182, jr.) and Robert Baldwin (206, sr.), cornerbacks Troy Thomas (172, jr.) and Rodney Gordon (160, jr.), safeties Allen Worthy (170, sr.) and Carl Roe (615, jr.) or Jimmy Hartman (178, sr.).

BENEDICTINE
Offense — ends Danny Burkner (145, jr.) and Chuck Phillips (190, sr.), tackles Blakewood (235, sr.) and Chris Yarbrough (190, sr.) or Tom White (215, jr.), guards Billy Rays (160, sr.) and Pat Roper (195, jr.), center Pat Robert (160, sr.) and Chris McCarty (185, jr.), fullback Merio De Laperriere (180, sr.), quarterback Randy Lanier (138, sr.) or Danny Dotson (165, jr.).
Defense — ends Jim Walsh (215, sr.) and Danny Ritzert (180, sr.), tackles Andrew Province (245, jr.) and Mike Thompson (6-6, 260, sr.), middle guard Mike Lyons (185, sr.), linebackers Billy Bowers (190, sr.) and Billy McGraw (170, sr.), cornerbacks Bryan Welch (175, sr.) and Dave Parker (180, sr.), safeties Billy Knight (155, sr.) and Bryan Whalen (175, sr.).

PONTIAC
a family tradition

SAFARI

Game-Losing TD Costs Commerce

By STEVE FIGUEROA
Constitution Prep Editor

"The best thing that happened to us was when Commerce scored in the overtime period."

Right off, that might appear to be a rather strange statement for East Rome Coach Jerry Sharp to make. In fact, it appears to be a very strange statement since Commerce's TD in the second of two five-minute overtime periods put the Tigers ahead of East Rome, 20-13, with less than two minutes to play.

But, close evaluation of the entire situation supports Sharp's comment.

It turns out that the only way East Rome could have won was for Commerce to score.

Confused? Here are the facts:

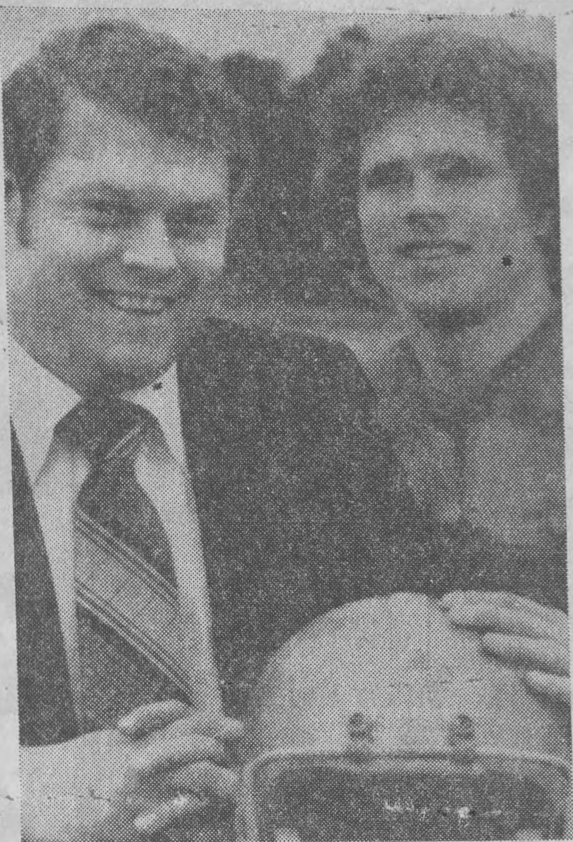
- (1) Commerce was driving deep in East Rome territory with the score tied, 13-13, and under two minutes to play in the second overtime period.
- (2) East Rome was out of timeouts.
- (3) East Rome's deepest penetration during the overtime play was to the Commerce 46, while Commerce was already inside the East Rome 20.
- (4) If Commerce had not scored, but instead been held by the East Rome's defense, East Rome's offense would have gotten the ball about 90 yards from the Commerce goal with about a minute to play.

However, when Commerce did score on Dean Allen's 15-yard run with teammate Donald Rucker's fumble, the Tigers were then forced to kickoff to East Rome.

Greg Gordon returned the kickoff to mid-field to give the Gladiators some operating room, and quarterback Sylvester Elkins ended the 50-yard march a few plays later by hitting Willie Wells with a 24-yard touchdown pass as the final seconds ticked off the clock.

Elkins then booted the PAT to tie the score at 20-20 and East Rome was awarded the victory based on the deepest non-scoring penetration.

If Commerce hadn't scored, however, the Tigers would have been awarded the penetration



Associated Press Photo

The Belues: Father and Son

Championship Schedule

- FINALS**
Saturday Night
Class AAA
Valdosta (12-1) at Clarke Central (13-0)
Class AA
Dalton (12-1) at Waycross (13-0)
Class A
Early County (12-0) at East Rome (14-0)
Class B
Jefferson (10-3-1) at Lincoln County (12-0)

point, assuming that East Rome couldn't have driven the length of the field in less than a minute with no timeouts, since their penetration at the end of the second overtime period was deeper than East Rome's earlier penetration to the 46.

All in all, it was a very interesting Class A North Georgia championship game.

In other playoff action, Waycross quarterback Keith Taylor completed seven of eight passes for 209 yards and a 74-yard touchdown, while linebacker Kenneth Thompson had 15 tackles and 240-pound tackle Ricky Chaney eight to lead the Bulldogs past Woodward, 9-6, in the AA South Georgia title game.

Phil Amason, a 130-pound junior, returned a punt 48 yards for a touchdown and kicked a 25-yard field goal to help Lincoln County dump Savannah Country Day, 22-6, in the B South Georgia championship game. Raymond Arnett, a 202-pound noseguard, led the Red Devil defense with eight tackles and a blocked punt.

Junior halfback Eddie Everette gained 146 yards on 22 carries and scored on a nine-yard run to spark Early County past Jeff Davis, 14-13, in the A South Georgia title match. Unbeaten Early County also got nine tackles and five assists from linebacker General Hicks.

Ronald Watson, a 130-pound freshman, gained 115 yards on 12 carries and scored on a 56-yard burst to lead Jefferson to a 21-16 decision over West Point in the B North Georgia match.

Buck Belue completed seven of 15 passes for 99 yards and two touchdowns to lead Valdosta over Warner Robins, 27-8, in the AAA South Georgia game. Curtis Wright, a 190-pound senior tackle, anchored the Wildcats defense with 11 tackles and a blocked punt.

In a couple of losing causes, S.W. DeKalb's Jimmy Harmon gained 167 yards on 16 carries but fell to unbeaten Clarke Central, 20-7, in the AAA North Georgia title game, while Gordon's Richard Nash passed for 213 yards only to fall short, 20-12, to Dalton's outstanding defense in the AA North Georgia championship.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., Nov. 25, 1977-14-

VHS Picked To Shut Down Wishbone Of Benedictine

Let's see now. Throw all the record books out the window. It's a brand new season. Anything can happen. Forget the past. Take 'em one at a time. It's a different kettle of fish. It's a horse of a different color.

That just about wipes the board clean of all the time-honored cliches about post-season playoff games. Sometimes they apply, and sometimes they don't.

In tonight's 7:30 p.m. matchup between Valdosta and Benedictine in Savannah's Memorial Stadium, there's really going to be no way to prove the cliches right or wrong. On paper anyway, both teams appear about equal.

Benedictine is 10-0. Valdosta is 10-1. Benedictine averaged "around 30 points a game" according to their head coach, James Walsh. Valdosta averaged 32 points a game. Benedictine gave up 88 points in 10 regular season games. Valdosta gave up 81 points. Benedictine was rated fourth in the state. Valdosta was rated fifth.

Valdosta does campaign in what many people call the toughest football region in the state. The word is that if you get out of Region 1-AAA, you have accomplished a feat of heroic proportions. However, the fact remains that the Region 3-AAA representative has beaten the Region 1-AAA representative in both first round playoff games the past two seasons.

Wayne County pulled off the feat both times, slipping past Valdosta 15-14 in 1975 and clipping Dougherty last year. In 1973 and '74, Thomasville proved the 1-AAA folks right by winning back-to-back state titles.

Injury-wise, Benedictine and Valdosta again appear to be in about the same shape. Cadet quarterback Randy Lanier broke his jaw in Benedictine's final regular season game two weeks ago. Wildcat quarterback Buck Belue strained ligaments in his knee in practice nine days ago. Both will probably play tonight.

There's no way of knowing how much Lanier might be hampered by his jaw, but Belue seems certain to be slowed by his knee. The 6-1, 185-pound senior was the top rusher for the Wildcats this year and his scrambles out of the pocket accounted for more than one key first down. Belue also gained a lot of yards by simply beating the defense to the corner and turning upfield. He didn't try that move a single time against Thomasville last week. In fact, for the first time all season, he didn't carry the ball.

However, back-up quarterback and starting split end John Lastinger proved he has some running ability of his own last week when he galloped 70 yards for the longest



Mike
Chason
Times Sports Editor

run from scrimmage for a Wildcat all season. If Belue can't go all the way tonight, it's a sure bet VHS Coach Nick Hyder has his eye on Lastinger.

The only other Wildcat scheduled to miss the game is starting defensive tackle Ray Lloyd. Lloyd missed the Thomasville game because of an illness and has not recovered sufficiently to play tonight, according to Hyder.

If Belue does start and Hyder said he would if he's "mobile", it will mark the 45th consecutive game the familiar number 7 has trotted out to stand behind the center. Ironically, the only game Valdosta lost this year was when Belue had to wear jersey number 1 after Lowndes' Charles Burgman ripped number 7 to shreds.

Valdosta has won 32 games and lost 12 with Belue as the quarterback and Hyder as the coach. And lest we forget, Allen Worthy as the defensive safety. Hyder said Worthy had started 43 of the 44 games. Take away the let's-get-acquainted year of 1974 when the 'Cats went 3-7, and Hyder's boys have an amazing 29-5 record.

But tonight, for the first time in those 44 games, Valdosta faces a wishbone offense. Walsh said his team had experienced "pretty good success" running the wishbone this season. When a coach says that, it usually means his team has done a lot better than just "pretty good."

No team in Region 1-AAA runs the wishbone, and there has to be a reason for that. Here's a prediction that Benedictine is going to find out why via a 21-7 Valdosta victory tonight.

Last week's record was 2-0 for an overall 81 percent total of 182-40.

times for 83 yards in the game but fumbled the pass in the second

UNBEATEN RECORD AT STAKE

Belue Next Test for Demons

By STEVE FIGUEROA
Constitution Prep Editor

Warner Robins' vaunted defense, rated even better than the one on last year's national title team by Coach Robert Davis, will probably have to be as good as Davis thinks if the Demons are to successfully defend their state AAA crown.

Davis' Demons have the dubious distinction of being tested on back-to-back Fridays by the two quarterbacks many feel to be the best passers in AAA ball.

Westside's Mike Kelly, with 42 career touchdown passes, was test No. 1 for Warner Robins and only a spectacular, four-touchdown effort by halfback Jesse Cainion pulled the Demons through in overtime, 27-21.

Despite a painful ankle injury, Kelly completed 17 of 43 passes for 220 yards and two touchdowns to stake his Patriots to a 21-0 halftime lead over top-ranked Warner Robins. Cainion, who rushed for 239 yards, responded with three TDs in the second half to tie the game up, however, and then scored his fourth in overtime to put the Demons into the AAA South Georgia championship game.

That brings up test No. 2 for Davis' defense in the person of Valdosta's Buck Belue, a three-year starter for Coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats.

Belue, also hobbled with an injury, still managed to put the points on the board in Valdosta's 13-0 win over a tough Benedictine squad by completing six of nine passes for 105 yards and a 35-yard TD. He scored the other touchdown himself on a one-yard sneak and also punted four times for a 37-yard average.

Four-year regular Robert Baldwin led Valdosta's defense from his linebacker spot with 13 tackles, while tackle Curtis Wright chipped in with 11 as a crowd of about 15,000, said to be the largest ever to watch a prep game in Savannah, looked on.

Another of the top QBs in Class AAA, Bob Berry, led his unbeaten S.W. DeKalb Panthers to a



Staff Photo—Bud Skinner

Woodward's Hixon Talks Strategy

surprisingly easy 35-7 win over Wheeler. Just a junior, Berry passed for 72 yards and ran for 95, scoring three times on runs of one, four and 49 yards.

As usual, it was the defense leading undefeated Clarke Central. Linebackers Mark Dailey, who recovered a key fumble, and Karey Johnson, who caused one, sparked Coach Billy Henderson's squad to a 14-7 victory over Newnan.

David Wimpey's 43-yard field goal in the third

period boosted Dalton to a 9-7 win over Stephens County. It was only the second field goal of the season for the senior kicker.

Fullback Jimmy Orange rushed for 106 yards, on 10 carries, scoring on a 44-yard run, and caught passes for 74 more yards to lead Waycross past Americus, 12-7.

Tailback Greg Gordon scored on a 68-yard run and fullback Larry Kinnebrew broke draw plays for TDs of 35 and 63 yards to power unbeaten East Rome to a 21-12 win over a tough and physical North Springs team.

Quarterback Richard Nash completed eight of 12 passes for 209 yards and a two-point conversion to lead Gordon to a come-from-behind, 27-21, win over a huge Cedartown squad.

Tiny senior Joe Fitzhugh, 5-foot-7 and 140 pounds, led Woodward past Swainsboro, 20-0, by rushing for 129 yards on 13 carries and scoring on runs of nine and 62 yards.

Junior tailback Eddie Everette was the big man in Early County's 14-7 win over Mary Persons, as the 5-8, 160-pound speedster gained 145 yards on 15 carries, putting him over the 1,000-yard mark for the season, and scored the winning TD late in the third period on a 60-yard burst.

Donald Rucker rushed for 78 yards and scored twice, while junior linebacker Terry Elrod had 11 tackles and caused two fumbles, as Commerce thrashed Turner, 35-0.

Darrell Smith rushed for 147 yards, scoring on a 56-yard run, and passed 10 yards for another TD to lead Jeff Davis to a 12-7 win over Morgan County. Linebacker Chip Bowen was in on 15 tackles and recovered a fumble to lead the Jeff Davis defense.

Todd Berry rushed for 130 yards and returned a pass interception 70 yards for a TD, while substitute quarterback Bob Gurley passed for 92 yards and three touchdowns, as Jefferson handed Bremen, 28-13.

High School Results

QUARTER—FINALS

Class AAA	
Valdosta 13	Benedictine 0
Warner Robins 27	OT Westside 21
S.W. DeKalb 35	Wheeler 7
Clarke Central 14	Newnan 7

Class AA	
Waycross 12	Americus 7
Woodward 10	Swainsboro 0
Dalton 9	Stephens Co. 7
Gordon 27	Cedartown 21

Class A	
Early Co. 14	Mary Persons 7
Jeff Davis 12	Morgan Co. 7
East Rome 21	North Springs 12
Commerce 35	Turner 0

Class B	
West Point 1	Palmetto 0
Jefferson 28	Bremen 13
Savannah Country Day 20	Pelham 0

SEMIFINAL SCHEDULE

Friday Night

AAA NORTH GEORGIA	
S.W. DeKalb (12-0) at Clarke Central (12-0)	
SOUTH GEORGIA	
Valdosta (11-1) at Warner Robins (11-0)	
AA NORTH GEORGIA	
Gordon (11-1) at Dalton (11-1)	
SOUTH GEORGIA	
Waycross (12-0) at Woodward (11-1)	
A NORTH GEORGIA	
East Rome (13-0) at Commerce (11-1)	
SOUTH GEORGIA	
Early County (11-0) at Jeff Davis (10-2)	
B SOUTH GEORGIA	
Savannah Country Day (10-2) at Lincoln County (11-0)	

Saturday Night

CLASS B NORTH GEORGIA	
West Point (9-2) at Jefferson (9-3-1)	

Demons Win In OT

Nov. 26, 1977 Sat.

Valdosta, Warner Robins Set Stage For Showdown

By The Associated Press
Valdosta and Warner Robins, two powerhouses of south Georgia Class AAA high school football, set the stage for next week's semifinal tourney confrontation with narrow quarterfinal victories Friday night.

Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue passed for one touchdown and ran for the other as the Wildcats trimmed Benedictine 13-0 to spoil Benedictine's unbeaten record.

Defending champ Warner Robins, ranked No. 1 in The Associated Press poll, spotted Westside of Augusta a 21-0 lead, tied the game at 21-21 at the end of regulation

time, then won 27-21 in overtime.

Gordon plays at Cedartown tonight in Class AA quarterfinal action to complete the pairings for next weekend's semifinals in the state tourney.

In other Friday night Class AAA action, Southwest DeKalb trounced Wheeler 35-7 with junior quarterback Bob Berry scoring three touchdowns, and Clarke Central knocked off Newnan 14-7. The winners play each other next weekend.

In Class AA, top-ranked and undefeated Waycross had to squirm to beat Americus 12-7. Woodward Academy won easily over Swainsboro 20-0, and Dalton edged Stephens County 9-7 on a field goal.

In Class A, it was Early County easing past Mary Persons 14-7, Jeff Davis beating Morgan County 12-7, East Rome's defense permitting two rare scores in a 21-12 victory over North Springs, and Commerce

rambling past Turner 35-0.

In Class B, West Point and Palmetto played to a scoreless tie during regulation time, then West Point won 1-0 in overtime on penetration, and Jefferson beat Bremen 28-13. Savannah Country Day, which beat Pelham Friday night, will play its semifinal game next week against undefeated Class B defending champ Lincoln County, which was idle Friday night.

Waycross was tied at 7-7 with Americus with less than two minutes to go in their game Friday night, but Ricky Chaney's 44-yard field goal with 1:54 left gave Waycross the lead, and a last-minute safety made the final margin.

Another 44-yard field goal, this one by Dalton's David Wimpey, gave Dalton its victory over Stephens County in another Class AA game. The semifinal pairings pit Waycross against Woodward, and the Gordon-Cedartown winner against Dalton.

Cox, Braves Eye Turnaround

ATLANTA (AP) — Bobby Cox, a light-hitting infielder who became "a tough son of a gun" as a minor league manager, is the man Atlanta Braves owner Ted Turner chose to lead his cellar-dwelling National League team to baseball's "promised

land." "We lost 101 games last year, so obviously there is the need for a lot of work," Cox said Tuesday after he signed a two-year contract to become the Braves' seventh full-time manager since they moved from Milwaukee in

1966. Terms of the contract were not disclosed.

"I'm my own manager. I'll manage the way I want to," said Cox, who compiled a .224 lifetime batting average in two seasons as a New York Yankees third baseman before he became a minor

league manager in 1970. He became a Yankees infielder coach last season after winning two pennants in five seasons as a manager in the Yankees' farm system.

"We want to turn it around as soon as possible," Cox said. "I want to come out of spring training with the players thinking we're pennant contenders. That's the feeling we have to have and will be my job to make them feel that way."

Cox said pitching is the greatest need of the Braves whose 61-101 record last season was the club's worst in 42 years. He said he would

This Weekend

Thunderbowl Races Set

By Times Staff Writer
Drivers from all over Georgia and Alabama are expected to participate in the Thunderbowl.

and a 20-lap feature in the Thundercar classification. Four heat races and two match races are slated in

Drivers are to be competing for record prize money, according to Radney, when action begins at 3:30

Wildcat Fans Turn Off Former Fan

Sir: I was there when Sonny Shroyer made the game ending tackle in the Peanut Bowl. I can still see Robert Johnson throwing the ball and making touchdown saving tackles on kickoff returns. I was there when Dale Williams was injured in Thomasville. And how about Johnny Welch, Ben Smith, and Vic Finley? Couldn't they run that ball? I was there when John Robert O'Neal ran the Statue of Liberty play in that playoff game with Jesup. And I watched Bozy Thomas and Otis Fletcher lead an almost upset over Jimmy Burson and LaGrange in the 'Cats' first year in Triple A.

I was there when the 'Cats defeated Richmond Academy on the penetration rule after a scoreless deadlock for the south Ga. title in 1960. And wasn't Bruce Bennett something to watch in '61? I smiled in '62 when Billy

Shroer's pride wouldn't let him be helped off the field in Moultrie following a knee injury.

I didn't give up on the 'Cats in '63 during that terrible 2-7-1 campaign. And I watched them come back with the Glynn Davis', the Ron Stobo's, the Pat O'Neal's, the Bounds', the Rome's, and finally, Buck Belue.

But folks, I've also been there this year, and I've heard all the "get Hyder" talk, and all the "hate Lowndes" talk. I was there at the Valdosta-Tifton game two weeks ago when 10,000 men, women, and students cheered when it was announced that Crisp was leading the Vikings in their game.

Students sure, but I couldn't believe that adults would do that sort of thing. I was also there at the band contest at Cleveland Field when the Lowndes Band got a

thundering applause. But it seems that the people who put on and arranged for judges obviously decided to take that opportunity to get revenge for that Viking football victory. Lowndes' Band was not even placed in the top 5, and they were terrific! How could anyone be that petty and cruel?

I'll tell you one thing, and I'm sincere when I say it, I won't ever be "there" again for the Valdosta Wildcats. And I hope a now fired up more than ever group of Vikings can make it to the playoffs and completely demolish the used to be mighty 'Cats. The question that should have been on that sign at the ballgame is, "why would anyone want to coach Valdosta?"

Former dedicated Wildcat Fan

NOV. 13, 1977

'Dosta Tops Benedictine

By MIKE CHASON

SAVANNAH — It ain't easy to play catch-up with a wishbone.

Before a crowd of 14,000 which one television commentator estimated as the "largest ever to witness a sporting event in Savannah," Benedictine's Cadets tried it here Friday night.

But Valdosta's Wildcats used the wishbone to pick their teeth with enroute to a 13-0 win over the previously unbeaten Cadets in the first round of the Class AAA state High School football playoffs.

Averaging "over 30 points a

game," according to Benedictine coach James Walsh, the military school never blinked a light on the scoreboard, and picked up only 75 yards on offense before a highly partisan hometown crowd in spacious Memorial Stadium.

Out of that 75, only two came through the air. Benedictine attempted only three passes in 48 minutes of football. Woody Hayes would have loved it.

With the victory, its 11th in 12 games this year, Valdosta earned a berth in the South Georgia championship game against Warner Robins Friday.

Warner Robins, the defending state champion, eased past Westside in Augusta Friday night in a 27-21 double overtime thriller.

But Valdosta coach Nick Hyder was willing to wait until this morning to ponder the prospect of a trip to Warner Robins. The Wildcats had not advanced beyond the first round of the state playoffs since 1971, and Hyder took a time out to enjoy the wonder of it all.

"I feel pretty good," Hyder, in his fourth year at VHS, said "There are

(See 'Dosta on Page 6)

Belue, VHS Defense Scuttles Benedictine

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Nov. 26, 1977-6-



—AP Laser photo

By Lynn Roberts (40) And Danny Hunter

(Continued from Page 1) just so many people who are involved in this thing, and I'm just one small part."

"Give the coaching staff, the players, the school administration, the touchdown club ... give everybody credit. Dang it, this is what football is all about in Valdosta."

Before Friday night, winning was what football was all about.

YARDS/TICK	
Valdosta	Benedictine
First Downs	12
Yards Rushing	111
Yards Passing	101
Passes	8-16
Passes Incl. By	0
Fumbles Lost	1
Punting	5-33.4
Penalties	8-37.7
	9-85
	6-70

was all about for Benedictine too. The Cadets had won 10 straight games to sweep the region 3-AAA title.

But just as Benedictine lived with the run during the regular season, it died with it in the playoffs.

"Hey Walsh, our quarterback's got an arm too," one irate Benedictine fan hollered down from the sardine packed home side of the field.

While Benedictine wasn't throwing, Valdosta was Quarterback Buck Belue hit on 8 of 12 passes for 101 yards, including a 35-yard scoring strike to John Lastinger in the third period.

"In the Lowndes game, the

7-2 Valdosta loss, I dropped that same pass," Lastinger said. "So this time, I made myself catch it before I started trying to score."

Wide open at the 15 yard line, Lastinger had only one defender to juke past to put six on the board with 2:53 showing on the clock.

Ironically, the play came after Valdosta had apparently given up the ball on Belue's second interception of the game. But the turnover was called back because of a holding penalty on the Cadets.

It was the second time the officials stepped in to wipe out a crucial play for Benedictine.

Midway the second quarter, only minutes after Belue had scored Valdosta's first touchdown on a one-foot dive play, Chris McCarthy's 66-yard touchdown run was called back because of a clipping penalty.

It was one of the few times all game that the wishbone was able to get outside on Valdosta.

Randy Lanier started in the quarterback slot for Benedictine but participated in only one play in the first half. Lanier broke his jaw two weeks ago.

In the second half, Lanier, brother of Georgia Tech quarterback Gary Lanier,

went to the distance with no more success than his first half back-up Dennis Dotson.

Belue also came into the game with an injury but showed little sign of suffering at all from the strained ligaments in his knee. He broke 23 and 13 yard runs but lost it all on the three times he was sacked.

Led by nine tackles apiece by Danny Ritzert and Bill McGrath, the Benedictine defense stood up well against Valdosta's running game, but couldn't cope with Belue's passing artistry.

In fact, Valdosta switched to the shotgun offense in the last two minutes of the first half to give Belue more time to throw.

"We've run the shotgun in the last two minutes for a change-up before," Hyder said. "We ran it tonight and dang near scored."

The Wildcats got a 43-yard field goal attempt by Robert Baldwin out of it, but his kick fell short seconds before the first half ended.

"If we could have protected, we might have thrown a little more," Hyder said. "But they blitzed us a couple of times and got in there pretty good."

"They're a mighty fine football team but you've got to give our defense credit. We held them out of the end zone

and I guess if you're undefeated, that means you haven't been held out this year."

"I think when our defense discovered they could get in there and rock-n-sock with them, they started playing a little better."

Senior linebacker Robert Baldwin led the VHS charge with 13 tackles. Tackle Curtis Wright had nine and cornerback Rodney Gordon had eight.

Benedictine didn't have a first down the second half and had only four for the game. Twice, the Cadets were stopped in a fourth down and inches situation.

"We just stuck it to 'em," Baldwin said.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Valdosta—King 12-33, Council 7-40, Hunter 2-3, Gaskins 7-27, Lastinger 3-8, Belue 8-0; Benedictine—DeLaGuardia 11-31, Dotson 4—minus 3, Kelly 12-32, McCarthy 11-12, Lanier 3-1.
 Passing: Valdosta — Belue 8-121-101, Hunter 0-3-0-0, Lastinger 0-1-0-0; Benedictine—Lanier 0-1-0-0, Dotson 1-2-0-2.
 Punt Returns: Valdosta — Lastinger 3-56, Council 2-20, King 1-32, Hunter 2—minus 7; Benedictine—Kelly 1-2.
 Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — Thomas 3-8; Benedictine—no returns.
 Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Worthy 7, Gordon 6, Wright 9, Baldwin 13, Roberts 5, Branen 5, Conway 4, Harcock 3; Benedictine — Ritzer 9, McGrath 9, Parker 5, Knight 6, Holt 4, Provence 6, Walsh 4, Thompson 3, Steed 3.

Score by Quarters

Valdosta	0	7	6	0-13
Benedictine	0	0	0	0-0
Scoring: Val.	—	Belue 1-run (Baldwin Kick)		
Val.	—	Lastinger 35 pass from Belue (Kick failed)		



— Times Staff Photo By Ken Klanicki

We And Our Shadows: ROTC Cadets Stand In Formation On Parade Grounds

Unit Shapes Up

By Times Staff Writer
 Members of the Valdosta High School ROTC unit are really minding their "Ps and Qs" today for an annual inspection.

According to Lt. Cmdr. Walter E. Sharp, instructor, the VHS Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) unit is being inspected today by Capt. Robert Lemon, Sixth Naval District Regional Navy Youth Programs officer.

The inspection includes an awards ceremony recognizing outstanding cadets among the 106 students enrolled in the program, a personnel inspection and a parade, which was held this morning at the VHS athletic field.

Sharp and Petty Officer 1st Class Dewitt S. Wright, the other unit instructor, are also being evaluated along with a review of the unit's records and condition of equipment.

The first Navy Junior ROTC units began classes in 1966 and came to VHS in 1974.

Valdosta, Georgia, Sunday, November 27, 1977



Futility In Action: Old VHS Burns Despite Firefighters' Work

WINDOW SHADES
 LARGE SELECT CUT FREE
 PENNY PINCHER
 312 N. Patterson

ORIENTAL FOODS
 Mr. & Mrs. Shop
 DOWN FROM BEVERLY
 THEATRE - Castle Park

LOWNDES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION
 1977-78 SEASON
 CHILDREN'S THEATER TOUR
 NIGHT REVEALS WINDMILL
 IN LIVES

times for 43 yards in the... but missed the pigskin... in the second...

Valdosta Rolls, 27-8

THERE WAS MUCH MORE AT STAKE THAN ONE FOOTBALL GAME

A coach whose team opposes Warner Robins in the regular season: "I saw Valdosta play Thomasville in the playoff. I think the Demons will blow them off the field. The only way it will even be close is if Buck Belue rolls out and completes about 75 per cent of his passes."

— TUES. NOV. 29

A coach who helps Valdosta scout its opponents: "I saw Warner Robins play Westside. The only way Valdosta won't win by four touchdowns is for Cainion to break a couple of long ones or if Warner Robins scores late in the game when it no longer matters."

— TUES. NOV. 29

By WENDELL TIDWELL

WARNER ROBINS — With folks on both sides of the issue predicting runaway scores, last week's South Georgia Championship clash between AAA Warner Robins and Valdosta stacked up to be one fine football game.

Sportswriter Tommy Dressell, in the Warner Robins Daily Sun the day of the game, called it the biggest game in the state — and probably the nation.

That may or may not be true. But what is true is 18,000 people jammed into every available inch of International City Stadium to see the showdown between these two AAA giants.

THE STADIUM ticket gates sold \$8,500 in general admission tickets Friday night. That doesn't include the 9,000 sold-out reserve-seat tickets (at \$4 each) and the advance sell on general admissions. It also doesn't include the sell of popcorn, soft drinks and programs.

Football is alive and well in Georgia.

Here's a hot news flash: Warner Robins WAS rebuilding in 1977. You might have a hard time convincing the Demons' first 11 victims this year that was the case, but it's a fact. Coach Robert Davis will return 59 players to the AAA Wars next season.

All during the '77 season, Warner Robins fans were saying, "We can't believe what is happening. We're supposed to be rebuilding. We lost 35 seniors from last year's team (including three college starters as freshmen this year).

Realizing their Demons really were rebuilding for the future and their young team had done well to get as far as the South Georgia title game, the home fans made an appropriate response as the curtains closed on Valdosta's 27-8 victory: They stood and applauded as the Demons left the field.

Most of them did. Some of the Warner Robins fans were obviously deluded as the season unrolled by the success of their team. In their letters to the magazine, the Demon fans were talking about domination. They talked about a dynasty. They talked about perfection.

For those fans, it was indeed a bitter experience at International City Stadium Friday night when Truth came to town.

Reality wore black, white and gold.

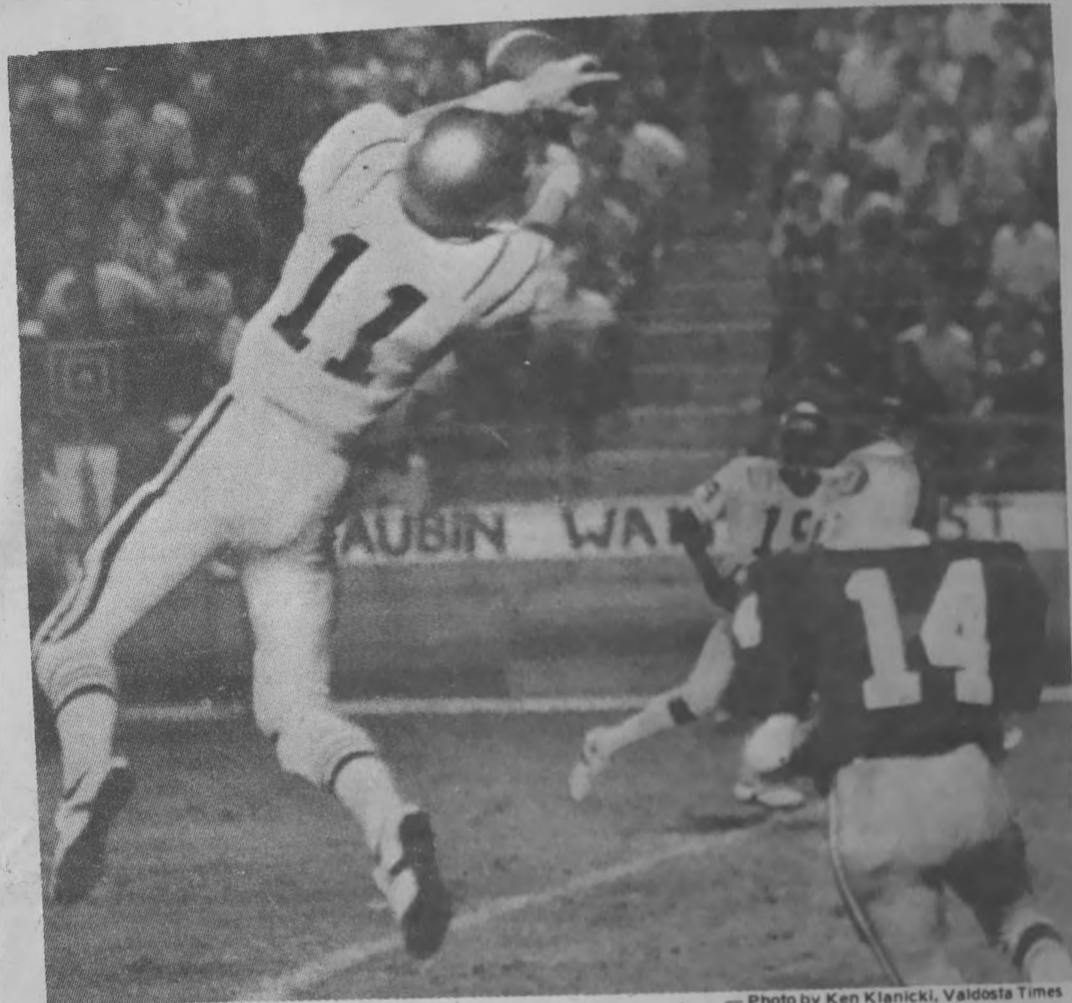
MUCH MORE was at stake Friday night than a mere football game, looking at it from the Valdosta point of view.

One of the sportswriters in the press box said before the game, "This is the first place I've ever been where high school football wasn't fun. It's serious business."

Too bad that writer had already left when the Valdosta Wildcats came back on the field five minutes after winning a three-touchdown win over the defending national champs, got their coach and carried him off the field. We could have asked, "Doesn't that look like fun?"

Winning has been fun at Valdosta for a while. When you talk about 27-game winning streaks, defending national champs and repeating as state champs, the folks in Valdosta expect you to be talking about Valdosta, not somebody else.

That's what was at stake Friday. Warner Robins had



— Photo by Ken Klanicki, Valdosta Times

WILDCAT RECEIVER JOHN LASTINGER
... Jumps High For Another Reception

a little too much attention lately to suit the Valdosta folks. And with 27 victories in a row already plus one state and national championship, the Demons were moving in on what Wildcat fans feel is rightfully theirs.

Simply, Valdosta wanted to put an end, here and now, to the Demons chances of mounting a string of honors to match those which belong to the Wildcats of the past.

The emotions really run deeper than that. It was not only Valdosta pride on the line last week, but the pride of one section of the state — known in football circles as Region 1-AAA.

Seven of the last 11 state AAA championship have been won by teams from the Southwest Georgia region. And two of the last six national titles.

The folks in Region 1-AAA feel that they play the best football played anywhere in high school ranks. They don't claim the best running backs or quarterbacks every year, but they do claim to play the best defense year in and year out.

FOR EXAMPLE take the case of Monroe of Albany. The Tornadoes finished 1-9 in 1-AAA, but their score against Valdosta was 13-7. And of course the folks at Lowndes High like to point out that the Wildcats were not even good enough to finish undefeated in 1-AAA this year.

People in Southwest Georgia feel that if you are good enough to get out of region one, you deserve to state championship.

It doesn't happen that way every year, but if you consider that there have been only 20 AAA champions in the history of the GHSA classification system and 1-AAA teams have won 12 of those, there seems to be some credibility to this opinion — considering seven regions divided up the other eight titles.

So, when the Wildcats walked on the field Friday night, they had a lot more on their minds than winning one football game. They were playing for the pride of section of the

state, which spans more than one generation.

Buck Belue was superb.

There were college scouts — coaches, too — standing shoulder-to-shoulder in the press box watching the performance of the senior, four-year starter at quarterback for Valdosta.

They were falling all over themselves.

Belue did live up to his billing. He passed for two touchdowns and a two-point play, ran the football with authority, punted away from the dangerous Jesse Cainion and turned in one of the game's best defensive plays.

Leading only 6-0 after the half, Belue punted to Cainion early in the third quarter. Cainion broke three tackles, turned on the speed and found himself with only one Wildcat left in his way of the goalline and six points. What's more, Cainion had a blocker in front of him to help him past that lone Wildcat, who was none other than punter Buck Belue.

BELUE FORCED forced Cainion and his blocker back to the middle of the field and then cut both of them down at the ankles.

That's when the college boys almost fell out of the press box. The play was called back due to a defensive holding penalty on Warner Robins, but Belue had turned in a sensational defensive play which had the 18,000 fans gasping.

Belue was not the only Wildcat hero on offense. Frank Council kept more than one drive alive with his pass receptions out of the backfield. John Lastinger caught the first touchdown pass of the game. Ernest King scored a second-effort touchdown on a fourth-down try. Melvin Hunter caught a seven-yard touchdown pass and grabbed another for two points.

Byron Walker scored the only Demon TD of the night with a nine-yard pass reception from the second-team Warner Robins quarterback Greg Harper with 1:07 left in the game. It was the only time Warner Robins threatened.

Hyder Says 'Cats Face Biggest Challenge

By Times Staff Writer
Nick Hyder puts it bluntly. "I don't know if Valdosta has ever faced a challenge like this one before," the Valdosta High School football coach said. "We're playing the defending national champion, the defending state Class AAA champion, and we're playing on their field."

"Some people might argue with that, but I've coached here for four years and studied on it 25 years further back than that. I'd just like to know if they've ever faced a similar challenge."

The challenge to which Hyder refers is Friday night's Class AAA South Georgia Championship football game to be played in Warner Robins against those same Demons who have won 28 straight games. Included in that string is last season's Class AAA title and the mythical national championship, awarded each year by Art Johlfis. But challenges are made to A map showing the route to International Stadium is featured on page 5 of today's Times.

to be unselfish. When a football player is unselfish, that means he's willing to walk through barbed wire.

"The word is hope. We hope that we'll be ready," Hyder and his staff are taking care of getting the team prepared. He admits that pressure is on him. But come 7:30 p.m. Friday night at International Stadium in Warner Robins, Hyder's ready to put some pressure on the people of Valdosta.

"To get 10,000 people at that game from Valdosta... that's thinking mighty big," Hyder said, "but it certainly would help. We just need to get a mass flow of people going up there."

