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Valdosta High School

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Hyder Nears 200th VHS Win, 300th Game

Times 8-25-91

By GREG McILVAIN
Football 1991 Editor

Many high school football programs would love to be able to say they have won 200 games. Many would love to say they have a head coach whose teams have won 200 games.

By the middle of the upcoming football season, the winningest high school football program in the county may be able to boast of two 200-game winners just from Valdosta High games.

Valdosta High's Nick Hyder needs six victories to win his 200th game with the Wildcats. His 17-year record stands at 194-27-2. When you add in his six years at West Rome High prior to his arrival in Valdosta, Hyder's record is 247-39-5 — eighth on Georgia's all-time win list. He needs two wins to pass Jim Cavan — Valdosta State head coach Mike Cavan's father — and move into seventh place.

In addition, the game at Coffee High on Nov. 1 will be Hyder's 300th game as a high school coach.

Twenty-one men have won 200 games or more in their Georgia high school coaching careers, led by the late Wayman Creel (315-105-12). Valdosta's own Wright Bazemore is fourth (268-51-7) on the list.

Among active coaches, only Mary Persons' Dan Pitts (270-94-4, fourth overall) and Dalton's Bill Chappell (254-62-2, sixth overall) have more wins than Hyder.

But there's more to Hyder than the wins and losses. More than the six state and two national titles his teams have won. More than the back-to-back state titles and 22-game unbeaten streak the Wildcats bring to the 1991 season.

Bazemore's First Game To Be Remembered

The 50th anniversary of Wright Bazemore's first football game as Valdosta High's head coach will be remembered in pregame ceremonies prior to the Valdosta-Jess Lanier game at Cleveland Field on Sept. 20.

The first game for Bazemore's Wildcats was played on Sept. 19, 1941, when Valdosta defeated Camilla, 53-0. VHS went on to finish 9-2

"I wish I could list all the things he's meant to the community. There's no one thing you could describe. There's so many good things," said David Waller, chairman of the school board, long-time treasurer for the Valdosta Touchdown Club and a close friend of Hyder.

"He's meant to Valdosta football what most parents are looking for in a coach who coaches their children," added Jay Clark, the Wildcats' play-by-play broadcaster on WAAZ-FM radio. "He is the epitome of what the priorities in coaching should be."

Mention the upcoming milestone to Hyder, and he won't directly comment on it. Hyder's more concerned about the next practice, the next day, the next game.

But he will pass the credit around, like he always will.

"There are so many thousands of people over the years who have been involved in that," said Hyder about his record. "I think of ankles, cracked fingers, emotions, tempers, youngsters and coaches who have poured their hearts out, hours of practice, early-morning workouts, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, our touchdown club, our community, administration, my church ..."

And that doesn't include the contributions of Hyder's wife, June, who has helped players find jobs and stay in school through the Rent-A-Cat program.

If you look at the list of all-time winningest coaches, you find that most were the most successful coaches at their schools. Valdosta has two men on the list — and many still consider Hyder the new coach at VHS compared to Bazemore.

"I really don't think people appreciate what we have. They don't know what they have in coach Bazemore and coach Hyder," said Waller. "They don't realize what they have,

that season, losing twice to Thomasville.

Bazemore had come from Waycross before the 1940 season to be an assistant coach at Valdosta High under Bobby Hooks. That team won the Wildcats' first state title.

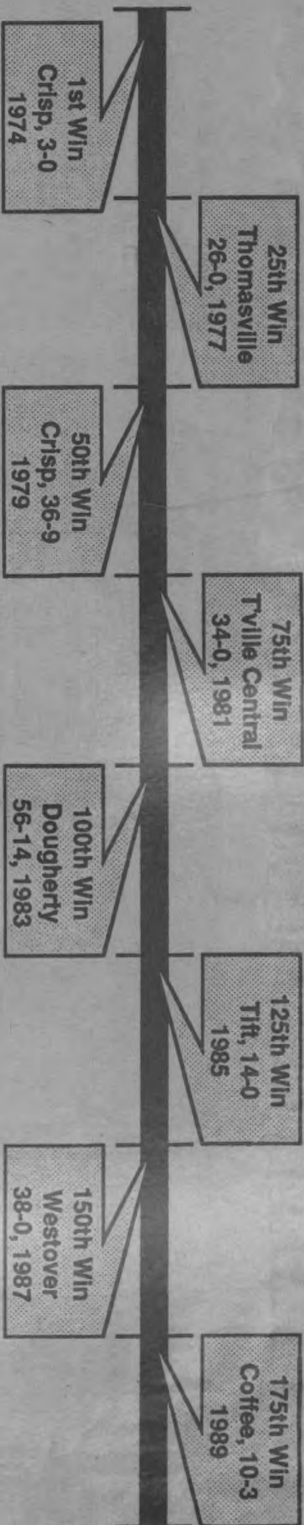
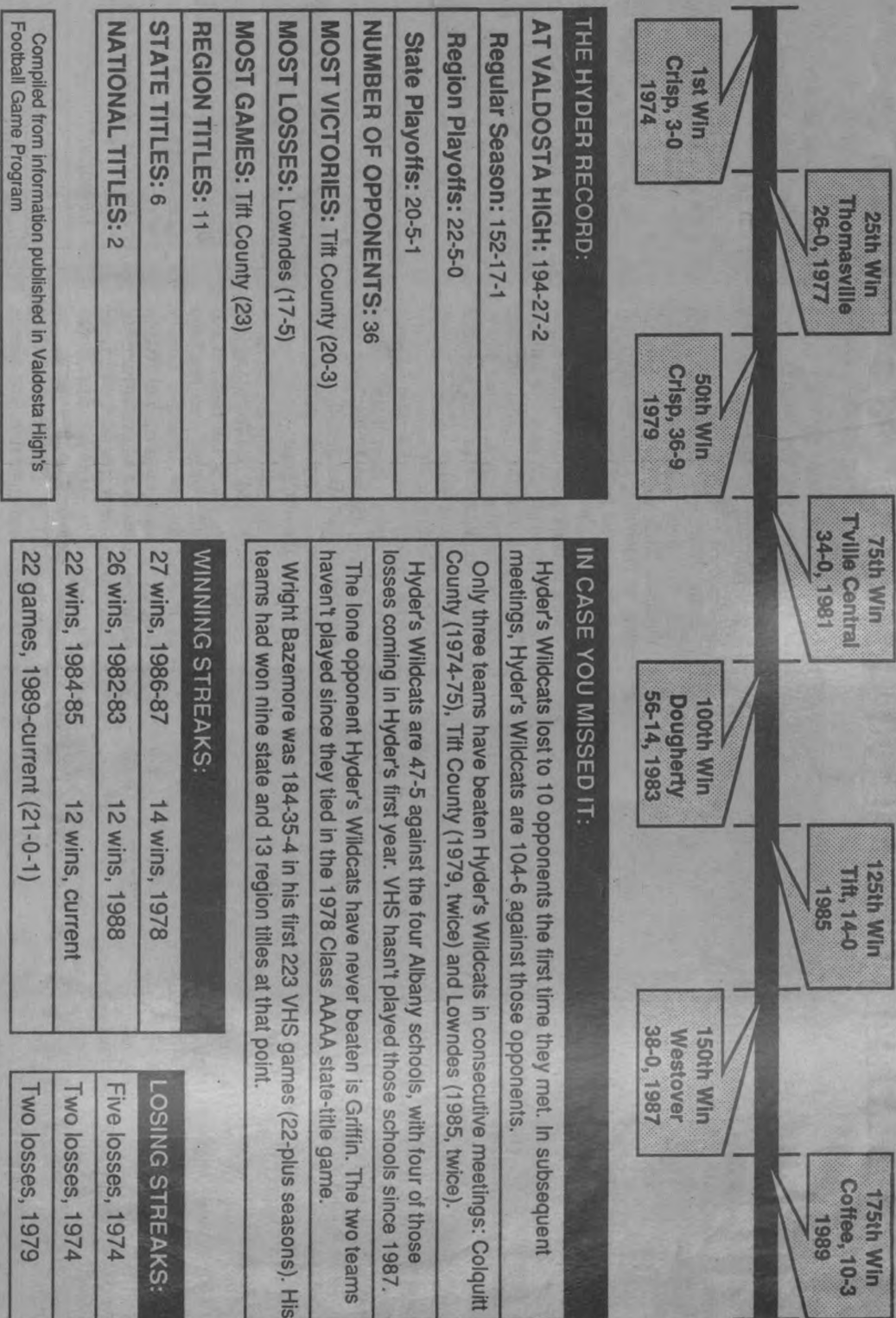
Bazemore, a Fitzgerald native who played his college ball at Mercer, went on to a 268-51-7 record, leading

the Wildcats to 14 state and three "mythical" national titles.

The Valdosta Touchdown Club plans to invite members from that team to that night's game, which pits the defending large-school state champions from Georgia and Alabama.

More details about the ceremony will be announced at a later date.

THE ROAD TO NICK HYDER'S 200TH VALDOSTA HIGH WIN



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

Hyder's Wildcats lost to 10 opponents the first time they met. In subsequent meetings, Hyder's Wildcats are 104-6 against those opponents.

Only three teams have beaten Hyder's Wildcats in consecutive meetings: Colquitt County (1974-75), Tift County (1979, twice) and Lowndes (1985, twice).

Hyder's Wildcats are 47-5 against the four Albany schools, with four of those losses coming in Hyder's first year. VHS hasn't played those schools since 1987.

The lone opponent Hyder's Wildcats have never beaten is Griffin. The two teams haven't played since they tied in the 1978 Class AAAA state-title game.

Wright Bazemore was 184-35-4 in his first 223 VHS games (22-plus seasons). His teams had won nine state and 13 region titles at that point.

WINNING STREAKS:

27 wins, 1986-87	14 wins, 1978
26 wins, 1982-83	12 wins, 1988
22 wins, 1984-85	12 wins, current
22 games, 1989-current (21-0-1)	

LOSING STREAKS:

Five losses, 1974
Two losses, 1974
Two losses, 1979

and they're really missing something."

"Coach Bazemore was the best coach in his day that he could be. Coach Hyder is the best type of coach in his day that he can be. Everything is different. It's a different era," said Valdosta Touchdown Club president Scott Alderman.

"I don't know if coach Hyder could be as successful in Bazemore's era with his (Hyder's) style of coaching, and I don't think Bazemore could have been as successful with his type of coaching in Hyder's era. We're lucky to have the kind of coach you need to have in this era."

Bazemore's First Game To Be Remembered

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The Valdosta Touchdown Club plans to invite members from that team to that night's game, which pits the defending large-school state champions from Georgia and Alabama.

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Making New Friends In School Made Easier

By SUSAN A. SMIGIELSKI
Times Staff Writer

With the beginning of school comes some new fears; one of them can be making new friends.

Change is difficult for most people, especially teen-agers who are not sure of themselves. There are some tips to keep in mind.

Larry Creamer, a counselor at Valdosta High School, said the best way to make friends at school is to become active in clubs and extracurricular activities.

"There is a wide variety of out-of-class activities from band to chorus to athletics to service clubs to class-related clubs that a student can join," he said.

"No matter what, there is an activity the student will have an interest in."

Even if the student has a slight interest in the subject, Creamer said he should pursue it.

"If he becomes involved, he can further develop that interest or talent," he said.

This way the student is able to develop an identity in the school and not be an outsider.

"We are always an outsider until we get involved," Creamer said. "We are also on the outside looking in until we take the initiative to get involved."

The student handbook is a perfect way to pursue an interest, he said.

Many students simply do not want to be in school, but Creamer said they need to accept 'I am here and I need to make the best of it.'

"They need to take on a new thinking and take part in such things as pep rallies," Creamer said.

This is also a way to become closer to the faculty, who may offer future advice.

According to the August issue of the teen magazine, *The New Era*, there are other tips to remember, such as the other students are scared, too.

"Try to make it easier for potential friends to approach you by smiling and introducing yourself. If you are feeling brave, you could invite someone you've just met to do something with you after school."

Cliques should be ignored. Thinking that getting into the popular group will solve your problems may actually create new ones. If the clique decides what is cool in music, clothes and activities, then the student loses his individuality. Look for friends who like you as you are.

Keeping busy is also important. Do not wait for friends to provide happiness, but do things you enjoy doing.

Include the excluded. These may be the most interesting and best friends ever; they are just shy.

Offense

V. Times

8-25-91

By MIKE CRUBB
Football 1991 Writer

After back-to-back Class AAAA state football championships, there's one question that will be on the minds of most Valdosta High Wildcat fans: Is there a third-straight state title in the Cats future?

However, before that question can be answered, a couple of other questions must first be laid to rest on the offensive side of the football for the nation's winningest high school football program. One question that comes to mind — who will take over the quarterback opening created by the graduation of two-year starter Alton Hitson? All Hitson, who signed with Georgia Southern and was the offensive MVP in the North-South all-star game, did was lead the Cats to consecutive state titles.

The answer to that inquiry comes in three parts — Steven Everson (160, Jr.), John Bell (160, Jr.) and Jamey Waters (165, Sr.). This hard working trio is locked in a close battle for the right to direct the VHS offensive attack. In fact, the competition is so close, that a starter may not be named until a couple of days before the opener against McEachern.

Everson served as backup to Hitson last season, while Waters and Bell recovered from injuries. Waters has fully recovered from a compound fracture of his right arm suffered in an automobile accident, while Bell has mended from a shoulder injury that cut short his 1990 season.

"All three of these young men come behind Alton Hitson, who was a two-year starter on back-to-back state championship teams," said VHS running backs and quarterbacks coach Mike O'Brien. "Besides being a good athlete, Alton was a leader. Steven, John and Jamey are three in

that mold, but whether or not they have the heart Alton had is not known. All three of them have the ability and desire to do the job."

Another question arises when you talk about the Cats' running backs. Gone are VHS' leading rushers, tailback Joe Wright and fullback Kendrick Patrick. However, it appears as if the Cats are going to have a fine stable of throughbreds to choose from among. Working at tailback are Albert Edmonds (205, Sr.), Alfred Barnes (175, Jr.), Brian Thomas (150, Jr.), Nakia McMullen (165, So.) and Archie Lewis (145, So.). Vying for playing time at fullback are David Williams (190, Jr.), Brian Wiseman (185, Sr.), Brian Thomas, Sam Thomas (200, So.) and Joseph Edwards (155, So.).

"The strength of this group of running backs is the fact that they are interchangeable," stated O'Brien. "By that, I mean they can all run, block and receive. We can put in any combination and hopefully not have a big drop off. I'm pleased with them, but right now we're just not consistent enough."

If the Cats have to go up top with the football, Valdosta is more than good hands with its receiving corps. This group, tutored by VHS receivers coach Bob Bolton, can not only catch the football, but they are equally dangerous when it comes to blocking.

"The biggest thing a young has to be to play receiver at Valdosta High is to be dedicated," said Bolton. "He cannot put himself before the team. One of the first things a receiver learns here is to block. He will run lots of routes before a pass is even thrown his way. You don't have to be big to play receiver in the Valdosta system. You just have to have a big heart and be unselfish."

Battling for playing time at flanker are Chris Rocky (155, Jr.), Mike

Seeks Answers

Roberts (150, Sr.) and Robert Randolph (140, So.).

Vying for time at split end is Brice Hunter (175, Sr.), Jerone Scurry (145, Jr.) and Tim White (170, Jr.).

The tight end situation is in a three-way struggle between Shadrick Green (165, Jr.), Wayne DeVane (175, Jr.) and Dennis Hampton (190, Sr.).

Another added twist for the Cats' receiving corps is the fact that both Hunter and Green can play either tight end or split end if the need arises.

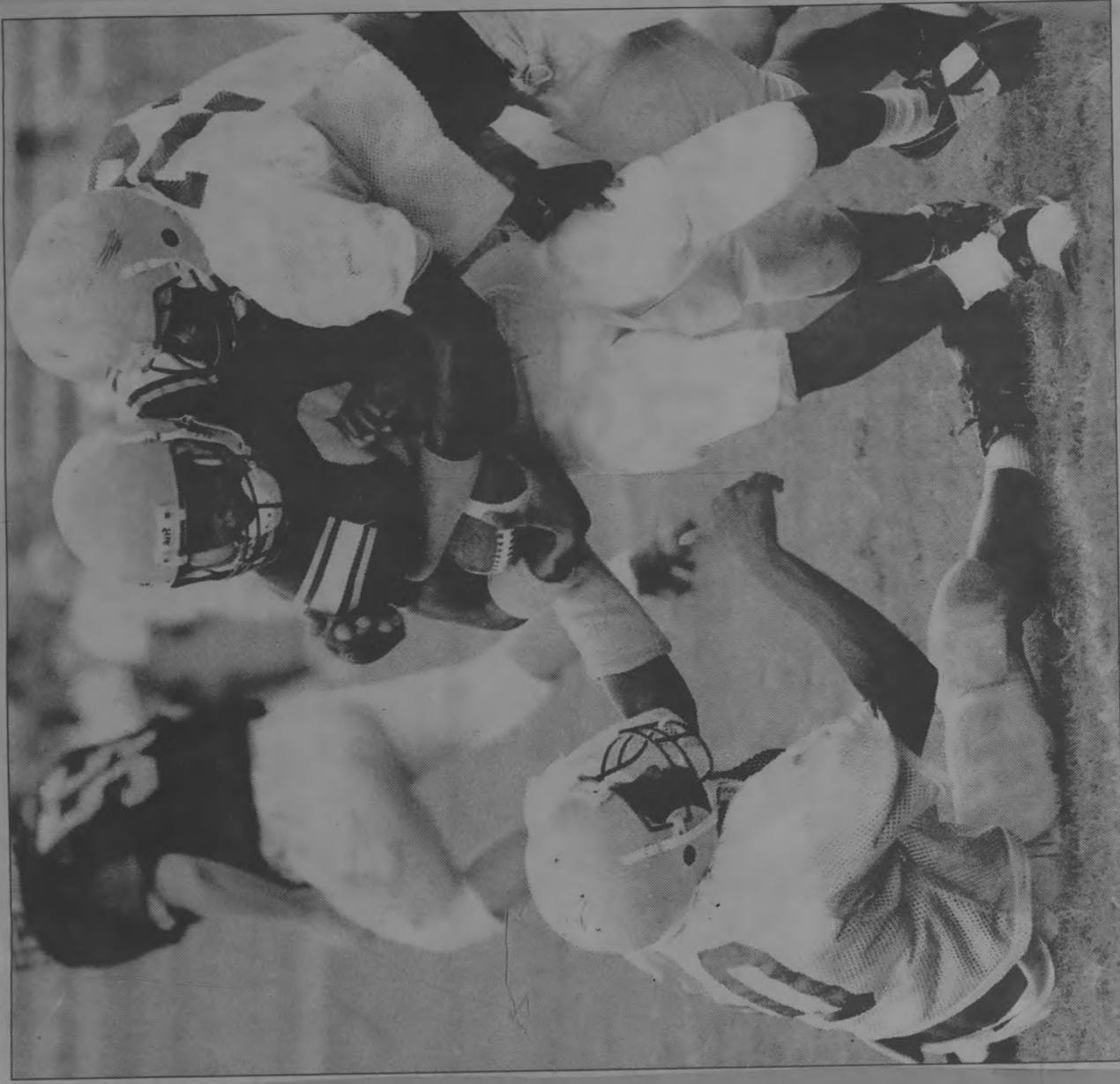
In order give the Valdosta skill people a chance to operate, the Cats must rely on its offensive line to provide room to move. The Valdosta offensive front will be the biggest it has been since the 1986 season. The Cat line will average 246 across the front, while the 1986 squad averaged 264 pounds.

"I feel like we need nine-to-10 quality offensive linemen," stated VHS offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker. "If we can get this many quality linemen, then we will be able to move people around if we have an injury without seeing a drop off. Each of these kids are learning to play more than one position, so they all know just what the other people on the line are doing. It also helps if we have to switch people around."

Battling for playing time across the offensive front will be Tim O'Brien (252, Sr.), Andy Sheffield (230, Sr.), Jay Bowling (220, Sr.), Sean Van Audall (262, Sr.), Brad Grant (245, Jr.), Andy Harrison (215, Jr.), Eddie Wooten (336, Sr.), Jesse Hunter (165, Jr.), Alan Holt (160, Jr.) and Greg Porter (195, Sr.).

Looking for action as the Cats placekicker this season are Dow Drury (165, Sr.), Ryan Sanderson (150, Jr.), Alan Sanderson (160, Jr.) and Keith McConnehead (150, Jr.). Drury has been the All-Region placekicker the past three years.

Sunday, August 25, 1991



Valdosta High's defense (in white) is known it's the offense's quarterback — Times Photo for swarming against the opposition. This time by Jeff Allen

VHS Student Selected For Nat'l Conference

VDT. Mon Aug. 1971
By SUSAN A. SMIGIELSKI
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School junior Lee Scott was chosen to represent the state at the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. in November.

The conference selects about 350 students to participate in the week-long program.

"The purpose of the program is to identify and honor a select group of exceptional high school students and allow them the opportunity to witness history in making," according to information provided by the conference committee.

The 15-year-old son of Master Sgt. and Mrs. R.A. Scott will meet with the leaders of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the federal government. He will also meet the Washington press

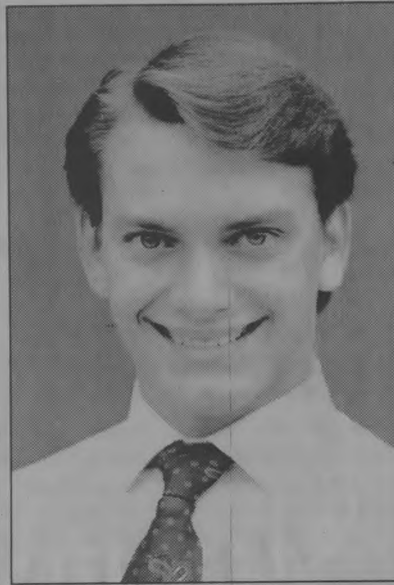
corps and top scholars in the country.

Scott was chosen to participate by conference members based on previous honors. He has been named to *Who's Who Among American High School Students* and honored by the United States Achievement Academy.

Awards he has received include the National Science Merit Award and the National Leadership and Service Award. Scott was also named an All American Scholar.

At VHS, Scott has maintained a perfect grade point average and has been named to the French Honor Society. He is also a member of the debate team, the science club, the math club, Interact and Beta.

While Scott plans to attend, he must raise \$695, the cost of the tuition, before Sept. 3, in order to participate.



LEE SCOTT
Must Raise \$695

IT'S FOOTBALL TIME!



**GET
READY...
GET
SET...**

Time Ticking Away For Vikings, Cats

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Tick tick tick. Time is ticking down as the 1991 Georgia prep football season nears. Rick Tomberlin's Lowndes High Vikings will begin the first phase of their "Operation: Region Storm" campaign Friday night on the road at International City Stadium against the Region 2-AAAA champion Warner Robins Demons at 8. Nick Hyder's Valdosta High Wildcats begin their quest for a third straight Class AAAA state football title Saturday night at Cleveland Field against the Region 5-AAAA champion McEachern Indians at 8. On tap for

the Cats' season opener is a special "Salute to Moody AFB" night. Festivities will get started at midfield at 7:30 p.m.

The first phase of the Vikings' "Operation: Region Storm" battle plan begins against one of the perennial powers in Georgia prep football — Warner Robins.

"We've worked on Warner Robins since the first day of camp," stated Tomberlin following practice Monday night. "We hope that it will pay off. It is important to get off to a good start. Our main objective is to win, but we want to play well."

As the Vikings concluded their first game-week practice Monday night, Tomberlin had mixed reactions about his troops performance.

"Our practice was not as good as I would have liked for it to be, but we got in a lot of good work," added Tomberlin. "We continued to get better as the practice went along. We just had to wake them up a little."

The Vikings will practice in full pads today and Wednesday. On Thursday, Tomberlin's troops will work out in helmets and shorts under the lights at Martin Stadium beginning at 7:30 p.m.

In Tomberlin's two years at the helm of the Viking football program, Lowndes has won once and lost once against the Demons. Warner Robins clipped the Vikes, 28-15, in

Tomberlin's first year at Lowndes. Last season, the Vikings came away with a hard fought 10-3 win against the Demons.

Meanwhile, the Valdosta High Wildcats took Monday off. The Cats, who don't open up until Saturday night, will return to the practice field today in preparation for McEachern.

"I know the start of the season is getting close, but we don't feel bad about not practicing Monday," said Hyder. "Monday was the first day of school and it was good for the youngsters to get acclimated to class. We had 20 good hard practices sessions over our two weeks of summer camp. Our assistant coaches have done a real fine job."

Sunday, August 18, 1991

The Valdosta Daily Times

Cats Heading Back To Camp

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Only one more week of summer football camp remains before the Valdosta High Wildcats shift it into high gear for the season opener August 31 against the Region 5-AAAA McEachern Indians at Cleveland Field. On that night, the Cats and the Valdosta Touchdown Club will hold a "Salute to Moody AFB Night". Kickoff is slated for 8 p.m.

The Cats will return to the VHS "Hilton" Monday for another week of two-a-day practices. If all goes well, VHS Head Football Coach Nick Hyder might be able to return to practice.

The longtime Cat mentor has been sidelined with a kidney infection. The Cats will hit the practice fields in the morning at 9:30. In the afternoon, the team will practice beginning at 5.

In Friday night's scrimmage, the No. 1 offense and defense put together a 27-7 win against the Cats' No. 2 units. However, the offenses put 20 points on the scoreboard, while the defenses tallied 14 points.

The Cats No. 1 defensive unit didn't yield any points in the scrimmage. In fact, the first unit limited the No. 2 offense to just 80 yards in total offense — 59 yards rushing and 21 yards passing. In the opening half, this group held the No. 2 offense to three downs and out on all five possessions.

This stellar defense scored when Teto Thomas returned a punt 54 yards for a touchdown at the 5:41 mark of the first quarter. Thomas would later provide the No. 2 units only points with a 43-yard interception return for a touchdown in the final quarter.

"We had a lot of missed tackles by both the No. 1 and No. 2 defenses," said VHS defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley.

Offensively, the No. 1 unit combined for 298 yards in total offense — 212 yards rushing and 86 yards passing. Leading the Cats' ground attack was Albert Edmonds with 109 yards on 13 carries, including an eight-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. Edmonds also had a 54-yard run to his credit. When working with the

first unit, Brian Wiseman rambled for 47 yards on four attempts, including a 14-yard touchdown run. In his duty with the second offense, Wiseman rushed for 28 yards on seven carries. For the night, he churned out 75 yards on 11 carries.

"We didn't have as good a night as we would have liked," stated VHS running backs coach Mike O'Brien. "I was pleased with the running of Albert Edmonds, but we made a lot of mental mistakes that cost us. The one thing that I was disappointed with was the blocking of our backs."

Dow Drury had a fine night in the placekicking department. The VHS sidewinder was two for two in field goals — 33 and 37 yards.

Developing Character/ A Weekly Feature About Local Young People

VHS's Altman Starting Career Early

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Most students don't start preparing for their career at age 14, but Ken Altman Jr. doesn't mind. His tinkering in technology has paid off.

Ken recently was named the Outstanding Student of the Year by the national Technology Student Association at the group's national convention June 22-26 in Tulsa, Okla.

The rising Valdosta High freshman was president of Valdosta Junior High's TSA chapter last year. The 60-member organization raised funds for charity and itself to help pay members' costs to attend the

Ken Altman Jr.

- Residence: Valdosta High School
- School: Freshman, Valdosta High School
- Family: Parents, Ken Sr. and Mary Beth; sister, Leslie
- Activities: Football, baseball, church, honor society

state and national competitions. 20 local club members competed at the Tulsa conference, Ken said.

TSA chapters are made up of mostly industrial arts student interested in technology-based careers.

The club emphasizes technology education in engineering, architecture, technical writing and research and manufacturing.

Ken's interest in technology has been nurtured at school and at home for many years, he said. His father, Ken Altman Sr., teaches drafting, and his grandfather worked in architecture.

"When I was younger, I'd cousins in TSA, and when I got older I wanted to join."

Ken enjoys drafting, and he plans to study civil engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Accompanying his creative passion is a desire to use his talent to help

people.

As a civil engineer, one can build bridges, roads, dams, improve drainage and sewer systems.

"I like to draw homes, but I'd like to draft things that can help the city more than just a family," he said.

Ken said he's looking forward to high school for many reasons, including the opportunity to take a more advanced drafting course.

In addition to his technical expertise, Ken's leadership skills were instrumental in landing the top national award. As president of the local group, he presided over meetings and was responsible for all club activities.



KEN ALTMAN JR.

From Page 1-A

VDT Fri, Aug 16, 91

Sophomore Has Several Interests

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

No offense to his teachers, but 15-year-old Alex Penn says he's not always challenged in school.

The Valdosta High School rising sophomore is constantly looking for exhilarating cerebral stimulation, which he's found in a variety of outlets at his young age: community theater, the martial arts and, most recently, a summer trip to Duke University where he tackled the same engineering problems college students do.

At two hours a pop, he found them very challenging.

Alex was selected to participate in Duke University's 1991 Summer Residential Program for academically gifted students. The program, administered by the university's Talent Identification Program, TIP, is open to seventh through tenth-graders who test in the top 1 percent of their schools.

Alex was enrolled in the program's engineering problems course. He was in class six hours a day, three hours on Saturday and took a few problems home at night.

The three weeks he spent unraveling the mysteries of mechanical engineering was comparable to a semester of college.

Luckily, there were plenty of recreational and social activities to divert these summer academics from their books and computers, and a few hours of sleep, Alex said. Despite the grueling coursework, he



ALEX PENN

had a great time and made lots of friends.

"You get that many creative people all in one place and you're bound to have fun."

Unlike many young scholars who trek loftily to super summer school programs only to feel defeated and intimidated because everyone is as smart or smarter than they, something they're not quite used to at home, Alex said it was a welcome relief to be around teens who share similar interests.

"It was almost easier than regular school because you fit in."

See CHARACTER, Page 3-A

Alex' other diversions include community theater. He's performed in two Lowndes-Valdosta Arts Commission Theatre Guild productions, "Auntie Mame" and "You Can't Take it With You."

Being well-rounded in interests and talents is important to Alex. He enjoys archery and soccer and plans to take up tennis.

The Duke experience has rendered engineering a viable career option for him.

"It was definitely the type of course where they told everybody at the beginning, 'You're either going to really enjoy this or you'll hate it,'" Alex said, admitting that he was among the former. "It told me I enjoyed engineering."

Theater will always be "just a hobby," Alex said. "Unless I'm discovered."

Alex Penn, 15

- Residence: Valdosta
- School: rising sophomore Valdosta High School
- Family: Mother, Gail Penn
- Activities: archery, theatre, VHS science, math and interact clubs

VDT Sat, Aug 17, 91

Jeane Tarpley Chosen Valdosta Teacher Of The Year For 1992

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Jeane Tarpley, the Valdosta City School System's 1992 Teacher of the Year, said she never wanted to be a teacher when she was growing up.

After 25 years in the business, she and thousands of teens influenced by her work are glad that "teaching chose her."



TARPLEY

Tarpley was named Valdosta's Teacher of the Year at a special luncheon Wednesday. Her credentials will be submitted to Atlanta for consideration in the state teacher of the year contest.

Being chosen teacher of the year took more than a flashy bulletin board and A-plus grades from students and colleagues. After being named teacher of the year at Valdosta High School where Mrs. Tarpley's taught math for 17 years, she spent her summer compiling a resume package for the award.

In addition to listing all her professional qualifications, civic accomplishments and personal data, Mrs.

Tarpley had to write a research paper on trends in education and an essay on her philosophy of teaching.

It was the stereotypical image of the old-fashioned school marm that gave a younger Jeane second thoughts about taking to the chalkboard like her grandmother and four aunts had done.

"Out loud I said that I would never be a teacher because I was afraid that I would grow up to be an 'old maid' teacher like my aunt. But teaching chose me anyway. It was in my blood; becoming a teacher was such a natural process," Mrs. Tarpley wrote in her biography sketch.

Mrs. Tarpley has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Georgia Southern College and a master's in education from the same. She taught math at West Rome High School before moving to Valdosta 17 years ago.

She's stuck with it because she enjoys the students, Mrs. Tarpley said, at every level.

Valdosta's teacher of the year is married to Charles Tarpley, VHS' de-

fensive coordinator for football and head baseball coach. They have two children, Brad, 18 and Lee, 10.

The following were named teacher of the year at their schools: Margaret Gaskins, W.G. Nunn Elementary; Lisa Shankles, Lomax Pinevale Elementary; Cindy Moses, S.L. Mason Elementary; Pat Kaeck, Sallas Mahone Elementary; Blanche Sepulveda, West Gordon Elementary; Barbara Carter, Southeast Elementary; and Hodges McLendon, Valdosta Jr. High.



Valdosta High quarterback John Bell (8) moves to Friday night's scrimmage at Cleveland Field — Times hand off to running back Albert Edmonds (33) during Photo by Jeff Allen

'Cats Light Up Scoreboard

VDT. Sat., Aug 17, 91
By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

When the final horn sounded Friday night at Cleveland Field, the scoreboard illuminated the final tally — Home 20, Guest 14. However, there is more to the score than meets the eye as the Valdosta High Wildcats concluded the first week of summer football camp with a scrimmage under the lights of the fabled stadium.

In this five-quarter scrimmage, the Wildcats' third team offense and defense went head-to-head for the one quarter. When the dust had finally settled, the two squads had battled to a 0-0 stalemate.

Then it was time for the fans on hand to get a glimpse of possible things to come for the 1991 campaign as the No. 1 offense and defense waged battle with the Cats' No. 2 units for four grueling quarters. The end result was a 27-7 win for the first team. However, the offenses put 20 of those points on

the board, while the defense erupted for 14 more.

Offensively, the No. 1 unit scored on their first possession of the contest. With quarterback Steven Everson at the controls, the No. 1 offense marched 41 yards in four plays with Albert Edmonds capping off the drive with an 8-yard scoring run at the 7:16 mark of the first period.

Everson provided the spark that kept the opening drive alive. The slippery VHS signal caller, who is in a three-way battle with John Bell and Jamey Waters for the No. 1 quarterback slot, scrambled for 30 yards to the 8 to convert a third-and-7 opportunity. On the next play, Edmonds took an option pitch from Everson around left end for the score.

An unlikely star emerged when the No. 1 defense forced a punt on the No. 2 offense's next possession. Teto Thomas gathered in a 27-yard punt at his own 46-yard line, picked up his blocking and motored 54 yards for a

touchdown. This numberless performer would be heard from again later in the night.

The No. 1 offense got on the board again with 9:02 left before intermission. VHS placekicker Dow Drury capped off an eight-play, 23-yard drive with a 33-yard field goal — the first of two on the night for the All-Region performer. Waters directed the drive.

Meanwhile, the Cats No. 1 defense held the No. 2 offense to three downs and out on their five first-half possessions. The No. 2 defense didn't fare too badly in the opening half either as the VHS No. 1 offense could only strike for 10 first-half points.

After swaping punts throughout most of third quarter, the No. 1 offense finally began to get untracked with 1:24 left in the period. With Bell directing the attack, the offense drove 60 yards in five plays with Brian Wiseman capping off the scoring march with a 14-yard run at the 11:18 mark of the

See WILDCATS, Page 3-B

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fourth quarter. Bell hooked up with tight end Shadrick Green for a 20-yard completion to convert a third-and-3 to keep the drive alive.

Thomas, who had earlier returned a punt 54 yards for a touchdown, struck paydirt again. This time, he stepped in front of an errant VHS pass and returned the mistake 43 yards for a touchdown for the No. 2 defense with 5:07 left in the contest. Thomas also had a 31-yard punt return to his credit as well.

With just 28 ticks left on the clock, Bell led the No. 1 offense on a 42-yard scoring march. Bell hit Mike Roberts for 17 yards to the No. 2's 44-yard line. After an incompleting, Wiseman ripped off runs of nine and 16 yards to put the pigskin at the 19-yard line with :01 second left. Drury came on to boot a 37-yard field goal as time ran out.

"I was proud of both the No. 2 offense and defense," stated VHS defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "Defensively, we had a lot of missed tackles with both the No. 1 and No. 2 defenses. Everybody got to play. Most of the No. 1 and No. 2 players went the first three quarters. In the last quarter we mixed in everybody. Competition is what you want and that is what we tried to get."

Offensively, the No. 1 unit churned out 212 yards on the ground on 33 attempts. Leading the way was Edmonds with 13 carries for 109 yards, including a 54-yard run. Wiseman, who gained 28 yards on seven carries with the No. 2 offense, chugged out 47 yards on four attempts with the No. 1 offense including a 14-yard touchdown run. Everson rushed for 33 yards on four attempts with the No. 1 offense, including a 30-yard burst.

"I thought the defense played excellent all night," stated VHS running backs coach Mike O'Brien. "The kids played well, but our backs made some mental mistakes that cost us. We were forced to move the football on what we consider to be a good defense. We didn't have as good a night as we would have liked to, but I was really pleased with running of Albert Edmonds. The one thing that disap-

pointed me with our backs was our blocking."

In the quarterback battle, Bell was four of eight passing the football for 65 yards while playing with the No. 1 offense. Everson completed two of six for 20 yards, while Waters connected on one of four for one yard in first team duty. When directing the No. 2 offense, Waters hit on one of

three passes for 12 yards, while Everson was one of seven for nine yards.

Green led the receiving contingent with three receptions for 48 yards.

Even though the No. 1 offense churned out 212 yards on the ground, VHS offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker thought his troops looked a little tired.

"We were a little leg weary," added Baker. "You could tell that we have been having two-a-days for the last four days. This is the first time that we have been put into a situation where we have had to run so many plays in succession. We had to go four full quarters. We're going to have to keep working hard at camp to practice from getting leg weary."

Developing Character/ A Weekly Feature About Local Young People

Military Interns: More Than A Job

VDI, Fri., Aug 2, 91

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

When the television blares "it's more than a job, it's an adventure," there are at least three Valdostans who believe it.

Claudine Jenkins, 16, Tonya Countee, 16, and Katresa Peterson, 17, have spent the summer tasting military life as interns at Moody Air Force Base. The savor was so sweet, all three have tentative plans to join the U.S. Air Force one day.

Katresa works at the public affairs office, answering the phones, clipping articles, typing news releases, etc. Claudine and Tonya are aids in the base library, and do most of the things librarians do.

The girls landed the government jobs through the Job Training Partnership Act program which helps teens find summer jobs. Katresa is spending her second summer at the public affairs office. An old hand at military affairs, the Valdosta High senior-to-be is already enrolled in

the Junior ROTC program.

Their military tenure to this point has been so positive, the two younger women plan to join the organization when they start high school this fall. The travel opportunities the Air Force offers are especially appealing to the upcoming freshmen.

"I want to join the Air Force so I can get to know other parts of the world and see what (the Air Force) does," Claudine, an upcoming Lowndes High School ninth-grader, said.

At this stage, a very early one, Claudine and Tonya said they'd like to become pilots one day and fly "anything that goes fast and high," Claudine said.

And since the Air Force recently lifted a moratorium on female fighter pilots, the girls might just return to Moody one day at the controls of an F-16 or its commensurate future sister.

Tonya, who said she's always been interested in birds of the

See INTERNS, Page 2-A



Claudine Jenkins, 16; Katresa Peterson, 17; and Tonya Countee, 16, talk about their summer job experiences — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Interns

From Page 1-A

mechanical type, can't wait to "travel to different places" with her own wings.

All three students were a little apprehensive about going to work at a military base, they said. The only images of soldiers they held were gleaned from television and the movies. The loud mouthed, stern and crew-cutted supervisors they envisioned turned out to be as fictional as the scripts they act on television.

Katresa, Claudine and Tonya have found everyone they work with at Moody to be very nice and helpful.

Katresa has found her computer training in the public affairs office particularly constructive. "I've learned things I would have learned in computer class, which I haven't been able to take because of band and ROTC."

If Katresa pursues a career in the Air Force, she said she'd prefer to stay on the ground — in the hospital as a doctor or physician's assistant.



VDT, Tues., Aug 6, 91 **Young Cats**

Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder puts the Valdosta junior varsity football players through the shoulder pads and shorts — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Wildcats Facing Collision

VDT Sun. Aug 11, 91
By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Now it's time to really get down to business. For the first time since spring practice, the Valdosta High Wildcats will don full pads as summer camp begins at the "VHS Hilton" Monday morning.

For the past week, the Cats have been working out in helmets, shoulder pads and shorts. It's been a progression toward the collision aspect of the game of football.

"We've just been making that progression," stated head coach Nick Hyder, whose Cats open the 1991 season August 31 at Cleveland Field against the McEachern High Indians. "We've gone from helmets and shorts to helmets, shoulder pads and shorts. Now it's time to put on the full gear. I think this a good way to do it because you have to get used to the straps, pads, helmets, shoes and heat."

On Monday, the players, coaching staff, training staff and managers will gather at the high school for two weeks of concentrated practices. Valdosta will practice at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. They will also eat and sleep together at the school.

At the end of both weeks of workouts, the Cats will hold a scrimmage at Cleveland Field on Friday night. The Valdosta players will then get the weekend off before reporting back to VHS for practice Monday.

If competition is what you like, there will be plenty of it. Approximately 103 players battle for various starting assignments. One of the good things to come out of the Wildcat camp Friday was word that all of the players attending summer school had made their grades. Hyder is quick to give credit where credit is due as far as that issue is concern.

"My wife June heads up that program," added Hyder. "She does so much for us. We couldn't get along without her help."

One of the many issues to be settled in camp is who will succeed two-year starter Alton Hitson as the quarterback?

Vying for this slot are a trio of talented performers in senior Jamey Waters and juniors Steven Everson and John Bell.

"This is an interesting triangle," stated Hyder. "Jamey Waters was in an automobile accident last October and had a compound fracture of his upper arm — his throwing arm. He's throwing now and looks ready to go. John Bell suffered a shoulder injury and missed most of last season. Steven Everson was the backup last year and got most of the experience last year behind Alton Hitson.

"By virtue of that I'd say he was the front runner right now. However, you still have to go out and earn the job."

Important Dates

■ **TODAY:** Valdosta High and Lowndes High will continue conditioning workouts. Players can wear helmets, shoulder pads and shorts. (Lowndes has scheduled two-a-day practices during this period, Valdosta one-a-day).

■ **AUGUST 12:** The first week of full-gear practice begins. Both Valdosta and Lowndes will begin their pre-season camps based at their respective schools. (Lowndes player to gather Sunday afternoon).

■ **AUGUST 19:** The second week of full-gear practice begins. (Valdosta continues on-campus with two-a-day practices, Lowndes will practice once a day).

■ **AUGUST 26:** Game-week preparations begin. (Valdosta may begin preparations on Tuesday).

■ **AUGUST 30:** Lowndes High vs. Warner Robins High, 8 p.m., at International City Stadium.

■ **AUGUST 31:** McEachern High vs. Valdosta High, 8 p.m., at Cleveland Field.

'91 Cats Progressing Toward Fall Camp

VDT, Mon. Aug. 5, 91
By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

It is a progression into the collision aspect of football. That is the way Valdosta Wildcat Head Football Coach Nick Hyder likes to term the first official week of fall practice.

"The week has been like a step up, a progression to getting ready for camp and the collision aspect or process," said Hyder, whose Wildcats will open the 1991 football season August 31, at Cleveland Field against the McEachern Indians. "We did conditioning and orientation this week. We put an emphasis on character and the new football rules. That's part of the mental preparation."

Valdosta players went through workouts in the weight room and various agility drills. Equipment was issued like helmets and shoes.

On Tuesday, the Cats had a new twist as about eight former players, who are currently or have played college football, addressed the team as

rain and lightning kept Valdosta off the practice field. Coronzo Greene (Morris Brown), George Copeland (Tennessee State), Bruce Daniels (Florida A&M), Ricky Thomas (Fort Valley State), M.J. Johnson (Fort Valley State), Shawn Gay (Florida State), Carlos Folsom (Savannah State), current Cat assistant coach and former player Keith Middleton (Georgia) and current Valdosta Junior High coach and ex-Lowndes star Ronnie Adkins took about 5-10 minutes each to talk to the players. The one basic thing that all of them dealt with was the importance of academics.

"That was time well spent," added Hyder. "For our players to hear someone else besides me stress the importance of academics is really time well spent."

Now its time for the next progression to the collision aspect. Today, the Cats will hit the practice field in helmets, shoulder pads and shorts for a week of work. The Wildcats will gather at VHS at 6 p.m. each evening and hit the field at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Hyder Returns; Defense Shines

VDT Tues. Aug 20, 91
By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

A familiar site strolled the practice fields at Valdosta High Monday as Wildcat head football coach Nick Hyder made his first appearance at summer football camp since being stricken with a kidney infection a week ago Monday.

"I'm about 60-70 percent, but I'm here," said Hyder, whose Cats open up the 1991 season August 31 at Cleveland Field against defending Region 5-AAAA champion McEachern Indians at 8 p.m. "I'm pretty much into it, but not yet at 100 percent. We've got a great staff and they did and are doing a great job. When something like this happens you try to look for something positive and I look at what it did for our assistant coaches. It's been good."

On Hyder's first day back at camp, he was treated to fine performance by the defense in the evening practice session.

"The defense had a good day," added Hyder. "I was impressed with their aggressiveness and crisp hitting. Now the offense didn't lay down and quit, but the defensive group had the upper hand today (Monday) with Dexter Daniels, Marcus Williams, Nick Reed, Franklin Wiseman, Brinson Barker, John Gloster, Peter Failor, Trampis Wrice, Brock Sanford, Carl Thomas, Jason Jelks, John Copeland and Tim McClain. The defense showed some maturity."

Speaking of the defense, one of, if not the deepest unit on this side of the ball is the defensive line coached by Larry Jester.

"Of all the units on defense, our unit may have the most depth," stated Jester. "Since we have more

depth, we as a unit have accepted upon ourselves to try and carry more of the defensive weight.

"Last year, we played an eight-man rotation on the defensive front. We lost five players out of that rotation (three starters and two back ups). This year we hope to go with a nine-man rotation — three deep at noseguard and both defensive tackles."

Providing the three deep alignment at noseguard are Peter Failor (175, Jr.), Levalis Paul (210, Jr.) and Sebastian Davis (190, So.). The left defensive tackle slot lines up with Brinson Barker (200, Jr.), Donald Hitson (170, Jr.) and Steve Carson (205, Jr.). The three deep spots at the right tackle are between four players Tim McClain (210, Sr.), John Gloster (200, Sr.), Kevin Major (220, Sr.) and James Robinson (210, Jr.).

"We average around 5-10 or 5-11 and 205 pounds on the defensive line," Jester added. "So, you can see that we are small. We hope to make that up with strength, speed, quickness and following assignments. We can't go nose-to-nose with anyone. We just have to be sound."

"I'm real proud of this group. They are working hard and learning. Our unit meets about an hour and a half to two hours learning in between the morning and evening practices. The effort is there. Right now, it looks like by the time we play McEachern we'll be able to run in three units on the defensive line."

■PAW PRINTS: The Cats will hold picture day Friday between 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. at Cleveland Field. The Wildcats will begin their Friday night scrimmage between 5:45 and 6.

As an added treat, the VHS Marching Cats will put on an exhibition at Cleveland Field Friday night at 6:30.

Wildcats Catch On To Job

VDT Fri. Aug 16, 91
By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

When the opposition lines up against the Valdosta High receivers, no one can fault them if their minds are on insurance. The Cat receivers are known for giving defenders "A Piece of the Rock" when comes to blocking and as the "Good Hands People" when it is time to haul in a pass.

Under the guidance of VHS receivers coach Bob Bolton, the black and gold receiving corp pride themselves on being unselfish. When it is time to block that is exactly what this versatile group does. If the time arises to catch a pass, this corp goes after the ball without fear.

"The biggest thing a young man has to be to play receiver at Valdosta is be dedicated," said Bolton after the 'Cats practiced Thursday in preparation for today's 7 p.m. scrimmage at Cleveland Field. "A receiver at Valdosta must be unselfish and not put himself before the team."

"The first we teach receivers here is to block. A receiver here runs a lot of routes before a pass is even thrown his way. When that happens, a player has to be dedicated enough not to get discouraged."

Battling for playing time at flanker for the Cats are Chris Rockey (155, Jr.), Mike Roberts (150, Sr.) and Robert Randolph (140, So.).

Jerone Scurry (145, Jr.), Brice Hunter (175, Sr.) and Tim White (170, Jr.) are in the midst of fighting for playing time at split end.

"I'd say the most improved player so far has been Tim White," added Bolton. "Tim was ineligible in the spring, but he came back with a team and unselfish attitude. He's been running good routes and he came to camp in shape — both physically and mentally. Tim has done a good job over the summer."

It's a three-way battle for playing time at tight end for the Cats. Locked in fierce competition are Shadrick Green (165, Jr.), Wayne DeVane (175, Jr.) and Dennis Hampton (190, Sr.).

"Shadrick is a combination player," said Bolton. "He can play either tight end or split end. Shadrick has good blocking skills, runs fundamental routes and can catch the ball in a crowd. Wayne does a good job. He also serves as one of our punters. Dennis has real good blocking skills."

Through the first week of two-day practices, Bolton has liked what he has seen from his receivers.

"I'm very pleased them," Bolton
See WILDCATS, Page 3-B

Wildcats

From Page 1-B

continued. "They have responded to Coach Hyder's absence very well, the way he would have expected them to respond.

"Our receivers are hustling and doing the things necessary to be a winning football team. I just can't say enough about the attitude of this group. It's been great.

"This is a typical Valdosta receiving corp. They are dedicated to winning. They get the job done — blocking downfield and going after the football when it is thrown their way. We have more height than in past years, so the potential for greatness is there. However, in our system a receiver doesn't have to be big. He just has to have a big heart and be unselfish."

■PAW PRINTS: Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder continues to improve from a kidney infection.

"I had a good day today," stated Hyder. "We may be on the plus side of this thing. If all goes well, we'll try and shoot for Monday to get back to practice ..."

When you are at the top of your everybody wants to know your

Thursday, the Warner Robins
r Club came down to
Valdosta weight room.

Sunday, August 25, 1991

'Cats Attention Turns To Indians

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

When the final horn sounded at Cleveland Field Friday night, the Valdosta High Wildcats had completed yet another two weeks of summer football camp. Now the sights of Valdosta head football coach Nick Hyder and his Cats are shifted fully on the task at hand — getting ready for Saturday's season opener at Cleveland Field against the Region 5-AAAA champion McEachern High Indians.

The final day of camp contained the "Famous Cheetah Classic", a scrimmage between the VHS ninth grade football team and the Cats junior varsity. When the dust had cleared, Tim Horton's ninth graders had prevailed by a 20-7 count.

"The ninth grade team scored a touchdown on one drive, had a defensive touchdown and kicked two field goals," stated Hyder as the Cats readied for picture day Friday afternoon at Cleveland Field. "Our 10th grade scored on a blocked punt."

While the scrimmage was taken place, the varsity was practicing on its gadget plays.

"It's really wide open then," added Hyder. "We see if we can come up something that we like."

"We had a lot of pleasant surprises in camp. We only had one player quit, which is encouraging."

The Wildcats concluded camp with a scrimmage on a rainy Friday night. Valdosta's top-unit offenses combined for 439 yards rushing.

"We handled the ball extremely well in the wet conditions," stated Hyder. "Our backs ran like they were supposed to and our line blocked like they are capable of. Now, the defense came on with some gang tackling and made some big plays when they had to. I was glad we got an opportunity to play in these conditions. The youngsters adjusted well."

"We looked tired," added VHS defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "We didn't play well. The defense has to play with emotion and we weren't very emotional. We gave up too much yardage."

Teen Goes To Harvard

V.D. Aug. 30, 1991 Fri

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Studying psychology while your friends are sunning on the shore isn't the way most teen-agers would choose to spend a summer, but being able to keep up with graduate students inside the ivy-draped classrooms of the country's oldest and most prestigious university made the effort worthwhile for one Valdosta student.

Valdosta High School senior Maria Baratta recently returned from Massachusetts, where she spent the summer in Harvard University's summer program for high school students.

The program allows the nation's brightest teens to try their hands at college life and if they pass, the credits can be applied to the college of their choice.

After spending eight weeks in Cambridge, Maria, 17, has decided she'd like to return when she graduates next spring.

"I really didn't have any great



MARIA BARATTA

desire to go to Harvard But after I got up there I found it wasn't anything like I expected Harvard to be but it was everything I expected col-

lege life to be," she said. "I realized there was more to the school than its reputation."

Although inundated with new experiences, opinions, and habits, Maria said she enjoyed the classes, professors, routine and meeting different types of people. Shopping in Boston wasn't bad either.

Probably the most significant outcome of the trip was the heightened appreciation she gained for psychology. Maria had planned to be an undergraduate psych major then go to law school. After finishing college level courses in crime and justice and law and psychology, she now says she may pursue a career as a criminal psychologist.

Harvard professors cut no slack to the visiting teens, Maria said. They took the same tests and read the same texts as regular students during the summer session. Some of Maria's classmates were graduate students.

The courses were arduous but a few hours were found to explore the

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Developing

From Page 1-A

big city to the east via the subway.

Maria said she made numerous friends from around the country but learned that Southerners share an unexplainable bond wherever they go.

"It was amazing how you could tell who was from the South," she said. "You could just hone in on people..."

Rather than breaking down the stereotypes she reluctantly held about Northeasterners, Maria said her Ivy League experience turned out to reinforce them. The Southern students seemed more friendly, talkative and relaxed, she said, although everyone found it easy to accept dif-

Maria Baratta, 17

- Residence: Valdosta
- School: Valdosta High School
- Family: Olivia and the late Charles Baratta
- Activities: VHS cheerleader, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Beta Club

ferences in others and form friendships.

Maria is a VHS varsity football and competition cheerleader and is the vice-president of the Beta Club.

Sunday, August 25, 1991

Valdostan's Group Plays With London Symphony

By SUSAN A. SMIGIELSKI
Times Staff Writer

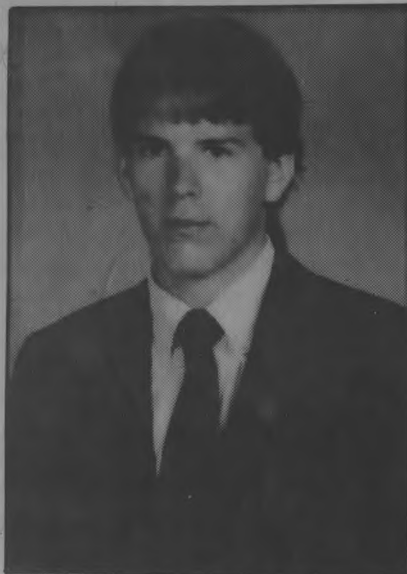
Bassoon player Mickey McAfee of Valdosta participated in the Festival Institute and the Southern Bell Youth Orchestra at the 1991 Florida International Festival this summer.

He is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Mike A. McAfee of Valdosta. In addition to playing the bassoon in an orchestra setting, he also plays the tenor saxophone in the Valdosta High School marching band.

According to his mother, he started playing the bassoon in the sixth grade. He has taken lessons in Savannah and at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

There were 66 young musicians from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina who spent the week in DeLand, Fla., and Daytona Beach, Fla.

McAfee was selected for the youth orchestra by an audition and performed under the direction of London Symphony Orchestra guest conductor John Georgiadis and Stetson University conductor Thom Sleeper.



MICKEY McAFEE
Bassoon Player

Mrs. McAfee said the conductors surprised her and the students with their openness and warmth.

"You could tell they were really interested in the young people," she said.

The orchestra performed two free concerts and participated in the Lon-

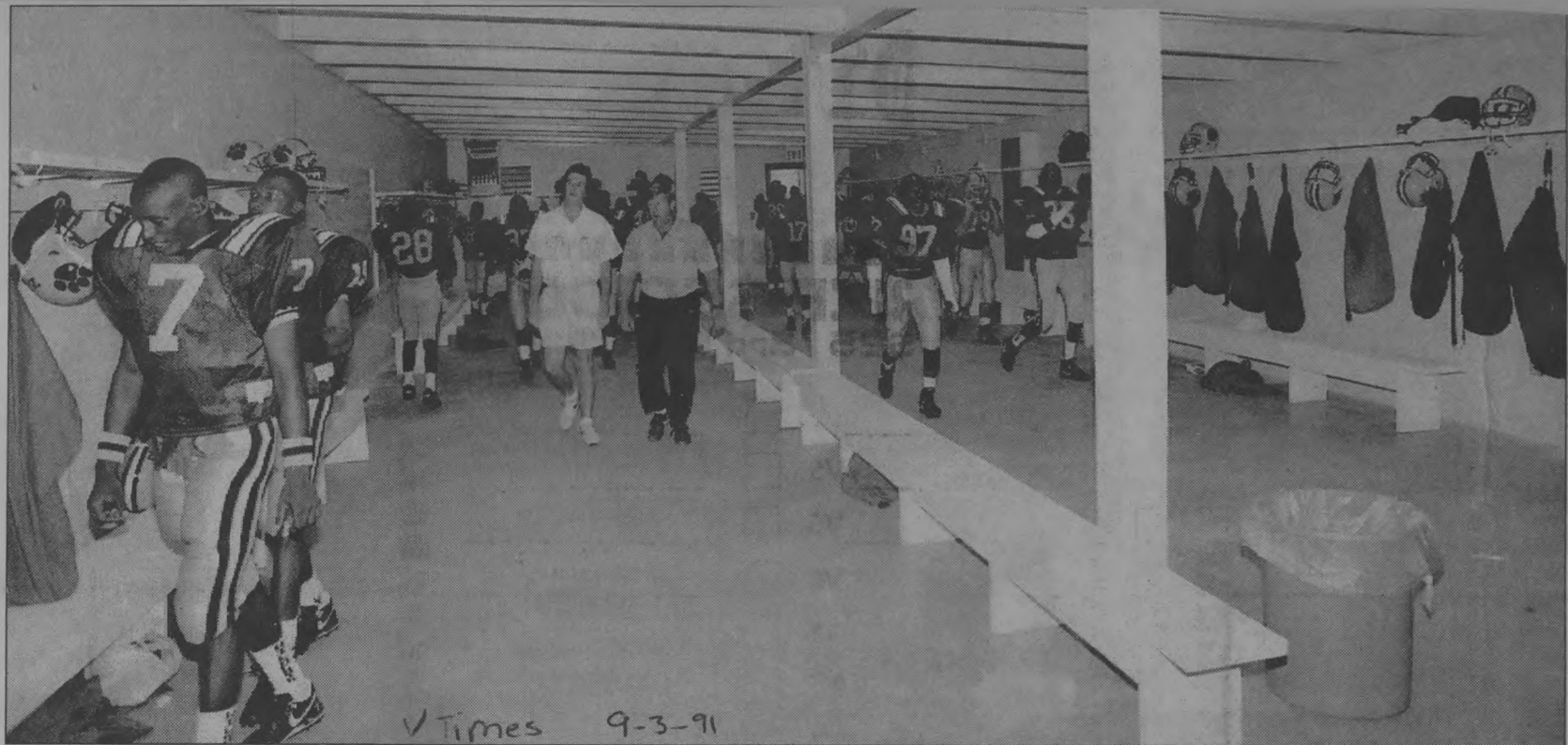
don Symphony Orchestra Young People's Concert Aug. 10 at Peabody Auditorium.

The London Symphony Orchestra presented six classical concerts, a Silver Jubilee concert and a pops concert during their stay at the festival in addition to the Young People's concert. The festival presented 36 events during the 10-day festival in and around Daytona Beach.

During their stay at Stetson University in nearby DeLand, McAfee had an opportunity to work individually and in small groups with a faculty of outstanding professional orchestral musicians from the London Symphony Orchestra and Stetson University's School of Music.

They were also able to attend concerts and rehearsals. In addition, there were 12 southeastern music teachers who also attended. McAfee and other students were also given a chance to go to the beach and visit Florida's Blue Springs.

The Festival Institute and the Southern Bell Youth Orchestra program are designed to strengthen further orchestral music education in the southeastern United States.



V Times 9-3-91

Valdosta High Wildcat defensive back Jason Jelks (7) and his teammates and coaches prepare for last Saturday night's 24-0 win against the McEachern Indians in their new dressing room underneath storied Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Cats Athletic Facilities First Class

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

When someone hears the name of the Valdosta High Wildcats, one of the first things that comes to mind is high school football excellence. However there is a lot more to VHS than just football. Valdosta High strives to give its students a first class education and facilities with which a young man or young lady can grow both mentally and physically.

On Saturday night at Cleveland Field, the Cats opened up one of these first class facilities for the first time at this storied football stadium — a new dressing room for the Valdosta football team. Last season, the new visitors dressing facility was opened under the north stands.

"We settled on list of priorities about 12 to 15 years ago," said VHS

head football coach and athletic director Nick Hyder, whose Cats will do battle with the Camden County High Wildcats Friday night at Cleveland Field. "On the list we had plans for a new weight room, all-weather track, girls softball field, dressing rooms at Cleveland Field, lights on the baseball field and all-purpose facilities at the elementary schools."

The Cats' lockerroom facilities underneath fabled Cleveland Field are arguably the best in the state. This first class domain for VHS players, coaches and athletic training staff has dressing spaces for 110 players. It also contains a training room, showers, toilets and a conference room.

"Our new dressing room doesn't occupy any area under the stands that wasn't previously used by the team," added Hyder following practice Monday. "It's large enough that

we can have full squad meetings or the coaches can break off into groups. The old dressing room is now the training room. We have two young ladies that work on our training staff and the new facilities allow these young ladies access to the training room without occupying the dressing room. It gives our young men an isolation area.

"It's the best facility that I've seen. Warner Robins is very comparable, but ours have a little more room and the visitors and home dressing rooms are closer to the field. A coach is not inconvenienced here. It is the way Cleveland Field should be. We have a complete facility now. Eventually, we will upgrade our press box."

The visitors dressing facilities can comfortably house 90 players. It contains showers, toilets and a meeting room.

"Our administration along with the Valdosta Touchdown Club have enabled us to have first class facilities in the Valdosta school system," stated Hyder. "The school board with superintendent Walter Altman, chairman David Waller, Dr. William Grow, Lamar Newborn, Mary Allen, Alma Williams, Willie Jones, Warren Lee, Maceo Horne, Dr. Joe Crane, Valdosta High principal Bill Aldrich and administrative assistant John Field have done an outstanding job. The tax dollars and public money are being well spent at Valdosta. Everything is designed for the betterment of all youngsters, not just athletes."

In addition to the aforementioned facilities, all-purpose facilities that include gyms are about complete at West Gordon Elementary School and Southeast Elementary School (fifth and sixth grades). Within a year, S.L. Mason, Silas Mahone and W.G. Nunn should have all-purpose facilities.

The Valdosta Daily Times

8-25-91

Daniels Leads Defense

By MIKE GRUBB
Football 1991 Writer

When thinking of Valdosta High Wildcat football teams, the word defense is one of the first things that come to mind. The VHS defense has long been at trademark at this South Georgia school. Longtime defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph, who is now coaching the VHS ninth-grade defense, set the standard. Charles Tarpley, who became defensive coordinator last season, continues to carry on this tradition of defensive excellence.

During the 1990 regular season, the Cat defense yielded but 103 points in 10 games. Included in that were back-to-back shutouts against Robert E. Lee (Ala.) and Bainbridge. When it got to be crunch time in the postseason, Tarpley's troops really showed that they were the class of the state. In four playoff games, the

Cat defense only gave up 10 points. Tarpley's defense pitched shutouts against Northside Warner Robins (21-0), Clarke Central (8-0) and Southwest DeKalb in the state-championship game (31-0). Only Statesboro, who lost to VHS 17-10, managed to score on the Cats in the postseason.

If VHS are hopes of producing the same things in 1991, the defense must once again step forward and assert itself.

The Cats linebacking and defensive end corps appears to be getting better and better as each day passes. Leading the VHS linebackers will be All-Region performer Dexter Daniels (225, Sr.) Daniels started at defensive end as a sophomore and at inside linebacker as a junior. Also looking for playing time at linebacker are Marcus Williams (180, Jr.), Cedric Carter (180, Sr.) and Marcus Phillips (225, So.).

"We're not young, but we're inexperienced," said VHS linebackers and defensive ends coach Al Akins.

Vying for playing time at the defensive end slots are Franklin Wiseman (175, Jr.), the 1990 Region 1-AAAA 100-meter dash champion, Nick Reed (180, Sr.), Bobby Mangram (185, Sr.), Art Rizer (185, Sr.), John Allbritton (185, Sr.), Aldrich Graham (150, Sr.), Jason Yearby (205, So.) and Carlos Hundley (185, So.).

On the Cats defensive front, the competition for playing time is as fierce as ever. Vying for the starting slots at defensive tackle are Tim McClain (210, Sr.), John Gloster (200, Sr.), Kevin Major (220, Sr.), Brinson Barker (200, Jr.), James Robinson (210, Jr.), Steve Carson (205, Jr.), Levalis Paul (210, Jr.), Donald Hitson (170, Jr.) and Clifton Crook (180, So.).

The battle for the starting
See VHS DEFENSE, Page 11-E

Godfrey

From Page 2-E

His impatience is simply his eagerness to punish a member of the offense. Although it may cause him to overplay every now and then, this intensity level may be what puts him above other linebackers in his league. Randall Godfrey focuses on running backs with that same intensely terrifying stare for which Mike Singletary, middle linebacker of the Chicago Bears, is famous.

"What comes to mind when the ball is snapped is just crunching, crunching the running back," he says. "I always try to look the full-back in the eyes and go after him."

And boy can he crunch a running back! Godfrey has 4.5 speed in the 40 and he finished third in the Region 1-AAAA 100-meter dash with a time of 10.8 seconds. He also has leg strength which he has used to set a school record by squatting 590 pounds. His upper body is equally powerful with a power clean of 320 pounds and a bench press of 320 as well. Add a mass of 215 pounds to those numbers and the laws of physics state that fullbacks will be wanting the numbers of that truck.

It is natural that he is labeled a physical player because of the thuds that echo around Lowndes High after his tackles. But what is not heard are the wheels that Godfrey says are turning in his head on every play.

"I'm more smart than physical," he claims. "I had been playing offense for a while so it took a while to get really physical. My freshman year, I came in playing quarterback and running back. In 10th grade, I was moved from free safety to linebacker. I wasn't really physical until they moved me to linebacker. When they moved me to linebacker is when it really pumped up."

"We try to get them (the linebackers) to be physical," says Landy. "We try to emphasize that they're gonna run and they're gonna hit when they get there."

Though still not his top priority, choosing a college is a task he thinks about from time to time. If he does not make a decision soon, his phone

VHS Defense

From Page 8-E

may never stop ringing off the hook after all, just calling Randall Godfrey a Division I prospect is like simply calling George Haldas a coach."

"I'm pretty much open still," he says. "But I do have a top five list. Right now I got the University of Georgia at number one. Florida State is right behind them. South Carolina's number three. I've got Clemson number four and Auburn at number five. But it's going to be pretty close."

There is one priority that Godfrey has placed above the rest when it finally comes to selecting a college. "It's gonna be the graduation rate really," he states firmly. "That's the most serious thing."

noseguard assignment is up for grabs between Peter Falor (175, Jr.), Sebastian Davis (190, So.) and Levas Paul (210, Jr.).

"We hope to go with a nine-man rotation on the line," stated Cat defensive line coach Larry Jesler. "We are three-deep at noseguard and both defensive tackles. We're not big, but we hope to make up for that with

strength, speed, quickness and knowing our assignments."

Vying for the right to patrol the VHS secondary at cornerback are Trampis Wrice (160, Sr.), who has started his first three seasons, Carl Thomas (145, Jr.), Brock Sanford (175, Jr.), Jerald Davis (150, Jr.), Ocavus Oliver (135, Sr.), Troy Brown (145, So.), Reggie Morrison (150, Jr.) and DeAnthony Rountree (145, Jr.).

Competing for playing time in the secondary as the Cats' starting safeties are John Copeland (155, Sr.), John Walker (150, Sr.), Terrence Daniels (160, Sr.), Jason Jelks (155, Jr.), Teto Thomas (150, Sr.), Vinson Winston (150, Jr.) and James Canady (135, Jr.).

"We feel comfortable about having someone like Trampis Wrice back for another year," said VHS secondary coach Keith Middleton. "He has about 40 or more games under his belt. John Copeland is also back after starting eight or nine games at safety, but we are inexperienced and trying to get better at the other cornerback and safety spot. We want to get on a competitive level before the McEachern game so that we don't let down the our defensive front."

Wayne DeVane leads the punters.

Daniels: On-, Off-Field Star

VTimes 8-25-91

More On Valdosta, Pages 7, 8-E

By MIKE GRUBB
Football 1991 Writer

Agile, mobile and hostile — that pretty much sums up Valdosta High Wildcats' linebacker Dexter Daniels on-the-field performance. Off the field, Daniels exudes class both in school and off the campus. If ever there was an athlete with the perfect mix of talent on and off the field, Daniels is it.

"Dexter is big, strong and aggressive," said VHS defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley as the Cats prepare for the 1991 season opener Saturday at Cleveland Field against the McEachern High Indians. "He is a quite leader. He's a lot like Alton Hitson by the way that he lets his actions on the field do his talking. He's not one of those guys that makes a good play and starts pointing fingers."

"Dexter just does his job," added Al Akins, the VHS linebackers and defensive ends coach. "He is the heart of the defense. Dexter practices the same during the week as he plays on Friday night — a great attitude, aggressive and emotional. He never talks backs and it is always yes sir and no sir."

"With all of the publicity that Dexter has received he has kept his head on straight. He listens to everything, takes criticism and coaching well. Dexter just wants to get better and be the best that he can be both on the field and off."

Daniels began his football career at about the age of 10. He began playing on the gridiron at the Valdosta Boys Club.

"I wasn't too good back then," said a modest Daniels during a lunch break at VHS' summer football camp. "I continued to get a little better as it went on."

Once at Valdosta Junior High, Daniels toiled on the seventh-grade football team as a fullback and tight end. Finally, he got a chance to play linebacker for VJHS' eighth-grade squad. Upon entering Valdosta High, this soft-spoken headhunter started out on the defensive line for the Wildcat ninth-grade team until an injury forced him to miss some time. Upon his return, Daniels was shifted to linebacker.

As his sophomore year approached, Daniels started out practice as a linebacker, but after a couple of injuries to Valdosta's defensive ends he unselfishly moved from his linebacking slot to one of the ends. It was a move that paid immediate dividends for both Daniels and the Cats. He went on to start all 15 games at end as a sophomore. The Cats also went on to post a 14-1 mark, including winning the 1989 Class AAAA state football championship (with a 33-13 win at Clarke Central).

"We had some injuries and needed some help at defensive end," stated Daniels. "We had a lot of good linebackers that year, so I made the switch to end. All I want to do is help the team any way that I can."

Daniels made the switch back to linebacker for his junior season.

Once again, it was a move that paid off. The 225-pound defender helped the Cats post a 14-0-1 mark and their second consecutive Class AAAA state football title. In the process, Daniels earned all-region accolades.

"The goals that I've set for this season are simple one," Daniels continued. "We want to win another state championship. As an individual, I just want to play as hard as I can and help the team the best way that I can."

Not only is Daniels regarded as hard hitter, but is both strong and fast. He holds the Valdosta High power-clean record at 315 pounds. On the bench, this strongman can lift 380 pounds. When it comes to running, Daniels has been clocked at 4.55 in the 40-yard dash.

There is more to Daniels than just football. He is regarded as a good student. Daniels also competes on the Wildcat track team, throwing the shot put and discus. He was the Region 1-AAAA shot put runnerup.

"When people think of Dexter Daniels, I hope they say I was a good student, good person and I tried to do what was right," Daniels added.

"Dexter is not only a great football player, but he is the kind of young man that you would like to have as a son," stated Akins.

Wildcats Stay No. 1; Clinch Moves To 2nd

ranked Warner Robins High Demons, 7-6.

By MIKE GRUBB

Times Assistant Sports Editor

For the second week in a row, the Valdosta High Wildcats, the Worth County High Rams, the Pepperell High Dragons and the Lincoln County High Red Devils stayed atop the Associated Press' Georgia prep football poll.

Nick Hyder's top-ranked Cats were a unanimous choice in the Class AAAA polls. VHS received all 16 first-place votes from the members of the AP's prep football board.

VHS, who is No. 10 in the USA Today's Top 25 national prep poll, will put its No. 1 ranking on the line as Luther Welsh's 1-0 Region 2-AAA Camden County High Wildcats invade Cleveland Field Friday night for a battle at 8.

Camden County put the only blemish on the Cats' 1990 record with a 14-14 tie at Cleveland Field.

Sonny Smart's Bainbridge High Bearcats climbed from No. 8 to No. 6 in the Class AAAA poll after a 33-13 win against the Class AAA Thomas County Central High Yellow Jackets last Friday.

Rick Tomberlin's 1-0 Lowndes Vikings received votes for the Top 10 after bumping off previously No. 10

Jim Hughes' 1-0 Colquitt County High Packers also received votes for the Top 10 following a thrilling come-from-behind 14-13 win against the Class AAA Thomasville High Bulldogs.

Donald Tison's 1-0 Clinch County High Panthers climbed from No. 3 to No. 2 in the Class A polls following a 31-0 demolition of the Class AA Pierce County Bears last Friday.

The Panthers, who jumped over previously No. 2 ranked Macon County High Bulldogs, will travel to Rochelle to battle the 0-1 Wilcox County High Patriots Friday night.

Lincoln County held on to its No. 1 ranking with 10 first-place votes and 149 points. Clinch grabbed the second spot with six first-place votes and 137 points.

In the Class AA prep poll, Jack Raley's 1-0 Cook High Hornets and Jeff Caldwell's 0-1 Brooks County High Trojans received votes for Top 10 consideration.

Raley's Hornets opened up with a 20-14 win on the road against the Perry High Panthers, while Caldwell's Trojans dropped a 35-6 decision at home to the Class AAA Kendrick High Cherokees.

Brooks County and Cook will do battle Friday night at 8 in Adel.

Valdosta High leftfielder Cindy Rumph dives to catch VHS. Rumph caught the ball, but a Colquitt runner scored on the play — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Lady Cats' Hitting Falls Short

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

If you fail to hit, you can't score. If you can't score, you lose. Such was the case Thursday afternoon at the Lady Cats' softball field as Linda Blackwell's 1-2 Valdosta High Lady Wildcats managed just seven hits in a 7-4 Region 1-AAAA softball loss to the 1-2 Colquitt County Lady Packers.

"We didn't the ball today, period," stated Blackwell, whose Lady Cats travel to Bainbridge High for a 4:30 p.m. doubleheader Tuesday. "You are not going to win many games getting just seven hits. We had a chance to win today and let it slip away."

After falling behind 1-0 after just a half-inning of play, the Lady Cats struck for two runs in the home half of the first to grab a 2-1 advantage. Yasmine Bivins and DeDe Dennis opened the inning with back-to-back singles. This twosome eventually came scampering home on sacrifice flies off the bats of Cindy Rumph and LaShon Hargett.

The Lady Packers struck for two runs on three hits in the top of the third to take a slim 3-2 cushion. However, the scrappy Lady Cats answered right back with two runs of their own in the bottom of the third to recapture the lead at 4-3. Dennis, who reach via a fielder's choice came around to score on a Lady Packer error for one of VHS' runs. Rumph, who singled, trotted

home on with the Lady Cats final run on Hargett's second sacrifice fly of the game.

Unfortunately, it was not to be for the Lady Cats. Colquitt County erupted for two runs in the fifth and two more in the seventh to escape with a hard fought 7-4 win.

Meanwhile, the Valdosta bats went silent over the last four innings as the Lady Cats could only manage a seventh inning infield single off the bat of Robin Walker.

Walker and Bivins led the Valdosta offensive charge with two hits each. Dennis, Rumph and Lisa Vincent collected one hit each for the Valdosta ladies. Kendra Elliott, 1-2, was charged with the loss on the mound for VHS.



Thursday, August 22, 1991

Local Folks



Meet...

- NAME: Chad Steinberg
- RESIDENCE: Valdosta
- OCCUPATION: 10th-grader at Valdosta High School.
- HOBBIES: Football.
- QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Go Cats Go!"

People File



Valdosta High defender John Copeland (27) Marcus Williams (44) closes in — Times Photo drags down Camden's Karis Sullivan (13) as by Jeff Allen

Cats Run Past Camden

VDT, Sat., Sept. 7, 1991

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Nick Hyder's top-ranked Valdosta High Wildcats converted two third-quarter Camden County High Wildcat turnovers into 14 points to break open a tight 6-0 contest en route to a convincing 27-7 victory at Cleveland Field Friday night in prep football action.

The only scoring the Cats could manage in the opening two quarters were two Dow Drury field goals. The senior sidewinder booted a 25-yarder with 3:57 left in the second quarter to break a scoreless tie. Drury's kick capped a seven-play, 53-yard drive.

Drury capped off a 10-play, 55-yard scoring march as time ran out in the opening half with a 23-yard field goal to stake the Cats to slim 6-0 halftime lead.

With quarterback Steve Everson directing the Valdosta offense, the Cats took possession of the pigskin with just 1:25 showing on the clock. Everson, who hit on nine of 16 passing for 105 yards on the night, completed four of seven passes on the drive for 34 yards to receivers Brice Hunter, Shadrick Green and Alfred Barnes to set up the field goal.

"I thought our passing game was sharp tonight (Friday)," stated Hyder, who moved into seventh place on the all-time victory list for Georgia prep head football coaches passing Jim Cavan, father of Valdosta State College head football coach Mike

VALDOSTA, 27-7	
CAMDEN COUNTY	0 0 0 7 - 7
VALDOSTA	0 6 21 0 - 27

V—Dow Drury 25 FG
V—Drury 23 FG
V—Sam Thomas 1 run (Drury kick)
V—Albert Edmonds 9 run (Drury kick)
V—Brice Hunter 25 pass from Steve Everson (Alan Sanderson kick)
C—Jimmy Hutchinson 1 run (Bucky Buchanan kick)

CAMDEN CO.	VALDOSTA
8	First downs 21
35-120	Rushes-yards 42-196
8	Passing yards 105
1-9-1	Passes 9-17-0
128	Total yards 301
2-1	Fumbles lost 2-0
6-70	Penalties-yards 6-60
5-35.2	Punts-average 4-29.5

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Camden County, Hutchinson 12-9, Sullivan 12-61, Nightingale 4-45, Stevens 7-5. Valdosta, S. Thomas 5-43, Bell 5-30, B. Wiseman 3-30, Everson 8-28, D. Williams 4-20, Edmonds 7-19, Barnes 4-18, McMullen 3-6, Randolph 1-3, B. Thomas 2-(minus 1).

PASSING—Camden County, Sullivan 1-8-1-8, Cobb 0-1-0-0. Valdosta, Everson 9-16-0-105, Bell 0-1-0-0.

RECEIVING—Camden County, P. Walker 1-8. Valdosta, B. Hunter 4-64, S. Green 3-32, Barnes 1-7, Rocky 1-2.

Cavan. Hyder's record stands at 249-39-5, while Cavan amassed an impressive 248-120-23 mark.

"Our line blocked well and our receivers caught the football well. It was a great team effort," Hyder said.

In the third quarter, the Cats took advantage of two Camden County turnovers to put 14 quick points on the board and take control of the contest. After Camden County forced a Valdosta punt on the first possession of the second half, Kyle Stevens couldn't handle Wayne DeVane's 42-yard punt. The Cats' Nick Reed pounced on the loose pigskin to set up the Valdosta offense with first-and-goal at the Camden County 1-

yard line with 8:49 left in the third quarter.

Sophomore running back Sam Thomas, who rushed for 43 yards on five carries, bulled his way into end zone to give the Cats a 12-0 bulge. Drury tacked on the extra point and Valdosta was up 13-0.

"The muffed punt was definitely the turning point in the game," said Hyder, whose Cats put their 2-0 mark on the line at Cleveland Field against the Class AAA Wayne County High Yellow Jackets Friday night at 8. Camden County slipped to 1-1 with the loss.

The swarming black and gold Cats defense set the offense up with excellent field position at the Camden County 34-yard line on the next possession. Defensive back Jason Jelks made a diving interception of a Karis Sullivan pass with 6:34 left in the third quarter to put the Cats in business.

Running back Brian Wiseman ripped off runs of 14 and 11 yards to give the Cats first-and-goal at the Camden 9-yard line. Senior Albert Edmonds finished off the scoring drive with a 9-yard burst through the left side of the line with 5:47 left in the third stanza. Valdosta had an insurmountable 20-0 lead after Drury added the extra point.

Valdosta rounded out its scoring with an eight-play, 72-yard drive. Everson threw a 25-yard scoring strike to split end Brice Hunter to cap off the scoring drive with 19 seconds remaining in the third quarter. Alan Sanderson added the extra point and

See WILDCATS, Page 3-B

"Our kids accepted the challenge," stated VHS defensive line coach Larry Jester, on the Cats ability to shut down Hutchinson. "All week long, we knew what we had to do. Camden has a great running back (Hutchinson), but we feel like we have a lot of good running backs at Valdosta. Everything that we've heard and read about leading up to the game was Hutchinson, so we used that to fire up our defense. We had three, four and five hats on the football. I was real pleased with the effort of our players."

"We were concerned with Camden County and Jimmy Hutchinson three, four and five yarding us to death and the clock never stopping," added Hyder. "I thought we did a real good job defensively against Hutchinson and Camden County."

player hit their quarterback as he released the football on the roughing the passer penalty. On the scoring play, we had some wrong personnel in the game. We've got to learn to be ready. You can't start celebrating until the game is over if you want to completely stop someone."

Led by the play of such players as Peter Failor, Tim McClain, Brinson Barker, Nick Reed, Franklin Wiseman, Dexter Daniels, Marcus Williams, Trampis Wrice, Brock Sanford, Troy Brown, John Copeland, John Walker and company, the aggressive Cats defense limited All-State fullback Hutchinson to a scant 9 yards on 12 carries. Hutchinson rambled for 1,150 yards in 1990 and 207 yards in Camden County's season opener. In fact, the Wildcats from St. Mary's were held to just 128 yards in total offense.

zone from 1-yard out to put the visitors from St. Mary's on the scoreboard. Bucky Buchanan added the extra point to make the final, 27-7.

The Camden County touchdown snapped a 17-quarter scoreless streak by the Valdosta defense. This streak started as the Cats blanked Statesboro in the second half of the 1990 state quarterfinal playoffs. Valdosta then proceeded to shutout Clarke Central and Southwest DeKalb en route to the Class AAAA state championship. This year, Valdosta blanked McEachern in the season opener and held Camden County scoreless until the touchdown with 13 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

"I thought our defense played well until the last two minutes of the game," said VHS defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "I thought our

Wildcats

From Page 1-B

the Cats were up 27-0. Hunter, who had four receptions for 64 yards, hauled in two passes for 42 yards on the drive.

Camden County set up its only scoring of the night with a blocked punt by linebacker Leroy Scott with 1:44 left in the contest. Defensive end Chris Jones pounced on the loose pigskin at the VHS 27, only a heads-up effort by DeVane prevented a Camden County touchdown.

It appeared as if the Cats defense had stopped the Camden County threat as Jelks picked off what he thought was his second interception of the night. However, Valdosta was flagged for roughing the passer, giving Camden County a first down at the Valdosta 13.

Four plays later, fullback Jimmy Hutchinson slammed into the end



Debate team members David Matthews, Lee Scott, Bill Roberts, and Stephanie Everett, from left, prepare for a debate Thursday afternoon — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

VHS Debate Team Enjoys Arguing

V.D.T. Sept. 6, 1991
By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta teen Stephanie Everett has to work to support her habit.

After her first debate meet, the 16-year-old Valdosta High School junior became so addicted to argument that she works part-time all year to pay for summer trips to debate camp, where she takes on fellow debaters from around the country.

Recently returned from the National Forensic Institute in Washington D.C., Stephanie is gearing up for a great year as president of the VHS Debate Club. She's among a handful of students returning to the team this year.

They're back because they fell in love with debate, public argument about current events, and the mental exhilaration it brings, although each has his own reason for enjoying debate.

"I'm a fairly outspoken person and it doesn't always work to my advantage," said 15-year-old Bill

Roberts, who attended the University of Kentucky Debate Institute in Lexington this summer.

Bill said he joined the argumentative group because those close to him kept suggesting he find a more structured outlet for his public opinion. "I was sort of frustrating my parents."

Fifteen-year-old sophomore David Matthews hoped debate would enhance his speaking skills. Now speaking in class and at the podium is a much more confident experience, he said.

Veteran debater Lee Scott, a 16-year-old junior, said he enjoys the travel associated with the club and the numerous friends he's made all over the state at various competitions.

An obsession with arguing isn't the only requirement for being a good debate partner, however. The serious have to be voracious readers of research material as well as current newspapers and magazines.

Debate conditioning involves
See CHARACTER, Page 2-A

The Valdosta Daily Times Character

From Page 1-A

building up the gray matter, which doesn't hurt when you're a student.

"No one can know the library better than the debate club," Stephanie said. "I live in the library."

This year's topic, chosen by the National Forensic League, is the homeless and whether the government should support social programs for them. Last year's concerned the value of space exploration.

Although they debate the same question all year long, a good debater knows how to relate other issues to the topic as evidence, the group said; so it's not hard to customize an argument to include causes, topics and ideas the student enjoys discussing, such as politics, economics, abortion, welfare, etc.

The VHS debate team will compete with schools throughout the state this year and with schools in Florida, Georgia and Alabama, at the Tallahassee Warm-up competition at Florida State University this month.

Club sponsors are social studies teachers Renee Busby and Michael Herrin.

Time Ticking Away For Vikings, Cats

the Cats' season opener is a special 'Salute to Moody AFB' night. Festivities will get started at midfield at 7:30 p.m.

The first phase of the Vikings' 'Operation: Region Storm' battle plan begins against one of the perennial powers in Georgia prep football — Warner Robins.

"We've worked on Warner Robins since the first day of camp," stated Tomberlin following practice Monday night. "We hope that it will pay off. It is important to get off to a good start. Our main objective is to win, but we want to play well."

As the Vikings concluded their first game-week practice Monday night, Tomberlin had mixed reactions about his troops performance.

Tomberlin's first year at Lowndes. Last season, the Vikings came away with a hard fought 10-3 win against the Demons.

Meanwhile, the Valdosta High Wildcats took Monday off. The Cats, who don't open up until Saturday night, will return to the practice field today in preparation for McEachern.

"I know the start of the season is getting close, but we don't feel bad about not practicing Monday," said Hyder. "Monday was the first day of school and it was good for the youngsters to get acclimated to class. We had 20 good hard practices sessions over our two weeks of summer camp. Our assistant coaches have done a real fine job."

"Our practice was not as good as I would have liked for it to be, but we got in a lot of good work," added Tomberlin. "We continued to get better as the practice went along. We just had to wake them up a little."

The Vikings will practice in full pads today and Wednesday. On Thursday, Tomberlin's troops will work out in helmets and shorts under the lights at Martin Stadium beginning at 7:30 p.m.

In Tomberlin's two years at the helm of the Viking football program, Lowndes has won once and lost once against the Demons. Warner Robins clipped the Vikes, 28-15, in

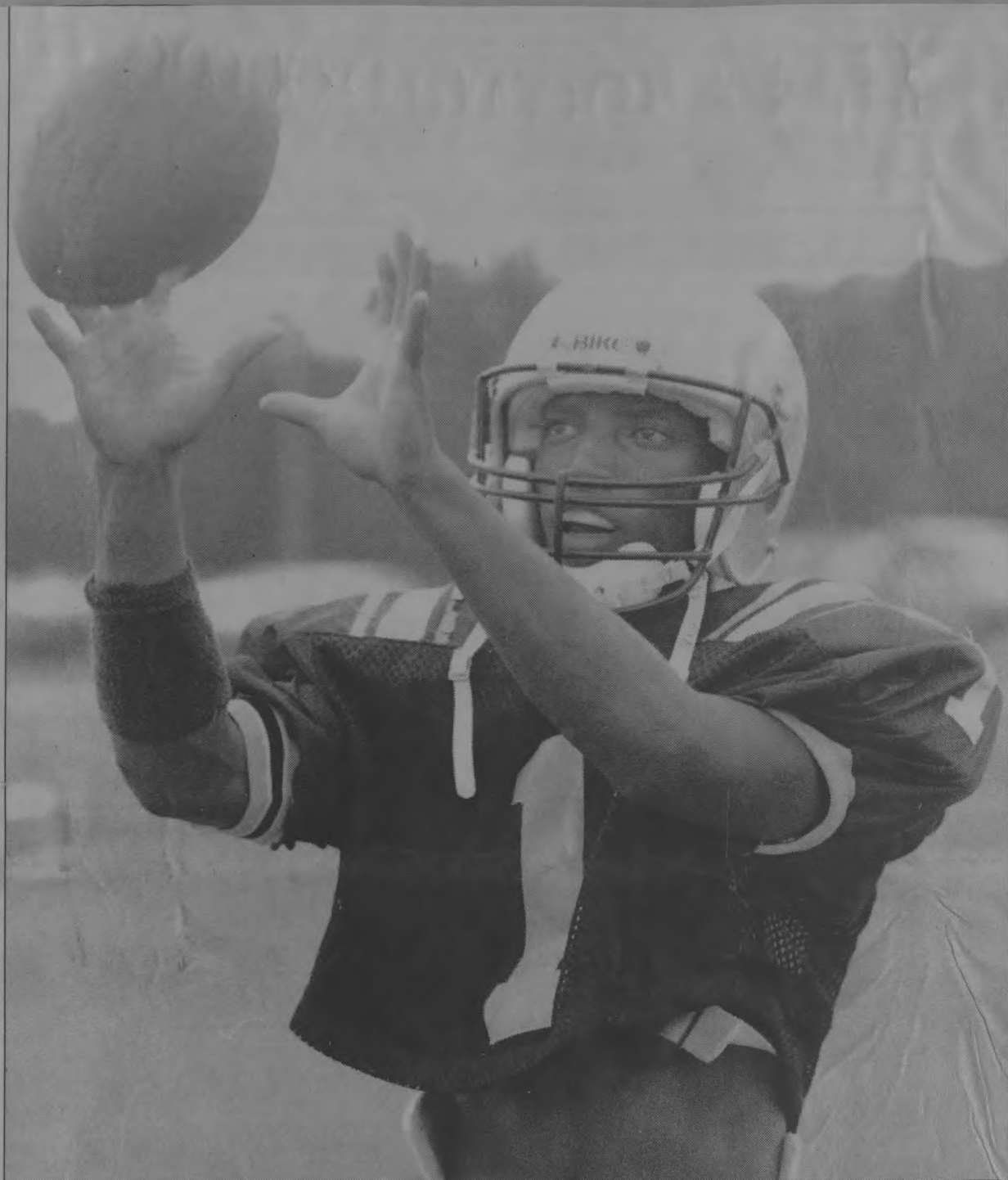
By MIKE CRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Tick, tick, tick. Time is ticking down as the 1991 Georgia prep football season nears.

Rick Tomberlin's Lowndes High Vikings will begin the first phase of their "Operation: Region Storm" campaign Friday night on the road at International City Stadium against the Region 2-AAAA champion Warner Robins Demons at 8. Nick Hyder's Valdosta High Wildcats begin their quest for a third straight Class AAAA state football title Saturday night at Cleveland Field against the Region 5-AAAA champion McEachern Indians at 8. On tap for



Valdosta High's Steven Everson passes under pressure from Camden County's Byron Dawson — Times Photo by Jeff Allen



Valdosta High junior Steve Everson was named the Cats starting quarterback for Saturday night's season opener against the McEachern Indians — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Everson To Direct Cats Offensive Attack

VDT, Fri., Aug 30, 1991
 By MIKE CRUBB
 Times Assistant Sports Editor

Dale Williams, Bruce Bennett, Don Golden, Bruce Hilton, Stan Bounds, Buck Belue, John Lastinger, John Bond, David Parker, Ted West, Greg Talley, Berke Holtzclaw, B.J. Mason, Ben Hogan and Alton Hitson are just a few in the long and illustrious line of starting quarterbacks at Valdosta High. On Saturday night, junior Steve Everson will join this long list of fabled starting quarterbacks at VHS as the Wildcats open up the 1991 Georgia High School Association prep football season against the McEachern High Indians at 8 in Cleveland Field.

Everson served as backup last season to Alton Hitson, who led the Cats to back-to-back Class AAAA state football championships. Locked in a three-way battle with junior John Bell and senior Jamey Waters for the right to direct the Valdosta offense this summer, Everson emerged from this highly competitive battle with the No. 1 slot.

"Steve won the battle," stated VHS head football coach Nick Hyder before practice Thursday afternoon. "The fact of being Alton's (Hitson) backup last season and the experienced that he gained helped him. The competition was like a 100-yard dash where a nose can make a difference — a photo finish.

"John Bell is very talented and will see action at quarterback and wide receiver. He has a great attitude and will help us at wide receiver. He gives us a dimension similar to Brice Hunter — a great athlete, 6-2, long arms and great hands."

Everson gives the Cats offensive attack a double threat. He is equally adept at both running and passing the football. As far as speed goes, this elusive field general has been timed in the 40-yard dash at 4.5.

"Steve is in the mold of most of the quarterbacks at Valdosta," Hyder added. "He has a little more speed than Alton and reminds me of Berke Holtzclaw with his quick feet and

toughness. He is very competitive and a very good athlete. In fact, Steve is one of the most versatile athletes that we have had here in years.

"He plays basketball, baseball and is a very good student. Steve comes from a very strong academic family and he receives that kind of encouragement from his parents."

"I'm a student first and then everything else comes after that," stated Everson, who plays point guard on the VHS basketball team and third base, pitcher and outfield on the Cats baseball squad.

Don't think for one minute that Everson isn't excited and aware of the job at hand.

■ MCEACHERN HIGH INDIANS AT NO. 1 VALDOSTA HIGH WILDCATS: It is going to be a special Saturday night at Cleveland Field for two reasons: 1. It's the 1991 season opener. 2. There will be a 'Salute to Moody AFB' beginning at 7:30.

The Indians came into Death Valley a season ago with a 40-game regular season winning streak. When the final horn sounded, the Tribe left with a 28-6 loss and a feeling that in 1991 they could and would knock off the top-rated Cats.

McEachern comes in with nothing to lose and everything to gain. The Indians offense consists of 10 seniors and one junior. Leading the way is quarterback Marcus Hinton and all-world tight end Adam Meadows.

Meanwhile, Valdosta High is Valdosta High. The Cats come into this fray atop the Class AAAA polls having won back-to-back state titles. VHS has assembled its biggest offensive line (Brad Grant, Andy Sheffield, Tim O'Brien, Jay Bowling, Sean Van Ausdall, Eddie Wooten, Andy Harrison, Jesse Hunter, Alan Holt and Greg Porter) since 1986 averaging 246 pounds across the front. Across from this huge line is a McEachern defensive front that averages 219 pounds from end-to-end.

Depth should play a big part in deciding the outcome of this classic confrontation. With that in mind, I can't think of team that has the depth of Valdosta. In a barnburner: Mr. Vegas picks Valdosta, 24-7.

V. Times
 8-30-91

Valdosta, Go For 3-0

VDT Fri., Sept. 13, 1991

Wayne County Also Has Unbeaten Mark

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Something has got to give tonight at 8 in Cleveland Field as the 2-0 Wayne County High Yellow Jackets swarm into the Azalea City to battle the 2-0 Valdosta High Wildcats.

The Cats travelled to Jesup last season and came back with a 38-6 prep football victory. However, the Jackets are much improved this season under new head football coach Paul Conner, who led the program from 1985-87.

The Jackets (4-6 in 1990) opened the 1991 season with a shocking 37-13 rout of normally tough Waycross. Last week, Wayne County clipped Glascock County, 40-13.

Meanwhile, the Nick Hyder-coached Cats have opened just as impressively. The Cats, who are the defending two-time Class AAAA state football champions, are currently ranked No. 1 Georgia AP board of sports writers Class AAAA football poll. Valdosta is also ranked No. 7 in the latest USA Today's national Top 25 prep football poll.

In the process, the Valdosta offense has been chewing up yardage — 434 yards in two games. The line has given quarterbacks Steve Everson and John Bell enough time to throw for 195 yards and two touchdowns.

The Cats are currently No. 1 in Region 1-AAAA in scoring offense with 51 points. Everson has accounted for 291 yards in total offense — 116 yards rushing and 175 yards passing.

Leading the Cats receiving corps is senior Brice Hunter, who ranks No. 2 in receiving in 1-AAAA. He has hauled in eight passes for 123 yards and two touchdowns.

Hoping to stall the VHS offense will be a Wayne County defense led by middle line-backer Sean Mitchell (265, So.). In the Jackets

TONIGHT

WHO: Valdosta High Wildcats (2-0) vs. Wayne County High Yellow Jackets (2-0).

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Cleveland Field, Valdosta. Tickets: \$5 at gate.

IF NOT THERE, WHERE: Radio:

WAAC-FM (92.9) in Valdosta area.

Television: Wildcat Tradition will present game highlights Thursday night on TCI Cablevision (channel 12, 8 p.m.) and Falcon Cable (The Welcome Channel, 10 p.m.)

WEATHER: Fair, low in the lower 70s.

LAST WEEK: Valdosta defeated Camden County, 27-7; Wayne County defeated Glascock County, 40-13.

LAST SEASON: Valdosta won, 38-6, in Jesup.

THE SERIES: Valdosta leads, 19-6-2.

RANKINGS: In Georgia AP, Valdosta is ranked No. 1 in Class AAAA. The Wildcats are also No. 7 in USA Today's national poll.

win against Waycross, Mitchell recorded three quarterback sacks, caused a fumble and blocked a punt.

The VHS defense, which is No. 1 in 1-AAAA in scoring defense (7 points), will have the task of stopping Wayne's veer attack.

Spearheading the Wayne County veer attack will be sophomore quarterback Steve Madray, who started three games last season.

VDT Thurs. Sept 5, 1991

Georgia's Associated Press Rankings

Here is the latest poll of The Associated Press board of sports writers and a broadcaster ranking Georgia's high school football teams. Team names are followed by won-lost record, number of first-place votes and total points.

CLASS AAAA		CLASS AA	
1. Valdosta (1-0) (16)	160	1. Pepperell (0-0) (15)	159
2. Southwest DeKalb (1-0)	130	2. Greene-Taliaferro (1-0) (1)	125
3. LaGrange (1-0)	118	3. Jeff Davis (1-0)	101
4. Statesboro (1-0)	105	4. Cedar Grove (1-0)	96
5. Cedar Shoals (1-0)	97	5. West Laurens (0-1)	55
6. Bainbridge (1-0)	70	6. Early County (1-0)	51
7. Griffin (1-0)	64	7. East Coweta (1-0)	43
8. Clarke Central (0-1)	40	8. West Rome (0-1)	37
9. Wheeler (0-0)	34	9. Washington-Wilkes (1-0)	36
10. Marietta (1-0)	10	10. Waycross (0-1)	34
(tie) Effingham County (1-0)	10	Also receiving votes: Brooks County, Brown, Cartersville, Cook, East Hall, East Laurens, Gainesville, George, Lovett, Manchester, Mitchell-Baker, Morgan County, Screven County and White County	

CLASS AAA		CLASS A	
1. Worth County (1-0) (13)	152	1. Lincoln County (1-0) (10)	149
2. Carrollton (1-0) (3)	144	2. Clinch County (1-0) (6)	137
3. Cairo (1-0)	109	3. Macon County (1-0)	128
4. Lakeside, DeKalb (1-0)	99	4. R.E. Lee (1-0)	94
5. Burke County (1-0)	89	5. Miller County (1-0)	81
6. Marist (1-0)	74	6. Commerce (0-0)	64
7. Carver, Columbus (1-0)	64	7. Heard County (0-1)	41
8. Kendrick (1-0)	41	8. Dacula (0-0)	35
9. Thomson (0-1)	24	9. Bowdon (1-0)	30
10. Dalton (1-0)	18	10. Charlton County (0-1)	21

Also receiving votes: Appling County, Camden County, Crisp County, Dougherty, Elbert County, Fitzgerald, Habersham Central, Laney, Stephens County, Villa Rica, Ware County, Winder-Barrow and Woodward Academy

'Wildcat Tradition' Begins Another Season

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Tradition is a word that is synonymous with the Valdosta High Wildcats. So, it's only natural that the weekly television show that covers Valdosta High during the football season should be known simply as "Wildcat Tradition".

Beginning tonight, this hour-long show is broadcast every Thursday night during the season beginning at 8 p.m. on TCI's channel 12. Wildcat Tradition can also be seen later that night at 10 p.m. on Falcon Cable's channel 26.

This highly-informative show was the brainchild of Calvin McGuyrt and begins its eighth season on the air.

"The idea for the show was mine," stated McGuyrt. "I got together with Coach Hyder and thought about

naming it 'The Coach Nick Hyder Show', but he is such a team-oriented man he wanted the name to emphasize the Wildcats, not him. So, I came up with the name 'Wildcat Tradition'.

"Dr. Renn Christian, a avid Wildcat supporter, was the head of the department at Valdosta State College which runs the television studio and he helped us kick off the show eight years ago. He is also on the board of directors of the Valdosta Touchdown Club."

ON TELEVISION

A look at local football on cable television:

VALDOSTA HIGH: Wildcat Tradition is broadcast on TCI Channel 12 at 8 p.m. Thursday nights. The show is also seen Thursday and Tuesday nights at 10 p.m. on Falcon Cable's Channel 26.

LOWNDES HIGH: The Viking Fever Show is broadcast on Falcon Cable Channel 26 at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Tuesday nights. A replay of the previous week's game is shown on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 8 p.m. on the same channel.

VALDOSTA STATE: A replay of the previous week's game is shown on Monday and Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. on Falcon Cable Channel 26.

Each week, McGuyrt and Hyder will preside over this show which will feature an expanded highlights version of the previous week's games. This segment of the program will have 10 minutes of action from the

known as 'VHS Reports'. It will highlight anything from Teacher of the Year to cheerleader captains. Serving as hostess for this portion of the program will be VHS senior Ann McCranie. The hostess is selected each

previous game. year by Valdosta High principal Bill Aldrich.

"Rather than just showing the scoring plays, we might show the whole drive," stated McGuyrt. "We will also be able to show some great defensive plays as well. There is a lot you can show in 10 minutes."

'Wildcat Tradition' will also feature a segment

known as 'VHS Reports'. It will highlight anything from Teacher of the Year to cheerleader captains. Serving as hostess for this portion of the program will be VHS senior Ann McCranie. The hostess is selected each

There will also be 'TD Corner' each week. This will feature a VHS Touchdown Club board of director member explaining the different phases of what the VHS Touchdown Club does.

McGuyrt and Hyder will also handle the 'Yesteryear Wildcat' segment. This portion of the program will interview and highlight an old VHS player from the past.

Former Cat player Todd Edwards will handle the 'Wildcat Trivia' segment each week.

A new feature will be added to the program this year known simply as 'High Notes From The Marching Cats'. This will air every other week and will feature Marching Cats band director Steve Hankla.

See TRADITION, Page 4-B

Games Fill Valdosta Stadium

V. Times 9-6-91

Welsh Comes Back To Cleveland Field

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Almost one year ago tonight, the surprising Camden County High Wildcats came into Cleveland Field and battled the eventual Class AAAA state football champion Valdosta High Wildcats to a 14-14 stalemate. That one tie stood as the only blemish on the 'Cats 1990 mark (13-0-1).

Camden County, who plays in Region 2-AAA, trek back to storied Cleveland Field tonight at 8 to try and upset Class AAAA's top-ranked Wildcats.

The Wildcats from St. Mary's will come into tonight's battle with a new head football in Luther Welsh. While he may be new at Camden County, Welsh is certainly no stranger to the Valdosta High Wildcats. For 15 years, he served as head football coach for the Dougherty High Trojans in Albany.

Welsh spent the last seven season as head coach of the Class AAA Thomson High Bulldogs, near Augusta. During his tenure at Thomson, the Bulldogs capture the Class AAA state football championship in 1984 and 1985. In 27 years as a head football coach, Welsh has amassed a 184-113-3 mark.

Camden County comes into tonight's clash with a 1-0 mark, a 31-10 win against the Class A Charlton County High Indians. Last year, Charlton County lost in the Class A state championship game, 6-0, against the Lincoln County High Red Devils.

Welsh's Wildcats will unleash an explosive Wing-T attack on offense. Igniting Camden County's high-octane offense will be All-State fullback Jimmy Hutchinson (175, Sr.). As a junior in 1990, Hutchinson bulled his way for 1,150 yards on 153 attempts and scored 14 touchdowns.

He seems to have picked up right where he left off. Against Charlton County, Hutchinson ran for 207 of Camden County's 374 yards rushing. He also scored four touchdowns.

Valdosta will counter with a swarming defense that recorded a shutout in its opening contest — 24-0 against McEachern. The Cats limited McEachern's Wing-T offense to just 164 yards in total offense.

Spearheading the aggressive, attacking Valdosta defense will be Peter Failor, Brinson

TONIGHT

WHO: Valdosta High Wildcats (1-0) vs. Camden County High Wildcats (1-0).

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Cleveland Field, Valdosta.

IF NOT THERE, WHERE:

Radio: WAAC-FM (92.9) in Valdosta area. Television: Wildcat Tradition will present game highlights Thursday night on TCI Cablevision (channel 12, 8 p.m.) and Falcon Cable (The Welcome Channel, 10 p.m.)

WEATHER: A 20 percent chance of an evening thundershower, then fair. Low in the lower 70s.

LAST WEEK: Valdosta defeated McEachern, 24-0; Camden County defeated Charlton County, 31-10.

LAST SEASON: The two teams tied, 14-14, at Cleveland Field.

THE SERIES: Valdosta leads, 2-0-1.

RANKINGS: In Georgia AP, Valdosta is ranked No. 1 in Class AAAA. Camden received votes, but not enough to make the Class AAA Top 10.

Barker, Tim McClain, Franklin Wiseman, Nick Reed, Dexter Daniels, Marcus Williams, Trampis Wrice, John Copeland, Brock Sanford, Troy Brown and John Walker.

On the offensive side of the things, Valdosta under the direction of junior quarterback Steve Everson racked up 328 yards in total offense against the McEachern Indians.



After-School Wait

Angela Dunsford, a ninth grader at Valdosta High School, waits for her grandmother to pick her up after school Thursday. Dunsford said that Thursday was her first day of school at VHS after moving from Chattahoochee, Fla. — Times Photo

Mike Grubb

V. Times 9-6-91

Another Attempt At Picks

Just when you thought it was safe to pick up the paper again, I'm back just...like a bad rash. Oh yes, Mr. Vegas, that prince of pigskin prognostication is ready, willing and able to unveil the winners for this week's prep gridiron action.

How did I do last week, you ask? I was a fair, and I mean fair 5-3. OK, so my crystal ball was a little dusty or my aim with the darts was just a tad off. What do you want from a four-eyed, 265-pound gridiron guru besides a map to the local restaurants? A few winners, I know.

■ **CAMDEN COUNTY (1-0) AT NO. 1 VALDOSTA (1-0):** All that anybody has been talking, reading or hearing about is that 14-14 tie last year between these two pigskin adversaries. Well, I can assure you of one thing — this one will not end up in stalemate.

Luther Welsh's Cats from St. Mary's come into tonight's fray sporting one of the best fullbacks in the state, regardless of classification, in senior Jimmy Hutchinson. This human highlight film rambled for 1,150 yards last season and opened up this year with an impressive 207-yard, four touchdown performance against the Charlton County High Indians.

The key for Valdosta is to be able to contain Hutchinson. Yes, I said contain. I don't know if anybody can completely stop him. However, the swarming black and gold VHS defense is coming off a season-opening shutout, 24-0, against the McEachern High Indians.

Offensively, VHS ranks second in Region 1-AAAA with 328 yards in total offense. The Cats proved not only that they can run the pigskin, but they can also go to airways with quarterbacks Steve Everson and John Bell pulling the trigger.

Like the familiar phrase 'Remember the Alamo', Cat fans and players will be shouting 'Remember the Tie'. Taking control in the second half: Mr. Vegas picks Valdosta, 28-7.

Cats' Freshmen Have Impressive Debut, 21-6

By MIKE GRUBB

Times Assistant Sports Editor

Tim Horton's Valdosta High Wildcat freshmen squad made their 1991 debut Thursday afternoon at Cleveland Field against the Columbia High Tigers freshmen. If the opening act was any indication of just what Horton's troops are capable of, look for good things from this hungry group of Cats. Valdosta hammered the visiting Tigers from Lake City, Fla., 21-6.

Outside of an 84-yard kickoff return by Columbia High's Terry Calloway, the Cats dominated this affair from start to finish. Valdosta's offense churned out 217 yards, while the Jack Rudolph-coached Cats defense limited the Tigers to a scant 57 yards in total offense and only four first downs.

Standing out on the VHS freshmen offensive line were center Chas Melton, guard LeMont DeBrow and tight end George Roundtree. Spearheading the swarming Valdosta defense were linebackers Tony Norton, Otis Denton, end Don Baker and defensive backs Johnny Jones and Tim Bryant.

"We're not as talented as a lot of teams, but our kids give everything that they have," stated Horton, whose Cats swung back into action Oct. 3 at Cleveland Field against the Tift County Freshmen Blue Devils. That game will follow the Valdosta Junior High Tomcats game against Waycross Junior High. "We're very undersized, but we have a lot of overachievers. I think on down the road some of these young men are going to be really good football players and winners."

The young Cats wasted little time in getting on the scoreboard. After forcing a Columbia High punt, Valdosta drove 72 yards in four plays on its initial possession to draw first blood with 53 seconds left in the first quarter. Vaughn Clark, who gained 82 yards on eight carries, took a toss sweep around left end, picked up a good block from Edgardo Foster and raced 56 yards for a touchdown to stake the Cats to a 6-0 lead.

The lead was short-lived as Calloway returned the ensuing kickoff for 84 yards for Columbia High's lone touchdown. After missing the extra point, the contest was deadlocked at 6-6.

"We had a little lapse, but we can fix that," Valdosta regained the lead for good with just 1:30 left before intermission. Johnny

Jones gathered in a Columbia High punt at the Tigers 40, picked up a wall of black and gold blockers and scampered down the right sideline 40 yards for a touchdown to give the Cats the lead. After Michael Carter tacked on the PAT, Valdosta had an insurmountable 13-6 lead.

The Cats' final touchdown was set up by a Tim Bryant interception in Columbia territory. With quarterback Woody Gayle directing the Valdosta offense, the Cats marched 48 yards in eight plays to grab a 21-6 lead. Carlos Dubose, who gained 33 yards on nine carries, capped off the drive with a four-yard run with 9:25 left in the game. Clark ran for the two-point conversion to finish the scoring.

■ TOMCATS 14, BLUE DEVILS 0: Torry Wright scored on runs of six and 55 yards as

John Davis' Valdosta Junior High Tomcats ran their record to 2-0 with a 14-0 win against the Tift County Junior High Blue Devils in Tifton Thursday afternoon.

Wright's 56-yard scoring run capped off an 86-yard scoring drive with 1:30 left in the contest after the Tomcats' defense stopped a Blue Devils scoring threat at the VJHS 14-yard line. Marshall Bethay was perfect in the extra point department for the Tomcats hitting both attempts.

The Tomcats will battle Hahira Middle School Sept. 26 at 5 p.m. at Cleveland Field.

In other action this week, the 1-1 VJHS Al-leycats upended Aucilla Christian (Fla.), 14-8, Tuesday. The 2-0 VJHS Straycats pounded Ware County Junior High, 20-6, on Wednesday.

Cats Still Hunger And Thirst In '91

VDT Thurs. Sept. 26, 1991
By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

You would think that the Valdosta High Wildcats would be satisfied. They are the two-time defending state champions and the winningest high school football team in the nation. And the 1991 Cats seem to be coming together perfectly.

They are 4-0 and fresh off a 35-0 thrashing of the Alabama 6-A state champion. They lead Region 1-AAAA in offense and defense. But coach Nick Hyder and the Cats will be satisfied only when they are the three-time defending state champions.

Hyder repeats this year's theme — "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matthew 5:6). If you continue to hunger and thirst and do what's right, you're going to continue to climb and to improve."

In four games this season, the team has shown its balance and depth. The offense, defense, and special teams have had equal parts to play in the success of the Wildcats so far.

Valdosta's rushing attack is the reason Valdosta leads the region in offense. The Cats have averaged 255 yards rushing per game. The backs' average of 5.34 yards per rush is second only to Lowndes High.

"We feel good about the depth that we have," Hyder said of his backfield Wednesday afternoon. "We have approximately six, seven, or eight young men who make up the two running back positions. So we feel like depth has been a good dimension for us to this point."

None have flagrant statistics. Albert Edmonds leads the Cats with an average of 48 yards per game. Other top rushers are Brian Wiseman with 47.7 yards per game, Steve Everson with 41.2, David Williams with 32.2, Sam Thomas with 28, and Alfred Barnes with 27.7 per game.

The Wildcats have not been forced to rely on their passing attack because of their success on the ground. Thus the excuse for their ranking of fifth in Region 1-AAAA passing yardage.

But when they do pass the ball, they complete it. Valdosta's completion percentage of 56.8 percent is best in the region.

"The main elements of the passing game are the passer, the protection, the receivers, and you have to have a scheme to develop that," he said. "We work extremely hard on that, and there's been some indication that the hard work has paid off."

Valdosta ranking of number one in overall defense in Region 1-AAAA is a result of balance as well. Valdosta is second against the run and first against the pass.

They have allowed an average of only 99 yards per game, second only to Colquitt's average of 73.7 per game. Opponents are averaging 3.09 yards per carry, also second to Colquitt's 2.9 per carry.

"We feel like our coaches (Charles Tarpley, Al Akins, Larry Jester, and Keith Middleton) have worked well together to solve any problems," said Hyder. "But the problems get tougher as the season progresses."

Valdosta has only given up 27.2 yards per game of passing yards. The pass defense has allowed a completion percentage of 33 percent.

Valdosta, Clinch On Top

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

For the third straight week, Nick Hyder's Valdosta High Wildcats have secured the top spot in the Georgia AP board of sports writers Class AAAA prep football poll. Unlike last week, the Cats were not a unanimous choice for the No. 1 spot receiving 12 of 15 first place votes and 146 points.

Donald Tison's Clinch County High Panthers have moved into a first place tie with the defending Class A state football champion Lincoln County High Red Devils atop the Class A poll. Clinch County received seven of 15 first place votes and 141 points, while Lincoln County landed eight first place ballots and 141 points.

In addition to Valdosta, Rick Tomberlin's Lowndes High Vikings cracked the Top 10 this week at No. 10.

The Georgia AP Football Poll

VDT Wed. Sept. 11, 1991

CLASS AAAA		CLASS AA	
1. Valdosta (2-0) (12)	146	1. Pepperell (1-0) (13)	148
2. LaGrange (2-0) (3)	131	2. Greene-Taliaferro (1-0) (2)	132
3. Southwest DeKalb (2-0)	115	3. Jeff Davis (2-0)	109
4. Statesboro (2-0)	110	4. Cedar Grove (2-0)	103
5. Bainbridge (1-0)	75	5. East Coweta (1-0)	75
6. Clarke Central (1-1)	46	6. West Laurens (1-1)	52
7. Wheeler (1-0)	37	7. Mitchell-Baker (2-0)	46
8. Effingham Co. (2-0)	36	8. Cartersville (2-0)	43
9. Newnan (2-0)	29	9. Manchester (1-0)	22
10. Cedar Shoals (1-1)	25	10. Washington-Wilkes (1-1)	18
(tie) Lowndes (2-0)	25		
Also receiving votes: Adairsville, Brooks Co., Early Co., East Hall, East Laurens, Gainesville, Lovett, Mary Persons, Putnam Co., Waycross and West Rome			
CLASS AAA		CLASS A	
1. Worth Co. (2-0) (13)	147	1. Lincoln Co. (2-0) (8)	141
2. Carrollton (2-0) (2)	136	(tie) Clinch Co. (1-0) (7)	141
3. Burke Co. (2-0)	100	3. Macon Co. (2-0)	123
(tie) Lakeside-DeKalb (2-0)	100	4. Bowdon (1-0)	109
5. Cairo (1-0)	96	5. Miller Co. (1-0)	96
6. Carver-Columbus (1-0)	61	6. Commerce (1-0)	73
7. Marist (2-0)	45	7. Heard Co. (0-1)	35
8. Dalton (1-0)	39	8. R.E. Lee (1-1)	30
9. Kendrick (2-0)	31	9. Central-Talbotton (1-0)	28
10. Thomson (1-1)	16	10. Irwin County (2-0)	22
Also receiving votes: Appling Co., Camden Co., Crisp Co., Dougherty, Elbert Co., Glenn Hills, Stephens Co., Thomasville, Villa Rica and Ware Co			

Valdosta

By **MIKE CRUBB**
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Defense has long been a trademark of the Valdosta High Wildcats' football team. On Friday night, the Cats showed that this year's defense is just like all of the past Valdosta headhunters — swarming, aggressive and hard-hitting. The top-ranked Cats blasted the Class AAA Camden County High Wildcats, 27-7, to help erase memories of the 14-14 tie in 1990.

In the process, Valdosta completely picked clean the explosive Camden County Wing-T offense and its much-heralded senior

fullback Jimmy Hutchinson. Offensively, the Wildcats from St. Mary's could only muster 128 yards in total offense — 120 yards rushing and eight through the air.

Hutchinson, who rushed for 1,150 yards in 1990 and another 207 in Camden County's season opening 31-10 win against the Charlton County High Indians, could only manage 9 yards on 12 carries. He continuously ran into a black and gold brick wall at every turn.

"All week long, we knew what we had to do," stated VHS defensive line coach Larry Jester in the Cats lockerroom Friday night.

"Hutchinson is a great running back, but we feel like we have good running backs at Valdosta. Everything that we read or heard

leading up to the game was Hutchinson, so we used that to fire up our defense.

"We got three, four and five on the football. I'm real proud of the defensive line, linebackers, defensive ends and secondary. Tonight's (Friday) performance was much better. We grew a lot in just one game. If we can continue to grow like we did from the McEachern game to now, we will be alright. It's a continous learning process."

Valdosta senior defensive end Nick Reed set up the Cats first touchdown in the third quarter. Hustling downfield to cover a Valdosta punt, Reed pounced on Kyle Stevens' fumble at the Camden County 1-yard line. Sophomore running back Sam Thomas

plunged into the end zone on the next play to give the Cats a 13-0 lead.

Senior placekicker Dow Drury had staked Valdosta to a 6-0 lead at the half with field goals of 25 and 23 yards in the second quarter.

The Cats' defense help set up Valdosta's second touchdown of the night. Junior defensive back Jason Jelks picked off a Kamis Sullivan pass at the Camden County 39-yard line. Four plays later, senior running back Albert Edmonds slammed into the end zone from 9-yards out to give the Cats a 20-0 lead.

Camden County avoid the shutout late in the fourth quarter. Trailing 27-0, linebacker Leroy Scott stormed in to block a Wayne De-

Vane punt. Camden County set up shop at the VHS 27-yard line. It looked as if the Cats had escaped unharmed when Jelks picked off what he thought was his second interception of the night. Unfortunately, a roughing the passer penalty against Valdosta gave Camden County a first down at the VHS 13.

Once again, the Cats defense bowed it back forcing a fourth-and-one at the VHS 4-yard line. Hutchinson picked up his longest gain of the night (3-yards) to convert the fourth down situation. On the next play, He scored from 1-yard out. Gone was the shutout and Valdosta's 17 quarter scoreless streak dating back to the Class AAAA state quarterfinal playoff game against Statesboro in 1990.

Keeping Defensive Tradition Alive

Defenses Leading VHS, LHS Charges

By **GREG McILVAIN**
Times Sports Editor

D-E-F-E-N-S-E.

That's a good way to spell the successes of the Valdosta High School and Lowndes High School football teams so far.

And the Wildcats and the Vikings will put their defensive records on the line this week as they and other area high school teams enter the third week of action.

The September Homestand continues Friday night, with top-ranked Valdosta (2-0) hosting Wayne County (2-0) at Cleveland Field and Lowndes hosting Dodge County (1-1) at Martin Stadium.

Both games kick off at 8 p.m.

Valwood (0-1) joins the September Homestand Friday night as well, hosting Deerfield-Windsor (1-1) at Goddard Field in its home opener.

In area games Friday night, Berrien (1-1) goes to Brooks County (1-1), Pelham (1-1) at Clinch County (2-0), Fitzgerald (0-1) at Cook (1-1) and Brookwood (1-0) at Westbrook (2-0).

And the area's Florida teams kick off the 1991 season Friday night, with Madison County hosting Tallahassee's Godby and Hamilton County going to Mt. Dora.

Valdosta High gave up its first touchdown of the season late in Friday's 27-7 win over Camden County.

It ended a streak of 17 quarters in which the Wildcats had not allowed a touchdown, reaching back to the quarterfinal playoff game against Statesboro last season.

A Wildcat streak which is still alive is their 24-game stretch without a loss.

VHS has also won 14 straight since tying Camden County last season.

Wayne County has been used to posting points on the scoreboard this season, scoring 77 points in wins over Waycross and Glascock County.

Lowndes High's defense has gone a step farther than Valdosta's. It hasn't allowed a touchdown in two games, giving up only two field goals in the win at Warner Robins to open the season.

Area Standings

REGION 1-AA	Region	All
Coffee	0-0	2-0
Colquitt County	0-0	2-0
Lowndes	0-0	2-0
Valdosta	0-0	2-0
Bainbridge	0-0	1-0
Tift County	0-0	0-2
REGION 1-AA	Region	All
Mitchell-Baker	0-0	2-0
Brooks County	0-0	1-1
Early County	0-0	1-1
Seminole County	0-0	1-1
Turner County	0-0	1-1
Randolph-Clay	0-0	0-2
REGION 2-AA	Region	All
Berrien	0-0	1-1
Brantley County	0-0	1-1
Cook	0-0	1-1
Bacon County	0-0	0-2
Pierce County	0-0	0-2
Waycross	0-0	0-2
REGION 2-AA	Region	All
Clinch County	0-0	2-0
Irwin County	0-0	2-0
Charlton County	0-0	1-1
Atkinson County	0-0	0-2
GISA 3-AA	Region	All
Tiftarea	0-0	2-0
Westbrook	0-0	2-0
Valwood	0-0	0-1

The touchdown Groves scored last week was off an interception return.

Dodge got into the win column last week with a 28-6 victory over Americus, after losing 9-7 to Bleckley County.

In the clash of area schools, it could be a matchup of Brooks' offense against Berrien's defense.

Brooks won its first game last week over Cook. Jeff Caldwell's Trojans used the running of Chris Cole and the overall play of quarterback Terry Stewart to get the victory.

Berrien kept Atkinson County in negative yardage in its victory Friday night, the first for new coach Brent Miller.

And you need to add Clinch County, Class A's No. 2 team, to the defensive list. It hasn't allowed a point in two games.

Pelham is coming off a 34-13 loss to Seminole County, after winning 13-0 in its opener over Atkinson County.

Mr. Vegas

Warming

To Picks

Things are starting to look up for Mr. Vegas.

The prince of prep pigskin prognostication had a respectable 7-3 week to bring my season mark to 12-6.

Wouldn't you know that about the time I get my crystal ball fine tuned and my throwing arm in shape, it's Friday the 13th. That's a fine how do you do. I've got to take a few extra precautions this week.

A four-eyed fat man can use all of the luck that he can get.

■ **WAYNE COUNTY (2-0) AT NO. 1 VALDOSTA (2-0):** This gridiron matchup pits two teams that are on a roll. The Jackets buzz into this fray on the heels of impressive wins against Waycross High and Glascock County High. Meanwhile, the top-rated Cats prowl into this affair with consecutive wins against McEachern High and Camden County High.

Valdosta has long been a power in Georgia prep football and this season is shaping up no differently.

The gridders from Jesup are trying to rebuild their once proud football program back to the level it once was at. It appears as if the foundation is being laid at Wayne County, but that won't be enough tonight. Look for the VHS demolition crew to put a few dents in the Wayne County rebuilding plans. ■ **Mr. Vegas picks Valdosta, 31-7.**

Purple Tigers Return Friday

VDT, Wed, Sept. 18, 1991

By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

BESSEMER, Ala. — Last year the Jess Lanier High (Ala.) Purple Tigers, annually one of Alabama's better football teams, managed a respectable 12-3 record. But the 12th win was a big one.

Jess Lanier caught fire late last season as they blazed their way through the Alabama state playoffs to capture the 6-A state championship. Returning Tigers will certainly remember that game, but they will also remember the 17-16 loss they suffered at the hands of the Valdosta High Wildcats.

The (1-1) Purple Tigers will be looking to avenge that loss when the two champions clash in a neighborhood battle Friday night at 8 at Cleveland Field.

Head coach Carroll Cox said Tuesday night that the trip to Valdosta is one of the highlights of the year. "This is always a real enjoyable trip for us and the players, but it's also a strain for the coaches to get ready for such a formidable opponent."

Cox said that this year's team will be similar to last year's squad in that it will be a team that should get better with time.

"I think that we got better late last season," he said. "Everything just came together all at once for us. Things just fell into place and the timing was excellent."

"I think that this is going to be that type of year where the team gets better with every game," he added.

The Purple Tigers do not have a complex offense. Coach Cox believes in the run and the wishbone offense. However, do not be surprised to see the Purple Tiger offense launch a pass or two.

Cox does not expect to rely upon the pass, but with an experienced Chris Windsor (6-2, 195) back at quarterback, he feels comfortable letting the three-year starter throw a pass or two.

"We're a running ball team," he said. "But I think we're passing more this year than we've ever done. That is because of the experience at quarterback."

"He's a great player and can do a lot of things for us," he added. "He's experienced, and he's a big part of this football team."

Passing is still not the forte of the wishbone quarterback. His specialty, of course, is running. In fact, Windsor is the leading rusher on the season for the Purple Tigers.

But if the Wildcats stop Windsor, they will then have to contend with

Cats Climb To No. 5

Staff Reports

The Valdosta High Wildcats, ranked No. 1 in the Georgia AP Class AAAA football polls, climbed to No. 5 in Tuesday's USA Today's national prep top 25 football poll.

The Cats, who opened up the season ranked No. 10 nationally, climbed to No. 7 last week. A couple of losses to higher ranked teams enabled VHS to move up to No. 5 this week.

Valdosta puts its lofty ranking on the line Friday night at 8 in fabled Cleveland Field as the defending Alabama Class 6A state football champion Jess Lanier High (Ala.) Purple Tigers come to call. VHS won last year's meeting, 17-16.

senior running back Maurice Minter (5-9, 165).

"He's also got a lot of experience," said Cox. "He's a hard runner and he is very intelligent. He's a smart back and he makes good grades in the classroom."

Good news for the Wildcats is that Jess Lanier lost most of their tonnage on the offensive line which brought a lot of notoriety.

"We don't have a lot of big three hundred pounders like we had last year," said Cox. "We're basically around 230 and 240 on the lines. We're just a normal average-sized high school team."

"In fact, I think Valdosta's probably bigger than we are there," he adds. "Last year was just one of those situations where everybody just came up all at once."

Coach Cox did add that there was one exception on the average-sized line. Right guard Darrell Oliver (6-4, 310 pounds) returns on the line for the Purple Tigers.

Cox spoke of only three standout players on his defense — one in the secondary, one in the linebacker corps, and one on the defensive line.

Safety Kurt Jones is one of the leaders on defense. Ronnie Hunter is a standout defensive end. At 6-3, 197 pounds, Hunter has the versatility to play the run and rush the passer. Linebacker Quincy Dunston is a solid tackler who anchors the linebacker corps.

Cox was to the point with his team's biggest weakness. "Depth. Depth is our biggest problem."