"That stadium can handle 20,000 people. It's a great place to watch a football game."

game. The spirit of the community is very much needed in this thing."

How does Hyder compare the Demons to the 11 teams Valdosta has faced this season?

"In the Lowndes game (a 7-2 Valdosta loss), we faced an outstanding passing game coupled with their rock-rib defense," Hyder said. "In the Thomasville game, we faced right up there about 385 yards

TD Club Rally Set Thursday

By Times Staff Writer
A pep rally sponsored by the Valdosta Touchdown Club is to be held Thursday at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field.

The rally precedes the Valdosta-Warner Robins Class AAA state playoff football game Friday night in Warner Robins.

a running attack with a passing game, which by Coach (Jim) Hughes own admission, almost didn't exist.

"Now, Warner Robins comes at you with an effective passing game, and they run with authority. They're leading their region and probably many areas in the state in total offense. It's

The team which Hyder brought to mind in Valdosta's own Region 1-AAA was Dougherty. The well balanced Trojans from Albany jumped out to a 14-0 lead on Valdosta before the 'Cats scrapped back to take a 15-14 victory.

"I still say we were fortunate to win that game," Hyder said. "Fortunate is another word for lucky." Hyder said the Demons

balance their run-pass ratio "about 60-40." He's not counting on Warner Robins running every play like Benedictine did in a 13-0 Valdosta win in the first round of the state playoffs last week.

Benedictine threw only three passes in 48 minutes of football.

During the regular season, Warner Robins quarterback Chip Stuart threw for 911 yards on 50 of 89 tosses.

In comparison, Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue threw for 914 yards on 85 of 159 passes. Belue was third in the region in passing.

Belue, who's started 45 games for the 'Cats over his four-year varsity career, strained ligaments in his knee two weeks ago and

operated at only "65 percent" of capacity, according to Hyder, against Benedictine.

"I was happier about his acceleration at practice yesterday (Monday) than at anytime since his injury," Hyder said. "His knee looks stronger, but it is strained, and it feels weak."

"But he knows what it's all about. He knows what he's up against Friday night. We keep telling them that the real great ones rise to the occasion."

Warner Robins fell behind 21-0 to Westside in Augusta last week before finally winning 27-21 in double overtime. The Demons didn't score the first three periods.

Atlanta Constitution Dec 1, 1977

Southwest DeKalb, Valdosta Favored

By STEVE FIGUEROA
Constitution Prep Editor

How do you go about picking a winner when Valdosta plays Warner Robins? Warner Robins hasn't lost in the last 28 games and Valdosta, with 15 state championship trophies safely tucked away in the trophy case, is traditionally the biggest name in Georgia prep football.

Defending state champ Warner Robins looks a little better on paper having outscored 11 opponents 391-61 with five shutouts, but Valdosta, which outscored its 12 foes 366-101 with four shutouts, supposedly plays in the tougher region.

A crowd of "at least 20,000" is expected in Warner Robins' International City Stadium Friday night, according to Demon Coach Robert Davis, but you can't really expect to intimidate a team like Valdosta which has played before crowds almost that large at its own Cleveland Field.

Both teams are solid on defense and explosive on offense. There just doesn't seem to be any way to determine a favorite.

"I don't really think there is," said Davis. "It's just going to be a good, hard-hitting football game between two fine high school teams and the one that plays best will win."

"I'd have to say this is one of those toss-up games," continued Davis. "We're going to be ready to play and I'm sure they're going to be ready to play. The big crowd won't bother Valdosta. They've been there before and we've been there before."

"It should be just one heck of a high school football game."

Quarterback Buck Belue, with over 4,400 career passing yards and 37 touchdown tosses, leads a potent Valdosta offense. But it is a quick and aggressive Wildcat defense, anchored by four-year starting linebacker Robert Baldwin, that worries Davis.

"They're quick and big on defense," said Davis. "They're by far the best team we've played this year on defense. And, probably on offense, too."

Valdosta's defenders will have to contend with halfback Jesse Cainion, though, whose 470-yard, four-touchdown effort a week ago did in Westside. And, Belue will have to throw at what Davis calls a "super" secondary, anchored by college prospects Sammy Brown and Rusty Smith.

In other words, as Davis says, the game is a toss-up. The fans seem to think so, too. Tickets are being scalped in Warner Robins for as much as \$15 each, according to Davis.

Just on a hunch, though, let's go with Valdosta. The Wildcats' defense could be the difference.

In another game where the defense could make the difference, Southwest DeKalb is a slim pick over Clarke Central in the AAA North Georgia matchup.

Clarke's defense has gotten all the attention with seven shutouts in 12 games, but SWD's defense has allowed just 28 points in the Panthers' last seven games and should be tough enough to hold what has been a spotty Clarke Central offense.

SWD Coach Dewey Alverson, in his 20th year at the Panther helm, isn't so sure, however.

"All I've heard about all year is Clarke Central's defense, and they do have a good one," says Alverson. "But, the more I look at their offense on film, the more I'm impressed by it."

"They've got six quality backs capable of winning games in AAA ball. We feel fortunate to have two."

"I like both their fullbacks and their quarterback, Jim Bob Harris, is a fine athlete."

Alverson's team has a pretty good quarterback of his own, however, in Bob Berry whose season stats now show 912 yards passing for nine touchdowns, and 520 yards rushing and 14 TDs.

Figueroa's Picks

Winner	Friday's Games	Loser
Valdosta (11-1)	WARNER ROBINS (11-0)	
S.W. DeKalb (12-0)	CLARKE CENTRAL (12-0)	
WOODWARD (11-1)	Waycross (12-0)	
DALTON (11-1)	Gordon (11-1)	
Early Co. (11-0)	JEFF DAVIS (10-2)	
COMMERCE (11-1)	East Rome (13-0)	
LINCOLN CO. (11-0)	Sav. Cty. Day (10-2)	
	Saturday's Game	West Point (9-2)
	JEFFERSON (9-3-1)	

Home team in all caps.
Last Week: 12 Right, 3 Wrong—80%.
Playoffs: 36 Right, 3 Wrong—92%.

Kittens Claim Second Win, Moultrie Turns Back 'Cats

Valdosta Times
Nov. 30, 1977

By MARTIN REGISTER
Lisa Feix and Renee Whitehead sank clutch baskets in the final two minutes of play here Tuesday night, lifting Valdosta's Kittens to a 47-44 high school basketball victory over Moultrie.

Moultrie claimed a split of the Region 1-AAA doubleheader when the Packers slipped past the Valdosta boys 60-55 in the nightcap.

Feix blasted down the lane for a layup after Moultrie had pulled to within 43-42, and Whitehead snagged a rebound and stuffed it back in shortly after that, as coach Jerry Baker's Kittens eked out their second win without a loss.

But Wildcat coach Norman Sainz suffered through what he called "the longest ballgame I've ever seen," as turnovers and an icy shooting percentage set the stage for his team's second loss in as many starts.

Baker had praise for his players, but warned that Kittens turnovers couldn't continue against "contending teams."

Valdosta broke a 22-22 halftime tie in the third quarter, mostly on the inside play of Vera Crawford and on long set shots by Shirley Berrian.

Berrian finished with 11 points, while Feix and Crawford hit for 10 apiece.

Big Olga Pittman, who rolled inside for two-pointers near the goal, topped Moultrie with 12.

"Feix did a real good job with the play-making," Baker said. "And Berrian really opened things up with her outside shooting."

"I can't say enough about Maggie Powell, with her hustle and the way she played defense," he said.

The Packers and Wildcats swapped the lead through much of the first half, but at halftime had settled nothing with a 25-25 tie.

Moultrie forged ahead in the third period when the

chilly Wildcat shooting turned ice-cold, and repeated Valdosta turnovers stopped Wildcat efforts to catch up.

"We didn't execute like we should, we had a lot of mental breakdown, and our rebounding killed us," Sainz said.

Valdosta's troubles were partly the result of its football team's participation in the state playoffs.

About half of the team's players, many of whom are considered to be probable starters, are still participating in the football program.

The Wildcats suited out only nine players for Tuesday's game.

Larry Williford, Don Daniel and Terry Webb provided a three-pronged attack for the Packers, hitting for 17, 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Tim Dame managed 16 for Valdosta, mainly on long jump shots.

Moultrie swiped a 52-43 win in a boys' B-team game, despite 11 points each by Valdosta's Bernard Gamble and Andy Wildes.

GIRLS

Valdosta
Moultrie 9 22 38 47
9 22 31 44
VALDOSTA (47) — Berrian 11, Feix 10, Crawford 10, Powell 8, Whitehead 8, Evans, Baker.
Team totals: field goals 18, free throws 11 of 29, fouls 15.
MOULTRIE (44) — Pittman 12, Anderson 9, Edwards 7, Brown 6, Tillman 4, Weeks 2, Davis 2, Seay 2.
Team totals: field goals 18, free throws 8 of 17, fouls 23.

BOYS

Valdosta
Moultrie 7 25 36 55
8 25 42 60
VALDOSTA (55) — Dame 16, Chandler Daniels 8, New 8, Russell 8, Powell 8, Stroud 5, Chris Daniels 2, Feix.
Team totals: field goals 21, free throws 13 of 19, fouls 23.
MOULTRIE (60) — Williford 17, Webb 10, Hall 7, Daniel 12, Pullins 4, Reynolds 4, French 4, Jones 2.
Team totals: field goals 22, free throws 16 of 28, fouls 21.



Kittens Win 3rd, 'Cats Drop Third

Times 12-5-77

By Times Staff Writer

ALBANY — Valdosta High School's two basketball teams followed the same paths they have trod all season in a twin-bill with Monroe here Saturday night.

The Valdosta Kittens won their third straight game with a 56-50 decision, and the Valdosta Wildcats lost their third straight by a 77-63 count.

Valdosta hosts cross-county rival Lowndes Tuesday night.

Shirley Berrian exploded for 20 points for Coach Jerry Baker's Kittens, off to one of their best starts in years. Vera Crawford and Lisa Feix added 11 each.

Gwen Williams and Carolyn Owen scored 12 points each for Monroe.

"We did a lot of standing around tonight," Baker said. "We didn't take advantage of our fast break at all. We were lucky to come out of here. Shirley Berrian just really kept us in the ballgame."

Valdosta's boys got 15 points from 6-4 Cedric Stroud and 11 more from Chandler Daniels. Tony Riggins threw in 30 for Monroe.

"He (Riggins) slammed dunked two or three and just knocked the lights out," VHS boys' Coach Norman Sainz said. "We were just cold as ice the first half."

"Probably the highlight of the game for us was 15 points out of Cedric Stroud. He also did a real good job for us on the boards."

Valdosta
Monroe 10 27 37 54
13 21 37 50
VALDOSTA (56) — Powell 9, Crawford 11, Whitehead 5, Berrian 20, Feix 11, Evans, Iryns, Stewart, Baker.
Team totals: field goals 24, free throws 8 of 15, fouls 16.
MONROE (50) — Williams 12, Owen 12, Hickey 8, Spurlin 7, Green 7, Frazier 2, Warren 2.
Team totals: field goals 23, free throws 4 of 12, fouls 16.

Valdosta
Monroe 10 27 47 65
14 46 67 77
VALDOSTA (63) — Chandler Daniels 12, New 8, Chris Daniels, Stroud 15, Russell 12, Feix 3, Dame 6, Powell 8, Jones 4, Tillman 5.
Team totals: field goals 28, free throws 11 of 26, fouls 19.
MONROE (77) — Riggins 30, Jefferson 16, Spurlin 7, McGee 6, Brown 9, Shealy 9, Turnblin 7.
Team totals: field goals 34, free throws 9 of 18, fouls 20.



— Times Staff Photo.

Renee Whitehead (12) Sets Sights On Goal

State Playoff Tickets To Go On Sale

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta's Wildcats should feel right at home in their state Class AAA football championship game at Athens Saturday night.

The Clarke Central stadium, like VHS's Cleveland Field, is known as "Death Valley" according to Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder.

The Athens school kayoed a proposal to hold the game in the afternoon at the University of Georgia's Sanford Stadium, according to Jack Kent at the superintendent's office.

Instead, it was decided the game is to be played at the Clarke Central home field, at 7:30 p.m.

No seats are numbered in

the stadium, which holds 8,000 fans, so no seats will be reserved, Kent said.

Five hundred student tickets and 3,500 general admission tickets are to be sent to Valdosta.

Tickets are to be sold to members of the VHS football team and band on Wednesday morning at the school, according to Kent.

Valdosta Touchdown Club members who had season tickets may buy tickets for the game at the superintendent's office from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Thursday, tickets are to be sold to regular season ticket holders from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., at the superintendent's office.

Whatever tickets are left are to be sold at Barnes Drug Store at Brookwood Plaza, from 2 p.m. Thursday until Saturday morning, or until the supply gives out.

General admission tickets are to cost \$3, and student tickets are to be \$2.

D

The Florida Times-Union

Wednesday, December 7, 1977

Classified

Just Go

Cincinnati Reds in 1971, was traded to the Baltimore Orioles in 1974 and had his biggest season with them the

Henderson Faces Valdosta Again

Clarke shut out seven regular season opponents. In tackles Bob Weathersby (230) and Carey Nelms (225), the Gladiators have two blue chip college prospects. Linebacker Karey Johnson (5-11, 195) and cornerback Jeff Dean (5-9, 160) are the mainstays of the defensive secondary.

Weathersby is also a top-flight punter, with a 41.8-yard regular season average.

Clarke, ranked second in the state behind Warner Robins most of the year, didn't have much trouble during the regular season. Local rival Cedar Shoals gave the Gladiators their toughest game in the opener before losing 7-0. The Gladiators also struggled with Southwest Macon, winning 9-6. Aside from those two games, Clarke won the rest of its games with ease.

The Pro-1/veer offense was most powerful a year ago when Davis was healthy and gained over 1,200 yards.

"With Stan out so much this year, we've had to go more to a ball control-type game," Henderson explained.

The scaback sat out five games, but has still gained about 700 yards and will be 100 per cent for Saturday's game.

(Bill Harper is prep editor of The Athens Banner-Herald.)

In the past few weeks, Clarke Central's football team has shown what it's made of, beating top-caliber opponents week after week. The Gladiators knocked off Lakeside 16-14 to win the 8-AAA title. They beat Newnan 14-7 in their first playoff game, then socked Southwest DeKalb 20-7 last week to advance to the championship game.

The Gladiators are led by quarterback Jim Bob Harris, who they feel is in the same class with Valdosta's Buck Belue.

Harris, heavily-recruited, has rushed for a 5.7-yard average this year. Although he doesn't throw that much, he's been effective when he has, tossing four touchdown passes and completing 29 of 59.

Against Southwest DeKalb, the highly-recruited 185-pound senior broke the game open, breaking loose for 57 yards and Clarke's third score.

In addition to Harris, Clarke has a super breakthrough threat in little (5-foot-9, 160-pound) Stan Davis. A year ago, Davis rushed for over 1,200 yards.

"He's a pleasure to watch," Henderson said of his tailback. "When they turn on the stadium lights, look out for Stan. He could play for anybody."

But when you mention Clarke Central, it's the Gladiator defense that draws most of the oohs and ahhs.

By BILL HARPER
Times-Union Correspondent
ATHENS, Ga. — Back in the 1960s, when Wright Bazemore was still coaching and Valdosta was winning state championships as regularly as you pay taxes, the Wildcats were to prep football what the Boston Celtics, New York Yankees and Green Bay Packers have been at one time or another to their sports.

But that was back in the 60s. Bill Henderson remembers those days well. He was then the head coach at Willingham High School in Macon. In fact, he beat Valdosta three times.

"The first three years I coached at Willingham, they beat us good. Then we beat them a few times," Henderson said.

Henderson, coach of Clarke Central's unbeaten (13-0) Gladiators, would love to win one more over Valdosta, even though Bazemore's now athletic director.

The two teams meet here Saturday night for the state championship at Death Valley Field. Henderson says his team won't be in awe of the Wildcats, despite their impressive 27-8 win over defending state and national champion Warner Robins in last week's semifinal game.

"We respect Valdosta, but I don't think the name Valdosta has the same effect anymore. We stand in awe of nobody."



— Times-Union Photo by BILL MULFORD
Buck Belue. . . Henderson Says Harris Is Just as Good

'Dogs, Dooley Singing The Belues

By NORMAN AREY
Constitution College Editor

The long wait is finally over. The innumerable telephone calls have ceased and desisted. There are no more new automobiles pulling up in front of the house and no more glad hands from impeccably-dressed strangers who acted like long-lost brothers.

Buck Belue, one of the most highly-recruited high school football players in Georgia, has made up his mind—irrevocably and absolutely—where he wants to go to college and ply his numerous talents.

The University of Georgia and head coach Vince Dooley are the winners.

It had been a tough fall for Belue, and probably even tougher on his family.

"You can say that again," said Mrs. Belue. "Now maybe we can settle down and enjoy Christmas."

Belue is perhaps the finest passer Vince Dooley

has ever signed and since the Bulldogs have run the veer offense, which isn't conducive to passing, the choice was somewhat of a surprise.

But Dooley had hinted that he might be changing offenses after the season, saying he was "evaluating and thinking about going to the 'I'. The Bulldogs regular starting quarterback, Jeff Pyburn, wasn't a veer quarterback in high school and since he has two more years left, Dooley is considering abandoning the high-risk offense for the more pliable I formation.

The I would certainly suit Belue's throwing talent much better than the veer and that had to be a consideration in his decision to attend Georgia.

"Georgia talked to me about it," Belue said. "They said they were going to the I and would

probably still run some of the veer also.

"You know that I love to throw the football," he said, "and I guess the fact that they decided to go to the I influenced me some."

"You know, I realize that you have to be balanced to be a good player and I'm not just a passing quarterback, but I think the defenses have caught up with the running offenses now and you have to have both to be successful."

Belue said he knew his parents were glad the decision had been made. "When I got tired of the phone calls, I would just get up and leave the house. My mother couldn't do that. She had to stay there and answer the phone."

The Belue family is planning on a big Christmas now, and Vince Dooley got his present a little early.

6-D

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, Fri., Dec. 9, 1977

Valdosta Brings Crowd

By STEVE FIGUEROA
Constitution Prep Editor

It will take five Greyhound buses to get the Valdosta band to Athens Saturday night for the AAA state championship game. The team, which will meet unbeaten Clarke Central for the title, will come in three buses.

"That's what Valdosta football is all about," said Wildcat Coach Nick Hyder with a laugh. "It takes more buses to get the band there than the team. Everybody down here wants to participate in our program. That's why we have the success we do."

Success at Valdosta, though, usually means a state championship and there hasn't been one of those since the legendary Wright Bazemore retired after the 1971 season.

Hyder and thousands of Valdosta boosters have high hopes of breaking the "drought" Saturday night, however, with four-year star quarterback Buck Belue starting his final game in a Wildcat jersey.

Belue's career has been spectacular to say the least. Hitting on 377 of 756 passes, the 6-foot-1, 195-pound senior has accumulated 4,517 yards in the air and 39 touchdown tosses to surpass the all-time record of Stan Bounds.

Thirteen of the TD passes have come this year on 104 of 192 completions for 1,183 yards, but Belue has been asked to run more, responding with over 600 rushing yards and 14 touchdowns.

It's been the Valdosta defense, led by four-year starting linebacker Robert Baldwin and tackle Curtis Wright, that has really come on strong in the playoffs, though, blanking Benedictine, 13-0,

CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

Finals	
Saturday Night	
Class AAA	
Valdosta (12-1)	at Clarke Central (13-0)
Class AA	
Dalton (12-1)	at Waycross (13-0)
Class A	
Early County (12-0)	at East Rome (14-0)
Class B	
Jefferson (10-3-1)	at Lincoln County (12-0)

two weeks ago and then holding Warner Robins to a single TD last week.

When you start talking about defense, you have to start with Clarke Central's, however.

Coach Billy Henderson's Gladiators are the stingiest things in AAA when opponents try to put points on the scoreboard. Only six of 13 of them have turned the trick at all, and they have managed to accumulate only 53 points.

Three-year starting linebacker Karey Johnson, a 6-foot, 195-pound senior who can run 40 yards in 4.6 seconds, is the heart of the Clarke defense.

The soul of the Gladiators this season, however, has been Barry Malcolm, a junior linebacker who was struck and killed by lightning during fall camp. The small No. 65 on the left shoulder of each Clarke player's jersey is for Malcolm.

"This team was already like a family before the tragedy," said Henderson. "We start 17 seniors that I started

coaching in the eighth grade when I first came here, so this was already a close unit. In times of tragedy, a family can either grow further apart or closer together.

"This group came closer together." The Gladiators dedicated the season to their lost teammate and a victory Saturday would certainly close things out in storybook fashion.

For that to happen, the talented-but-spotty Clarke backfield has got to have its best effort, a possibility that Henderson says is very real indeed.

"We haven't played our best game yet," said the veteran coach. "There's no doubt about that. But, I don't think Valdosta has, either."

Senior quarterback Jim Bob Harris, a versatile and talented athlete, leads the Gladiator attack. With over 1,300 yards total offense and responsibility for 17 touchdowns, Harris is a threat each time he takes a snap, but perhaps the most dangerous Gladiator is senior Stan Davis, a speedy tailback who has rushed for just under 700 yards and six TDs despite missing several games with nagging injuries.

A healthy Davis gives Clarke a fine one-two punch with junior fullback Hillary Billups, who has rushed for 665 yards and seven touchdowns.

With 6-2, 205 pound senior offensive tackle Brent Snyder, who has come on strong after missing spring drills with an elbow operation, anchoring a strong offensive line, Henderson feels his team may be ready to break loose.

If so, the 10,000 or so fans who will jam into "Death Valley" will be in for quite a showdown Saturday night.

(From the Valdosta Daily Times, Dec. 13, 1952.) 12-13

The Valdosta Wildcats earned a brief rest to sit back and count their laurels after a tremendous second half effort that gave them a 30-0 victory over LaGrange here Friday night for the Class A championship of Georgia.

And brief the rest will be for at 1 a.m. this morning, Valdosta signed a contract to play in the Columbus Peanut Bowl New Year's Day in a game which pits the best Georgia high school team against an out of state representative. West Springfield, Mass., had accepted a bid to the Bowl previously.

VHS Ninth Grade Wins

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta High School's ninth grade girls' team cut down Valdosta Junior High School 37-23 in a basketball game played here Wednesday.

Tracy Irvin popped in 12 points and Cindy Cooper added 10 for the VHS frosh, while Angela Owens topped the Valdosta Junior High team with nine points.

Belue Just Missed Birthday Present

12-12-77

It would have been the birthday present of a lifetime. Eighteen years ago today, Buck Belue joined the world. On a cold Saturday night in Athens, he had his chance to celebrate that fact. But as one of the Valdosta High School quarterback's offensive linemen said later, "it just didn't seem like it was meant for us to win."

No, Valdosta didn't win the Class AAA state football championship this year. Clarke Central gained that honor, via a 16-14 victory on a 20 degree night in Athens 48 hours ago. And there are no sour grapes from this corner. The 14-0 Gladiators earned their title.

Clarke Central had a good football team. Quarterback Jim Bob Harris threw the ball with a dart-thrower's accuracy the first half to loosen up the Valdosta defense enough for speedy running back Stan Davis to find some running room. Davis hit the open hole as quick as any running back Valdosta faced this year.

In the second half, the Wildcat defenders shut down Davis but Harris broke a couple of good gainers in key situations. Keep in mind that Clarke Central was playing with the lead the entire game. It does make a difference.

The Gladiators got that lead the first time they had control of the ball. Davis raced 49 yards to the Wildcat 9-yard-line on the game's third play. Three plays later, Davis bounced off one set of Wildcats into the end zone.

After an offensive interference call, Valdosta found itself 20 yards from a first down at its own 9-yard line on its first possession. Two plays later, Belue was thrown out of his own end zone by Charles Campbell. The score was now 9-0.

It all happened so fast. But the fatal offensive lightning bolts of the Gladiators kept flashing down. When the 'Cats got the ball back, a Belue pass bounced off Robert Smith into the arms of Lionell Huff, who zipped all the way across the field and dived into the end zone. The score was now 16-0.

Clarke Central never scored again.

But Valdosta did ... before the action-packed first quarter was even over. It took Belue three passes to do it. First, he hit John Lastinger with a 12-yarder. Then it was Frank Council with a 35-yarder. Finally, Lastinger outran everybody for the 31-yard touchdown catch. Belue rolled to his right for the two-point conversion.

It was obvious the Clarke Central secondary could be penetrated. For the night, Belue was an almost unbelievable 15 to 23 for 218 yards. But he did have three interceptions. In the only other game Valdosta lost this year, the senior quarterback also had three interceptions. Lowndes was the opponent and 7-2 was the score.

However, the Gladiator offense was proving almost impossible to stop. On the opening drive of the second quarter, Clarke kept the ball on the ground all the way to the Valdosta 12-yard line where Hillary Billups fumbled. On the last drive of the half, Harris combined a suddenly potent passing game with Davis' running to spot the ball at the Valdosta 2-yard-line.

The 'Cats held on two consecutive plays as time ran out. The Gladiators didn't come close to scoring in the third



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

quarter but had a fourth down at the Valdosta 18-yard-line in the fourth quarter. That's three times Clarke got within field goal range but came away with nothing.

Valdosta's only other score was a 29-yard pass from Belue to Council with no time on the clock in the third

period. But this time Belue's roll to the right for the two-point conversion failed. Harris, who played both ways much of the second half, was in on the stop.

If I hadn't seen Valdosta's last drive, I wouldn't have believed it.

Belue looked like Bert Jones in his two-minute offense. His receivers, Lastinger, Council and Kenny Washington, hung on to the ball in weather so cold two of my pens froze up.

Finally, there sat the ball on the Clarke 16-yard line with exactly two minutes on the clock. Three times Belue rolled out ... three times he couldn't find an open man.

On fourth-and-eight at the Clarke 13, Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder called for the field goal. He said later there "was no discussion" on the subject. Clarke Coach Billy Henderson called two straight timeouts which he admitted he called "just to make him (Robert Baldwin) think about it."

The snap was high ... Belue pulled it down ... Baldwin kicked ... and Clarke Central began to celebrate.

Weather At Death Valley Was Cold

By MIKE CHASON

Memories of the state championship game ...

— How cold it was.

— The guy driving the red tractor pulling a trailer-load of Clarke Central students around and around Death Valley Stadium in Athens Saturday night.

— The Marchin Cats arriving early enough at the state championship game to play for 45 minutes and warm the by now frozen crowd.

— The giant sign which read "Billy's Crew Can Do It." It did.

— The stand-up model of the Valdosta Wildcat with the big number one painted on him.

— The Valdosta students who hauled the Wildcat out to the middle of the field before the game, only to be swamped by Clarke Central cheerleaders.

— The Valdosta cheerleaders responding to the challenge and rushing to the rescue of the Wild-

cat.

— How cold it was.

— How tall Clarke quarterback Jim Bob Harris looked.

— How much taller Harris got as the game progressed.

— VHS quarterback Buck Belue getting pushed out of his end zone by Charles Campbell, the first time I can remember Belue being tagged with a safety.

— How cold it was.

— Hearing some fans had secured their seats on the 50-yard line as early as 4 p.m. The game didn't start until 7:30 p.m.

— How much Death Valley Stadium looked like Wayne County's field in Jesup two years ago. The final result was about the same.

— Belue leading the Valdosta players on to the field with both fists in the air. It was the 47th time Belue had run on the field with number 7 on his back. It was also the last time.

— The fires along the

sidelines and if you can believe this, in the stands too.

— How cold it was.

— Some of the Valdosta players wearing black gloves before the game.

— Clarke's strategy of waiting until 7:28 p.m. to come back on the field. Valdosta had returned minutes earlier and had to stand around getting nervous or excited or both while the Gladiators were waiting for their grand entrance.

— Seeing Georgia Coach Vince Dooley pass right in front of me and sit in the middle of the Clarke Central supporters.

— Seeing Dooley leave by himself after the game with his head bowed against the wind.

— How cold it was.

— Watching the tears cloud the eyes of some of the Valdosta players and remembering how I felt seven years ago in a similar situation.

— Admiring Valdosta

Coach Nick Hyder for answering every question shivering reporters were shooting at him.

— Seeing Valdosta defensive coach Jack Rudolph twist a knotted white towel over and over when the game had ended and promising a later interview in a restaurant.

— Looking at the mangled remains of my hand after VHS assistant coach Butch Brooks had delivered another one of his bone-crushing handshakes. I think two fingers snapped off like icicles.

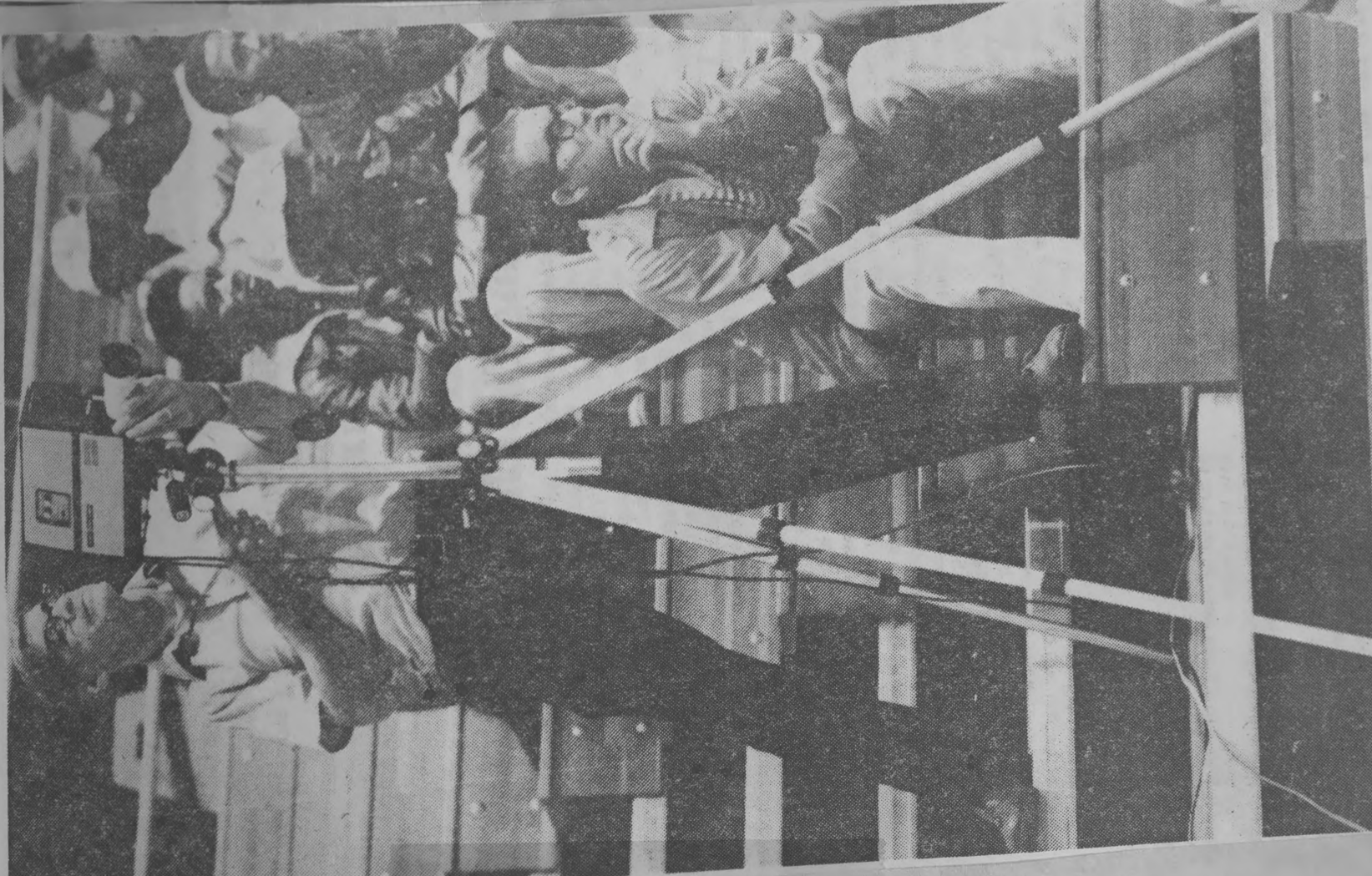
— How cold it was.

— Hearing Valdosta assistant coach Charles Tarpley congratulate Hyder on the season. Hyder is now 34-13 in four years with the Wildcats. Belue was the quarterback in every one of those games.

— Thinking up reasons why Georgia should have the title game in a domed stadium somewhere ... anywhere.

— How cold it was.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Mon., Dec. 12, 1977—3—



Taking It All In

Guarino tapes all games and other events at the school. — Times Staff Photo.

Valdosta High School audio-visual technician Ralph Guarino checks his camera while video-taping a VHS basketball game.

Wildcats — Demons

Atlanta Constitution
12-2-77

Both Teams Are Good and Know It

By KEVIN BROWN

Times-Union Sports Writer
WARNER ROBINS — It has to be utterly impossible to live with Nick Hyder and Robert Davis these days.

Davis said it himself, "It's hard to sound modest when you have a good football team."

Hyder made the comment, "Jimmy Carter lives 90 miles down the road and ask anyone around here if they care what happens in Plains. They'll say no, but they'll all be at the game."

Hyder coaches Valdosta and Davis has the same chore at Warner Robins and THE GAME is Hyder's Wildcats against Davis' Demons, in the semifinal round of the state AAA playoffs at Warner Robins' International Stadium. It's also the "South Georgia" championship game.

The Demons go into the contest as favorites, with good reason.

They're the defending state and national champions. They've won 28 in a row, are 12-0 this season and were ranked No. 1 in the final AAA prep poll. The Demons' offense has been awesome, averaging 37 points

per game, and their defense has been just as tough, holding opponents to four points a contest.

The Wildcats don't lag far behind. They are 11-1, their only loss coming to crosstown rival Lowndes. 7-2, they have averaged 29 points a game offensively and have given up only eight defensively. The 'Cats were ranked fifth in the final poll, but earlier in the season held the top spot for several weeks.

The crowd will be the largest of the year for either team — 20,000 tickets have already been sold and more are being printed for general admission.

"We'll fit as many as we possibly can into the stadium," said Davis.

"We'll have to play the very best game of the year to win," said Hyder. "There's a lot of tension, which is good, but if the players are like the coaches, they're a little nervous."

"It's great to have a chance to play in a semifinal game and we're in contention, although they have to be the favorite. They're unbeaten and defending national champs. It's just logical that they're on top."

Davis' machine is a well-oiled

unit, but he's not that convinced he's in the drivers' seat.

"They have an all-American quarterback (Buck Belue)," said Davis. "They also have a group of good running backs, good size and a quick defense. It'll take four quarters of good football to beat Valdosta."

Davis, who took over the head coaching duties in 1973, said he is concerned about playing four good quarters.

"We went through a whole season and only gave up 40 points, but in last week's playoff game (against Augusta Westside) we gave up 21 points in the first half. It's hard to figure."

In that game the Demons came back in the second half after trailing 21-0 to tie the score and eventually win the game in overtime 28-21. The Demon star was senior running back Jessie Camron (5-foot-11, 160), who scored four touchdowns and had close to 500 yards total offense, rushing and receiving.

The Demons rely on their seniors at the skill positions. Their quarterback is Chip Stuart (6-2, 175) and his favorite receivers are wide-

out Byron Walker and end Tommy Lawson. All three are seniors.

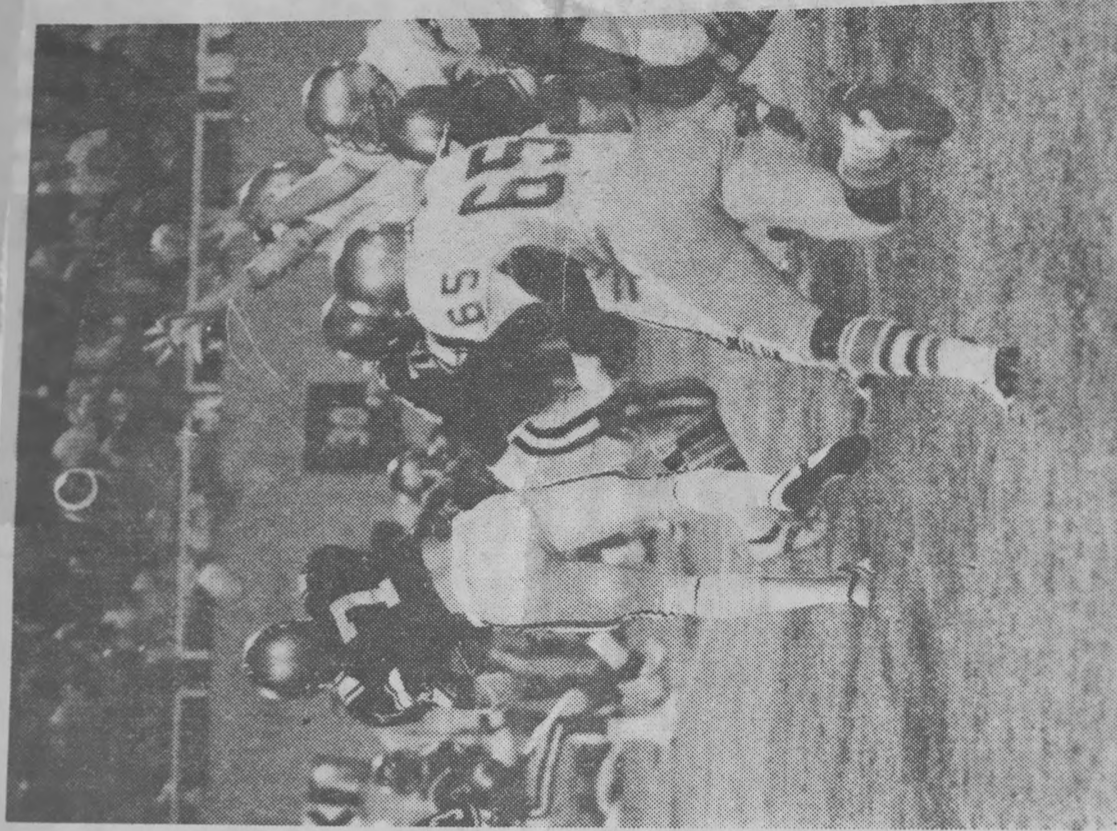
"This is a game with two great teams and two great traditions," said Davis. "We have to be wise enough to keep to our goals. Our goal every week is to win a ball game and our goal every season is to win the state championship."

Valdosta has similar thoughts. The last time Valdosta and Warner Robins met was in 1971 and Valdosta won big (35-7) on its way to a national championship. But that's probably more important to the fans — the seniors on these two teams were only in fifth grade then.

Hyder said his 'Cats are bruised but ready to play and their big guy, Belue, is now at 90 per cent after hurting his knee a few weeks back.

"He had a good week in practice," Hyder added. "As far as our plan is concerned, we'll continue to play an open offense. We'll throw the ball no matter who's in at quarterback."

The Demons have shut out five opponents this season and 12 of their last 24. The Wildcats have blanked four opponents, including last week's first-round playoff combatant, Benedictine 13-0.