Cats-Generals Top Area Slate

VDT, Sept. 23, 1991

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

As the Georgia prep football season enters its fifth week of action and the Florida prep season begins its third, there are still five teams in the Valdosta Daily Times coverage area with undefeated records.

Heading up the list are the Valdosta High Wildcats, Lowndes High Vikings and Clinch County High Panthers — all with perfect 4-0 slates. The Hamilton County High (Fla.) Trojans are off to a 2-0 start, while the Madison County High (Fla.) Cowboys have roped a 1-0 slate.

Headlining the fifth week of prep gridiron action will be the Robert E. Lee (Ala.) Generals against the Valdosta High Wildcats at Cleveland Field Friday night at 8. The Generals of Montgomery will come into the contest sporting an impressive 3-0 record, including a 35-15 win against Carver of Montgomery last Friday night. Earlier in the season, Lee upended the Jess Lanier High (Ala.) Purple Tigers, 24-21. In their second game of the year, the Generals travelled to Mississippi and defeated Pascagoula, 21-0. In the latest USA Today national prep football top 25 poll, Lee was ranked 19th.

Meanwhile, Nick Hyder's Cats are coming off an impressive 35-0 rout of Jess Lanier High (Ala.) last Friday night at Cleveland Field. What makes the score even that more impressive is the fact that the Purple Tigers were the defending Alabama 6A state football champions and ranked No. 3 in 6A this year. The shutout was the second of the season by the swarm-

ing Valdosta defense. The Cats blanked the McEachern High Indians, 24-0, to open up the season.

Valdosta also has recorded wins against the Camden County High Wildcats (27-7) and the Wayne County High Yellow Jackets (41-7). The Cats are currently ranked No. 1 in the Georgia AP prep football Class AAAA poll and No. 5 in the latest USA Today national prep football poll. Last season, VHS blanked the visiting Generals, 10-0.

There will also be gridiron excitement at Martin Stadium as Rick Tomberlin's Vikings entertain the undefeated 4-0 Northeast Macon Raiders at 8. The undefeated Vikes are coming off a 49-21 dismantling of the Stone Mountain High Pirates. After only scoring seven points in its 7-6 season-opening win against the Warner Robins High Demons, Lowndes has reeled off 123 points in its last three games.

The Vikings will be facing a Raiders squad that has recored wins against Therrell (33-6), Southeast Macon (46-0), Northside Warner Robins (27-13) and Central Macon (35-15). Last season, Lowndes squeaked out a slim 2-0 victory.

Joe Wilson's 1-2 Valwood Valiants will play host to the perennial GISA powerhouse the Southwest Georgia Academy Warriors Friday night at Goddard Field at 8.

In other area games, the Clinch County is at Cook High, Berrien hosts Turner County, Brooks County is at Coffee, Westbrook travels to Riverview, Hamilton County plays at Havana and Madison County goes to Jefferson County.

Football 'Welcomed' To TCI's Cable Menu

VDT, Mon, Sept. 16, 1991

By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

TCI Cablevision of Valdosta has added The Welcome Channel to its programming lineup, giving city football fans a chance to see replays of their favorite Valdosta/Lowndes football teams.

TWC will occupy channel 39 on TCI's system and will continue broadcasting on Falcon Cable channel 26.

Gary Hutchens is the owner of Georgia Video Productions, which produces The Welcome Channel. He said that the channel is centered around football right now, but he plans to branch out into other areas in time.

The channel will air Valdosta State College Blazers replays on Mondays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m., the Viking Fever Show followed by Lowndes High games on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m., and Valdosta High's Wildcat Tradition Show on

Thursday and Tuesday nights at 10:30 p.m.

Wildcat Tradition, produced by Valdosta State College's television department, is also seen on TCI's access channel (channel 12) at 8 p.m. on Thursdays.

"Those are just the programs that I chose to go with," Hutchens said. "I felt that that was the first route to go. Valdosta is so football-oriented anyhow."

The Welcome Channel will now reach over 26,000 homes, 22,000 of which are subscribers of TCI Cable. Hutchens hopes that the added viewership will put him closer to a goal he has had since 1986.

"I've been working on this thing for years," said Hutchens, "so, it's not like this just came up overnight. I've been trying to put together my own station here off and on since 1986."

"This finally pieces it together," he added. "I want to give Valdosta a television station that they can be proud of."

Excitement Running High At Lee

By **MIKE GRUBB**
Times Sports Editor

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — Excitement is running rampant at Robert E. Lee High (Ala.) as Spence McCracken's Generals prepare to march into Cleveland Field Friday night to battle the No. 1 ranked Valdosta High Wildcats at 8.

McCracken's Generals come into this clash of southern prep girdiron powers sporting a 3-0 mark. Included in that list are victories against the Jess Lanier High (Ala.) Purple Tigers (24-21), Pascagoula, Miss. (21-0) and Carver of Montgomery (38-15). Lee is ranked No. 2 in the Alabama Sportswriters Association Class 6A prep football poll and No. 17 in the USA Today's national prep top 25 poll.

This season, the Generals have switched to the Wing T on the offensive side of things.

"We don't have very good football players offensively," said McCracken during a phone conversation Tuesday afternoon. "We got mauled last year at Valdosta, so we thought

that by switching to this offense it might give us an advantage against some of the teams that we play."

It appears as if this new offense is working for the Generals. Lee has amassed 1,076 yards in total offense for an average of 358.7 yards per game. When it comes to rushing to pigskin, the Generals' ground troops have marched for 820 yards. When it comes to launching the air campaign against enemy defenses, the Generals have connected for 256 yards.

Igniting the Lee offense has been the explosive play of running back Fred Beasley (6-1, 180, So.). This young runner has slashed his way over, through and around would-be tacklers for 355 yards on 57 attempts and three touchdowns. Last Friday night against Carver, Beasley rushed for 198 yards.

"Fred (Beasley) is a great player," added McCracken, who has compiled a 74-20 mark in his eighth season at the helm of the Lee football program. "He's a good kid. I'm amazed to watch him play and realize that he is just a sophomore. Fred has good character."

Directing the Lee offense will be quarterback Matt Gaines (5-10, 179, Sr.). This crafty field general has connected on 16 of 30 passing for 256 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

"Matt started half of the year for us at quarterback last season," said McCracken. "He's not a great athlete, but he won't get you beat."

Joining Beasley and Gaines in the backfield will be Samuel Murray (5-6, 158, Jr.) and Buddy Davis (6-2, 212, Jr.). Manning the split end will be Tony Nelson (5-10, 168, Sr.), while Brian Blackmon (6-2, 199, Sr.) will line up at tight end.

On the offensive front, the Generals will line up with Adrian Harris (6-3, 286, Sr.) and Roosevelt Robinson (6-2, 199, Sr.) at the tackles. Brian Hill (6-2, 230, Jr.) and Jay Hudgins (5-10, 195, Jr.) will line up at guards, while Jerry Kirby (5-11, 253, Jr.) will line up at center.

Anchoring the stingy General defense will be linebacker Keith Washington (6-3, 225, Sr.). In addition to his hard-hitting capabilities, Washington also has speed. He runs the 40-yard dash in 4.48.

"Keith is real active," added McCracken. "He loves the game and closes to the football real well. Keith is the best linebacker I have ever had here and that includes Quentin Riggin (ex-Auburn star).

Manning the Lee defensive front line will be ends Ulysses Jenkins (6-4, 215, Sr.), Ralph Hughes (6-3, 235, Jr.), tackles Peter Williams (5-10, 270, Sr.), Eric Scott (5-11, 235, Sr.) and noseguard Prentice Bowen (5-7, 195, Sr.).

Joining Washington in the Generals' linebacking corps will be Scott Stafford (5-10, 165, Jr.).

The Lee secondary will consist of Mike Sadler (5-11, 160, Sr.) and Bobby Jones (5-8, 158, Sr.) at the corners, while the safeties will be manned by Brian Thomas (5-11, 180, Sr.) and Jeremy Brown (5-9, 153, Jr.).

"The key to the game will be Valdosta's defense against our offense," stated McCracken. "If it's three plays and out, the game will be over at the half.

"This is probably our biggest game."



Valdosta High's Yasmine Bivins (5) and Lowndes High's Brandy Hobbs (center) are shaken up after a collision at first base in the fourth inning of the Lady Cats' 8-3 win Tuesday afternoon at Lowndes — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Lady Cats Take Season Series

By **CHRIS JOHNSON**
Times Sports Writer

The rapidly improving Valdosta High Lady Wildcats softball team beat the Lowndes High Vikettes 8-3 Tuesday at Lowndes High School to take the season series two games to one and up their record to 5-8.

In the top of the first inning, Yasmine Bivins led off with a single, and moved to third on a single by DeDe Dennis. Bivins scored from third after a Lowndes error, and Dennis

scored on a sacrifice fly by Lisa Vincent to go up 2-0.

Stacy Cothran led off the bottom of the first with a double and scored on a two-out single to center by Shelley Lieupo to pull the Vikettes to within one at 2-1.

Lowndes, 9-3, pulled even at 2-2 in the bottom of the second when Lori Coody led off with an infield single and came home three batters later on a force out by Kortni Cofield.

Cindy Rumph pushed Valdosta back into the lead for good in the

third when she triple to deep center field and scored on a single by Vincent to give the Lady Cats a 3-2 lead.

Two Lowndes errors and one single by Kendra Elliot allowed Hillary Skinner and Amy Dennis to score and increase the Lady Cats' lead to 5-2 in the fourth.

Lowndes scored their final run in the bottom of the fourth with a home run from Lieupo. Valdosta's final three runs scored in the top of the fifth on a three-run error by the Vikettes.

Also in the mail is a copy of a letter to the football coaches and student athletes at Valdosta Junior High School. Faye Nitschke of Valdosta, whose mother, Edith Grace Tindall Lund, recently died, sent the letter to "Coach John Davis, the coaching staff, Tom Cats, Stray Cats and Alley Cats:

"My mother recently passed away, and the procession following her to her final resting place passed by on Patterson Street by the Valdosta Junior High School. Many of us had recently driven along this same street and noticed the young men dressed out in their smart uniforms, busy at scrimmage practice in the mild, late-summer afternoon. But now, to our surprise, all these athletes were kneeling on one knee, heads bowed, facing the procession, as it slowly passed.

"What a beautiful tribute. How touched we all were by this courtesy. Many in the procession were from Florida and North Georgia. Their comments were 'Now, that is real class.' 'Yes, that's Valdosta,' we replied with full hearts.

"Thank you all for this wonderful memory. My mother had led a beautiful life, 78 years, and this seemed a fitting ending."

We thank the school and the family for sharing that letter with us. That incident was one of those moments that, although fleeting, will last a lifetime in the memories of many people.

VDT. Sun. Sept. 22, 1991

Sun., Sept. 22, 1991



Fighting For Extra Yards

Valdosta High tight end Shadrick Greene (81) tries to gain extra yardage after hauling in a Steve Everson pass in the Cats' 35-0 rout of the Jess Lanier High (Ala.) Purple Tigers Friday night at Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

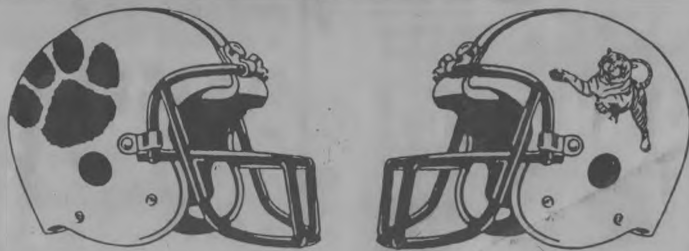
Go, Talley, Go!

VDT, Sun., Sept. 8, 1991



Bulldogs Beat LSU, 31-10

Greg Talley (11), University of Georgia quarterback and former Valdosta High School Wildcat, gets time to throw from Alec Milen (71), who ties up LSU tackle Clayton Mouton (59) during the first half of play Saturday at Sanford Stadium in Athens. The Bulldogs won, 31-10. See story, page 1-C — AP Laserphoto.



Battle of the Big Cats

VALDOSTA HIGH SCHOOL
(1990 GEORGIA STATE CHAMPIONS)

vs

JESS LANIER HIGH SCHOOL
(1990 ALABAMA STATE CHAMPIONS)

Tickets will be on sale at the Ticket Outlet, 1204 Williams Street (next to Cleveland Field) Monday thru Thursday from 8:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. til 1:00 p.m. Call 333-8500 for information. Game will be played at Cleveland Field, September 20th, with kickoff at 8:00 p.m.

VDT, Mon., Sept. 16, 1991

Unselfish Wrice Wants To Be A Team Player

VDT Tues., Sept. 10, 1991

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Assistant Sports Editor

When opposing offensive coaches look at game films of the Valdosta High Wildcats defense, one of things that catches their eyes in the black and gold is No. 28. It's no wonder enemy coaches take notice. That No. 28 belongs to VHS cornerback Trampis Wrice. This is the fourth straight season Wrice has anchored the Cats secondary.

Watching this talented athlete roam the defensive backfield brings back memories of other great Valdosta cornerbacks like Troy Thomas and Chris Major. Wrice has the ability to cover the best receivers the state has to offer one-on-one or he can come up and support the run, hitting enemy ball carriers like a Mack Truck.

"Trampis ranks with the better cornerbacks that we've had at Valdosta High," stated VHS head football coach Nick Hyder, whose Cats play host to the Class AAA Wayne County High Yellow Jackets at Cleveland Field Friday night at 8. "He is experienced and a good athlete."

Experienced is the key word. Wrice has started over 40 varsity contests for the Cats. In the process, he has picked off 10 enemy passes as Valdosta claimed back-to-back Class AAAA state football championships in 1989 and 1990.

"Trampis provides a lot of stability on the sidelines, where most of the of-

fenses attack," said VHS secondary coach Keith Middleton. "A lot of teams hesitate to go deep on his side. He is the most aggressive force mar that we've had at the corner this season. He covers well deep and comes up hard on the run. Trampis is very consistant."

Wrice's defensive play is one of the big reasons the Cats are currently 2-0 and ranked No. 1 in Class AAAA. In fact, the VHS secondary has only allowed 33 yards through the air in two games.

In 1990, Wrice's hard work and efforts didn't go unnoticed. He was voted first team All-Region cornerback and landed a spot on the *Valdosta Daily Times* All-Area team.

Wrice began his football career in the sixth grade in the Valdosta Parks & Recreation Department. Once at Valdosta Junior High, this speedster started out as flanker, but was soon moved to split end.

Upon his arrival at VHS, Wrice was soon moved to the defensive side of the football. After the tragic death of Wildcat defensive back Kenny Rose, this humble, soft-spoken athlete stepped in and assumed the responsibility of taking on the job of starting for the Cats as a freshman. Wrice has been a permanent fixture in the VHS secondary ever since.

Wrice's lead by example method has not gone unnoticed. At the start of the 1991 season, he was voted by his teammates as defensive co-captain.



Wildcat cornerback Trampis Wrice (28) defends a McEachern Indian ballcarrier in Valdosta High's season-opening football win Aug. 31 — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Students Make Merit Semifinals

VDT, Wed., Sept. 11, 1991

By DEAN POLING
Times Staff Writer

Ten Valdosta and Lowndes County students have been named semifinalists in the 1992 Merit Scholarship competition.

Four Lowndes High and six Valdosta High students are named as semifinalists, according to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Headquartered in Evanston, Ill., more than 15,000 students were named semifinalists nationwide by the scholarship corporation.

Semifinalists from Lowndes High are David L. Broome, who plans to major in mathematics and be a mathematician; Jeremy C. Dykes, who plans to major in computer science and be a computer systems analyst/programmer; Stephanie D. Powell, who plans to major in prelaw and be a lawyer; Gerald R. Ryan, who plans to major in prelaw and work in government service/politics, according to scholarship corporation information.

Semifinalists from Valdosta High are Olivia M. Baratta, who plans to major in social sciences and be a lawyer; Laura H. Barbas, who plans to major in English, literature and be a secondary school teacher; Charles B. Eidson, who plans to major in engineering and be a lawyer; William R. Howard, who plans to major in physical sciences and be a scientist; Ann L. McCranie, who plans to major in social sciences; Sarita A. Rainey, who plans to major in theater arts, drama and be an actor or director, according to scholarship information.

Elaine S. Detweiler, the scholarship corporation's public information director, said semifinalists represent about half of 1 percent of each state's graduating class. Nationwide semifinalists will be whittled down to 6,100 Merit Scholarships, worth approximately \$26 million, by spring 1992, she said.

By publicizing their names, the scholarship corporation hopes to broaden their educational opportunities and increase national and local interest in academic excellence.

Last school year, juniors in more than 19,000 high schools entered the 1992 Merit Program by taking the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which screened more than 1 million applicants.

The number of semifinalists designated for each state is decided according to the state's percentage of the national average of graduating high school seniors. And semifinalists are the top scorers in each state and now advance to the finalist level of the competition.

Cats Court-Martial Generals

V. Times 9-28-91

By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

Last week's hyped game between Jess Lanier was a 35-0 blowout in favor of Valdosta High School. Thrill seekers returned to Cleveland Field Friday night to see if the Wildcats' game against Robert E. Lee of Alabama would provide more excitement.

They got their wish. Valdosta's defense came up with big plays on fourth down conversion attempts to hold off Alabama's second-ranked 6-A team for a 17-3 win.

Valdosta held on four out of five conversion attempts, three of which came in the fourth quarter.

The second hold by Valdosta proved to be crucial. The Generals were faced with a 4th-and-2 from the Valdosta 48-yard line with 4:44 left to go in the game and Valdosta ahead by a mere 10-3 margin.

But the defense rose to the occasion and not only stopped the Generals, but also forced a fumble which Brinson Barker recovered at the 50-yard line.

Four plays later, David Williams dealt the Generals the final blow — a 38-yard touchdown run which gave the Cats the 17-3 margin with 2:55 left in the game.

"That was the difference in the game in my opinion," said R.E. Lee

head coach Spence McCracken of the failed fourth-down conversions.

"We're going to have to work really hard on our short yardage game," he added. "That was the key to the ball game. I knew it would come down to three or four close plays. And we didn't get some great spots on some plays, but that didn't beat us. Valdosta just played tough."

"That's pure defense," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "Charles Tarpley. Larry Jester. Keith Middleton. Al Akins. My goodness. Defense. It was really a coaches' win. Our kids played their hearts out, but our coaches had great strategy."

Watching the first drive of the night, many observers thought that the game might turn into another rout for Valdosta. Valdosta scored first with a 12-play, 65-yard game-opening drive that gave Valdosta a 7-0 lead.

R.E. Lee won the toss and elected to kick. It was the first time this season that Valdosta received the opening kickoff.

The Cats' offense marched down the field with hard running by running backs Williams and Alfred Barnes. On first down from the Generals' 26, Barnes broke two tackles and ran through the heart of the Generals' secondary for a touchdown.



R.E. LEE	0	3	0	0	-3
VALDOSTA	7	0	3	7	-17

V—Alfred Barnes 26 run (Dow Drury kick)
R—Sean Spraley 27 field goal
V—Drury 32 field goal
V—David Williams 38 run (Drury kick)

R.E. LEE		VALDOSTA
13	First downs	10
37-158	Rushes-yards	31-201
70	Passing yards	45
228	Total yards	246
10-18-1	Passes	4-11-0
3-32.3	Punts-avg.	3-29.3
2-2	Fumbles-lost	3-2
4-20	Penalties-yards	4-37

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—R.E. Lee, Fred Beasley 22-89, Matt Gaines 6-12, Samuel Murray 5-43, Tyrone Rogers 3-12, Buddy Davis 1-2. Valdosta, Steve Everson 10-38, Barnes 6-88, Albert Edmunds 8-13, D. Williams 7-62.
PASSING—R. E. Lee, Gaines 10-17-1-70, Marcus Williams 0-1-0. Valdosta, Everson 4-11-0-45.
RECEIVING—R.E. Lee, Tony Nelson 3-22, Jeff Bazemore 4-22, Fred Gadson 2-20, B. Davis 1-6. Valdosta, Brice Hunter 2-20, Shadrick Green 1-13, Chris Rocky 1-12.

Dow Drury nailed the extra point and Valdosta led 7-0 with 7:03 remaining in the first quarter.

A 40-yard punt by R.E. Lee pinned the Cats at their own 15-yard line. The poor field position set up the Generals' only score.

Valdosta managed only one yard on the next three plays and was

forced to punt. R.E. Lee took over at Valdosta's 47-yard line.

Three runs by Fred Beasley took the Generals to the Valdosta 25. An interference call, which Wildcat fans vehemently protested, then took the Generals to the 13.

But R.E. Lee could not punch the ball into the end zone and settled for a field goal. Sean Spraley's 27-yarder made the score 7-3 with 6:14 remaining in the first half.

Valdosta's Barnes gave the Cats one final scoring opportunity in the half with a 53-yard run on the second play of the Cats' next possession. But Shadrick Green coughed up the ball after catching a Steve Everson 13-yard pass and being nailed by a General defender. The Generals recovered to end the threat.

"Let's give R.E. Lee credit," Hyder said of the missed opportunity. "They stripped the ball, and that's part of football. We try to do that, and that's the way the game is played."

R.E. Lee's opening drive of the second half proved to be norm for the Generals in the second half. On their fourth play, a 4th-and-inches from the Cats' 43, three Valdosta defenders met the General's Beasley in the backfield for a 1-yard loss.

That defensive stand gave the Cats' offense the ball near mid-field at their own 46-yard line. The Cats

capitalized with a 10-play scoring drive capped off by a Dow Drury field goal with 7:18 left in the third quarter. That gave the Cats a 10-3 lead.

Swapping two fumbles and two punts, both offenses struggled for the rest of the quarter. But Lee was beginning to move when the quarter ended.

After starting at their own 19 with less than a minute left in the third period, the Generals moved to the Cats' 37-yard line on nine plays. But they were faced with a 4th-and-6 with 10:13 left in the game, and Coach McCracken elected to punt.

The Valdosta defense jumped off-side, though, to give the Generals a 4th-and-1. McCracken elected to go for the first down this time. Again, the defense was in the backfield, this time to stop quarterback Matt Gaines short of the marker.

Valdosta failed to move, and after receiving a punt and driving 28 yards on seven plays, Barker recovered the fumble on the fourth down, and Williams iced the game with his 38-yard scoring run.

The win was the 199th for Nick Hyder at Valdosta High School, and it moved Georgia's top-ranked team to 5-0. R.E. Lee falls to 3-1.

"Anytime you give up only three points to a fine football team like that, I'm happy," said Valdosta defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley.



Valdosta High safety Jason Jelks (left) and linebacker Marcus Williams (44) bring down Robert E. Lee High (Ala.) running back Fred Leavy.



Valdosta High senior running back Brian Wiseman dances through the Wayne County High defense last Friday night for the first of his two touchdowns — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Wiseman's Hard Work Paying Off

VPT, Tues. Sept. 17, 1991
By MURRAY COLEMAN
Times Sports Writer

Five years ago, Brian Wiseman was a struggling football player.

But after reading about another Georgia running back, Herschel Walker, the Valdosta Junior High School athlete said he decided 'to get down to work.'

Taking his cue from the University of Georgia Bulldogs and Minnesota Vikings star, Wiseman bore down. He said he started a daily regiment of 400 pushups, 300 situps and 3-mile run, modeling his training after Walker's famous 2,000 per day workouts on pushups.

"I do them everyday, both during the offseason and on," said Wiseman, now a member of Valdosta High's top-ranked Wildcats. "I believe that if you practice hard it will translate to your performance in games."

Last week, the 18-year-old senior fullback's strict work ethic was rewarded with his first start in four seasons of wearing a Wildcats uniform.

Wiseman made the most of the opportunity, rushing for 109 yards on eight attempts, including two touchdown on runs of six and 61 yards.

"It's nice to see someone like Brian do so well," said Cats head football coach Nick Hyder as Valdosta readies for Friday night's clash with the Jess Lanier High (Ala.) Purple Tigers. "He's a great individual who has fought for four years to get to where he's at now."

Wiseman credited his success in the Wayne County game to the help of his teammates.

"Making more than 100 yards in the game just showed me how well our team was blocking," he said. "Our whole offense did a great job opening holes and executing the coaches' game plan."

In fact, Wiseman said he didn't even know how much yardage he'd gained until friends called him at home after the game.

"I was surprised and happy, but the main thing was that we won," he said. "To be honest, I remembered some of my blocks better than my runs."

Wiseman said plays like his 61-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter "happened so quickly, they didn't seem as important as my blocks."

"I'd rather have a good block any day than a 60-yard run," he said. "A run like that only comes along once

in awhile, but a good block has to happen over and over again to win a game."

Wiseman said he prides himself on being a complete player.

"Doing the little things is what makes a team successful," he said. "Performing on a consistent, sound fundamental basis takes a lot of personal discipline."

Realizing that football is '99-percent mental,' Wiseman said he maintains a rigid workout program to test his limits.

"Hard physical work forces me to keep a positive attitude," he said. "I burn out all the time, but it's just a matter of being able to psyche myself back up to push to the next level I want to accomplish."

"It's like the coaches keep telling me - this old body isn't going to let me down until I decide to let it down first."

Without his family - both relatives and teammates - Wiseman said the task of tapping his playing potential would be a lot more difficult.

"Everyone's been so supportive, it makes all the hard work worthwhile," he said. "My mom's more excited about what I do on the field than I am."

Everson Shines For VHS

VPT, Sun. Sept. 22, '91
By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

With all the fuss about Jess Lanier's starting quarterback Chris Windsor coming back to lead the Alabama state champion Purple Tigers, the Valdosta Wildcat offense was lost in the shuffle when the Valdosta defense silenced the college prospect Friday night at Cleveland Field.

The Wildcat defense deserved all of the credit they got. After all, they held the Tiger offense to only two first downs through the first three and a half quarters, only five in the game.

They held the usually feared Jess Lanier rushing attack to a mere 37 yards rushing on 21 carries. And they held Windsor, the leading rusher on the season for Jess Lanier prior to Friday night's game, to four yards rushing on six carries.

In fact the leading rusher on the Jess Lanier team was Jermaine Hall who rushed three times for ten yards.

But forget about Windsor. The star quarterback of this game was a Wildcat, Steve Everson. Everson completed 10-of-13 passes for 118 yards, two touchdowns, and one interception that Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder hinted should go by his own name for an over-anxious call against the wind.

Everson's passes were thrown as perfectly as one could expect a high school quarterback to throw. He kept the ball away from the defense with the exception of the interception, but his passes were the type that receivers had to make great catches on or walk back to the huddle and try again.

But his receivers made the catches, and Everson gave everybody credit for his numbers, but himself.

"I felt pretty good," said Everson. "I had good protection and didn't get touched all night. The receivers ran good routes. The coaches called the right plays."

"The receivers' performance was excellent," Everson added. "They caught the ball, and we'd been working on the routes all week. We had the timing down and everything was good except for that one interception."

"Bob Bolton coaches them (the receivers) and they did a great job," said Hyder. "Brice Hunter caught a clutch touchdown with less than a minute to go in the first half."

Mike Roberts led the receivers in yardage with 42 yards on 2 catches. Hunter led in receptions with three for 37 yards and one touchdown. Shadrick Green, who also caught a touchdown, received two passes for 28 yards.

The passing attack was efficient to say the least, but the rushing attack accounted for 260 of the 378 total yards of offense for Valdosta.

Tom Cats, Freshmen Cats Complete Gridiron Sweep

By MURRAY COLEMAN
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High Freshmen Wildcats survived a big-play Tift County High Blue Devils offense to hold on for a 28-20 win Thursday at Cleveland Field.

The Wildcats' victory, which puts them at 4-0 for the season, came as part of a doubleheader with their 8th-grade counterparts — the Tom Cats from Valdosta Junior High.

The Tom Cats also won, defeating the Waycross Junior High Bulpups, 30-0.

In the Wildcats' game, a pair of trick plays after the opening kickoff caught Valdosta offguard for a quick Blue Devils touchdown. On the first play of the game, Anthony Whitehead took a pitch and swept toward the sideline before he stopped and lofted a pass to receiver David Avalos, who was all alone in the middle of the field for a 61-yard gain.

When two running plays didn't work, Tift County used the same half-back option play — and were successful again. The same combination hooked up to put the Blue Devils on the scoreboard with 5:30 remaining in the first quarter, 7-0.

Valdosta then marched 70 yards downfield, taking up nearly nine minutes on the clock. The drive almost died at midfield, but a fake punt turned into a first down run for the Wildcats Dedrick Mathis. A 15 yard carry by Vaughn Clark gave the home team another first down, and quarterback Woody Gayle connected with tight end George Roundtree for a 25 yard touchdown with 6:49 left in

the first half. Michael Carter's PAT kick was good to tie the game.

A near-blocked punt on Tift County's next possession caused Whitehead to shank the ball, giving the Wildcats the ball at their own 40 yard line. Carlos Brown gained 14 yards on three carries and a facemasking call gave Valdosta a second first down in the drive. Gayle then followed with a 32-yard scoring pass to Kenyon Rizer with 2:07 left in the half to help put the Wildcats ahead, 14-7.

The Blue Devils struck right back with an 80-yard kickoff return by Demarcus Beauford to tie the score a second time, 14-14.

That's the way it stayed until nine minutes into the third quarter, when Brown bulled up the middle for a 5 yard touchdown with 1:23 left before the fourth quarter. The Wildcats, unlike during the first half of play, stuck to running plays in an impressive drive which lasted virtually the entire third quarter and featured no large runs.

Valdosta averaged 5 yards per carry on the drive and seemed to drain the Blue Devils defense. "We talked about coming out in the second half and running the ball," said Wildcats head coach Tim Horton after the game. "Tift's defense had been on the field a long time in the first half, but they made some big plays."

"We felt like if we could put together some long possessions, we could pull away."

And they did. Defensive back Tim Bryant intercepted a Whitehead pass three plays later, setting the offense up in good field position at the Blue Devils' 30 yard line. Brown picked up

16 more yards on three carries, Mathis pitched in with five yards on a carry, and Vaughn Clark scored from nine yards out to increase the Wildcats lead to 28-14 with 5:45 left to play.

Tift County came back to score, though. Stuck on its own 18 yard line after the kickoff, halfback Barry Bennett broke free for a 42 yard gain, and Whitehead connected with receiver Willie Howard for 27 yards to bring the Blue Devils into scoring position. Beauford scored from the 9 yard line, but the PAT boot was wide. Tift County, which would've been within a touchdown of a tie with 3:21 left to play, was too far back in the contest even though the score was only 28-20.

"They kept coming after us," said Horton. "We didn't feel overconfident at all, but we were able to control the ball and they just didn't have it long enough to come up with enough big plays to win."

In the Tomcats' contest, Waycross never got a chance to threaten. A fumble and a blocked punt in the first quarter set up two quick Valdosta scores, and another near-block resulted in a 19-0 lead early in the second quarter.

A safety on the Bulpup's first possession of the second half gave the home team a 21-0 margin, and Rico Cooper's nine yard run with 2:38 in the third quarter increased the Tomcats lead to 27-0. Chris Foreman's 15-yard field goal with 5:54 remaining to play concluded the game's scoring.

Tom Cats' head coach John Davis credited his team's strong effort to a good week of practice.



Valdosta High freshman running back High defender Thursday afternoon — Times Vaughn Clark (5) tires to elude a Tift County Photo by Paul Leavy.

105 Oct. 22, 1991
Where Are They Now/A Weekly Look At Former Athletes

Leadership Skills Attributed To Bazemore

By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

It has been a long time since Paul McNeal starred for the Valdosta High School Wildcats. The standout tackle was one of the co-captains for the 1953 state champion football team coached by the legendary Wright Bazemore.

A lot has changed for Valdosta football and McNeal since those Wildcats won the state championship and then the Peanut Bowl over Montgomery-Bell from Alabama 24-0. But two things are back to normal — the

Wildcats are champions, and McNeal is a Valdostan again.

A state employee with the Georgia Department of Corrections, McNeal just recently returned to Valdosta to become Deputy Warden of the Lowndes Correctional Institute.

McNeal was a leader on the 1953 Cats, and he says that was good training for his responsibilities after high school. He attributes the leadership skills that he has now to Bazemore.

"The way Coach Bazemore coached gave me confidence," McNeal says. "He coached in such a

way that you learned a lot. He made you excel."

The former tackle still has a lot of respect for his former coach. "Well, he was kind of firm with us," he says. "He made sure that we studied. If we didn't do something right, we had to do it until we got it right."

McNeal has not had a chance to see the 1991 Wildcat football team, but he knows that there are a lot of differences between the modern Valdosta football teams and the teams of old.

"They seem to put a lot more emphasis now on the players' being in

shape," McNeal notes. "They lift a lot more weights now."

"Back then, we didn't work with weights much. They ran us a lot. We did more running than working with weights. I've noticed that makes them more bigger and muscular."

McNeal would not hold much hope if his 1953 team could play the bigger 1991 team. "I'm afraid we might get beat," he says. "From what I've been told and from what I've heard on the radio, they sound like a good, well-coached team with all-around bal

See MCNEAL, Page 2-C

McNeal

From Page 1-C

ance. Of course, we were too, but I think the extra weightlifting might give them an advantage."

So, if the game has changed so much, then why has Valdosta High School's football program been able to keep up step for step with the change to remain the best football program in Georgia.

"First, it's just good coaching," McNeal says of the success. "And one of the main reasons is the people of Valdosta behind the program. They've been behind it ever since I can remember."

"And of course another reason is the (youth leagues) and junior high school having football," he adds. "Everybody that comes through wants to play football for the Val-

dosta Wildcats."

Though McNeal has not had a chance to catch any of Valdosta's first six games, he is still able to keep up with the Cats.

"I've just moved back here from North Georgia, so I haven't had a chance to go yet," he says. "But my son Tommy is a Wildcat fan from the word 'go', and he went to school in North Georgia."



PAUL MCNEAL

V. Times 10-11-91

No. 1 Cats Open Up Region Slate

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

Nick Hyder's top-ranked 5-0 Valdosta High Wildcats swing into Region 1-AAAA football action tonight as Sonny Smart's 4-1 Bainbridge Bearcats invade Cleveland Field at 8. Not only is this contest the Cats' region opener, but it's also VHS' Homecoming game. If that little tidbit wasn't enough, if the Cats can knock off the Bearcats it will be Hyder's 200th coaching victory since taking charge of the VHS football program.

Hyder's career coaching mark currently stands at 252-39-5 — seventh on the all-time Georgia coaching victory list. At Valdosta, Hyder has assembled a 199-27-2 mark. After knocking off the Bearcats 3-0 last year in Bainbridge, VHS holds a 27-3 advantage in the series.

If the Cats are to secure Hyder's 200th win at VHS and Valdosta's sixth victory of the season, it will

TONIGHT

WHO: Valdosta High Wildcats (5-0) vs. Bainbridge Bearcats (4-1).

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Cleveland Field, Valdosta. Tickets: \$5 at gate.

IF NOT THERE, WHERE: Radio: WAAC-FM (92.9) in Valdosta area. Television: Wildcat Tradition will present game highlights Thursday night on TCI Cablevision Channel 12, 7 p.m. and 8 p.m., and The Welcome Channel, 10:30 p.m.

WEATHER: Fair, low in lower 50s.

LAST WEEK: Valdosta was idle; Bainbridge defeated Northview High, Ala., 22-3.

LAST SEASON: Valdosta won, 3-0, in Bainbridge.

THE SERIES: Valdosta leads, 27-3.

RANKINGS: In Georgia AP, Valdosta is ranked No. 1 in Class AAAA. The Wildcats are also No. 4 in USA Today's national poll. Bainbridge received some votes, but not enough to make the Class AAAA Top 10.

take a monumental effort to stop the Bearcats' potent passing attack. Led by senior quarterback Brian Powell, Bainbridge has thrown for 781 yards. Powell has connected on 51 of 108 passing for 742 yards and five touch-

downs. He has only misfired on four occasions.

When the Bearcats go to the air, Powell will have plenty of sure-handed receivers to throw to in Ryan Pearson, Basque Martin, Jason

Andrews, Eddie Williams and full-back Vidal Lively.

Pearson leads the Bearcats' receiving corps with 14 receptions for 236 yards and three touchdowns.

If the Bearcats' decide to abandon their passing attack and go to a ground assault, Lively and tailback Harrison Smith will be called on to carry the load. Smith, Bainbridge's leading rusher, has rambled for 264 yards.

The top-ranked Cats, who have won five straight Region 1-AAAA football titles, will counter with the Region's top-ranked defense. Led by the play of such players as Dexter Daniels, Marcus Williams, Franklin Wiseman, Brinson Barker, Peter Failor, Tim McClain, Nick Reed, Trampis Wrice, Troy Brown, Brock Sanford, John Copeland, Jason Jelks and John Walker, the Cats have given up only 891 yards to enemy offenses.

VHS is No. 2 in 1-AAAA against the rush, giving up 554 yards on 165 at-

tempts. The Cats are No. 2 against the pass, surrendering 337 yards. More importantly, Valdosta is No. 1 in scoring defense, giving up just 17 points.

Under the direction of quarterback Steve Everson, the Valdosta offense comes into this confrontation ranked No. 2 in Region 1-AAAA in total offense. Behind the blocking of Jay Bowling, Andy Sheffield, Brad Grant, Tim O'Brien, Sean Van Ausdall, Eddie Wooten, Andy Harrison, Alan Holt, Jesse Hunter and Greg Porter, the Cats have been able to churn out 1,651 yards in total offense.

VHS is currently No. 2 in rushing offense with 1,221 yards on 222 carries. In the passing department, the Cats has thrown for 430 yards to rank fifth.

Everson leads the VHS rushing assault with 203 yards on 50 attempts.

The Bearcats will counter with a swarming defense that ranks fourth in 1-AAAA, giving up 1,078 yards.



Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder, who can gain his 200th win at VHS tonight if the Cats defeat the Bainbridge Bearcats at Cleveland Field, chats with offensive tackle Tim O'Brien (left) during Thursday's practice — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Blazers Find Their Man

By MURRAY COLEMAN
Times Sports Writer

After four games and four different quarterbacks, the Valdosta State College Blazers think they've finally found their man.

Freshman Chris Hatcher will return as the Blazers' starting signal caller Saturday against the Livingston University Tigers.

"Chris has come to the forefront as a leader on this team," said David McNight, the Blazers assistant head coach and offensive coordinator Thursday. "He's really established himself during the last couple of weeks as someone who can play under pressure without losing his composure."

Hatcher, who starred at Mount De Sales High School in Macon, was tabbed by his coaches to take the reins of a struggling VSC offense last week against Troy State.

Even though VSC lost, McNight said he was impressed with the 5'11" and 175 pound quarterback's performance. "We aren't real pleased with a lot of things about our offensive showing so far this season, but that doesn't necessarily reflect on Chris's play," said McNight. "It's hard to win when you turn the ball over a half dozen times."

The Blazers' accumulated 288 yards in total offense against the Division 1-AA Trojans, including 12 of 26 passing for 158 yards. "Chris

Hatcher gave us a little spark on offense that we've been looking for," said VSC head coach Mike Cavan afterwards. "We just need some people to step up and make some plays at our wide receiver and running back positions."

The VSC rushing attack, which hadn't scored a touchdown until the first quarter last week, is led by a trio of halfbacks. "We like to keep our runners fresh," explained McNight. "In our system, the fullback doesn't carry the ball a whole lot."

Which means that senior Ramon Allen, who showed flashes of his old self against Troy State by gaining 85 yards and scoring a touchdown, needs to have a big game in Livingston for the Blazers to do well.

V. Times 10-16-91

Cheerleaders Compete In Nationals

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Three Valdosta girls will compete in the National All-Star Cheerleading Competition Dec. 27 in Dallas, Texas.

Missy Fisher, Kelly Mathis and Angie Redden and the rest of the 17-member Georgia All-Star Cheerleading Squad won first place Oct. 5 in the All-Star Division at the NCA Regional Competition in Birmingham, Ala.

The All-Star Division is comprised of non-school related teams. The local girls were chosen to participate by Squad Coach Jamie Parrish of Ty Ty, who spotted them while judging local high try-outs. State school regulations prohibit school squads from competing beyond the state level. Forming the All-Star team with cheerleaders throughout the state allows Georgia's cheerleaders to compete with cheerleaders from other states.

The Georgia All-Stars combined talent from Nashville, Fitzgerald, Sylvester, Tifton, Albany, Columbus and Valdosta.

Miss Fisher is the daughter of J.B. and Sandy Fisher. Miss Mathis is the daughter of Ron and Rose Mary Mathis and Miss Redden in the daughter of Tom and Buatong Carnathan.

The Dallas event, sponsored by the National Cheerleading Association, will be televised on ESPN cable TV network.



Valdosta High running backs and quarterbacks coach Mike O'Brien (right) instructs the Wildcat running backs at practice Monday afternoon as the top-ranked Cats prepare for Friday night's crucial Region 1-AAAA slugfest with the Tift County High Blue Devils at Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Cats Possess Talented Stable Of Backs

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

The race is on.

At stake is the coveted Region 1-AAAA football championship and a berth in the Class AAAA state playoffs. Nick Hyder's top-ranked Valdosta High Wildcats face their toughest challenge of the season Friday night at Cleveland Field as the tough 5-2 Tift County High Blue Devils come to play for sole possession of first place in Region 1-AAAA at 8. The Cats and Blue Devils are both 2-0 in region action.

One of the many reasons, Hyder's 7-0 Cats have had success this season has been the play of a talented stable of thoroughbred running backs. Under the guidance of VHS running backs and quarterbacks coach Mike O'Brien, this group of unselfish performers has churned out 1,695 yards on 324 attempts to lead Region 1-AAAA in rushing offense. That's an average of 5.23 yards per carry and 242.1 yards per game.

"We teach our backs what we like to call the total package," stated O'Brien following practice Monday night. "To fake the ball, block and then run."

The Cats are fortunate enough to have eight running backs that have the ability to step forward and get the job done. When the Cats look to pick up yards on the ground, these young men will get the call — Albert Edmonds, Brian Wiseman, David

Williams, Alfred Barnes, Brian Thomas, Sam Thomas, Nakia McMullen and Joseph Edwards.

"I've been real pleased with the play of our backs," added O'Brien. "The effort has been there. We've had some of our backs perform better on some nights than others and vice versa. Each one of our backs are different in different ways. They complement each other very well. We've had some injuries throughout the year, but with the competition the way it is, no one wants to stay out very long because they are worried somebody might overtake them.

"The competition has improved our backs. This is the first year since I've been here that we've had this much balanced talent in the backfield. We've got six running backs that can enter the game with the starting unit."

One of the most common questions asked of O'Brien is why don't the Cats settle on just one or two running backs to carry the load?

"We don't like to put all of our eggs into one basket," said O'Brien. "This way we can rest our backs and keep them fresh. If we are unfortunate enough to get besieged by injuries, we will still have quality running backs to play."

As the Cats prepare for Friday night's crucial Region 1-AAAA match-up with Tift County High, O'Brien took time out to assess his troops.

■ALBERT EDMONDS (205, SR.), TAILBACK: He is probably the biggest of all of our tailbacks. When Albert wants to be, he is as strong a runner

as there is. He has done a super job of blocking in the past. (46 carries for 197 yards, 3 TDs).

■BRIAN WISEMAN (185, SR.), FULLBACK: Brian has a good mixture of strength and speed. He has helped us with his speed. (31 carries for 222 yards, 3 TDs).

■DAVID WILLIAMS (190, JR.), FULLBACK: He started off and on last season for us. David has done a good job of power running this season. (56 carries for 276 yards, 3 TDs).

■ALFRED BARNES (175, JR.), TAILBACK: Alfred probably has more quickness and break away speed than any of our other tailbacks. (50 carries for 357 yards, 2 TDs).

■BRIAN THOMAS (150, JR.), TAILBACK: He has real good cutting abilities. That's what makes Brian so good. (8 carries for 25 yards, 0 TDs).

■SAM THOMAS (200, SO.), FULLBACK: He is a real big, strong, hard-nose runner. Sam does a tremendous job of running inside and has adequate speed to get outside. (17 carries for 104 yards, 1 TD).

■NAKIA MCMULLEN (165, SO.), TAILBACK: Nakia has good speed. His strongest attribute is his cutting ability. He makes people miss. (16 carries for 76 yards, 1 TD).

■JOSEPH EDWARDS (155, SO.), FULLBACK: Joseph moved from tight end on the ninth grade team to fullback. He has done a good job. He is still learning the position and coming on. He is a good hard-nose kid. (4 carries for 9 yards, 0 TDs).

Valdosta High's SATs Above Statewide Average

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Last year's Valdosta High School seniors taking college preparatory classes scored 16 points above the national average on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, a college entrance exam, and 68 points above the state average.

Those were the results presented to the Valdosta Board of Education Monday at its regular meeting. Overall, VHS seniors scored 18 points above the state average but 24 points below the national average.

VHS Principal William Aldrich shares the scores with the board regularly so it can gauge students' progress. What the scores seem to indicate, Aldrich said, is that the high school's college preparatory program is strong. Forty-one percent of all VHS seniors last year completed the college prep or honors college prep program, the principal said.

The scores and the percentage of passing students is about the same as it was last year, Aldrich said.

The 53 students participating in the school's honors/college prep track averaged a composite score of 1108, 517 in the verbal portion and 591 in math. The remaining 106 college preparatory candidates scored a composite of 912, 434 verbal and 591 in math. All VHS seniors who took the test last year averaged an 862 composite score, 411 verbal and 451 math.

The average scores of students taking the test statewide are 844 composite, 400 verbal and 444 math. At the national level, seniors averaged 896 overall, 422 verbal and 474 in math.

Other items discussed at the meeting included a preliminary proposal for a new vocational program geared toward encouraging students to choose an area of applied study that will make them more employable.

John Field, director of vocational education for Valdosta City Schools said he went to the board seeking permission to continue researching and begin planning the Tech Prep 2 plus 2 program at Valdosta High School.

Very often students following the technical or vocational tract in high school find they're not as marketable as they could be. Tech Prep 2 Plus 2 would encourage students to choose an area to study in depth while still in high schools, rather than taking a hodgepodge of electives, and possible seek some type of post-secondary education at Valdosta Technical Institute or Valdosta State College.

Areas of emphasis would be based in applied sciences and arts rather than theory, Field said.

Georgia AP Prep Poll

CLASS AAAA

1. Valdosta (7-0) (15) 166.
2. LaGrange (7-0) (2) 146.
3. Statesboro (7-0) 128.
4. Southwest DeKalb (7-0) 125.
5. Effingham Co. (7-0) 95.
6. Newnan (7-0) 93.
7. Wheeler (7-0) 54.
8. Marietta (7-0) 45.
9. Clarke Central (6-2) 18.
10. Tift Co. (5-2) 11.
- (tie) Colquitt Co. (5-2) 11.

Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Bainbridge, Cedar Shoals, Lowndes, Norcross, Northeast-Macon, Shiloh and Warner Robins.

Wildcats Remain On Top

The Associated Press

Class A Macon County's 20-12 loss to Hawkinsville last weekend bumped the team from the top five in this week's Associated Press high school football poll.

Macon County dropped from third to seventh. Central of Talbotton fills Macon's place with 123 points for No. 3. Hawkinsville jumps to fifth from ninth with 90 points.

Lincoln County remains No. 1 with 10 first-place votes and 163 points. Clinch County is second with seven first-place votes and 160 points, and Bowdon moves up a notch to fourth with 100 points.

Valdosta remains No. 1 with 15 first-place votes and 166 points. LaGrange stays at second with two first-place votes and 146 points, and Effingham County is again fifth.

Cats-Devils Battle For 1-AAAA Lead

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

A battle for sole possession of Region 1-AAAA will highlight week No. 9 of the Georgia prep football action in the area. Nick Hyder's top-ranked Valdosta High Wildcats will play host to Gene Brodie's Tift County High Blue Devils Friday night at Cleveland Field at 8 in this crucial 1-AAAA clash.

The Wildcats come into this contest sporting a 7-0 overall record and a 2-0 region slate. The Cats also are riding the crest of a 29-game unbeaten streak. Tift County, after dropping their first two games of the season, have reeled off five straight victories to improve their season mark to 5-2. The Blue Devils have been impressive in region action with back-to-back 31-7 wins against Lowndes High and Coffee High for a 2-0 region mark.

After taking a week off, Rick Tomberlin's 6-1 Lowndes High Vikings will hit the road Friday night to battle Jim Hughes' 5-2 Colquitt County High Packers at Mack Tharpe Stadium in Moultrie.

The Vikings currently stand at 1-1 in Region 1-AAAA play. Lowndes recorded a 7-6 win against Coffee High at home, but dropped a 31-7 decision at Tift County. The Packers are also at 1-1 in region play. Colquitt County registered a 34-14 win at Bainbridge and dropped a 22-9 contest last Friday night at Valdosta. This is an important game for both teams.

Joe Wilson's 3-4 Valwood Valiants will return home Friday night at Goddard Field to battle P.D. Duncan's 6-1 Westbrook Cougars in the GISA Region 3-AA opener for both teams. Last Friday night the Valiants routed David Emanuel 41-6 on the road, while Westbrook took the night off.

Nashville will be the site of a crucial Region 2-AA slugfest as Brent Miller's 4-3 Berrien High Rebels entertain Jack Raley's 2-5 Cook County Hornets Friday night.

After dropping three of their first four games of the season, Miller's Rebels have reeled off three straight wins, including wins against Pierce County High and Bacon County High to move to 2-0 in region play. Meanwhile, Raley's Hornets snapped a five-game losing skid last Friday night with a 20-19 win against Pierce County. The Hornets currently stand at 1-1 in region play with their lone region loss coming at Waycross on Oct. 11.

Jeff Caldwell's Brooks County High Trojans will stay on the road Friday night with a big Region 1-AA clash against the Turner County High Rebels.

The 5-2 Trojans are coming off a 34-6 rout of Randolph-Clay, while the 4-3 Rebels suffered a 27-14 loss to Mitchell-Baker. Brooks County and Turner County are both 1-1 in Region 1-AA play.

Donald Tison's Class A No. 2 ranked Clinch County High Panthers open up Region 2-A play Friday night in Folkston against the defending 2-A champion Charlton County High Indians.

The Panthers, who were off last Friday night, have a 7-0 mark, while the Indians come into this critical game with a 5-2 slate. Charlton County finished last season as the

Area Standings

REGION 1-AAAA	Region	All
Valdosta	2-0	7-0
Tift County	2-0	5-2
Lowndes	1-1	6-1
Colquitt County	1-1	5-2
Bainbridge	0-2	5-2
Coffee	0-2	4-3

LAST FRIDAY'S GAMES

Valdosta 22, Colquitt Co. 9
Tift Co. 31, Coffee 7
Bainbridge 10, Peach Co. 2
Lowndes — Idle

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Tift Co. at Valdosta (Cleveland Field, 8 p.m.)
Lowndes at Colquitt Co. (Mack Tharpe Stadium, 8 p.m.)
Bainbridge at Coffee

REGION 1-AA	Region	All
Mitchell-Baker	3-0	7-0
Seminole County	2-1	5-2
Brooks County	1-1	5-2
Turner County	1-1	4-3
Early County	0-2	2-5
Randolph-Clay	0-2	0-7

LAST FRIDAY'S GAMES

Brooks Co. 34, Randolph-Clay 6
Mitchell-Baker 27, Turner Co. 14
Seminole Co. 43, Houston Co. (Ala.), 19

Early Co. 7, Spencer 6

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Brooks Co. at Turner Co.
Mitchell-Baker at Early Co.
Randolph-Clay at Seminole Co.

REGION 2-AA	Region	All
Berrien	2-0	4-3
Waycross	2-0	2-5
Bacon County	1-1	4-3
Cook	1-1	2-5
Brantley County	0-2	2-5
Pierce County	0-2	0-7

LAST FRIDAY'S GAMES

Berrien 10, Bacon Co. 7
Cook 20, Pierce Co. 19
Waycross 34, Brantley Co. 6

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Cook at Berrien
Brantley Co. at Pierce Co.
Bacon Co. at Waycross

REGION 2-A	Region	All
Irwin County	1-0	4-4
Clinch County	0-0	7-0
Charlton County	0-0	5-2
Atkinson County	0-1	1-7

LAST FRIDAY'S GAMES

Irwin Co. 21, Atkinson Co. 6
Clinch County — Idle

LAST SATURDAY'S GAME

Charlton Co. 29, Aquinas 0

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Clinch Co. at Charlton Co.
Irwin Co. — Idle
Atkinson Co. — Idle

GISA 3-AA	Region	All
Tiftarea	0-0	7-1
Westbrook	0-0	6-1
Valwood	0-0	3-4

LAST FRIDAY'S GAMES

Valwood 41, David Emanuel 6
Trinity 13, Tiftarea 6
Westbrook — Idle

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Westbrook at Valwood
Tiftarea — Idle

Class A state football runnerup, losing 6-0 to Lincoln County in the championship game.

After taking last Friday night off, Jim Anderson's Hamilton County High (Fla.) Trojans will put their perfect 5-0 record on the line at West Nassau High Friday night. The Madison County High (Fla.) Cowboys are on the road at Fernandina Beach.

VALDOSTA 22, COLQUITT COUNTY 9



Valdosta High defenders John Copeland (27) and Troy Brown (22) try to pull down Colquitt County running back Nathan Williams during Friday night's 22-9 Valdosta High win over Colquitt at Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

No. 1 Wildcats Pick Off Packers

By GREG McILVAIN
Times News Editor

It was simple enough.

"We came to play football tonight," said Valdosta High senior defensive back Trampis Wrice. "The defense just played together all night. We didn't go out to talk with them, we just went out to play defense."

And so did the Wildcats. The defense picked off five Colquitt County passes, two by Wrice, and the offense marched as well. The result was a 22-9 Region 1-AAAA football victory for the top-ranked Wildcats at Cleveland Field Friday night.

It was Valdosta High's 29th straight game without a loss, again avenging that last defeat — a 7-0 Colquitt decision at Cleveland Field two years ago. The win moved VHS into a tie for the region lead at 2-0 with Tift County, which blasted Coffee, 31-7, at home Friday night.

Valdosta (7-0) and Tift County (5-2) meet at Cleveland Field this coming Friday night.

Offensively, Alfred Barnes ran for 100 yards on 12 carries while quarterback Steven Everson added 98 yards on 14 carries. Everson scored both touchdowns, while senior kicker

VALDOSTA, 22-9

COLQUITT COUNTY	0	3	0	6	—	9
VALDOSTA	0	12	3	7	—	22

CC—Parks Hughes 24 FG
V—Dow Drury 34 FG
V—Steve Everson 20 run (Drury kick)
V—Safety, Colquitt kick returner downed himself in end zone
V—Drury 33 FG
V—Everson 1 run (Drury kick)
CC—Chris McCranie 11 pass from Parks Hughes (no kick)

COLQUITT COUNTY	VALDOSTA	
12	First downs	15
19-51	Rushes-yards	48-253
193	Passing yards	105
244	Total yards	358
14-27-5	Passes	7-17-0
3-38.3	Punts-avg.	4-33.5
0	Fumbles lost	1
2-15	Penalties-yards	8-49

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Colquitt County, Nathan Williams 10-22, Reggie Scott 2-21, Parks Hughes 4-(13), Chris McCranie 1-3, Sharone Roberts 2-18. Valdosta, Albert Edmonds 6-11, Steve Everson 14-98, Brian Wiseman 2-3, David Williams 11-34, Albert Barnes 12-100, John Bell 1-1, Sam Thomas 2-6.
PASSING—Colquitt County, Hughes 14-27-5 193. Valdosta, Everson 7-17-0 105.
RECEIVING—Colquitt County, Bill Tucker 4-33, McCranie 7-118, Roberts 2-11, Williams 1-31. Valdosta, Brice Hunter 4-72, Mike Roberts 1-9, Chris Rocky 1-8, Shadrick Green 1-16.

Dow Drury added field goals of 34 and 33 yards.

"The line was blocking good. It was a good team effort ... we were just patient and waited for our breaks,"

said Barnes, Valdosta's leading rusher this season, now with 357 yards.

The breaks didn't go the way of the region's dominant rusher this season, senior Nathan Williams of Colquitt. Averaging 118 yards a game this season, Williams was held to 22 yards on 10 carries. And in the momentum-swinging second quarter, Williams stepped backwards into the end zone on a kickoff and downed himself for a safety.

Colquitt quarterback Parks Hughes did throw for 193 yards, but had the five interceptions — matching his total for the first six games. Colquitt receiver Chris McCranie, who leads the region, did catch seven passes for 118 yards and an 11-yard touchdown from Hughes with no time left in the game.

After a scoreless first quarter, which included a missed 37-yard field goal by Hughes, the teams traded field goals — a 24-yarder by Hughes with 10:59 left, and the 34-yarder by Drury with 7:19 left.

Then the game turned. Linebacker Marcus Williams made the first of the VHS interceptions at the Colquitt 32. Everson ran the ball twice, finishing with a weaving 20-yard run through the Packer secondary for the

first touchdown. Drury's kick with 5:06 left made it 10-3.

On the ensuing kickoff, Alan Sanderson's line drive deflected off Colquitt upback Reggie Scott. Williams picked up the ball at the 1, then stepped back into the end zone and downed himself. After some debate, the play was ruled a safety.

The teams traded turnovers to finish the half (including a Troy Brown interception), and VHS' fake field-goal attempt in the last minute went nowhere.

Wrice's first interception late in the third quarter set up a 33-yard Drury field goal with 34 seconds left in the third quarter.

And after end Nick Reed dropped back in coverage and picked off a Hughes pass, Valdosta High went 32 yards in seven plays for the final score — a 1-yard Everson sneak on a drive which including a 16-yard, third-and-15 pass from Everson to Shadrick Green.

Colquitt went 80 yards in eight plays against the Valdosta subs for its last score. Hughes' second attempt at a fade pass to McCranie in the end zone ended in an 11-yard touchdown pass ruled just inside the front-left corner of the end zone as time expired.

■NO. 10 TIFT COUNTY HIGH BLUE DEVILS (5-2, 2-0) AT NO. 1 VALDOSTA HIGH WILDCATS (7-0, 2-0): When the season first got started, a few people might have thought that this wouldn't be much of game. I mean, Tift County opened the season with two straight losses, while the Cats rolled through their early season schedule. My oh my, how things have changed.

Gene Brodie's Devils suddenly got on a roll...no, not an egg roll. They started winning — and winning impressively. Tift County got its offense on track and reeled of five consecutive wins, scoring over 30 points in each of those victories. Included among those triumphs were back-to-back 31-7 region routs of then-No. 7 ranked Lowndes and Coffee High.

Meanwhile, the Cats have been...well, the Cats. Playing good hard-nosed team ball, Valdosta steamrolled to a perfect 7-0 mark. Included in this total were region wins against Bainbridge and Colquitt County. The Cats skinned the Bearcats, 38-14, and ripped the Packers, 22-9.

Traditionally, this has been one of the hardest fought series in the history of South Georgia football. Last year, VHS rolled past Tift County, 23-7, in the Devils Den. I don't know? Maybe, it's just me, but doesn't it seem like the Blue Devils always play the Cats better in Valdosta than in Tifton?

I'm not a math wizard, but this one adds up to a Valdosta victory. Mr. Vegas picks Valdosta, 27-9.



Valdosta High quarterback Steve Everson County High Packers at Cleveland Field. The (1) fakes a handoff to the Cats' leading rusher Alfred Barnes (20) in last Friday night's 22-9 County High Blue Devils tonight at 8 — Times Region 1-AAAA victory against the Colquitt Photo by Jeff Allen.

Cats, Devils Battle For Region Lead

VOT Fri. Oct. 25, 1991
By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

2,335 yards in total offense. The Blue Devils have conjured up 1,967 yards.

Nick Hyder's No. 1 ranked Valdosta High Wildcats close out their 1991 regular season home schedule Friday night at Cleveland Field as Gene Brodie's No. 10 ranked Tift County High Blue Devils come to call.

At stake is first place atop the Region 1-AAAA standings. The Cats prowl into this South Georgia slugfest with a perfect 7-0 mark. In region action, VHS has amassed a sterling 2-0 record. The Cats own region victories against the Bainbridge High Bearcats (38-14) and the Colquitt County High Packers (22-9).

Meanwhile, the Blue Devils stumbled out of the starting blocks at 0-2. However, Brodie and his troops regrouped and have reeled off five straight victories — scoring 30 or more points in each of those wins. The Blue Devils also have a 2-0 mark in Region 1-AAAA action. Tift County recorded back-to-back 31-7 region victories against Lowndes High and Coffee High.

When it comes to offense, both of these squads are capable of moving the pigskin. The Cats have racked up

VHS has managed to rush for 1,685 yards on 323 attempts, while Tifton has churned out 1,183 yards on the ground on 298 carries. Spearheading the Valdosta ground assault has been running back Alfred Barnes with 357 yards on 50 attempts. Quarterback Steve Everson has gained 326 yards on 73 attempts. Running backs David Williams, Brian Wiseman and Albert Edmonds have rushed for 276, 222 and 197 yards, respectively.

Running back Roderick Bryant, who is No. 2 in rushing in the region, leads Tift County with 617 yards on 137 attempts. Fullback Dean Lott is next for the Blue Devils in rushing with 239 yards on 46 attempts.

Both of these Region 1-AAAA football powers are capable of moving the pigskin through the air as well. The Cats have completed 49 of 89 passing for 650 yards and nine touchdowns. VHS quarterbacks have been picked off just four times. The Blue Devils have hit on 46 of 111 passing for 784 yards and seven touchdowns. Tift County quarterbacks have misfired on seven occasions.

Pulling the trigger on the VHS See WILDCATS, Page 2-B

TONIGHT

WHO: Valdosta High Wildcats (7-0 overall, 2-0 in region) vs. Tift County High Blue Devils (5-2 overall, 2-0 in region)

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Cleveland Field, Valdosta. Tickets: \$5 at gate.

IF NOT THERE, WHERE: Radio: WAAC-FM (92.9) in Valdosta area.

Television: Wildcat Tradition will present game highlights Thursday night on TCI Cablevision Channel 12, 7 p.m. and 8 p.m., and The Welcome Channel, 10:30 p.m.

WEATHER: Partly cloudy, low in the middle 60s.

LAST WEEK: Valdosta defeated Colquitt County, 22-9; Tift County defeated Coffee High, 31-7.

LAST SEASON: Valdosta won, 23-7, in Tifton.

THE SERIES: Valdosta leads, 51-10-2.

RANKINGS: In Georgia AP, Valdosta is ranked No. 1 in Class AAAA. The Wildcats are also No. 4 in USA Today's national poll. Tift County is tied at No. 10 with Colquitt County in Georgia AP's Class AAAA poll.

Wildcats

From Page 1-B

passing game is quarterback Steve Everson, who has completed 45 of 78 passing for 592 yards and seven touchdowns. He has been intercepted three times. Leading the Valdosta receiving corps has been Brice Hunter with 25 receptions for 357 yards and five touchdowns.

Directing the Blue Devils' passing game will be quarterback Lance Williams, who has hit on 43 of 106 passing for 723 yards and six touchdowns. He has been picked off six times. Williams' favorite target has been split end Bert Jones, who has hauled in 25 passes for 472 yards and six touchdowns.

The Cats offense has scored 204 points, while the Blue Devils have lit up the scoreboard for 176 points. On the defensive side of things, the

Cats have yielded just 1,337 yards. Tift County's defense has been just as stingy giving up 1,355 yards. Against the run, VHS has allowed only 624 yards on 199 attempts. Tift County has given up 953 yards on the ground on 205 attempts. Against the pass, VHS has been touched up for a scant 713 yards. The Devils have allowed even fewer yards through the air — 402 yards. Valdosta's defense has given up 40 points, while Tift has been touched up for 85 points.

Anchoring the Cats' defense will be Dexter Daniels, Franklin Wiseman, Marcus Williams, Peter Falor, Brinson Barker, Trampis Wrice, Nick Reed, Tim McClain, Brook Sanford, Troy Brown, Jason Jelks and John Walker.

The Devils are led by the likes of Jermaine McInyre, Todd Fordham, Chris Wade, Ken King, Broderick Henry, Ken Dunn, Ryan Branch, Kenny Morrow, Tony Powell, Marcus Phillips and Ron Dennard.

If this game comes down to battle of specialists, the Cats and Blue Devils are blessed with two good ones. Valdosta will rely on senior Dow Drury, while Tift County will call upon Paul McLenore. Drury has been perfect on his extra points, hitting on 20 of 20. In the field goal department, Drury has connected on seven of nine with his longest of the season coming from 37 yards. McLenore is 18 out of 20 in the extra points department. He has booted four of five field goals, with his longest coming from 35 yards out.

Cats' Stats Look Good

VDT Thurs, Oct. 24, '91
By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

you're probably going to have good stats."

The Wildcats must have good fundamentals because they are rolling up the numbers. The Cats are averaging 333.5 yards of total offense and 29.1 points per game while the defense is giving up 190.9 yards per game, but only 5.7 points per game.

Most of the yards gained by opponents against Valdosta have come through the air, often in comeback attempts. The Wildcat defense is allowing an average of 101.8 yards per game through the air. In seven games, the secondary has picked off eight passes, but five came last week against Colquitt. Trampis Wrice leads the team with three interceptions. Nick Reed has two.

But even with the Cats offense scoring nearly 30 points per game, Hyder sees some of the missed opportunities to score even more.

"Yardage is good," Hyder said. "But you get points for putting it in the end zone. I wish we were scoring more points, but that's my fault.

That's a result of my not calling the right play sequences down close."

Making things easy on the offense has been the effective running of Valdosta's backs. The entire offensive backfield as a whole is averaging 5.2 yards per carry.

"I think the incentive for that is a make five or lose five drill that we run in practice," Hyder said. "That's good that they're getting five yards, but we don't want them to get five yards and lie down."

Valdosta's rushers who have rushed 30 times or more are averaging 5.4 yards per carry as a group. Alfred Barnes, the team's leading rusher with 357 yards, also leads the regulars with an average of 7.14 yards per carry. Brian Wiseman is averaging 7.1 yards per carry.

The key word for Valdosta's backfield this year is balance. The Cats have six backs who have rushed for 100 yards or more. Four of the six, Barnes, Wiseman, Steve Everson, and David Williams, have rushed for over 200 yards.

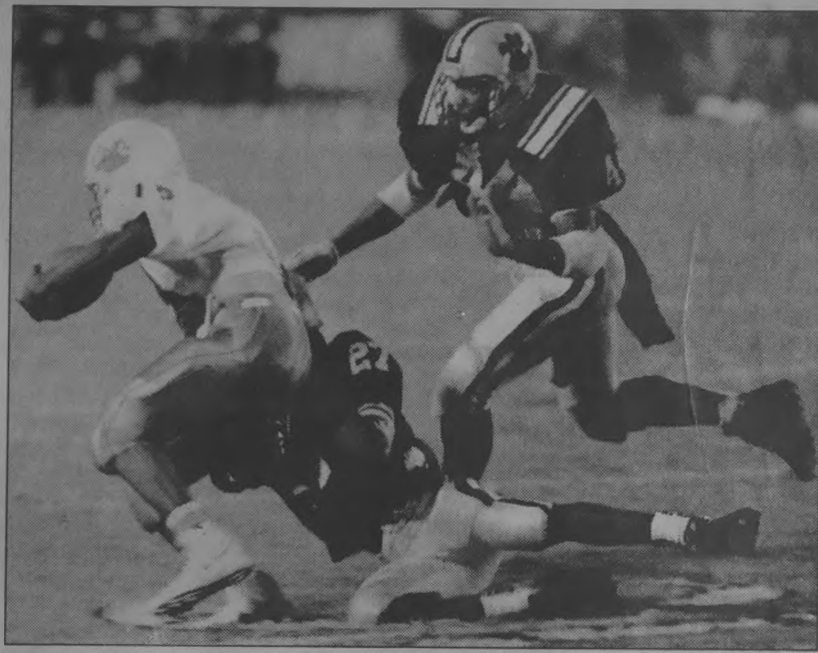
It has been said that statistics do not lie. It is one of the most commonly used cliches in all of sports. So pardon the cliché, but Valdosta High is 7-0 and has the statistics to more clearly illustrate the perfect record.

The Wildcats are balanced and deep, and their statistics illustrate that clearly both on offense and defense.

Head coach Nick Hyder recognizes statistics and appreciates them, but his coaching still revolves around fundamentals.

"I appreciate them for the news value and the interest the fans place in them, but, as a coach, I'm more involved in technique," Hyder said Wednesday. "But fans don't want to hear about technique. So it's good for the fans. And we need our fans."

"However, I guess part B of the equation is that if you have good technique and good fundamentals,



Valdosta High's John Copeland and Marcus Williams bring down a Camden County runner earlier this season. Valdosta's Wildcat defense is holding opponents to an average of only 3.1 yards per carry this season — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

No. 1 Cats Cast Out Devils, 10-6

VDT Sat., Oct. 26, '91
By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High's last regular-season home game proved to be memorable. Big plays by quarterback Steve Everson and defensive back Jason Jelks allowed Valdosta to hold on for a thrilling 10-6 win over Tift County's Blue Devils.

Jelks intercepted a pass early in the fourth quarter to set up Valdosta's only touchdown. Everson threw a 30-yard pass for the touchdown, and led the Cats in rushing with 110 yards on 22 carries.

Valdosta led the entire game, but the lead was never a comfortable one. But the Valdosta Wildcats prevailed to move their region record to 3-0 and their overall record to 8-0 to isolate themselves at the top of the Region 1-AAAA standings.

Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder was impressed with Tift County. "We're glad to win that one," Hyder said after the game. "Tift's a great football team, but we knew that

VALDOSTA, 10-6

TIFT COUNTY	0	0	0	6	-	6
VALDOSTA	0	3	0	7	-	10

V—Dow Drury 28 field goal.
V—Mike Roberts 30 pass from Steve Everson (Drury kick).
T—Dean Lott 4 pass from Lance Williams (Kick failed).

	TIFT	VALDOSTA
9	First downs	11
33-118	Rushes-yards	44-227
24	Passing yards	75
142	Total yards	302
3-18-1	Passes	4-14-0
8-42.1	Punts-avg.	7-31.1
2-1	Fumbles-lost	2-1
2-15	Penalties-yards	4-25

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Tift, Roderick Bryant 23-107, Lott 4-11, Williams 6-0. Valdosta, Alfred Barnes 9-54, Everson 22-110, David Williams 7-31, Albert Edmunds 4-19, Brian Wiseman 3-0, Chris Rockey 1-13.
PASSING—Tift, Williams 3-18-1-24. Valdosta, Steve Everson 4-14-0-75.
RECEIVING—Tift, Lott 2-13, Bert Jones 1-11. Valdosta, Brice Hunter 1-7, Shadrick Green 2-38, Mike Roberts 1-30.

when we came in. That's South Georgia, 1-AAAA football."

The loss dropped Tift County to 5-3 and 2-1 in Region 1-AAAA, tying the Blue Devils with Colquitt County for second place in the region standings.

Head coach Gene Brodie was upset, but was impressed with the Wildcats.

"No, I'm not pleased," Brodie said of his team's performance. "We lost. We didn't play good enough. No. Valdosta has a great football team."

Valdosta fans sat quietly as the Blue Devils took the opening kickoff at their own 13-yard line and drove easily downfield against the Wildcat defense. Tift sent a signal to the Cats and their fans that they came to Cleveland Field to win.

The Blue Devils were gaining more and more momentum as they drove to the Cats' 22-yard line on 10 plays. But running back Roderick Bryant, who had led the Devils downfield, fumbled on the 11th play, and the Cats' Nick Reed pounced on the loose ball to end the early threat.

Neither offense was able to muster much of a threat for the rest of the first half. It was Valdosta's defense that came up with the big play to set up the Cats' three first-half points.

The Devils offense was pinned at their own 14, but worked their way

out for a first down at their 25. A holding penalty drove them back to their own 16, and a sack by the Cats' John Gloster pinned the Devils back at their own one-yard line.

The ball was actually placed just inside the one, and Valdosta fans were screaming for a safety. But the sack helped Valdosta score three points.

Tift's Marcus Phillips then seemingly punted the Devils out of trouble with a 52-yard punt, but the Cats still had good field position at their own 47.

Four plays later, Everson connected with Shadrick Green for a 29-yard pass play. Everson almost fell after being bumped by his own line, and while being chased by a host of Tift defenders, threw a bullet to Green just before being nailed at the Valdosta sideline.

That set the Cats up at the Devils' 11, but the offense could not punch the ball into the end zone and had to settle for a 28-yard field goal by Dow Drury with 8:10 left in the first half.

See WILDCATS, Page 2-B

Wildcats

From Page 1-B

Valdosta held a 3-0 lead at the half, but the Cats' offense had worries. David Williams with 30 yards on five carries was the only Valdosta running back with more than seven yards at the half.

Tift's defense was able to penetrate the Cats' offensive line throughout the game. That slowed the Cats' rushers, but it pushed Everson outside where he picked up most of his yardage.

"They blitz a lot, so we wanted to get outside," Everson said. "It just worked out that that was working, so we just kept milking it since it was such a good play for us. It was the first time all year that we've had trouble picking up stunts."

Valdosta offensive lineman Eddie Wooten was one of the Cats in the trenches. "They were penetrating pretty well because they were calling stunts from way across the field and we had to stay stationary and pick them up. But we kind of buckled

down and got it right in the second half."

The deepest either team penetrated in the third quarter was when Tift drove to the 44-yard line early in the third quarter. But the action got hot in the final period.

After receiving a Cats' punt at their own 16-yard line, the Devils assisted the Cats as Lance Williams found Jelks cutting in front of his pass on their first play of the fourth quarter.

Three plays later from the Devils' 30, Everson connected on a short pass to Mike Roberts who threw his hand out to stop himself from hitting the ground after a failed tackle by a Tift defender and then cruised into the end zone for a touchdown. Drury's extra point put the Cats up 10-0 with 9:10 left in the game.

Valdosta forced a Tift punt on the Devils' next drive, but nearly self-destructed on their next drive. Punter Wayne DeVane dropped a snap from the punter and the Devils

recovered the loose ball at the Cats' 34-yard line with 7:01 remaining in the game.

Six plays later, on a third-and-goal from the Valdosta four-yard line, Williams connected with Dean Lott for a touchdown with 5:17 left. But kicker Paul McLemore hooked the extra-point try wide left much to the delight of the Cats' fans and Valdosta led 6-0.

The Cats started the next drive at their own 14 and Everson ran 44 yards on the first play. The Cats had to punt four plays later, though, and it appeared that DeVane's punt would easily sail into the end zone. But the ball stopped dead at the Devils' two-yard line.

Tift County took over from there with 2:38 left in the game and elected to pass on the first three downs. The result was three incompletions and a punt on fourth down. Valdosta then ran off the remaining 2:02 with the Devils stuck with no time-outs.

Cats, Vikings Bring Rivalry To New Level

V.D.T. Tues. Nov. 5, 1991
By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

When thinking of rivalries such as Georgia-Georgia Tech, Georgia-Florida, Florida-Florida State, Army-Navy, Notre-Dame-USC and Cal-Stanford spring to mind. Those are rivalries...but, then there is the "Winnersville Classic".

This annual clash, which will be celebrating its 10th anniversary as the "Winnersville Classic", brings the meaning of the word rivalry to a new level as the top-ranked 9-0 Valdosta High Wildcats invade Martin Stadium Friday night at 8 to battle the 7-2 Lowndes High Vikings.

The football series between Valdosta High and Lowndes High began in 1968. On 28 different occasions, these two Georgia prep football powers have waged war on the gridiron with the Cats holding a 23-5 advantage. VHS has outscored LHS, 619-159 (22.1-5.7).

Valdosta opened this series with nine straight victories (1968-76) against the Vikings. In the process, Valdosta outscored Lowndes by a 278-26 margin. During that time, the Cats shut out the Vikings four times.

In 1977, Joe Wilson's Lowndes High Vikings defeated the Cats for the first time ever, 7-2, at Martin Stadium. Lowndes went on to win two of the next six meetings with Valdosta (1979: 15-14), (1980: 6-0).

The next time the Cats and Vikings would hook up would be in the inaugural "Winnersville Classic" game in 1981 at Martin Stadium. There has been 10 contests played in this Classic with the Cats holding a 9-1 advantage, including winning the last five meetings. The lone Vikings' win in the "Winnersville Classic" came in 1985 when Lowndes blanked Valdosta, 10-0. The Vikings would also eliminate the Cats in the playoffs later that year, 14-7.

In the 10 previous "Winnersville Classics", Valdosta has outscored Lowndes by a whopping 206-55 margin. The first quarter has been relatively close with VHS scoring 25 points, while the Vikings have lit up the scoreboard for 16 first quarter points. However, things take a drastic turn in favor of the black and gold in the second period. The Cats have tallied 72 points in the second quarter, while the Vikes have only been able to manage a scant 7 points.

In the second half, the Cats have struck for 51 third period points and another 58 points in the final quarter, while LHS has managed 19 and 13, respectively.

Looking for a little trivia? VHS placekicker Dow Drury is the only active player on either team to score a point (12) in the "Winnersville Classic". Lowndes has scored eight touchdowns in the Classic — all by different players. The four extra points made by the Vikings have all come from four different people.

10 YEARS OF WINNERSVILLES

BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	
VALDOSTA	25	72	51	58	206
LOWNDES	16	7	19	13	55

TOP PERFORMANCES

MOST RUSHING YARDS: Carlos Parker (V), 150 in 1989
MOST PASSING YARDS: Randy Gay (L), 196 (18-44-5) in 1982
MOST RECEIVING YARDS: Carl Parker (L), 91 (six catches) in 1982
MOST RECEPTIONS: Boo Mitchell (L), seven (61 yards) in 1982
LONG FIELD GOAL: Todd Peterson (V), 47 yds., 1987
LONG TD RUN: Carlos Parker (V), 34 yards, 1989
LONG TD PASS: Chris Overman to Rozell Orr (L), 72 yards, 1986
LONG TD DEFENSE: Derrick Folsom (V), 85 yds., interception, 1984
LONG TD KICK RETURN: Reginald Dandy (V), 74 yds., punt, 1986
MOST POINTS (Career): Tony Anderson (V) and Isaac Caesar (V) each scored 18 points; John Porter (V) scored 17 points.

THE SCORES

1981: VALDOSTA, 20-13
1982: VALDOSTA, 22-0
1983: VALDOSTA, 35-6
1984: VALDOSTA, 28-6
1985: LOWNDES, 10-0
1986: VALDOSTA, 17-6
1987: VALDOSTA, 10-7
1988: VALDOSTA, 41-0
1989: VALDOSTA, 17-0
1990: VALDOSTA, 16-7

TEAM HIGHS, LOWS

MOST TOTAL YARDS: Valdosta, 294 yds., 1989
MOST RUSHING YARDS: Valdosta, 233 yds., 1989
MOST PASSING YARDS: Lowndes, 223 yds., 1982
MOST TURNOVERS: Lowndes, seven in 1982
BIGGEST QUARTER: Valdosta, 20 points, 2nd Q, 1988

AVERAGE STATS

	VHS	LHS
RUSHING YARDS	177.7	46.3
PASSING YARDS	66.9	84.4
TOTAL YARDS	244.6	130.7
PASSES	55/142	73/213
TURNOVERS	23	29

SOURCE: The Valdosta Daily Times Archives

Class AAAA Playoff Race Taking Shape

V.D.T. Sun. Nov. 3, 1991
By GREG McILVAIN
Times News Editor

Can Valdosta High win a third Georgia Class AAAA state football title in a row?

The road to that title will have from one to four stops, depending on the Wildcats' success in the post-season. That road begins Nov. 22 at Cleveland Field, when Nick Hyder's troops will meet Region 2-AAAA's No. 2 team for the second-straight year. Last year, Valdosta blanked Northside of Warner Robins, 21-0 in the first-round game.

In Valdosta's half of the bracket this season are the No. 1 teams from regions 4, 5 and 8, along with the No. 2 teams from regions 2, 3, 6 and 7. If it continued to win, the Wildcats would be on the road for the quarterfinal game (versus a team from region 3 or 4), at home for the semifinal game and on the road for the state-title game.

That first-round opponent won't be Northside (3-6 this season). Who will it be? Who will the other playoff teams be? Take this trip through the Class AAAA probabilities:

■**LOCKED IN:** Valdosta (9-0), with its sixth-straight Region 1-AAAA title. Tift County (6-3) is assured of being Region 1-AAAA's No. 2 team, awaiting a region-playoff game at the Devils Den Nov. 15 against either Colquitt County or Lowndes (see below).

Penalties Dominate VHS-Coffee Contest

V.D.T. Sun. Nov. 3, 1991
By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

For the sixth consecutive year, Valdosta High School's Wildcats are the Region 1-AAAA champions. The Wildcats spanked the Coffee High Trojans 41-21 in Douglas Friday night in the Cats' first road game of the season.

It was the most points the Cats have scored in a game this season. But with all the good numbers put up by Valdosta, there is one bad statistic that stands out — 13 penalties for 106 yards.

Many fans, coaches, administrators, and onlookers were a bit dissatisfied with the officiating to say the least. But Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder had no problems with any calls that went against his team.

"I thought that with the intensity of the game and the types of multiple sets that Coffee gives you, they're cocked and ready to fire, and that created a lot of problems," Hyder said.

"We were guilty of everything they called on us. I don't think the officials made up anything. I don't think they called anything we weren't guilty off. But that's the nature of this game."

Coffee was also hit with penalties. The Trojans were flagged nine times for 73 yards. In fact, one Valdosta drive was made up entirely of penalties against Coffee. Valdosta drove 53 yards on five Trojan penalties.

The strange drive started with no time remaining in the first half and with Valdosta 60 yards away from the Trojan end zone, but leading 27-0. The drive ended with no time re-

maining in the first half and with the Wildcats threatening to score again.

The unusual sequence of events started after Valdosta's Trampis Wrice picked off a Shane Shook pass and returned it to the Cats' 40-yard line. Coffee had elected to air the ball out on what they thought would be the final play of the first half.

But Wrice knew what was coming because Shook had tried to hit receiver Johnny McFatten on the same sideline route on the two previous plays. Two practice plays was enough for Wrice to be ready the third time for the easy pickoff.

When Wrice was finally tackled at the Valdosta 40-yard line, many frustrated Coffee players began heading for the locker rooms. But an official called defensive clipping against Coffee.

That moved Valdosta to the Trojan 45-yard line from where it seemed the Cats were going to run the last play of the half with no time remaining. But the first half excitement was far from over.

An offside call against the Trojans carried the Cats to the 40-yard line of Coffee, and the Trojan fans began to grumble along with the Coffee coaches. But the Cats and their fans were beginning to think about the possibilities with no time remaining.

But the half ended with Valdosta quarterback Steve Everson throwing an interception. But wait — yet another yellow flag, this time for a personal foul.

That took the Cats to the Trojan 25. The Cats' coaches then decided to go for three, but Ryan Sanderson missed a 42-yard field goal. Another yellow flag hit the field.

Cats' Stats Look Good

VDT Times Oct. 24, 1991
By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

It has been said that statistics do not lie. It is one of the most commonly used cliches in all of sports. So pardon the cliché, but Valdosta High is 7-0 and has the statistics to more clearly illustrate the perfect record.

The Wildcats are balanced and deep, and their statistics illustrate that clearly both on offense and defense.

Head coach Nick Hyder recognizes statistics and appreciates them, but his coaching still revolves around fundamentals.

"I appreciate them for the news value and the interest the fans place in them, but, as a coach, I'm more involved in technique," Hyder said Wednesday. "But fans don't want to hear about technique. So it's good for the fans. And we need our fans."

"However, I guess part B of the equation is that if you have good technique and good fundamentals,

The Wildcats must have good fundamentals because they are rolling up the numbers. The Cats are averaging 333.5 yards of total offense and 29.1 points per game while the defense is giving up 190.9 yards per game, but only 5.7 points per game.

Most of the yards gained by opponents against Valdosta have come through the air, often in comeback attempts. The Wildcat defense is allowing an average of 101.8 yards per game through the air. In seven games, the secondary has picked off eight passes, but five came last week against Colquitt. Trampis Wrice leads the team with three interceptions. Nick Reed has two.

But even with the Cats offense scoring nearly 30 points per game, Hyder sees some of the missed opportunities to score even more.

"Yardage is good," Hyder said. "But you get points for putting it in the end zone. I wish we were scoring more points, but that's my fault.

That's a result of my not calling the right play sequences down close."

Making things easy on the offense has been the effective running of Valdosta's backs. The entire offensive backfield as a whole is averaging 5.2 yards per carry.

"I think the incentive for that is a make five or lose five drill that we run in practice," Hyder said. "That's good that they're getting five yards, but we don't want them to get five yards and lie down."

Valdosta's rushers who have rushed 30 times or more are averaging 5.4 yards per carry as a group. Alfred Barnes, the team's leading rusher with 357 yards, also leads the regulars with an average of 7.14 yards per carry. Brian Wiseman is averaging 7.1 yards per carry.

The key word for Valdosta's backfield this year is balance. The Cats have six backs who have rushed for 100 yards or more. Four of the six, Barnes, Wiseman, Steve Everson, and David Williams, have rushed for over 200 yards.



Valdosta High's John Copeland and Marcus Williams bring down a Camden County runner earlier this season. Valdosta's Wildcat defense is holding opponents to an average of only 3.1 yards per carry this season — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Letters To The Editor

VDT Thurs. Oct. 24, 1991

VHS Student Wanted Presentation Coverage

I am a Valdosta High School student, and on Thursday, Sept. 12, we had a presentation from the Georgia Agrirama, which was a valuable educational experience in both American history and American literature.

A representative of Valdosta High School did contact various media agencies, and only one responded.

The school's representative asked for *The Valdosta Daily Times* to participate in covering the event. Apparently, the Valdosta School Board and various Valdosta area businesses thought that this was an important event; otherwise, they would not have paid to have it happen.

I would hate to think that our own newspaper would just brush this off and not send anyone to cover this story. I am sure if someone had been caught selling drugs or in possession of a weapon, you would have had it hot on the press, but you must also

print the good things about our school.

If you cannot make time to cover your youth's educational experiences, how do you expect the Valdosta citizens will know how or what their future generations are learning? Your business covers football, baseball and

other sports events at Valdosta and Lowndes High, among other area schools, every time one takes places, but don't you think it is of equal, if not more, importance to cover our scholastic events?

Chris Thomas
Valdosta

Yes, It Was A Cold One

V. Times 11-9-91
By STAN GRUBB
Special To The Times

WINNERSVILLE, U.S.A. — Long before kickoff, the Valdosta High Wildcats, the Lowndes High Vikings and both teams' fans were preparing for another battle. But this battle was one of survival and not scoring.

Mother Nature greeted the Winnersville Classic teams and fans with cold weather.

The predicted weather before the contest was one of swirling winds and a swiftly dropping temperature. The gametime temperature was 40 degrees, with the wind gusting out of the northeast.

With the elements not conducive to South Georgia football, both teams dug in and the fans constantly shaking on every snap.

"There's really nothing more you can do except go out and play football," said Lowndes High defensive tackle Anthony Hargett. "The weather didn't cause any problems. Valdosta did. Sure, we all took precautions and dressed according to the change in weather. But you still have to go out and play football."

While most players bundled up for the collision on the field, the fans were put to the test as well.

According to Mac Weaver, it's just football weather. "I just like being part of a game like this. It doesn't matter to me what the weather is," he said. "The kids seem to adapt to this type stuff better than we fans. I guess being on the move during the game certainly helps in cold weather. It was great."

Valdosta High coach Nick Hyder addressed the cold weather as just a part of the football game. In fact, VHS' head man said the cold weather was never discussed.

"I just feel the kids should be smart enough to know to bundle up," Hyder stated. "It's there, it's a part of the game this time of year, but our youngsters were prepared. You either let it affect you, or you don't."

After a 7-3 lead by the top-ranked Wildcats at intermission, VHS picked up steam. The Vikings, on the other hand, seemed a bit frozen on the Martin Stadium field.

By game's end, it was Valdosta who put the Vikings in the deep-freeze tallying a 32-3 victory.

"It felt fine to me out there tonight," said Valdosta High quarterback Steve Everson. "I was caught in the middle on wether or not to wear gloves. I chose not to because I wanted a true feel of the football in my hands."

"We never talked about the weather," he said. "The only problem I could see was just the wind. Without the wind, it would have been pretty-much another night."

According to many, the wind played the biggest role in the contest.

"It made things tough out there because down in this area you're just not accustomed to it," said Lowndes High linebacker Randall Godfrey. "It's hard to understand it unless you're out there. There was no extra preparation for the weather. I enjoyed a good game in the cold weather for a change."

20 30 40 50 40 3

Valdosta High School Students On Honor Roll

William Aldrich, principal of Valdosta High School, has announced the "A/AB" honor roll students for the first six weeks.

Brian Adams, Stephanie Adams, Bobby Albritton, Mitzi Albritton, Terri Albritton, Holland Alday, Charnissa Alderman, Corey Alexander, David Alexander, Phillip Allen, Clint Allred, Ken Altman, Christopher Ames, Eric Arnold, Julie Ann Arnold, Jarvis Bacon, Rachael Baiornos, Don Baker, Matthew Baker, Russell Baker, Tasha Baker, Dinah Baldwin, Stuart Bailes, Rachel Bailes, Jason Barbas, Aaron Garber, Alfred Barnes, Becky Barnett, Alison Bass, Timothy Bass, Decarla Battle, Maribel Bauzo, Brook Bearden, Letitia Benefield, Emily Bentley, Felicia Berrian, Ginger Bishop, Joel Bius, Zanthia Bivins, Mary Carol Blalock, Kevin Blankumsee, Rodrick Blanton, Trish Bolen, Tracey Bonner, Michael Bovender, Shannon Bowen, Emily Bowling, Jay Bowling, Canvis Bradley, Blake Brantley.

Stuart Braveheart, Jarrett Bridges, Shelby Bridges, Paul Briggs, Lardell Brinson, Deanna Brisco, Fleming Brooks, Lana Brooks, Carlos Brown, John Brown, Kimberly Brown, Sabrina Brown, Tara Brown, Matt Buckland, Melissa Buckland, Michelle Buckland, Kayse Budd, Tiffany Burgman, Heather Burns, Lewis Butler, Carmelita Butis, Latonya Byrd, Laurie Campbell, Katherine Cantrell, Ingrid Carroll, Leah Carroll, Tawanna Carter, Lyle Causey, Michael

Cavan, Daniel Childs, Rachel Childs, Che Christie, Gregory Clark, Vaughn Clark, Monica Clifton, Christy Clyatt, Helene Coibion, Oliver Coibion, Christina Colegrove, Sallyann Coleman, Leah Collins, Cindy Cone, Josh Connor, Shmiece Cooper, Angie Cope land, Stephanie Cowart, Rebecca Coyne, Ryan Coyne, Lindsay Crane.

Stacey Cranor, Jennifer Crick, Kevin Cronin, Pamela Daniels, Tiffany Daniels, Anne Daugherty, Hilary Davis, Nycole Davis, Kemisha Davis, Jason Day, Lamont Debro, Greg Denly, Dede Dennis, Matthew Donald, Doug Dorneden, Belinda Downs, Anne Drumheller, Travis Dular, Derek Duncan, Jennifer Edwards, Gee Edwards, Bert Eidson, Jennifer Eidson, Missy Elders, India Elliott, Kendra Elliott, Alma Enmon, Steven Eppes, Stephanie Everett, Latoy Ezell, Wilson Faircloth, Lisa Fernandez, Seymond Floyd, Shalina Fluca, Andrea Ford, Gregory Franklin, Robyn Freeman, Shonda Freeman, Janna Futch, Farrah Gage, James Galloy, Genora Garland, Latasha Garland, James Garrison, John Woodward Gayle, Melissa Geier, Jason Giddens, Ashley Giles, David Gilliard, Robbie Ginn, Amy Glines, Lacarra Godfrey.

Dixon Goff, Jennifer Grant, Mari Gravlee, Antonio Gray, April Green, Asia Green, Elizabeth Green, Bobby Greene, Dena Greer, Brian Gregory, Amy Griffin, Daniel Griffin, Melanie Griffin, Melissa Griffin, Wendy Griffin, Parker Grow, Eve Guinn, Jason Hall, Martina Hall, John Halter, Leigh

Jina Jones, Stacy Jones, Xavier Jones, Mark Josey, Jamie Kaeck, Raymond Kassum, Brahm Kellerman, Jena Kelly, Vonda Kier, Roy Kilgard, Monique King, Stephanie King, Jerome Kirkland, Chinequa Knight, Amy Knowles, Kimberly Knowlton, Thompson Kurrie, Wendy Kuter, Lindsay Lagioia, Sarah Lamprey, Michael Lancaster.

Joe Langdale, Keri Langdale, Margaux Laskey, Mary Lassetter, Cate Lawrence, Christie Ledbetter, Michelle Levy, Kendra Lewis, Christee Leynes, Lindsay Lloyd, David Lockhart, Karmell Logan, Matthew Love day, Sarah Luke, Kareem Mabry, Heather MacDonald, Kareem Mackey, Elizabeth Mackey, Walt Maham, Jennifer Mason, Katherine Mathis, Kisha Mathis, Terrence Mathis, Ben Matson, David Matthews, Mickey McAfee, Latasha McBurrough, Tammy McCain, Martin McClure, Brian McCombs, Eric McCombs, Maggie McDonald, Amanda McGhin, Christy McHenry, Jessica McMullen, Diedric McNair, Anglea McSween, Tammy Means, Edgar Merryweather, Duffton Miller, Maura Miller, Courtney Minchew, Malette Mitchell, Beth Mitchell, Marone Mobley.

Andrea Moody, Adrienne Moore, Mandy Moore, Kevin Moore, Monica Moore, Tanisha Moore, Tameta Moore, Ret Moore, Jessica Morgan, Rebecca Morgan, Betty Morris, David Morrisette, Crystal Morrison, Tad Moseley, Monique Mosely, Eric

Motes, Jason Motley, James Neal, Mark Nestor, Latammy Newsome, Kristi Norman, Robby Norris, Tony Norton, Melissa Norwood, Tim O'Brien, Tony O'Neal, Stephanie O'Neal, Dee Orenstein, Katherine Owens, Quinlin Parker, Chad Parkerson, Ekta Patel, Hemali Patel, Rachel Paterson, Geveda Patrick, Sandra Payton, James Pearce, Alex Penn, Kier Perry, Katesa Peterson, Moneka Peterson, Tomika Phillips, Veronica Phillips, Philip Pieplow, Ben Pitchford, Pinckney Pitcock, Crystal Pitts, Michelle Pitts, Lisa Plair, Dana Pompey, Felecia Ponder, Tenya Ponder, Melissa Porter, Jennifer Powell, Michael Powers, Brett Pruette, Holly Rackley, Dan Rackley, Ann Rainey, Mendi Ray.

Brad Reames, Jeff Reames, Angela Redden, Nick Reed, Sean Reed, Tami Reed, Amy Register, Stephen Regis, Yolanda Reviere, Betsy Richards, Stephanie Richter, Aneira Riley, Tracey Riley, Monica Rizer, Jessica Roan, Tiffany Roan, Lashunda Roberts, Bill Roberts, Kyndra Robinson, Sylvia Robinson, David Roddey, Christopher Rodgers, Kimberly Roe, Brandon Rogers, Tumika Rome, Gary Ross, Rhoda Ross, Timothy Roush, Amy Rowe, James Rowe, Robin Rowe, Jeremy Rowell, Cynthia Rumph, Ty Sainz, Chris Sanders, Alan Sanderson, Kristin Sanderson, Ryan Sanderson, Lori Santos, Bobbie Sasser, Beth Schnake.

Lee Scott, Mona Scott, Bernhard Scully, Clarence Scurry, Kenneth

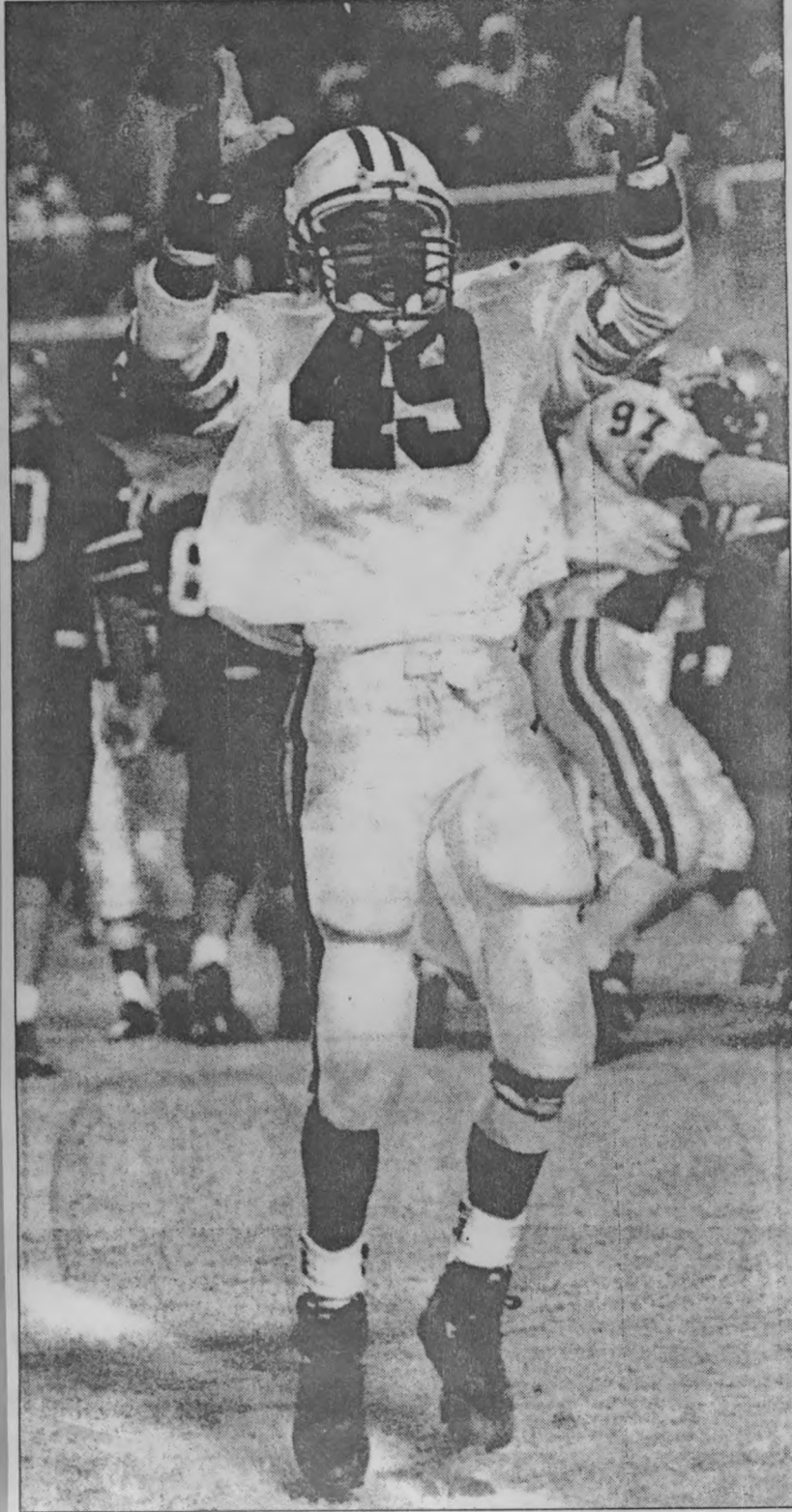
Sharp, Jennifer Sharpton, Clay Shaw, LaSalle Shaw, Melody Shaw, Michal Shirley, Chad Slaughter, Aimee Smith, Eric Smith, Gwendolyn Smith, Joyette Smith, Richard Smith, Tim Smith, Mabry Smith, Sara South, Amy Spann, Jennifer Spencer, Jesse Spencer, Louisa Spencer, Jason Squires, Stephanie Staley, Valerie Stallings, Brian Stanley, Chad Steinberg, Billy Steinberg, Stephanie Stewart, Katie Stone, Andy Stone, Joel Strickland, Julie Strickland, Danny Struble, Leilani Struzick, Jennifer Sutton, Eileen Sweeney, Sherry Swigart, Miki Swilley, Kevin Swinton, Lawanda Swinton, Christine Taormina, Meredith Tart, Sarah Tatum, Leigh Taylor, Tarsa Taylor, Sha-Lisha Tharpe, Chesey Thomas, Lawrence Thomas, Yashica Thomas.

Monica Tillman, Tracy Troutman, James Tucker, Mandi Turner, Gregory Uptagrafft, Sean Van Ausdall, Alysia Walker, Blake Walker, Robin Walker, Shekina Walker, David Wallace, Dejaris Washington, Ali Washington, Richard Washington, Ginger Waters, Jamey Waters, Jennifer Weaver, John Weaver, Jennifer Webb, Bonita Werts, Trent Wetherington, Wendy Whatley, Christopher Wheeler, Davina White, Kevin White, William Whitesell, Isiah Whitfield, Byron Williams, Janesia Williams, Keisa Williams, Kevin Williams, Lester Williams, Shawanda Williams, Tamara Wiseman, Will Woodall, Tawanna Woods, Lashonna Wrice, Trampis Wrice, Tiffany Wright, Wendy Wymer and Laurie Young.



Hamby, Jenny Hamilton, Dennis Hampton, Lucretia Hand, Joel Harper, Theresa Harper, Leah Harrell, Jonathan Harrington, Karen Harris, Andreu Harrison, Heather Harvey, Robyn Hastings, Ebonye Herndon, Michelle Herndon, John Hickox, Meg Hiers, Melissa Hiers, Julie Hiromoto, Benjamin Hofmeisler, Jodie Hollenbeck, Tammy Hoover, Ashley House, Michelle Howard, Thomas Howard, Bill Howard.

Mark Howell, Ashley Hudson, Eric Hunt, Joel Hunt, Matt Hunt, Jesse Hunter, Greg Hunter, Ivan Iverson, Margaret Iverson, John Jack, Billy Jackson, James Jacobs, Andre James, Crisie James, Katrina James, Nakita James, Dashedant Jefferson, Lakeisha Jefferson, Cheryl Jenkins, David Jenkins, Keri Jenkins, Stacey Johns, Matthew Johnson, Natasha Johnson, Carlene Jones, Derrick Jones, Jeremiyah Jones, Johnny Jones, Keisha Jones, Ruth Jones, Se-



Thrill Of Victory

Wildcat defensive end Franklin Wiseman celebrates after top-ranked Valdosta High demolished the Lowndes High Vikings, 32-3, in the Winnersville Classic Friday night at Martin Stadium before a crowd of 12,502 — Times Photo by Jeff Allen. VDT. Sat. Nov. 9, 1991



Still No. 1
Valdosta Leads In Poll

High School Students Vie Off Football Field

By SUSAN A. SMIGIELSKI
Times Staff Writer

The Winnersville High School Art Contest will come back to the Cultural Arts Center Monday.

The more-than-30 participants are from the classrooms of Lowndes High School teacher Deborah Barnard and Valdosta High School's Patsy Smith and Sherry Bennett, said Burton Bright, executive director of the Lowndes-Valdosta Arts Commission.

"We had so many comments of appreciation from parents last year, and it was so well received by the community that we decided to make it an annual event," Bright said.

Last year the top placing senior winner was offered a particular scholarship to Valdosta State College by Art Department Chairman Lanny Milbrandt, he added.

The exhibit will have two and three dimensional art from watercolors to painted furniture to pencil drawings, he said.

In addition to regular judging by local artists, commission and community members, the exhibit will have a "People's Choice Award," Bright said.

"This is what the center is all about — showcasing and nurturing young artists," he said.

The event is hosted by the Cultural Arts Guild, Greenleaf Center, Harmon Trophies and the Framing Workshop.

A reception will be given from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Monday at the center.



From left, Mike Starr, Jennifer Edwards and Julie Dietrich enjoy looking at each other's art work in the high school exhibit at the Cultural Arts Center — Photo By Paul Leavy.

Rudolph Sparks Jackets

VDT Mon., Nov. 18, '91
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Wake Forest just seems to bring out the best in Aloha Bowl-bound Georgia Tech.

The Yellow Jackets needed a victory over the Demon Deacons Saturday to secure a post-season trip to Hawaii on Christmas Day and did so with an easy 27-3 victory.

Last year Tech clinched its first-ever Atlantic Coast Conference championship by routing Wake Forest 42-7 to earn a Citrus Bowl berth enroute to a No. 2 national ranking.

On Saturday freshman running back Jimmy Lincoln led the offense with 101 rushing yards and a touchdown while tackle Coleman Rudolph keyed a defense that allowed Wake Forest only 149 yards as Tech won its 17th consecutive home game.

Tech (7-4 overall and 5-2 in the ACC) closes out its regular season Nov. 30 against Georgia, then makes its second consecutive bowl appearance for the first time since the 1971 Peach and 1972 Liberty bowls.

Quarterback Shawn Jones, who passed for 162 yards, including a 29-yard touchdown to Jason McGill and ran for another 49 yards to break three school records, also was pleased with the trip.

Tech had a frustrating first-half Saturday in which the Yellow Jackets outgained Wake Forest (2-8, 1-6) 251-59 but only led 10-3 on Lincoln's 3-yard TD run and a 22-yard field goal by Scott Sisson.

The Yellow Jackets rolled in the second half, however, getting an 18-yard field goal from Sisson in the third and a touchdown run.

Wake Forest's only score came on a 22-yard field goal by Mike Green only 1:17 into the game.

But Tech had something to do with that, especially Rudolph, who sacked quarterback Keith West twice for 24 yards in losses and now has an ACC-leading 13 sacks on the season.

Valdosta Student Attends Youth Leaders Conference

By SUSAN A. SMIGIELSKI
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School student William Whitesell recently returned from the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.

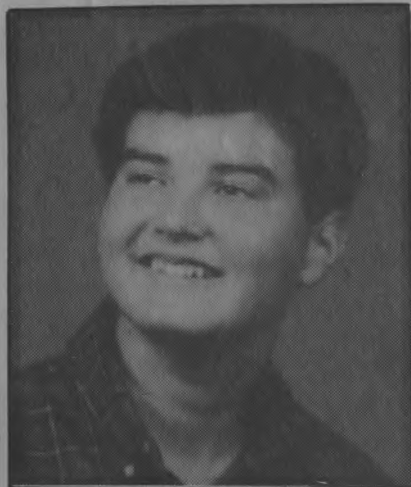
Whitesell was chosen to meet with about 350 outstanding high school students from around the nation in the conference sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council.

This year's theme was "The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today."

Whitesell met with key leaders and newsmakers from the three branches of government.

To discuss policy issues and focus on topics of local concern, Whitesell also met with Georgia Senators Wyche Fowler and Sam Nunn and with Rep. Charles Hatcher, D-Ga. and members of their offices.

Whitesell said he attended a Senate vote at Capitol Hill where he sat in the Senate and House galleries.



WILLIAM WHITESELL
Votes In Mock Congress

One of the highlights was a press conference entitled *The Media and Society* with such members of the media as Eleanor Clift of *Newsweek* and Jed Duvall of *ABC News*, he said.

Another interesting point was the pairing of roommates. Most people

were paired with someone from a different part of the country.

The conference ended with "The Mock Congress on Gun Control" during which attendees assumed the role of the nation's representatives and debated, lobbied and discussed the proposed handgun legislation.

He said during the Mock Congress he voted for a week-long waiting period.

Whitesell said he learned much about the political system and students from around the country.

Founded in 1985, the council is a non-profit, non partisan education organization committed to recognizing outstanding youth and providing them with "hands-on" civic learning experiences in Washington, D.C.

Whitesell is an Eagle Scout, a member of the Key Club, the Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and tennis team. He has been named in *Who's Who Among American High School Students*. Whitesell is also a member of the Beta Club, Interact and Science Club. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Whitesell of Valdosta.

FAST FACT:

The No. 1 ranked 11-0 Valdosta High Wildcats will travel to LaGrange Friday night to battle the No. 2 ranked 12-0 Grangers at 8 in GHSA state quarterfinal football playoff action. The Cats hold an 11-4 advantage against the Grangers.

Sunday, November 24, 1991

Hall Of Fame Inducts Five Legends

V. Times 11.5.91

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

One of the highest honors an athlete can have bestowed upon them is to be inducted in the Hall of Fame. That means that were among the best to have played their chosen sport, but it is especially meaningful when an athlete is singled out for their performance in their hometown.

On Monday night at the Valdosta Country Club, five former star athletes received this highest honor. Don Golden, Glenn Ratliff, Glenn Dowling, James 'Scat' Shiver and Bernard 'Step' Strom were inducted into the Valdosta-Lowndes County Sports Hall of Fame in the 14th annual ceremony. The five new inductees bring the total to 78 members in the Valdosta-Lowndes County Sports Hall of Fame.

Bob Brennan, the Press Chief of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, was on hand as the featured speaker at this year's gala banquet. One of the points that he stressed was the kind of qualities that make great men and women.

"Talent is not enough," stated Brennan in his brilliant speech about bringing the Olympics to Atlanta. "Sacrifice, hard work, perseverance and doing the very best that you can do are the kind of qualities that make great men and women."

All of these qualities are instill in each of these five inductees.

Each inductee was presented by a member of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Sports Hall of Fame.

Jack Rudolph, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1984 had the honor of introducing Golden.

"Don was one of the best all-around athletes that has gone to Valdosta High School," stated Rudolph.

"I just can't tell you what a pleasure and a thrill it is to open up a letter telling you that you are going to get this great honor," said Golden. "It makes me think back to those people who spent time with young men like myself to help each young man develop their talents. I accept this award on behalf of my family."

Golden starred in four sports for the Valdosta High Wildcats from 1967-1970. He was the quarterback on the 1969 state championship team that tied Athens High, 26-26, at Cleveland Field.

After graduating from Valdosta High in 1970, Golden went on to star for Vince Dooley's Georgia Bulldogs as a safety and punter. He later signed as a free agent with the Chicago Bears, but an injury-ended his pro career.

Golden is currently in his third year as the head football coach for the Jackson County High Panthers in Jefferson. Prior to taking the head coaching job at Jackson County, Golden served as defensive coordinator for the Gainesville (Ga.) High Red Elephants for 10 years.

Inducted into the Valdosta-Lowndes County Sports Hall of Fame in 1987, Lou Blanton took the stage to introduce Ratliff.

"Glenn was captain of the football team, captain of the basketball team," said Blanton. "About the only thing he wasn't was an Eagle Scout."

"I'd like to thank the membership, the Boys Club and everyone responsible for this award," stated Ratliff.

Ratliff played halfback at Valdosta High from 1937-1940. He was a senior on the Cats' first official state championship team in 1940.

See INDUCTEES, Page 2-B



The Valdosta-Lowndes County Sports Hall of Fame inducted five new members Monday night at the Valdosta Country Club. Glenn Dowling and Don Golden. The Hall of Fame now has 78 members — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

From Page 1-B

After working at Delta Air Lines for 30 years, Ratliff is now enjoying his retirement.

Blanton also took the time to present Shiver to the crowd in attendance.

"'Scat' was a great offensive and defensive player," added Blanton. "He was the best athlete on the team. I'm proud of him because football made him. That is what sports is all about."

"It was a real shock getting the letter," said Shiver. "It never crossed my mind that I would get such an honor. Whatever I accomplished, I owe to two people — my older brother Carl, who was my mentor coming up and the other fellow in the back of the room, Coach Wright Bazemore, who is the greatest high school coach that has ever lived. This really means a lot."

Shiver has the distinction of being a member of Coach Bobby Hook's 1940 state championship team as well as a member of Coach Wright Bazemore's first Valdosta High Wildcat team. He starred at VHS from 1938-1942.

Shiver went on to enjoy an outstanding athletic career at Tulane and Auburn, which was sandwiched around duty in the U.S. Navy. Upon graduating from Auburn, he started his coaching career with stints at O'Keefe High, Terrell County High

and Cairo High. Shiver retired from the MacMillan Publishing Company in 1985.

Ellis Clary, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1978, introduced Strom.

"'Step' could root and scoot for the institute," stated Clary "He could play. He was a great football player and track man. I've never seen anybody run kicks back like 'Step' could."

"I've done a little, but I had 10 other players on the field that worked with me," added Strom.

Strom was a football and track star at VHS from 1930-33. As a senior, he was voted Co-Captain of the football team. Strom also earned all-conference honors three times for his exploits on the gridiron. He also captured three district medals in track in 1932 and 1933. Upon graduating from VHS, Strom became an electrician. He is retired as a Master Electrician.

Archie Griffin, who joined this elite circle of athletes in 1986, presented Dowling.

"Glenn still officiates high school games," said Griffin. "In fact, he's officiated so many games that when he sees 11 people standing around together, he asks if they need a referee."

"There is not a finer person or gentleman than Glenn Dowling." Dowling starred for the Wildcats

from 1946-1949. He was also Captain of the '49 squad. After graduating from VHS, Dowling went on to attend Valdosta State College and graduated from the Chicago School of Podiatric Medicine. He is still in active practice in Albany. Dowling also has 31 years experience as a high school football official in Georgia.

The Valdosta-Lowndes County Sports Hall of Fame also tabbed former Valdosta High quarterback Alton Hitson as the Athlete of the Year. Hitson, who signed a football scholarship with Georgia Southern, quarterbacked the Cats to back-to-back state football titles in 1989 and 1990. He was a three-year letterman at VHS in both football and baseball.

Also singled out with Special Achievement Awards were: STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: Valdosta High Wildcats; ALL-AMERICANS: Chan Dixon, VSC Women's Tennis; Eric Anderson, VSC Men's Tennis, Deon Searcy, VSC Football; David Yarmitsky, VSC Golf; ALL-STATE: Nancy Smith, Lowndes High Girl's Tennis; Jeffrey Thomas, Lowndes High Football; Chris Wright, Lowndes High Boy's Track; Shaun Eilders, Valdosta High Football; Alton Hitson, Valdosta High Football; Joe Wright, Valdosta High Football; Chris LaMontagne, Valwood Football; Dude Thomas, Valwood Football and Chris Watson, Valwood Football.

A solid foundation

Hyder a masterful organizer at Valdosta

By Mike Stephenson
Sports writer

For Nick Hyder, it's been a season of milestones.

The Valdosta High School football coach has picked up his 250th career victory and his 200th with the Wildcats. Last Friday, Valdosta's 41-21 victory over Coffee was the 300th game of his coaching career.

The Wildcats (9-0) already have clinched their sixth consecutive Region 1-AAAA title and could be headed for their third consecutive Class AAAA state title. Near the top of USA Today's national rankings, Valdosta even has a shot at its third national title under Hyder.

But it hasn't always been so easy. When Hyder came in 1974 from West Rome, some people in Valdosta weren't too receptive. Hyder dismissed 12 fulltime players that first season and the Wildcats finished 3-7, their first losing season since 1963.

"I knew if they didn't have a problem, they wouldn't have needed a new coach," Hyder said. "We dealt with adjusting to a different discipline system that wasn't necessarily better than they had but different."

Charles Tarpley, Valdosta's defensive coordinator who has worked with Hyder for more than a quarter century since both were assistant coaches at West Rome, said removing those players was the key to establishing Hyder as boss. Many of the players were loyal to previous coach Charlie Greene, who was let go after a two-year tenure that didn't work out despite a 17-3 record.

"There was a hard adjustment," Tarpley said. "I know he was probably feeling the same way. We weren't used to losing, and they weren't used to losing here. He came in and implemented his program."

The turnaround was quick. In Hyder's second season, Valdosta was 10-2, losing in the state quarterfinals. The Wildcats' worst season since was 8-4 in 1979.

"It cost us some games that first year, but he's won a lot along the way because of what he did the first year," Tarpley said. "He built the foundation and did a good job."

But it's because of that tough start that Hyder can identify with Lowndes coach Rick Tomberlin. De-

HYDER'S RECORD

Nick Hyder's career record as a head coach through 300 games:

WEST ROME	VALDOSTA
1968	7-3
1969	5-4-1
1970	11-1
1971	12-1
1972	11-2
1973	7-1-2
Total:	53-12-3
1974	3-7
1975	10-2
1976	9-2
1977	12-2
1978	14-0-1
1979	8-4
1980	11-1
1981	11-2
1982	15-0
1983	11-1
1984	15-0
1985	9-3
1986	15-0
1987	12-1
1988	12-1
1989	14-1
1990	13-0-1
1991	9-0
Total:	203-27-2
Overall:	256-39-5
National titles: 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000	

spite a steady improvement from 2-8 to 6-4 to 7-2 in Tomberlin's three seasons, some Vikings' backers want more.

"Very much so," Hyder said of identifying with Tomberlin, whose team will play host to Valdosta Friday in the Winnersville Classic. "It's more or less expectation. You've got a different generational line. This [Valdosta's program] has been going since World War I. The Lowndes folks are young and doing a great job out there. The comparison of expectations is so tough."

Hyder, 56, has been adept at meeting the expectations at Valdosta. He has won state and national championships and built loyalty and security.

"Some people are very jealous of the success that Nick and his staff have achieved at Valdosta, but I think they have worked very hard and deserve whatever success comes their way," said Colquitt County coach Jim Hughes, who has known Hyder since the early 1960s when Hyder was an assistant at West Rome and Hughes was an assistant at Manchester.

Hyder's strength is as an organizer. He keeps a staff of 13 assistant coaches together and handles the demands of one of the nation's most prominent programs.

"He's in charge and does all the organizing and everything, but he lets all the coaches coach what they coach," Tarpley said. "It makes you feel like you're your own head coach. You can do what you want."

That's one reason only two assistants have left the varsity staff since 1980. Tarpley and others have entertained the idea of being a head coach elsewhere but decided to remain at Valdosta.

"Very few of our coaches leave," Tarpley said. "They could all probably get a head coaching job just by using the name Valdosta. ... There's a lot of stability here, and the stability is because of him first and Valdosta second."

Despite his success, football isn't the end-all with Hyder. A Baptist from Elizabethton, Tenn., whose parents both were educators, Hyder regularly rattles off his priorities and insults them in his players.

"We set a priority system that is consistent with the way we teach," Hyder said of he and his wife, June, back when she was a girls basketball coach at West Rome. "Creator is first, family, country, academics, friends and then the team. ... The sixth item in there is team. But you can blend it all in there."

Tarpley said Hyder, an ordained deacon at the First Baptist Church in Valdosta and an active speaker, has been consistent with those principles as long as the two have worked together.

"He hasn't really changed much," Tarpley said. "It's always been his church and his religion first, then education. He tells the kids every day about education."

"The only changes are the changes in society. Kids are just different now. Back then, things were a little bit stricter."

The formula has been successful for Hyder so far, and he said he plans to keep at it.

"My fondest memories are of watching the development of the youngsters," Hyder said. "The ones who think they're nobodies and go out and become somebody. That means more than things like championships."



FLA Times 11-6-91
Valdosta coach Nick Hyder: "We set a priority system that is consistent with the way we coach."
— M. Jack Luedke/staff

THE SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

SOUTH GEORGIA (starting times 8 p.m.)

Valdosta at Lowndes (1-AAAA)
Ware Co. at Camden Co. (1-AAAA) (2-AAA)
Macon Co. at Appling Co. (2-AAA)
Clinch Co. at Irwin Co. (Ocdilla) (2-A)
Tift Co. at Baldwin Co. (Mourire) (1-AAAA)
Coffee at Colquitt Co. (Mourire) (1-AAAA)
Statesboro at Bradwell Institute (Hinesville) (3-AAAA 'A')
Savannah vs. Savannah Groves (Savannah Memorial) (3-AAAA 'A')
Savannah Beach vs. Savannah Jenkins (Garden City)
North Oconee at Savannah Benedictine (Savannah Memorial) (3-AAAA 'B')
Milledgeville at Savannah Memorial (Savannah Memorial) (3-AAAA 'B')
Thomas Co. Central at Worth Co. (Sylvester) (1-AAA East)
Cairo at Thomasville (1-AAA West)
Fitzgerald at Dublin (2-AAA)
Dodge Co. at Appling Co. (Baxley) (2-AAA)
Bacon Co. at Cook (Ade) (2-AA)
Branford Co. at Berrien (Nashville) (2-AA)
McIntosh vs. Academy at Southeast Bulloch (Bookell) (2-AA East)
Open — Glynn Academy, Brunswick.

NORTH FLORIDA

University Christian at Daytona Beach
Lopez (4-A), 7:30
Friday
Sandhollow at Forrest (3-AAAAA), 7:30
First Coast at Parker, 7:30
White at Fletcher (3-AAAAA), 7:30
Pine Bluff at Marietta, 7:30
Ridgewood at Live Oak, 7:30
Milledgeville at Palatka, 8
Crawfordville at Wokulla at Bolles, 7:30
Orange Park at Ocala Vanguard, 8
Lee at Ferdinand Beach (3-AAA), 7:30
Englewood at Jackson (4-AAA), 7:30
Bishop Kenny at Episcopal, 7:30
Bladwell at Hilliard (4-A), 7:30
Trinity Christian at Ocala St. John, 7:30
Caldwell West Nassau at Nease, 7:30
Chamilton County at Clay, 8
Chamilton County at Clay, 8
Hawthorne at St. Augustine St. Joseph, 7:30

CLASS A

Gallesville at Alachua Santa Fe, 7:30
Ocala Forest at Sparr North Marion, 7:30
Dunnellon at Williston, 7:30
Interlachen at Chiefland, 7:30
Union County at Cross City Dixie County (3-AA), 7:30
Crescent City at Groveland, 7:30
New Smyrna Beach at Flagler Palm Coast, 7:30
Gandier Lake Weir at Wildwood, 8
Open — Gallesville, Buchholz, Baker County, Paxon, St. Augustine, Newberry, Keystone Heights, Pleaton, Seabrook, Gainesville P.K., Yonge, Daytona Beach Seabrook

Saturday
East North Carolina Deaf at St. Augustine Florida Deaf, 2:30 p.m.

STATE POLLS

The rankings of Georgia high school football teams are based on the Associated Press prep football board. Team names are followed by number of first-place votes, records and total points. Area teams in bold.

CLASS AAAA

1. Valdosta (14)	9-0 144
2. Lagrange (3)	9-0 153
3. Statesboro (3)	8-1 138
4. Southwest DeKalb	8-1 114
5. Marietta	8-0 74
6. Etahnam Co.	8-1 74
7. Central	8-1 77
8. Cherokee	8-2 54
9. McCall	8-0 21
10. Wheeler	8-1 20

Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Savannah Beach, Athens Cedar Shoals, Colquitt Co., Griffin, Lowndes, MCEACHERN, Norcross, Shiloh, Tift Co. and Warner Robins.

CLASS AAA

1. Burke Co. (11)	9-0 144
2. DeKalb Lakeside (3)	9-0 145
3. Marietta (2)	8-1 132
4. Carrollton (1)	8-1 115
5. Carrollton	8-1 95
6. Kendrick	8-1 67
7. Peach Co.	8-1 46
8. Stephens Co.	8-1 46
9. Thomasville	8-2 17
10. Dalton	8-2 17

Also receiving votes: Camden Co., Columbus Co., Carter, Cedarrown, Dublin, Elbert Co., Thomas Co., Central, Ware Co. and Woodward Academy.

CLASS AA

1. Cedar Grove (10)
 9-0 142 || 2. Mitchell-Baker (6) | 8-0 138 |
| 3. Gresham Park | 8-1 110 |
| 4. Gresham Park | 7-1 102 |
| 5. East Laurens | 8-1 84 |
| 6. Manchester | 8-1 84 |
| 7. Jones Co. | 8-1 69 |
| 8. West Laurens | 7-2 44 |
| 9. Pennington | 7-2 30 |
| 10. Seminole Co. | 7-2 14 |

Also receiving votes: Brooks Co., East Coweta, Fannin Co., Franklin Co., Haralson Co., Jeff Davis, LaFayette, Marv Persons and Washington Co.

CLASS A

1. Lincoln Co. (10)	9-0 147
2. Clinch Co. (7)	8-0 146
3. Bowdon	8-1 130
4. R.E. Lee	8-1 115
5. Macon Co.	8-1 106
6. Central-Talbotton	8-1 85
7. Glennville	8-1 47
8. Trenton	7-2 34
9. Hawkinsville	8-1 23
10. Athens Academy	8-1 23

Also receiving votes: Commerce, East Rome, Greenlee, Methen, Miller Co., Gilchrist, and Wilcox Co.

VOLLEYBALL

ALL-GATEWAY CONFERENCE

First team: Janice Turner, Fletcher; Heidi Olson, Wofford; Melanie Freese, Englewood; Kendra Merritt, Forrest; Monica McCaleb, Sandhollow; Celena Buskirk, Marietta; Becky Schirmer, Parker; Lisa Davis, Marietta; Nancy Miller, Fletcher; Joyce Turner, Fletcher.
Honorable mention: Pascale Head, Marietta; Deborah Henderson, Jackson; Crissa Ayffe, Lee; Sharricka Terry, Ridgely; Suzette Salina, Essau; Wolf; Jack Turner, Sandhollow; Cristinla McCullough, Jackson; Cristil Macumber, Wofford; Kim Thomas, Parker; Claudia Young, Forrest; Amanda Beane, Fletcher; Xio Roldan, Fletcher; Diana Stowell, Sandhollow; Cheryl Moseley, Englewood.

GATEWAY CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Fletcher 13-0; Marietta 12-1; Englewood 11-2; Wofford 10-3; Sandhollow 9-4; Lee 4-9; Forrest 3-12; Parker 2-11; Paxon 1-12; White 0-13.

Literary Guild Members 'Hear' From Bette Davis

By ANN GUNTER
Literary Guild

Fans of veteran Literary Guild reviewer Beverly Hickox were treated to another "First Person Singular" presentation at their October meeting. Mrs. Hickox, an English teacher at Valdosta High School, has in past reviews brought to life the memoirs of the Duchess of Windsor and Mrs. Millard Fillmore.

For this review she drew on two biographies, *Fasten Your Seat Belts* by Lawrence Quirk and *My Mother's Keeper* by B. D. Hyman, to paint a panoramic view of the life and times of glamorous film star Bette Davis. Then, donning appropriate accessories, she assumed the persona of Miss Davis and used the actress' own words from her autobiography, *This 'n That*, to express her acerbic views on a wide variety of topics.

Born in 1908, Miss Davis achieved a dazzling theatrical career spanning more than half a century, but her professional triumph was interspersed with personal tragedy. Rejection by a cold, domineering father in her childhood predisposed all her future relationships with men to failure. Married four times, she never enjoyed a stable relationship with any of her husbands. Her only daughter, B. D. Hyman, was to pen a scathing denouncement of her role as a mother. She and her fourth husband, Gary Merrill, adopted two children, but the daughter, Margot, was mentally retarded. Despite her personal heartaches, Miss Davis maintained a high public profile, and gave generously of herself in many worthwhile activities. Her favorite charity was the Hollywood Canteen, to which she gave many hours of service during WWII.

Miss Davis' film career is legendary. She regarded as her greatest movies, "Dark Victory," "Jezebel"



Donning appropriate accessories, Beverly Hickox assumes the persona of Bette Davis to entertain members of Literary Guild — Literary Guild Photo.

and "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?" Her favorite actor was Claud Rains. She admired Burt Reynolds and enjoyed working with Jimmy Stewart. She was involved in an ongoing feud with Joan Crawford. She found Ronald Reagan "dull." Her remarkable career continued well into the 1980s. Some local residents will recall that she participated in the filming of an HBO movie in Valdosta in the mid-1980s, *When Summers*

Die. Always willing to be interviewed and quoted, she gave her last press interview in Paris three days before her death in 1989. One of her last notable quotes was, "Old age is no place for sissies."

Adding to the glamour motif of the luncheon meeting were colorful accessories — hats, gloves and jewelry — arranged by decoration committee chairman Marguerite Ford.

Vikings Fight Till End

By MURRAY COLEMAN
Times Sports Writer

"I was kind of surprised. I didn't think they'd lay down like they did. We had a couple of breaks and they folded."

— A statement by a Valdosta High Wildcat about last year's Wingersville Classic printed up as posters this week at Lowndes High.