Belue (7) Ready to Fire Against Warner Robins — Times-Union Photo

VHS Choir 12-9-77 Boosters Now 100

By Times Staff Writer
The Valdosta High School Choir Boosters Club, organized in October, has grown to 100 members during its two-month membership drive and has undertaken the monumental project of sewing new uniforms for the more than 156 members of the VHS Choir.

Choir members according to Hazel Gibbs, recording secretary, are to show off their new uniforms in a special mini-concert for Choir Booster members and their parents on Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the VHS choir room. They are directed by J. Herman Revels Jr.

Mrs. Mae Nora Collier is in charge of the uniform project and her committee has been working on it about three weeks.

Cora L. Pugh is membership chairman.

Three Wildcats 12-6-77 Are Honored

By Times Staff Writer
Ernest King, Rodney Gordon and Curtis Wright were named the most outstanding players in Valdosta's 27-8 high school playoff win over Warner Robins last week.

King was named the most outstanding offensive player, and Gordon and Wright shared the defensive award.

All three received trophies from the Valdosta Civitan Club. The VHS coaching staff made the selections.

From The Valdosta Daily Times, Dec. 6, 1952, (12-6-77)
Valdosta won its fastest football victory of the year Friday night at Cleveland Field by subduing a fired-up College Park team that had been pointing towards the game all during a three-week layoff since the end of its regular season.

The Wildcats were on top 26-0 at the final whistle but it took every ounce of their effort to wrap it up. The triumph moved Valdosta into state class A finals next week.

Fear Had Its Role Friday Night

Scared is a word used by horror film watchers, demolition experts and coaches who have to play Warner Robins on the high school football field.

"I was scared," Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said only hours after his Valdosta Wildcats had knocked off the Demons 27-8 in the Class AAA South Georgia Championship game Friday night. "But that's what it's all about. It tends to bring out the best in you. I think we saw Buck (Belue, Valdosta quarterback) pretty close to his best Friday night."

High school athletes don't admit fear easily and Belue didn't use that word Friday night. He substituted "respect" instead. VHS assistant coach Butch Brooks followed Hyder's lead.

"We felt scared," Brooks said. "Not really in the physical sense, but they just had so much going for them."

Warner Robins had won 28 straight games. Warner Robins is the defending Class AAA state champion and mythical national champion. Warner Robins had won 11 consecutive games this season. Warner Robins was playing on its home field in front of a partisan crowd of 18,000.

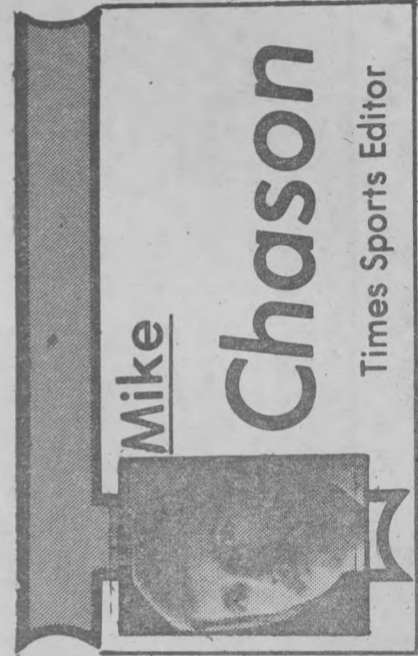
The Demons just seemed like a tough obstacle to overcome. As it turned out, the Wildcats didn't even get singled by the fire-breathing Demon on the sideline.

Yep, that's right... a genuine fire-breathing red Demon with a pitchfork and flashing green eyes, which blinked to the cheer of "Go Red Go." That slogan was a favorite of the home side of International City Stadium early in the game, along with the alltime classic "Dixie."

But let's give the Warner Robins folks credit. The bulk of them stayed until the bitter end and cheered the only Demon touchdown like there were three quarters left to play instead of a minute and eight seconds.

Hyder had his own way of describing the large turnout of 'Cat backers.

"That's just part of Valdosta football," he said. "I asked them at the Touchdown Club meeting to send 10,000 up there, and I'd say they just about did. And they weren't just spectators, they were



Mike Chason
Times Sports Editor

participants. Some people were hoarse from standing up and hollering the whole game.

"I'm sure there were some Lowndes County people there too along with some people from the other Region 1-AAA schools. We really claw and scratch each other during the regular season, but in the playoffs, we're still Region 1-AAA."

Which brings to mind a question every Region 1-AAA coach will answer without a second thought... did Valdosta's win prove 1-AAA is the toughest region in the state?

"I don't know," Hyder said. "We've still got one to play this week. I think last night, you've got to give the credit to our kids. In comparing individual games, several teams in our region were tougher than the one we played last night."

"But there's some emotion involved there. You've got to be ready to play on the night the game is scheduled."

And Valdosta came to play.
That's why Hyder, Valdosta Principal Lloyd Mims, Valdosta City School Superintendent Ralph Brandon, and VHS Athletic

Director Wright Bazemore are traveling to Thomaston this morning to meet with Clarke Central officials to set up the state championship game. Thomaston is the headquarters for the Georgia High School Association, and the GHSA is supposed to handle all arrangements for the game.

According to the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws, the state title game is to be played Saturday night at the site of the North Georgia champion. However, the game could be switched to Friday night if Hyder and Clarke Central Coach Billy Henderson agree. Hyder indicated Saturday he would probably prefer to keep the game on its scheduled date because of the distance involved in a trip to Athens, Clarke Central's home base.

Valdosta's players already have a carrot dangling in front of their nose if they win that game.

"We've said all along that we sure hoped we'd be playing in December," Hyder said. "We promised them if they won the region, we'd give them one of their jerseys. If they win this week, they'll get the other one. I want them to have those jerseys."

Belue already has one such jersey he received when Valdosta won the region title two years ago. Hyder said that was why the senior quarterback has his name stitched across the back. Belue's black jersey this year was ripped off his shoulders in the Lowndes game, compliments of Charles Burgman.

Besides the jerseys, the Wildcats have the obvious goal of being able to say "we're number one" as an undisputed truth. A win over Clarke Central would accomplish that aim.

With an undefeated record, Clarke Central is no doubt a tough football team. But for some folks, Friday night was the mini-state championship game.

"I felt like this was the big one," Brooks said. "Offensively, we felt like we had a lot of pressure on us, and I'm sure with (Jesse) Caimon, Jack (Rudolph, defensive coordinator) felt like the defense had a lot of pressure on it. Warner Robins has an excellent football team."
"But so does Clarke Central."

1 In For Use Of Land Under Old VHS

By JULIAN MILLER

From a community recreation center to a shopping center to a school bus barn, what to do with the land under the old Valdosta High School building has drawn at least as many suggestions as the building itself once did.

School board member Hulyn Smith says suggestions are rolling in with as much regularity as the tide, but he, for one, is not in such a hurry for a decision.

While Smith, board member Stan Bishop and others believe the centrally located property should be used for the community benefit, others are looking towards the land for personal gain.

At least two unidentified businessmen have informally proposed selling the land for the site of a shopping center much like or even an extension of neighboring Brookwood Plaza.

The Valdosta-Lowndes County

Chamber of Commerce Tourists, Recreation and Convention Committee plans to approach the board soon about using the site as an extension of Brookwood Park, which also neighbors.

Bishop has already suggested to the board using the site for new school administrative buildings as well as a community civic center.

And other members of the school board have pointed out the growing number of school buses owned by the board and a need for a place to store and repair them.

"We've had more suggestions than I would want to talk about," said Smith. "Some of them I wouldn't even want to repeat."

One Smith doesn't appear to care for is the use of the property as a shopping center. He doesn't even want to consider selling it.

"I absolutely oppose the selling of the land," he said. "It's in the center of

town and that property belongs to the people. The title is in the name of the board but the people are the board.

"With land this big and important to the people here I feel we will be derelict in our duty if we do not keep it. When we get to the point where we need money we should go to the people for it... not sell land."

Smith suggests and even goes so far as to predict that the board's property committee will study every suggestion and make a recommendation to the board what it feels should be done.

"And I'm sure the board is going to be flexible," he added. "If the city wants it for a recreation center or the city and county want to get together on it I think the board will look upon that with favor. But it doesn't necessarily mean that's what will be done."

The idea of using the site as a community recreation center came up at a passing thought in the Chamber's

tennis courts already in the lot as part of the recreation complex already standing.

Bishop's idea of a community center dealt more with the arts than sports.

"My idea was to start from scratch with a building to house the superintendent and staff in conjunction with a civic center," Bishop explained.

He said he was thinking of something in the area of theatre arts and drama programs and not in terms of athletic programs because the city has already made giant strides in those areas.

"But if we did have the room leftover there's no reason why a multi-purpose gymnasium couldn't be added as well," he said.

Bishop, a staunch football, baseball and basketball supporter who says he feels some attention should be paid to other areas as well, does not feel he did the plan justice at the meeting.

"I didn't do much of a job of ex-

pressing myself," he admitted. "I don't do too well in public speaking."

He also said he would be against selling the land for a shopping center.

"I don't think I would be in favor of that, no," he replied. "I think our superintendent's offices are well located. I think we should hold onto that property while we can."

Smith also pointed out the board must consider other problems in its decision. Among them would be the cost of moving Cleveland Field or building a new stadium.

Also to be considered, he said, are the offices and warehouse space being used by the school board which would have to be replaced somewhere.

"We're also leasing out a wing to CESA (Cooperative Educational Service Agency), which serves several counties. And each year we add two or three buses (to the fleet) and we're going to need a terminal sometime."

Valdosta Back In Limelight After Six-Year Absence

By Times Staff Writer
ATHENS — Valdosta, a name almost legendary in past seasons where Georgia high school football is concerned, returns to center stage for the first time in six years tonight in the state class AAA final.

The 12-1 Wildcats meet the Gladiators of Clarke Central in the championship matchup at Clarke Central's home field.

The last time Valdosta went to Athens for a state final was in 1969, in the next-to-last championship of 15 former Wildcat coach Wright Bazemore.

That game, considered by many as one of the finest prep games ever played, ended in a 26-26 tie when Athens quarterback Andy Johnson engineered a last-minute scoring drive and two-point conversion to knot the score

at 26-26. Valdosta's final state crown came in 1971, when the 30-year coaching career of Bazemore came to an end.

Since then, Valdosta teams have spent two years under former Bazemore assistant, then head coach, Charlie Green, and four seasons under present coach Nick Hyder.

This season's Wildcat team had the odds stacked against

it almost from the beginning, when it was made the betting favorite to win Region 1-AAA before the season ever started.

Those early-season prognosticators were proven correct, but only after Valdosta had lost for the first time ever to crosstown rival Lowndes, and had won an appeal of a decision which ordered it to forfeit two early

season wins. Valdosta came out on top in its early-season showdown with Dougherty, roaring from behind to eke out a 15-14 victory on a Robert Baldwin field goal.

Clarke Central head coach Billy Henderson said his team respected Valdosta, but added "we stand in awe of no one."

Henderson has previous experience with the Wildcats

from his earlier days at Willingham (Macon).

While at the Macon school, he posted a 3-3-1 record against VHS.

He and the Gladiators will be out to break that tie, as well as the 1-1-1 deadlock at Central (Athens) series now stands.

Hyder called Clarke Central possibly "the best defensive team we've faced."

"We're trying to find a way we feel like we can do something against that defense," he said.

"When I look out there and see all that speed and size, that's frightening."

So far, the only team to effectively shut down Valdosta's multi-pronged offense has been Lowndes, a 7-2 victor over the 'Cats in the lone loss of the season for VHS.

Buck Belue ends a brilliant four-year career as field general for the Wildcats in tonight's game.

The 6-2, 185-pounder has been heavily recruited by many major football powers.

Clear but very cold weather is predicted for tonight's game, with temperatures expected to drop into the low 20's.

Times-Union and Journal, Jacksonville, Sunday, December 4, 1977

D-3

Valdosta, Waycross Roll On

By GORDON ROBBIE,
Times-Union Sports Writer

A firm talk and a firm foot helped keep two area Georgia schools in the state high school football playoffs Friday night with Valdosta and Waycross both winning South Georgia titles.

Nick Hyder's Wildcats surprised many with the ease in which they recorded a 27-8 win over defending state and national title-holder Warner Robins. Meanwhile, Dale Williams' Bulldogs remained the class of AA teams with a 9-6 victory over College Park Woodward Academy.

Valdosta led 6-0 at halftime but it took a firm pep talk by Hyder during the recess to fire up the Wildcats. Until that point, they had played shakily in places.

"We just put it all together in the second half," said Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue. "We were told at halftime that we weren't performing up to our capabilities. The coaches really got on us."

The "firm foot" belonged to Waycross' Ricky Chaney, who kicked the extra point following the Bulldogs' lone touchdown. It proved the clincher as Woodward placekicker Ronnie Heggeler was wide to the

right with his placement try following the War Eagles' touchdown.

Chaney was to play another major role late in the game.

The War Eagles, before a home crowd of some 4,000 fans at Colquitt Field, got a first down at their own 15 but, with less than two minutes to play, had to gamble. Quarterback David Archer was thrown for a seven-yard loss back to the eight and on the next play Chaney sacked Archer for a safety to assure the Waycross win.

Another key play in preserving the narrow victory was supplied by Bulldog punter David Snellgrove. He had a boot go dead on Woodward Academy's four-yard line to put the Eagles in a hole.

Waycross scored on a Keith Taylor-to-Charles Junior 74-yard pass play late in the second period before Woodward tallied on a 27-yard pass from Archer to Reid Trimble with 9:30 remaining in the game.

The War Eagles did not attempt to go for the two-point conversion even after a penalty put the ball inside the one-yard line. It was then that Heggeler's extra point attempt went wide.

Waycross is home for the state championship game Friday night

against Dalton, a 20-12 winner over Decatur Gordon. Valdosta, meanwhile, travels to Athens to oppose Clarke Central, which upended Decatur Southwest DeKalb 20-7. Both Decatur representatives in the semifinals went down to defeat.

In the Valdosta-Robins game the Wildcats, as usual, were led by Belue, wrapping up his fourth season as Valdosta helmsman. Belue hit on seven of 15 passes for 99 yards, including touchdowns of eight and 15 yards and a two-point conversion, and ran for another 50 yards.

"He looked like a pro out there," Warner Robins Coach Robert Davis said of Belue. "They just whipped us," he said of the whole Valdosta team, after his Demons dropped their first game in three seasons.

"We never got field position. He backed us up and held us there, and it seemed like every time we got something started, we'd have some thing stop us, whether it was Valdosta or a penalty or something," said Davis.

Jesse Cainon, the Demon running back who scored four touchdowns last week in Warbler Robins' 27-21 triumph over Augusta Northside, was the leading rusher in the

contest with 94 yards in 18 carries.

Athens Clarke Central, now 14-0, scored a pair of first period touchdowns on runs of four yards by Hillary Billups and two yards by Stan Davis and held a 14-7 halftime lead as Southwest DeKalb came back on a one-yard scoring toss from Bob Berry to Mike Charmoli.

Quarterback Jim Bob Harris wrapped up the victory for the Gladiators with a 58-yard burst in the fourth period.

A third area team dropped from playoff competition.

Jeff Davis, in Class A, let victory slip through its grasp when it missed a two-point conversion try and a 35-yard field goal attempt which was good but was called back by a penalty as the Yellow Jackets fell to Early County 14-13. The game was as close as the score indicated, too. Both teams finished tied in statistics with each getting a total of 236 yards.

Yellow Jacket kicker Wade Stone booted an apparent field goal with 7:09 remaining but Early County made "the best mistake it ever made" when it was called offsideline before the snap. That nullified the play and Stone's subsequent try from

placement slipped off the side of his toe.

Jeff Davis' Darryl Smith faked a handoff and broke through the middle of the Bobcat line and raced 63 yards for one touchdown with the other score coming on a 43-yard pass play from Gerry Hancock to Chris Denning.

Early County travels to East Rome for the state Class A final Friday. The Gladiators, the state's top-ranked team, pulled off a near miracle last Friday when quarterback Sylvester Elkins connected with Willie Well on a 23-yard touchdown pass as time ran out and then kicked the point after to tie Commerce 20-20 in the second overtime period. The referees then declared East Rome the winner on penetrations in the final period, reaching Commerce's 33 while the losers got only to the Gladiator 46.

In Class B action, defending champion Lincoln County won its 25th consecutive game as Phil Amanson returned a punt 55 yards and booted a 21-yard field goal to help the Red Devils upend Savannah Country Day 22-6. They host the winner of Saturday night's game between West Point and Jefferson this Friday.

Aubin Nudges Luke For 1-AAA Pass Title

By Times Staff Writer

Dougherty quarterback Jerry Aubin took to the airways for 198 yards in his season finale against Lowndes' Kenny Luke by one yard for the Region 1-AAA passing title.

Aubin's effort, which consisted of just four completions in seven attempts, gave him 1,181 yards for the season according to Region 1-AAA statistician Ellwood Moyer.

Luke passed for 125 yards on 14 of 24 passes in his team's season finale against Thomasville, and wound up with 1,180.

Thomasville's Roosevelt Andrews swiped the rushing crown by the narrowest of margins, gaining 996 yards to 991 yards by Dougherty's Cedric Moss.

Andrews came back in the final week of the season to gain 125 yards while Moss was rushing for 62.

That pushed the Thomasville runner over the top, and very near the 1,000-yard mark.

Valdosta's Buck Belue finished third in the passing department with 914 yards, and led the league in punting with a 39.88 average.

Monroe's Jeff Johnson was second in the punting category with an average of 37.08 yards per kick, while Lowndes' Jeff Stokes was in third place with a 36.08 average.

Central of Thomasville's Horace Smith headed up the pass receiving department with 745 yards on 33 catches, while Nathaniel Burks of Lowndes was second, with 36 catches for 653 yards.

Lowndes' Bill Schreffler led in pass interceptions, with seven thefts for a combined runback of 182 yards.

Valdosta's Troy Thomas led in the punt returning department, as he has all

season, with 16 returns for 220 yards.

Crisp's Clyde Jackson was tops in kick-off returns, with 667 yards on 26 tries.

Clyde Mackey of Bainbridge wound up atop the scoring totals, with 92 points on 15 touchdowns and a two-point conversion.

Belue was second with 82 points, coming on 13 touchdowns and two two-point conversions.

Dougherty possessed the most potent rushing attack in the league, grinding out better than 221 yards along the ground in each game.

Tift County was second, followed by Thomasville and Valdosta.

Lowndes was tops in passing offense, with an average of more than 152 yards gained in each game through the air.

Central was second, followed by Dougherty and Valdosta.

Valdosta had the best defense against the rush, holding its opponents to just over 91 yards along the ground in each game.

Tift was second, Lowndes was third, and Dougherty finished fourth.

Central held its opponents to an average of about 48 yards through the air to top first place in that department.

Tift was second, Valdosta third, and Crisp fourth.

Player	No.	Yds.	Td's
1. Johnson, Monroe	154	57	818
2. Bernard Jackson, Central	87	41	734
3. Carmichael, Tift	119	45	714
4. Shealy, Bainbridge	128	53	714
5. Carter, Central	65	25	535
6. Whaley, Westover	78	24	387
7. Robinson, Moultrie	48	24	369

Player	No.	Yds.	Td's
1. Smith, Central	30	745	8
2. Burks, Lowndes	36	653	10
3. T. Jones, Dougherty	15	537	3
4. Whinnard, Moultrie	21	385	3
5. Terry, Tift	15	320	1
6. Hopkins, Central	13	320	2
7. Lasinger, Valdosta	31	317	4
8. Cooper, Lowndes	19	240	2
9. Walker, Crisp	11	242	5
10. Wilson, Lowndes	18	229	5
11. Council, Valdosta	14	178	1

Player	No.	Yds.	Td's
1. Schreffler, Lowndes	7	182	1
2. Hunter, Thomasville	4	97	4
3. Bryant, Thomasville	2	44	2
4. Kirksey, Albany	4	62	2
5. Linton, Central	4	53	2
6. Washington, Lowndes	1	52	1
7. McKel, Lowndes	1	30	1
8. Jones, Lowndes	3	28	2

Player	No.	Yds.	Td's
1. Belue, Valdosta	41	1615	39.88
2. Johnson, Monroe	12	445	37.08
3. Stokes, Lowndes	39	1407	36.08
4. Close, Bainbridge	23	873	35.35
5. Lemarr, Monroe	28	935	34.43

Player	No.	Yds.	Td's
1. Thomas, Valdosta	16	720	13
2. Smith, Central	13	140	5
3. Williford, Moultrie	5	85	4
4. Mackey, Bainbridge	4	75	4
5. Montgomery, Albany	4	61	5
6. McElroy, Lowndes	8	54	8

Player	No.	Yds.	Td's
1. Jackson, Crisp	26	667	17
2. Moss, Dougherty	17	548	18
3. Sands, Moultrie	18	339	12
4. Council, Valdosta	12	303	8
5. Stancil, Albany	8	303	3

Player	No.	Yds.	Td's
1. Mackey, Bainbridge	15	2	92
2. Belue, Valdosta	13	4	82
3. Boone, Dougherty	11	4	70
4. Barney Jackson, Central	10	0	60
5. Carmichael, Tift	9	4	54
6. Burks, Lowndes	9	0	54
7. Marria, Thomasville	8	4	52
8. Smith, Central	8	2	50
9. Moss, Dougherty	8	0	48
10. Andrews, Thomasville	8	0	48
11. Sands, Moultrie	8	0	48
12. Phillips, Moultrie	8	0	48
13. Harris, Central	3	28	46
14. Aubin, Dougherty	6	0	36
15. T. Jones, Dougherty	6	0	36
16. Morris, Tift	6	0	36
17. Ford, Crisp	6	0	36
18. Baldwin, Valdosta	6	0	36
19. Council, Valdosta	6	0	36
20. Harvey, Crisp	5	0	30
21. Lasinger, Valdosta	5	0	30
22. Wilson, Lowndes	5	0	30
23. Thomas, Lowndes	4	0	24
24. Stokes, Lowndes	4	0	24
25. Thomas, Valdosta	4	0	24
26. Cooper, Lowndes	3	2	20
27. Gaskins, Valdosta	3	0	18
28. King, Valdosta	3	0	18


Player	No.	Yds.	Td's
1. Dougherty	365	2214	207.10
2. Tift	412	2056	203.60
3. Thomasville	412	1955	195.50
4. Valdosta	423	1777	177.70
5. Bainbridge	395	1755	175.50
6. Crisp	422	1542	154.20
7. Moultrie	325	1089	108.90
8. Central	369	1068	106.80
9. Lowndes	353	1014	101.40
10. Albany	314	756	75.60
11. Monroe	314	756	75.60
12. Westover	314	756	75.60

Over

ime to forget an injury it's Belue that. has crossed the goal line 27 year. Against Westside last touchdowns. Belue led the touchdowns on the year. do do with the game tonight, down favorite. Since at least r beaten the Wildcats on the

o win. In 1961, Valdosta won 7-7. In 1963, Valdosta won 23-ular season meeting at that until 1971. In the first round of romped to a 35-6 win. That eason as head coach and the as far as the South Georgia hat year, winning the state picked each season by Art jins has failed to pick up a k Hyder isn't counting on ie scoreboard tonight. ewspaper clipping from the account of the Demons' in red were the statistics of te by Warner Robins Coach "pound-for-pound Cainion "The words the unknown rgin said "amazing. huh! Careful!" ay know what he's talking est back in the state, and

Times 12-2-77



Mike Chason

Times Sports Editor

Valdosta might have to be very cautious in how it defends the Demon star. And Warner Robins might be the number one team in the state.

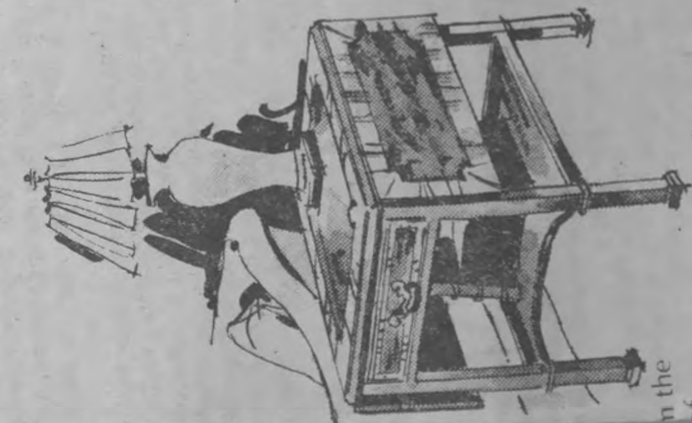
But nobody will know for sure until tonight. One thing I do know is that Valdosta ain't a bad football team. You don't win nine games in Region 1-AAA just by luck. Some Valdosta folks have questioned the competition Warner Robins has played this year. But nobody, not in Warner Robins or in Kalamazoo, Mich., can question the caliber of teams that Valdosta plays.

If I were an average football fan who had not seen either of the two teams play, there's no way I would pick against Warner Robins tonight. Playing on their home field in front of a partisan packed stadium of 20,000, the Demons have the numbers in their favor.

But I have seen Valdosta play. And I believe they can knock heads with anybody. Here's a Robert Baldwin field goal for a 17-14 Valdosta win.

Last week's record was 1-0 for an overall 82 percent figure of 183-40.

Oriental inspired armoire with doors concealing adjustable shelf, removable partitions and back panel to permit installation of TV or sound equipment and drawer storage below. W40 D20 H78



An 18th century style pembroke table with contrasting border designs, storage drawer, shelf and drop leaves for versatile use. W41 D27 H26 W21% Open. W41 D27 H26

Backward Glance

(From The Valdosta Daily Times, Dec. 20, 1952.)

Valdosta High basketball teams flashed to a pair of stunning victories over Thomasville quintets at the Valdosta High School gymnasium Friday night when the Wildcats registered a 63-43 win after the Kittens had buried the Thomasville girls 51-18 in the opener.

Game Avg. Yds. 916 17.60
 329 17.60
 3. Tift 112.30

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 329 17.60
 3. Tift 112.30

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 329 17.60
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Game Avg. Yds. 916 17.60
 329 17.60
 3. Tift 112.30

It's Valdosta Offense Vs. Clarke's Defense

12-8-77

By MIKE CHASON

The Class AAA high school football state championship game shapes up as the old irresistible force against the immovable object routine.

On one side is Valdosta's flashy, high-scoring multiple offense. On the other is Clarke Central's hard-nosed, get-down-and-bust-your-gut type defense.

In Athens at 7:30 p.m. Saturday night, something's gonna' have to give.

"This might be the best defensive team we've faced,"

Senior Viewpoint

Guthrie, Belue See Finale From Different Angles

By Times Staff Writer

Buck Belue and Gary Guthrie are going to be wearing the same Valdosta Wildcat uniforms in the Class AAA state high school football championship game in Athens Saturday night, but that's where the similarity between the two seniors ends.

Belue is one of the most highly publicized, most-talked about schoolboy athletes ever to play for Valdosta. Naturally, he's a quarterback.

Guthrie is a solid offensive tackle. He's good enough at his position to be a second team all-Region 1-AAA selection. But his name is almost foreign to the printed page.

Guthrie believes his performance against Clarke Central Saturday night could very well be the last one of his football career. Belue has the college scouts foaming at the mouth.

"I really haven't even thought about playing college football," Guthrie, a 220-pounder, said. "I guess I never really thought I was good enough."

"This is probably going to be the end of football for me."

Every college scout in the south wants to make sure Belue doesn't have the same plans. For example, Georgia's Vince Dooley and Florida State's Bobby Bowden both attended Wednesday's Wildcat practice session.

However, Belue says he isn't close to signing.

"After Saturday night, I'll sit down and really start thinking about it deep down," Belue said.

"I've narrowed it down to four or five. Other than that, I haven't thought about it too much."

Right now, the 6-1, 185-pounder who's started 46 consecutive games for Valdosta, is thinking about his final game in the Wildcat black-and-gold.

"This will be the first and last time us seniors will be playing in the state championship game," Belue said.

"It's right there in front of us. All we have to do is go out

Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said only minutes after putting his Wildcats through a cold and windy practice session Wednesday.

"They've only given up seven touchdowns in 13 games this year. They have eight players who are college prospects and four or five of those are on defense."

"We're just trying to find a way we feel like we can do something against that defense. When I look out there and see all that speed and size, that's frightening."

Hyder's offense has thrown a fright into more than one opponent this season, averaging over 30 points a game enroute to a 12-1 record.

The Valdosta defense has been just as impressive in the two state playoff games so far, giving up only one touchdown in the last two minutes of play in a 27-8 victory over previously unbeaten Warner Robins last week.

In the quarterfinal game, Benedictine tumbled by a 13-0 margin.

The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

there and get it.

"I know they (Clarke Central) are saying the same thing though."

Although Guthrie and Belue have looked at Valdosta's 13 games this year from different angles, they've both seen their toughest opponent in the same uniform.

"The game I really remember is Dougherty (a 15-14 Valdosta win)," Guthrie said. "I guess it was just because we came so close to losing that game."

"Then we messed around and did lose (7-2) to Lowndes."

"I guess it would have to be Dougherty or Lowndes," Belue said. "I think either one of them would have had a good shot at either Warner Robins or Benedictine."

Neither of the seniors is taking Clarke Central lightly, although for many folks, the win over Warner Robins was considered "the big one."

"I'm proud of where we are," Belue said. "But I know we've got one more left."

Valdosta's only loss this year was a 7-2 decision to cross-county rival Lowndes. Since that time, the 'Cats have reeled off six straight victories.

Nobody wants to spoil a good thing, but is Hyder planning to add anything new for the state championship contest?

"You always try to work on a few different things," Hyder said. "We worked on some different things last week. But the kids are the same."

"They just come out and do what we ask them to do. I don't see a change in their attitude at all for this game."

In 20 years of coaching, Hyder has been involved in only one other state championship game. That was in 1965 when Rome defeated St. Pius 6-0 for the Class AA crown. Hyder was an offensive backfield coach.

As head coach at West Rome before he came to Valdosta, Hyder led his team to the semifinal round on two occasions. North Fulton took one of the games 21-0, and Gainesville won the other, 10-7.

Hyder said Saturday's meeting would be the fourth for Valdosta and the Athens team in the state final.

In 1955, the Fran Tarkenton-led Athens team won 41-20, in 1965 Valdosta won 14-13, and in 1969, the two teams tied, 26-26.

"This is the rubber game," Hyder said.

Physically, the Valdosta coach believes his team to be in satisfactory condition. Senior quarterback Buck Belue is still having his knee heavily taped before each practice after straining ligaments in it three weeks ago.

"Buck got bruised up a little bit last week," Hyder said. "He's learned to go with the pain but we've put a red jersey on him in practice. We don't want anybody hitting him during the week."

Hyder seemed impressed by the Clarke Central quarterback, Jim Bob Harris.

"He can run or throw," Hyder said. "His coach (Billy Henderson) says he's as good as Belue, and that they 'stand in awe of no one.'"

The Gladiators are 13-0 on the season and knocked off Southwest DeKalb 20-7 for the North Georgia championship last week.

AAA Title Seen For VHS

Saturday night, Nick Hyder will walk onto a high school football field in Athens for the Class AAA state championship game. It will be the first time in his 20-year career that he's ever been in that position as a head coach. It's high time he started taking credit for some of the hard work that got him and his Valdosta Wildcats there. The football year of 1977 has not been an easy one for Hyder. The Valdosta coach felt the external pressure early when the 'Cats were picked as the hands-down favorite to win the Region 1-AAA title. This was supposed to be the year Valdosta returned to its days of old.

And it did ... but it took the hard road to do it. Two games into the season, the 'Cats were rolling along with a 2-0 record and a big game with Thomasville's Bulldogs looming on the horizon. Then disaster struck. Tight end Alvin Thomas was declared ineligible and Georgia High School Association Executive Secretary Bill Fordham ordered Valdosta to forfeit its two wins.

Hyder cited a "clerical error." But he knew he was the head coach and bears the ultimate responsibility for anything that goes wrong with the football program.

Two wins later and a tremendous morale-boosting victory over Dougherty under their belts, the Wildcats got their two games back. VHS Principal Lloyd Mims presented Valdosta's case at a GHSA Appeal Board meeting, and the board voted to reverse the forfeits.

But it would have all been for nothing without the 15-14 Dougherty win. Robert Baldwin's field goal with seven minutes left won that game in probably the most exciting contest of the year. Dougherty lost only one other game all season, a non-subregion contest to Bainbridge. The Trojans might have won the title had Baldwin been 10 inches to the left on that September night.

Two games later, misfortune again knocked on Hyder and the Wildcats' door in the form of a fired-up band of Lowndes Vikings. For the first time in the football history of the two schools, Lowndes took a 7-2 decision. The game was a well-played defensive struggle by both teams.

But Valdosta lost and a few fans blamed Hyder directly. He called his apartment from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. the next morning. Five days later, he implied he thought his job status was not the firmest in the world. He said the "death bell may have sounded."

When his comments appeared in print, Valdostans rallied to his side. Never did the 'Cats receive such an ovation as they got the following night when Valdosta hosted Tift County. The Wildcats romped to a 31-0 win in one of their most impressive performances of the year.

Hyder's Valdosta stock soared. Two games later, the Wildcats had the regular season behind them with a 9-1 record and the north subregion championship. Before the region title matchup against Thomasville, Hyder said he thought his team had faced



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

"more adversity" than any team ever to get into the playoffs.

As far as off the field controversy is concerned, he was probably right.

Valdosta bombed Thomasville, Benedictine and Warner Robins in the playoffs. And now it's the big one against Clarke Central.

"I feel good about a lot of things that have happened this year," Hyder said Wednesday. "And a lot of things have happened this year. But we came out of the situation, and I never was bitter. I never worried about rumors. I was just concerned about being effective with the players and the coaching staff."

"They've done the job ... give them the credit." The players and the coaches have done the job. But so has Hyder. Valdostans take their football seriously, and the Wildcat coach is just as much a public figure as the mayor or the police chief. Hyder has taken the heat that goes with his job, and now it's past time he got some of the credit for the team's success.

How ironic it was for Miller Shealy to be named the Coach of the Year in Region 1-AAA by the sportswriters when Shealy's Bainbridge team finished 5-5 and Hyder's 'Cats finished 9-1. Shealy did a good job in turning around the Bearcats, but Hyder's team is about to play in the state championship. He must have done something right somewhere.

And now for the game. This has gotta' sound like an instant replay of the past three weeks but the same principle still applies. If you're going to try to beat Valdosta, you better have a passing and a running attack.

Thomasville could not throw ... the Bulldogs lost 39-20. Benedictine could not throw ... the Cadets lost 13-0. Clarke Central does not like to throw ... you get the picture.

Here's a 20-7 Valdosta victory.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Dec. 10, 1977-7-

Bainbridge Sweeps VHS

By Times Staff Writer

BAINBRIDGE — Bainbridge's Bearcats and Kittens proved to be rude hosts, sweeping both ends of a Region 1-AAA high school basketball doubleheader from Valdosta here Friday night.

The Bearkittens raced to a 55-45 win in the opener, before the 'Cats chugged past the Valdosta boys 71-54 in the nightcap.

Bainbridge followed the offensive performances of Terri Edwards, Tina Gadsen and Cheryl Strickland to its win over Jerry Baker's Valdosta Kittens.

Edwards dumped in 16 points, Gadsen hit for 14 and Strickland chipped in 13 as Valdosta fell to a 3-2 record with its second straight loss.

Bainbridge has been beaten once, by Lowndes.

The Bearkittens jumped into a 30-17 halftime lead and had little difficulty after that.

Shirley Berrian banged home 20 points and Vera Crawford added 14 for Valdosta.

"We didn't get up for Bainbridge," said Baker.

"After the Lowndes game (Valdosta fell 43-36 before the Vikettes Tuesday night), it was difficult.

"When you make one of nine free throws, and don't play good defense, and don't hustle, it's hard to win."

Coach Norman Sainz's Valdosta boys, still playing with only half of their team due to football playoffs, fell to their fifth loss in as many games.

The Wildcats kept it close

in the first quarter, playing the powerful Bearcats even at 12-12.

But Bainbridge exploded in the second period to outscore Valdosta 26-7, and never had any trouble the rest of the way.

"We played a real good first quarter," said Sainz, "and a pretty good fourth quarter. But we just stood around in the second quarter."

He praised the play of

Cedric Stroud, who led the Wildcats in scoring with 16 points.

"Bainbridge played like the region champions," he said. "But our boys hustled. They knew who they were playing, and they stuck it out. They didn't do a bad job."

Donald Barber threw in 19 points to lead the Bearcats, while Henry Curtis added 16 and Greg Bess added 11.

Chandler Daniels added 14 points for Valdosta.

Police Roundup

12-10-77

2 VHS Students Arrested Friday

By Times Staff Writer

Two Valdosta High School students were arrested at the school on disorderly conduct charges Friday, police report.

Reports said vice principal Donald Allison called police when Glenda R. Blair, 18, of 14 Hudson Dockett, and a 16-year-old girl began fighting in the school lunchroom about 1:30 p.m.

The 16-year-old was turned over to juvenile authorities.

State law prohibits the publication of the names of juvenile offenders under 17 years of age.

In other activity, police

GIRLS				
Valdosta	10	14	27	45
Bainbridge	14	30	41	55
VALDOSTA (45) — Powell, Crawford 14, Whitehead 9, Felix 2, Berrian 20, Stewart, Baker, Evans, Irvin, Cooper.				
Team totals: field goals 22, free throws 1 of 9, fouls 12.				
BAINBRIDGE (55) — Strickland 13, Harrell 4, Gadsen 14, Edwards 16, Williams 4, Brown 3, Cohen 3, Moore.				
Team totals: field goals 25, free throws 5 of 12, fouls 12.				
BOYS				
Valdosta	12	19	31	54
Bainbridge	12	38	58	71
VALDOSTA (54) — Chandler Daniels 14, New 2, Stroud 16, Chris Daniels 6, Felix 4, Dame 4, Powell 4, Jones 4.				
Team totals: field goals 18, free throws 18 of 26, fouls 15.				
BAINBRIDGE (71) — Henry 16, Taylor 4, D. Barber 19, Bess 11, Mock 8, R. Barber 6, Biggles 2, Robinson 3, Gaines 2, Freeman.				
Team totals: field goals 31, free throws 9 of 14, fouls 20.				

'Dosta, LHS Hit The Road

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta and Lowndes hit the road tonight for a pair of Region 1-AAA (South) high school basketball twin-bills.

Valdosta's Wildcats and Kittens meet Bainbridge, and Lowndes' Vikings and Vikettes take on Thomasville. Coach Norman Sainz' Cats are 0-4 on the year, heading into the encounter with the unbeaten Bearcats. Bainbridge won the region title last season and is one of the favorites to repeat this time out.

Valdosta is still without its football-playing regulars, who are scheduled to meet

AREA HOOPS SLATE

Tonight
Prep
Valdosta at Bainbridge
Lowndes at Thomasville
Cinch at Lanier
GCS at Westbrook
Turner at Cook
Echols at Broxton
Valwood at Pineland
Worth at Brooks
Florida High at Madison
Taylor at Hamilton
Hamilton girls at P. K. Yonge
Saturday
Prep
Lanier at Norman Park
Pineland at GCS
Fitzgerald at Cook boys
Valwood at Bainbridge
Brooks at Mitchell
Madison at Maclay
College
Chipola at NFJC

Clarke Central in Athens Saturday night for the Class AAA state championship.