WINNERSVILLE, U.S.A. — In his pregame speech before Friday's Wingersville Classic game, Vikings head coach Rick Tomberlin reminded his players of the signs hanging near their lockers.

"Don't let down — you've got to play four quarters of solid football," he said. "We're not talking about winning and losing. This is a matter of pride and self-respect."

Even though the Vikings wound up getting clobbered by their cross-town rivals, 32-3, Tomberlin said afterwards that he felt his players had done well. "They played hard and they didn't give up," he said. "We played hard and Valdosta played hard. I'm not dissatisfied at all."

Tomberlin blamed poor execution at the start of the second half as the team's downfall. "The players were a little anxious and keyed up coming out in the third quarter," he said. "We were only down by four points, so they were pressing hard to get the kickoff and take some momentum."

But an interception and a fumble on Lowndes High's two opening possessions after intermission led to quick Wildcat scores, forcing Tomberlin and his staff to throw out their carefully conceived game plan to play catchup.

Even with a steady stream of adjustments after the miscues, nothing seemed to work. On their third series of the second half, the Vikings got nowhere after three plays, resulting in a punt from within Lowndes High's own end zone, providing Valdosta High excellent field position the third time it touched the ball in the second half.

The Wildcats took advantage, booting a 28-yard field goal for a 25-3 lead with 2:36 left in the third quarter. "That's when I think the kids' bubble really burst," said Tomberlin. "Three
See VIKINGS, Page 2-B



Vikings

From Page 1-B

series, three scores and we really didn't get to touch the ball hardly at all.

"Before we knew it, there we were — 22 points down instead of four points down."

Tomberlin inserted sophomore Mike Thompson at quarterback on the team's fourth series of the second half, trying to get an option attack going. "We had been trying to misdirect the defense all night," said Tomberlin. "We couldn't execute anything else, so we went to what we had hoped to get to a lot sooner in the game — some option plays."

Thompson's first pass was almost intercepted, however, and the Vikings' hope for a drive withered into a punt from deep within their own territory again. The Wildcats took over on the Lowndes 44 and

marched in for another touchdown to put the game away.

The Lowndes High coaching staff had decided at halftime to come out after intermission with a series of plays to set up the passing game. "Those plans kind of went down the drain after the turnover, and when we tried to regroup on the second series, we fell further behind — not just on the scoreboard but also in our offensive strategy."

The initial play of the first series was a trap, followed by a sweep. Those plays worked well, picking up a first down. On the third play, though, a bootleg by starting quarterback Jamie DeLoach was intercepted. "It was just a miscommunication between the quarterback and the receiver," explained Tomberlin. "The receiver went too far in his pattern, and

Jamie was scrambling and got picked off."

The second series was supposed to test the Wildcats' inside defenses with two dives and then another boot leg by DeLoach. The turnover ruined the Vikings' plans, forcing them to go to the option with an over-emphasis on forcing the passing game, according to Tomberlin.

"No matter what happened on the scoreboard, I still feel like we have a good football team," he said. "I'm proud of the dedication all the players gave to our program this season."

Vikings' tailback Billy Poole said he was happy with his teammates' effort. "Give the Wildcats credit," he added. "They played hard and showed a lot of class."

"I think everybody on this team hope they go all the way and win the state championship."

Valdosta

Defense

Dominates

V. Times 11-9-91

By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

WINNERSVILLE, U.S.A. — If anyone drove by Martin Stadium Friday night and saw the 32-3 score on the scoreboard, it would be hard to know what an excellent job the Valdosta High defense did.

It appeared early in the 11th annual Winnersville Classic that the Valdosta Wildcats were going to put themselves in a hole by committing two quick turnovers which gave Lowndes High possession twice in Wildcat territory.

But the Cats' defense gave a preview of what was to come for the rest of the night when it rose to hold the Lowndes Vikings to only three points off the two turnovers. Holding the Vikes to three points is more impressive when you consider that the second turnover gave the Vikes possession at the Wildcats' five-yard line.

The first turnover gave Lowndes possession at the Valdosta 44-yard line. The Cats' defense rose to stop the Vikes on three plays.

The defense kept the Cats out of danger, but the offense immediately made another mistake. Valdosta quarterback Steve Everson mishandled the snap from center and gave Lowndes possession deep in Cats' territory. The defense would not budge again, and the Cats gained a bit of a moral victory down only 3-0.

"We did a good job of holding them to three instead of a touchdown," Valdosta defensive line coach Larry Jester said. "All week long our kids have been wanting to play. They were up for this game, and there were a lot of things going on this week that kind of added fuel to the fire."

Everson took the blame for the turnover that resulted in Lowndes' only score. "It was just poor communication with the center," Everson said. "We were bringing two different centers in during the game, and I wasn't aware of who was in. It was my fault."

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder was not happy with the turnovers, but was glad to see his defense rise to the occasion. "Our defense played See WILDCATS, Page 2-B

It's Valdosta, 32-3

VDT. Sat., Nov. 9, 1991



Valdosta High linebacker Marcus Williams (44) awaits an oncoming Billy Poole of Lowndes High (1) during Friday night's 10th anniversary Winnersville Classic high school football game at Martin Stadium. Valdosta High (10-0) finished the 1991 regular season unbeaten and Region 1-AAAA champs for the sixth-straight year with a 32-3 win over Low-

ndes High (7-3). VHS quarterback Steve Everson threw for two touchdowns and the Wildcat defense limited the Viking offense to two first downs and 35 total yards. The game was played before a sellout crowd at the Lowndes High campus stadium. More on the game, and on the atmosphere, in Sports — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Wildcats

From Page 1-B

well," he said. "It's a team thing. Our defense rose up and played well when they had to."

But the Cats offense would finally move without dropping the ball, and that gave the defense a chance to dominate instead of protect the end zone.

To say that the defense dominated may be a bit of an understatement. The Cats' defense held Lowndes to only two first downs and 35 yards total offense. They also held the Vikings to a mere 15 yards rushing on 29 attempts. They frustrated quarterbacks Jamie DeLoach and Mike Simpson, who completed only two of 12 passes for 20 yards.

"It all started from the kickoff," said senior Valdosta defensive end Nick Reed. "I had my best hits on the kickoffs. We got a lot of pressure on the quarterbacks, and got a couple of sacks. We kind of shut down their running game."

"We just waited for the offense to catch up with us, and then we had a good game," Reed added.

"Our kids were ready, and they were fired up," said Valdosta defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "If we would not have had those two fumbles in the first quarter when we were with the wind, I think it would have been a good South Georgia ..."

"But we played well," Tarpley added. "And the offense, except for

the two fumbles they had, they played great."

It was Lowndes who committed the turnovers in the second half with the help of some good defense by the Cats. Jason Jelks made a circus catch on an interception and Dexter Daniels pounced on a loose ball for two quick turnovers in the third quarter.

One of the big differences between Lowndes and Valdosta Friday night was that Valdosta was able to capitalize on the turnovers recovered by the Cats' defense.

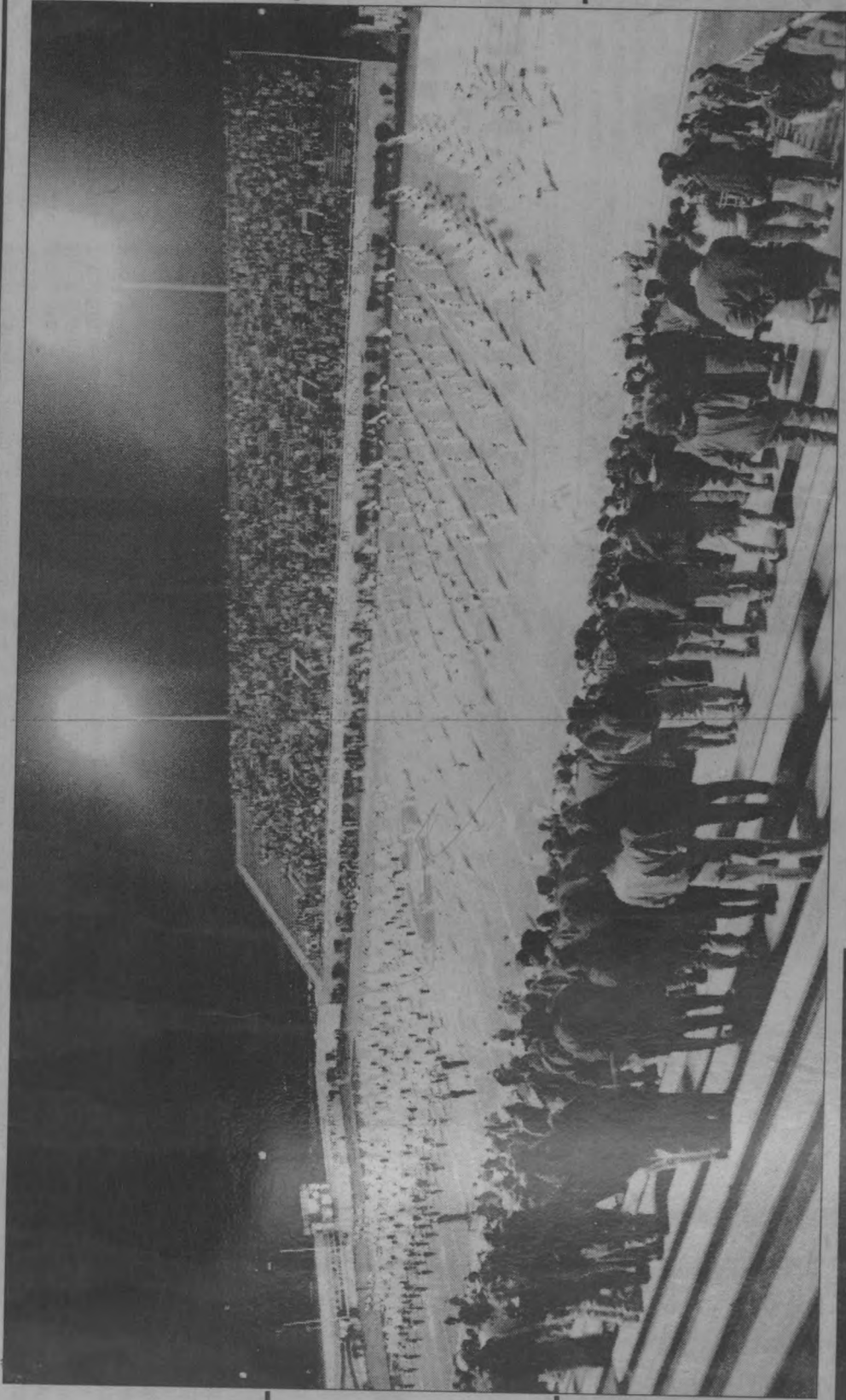
"The defense got us the ball for the touchdowns in the third quarter," Hyder said. "It helps to capitalize on those turnovers."



WINNERSVILLE CLASSIC



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Office Rivalries Spice Up Friday

By JUDY SCHRAMM
Times Staff Writer

V Times 11-9-91

WINNERSVILLE, U.S.A. — Gearing up for the big game, people throughout the city Friday dressed in their schools team colors — promoting a little rivalry in the office.

Mark Barber of the Valdosta city accounting office was decked out in a crimson sweater and taking a lot of heat. When asked if anyone had commented on his dress, Barber answered, "a couple of boos."

But he was ready to go cheer his team at the game. "I even dug my old class ring up," he said flashing a big blue stone set in gold which he got during his years at Lowndes High School, where he graduated in 1981.

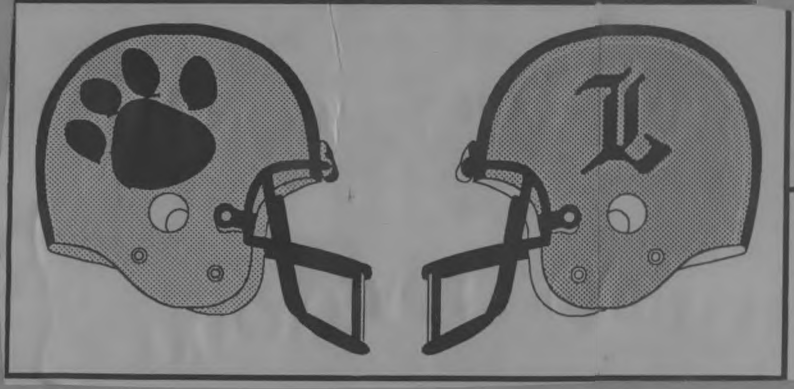
At the First Union National Bank downtown office, Lowndes fans outnumbered their city rivals the Wildcats. But one employee of the bank, Cindy Faucette, who dressed in crimson and silver said she went to Brooks. "I just really wanted to wear jeans."

Diane Powell of First Union wore black and yellow. "I'm wearing my colors because my son goes there," she said. That's despite the fact that she went to Lowndes, she said adding that was when they were different colors.

Employees at First State Bank went all out in their color war. From half of the teller windows hung black and yellow ribbon, the other half crimson and silver.

The door the loan department in huge crimson letters read, "You R Entering Viking Territory." While on the office next door was decorated in yellow and black with a sign reading "Go Cats."

Joy Jennings of First State wore her city school colors. "It's an old tradition — but the outcome is always the same," she said.



The Look Of Wintersville: The crowd stands (top) as both schools' bands play prior to the game; band members hold their flags against the wind (top left); Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder (middle) talks with a player; Lowndes high head football coach Rick Tomberlin (bottom) reviews his troops prior to the game — Times Photos by Jeff Allen and Paul Leavy, Times Page Design by Greg McIlvain.

Schools' Pep Rallies Set Tone For The Big Game

By JOY M. HILL
Times Staff Writer

WINNERSVILLE, U.S.A. — Team spirits reached an all-time high Friday as fans of both teams cheered at loud, boisterous and enthusiastic pep rallies in anticipation of the biggest game of the year.

Valdosta High Wildcat fans started early in the morning with an hour-long pep rally in the high school's gymnasium. Roars from supporters were deafening as cheerleaders and dancers got the crowd of hundreds into the spirit of the upcoming game.

"These have been crosstown rivals for a long time," said Coy Bell, mother of junior John Bell. "I think Lowndes has a real good team but I think ours is better. But, the best team will win."

Although cheering as loud as the rest, when asked what the Wintersville game meant to him, at least one fan was not exactly sure.

"Truthfully, I don't know," said Al Thomas, a senior at Valdosta.

To others, the meaning was crystal clear.

"This game means everything to me because Lowndes

thinks they're better than us and they're not," said Valdosta senior, Henry Barnes.

"It means a lot because it helps out the entire school," said Adrian Robinson, another Valdosta senior.

"It makes me feel like I'm a part of the team and I'm with them all the way," said Valdosta senior, O'Shanda Joiner.

Another Valdosta senior, Derrick McBurrough, summed it up this way.

"It's the big thing in Valdosta and it means a lot to everybody. It's a competitive thing between the two major teams in town."

Later in the afternoon and closer to game time, Lowndes fans showed their vivacity with energetic prompting from the cheerleaders, dance line, band and Viking mascot.

"We haven't lost a home game this season so we want to keep it up," said Michael Moore, a junior at Lowndes. "We just want to beat the Wildcats."

"We haven't won a game against Valdosta since I was in the sixth grade so I hope we do it tonight," said junior Scott Davis.

Shannon Thompson and Arabi Allen graduated from Lowndes High last year but showed up at the pep rally Friday to show their continued support.

"We came back to see all the fun and spirit. It's definitely the biggest game of the year and if we had to win any game, it would be this one," said Ms. Thompson.

Lowndes cheerleader Saralyn Hammock said she hopes for a good memory from Friday's confrontation. "I've been a Viking ever since I was a little girl. I can remember them beating the Wildcats, so I'm hoping tonight's game will be like an old memory."

For still others, the rivalry between the two teams is a tradition that may have gone too far.

"It's tradition to me that they play each other but they've taken all the fun out of it and they need to put it back. It's a tradition where the competition has gotten out of hand," said Stephanie Hezekiah, a business teacher at Lowndes.

"Valdosta is Lowndes County and Lowndes County is Valdosta. We're a part of each other. It should be that whoever wins should get congratulations, but we've gotten away from that unity," said Janice Terry, a home economics teacher at Lowndes.



Everson, Cats Riddle Raiders

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High junior quarterback Steve Everson threw four touchdown passes as the No. 1 ranked 11-0 Wildcats steamrolled the 9-3 Northeast Macon High Raiders, 49-19, in the opening round of the GHSA Class AAAA state football playoffs at Cleveland Field Friday night.

The top-ranked Cats, who are also ranked No. 2 in the USA Today's national prep Top 25 football poll, will travel to LaGrange Friday night to battle the No. 2 ranked Grangers in quarterfinal playoff action. LaGrange upended Statesboro, 33-20, in opening round state playoff action.

The Raiders, the No. 2 team out of Region 2-AAAA, stunned the Cleveland Field crowd by grabbing an early 7-0 lead in the opening quarter. After a 19-yard Valdosta punt gave NE Macon good field position at the Cats' 41-yard line with 6:08 left in the first quarter. Running back Rendall Jackson, who rushed four times for 107 yards, capped off the seven-play, 41-yard scoring drive with 16-yard touchdown run through the middle of the VHS defense. Sanchez Graham tacked on the PAT as the upstart Raiders had a 7-0 lead with 2:30 remaining in the first period.

On the Cats' second possession of the night, Valdosta's high-octane of-

fense began to click on all cylinders. With Everson at the controls, the Cats' offense promptly marched 56 yards in nine plays to even things at 7-7. Everson, who was 10 of 11 passing for 126 yards on the night, connected with tight end Shadrick Green on a 12-yard scoring strike with 10:29 left in the half. Dow Drury, a four-time All-Region performer for VHS, added the PAT to even things at 7-7.

Undaunted, NE Macon answered right back. Jackson ripped through the Cats' defense for an 83-yard touchdown run on the first play from scrimmage following VHS' game-tying touchdown to recapture the lead at 13-7 with 9:55 remaining in the second quarter. VHS stormed through to the block the conversion attempt.

"We knew Northeast Macon had enormous speed," stated Hyder as his Cats increased their unbeaten streak to 33 games. "Our youngsters came back and played hard."

Like champions, the Cats answered right back, driving 75 yards in three plays to capture the lead for good. Running back Alfred Barnes, who rushed for 67 yards on five carries, broke free on a 66-yard touchdown jaunt with 8:17 left in the half. Drury's PAT gave the Cats a 14-13 lead they would never relinquish.

VHS All-Region cornerback Trampis Wrice, who had two of the Cats'

three interceptions on the night, set the Cats' offense up with good field position at the NE Macon 48-yard line after picking off an errant Derrick Caple pass. Seven plays later, Everson found All-Region wide receiver Brice Hunter in the right corner of the end zone for a 13-yard touchdown pass with 2:44 left in the second quarter. Drury's conversion gave Valdosta a 21-13 advantage.

After forcing a 31-yard Raider punt on the next possession, the Cats took over at their own 34-yard line with 1:50 showing on the clock. Three plays later, Everson and Hunter hooked up for yet another touchdown. This time, Everson found Hunter streaking down the right sideline with a 52-yard scoring strike. Drury's PAT ended the Cats' 28-point second quarter scoring barrage as VHS took a 28-13 lead into the locker-room at intermission.

The Cats came out in the second half and picked right up where they had left off. Valdosta marched 48 yards in four plays after receiving the second half kickoff to take control of the game, 35-13. VHS running back Albert Edmonds, who churned out 73 yards on nine carries, capped off the scoring drive with a 33-yard touchdown run. Drury's fifth conversion of the night staked VHS to a 35-13 lead.

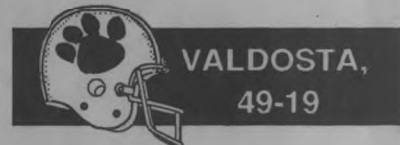
Valdosta defensive lineman Tim McClain recovered a NE Macon fumble on the Raiders' 20-yard line on the next possession. Everson connected with Mike Roberts on an eight-yard scoring pass to capped off the three-play drive and increase VHS' lead to 41-13. Ryan Sanderson added the PAT and VHS had a 42-13 advantage with 8:58 left in the third quarter.

With senior quarterback Jamey Waters at the helm of the Cats' offense, Valdosta drove 49 yards in eight plays with its next possession to grab a 49-13 lead. Brian Wiseman finished off the scoring march with a one-yard plunge at the 3:39 mark of the third quarter. Alan Sanderson tacked on the PAT to round out the Cats' scoring barrage.

NE Macon added a meaningless touchdown late in the final quarter as Michael Barron scored on a five-yard run with 3:53 left to make the final score, 49-19.

"They've got athletes," added VHS defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley following the game. "This week has always been miserable for us. Our kids play bad and the fans don't come out, but after we fell behind, the fans and the kids got into it."

The Valdosta Touchdown Club will be sponsoring a chartered bus to LaGrange Friday night for quarterfinal playoff action. For more information, contact Jon Burch at 241-7567.



NE MACON	7	6	0	6	-	19
VALDOSTA	0	28	21	0	-	49

N—Rendall Jackson 16 run (Sanchez Graham kick)	
V—Shadrick Green 12 pass from Steve Everson (Dow Drury kick)	
N—Jackson 83 run (Kick failed)	
V—Alfred Barnes 66 run (Drury kick)	
V—Brice Hunter 13 pass from Everson (Drury kick)	
V—Hunter 52 pass from Everson (Drury kick)	
V—Albert Edmonds 33 run (Drury kick)	
V—Mike Roberts 8 pass from Everson (Ryan Sanderson kick)	
V—Brian Wiseman 1 run (Alan Sanderson kick)	
N—Michael Barron 5 run (Run failed)	

NE MACON		VALDOSTA
13	First downs	19
32-271	Rushes-yards	41-248
79	Passing yards	126
350	Total yards	374
3-13-3	Passes	10-12-0
3-32.7	Punts-avg.	3-33.3
4-1	Fumbles-lost	2-0
8-55	Penalties-yards	4-20

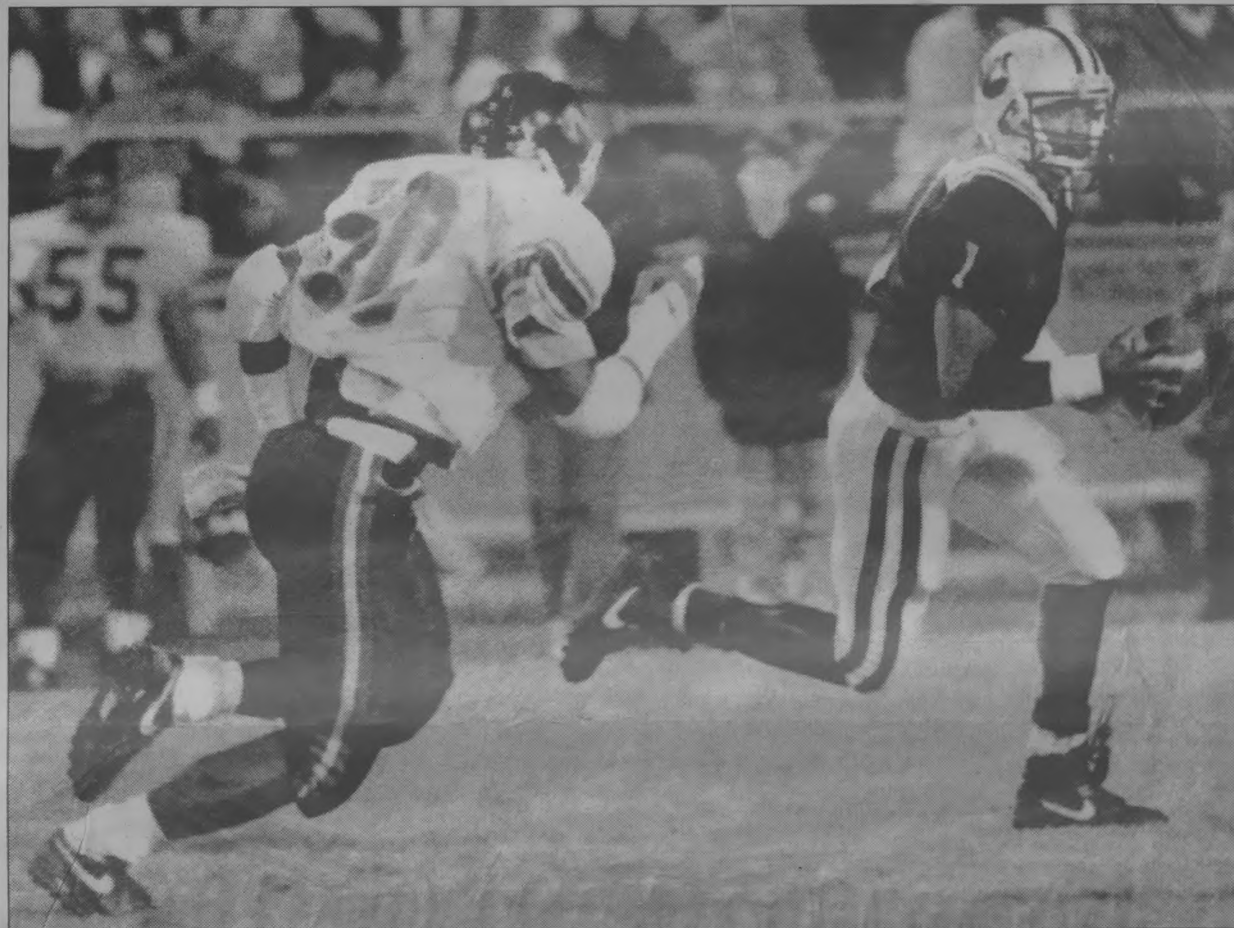
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—NE Macon, Rendall Jackson 4-107, Rico Council 14-67, Michael Barron 9-64, LaFayette Grimes 2-17, Mack Iverson 1-11, Derrick Caple 2-5. Valdosta, Albert Edmonds 9-73, Alfred Barnes 5-67, David Williams 3-30, Brian Wiseman 4-30, Sam Thomas 2-27, Nakia McMullen 4-22, Steve Everson 6-11, Joseph Edwards 1-6, Brian Thomas 1-4, Jamey Waters 1-0, John Bell 2-(minus 5), John Greene 3-(minus 17).

PASSING—NE Macon, Derrick Caple 3-13-3-79. Valdosta, Steve Everson 10-11-0-126, Jamey Waters 0-1-0-0.

RECEIVING—NE Macon, Cedric Jones 1-49, Michael Barron 1-23, Mario Chester 1-7, Valdosta, Brice Hunter 3-62, Shadrick Green 3-37, Chris Rocky 1-17, Mike Roberts 2-15, Albert Edmonds 1-(minus 5).

Wildcats
Roll On,
49-19



Valdosta High quarterback Steve Everson (1), who threw four touchdown passes, tries to elude the pass rush NE Macon defensive lineman Darrell Balkcom (50) as the No. 1 ranked Cats routed NE Macon, 49-19 — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

From Page 1-B
blood pumping, the Grangers came into the contest ranked No. 4 in the USA Today's national prep football poll, while the Cats were tabbed at No. 14.

The featured such stars from LaGrange as quarterback DeChane Cameron (now at Clemson), linebacker John Johnson (four-year starter at Clemson) and running back Ramon Allen (Valdosta State College's all-time leading rusher). The Cats has such stars as quarterback Greg Talley (quarterback at Georgia), running back Jerome Calloway (Arkansas State), defensive lineman Michael Tolbert (South Carolina) and offensive lineman Jodie Sprenkle (signed scholarship to Georgia).

LaGrange drew first blood in this classic confrontation. The Grangers drove 72 yards in seven plays aided by two unorthodox conduct penalties against the Cats with Allen capturing off the drive with a five-yard touchdown run in the opening period. After the conversion sailed wide of its mark, LaGrange had a slim 6-0 lead. Valdosta evened things later in the first quarter as Calloway scampered in from 42 yards out to cap off a nine-play, 71-yard drive.

The Cats grabbed the lead for good in the second quarter. Talley rambled into the end zone from eight-yards out with 8:05 left on the clock before intermission. Dan Tillman's conversion gave the Cats a 13-6 lead they would never relinquish.

Valdosta put the game on ice at the start of the second half. After receiving the second half kick off, the Cats proceeded to drive 64 yards in 19 plays eating up eight minutes of the third quarter in the process. Tillman

capped off the drive with a 32-yard field goal as the Cats upset the Grangers, 16-6. VHS outgained LaGrange, 222 yards to 152. Calloway rushed for 90 yards on 16 carries. The VHS defense also forced five LaGrange turnovers — two fumbles and three interceptions.

The Cats went on to post a 15-0 mark en route to Class AAAA state title and the national championship. LaGrange finished the year at 12-2, losing to Clarke Central in the North Georgia Championship game.

■NO. 1 VALDOSTA 40, NO. 8 LAGRANGE 7 (1987): This time the Cats travelled to LaGrange's Callaway Stadium to open up the 1987 season. In addition to their state ranking, VHS was also tabbed No. 4 in the nation by the USA Today.

The Cats dominated this one from start to finish. Valdosta rolled to a 26-0 halftime lead and in the process out-gained the home-standing Grangers, 253-16, in the opening half. VHS quarterback B.J. Mason (Naval Academy) got the Cats on the board in the first quarter with a 24-yard touchdown run. Todd Peterson (Georgia) added the PAT to give VHS a 7-0 lead after one period of play.

Valdosta exploded for 19 points in the second quarter to take command, 26-0. Lawrence Sharpe, who rushed for 82 yards on 10 carries, plunged into the end zone from three yards out. The conversion failed. Back-up quarterback Ben Hogan (South Carolina) hooked up with Earl Carter on a 41-yard scoring strike for the second tally of the period. Mason finished the second quarter scoring assault with a one-yard run.

In the second half, Mason connected with Carter on a 48-yard touch-

down pass to increase the lead to 33-0 in the third quarter. LaGrange avoided a shut out as Grover Cox returned an interception 90 yards for a score. VHS rounded out the scoring barrage as Sharpe scored on a two-yard run in the final period.

Valdosta's offense churned out 444 yards in total offense, while the Cats' defense limited LaGrange to a scant 35 yards in total offense (-3 yards rushing). The Cats went on to post a 12-1 record, losing to Carver-Columbus in the first round of the state playoffs.

■VALDOSTA 24, LAGRANGE 13 (1989 SOUTH GEORGIA CHAMPIONSHIP): On a rainy night at Callaway Stadium in LaGrange, the Cats jumped out to early 12-0 lead after one period of play on touchdown runs by Carlos Parker and Chris Chachere. The Grangers led by then-sophomore quarterback Rodney Hudson, who directs the LHS offense in 1991, answered back to score 13 points in the second quarter to grab a 13-12 lead at intermission. Hudson threw a 48-yard touchdown pass and scored on a one-yard run.

The Cats grabbed the lead for good on a two-yard run by Chachere with 9:40 left in the third quarter. However, the Grangers had one last chance after blocking a VHS punt with little over a minute remaining. Valdosta's Andre Hampton ended any threats by picking off a Hudson pass on the last play of the game and returning it 50 yards for a touchdown.

Valdosta went on to capture the Class AAAA state championship and post a 14-1 mark, while LaGrange ended the year at 10-4. Parker rushed for 101 yards on 26 attempts.

Nov. 25, 91

Valdosta Faculty Honors Students

Each month a representative cross section of Valdosta High School students who are striving to achieve their academic best are honored for their efforts.

They are selected by the faculty members for consistently demonstrating academic performance, work ethic, cooperative and positive attitude/behavior and regular attendance.

The following persons were chosen as Students of the Month for October: Bobby Albritton, Terri Albritton, Rebecca Barnette, Quiana Barrett, Sadigua Blackmon, Laurie Campbell, Teresa Edwards, Bert Eidson, Larry Green, Parker Grow, Chris Hall, Morris Hall, Meg Hiers, Dashanti Jefferson, David Jenkins, Rodney D. Jones, Reggie Jordan, Michelle Levy, Donald Lowery, Kisha Mathis, Katrina Maxwell, Andre Mazion, Tory McKinnon, Courtney Minchew, Stephanie O'Neal, Jason Page, Jennifer Powell, Russell Richardson, Gary Ross, Rhoda Ross, Cindy Rumph, James Scott, Meredith Tart, Adrian Washington, William Whitesell, Keisa Williams, Shahanda Williams, Jennifer Willis, Franklin Wiseman and Jason Yearby.

Two students honored for September but inadvertently omitted from last month's list by the VHS Academic

Booster Club were Anitra Cooper and Clarence Scurry.

■Y-Club Induction: The Y-Club of Valdosta High School had its induction for its officers and members at the school Oct. 28.

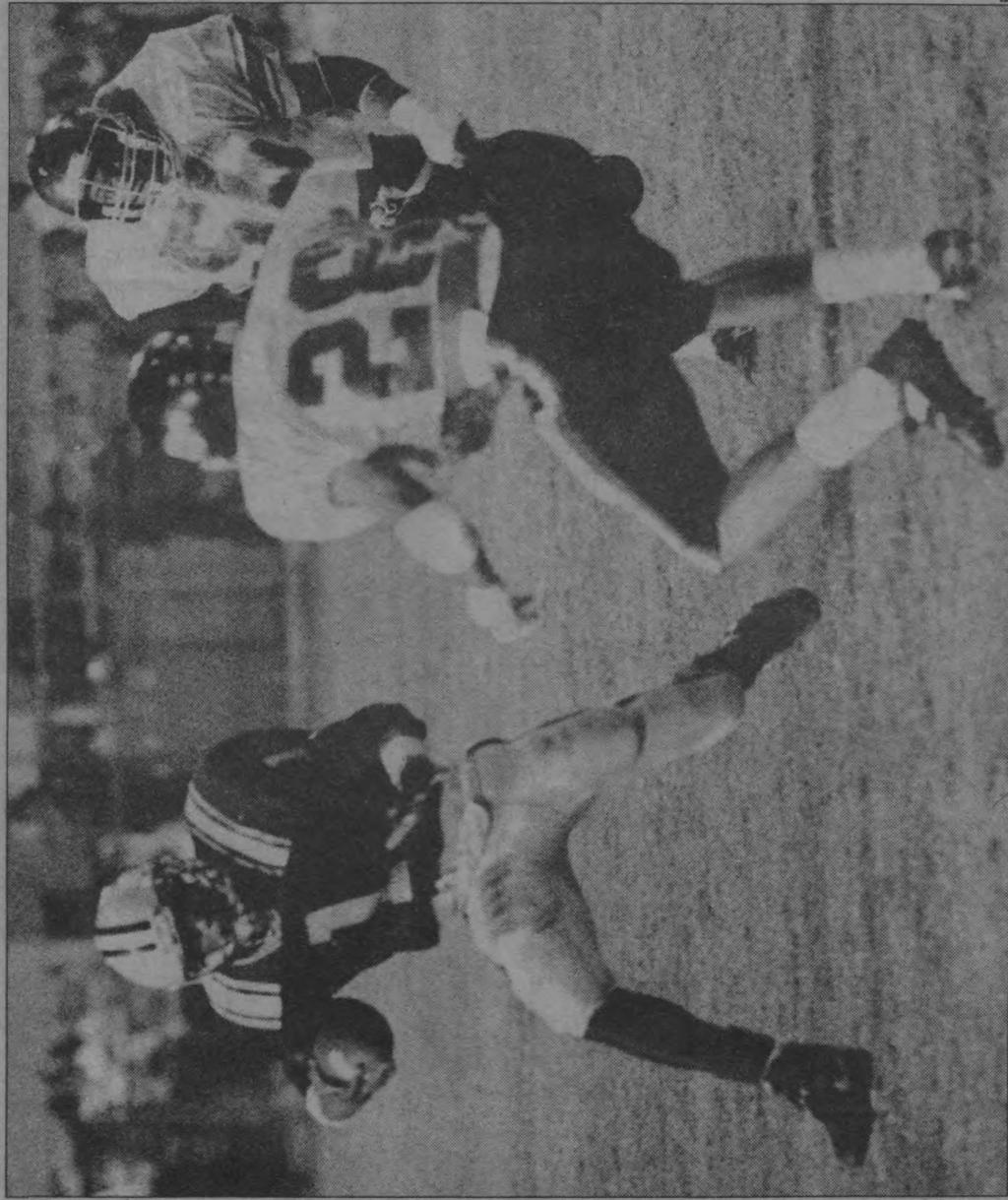
Officers present were Aldrich Graham, vice president; Quinlin Parker, vice president; Kemisha Davis, secretary; Tina Costello, assistant secretary; and Alyisia Walker, publicity chairman.

The members present were Keyshia Quarterman, Kina Adams, Geveda Patrick, Dana Pompey and Jimmy Fields. The adviser present was Joyce Lewis, and the guest speaker was Beth Jarvis, Southwest District coordinator from Tifton — By Tina Costello.

Valdosta High School



Written and Compiled By VHS Students



(1) looks for running room last Friday night in the Cats' 49-19 victory against Northeast Marion in the opening round of the Class AAAA Stadium — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Cats, Grangers Are Not Strangers

Nov. 25, 91

The Associated Press

When the Valdosta High Wildcats and the LaGrange High Grangers get together on the gridiron, sparks usually fly.

This year should be no different. In a contest that will arguably be called the 'Game of the Year' in the state of Georgia, Nick Hyder's No. 1 ranked Cats will venture to LaGrange Friday night to battle the No. 2 ranked Grangers at 8 in Callaway Stadium in GHSA Class AAAA quarterfinal state playoff football action.

Valdosta High rolls into the contest sporting an 11-0 mark and a No. 2 ranking in the USA Today's national prep Top 25 football poll. The Cats are also riding the crest of a 33-game unbeaten streak. LaGrange enters Friday night's showdown with a perfect 12-0 mark.

The Cats and the Grangers have slugged it out on the gridiron on 15 different occasions with Valdosta holding an 11-4 advantage in this classic series. This rivalry began in

Valdosta High Vs. LaGrange High

VHS LEADS	11-4	1963	LaGrange 20, VHS 0
1952	VHS 30, LaGrange 0	1964	LaGrange 13, VHS 0
1953	VHS 48, LaGrange 7	1965	VHS 47, LaGrange 6
1958	LaGrange 23, VHS 21	1966	VHS 20, LaGrange 0
1959	LaGrange 7, VHS 0	1967	VHS 20, LaGrange 13
1960	VHS 14, LaGrange 13	1968	VHS 16, LaGrange 6
1961	VHS 35, LaGrange 0	1987	VHS 40, LaGrange 7
1962	VHS 20, LaGrange 0	1989	VHS 24, LaGrange 13

1952 with the Cats knocking off LaGrange, 30-0, to capture the state title. Valdosta won another state championship with a 48-7 drubbing of LaGrange in 1953.

After not playing each other for four years, the series picked up again in 1958 with the Grangers nipping VHS, 23-21. LaGrange evened the series at two games each with a 7-0 victory in 1959. In 1960, the Cats bounced back to hold off the Grangers by a slim 14-13 margin. Valdosta shut out LaGrange in 1961 (35-0) and 1962 (20-0), but the Grangers returned the favor in 1963 (20-0) and

1964 (13-0). After the Cats reeled off three straight wins in 1965 (47-6), 1966 (20-0) and 1967 (20-13), the series stopped until 1986. Since the series has been renewed somewhat, the Cats and the Grangers have locked horns to give the fans some memorable games.

■NO. 2 VALDOSTA 16, NO. 1 LAGRANGE 6 (1986): What a way to start the 1986 Georgia prep football season, the preseason top-ranked Grangers venturing to Cleveland Field to battle the No. 2 ranked Cats. If all of that wasn't enough to get the

See WILDCATS, Page 2-B



Valdosta High running back Alfred Barnes (20) breaks free on a 66-yard touchdown run in the second quarter as the No. 1 ranked Cats 49-19, in the opening round of the Georgia High School Association's Class AAAA state playoff. VHS battles No. 2 LaGrange Friday night — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

11-23-91 Sat. VDT

The Valdosta Daily Times

Mon., Nov. 25, '91

Noteworthy

Named Ambassador:

Sandra Harris, a nursing major from Valdosta, was selected for one of the most prestigious student positions at Abraham Baldwin College in Tifton, the Abraham Baldwin Ambassadors.



At Valdosta High School, Ms. HARRIS Harris was vice president of the Foreign Language Club and a member of Vocational Industrial Clubs of America and Future Homemakers of America. She was named Homecoming Queen and received the Academic Excellence Award.

Way Back When/A Weekly Feature About Local History

Life At VHS Full In 1955-56 'Sandspur'

VDT Wed., Nov. 20, '91

By JOY M. HILL
Times Staff Writer

The *Sandspur*, Valdosta High School's annual yearbook, was founded by the 1942 class of VHS. Before that, the last issue was printed in 1929 but was disbanded during the Depression years, according to the Lowndes County Historical Society.

The 1956 edition of the *Sandspur* was produced by an editorial staff of 13 students and one faculty advisor — Fredeva Ogletree.

It was dedicated to Marguerite Ford for her helpfulness and understanding; her careful, thoughtful guidance and the interest she showed in all the activities of the VHS students, according to the yearbook.

The 1955-56 school year was full and busy with 13 honor graduates and two tables of trophies, according to the historical society.

William Adams was congratulated by Superintendent W.G. Nunn, who presented him with the bond given to the Most Outstanding Senior, according to the historical society.

Gail Parrish was awarded the D.A.R. Citizenship medal by Miss Og-

letree and any seniors who made 100 on the State Spelling Test were awarded a silver dollar by Nunn.

Seniors chosen as outstanding by faculty members because of scholastic records, leadership, cooperation and personalities were Joan Dvorak, Mack Riggs, Gail Parrish, William Adams, Bill Jenkins, Marcus Smith, Bennett Owens, Dian Smith, Barbara Duke and Paul Cook.

Senior officers were Mack Riggs, president; Marcus Smith, vice president; Sandra Clements, secretary and Gail Parrish, treasurer.

The Board of Education consisted of F.G. Eldridge, Ralph Thoxton, Mrs. D.L. Burns, Mrs. William Parmenter, Homer Eberhardt, Dlement Greene, Conrad Williams, S.L. Mason and Eddie Laws.

Rubye McKinney, who taught English for many years and retired in 1958, received an award from the Elks Club for her outstanding work in the high school, according to the historical society.

Howell Martin, who was principal of VHS in 1955, was described as always being ready to help the students and give advice to them for important decisions.

"His interest in our lives and decisions has developed a close harmony



The Valdosta High School yearbook 1955-56: first row, Joan Dvorak, Al Forthe, Claire Squires, William Adams, Dian Smith, Karen Belcher, Gloria Boyette, Sandra Peck; second row, Billy Gulliver, Billy Rykard, Dickey Coppedge, Miss Redeva Ogletree, Alan Pendleton, Erroll Sewell — Valdosta High School Sandspur Photo.

between him and the students," a description in the yearbook read.

There were many groups and organizations represented in the 1955-56 *Sandspur* including the Student Council, Beta Club, Ground Observer Corps, Dramatic Club, Key Club, Science Club, V Club, Commercial Club,

Gamma Tri-Hi-Y, Alpha Tri-Hi-Y, Future Homemakers of America, Future Teachers of America, Sports Club, Junior Police, D.C.T. Club, Distributive Education Club, Glee Club and Wildcat Band.

Sports included football, baseball, basketball, track, golf, tennis and the eight cheerleaders.

The 1955 Wildcats had a 7-3 season with the losses coming from Americus, Jesup and Thomasville.

In the playoff games, the Cats beat Jesup and Thomasville, only to be defeated by Athens.

The four Wildcat coaches were Bazemore, Hamill, Bennett and Davis, according to the yearbook.

No. 1 Cats Crush Vikings, 32-3

V. Times 11-9-91

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

WINNERSVILLE, U.S.A. — An ill wind blew into Martin Stadium on a cold Friday night. Unfortunately for Lowndes High, this biting buzzsaw came in wearing the black and gold colors of Valdosta High as the top-ranked Cats completely dominated the Vikings in notching a 32-3 Region 1-A AAAA victory in front of 12,502 shivering fans.

The Cats' offense churned out 277 yards, while the swarming Valdosta defense completely stymied the sputtering Viking offense. Lowndes was limited to just a scant 35 yards in total offense and two first downs, the final coming with eight seconds left in the game. Valdosta managed 119 yards rushing and 158 yards passing, while the Vikings could only muster 15 yards rushing and 20 yards through the air.

"It was an emotional game, but it was a team thing," stated Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder, following the game. "I can't say enough about the coaching staff and our players. Our staff just made unbelievable adjustments all throughout the game. It was a staff and team win. The players ployed it the way they were supposed to play it."

With the win, Hyder's Cats complete the regular season with a perfect 10-0 slate and an unblemished 5-0 region mark. Valdosta will take next Friday night off before facing the winner of the Northeast Macon-Central Macon playoff game, which will be held Friday night at Porter Stadium in Macon. The Cats will take on the survivor Nov. 22 at Cleveland Field.

Rick Tomberlin's Vikings concluded a successful 7-3 football season despite the loss Friday night. In region play, Lowndes finished at 2-3, an improvement from last season's 1-4 region mark.

As the curtain was raised on the Winnersville Classic, both teams looked as if stage fright had set in. The Cats and the Vikings both looked as if their offenses were not hitting on all cylinders in the first period. Lowndes counted for 19 yards total offense in the opening quarter, while the Cats could generate only 11. However, it was turnovers that hurt Valdosta in the opening period as the Cats coughed up the football twice. The second one, which was recovered by Lowndes' Cedric Mathis, gave the Vikings first and goal at the Valdosta five-yard line as the first quarter came to an end.

However, it was not to be. The Cats' defense, led by the play of Mar-



VALDOSTA,
32-3

VALDOSTA	0	7	18	7	-	32
LOWNDES	0	3	0	0	-	3

L—Glynn Jones 21 FG
V—David Williams 2 run (Dow Drury kick)
V—Alfred Barnes 32 run (Steve Everson run)
V—Brice Hunter 23 pass from Everson (Drury kick)
V—Drury 28 FG
V—Shadrick Green 13 pass from Everson (Drury kick)

VALDOSTA		LOWNDES
16	First downs	2
42-119	Rushes-yards	29-15
158	Passing yards	20
277	Total yards	35
9-13-0	Passes	2-12-1
3-34.0	Punts-avg.	8-36.1
3-2	Fumbles-lost	3-1
0-0	Penalties-yards	8-58

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Valdosta, Alfred Barnes 11-76, David Williams 6-36, Albert Edmonds 9-25, Nacia McMullen 3-8, Brian Thomas 2-(minus 4), Steve Everson 11-(minus 22). Lowndes, Billy Poole 11-14, Tommy Starks 6-8, Jamie Deloach 4-1, Antwn Graham 1-0, Mike Thompson 7-(minus 8).

PASSING—Valdosta, Steve Everson 8-11-0-145, Jamey Waters 1-2-0-13, Lowndes, Jamie Deloach 2-10-1-20, Mike Thompson 0-2-0-0.

RECEIVING—Valdosta, Brice Hunter 4-73, Mike Roberts 2-49, Shadrick Green 1-13, Larry Melton 1-13, Chris Rocky 1-10. Lowndes, Mike Davis 1-14, Billy Poole 1-6.

cus Williams, Franklin Wiseman, Brinson Barker, Peter Failor, Nick Reed, Dexter Daniels, Trampis Wrice, Jason Jelks, John Copeland,

John Walker, Tim McClain, Brock Sanford, Troy Brown and John Glosier, turned the Viking threat back. Lowndes was forced to settle for a 21-yard field goal by Glynn Jones to take a 3-0 lead with 10:04 left in the half.

Valdosta answered right back, driving 74 yards in 10 plays to score the go-ahead touchdown as David Williams barreled into the end zone from two yards out. After Dow Drury tacked on the PAT, the Cats had the lead at 7-0 with 6:29 left in the half. The key play in this drive was a 36-yard pass from quarterback Steve Everson to wideout Mike Roberts, who made a diving catch at the Lowndes two-yard line.

As the first half ended with the Cats on top 7-3, neither VHS or Lowndes had accounted for much in the way of offense. The Cats had 102 yards in total offense at the intermission, while the Vikings managed just 15 yards.

In the third quarter, Valdosta blew the game open with an 18-point explosion. The Cats' defense, which is ranked No. 1 in Region AAAA, forced two turnovers in the period that led to two Valdosta High touchdowns.

On the first possession of the second half, VHS defensive back Jason Jelks picked off an errant Viking pass to put the Cats in business at the

Lowndes 35. Two plays later, Alfred Barnes, who led all rushers with 76 yards on 11 carries, ripped up the middle, cut to the left, and sprinted down the sideline 32 yards to give Valdosta a 13-3 lead. Everson rambled into the end zone with the two-point conversion to stake the Cats to a 15-3 lead with 9:20 left in the third quarter.

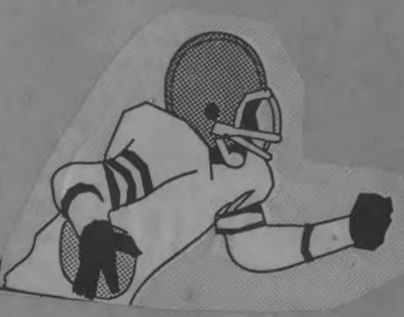
Things went from bad to worse for the Vikings on their next possession, as VHS linebacker Dexter Daniels pounced on a Lowndes fumble at the Viking 23-yard line. Two plays later, Everson, who completed eight of 11 passing for 145 yards and two touchdowns, connected with split end Brice Hunter on a 23-yard touchdown strike. After Drury's conversion, the Cats were in control at 22-3 with 8:02 left in the third quarter.

The Cats made it 25-3 on their next possession as Drury booted a 28-yard field goal with 2:36 left in the third quarter to cap off a nine-play 69-yard drive.

Valdosta rounded out the scoring onslaught with a nine-play 58-yard drive. Faced with fourth down and seven at the Lowndes 13-yard line, Everson found tightend Shadrick Green cutting across the middle for a 13-yard touchdown pass. Drury tacked on the PAT to give VHS a 32-3 lead with 5:30 left.



Valdosta High defensive lineman Tim McClain (91) looks down at Lowndes High fullback Tommy Starks (42) after slamming the Vikings' runner to the Martin Stadium turf in the Winnersville Classic Friday night — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.



Northeast Macon Possesses Speed

V. Times 11-22-91

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

Get ready for speed, speed and more speed as the 9-2 Northeast Macon High Raiders invade Cleveland Field Friday night at 8 to battle the 10-0 No. 1 ranked Valdosta High Wildcats in the opening round of the GHSA Class AAAA state football playoffs.

"Northeast Macon is very quick and good at the running back positions," said Valdosta High Head Football Coach Nick Hyder following practice Tuesday night. "They are very capable of winning. We are going to have to dig down deep to stay with them. We have a lot of re-

spect for Northeast Macon. They come from an area that we respect very much.

"You have to have respect for each team that you play. With the collision aspect of the game it is never automatic for any one team. That is why the game is always 0-0 at the start. We have to be prepared in as many areas as possible and that starts with respect."

The Raiders possess a backfield that can strike quickly from anywhere on the field. Heading up the NE Macon contingent of running backs will be tailback Michael Barron (165, Jr.). He is the defending Class AAAA 200-meter state champion.

During the regular season, Barron carried the pigskin 76 times for 955 yards (12.6). He will be joined in the backfield by either Rico Council (195, Sr.) or Rendall Jackson (190, Sr.). Council rushed for 952 yards during the regular season, while Jackson motored for 460 yards.

Getting the nod at quarterback will be Derrick Caple (150, Jr.). Under his direction, the Raiders have lit up the scoreboard for 263 points.

In the receiving department, NE Macon will line up with either Robert Mays (170, Sr.) or Dexter Pugh (180, Sr.) at flanker. The split end slot will be manned by the likes of Marcus Brown (155, Sr.). Terrence Ellis (210, Jr.) will get the call at tight end.

On the offensive front, the Raiders will line up with Larry Hollins (220, Sr.) at center. The guards will be manned by Dwuane Moore (190, Sr.) and Frank Horne (180, Sr.). Keith Smith (255, Sr.) and Kelvin Levenberger (275, Sr.) will get the call at the tackles.

Defensively, NE Macon has only given up 136 points on the year. Anchoring the Raiders' defensive front will be ends/tackles Jarvis Mofett (265, Sr.) and Chris Harris (250, Sr.). The tackles/guards will be manned by Verrell Jordan (190, Sr.) and junior Ben Morgan.

The Raiders' linebacking corps will be anchored by Rendall Jackson (190,

Sr.) and Michael Womack (190, Jr.) on the inside. Joe Thomas (190, Jr.) and Jim Baldwin (195, Sr.) will patrol the defense from the outside linebacking slots.

Dexter Pugh (180, Sr.) and Kevin Hill (180, Sr.) will start at the corners for NE Macon, while Kacy Clowers (175, Sr.) will go at the safety.

The Raiders are a senior-oriented squad. NE Macon starts 16 seniors and six juniors. Earlier in the season, the Raiders ventured to Valdosta and came away with a 13-6 loss against the Lowndes High Vikings. Last week in the Region 2-AAAA playoffs, the Raiders trailed 21-0 with six minutes left in the third quarter and rallied back for a 26-21 win.



Lowndes High senior linebacker Randall Godfrey (right) was voted as Region 1-AAAA's Defensive Player of the Year for his exploits on the gridiron during the 1991 prep football season. The Vikings posted a 7-3 mark in 1991 — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Cats, Vikes Dominate All-Region Team

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

What do Nick Hyder, Randall Godfrey and Chris McCranie all have in common?

They were all three the big winners as the 1991 Region 1-AAAA All-Region football team was announced today. Hyder was selected as Region 1-AAAA's Coach of the Year after leading his top-ranked Valdosta High Wildcats to their sixth consecutive Region 1-AAAA football title and an undefeated 10-0 regular season record.

"I feel like this is a staff honor," stated Hyder following practice Monday night as his Cats are preparing for Friday night's GHSA Class AAAA state football playoff game with NE Macon at Cleveland Field. "Our group of coaches are fiercely dedicated and loyal to the program and our young men. I can't remember enjoying working with a staff more than this group. In some areas we are closer than brothers."

"I appreciate very much what our coaching staff (Al Akins, Jerry Don Baker, Bob Bolton, Jim Burroughs, Eddie Crocker, Larry Jester, Keith Middleton, Mike O'Brien, Ronnie Pitcock, Charles Tarpley, Tim Horton, Jack Rudolph and the junior high staff), principal Bill Aldrich, Valdosta City Schools Superintendent Walter Altman, the Valdosta School Board and chairman David Waller, the Valdosta Touchdown Club with president Scott Alderman and the 10,000 plus Wildcat fans have done to help make us successful."

Godfrey, a senior linebacker for the 7-3 Lowndes High Vikings, was chosen as Region 1-AAAA's Defensive Player of the Year. This aggressive headhunting defender recorded 111

1-AAAA All-Region Football Team

COACH OF THE YEAR

Nick Hyder, Valdosta

OFF. PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Chris McCranie, Colquitt

DEF. PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Randall Godfrey, Lowndes

OFFENSE

QB Steve Everson, Valdosta
RB Nathan Williams, Colquitt Co.
RB Roderick Bryant, Tift Co.
WR Brice Hunter, Valdosta
WR Chris McCranie, Colquitt Co.
TE Basque Martin, Bainbridge
OL Tim O'Brien, Valdosta
OL Andy Sheffield, Valdosta
OL David DeRosso, Colquitt Co.
OL Clint Manning, Tift Co.
OL Mario Owens, Bainbridge
PK Dow Drury, Valdosta

DEFENSE

DL Waymon Wright, Lowndes
DL Franklin Wiseman, Valdosta
DL Kenyatta King, Tift Co.
DL James Stancil, Colquitt Co.
LB Randall Godfrey, Lowndes
LB Dexter Daniels, Valdosta
LB Lee Brooks, Colquitt Co.
DB Trampis Wrice, Valdosta
DB Dana Smith, Lowndes
DB Ron Dennard, Tift Co.
DB Vashawn Brown, Bainbridge
P Matt Futch, Lowndes

SECOND TEAM

QB Parks Hughes, Colquitt Co.
RB Vidal Lively, Bainbridge
RB Myron Newton, Coffee
WR Bert Jones, Tift Co.
WR Ryan Pearson, Bainbridge
TE Niketa Battle, Tift Co.
OL Jay Bowling, Valdosta
OL Brandon Wallace, Lowndes
OL Frank Sulkowski, Tift Co.
OL Greg Jackson, Coffee
OL Brian Saturday, Colquitt Co.
PK Stephen McRae, Bainbridge

SECOND TEAM

DL Tim McClain, Valdosta
DL Demeion Shiver, Lowndes
DL Nathaniel Glenn, Bainbridge
DL Todd Fordham, Tift Co.
LB Marcus Williams, Valdosta
LB Ryan Branch, Tift Co.
LB Lorenzo Murphy, Bainbridge
DB Jason Jelks, Valdosta
DB John Copeland, Valdosta
DB Patrick Mansfield, Colquitt Co.
DB Jason Taylor, Colquitt Co.
P Marcus Phillips, Tift Co.

HONORABLE MENTION

TE Shadrick Green, Valdosta
RB Billy Poole, Lowndes
RB Alfred Barnes, Valdosta
WR Sharone Roberts, Colquitt Co.
WR Johnny McFatten, Coffee

HONORABLE MENTION

DL Peter Failor, Valdosta
DL Kelvin Miller, Bainbridge
DL Marcus Martin, Coffee
DL Anthony Hargett, Lowndes
LB Anthony Palmore, Colquitt Co.
LB Kevin Williams, Bainbridge
LB Lonzy Harrison, Bainbridge
LB Chris Freeman, Bainbridge
DB Gordon Screen, Bainbridge
DB Johnny McFatten, Coffee

VOTERS

Mike Grubb Valdosta Daily Times
Mark Holland Tifton Gazette
Wayne Grandy Moultrie Observer
Joe Crine B'brdge Post-Sea.

tackles on the season. Godfrey recovered three fumbles and picked off one pass. He blocked what could have been the winning field goal for Warner Robins in the season opening 7-6 win against the Demons. Godfrey

also blocked what could have been the game-tying extra point as the Vikings nipped Coffee High, 7-6.

"Randall is every coach's dream,"
See REGION, Page 2-B

No. 1 Cats Dominated Raiders

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

Don't let the statistics from Friday night's Class AAAA state playoff football game between the No. 1 ranked Valdosta High Wildcats and the Northeast Macon High Raiders be misleading. The contest was actually as one-sided as the Cats' 49-19 romp might indicate.

The final stats had the Cats holding a slim 374-350 yard margin in total offense. Northeast Macon came out and rolled up 206 yards in total offense in the first half. In the opening quarter, the visiting Raiders churned out 104 yards in total offense — 55 rushing and 49 passing. Of the 55 yards on the ground, 16 came on one run (a touchdown). The 49 yards through the air came on one pass.

In the second quarter, Northeast Macon churned out 102 yards to give the No. 2 team from Region 2-AAAA 206 yards in total offense at the half. The Raiders managed 83 of the 102 yards on one play — an 83-yard touchdown run by Rendall Jackson. Northeast Macon failed to register a yard in the air in the second quarter.

Meanwhile, the Cats could only muster 38 yards on offense in the opening quarter — 17 yards rushing and 21 passing. However, VHS only had the pigskin for a possession and a half in the first quarter.

In the second quarter behind the blocking of All-Region linemen Tim O'Brien and Andy Sheffield, second team All-Region choice Jay Bowling and Brad Grant, Sean Van Ausdall, Eddie Wooten, Andy Harrison, Alan Holt, Jesse Hunter, Greg Porter and honorable mention All-Region tight end Shadrick Green, the Cats offense began to move at will lighting up the scoreboard for 28 points. With All-Region quarterback Steve Everson directing the attack, the Cats rolled up 196 yards in total offense in the second period — 107 yards rushing and 89 yards through the air.

Valdosta not only went into the lockerroom with a commanding 28-13 lead, but the Cats also held a 234-206 edge in total offense. Everson was perfect in the opening half, completing seven of seven passing for 110 yards and three touchdowns. In the second half, the Cats' crafty field general would complete three of four passing for 16 yards and one touchdown. Honorable mention All-Region running back Alfred Barnes added to the Cats' second quarter scoring barrage with a 66-yard touchdown run, while All-Region wide receiver Brice Hunter, who hauled in three passes for 62 yards on the yards, snared two touchdown passes covering 13 and 52 yards. Green also hauled in a 12-yard touchdown pass.

In the third period, Valdosta put the game on ice. The Cats offense erupted for 21 points and 125 yards in total offense (109 rushing and 16 passing). Running back Albert Edmonds, who led the Cats' rushers with 73 yards on nine attempts, scored on a 33-yard run, while running back Brian Wiseman scored on a one-yard plunge. VHS wide receiver Mike Roberts hauled in an eight-yard touchdown pass from Everson, who didn't play after the Cats' first two possessions of the second half. Everson finished the night hitting on 10 of 11 passing for 126 yards and four touchdowns.

What little success the Raiders' offense enjoyed in the first half came to abrupt halt in the third quarter. With All-Region performers Dexter Daniels, Franklin Wiseman and Trampis Wrice along with second-team All-Region selections Tim McClain, Marcus Williams, Jason Jelks, John Copeland, honorable mention All-Region choice Peter Failor and the talents of Donald Hitson, Brinson Barker, John Gloster, Nick Reed, Brock Sanford, John Walker, Troy Brown and Levalis Paul leading the way, the swarming Cats' defense limited Northeast Macon to a scant 29 yards in total offense in the period — six yards rushing and 23 yards passing.

Region

From Page 1-B

stated former Lowndes High Head Football Coach Rick Tomberlin. "In fact just today a recruiter from Nebraska was in here seeing about Randall. He is a great person and a great team player. His stats speak for themselves, but they don't really tell you what kind of leader and role model that he really is."

"Randall is the best high school football player that I've had the privilege to be around," said former LHS assistant head football coach and defensive coordinator Chuck Landy.

McCranie, a senior wide receiver at Colquitt County High, was voted as Region 1-AAAA's Offensive Player of the Year. This glue-fingered receiver led the region in receiving with 46 receptions for 763 yards and five touchdowns. He averaged 16.6 yards per catch. McCranie was third on the Packers in scoring with 30 points. He also rushed the pigskin three times for 14 yards. McCranie led Colquitt County in punt returns with 10 for 109 yards. He also returned five kicks for 82 yards.

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

■**QUARTERBACK:** Valdosta junior field general Steve Everson was voted as the top quarterback in Region 1-AAAA. He completed 55.5 percent of his passing, hitting on 61 of 110 for 899 yards and 10 touchdowns. He only threw three interceptions during the regular season. Everson also finished the season as the No. 8 rusher in Region 1-AAAA with 111 carries for 451 yards (4.1) and four touchdowns.

■**RUNNING BACKS:** Colquitt County's Nathan Williams (185, Sr.) and Tift County's Roderick Bryant (160, Sr.) were selected as the first team running backs. Williams captured the region rushing crown with 1,007 yards on 186 attempts. He also scored 11 touchdowns. Bryant finished the season as the No. 2 rusher in Region 1-AAAA with 932 yards on 207 attempts. He tallied five touchdowns.

■**WIDE RECEIVERS:** In addition to McCranie, Valdosta High senior Brice Hunter (175, Sr.) garnered first team honors. Hunter completed the regular season with 32 receptions for 520 yards (No. 3 in 1-AAAA) and six touchdowns.

■**TIGHT END:** Basque Martin (205, Sr.) of Bainbridge earned first team accolades. Martin snared 14 passes for 247 yards.

■**OFFENSIVE LINE:** Representing Valdosta High on the All-Region offensive line are Tim O'Brien (245, Sr.) and Andy Sheffield (230, Sr.). This duo had a lot to do with the fact that the Cats finished the regular season No. 1 in Region 1-AAAA in total offense (3,355 yards), scoring offense (287 points) and rushing offense (2,343 yards).

The rest of the offensive line is made up of David DeRosso (200, Sr.) of Colquitt County, Tift County's Clint Manning (226, Sr.) and Bainbridge's Mario Owens (200, Sr.).