12-9-77

Coach Jerry Baker's Kittens have been the surprise of the area so far with a 3-1 record, losing only to unbeaten Lowndes. The Bainbridge girls finished second to Lowndes in the region last season.

The Vikettes of Coach Charles Cooper are 7-0 on the season and in the midst of a 37-winning streak. They defeated Thomasville handily last season.

Coach Terry Wilkes' Vikings are rolling along with a 5-2 record, having lost only to Dougherty (Albany) and Bainbridge.

In other games on a slam-packed night of action, Clinch County (Homerville) tangles with Lanier County in Lakeland, Ga., Georgia Christian School (Dasher) meets Westbrook in Dixie, Cook hosts Turner County (Ashburn) in Adel and Echols County (Statenville) travels to Broxton.

Also, Valwood looks for its second win in Moultrie against Pineland and Brooks County entertains Worth County (Sylvester) in Quitman.

In games involving Florida schools, Madison hosts Florida High of Tallahassee, Taylor County (Perry) travels to Hamilton County (Jasper) and the Hamilton girls meet P. K. Yonge in Gainesville.

In Saturday night games, it's Lanier County at Norman Park, Pineland at GCS, Fitzgerald at Cook boys, Valwood at Bainbridge, Brooks at Mitchell County (Camilla), Madison at Maclay (Tallahassee) and Chipola Junior College at North Florida Junior College in Madison.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., Dec. 9, 1977-14-

Central Coach Learned About 'Dosta Firsthand

By MIKE CHASON
ATHENS — Billy Henderson says Valdosta football taught him a "lot of lessons." Come Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. at Death Valley Stadium here, Henderson hopes he's the teacher.

"When I started my program at Willingham in Macon, they (Valdosta's Wildcats) were the sights I used to teach my players on," Henderson said as he prepared his Clarke Central team for the Class AAA state championship game against Valdosta here Saturday.

"I told them 'this is how you're supposed to play football.' They were fundamentally sound. They blocked well, they tackled well and they had great imagination on offense.

"They would knock you down, and then they'd pick you up."

While at Willingham, Henderson said he faced the Valdosta teams seven times. When the two teams fell into different regions, Henderson had a 3-3-1 record against the since retired wizard of high school football.

"Coach Bazemore whipped us in '61 and '62," Henderson said. "That's when we were learning. In '63, we managed to win 13-0. In '64, we went to Valdosta and managed to run the score up to 14-13. In '65, we won a real cliffhanger in Macon, 12-7. That was the only loss they had that year. Course, we were supposed to be in the state finals ourselves."

Valdosta beat Willingham 27-7 in 1966 and then the two teams tied 7-7 in 1967.

Henderson hasn't faced the Black-and-Gold since.

"Nobody in this world has more respect for Valdosta football than Billy Henderson," he said. "We've

Game-By-Game

Clarke 7, Cedar Shoals 0
Clarke 40, Franklin 0
Clarke 9, Southwest 6
Clarke 43, Briarcliff 0
Clarke 20, Johnson 0
Clarke 7, Dunwoody 0

Clarke 24, Habersham 7
Clarke 14, Tucker 0
Clarke 26, Northeast 0
Clarke 20, Henderson 0
Clarke 16, Lakeside 14
Clarke 14, Newnan 7

Clarke 20, SW DeKalb 7

always stressed defense, and this was influenced by Coach Bazemore. He always put his best athletes there first.

"But the real edge that Valdosta has on people is their imagination on offense. People do things today and think they're modern... Valdosta was doing it in the 50s."

Henderson calls his Clarke Central offense "conservative."

The 13-0 Gladiators got 1,243 yards rushing out of tailback Stan Davis (5-9, 160, sr.) this year. Quarterback Jim Bob Harris (6-2, 185, sr.) ran for 415 more yards on just 35 carries for an 11.6 yards-per-carry average.

"We throw the football some too," Henderson said. "But we don't throw it just to be throwing it."

Henderson, in his fifth year at Clarke Central, describes Harris as a "good quarterback and a good athlete."

"He played five different positions for us last year," Henderson said. "He was a tight end, a strong safety, he snapped for deep punts, and he played one of the wide receivers at times."

How does Henderson compare him to Buck Belue,

Valdosta's four-year starter in the signal-caller's slot?

"Well, I'll be glad to tell you that after the game," Henderson said. "Buck has got to be one of the greatest of all times in Georgia high school circles. Of course, I've just seen him on film."

Henderson isn't gearing his defense to stop Valdosta's number 7 however.

"We've got to stop Belue along with the other folks on that football team," Henderson said. "We can't be concerned with just one phase. That's the reason they have such an outstanding football team."

Henderson's club has scored 260 points this season for a 20.0 average per game. It has only given up 53 points for a 4.0 average per game.

Valdosta has scored 403 points for a 31.0 average and given up 109 points for an 8.3 average.

As a former member of 1-AAA and a present member of 8-AAA, Henderson has had a chance to compare prep football in different sections of the state. Is 1-AAA the toughest league in the state as fans of the 12 member schools claim?

"There was no doubt about

it when I coached there," Henderson said. "I've been away for awhile but I still agree with them. When you have Albany, Moultrie and Thomasville in the same region..."

"I think those people have a reason to believe that."

Probable starting lineups for both teams follow:

VALDOSTA
Offense — ends Sam Fletcher (185, jr.) and John Lastinger (174, jr.), tackles Gary Guthrie (220, sr.) and Scott Griffin (190, jr.), guards Bubba Hardin (170, jr.) and Andy Chapman (180, jr.), center Tony Blasetti (210, soph.), halfbacks Frank Council (182, sr.) and Robert Smith (155, jr.) or Melvin Hunter (147, sr.), fullback William Gaskins (150, jr.) or Ernest King (170, soph.), quarterback Buck Belue (185, sr.).

Defense — ends Doug Conway (185, sr.) and Lynn Roberts (165, jr.), tackles Curtis Wright (185, sr.) and Ray Lloyd (235, sr.) or Jimbo Hancock (165, soph.), middle guard Craig Simmons (190, sr.), linebackers John Branan (182, jr.) and Robert Baldwin (206, sr.), cornerbacks Troy Thomas (172, jr.) and Rodney Gordon (160, jr.), safeties Allen Worthy (170, sr.) and Carl Roe (165, jr.) or Jimmy Hartman (178, sr.).

CLARKE CENTRAL
Offense — ends Chris Bizzle (170, jr.) and Tim Marable (180, jr.), tackles Brent Snyder (205, sr.) and Sam Wieke (185, sr.), guards Phil Nelms (180, sr.) and Jeff Turk (180, sr.), center Alex Forrester (175, sr.), tailback Stan Davis (160, sr.), fullback Hillary Billups (185, jr.), flanker Jeff Dean (155, sr.), quarterback Jim Bob Harris (185, sr.).

Defense — ends Larry Richards (215, sr.) and Charles Campbell (185, sr.), tackles Brent Bob Weathersby (230, sr.) and Carey Nelms (220, sr.), noseman Mack McCoy (180, jr.) and linebackers Kary Johnson (190, sr.) and Mark Dailey (180, jr.), cornerbacks Jeff Dean (155, sr.) and Albert Watkins (155, sr.), safeties Lionel Huff (175, sr.) and Charley Dean (180, soph.).

Belue Among Top 3 Prospects

ATLANTA (AP) — East Rome's Larry Kinnebrew, quarterback Buck Belue of Valdosta and lineman Lee North of Shamrock are rated as the top three college prospects in what one recruiter calls "a very average year" in Georgia high school football.

Players cannot sign grant-in-aids with colleges until Saturday, Dec. 10, the same day Georgia holds its state football finals.

Kinnebrew, a 6-foot-2, 240-pound fullback-linebacker who runs the 100-yard dash in 9.6 seconds and has captured the state heavyweight wrestling championship, "is in a class by himself," said

one recruiter.

Belue, a 6-foot-1, 185-pounder, has been a starter at Valdosta since his freshman season. He has more than 4,400 career passing yards and 37 touchdowns. Belue also punts for a 39-yard average.

North, a 6-foot-2½, 235-pounder who plays both ways at tackle, missed all but two games as a junior because of cartilage damage in a knee, but he played this season without being hampered.

Recruiters from the Southeastern Conference and area major independents were nearly unanimous in naming 14 others who should be successful in major

college play.

They include: Chip Banks, Laney, 6-6, 230, tight end-linebacker; Mack Thompson, Benedictine, 6-6, 260, lineman; Jim Blakewood, Benedictine, 6-2, 235, lineman; Darrish Davis, Richmond Academy, 6-0, 185, running back; Clifford Austin, Avondale, 6-0, 185, running back; Matt Simon, Statesboro, 6-1, 190, running back; Lee Otis Burton, Americus, 6-5, 230, lineman.

Also, Mike Cofer, Peachtree, 6-3, 225, tight end; Gary Westbury, Rockdale County, 6-4, 215, lineman; Sylvester Elkins, East Rome, 6-2, 185, quarterback-defensive back; John

Warren, Wayne County, 5-11, 185, kicker; Ken Jordan, Washington, 6-5, 225, lineman; Lindsay Scott, Wayne County, 6-2, 180, wide receiver; Charles Thomas, Douglas County, 6-2, 195, quarterback.

Others mentioned include: Linemen — Jimmy Payne, Cedar Shoals; Phil Gray, Fayette County; Tim Bobo, Campbell-Smyrna; Mitch Gilstrap, Marietta; Bubba Diggs, Butler; Rory Cunningham, South Cobb; Bill Lippincott, Westminster; Augustus Curley, Southwest Atlanta; Eddie Stanford, Westside; Curtis Rouse, Laney; Kip Greene, Ware County; Rickey Chaney,

Waycross; Nathaniel Burkes, Lowndes.

Running backs — Gregory Banes, Washington; Marcus Williams, Decatur; Johnny Taylor, Vidalia; Ronnie Paul, R. E. Lee; Jesse Cainion, Warner Robins; Harry Skipper, Appling County; Doug Bonner, North Clayton; Cedric Moss, Dougherty.

Quarterbacks — David Archer, Woodward Academy; Chip McMillan, Newnan; Jim Bob Harris, Clarke Central; Jerrill Sprinkle, Sequoyah; Jerry Aubin, Dougherty; Tim Rhino, Henderson; Bobby King, Harper; Tim Carter, Washington-Wilkes; Terry Bishop, Briarwood Academy.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Dec. 4, 1977-20-A-



—AP Laser photo

Clemson's Stan Rome (3) Makes Face At Randy Nesbit

College Basketball

Clemson Cuts Down The Citadel

CLEMSON, S.C. (AP) — Clemson took an early lead in the first half and then played on even terms with The Citadel in the second half to down the Bulldogs 99-65 Saturday afternoon.

Tom Slawson of The Citadel took scoring honors with 23 points, all in the second half. But Clemson had four players in double figures to offset the hot-shooting Slawson.

John Campbell, 6-foot-9 sophomore, led the Tigers in scoring with 19 points in a reserve role. Three Clemson starters were also in double figures, with Colon Abraham having 16 points, Stan Rome adding 13 and Jim Howell contributing 10.

Rome is a former basketball and football standout for Valdosta, Ga., High School.

The victory pushed Clemson's record to 4-0, while The Citadel suffered its first loss after three straight victories.

Dec 6, 1977

Wildcats Return Vald. Daily Times

Once again a Valdosta High School football team is playing for all the marbles. The Wildcats gave their followers a lot of thrills Friday night when they defeated the Demons of Warner Robins, unbeaten in 28 previous games.

This coming Saturday night it is for all the marbles in the state's AAA football championship game.

The Wildcats must go to Athens, the north champs, to decide the state winner.

It is highly complimentary of the area that the only team to tame the 'Cats this year was the Lowndes High Vikings, another home grown variety of football players.

The Wildcats are no strangers to the state championship game. Neither are the Athens players, so it promises to be a fine football game.

Either way the contest goes, football fans in this area, and we have a plentiful supply, can tell the world they have had a treat this season.

It was a coming out party for the Vikings. It was a re-entry to the field of giants for the Wildcats.

An effort was made to get the northern champs to play the game at the University of Georgia stadium, an indication of how many people would like to watch the play for the roses.

Athens was having none of that so the fans must cram into an 8,000-seat stadium. So be it. The Wildcats have been there before.

We wish the team well in their effort to bring the state crown back to our area, an area many of our admittedly partisan fans feel "owns" the trophy.

Meanwhile, the Vikings have served notice they are also a power to be recognized and just might be there next year when the final roll is called.

Either way, we have some fine young men representing our area and they have performed well. We hope they can realize their dreams on Saturday night.

Kittens Win 3rd, 12-4-77 'Cats Drop Third

By Times Staff Writer
ALBANY — Valdosta High School's two basketball teams followed the same paths they have trod all season in a twin-bill with Monroe here Saturday night.

The Valdosta Kittens won their third straight game with a 56-50 decision, and the Valdosta Wildcats lost their third straight by a 77-63 count.

Valdosta hosts cross-county rival Lowndes Tuesday night.

Shirley Berrian exploded for 20 points for Coach Jerry Baker's Kittens, off to one of their best starts in years. Vera Crawford and Lisa Feix added 11 each.

Gwen Williams and Carolyn Owen scored 12 points each for Monroe.

"We did a lot of standing around tonight," Baker said. "We didn't take advantage of our fast break at all. We were lucky to come out of here. Shirley Berrian just really kept us in the ballgame."

Valdosta's boys got 15 points from 6-4 Cedric Stroud and 11 more from Chandler Daniels. Tony Riggins threw in 30 for Monroe.

"He (Riggins) slam-dunked two or three and just knocked the lights out," VHS boys' Coach Norman Sainz said. "We were just cold as ice the first half."

"Probably the highlight of the game for us was 15 points out of Cedric Stroud. He also did a real good job for us on the boards."

Team totals: field goals 24, free throws 8 of 15, fouls 16.

MONROE (50) — Williams 12, Owen 12, Halsey 8, Spurlin 7, Green 7, Frazier 2, Warren 2.

Team totals: field goals 23, free throws 4 of 12, fouls 16.

VALDOSTA (56) — Powell 9, Crawford 11, Whitehead 5, Berrian 20, Feix 11, Evans, Irvin, Stewart, Baker.

Team totals: field goals 25, free throws 11 of 26, fouls 19.

MONROE (77) — Riggins 30, Jefferson 16, Johnson 2, McGee 6, Brown 9, Shealy 9, Tumbler 7.

Team totals: field goals 34, free throws 9 of 18, fouls 19.

The Wildcats are still without the services of the VHS football players, who play for the Class AAA state title Saturday. Over half the basketball team also plays football.

Spring Practice To Continue

GHSAA Dumps Plan

By Times Staff Writer
THOMASTON — The Georgia High School Association's energy-saving program of beginning athletic contests early was abolished at the organization's Executive Committee meeting here Tuesday.

The long-standing tradition of spring football drills was also upheld by the com-

mittee.

Called harmful and ineffective by some, the program to begin high school football games at 7:30 p.m., instead of 8 p.m., and to start basketball doubleheaders at 6:45 p.m. instead of 7 p.m., was instituted this season.

The earlier starting times were carried through for this season's football games, but they are not to be used in the

upcoming basketball season.

The committee voted to set the starting time of basketball games back to its old time, 7 p.m.

Next season, the starting time for football contests is also to be moved back to 8 p.m., at the option of the participating teams.

However, teams may begin games at 7:30 p.m., if they choose to do so.

There had been a move to abolish spring grid drills, viewed by some as wasteful and useless.

But the committee decided to continue the programs as they were in the past, as well as continuing spring games between two schools, or jamborees involving several teams.

It was also at Tuesday's meeting that the committee upheld an earlier Appeal Board ruling which reinstated Valdosta wins over Crisp County (Cordele) and Bainbridge.

Four Local Players Are Named All-State

By Times Staff Writer
Three Valdosta players and one Lowndes player have been selected as first-team members of the Georgia High School Football Magazine's

1977 Class AAA All-State team.

Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue was the top vote-getter in the poll of the magazine's subscribers, which include high school football coaches in the state, and many newspaper, radio and television sports editors.

Valdosta defensive backs Troy Thomas and Allen Worthy were also selected as first-team members.

Lowndes linebacker Ronnie Adkins also made the team, one of three juniors to do so.

Belue received honorable mention in the poll as a punter and in the Most Valuable Player selection.

Another 1-AAA quarterback, Jerry Aubin of Dougherty, was named Most Valuable.

VHS Wrestlers Nip Berrien

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta survived a strong rally by Berrien's Rebels to claim a 40-30 high school wrestling win over the Nashville, Ga., team here Thursday.

Coach Jim Landrum's Wildcats, competing with just four regulars back from last season, had to rely on wins from their younger competitors to claim the win in the first match of the season for both teams.

Fifteen Wildcat wrestlers are still involved in the football program.

Valdosta is to meet Fitzgerald and Perry Dec. 31, at Fitzgerald.

Individual results follow:

98-pound class — Wade Connell (V) pinned Dempsey Bennett; 105-pound class — Greg Godwin (V) pinned Gary Phillips; 112-pound class — Marty Faulkner (B) pinned Andy Jaramillo; 119-pound class — David Harrison (V) decisioned Danny Watkins; 113; 126-pound class — Donnie Brooker (B) won by forfeit over Danny Jaramillo;

132-pound class — Jerome Loving (V) pinned Ozell Collins (B); 145-pound class — Mike Shoupe (B) won by default over John Jubert; 155-pound class — Steve Hall (V) pinned Billie Washington; 167-pound class — Quincy Collins (B) won by forfeit; 185-pound class — Billy Redfield (V) pinned John Guthrie; heavyweight class — Donald Cranford (B) pinned Jay Guthrie.

PREP POLL

Upsets Shake Up Class A Rankings

By BILL BRYANT

While the early season continues to go along rather smoothly for Top 10 members in Class AAA, AA and B, there is another major disturbance in the Class A rankings this week.

Four ranked Class A teams were beaten over the weekend, and another came away with a tie in its season opener, leaving this week's poll with quite a different look.

The upsets started at the top, with No. 1 ranked Commerce, (knocked off by Stephens County 7-0), and also caught No. 5 Cartersville (a 22-20 loser to Calhoun), No. 7 Irwin County (a 12-0 loser to Coffee) and No. 10 Milton (a 3-2 loser to Roswell). And North Springs could come away with only a 14-14 tie to show against Marist.

As a result, East Rome moves up a notch into the Class A hot seat, Commerce falls to two, North Springs slips to fifth and Irwin County clings to 10th. With Cartersville and Milton out of the rankings, George, 1-0 after an easy win over Sylvan, and Early County, 1-0 after taking care of Brookstone, move in at eighth and ninth, respectively.

CLASS AAA
1. Griffin (1-0) plays Rockdale County Friday.
2. Valdosta (0-0) plays Crisp County Friday.

Friday.
3. Lakeside (3-0) plays Tucker Friday.
4. Clarke Central (1-0) plays Franklin County Friday.
5. Central Thomasville (0-0) plays Moultrie Friday.
6. Wheeler (2-0) plays Sprayberry Friday.
7. Warner Robins (1-0) plays Carver, Columbus Saturday.
8. Southwest DeKalb (1-0) plays Douglas County Friday.
9. Richmond Academy (1-0) plays North Augusta, S.C. Saturday.
10. Wayne County (0-0) plays Statesboro Friday.

CLASS AA
1. Dalton (1-0) plays Murray County Friday.
2. Woodward Academy (1-0) plays Marist Friday.
3. Fayette County (2-0) plays Palmetto Friday.
4. Americus (2-0) does not play.
5. Dublin (1-0) plays Washington County Friday.
6. Avondale (0-1) plays Clarkston Friday.
7. Ware County (1-0) does not play.
8. Stephens County (1-0) plays Habersham Central Friday.
9. Westminster (1-0) plays Lithia Springs Friday.
10. Lakeshore (1-0) plays Campbell, Fairburn Friday.

CLASS A
1. East Rome (1-0) plays Carrollton Friday.
2. Commerce (1-1) plays Madison County Friday.
3. Seminole County (1-0) plays Brooks County Friday.
4. Vidalia (1-0) does not play.
5. North Springs (0-0-1) plays St. Plus Friday.
6. Bowdon (0-1) plays Model Friday.
7. Lamar County (1-0) plays Heard County Friday.
8. George (1-0) plays Bass Saturday.
9. Early County (1-0) plays Harris County Friday.
10. Irwin County (0-2) plays Fitzgerald Friday.

CLASS B
1. Buford (1-0) plays East Hall Friday.
2. Lincoln County (0-0) plays Washington-Wilkes Friday.
3. Bremen (1-0) plays Trion Friday.
4. West Point (1-1) plays Brookstone Friday.
5. Reidsville (1-0) plays Lyons Friday.
6. Jefferson (2-0) plays Winder-Barrow Friday.
7. Savannah Country Day (1-0) plays Effingham County Friday.
8. Pelham (1-0) plays Calhoun County Friday.
9. Hogansville (1-0) plays Jackson Friday.
10. Macon County (0-1) plays Unadilla Friday.

Mamie Mann Finds Out

Danny Becton Is Kind Who Cares

Danny Becton many times stops and talks to Mamie Mann. She's usually sitting out in the front yard waiting for him to deliver her newspaper.

Just ask Mrs. Mann about Danny. "He's the sweetest thing," she says. Mention his name again, and she adds, "He's the sweetest thing."

Fifteen-year-old Danny Becton is one of those rare teen-agers who care about older people. Mrs. Mann is much older than Danny, 70 years older to be exact.

Last Thursday Danny delivered Mrs. Mann's Valdosta Times, but she wasn't in the yard to meet him. He missed his usual chat with her.

But he didn't think too much about it. She isn't always out in her front yard to meet him.

She might just as well have been in the back yard tending to her camellias. Mrs. Mann is one of the city's leading camellia-growers. And at 85 she has lost none of her interest in her camellias and garden.

Friday, Danny came by and again Mrs. Mann wasn't there to meet him. That really didn't disturb him. What did, though, was the fact the Thursday paper was still where he had thrown it



By
**TENNEY
GRIFFIN**

the day before. Mrs. Mann hadn't picked it up and that was most unlike her.

Down the street, Danny stopped and told Betty Flythe that Mrs. Mann hadn't picked up her paper from the day before. That worried Mrs. Flythe who told her husband. Louie Flythe called Tom Wall who lives across Azalea Drive from Mrs. Mann.

Wall went to the house and in the kitchen found Mrs. Mann sprawled on the floor. Wall called the hospital. The ambulance came and took her to South Georgia Medical Center.

Mrs. Flythe called the Times office Monday and said, "I just want to tell you what an alert carrier boy you have."

There's little doubt that Danny's alertness probably saved Mrs. Mann's life. But then Danny is that kind of youngster. He cares.

As best as Mrs. Mann can

figure, she fell in the kitchen about 3 p.m. Thursday. Tom Wall found her about 6 p.m. Friday.

She was admitted to the hospital with a wrenched knee. "It may be broken," she said.

Mrs. Mann's ordeal started, she explained when she went to the refrigerator for a drink of water. "I stepped on a darned empty can of cat food. It sent me sailing," she said, as she both chuckled and complained of the pain in her knee. Mamie Mann has lost none of her zip.

What did she think about as she lay there for more than 24 hours? "I thought maybe I'd just lay there and die.

"When we'd read about someone being found dead at home, I'd always tell my neighbors, 'Please don't let me lay here and die.' And they didn't, thanks to Danny, he's the sweetest thing."

"You are still going strong, aren't you?" Mrs. Mann was asked. "I think now I'm somewhat handicapped," she replied in what may be the understatement of the year.

No one can convince Danny Becton he's a hero. He just reacted in what he'd consider a normal manner.

Danny is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Becton of 2701 Berkley Drive. He attends



Danny Becton

Valdosta High School and plays the baritone horn in the Marchin' Cats band.

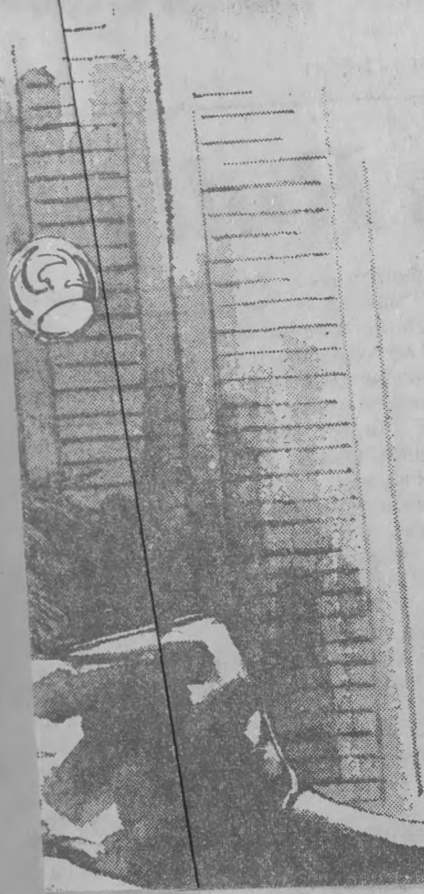
He's been a Valdosta Times carrier for more than four years and city circulation manager Craig Bennett describes him as an "excellent" carrier.

On Saturday, Danny Becton went to South Georgia Medical Center to visit Mrs. Mann. He is the kind of youngster who cares.

The Valdosta Daily

In Times

itions—84 Pages



Give dad more than just an easy chair. Give him our Woodmark Original. At \$299.95 it's easy on your budget, too.

Deep comfort. Classic styling. Covered in rich, plush sable brown, terra cotta, moss green, antique gold or French blue velvet. Generous proportions, and large loose back, down-filled cushion. More than just another easy chair, and it's only at TURNER'S. Chair, 299.95. Matching ottoman, \$110.00

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pressing myself," he admitted. "I don't do too well in public speaking."

He also said he would be against selling the land for a shopping center.

"I don't think I would be in favor of that, no," he replied. "I think our superintendent's offices are well-located. I think we should hold onto that property while we can."

Smith also pointed out the board must consider other problems in its decision. Among them would be the cost of moving Cleveland Field or building a new stadium.

Also to be considered, he said, are the offices and warehouse space being used by the school board which would have to be replaced somewhere.

"We're also leasing out a wing to CESA (Cooperative Educational Service Agency), which serves several counties. And each year we add two or three busses (to the fleet) and we're going to need a terminal sometime."

"I didn't do much of a job of ex-

Hyder Says 'Cats Face Biggest Challenge

By Times Staff Writer
Nick Hyder puts it bluntly.

"I don't know if Valdosta has ever faced a challenge like this one before," the Valdosta High School football coach said. "We're playing the defending national champion, the defending state Class AAA champion, and we're playing on their field."

"Some people might argue with that, but I've coached here for four years and studied on it 25 years further back than that. I'd just like to know if they've ever faced a similar challenge."

The challenge to which Hyder refers is Friday night's Class AAA South Georgia Championship football game to be played in Warner Robins against those

same Demons who have won 23 straight games. Included in that string is last season's Class AAA title and the mythical national championship awarded each year by Art Johlfs.

But challenges are made to be met, and Hyder has his own pack of 11-1 Wildcats to counter the 11-0 Demons. And he's not putting anything beyond the reach of a football team with the deep-rooted tradition of the Valdosta black-and-gold.

"We will have to play the best game we've played all year," Hyder said. "We have

to be unselfish. When a football player is unselfish, that means he's willing to walk through barbed wire.

"The word is hope. We hope that we'll be ready." Hyder and his staff are taking care of getting the team prepared. He admits that pressure is on him. But come 7:30 p.m. Friday night at International Stadium in Warner Robins, Hyder's ready to put some pressure on the people of Valdosta.

"To get 10,000 people at that game from Valdosta... that's thinking mighty big," Hyder said, "but it certainly would help. We just need to get a mass flow of people going up there."

"That stadium can handle 20,000 people. It's a great place to watch a football

game. The spirit of the community is very much needed in this thing."

How does Hyder compare the Demons to the 11 teams Valdosta has faced this season?

"In the Lowndes game (a 7-2 Valdosta loss), we faced an outstanding passing game coupled with their rock-rib defense," Hyder said. "In the Thomasville game, we faced

a running attack with a passing game, which by Coach (Jim) Hughes own admission, almost didn't exist.

"Now, Warner Robins comes at you with an effective passing game, and they run with authority. They're leading their region and probably many areas in the state in total offense. It's right up there about 385 yards

a game. "Our's is right at 300 yards a game. The thing about it is, is that their defense only allowed 40 points in a 10-game schedule.

"The word is balance. They have a good passer, good receivers, a well-coached offensive line, and they play good defense."

The team which Hyder brought to mind in Valdosta's own Region 1-AAA was Dougherty. The well balanced Trojans from Albany jumped out to a 14-0 lead on Valdosta before the 'Cats scrapped back to take a 15-14 victory.

"I still say we were fortunate to win that game," Hyder said. "Fortunate is another word for lucky." Hyder said the Demons

balance their run-pass ratio "about 60-40." He's not counting on Warner Robins running every play like Benedictine did in a 13-0 Valdosta win in the first round of the state playoffs last week.

Benedictine threw only three passes in 48 minutes of football.

During the regular season, Warner Robins quarterback Chip Stuart threw for 911 yards on 50 of 89 tosses.

In comparison, Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue threw for 914 yards on 85 of 159 passes. Belue was third in the region in passing.

operated at only "65 percent" of capacity, according to Hyder, against Benedictine.

"I was happier about his acceleration at practice yesterday (Monday) than at anytime since his injury," Hyder said. "His knee looks stronger, but it is strained, and it feels weak."

"But he knows what it's all about. He knows what he's up against Friday night. We keep telling them that the real great ones rise to the occasion."

Warner Robins fell behind 21-0 to Westside in Augusta last week before finally winning 27-21 in double overtime. The Demons didn't score the first three periods.

TD Club Rally Set Thursday

By Times Staff Writer
Touchdown Club president Bill Evans said a special invitation was to be extended to all former Wildcat football players to attend the rally.

Evans said a special section of the stands had been set aside for the players.

Playoff Ticket Slate Changed

By Times Staff Writer
The schedule for the sale of tickets to Saturday's Valdosta-Clarke Central AAA championship football game has been changed slightly, according to Jack Kent at the superintendent's office.

12-6-77
may pick up their tickets at the superintendent's office Wednesday from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., or Thursday from 8 a.m. until noon, Kent said.

All season ticketholders

All remaining tickets are to be sold at Barnes Drug Store after noon on Thursday, he said.

Valdosta, Clarke To Meet Sat.

By The Associated Press

Valdosta will be playing for the Class AAA Georgia high school championship Saturday for the first time since 1971 after the Wildcats shocked defending champion Warner Robins 27-8 Friday night in one of eight semifinal-round football games.

Valdosta, 11-1, handed the Demons their first loss in 29 games led by quarterback Buck Belue who passed for two touchdowns and added 40 yards in 12 carries.

"I thought it would be a little closer than that," said Warner Robins Coach Robert Davis whose squad ended at 11-1. "But they executed well and just knocked us upside down."

Valdosta, which captured 15 state championships under now retired Coach Wright Bazemore, will attempt to capture number one for Coach Nick Hyder, in his fourth year with the Wildcats.

Belue hit on seven of 15 passes for 99 yards, including TD strikes of eight and 15 yards and passed for a twopoint conversion.

The Wildcats will travel to Athens to face Clarke Central Saturday night. Clarke Central, 13-0, whipped 12-1 Southwest DeKalb 20-7 Friday night.

Hyder said the state title contest is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. at "Death Valley Stadium" in Athens Saturday.

In other Friday night contests, Waycross edged Woodward Academy 9-6 and Dalton defeated Gordon 20-12 in Class AA; East Rome topped Commerce 21-20 in two overtimes and Early County nipped Jeff Davis 14-13 in Class A, and defending champion Lincoln County beat Savannah Country Day 22-6 in Class B.

In Saturday night's only game, Jefferson defeated West Point 20-16 in the other Class B semifinal.

Clarke-Central scored on a pair of short runs in the first quarter by Hillary Billups and Stan Davis and held off Southwest DeKalb which trailed 14-7 but continually threatened until the Gladiators iced the contest with a fourth period score.

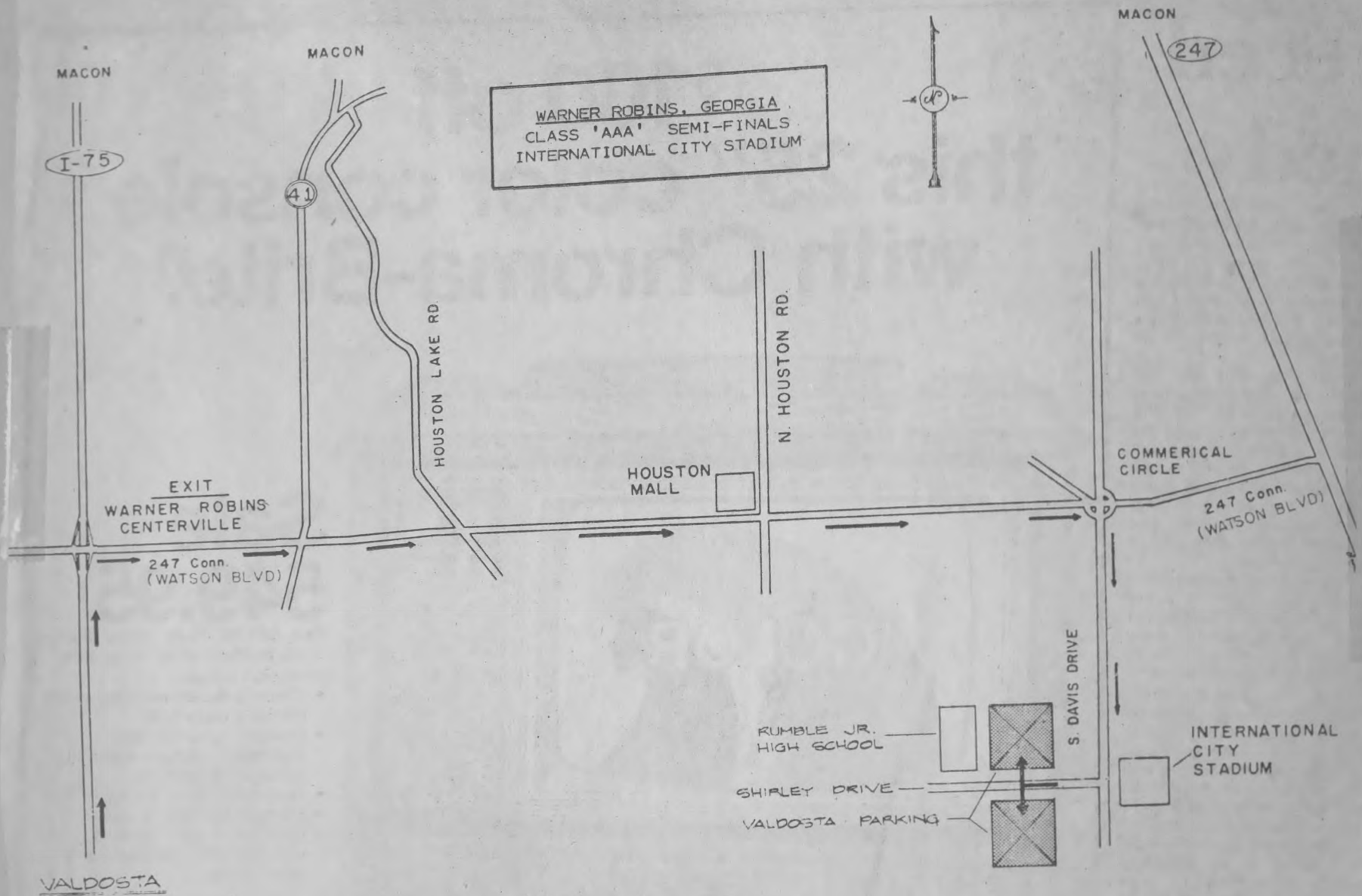
Keith Taylor tossed a 74-yard touchdown pass to Charles Junior and Waycross, 13-0, added a late safety for its triumph over Woodward Academy, 11-2.

Dalton, 12-1, got a pair of touchdown passes from Kenny Sharp while Richard Nash hit on 16 of 28 pass attempts for 213 yards for Gordon, 11-2.

East Rome, 14-0, got last second heroics from quarterback Sylvester Elkins who hit flanker Willie Wells on a 23-yard scoring pass as time ran out in the second overtime to get the Gladiators close at 20-19. Elkins then booted the tying point and East Rome was awarded the victory by deeper non-scoring penetration during the overtime.

Commerce, 11-2, had gone ahead 20-13 with only 1:51 left in the second overtime when Dean Allen scored from 17 yards out.

Early County, 14-0, held off Jeff Davis, 10-2, when the losers scored late in the third period to get within 14-13 but failed by inches to convert the two-point try.



Directions To Playoff Parking

High school football fans headed to Warner Robins Friday night should exit Interstate 75 at the Warner Robins-Centerville ramp and proceed east down Watson Boulevard (247 Connector) to South Davis Drive. Turn right onto Davis and go to Shirley Drive where parking is to be available. The parking lots are across the street from International City Stadium, site of the Class AAA semifinal

game between the defending state champions and Valdosta. Warner Robins Mayor Foy S. Evans said signs are to be posted leading to the parking areas and "we will have a sufficient number of policemen on duty" to direct traffic and look after VHS fans' cars. Warner Robins is about six miles from I-75. — Drawing Special to the Times.



On To Athens

Valdosta High School principal Lloyd Mims flashes the well-known number one sign while wearing a tie showing a big number 1 while leading cheers at a pep rally at the VHS gym this morning. Valdosta's

Wildcats meet Clarke Central for the State Class AAA high school football championship Saturday night in Athens. — Times Staff Photo.

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DE Returns \$\$ To Economy

Income Taxes From Students Offset Costs



By NORMAN GREENE

During the decade of the seventies, one of the biggest outcries to the education establishment, from the general public as well as from politicians, has been the high cost of education versus the quality of the end product.

The purpose of this article is not to argue either of these two points, but to present some very interesting figures about Distributive Education as they relate to cost and product.

Last year there were 122 DE programs located in 115 high schools, with 6,862 high school students enrolled during the 1976-1977 school year.

These DE students paid \$821,240 in state and federal income taxes. The major portion of this going to the federal government.

The money earned by DE students, came to \$8,024,980. It is safe to say that this money went back into the state's economy.

As far as the program cost is concerned, an estimated \$500,000, the budget for grant-in-aid to vocational funds to school systems, was less than the income taxes paid by DE students enrolled.

In fact, it was several hundred thousands dollars less. Comparing figures, we find that for a grant of approximately \$500,000, we put back into the economy \$8,024,980.

Certainly we can conclude from these figures that co-op education is definitely a good investment in dollars and cents. However, let's look at the end product of our education process.

Our DE students work a unique situation in that they are able to receive valuable work experiences and classroom training while attending their regular classes. Students who sign up for DE during their junior and senior years of high school, take their required subjects, English, Math, Science, and History, as well as a class in DE.

Under no circumstances does DE interfere with a student's academic courses. In fact DE is an academic elective accepted by most colleges throughout the U.S.

Then, It's Off To The Job

Upon completion of classes each day, the students go to their jobs and work about 3-5 hours. This on the job training is a very valuable experience for our students, since they are treated as a regular employee.