■**PLACE-KICKER:** Valdosta senior Dow Drury was voted as the top kicker in Region 1-AAAA. He was

perfect during the regular season in the extra point department hitting on 28 of 28 attempts. In kicking field goals, Drury connected on 9 of 12, including a long of 37 yards.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

■**DEFENSIVE LINE:** Valdosta's Franklin Wiseman (165, Jr.) and Lowndes' senior Waymon Wright anchor the All-Region defensive front. They are joined on the first team by Tift County's Kenyatta King (235, Sr.) and Colquitt County's James Stancil (235, Jr.).

■**LINEBACKERS:** In addition to Godfrey, the All-Region linebacking corps consist of Valdosta High's Dexter Daniels (225, Sr.) and Lee Brooks (220, Sr.) of Colquitt County. Daniels, VHS' team captain, was a big reason the Cats finished No. 1 in Region 1-AAAA in team defense (1,816 yards), rushing defense (906 yards) and scoring defense (70 points).

■**DEFENSIVE BACKS:** Anchoring the All-Region defensive backfield are Lowndes High junior Dana Smith and Valdosta High senior Trampis Wrice. Smith led Region 1-AAAA in interceptions with five, three of which he returned for touchdowns. Wrice completed the regular season with four thefts. They are joined in the secondary by Tift County's Ron Dennard (170, Jr.) and Bainbridge's Vashawn Brown (190, Jr.).

■**PUNTER:** Lowndes High senior Matt Futch nailed down the first team punting chores. Futch led Region 1-AAAA with 47 punts for a 40.2 yard average.

Raiders Seek To Dethrone No. 1 Cats

V. Times 11-22-91

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

The second season begins tonight for Nick Hyder's No. 1 ranked 10-0 Wildcats.

Steve Edwards' 9-2 Northeast Macon High Raiders invade storied Cleveland Field tonight for a date with Region 1-AAAA champion Valdosta High in the opening round of the GHSA Class AAAA state football playoffs at 8.

Records don't really mean a thing from this point on. A win means that the survivors live to play another week in quest of the coveted Class AAAA state football championship. A loss means that it is time to pack up the equipment until next spring.

Tonight's matchup will be the first ever between the Cats and the Raiders. Northeast Macon went through the regular season at 8-2, losing 13-6 at Lowndes and 6-0 at Region 2-AAAA champion Warner Robins. In last week's Region 2-AAAA playoff game to determine the No. 2 team, the Raiders trailed Central Macon 21-0 with six minutes left in the third quarter and rallied to win, 26-21.

Meanwhile, Valdosta had a bye last Friday night after claiming its sixth consecutive Region 1-AAAA title and 36th region championship overall. The Cats are also the two-time defending Class AAAA state football champions and have captured 21 state titles. In addition to being

TONIGHT

WHO: Valdosta High Wildcats (10-0, 1-AAAA Champs) vs. Northeast Macon High Raiders (9-2, No. 2 in 2-AAAA).

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Cleveland Field, Valdosta. Tickets: \$5 at gate.

IF NOT THERE, WHERE: Radio: WAAC-FM (92.9) in Valdosta area. Television: Wildcat Tradition will present game highlights Thursday night on TCI Cablevision Channel 12, 7 p.m. and 8 p.m., and The Welcome Channel, 10:30 p.m.

WEATHER: Partial clearing; low in mid 50s.

LAST WEEK: Valdosta High was idle; NE Macon defeated Central Macon, 26-21.

LAST MEETING: First meeting.

THE SERIES: First meeting, 0-0.

RANKINGS: In Georgia AP, Valdosta is ranked No. 1 in the Class AAAA poll. Northeast Macon received some votes, but not enough to make the top 10. Valdosta is ranked No. 3 in the USA Today's national poll.

ranked No. 1 in the Georgia Associated Press' Class AAAA prep football poll, VHS is also ranked No. 3 in the USA Today's national prep football Top 25 poll. Valdosta is also in the midst of riding a 32-game unbeaten streak.

Northeast Macon comes into this contest boasting one of the best ground attacks in the state. Leading the Raiders' relentless rushing assault will be fullback Rico Council, who has rushed for 1,035 yards on 125 attempts. Northeast Macon pos-

sesses another 1,000-yard rusher in tailback Michael Barron. The defending Class AAAA 200-meter champion has rambled for 1,030 yards on just 89 carries. The Raiders have another back who also fares pretty well when it comes to running the football in Rendall Jackson, who has churned out 505 yards on 98 attempts.

The Raiders are also capable of passing as quarterback Derrick Caple has connected on 32 of 79 passing for 576 yards. Under his direction, Northeast Macon has been

able to light up the scoreboard to the tune of 263 points (23.9 points per game).

If the Raiders are to have any success moving the football, they will have to do it against the No. 1 defense from Region 1-AAAA. With such talented players as Dexter Daniels (All-Region), Trampis Wrice (All-Region), Tim McClain (second team All-Region), Franklin Wiseman (All-Region), Peter Failor (honorable mention All-Region), Donald Hitson, John Gloster, Brinson Barker, Levalis Paul, Jason Jelks (second team All-Region), John Copeland (second team All-Region), Brock Sanford, Troy Brown and John Walker, the Cats' defense have only given up 1,816 yards to enemy offenses.

When it comes to rushing the pigskin against VHS, the Cats have only yielded 906 yards (90.6 yards per game). Valdosta's swarming group of headhunters have only given up 70 points in 10 games (7.0 points per outing). This group has also forced enemy offenses to turn the football over on 19 occasions — eight fumbles and 11 interceptions.

When Valdosta gets the pigskin, look for the offense to move under the direction of All-Region quarterback Steve Everson. With Everson at the helm, the Cats' ranked No. 1 in Region 1-AAAA in total offense churning out 3,355 yards.

Behind the blocking of All-Region linemen Andy Sheffield and Tim

O'Brien along with second team selection Jay Bowling and the likes of Brad Grant, Sean Van Ausdall, Eddie Wooten, Andy Harrison, Alan Holt, Jesse Hunter and Greg Porter, the Cats have churned out 2,343 yards on the ground — tops in Region 1-AAAA.

Leading the VHS ground attack is honorable mention All-Region running back selection Alfred Barnes, who rambled for 525 yards on 77 attempts to finish sixth in the region rushing race. Everson scampered for 451 yards on 111 carries, while Albert Edmonds rushed for 360 yards on 76 attempts. David Williams chipped in with 69 rushes for 343 yards and Brian Wiseman added 301 yards on 39 attempts.

VHS' offense is also lethal through the air. Everson has connected on 61 of 110 passing for 899 yards and region-leading 10 touchdown passes. In the process of completing 55.5 percent of passes, Everson was only picked off three times.

Everson has a talented group of receivers to throw to, headed up by All-Region wide receiver Brice Hunter. This glue-fingered senior hauled in 32 passes for 520 yards and six touchdowns. Also look for Shadrick Green (honorable mention All-Region), Mike Roberts and Chris Rockey to get into the receiving act.

Valdosta High has scored 287 points, while the Raiders' defense has given up 136 points.

Georgia Prep Football Playoffs

CLASS AAAA

NE Macon at Valdosta
Statesboro at LaGrange
Wheeler at McEachern
McNair at Norcross
Colquitt Co. at Warner Robins
Newnan at Bradwell Inst.
Campbell-Sym. at Marietta
Clarke Central at Dunwoody



Valdosta High defensive end Aldrich Graham (right) goes through a tackling drill with VHS linebacker Marcus Williams (left) as the No. 1 Cats prepare for tonight's Class AAAA state playoff football game with the 9-2 Northeast Macon High Raiders at 8 in fabled Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.



VDT
Wed., Nov. 27, '91 **Going Back Up**
Valdosta High's Yolanda Benjamin (32) prepares to put up a shot Tuesday night against Lanier County in the VHS gym as the Lady Cats opened up their 1991 basketball season with a 39-13 win against the Lady Bulldogs. See story page 1-B — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Lady Cats, Cats Victorious

VDT Wed., Nov. 27, '91
Related Photo 3-B

By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

/news

Valdosta High School's basketball teams swept Lanier County High Tuesday night in Valdosta in the first games of the season for both Wildcat teams. The Lady Wildcats rolled past Lanier's Lady Bulldogs 39-13, while the Wildcats had to struggle a little more to win 62-54.

The Wildcats' win was actually much closer than the 62-54 score. In fact, the eight-point margin at the end of the game was the largest for Valdosta.

Valdosta took its first lead of the game when Vidal Lowe connected on a three-pointer to put VHS ahead 11-9 with 2:42 left in the first period. The Wildcats increased their lead to

20-13 with nine seconds left in the first when Andre Jones scored on a layup.

Jones pumped in 20 points to lead Valdosta in scoring. Lowe added 15 points, and had two three-pointers and two slams to ignite the partisan crowd.

Lanier's Will Watson capped off a six-point run with a three-pointer to give the Bulldogs a 28-27 lead with 2:40 left in the first half. It was the first lead for Lanier since the 3:51 mark of the first quarter.

But Valdosta immediately responded with a 6-0 run of its own sparked by a 15-foot jumper by Lent Bell. Bell also scored on a layup with two seconds remaining in the half to give Valdosta a 35-32 lead at the half-time break.

Lanier regained the lead at 39-38 with 5:39 left in the third period after

a three-pointer by Watson and two foul shots by Marcus McGriff.

Valdosta came back to take a 43-40 lead before a 6-0 run by Lanier put the Bulldogs back on top of the see-saw scoreboard at 46-43. It appeared that the Bulldogs would head into the final period ahead by three. But Jones nailed a three-pointer with just three ticks left on the third quarter clock to tie the game at 46-46.

Jones scored seven unanswered points during a stretch in the final period to give the Cats a 55-48 lead from which the Bulldogs never recovered.

Isaac Cames led Lanier with 20 points, and Watson added 10 for the Bulldogs. Billy Steinberg and Darren Lane each added nine points for Valdosta.

"I thought we hustled and played See HOOPS, Page 2-B

Tammy Williams, with six points, was the leading scorer for Lanier and the second-leading scorer for the game. Natasha Johnson's four points were second for Valdosta. DeDe Dennis, Amanda McGhin, and Yolanda Benjamin each scored two points.

"We started off slow, but we came on and got into the flow of things in second half," said Lady Cats' head coach Linda Blackwell. "It was just first-game jitters."

Both Valdosta teams will be in action again Friday, December 6 at Clinch County.

Hoops

From Page 1-B

extremely hard," said head coach John Miller. "We made some mistakes, but Lanier's got a fine club."

The Lady Wildcats' offensive game plan was simple — Esther Benjamin. Benjamin stayed under the goal on offense and pumped in 29 points for Valdosta High.

It was not exactly an offensive show, especially in the first half which ended with Valdosta ahead just 12-7. Benjamin pumped in eight points in the first half.

Lanier's Lady Bulldogs was almost completely ineffective for the entire game. In fact, the Lady Bulldogs scored only two points from 2:51 left in the second quarter until there was 4:01 left in the game.

V. Times 11-22-91

No. 1 Cats To Rough Up Raiders

You'll have to forgive me for not staying in touch with all of my fans last Friday, but the old porky prince of prep pigskin prognostication had a little business to handle out at Lowndes High.

Never fear, I'm back like a bad rash and ready to go. Now it is time to see just what Mr. Vegas is really made of (No, not a double cheese and pepperoni pizza). It is state playoff time. This is when the cream rises to the top. I just hope I don't sink like a lead balloon.

Who is kidding who? I'm 265 pounds of twisted steel and sex appeal. I can walk that aisle and when I make these sure fire winning selections all I can say is...learn to live with it.

■NORTHEAST MACON HIGH RAIDERS (9-2) AT NO. 1 VALDOSTA HIGH WILDCATS (10-0): You could very easily mistake this football game for a track meet.

The Raiders, the No. 2 team out of Region 2-AAAA, have speed to burn. Spearheading the offensive attack for NE Macon is the defending Class AAAA 200-meter champion — Michael Barron. From his running back position, Barron rambled for 955 yards in the regular season. He is not the only one capable of going the distance at anytime. The Cats will also have to be wary of fullbacks Rico Council (952 yards in regular season) and Rendall Jackson (460 yards in regular season).

Defensively, the Cats have some speed to match up with the Raiders. VHS defensive end Franklin Wiseman is the defending Region 1-AAAA 100-meter champion. I think people might be surprised just how much that speed gets neutralized when Dexter Daniels, Marcus Williams, Tim McClain and company continually batter these speed merchants.

I can't really see the NE Macon defense stopping the balanced Valdosta High offense all night either. I'm not taking anything away from the Raiders, but I just don't see NE Macon coming into Cleveland Field and pulling off the upset. Oh, it could happen. Remember Carver-Columbus from a few years back?

Earlier in the football season, the Raiders ventured down I-75 and went back home with a 13-6 loss against Lowndes. Come tonight, NE Macon will come up empty in its second visit to the Azalea City. Mr. Vegas picks Valdosta, 27-7.

No. 2 Grangers Are Loaded

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

It is being hyped as the 'Game of the Century'.

It's the talk of state as far as Georgia prep football is concerned. On Friday night, Nick Hyder's No. 1 ranked Valdosta High Wildcats will travel to LaGrange to battle the No. 2 Grangers in GHSA state quarterfinal playoff football action at 8. In addition to the Cats being 11-0 and the Grangers standing at 12-0, this contest also has national implications. Hyder's Cats come into this slugfest ranked No. 2 in *USA Today's* national prep Top 25 football poll, while LaGrange is ranked No. 8 in the nation.

"I don't know if this is the 'Game of the Century' or not," stated LaGrange Head Football Coach Gary Guthrie, who in his seventh season at the helm of the Grangers' program, has compiled a 71-26 mark. "There is no doubt that this is a big game.

These are two of the best teams in the state. We (Valdosta and LaGrange) match up real well with each other. We both have great defenses, great offenses and outstanding quarterbacks."

Speaking of outstanding quarterbacks, the Grangers have one of the top quarterbacks in the nation in senior Rodney Hudson. With this three-year starter directing the Grangers' high-octane Wing-T offense, LaGrange has lit up the scoreboard to the tune of 368 points in 12 games.

On the season, Hudson has been double trouble for enemy defenses. When it comes to passing the pigskin, this strong-armed field general has shredded enemy defenses for 1,060 yards and 17 touchdowns. Hudson has completed 59 of 129 passing. He has also terrorized defenses with his running ability. Hudson leads the Grangers in rushing with 744 yards and 13 touchdowns.

"I don't know if he is the best quarterback in the state or nation be-

Pep Rally

The Valdosta Touchdown Club will have a 'mini pep rally' Thursday morning at 9:30 on the practice field at Valdosta High School. This pep rally will last no more than 30 minutes and will be held as the Wildcats are coming out onto the practice field. All fans are urged to attend.

cause I haven't seen every quarterback play," added Guthrie in a phone conversation Tuesday. "He is one of best. With his ability and skill, Rodney is outstanding both passing and running the football."

In Hudson's three years as a starter for LaGrange, he has completed 295 of 546 passing for 5,039 yards and 59 touchdowns. Including his freshman season, Hudson has thrown for 5,112 yards. Hudson has

also rushed for 1,753 yards during his career, while scoring 27 touchdowns.

Hudson isn't the only weapon in the Region 4-AAAA champions arsenal. Fullback James Reed, who rushed for 544 yards in 1990, has managed to ramble for 609 yards and eight touchdowns. Running back LeQuincey Shepard, who was injured in the middle part of the season, returned to rush for 347 yards and one touchdown. He also has four receiving touchdowns to his credit. When the Grangers are faced with short-yardage situations, defensive guard Balandor Flowers lines up in the backfield. This power runner has picked up 113 yards on the ground and scored two touchdowns.

Split end Dialleo Burks is regarded as Hudson's favorite receiver. However, the Grangers have a full compliment of receivers in which they spread the football around to in Jason Bray, Demetric Shipman, Walter Harris, Russ Davidson, Rico Riley and Skip Hale.

"That works out as an advantage for us," Guthrie continued. "Defenses can't key on any one of our receivers."

One of the concerns for LaGrange coming into the season was its offensive line, but that is but a distant memory now.

"Our offensive line is where we have made the most improvement," added Guthrie. "We made some changes before the season and this group of young men haven't let us down. The big thing for us is that they have stayed healthy and together all year."

Lining up at center will be LaMont Cofield, while Mike Blam and Dexter Fitzpatrick (190, Sr.) get the call at the guards. Manning the tackles will be Bubba Scott (220, Sr.) and Paul Pickett (215, Jr.), while Russ Davidson will start at tight end.

"The key for is will be how well our offensive line can maintain its
See GRANGERS, Page 2-B



Valdosta High's All-Region linebacker Dexter Daniels (48) and All-Region defensive end Franklin Wiseman (49) will have to be on the top of their game as the No. 1 ranked Wildcats travel to LaGrange to face the No. 2 Grangers Friday night in GHSA Class AAAA state quarterfinal football playoff action — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Youths Must Study

By MURRAY COLEMAN
Times Sports Writer

One of Valdosta's own returned to town Monday night to give the keynote speech before an audience of 325 parents, coaches and supporters at the Pinevale Youth Center's All-Sports Banquet in Mathis Auditorium.

Henry "Slim" Baker, who was part of the old Pinevale High School's first graduating class in 1957, described how his desire to become an athlete during the days of segregation led to a four-decade career in coaching.

"We used to sit around without much money in our pockets and dream about getting into college," he said. "Through determination and discipline, a lot of us were able to make it and succeed."

Baker went on to star as an athlete at Alcorn State College in Mississippi, earn his degree and move into a college coaching career. He has been the men's head basketball coach at Passaic County Community College and the coordinator of physical education at Eastside High School in Patterson, N.J. for the past 10 years.

"I have been fortunate to get the opportunity to put a little back into sports after all I took from it," he explained. "Over the years, I have been able to reach a lot of young athletes."

Baker said that with the emphasis on college entrance exams for athletes "grades are more important now than ever before."

"Some young people look at that as a negative," he said. "But that's a mistake. Don't let anyone tell you just because there are rules and regulations in the classroom — just like there are on the ball field — you can't succeed."

"Sure, there might be barriers along the road to becoming a great athlete, but accept the ones off the field as challenges just like you do for the ones on the field."

More than a decade and a half ago, Baker said he had a young athlete on his team who wouldn't accept the fact that he wasn't a very good ath-

lete. "When my wife saw him, she thought he had two-left feet," he joked. "He wasn't very talented, but he wouldn't take no for an answer."

After the young man kept pressing for ways to make himself better, Baker said he sat down and mapped out a strict regiment for the student to follow. "He did everything I asked of him, and more," said Baker. "He improved in the classroom and as an athlete."

Even though Rory Sparrow never became a star as a professional basketball player, Baker said the current member of the NBA's Sacramento Kings "made it because he learned how to make himself and everyone else around him get the most out of every situation."

"He's been in the NBA for 12 years now," said Baker. "He graduated from Villanova with a degree in electrical engineering, and all the coaches liked having him on their teams because he was such an over-achiever."

Baker said he knows what young athletes have to go through to make it big these days. "The same basic values and principles apply today just as they did back in my playing days," he said. "I was asthmatic, and a lot of people said I couldn't play sports."

With the support and help of his family, however, Baker said he overcame those who doubted his dreams. "It's great to see all the parents out here tonight supporting their children," he said. "Your children need your support and encouragement to be successful in life — no matter what their dreams are."

In addition to Baker's address, Valdosta Mayor James H. Rainwater served as master of ceremonies at the event.

Valdosta High School football coach Jack Rudolph presented the Kenny Rose Award to Michael Anderson, a two-sport athlete who has been active in helping out at the center.

In all, more than 137 young athletes received recognition for their contributions to the center's sports programs, which involve 500 children in four sports.



Valdosta High senior defensive tackle Tim McClain has developed into one of the Wildcats' hardest-hitting and best defensive players despite his average size. McClain and the Wildcats will be facing what may be their stiffest challenge of the year when they face second-ranked LaGrange in the quarterfinals of the state playoffs Friday night — File Photo by Jeff Allen.

Mastering The Art Of Collision

VDT, Tues Nov. 26, 91
By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

At 5-8, 210 pounds, Valdosta High senior defensive lineman Tim McClain's presence is enough to warrant his starting for nation's second-ranked team.

But defensive line coach Larry Jester says that if he were a couple inches taller, McClain has the talent to be one of the nation's best defensive linemen.

"Tim McClain, in a body 6-3 and 210 pounds, would probably be a candidate for All-America at defensive tackle with the intensity that he plays with," Jester said.

McClain, though, even with his average size, is a dominant force on the Wildcats' defensive line.

How dominant? Coach Jester puts it in perspective. "Tim McClain is kind of like Reggie White in the body of a Pee-Wee Herman as a comparison," he stated. "He's not as small, naturally as Pee-Wee Herman, but he's not a true-sized defensive lineman by Class AAAA standards."

"He's the kind of lineman that other teams feel like they are going

to have to deal with in order to have any success," Jester added. "He stacks up and holds his own in there. He's gone up against guys 250, 260, 270 and held his own in there."

McClain is one of the hardest hitting players on the Wildcat defense. "Tim McClain is probably, of all the defensive linemen that I have, the one that, as Coach (Nick) Hyder says, has mastered the art of collision," said Jester.

"He hits smart," Jester added. "He not only hits people hard, but he does a good job of hitting smart. He anticipates well, and that's a valuable aspect for any defensive lineman."

While McClain feels he has had a good year, he does not feel that he has played up to his full potential.

"I've had a pretty good year," he said. "I haven't done as good as I think I should have, but I've done pretty good. To be honest, I've been about 95 percent. My knee is stopping me a little."

McClain's sore knee is actually not related to football. McClain has had a cyst on his knee since he hurt it while horsing around with his

brother at home during the Cats' first off week.

"That's kind of slowed him down some," Jester agreed. "But even with that, when you think in terms of Tim McClain, he's a lot quicker than a lot of people that he is going to face even with a sore knee."

"I'd say he's been about 95 percent," he added. "That knee has bothered him some, but he hasn't complained about it, and he's gotten it there and done a good job."

His primary goal, like all of the Wildcats right now, is to win the state championship for the third year in a row. Standing between the Cats and the title Friday night will be Georgia's second-ranked LaGrange Grangers.

"I feel like this is the biggest test of the year," the senior lineman said. "They're undefeated, and they're supposed to have a good quarterback. It's just going to be a good test for us."

Being a senior makes winning the 1991 state title that much more important for McClain. "I want to three-peat because it's never been done," he said.



Berrien Sweeps Valdosta

VPT Wed. Dec. 11, '91
By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

Berrien High swept two basketball games from Valdosta High Tuesday night, but it could have just as easily been Valdosta sweeping two from Berrien.

The Rebelettes from Berrien played for the last shot in double overtime to win 47-44, while the Rebels' Terrence Pitts hit a jumper with 21 seconds left to give the Rebels a 48-47 win over the Wildcats.

The loss was the first for the Wildcats who fall to 2-1 on the season. It was the second win for the Rebels which move to 2-3 on the young season. The Cats were led by Ernest Lowe whose early foul trouble held him to 15 points. The Rebels were led by Pitts who scored 10 points.

Actually, in the first quarter, the Rebels seemed to be completely out-matched as Valdosta's Cats got out to a 12-2 lead and then stretched it into a 17-6 lead early in the second quarter.

But the Rebels would wake up with a 9-2 run in the last 4:36 of the second quarter which brought them back into contention by the half with the score 21-17.

Valdosta's leading scorer this season, Ernest Lowe, was held to just two points in the first half after getting slapped with his third foul early in the second quarter.

Lowe came back in the third quarter, but it was Clinch County which shook up things by taking a 21-20 lead with 6:28 left in the third quarter when Eddie Tisby scored on a layup. It was Berrien's first lead of the game.

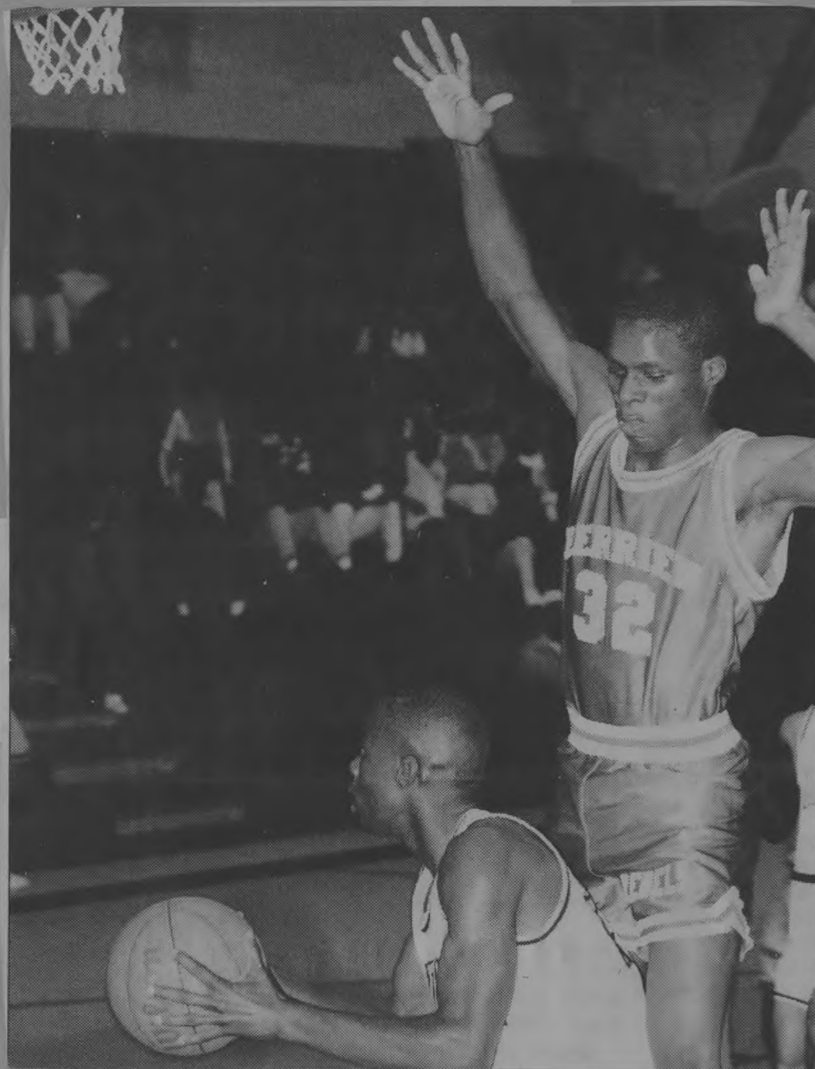
The Rebels held onto the lead and led 33-31 at the end of the quarter. They then stretched their lead to 38-31 when Travis Boone connected on a three pointer with 7:01 left in the game. They took their biggest lead of the game, 44-35, with 4:35 left in the game when Pitts scored on a short jumper to cap a 6-0 run.

But the Cats would use good defense to rally with a 12-2 run. A goaltending call against the Rebels capped off the run and gave the Cats the lead again at 47-46 with just 49 seconds left in the game.

Pitts then hit his go-ahead jumper with 21 seconds left to make the score 48-47. But as the Cats were moving the ball up the floor to try to win the game, Billy Steinberg was called for a walk, and turned the ball over to Berrien with just 14 seconds left.

But the Cats would still get another shot as the Rebels lost the ball out of bounds with just eight seconds remaining in the contest. But the Cats could get the ball across mid-court in the final eight seconds as they fell for the first time this season.

"We've got to just regroup, and go on from here," said VHS head coach John Miller. "Berrien did a real good job."
See BERRIEN, Page 2-B



At right, Valdosta High Andre James (21) drive past Berrien's Steve Green (32) as the Rebels upended the Cats, 48-47, in prep basketball action Tuesday night at VHS — Times Photos by Paul Leavy.

Berrien

From Page 1-B

job, and we missed on a few easy opportunities."

The girls game was equally exciting as the Lady Cats faced a state championship team for the second time in less than a week. But Valdosta was handed its second loss of the season as it fell to 1-2 on the year.

The Lady Cats jumped out to an 8-4 lead before the Rebelettes went on a 10-0 run for the remaining 2:13 of the first quarter. That gave the Rebelettes a 14-8 lead going into the

second quarter.

The game proved to be a battle of each team's big guns, Valdosta's Esther Benjamin and Berrien's Gwen Green. The battle was won by Green in the first half as she scored 15 first-half points, while the Valdosta ball-handlers were simply unable to work the ball into her hands as she was held to four points in the first half.

Green scored 10 of Berrien's 13 points in the second quarter as it took a 27-17 lead at the half.

But Valdosta was able to work Benjamin into the offense in the sec-

ond half as she scored 17 points in the half to push her total for the game to 21. She scored five and Yolanda Benjamin scored four points as the Lady Cats pulled to within two at 30-28 after a 12-4 run to start the third period.

Berrien stretched its lead to 38-32 when Green scored two baskets in less than 20 seconds as the Rebelettes pressure got to Valdosta.

Valdosta would finally tie the score, but it waited until there were four seconds left in the game to do it. Esther Benjamin scored on a six-footer to send the game into overtime tied 42-42.

Benjamin and Berrien's Jackie Wright swapped baskets to keep the overtime score tied at 44-44. After Benjamin then missed two free throw with 1:13 left in the overtime, Valdosta allowed Berrien to play for the last shot and Berrien failed.

But it would not work twice. Valdosta let Berrien hold the ball for the final 2:30 of the game and Green scored the go-ahead basket on a layup after a missed three-pointer with three seconds left in the game. She was fouled on the play, and added the three-point margin as the three seconds mysteriously disappeared from the clock.

Berrien improves to 4-1 with the victory.

"It was a good win for us," said Berrien head coach Cliff Ranew. "But to come in here and win was a big win for us. Our big girls did an adequate job on (Benjamin) in the first half, but she played very well in the second half."

Wildcat Tradition Special

VPT Thurs. Dec. 5, '91
Staff Reports

The Wildcat Tradition Show will end its broadcast season tonight with a two-hour special beginning tonight at 8 p.m. on TCI Cable channel 12. The show will be hosted by Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder and Calvin McGuyrt.

Among other things, coach Hyder and McGuyrt will discuss last Friday night's playoff loss to LaGrange High and, in particular, the controversial penalty called which reversed a touchdown pass which would have tied the score.

Also featured on the show will be the seniors from the 1991 Wildcats. "This will give coach Hyder a chance to show his appreciation to the seniors," McGuyrt said.

Hyder will also give his outlook on next season, and he and McGuyrt will talk about who will be some of the top returners from this year's 11-1 squad.

Hyder, McGuyrt, and hostess Ann McCranie will reminisce about the past season, and will also talk with other members of the media. The Valdosta Touchdown will also announce its membership drive contest winners.

Boys Game
Berrien 48, Valdosta 47

BERRIEN (2-3)
Mollisee 4, Boone 9, Tisby 6, Hartman 7, Green 2, Nixon 4, Nichols 2, Pitts 10, Vinson 4.

VALDOSTA (2-1)
Bell 2, Robinson 1, James 12, Steinberg 8, Lowe 15, Benjamin 4, Lane 4.

Berrien	6	11	16	15	48
Valdosta	14	7	10	16	47

RECORDS: Berrien 2-3, Valdosta 2-1.
NEXT GAMES: Valdosta at Tift County.

Girls Game
Berrien 47, VHS 44

BERRIEN (4-1)
Green 28, Wright 11, Davis 4, Hand 4.

VALDOSTA (1-2)
E. Benjamin 21, Y. Benjamin 12, Dennis 3, Troutman 2, Johnson 6.

Berrien	14	13	6	9	2	3	47
Valdosta	8	9	13	12	2	0	44

RECORDS: Berrien 4-1, Valdosta 1-2.
NEXT GAMES: Valdosta at Tift County.

Valdosta Sweeps Berrien, Colquitt

VDT Fri, Dec 13, 91
By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High School's wrestling Cats continued their success Tuesday night by downing Berrien by a mere 65-3 margin and finishing the long night with a 51-16 win over region rival Colquitt County.

The two relatively easy victories pushed Valdosta's record on the season to 4-0.

VHS faced Colquitt in the final match-up of the night after Colquitt completed a 45-27 victory over Berrien. But Colquitt found itself greatly overmatched as coach Eddie Crocker's Cats amassed five pins and three technical falls en route to the 51-16 thrashing of the Packers.

The Packers started out ok with Jason Cottle pinning Valdosta's David Jenkins in the 103-pound class to go up 6-0. But it was the last time Colquitt would see the lead.

With the score knotted at 6-6, Valdosta then reeled off four consecutive pins sparked by Raymond Kassum's first-round pin of Michael Young in the 119-pound class. It was Young's first loss of the year in four contests.

That was followed by pins from Steve Hubbard, Scott Jones, and Eric Skinner. It was the second pin of the night for both Jones and Skinner. Keith McConnehead then scored a technical fall with a 16-6 victory over

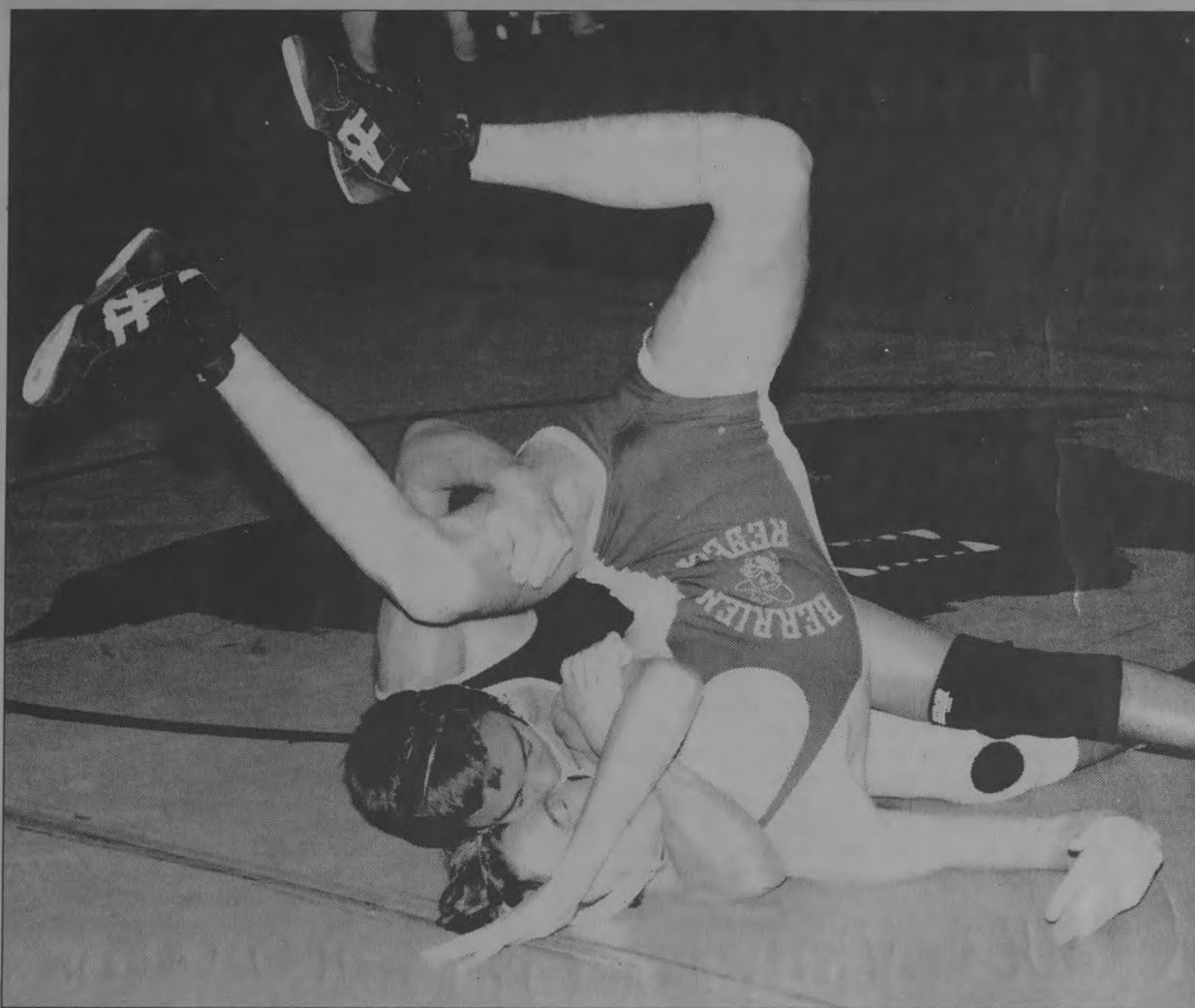
Colquitt's Chance Childs. That pushed the lead to a comfortable 34-6 margin in favor of the Cats.

The Packers managed another pin when Marcus Iceson scored his second pin of the day, in the 145-pound class, over Aldrich Graham — a newcomer to the wrestling scene. Graham, though, may have provided the most excitement of the day when the quick wrestler pinned Berrien's Kurt Smith in just 13 seconds in an earlier match.

Ryne Coyne won a close 8-6 decision over Colquitt's Matt Bunn in the 152-pound class to ice the victory putting VHS ahead 37-12. Tim White and Bobby Manghram would add technical falls and Marcus Phillips chipped in with his second pin of the day in the heavyweight class down the stretch for the Cats.

Ryne Coyne won a close 8-6 decision over Colquitt's Matt Bunn in the 152-pound class to ice the victory putting VHS ahead 37-12. Tim White and Bobby Manghram would add technical falls and Marcus Phillips chipped in with his second pin of the day in the heavyweight class down the stretch for the Cats.

"I never expect any match to be easy," said coach Crocker after the victory. "We looked a lot better than last week. We had a lot fewer mistakes." See WILDCATS, Page 2-B



Valdosta High's Raymond Kassum (left) wrestling action Thursday night Times Photo by nearly gets a pin on Berrien's Lee Sutton in Paul Leavy.

From Page 1-B

es."
■VALDOSTA HIGH 65, BERRIEN 3: Collecting wins for VHS in the opening match of the day were Don Marconi (pin), Raymond Kassum (8-0 decision), Steve Hubbard (5-2 decision), Scott Jones (pin), Eric Skinner (pin), Keith McConnehead (10-7 decision), Aldrich Graham (pin), Ryan

Coyne (pin), Andrew Denmark (pin), Time White (pin), Bobby Manghram (pin), and Marcus Phillips (pin).

Berrien's victory came in the 103-pound class where Gerren Smith won a 14-12 decision over Valdosta's David Jenkins.

Jackets' Rudolph Honored

VDT Thurs, Nov 21, 91
By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

Former Valdosta High School standout and current Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket star Coleman Rudolph was named the Atlantic Coast Conference's Defensive Player of the Week.

In Tech's 27-3 win over Wake Forest, the junior defensive tackle collected six tackles and two sacks.

"It feels pretty good to receive such an honor," Rudolph said Wednesday night. "It's a great honor, but it's one that I share with my teammates."

Coleman will be trying to add to his sack total when the Jackets face Georgia's new air attack in the regular season finale next Saturday.

But he does not believe that Georgia's offensive line is as weak as some have stated it is. Therefore, he does not expect the stats to come easily next Saturday.

"I think their line has shown a lot of improvement from what we've seen lately," Rudolph said. "And they also use their backs in the blocking scheme very well."

He added that the Jackets' defense will be guarding against the run as well as quarterback Eric Zeier and the passing attack.

"We expect them to come out with the run," he said. "We hope to stop that and then Zeier. He gets some jittery feet sometimes under pressure."

Valdosta High Faces First Region Foe

VDT 12-31-91
By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

Both Valdosta High School varsity basketball teams have shown promise in this young season.

The boys are 2-1 with their only loss coming at the hands of a balanced Berrien High squad. The girls are 1-2 with their two losses coming at the hands of the defending Class A and AA state champions. Both were close games — one a two-point loss in overtime to Berrien Tuesday night.

Their first three games have been outside Region 1-AAAA, though, and the only place where the Cats and Lady Cats need to show promise is within the region. They will have that opportunity tonight when they travel to Tifton to take on Tift County High School.

For the Lady Cats, the key may be working star senior Esther Benjamin into the offense. When the season began, it appeared that Coach Linda Blackwell's Lady Cats might be better off not centering their offense around getting the ball to Benjamin, but she has been the only proven scorer for VHS averaging 20.6 points per game.

But for the past two games they have had trouble working Benjamin into the offense. In a 42-36 loss at Clinch County, Benjamin was held to just 12 points, six in each half as the Lady Cats' guards simply could not get a pass in to Benjamin.

In Tuesday night's overtime loss to Berrien, Benjamin was held to four points in the first half as the Rebelles raced to a 27-17 halftime lead. But she scored 17 in the second half including the two needed to send the game into overtime.

Benjamin will have to get the ball for the Lady Cats to beat Tifton on the road. But, at the same time, she cannot outscore the Lady Devils singlehandedly. VHS still needs added scoring.

Valdosta's boys also have a player whose offensive and defensive prowess can drive the Cats to a win — Ernest Lowe. The Cats found out just how valuable he can be when they lost him for virtually the entire second quarter Tuesday night while he warmed the bench with three fouls.

Tift County has already put up the red flag saying that Valdosta could be a darkhorse in the region this year. This game could go a long way toward determining whether or not Tift County is right.

V. Times 12-20-91

Cats Oust Rebels; Face Vikes Tonight

By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High Wildcats and Berrien High Rebels had met once before in a game that resulted in Valdosta's first loss of the season, 48-47, on Dec. 10. That defeat came after the Cats jumped out to a big first quarter lead.

So when the Cats jumped out to an 11-2 lead Thursday night in the Lowndes High Christmas Tournament, Valdosta head coach John Miller was not about to let his team relax. Again Berrien would make a comeback, but this time Valdosta was equal to the task and held off the Rebels for a 57-51 victory.

"We ran our offense a little better this time," said Miller of his 3-2 Cats. "And we had some players come off the bench to really play well for us."

Ernest Lowe and Andre James led the Cats with 16 points each, and Joey Benjamin added 12. Travis Boone led Berrien (2-4) with 14 points, while Jermaine Nixon added 11.

Miller was especially pleased with the scoring balance from his team. "It's always good to see the balance," he said. "We want to encourage that team effort. We don't ever want to be a one-man team."

After the Cats jumped out to the 11-2 first quarter lead, the Rebels immediately pulled themselves back into the contest. They responded with a 13-4 run led by seven points

Boys Game
VHS 57, Berrien 51

BERRIEN (51)
Boone 14, Tisby 9, Nixon 11, Phillips 8, Vinson 9.

VALDOSTA (57)
Baker 4, A. James 16, Lowe 16, A. Lane 2, Steinberg 4, V. James 3, Benjamin 12.

Valdosta 15 15 18 9-57
Berrien 13 12 14 12-51

■RECORDS: Berrien 2-4, Valdosta 3-2.
■NEXT GAMES: Valdosta vs. Lowndes.

from Reggie Vinson to tie the score at 15-15 with 7:39 left before the first half.

Berrien then took its first lead of the game when Boone drove the lane against the Cats' defense and capped off his drive with a layup which put VHS up by two at 19-17 with 6:30 left before the half.

VHS immediately responded with a 9-2 run to regain control of the game with a 26-21 lead with 2:24 left before the half. Benjamin sparked the run

for Valdosta with a couple of blocks and four points off of two layups.

The Cats were able to maintain the lead for the rest of the half as Lowe got his first slam of the night with 15 seconds left before the break which had VHS up 30-25.

Berrien, though, was the team that came out smoking at the beginning of the second half. And it was Nixon who lit the fire by cutting the lead to 30-29 with a short jumper and then gave the Rebels a 35-34 advantage after connecting on two three pointers.

But the lead was short-lived as James scored five unanswered points sparking the Cats to an 11-2 run which gave Valdosta a 45-37 advantage and the lead for good. Lowe nailed a three-point buzzer beater to

give the Cats a 48-39 lead at the end of three quarters of play.

VHS stretched its lead to 53-39 after Vic James nailed a three pointer with 6:39 left in the contest seemingly icing the game. But the game was far from over.

Berrien got back into contention with a 12-2 run with all 12 points coming on four three pointers, two from Boone. That pulled Berrien to within 55-51 with 1:09 left to play.

The Rebels, though, were hurt in the last minute by having three fouls to give before they could send the Cats to the free-throw line. It was the foul situation that cost the Rebels valuable seconds in the waning moments of the game that saw Valdosta hang on for the 57-51 win.



Valdosta High guard Dee Dee Dennis (13) drives to the basket past Fitzgerald's Marcie Lowndes High Christmas Invitational Basketball Moss (40) during the Lady Cats' 49-34 win ball Tourney — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Clinch Tops In Class A; Valdosta Finishes No. 3

The Associated Press

LaGrange High continued celebrating its Class AAAA championship Tuesday as the team easily landed in the top spot on The Associated Press' final high school football poll.

City leaders proclaimed Tuesday as "Granger Day" in honor of the team and scheduled an evening parade and rally to cheer the players and coaches on their 17-16 Class AAAA title win over Colquitt County on Saturday.

LaGrange's last-second victory made it the unanimous No. 1 choice in the AP poll. It also is No. 1 in USA Today's national high school rankings.

"Talk about the national championship has been awfully popular in school," coach Gary Guthrie said. "And people were thanking us all day for the exciting season and hard work."

In Class AAA, undefeated Lakeside-DeKalb narrowly beat out Kendrick for the top spot in the AP poll after the two teams tied 14-14 in the title game. Cartersville was the un-

animous No. 1 pick in Class AA and undefeated Clinch County took top honors in Class A.

LaGrange, which claimed the title Saturday off Scott Simons' 24-yard field goal with 13 seconds left, received all 12 first-place votes and 120 points in the Class AAAA rankings. Colquitt came in second with 103 points, perennial champion Valdosta finished third with 93 points, Marietta was fourth with 76, and McEachern was fifth with 75.

Lakeside-DeKalb clinched the Class AAA top ranking with 10 first-place votes and 118 points. Kendrick got six first-place votes and 113 points. Four voters gave the No. 1 ranking to both teams.

Rounding out the top five in Class AAA were Worth County in third with 94 points, Villa Rica fourth with 72, and Marist fifth with 52.

Cartersville, which won its first state title after beating Cedar Grove 28-19 in Class AA.

Clinch County took the No. 1 Class A spot after beating two-time champion Lincoln County 11-8 for the title, ending the Red Devils' record 44-game winning streak.

VDT Dec. 18, 1991 Wed

Georgia AP Final Prep Football Poll

CLASS AAAA		CLASS AA	
1. LaGrange (15-0) (12)	120.	1. Cartersville (14-1) (12)	120.
2. Colquitt Co. (11-4)	103.	2. Cedar Grove (14-1)	107.
3. Valdosta (11-1)	93.	3. Mitchell-Baker (13-1)	91.
4. Marietta (13-1)	76.	4. Mary Persons (11-3)	79.
5. McEachern (11-3)	75.	5. Greene-Taliaferro (9-2-1)	73.
6. Clarke Central (10-3)	49.	6. West Laurens (9-4)	64.
7. Bradwell Institute (9-4)	34.	7. Manchester (10-2)	30.
8. Norcross (11-2)	32.	8. East Laurens (10-2)	28.
9. Statesboro (10-2)	31.	9. Berrien (8-5)	21.
10. Newnan (10-2)	14.	10. Loganville (9-4)	14.

Also receiving vote (in alphabetical order): Clarke Co., Dunwoody, Effingham Co., Northeast Macon, Southwest DeKalb and Warner Robins.

CLASS AAA		CLASS A	
1. Lakeside-DeKalb (14-0-1) (10)	118.	1. Clinch Co. (14-0) (12)	120.
2. Kendrick (13-1-1) (6)	113.	2. Lincoln Co. (14-1)	108.
3. Worth Co. (12-2)	94.	3. Bowdon (12-2)	91.
4. Villa Rica (11-3)	72.	4. R.E. Lee (12-2)	84.
5. Marist (12-1)	52.	5. Oglethorpe Co. (10-3)	46.
6. Peach Co. (11-2)	49.	6. Charlton Co. (8-5)	42.
(tie) Thomasville (10-3)	49.	7. Wilkinson Co. (8-5)	43.
8. Elbert Co. (11-2)	42.	8. Treutlen (9-3)	29.
9. Burke Co. (10-1)	33.	9. Monticello (10-3)	23.
10. Camden Co. (9-3)	10.	10. Central-Talbotton (10-2)	22.

Also receiving votes: Carrollton, Dalton, Dublin, Stephens Co., Thomson, Westside, Woodward Academy.

Cats Host Rebels, Packers

VDT Times, Dec. 12, '91

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

Eddie Crocker's 2-0 wrestling Wildcats will put their undefeated record on the line today at 5 p.m. as the Valdosta High grapplers host the Colquitt County Packers and the Berrien High Rebels in a prep wrestling tri-meet at the VHS gym.

The Cats, who own victories over Cook High and Coffee High, will open up the tri-meet at 5 with a match against Berrien High.

"Berrien has a new coach who wrestled collegiately at Southwest Minnesota," stated Crocker during practice Wednesday afternoon. "It sounds like Berrien will be tough. I'm expecting a really good match with them."

Immediately following the VHS-Berrien confrontation, the Rebels will turn around and battle Colquitt County. The final match of the evening will pit the Cats against the Packers in a battle of Region 1-AAAA heavyweights.

"Colquitt County is still playing football, so I really don't know how much that will hurt their team," said Crocker. "I know if we were still playing football it would hurt our team. I'm not looking for easy matches. Our kids have to perform and do better than we did in our last matches."

See CATS, Page 4-B

Lady Cats Frustrate Fitzgerald

V. Times 12-20-91

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High's Esther Benjamin scorched the nets for a game-high 27 points as the fourth-seeded Lady Cats clawed their way to a 49-34 victory against the fifth-seeded Lady Canes of Fitzgerald High Thursday afternoon in the opening round of the 40th Annual Lowndes High Christmas Invitational Basketball Tournament at LHS.

The 2-3 Lady Cats advance into tonight's semi-final round to battle the top-seeded 4-0 Coffee High Lady Trojans at 7:30. The loss ousted the 1-6 Lady Canes from tournament play.

Fitzgerald's Marcie Moss tallied five points in the opening period as

Girls Games	
Valdosta 49, Fitzgerald 34	
FITZGERALD (34)	
Hall 4, F. Williams 14, Moss 11, C. Smith 3, Lightsey 2, Ingram, Bivens, Woodall, Anderson, Collins.	
VALDOSTA (49)	
N. Johnson 10, E. Benjamin 27, Dennis 4, Troutman 4, McGhin 4, Y. Benjamin, Fulch, Meli, Sauls, Melo, Sauls, Taylor, Vincent, Green, Batorunos.	
Fitzgerald	7 8 11- 34
Valdosta	5 18 15 11- 49
RECORDS: Valdosta 2-3, Fitzgerald 1-6.	
NEXT GAME: No. 4 Valdosta vs. No. 1 Coffee tonight at 7:30 in LHS Christmas Invitational Basketball Tournament.	

the Lady Canes grabbed a 7-5 lead after the first eight minutes of play.

In the second period, the Lady Cats, behind the scoring of Esther Benjamin, rallied back to grab a 13-11 lead with 5:13 left in the half. Fitzgerald pulled even at 13 as Faye Williams drilled a jumper from the left base line with 5:01 showing on the clock. As if VHS had finally gotten that wakeup call, the Lady Cats proceeded to go on a 10-2 run to

close out the first half with a 23-15 advantage. VHS' Natasha Johnson, who finished the night with 10 points, scored three points during the VHS run. Tracie Troutman also added three points to spark the Lady Cats' offensive surge.

In the third quarter, the Lady Cats got seven points from Benjamin and four from Johnson to build up a 38-23 lead heading into the final period. At one stretch in the third quarter, the VHS defense shut out Fitzgerald for 5:07.

Benjamin scored eight more points in the final period as Valdosta built its insurmountable lead to as many as 20 points at 49-29 with 2:08 left in the contest. Fitzgerald trimmed the final margin to 49-34 with a three-pointer by Moss.

Cats

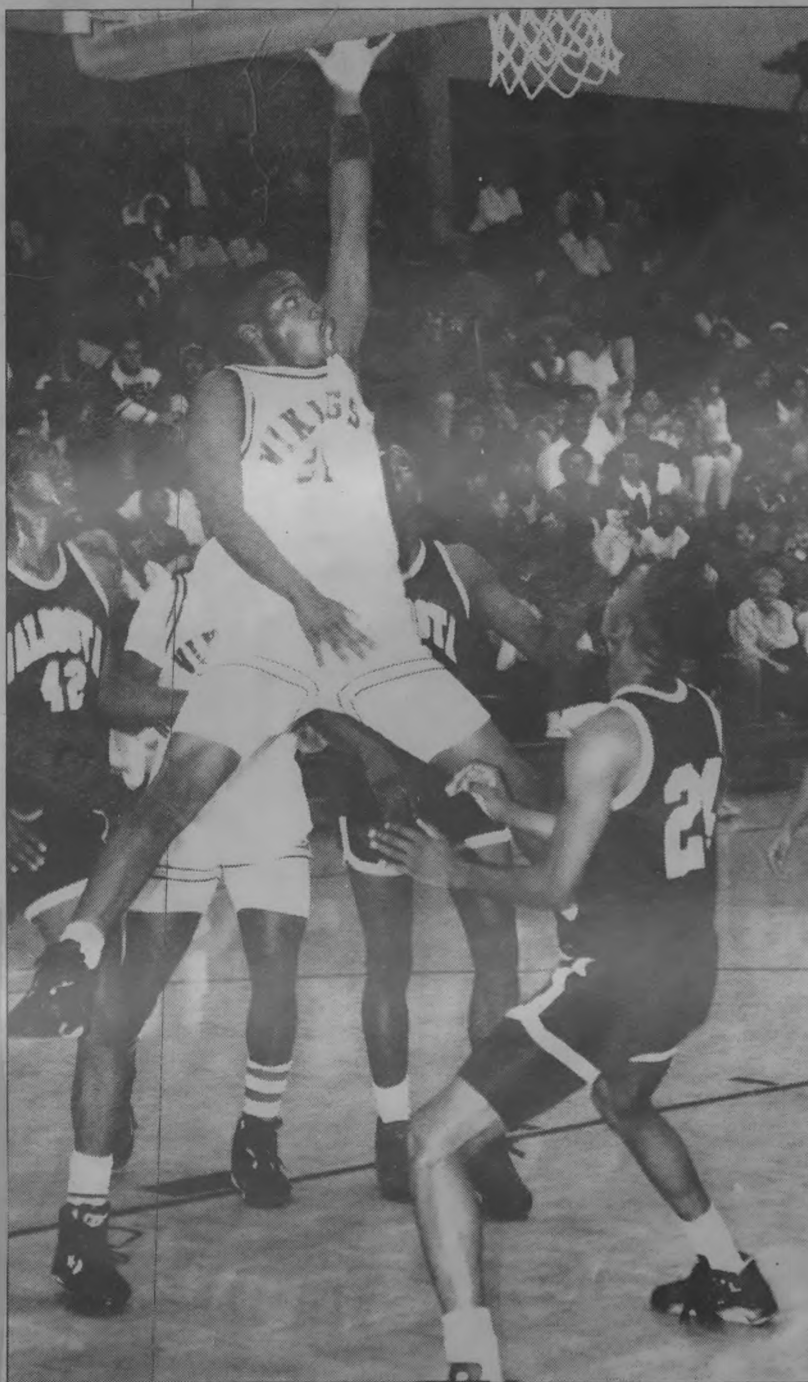
From Page 3-B

Competing for the undefeated Cats tonight will be David Jenkins (103 pounds), Don Marconi (112), Raymond Kassum (119), Steve Hubbard (125), Scott Jones (130), Eric Skinner (135), Keith McConnahead (140), Aldrich Graham (145), Ryan Coyne (152), Andrew Denmark (160), Tim White (171), Bobby Manghram (189) and Marcus Phillips (heavyweight).

Jim Morrell's Lowndes High Vikings will swing back into action on the mat Friday night in a tri-meet in Leesburg. The Vikings will compete against the Lee County High Trojans and the Albany High Indians.



Above, Lowndes High's Shanell Jenkins (left) battles Valdosta High's Natasha Johnson (30) for a loose ball as the Vikes edged the visiting Lady Cats, 49-46, in Region 1-AAAA girls basketball action at LHS Tuesday night. Right, Lowndes High's Antwan Graham goes up for two of his 14 points in front of Valdosta's Ernest Lowe (24) as the Vikings upended the Cats, 64-56, in Region 1-AAAA boys basketball action Tuesday night at LHS — Times Photos by Paul Leavy.



Lowndes Sweeps Valdosta

VDT 1-8-92 Wed.

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

Lowndes High had four players score in double-figures as the Vikings remained perfect in Region 1-AAAA basketball play with a 64-56 win against the Valdosta High Wildcats Tuesday night at LHS. Pete Ketterman and Joe Baker ignited the Vikes' offensive explosion with 17 points each, while Antwan Graham and Randall Godfrey added 14 and 12 points, respectively.

With the victory, Terry Wilkes' Vikings improve to 7-0 overall and 3-0 in Region 1-AAAA play. The loss evens John Miller's Cats at 4-4 overall and drops VHS to 1-2 in region competition.

In the first contest of the night, LHS' Shanell Jenkins and Vicky Williams combined for 38 points as the Vikes rallied past the stubborn Lady Cats of Valdosta High, 49-46, in Region 1-AAAA girls basketball action Tuesday night at LHS. Jenkins led all scorers with 20 points, while Williams added 18.

Larry Maffit's Vikes move to 3-3 with the victory and climb to 1-2 in region play. The loss drops Linda Blackwell's Lady Cats to 3-5 overall and 1-2 in the region.

Lowndes will hit the road Friday for a Region 1-AAAA basketball clash against the Bainbridge Bearkittens and Bearcats beginning at 7 p.m. Valdosta will also be away Friday night as the Lady Cats and Cats travel to Moultrie to battle the Lady Packers and Packers of Colquitt County High in a Region 1-AAAA shootout at 7.

The Cats opened up a 6-2 advantage against the undefeated Vikes in the first period. VHS' Ernest Lowe, who blistered the nets for a game-high 20 points, staked the Cats to a 3-0 lead by drilling a three-pointer from the right wing. With VHS clinging to a 4-2 lead, Lowe popped a jumper from the right baseline to give the Cats a 6-2 lead with 5:40 left in the first quarter.

All of a sudden, the Vikings began to show some life on the offensive end going on a 13-2 run to close out the period and take a 15-8 lead. Baker sparked the LHS run with a jumper from the left baseline and then a thunderous slam dunk to even things at 6-6. After Joey Benjamin gave VHS the lead at 8-6, the Vikings called on their long-range bombers.

Ketterman delivered with a three-
See LOWNDES, Page 10-A

Girls Games Lowndes 49, Valdosta 46

VALDOSTA (46)
Tracy Troulman 6, Dede Dennis 7, Esther Benjamin 16, Natasha Johnson 6, Yolanda Benjamin 3, Amanda McGhin 8, Lisa Vincent.

LOWNDES (49)
Shanell Jenkins 20, Vicky Williams 18, Stacy Brinkley 7, Demetria Montgomery 4, Delicia Carlo, Brandi Hobbs, Mentha McNorton, Chamanda Brooks.

Valdosta 30 10 13 13-46
Clinch 5 8 16 20-49

RECORDS: Valdosta 3-5, 1-2. Lowndes 3-3, 1-2.
NEXT GAMES: Valdosta at Colquitt Co., Friday, 7 p.m.; Lowndes at Bainbridge, Friday, 7 p.m.

Boys Game Lowndes 64, Valdosta 56

VALDOSTA (56)
Matt Baker 8, Andre James 15, Ernest Lowe 20, Aaron Lane 1, Steve Everson 1, Joey Benjamin 8, Tharon Lane 3.

LOWNDES (64)
Russell Barbee 4, Antwan Graham 14, Pete Ketterman 17, Joe Baker 17, Randall Godfrey 12, Marcus Edwards.

Valdosta 8 14 13 21-56
Clinch 15 14 15 20-64

RECORDS: Valdosta 4-4, 1-2. Lowndes 7-0, 3-0.
NEXT GAMES: Valdosta at Colquitt Co., Friday night; Lowndes at Bainbridge, Friday night.

Lowndes

From Page 9-A

pointer from the top of the key to give LHS the lead for good at 9-8 with 2:13 left in the quarter. Not to be outdone, Graham promptly cashed in with a trifecta of his own from the left corner to make the score 12-8. Graham added a layup and Godfrey a free throw to make the score 15-8.

Late in the second period, the Vikes up their lead to 10 points at 26-16 as Ketterman once again connected from beyond three-pointland with 2:46 left in the half. Andre James, who tallied 15 points for the Cats, scored four points to ignite an 8-3 VHS run to close out the half as the Cats pulled to within 29-22 at intermission.

Miller's Cats came out of the lock-

erroom on fire in the third period. Benjamin hit a jumper from the foul line and James put back an offensive rebound to bring the Cats within three at 29-26. That was the start of a 10-4 VHS run that brought Valdosta within one at 33-32 following three-pointers by Matt Baker and Lowe.

LHS answered right back with a 10-0 run of its own to go up 43-32 with just 30 ticks left in the third quarter. Valdosta's Lowe hit another three-pointer and LHS' Godfrey made one of two from the line as the Vikings went into the final 8 minutes of play leading 44-35.

In the final quarter, the Cats began to chip away at the LHS lead. Lowe tallied 7 points and Matt Baker scored 5 more as Valdosta outscored Lowndes 19-11 over the first 6:01 of

the fourth quarter to pull within one at 55-54 on a three-pointer by Lowe from the right wing with 1:59 left. However that would be as close as the Cats would come. Russell Barbee, Ketterman and Godfrey combined to converted on five of six free throws down the stretch to give the Vikes a 60-54 lead with 59 seconds left. Barbee and Joe Baker added a couple of layups in the waning seconds, while VHS' James made a layup with 12 ticks left to make the final 64-56.

"We played hard," stated Valdosta High's Miller following the game. "We were coming back in the second half, but we just couldn't get that break to put us over the hump. Lowndes isn't 7-0 by a miracle. They are a good team."

"This was a game of spurts," said

Lowndes High's Wilkes. "We looked great in spurts and not so good in others. We would get up by 8 or 10 and here they would come. I never felt comfortable at any point during the game, simply because this is Valdosta and Lowndes."

In the girls contest, the Lady Cats jumped on the Vikettes early. Valdosta's Esther Benjamin scored 12 of her 16 points in the first half as the Lady Cats took a 20-13 lead at intermission. VHS connected on 10 of 22 shots from the field in the first half, while the Vikettes were as cold as ice, hitting only 5 of 26 shots in the opening half.

Maffit's Vikettes came out of the lockerroom in the third period and settled into their game.

"We only had six rebounds at the half," stated Maffit following the

music to the tune of 4 more as the Vikettes opened the fourth period with a 12-4 run to capture the lead at 41-37 with 4:26 left. VHS' Dennis hit both ends of a one-and-one opportunity to pull the Lady Cats within two at 41-39. Then disaster struck for VHS as Esther Benjamin was whistled for her fifth and final foul with 3:50 left in the contest. The Vikettes managed to hold off a late VHS charge to post a 49-46 win.

"I think we grew up a little tonight," added Maffit. "It is a good win for us. We showed some character by responding to the challenge."

"Lowndes is the quickest team that I've seen this year," stated VHS' Blackwell. "They just would not let us get into our offense."

VHS-LHS Take Rivalry To The Hardwood

VOT Tues Jan 7, 1992

By MIKE CRUBB
Times Sports Editor

Get popcorn and your candy-coated snacks. This is going to be a real ole-fashioned barn-burner as Valdosta High and Lowndes High square off on the hardwood at LHS.

Linda Blackwell's 3-4 Lady Cats will square off with Larry Maffit's 2-3 Vikettes at 6 p.m. to

The Vikings and the Cats have already done battle on the hardwood once this season. The bitter rivals faced off in the second round of the 40th Annual Lowndes High Christmas Invitational Basketball Tournament in December.

The top-seeded Vikes eliminated the Cats from the tournament by a 65-53 count. Joe Baker spearheaded the LHS effort with a team-high 24 points and 13 rebounds. Antwan Graham

aided the scoring efforts with 13 points, while Pete Ketterman added 10.