DE students receive no special privileges, they receive normal starting salaries for beginning employees and are expected to produce in a like manner. However, employers are very cooperative in working with the DE teacher, to coordinate the student's job responsibilities with his classroom training.

In fact, many employers find that DE students can perform some responsibilities, such as stockkeeping, display, and record keeping, that they might have to hire a full time employee just for this one skill.

Through these unique experiences, classroom training and on-the-job work experiences, employers benefit as well as the students. The investment of time and money on the part of the employer is returned in the form of a well trained employee that most likely will be working with him several years.

Students benefit from the practical training they receive while still in high school. The student is well prepared to enter the job market upon graduation from high school.

In fact we are finding that more and more students are continuing to work with their DE employers while attending post secondary institutions or going to work for their full time after high school graduation.

The success of the investment in the DE program can be evaluated by its end products throughout the city of Valdosta and our nation. Many graduates of our local DE program can be found in successful business and professional careers.

The two feature articles on this page of the DE section, about Mr. Exum and Mr. Nolan are certainly typical of the many young people who have come through our program. Certainly we can see that cooperation between the state education department, the local school system and the business community can produce a good product, with a realistic dollar investment.

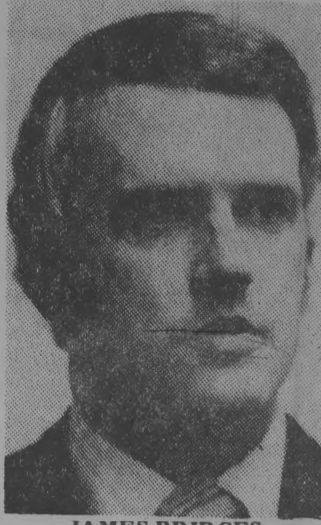
He Knows College Not For Everyone

Special To The Times
James Bridges, vocational supervisor at Valdosta High School, fulfills his position with various duties. Being involved with the several vocational departments, such as Home Economics, Business Education, and the Work-Study Programs, Bridges carries out the rules and concepts of the state education board.

He supervises not only VHS, but also the students at Valdosta Junior High School. His chief duty is to coordinate these vocational programs and keep them running smoothly.

Coming to Valdosta six years ago, he has served the Valdosta vocational program his entire residency. He has seen the changes and accomplishments of DE and other vocational programs from a front row seat.

At the old high school, Bridges said, "The school dwelled on academic subjects



JAMES BRIDGES
VHS Vocational E. Supervisor and geared the students for college. The attitudes of the board of education, the society, and the school were always that way." The students were then moved to the Forrest Street

location and the attitudes changed locally. There was a definite need for a vehicle to train VHS students.

"These new attitudes," Bridges added, "decided that everyone was not going to college and a new training program was needed." The Distributive Education program was one of the essentials to fulfill this need.

Along with DE, other vocational courses include Transportation, Drafting, Construction, and others. Today, 20 percent of the teachers at VHS are vocationally oriented.

When asked what he got out of DE, Bridges said, "Personally, I get the satisfaction of seeing students going in knowing little and being insecure then seeing them gain confidence in what they learn and see they can learn more."

"Finally," he added, "I feel proud to know that I had a part in it."

Projects Keep DE'ers Moving

Special To The Times
The Valdosta Chapter of DECA is one of the busiest chapters in the state and one of the most active clubs at VHS. The club usually plans a yearly activities calendar that includes schoolwide activities, DECA Program Development projects, civic affairs, and DECA competitive events.

To support the Wildcats and the student body of V.H.S., DECA paints spirit signs, prints bumper stickers, sells homecoming mums, participates in the homecoming parade, and decorates a bulletin board in the Industrial Education Department at the school.

In appreciation of the hard working teachers at the school, the club presents

Club Members Are Involved In DECA Week

Special To The Times
The Valdosta DECA Chapter has been involved in many activities throughout the week, to celebrate National DECA Week. Activities included: TV commercials, Teachers Appreciation Day, billboard advertising, DECA Week posters, and this three page spread in the newspaper.

Zoe Exum and a committee of DE students helped write the articles and prepare the layout for the news office.

Contributing students were: Lynn Davis, Sharon Gorby, Ellen Eanes, Susan Malarski, Karen King, Susan Fontain, and Elizabeth Reddick.

them with apples during National DECA Week.

Two major activities keep the club busy: The VHS Program Development Project and ANDY project (Action Now DECA Youth.) The Program Development Project is highlighted by a newspaper spread in The Valdosta Daily Times, signs around the city, and commercials informing the public of National DECA Week.

For the ANDY project, the club presents an informative fair display and billboards in heavy traffic areas around the county.

The DE Program has always been concerned with civic consciousness. In recognizing the needs of others, the club takes Christmas presents to orphans and prepares Thanksgiving baskets. The club helps the Girls Club of Valdosta with parties for Valentine's Day and Easter.

As a national organization, the club is also busy with meetings of district, state, and national levels.

Each year the club strives to live up to DECA's high standards, become involved in more projects, succeed in areas of competition, and attend the national conferences in Washington, D.C.

Superintendent Supports Distributive Education

Special To The Times
One of the strongest supporters of the DECA program is Ralph Brandon, superintendent of Valdosta City Schools.

Brandon, a native of Carrollton, Ala., believes Distributive Education is one of the most essential programs in any high school. "It is a vital part of any student's learning," says



Nolan: Hard Work, Training Paid Off

Nolan An Example Of DE Principles

Special To The Times
Success in the business world is a goal most DECA graduates strive to reach. DECA alumni Bubba Nolan is an excellent example of how the fundamental principles taught in Distributive Education can be used to achieve this success.

While in DE, Nolan was involved in several club activities and served as club treasurer. He began his job training at Keller's Clothing Store while in the program.

Through hard work and dedication to his job and the club, Nolan gradually began taking on more responsibilities of the business, where he was employed for 15 years.

Nolan's interest in his work, which goes back to the

first few years of his experience at Keller's, led him into the business world on his own.

He said he had been wanting to own and operate an independent clothing store while he was in high school. Four years ago, he decided to make his dream come true. Nolan began making plans for his new clothing store, Bubba's Boys and Students Shop, in 1973 while still employed at Keller's. Three months ago, all his plans and hard work paid off, when Bubba's opened its door and became the popular, successful business that it is.

An exciting and profitable future is planned for Bubba's according to Nolan. He hopes to expand his present shop and eventually start a chain

of clothing stores in Valdosta and the surrounding area. Nolan feels that DE was a very valuable experience for him and helped him a great deal in starting his own business.

He is proud to have been a member of DECA, and thinks highly of students active in the program at present. Nolan also said that he would be glad to hire DE students to work at Bubba's.

The experience DE offers in marketing and management is not just "something to do" in the classroom. It can mean a good job for a high school student or an exciting future in the world of business.

For Bubba Nolan, DE was an exciting, important stepping stone to his success.



RALPH BRANDON
'Essential Program'

Parents Like Program Too

Special To The Times
Parents agree that the Distributive Education (DE) program at Valdosta High School helps more than just the students who are in it. The merchants and the entire community benefit.

The parents feel the program prepares their sons and daughters for finding a career.

The classroom curriculum is varied, consisting of studies in job interviewing, human relations, business math, marketing, and display.

James Shaw, whose daughter Karen is in DE, agreed that the skills taught in the classroom are a good background for a job.

Hilda Spurlock, mother of DE student Charlie Spurlock, felt the students who get out of

school at noon to go to work learn just as much, if not more, than the students who stay at school until 3 p.m.

The student has the satisfaction of doing a better job because of his or her qualifications.

After students finish high school, what they have learned during DE will always be useful. Donald Bonner, whose daughter Kay

is in the DE program, pointed out that many teenagers who graduate have no experience of working at a job.

Those who do have job experience before graduating, seem to be a step ahead of everyone else. They have gained an opportunity to become part of the business world and learn skills which will be helpful in the future.

Bonner also agreed that merchants hire DE students because they know the students have the basic skills needed to handle a job.

The students and merchants are not the only ones who are affected by the DE program. The whole city and county, either directly or indirectly, come into contact with the program.

Joe King, father of DE student Karen King, stated, "All the young people who are doing such a good job are contributing to the betterment of the community."

Students Have Unusual Jobs

Special To The Times
Not all DE students work in dress shops and drug stores. Some students of DE hold down very unique jobs. Such is the case of Scott Collins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Grover W. Collins of Valdosta.

Scott is a junior at Valdosta High School and a first year student in Distributive Education. He is employed by his father, owner of Grover W. Collins and Son.

They own a farm in the northern section of Lowndes County where they raise honey bees. Scott and his father work approximately eight hundred bee hives, which are small bee hives. And from March until July they bottle the honey and sell part of it to the public.

of Tennessee to major in forestry. Distributive Education jobs vary from Camera Centers to Supermarkets to Campgrounds. DE students are all completely different individuals and the variations in their work portrays this.

DE has one student in advertising, two in automotive-petroleum work, eight in food distribution,

three in food service, three in wholesale, 14 in general merchandising, four in hardware and equipment, one in lodging, three in insurance, six in retail and three in wholesale production and distribution.

The students of DE are all very pleased with their occupations and are striving for the betterment of their future.

DE: Students Earning, Learning

Special To The Times
Distributive Education is an occupational orientation to the business world and the American economic system through a combination of classroom instruction and directed on-the-job experiences.

Distributive Education is a double elective for junior and senior high school students interested in exploring careers in merchandising, marketing, management, and service operations. Each student is placed in

a marketing training job, according to his interests and abilities. Classroom studies include units in job orientation, sales, merchandising, math and communications. In addition, each student completes project assignments related to his specific training situation.

Distributive Education students also become active in DECA, a local, state, and national youth organization, that affords leadership and civic involvement.



Year In Review

Valdosta High School DE Coordinator Norman Greene, second from left, and students look over the club's scrapbook from last year. The scrapbook is a record of club activities and

is an important part of judging for DE Chapter of the Year honors. The VHS chapter was judged to be the best in the state last year. — Times Staff Photo.

A SALUTE TO VHS



DECA



STUDENTS

This marks the thirtieth year of business firms cooperating in the Distributive Education Program of Valdosta High School. The backing and participation of these firms help make Dosta DECA one of the most outstanding programs in the nation. A special salute goes to the Businessmen of our community who are investing in the future of our youth by providing their businesses as laboratories in training these students for marketing Careers.

1977 - 1978 D. E. Students

THE DECA CREED

I believe in the future which I am planning for myself in the field of distribution, and in the opportunities which my vocation offers.

I believe in fulfilling the highest measure of service to my vocation, my fellow beings, my country and my God — that by so doing, I will be rewarded with personal satisfaction and material wealth.

I believe in the democratic philosophies of private enterprise and competition, and in the freedoms of this nation — that these philosophies allow for the fullest development of my individual abilities.

I believe that by doing my best to live according to these high principles, I will be of greater service both to myself and to mankind.



A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, This school is concerned with the education and training of students for productive, satisfying careers, and

WHEREAS, Distributive Education students of this school are engaged in the essential tasks of providing goods and services to the consumers of this community, and

WHEREAS, These students, members of the DISTRIBUTIVE EDUCATION CLUBS OF AMERICA, have chosen to pursue careers in the fields of marketing, distribution and management.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gil Harbin, Mayor of the City of Valdosta, hereby proclaim November 18, 1977, to be D.E. DAY and encourage students and faculty members to observe this event in an appropriate manner.

Dated this 18th day of November, 1977, A.D.

GIL HARBIN
Mayor

These pages sponsored by the following business firms:

Barnes Drug Stores

Belk-Hudson Company

Castle Park Pharmacy

**Castle Park 1-Hour
Martinizing**

Chemical Specialties, Inc.

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**Dixon's Standard
Service Center**

**Exum Monument and
Supply**

The Frame House

**Futch Insurance and
Real Estate**

Hardee's Hamburgers

**Harvey's
Supermarkets**

Liles Rexall Drugs

Milbet's

Pizza Villa

Roddey's Hardware

Rowan Frozen Foods

Sno-White Laundry

Sonic Drive-In

**Taylor Clothing
Company**

Turner Radio & TV

**Valdosta Cleaning
Service**

**Western Sizzlin'
Steak House**

Wetherington Sing Oil

Winn-Dixie

Our DECA Emblem Symbolizes

The registered emblem of the Distributive Education Clubs of America, a diamond with a wrapped package in the center, is attractive, significant and meaningful. The wrapped package symbolizes a job well done, achieved by the cooperation of school officials, studen-

ts, parents and business people all working together to develop the students' abilities. The four points of the diamond — Leadership Development, Vocational Understanding, Social Intelligence, Civic Consciousness — also have symbolic meanings.



CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS

In both his class and chapter work, the Distributive Education student learns to recognize his obligations to the community in which he lives through studying community needs and planning community development. The D. E. Club this year will be involved in Youth Center activities, food basket drives and Christmas toys for needy families. The local D. E. Club civic projects have been judged as best in the state. In the above picture D. E. students are preparing Christmas packages for a needy family.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Through DECA activities the Distributive Education student is given an opportunity to participate in many activities designed to teach him to be not only a leader but also a follower. Our D. E. students participate in local, district, state and national leadership activities each year. Locally we have club meetings once a month that give the student an opportunity to exert leadership. During the spring DECA members have opportunities to go to district, state and national leadership conferences. While at these conferences students compete, elect new officers for the next year and attend leadership workshops. Rex Taylor, above, is pictured presiding at a local club meeting.



VOCATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

The Distributive Education student, participating in this unique, sound education program, is well prepared to take his place in the business world. He has acquired a first hand knowledge of merchandising management, and the opportunities available in his chosen career. This year 55 D. E. students are working in 43 different business establishments in Valdosta. This picture illustrates one of the many jobs our D. E. students handle each day.



SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE

Through social events the DECA member is given opportunity to develop poise, and to gain a knowledge of the social graces necessary in our society. Additionally, he becomes aware of his social environment and the necessity of cooperative effort between and among all elements of society. V. H. S. DECA plan to have a skating party and a Christmas party and to go to the movies as socials this year. In the above picture students are enjoying refreshments at a club social.

"I believe that by doing my best to live according to these high principles, I will be of greater service both to myself and to mankind."

Thumbs Up

by

Virginia

Culpepper



Rain Came In Time For Camellia Show

The light rains which fell intermittently Wednesday were indeed welcomed by all those interested in the Valdosta Camellia Show.

A soft rain, with fairly warm temperatures, is ideal for making camellia blossoms open.

Many camellia buds which were gibbed weeks ago were fat and showing color but cold weather last week has held them back. Now with the mercury a little higher on the thermometer and the gentle rain of Wednesday and cloudy weather of Thursday, growers should have lots of flowers to open up and make fine specimens to enter in the camellia show.

The annual fall show of the Valdosta Camellia Society is to be held on Saturday from 2:30-6 p.m. and on Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the Valdosta Garden Center auditorium, 900 N. Patterson St.

It is for horticulture only; no artistic arrangements are planned, other than perhaps a bowl or two for decoration.

No Charge

The show is open to the public at no charge, thanks to the First State Bank which picks up the tab for the silver prizes given for the top flowers in each division.

Hulyn Smith, president of the camellia club, and Mrs. Joyce Mixson, chairman of the show, want it understood that anyone can bring flowers to be entered in the show. You do not have to be a member of any garden club or any other club in order to take your blooms to the show.

Just be sure to get them to the Garden Center auditorium on N. Patterson Street between 8-11 a.m. Saturday. You'll be given a card to fill out with your name and the name of the camellia you're entering.

There is a separate division for flowers grown out of doors and those grown indoors or protected. In other words, if you've grown your camellias out under the pines in the back yard, they won't be competing with those grown in a controlled climate in a greenhouse.

Take A Look

Show officials welcome out of town entries — and they come from as far as Jacksonville, Tallahassee and Orlando in Florida and as far as Columbia, S.C., to the north — but they deplore the lack of home-grown blooms brought by the general public.

Take a look out in your yard and see if you don't have a fine blossom or two to take to the show.

It only takes one flower to win top prize, you know.

If you're a newcomer to Valdosta and have never been to one of the camellia shows, be sure to make an effort to go. You'll revel in the beauty of all the flowers.

If you're an old hand at growing camellias, you'll want to go to see the new varieties. And you'll also see some of your favorite older varieties. Thanks to gibberellin acid, some of the oldies turn out to be top notch as to size, formation and color.

Tourists And Camellias

About 10 days ago, Ola Dupree took a large tray of camellias down to the Georgia Welcome Center, near the Florida state line on I-75.

She said the tourists who were in there at the time were amazed and delighted to see the camellias — some of those people had never seen any before.

Mrs. Dupree also left some of the Camellia Show schedules to be given out to interested tourists who might pass this way Saturday or Sunday.

This was certainly a thoughtful gesture on Mrs. Dupree's part and one that brought pleasure, not only to the employees of the Welcome Center but to lots of traveling folks who had stopped in the Center. They'll probably remember those flowers for a long time.

African Violets

The African Violet Society is to be congratulated on its excellent display of beautiful and well grown plants at Citizens and Southern National Bank, downtown branch, this week.

This is a new club, organized little more than a year ago, but all the members are enthusiastic about their favorite plants. Enthusiasm and work are the two main ingredients to make any venture a success and this club, headed by Joan Adams, qualifies in both areas.

The club hopes to have a show next year, I'm told. Meanwhile, the display this week was a noble effort and much enjoyed by all who saw it, I'm sure.

Willis, Navarra Betrothal

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Willis, Jr. of Valdosta announce the engagement of their daughter, Cheryl Ann Willis, to Arthur Wayne Navarra, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Navarra, of Bonaire, formerly of Valdosta.

The wedding is planned for Dec. 18, at Saint John The Evangelist Catholic Church.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Lowndes High School and is a sophomore at Valdosta State College. She is employed at Sears Roebuck and Co.

Miss Willis is the granddaughter of Mrs. Margaret E. Williams of Buffalo, N. Y., and Mr. and Mrs. William R. Willis of Louisville, Ky.

The future groom is a graduate of Valdosta High School and is a sophomore at Valdosta State College. He is employed by ITT.

The future groom is the grandson of Mrs. Irene Sericist of Miami, Fla.



Miss Cheryl Ann Willis

'Show Biz' Life Told To Women

NEW YORK (AP) — In the eyes of their adoring public, the "genius ladies" of the theater, film and television appear to live in little glass boxes, says perky producer Madeline Lee Gilford.

Mrs. Gilford, who began her 50-year career in the performing arts as a child actress, shrugs her shoulders at this notion as she sets out to gently dispel the popular myth that a perpetual aura of goldspun glamour surrounds women in show biz.

To accomplish this, Mrs. Gilford, an actress and casting director as well as the wife of Jack Gilford, the actor, called upon her own experience and her multitude of friends in the business to give "a reality course" at the Womanschool here.

These show business seminars, called "Conversations with Women in Theater, Film and Television," include panel discussions and informal talks with distinguished women in the field. Participants are producers, actresses, critics, TV writers and executives, press agents, technicians, stage managers and camerawomen.

Students in the course range from aspiring young actresses to divorced or

Dowling, Abt Vows To Be Said

ALBANY — Dr. and Mrs. Glenn A. Dowling of Albany announce the engagement of their daughter, Dona Beth Dowling, to Robert Carroll Abt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Abt, also of Albany.

The bride-elect is to receive a B.V.A. degree in surface design from Georgia State University in December and is to serve an apprenticeship with Dupont Laboratories in Dalton, Ga.

Miss Dowling is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.S. Bush of Decatur and Mrs. A.V. Dowling of Valdosta and the late Mr. Dowling.

The future groom received a B.S. degree in Industrial Management from Georgia Tech and was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity. He is continuing his education at the University of Tennessee pursuing a masters' degree in Forestry.

Mr. Abt is the grandson of Mrs. Perer Abt of Americus, the late Mr. Abt of Troy, Ala., Mr. Robert C. Heaslett of Sylacauga, Ala., and the late Mrs. Heaslett.

The wedding is planned for May 6.



MADELINE GILFORD 'A Shortcut'

widowed women, some of whom once eyed the performing arts from a distance with a well-preserved dream of attempting a comeback, Mrs. Gilford says.

The group often feels awed by the illustrious women on the panels, Mrs. Gilford says. "But I know they're my 'schlep' friends. They've got all sorts of problems — marital and financial — just like anyone else."

"This course isn't the usual guest appearance type as seen on TV interview shows. It's very candid, intimate and professional. The conversations offer an overview of the field."

"By talking to women in the industry, we hope to give them a shortcut," explains the producer, who goes on to look at some of the perils and pleasures that the current state of the art holds for women.

A supporter of the women's movement herself, the 54-year-old Mrs. Gilford, who

jokingly describes herself as "more of a suffragette than a feminist," provides this general scorecard of how women in the industry are faring.

Mainstem theater and movie directing still remain "very closed and limited for women," she states, adding that more inroads have been made in major television networks, on the executive, creative and technical levels.

"Careers for men and women just don't move in the same way. A common response to a woman who wishes to direct a production is 'we need someone with more clout, more muscle.' These qualities are thought of as male. They still question female authority."

In an almost protective tone, Mrs. Gilford adds that stamina is essential — "more so for women. We have to prove ourselves even more."

"Hopefully, the younger ones taking the course will find out the reality of the business. When they become aware of the apprenticeships, the long hours, the chaos and anarchy of the profession, the financial uncertainty and the fact that these professions will use less than 10 percent of their working years, they'll find out whether they're starstruck or not."

"Many women on the panels are much in the public eye, but their talents are much underused. Yet," she observes, "underuse is not just limited to women."

Although her own marriage of 29 years to Gilford has been a success, the encounter session atmosphere of the course indicates that there are many variations in the family situation.

Chorale Concert Set For Sunday

The Valdosta Concert Chorale is to present as its premiere performance Vivaldi's "Gloria in Excelsis" for solo voices, chorus and orchestra, on Sunday at the First United Methodist Church.

The performance, which begins at 5:00 p.m. is free of charge.

Conductor for the program is Lowndes County Arts Commission (LCAC) artist, Michael Pisani. Dell Hitchcock, director of Valdosta Concert Chorale, is choir director and organist.

Featured performers include violinist David Davidson, cellist Jennifer Lind, oboist Jim Demster, all LCAC staff artists, and soloists Carolyn Haas and Toney Chambers, members of Chorale.

The Concert Chorale, nicknamed the "Valchorale," is composed of 25 area soloists under the direction of Valdosta musician Dell Hitchcock.

The Valdosta Concert Chorale roster includes: sopranos Carolyn Haas Martha Barr, Myrtis Howell, Virginia Stutzman, Judy Feimster, Nancy Sanderson, Electa Rickett, Marsha Toomey;

Alto Toney Chambers, Kathy Agar, Fran Kahlor, Catherine Reddes, Dell Hitchcock, and Judy Verrier;

Tenors Van Howard, Robin Robinson, Albert Pendleton, Nelson Hitchcock, and Chuck Roberts.

And basses Samuel Welch, Bill Feimster, Stan Cunningham, Michael Toomey, Phillip Barr, Richard Sawgar, and Herman May.

Who's New?

Kimberly Bagley

Kimberly Ann Bagley was born Oct. 26 at South Georgia Medical Center to Mr. and Mrs. James R. Bagley of Valdosta.

Mrs. Bagley is the former Carol Blackman, daughter of Mrs. Lois Blackman of Crescent City, Fla., and the late Mr. Ralph W. Blackman.

Paternal grandparents are Mrs. Frances C. Bagley of Valdosta and Mr. Rayford Bagley of Tallahassee, Fla.

Mr. Jesse Bagley of Lake City, Fla., is the baby's grandfather.

The baby has a brother, James Brennan Bagley, 14 months old.

features PEOPLE and PLACES

Virginia Culpepper, Editor

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May Be Picked Up Thanksgiving Day

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Carl Minchew

Anderson, Southall Plans Told For December 10

MARTINEZ — Mr. and Mrs. Sammy C. Anderson of Martinez announce the engagement of their daughter, Veleria Lynn Anderson, to Michael Arlon Southall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Haynes Arlon Southall of Atlanta.

The wedding is planned for Dec. 10 at Abilene Baptist Church in Martinez.

Miss Anderson is a graduate of Evans High School and is a senior at the University of Georgia.

She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jasper L. Holley of Stapleton and Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Anderson of Dearing.

The future groom is a graduate of Shamrock High School in Decatur and the University of Georgia. He is employed by a food chain in Atlanta.

He is the grandson of Mrs. W.C. Hood of Alpharetta and the late Mr. Hood, and Mrs. Lissie H. Hinton of Valdosta and the late Mr. Haynes B. Southall.

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Valdosta Rolls Past Central, 68-53

By Times Staff Writer
THOMASVILLE — Valdosta's Wildcats stormed from behind in the second half to post a 68-53 high school basketball win over Central of Thomasville here Friday night.

Central gained a split in the doubleheader when its girls' team knocked off the visiting Kittens 56-47 in the opener.

Chandler Daniels, David New and Allen Worthy scored 16, 15 and 14 points respectively in leading coach

Norman Sainz's Wildcats to their second straight win.

Sainz had praise for the trio, and said they played "probably the best games of the year."

"We played everybody on the bench," he said, "and we showed a lot of progress. We're still a little rusty with the football players, but things look a little brighter."

Things had been dismal for the 'Cats, who suffered five straight losses before gaining their first win Tuesday by a

47-46 count over Thomasville. The Wildcats trailed 33-29 at the half, but charged back in the third quarter to take a 52-46 lead, then expanded that margin in the final period.

Billy Donaldson's 13 points led Central, now 1-6.

Sabrina Holton did most of the damage for Central in the girls' game.

The big Lady Jacket center continuously took feeds from the Central guards and rolled under the basket to pump in buckets over the shorter

Kittens.

"They worked it inside to her, and she just controlled the boards," said Valdosta coach Jerry Baker.

"We just couldn't seem to stop her, especially in the first half."

Holton scored 17 of her 27 points in the first two quarters, as her team took a narrow 31-30 halftime lead.

But Valdosta's shots found only iron in a cold third quarter for the Kittens, in which they were outscored 18-

6. They never caught up.

Lisa Feix led Valdosta with 19 points. Vera Crawford, the Kitten center, got into foul trouble early, but managed 11 points.

Central improved its record to 3-3 with the win, while Valdosta fell to 3-4.

Valdosta is to participate in the Lowndes Invitational Christmas tournament, which begins Dec. 26.

Williams 9, Willett 8, Coleman 2, Stephens 6. Team totals: field goals 23, field goals 10, fouls 10 of 15, fouls 15.

VALDOSTA (47) — Powell 2, Crawford 11, Whitehead 8, Feix 19, Berrian 7, Evans, Cooper.

Team totals: field goals 19, free throws 9 of 15, fouls 15.

BOYS

Central	19	33	46	53
Valdosta	13	29	52	48

CENTRAL (53) — Sampson 2, T. Clayton 3, H. Clayton 2, Lodge 2, Anderson 9, Culbreth 2, Donaldson 13, Davis 3, Hopkins 10, Wells 7.

Team totals: field goals 21, free throws 11 of 24, fouls 29.

VALDOSTA (68) — Lastinger 5, Chandler Daniels 16, Worthy 14, Stroud 5, Hartman 8, Chris Daniels, Caesar, New 15, Feix, Powell 2, Bond, Rowe 4.

Team totals: field goals 25, free throws 16 of 34, fouls 20.

GIRLS

Central	15	31	49	56
Valdosta	19	30	36	47

CENTRAL (56) — Hankins 4, Holton 27,



Lyndal Worth Watches Action

football team to a second place finish in the state playoffs, then came down and hit the game-winner.

John Lastinger, also just off the football field, hit for 10 points to top the VHS scoring. Marcus Johnson scored 12 for Thomasville.

"I'm just really impressed with the play of John Lastinger," Wildcat Coach Norman Sainz said. "All he's going to have to do is get basketball back in his blood."

"Our football players made the mistakes we expected from them but that just comes with playing time. We've made a step in the right direction."

Valdosta closes out its pre-Christmas play Friday night here against Central of Thomasville.

GIRLS

Valdosta	20	38	52	57
Thomasville	14	30	48	59

VALDOSTA (57) — Powell 8, Crawford 21, Whitehead 6, Feix 8, Berrian 9, Stewart 1, Evans 4.

Team totals: field goals 24, free throws 9 of 14, fouls 8.

THOMASVILLE (59) — Anderson 10, Thurmond 2, Kerbo 16, Shannon 28, Blackshear 2, Haynes, Roe 1.

Team totals: field goals 27, free throws 5 of 12, fouls 13.

BOYS

Valdosta	11	20	31	47
Thomasville	10	27	32	46

VALDOSTA (47) — Lastinger 10, Stroud 9, Chris Daniels 2, Worthy 7, Hartman 4, Chandler Daniels 3, Caesar 7, New 3, Feix, Powell.

Team totals: field goals 15, free throws 17 of 38, fouls 8.

THOMASVILLE (46) — Hunter 4, Dyson 3, Fann 2, Johnson 12, McMyre 10, Putnam 5, Hatch 2, Scoggins 2, Andrews 4, Brown 2, Sharpe.

Team totals: field goals 22, free throws 7 of 7, fouls 28.

Dec 14, 1977

Wildcats Eke Past 'Dogs, VHS Girls Lose Thriller

The Valdosta Daily Times

SPORTS

By Times Staff Writer
THOMASVILLE — Last second shots had opposite results for Valdosta's Wildcats and Kittens in a Region 1-AAA (South) high school basketball twin-bill with Thomasville here Tuesday night.

Allen Worthy canned an eight-footer with seven seconds showing on the clock to give the Wildcats their first win of the season in a 47-46 thriller over the Bulldogs. The 'Cats are now 1-5.

Maggie Powell's jumper with four seconds left rolled in and out of the basket, leaving Valdosta's Kittens with a 59-57 loss to the Bulldogs.

"It just wasn't meant for us to win," VHS girls' coach a three-point play turned

things around in a hurry. Vera Crawford had 21 points for Valdosta. Darlene Shannon gunned in 28 for Thomasville.

The Wildcats trailed by one with 17 seconds left after Roderick Hunter tipped in his own missed shot for the Bulldogs.

Worthy, playing in his first game of the season after helping lead the Valdosta

one flourished at Moultrie has vanished, he said. And it's time to build another one.

"You would think, with this being Moultrie, that we would be able to reach back and draw from tradition," Griffith said.

"But we can't. We're going to have to start over and make our own tradition."

"Our kids just couldn't field the pitches on the option play," he said, referring to an embarrassing rash of fumbles, aided and abetted by a jarring Valdosta defense.

"We couldn't get anything started. I don't want to say our kids were scared, because I don't really think that's the case. But they were tense, and they just couldn't do anything."

For years, Valdosta and

Once-Proud Colquitt Forced To Start Again From Scratch

By Times Sports Writer
Colquitt County Head Coach Bob Griffith says his team will have to start again from scratch.

Coach Nick Hyder, whose Valdosta Wildcats clawed Colquitt 28-0 in a high school football game, had praise for the Valdosta defense.

"This is the first time Colquitt has been shut out this year," Hyder pointed out. "I think that says something for our defense."

The Packers from Moultrie had piled up 118 points in four games this season, including five explosive explosions of 40 and 6 points in their last two games.

But Griffith was thinking farther back than the past two weeks Friday night.

The football dynasty which

one flourished at Moultrie has vanished, he said. And it's time to build another one.

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"But we can't. We're going to have to start over and make our own tradition."

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For years, Valdosta and

VHS Defense Shines In Romp Over Pack

V. Times 9/29/77

By MARTIN REGISTER

Times Staff Writer

Valdosta's opportunistic Wildcats capitalized on crucial fourth down mistakes by Colquitt County and went on to throttle the Packers, 28-7, in a high school football game here Friday night.

Wildcat quarterback John Bond battered the Packer defense for 155 rushing yards and passed for 111 more as Head Coach Nick Hyder's 'Cats improved their record to 4-1.

YARDSTICK		Colquitt	Valdosta
First Downs		5	19
Yards Gaining		62	238
Yards Passing		77	111
Passes		5-14	9-23
Passes Int. By		0	2
Fumbles Lost		4	1
Punting		8-39	5-32
Penalties		3-35	4-26

Bond, however, was the only player on the field who piled up impressive statistics in a game which was controlled mainly by defense.

The most commanding defense belonged to Valdosta, which shut down the dangerous passing game of the Pack and allowed talented receiver Jamie Wisham just one reception for six yards.

Valdosta finished with 350 yards a total offense, but its offense was less than impressive with its first three backs, Ernest King, Welton Frazier and Carl Wilcox, out with knee injuries.

Colquitt County, from Moultrie, just couldn't seem to generate anything against the mothering tide of Wildcat defenders, led by senior captain Jimbo Hancock eight tackles.

In three quarters, most of the excitement at Cleveland Field here was generated by a brigade of moths which descended on the lighted field shortly after nightfall.

Bond broke away on the Wildcats' first drive, crawling through the Packer line then outdistancing three Colquitt defenders in a 62-yard scoring run.

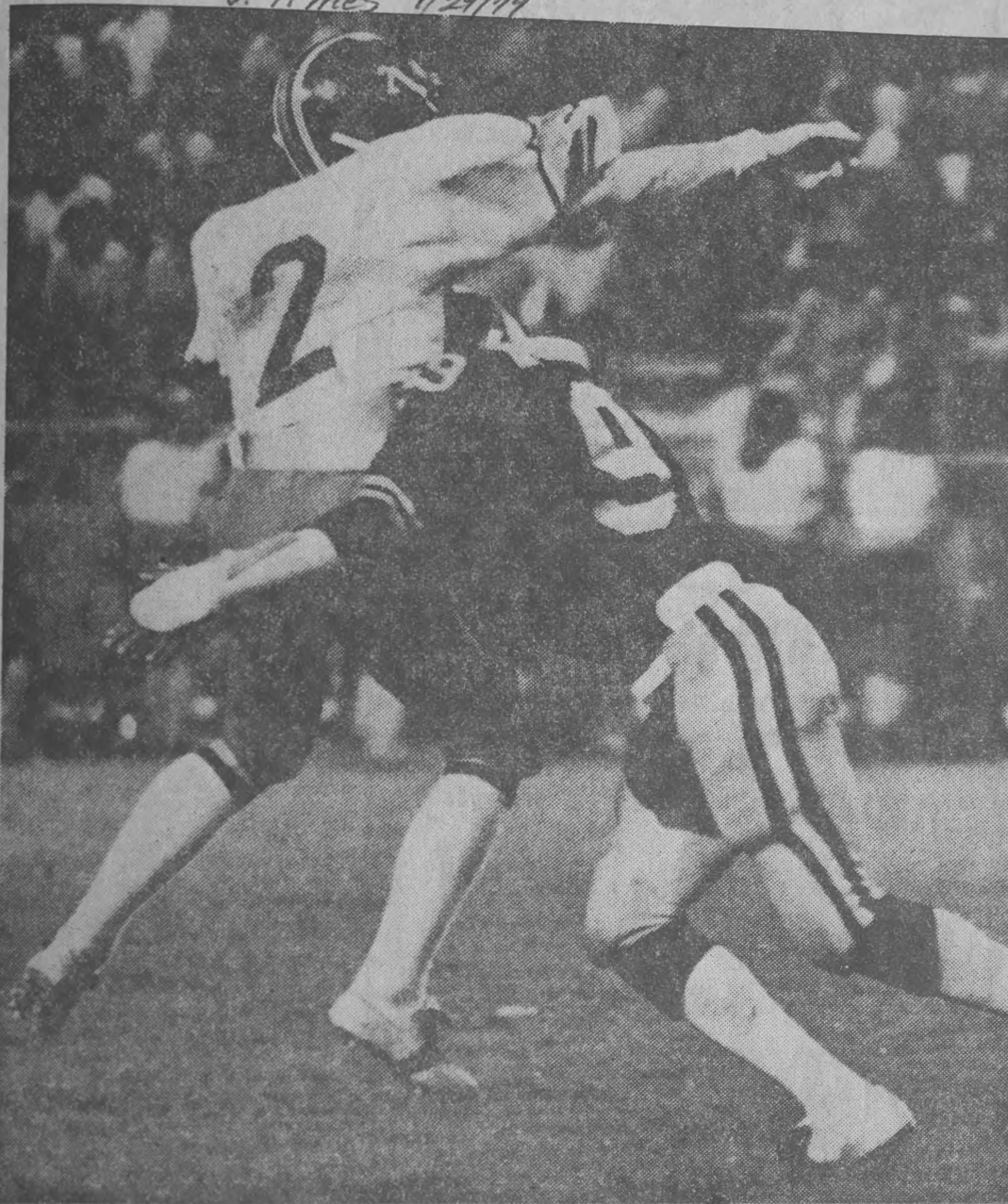
After Keith Sampson's PAT kick the Wildcats led 7-0. Valdosta nursed that lead for almost three quarters, before mistakes began to catch up with the fumble-fisted Pack.

Colquitt mounted its deepest thrust into Wildcat territory early in the second quarter, when quarterback Greg Robinson clicked on two pass plays to Tony Barber and the Packers moved inside the Valdosta 30-yard line.

But a Robinson aerial intended for Wisham, who was cruising near the goal line, was picked off by James Horton on the Wildcat three-yard line.

After that it was all Valdosta, what there was of it.

The VHS defense continually came up with the big play, but several times the Packers did themselves in, with dropped passes and



—Times Staff Photo By Robert Winter III

Colquitt QB Greg Robinson Is Crunched By Jimbo Hancock

The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

bobbled pitchouts.

Late in the third period, Colquitt's fortunes worsened. All four Packer fumbles came late in the game. Altogether, the snakebitten Pack turned the ball over to the bruising Wildcat defense six times.

Valdosta finally put together another sustained drive early in the fourth period after it got the ball on a fumble recovery near midfield, the best field position the 'Cats had all night.

Bond passed 29 yards to Irvin Roe to move the Wildcats inside the Packer 25-yard-line, and three plays later hit Roe on a 16-yard

scoring strike.

Colquitt halted another Valdosta drive on the Packer 20-yard-line, but immediately fumbled another pitchout, setting the Wildcats up in business on the 16-yard-line.

Bond scored two plays later on a keeper from three yards out. Then, less than two minutes after that, he found Edward Robinson in the end zone from 15 yards away after the Packers had fumbled the pigskin away again.

Colquitt fumbled the ball twice more in the remaining three minutes as it tried in vain to move upfield.

About the only bright spot for Colquitt was the punting of Wisham, which kept the

'Cats bottled up through much of the first half and was largely responsible for the Packers still being in contention as the contest entered its final quarter.

Ronald Patterson took up some of the slack for Valdosta's injured backs, finishing with 44 rushing yards in seven carries.

Hyder had praise for the VHS defense and said he felt the offense played well considering its first three running backs were sidelined.

"We had to fight for it," he said. "But I thought Coach (Butch) Brooks did an excellent job of calling plays. Our kids punched out a little yardage. And I felt like our defense really did a great job."

"We just couldn't run the option," understated Colquitt Head Coach Bob Griffith of his now 2-3 Packers, who had won two straight games before Friday night.

"We couldn't get anything started."

Both teams battle subregion opponents next week, with Valdosta hosting unbeaten Tift County (Tifton) in a crucial 1-AAAA North affair, and Colquitt County entertaining fellow 1-AAAA (South) member Bainbridge.