Valdosta High's Ernest Lowe led all scorers with 25 points in the first confrontation.

This will be the first meeting of the year between the Lady Cats and Vikettes. VHS earned its first region win with a 27-26 victory against Bainbridge High Bearkittens. The Vikettes are coming off of a 68-41 win against Cook.

College Beat

MM. 1-13-92
VDT

Academy Dean's List:

Timothy Nathan Tart Jr. was on the dean's list for fall semester at the United States Air Force Academy.



TART

He is a 1991 Valdosta High School honor graduate and is the son of Starr and Tim Tart of Valdosta. He was in the top 7 percent of his graduat-

ing class and was a member of the Wildcat football team.

He is on the United States Air Force intramural squadron boxing team.

Youth Briefing

Young Leaders: Tiffany

Roan of Valdosta has been selected to attend The National Young Leaders Conference Jan. 21-26 in Washington, D.C. Having demonstrated academic achievement, leadership and citizenship, Tiffany will be among 350 outstanding high school students from across the nation at the conference sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council.



ROAN

The theme of the National Young Leaders Conference is "The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today." Throughout the six-day conference, Tiffany will meet with key leaders and newsmakers from the three branches of government, the media and the diplomatic corps.

Tiffany will meet with Rep. Charles F. Hatcher, Sen. Wyche Fowler and Sen. Sam Nunn, or designated members of their staffs to discuss important issues of personal concern to Tiffany. Culminating the National Young Leaders Conference will be a four-hour Mock Congress on Gun Control during which scholars assume the roles of United States representatives by debating, lobbying and voting on proposed handgun legislation.

Who's Who: Scott Jones,

Valdosta High School senior, was named to *Who's Who Among American High School Students 1990-91*. Scott is a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Key Club, Varsity Club, treasurer of Senior Class and TAC.



JONES

Scott ran on the cross country team, track team and is on the varsity wrestling team. Year to date, Scott has placed second in the 130 weight group at the West Laurins and Hornet Classic tournaments. He has been on the honor roll and plans to study criminal justice. Outside of school activities, Scott participated in the Georgia State Games this year and placed third in the state in the 440. Scott is the son of George Jones and Linda Jones.

VALDOSTA 39, TIFT COUNTY 36 (9TH GRADE BOYS): Alton McBurrough blisters the nets for 10 points and T.K. Kelsie added 9 as the Valdosta High Wildcats clipped the Tift County High Blue Devils, 39-36, in ninth-grade boys basketball action Thursday afternoon at VHS.

The 4-1 Cats will play today at home against Brooks County. Tip-off is slated for 4:30 p.m.



All-Area

From Page 1-C

Player of the Year. Both are two of the most highly recruited players in the nation.

But Daniels racked up numbers with which no one can argue. The 6-2, 225-pounder with 4.65 speed racked up 108 solo and 174 total tackles. He also caused four fumbles and had four quarterback sacks.

Choosing the Offensive Player of the Year may have been the toughest task of all. There were several strong candidates in the area — all seniors except one. And it is that one, junior quarterback Steve Everson of Valdosta, who receives this year's honor.

Everson was almost as dangerous running the ball as he was throwing it. He rushed 111 times for 451 yards during the regular season — an average of 4.1 yards per carry including sacks.

It was from the pocket, though, that Everson did the most damage. He passed for 1153 yards in 1991. But it was his composure that received the most praise. He completed 57 percent of his passes — outstanding for a junior. He also threw just five interceptions.

Valdosta High led the way on the All-Area team by placing nine players on the first team — six of which are on the first team offense. Lowndes High placed seven players on the first team including five on defense and one on special teams. Clinch County was third with four first-string honorees.

Former Georgia coach Vince Dooley would love this year's first-team offense, the strength of which would be the running game. With three outstanding running backs and a versatile quarterback in Everson, it is doubtful that this offense would ever take to the air.

But if it ever did, it would be an all Valdosta High passing attack with the Cats' Brice Hunter at split end and Shadrick Green at tight end. Hunter was the big play receiver for the Wildcats with 38 catches for 630 yards — an average of 16.6 yards per catch with six touchdowns.

Green did not rack up the numbers Hunter did, but he was the Cats' go-to man in the clutch. And he always came through for the Cats.

With the three running backs on this year's offensive team, though, neither Hunter or Green would probably be given the chance to rack up big numbers. Madison's Odell Livingston, Hamilton County's Ira Johnson, and Clinch County's Donnell Grady are this season's top running backs. The three combined for 44 touchdowns and well over 3000 yards.

Livingston racked up 1492 yards and scored 20 touchdowns for Madison's 7-4 Cowboys. Grady was a consistent performer for the Clinch County Panthers, rushing 174 times for 900 yards and 12 touchdowns. Best known for his ability to break the long-gainer, Hamilton's Johnson gained over 933 yards and also scored 12 times.

Valdosta placed two Cats on the offensive line, Tim O'Brien and Andy Sheffield. The 245-pound O'Brien and the 230-pound Sheffield are also members of the 1991 All-Region 1-A team. Clinch's Stephen Palmer, a 6-3, 250-pound junior, was

the Panther's strongest offensive lineman. Lowndes' Brandon Wallace, a 6-0, 212-pound center, was the Vikings' highest-grading lineman. Berrien High junior offensive tackle Wayne Watson graded at 92 percent for the Rebels.

Dow Drury was the obvious choice for the first-team place-kicker. Drury, who is the second all-time leading scorer in Valdosta history and a four-time All-Region selection, was a perfect 33-for-33 on extra point attempts. He also connected on 9-of-12 field goal attempts.

There is no doubting the strength of this defense — the linebacking corps. Included in the group is the nation's Defensive Player of the Year and the Region 1-AAAA Defensive Player of the Year. All three linebackers on the 1991 squad were All-State selections.

The center of the corps is the Cats' Daniels with his 174 total tackles and four sacks. The Vikings' Godfrey, also one of the nation's first-team linebackers, put up equally impressive numbers with 116 tackles, four fumble recoveries, one interception and two blocked kicks. The third member of the corps is the Panthers' Anthony McNeil, who compiled 143 tackles in 1991.

Lowndes placed two Vikings on the defensive line — Waymon Wright and Dameion Shiver. A three-year starter on the line for Lowndes,

Shiver had eight quarterback sacks, three fumble recoveries and 57 tackles for the Vikes. A first-team All-Region selection, Wright compiled six sacks and had 13 tackles for losses. His 68 tackles were second on the team behind Godfrey.

Valdosta High placed one Wildcat on the line — Franklin Wiseman. Wiseman made the 1991 All-Region team as a junior. A 6-3, 255-pounder from Clinch County, Darrell Wetherington racked up 97 tackles to earn the fourth and final spot on the defensive line.

Lowndes and Valdosta each had a lock to make All-Area first team in the defensive backfield. The Wildcats' Trampis Wrice had six interceptions, while Dana Smith had five interceptions (three of which he returned for touchdowns), two blocked punts and 51 tackles.

Madison's Orient Livingston also had five interceptions and returned three for touchdowns. Hamilton's Jo Jo Williams had five interceptions and 51 tackles.

Lowndes' Matt Futch is the clear-cut choice for first-team punter. Futch led the area with an average of 40.8 yards per punt. Lowndes also placed the special teams player on the first team — Scott Regan. Regan was the deep snapper for the Vikings and had no bad snaps during the season.

Daily Times All-Area Football Team

COACH OF THE YEAR

Donald Tison, Clinch Co.

OFF. PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Steve Everson, Valdosta

OFFENSE

QB Steve Everson, Valdosta
 RB Donell Grady, Clinch
 RB Odell Livingston, Madison
 RB Ira Johnson, Hamilton
 WR Brice Hunter, Valdosta
 TE Shadrick Green, Valdosta
 OL Tim O'Brien, Valdosta
 OL Andy Sheffield, Valdosta
 OL Brandon Wallace, Lowndes
 OL Stephen Palmer, Clinch
 OL Wayne Watson, Berrien
 PK Dow Drury, Valdosta
 ST Scott Regan, Lowndes

SECOND TEAM

QB Terry Stewart, Brooks
 RB Alfred Barnes, Valdosta
 RB Billy Poole, Lowndes
 RB Anthony McNeil, Clinch
 WR Robert McKinnon, Brooks
 TE Telly Hartman, Berrien
 OL Kenny Strickland, Lowndes
 OL Travis Dees, Hamilton
 OL Chad Peterson, Brooks
 OL Steve Washington, Madison
 OL Kevin Morrison, Clinch
 PK Glynn Jones, Lowndes
 ST Kevin Morrison, Clinch

HONORABLE MENTION

OFFENSE: Fred Edmonds, Clinch; Lorenzo Porter, Clinch; Travis Rivers, Clinch; Jermaine Morgan, Hamilton; Derek Williams, Hamilton; Eric Claridy, Hamilton; Andre Walls, Hamilton; Brad Ragans, Madison; Travis Boone, Berrien; Chris Walker, Berrien; Tramaine Adkins, Berrien; Jason Bartrum, Lowndes; Joe Herring, Westbrook; Joe Vallotton, Valwood; Chris LaMontange, Valwood; Jay Bowling, Valdosta; Albert Edmonds, Valdosta.

DEF. PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Dexter Daniels, Valdosta

DEFENSE

DL Franklin Wiseman, Valdosta
 DL Waymon Wright, Lowndes
 DL Darrell Wetherington, Clinch
 DL Dameion Shiver, Lowndes
 LB Dexter Daniels, Valdosta
 LB Randall Godfrey, Lowndes
 LB Anthony McNeil, Clinch
 DB Trampis Wrice, Valdosta
 DB Dana Smith, Lowndes
 DB Orient Livingston, Madison
 DB Jo Jo Williams, Hamilton
 P Matt Futch, Lowndes

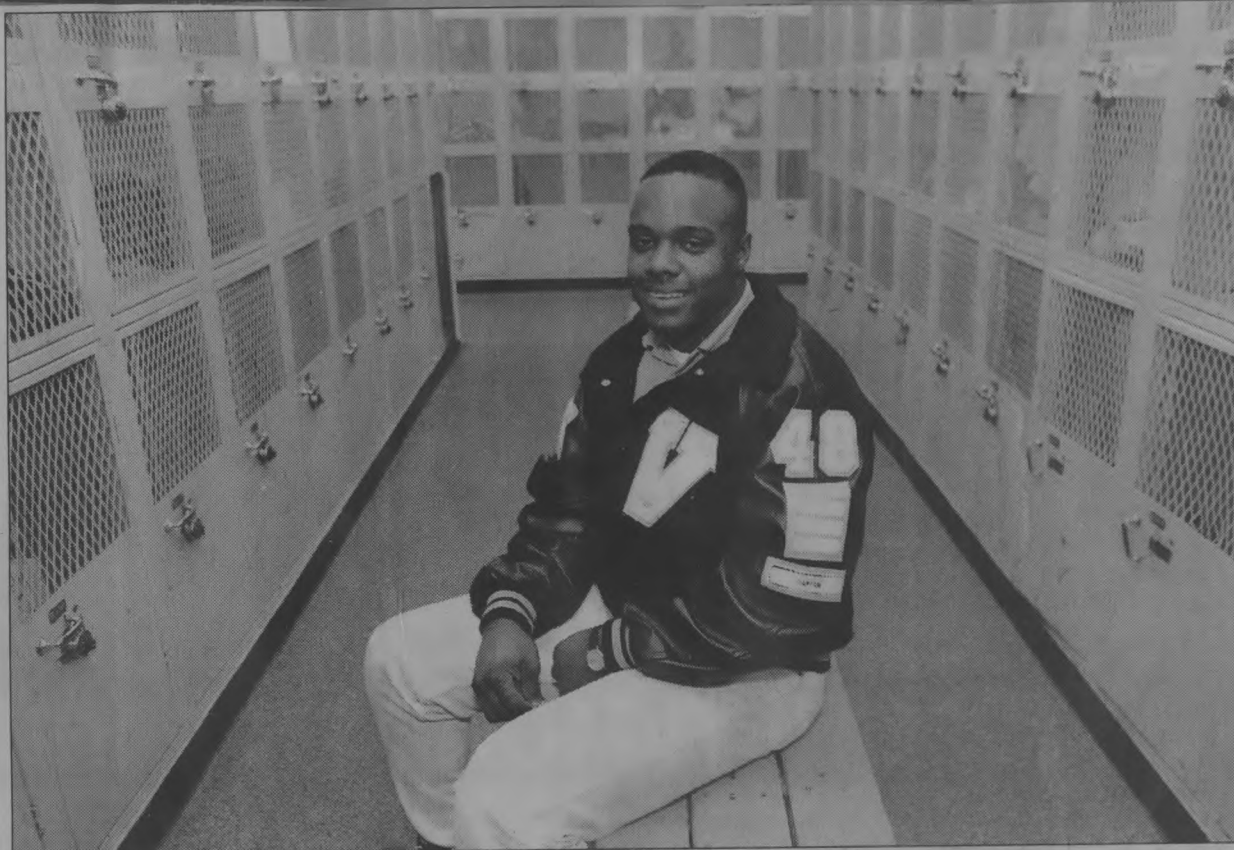
SECOND TEAM

DL David Milton, Madison
 DL Reggie Vinson, Berrien
 DL Tim McClain, Valdosta
 DL Anthony Hargett, Lowndes
 LB Willie Paul Daniels, Hamilton
 LB Shanamus Cummings, Madison
 LB Garrick Burton, Berrien
 DB John Copeland, Valdosta
 DB Jason Jelks, Valdosta
 DB Stephan McKnight, Clinch
 DB Tony Carter, Lowndes
 P Russ Butler, Westbrook

HONORABLE MENTION

DEFENSE: Peter Failor, Valdosta; Marcus Williams, Valdosta; Derek Jenkins, Brooks; Chad Scruggs, Westbrook; Edward Jackson, Berrien; Robert White, Berrien; Tim Richardson, Clinch; Jason Booth, Clinch; Jason Brown, Hamilton; Kevin Klepper, Hamilton; Cornelius Daniels, Hamilton; Gordon Brantley, Hamilton; McArthur Zanders, Hamilton.

Sports



Valdosta High senior linebacker Dexter Daniels relaxes in the locker room at Valdosta High School. Daniels is one of the most highly recruited players in the nation and was named The USA Today's Defensive Player of the Year — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

A Defensive Wrecking Machine

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

Whoever said actions speak louder than words must have had Valdosta High Wildcats linebacker Dexter Daniels in mind. This 6-2, 225 pound defensive wrecking machine's exploits on the football field have not only caught the eye of national media, but also many of the nation's top colleges.

Daniels is one of the most heavily recruited prep football players in the state and with good reason. During his four-year career at Valdosta High, the nation's winning prep football team (688-137-33), the Cats compiled a 50-3-1 record, including two Class AAAA state football championships (1989, 1990).

He has narrowed his list of colleges to five — Florida, Florida State, Tennessee, Nebraska and Georgia. Daniels has already visited Nebraska and Florida State. He leaves today for Knoxville, Tenn., and the University of Tennessee.

Daniels will then follow that up with a trip to Super Bowl XXVI to watch the Buffalo Bills and the Washington Redskins battle at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 26. Daniels earned that trip after he was selected as *The USA Today's* Defensive Player of the Year. He will be the guest of the NFL. Daniels will also appear on TV the night before the game in a Super Bowl Special hosted by Burt Reynolds. Daniels will then visit the University of Georgia and the University of Florida.

Dexter Daniels' 1991 Gridiron Honors
USA Today Defensive Player of the Year
USA Today First Team All-American
Super Prep All-American
Tom Lemming's All-American
Blue Chip All-American
Forrest Davis Southern Recruiting Annual & Pepsi 2nd Team All South
Forrest Davis Southern Recruiting Annual Georgia Sweet 16
GSWA All-Classification All-State Team (linebacker)
Atlanta Constitution Class AAAA All-State (linebacker)
First Team All-Region 1-AAAA (linebacker)
Valdosta Daily Times All-Area Defensive Player of the Year
Florida Times Union Super 24
Florida Times Union Super 11
WCTV Super 6
Member Georgia All-Stars (Georgia-Florida All-Star Game)

"I'm looking for a winning football program with a good educational background," stated Daniels. "Right now, I'm hoping to major in business once I decide upon a school."

As a senior, Daniels registered 174 tackles — 108 solo and 66 assists — as the Cats posted an 11-1 mark, losing to eventual state and nation champion LaGrange High Grangers, 6-0, in the Class AAAA state quarterfinals. He also caused 4 fumbles and recovered two. Daniels also has the ability to rush the passer as evidenced by his four quarterback sacks.

VHS also captured its sixth consecutive Region 1-AAAA football title this past season.

If all of that wasn't impressive enough, Daniels was a three-year starter for the Cats and a four-year letterman. As a sophomore he started at defensive end and moved to starting linebacker as a junior and senior. Daniels is one of only 12

freshmen to letter during VHS head football coach Nick Hyder's 18-year reign at Valdosta High.

Needless to say, the honors have been pouring in and rightfully so. It all started before the season began as Daniels was elected by his teammates as the overall team captain for the 1991 Cats.

"Being elected team captain, by his teammates, is one of the highest honors a player can receive at Valdosta High," stated Hyder Thursday afternoon. "As the years go on, all of the honors that Dexter receives will be nice, but being elected team captain will always stand out. That honor is given by the people that see him every day."

"I don't ever remember Dexter missing a single practice or school. That's important. This young man is a true student-athlete. He has close to a 3.0 Grade Point Average in the See DANIELS, Page 7-A

Daniels

From Page 6-A

classroom and has already qualified on his SAT test. Dexter is a highly coachable youngster in a complex defensive system. One of the things that I like about Dexter is that he doesn't congratulate himself when he does well. The reward to Dexter is doing the job itself. He just lines up and tackles and then gets ready for the next play."

As far as individual honors and awards go, Daniels rates second to none. Here is a list of some of the accolades that have come his way:

USA Today Defensive Player of the Year, USA Today first team All-American linebacker, Georgia Sports Writ-

ers Association's All-Classification All-State Linebacker, Atlanta Constitution Class AAAA All-State Linebacker, Super Prep All-American, Tom Lemming's All-American, Blue Chip All-American, Forrest Davis Southern Recruiting Annual & Pepsi second team All-South, first team All-Region 1-AAAA Linebacker, Valdosta Daily Times All-Area Defensive Player of the Year, WCTV Super 6, Florida Times Union Super 24 and Florida Times Union Super 11.

Daniels also participates in the VHS track program, where he throws the shot put and discus. Last season, Daniels placed second in the region in the shot put and sixth in the state. He also works hard in the weight room. Daniels bench presses 380 pounds, power cleans 315 and does 900 pounds on the hip sled. He recorded a record 256 points in Valdosta High's highly touted Super Cat Physical Fitness Test, which includes weight training, agility, quickness and endurance.

"Dexter is a fine young man," stated VHS defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "He is good in the classroom and good on the football field. He is everything you would want in a player — height, speed, aggressive, mean and strong. Whatever college gets him will get a fine young man. He deserves what he gets."

Area Prep Basketball



Above, Valdosta High Wildcats' linebacker Dexter Daniels (48) and quarterback Steve Everson (1) were selected as the Valdosta Daily Times All-Area Defensive and Offensive Player of the Year.

■**VALDOSTA 61, CLINCH 39 (JV BOYS):** Chad Brooks scored 16 points to ignite the Valdosta High Wildcats to a 61-39 win against the Clinch County High Panthers in junior varsity boys basketball action Saturday at VHS.

The 6-1 Cats also got 14 points from Ivan Iverson and 12 points from Carlos Jones.

■**CLINCH COUNTY 47, VALDOSTA 43 (OT) (GIRLS):** Tracy Malone scored 15 points and Rosie Tomlinson added 13 as the visiting Clinch County High Pantherettes nipped the Lady Cats of Valdosta High 47-43 in overtime in girls prep basketball action Saturday night at VHS.

Esther Benjamin paced Valdosta with 23 points, while Amanda McGhin added 8 points.

Valdosta, 3-7, travels to Bainbridge Friday at 7, while Clinch County is at home Friday night against Atkinson County High at 7.

Daily Times Names All-Area Team

By **CHRIS JOHNSON**
Times Sports Writer

Finding quality players to place on the All-Area team this year was an easy task. Success ran rampant in *The Valdosta Daily Times*' area. The difficult task this year was selecting the best of the best from the 1991 *Valdosta Daily Times* All-Area team.

To select the cream of the crop, *The Times* looked to the champions — Class A state champion Clinch County and Region 1-AAAA champion Valdosta.

There were several candidates for Coach of the Year. In his first season at the helm of the Rebels, Brent Miller led Berrien High to an 8-5 record and a first-ever state playoff berth. Jeff Caldwell led a group of over-achievers at Brooks County to

another successful season. Two coaches completed three-year rebuilding jobs — Jim Anderson and Rick Tomberlin.

Anderson led the Hamilton County Trojans to a 10-1 record in 1991 — the Trojans' first winning season since 1986. And Tomberlin led the Lowndes High Vikings to a 7-3 record and a play away from the playoffs.

But Don Tison of Clinch County was the only area coach to lead his team to a state title and a perfect season. For leading his team to the top of the heap, Tison receives the Coach of the Year honors.

The Panthers cruised through the 1991 season dominating quality opponents. The Panthers then crushed Calhoun County and Wilkinson County in the first two rounds of the playoffs before advancing to the state

title game where they controlled the contest and dethroned the two-time defending state champion Lincoln County Red Devils to win their second Class A title in four years.

The Panthers were not tricky or fancy in 1991. But Clinch County's players knew their fundamentals. The Panthers won with excellent blocking, tackling and running.

The offensive and defensive players of the year came from the 11-1 Valdosta Wildcats. Dexter Daniels, *The USA Today's* Defensive Player of the Year, is also honored as the All-Area Defensive Player of the Year. His strongest competition came from crosstown rival Randall Godfrey of Lowndes High, who was named the Region 1-AAAA Defensive Player of the Year and *Pigskin Sports'* See All-Area, Page 3-C

Cats '92 Football Schedule Shaping Up

By **MIKE GRUBB**
Times Sports Editor

If last year's football schedule seemed tough, then you might not even want to look at the Valdosta High Wildcats' 1992 tentative football schedule. Gone from last season are McEachern, Wayne County, Jess Lanier (Ala.) and Robert E. Lee (Ala.). They have been replaced with the likes of Pennsylvania prep power Glen Mills High, Florida's Columbia County High out of Lake City, Richmond Academy of Augusta and Athens' Cedar Shoals.

However, it must be noted that these are tentative games. They have been verbally agreed to, but contracts have yet to be sign.

Nick Hyder's Cats will play 6 games at Cleveland Field and 4 on the road during the 1992 gridiron wars.

Valdosta will open up the season Sept. 4 at Cleveland Field against the Richmond Academy Musketeers of Augusta. The Cats hold a 4-2 advantage in the series with this Region 4-AAA school. However, the Musketeers defeated the Cats, 18-14, in the last game between these two teams. That occurred in 1970 as Richmond Academy was the last team to defeat a Wright Bazemore-coached Valdosta High squad.

The Cats will remain at home Sept. 11 as the Luther Welsh-coached Camden County High Wildcats of St. Mary's invade Cleveland Field. VHS holds a 3-0-1 series edge against Camden County, including a 27-7 win in 1991 at Cleveland Field. After playing last season in Region 2-AAA, Camden County is moving up into the Class AAAA ranks for 1992.

On Saturday, Sept. 19, the Cedar Shoals High Jaguars will prowl into legendary Cleveland Field to play the

Tentative 1992 VHS Football Schedule

Sept. 4	Richmond Academy
Sept. 11	Camden County
Sept. 19	Cedar Shoals
Sept. 25	at Columbia Co., Fla.
Oct. 2	Glen Mills, Pa.
Oct. 9	Open
Oct. 16	at Bainbridge*
Oct. 23	at Colquitt Co.*
Oct. 30	at Tift Co.*
Nov. 6	Coffee*
Nov. 13	Lowndes*
* -denote Region 1-AAAA games	

Cats. This will be the first meeting ever between this 8-AAAA team and the Cats.

VHS travels down I-75 Sept. 25 to Lake City, Fla. and a date with Columbia County High. Valdosta High

and then-Lake City High have done battle 7 different times with the Cats holding a 4-2-1 lead in the series. The last time these two teams met was in 1921 with Lake City coming out on top, 7-0.

"We have been working with Columbia County since 1985 to get them on our schedule," stated Hyder Wednesday morning. "This should be a really big game."

Week No. 5 will bring Glen Mills High of Concordville, Pa. to the Azalea City on Oct. 2 to meet the Cats at Cleveland Field. Last season, Glen Mills High posted a perfect 10-0 mark.

"Glen Mills High called us wanting to play," added Hyder. "They have a young man named Ron Nealy, who was on the USA Today All-American team. The University of Georgia was trying to recruit him and Frank Orgel of Georgia was up there and

mentioned that we were looking for some games and they called us."

After an open date Oct. 9, the Cats will begin their Region 1-AAAA schedule and a three-game road trip. VHS will travel to Bainbridge on Oct. 16 to battle the Bearcats in the Region 1-AAAA opener. On Oct. 23, the Cats will prowl into Moultrie to battle the Colquitt County High Packers at Mack Tharpe Stadium. Oct. 30 has Valdosta on the road again. This time the destination is the Devils' Den in Tifton and a date with the Tift County High Blue Devils.

VHS will close out the 1992 regular season with two home games. On Nov. 6, Bonwell Royal's Coffee High Trojans march into Cleveland Field for a Region 1-AAAA clash. Finally on Nov. 13, it will be time for the 'The Winnersville Classic' as the Lowndes High Vikings travel to Cleveland Field.

Expect Tough Game

Saturday night in Jasper, Fla. The Wildcats, though, were humbled by an excellent Hamilton County Trojans squad 69-54.

Berrien's girls defeated Lanier County Saturday 74-35, and the Rebels lost 66-59.

■VALDOSTA AT BERRIEN: While crosstown rival Lowndes High has been experiencing good fortune on the basketball court recently, both Valdosta High basketball teams are playing below the .500 mark with the Lady Wildcats struggling at 4-8 overall and the Wildcats just below .500 at 5-7.

If either Valdosta team is to bring home a win tonight, it knows it won't come without a struggle. The Valdosta and Berrien boys have split two close games this season with the Rebels winning at Valdosta and Valdosta winning in the Lowndes Christmas Tournament. The Berrien and Valdosta girls have played once this season with the Rebellettes coming out on top with a double-overtime win at Valdosta.

The Lady Wildcats are fresh off a 54-49 road win over Hamilton County

■HYDER SPEAKS TO CHIEFTAINS: Three former head coaches helped West Rome High School say goodbye to its football program, which won four straight state championships in the 1980s.

"In 10 or 20 years from now, you all can make the statement that 'Yes, I was a member of that last West Rome team,'" former coach Nick Hyder told the 1991 Chieftains at a banquet Monday night.

West Rome is being consolidated with cross-city rival East Rome next fall to form Rome High School.

Hyder, now head coach at Valdosta High, joined former coaches Paul Kennedy and Charles Winslette for the farewell banquet. Winslette, now head coach at Greene-Taliaferro, led West Rome to the last of its four straight Class AA championships in 1985.

Sam Spewell, West Rome's coach for the last three years, noted that his non-graduating players will become Rome Wolves next year.

"And I want you to be the best danged Wolves you can be," he said.

Local Folks

People File

VDT 1-21-92



Meet...

■NAME:
Sophia Owens
■RESIDENCE:
Valdosta
■OCCUPATION:
Senior at Valdosta High School
■HOBBIES:
Writing, singing
■QUOTE OF THE DAY:
"Have faith, work hard, and God will take care of the rest."

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

8-A Wednesday, January 22, 1992

Crocker's Cats Pin Trojans, 63-8

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

Eddie Crocker's wrestling Valdosta High Wildcats improved to 10-3 on the year by capturing first place in a tri-wrestling meet with the Dougherty High Trojans and the West Laurens High Raiders Tuesday night at VHS. Dougherty grabbed second place honors, while the Raiders came in third.

West Laurens forfeited its matches to Valdosta High and Dougherty High.

In the only match that actually took place, the Cats recorded 7 pins en route to a 63-8 devastation of the visiting Class AAA Trojans. In fact, no Valdosta High wrestler was pinned during the match as the Cats won 11 of the 13 individual matches.

"I'm surprised that we won so convincingly," stated Crocker, whose Cats will host the Lowndes High Vikings Friday night at 7. "I'm extremely pleased with the way that our guys performed. I really appreciate the support of the parents and the community."

VHS' Adam Van Nus got the Cats on the winning trail against Marlon Jackson in a battle of 103 pounders. Van Nus led 2-0 after one period and 6-4 heading into the final 2 minutes. With Van Nus in front by a 10-6 score in the third and final period, DHS' Jackson was disqualified for using an illegal hold for the fourth time in the match giving Van Nus the win and the Cats a 6-0 lead.

Valdosta High stretched its lead to 10-0 after Don Marconi won a 15-6 decision against Dougherty's Alfred Davis in the 112 pound class. Marconi was in control throughout, leading 6-2 at the end of the first period and 11-4 heading into the third and final period.

The first pin of the night went to VHS' Raymond Kassum in the 118 pound division. Facing Lymoski Davis, Kassum recorded the pin at the 1:06 mark of the opening period as VHS took control, 16-0.

Scott Jones, VHS' participant in the 125 pound class, won via a forfeit to stretch VHS' lead to 22-0.

In a battle of 130 pounders, Valdosta's Steve Hubbard disposed of Dougherty's Calvin

Wright with a pin just 52 seconds into the second period. Hubbard was in charge at 9-2 when the pin occurred. The Cats had amassed a 28-0 advantage.

Not to be outdone, VHS' Eric Skinner pinned DHS' Sheridan Hardwick 1:32 into the second period to increased Valdosta's lead to 34-0. Skinner was leading 5-2 when he registered the pin in the 135 pound weight class.

Coming out the chute on fire, VHS' Keith McConnahead only took 40 seconds to pin Dougherty's Gene Johnson in the 140 pound class. Valdosta High was now in command, 40-0.

The visiting Trojans recorded their first of two wins in the 145 pound weight class as Eldred Eady decisioned VHS' Mark Kassum, 21-5. Dougherty had managed to finally get on the scoreboard, trailing 40-5.

In a battle of 152 pounders, Dougherty's Linfred Davis scored 2 points with just 5 seconds left in the match to edge Valdosta High's Ryan Coyne, 6-4. That would be the last points Crocker's Cats would allow the Trojans to register the rest of the way, 40-8.

With just 5 seconds remaining in the opening period, VHS' Andrew Denmark put DHS' Willie Smith's shoulders to the mat for a pin. Denmark was leading 5-0 when he recorded the pin in this matchup of 160 pounders. The Cats had increased their lead to 46-8 with three matches left on the night.

VHS' Donald 'Hit Man' Hitson gave DHS' Carlos Johnson an example of just why he is called the 'Hit Man'. Just 25 seconds into this matchup of 171 pounders, Hitson pinned Johnson to stretch VHS' lead to 52-8.

In the 189 pound class, VHS' Bobby Mangham registered a pin against Dougherty's Terrance Roberts just 1:39 into the first period. The Cats had control at 58-8 with just the heavyweight division remaining.

Valdosta High's Brahm Kellerman took command early against DHS' Matt Hardwick, building up a huge 12-2 lead after one period. Kellerman stretched the lead to 14-3 after two periods and had an 18-3 advantage when the match was called in the third period. Kellerman's victory gave the Cats a huge 63-8 win.

Lowndes Takes Two From VHS

VDT 1-29-92
By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

Lowndes High swept a pair of games from Valdosta High Tuesday night on the Valdosta Wildcats' home floor. The Vikettes took a 39-35 decision over the Lady Wildcats without the services of senior Vicky Williams, who sat on the bench for disciplinary reasons, and the Vikings downed the Cats 55-43.

The Vikettes improve to 8-5 overall and 4-3 in Region 1-AAAA, and the Vikings improve to 12-2 and 5-2. Valdosta's girls fall to 4-11, 1-5, and Valdosta's boys fall to 5-10 and 2-5.

The boys contest was a tight game until the Vikings finally got a grip on the game late in the fourth quarter.

The Cats took a 13-11 lead in the fourth quarter on a driving layup by Andre James to cap a 6-0 run. Lowndes then played for the last shot of the first quarter, and Antwan Graham came through for the Vikings with a jumper at the buzzer to tie the game at 13-13 at the end of one period of play. That set the tone for the game.

Lowndes retook the lead with a Russell Barbee three-pointer, and he connected on another at the 6:16 mark of the second to increase the Vikings' lead to 19-15.

Girls Game
Lowndes 39, VHS 35
LOWNDES (39)
Jenkins 12, McNorton 4, Hobbs 2, Brooks 11, Brinkley 2, Cothran 6
VALDOSTA (35)
E. Benjamin 17, Troulman 3, Dennis 4, Johnson 6, McGhin 3, Y. Benjamin 2
Lowndes 6 10 11 12-39
Valdosta 7 8 3 17-35
RECORDS: Lowndes 8-5, Valdosta 4-11.
NEXT GAMES: Tiff County at Valdosta (Fri.), Bainbridge at Valdosta (Fri).

Boys Game
Lowndes 55, VHS 43
LOWNDES (55)
Barbee 11, Graham 13, Ketterman 10, Baker 13, Godfrey 8.
VALDOSTA (43)
Bell 6, James 8, Lowe 19, Steinberg 6, Benjamin 4.
Lowndes 13 16 13 13-55
Valdosta 13 12 15 3-43
RECORDS: Lowndes 12-2, Valdosta 5-10.
NEXT GAMES: Bainbridge at Lowndes (Fri.), Tiff County at Valdosta (Fri).

The Vikings took a six-point lead when Pete Ketterman converted a four-point play after connected on a three-pointer and then making the ensuing free throw after being fouled in the process. Lowndes held on to lead 29-25 at the end of the first half.

Lent Bell came of the bench for Valdosta to ignite a second half rally for the Cats after Lowndes took an 11-point lead with 5:22 left in the third quarter.

Bell connected on two three-pointers in the quarter to cut the lead back to seven at 42-35 with 2:08 left in the third. The Cats' Ernest Lowe then scored on a three-pointer of his own to cut it to 42-38. Lowe then stole the ball as Lowndes played for the last shot and capped off the quarter with a monster slam at the other end of the floor to ignite the Valdosta

crowd and cut the lead to 42-40 at the end of three periods of play.

But the fourth quarter belonged to the Vikes' Graham. The senior guard single-handedly outscored Valdosta 7-1 for the first 4:23 of the third, and Randall Godfrey added a layup to cap a 9-1 run to start the final period. That stretched the lead back to double digits at 51-41 with 3:16 left to play, and the Vikes hung on for the 12-point victory.

Valdosta scored just three points in the fourth period.

Lowndes had four players to score in double figures despite the low score. Graham and Joe Baker led the way with 13 points each, Barbee added 11, and Ketterman chipped in 10 points. Baker and Ketterman led the Vikes with seven rebounds each. Lowe was the only Wildcat in double figures with 19 points.

"We showed some characted and showed some poise in the end and kept the lead on up there in the fourth quarter," said Lowndes head coach Terry Wilkes. "We just talked about going back to our offense and making them come to us."

"We forced some shots that we shouldn't have taken," said Valdosta head coach John Miller. "I felt like we in the game up until about the two-minute mark. We just couldn't
See SWEEP, Page 10-A

Sweep

From Page 9-A

score in the fourth quarter."

The girls game was an even closer contest and was not decided until the last 48 seconds of the contest when Stacy Brinkley connected on two free throws to stretch the lead to nine points. The Vikettes were then able to hold on for a four-point victory.

The largest lead of the first half was three points — twice held by VHS. Neither team was able to get its offense on track in the first half as VHS led just 7-6 after one quarter of play, and Lowndes led just 16-15 at the half.

The third quarter would decide this contest as Lowndes scored the first eight points of the third quarter, and outscored the Lady Wildcats 11-3 in the quarter. The Vikettes led 27-

18 going into the fourth and final period.

A set shot by Lowndes' Mentha McNorton kept the lead at nine, 35-26, with just 3:59 remaining. The Lady Wildcats' Esther Benjamin and DeDe Dennis then scored on back-to-back buckets to pull VHS back into the contest down just 35-30 with 3:05 left in the game.

But the two free throws by Cothron stretched the lead back to 39-30 with 48 seconds remaining, and the Lady Wildcats' Amanda McGhin made the score a little more respectable at 39-35.

Benjamin was the only Lady Wildcat in double figures with 17 points. Shanell Jenkins led Lowndes with 12 points, and Chamanda Brooks added 11.

"It was a good win for us from the standpoint that we found out we can win without one of our better players in the lineup," Lowndes head coach Larry Maffit. "From that standpoint, it ought to give us some confidence. I thought some of our younger players played well. I think Stacy played well. I thought Chamanda did an excellent job on Benjamin tonight."

"If Vicky gets back to practice and works hard, then she'll have an opportunity to start again Friday," he added. "If she doesn't, then we'll use her as best we can."

"We just didn't do what we're supposed to," said Valdosta head coach Linda Blackwell. "We're not a good enough basketball team to do that. We just didn't show up tonight — mentally or physically."

Not Much Change In VHS Rules

One New Consideration:

Off-Campus Conduct

VDT 1-27-92

By KELLI BOWMAN

Times Staff Writer

Although incidents of teenage drinking, drug use and bringing weapons to school have increased just about everywhere in the recent past, Valdosta High School's policies on such have changed little over the years.

Some students were offended last month when Principal William Aldrich asked them to sign a list of school policies concerning the use or possession of drugs, alcohol or firearms at school or on school activities. The principal said asking students to sign the paper was simply an assurance the teens had read and understood the existing policies.

An incident involving a VHS student arrested off-campus in an incident unrelated to the school prompted the rule review, Aldrich said. He wanted to make sure students were familiar with the school's Off Campus, Non-School Related Conduct policy. The policy states that any student arrested or charged with a crime involving violence, the use of a weapon or drugs be suspended off-campus or expelled pending the outcome of the case.

In some cases the student would be eligible to attend the system's alternative school in the interim.

Adopted last year by the Valdosta Board of Education, the off-campus conduct policy is a new rule and one conceived by the local board. Those involving drugs, alcohol and weapons have been around awhile, Aldrich said, and were mandated by the state.

Ultimately, students found guilty of using drugs or alcohol will be expelled, Aldrich said. If a weapon is brought to school or a school activity, expulsion is automatic, according to the policy, but requires the signature of the superintendent. When it comes to drinking or using drugs at school or on sponsored activities, the first route is a 10-day suspension. If guilt is determined, expulsion will follow, the principal said.

Aldrich said the policy and penalty have been around since he's been principal. Of course, there are appeal alternatives for serious disciplinary action, Aldrich said. Expulsion is usually good for the semester in which the incident occurred and the student would be able to return to school the next.

Valdosta High's Amanda McGhin (33) looks to pass around Lowndes High's Shamiki Berrian (10) Tuesday night at Valdosta High School — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.



Kelli Bowman

School Beat

VHS NJROTC Visits Baxley's Plant Hatch

Some Valdosta High students are better versed on the sometimes controversial topic of nuclear energy after a trip to a Georgia Power Co. nuclear plant last week.

Members of Naval Junior R.O.T.C visited the Plant Hatch Visitors Center near Baxley Wednesday. Located on the Altamaha River at the Appling-Toombs county line, the visitors center rests on the site of Georgia's first nuclear-fueled generating plant operated by Georgia Power.

Students walked through exhibits describing how fuels are used to produce electricity, how the nuclear-powered plant works and fission — the splitting of atoms.

Georgia Power owns the facility jointly with Oglethorpe Power Corporation, the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia and the City of Dalton.

VHS student Tiffany Roan traveled a tad farther on another field trip north. Tiffany attended the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C., last week. She was among 350 outstanding high school students nationwide selected.

Valdosta Learns About U.S. As Exchange Student In Japan

By SUSAN A. SMIGIELSKI

Todd Parramore thought it important to experience other cultures, so he signed up to be an exchange student to Japan.

Parramore, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Drumheller, is home on holiday. He will return this month to finish his semester at college.

In the five months Parramore has been in Japan, he has learned much about the Japanese, as expected. But he said he has learned quite a bit about the United States.

"Now that I am out of South Georgia, I can reflect and look back," he said.

"I can compare, and I have broadened my views of the U.S.," Parramore said.

However, his experience has not changed his mind on his feelings about his homeland.

"I still think it's the greatest nation," he said. "Japan has its problems; it is overcrowded and overworked," Parramore said.

"The businessman spends too much time with work and little time with his family," he added.

In addition, Parramore said there is little room for individuality to the point where it is almost a homogenous society.

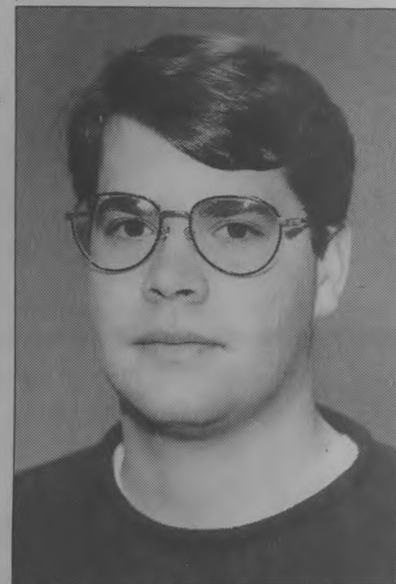
However, Parramore would not discourage anyone from international travel — especially college students.

"Everybody should see other things and broaden their experience and meet other people," he said.

Parramore gained interest in Japan after taking a language course in Japanese at Valdosta State College. He said he also recognizes that Japan is a leading world business power.

He is majoring in political science with a minor in international business.

While in Japan he stays with a family.



TODD PARRAMORE Broadens Views Of U.S.

School Beat 2-10-92
Valdosta High Student Chosen Semifinalist

Valdosta High senior Sarita Rainey is one step closer to snagging one of the nation's top student honors.

Sarita, daughter of Malcolm and Bonnie Rainey, was named one of about 2,500 semifinalists in the 1992 Presidential Scholars Program. Semifinalists were selected from more than 2.5 million students expected to graduate from high schools this year.

One hundred and forty-one finalists will be selected in May on the basis of superior academic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities.

Now in its 28th year, the Presidential Scholars Program is the highest federal honor bestowed upon graduating high school seniors, the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars says.

Finalists will be invited to Washington in June to receive a medalion and mingle with Congressmen and other national officials.

Valdosta High: Valdosta High School Principal Bill Aldrich announces honor roll students for the third six weeks.

Brian Adams, Frankina Adams, Stephanie Adams, Bobby Albritton, Terr Albritton, Holland Alday, Char-nissa Alderman, Corey Alexander, Glenn Alexander, Phillip Allen, Timothy Edward Allen, Clint Allred, Ken Altman, Christopher Ames, Eric Arnold, Jarvis T. Bacon, Rachael Baourous, Clifford Baker, Don Baker, Matthew Baker, Russel Baker, Salsia Baker, Shanon Baker, Rachel Ballies, Maria Baratta, Jason Barbas, Laura Barbas, Becky Barnette, Alison Bass, Timothy Bass, Brook Beard, James Beaulord, Edward Bell, Lent Bell, Chad Bendfield, Joey B. Benjamin, Felicia Bernien, Ginger Bishop, Joel Blus, Sadiqua Blackmon, Trish Bolen, Tracey D. Bonner, Michael Boyender, Emily Bowling, Shelby Bridges, Paul Briggs, Lardell Brinson, Delleese Brisco, Lana Brooks, Cedric J. Brown.

John Brown, Kimberly Brown, Nakia Brown, Shani N. Brown, Matthew Buckland, Melissa Buckland, Michelle Buckland, Kayse C. Budd, Nicole Burgman, Heather Burns, Jonathan Burns, Carmelita Butts, LaTonya Byrd, Laurie Campbell, Belinda Cantrell, Ingrid Carroll, Steven L. Carson, Spence Carver, Lyle B. Causey, Dan Childs, Rachel Childs, Che Christie, Greg Clark, Jennifer Leigh Clark, Vaughn Clark, Monica Clifton, Helene Coburn, Oliver Colbion, Sallyann Coleman, Elizabeth Collins, Leah Collins, Josh Connor, Shniece Cooper, Rebecca Coyne, Ryan Coyne, Kelly Crago, Stacey Cranor, Kevin Cronlin, Angela Daniels, Matt Daugherty, Hilary Davis, Greg Denly, Amy Denise Dennis, Dede Dennis, Bruce Quincey Douglas, Tonya Dugas, Travis Dular, Derek Duncan, Tracey Edmondson, Jennifer Edwards, Gee Edwards, Bert Eidson, Jennifer Eidson, Alma Enmon, Steven Epps, Rhonda L. Euline, Stephanie Everett, Misty Fag-ile, Wilson Faircloth.

Lisa Felts, Regina Flammigan, Shelina Flucas, Teneesia Foster, Robyn Freeman, Janna Futch, Fairan Gage, Janice Galloy, Genora Garland, Melissa L. Galer, Ashley Giles, David Gilliard, Amy Glines, LaCarra Godfrey, Karen Green, Marcie Golivesky, Man Gravie, April Green, Karen Green, Kimberly Green, Merritt Green, Tamara Green, John Benjamin Greene, Brian Gregory, Katie Griffin, Amy Griffin, Daniel Griffin, Sabrina Yolanda Griffin, Parker Grow, Jennifer Haller, John Haller, Leigh Hamby, Dennis Hampton, Karen Harris, Andreu Harrison, Marinese Hart, Heather Harvey, Robyn Hastings, Douglas Henderson, Linda M. Hendricks, Erick Hense, Joe Herndon, John Hickox, Kevin Hiers, Meg Hiers, Shannon Lee Hilliard, Julie Hiromoto, Sedrick Hodge, Benjamin Hofmeister, Laura Holland, Jodie Hollenbeck, Samantha Bailey Hooper, Becky Hough, Ashley House, Thomas Howard.

Mark Howell, Ashley Hudson, Matthew Hunt, Greg Hunter, Ivan Iverson, Margaret Iverson, James Jacobs, Cree James, Nekita James, Lakeisha Jefferson, Ladel-tria Jeffrey, David Jenkins, Stacey Johns, Diandra Johnson, Matthew Johnson, Natasha Johnson, Patrick Johnson, Jason Whitley, Jordan Vonda Kier, Monique King, Jerome Kirkland, Amy Knowles, Kimberly Knowl-ton, Wendy Kuter, Lindsay Lagoda, Sarah Lamorey, Michael Landcaster, Joe Langulate, Keri Langdale, Mergaux Laskey, Mary Lasseier, Cate Lawrence, Kiary Law-rence, Christie Leubetter, Michelle Levy.

Encka Nicole Lewis, Christee Leynes, Lindsay Lloyd, Andy Lowery, Katherine Mathis, Kisha Mathis, David Matthews, Katrina Maxwell, Andrae Deshawn Mazion, Mickey McAtee, Derrick McBurrough, Tammy McCain, Amanda McClellan, Martin McClure, Brian McCombs, Eric McCombs, Ann McCrane, Maggie McDonald, Amanda McGhin, Christy McHenry, Willie McKeithen, Tony McKinnon, Jessica McMullen, Angela McSween, Tammy Means, Ches Melton, Dutton Miller, Maura Miller, Courtney Mirchew, Beth Mitchell, Kevin Moore, Parnelia Moore, Tracy Moore, Reit Moore, Rebecca Morgan, Betty Morris, Crystal Morrison, David Morris-sette, Tad Moseley, James Neal, Melissa Neal, Katrina Nelson, Latammy W. Newsome, Kristi Norman, Robby Norris, Tony Norbin.

Tim O'Brien, Tony O'Neal, Stephanie O'Neal, Shenika Oliver, Katherine Owens, Marcus Scott Parker, Ekta Patel, Rachel Patterson, Geveda Patrick, Blaka Patterson, Alex Penn, Keir Perry, Katrina Peterson, Marcus Phillips, Benjamin Pitchford, John Pitcock, Lisa Plair, Dana Pompey, Tanya Ponder, Melissa Porter, Jennifer Powell, Holly Rackley, Dan Rackley, Sarita Rainey, Tamika Rawls, Mendt Ray, Brad Reames, Jeff Reames, Angela Redden, Nick Reed, Tami Reed, Chastity Reese, Amy Register, Betsy Richards, LaTricia Richardson, Stephanie Richter, Monica Rizer, Tiffany Roan, LaShunda Roberts, David Roddey, Brandon Rogers, Michael David Rom, Gary Ross, Rhoda L. Ross.

Timothy R. Roush, James Rowe, Robin Rowe, Jeremy Rowell, Ty Sainz, Norma Leigh Saliba, Chris Sanders, Alan Sanderson, Kristin Sanderson, Ryan Sanderson, Lori Santos, Bobbie Sasser, Monica Savage, Beth Ann Schmale, Billy Joe Scott, Lee Scott, Cynthia Seronis, William A. Sewell, Jennifer Sharpiron, Clay Shaw, George Shaw, Laniar Sheffield, Veronica Simmons, Al-mee E. Smith, Eric Smith, Jamie Smith, Joyette Smith, Rhonda Smith, Tim Smith, Brad Sosnik, Sara South, Amy Spann, Jennifer Spencer, Jesse Spencer, Stephanie Staley, Joshua Stauber, Bill Steinberg, Stephen Steiner, Kalle Stone, George Strickland, Joel Strickland, Lellani Struzick, Eileen Sweeney, Sherry Swigart, La-wanda Swinton, Christine Taormina, Meredith Tart, Da-vid Wayne Taylor, Sha-Lisha Tharpe, Lawrence Thomas, Taryn Tovar, Tracy Trounman, James Tucker, Kevin Ty-son, Gregory Uptagraff, Sean Van Ausdall, Matthew Van- Vincent, Carol Wade, Alysia Walker, Blake Walker, John Walker, Robin Walker, DeJaris Washington, Richard Washington.

Ginger Walters, Jamey Walters, Jennifer Weaver, John Weaver, Amanda Veldon, Bonita Werts, Wendy What-ley, Christopher Wheeler, Leah Whitfield, Janesia L. Wil-liams, Keisa Williams, Latasha F. Williams, Shwanda Williams, Tannara W. Wiseeman, William Woodall, La-shonia Wrice, Lavonda Wright, Tiffany M. Wright, Cyri-thia Yarbrough, Christina Young, Laurie Ann Young, Stephanie Young, Shammon Yow.

Young Leader: Margaret

Iveson of Valdosta has been selected to attend The National Young Leaders Conference from Feb. 18-23 in Washington, D.C. Having demonstrated academic achievement, leadership, and citizenship, Margaret will be among 350 outstanding high school students from across the nation at the conference sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council.

Margaret is the 16-year-old daughter of Patricia and John Iver-son Sr. and is a junior at Valdosta High where she participates in Beta Club, Interact, Student Council, ring committee for Class of 1993, manager for varsity and junior varsity girls' basketball, PAMS and French Honor Society. Others activities include being secretary of church youth group and nomi-nation to participate in the Alpha

Phi Alpha Debutante pageant. She has also been nominated to Who's Who in American High School Stu-dents for 1991-92.

Local Players Sign On

V. Times 2-6-92

Realted Photos Page 3-B

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

Wednesday was a day that dreams came true for many of the area prep football players. It was national signing day. The first day a prep player could sign a letter of intent to play football at the college of their dreams.

Nick Hyder's Valdosta High Wildcats, who went 11-1 in 1991 and won their sixth consecutive Region 1-AAAA championship, led the way with at least 10 current or former players signing on to continue their football careers and education at the college level. Steve Spurrier's Florida Gators landed one of the most heavily recruited athletes in the area in VHS All-American linebacker Dexter Daniels.

Valdosta's All-Region split end Brice Hunter decided to continue his playing career in Athens for Ray Goff and the University of Georgia Bulldogs. Trampis Wrice, an All-Region cornerback for the Cats, was expected to sign on with Tom Osborne's Nebraska Cornhuskers.

The West Georgia College Braves landed a pair of talented defensive

players in VHS defensive back John Copeland and defensive lineman Tim McClain. VHS' John Gloster, a defensive lineman, will continue his playing career at Savannah State, while big offensive lineman Eddie Wooten will take his talents to Tennessee State.

Valdosta High defensive end Nick Reed will be attending the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., but it is unsure if he will play football or not. Running back Albert Edmonds is expected to choose between Tennessee State and Savannah State sometime today.

These will not be the only Cats to sign national letters of intent to play college football. Look for such talented players as Mike Roberts, Tim O'Brien, Sean Van Ausdall and Andy Sheffield to make a move within the next couple of weeks.

Former Valdosta High standout Anthony Williams, who has been playing football at Itawamba (Miss.) Junior College, signed on to play at Georgia Southern. Two other former Cats have signed on to play in junior college ranks. Robert Fillmore will play at Jones (Miss.) Junior College, while Frederick Hinton will continue

his career at Hinds (Miss.) Junior College.

Lowndes High All-American linebacker Randall Godfrey, who led the Vikings to a 7-3 mark in 1991, signed on to play football for the University of Georgia Bulldogs. He was the only Viking player to sign on Wednesday, although many more are expected to sign within the next couple of weeks.

Traveling around Region 1-AAAA, Gene Brodie's Tift County High Blue Devils had four players sign Wednesday. Defensive end Todd Fordham signed on with Bobby Bowden's Florida State Seminoles as an offensive tackle. Tift County running back/cornerback Dean Lott has decided to play for the Georgia Southern Eagles as a safety. Savannah State signed two Blue Devils in defensive end Kenyatta King and tight end Niketa Battle.

Jim Hughes' Colquitt County High Packers had three players ink letters of intent Wednesday. All-Region running back Nathan Williams will be joining former Packer Anthony Bridges with the Louisville Cardinals. Region 1-AAAA's Offensive Player of the Year Chris McCranie signed with the Georgia Bulldogs, while All-Region linebacker Lee Brooks inked a

See SIGNINGS, Page 3-B

Signings

From Page 2-B

letter of intent with Georgia Southern.

So far, the Bainbridge High Bearcats and the Coffee High Trojans have not had any player sign as of presstime. However, the Bearcats are expecting to have a couple players sign within the next week. Running back Vidal Lively, who has been recruited by Florida State, is still waiting on his SAT scores. Thomas Jackson is expected to sign with Tennessee State in the next day or

so. Quarterback Brian Powell has already signed a baseball scholarship with the University of Georgia.

Hamilton County High (Fla.) Trojans' defensive tackle Derrick Williams signed a letter of intent with the Knights of Central Florida.

The Thomasville High Bulldogs had four players sign on Wednesday. All-Region wide receiver Shedrick Wilson has decided to venture to Baton Rouge and play for the Louisiana State Tigers. Mike Cavan and East Tennessee State landed offen-

sive lineman Chad Thompson and running back/cornerback Terry Frederick. Running back Mathis Curry has signed on with West Georgia.

Former Cairo High Syrupmaker All-Region linebacker Terry Solomon signed with the Auburn Tigers. Worth County Rams' running back Robert Toomer signed with LSU, while linebacker Anthony Battle inked a pact with Georgia Southern. Dougherty High Trojans' defensive lineman Brett Williams signed with Clemson and quarterback Ronnie Gordon signed with Vanderbilt.



Vaughn Clark, a ninth grader at Valdosta High School, studies between classes.

Monday, February 10, 1992

VHS, has been nominated to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Matthew, the son of Ann and John Lukens, and a senior at Lowndes High School, has been nominated to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Scholarships: Governor Zell Miller announced that five local residents have been awarded Governor's Scholarships for the college of their choice.

Lynda J. Thompson of Valdosta has been awarded a scholarship for study at Georgia Southern University. Stacy S. Courson of Lakeland and Shannon D. Griffin of Valdosta have been awarded a scholarship for study at Valdosta State College. Jimmy W. Green has been awarded a scholarship for study at The University of Georgia. Shelley A. Miller of Hahira has been awarded a scholarship for study at Georgia Institute of Technology.

The prestigious scholarship, awarded to 562 outstanding high school seniors throughout the state, covers tuition costs of up to

\$1,540 per year for full-time study in Georgia. It may be renewed for an additional three years if the student maintains acceptable grades.

Selection of the scholarship recipients was based on academic, standardized test scores and leadership. Students must have been named valedictorian, salutatorian, STAR student or Georgia Scholar.

Competition: Four Valdosta students are among the 181 outstanding high school seniors selected for Presbyterian College's 1992 academic scholarship competition.

Hilary Davis, Kevin Hiers, Stephanie Powell and Rob Ryan Jr., all of Valdosta, were among the semifinalists, chosen from several hundred scholarship applicants. The semifinalists have been interviewed by PC faculty and will each receive scholarship funds if they enroll at PC in August. From this group, 19 students will be interviewed on campus Feb. 21-22 as finalists for the college's top scholarships, including two full-cost Quattlebaum Honor Scholarships.

Semifinalist: Stephanie Powell of Valdosta was among the 163 high school seniors who visited Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C., Jan. 25 for the annual Academic Scholarship competition.

Academy Nominees: Second District Congressman Charles Hatcher has nominated Ryan Coyne, Nicholas Reed and Matthew Lukens of Valdosta for appointment to federal service academies.

Ryan, the son of Rosetta and Stephen Coyne, and a senior at Valdosta High School, has been nominated for an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy.

Nicholas, the son of Charlene and William Reed, and a senior at

VHS Students Visit London

By KRISTINE HARNAGE
Times Staff Writer

Big Ben, Windsor Castle, Stonehenge, Westminster Abbey — these are just a few of the famous sights three Valdosta High students were able to visit during their trip to London.

Leigh Saliba, Chris Sanders and Jamey Waters, three seniors at VHS, left Christmas Day for London with Gnan Moser, a 12th grade English teacher at VHS; Ms. Moser's mother, Mrs. Laurence (Grace) Alvarez; Ms. Moser's 10-year-old daughter, Marie; and Mrs. J.E. (Pat) Tudor and her daughter, Melanie Tudor Tillman, for a seven-day trip.

This opportunity is offered to seniors every year and cost them \$800 each. It was the students' first time in London and Ms. Moser's fourth. This was also Chris and Jamey's first time flying, and they were a little anxious.

"Once the plane took off it was OK," they said.

The group tried to cover as much as possible in the little time they were there. They took two trips by train: one to Windsor and the other to Canterbury; and three trips by bus: to Bath, Stonehenge and Salisbury Cathedral. They also visited the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral and Harrod's Department Store (the largest department store in the world — eight stories high and one entire block.)

"An employee at Harrod's told us that the store can get anything that exists in the world," said Ms. Moser. "For example, someone called in a prank once and asked for an elephant. Harrod's called that person back 45 minutes later to ask them if they wanted Asian or African!"

Chris said the most memorable moments of the trip for him were visiting St. Paul's Cathedral and Stonehenge.

"I really got an appreciation for how old everything is in England compared to the United States," he said.

The trip to the British Museum was also very interesting, said Chris.

"We saw original scripts of various literary works: including Shakespeare's plays and the *Magna Carta*, and we saw the Rosetta Stone and Egyptian mummies."

"The trip to Canterbury and visiting Churchill's underground Cabinet War Rooms was what I enjoyed the most," said Leigh. "I was very impressed, and I plan to return one day



From left, Jamey Waters, Chris Sanders, Leigh Saliba and Ganan Moser talk about

their trip to England — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy.

and see more. There was so much to see that we couldn't possibly see it all in the short time we were there.

"I also liked Canterbury," said Jamey, "but I liked the Jack-the-Ripper tour the most. The tour guide took us to every place Jack-the-Ripper murdered someone and even told us how he did it!"

"I'll also never forget how terrible the drivers were over there; there's no speed limit, no stop signs — Mrs. Alvarez was almost hit three times — twice by taxis (which were Rolls Royces) and once by a motorcycle!"

"We were very fortunate the weather was good," said Ms. Moser. "It didn't rain once while we were there, and the temperature was between 45-50 degrees. Once we even had sun and reached 60 degrees."

The group dined on several English foods while there, including fish 'n chips and scones (muffins with currants — small, seedless raisins). They drank Coke, hot tea or coffee, but had to ask for ice if they wanted it.

One cannot go to London without visiting the London Tower, Westminster Abbey, the British Museum and a cathedral is a must, said the students. If the opportunity arises, the trips to Stonehenge and Canterbury are well worth your while too.



Standing tall in London, England, is St. Stephen's Tower which contains the clock, Big Ben, which was snapped by Jamey Waters on his trip there.

Valdosta Captures

Championship

Staff Reports

Valdosta High School had eleven wrestlers advance to the state wrestling tournament Saturday as the Wrestling Cats won the area championship held at Southwest High School in Macon.

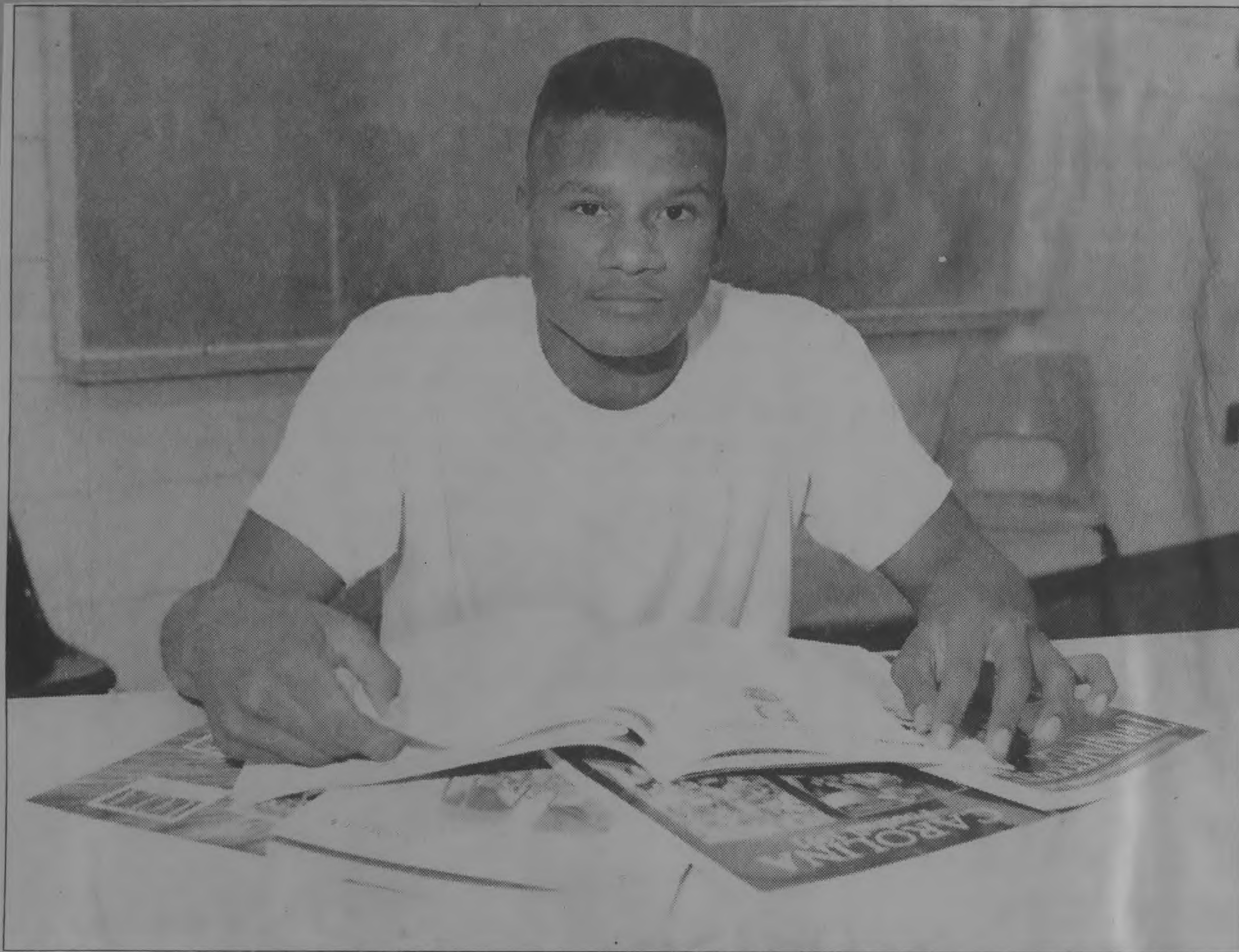
Valdosta's team total of 163 points was far ahead of its nearest competitor — second place Northside High of Warner Robins which had 133 points. Baldwin finished fourth with a total of 118 points, and Lowndes finished fourth with 116.5 points.