Score by Quarters	
Colquitt	0 0 0 0-0
Valdosta	7 0 0 21-28
Scoring:	
Val	Bond 62 run (Sampson kick)
Val	Roe 16 pass from Bond (Sampson kick)
Val	Bond 3 run (Sampson kick)
Val	Robinson 15 pass from Bond (Sampson kick)
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
Rushing:	Col. — Mason 6-55, Brown 8-18, Sutton 2-2, Robinson 2-(5), Acree 6-(8); Val — Bond 17-155, R. Patterson 7-44, Roe 7-26, Walton 2-10, E. Patterson 1-8, Frazier 1-1, Motes 1-0, Maves 1-(6).
Passing:	Col. — Robinson 5-13-2-27, Brown 0-1-0-0; Val — Bond 9-18-0-111, Parker 0-4-0-0, Maves 0-1-0-0.
Pass Receiving:	Col. — Barber 2-45, Mason 2-24, Wisham 1-6; Val. — Roe 4-60, Robinson 3-36, Mitchell 1-10, Johnson 1-5.
Punt Returns:	Col. — Acree 5-67; Val. — Roe 3-20.
Kickoff Returns:	Col. — Acree 4-51, Barber 1-8; Val. — none.
Defense (Number of Tackles):	Col. — C. Jenkins 7, Williams 6, Todd 6, Reid 5, Bradley 4, Mock 4, Stewart 3, G. Jenkins 3, Wisham 3; Val. — Hancock 8, Stokes 4, Davis 4, Holland 3, Robinson 3, Walton 3, Horton 3, Ceasar 2, Sheppard 2, Harrison 2, Battle 2, Carter 2, Dixon 2.
Interception Returns:	Col. — none; Val. — Horton 1-2, Hunter 1-10.

No Decision Made On Appeal Of Valdosta Forfeits

By MARTIN REGISTER

No decision has been made as to whether Valdosta will appeal an apparent decision by the Georgia High School Association requiring the school to forfeit two high school football games.

Principal Lloyd Mims said Monday that there has been no actual word in writing instructing the school to forfeit its season-opening wins over Crisp County and Bainbridge.

Coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats smashed Crisp (Cordele) 40-14, and Bainbridge 50-13, but learned afterwards that they had been playing an ineligible player.

Nineteen-year-old Alvin Thomas, about two months older than the age limit allowed for participation in GHSA athletics, had played in both games.

Thomas was allowed to play apparently through a double clerical error, at the high school and at the GHSA at Thomaston.

"There has been no official writing from the GHSA, and we don't really know what they will send down," said Mims.

"All we had was an indication over the telephone that we would be asked to forfeit. We asked for the decision in writing, but so far we have not received a letter."

"Until we receive official notification, we can't decide what to do about it."

Bill Fordham, Executive Secretary of the GHSA, could have opted for one of four alternatives when it was discovered last week, through inspection of basketball eligibility forms, that Thomas was over the age limit.

Fines, forfeiture, probation or suspension could have been levied against the local high school.

"We feel like the penalty was too severe," said Mims. "We had several people from across the state who felt like it was too severe."

We think he should have chosen the fine."

Mims bases his feelings on a number of aspects in the case. "We don't deny any violation, but the form he caught it on didn't even have to be sent in," he said.

Once a player is cleared for football, he does not have to be cleared again for the basketball program.

The fact that Thomas was too old slipped by school officials and Fordham prior to the football season.

"We didn't have to send in the basketball eligibility form," said Mims, "but we did. He could have played all year with no one ever knowing."

The forfeitures have emerged as a hot issue since the resulting loss to Crisp, a subregion opponent, puts the Wildcats' backs to the wall in the Region 1-A (North) race.

"One," said Mims, "we turned ourselves in." When Mims was

informed that Thomas was ineligible to play basketball, he called back to inform GHSA officials of his participation in the football program.

"Two, it was not deliberate. Three, he (Fordham) certified the first (football) form as well as the school, so he should shoulder some of the blame."

"Four, the player didn't have any impact whatever on the outcome of the game," he said, referring to the 'Cats' wide victory margin.

Mims said that if the school is informed it must forfeit the games, a decision will be made.

"All we've done is send a letter to two schools acknowledging that we played an ineligible player," he said.

"We can't do anything until we get the official word."

Times

12-2-77



Cat Crazy

City Manager Phin Horton and Mayor Gil Harbin supervise as city employees drape a 60-foot banner across City Hall this morning. At left, Valdosta High School students prepare a huge paper mache Wildcat for transport to a city-wide pep rally Thursday night. All the commotion was for the VHS Wildcats

who play undefeated Warner Robins tonight for the Class AAA South Georgia High School Football Championship. Full details on page 10. Times Staff Photos by Julian Miller and Robert Winter III.

LHS Girls, Berrien Boys Nab Top Tourney Spots

By Times Staff Writer
Fourteen teams are in the chase for the two titles in the 26th annual Lowndes High School Christmas tournament, which tips off at the LHS gym Monday.

Lowndes' 9-0 Vikettes and the 7-1 Berrien (Nashville, Ga.) Rebels are the top seeds in the four-day tourney, one of the oldest prep basketball classics in the state.

Boys' and girls' teams are also entered from Valdosta, Cook (Adel), Thomasville, and Tift County (Tifton). The Central of Thomasville girls and the Fitzgerald boys are also in the hunt.

"I think it's going to be a real good tournament," LHS girls' coach Charles Cooper, who helped supervise the drawing up of the brackets, said.

"This early in the season, records don't make that much difference. In our girls' bracket, only two teams have losing records. And both Tift and Valdosta have pretty good teams."

At 7:30 p.m., Lowndes' second-seeded Vikings, 7-2, battle the fourth-seeded Cook boys, 5-4. The fifth-seeded Central girls, 4-3, take on

The action begins on the day after Christmas when Thomasville's third-seeded Bulldogettes, 6-2, take on sixth-seeded Tift County, 4-5 at 6 p.m.

The seventh-seeded Valdosta girls, 3-4, tie up with second-seeded Berrien, 7-1, at 6:30 p.m. The fifth-seeded Valdosta Wildcats, 2-5, top

fourth-seeded Cook at 9 p.m. The first round continues Tuesday when third-seeded Fitzgerald, 3-3, tangles with the sixth-seeded Thomasville boys, 2-6, at 6 p.m.

At 5 p.m., the Thomasville-Tift girls' winner meets the Valdosta-Berrien winner. At 6:30 p.m., the Valdosta-Tift boys' winner takes on Berrien.

The unbeaten Vikettes battle the Central-Cook winner at 8 p.m., and the Fitzgerald-Thomasville boys' winner clashes with the Lowndes-Cook winner at 9:30 p.m.

The girls' final is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, followed by the boys' championship at 8:30 p.m.

Cooper's Vikettes rolled over Brooks County (Quitman) 63-34 for the title last season. Valdosta nipped Lowndes 62-60 for the number one spot in the boys' division.

Admission for the tournament is \$2 per person. Cooper said the LHS gym seats 2,400.

VHS Faces Tough Road In Tourney

VDT 12-23-77

By MARTIN REGISTER
Valdosta's Wildcats will be trying to continue a streak, while the Kittens will be hoping to start a new one when the Lowndes Invitational Christmas tournament begins here Monday.

The Valdosta boys have made the finals of the prestigious tourney five years in a row, and were champions three of those times.

One of those championships came last season, when the 'Cats nudged Lowndes, 62-60, in the title match.

The Kittens were regular finalists during the tournament's early years, but have taken early exits in recent seasons.

Thomasville-Tift girls vs. Tift
Lowndes boys vs. Cook
Central girls vs. Cook

TUESDAY
Fitzgerald boys vs. Thomasville
Valdosta girls vs. Berrien
Valdosta boys vs. Tift

WEDNESDAY
Thomasville-Tift girls winner vs. Valdosta-Berrien winner
Valdosta-Tift boys winner vs. Berrien
Central-Cook girls winner vs. Lowndes
Fitzgerald-Thomasville boys winner vs. Lowndes-Cook winner

THURSDAY
Girls' final at 7 p.m.
Boys' final at 8:30 p.m.

The Valdosta girls made the tournament finals for 11 straight seasons from 1954 through 1964, and won the championship eight times.

But the Kittens have not made the final round since tripping Berrien (Nashville, Ga.), 49-31, for the 1964 crown.

If pre-tourney seedings mean anything, both Valdosta teams may have a tough time making the finals this time out.

Coach Jerry Baker's Kittens are seeded last in a tough girls' bracket with a 3-4 record, while the Wildcats of coach Norman Sainz are seeded fifth, with a 2-5 chart.

The Valdosta girls face a strong first round opponent in second-seeded Berrien, which has rolled to seven straight wins after a season-opening loss to top-seeded Lowndes.

The Valdosta-Berrien girls' contest is to begin Tuesday, the second day of tournament action, at 7:30 p.m.

Following that game, the Wildcats take on fourth-seeded Tift County (Tifton), a 67-58 winner over Valdosta in the 'Cats' season opener.

The Blue Devils have racked up a 4-5 record thus far this season.

The Valdosta teams began the season in totally opposite fashions.

Baker's Kittens racked up three straight wins before giving Lowndes' Vikettes a scare in a 43-36 loss.

The Valdosta girls haven't been able to get back into the win column since that time.

The Kittens returned four of five starters from last season, including four-year starter Lisa Feix, who poses a constant threat from the outside.

Vera Crawford has moved into the starting lineup this season, and has given the team much-needed scoring and rebounding punch under the basket.

The Wildcats, on the other hand, returned almost no one from last year, and played their first five games with only nine players.

Nine others were still participating in the football playoffs.

The 'Cats dropped those first five games, before registering a 47-46 win over Thomasville and a 68-53 triumph over Central of Thomasville last week.

John Lastinger and Allen Worthy, back from football duty, and David New and Chandler Daniels were the keys behind Valdosta's sudden turnaround.

The Kittens appear improved over last year, and the Wildcats seem stronger than they did at the beginning of this season, but it remains a question as to whether the improvement is enough for a return by Valdosta to the tournament finals.

Valdosta To Appeal Probable Forfeits

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Sept. 28, 1977-

By MARTIN REGISTER

Valdosta High School is to file an appeal if an expected ruling by the Georgia High School Association requiring the school to forfeit two football wins comes through.

VHS principal Lloyd Mims made the announcement late Tuesday, saying he was almost certain an expected letter from GHSA Executive Secretary Bill Fordham would ask for the forfeitures.

The matter of Valdosta forfeiting a 40-14 victory over Crisp County and a 50-13 romp over Bainbridge was raised last week when it was discovered that the school had played an ineligible player in both games.

Senior tight end Alvin Thomas was rejected for participation in the state's basketball program because he was about two months older than the age limit allowed by the GHSA for athletic competition.

When Mims learned that Thomas had been declared ineligible, he contacted Fordham to inform him that the 19-year-old had already participated in two football games.

Fordham had an option of imposing fines, forfeitures, suspension of the school from the Association for a time, or a combination of the three due to the violations.

Mims, feels the forfeitures were "too severe. We feel he (Fordham) should have chosen the fine," he said Monday.

Mims said Fordham indicated over the phone that the school would have to forfeit the games. A letter to that effect was expected today.

An appeal would go before a special appeal board, consisting of four members from throughout the state.

Mims would present the VHS case to the board, at a time and place to be announced later.

If turned down by the appeal board, the school would have one more chance to state its case, to the larger Executive Committee of the GHSA.

Mims said that since Thomas had originally been cleared for football through clerical errors at both the local high school and at the GHSA, Fordham should shoulder some of the responsibility.

"He's trying to dodge his responsibility," Mims said.

Eligibility forms are first sent to the state office when athletes are freshmen, according to Mims. The high schools are responsible for keeping up with eligibility according to grade, while the GHSA is charged with determining eligibility according to age, he said.

"Within ten minutes of the time we learned Alvin Thomas was ineligible for basketball, Bill Fordham had a call from us telling him Thomas had been playing football," Mims said.

"There was never a thought about trying to cover it up. We have a coach (Nick Hyder) here who has good Christian character, and there was just no other way to handle it."

"The (GHSA) rulebook says that once a player is declared ineligible in one sport, he does not have to be cleared for another one."

"Thomas could have played all season and no one would have ever known the difference," he said. "But that's just not the way we do things."

Mims said local school officials have had people from across the state tell them they feel the penalty is too stiff.

He said that since the violation was not intentional, and Fordham

had also made an error in assessing Thomas' eligibility, the penalty should have been more lenient.

"He (Thomas) didn't have any impact whatsoever on the outcomes of the games," he said, referring to the lopsided scores by which the Wildcats, the state's second-ranked AAA team, won.

The resulting loss to Crisp has added significance, since the Cougars are a subregion (1-AAA North) opponent, and a subdivision loss puts Valdosta at a disadvantage in the race for a berth in post-season activity.

"We really feel what we did was right," Mims said.

"If I didn't think that, I wouldn't go up there (to present the appeal)."

"They're punishing the kids for mistakes adults made."

"He (Fordham) should share some of the blame for this along with us. He's saying he's not responsible for his mistake, but that we are responsible for ours."

"If the GHSA treats this the same way it would treat a deliberate violation, then that says something about the Association."

Lowndes Grabs 2 From Dosta

By MARTIN REGISTER
 Sophomore Pam Johnson came off the bench to help put down a rally by Valdosta's Kittens and preserve a 43-36 victory for Lowndes' Vikes over the upset-minded VHS team here Tuesday night.

The Vikings gave Lowndes a clean sweep in the renewal of the heated arch-rivalry when they blew past Valdosta's boys 81-58 in the nightcap.

Johnson, a 6-4 sophomore, brought down the house at the packed VHS gymnasium when she entered the tense contest with the Vikes ahead 37-34, and sent the Kittens scrambling with three blocked shots in a space of 30 seconds.

Johnson then marched downcourt and canned two straight shots from under the basket to stake Coach Charles Cooper's team to a safe 41-34 lead.

The win was the 37th in a row over a span of two seasons for Lowndes, and

challenge from the improved Kittens.

"We had a couple of young girls who came in and played real well for us. Pam Johnson really made a difference."

Cooper said he was displeased with the number of times his team turned the ball over, but said "Valdosta was responsible for a lot of those."

Baker said he was "proud of these kids. We played the best defense we've played all season."
 "Give or take a free throw or a layup, it could have been closer. Lowndes has a very fine ballclub, though, I'm taking nothing away from them."

"I never like to lose, but I'm proud of my team. They had a real team effort."

Rowell and Jaquita Vickers led Lowndes with 10 points apiece, while Crawford, Renee Whitehead and Lisa Feix each had eight points for Valdosta.

The Vikings, now 5-2,

roared into a 9-0 lead and never relinquished it, although Valdosta kept things close until midway the second period.

Coach Terry Wilke's Vikes used superior strength on the boards, and scoring from close range by Woodrow Clemons, James McCann, Donnie Carter and Nathaniel Burks, to their best advantage.

Clemons racked up 17 points, McCann and Carter hit for 13 apiece and Burks added 11 for the Vikes, who expanded their lead to 25 points in the third quarter after holding a 43-28 edge at halftime.

Tim Dame, who finished with 17 points, was almost all the offense the 'Cats could muster in the first half, connecting on long jumpers to keep Valdosta within striking distance.

Valdosta, still playing with only half of its team due to the football playoffs, fell to 0-4.

"Lowndes was well-

prepared," said Valdosta Coach Norman Sainz. "They did a good job of controlling the boards."

"I felt like we were outclassed. We stayed with them the best we could."
 Sainz had praise for Dame, and for freshman Dante Jones, who entered the game in the second half and scored 11 fourth-quarter points.

"I hate it that Valdosta wasn't at full strength," said Wilkes, "but that's just the way it was. The seasons overlapped."

Wilkes said he was pleased that the Lowndes reserves, who began entering the game in the first half, had held onto the Viking lead.

But he said he expects a tougher time when his team plays Valdosta again.

"I realize that when they get everybody back, it'll be a much tougher ballgame," he said.

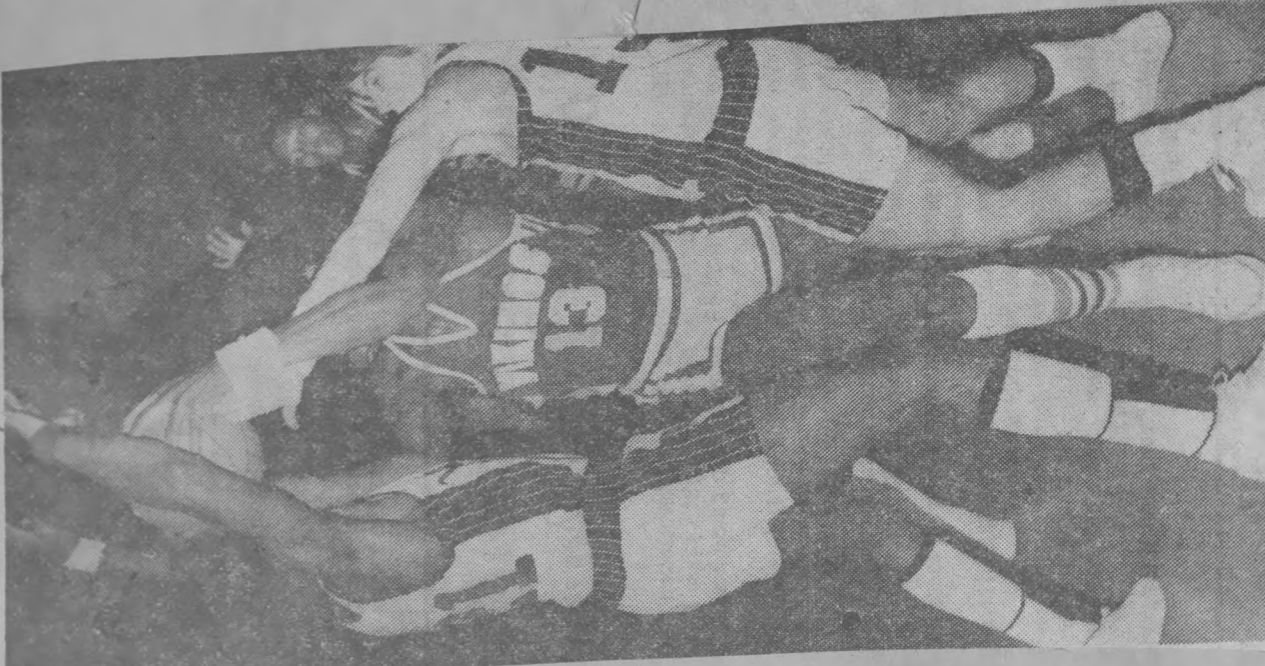
Lowndes eked out a 39-38 win in a boys' B-team game. Reggie Miller led Lowndes

with 14 points, while Bernard Gamble's 13 points led Valdosta.

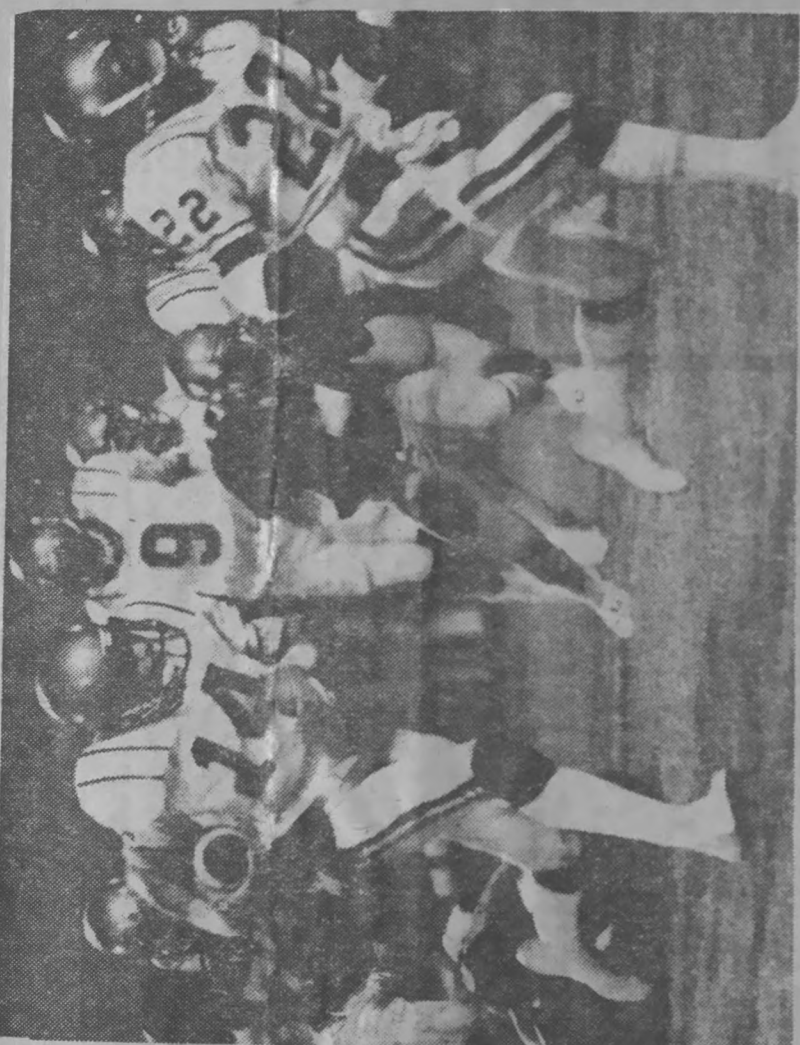
Both schools are to play on the road Friday night. Valdosta is to be at Bainbridge, and Lowndes is to go to Thomasville.

GIRLS
 Lowndes 12 23 33 43
 Valdosta 6 22 30 36
 LOWNDES (43) — Rowell 10, Vickers 10, Player 7, Parker 6, Berrian, Southerland 2, O'Neal 2, Smith 2, Johnson 4.
 Team totals: field goals 19, free throws 5 of 8, fouls 19.
 VALDOSTA (36) — Powell 6, Crawford 8, Whitehead 8, Berrian 6, Feix 8, Evans.
 Team totals: field goals 12, free throws 12 of 19, fouls 10.

BOYS
 Lowndes 20 43 60 81
 Valdosta 14 28 40 58
 LOWNDES (81) — Carter 13, Jones 6, Washburn, Holloway 8, Clemons 17, N. Burks 11, McEady 6, McCann 13, Martin 2, Stokes 2, Miller 1, Moore, R. Burks 2.
 Team totals: field goals 35, free throws 11 of 17, fouls 26.
 VALDOSTA (58) — Chandler Daniels 10, New 6, Stroud 8, Chris Daniels, Feix, Dame 17, Powell 13, Jones 12, Tillman 2.
 Team totals: field goals 20, free throws 18 of 30, fouls 22.



—Times Staff Photo
Vikes' Donnie Carter (13) Draws Crowd



—Times Staff Photo.
Bond Heads For Some Of His 114 Yards Rushing Behind Roe (22)

Wilson Looks Ahead To Subregion Action

By Times Sports Writer
 VDM 10-31-87

"The calvary finally arrived," said Lowndes Defensive Coordinator Brad Almon at the entrance to the Vikings' locker room after his team had defeated Valdosta High 15-14 here Friday.

Earlier in the week, LHS Head Coach Joe Wilson had said his team was like a wagon train surrounded by Indians, with the calvary nowhere in sight.

The Lowndes calvary came in the form of Cedric Jones, who scored both LHS touchdowns on long jaunts.

"You'll never see me going into a football game thinking I'd win," said Wilson. "The first time you do that, you're going to get beat."

Once before, Wilson had defeated Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder. That was a 7-2 victory at Lowndes' Martin Stadium in 1977.

"The 7-2 felt mighty good, but the 15-14 may be a little better," said Wilson. "They sure have a mighty fine

football team."
 Wilson feels that Jones may be a more noticed player in the future. He rushed only five times, but accounted for 102 yards here Friday.

"In our type of plays, you don't go to one man," said Wilson. "Cedric is of course a super football player. I'm sure he'll show people what he can do with the football when this offensive line matures a little more."

"We've got to get ready for Bainbridge," said Wilson of next week's game. "This was a good football game, but that ballgame Friday night is what we are playing for. That team (Bainbridge) can beat anybody in the league on a given night."

Wilson doesn't really seem to care if his team gets noticed for the first time by the AP Prep Top Ten this week.
 "The ratings count at the last part of the season," he said.

Playoff Procedure Altered By I-AAA

By MIKE CHASON

Two years ago, the Region I-AAA high school football champion was decided solely on regular season standings.

This season, the league champion was decided by a playoff between the top team in the north subregion and the south subregion.

Next season, the number of teams in the playoff is to double again. After the regular season, four teams are still to be in the running for the region crown.

That was the decision of the coaches of the 12 member schools of the region in a meeting in Moultrie this week.

According to Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder and

Westover (Albany) in the south, and Valdosta, Dougherty (Albany), Crisp County (Cordele), Tift County (Tifton), Monroe (Albany) and Albany in the north.

However, the schedule is to be drawn up again with each team gaining a new opponent.

Since there are 12 schools in the league, each team bypasses one region member in the season's 10-game schedule. This season, Lowndes did not play Dougherty, and Valdosta did not play Central.

Wilson said next year Lowndes would not play Monroe and would pick up Dougherty. Hyder said Valdosta would drop Westover and play Central.

Central is to drop Tift from its schedule, Dougherty is to drop Bainbridge, Albany is to drop Moultrie and Thomasville is to drop Crisp.

The actual scheduling process itself has been placed in the hands of a committee, which includes Wilson, Central Coach Will Roy Cooley and Thomasville Coach Jim Hughes.

Wilson said the committee is to use a computer to help in the scheduling. The coaches are to meet again Jan. 9 to review the committee's proposed schedule.

In order to allow two weeks for the region playoffs, the league would have to begin play at least by the first Friday in September and end it the first week in November.



Norman Sainz Eyes Second Wildcat Win
—Times Staff Photo.

VHS Eyes Revenge Against Central

By Times Staff Writer

Last season, Valdosta's Wildcats entered the Region I-AAA (South) basketball tournament with an 18-2 record, and as heavy favorites to capture the league title.

But fate, in the form of Central of Thomasville's Yellow Jackets, intervened, and the 'Cats were left with nothing to show for a brilliant season except their record.

Valdosta gets a chance to exact a measure of revenge for that stunning first-round loss to Central when it takes on the Jackets Friday night in Thomasville.

So far, the 1977-78 season has been anything but brilliant for coach Norman Sainz's Wildcats.

Suffering from a lack of almost everything, the 'Cats dropped their first five games before nudging Thomasville 47-46 Tuesday night.

Tuesday marked the first time that the school's football players had been able to take to the hardwood.

The football playoffs lasted through Saturday, when VHS dropped a 16-14 decision to Clarke Central (Athens) in the state class AAA final.

Sainz and the Wildcats will be hoping the added numbers, size and experience of the returning players will help improve their 1-5 record.

Hamilton County's Trojanettes begin their first invitational tournament tonight in Jasper, Fla. The tourney is to last through Saturday.

Valwood and GCS are to begin play in the Tiftarea Tournament, which runs through Friday.

In other games scheduled for Friday, Brooks County (Quitman) travels to Waycross, Berrien (Nashville, Ga.), plays at Bacon County (Alma), and Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.) hits road to Atkinson County (Irson).

Area Scoreboard

Tonight Hamilton girls' Invitational Tourney Valwood, GCS at Tiftarea Tourney Friday	Valwood, GCS at Tiftarea Tourney College VSC Women at MUW Tourney VSC Men at All-American Invitational
Valdosta at Central Brooks at Waycross Berrien at Bacon Lanier at Atkinson Cook at Coffee Charlton at Echols Westbrook at Ravenwood Cinch at Jeff Davis	Saturday Cook at Echols Hamilton girls' Invitational Tourney Hamilton boys at Suwannee Invitational Tourney
Hamilton girls' Invitational Tourney Hamilton boys at Suwannee Invitational Tourney	College VSC Women at MUW Christmas Tourney VSC Men at All-American Invitational

Cook (Adel) goes to Douglas to face Coffee County, Echols County (Statenville) plays host to Charlton County (Folkston), Westbrook meets Ravenwood at Meigs, and Clinch County

(Homerville) is at Hazlehurst to take on Jeff Davis. Hamilton's boys are to participate in the two-day Suwannee Invitational Tournament at Live Oak, Fla.

Clinch-Bacon Match May Be Rescheduled

By Times Staff Writer
HOMERVILLE

Tuesday's postponed boys' high school basketball game between Clinch County and Bacon County may be rescheduled, the Clinch principal said Wednesday.

The game was postponed after a scuffle reportedly broke out among fans and coaches from both schools following Bacon's 52-46 win in a girls' game.

"As far as we're concerned the game has been postponed," Cecil Dunn, the Clinch High School principal said.

"It was an unfortunate incident," he said, "and it created a situation which was not conducive to good basketball."

"I'm sorry it happened, and I'm sorry we saw the need to postpone the game, but we felt at the moment that it was the best thing we could have done."

Dunn, Clinch boys' coach Austin Deloach, Bacon boys' coach Dick Toth, and the

referees made the decision to postpone the boys' game after a shoving match started near the coaches' office in the Clinch gymnasium.

Dunn said he had mailed a letter of explanation to Georgia High School Association Executive Secretary Bill Fordham, and that he had not heard if any disciplinary action would be taken against either school.

"Anything that comes from Fordham," he said, "we will abide by it."

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Last-Minute Field Goal Attempt & Cats Drop 16-14 Thriller To G

Timeouts Spelled Difference?

By Times Staff Writer
ATHENS — Psychology is as much a part of football as the bone-crushing licks delivered down on the field.

In the Class AAA state high school football championship game here Saturday night, Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder gave Clarke Central Coach Billy Henderson credit for using what might have been some game-winning thinking.

"That was a good idea, calling those two timeouts," Hyder said of the two consecutive timeouts Henderson called when Valdosta's Robert Baldwin was faced with a 31-yard field goal attempt with 1:23 to play in the game.

Whether the timeouts really had anything to do with Baldwin's miss and Clarke Central's subsequent 16-14 win will never be known.

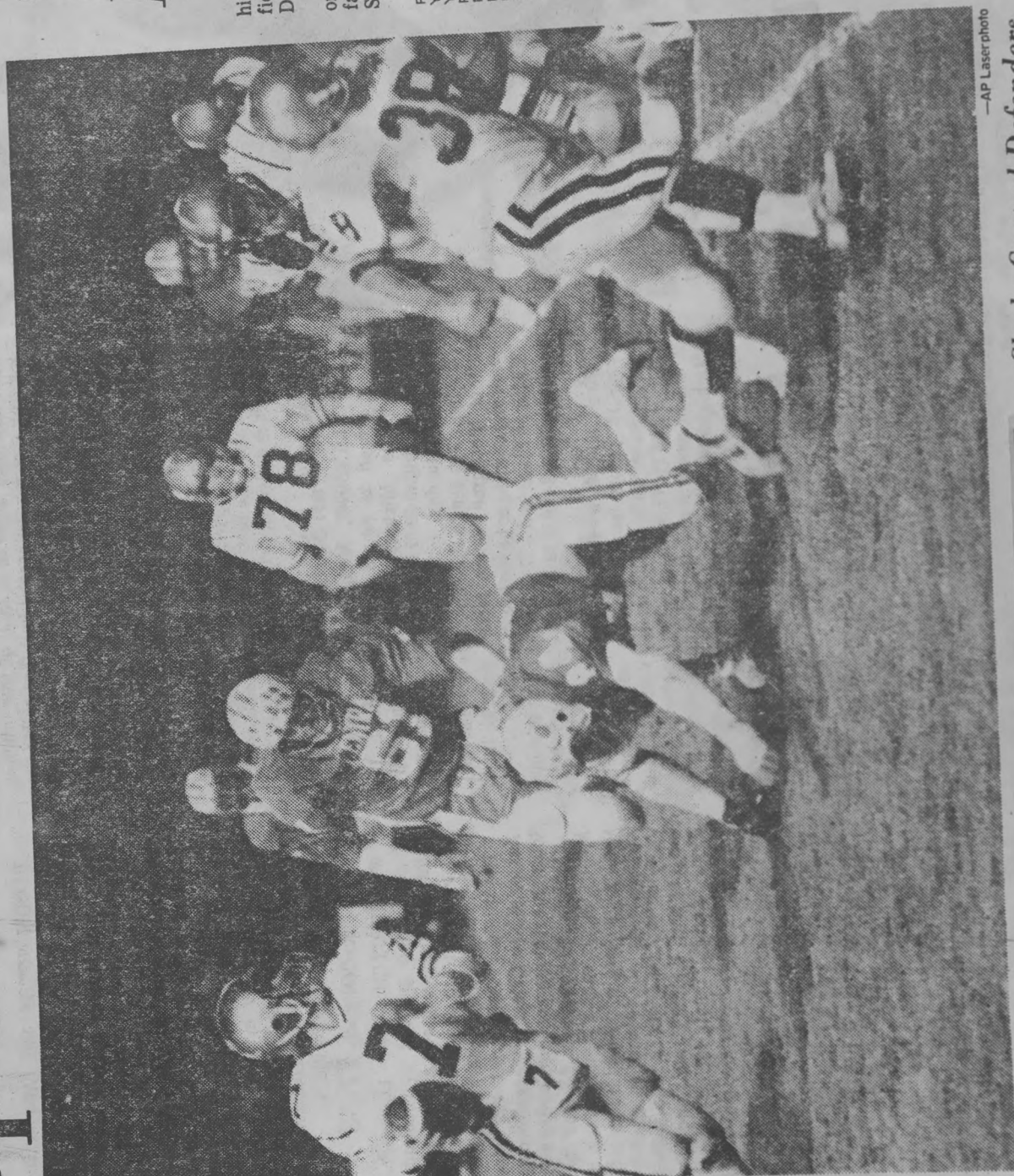
But the Valdostians did come up short in the only state championship game Hyder has ever been involved in as a head coach and he gave the opposition credit.

"It just looked like two evenly-matched teams out there to me," Hyder said. "Defense has been their strong point all year and they played pretty good defense when they had to."

Hyder's own team turned in a solid defensive effort of its own, holding Clarke Central scoreless for the final three periods.

"That was a good football team out there," Hyder said of the 14-0 Gladiators. "They hadn't lived by the pass but it was there when they needed it. They were a good passing team."

"It was a good football game. We never quit but that's life."



—AP Laserphoto

Quarterback Buck Belue Rolls Out Under Pressure From Clarke Central Defenders

He was still under observation, according to the hospital nursing supervisor. Tomjanovich's nose was broken and he was cut under the left nostril down to his lip during a clash with Laker forward Kermit Washington.

Tomjanovich, however, who was 45 feet away when the confrontation started, made a mad dash toward Washington. Apparently without knowing who was

Georgia Christian Sweeps Pineland

By Times Staff Writer
Georgia Christian School swept both ends of a high school basketball double-header with Pineland at Dasher near here Saturday night.

Coach Mike Roller's Lady Generals eased past the visiting Eagles 33-24 in the first game, then watched as their male counterparts sacked the Eagles 79-50.

Rita Rowell threw in 11 points for the GCS girls, while Sally Kennedy matched that number for Pineland.

Bruce Taylor tossed in 16 points to pace the Generals, while Glenn Wood popped in 13, Kent Copeland and Deland Guthrie hit for 12 points apiece, and Winston Bridges and Wendy Colson added 10

each.

The GCS girls now stand 4-4, while the boys have a 7-1 chart.

Georgia Christian is to host Valwood (Valdosta) Tuesday.

GIRLS

GCS	7	16	24-33
Pineland	4	15	21-24
GCS (33) —	Hamm 3, Colson 9, Rowell 11, Albritton 3, Davis 7, Williams, Brown.		
Team Totals:	Field goals 12, free throws 9 of 20, fouls 21		
PINELAND (24) —	Jones 2, Saunders 3, Edwards 1, Ehrhridge 4, Kennedy 11, Biesole 2.		
Team Totals:	Field goals 7, free throws 9 of 20, fouls 19		

BOYS

Pineland	79	44	54-79
GCS	19	31	35-50
GCS —	Taylor 16, W. Bridges 10, Copeland 12, Colson 10, D. Guthrie 12, Wood 13, J. Bridges 2, G. Guthrie 4, Smith, Tomlinson.		
Team Totals:	Field goals 37, free throws 5 of 11, fouls 15		
PINELAND (24) —	T. Pitts 22, Terry 4, C. Pitts 10, Saunders 5, Jones 3, Oliver 4, Lee 2.		
Team Totals:	Field goals 21, free throws 8 of 15, fouls 13		

Waycross Grabs 'AA' Title With 16-7 Win

WAYCROSS, Ga. (AP) — A 75-yard touchdown pass by quarterback Keith Taylor and a 54-yard run by tailback Keith Gamble led Waycross to a 16-7 victory over Dalton for Class AA state championship Saturday.

After a scoreless first half, Waycross got on the board late in the third quarter when

Gamble ran six yards for a touchdown, set up by Gamble's 54-yard run.

Ricky Chaney kicked the extra point for that touchdown, as well as a 40-yard field goal late in the game.

Taylor hit tight end Morris Jackson for a 75-yard touchdown play early in the fourth period to make it 13-0.

McTurk's Free Throws Win For Valwood Gals

By Times Staff Writer
BAINBRIDGE — Sha McTurk canned a pair of free throws with 1:23 remaining to lift Valwood Christian 36-34 here Saturday night.

The Bainbridge girls earned a split of

Field goals 14, free throws 6 of 10

14	18	32	46
12	20	35	50
Cassotta 19, Peacock 4, DeWersselein 4, 15, free throws 16 of 20			
Victim 22, Blair 11, Whigham, free throws 8 of 10			

Chad Belue out of his own hand. Clarke Central lead, counted nonetheless for a 7-0 extra point kick barely got a 33-yarder to the Valdosta 9 in the first quarter. He broke Central's first touchdown on half. Davis' old second-half

Highly-Regarded Lowndes Aims For Tourney Crowns

By MARTIN REGISTER
Lowndes' highly-touted Vikings and Vikettes set their sights on the championship of their own Invitational Christmas Tournament when play begins here Monday. Lowndes inherited the tourney, the oldest and one of the most prestigious of its kind in the state, when it merged with Habira High School in 1967.

The tournament was begun in Habira in 1952, and through the years has been a staple of area holiday fare.

Teams ranging in size from class C to class AAA have

reigned as tournament champions, but in recent years, play has favored teams from larger schools. However, the Lowndes

Thomsville girls vs. Tift
Lowndes boys vs. Cook
Central girls vs. Cook

TUESDAY
Fitzgerald boys vs. Thomsville
Valdosta girls vs. Berrien
Valdosta boys vs. Tift

WEDNESDAY
Thomsville-Tift girls winner vs. Berrien
Valdosta-Tift boys winner vs. Berrien

Central-Cook girls winner vs. Lowndes
Fitzgerald-Thomsville boys winner vs. Lowndes-Cook winner

THURSDAY
Girls' final at 7 a.m.
Boys' final at 8:30 p.m.

boys have never won the tourney championship, and

the Lowndes girls have won just twice, in 1965, and last season.

The Vikettes swamped Brooks County (Quitman) 63-34 in last season's tourney final.

In 1965, when the team mascot was the Golden Eaglettes, Lowndes swiped a 67-62 decision from Cook County (Adel) in the championship game.

The Vikettes have made the final round regularly, six times since winning the crown in 1965.

The Vikings, however,

The Valdosta Daily Times

SPORTS

participated in the championship game last season for the first time since 1968, when they fell before Berrien (Nashville, Ga.), 48-37.

Valdosta won the boys' title last season, nudging the Vikings 62-60, in a thriller.

Coach Charles Cooper's Vikettes are top-seeded with a 9-0 record. They have a 39-game winning streak dating back through last season, and are the defending state class AAA and mythical national champions.

The Vikings, under first-year head coach Terry Wilkes, are 7-2, including a 73-64 conquest of top-seeded Berrien, 7-1.

The Lowndes girls pin much of their hopes for repeating as tourney champions on a towering and talented front line.

Senior Marcia Player and

Junior Rhonda Rowell are back from last year to head up the team.

They have been joined by 6-3 sophomore Angela Johnson, who had outstanding games in her first two starts, in Vikette wins over Thomsville and Brooks in the past two weeks.

The Lowndes boys also hope to use height in an effort to return to the tournament finals this season.

Donnie Carter, a 6-5 cager, and 6-3 Woodrow Cleamons have been vital to the Viking success so far this season.

The Lowndes boys dropped a 73-56 decision to Dougherty (Albany) in their opening game, but have lost only to Region 1-AAA power Bainbridge since then.

The Vikings swing into tourney play Monday at 7:30 p.m. against Cook (Adel). The Hornets will bring a 2-7 record into the fray.

The Vikettes receive a first-round bye on the strength of their number one seed, and are to face the winner of Monday's Central of Thomasville-Cook clash, at 8 p.m., on Wednesday.

Hyder Credits Jones

costly, too, such as interceptions and various Wildcat penalties, but "that's just football," Hyder said. "No one is to blame."

The Wildcats certainly gave their best to the end. In the last minute of play, they launched an unsuccessful passing attack in a hurried attempt to retake the lead.

"There wasn't time enough left for a drive, so we decided to throw long," Hyder said. "We were hoping for at least a field goal, but we didn't complete any of our passes. And when Lowndes got the ball back, they wisely ran the clock out."

Lowndes' record rises to 6-1 overall with the victory, and the Vikes remain the leaders in their subregion with a 3-0 standing. They face Bainbridge in a 1-AAAA (South) subregional battle next week.

Valdosta's overall record drops to 4-3, but the 'Cats 1-AAAA (North) subregional mark remains at 2-1. They too face a subregional contest next week when the Monroe (Albany) Tornados travel to Cleveland Field.

Hyder views the upcoming game as an important one. "Monroe has a fine passing attack, and they'll be ready to do some damage," he said.

As for the Valdosta-Dougherty subregion match of three weeks hence, Hyder said he'll "worry about that when it comes."

The first touchdown came with an 80-yard run on a draw play with 1:27 left in the first quarter. "Jones made a great run on that one," Hyder said. "He has great speed."

Jones scored again on a 58-yard screen pass from Viking quarterback Chuck DeVane with 1:11 left in the final period. Eric Thomas added the two-point conversion.

"Jones made the difference in the game," Hyder said. "He's a fine athlete, and he had a super night."

In essence, Hyder feels that it would have been a whole new ball game had Jones been given the night off.

Yet the Lowndes defense deserves credit for a commendable performance, too. Though Valdosta actually accumulated more yardage than Lowndes in the contest, the Viking defense capitalized on Wildcat errors and, in Hyder's opinion, just happened to be "in the right places" when it counted.

The Lowndes defense forced some crucial turnovers, particularly that of a Wildcat fumble which Viking Louis Ferrara picked up with 6:29 left in the fourth quarter. That mistake, Hyder said, was "the turning point in the game. It gave Lowndes the momentum, and shifted it away from us. We never regained any real field position after that."

Other mistakes proved

By LEE FREEMAN

Times Sports Writer
The Wildcats boarded the buses quickly and in near silence after the game, and a long face or two gazed out of the windows at nothing in particular. The rivalry was over for another year and the Lowndes Vikings had emerged the victors.

It was a close and hard-fought contest between the traditional football foes at Martin Stadium Friday night, but the home team led the visitors 15-14 when the final second disappeared from the scoreboard clock.

"You have to give the Vikings credit," said Valdosta Head Coach Nick Hyder. "They played a good football game."

Hyder was especially impressed with runningback Cedric Jones' performance, which only stands to reason. Jones scored both touchdowns for the Vikings.

Friday Is 'Wildcat Day'

From Staff Reports

Friday has been proclaimed "Wildcat Day," in Valdosta in honor of Valdosta High School's Wildcats who play for the South Georgia Class AAA high school football championship that night.

Mayor Gil Harbin announced the proclamation at his regular news conference here this morning.

The Wildcats travel to Warner Robins to take on the defending state and national champion Warner Robins Deamons in International City Stadium Friday night.

Harbin said he has been contacted by Warner Robins Mayor Foy Evans, who extended the hospitality of his city to Valdosta fans.

He added, however, he did not expect Warner Robins to proclaim a "Wildcat Day" as well.

Val: Times Thurs Dec 29, 1977

Thrillers, Upsets Highlight Tourney's Semifinal Night

The Valdosta Daily Times

By MIKE CHASON

Like a thrill-a-minute carnival ride, the semifinals of the Lowndes Invitational Christmas Tournament turned out to be wild and woolly in the 26th running of the state's oldest holiday classic here Wednesday night.

But for four teams the joyride ended in despair. Berrien's Rebelettes, Valdosta's Wildcats, Central of Thomasville's Lady Jackets and Lowndes' Vikings left after 6½ hours of high school basketball without a free pass to tonight's championship games.

Thomasville, heretofore known mainly for its prowess on the football field, pulled two shockers before a near capacity crowd at the Lowndes' gym.

In the first game of the day, the Bulldogettes held off second-seeded Berrien 48-45, and in the final game, the Bulldogs put the bite on second-seeded Lowndes, 61-

59.

In between the top seeds did their thing to the tune of a 61-59 Berrien win over Valdosta's boys and a 48-20 triumph for Lowndes' Vikettes over Central of Thomasville.

Tonight's 7 p.m. girls' final showcases the 10-0 Vikettes against the 8-2 Thomasville girls. At 8:30 p.m. the 8-1 Rebels from Nashville, Ga., tangle with the surprising 4-6 Bulldogets.

A Thomasville team has never made the finals of the tournament in the past, and Ken Weeks and Terry Wilkes are still shaking their heads over how they made it this year.

"We had some people that choked under pressure," Weeks, the Berrien girls' coach, said. "We just stood around the whole first half. Then at the end we couldn't make our free throws."

Berrien had won eight consecutive games after an

opening season loss to Lowndes.

Could Weeks' team have been looking ahead to a rematch with the Vikettes?

"No, I don't think that was it," Weeks said.

Wilkes, the first year Lowndes' boys' coach, was even more distraught over his club's loss to the Bulldogs, whom the now 8-3 Vikings had beaten earlier in the year.

"They beat us on the boards all night long," Wilkes said. "They were all excellent jumpers. We just got outthrustled too."

"I was disappointed we didn't get the ball inside more the first half, and then the second half, we tried to force it. They were sagging way back in there, and we had two or three bad passes."

Both the Rebelettes and the Vikings were hindered by having one of their big guns silenced on the bench in foul trouble.

Berrien pivot Rose Smith picked up four fouls the first half and fouled out with two minutes left in the third quarter. Usually a double digit scorer, she had only two points.

Lisa Rowan and Kathy Griffin threw in 14 points apiece for the Rebelettes but both came up empty on crucial one-and-one free throw situations in the final minute of the game.

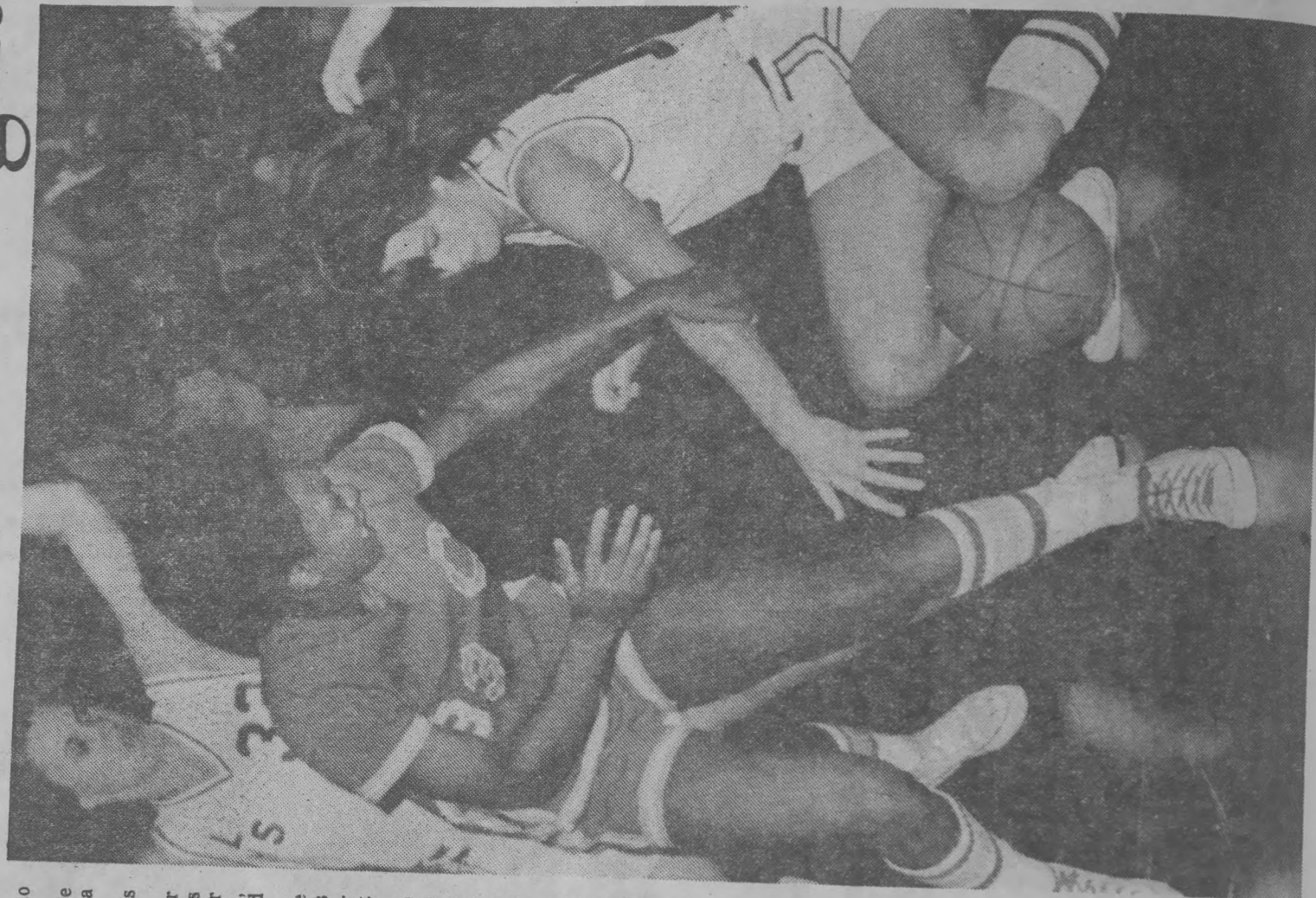
After trailing almost all the way, Cynthia Miller canned a turnaround jumper with 2:15 to play to give Berrien a short-lived 45-44 lead.

Twanda Blackshear shook loose for an unguarded two-footer, and Carolyn Kerbo calmly netted two free throws to give Thomasville the win.

Darlene Shannon had 20 points for the winners.

Rowan opened fire on the Bulldogettes with 10 first quarter points from long range but was shut down by man-to-man pressure after that.

Six-three senior Reggie Holloway paved the way for Lowndes' first round victory over Cook (Adel) Monday night but drew his fourth foul



Bend And Reach: Vikettes' Marcia Player Kneels Over Basketball
basket with six seconds left season due to Valdosta's participation in the football playoffs. Lowndes has now won 40 consecutive games this year behind points, and Hartman had 10



Berrien's Charlie Mackey Opens Fire
Times Staff Photo



Berrien's Debbie Griffis (25) Puts Out Her Hand For Basketball

By MIKE CHASON
Like two freight trains dead-heading it down the same track from opposite directions, Valdosta's Wildcats and Berrien's Rebels crash head-on in the semifinals of the Lowndes Invitational Christmas Tournament here tonight.

In a 6:30 p.m. boys' game in the 26-year-old high school basketball tournament, the top-seeded 7-1 Rebs from Nashville, Ga., collide with the 3-5 'Cats, who carry the most deceptive record among the eight semifinalists.

Valdosta lost its first five games of the season when it was playing without its football players, who didn't join the team until after the Class AAA state championship game on Dec. 10.

Since that time, the Wildcats have won five of seven games, they've lost one, including a 71-58 Tift County (Tift County) round action here tonight.

After an opening 54 loss to Lowndes has reeled off successive victories tonight's fray as the boys' team in the area.

"Berrien is a tremendous basketball team," Coach Norman Sargent pulled away in a period to subdue the Devils.

"We're going to iron out a lot of mistakes with them." Berrien Coach John Thomas stands for Valdosta game, his first this season at the Wildcat.

In other games Tuesday, Berrien's second-seeded Rebelettes ignored Valdosta press and Klittens' man-to-man defense to roll to a 73-42 victory.

Thomasville's Bulldo turned a close game into rout in the fourth quarter knock off Fitzgerald Hurricane 75-56 in the only other contest.

In tonight's games, the now 8-1 Berrien girls tangle with the 7-2 Thomasville Bulldogettes at 5 p.m. followed by the Valdosta-Berrien boys' game.

At 8 p.m., the top-seeded Lowndes' Vikettes bring their 9-0 record and 39-game winning streak on the floor against the Central of Thomasville girls.

The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

The final game of the night pits the 8-2 Lowndes' Vikings against Thomasville's boys at 9:30 p.m.

The girls' championship is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday followed by the boys' title game at 8:30 p.m.

Using their superior height on the boards, the Wildcats put away the now 4-6 Blue Devils with a blistering fast break in the second period.

The Wildcats' line of 6-5 6-4 Allen and his

Eric Stroud and spotted the game and his

praise "at the end of the night," The

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2495

Engine Tune-Up



The final two games of Tuesday night's season were played without the benefit of the overhead time clock.

Tournament officials expect to have the clock repaired for tonight's games.

Fitzgerald Thomasville
Fitzgerald (56) — McDuffie 11, Minor 2, W. Moss 8, Dunning 6, Moss 11, McCoy 2, Williams 2, Sander 11, Benton, Smiley, Culver, Hall, Callaway, Lewis, Palmer.

Team totals: field goals 25, free throws 6 of 20, fouls 18.

THOMASVILLE (75) — Hunter 18, Pufman 9, Fann 13, McInyre 16, Hatch 6, Johnson, Abrams, Dyson 7, Sharp.

Team totals: field goals 31, free throws 13 of 25, fouls 19.

Valdosta Berrien
VALDOSTA (42) — Feix 14, Crawford 7, Powell 6, Whitehead 3, Baker 3, Cooper 2, Stewart, Skelton, Irwin, Mare, Swindie, Berrian 4, Evans 3, Dotson.

Team totals: field goals 18, free throws 6 of 14, fouls 13.

BERRIEN (73) — Griffis 14, L. Rowan 12, Harkins 8, Smith 23, K. Griffin 10, Parford 2, Miller 2, Wright, F. Rowan, R. Rowan, D. Griffin 2.

Team totals: field goals 32, free throws 9 of 12, fouls 14.

Valdosta Tift
VALDOSTA (71) — Chandler Daniels 17, Worthing 15, Hartman 11, Stroud 4, Powell 6, Lassinger 2, Gordon 2, Bond 1, Cessar 4, New 5, Chris Daniels, Feix, Darne 4.

Team totals: field goals 28, free throws 15 of 31, fouls 19.

Tift (58) — White 20, Turner 12, Robinson 13, Bryant 2, Brown 6, Smith 3, Cox 2, Terry, Ewing, Troxell, Baker.

Team totals: field goals 24, free throws 10 of 17, fouls 30.

Spence Feix Aims At Hoop



—Times Staff Photo.

VD 1-2-1977

Belue Receives Added Honors

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta High School quarterback Buck Belue has added to his list of honors by being named the Class AAA back of the year in Georgia by the Atlanta Journal and Constitution and the South Georgia back of the year by the Florida Times Union.

Belue, who led Valdosta to a 34-13 record in four years as a starter, sparked the Wildcats to a 12-2 record this season and a spot in the Class AAA state title game.

Clarke Central ruined Belue's dream of a state championship in that game with a 16-14 victory.

Ironically, the 6-1, 185-pounder was voted the second team quarterback in Valdosta's own Region 1-AAA. Dougherty's Jerry Aubin was named the top signal-caller in a close vote of the seven sportswriters who cover the league.

Belue was named the first team punter in the region. The only other area player on the Atlanta paper's all-state team was Lowndes High School linebacker Ronnie Adkins.

Adkins, a 199-pound junior, was also named a first team member of the Florida Times-Union's All-South Georgia team.

LHS defensive end Charles Burgman was also named to that team along with split end Nathaniel Burks.

Valdosta offensive tackle Gary Guthrie and Wildcat safety Allen Worthy also made the first team as did Berrien (Nashville, Ga.) defensive tackle Chuck Strickland.

Center Eddie Preston and offensive guard Chip Peagler of Clinch County (Homer-ville) were named to the second team by the Times-Union along with Valdosta defensive end Curtis Wright and Wildcat linebacker Robert Baldwin.

Former Valdosta player Dale Williams, who coached Waycross to the Class AA state title this year, was named AA coach of the year by the Atlanta papers and South Georgia coach of the year by the Florida Times Union.

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Strong Hitting Attack Aids Valdosta Sweep

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High seems to be hitting its stride at just the right time. The Wildcats swept Callaway, Ky. 10-4, 13-4 in high school baseball action Monday at Blazer Field.

The sweep was the third win in four outings for the 'Cats and improves their mark to 4-5 for the season.

This is "perfect timing," according to Valdosta head coach Cahries Tarpley, with Region 1-AAAA South play getting under way today, "this is the start of the real season," Tarpley said. "These are the games that count, starting today against Bainbridge. I wish I could say that I had it all planned this way, but I still feel like we should have won a couple of those earlier games."

"We've been in everyone of our games this year and they've all gone down to the last out. We've tried to play a lot of different people just to see who is ready to play and now we think we've found some people who are ready."

In the opener, Valdosta took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning on two hits and a Callaway error. But, Callaway took the lead in the second inning with four runs on two hits and two Valdosta errors.

"We played well all day except for that one inning," Tarpley said. "We made enough errors in that inning, mental and physical, to lose the game. We looked like we had been looking earlier in the year and that's caused us more than a few games."

"But, we settled down and came back pretty good after that. That's the difference in our team now than at the start of the season. I don't know if we would have been able to overcome that inning earlier."

But that's just what the 'Cats did, scoring two runs in the bottom of the inning before adding four more in the third to break the game open for an 8-4 lead.

Valdosta added single runs in the fourth and sixth innings to complete the scoring in the 10-4 victory.

Walt Gill got the win for the 'Cats in a route-going, three-hit performance. Gill overcame some sporadic Valdosta defense, six errors, and control problems of his own, seven walks, to get the victory.

"That was another big key for us today," Tarpley said. "The fact that we got two good pitching efforts from a pair of youngsters." (Sophomore Guy Belue was the winner in the second game).

"We've been trying to find somebody to step in there behind (Ralph) Guriano, and we may have done that today. Belue has done a good job for the past two weeks and he's really coming on."

In the opener, Brad Coleman started the Valdosta first with a double to right and scored on a single by Gill, who advanced on the throw to home plate. Gill scored two batters later when Trevor Nance reached on an error for a 2-0 Valdosta lead.

After Callaway had taken the lead at 4-2, Trevor Shaw walked to lead off the second. He moved around to third on a pair of passed balls and scored on a Jon Reaves fly to center. Brett Parker reached on an error and moved to second on a wild pitch before scoring on a single by Moore to tie the game at 4-4.

Steve Milani led off the third with a single and stole second. Shaw walked and Reaves laid down a bunt, which Callaway pitcher Doug Futrel threw into right field allowing Malini and Shaw to score. Reaves stole second and scored on a single by Parker.

Parker then stole second. Moore walked and Coleman hit into a force play at second. Gill brought Parker home with a run-scoring single to center to complete the rally.

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Valdosta concluded the scoring when

Valdosta High seems to be hitting its stride at just the right time. The Wildcats swept Callaway, Ky. 10-4, 13-4 in high school baseball action Monday at Blazer Field.

The sweep was the third win in four outings for the 'Cats and improves their mark to 4-5 for the season.

This is "perfect timing," according to Valdosta head coach Cahries Tarpley, with Region 1-AAAA South play getting under way today, "this is the start of the real season," Tarpley said. "These are the games that count, starting today against Bainbridge. I wish I could say that I had it all planned this way, but I still feel like we should have won a couple of those earlier games."

"We've been trying to find somebody to step in there behind (Ralph) Guriano, and we may have done that today. Belue has done a good job for the past two weeks and he's really coming on."

In the opener, Brad Coleman started the Valdosta first with a double to right and scored on a single by Gill, who advanced on the throw to home plate. Gill scored two batters later when Trevor Nance reached on an error for a 2-0 Valdosta lead.

After Callaway had taken the lead at 4-2, Trevor Shaw walked to lead off the second. He moved around to third on a pair of passed balls and scored on a Jon Reaves fly to center. Brett Parker reached on an error and moved to second on a wild pitch before scoring on a single by Moore to tie the game at 4-4.

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Valdosta concluded the scoring when



Times Staff Photos by Nadine Shochet

Valdosta's Martin Campa Slides Safely Into Second Base
at 4:15 today at Bazemore Field.

First Game
Callaway 0-0
Valdosta 0-0
Taylor (1), Futrel (L-5) and Pond, Adaman, Gill (W) and Moore, 2B—Coleman (V).

Second Game
Callaway 0-0
Valdosta 0-0
Adams (L) and Adaman, Belue (W, 5, Marconi (2) and Moore, Haroin, 3B—Thomas (V), Coleman (V).

Nance was hit by a pitch to lead off the sixth. He stole second and scored on a one-out single by Reaves to center for the final 10-4 score.

"We hit the ball real well today and I was very proud of the kids," Tarpley said.

Valdosta will play host to Bainbridge in May.

Bazemore Reunion In Works For May

Hatcher said those interested in a reunion of former Valdosta High School football players, fans, teachers and friends during the Wright Bazemore coaching years is to be held in May.

Bud Hatcher, who played football under Bazemore, said non-athletes, friends, fans and anyone else interested are invited to attend.

The reunion is being planned by a group of former players. A spokesman said there have been class reunions but this one is designed to attract those from all of the Bazemore coaching years from 1940 to 1971.

A spokesman for the reunion said those who wish to attend or participate must write within two weeks so the planners can return the needed information and also get an accurate headcount. Hatcher asked that those writing also include a telephone number.

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The Valdosta Daily Times, Mon., Dec. 26, 1977-16-

Lowndes Tourney Begins 26th Year

Past Tourney Finals

Year	Winner	Runner-Up
1952	Tifton 40	Atkinson County 39
1953	Atkinson County 70	Willacoochee (OT)
1954	Valdosta 54	Lanier County 45
1955	Valdosta 62	Irwin County 36
1956	Valdosta 74	Berrien 40
1957	Atkinson County 52	Valdosta 51 (OT)
1958	Berrien 63	Valdosta 59
1959	Valdosta 57	Dorran 56
1960	Valdosta 51	Cook 37
1961	Valdosta 52	Cook 55
1962	Valdosta 57	Cook 55
1963	Hahira 46	Valdosta 36
1964	Valdosta 49	Berrien 31
1965	Lowndes County 67	Cook 62
1966	Manor 42	Lanier County 29
1967	Berrien 51	Lowndes 41
1968	Berrien 39	Lowndes 41
1969	Berrien 44	Lowndes 37
1970	Berrien 38	Tift County 34
1971	Tift County 43	Berrien 26
1972	Berrien 45	Lowndes 16
1973	Waycross 42	Berrien 40
1974	Berrien 44	Lowndes 34
1975	Berrien 62	Waycross 48
1976	Berrien 63	Brooks 34

By MARTIN REGISTER

The Lowndes Invitational Christmas Tournament begins its second quarter-century here tonight when six teams take to the hardwood in first round action.

Each will be after a berth in Wednesday's semifinal round of the tourney, which through the years has become one of the most prestigious of its kind in the state.

Thomasville's third-seeded Bulldogettes tip off action at 6 p.m. in the Lowndes gymnasium, when they pit their 6-2 record against the 4-5 mark of sixth seed Tift County (Tifton).

Lowndes' second-seeded Vikings, 7-2 on the year, face Cook's seventh-ranked Hornets (2-7) from Adel, at 7:30 p.m., and Central of Thomasville's fifth-seeded Lady Yellow Jackets tangle with fourth-placed Cook (5-4) at 9 p.m.

Lowndes' Vikettes (9-0) and Berrien's 7-1 Rebels from Nashville, Ga., are the top seeds this season.

Lowndes won the girls' side of the tournament last season by blasting Brooks County (Quitman) 63-34 in the finals, while Valdosta earned the boys' crown with a 62-60 decision over Lowndes.

Through the years, teams ranging from class C size schools, such as Manor and Hahira, up to class AAA powers such as Valdosta and Tift have claimed titles in the tourney.

Begun in 1952 at Hahira, it was moved to its present site in 1967 when the old Lowndes County and Hahira High Schools merged.

It is generally regarded as the oldest prep holiday tournament in the state. Tifton claimed the girls' championship of the first tournament with a 40-39 victory over Atkinson County (Pearson).

Valdosta finished atop boys' play that year by edging Tifton, 46-43.

Since that time, numerous hoop dynasties have had their day, and the Christmas tournament reflected their rise and fall.

Valdosta dominated girls' play in the early years, reaching the finals 11 straight seasons, and claiming the championship eight times.

Valdosta's boys won the tourney six times through 1964, and Hahira reigned as the boys' champ for three seasons.

Powerful teams at Berrien in the late 1960's and early 70's made their marks on the tournament record.

The Nashville teams swept both divisions for four seasons in a row from 1967-70, and repeated again in 1972.

The Berrien girls claimed the tourney crown again in 1974 and 1975, while Waycross topped the field in 1973.

Valdosta paced boys' play in the past four seasons, winning the title three times and finishing as runner-up the other year.

First round action continues Tuesday, when Fitzgerald's 3-3, third-seeded Purple Hurricane tackles sixth-seeded Thomasville, 2-6 at 6 p.m.

Then, in a girls' game, seventh-seeded Valdosta takes a 3-4 record into battle with Berrien's second-placed Rebelettes, 7-1 on the season.

Valdosta's Wildcats complete the opening round when they pit their 2-5 mark against the 4-5 record of Tift County.

In the semifinals Wednesday, the Valdosta-Berrien girls' survivor tackles the Thomasville-Tift winner at 5 p.m., and Berrien challenges the Valdosta-Tift victor in a boys' game at 6:30 p.m.

Lowndes' Vikettes put their 39-game winning streak on the line at 8 p.m., against the Central-Cook winner, and the Fitzgerald-Thomasville boys' victor clashes with the Lowndes-Cook winner at 9:30 p.m.

The girls' final is to begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, with the boys' championship slated for 8:30 p.m.

Admission is to be \$2 per person.

Valdosta added single runs in the fourth and sixth innings to complete the scoring in the 10-4 victory.

Walt Gill got the win for the 'Cats in a route-going, three-hit performance. Gill overcame some sporadic Valdosta defense, six errors, and control problems of his own, seven walks, to get the victory.

"That was another big key for us today," Tarpley said. "The fact that we got two good pitching efforts from a pair of youngsters." (Sophomore Guy Belue was the winner in the second game).

"We've been trying to find somebody to step in there behind (Ralph) Guriano, and we may have done that today. Belue has done a good job for the past two weeks and he's really coming on."

In the opener, Brad Coleman started the Valdosta first with a double to right and scored on a single by Gill, who advanced on the throw to home plate. Gill scored two batters later when Trevor Nance reached on an error for a 2-0 Valdosta lead.

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Val. Times Times, Dec 29 1977

People Poll

What is your New Year's resolution?

Raymond Kelly, Appliance Manager, Sears: "To do more than I did in '77. No matter what it is."



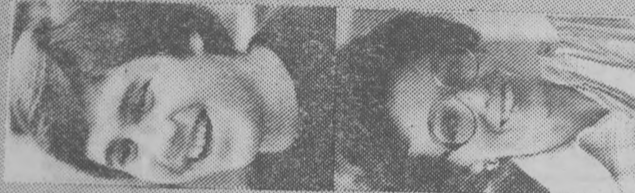
Anneen Lynch, 10th grade, Valdosta High School: "This year I'm hoping that I can stop smoking and be nicer to my parents."



Beth Young, housewife: "To lose 10 pounds and to draw closer to Jesus Christ."



Chris Daniels, 12th grade, Valdosta High School: "To get a little bit more out of life this year."



Barbara Pruitt, homemaker, Valdosta: "I haven't really thought of one yet . . . to be more patient with my children."



Randy Jernigan, Moody Air Force Base: "To quit smoking cigars. I've been trying to quit for two months."



VHS 9th Grade Trims Tomcats

Dec 14 1977

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta's ninth grade basketball team took a 21-19 overtime decision from the Valdosta Junior High School Tomcats in a game played this morning before the VHS student body.

VJHS employed stall tactics in the game, which was tied at 15-all at the end of regulation play. Gary Cothran hit the game-winner for the ninth grade with six seconds left in overtime.

Dante Jones had 11 points for the ninth grade, and Keith Sampson hit for 11 points for the Tomcats.

'Inside VHS' Airs Tuesday

Dec 19 1977

A television program on Valdosta High School, one in a series called "Inside VHS," is to be aired on Clearview Cable Television Channel 9 Tuesday at 8:30 p.m., according to a school spokesman.

The program is to feature Christmas music by Swing Choir, directed by Ann Jeffery, the Brass Choir, directed by Conrad Driggers and Mark Jeffery, and the VHS Choir, directed by Herman Revills.

Vikings' '2nd chance' downs Valdosta 15-14

By STEVE MOORE
Times-Union Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — Senior quarterback Chuck DeVane hit halfback Cedric Jones on a screen pass play that covered 58 yards for a touchdown and another Lowndes quarterback, Eric Thomas, sneaked over from the 1 1/2 yard line after an initial two-point pass attempt failed but resulted in a pass interference call as the Vikings took a 15-14 win over archrival Valdosta at Martin Stadium here Friday night.

Lowndes took over on its 38 with 3:55 left on the shoprt end of a 14-7 count.

DeVane, who was hurt in the pre-season, was in for just two snaps but moved the Vikings from their own 38 to the score on those two plays. He hit Jones, who had scored Lowndes' first-quarter TD on an 80-yard run, at the 50, and the 170-pound junior set sail down the sideline and scored untouched.

Thomas came in then, but his two-point pass try fell incomplete, apparently giving Valdosta the win.

But the Wildcats were flagged for pass interference, resulting in a half-the-distance penalty. Thomas got another chance and took it in on a sneak to make it 15-14 and give the Vikes the win.

The win was only the second over for Coach Joe Wilson's Vikings over their cross-town rivals and upped Lowndes' overall record to 6-1.

Valdosta, now 4-3, lost its second straight game and has now lost more games this season than it has in the past two combined.

The game won't count as far as playoffs go, since the two schools compete in different divisions of Region 1-AAAA. Lowndes is 3-0 in 1-AAAA (South) and needs only a win over Bainbridge next week to land its second straight region playoff spot.

Valdosta, 1-1 in 1-AAAA (North), is still alive in its bid for a playoff spot. The Wildcats are the defending state Class AAAA co-champions.

Valdosta took the lead for the first time in the game when it drove with the second-half kickoff for 79 yards on 12 plays to a score with the climax coming on a 12-yard run by quarterback John Bond with 7:24 left in the third period.

It looked like the Wildcat defense was going to make that 14-7 margin stand up, as Valdosta held the Vikings on a fourth-and-six at the Wildcat 29 with 3:55 left in the game.

But Valdosta was forced to punt and Lowndes took over.

DeVane came in, completed a four-yard pass to wide receiver Ray Luke and then hit Jones.

The first half featured back-to-back touchdowns that resulted in a 7-7 deadlock.

Lowndes managed only 92 total yards rushing in the first half, but 80 came on Jones' touchdown run with 1:27 left in the opening quarter. Jeff Stokes kicked the extra point.

Valdosta received the kickoff and drove 79 yards in 10 plays for the tying touchdown. The big play of the march downfield was a 32-yard scramble by Bond. Bond hit Mike Ruff with a 10-yard scoring strike with 8:50 left before intermission and Keith Sampson's kick tied the score.

The Wildcats had 13 first downs and 185 yards total offense — compared to Lowndes' 112 — in the first half, but each team was held to one touchdown by some fine defensive play.

On the opening series, Valdosta advanced to the Lowndes 35, but on a second-and-nine play, sophomore defensive back Lee Walker intercepted a Bond pass at the 18 and returned it to the 50.

Lowndes then drove the 39 before Thomas got caught six yards behind the line of scrimmage on a third-down pass attempt that took the Vikings out of field goal range.

The Wildcats stopped themselves with an illegal procedure penalty at the Lowndes 36 late in the second quarter.

Bond enjoyed a good statistical first half, gaining 70 yards on seven carries and hitting two of five passes for 24 yards, including the touchdown and the interception. Fullback Ernest King gained 58 yards on 14 first-half carries.

Valdosta 9 7 7 0-14
Lowndes 7 0 0 8-15
L—Jones 80 run (Stokes kick)
V—Ruff 10 pass from Bond (Sampson kick)
V—Bond 12 run (Sampson kick)
L—Jones 58 pass from DeVane (Thomas run)

Valdosta's Ernest King (44) is dragged down by Lowndes' Bill Cribb

VHS Makes Clean Sweep Of Brooks County

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

Oh, how sweet it is. The Valdosta High girls' team claimed its initial win of the season — after opening with four consecutive losses — Monday night in a 59-52 win over Brooks County.

The 'Cats also won three other games from Brooks to make it a clean sweep on the night.

The Lady 'Cats featured a balanced scoring attack, with four girls hitting the double-figure mark. Lisa Irvin led the way with 14 points, while Wendy Irvin added 11, Felicia Henderson and Avis Weatherspoon contributed 10 points apiece.

Valdosta raced out to a 16-8 first quarter lead, but led only 28-26 at the half. From that point on the biggest difference in the game was three points until the final two minutes. At the end of three quarters Valdosta's lead had dwindled

to 42-41, and Brooks took the lead early in the final period. However, the Lady 'Cats hung on, refusing to fold as Felicia Henderson hit a pair of free throws with 1:58 left to play to give Valdosta the lead for good.

After a Brooks turnover, Valdosta scored again when Amy Bass hit a clutch follow shot after a missed free throw to ice the game for the Lady 'Cats. From that point on, it was just a parade to the free throw line as the Lady 'Cats notched their first win.

Cary Gatlina led Brooks with 20 points and Patricia Reynolds scored 15 for the only double-digit markers.

Valdosta's boys continued to roll by racing past Brooks 65-37 pushing their unbeaten slate to 5-0 for the season. The girls' affair 28-27 after blowing a seven-point lead in the last two minutes. The 'Cats, who led the entire game, were absent-minded

after the first quarter.

"We had a little lapse there just before the close of the half and let them get back in the game," said Valdosta coach Mike O'Brien. "We have similar lapses in four of our other wins, but we've been fortunate enough to win them all."

But the game turned around at the half and Valdosta completely dominated the action in the second half due to some aggressive defense by the 'Cats, which limited Brooks to just 10 second-half points.

Meanwhile, the 'Cats were running off 37 second-half points to coast to the 65-37 win.

Valdosta outscored Brooks 16-6 in the third period to take control of the contest. With the Trojans defense packed in to stop Valdosta's leading scorer Wallace Campbell, guards Anthony Brown and Moses Madison bombed away from the outside, while the Edwards snookered the Trojans position for some key inside

dosta girls with 14 points and Michelle Johnson added 11.

The Lady 'Cats led 6-2 at the end of the first period and 21-6 at the half before coasting to the win. Chiquana Carter and Mary Holsendolph led Brooks with eight and six points, respectively.

In the B-team boys' action, Valdosta jumped out to a 12-2 first quarter lead and never looked back. Reginald Butler scored eight points to top Valdosta, while Casey Williams and Freddie Bajalia contributed six points each. Ron Jessie Willie Henry and Bobby Larry all had four points apiece for Brooks.

Valdosta will trek to Lake-land to take on Lanier County for four contests, starting with a pair of B-team games.

Brooks Co. 10 17 6 4-37
Valdosta 13 15 16 21-65

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Brooks County (37) — C. Mondis 5 1-2 11, W. Hollis 5 0-0 10, L. Lambert 0 1-2 1, R. Little 4 3-4 11, J. Hollis 1 2-2 2, R. Mitchell 1 0-0 2. Totals 15 7-10 (37). Valdosta (65) — Wallace Campbell 3 3-3 9, Sylvester Kitchener 1 0-0 2, Victor Walker 6 0-0 12, James Edwards 5 2-3 12, Anthony Brown 8 4-5 20, Moses Madison 16 4-5 20, Fredrick James 1 0-0 2, Leann Williams 1 0-0 2, Total 37-10.

BOYS

Brooks Co. 8 18 15 11-62
Valdosta 16 12 15 11-59

GIRLS

Brooks Co. 8 18 15 11-62
Valdosta 16 12 15 11-59

Valdosta Survives Scare From Yellow Jackets

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

THOMASVILLE — The Valdosta Wildcats found a brick wall waiting for them when they arrived in Thomasville for their Region I-AAAA South game with Central-Thomasville Friday night. But the Yellow Jacket defensive wall came a tumbin' down in the fourth quarter as Valdosta rallied for a 7-3 victory.

After Valdosta had backed itself up into a third-and-25 situation following a sack and holding penalty, senior tight end Jeffery Holmes went off right tackle on a trap play and rambled 36 yards to the Central 39 for a first down.

On the next play, Tony Mangham took a counter play 32 yards to the Yellow Jacket seven for a first-and-goal. Holmes got the call again and carried the ball off right tackle for the touchdown.

"It was a great defensive ballgame," Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said. "But the offense did what it had to do when we needed it to do it."

Indeed it did. Punter Charles Steward almost wore his leg out, being called on seven times. And when it appeared he would have to punt again, Holmes broke lose for the big first down.

Hyder said Holmes' run was designed to get the first down, not to give Steward a little more room to work with and back Central up a little more. "We went that far on the play because we were trying to go long," Hyder said. "He did what he had to do for us to keep possession."

The run not only enabled the Wildcats to keep their winning drive on track, but it also kept Central from gaining possession with good field position and most of the fourth quarter left to play.

For the first time this season, the

Valdosta.....	0	0	0	7	7
Central.....	0	0	0	0	0
CT — Todd Wilson 37 FG					
Val — Jeffery Holmes 7 run (Dan Tillman kick)					
CT	13	8	8	8	8
First Downs	168	88	48	45	45
Yards Rushing	28	28	14	51	51
Yards Passing	7	41	14	51	51
Passes	2	21	3	31	31
Fumbles-Lost	7	32	3	39	39
Punting	7	76	6	53	53
Penalties	14	141	12	121	121
Rushing — Valdosta, Mangham 14-81, Holmes 12-71, Johnson 13-28, Taylor 5-12.					
Passing — Valdosta, Talley 7-41 28; Central, Taylor 10-5-0-45, Ward 4-0-10.					
Receiving — Valdosta, Steward 3-29; Central, West 2-22, Robinson 1-20.					
Missed Field Goals — Central, Wilson 47.					

Wildcats found themselves trailing in a ballgame. And what made it worse for Wildcat fans was their team had been stopped all night, except for one drive that a fumble ended, and time was running out.

Hyder said despite Valdosta being able to rally, it's hard to coach that to kids.

"I like games like this and I've been in this business for 28 years," Hyder said. "You can't set up a situation like this by talking. It's hard for them to listen to us and understand it until they go through it. It's just a like a youngster who fails in the classroom — he doesn't understand what has happened until it's happened. Then he listens."

Trying to move against a stubborn defense in front of a vocal crowd can be trying and difficult. But the Wildcats rose to the occasion when they needed to.

Prior to the touchdown drive, Valdosta had just two offensive drives in the first half.

Neither team could move the ball on their first possession, and Valdosta took over at its own 45 after forcing Central's second punt of the game. Four plays later, the Wildcats had a first down at the Central 30-yard line.

William Dixon went up the middle for three yards, Mangham went up the middle for four and Dixon gained 10 for another first down at the 13.

Following a 3-yard run by Dixon, Mangham went off right tackle for seven, but fumbled and Central recovered.

"When we didn't score there, we just had to step back and regroup," Hyder said. "And I thought the kids fought back extremely hard."

The only other drive, which was aided by two penalties against the Yellow Jackets, ended with two consecutive losses and a Steward punt.

Central, meanwhile, had about the same offensive results. When the Yellow Jackets were on the move, a fumble ended the drive at the Valdosta 36. After holding the Wildcats and forcing a punt, Central took over at its own 22-yard line.

But three plays netted just three yards and the Yellow Jackets had to punt. On second down for the Wildcats, quarterback Greg Talley threw an interception and Central was in business at the Valdosta 37-yard line.

However, three plays were worth just seven yards and Todd Wilson came in to try a 47-yard field goal with only 25 seconds left in the half. But his kick was short and just wide to the right and the game remained scoreless.

The halftime statistics illustrate the type of defense the two teams were playing. Valdosta had 75 yards on 21 carries rushing the ball and had 29 through the air. Central was limited to 35 yards on 14 carries and 43 yards passing.

"It was a good hitting ball game, a lot of great collisions," Hyder said. "I tell you what, there are going to be some bruised up youngsters from both teams in the morning."



Valdosta Quarterback Greg Talley (1) Hands Off To William Dixon During 1st Quarter
Times Staff Photo by Nadine Shochet

Central Coach Charlie Greene is now 0-2 against his former team. The Wildcats won last year's game at Cleveland Field 35-7 in Greene's first return to Valdosta as a coach since leaving Valdosta to go to Stephens County in the early '70's.

"Our kids really played well," Greene said. "I can't ask for them to give any more than they did out there tonight. They just gave a tremendous effort."

Central made some offensive changes at the half and started running the option in the second half. And the change paid off. On their second possession, the Yellow Jackets drove 55 yards in 10 plays to set up a field goal by Wilson. The drive was highlighted by two field goals.



Julia Jeanette White

White-McDonald Wedding Slated

EASTMAN — Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Noles of Eastman announce the engagement of their daughter, Julia Jeanette White of Valdosta, to Ernest "Buddy" M. McDonald Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest M. McDonald Sr. of Valdosta.

of Kappa Delta Sorority, Cardinal Key, Phi Kappa Phi and was a Pi Kappa Phi Little Sister. She is employed by Valdosta High School. Her grandparents include Inez Noles of Eastman.

A Dec. 30 wedding is planned at Lee Street Baptist Church in Valdosta.

The groom-elect graduated from Valdosta High School and attended Valdosta State College. He is employed by McDonald's Nursery and Landscaping in Valdosta. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. E.J. McDonald and Mrs. G.W. Bennett of Valdosta.

The bride-elect graduated from Dodge County High School here and Valdosta State College where she was a member

Ruff's Shot Powers Wildcats To Finals

By TOMMY DESSELLE
Times Sports Editor

Stunned by a four-run Westover outburst in the first inning, Valdosta climbed off the canvas to kayo the Patriots in thrilling 1-AAAA high school baseball playoff action Monday afternoon.

Coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats have been battlers all season and it was again evident at Wright Bazemore Field. VHS rallied for four runs in the sixth, finally pulling even for the first time during the long, hot afternoon.

But, Westover struck for two runs in the top of the seventh and appeared headed for the region finals against Lowndes. However, someone forgot to tell VHS they were out of things.

Sophomore Dale Parker opened the seventh with a line single to center and pinch-runner Spencer Feix went to second when Darrell Swindle drew a walk.

Rugged catcher Mike Ruff, who had fanned three straight times, approached the plate with the Wildcat fans chanting for a hit. After a brief conference with Brooks, Ruff sent the VHS faithful home delighted. His three-run blast was the

The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

crowning blow in an 8-7 Wildcat victory.

"I was lucky, that's all," Ruff explained with a big grin. "Coach (Brooks) just told me to relax. I was expecting a curve and got it," Ruff added. "It's a super feeling, I knew it was gone as soon as I hit it."

Ruff's dramatic three-run homer improved VHS' record to 13-7 and sets the stage for the 1-AAAA finals Wednesday at Lowndes. Viking Coach Noel George won a coin toss yesterday, insuring the home field advantage for Lowndes.

LHS, 14-5, has defeated VHS three straight times this year, including once in the playoffs. However, the region title is at stake at 4 p.m. when the city rivals clash in the double elimination event.

The Cinderella Wildcats had their opportunities against Patriot southpaw Mike Murphey, but they could never deliver the knockout punch until the

seventh.

VHS loaded the sacks via walks in both the fourth and fifth frames and managed only a lone run. Murphey's control deserted him again in the sixth and VHS finally took advantage for three runs to square the contest.

"You might call us the 'Bad News Wildcats,'" Brooks said with a sly smile. "We don't hit the ball, we don't play good defense. All these kids do is battle teams. We've been able to come back all season and Monday was no exception."

Ashley DeLoach started on the mound for the Wildcats, but ran into control problems, brining on strong-armed Wayne Fugett in the first. Fugett, who worked Saturday, stymied the Patriots on one run and no hits until the seventh.

After Westover had gone ahead and had runners on first and third with one out,

junior David New came in to shut the door.

"Ashley was wild and we made some errors," Brooks said. "I thought Wayned did a great job. He gave it all he had and of course David did a fine job in relief," Brooks said.

The Wildcats committed three errors, two opening the gates for the four-run first and another boot igniting the two-run seventh.

"Seven runs and two of them earned. Well, we've been doing that all season," Brooks said. "Nothing has come easy, we've had to fight for everything."

The first inning could have been worse except for a spectacular play by Ruff and centerfielder Tim Dame. Ruff blocked Westover's John Piantieri and forced him to slide past the plate. Dame fired a perfect two-hop peg home and Ruff alterly pounced on him for the second out.

"That would have made it 3-0," Brooks said. The next batter had a hit and we made another error, so it was a very big play," the Wildcat mentor said.

Westover opened fast with Bobby Gresham singling to left and moving to third on an error by Feix. Piantieri drew a walk and DeLoach hit Ron Best to force in the first run.

Fugett came in and Murphey greeted him with a line single to center scoring Steve Sellers, but Dame nailed Piantieri at the plate. Bumpy Glenn lifted a soft fly to right that David Berryhill dropped, allowing two more runs across.

John Lastinger had a first inning single and David Parker bounced an infield hit off Tim Griner's chest at third in the second. However, Murphey was in command, striking out five of the first six outs.

The Wildcats broke through in the third. Lastinger lofted an opposite field single to left, stole second, went to third on a wild pitch and scored on Fugett's single to left.

Westover matched it with a tally in the fourth. Fugett walked Murphey and uncorked a wild pitch, sending pinch-runner Biff Brimberry to second. Another walk,

sacrifice and wild pitch sent Brimberry home for a 5-1 Patriot lead.

With Murphey struggling to regain his control in the fourth rhythmic clapping broke out in the stands. Walks to Dame, David Parker and Swindle loaded the bases, but Ruff fanned to end the inning.

Dame made another field gem in the fifth. With Piantieri abroad via a one-out walk, Dame gloved Ron Best's liner and threw to Lastinger at first for a double play.

The Wildcats threatened again in the fifth, but couldn't produce a clutch hit. Walks to Lastinger, Fugett and Dame filled the bases with one out.

However, Murphey fanned John Bond and Dale Parker,

allowing just one run on a bases loaded walk to David Parker.

Fugett survived a scare in the sixth, walking two batters before retiring the side.

With the plate jumping and the Wildcat bench and fans cheering for a ball on every pitch, Murphey walked Swindle, Ruff and Lastinger in the sixth.

Fugett brought Swindle home with a sacrifice fly to right and Ruff crossed as DeLoach grounded out. Dame lained a shot back through the box that bounced off Murphey's leg, sending Lastinger home for a 5-5 tie.

VHS couldn't stand prosperity and was promptly in hot water again. With one out in the seventh, Steve

Sellers singled to left and raced to third on Fugett's wild pickoff throw to first.

Piantieri followed with a line single to center and a 6-5 Trojan lead. Best drew a walk and Murphey's single to center chased Piantieri home for a 7-5 score. New came in and struck out the last two batters.

It was now or never for the 'Cats in the seventh and they responded in brilliant fashion. Dale Parker singled and pinch-runner Feix raced to third on Murphey's wild pickoff attempt. Swindle walked for the third straight time and pinch-runner Andy Chapman stole second base.

That set the stage for Ruff and the veteran Wildcat receiver sent a curve ball

over the leftfield fence, a 340-foot blast. It was his fourth of the season, but the biggest of his young life.

Sharing the hero's mantle with Ruff was Lastinger, 2-2; Dame, 1-2, plus two solid defensive plays and Fugett and New, with clutch relief pitching.

"It was another team effort," Brooks said. "Everyone (15 players) who played made a contribution."

The game was umpired by the Albany association. "We agreed the loser of the coin toss could supply the umpires," Brooks said. "With all the coin tosses and uncertainty over which team would play, there wasn't time to contact a neutral association."



Fugett Retires Murphey On Pop Up To Mound

—Times Staff Photos By Robert Winter III.

Wildcat Box

WHS	ab	h	r	bi	VHS	ab	h	r	bi
Ernds 2b	3	0	0	0	Ruff c	4	2	1	3
Gsham c	4	1	1	0	Lstgr lb	2	3	2	0
Seler dh	4	2	1	0	Fuget 3b,p,lf	2	0	1	2
Pntie cf	2	1	1	1	Dloch p,3b	4	0	0	1
Best lf	2	1	0	1	Dame cf	2	0	1	0
Murphy p	3	1	2	2	Bond lf	2	0	0	0
Glenn ss	3	0	0	0	Dav. P. ss	2	0	1	0
Wilson lb	2	0	0	0	Feix 2b,pr	1	1	0	0
Grner 3b	1	0	0	0	Bhill rf	1	0	0	0
Lane rf	0	0	0	0	Weich pr	0	0	0	0
Bmbyr pr	0	1	0	0	Swldr rf	0	1	0	0
TOTALS	24	7	5	4	D. P. ph,2b	3	0	1	0
					Weldn ph	0	0	1	0
					New lf,p	0	0	0	0
					Cpmanpr	0	1	0	0
					TOTALS	23	8	7	7

Westover 400 100 2-7-52
Valdosta 001 013 3-8-73
E — Berryhill, Feix, Wilson, Fugett,
Murphey; DP—VHS 1; LOB—WHS 7, VHS 11.
HR — Ruff, SB — Sellers, Lastinger, New,
Chapman; S — Griner 2, Bond; SF — Fugett.

Murphey (L, 8-3) ip h r er bb so
DeLoach 6 7 8 5 12 10
Fugett 1 3 1 3 1 1 0
New (W, 3-1) 6 4 4 1 1 5
HBP — Best (by DeLoach); WP —
Murphey 2, Fugett 2; PB — Gresham 2.



VDT 5-15-79

—Times Staff Photos By Robert Winter III.

John Lastinger Scores Tying Run And Is Mobbed By Jubilant Wildcats

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Tradition-rich Valdosta playing for another title

Continued from 1C

1977



—Times Staff Photo

The Smarts: Mother-Son STAR's STAR's At VHS 'All In Family'

By Times Staff Writer
When George Smart was notified he was Valdosta High School's STAR student the 17-year-old senior knew he'd have no problem selecting his STAR teacher.

"The teacher," Smart of 2304 Oakridge Drive explained after being recognized at Friday's Kiwanis Club luncheon, "had to be the one who had made the greatest contribution to my education.

"That couldn't be anyone but my mother."

His mother is Martha Smart, widow of Allan Smart "who would be very proud of his son's hard work," she said.

Mrs. Smart taught her son in a 10-th grade biology class at VHS. A graduate of Valdosta State College, the

former medical technologist has been teaching at the Valdosta High for seven years.

"I'm so very proud," she said.

Indeed. The STAR student is the senior who scored the highest on last fall's Scholastic Aptitude Test, and Smart's undisclosed score is one of the highest at VHS in years, according to VHS guidance counselor Virginia Wisenbaker.

He'll next enter district competition sponsored by Kiwanis in Albany March 16.

STAR is Student, Teacher Achievement Recognition begun about 20 years ago by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. The student received a pin and the teacher a charm Friday.

"I'll probably study mechanical engineering," Smart said. "Maybe at Rice University" where his older brother John is a senior majoring in engineering.

Valdosta, which straddles the railroad tracks of the Seaboard Coast Line, has been such a regular winner in many sports that a few years ago the city acquired the nickname Winnersville, USA. The sobriquet sounded so good that several businesses, such as Winnersville Realty, incorporated it in their names.

"Winning is something folks around here have come to expect," said David Waller, a self-made air-conditioning millionaire who, like many men in town, played for the Wildcats, as did his son after him.

Valdosta always has enjoyed a certain amount of fame. It was the boyhood home of the notorious gunslinger Doc Holliday, whose father was mayor. TV actor Sonny Shroyer, who plays Enos on *The Dukes of Hazzard* and played football for the Wildcats, still lives in Valdosta.

But the locals insist it was the town that made such folks famous, not the other way around. Football has put Valdosta on the map since 1913, when former *Valdosta Times* editor Turner Rockwell coached the team to a 3-1-2 record, its only loss at the hands of Sparks Junior College.

Today, the 12,000 seats at Cleveland Field are sold out for every game. Season gate receipts total \$250,000. The \$20 season tickets have been part of divorce settlements, handed down in wills and negotiated in salary contracts.

Hyder, a Baptist deacon who says proudly he coaches with "a rule book in one hand and the Bible in the other," has six assistants, including defensive coach Jack Rudolph, who played eight years in the NFL. There are also 11 junior high school coaches and several midget football leagues, where youths are taught the way of the Wildcats.

For, as a popular saying in Valdosta goes: "The boys live for the day they can put on the black and gold and the daddies live for the day they can do it."

You might say the overwhelming football enthusiasm of this religious, conservative, solidly middle-class city thrives because there aren't many other distractions, except for two twin-cinemas and 21 tennis courts.

But that's the way people like it, says mayor Ernest Nijem. "There are two definites in Valdosta," says Nijem, a former Wildcats guard. "On Sunday, everybody goes to church. On Friday, everybody goes to the football game."

Football is so close to religion that Hyder, when delivering a sermon at the First Baptist Church, says he sometimes reminds the congregation that "God also loves Joe Wilson (Lowndes County high school coach) just as much as He loves Nick Hyder."

It's not that football is a matter of life or death. It's the fabric that defines the community's fierce loyalties.

Three-mile-long motorcades organized by the 1,200-member Touchdown Club are not uncommon. Neighbors have been known not to speak for years if one is a supporter of the Lowndes County Vikings and the other a Wildcats fan.

And when the Vikings and Wildcats clash in the annual Winnersville Classic, many shopkeepers won't banner either team for fear of losing business. As Wright Bazemore, former Wildcats coach of 30 years, said, "It's the social life."

But it's a social life that, at times, can get mighty unsociable. After Bazemore, who at 68 still boasts as being "as cocky as ever," retired with 15 state titles and three national championships, his successor and former assistant, Charlie Greene, was all but run out of town. He posted 9-1 and 8-2 records, but not the "expected" championships.

Hyder admits that at times only his strong religious convictions have pulled him through.

One Thursday a few years ago, the board of education wanted to give Hyder a raise because coaches in nearby Tift County had bigger salaries. But two days later, after the Wildcats struggled to a second-half win (28-0) in a spring exhibition game, it threatened to fire Hyder.

"Pressure," Hyder said, laughing. "All they tell me here is 'win.'"

And win they do, not only with quarterbacks like John Laster and Buck Belue, who went on to lead the University of Georgia Bulldogs, but with players who go no farther than Valdosta State College or the lumber, turpentine and paper companies around town.

"You learn a lot about life playing football here," said senior quarterback Berke Holtzclaw, whose father was an end on three former state championship teams. "You learn how to be a man. And how to get your priorities in order."

One priority put smoothly in order in the late '60s was integration of the community's one-third black population into the high school student body, now 50-50 black and white.

"The Wildcats are the thread that unify the community," said Jon Burch, president of the Touchdown Club.

They also seem to be the thread that ties succeeding generations to Valdosta.

"I've had plenty of opportunity to leave here and make more money," said Scott Alderman, 27, a real estate company property manager. "The big reason I don't leave is football. It's magical. It's almost a tangible thing you can touch and feel."

'Cats Rebound With Win Over Atkinson Co. 1977

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

After suffering through a disappointing Region 1-AAAA South sub-region loss to Central of Thomasville on Friday night, Valdosta coach Mike O'Brien was worried how his team would perform against non sub-region opponent Atkinson County Saturday night at the VHS Gym.

But Wildcat center Wallace Campbell made sure the 'Cats would not suffer through their second loss in as many nights. Campbell, a senior, scored a career-high 31 points to lead Valdosta (11-4) to a 59-52 win over the Rebels (8-6).

"Wallace did a super job," O'Brien said. "And we did a good job of getting the ball to him in a position to score."

In the opener, the Rebelettes simply overpowered the Lady 'Cats, 64-42.

The Wildcats had several opportunities in the fourth quarter to

put the game out of reach. However, the 'Cats, who hit 11 of 24 free throws for the game, made just three of 12 charity tosses in the fourth quarter. They missed five front ends of one-and-ones.

"This is probably the poorest night we have had this season," O'Brien said. "We couldn't hit anything out there tonight. And Atkinson County started hitting from outside to get back into the game."

"The team was very dejected after last night's game. And I'm sure that had something to do with the way we played. But Atkinson had a lot to do with the way we played also."

Trailing 44-36 heading into the fourth quarter, the Rebels outscored Valdosta 8-4 to draw within four at 48-44 with 4:33 left.

But the 'Cats answered with five straight points. Following a short jumper by Jerome Berrian which increased the lead to six, Derrick Folsom stole a pass and went the length of the court for a layup. Folsom added a free throw to complete the three-point play and give Valdosta a nine-point lead.

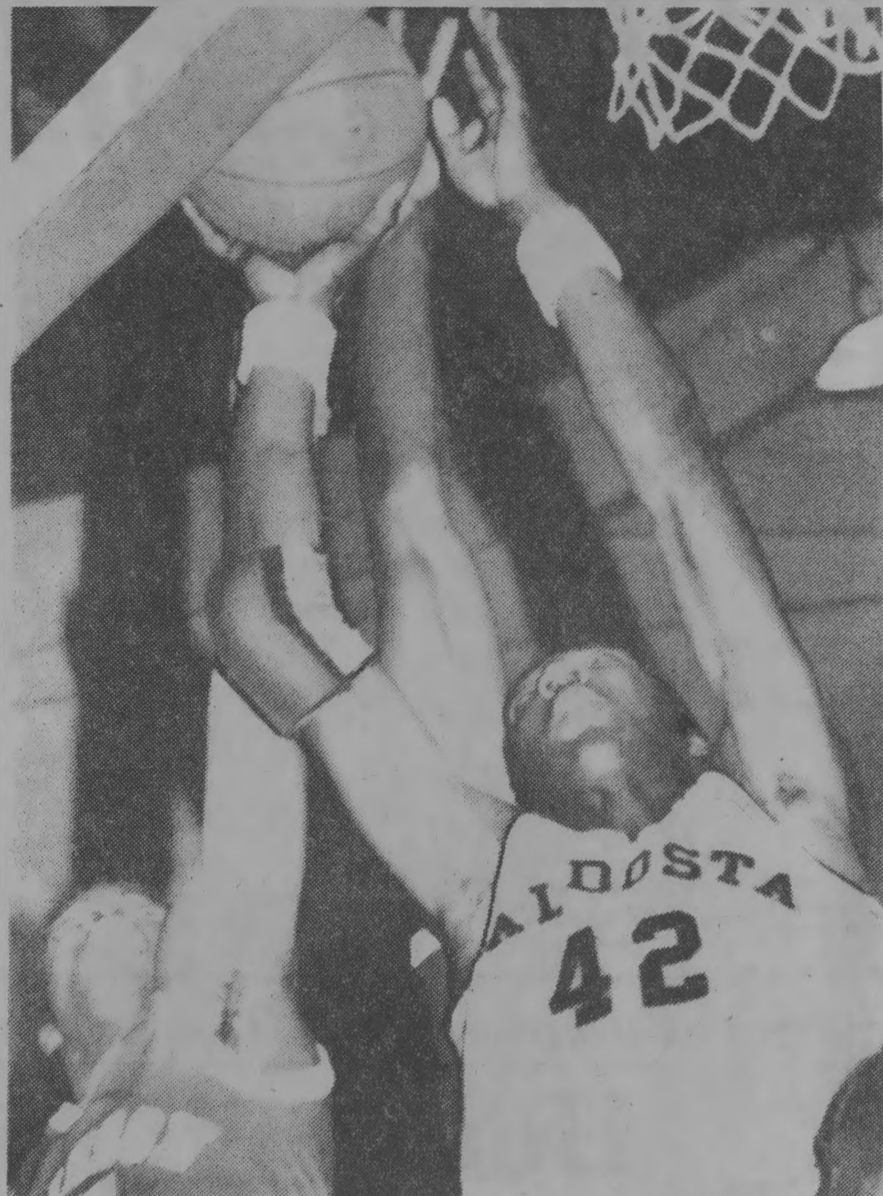
"Those two baskets may have been the key to us holding on to the win," O'Brien said.

The Rebels made one last run at the 'Cats. Outscoring Valdosta 8-2, Atkinson County closed to within three points at 55-52 on a layup by Jamie Lock with 1:35 left.

Lock stole the inbounds pass and scored, but the basket was nullified when Lock was called for an offensive foul.

Following a Valdosta turnover, the Rebels had three opportunities to close the gap to one, but could not get the ball to drop.

"This is a very tired basketball team," said O'Brien. "We have now



Times Staff Photo by Joey Ivansco

Valdosta's Wallace Campbell (42) Scored A Career-High 31 Points

played four games in seven days. And we have to get ready for a sub-region game with Thomasville Tuesday night.

"We are going to work on our defense during Monday's practice. We didn't play it very well tonight."

Scott Gillis led the Rebels with 12 points. Greg Freeman had 11 and

Jerry Wesley had 10.

The Lady 'Cats (4-11) led only briefly in the first quarter before the Rebelettes (12-3) pulled away for the easy victory.

Brenda and Elaine Kay poured in 16 points each for the Rebelettes.

Valdosta was paced by Ronnie Melvin with 11.

Girls Game				
Atkinson County	18	33	49	64
Valdosta	12	20	28	42

INDIVIDUAL STATS			
Atkinson County	— B. Kay 16, E. Kay 16, Wilson 3, Condrey 10, Washington 7, Bailey 8, Floyd 2, Roberts 2		
Valdosta	— Elder 3, Melvin 11, Henderson 9, C. Weatherspoon 2, S. Weatherspoon 8, W. Irvin 7, L. Irvin 2		

TEAM STATS			
Atkinson County	— Field Goals 25, Free Throws 14-26, Fouls 14		
Valdosta	— Field Goals 18, Free Throws 6-15, Fouls 17		

Boys Game				
Atkinson County	6	17	36	52
Valdosta	6	26	44	59

INDIVIDUAL STATS			
Atkinson County	— Wesley 10, Freeman 11, Gillis 12, H. Lock 4, J. Lock 2, Bentley 6, Johnson 7		
Valdosta	— Campbell 31, Daniels 2, Folsom 3, Berrian 14, Walker 4, Parker 5		

TEAM STATS			
Atkinson County	— Field Goals 22, Free Throws 8-12, Fouls 20		
Valdosta	— Field Goals 24, Free Throws 11-24, Fouls 12		

Valdosta Golfers Edge Lowndes

From Staff Reports

The Lowndes and Valdosta High golf teams only got in 15 holes Monday afternoon at the Valdosta Country Club before darkness forced them into the clubhouse.

But that was enough to determine a winner.

Valdosta nipped Lowndes 297-308. Valdosta's Walter Altman was low man with a 70. David Powers was low for Lowndes with a 74.

Lowndes was slated to return to action this afternoon in Moultrie.

VHS FBLA Elections

By Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High School chapter of Future Business Leaders of America held its first club meeting Sept. 10 for the purpose of electing the following officers for 1984-85:

Pamela D. Williams, president; Frankee D. Keeling, vice-president; Kimberly Rowe, secretary; Sherry Murajda, treasurer; Stan Newman, parliamentarian; Kim Brown, fund raising chairman; April Linder, social chairman; Michelle Alligood, school projects chairman; Linda G. Johnson, reporter; Karen Jenkins, historian; Rebecca Staley, community projects chairman.

VHS's Dasher Plays Golf Classic

ATHENS — Howard Dasher of Valdosta shot 105-95-200 in the Georgia State Independent Insurance Agents Youth Golf Classic on Monday and Tuesday.

The Valdosta High student will compete in the club championship this coming Monday and Tuesday at the Valdosta Country Club. He plans to go out for golf and wrestling this school year.

Valdosta Cagers Close Out Springs

1977

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta's 48-43 win over Clinch County Monday night in the spring basketball game for both teams at the VHS Gym was probably a bit deceiving for all parties concerned.

The Wildcats, for example, had just two starters playing off of last season's Region 1-AAAA South champion team. The third returning starter, Derrick "Kool" Folsom missed spring practice because of track.

And VHS coach Mike O'Brien let his second-string players go the entire second quarter which allowed Clinch to stay in a game that otherwise probably would have been a blowout. O'Brien pulled his starters again with 2:40 remaining and the 'Cats up 44-33.

The substitute 'Cats couldn't hold the lead. Clinch's Hosie Williams, who led all scorers with 14 points, scored eight unanswered points, all of them on shots of 10 feet or more. Clinch pulled to within 45-43 and Valdosta turned the ball over at the half-court line with 37 seconds left before O'Brien put his starters back in.

Valdosta and Clinch split the four games they played Tuesday by gender. The Clinch girls beat the Lady 'Cats 64-44 and the Clinch B-team girls beat VHS 38-33. The VHS B-team boys won 28-26.

"We put in our smaller kids who are supposedly better ballhandlers and it backfired," O'Brien said of his moves in the varsity boys game. "They (Clinch) started throwing up some missiles that went in."

Clinch coach Henry Moylan didn't seem too disappointed with his team's performance considering that the Panthers had just four days of spring practice and only one starter is back from last season, Terry Swinson.

"I reckon we've got to play heads-up," said Moylan. "We're going to have to get in people's faces and be more aggressive. I think we play better when we do that."

He admitted Clinch's comeback had to be taken in context.

"We jumped on some young kids," Moylan said. "There's no doubt we would have had a

harder time coming back if they had had their starters in there."

Valdosta led 11-9 at the end of the first quarter when O'Brien put his starters on the bench. To their credit, the second-line 'Cats ran off four unanswered points to build a 15-9 lead. Then Clinch, which was also substituting freely, rallied to make it a 21-19 game at halftime.

Things got serious in the third quarter as Valdosta slowly started to pull away from Clinch, building leads of eight points twice. The 'Cats led 33-27 at the end of the third quarter.

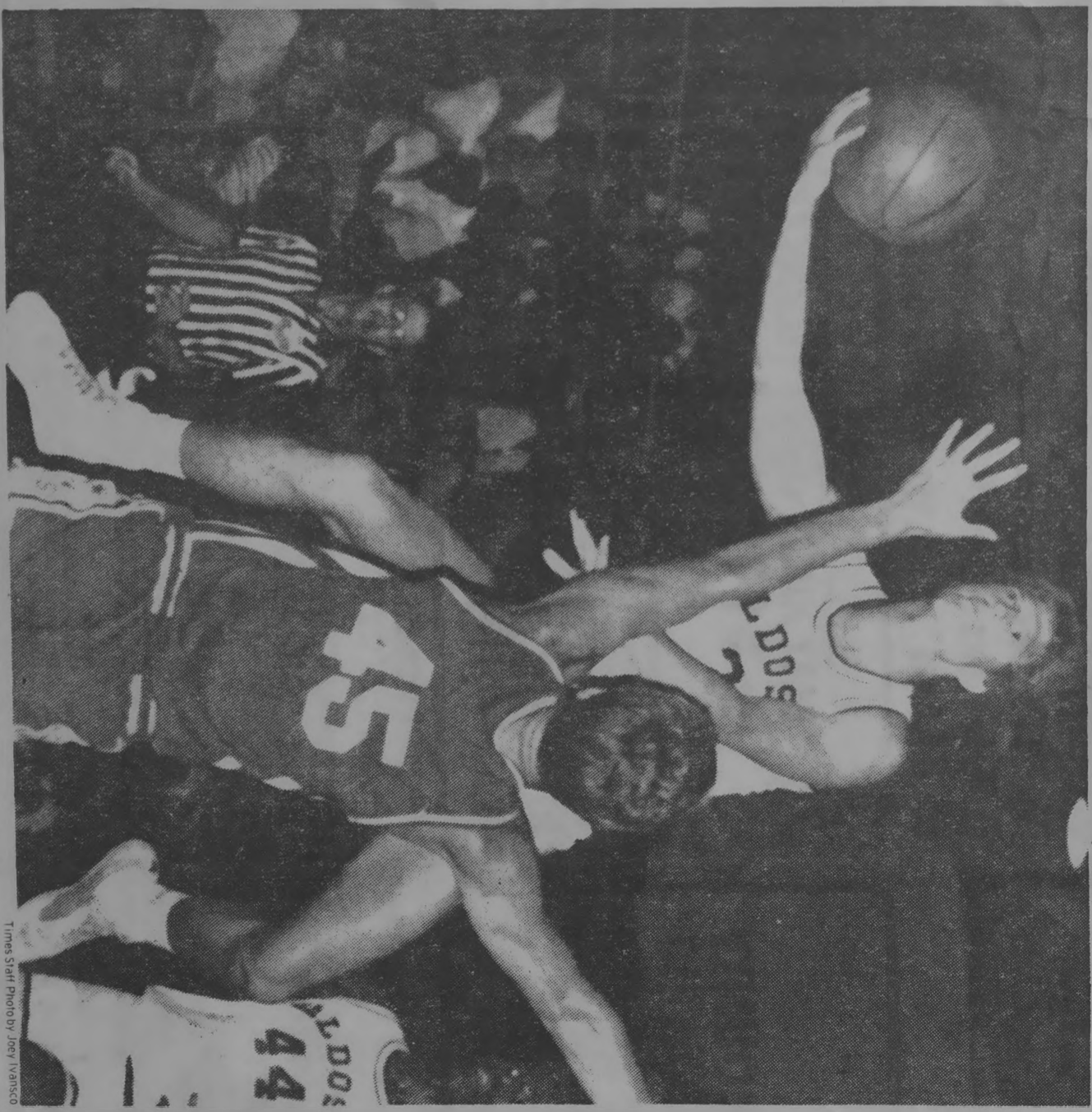
The 'Cats continued to cruise in the final period and a one-handed jam by Wallace Campbell that made it 42-32 seemingly sealed the game for the 'Cats. But when the substitutes couldn't hang on, the VHS starters had to return in the final minute.

"We feel like potentially we can be better," said O'Brien, who has been coach of the 'Cats for the last two seasons. "We lose Jerome Berrian who gave us steady outside shooting and rebounding and we lose Moses Daniels who gave us defense and ball-handling at point guard. But we feel like with practice and experience, we're going to have two to replace them at those two spots who are not as good, but give us more depth than we had last year."

Campbell and Victor Walker, the two returning starters who played, led the 'Cats with 10 points apiece.

"One thing that hurt Wallace (Campbell) was I felt he was trying to do too much on offense," O'Brien said. "If they're going to pack in on Wallace (which the Panthers did much of the night), then we're going to do something else like get the ball out to Victor. We put him on Wallace's side in the third quarter and he had the outside shot until they had to come out and get him."

"We got off to our usual slow start," Lady 'Cats coach James Studstill said. The Pantherettes, led by returning starter Maria Lupo, put the game away early as they jumped out to a 16-8 lead at the end of the first quarter. Clinch led 31-19 at the half.



Mac McGuyrt Takes It To The Hoop For 2 Of His 5 Points

Times Staff Photo by Jeff Vaisco

VHS Parade Today 1977

From Times Staff Reports
A portion of Patterson Street will be blocked off today for about 45 minutes due to Valdosta High School's annual homecoming parade.

Due to misinformation given *The Times*, it was erroneously reported in Thursday's edition the parade would be Thursday.

The parade begins at 4 p.m. today at the intersection of Ann and Patterson streets. It will end at the intersection of Magnolia and Patterson streets.

The stretch of Patterson Street between those two streets will be blocked off to traffic beginning at 4 p.m., according to acting Assistant Chief of Valdosta Police J. T. Copeland.

1977 Marchin' Cats Compete

The Marchin' Cats Band of Valdosta High School will travel to Apopka, Fla., Friday to compete in the Eighth Annual Southern Classic.

Competition consists of a concert Friday and a field show Saturday.

The Symphonic Band will play in concert Friday afternoon at Apopka High School.

The field show competition is scheduled at AHS Stadium Saturday morning.

Awards for Best in Class, Best Symphonic, Best Field Show and Sweepstakes will be presented following the marching competition.

The band will rehearse its field show at VHS Tuesday and Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m.

Pair Shares More Than GSA Award

By DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
Times Staff Writer

Liza Wallace and Christine Buel are two very different people in some respects. One is dark, the other fair. One is extroverted, the other more reserved. One hopes for a show business career, the other wants to study medicine.

But in other ways they are very much alike. Both Valdosta High School students are nominees for the governors honors for excellence; one in drama, the other in biology.

And they share another distinction. The two juniors tied for the 'best performance by an actress' award in a Georgia School Association drama contest this fall.

They also share a commitment to theatre which gradually drew them together as close friends this semester.

The two girls and four other students were chosen from a field of 50 auditioners to perform in 'The Outcasts of Poker Flat', a one-act play adapted from a Bret Hart short story set in the 1850's.

Miss Wallace, the shier of the two, played a fair-haired dance-hall girl dubbed 'Duchess' and the more outspoken Miss Buel played an 'innocent' cabin dweller living in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California.

Miss Buel comes from a family of performers and said she first got involved in theatre because it was almost a foregone conclusion.

"In my family, it was sort of expected. Luckily, I got involved and I love it. It is my energy," she said.

Her drama coach said Miss Buel asked her, on the heels of their performance for GSA, 'what about the spring?' Miss Buel said she wants to make a career in theatre, but is hesitant to commit herself to the 'starving actor' lifestyle.

She played the pre-adolescent Helen Keller in a production of 'The Miracle Worker' as a child and first worked in 'Carousel' at age 6.

Recently she won first place in a regional oral interpretation competition with a piece from 'Belle of Amherst' as Emily Dickenson.

While Miss Buel tends toward straight drama, Miss Wallace enjoys singing roles more. She sang in a production of 'Oliver' when she was an eighth grader and has performed singing roles since.

While she intends to work in theatre while she attends college, she wants a career in biology or medicine. Her "dream" is to attend Emory University. But first, she is saving money for a trip to France upon graduation from high school. She sandwiched three-hour rehearsals between school and a part-time job this semester to pay for the adventure.

The pair shared the stage of 'Outcasts' with a drunk, a 'madam', another 'innocent' and a gambler, played respectively by Barry Golivesky, Leah Jaszczak, Toby Baskin, and Philip Meeks.

The troupe won second place in the overall GSA competition for dramatic performances.

Miss Wallace and Miss Buel said the success of their efforts depends largely on the talents and patience of their director, Lee Pulliam. Ms. Pulliam is a teacher and the chairman of the English department at Valdosta High.

Although she has many duties, she finds excess time and energy for the play rehearsals having once been a performer herself who can't quite close the curtain on drama. Ms. Pulliam has directed various groups since her



Times Staff Photo by Susan Griffith

Christine Buel, Liza Wallace Act Out Scene

college days, and said she enjoys working with high school students because "they're fun and energetic and a joy."

Her students say she knows the limits of an exhausted cast at the end of an 11-hour day, and knows when to back off and let them release the stress built up over a season of demanding

rehearsals and schedules.

Her easy-going manner may well contribute to the sense of "family" the performers say they felt at the conclusion of this production.

Miss Buel and Miss Wallace were casual acquaintances when they began; now they claim "best friend" status.

Command Change

By C/LT James Trent

On Feb. 19 the Valdosta High NJROTC held a ceremonial change of command. C/LCDR Joseph Gombas, former commanding officer, completed his period of command and C/LCDR Melanie Seals, former executive officer, took the helm. C/LT James Trent is now the executive officer by promotion. Along with the change of command, there were officer promotions.

They are as follows: C/LT Melanie Seals to C/LCDR, C/LT(JG) James Trent to C/LT, C/ENS Gregory Bell to C/LT(JG), C/ENS Derrick Cain to C/LT(JG), C/ENS Jerald R. Smart to C/LT(JG), C/CPO Anthony Browning to C/ENS, C/CPO Thomas Gonzalez to C/ENS, C/CPO Adolphus Kimmons to C/ENS, and C/CPO Marcus Nelson to C/ENS.

1979



Eric Anderson will be the only VHS tennis player representing the Wildcats in the state tournament. Anderson, a junior, has lost only three matches, all to Kyle Hiers of Colquitt County. Eric is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Buck Anderson of Valdosta.



Eagle Scout

Derrick Cain, 17-year-old son of Altee and Lois Cain of Valdosta, received the Eagle Scout award at First Baptist Church here. Alan Carter, scoutmaster of Troop 403, presented the award in the Nov. 4 ceremony. For his Eagle Scout project, Cain surveyed interconnections in the surrounding area and presented his findings to Dave Moody, former city engineer. He has earned 34 merit badges. Cain is a junior at Valdosta High School where he is a member of Naval JROTC and is on the cross-country and track teams. Derrick plans to enter the Navy following graduation. — Times Staff Photo By Susan Griffith.