Valdosta head coach was especially pleased with several first-year wrestlers which placed — Adam Van Nus placed fourth in the 103-pound class, freshman Don Marconi placed third in the 112-pound class, Tim White placed third in the 171-pound class, and Donald Hitson placed third in the 189-pound class.

Scott Jones captured the only individual championship for the Cats winning the 125-pound title. Jones compiled a 28-4-1 record this season.

Raymond Kassum and Andrew Denmark took second place finishes in the 112- and 160-pound classes respectively.

Also placing for the Cats were Steve Hubbard (5th, 130), Eric Skinner (3rd, 135), Keith McConnehead (3rd, 140), and Ryan Coyne (5th, 152). Each wrestler that placed sixth or better qualified for the state tourney.



Valdosta High All-Region senior split end the 1991 prep football season. Hunter has Brice Hunter looks over potential colleges after trimmed his list of schools to four — Times helping the Cats compile an 11-1 record during Photo by Jeff Allen.

VHS' Hunter Among The Best

VOT. Times. 1-30-92

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

When thinking of Valdosta High receivers, the names of such past greats as Stan Rome, Hosea Heard, Charles Steward and John Lastinger spring to mind. For the past two football seasons, the Cats and their fans have had the pleasure of watching yet another great VHS receiver showcase his talents in senior Brice Hunter.

This glue-fingered receiver finished the 1991 regular season as Region 1-AAAA's third leading receiver. Hunter hauled in 32 passes for 520 yards and 6 touchdowns as the Cats rolled to a perfect 10-0 regular season mark. Along the way, VHS captured its sixth consecutive Region 1-AAAA football title. Valdosta High would go on to finish the year at 11-1, losing 6-0 in the Class AAAA state football quarterfinal playoffs at La-Grange to the eventual state and national champion Grangers.

For his efforts, Hunter was a unanimous selection as first team split end on the 1-AAAA All-Region football team. He was also chosen to the *Valdosta Daily Times* All-Area football squad. Hunter was also an Honorable Mention All-State selection by the Atlanta Constitution.

During his four years at VHS, Hunter was a three-year letterman and a two-year starter on the football squad.

"I think Brice Hunter is one of the See HUNTER, Page 3-B

Hunter

From Page 2-B

top four or five receivers to ever play at Valdosta High," stated VHS receivers coach Bob Bolton. "During my tenure at Valdosta High, he has to be one of the top two. Brice can play with anybody in the country. In addition to his physical skills, he has soft hands, runs great routes and possesses a lot of blocking skills. All of that makes him a complete football player.

"Probably, Brice's greatest strength is his ability to make adjustments and catch the football. He is very coachable. Brice has never missed a practice or put himself ahead of the team. The two biggest questions concerning a receiver would be their speed and catching balls across the middle. Well, Brice has speed. He runs a 4.55 in the 40-yard dash and he will definitely catch the

ball across the middle. Brice also has the ability to go deep."

"Brice is one of the better receivers to come through here," said Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder. "He is out there everyday and works hard. He is a good collision person. Brice also runs good routes and concentrates well on the football."

With all of this praise, it is no wonder Hunter has caught the attention of many of the nation's top college football programs. Right now, Hunter has trimmed his list of prospective colleges to Georgia, Nebraska, Georgia Southern and Florida.

"I'm looking for four things when going over these colleges," stated Hunter. "The first thing is the environment. Secondly, do I fit in there? I also consider how well I get along with the other players and how well I get along with the coaches."

Right now, the only stumbling

block in Hunter's path is the minimum score of 700 on the SAT.

"I'm not giving up," added Hunter. "I'm going to keep taking the test until I make the score. I want to go to college and get an education."

"Even though Brice has not made the score, he will not give up on himself," said Bolton. "He is a competitor. It is very encouraging to see a young man put forth the effort that Brice is to play Division I football."

There is more to Hunter than just football. He is also a member of the VHS track team where he participates in the 110 hurdles, the 330 hurdles and the 4X100 relay.

Hunter also works hard in the weight room. He bench presses 255 pounds, power cleans 250 and does 700 pounds on the hip sled. In fact, Hunter scored 215 points in Valdosta High's highly-touted Super Cats conditioning tests.

Blazers Sign Pair Of Defenders

V. Times 2-6-92

By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta State College Blazers announced the signing of two junior college players on Wednesday, the national signing day for college football programs.

VSC landed North Greenville Junior College defensive back Lannell Harper (5-6, 160) and Jones County (Miss.) Community College defensive back Earlie Dunlap (5-11, 180).

These are the first two signees in the Hal Mumme-era at VSC. Mumme, 39, was named as the new Blazer head football coach Tuesday. He succeeds Mike Cavan, who left to take over the football program at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tenn. Mumme came to VSC after spending the past three seasons as the head coach at Iowa Wesleyan College (24-11).

Harper, who played his prep football at Hart County High in Hartwell, spent the past two seasons at North Greenville Junior College. He led NGJC last season with 3 interceptions, including returning one for a touchdown. Harper also registered 26 tackles, recovered one fumble and had 15 pass break ups.

Dunlap, who played his prep football at LaGrange High, is already in school at VSC. Last season, Dunlap recorded 33 tackles, picked off 6 passes and blocked two field goals at Jones County (Miss.) Community College.



Headed To Tennessee State

Valdosta High Wildcats' offensive lineman Eddie Wooten (seated) signs a national letter of intent to play football for the Tennessee State coach Nick Hyder — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Vikettes Advance; Lady Wildcats Fall

VDT Fri. Feb. 2, 1992
By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Editor

MOULTRIE — With a few familiar faces missing Thursday night, the Lowndes Vikettes and the Valdosta Lady Wildcats ventured into the Region 1-AAAAA tournament with some unanswered questions.

The Vikettes answered theirs as they blew open a close game in the fourth quarter to defeat Colquitt County, 63-53. The Lady Wildcats were not as lucky as they were out-scoring 8-4 in the final eight minutes, falling to Bainbridge 35-30.

Lowndes (11-9) will play Tift County Friday in the 4 p.m. contest. Valdosta ends their season at 7-14.

The Vikettes were without starters Mentha McNorton and Chamanda Brooks and substitute Latrelle Brown, all of whom were suspended for skipping classes Thursday. Add those absences to that of Shanell Jenkins who was suspended three games ago and head coach Larry Maffit had to depend on some youth to mix well with a couple of veterans in the win.

"For the most part, we did what we wanted to do," said Maffit. "We didn't press as much as we probably have but we had some players step up and play well."

The Lady Packers, the region's sixth seed and winner of only one region game in the last three years, kept things close in the second quarter and were down by seven entering the fourth. But freshman Stephanie Brinkley scored eight of her 17 points in the fourth to help squeeze the Colquitt rally.

Senior Vicky Williams was the leading Vikette scorer with 20 despite sitting down much of the time due to foul trouble. Freshmen Shamiki Berrian added 10 points

while Delicia Cario had seven, Stacy Cothran had six and Brandi Hobbs had three.

Lashon Beard led Colquitt County with 16 points.

Valdosta experimented with post player Natasha Johnson running the point and she did well handling the offense. But the Lady Cats missed her presence inside once center Esther Benjamin was forced to the bench early in the third quarter with foul trouble.

"Natasha played a great game but we just couldn't score in the end," said Lady Cat head coach Linda Blackwell. "Offensively, I thought we played better but Esther can't do us any good when she's sitting with me on the bench."

When Benjamin was on the floor, she did mostly as she pleased as she finished with 15 points and was a defensive force inside.

Benjamin scored 11 of her points in the first half as Valdosta led 20-16 at halftime. But Bainbridge scored the first five points of the second half to grab the lead.

Valdosta regained the lead and held it until Keisha Breedlove hit a spinning jumper with 30 seconds left in the third to give the Lady Bearcats the lead, 27-26.

Each team traded baskets during the final period but Bainbridge's Tracy McConnell scored inside with 1:20 left and added two free throws with 12 seconds left to seal the win. Bainbridge will meet Coffee's girls in their next game today at 7 p.m.

Yolanda Benjamin scored six points for Valdosta while Tracy Troutman had four, Johnson and Amanda McGhin had two each and Melissa Sauls had one.

Pageant Winner Eyes Career As Pediatrician

By KRISTINE HARNAGE
Times Staff Writer

Jennifer Felecia Brown, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Brown of Valdosta, was crowned Miss Black Valdosta 1992-93 Feb. 2 at Mathis Municipal Auditorium.

The pageant included swimwear, evening gown and talent competitions. The pageant opened with each of the seven contestants, dressed in costumes representing a different decade (Jennifer, dressed in a poodle skirt and sweater, represented the 1950s), introducing themselves.

Jennifer wore a black one-piece swimsuit, and her talent was singing. She performed the gospel song, "We Shall Behold Him." She wore a pink, knee-length satin and sequined dress during the talent competition, and her evening gown was a gold and silver floor-length gown with sequins and beads.

Jennifer, a 17-year-old senior at Valdosta High School, is an honor student and a member of several school activities including the Valdosta High Marchin Cats Dance Line, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, PAMS (personality, manners, attitude and scholarship) and the Reveliers (female ensemble of the VHS chorus). Her favorite subject in school is English.

"I do best in English, and my teacher is really good at expressing herself and explaining everything to the class," said Jennifer.

At her father's church, Macedonia First Baptist, she sings with both the Junior and Senior choirs, is the Primary Sunday School teacher and on the Junior Usher Board.

"I relish church-related activities like visiting the sick, putting on concerts for people at VSC and having cookouts and parties for the children of our church," she said.



Jennifer Brown, Miss Black Valdosta 1992-93, talks about her love of children and her plans for her career — Times Photo By Jeff Allen.

It is her love for children and her desire to help them that has helped Jennifer decide to pursue a career in medicine after graduating this year.

"I plan to study pediatrics and hope to open my own practice in Valdosta someday," she said. "I love children and want to stay close to

home. I plan to go to VSC and then to either Georgia Southern or the University of Georgia."

Jennifer has worked at McDonald's on West Hill Avenue for two years. When the pageant practice began last November, Jennifer not only had to go to school full time but also took voice lessons for two hours three times a week, would then go to work until 1 a.m. and after getting off work, would still have to do her homework.

Miss Black Valdosta was Jennifer's first pageant, and winning was a moment of "highly intense surprise."

"I was very happy, and it was a great feeling," said Jennifer. "I knew everyone in the pageant. It was really stiff competition; in fact, my best friend was also a contestant. We all encouraged each other and are still all good friends though."

Jennifer plans to enter more pageants in the future.

"I plan on going as far as I possibly can while in college — as long as I can keep my grades up," she said. "I would love to be in Miss America someday."

Jennifer won a \$1,000 scholarship, a trophy, a crown and a plaque. As Miss Black Valdosta 1992-93, she will sing at major programs in the community (her first performance will be at the Hudson Dockett Program at Mathis Municipal Auditorium), she will speak to children at Lomax-Pinevale Elementary, and she will be in this year's Thanksgiving Parade. Runners-up in the pageant were Kemisha Davis, first, and Monique Fay, second.

Jennifer has one sister, Sonja, 16, and one brother, Seth, 10.

"My family was great support through all this," she said. "I was very nervous, but I remembered 'We can do all things through Christ,' and that kept me going when I'd get discouraged or tired."

VHS Wins Region 1-AAAA Debates

Valdosta High's debate team recently won first place in the Region 1-AAAA Debates at Lowndes High School.

The four-person team of Lee Scott, David Matthews, Bill Roberts and Stephanie Everett finished with a 4-0 won-loss record in the two-round tournament. Stephanie was the first place negative speaker, and Matthews won the first place affirmative speaker award.

This first-place finish qualifies the team to enter the State AAAA De-

bates in Forsyth Friday-Saturday. VHS finished fifth in the state last year. VHS has won the region championship for eight of the past 10 years.

On Jan. 11, the VHS Debate Club hosted the Sixth Annual Valdosta Debates at Valdosta Junior High. Twenty-one high schools were represented in the one-day invitational tournament. Dublin captured first place in the varsity division, and Warner Robins won the junior varsity

division. Tift had the top four-person team.

Literary Coordinator Frank Hjort said sponsors of the invitational tournament were Colson Business Systems, Valdosta Coca-Cola, Pepsi of Valdosta and McDonalds.

■ **Open House:** The faculty and staff of Valdosta High School invite all parents and the community to Open House from 6:30 p.m.-8:45 p.m. Feb. 18.

According to William Aldrich, principal, there are two important

purposes for this Open House. One is to have closer contact between parents and teachers. The other is to get more parents involved in the education of their children, especially those parents of at-risk students.

Several activities have been organized for Open House. Guests will have the opportunity to view displays sponsored by school clubs, organizations and classes, as well as the Academic Boosters Club and Valdosta Technical Institute.



VDT 2-6-92
Savannah State Bound

Valdosta High Wildcats' defensive lineman John Gloster (seated) signs a national letter of intent to play college football for the Savannah State Tigers Wednesday at Valdosta High. VHS head football coach Nick Hyder proudly looks on — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.



Edmunds Signs

Valdosta High senior running back Albert Edmunds signs with Tennessee State University Monday afternoon as the Wildcats head coach, Nick Hyder, looks on and assists — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.



West Georgia Bound

Valdosta High defensive back John Copeland (seated) signs a letter of intent to play football for the West Georgia College Braves Wednesday morning at Valdosta High as his grandmother Carrie Copeland (left), father

George Copeland (center) and mother Tereatha Copeland proudly look on. VHS defensive lineman Tim McClain, not pictured, also signed with West Georgia. — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

VDT 2-7-92
Area Wrestlers Head To State

By MIKE GRUBB
 Times Sports Editor

All of those hours in the gym. All of those grueling matches throughout the year. It all comes down to this — the Class AAAA State Wrestling Tournament today and Saturday at McEachern High in Powder Springs. Eddie Crocker's Valdosta High Wildcats and Jim Morrell's Lowndes High Vikings will be well represented in this two-day meet of the state's top wrestlers. Crocker's Cats, who won the area wrestling championship last weekend at Southwest Macon, qualified 12 of 13 wrestlers for state competition. It was originally thought that VHS qualified 11, but an injury to the No. 1 seed in the 145 pound class earlier this week opened the door for VHS' Mark Kassum, who won an alternate.

"Mark Kassum was an alternate at 145, but the No. 1 seed from the area got hurt this week," stated Crocker. "That opens up a slot for Mark

"This is the most wrestlers that I've ever qualified for the state meet. If we get some breaks, then we could be in good shape. At this level of competition, there is not any one team that is head and shoulders above the rest. Whoever gets the breaks will in both individually and in the team competition."

Leading the Cats into the state tournament will be Scott Jones, who won the area championship in the 125 pound class. Also competing for VHS will be Adam Van Nus (103), Don Marconi (112), Raymond Kassum (119), Steve Hubbard (130), Eric Skinner (135), Keith McConnahead (140), Mark Kassum (145), Ryan Coyne (152), Andrew Denmark (160), Tim White (171) and Donald Hitson (189).

Meanwhile, Morrell's Vikings placed fourth in the area meet and qualified 7 wrestlers for state competition. Leading the way for Lowndes will be a pair of area champions in Ronnie Wright (152) and Waymon Wright (171). David Black (112), Scott Davis (125), Sean Rodriguez (130), Andra McNeal (189) and Anthony Hargett (heavyweight) will represent Lowndes at McEachern.



V. Times

2-6-92

Going To Be A Bulldog

Valdosta High Wildcats' All-Region split end Brice Hunter (seated) signs a national letter of intent to play college football for the University of Georgia Bulldogs Wednesday afternoon at his home. Proudly looking on (left to right)

are cousin Danyel Leggett, aunt Johnnie Mae Leggett, uncle Willie Leggett, friend Yolanda Jones and VHS head football coach and athletic director Nick Hyder — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.



Valdosta High Wildcats' All-American linebacker Dexter Daniels (seated) signs a national letter of intent to play college football for the University of Florida Gators Wednesday at his home. Looking on proudly (left to right) are his grandfather Bishop L.B. Daniels, VHS head football coach Nick Hyder, sister Stephanie and mother Mary — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Godfrey Heads Georgia's Class

The Associated Press

Georgia landed USA Today All-American linebacker Randall Godfrey of Lowndes County High in Valdosta Wednesday on the first day of the signing period for high school seniors.

Georgia announced 21 signees, Georgia Tech 22 and perennial Division I-AA power Georgia Southern 17.

This year's signing date had a different twist with coaches unable to go into a community to sign a player in person. Signees were allowed to send their signed national letters-of-intent by fax to the schools.

Godfrey, a 218-pounder, had 62 solo tackles and 49 assists at Lowndes in his senior season.

The Bulldogs also got a second team USA Today All-American in 260-pound tight end Adam Meadows of McEachern in Powder Springs. Georgia also got running back Larry Bowie of Anniston, Ala., who had 2,600 all-purpose running yards last season.

Coach Bill Lewis had eight offensive linemen among Tech's signees,

including 270-pound Collins Peaden of Woodward Academy in Fayetteville and 260-pound Elliott Fortune of Roosevelt, N.Y.

"We felt like that was one of our immediate needs," Lewis said. "I think we did it with the number of players that we signed and I think we'll see good size. There are some outstanding quality players in that group."

The Yellow Jackets also claimed a top defensive line prospect — James Easterly, a 270-pounder from Wilde Lake High in Columbia, Md.

Quarterback Willie Gonzalez of Sunset High in Miami, Fla., signed with the Jackets. Gonzalez, a left-hander, accounted for 2,000 yards and 21 touchdowns as a senior.

Coach Ray Goff at Georgia had seven junior college players on his list, including 340-pound offensive lineman Greg O'Neal of Milledgeville. O'Neal played at Northeast Oklahoma Junior College and joins the Bulldogs with four of his teammates — linebacker Charlie Clemons of Griffin, wide receiver Jerry Jerman and linebacker Danny Ledbetter.

Valdosta Linebacker Tops Florida's '92 Recruiting Class

The Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida, riding the momentum of its first Southeastern Conference

championship, unveiled a recruiting class Wednesday that experts believe will keep the Gators among the nation's elite football programs.

The biggest coup was the signing of linebacker Dexter Daniels of Valdosta, Ga., the top-rated player at his position according to several recruiting services. He was also USA To-

day's prep defensive player of the year in 1991.

"With our needs at the linebacker position, we had the best to offer Dexter," said coach Steve Spurrier. "We should be the school getting

those types of players. He has a chance to be an outstanding player."

Spurrier expects Daniels to challenge for playing time as true freshmen. The Gators lost two LBs.

HIGH SCHOOL COACHES ADJUST PRIORITIES

Winning now academic for many

► Nick Hyder, whose Valdosta (Ga.) football teams have won two USA TODAY national championships, stresses football as the sixth priority for his players — behind their creator, family, country, academics and friends.

"If you teach that winning is everything and not winning is zero, then you're teaching the wrong thing," he says.

Pro dream impossible for all but select few

By Steve Riley
USA TODAY

Dexter Daniels is the envy of many high school athletes.

The Valdosta (Ga.) linebacker got close to his dream at the Super Bowl. He was invited to Minneapolis by the NFL as USA TODAY's Defensive Player of the Year.

"I got to see a lot of the players and the way they were treated," Daniels says. "It's nice."

It also is something Daniels thinks he can be part of some day. He isn't unique. As many as one-third of the USA's football and boys basketball players think they will become professionals in their sports.

In reality, the odds are no better than 10,000 to 1, says Richard Lapchick, director of the Center for the Study of Sport in Society.

"Our whole society is built on the illusion that professional sport is a realistic dream for kids," Lapchick says.

A Lou Harris poll from September 1990 revealed that 32% of all male football and basketball players believe they can play pro sports. Among black football and boys basketball players, 43% think they can make it to the pros.

Those are frustrating figures for coaches who are trying to use sports as a vehicle to educate their players — not as an end itself.

Their best defense? The cold facts.

"I tell players they have a better chance of walking on the moon than they do of becoming professionals," says Nick Hyder, Daniels' coach at Valdosta, who has coached two USA TODAY national championship teams.

"I hand out something called 'The Reality and Poli-



By Richard Dole
DEXTER DANIELS: Georgia high school star works hard academically in case his football aspirations are curtailed.

tics of Basketball," says Morgan Wooten, boys basketball coach at Hyattsville (Md.) DeMatha.

It details a bleak picture of the odds of a high school senior being drafted by an NBA team. Then, it points out that even if they make it, their careers don't last long.

The bottom line: "You have a better chance of becoming a doctor than becoming Dr. J.," Wooten says.

Ironically, the DeMatha coach has had as much success as any with 15 players going on to professional basketball teams in 36 years of coaching.

The frustration for coaches sets in when the athlete falls far short of his aim and has no safety net — a good enough academic background to get into college.

"When their dream of the pros vanishes, there has been something done in the process that forever harms these young people," Lapchick says.

Wooten doesn't discourage high aims.

"Dream great dreams, but don't let basketball become your god," he tells players. "Use basketball to

advance to a higher level in your life, don't let it use you."

Valdosta's Daniels, whom Hyder says has as good a chance of making the NFL as anyone he has coached in 34 years, has done a good job of building the safety net. He has a 3.0 grade-point average and is headed for the University of Florida on a football scholarship.

Another former Hyder player, Dante Jones, had aspirations similar to those of Daniels. He was an all-state and all-regional free safety when he came out of Valdosta in 1981 to play football at Georgia Tech.

He started at linebacker for three years for the Yellowjackets, but then football stopped when he wasn't drafted by an NFL team.

But he got an industrial engineering degree in 1986. He now supervises 72 employees as operating department manager at Procter & Gamble in Albany, Ga.

"Coach Hyder used to say that football is a terminal sport," Jones says. "Whether it's peewee, high school, college or pro, some day you will stop playing."

VIA SATELLITE

USA
TODAY

Sports

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1992

THE NATION'S NEWSPAPER



By Richard Dole
DEXTER DANIELS: Plans to star in the NFL.

LADY WILDCATS

#5 Tracy Troutman	#24 Ester Benjamin	#33 Amanda McGhin
#11 Carrie Futch	#30 Natasha Johnson	#40 Lisa Vincent
#13 Debe Dennis	#32 Yolanda Benjamin	#44 Detron Green
#15 Melissa Sauls		

Coach: Linda Blackwell
 Managers: Joyette Smith, Margaret Iverson, & Stacy Jones
 Trainers: Amanda McGhin & Karen Green

WILDCATS

#10 Rodney Robinson	#24 Ernest Lowe	#34 Dennis Castleberry
#11 Matt Baker	#25 Brian Adams	#40 Billy Steinberg
#12 Steve Everson	#30 Aaron Lane	#41 Phillip Pieplow
#20 Danny Johnson	#31 Michael Chandler	#42 Joey Benjamin
#21 Andre James	#33 Victor James	#44 Luther Brantley

Coach: John Miller
 Manager: Richard Washington

LADY WILDCAT JR. VARSITY

#5 Heather Harris	#15 Melissa Sauls	#31 Tameka Woods
#10 Mya Hamby	#20 Melody Sauls	#32 Tonja Dugas
#11 Carrie Futch	#22 Tasha Taylor	#34 Shan Reid
#14 Amy Dennis	#25 Shannon Bowen	#45 Rachel Balorunos

Coach: Vann Phillips

WILDCAT JR. VARSITY

#4 Terrance Roberts	#21 Larry Melton	#25 Chad Brooks
#11 Ivan Iverson	#24 Carlos Jones	#32 Michael Roberts
#15 Rico Phillips		

Coach: Al Akins

9th GRADE BOYS TEAM

#3 Edgranado Foster	#20 Tim Bryant	#31 Kory Mitchell
#4 Brian Arnold	#21 Billy Gay	#32 Keith Washington
#12 Johnny Jones	#22 Willie Conway	#33 Marcus Johnson
#14 Terry Kler	#24 Edger Meriwether	#40 Alton McBurrough
#15 Vaughn Clark	#25 John Weaver	#45 Tim Kelsey

Coach: Tim Horton

CHEERLEADERS

Iana Ercoks	Nandy Kuter	Jennifer Vance (Captain)
Ann Drumbheller	Maura Miller	Robin Walker
Bridget Evans	Hinola Myers	Tammy Wiseman
Katie Griffin (Co-Captain)	Yolanda Raviera	



1991-1992 PROGRAM



Invocation

Dinner

Welcome and Recognition of Guests.....President Teresa Steinberg

Recognition of Cheerleaders.....Julia McDonald, Sponsor

Ninth Grade Boys Team Awards.....Coach Tim Horton
 Most Improved Best Offensive Best Defensive

B-Team Boys.....Coach Al Akins
 Most Improved Best Offensive Best Defensive

Lady Wildcat Awards.....Coaches Linda Blackwell
 and Vann Phillips

NI Best All-Around JV Player *EB* Best Rebounder

NI Wildcat Spirit *EB* Best Offensive Player

EB Most Improved Player *NI* Best Defensive Player

DD Most Hustle *EB* Most Valuable Player

AMC Best Scholastic Average *AMC* Key Club Sportsmanship Trophy

VB Best Free Throw Percentage *NI* Burger King Coach's Achievement Award

Senior Recognition

Wildcat Awards.....Coach John Miller

Wildcat Spirit Best Offensive Player

Most Improved Player Best Defensive Player

Most Hustle Most Valuable Player

Best Scholastic Average Joel Montgomery Award

Best Free Throw Percentage Burger King Sportsmanship Trophy

Best Rebounder Senior Recognition Key Club Coach's Achievement Award

Special and Coaches Awards.....President Teresa Steinberg

Report of Nominating Committee.....Chairman James Steinberg

Vikings Edge Wildcats, 62-61

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta Wildcats learned Thursday night that even the fourth time was not a charm.

The Lowndes Vikings proved that their three earlier wins over the Wildcats were no flukes as they ended their rival's season with a 63-62 win in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA tournament here at Espy Gymnasium.

With the score tied at 58-58 in the final two minutes, Lowndes' Antwan Graham buried two jumpers to put the Vikings up by three. But sophomore Ivan Iverson canned a 3-pointer for the Cats with 45 seconds left to cut the lead to a point.

Both teams traded possessions and Valdosta's Andre James missed a shot underneath that would have given the Cats the lead. The ball went out of bounds off Valdosta but Lowndes turned the ball over on the

Lowndes 62, VHS 61
Gray 10, Barbee 11, Godfrey 13, Graham 11, Ketterman 8, Baker 9
VALDOSTA (61)
Steinberg 12, Benjamin 6, James 7, Lane 2, Roberts 12, Lowe 5, Iverson 17
Lowndes 13 18 18 13 —62
Valdosta 10 17 18 16 —61
RECORDS: Lowndes 15-6, Valdosta 6-15.
NEXT GAMES: Lowndes tonight vs. Coffee at 8:30 p.m.

inbounds pass with two seconds left. But the Cats were forced to watch the final two seconds of the season tick off the clock as they were unable to hit the game-winner.

"They had a smaller lineup in their

that gave us fits," said LHS head coach Terry Wilkes. "Regardless of any mistakes we made tonight, I'm real proud of our team. To sweep four games from Valdosta is quite an accomplishment."

Valdosta ends its season at 6-15 while Lowndes goes to 15-6 with the win. The Vikings will play Coffee High Friday night at 8:30 p.m. in the second round of the tourney. Lowndes is the only team to beat Coffee this season, winning one regular-sea-

son game and another in the LHS Christmas Tournament.

Though Lowndes led most of the way, they never led by more than nine points and, in the second half, they were never up by more than six. With the Vikings up 53-47 early in the fourth quarter, James scored inside and Billy Steinberg hit a short jumper, both off offensive rebounds, to cut the lead to two points.

After a Randall Godfrey free

See VIKES, Page 7-A

Vikes

From Page 6-A

throw, Steinberg sank another jumper and Iverson buried two free throws to give VHS their first lead of the game since the first minute. The teams traded baskets down the stretch before the Vikings fended off the rally.

Again, the Vikings got a balanced scoring effort as six players scored eight points or more. Godfrey led the way with 13 points while Russell Barbee and Graham each had 11 and Tabaya Gray had 10. Iverson led the Cats with 17 points while Steinberg and Michael Roberts each had 12.

"We had our opportunities but they just held us off," said Valdosta coach John Miller. "I've got to like the effort my guys gave tonight but Lowndes came up and met the challenge each time."

Along with hitting a couple of important baskets, Graham also

shined defensively. Graham was assigned to cover senior Ernest Lowe and the plan worked as Lowe had only five points in the game.

"I told Antwan that I didn't care if he didn't score a point tonight," Wilkes said. "I wanted him to spend all his energy on defense. He did a great job on Lowe and he stepped up to hit some big shots late in the game. Antwan wants the ball in that situation. He's that kind of player."

Valdosta dressed out 17 players for the game and they needed most of them as both of their starting post players, Steinberg and Joey Benjamin, were forced to the bench early with foul trouble. Steinberg picked up his third foul late in the first period while Benjamin was whistled for the third time early in the second. Those two players along with Lowe picked up their fourth fouls before the fourth period began.

Wilkes said that his team is confi-

dent as they prepare to face the 19-2 Trojans.

"The last time we played them, they embarrassed us over at their place," Wilkes said. "I hope we remember that. I think we know what to expect after seeing them three times already. They are a very good basketball team but our kids believe they can play with them."

■TIFT COUNTY BOYS 54, COLQUITT COUNTY 53: Colquitt County's James Stencil nailed a jumper on his only field goal of the night with just seven seconds remaining to give the Packers a 53-52 lead in Thursday night's late game. But the Tift County Blue Devils avoided the upset bid on a layup by Terrell Johnson with just one second left to play, and the Blue Devils advanced to play Bainbridge tonight. Colquitt County's season ends with the loss.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Valdosta, Students Make National Merit Finalists

Thursday, February 27, 1992 A-3

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Ten local teens have ascended to the honor of finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's yearly scholarship contest.

Six Valdosta High School seniors and four from Lowndes High School qualified among contenders nationwide to become finalists and will now be considered for one of 6,000 scholarships.

Guidance counselors from both schools said this is the first year in some time, possibly forever, that such a high number of local students made it to finalist.

Valdosta High finalists were:

■Olivia M. Baratta. Miss Baratta is a member of six clubs and participated in several athletic activities during the past three years at VHS. Miss Baratta is the vice president of the VHS Beta Club and is president of the Spanish Honor Society. Last summer she enrolled in classes at Harvard University in a special program for high school students.

■Sarita Ann Rainey. In addition to being ranked at the top of her class, this VHS drama enthusiast has performed in school, community and college productions. She was named best actress regionally in 1991 and

participated in the Governor's Honors Program at VSC last summer.

■Laura Helen Barbas. Miss Barbas, named top Spanish student at VHS from 1989 to 1991, uses her bilingual talent outside the academic realm. She has participated in four summer mission trips, three to foreign countries, and is a volunteer in the Hispanic ministry of First Baptist Church of Valdosta. Miss Barbas is the editor of *Reflections*, VHS's literary magazine.

■Ann McCranie. Miss McCranie is the editor of VHS' yearbook *Sandspur*, is a member of the Beta and Interact clubs and is captain of the Matgirls for the wrestling team. Miss McCranie is co-founder of the envi-

ronmental club which concentrates on recycling paper at the high school.

■William Richard Howard. Howard is a member of the Interact, Beta, Video, Ecology and Soccer clubs, French Honor Society and is president of the Science Club. Howard participated in the Governor's Honors Program and attended the Johns Hopkins University Center for the Advancement of Academically Talented Youth in the summers of 1989 and 1990.

Bert Eidson. Eidson is serving as president of the VHS Math Team this year and is a section leader for the Marchin Cats Band. Honors include being VHS' outstanding math and

science student the past two years and being named Outstanding Social Studies Student his 10th-grade year.

Local Rivalry Marks 1-AAAA Tourney

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Editor

The Lowndes Vikings and the Valdosta Wildcats probably know as much about each other as two basketball teams can. With three games against each other this season already played, the rivals will meet for the fourth time tonight.

The Viking-Wildcat matchup is one of four first-round games in the Region 1-AAAA basketball tournament which begins today at the Espy Gymnasium in Moultrie. In the other boys game, Tift County will face Colquitt County. On the girls side, Bainbridge and Valdosta will begin the tournament with a 4 p.m. game while Lowndes will meet Colquitt County in the 7 p.m. game.

Lowndes has owned the boys series with Valdosta this season, winning all three games. During the Lowndes Christmas tournament, the Vikings got 24 points from Joe Baker in a 65-53 win. In their first regular-season game, Pete Ketterman and Baker each had 17 to lead four players in double figures in a 64-56 win.

Region 1-AAAA Basketball Tournament

Girls	Boys
1. Coffee High (10-0)	1. Coffee High (9-1)
2. Tift Co. (8-2)	2. Bainbridge High (6-4)
3. Lowndes High (5-5)	3. Tift Co. (6-4)
4. Bainbridge High (4-6)	4. Lowndes High (6-4)
5. Valdosta (2-8)	5. Valdosta (3-7)
6. Colquitt Co. (1-9)	6. Colquitt Co. (0-10)
Today's Games	Today's Games
4 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
No. 4 BHS vs. No. 5 VHS	No. 4 LHS vs. No. 5 VHS
7 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
No. 3 LHS vs. No. 6 CCHS	No. 3 TCHS vs. No. 6 CCHS
Friday's Games, Feb. 21	Friday's Games, Feb. 21
4 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
LHS or CCHS vs. No. 2 TCHS	TCHS or CCHS vs. No. 2 BHS
7 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
BHS or VHS vs. No. 1 CHS	LHS or VHS vs. No. 1 CHS
Saturday's Game, Feb. 22	Saturday's Game, Feb. 22
7 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
Championship	Championship

In their last meeting, Baker and Graham each had 13 as LHS won 55-43.

Aside from the fact that Lowndes has won all three meetings, the other constant in those games has been Valdosta senior Ernest Lowe. Lowe

has scored a total of 64 points against the Vikings this year.

"When you've won all three games, it gives you an uneasy feeling," said Lowndes coach Terry Wilkes. "It's tough to beat somebody three times not to mention four. We're not going

to really change a lot getting ready for them — we're going to stick with what got us to where we are now."

Lowndes has benefitted from the offensive play of Graham (15.8 points per game), Baker (14.6), Randall Godfrey (13.0) and Russell Barbee (10.7). Ketterman is the fifth starter and is near double figures with a 7.0 average.

"It's worked out well because it's hard to shut all five of them down," Wilkes added. "On any given night, they can take turns being the leading scorer."

Valdosta head coach John Miller knows enough about Lowndes high-scoring tendencies to be worried about the first-round matchup. He is subscribing to the tournament philosophy that all teams are equal when the tourney begins.

"We're not looking behind us. Everybody's on the same ground now and what happened previously doesn't matter," Miller said. "Terry has one of the best clubs he's had since I've been here. Our games with them have been fairly close but it

just seems that, at the crucial times, we just haven't made the right play."

Miller added that Lowe has been bothered by ankle problems but he will play in the 5:30 affair.

Larry Maffit's Vikettes drew the best possible game of the first round as they will meet the Lady Packers. Lowndes has notched two easy wins over Colquitt this season and Maffit is trying to make sure his team is not overconfident entering the first-round game.

"It's hard to say what to expect. We can't be overconfident because we do have some shortcomings," Maffit said. "This is our most pressing game because it's the one we have to win if we want to keep playing."

Again, the Vikettes will be without Shanell Jenkins, the team's second-leading scorer and starting point guard. Because of disciplinary reasons, Jenkins has not played the last two games and will not play today.

In her place, Maffit said Stacy Cothran has done a credible job.

"It's tough losing your best defensive player, but Stacy has done a See PREVIEW, Page 5-B

College Beat

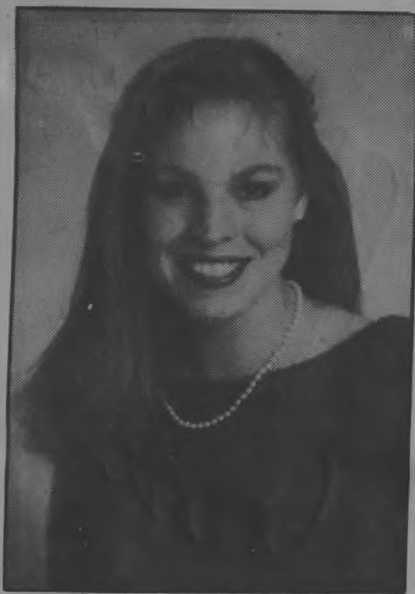
Tigerette: Wynne Johnson has been selected to be an Auburn University Tigerette for the upcoming football season throughout 1992-93. Tigerettes are the official hostesses of the Auburn University Athletic Department.

In addition to providing support to the Auburn Tigers, they are active in the football recruiting and serve as hostesses and campus tour guides to visiting dignitaries.

"The Tigerettes are extremely important to the success of our football program," said Auburn Head Football Coach Pat Dye. "They assist us in so many ways during the season and recruiting, they are invaluable. Much of the success we have had in recruiting comes from these ladies and their efforts to help prospective student-athletes experience student life at Auburn. The Tigerettes do an outstanding job in a classy professional manner."

Wynne is a sophomore from Valdosta majoring in international business and mathematics. She is also vice president of finance for Delta Delta Delta Sorority and is a member of Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity.

She is the daughter of Robyn Johnson.



WYNNE JOHNSON
Auburn University Tigerette

Preview

From Page 4-B

good job. It's going to force some of our other kids to step up and do some more things," Maffit said.

Valdosta girls team will face a Bainbridge squad which they defeated once during the year. Both games during the regular season were low-scoring affairs and Lady Cat head coach Linda Blackwell hopes the third game is in that same mold.

"If we stand a chance of winning,"

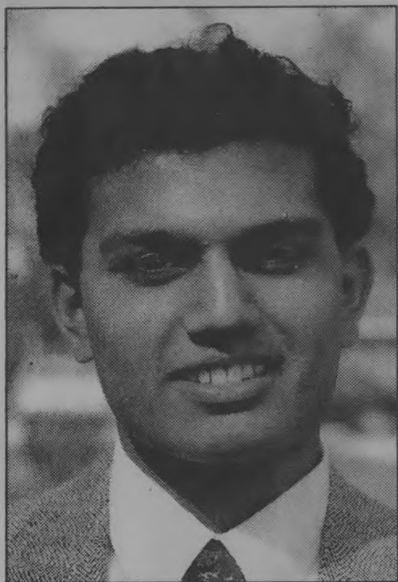
Blackwell said, "we have to have a good game defensively. They have a real good point guard and a real good post player. Keisha Breedlove is a very good player and she's the one we've got to stop."

Valdosta will be without point guard Dede Dennis, who suffered a fractured leg last week against Colquitt County. Blackwell has moved Natasha Johnson from the post to the point position.

LADY CATS WIN MEET: The Valdosta Lady Wildcats won a three-way track meet Monday at Tift County High School. Valdosta totalled 63 points while Turner County was second with 40 and Tift County was third with 33.

First-place finishers for Valdosta were Tiffany Wright in the long jump (15'4³/₄") and in the 100 meter low hurdles (16.72), Kristin Sanderson in the 400 meters (67.5), Khristina Lyons in the 1,600 meter run (6:30) and in the 3,200 meters (14:17), Shalisha Tharpe in the 800 meters (3:01) and the 4x100 relay team of Wright, Tonya McCloud, Michelle Hendrick and Heather Harris (53.53).

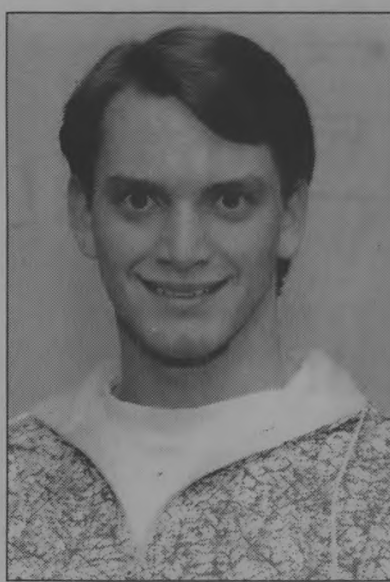




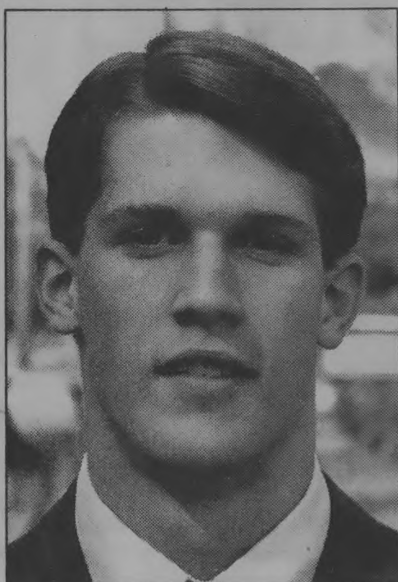
MILAN PATEL
Valwood School



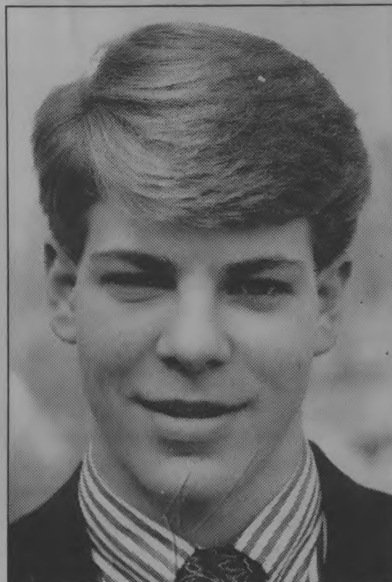
ALYSON NIJEM
Valwood School



LEE SCOTT
Valdosta High School



RUSSELL BAKER
Valdosta High School



MARK TILLMAN
Lowndes High School



RANDY ROBERSON
Lowndes High School

D.A.R. Honors Six Students For American History Essays

By **KRISTINE HARNAGE**
Times Staff Writer

The annual American History award winners from Valwood, Valdosta and Lowndes high schools read their winning essays and were presented with DAR medals at the Wednesday meeting of the General James Jackson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The two winners from Valwood are Milan Patel and Alyson Nijem; the two from VHS are Lee Scott and Russell Baker, and the two from LHS are Mark Tillman and Randy Roberson. The American History teachers at the schools were asked to pick two winners.

Milan, a 16-year-old junior at Valwood, is the son of Ramesh and Dina Patel of Valdosta. He plans to attend Emory University after graduation.

Among his honors at school are Math Team — third highest individual score in the state; Science Team, second highest average (10th); math, World History and French departmental awards (10th); and he attended a program for the talented and gifted at Duke University.

Milan wrote his essay on Eleanor Roosevelt "because she set many precedents in the White House and many social and political reforms and represented the United States internationally."

Alyson, a 16-year-old sophomore at Valwood, is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Nijem of Valdosta. Alyson received the 1990-91 Woodman of the World Award in American History, has been on the headmaster's, merit and honor rolls and is secretary of the Student Council.

She wrote her essay on Thomas Jefferson's influence in American History.

"I chose Jefferson because he was a well-rounded man who was successful in many fields at the turn of the century," said Alyson.

Lee Scott, a 16-year-old junior at VHS, is the son of Richard and R.J. Scott of Valdosta. Lee is a member of

the Science Club, Debate Team, Interact, Math Club, Beta Club and French Honors Society.

He wrote his essay on Thomas Jefferson "for his contributions to the nation in drafting the Declaration of Independence and encouraging universal education."

Russell, a 16-year-old junior at VHS, is the son of Arthur R. and Janice Baker of Valdosta. He is an active member of Interact, Beta, Student Council and the Spanish Honors Society.

"I plan to attend Mercer University or another school in Georgia to major in business and finance and minor in financial advisory," said Russell. "I then plan to attain a law degree and become a corporate attorney."

Russell wrote his essay on Alexander Hamilton.

Mark Tillman, a 16-year-old junior at LHS, is the son of John D. and Lenora Tillman of Mineola. He received the 1991 Character Award from LHS Administration and was a 1991 Georgia Certificate of Merit winner.

"I'm considering studying engineering or architecture at Georgia Tech," said Mark.

The title of his essay was *True Patriots*.

Randy, a 17-year-old junior at LHS, is the son of Cecil and Susan Roberson of Valdosta. He is an active member of the LHS Georgia Bridgemen, Beta, Junior Class Cabinet and Science Club.

"I'm not sure where I want to go to college, but I plan to major in secondary education and go into administration," said Randy.

The title of Randy's essay was *Today's American Patriots*.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution celebrates American History Month in February each year. To stimulate a knowledge in both young and old and a sense of pride in the nation's great achievements and dedication to liberty is their goal, a spokesman said.

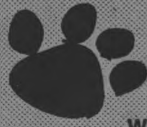
Science Team Wins Back-To-Back Championships

The Valdosta High School Science Bowl Team won the Georgia Junior Academy of Science Regional Science Bowl at Valdosta State College for the second year in a row.

The Valdosta team consists of Kelly Holmes, John Peeples, Chris Gregg, Bert Eidson, alternate Jennifer Spencer and scorekeeper Meg Hiers. They will go on to the state competition in April in Augusta.

The other team representing Valdosta was composed of Andy Ferrell, Alex Penn, Jennifer Eidson, Lee Scott, alternate Brian Stanley, and scorekeeper Lisa Bussey. They were in third place after the first round but were eliminated in a later round by a Lee County team. Science club advisers are Karen Burroughs and

Valdosta High School



NEWS

Written and Compiled
By VHS Students

Perry Baskin.

Debate Team Wins

Valdosta High Debate Team won the Region I Debate Tournament at Lowndes High School Jan. 29

with a 4-0 record. Stephanie Everett and Jimmy Green were affirmative team members and Thad Agar and Kevin Hiers were negative team members.

Vocational Ed Week

The students and faculty of Valdosta High School observed National Vocational Education Week Feb. 10-16. The theme of this year's celebration was "Vocational Education: Classroom of the Future."

"National Vocational Education Week gives students an opportunity to show what they have learned in a variety of fields from computers to trades and home economic," said John Field, vocational supervisor. "This is also a time for us to educate the commu-

nity about how vocational education teaches young people the skills they need to be productive workers."

Some of the activities included a kick-off pizza party celebration sponsored by VICA Monday night, a DCT breakfast at Shoney's Wednesday, guest speakers for vocational classes, a VICA barbecue and a vocational fair Friday.

Also during the week, Field attended the Vocational Administrator's Conference Wednesday-Thursday in Atlanta. The conference included the Georgia Vocational Association's annual legislative breakfast and joint session with other secondary administrators, presidents of state technical institutes and Georgia Department of Education staff.

LHS, VHS DECA Clubs Compete Well

Lowndes High Distributive Education Clubs of America returned home big winners after placing in 15 of the 17 contests they entered in the DECA district competition.

The competitive events, which include a variety of tests and demonstrations in the areas of merchandising, finance and credit, marketing and economics, were held at Altamaha Technical Institute in Jesup. Valdosta High School was the host chapter to more than 230 students representing 14 high schools.

The Lowndes DECA members entered 17 competitive events which are designed to measure marketing and merchandising skills the students have developed in class and on the job. Winning first places were

Billy Wallace, finance and credit; Charity Roe, apparel and accessories master employee level; Lyle Rains, apparel and accessories supervisory level; and Amanda Hazzard, advertising services.

Second place winners were Lisa Weckworth, reporter of the year; Chris West, general merchandising master employee level; Steven King, vehicles and petroleum marketing; Paige Butler, quick-serve restaurant management; and Michelle Martin, tied for second in general marketing master employee level.

Stacy Copeland placed third in general marketing supervisory level; Harvey Dixon, third in math; Angela Blakenship, fourth in hotel/motel management; Greg Black, finalist

(top six) in full service restaurant management; Mitzi Rykard, finalist (top six) economics test; Kristy Ket, third (tie) in general merchandising supervisory level; Alivia Parker, third in food marketing master employee level, and Samantha Booth, fourth in food marketing supervisory level.

The top four contestants in each of the 19 competitive events are eligible to participate in the state DECA competition to be held March 7 in Atlanta. Winners at the state level advance to the national contest.

Valdosta High School DECA had 15 students attend the competition, and 13 students qualified for state competition: Martha Stalvey, first in the reporter of the year competition; Julie Bryant, fifth in general merchandis-

ing; Jennifer Jack, third in general merchandising; Gina Albritton, second in apparel and accessories; Jennifer Boughton, third in advertising services; Bill Little, first in vehicles and petroleum marketing; Donna Lowery, first in food marketing; Chris Bittinger, first in food marketing (supervisory level); Kim Williams, first in full service restaurant management; Melissa Hale, third in quick-service restaurant management; Drew Respass, second in hotel/motel management; Tiffany Minchew, second in general marketing; Debbie Johnson, second in general marketing (supervisory level); Chris Spurlock, fifth in the economics competition; and Will Coleman, second in the math competition.

VICA Members At VHS, LHS Advance To District Contest

Area Vocational Industrial Clubs of America competition was held at Valdosta Technical Institute Feb. 9.

Sixty-six VICA member from eight schools in the Southwest District competed in leadership, health, trade, industrial and technical skills contests. The Lowndes High School VICA members and advisers served as host chapter with Jeremiah Lawton, VICA adviser at Lowndes High School, as area chairman.

First and second place winners of the area competition advanced to the district which will be held at Americus Technical Institute in March.

Valdosta High School winners included Eric Stanley, Amanda McGhin, Marist Jenkins, Jennifer

Brown, Angela Harper, Meredith Fletcher, Jessica Morgan, first place in opening and closing ceremonies; Rebecca Morgan, third place in prepared speech; David Farber, first places in extemporaneous speaking and outstanding student; Thad Agar, first place in job interview; Gina McGee, first place in dental assisting; Coy Peterson, first place in nursing assistant; Permelia Moore, first place in practical nursing; Terry Troope, first place in medical assisting; Clarence Duvall, third place in architectural drafting; David Farber, second place in electronics technology; Michael Thrift, first place in graphic communications; Eric Stanley, second place in machine drafting; Marist

Jenkins, third place in job skill demonstration A; and Jason Legg, second place in precision machining.

Lowndes High VICA winners were Jimmy Griner, first place in automotive service technology; Tracy Williams, first place in air conditioning and refrigeration; Clint Ziegler, first place in electronics products servicing; Jason Cone, first place in electronics products servicing; Dan Johnson, first place in electronics technology; Nikkie Roberts, second place in prepared speech; Eric Hollinger, second place in residential plumbing; Mitch Cannington, second place in residential wiring; and Ted Sauls, third place in machine drafting.



Former Valdosta High head coach Wright Lewis. Lewis was the featured speaker at the Bazemore (left) and Buck Thomas (right) visit Valdosta High School football banquet Monday night — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Daniels, Everson Awarded

By LEN ROBBINS
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Senior linebacker Dexter Daniels and junior quarterback Steve Everson took top honors at Valdosta Wildcats Touchdown Club football banquet Monday at Valdosta High School.

Georgia Tech Head Football Coach Bill Lewis was the keynote speaker of the evening, discussing his coaching career, the state of college athletics, the Yellow Jacket program and the attributes needed to succeed in football and life.

Daniels, the *USA Today* Defensive Player of the Year, received the Most Valuable Defensive Player award for his role in the Wildcat defense. Daniels will attend the University of Florida next fall to play for Steve Spurrier's Gators.

Everson received the Most Valuable Offensive Player award at the

banquet. Everson was the offensive catalyst for the Region 1-AAAA champions.

Lewis was the National Coach of the Year in 1991, as voted by the American Football Coaches Association and United Press International. He guided East Carolina to an 11-1 mark, compiling a 21-12-1 record in three years at the Pirate helm. In January, he was tabbed to succeed Bobby Ross as head coach at Georgia Tech.

Lewis said there will be some changes in the 1992 edition of the Yellow Jackets, but for the most part, the team's philosophy toward the game will remain the same.

"Our approach to the game will remain basically the same," Lewis said. "I think Coach Ross and I both believe in the fundamentals of the game."

Besides Daniels and Everson, the other Wildcat players awarded for

their part in the region championship season were: Howard Bridges Memorial Scholastic Award - John Walker; Super Skinner award - John Green; Mark Stevens Memorial Sportsmanship Award - John Walker; Julian Lefiles Memorial Spirit of the Wildcats Award - Jamey Waters; 'Dynamite' Goodloe Memorial Most Improved Award - Nick Reed; Most Loyal award - Sung No Han, John Copeland; Special Teams award - Dow Drury; Best Receiver award - Brice Hunter; Bill Myddelton Memorial Best Offensive Lineman Award - Tim O'Brien; Best Offensive Back award - Alfred Barnes; Best Defensive Lineman - Tim McClain; Best Defensive End award - Franklin Wiseman; Best Defensive Back award - Trampis Wrice.

Also recognized at the banquet for their contributions to the Wildcat program were the cheerleaders, the coaches and Touchdown Club officials.

Cats Are Young But Plentiful

By LEN ROBBINS
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The Valdosta Wildcats head into their 1992 baseball campaign blind to what the season might bring. With only two players returning with extensive experience, head coach Charles Tarpley's squad may not have much seasoning in Region 1-AAAA baseball, but what they will have is numbers — lots of them.

There are very few positions that are locked down with starters, according to Tarpley. And nearly every position has three players vying for a spot. Tarpley does have pitchers with experience, and he hopes they can carry his team, which finished with a 10-12 mark last year, until the other players step up.

"We are just hoping that the pitching comes through for us, and when it does, we think we have a chance to play with people," he said.

Valdosta's ace will be senior Matt Baker, who also will share time at third base. Joining the right-hander on the staff will be seniors Joel Bius and Jamey Waters, juniors Greg Denly, Jason Jelks and Keith McConnehead, sophomore Troy Brown and southpaw freshman Jarrett Bridges. Tarpley said that Bius, Jelks and Waters all have varsity experience, although Waters hasn't pitched since his sophomore year.

"I'm hoping that our numbers in pitching will be much better this year than last year. We've got the numbers," Tarpley said.

Behind the plate, Chris Rockey, a junior, looks to be the starter, but after him, Tarpley said, the other positions are up for grabs.

In the infield, seniors Tim O'Brien and Bius will battle Greg Clark for the first base spot. Senior Mark Howell and sophomore Dean Vinson will vie for time at second base. At short-stop, Tarpley has Waters, senior Fleming Brooks and Brown to choose from. John Green, a sophomore, will play third when Baker pitches, Tarpley said.

In the outfield, Tarpley said senior Philip Pieplow will compete with juniors Jelks, Steve Everson and McConnehead for playing time. Sophomore Blake Patterson will also get a chance to prove himself in the outfield, Tarpley said.

The designated hitter position will most likely be manned by senior Brohm Kellerman.

Tarpley said Coffee, Lowndes, Bainbridge and Colquitt will be the teams to beat in the region this season.

"Tift and us are probably the only ones that are young and inexperienced out the whole group. The other four (in the region) are perennially good baseball teams," he said.

As for the schedule, Tarpley's squad gets no breather. Besides a full region slate, the Wildcats will play home-and-aways with Berrien County, Clinch County and Madison County.

Valdosta Teen Gets Taste Of Washington

VDT 2-14-92
By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta teen Tiffany Roan probably has a better perspective of how the wheels of Washington turn than most politicians.

The Valdosta High School senior spent a few days in the nation's capital in January learning the government game. Along with 350 other students attending the National Young Leaders Conference, Tiffany sampled all three branches of the federal government.

While sitting in a mock session of the House of Representatives, Tiffany was a Congresswoman who leaned to the right on a handgun control bill. The student Congressmen were separated into panels who sympathized with different interest groups — kind of like it really is.

As a result, nothing was passed because everyone who supported a failed amendment voted against the final package, Tiffany said.

"It was aggravating because we spent all week working on this amendment and it got passed and then deleted in the end."

The teen's Supreme Court experience involved deciding if prayer at public school graduations is Constitutional. The student panel decided it wasn't based on the arguments presented, Tiffany said.

The exercise she found most interesting, however, involved the executive branch. Participants were assigned a cabinet position and asked to advise the President on a hypothetical situation.

"I think I learned the most from the presidential activity we did because I didn't realize how the President made his decisions," said



TIFFANY ROAN

Tiffany, who played the role of White House Chief of Staff. "I didn't realize how many people were involved in his decisions."

One thing all branches had in common, along with other organizations visited like the Saudi Arabian Embassy and the National Press Club, was the wandering tongue syndrome so prevalent in politics.

"Everybody we talked to and ask questions to, they would answer around them rather than coming out and giving an answer," Tiffany said.

The agenda included scheduled visits with Georgia representatives but the closest Tiffany got to any was sharing the same plane with Sen. Sam Nunn on the trip up. Congressional staffers were very friendly in the absence of their bosses, she said.

Tiffany said she had no particular interest in politics before the trip but didn't want to forgo the opportunity. She may not be ready for Capitol Hill but Tiffany said she'd return to Washington any time.

Valdosta At Home; Lowndes On Road

VDT 2-14-92
By MIKE GRUBB
Times Sports Editor

won a Region 1-AAAA game the past 2 seasons.

Valdosta is coming off an 81-55 loss to Lanier County Saturday night, while the Packers dropped a 72-60 decision at Tift County Tuesday night.

The regular season draws to a close tonight on the hardwood for Valdosta High and Lowndes High. The Lady Cats and Cats will close out the regular season wars by hosting the Colquitt County High Lady Packers and Packers in a Region 1-AAAA basketball contest at 7.

The Vikettes and Vikings will venture to Homerville to battle the Clinch County High Pantherettes and Panthers at 7 p.m.

In other area hoop action tonight, Brooks County travels to Turner County. Echols County will entertain Irwin County. Greenfield ventures to Valwood. Pierce County invades Berrien. Bacon County comes to Cook. Westbrook hosts Sherwood Baptist. P.K. Young will be in Jasper, Fla. to play the Hamilton County High boys, while the Hailton County girls will travel to FAMU High.

Linda Blackwell's 6-13 Lady Cats will be seeking to gain a little revenge tonight against the 3-14 Lady Packers. In their first meeting, Colquitt County shocked VHS, 41-32, in Moultrie. That has been the Lady Packers, 1-7, lone victory in Region 1-AAAA competition. Meanwhile, the Lady Cats haven't fared much better, amassing a 1-8 region mark.

The Lady Cats will be led by the play of center Esther Benjamin. Against Colquitt County, Benjamin led Valdosta with 15 points, while Natasha Johnson added 8. Spearheading the Lady Packers attack will be LaShon Beard, who scored 12 points against the Lady Cats.

VHS is coming off a 53-28 win against the Lanier County High Lady Bulldogs Saturday night, while Colquitt County is coming off a 68-24 loss at Tift County Tuesday night.

In the boys contest, John Miller's Cats will be going for a sweep of the season series with the Packers. VHS came away with a 46-38 win in Moultrie Jan. 10. Ernest Lowe paced the Valdosta scoring assault with 17 points, while Andre James added 11. Colquitt County was led by Donald Daniels' 14 points.

The Cats have amassed a 5-14 mark overall and a 2-7 record in Region 1-AAAA play. Meanwhile, the Packers are 4-13 and 0-8 in region play. In fact, Colquitt County has not

Lowndes, Valdosta Start Region Slate

VDT Fri. 3-20-92
By LEN ROBBINS
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The Valdosta Wildcats and Lowndes County baseball clubs begin their respective region schedules today, both facing longtime rivals.

Valdosta (2-1) faces Tift County (4-5) today at 4 p.m. at home, while the undefeated Lowndes Vikings travel to Douglas to play the equally undefeated Coffee County Trojans (7-0) at 7 p.m. (Coffee played a late game against Wayne County Thursday.)

There has been no intra-region play in 1-AAAA thus far, but many teams have shown flashes of what will come. Lowndes, Coffee and Bainbridge (6-0) are all currently unde-

feated. Colquitt County is a strong 5-2 and Tift County is 4-5 in non-region competition.

Tarpley predicted before the season how the teams would stack up.

"Coffee, Colquitt, Lowndes and Bainbridge should all be up there, with us and Tift being young and inexperienced," Tarpley said.

After a convincing 5-0 win over Berrien County Wednesday, Lowndes coach Steve Kebler agreed with Tarpley's assessment of the region.

"Bainbridge is looking real good, so is Colquitt. I guess we'll find out about Coffee Friday," Kebler said.

As for his own team, Kebler said, "We're looking good. We'll be in the thick of it."

VDT 3-20-92
■VHS B-TEAM SPLITS: The Valdosta Wildcat B-Team baseball squad split a pair of games with Colquitt County Wednesday. In the first game, the Wildcats lost in extra innings 8-7. Kevin Nolan struck five and was saddled with the loss while Blake Patterson led the way offensively with two basehits.

In the second game, Jarrett Bridges hurled a two-hitter with 10 strikeouts to spark VHS to a 9-1 win. Patterson had two hits with three RBI while Chad Parkerson had three hits and John Greene and Bridges each had two hits.

The team is now 4-3 and will next play Tift County Wednesday at Valdosta High in a 4:30 p.m. contest.



Valdosta's Ernest Lowe won the high jump Tuesday afternoon at VHS with a jump of 6'0". Lowe won three individual events to pace the Wildcats — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Cats Dominate Track Opener

VPT 3-11-92

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta High Wildcat boys track team opened their season Tuesday and were impressive with wins over Lowndes and Thomasville at the VHS track.

Despite wet conditions, meet officials got the entire meet in with the Wildcats taking first place in all but two events. Valdosta totalled 103 points while Lowndes had 40 and Thomasville had 23.

Wildcat senior Ernest Lowe had three individual first places and was a member of one first place relay team. Other Wildcats with more than one first were Dexter Daniels, Franklin Wiseman, Brice Hunter and Scott Jones.

"We were looking forward to getting a chance to see Lowndes," VHS head coach Larry Jester said. "I think if we hold our own in the field events, we have some strength on the track. We also showed some character in the 1,600 and the 3,200 because they were our Achilles' heel last year."

VHS swept the long jump as Lowe won the event (21'1") while teammate Michael Roberts (19'3 1/2") was second and Trampis Wrice was third (18'3 1/4"). Lowe also won the high jump (6'0") while Lowndes's Sedric Neloms (5'10") was second and Roberts (5'6") was third. Lowndes's Demarcus Rizer (5'6") was fourth.

Daniels swept through the discus and shotput to gain his two first places. He won the shotput (45'1") while teammate Tim McClain (41'10 1/2") was third. Lowndes's

See TRACK, Page 10-A

From Page 9-A

Randall Godfrey was fourth (41'10"). In the discus, Daniels won (139'1") while Lowndes's Paul Rozell was second (115'1"). Valdosta's Marcus Williams (114'1") was third while James Thomas (110'2") was fourth.

Valdosta also swept the pole vault. Matt Vanus (9'6") won the event while John Yeargan (7'6") was second, Michael Ronn (7'3") was third and Joel Hunt (7'0") was fourth.

In the 400 meter relay, Valdosta's number one team won with a time of (43.2) while Lowndes top team was second (44.01). The Valdosta team consisted of Robert Randolph, Lowe, Frank Wiseman and Aldrich Graham while Lowndes team was made up of Leviticus McKinnon, Randall Godfrey, Tommy Starks and Billy Poole.

Lowe won the 400 meters (51.2) while Lowndes's Dana Smith was second (51.5) and Lowndes's Cedric Mathis was third (52.9). In the 100 meters, Wiseman (10.4) won while three of his teammates rounded out the top four. They were Graham (10.5) in second, Randolph (10.7) in third and Wrice (10.9) in fourth.

In the 200 meters, Graham (22.84) won while Randolph (23.07) was second. Lowndes's Starks (23.4) and Mathis (23.53) were third and fourth, respectively. In the mile relay, Lowndes won with the team of Demarcus Rizer, Kenwin Hunter, Mathis and Smith (3:44.14) while Valdosta's team of Graham, Michael Harper, Benjamin and Lowe were second (3:44.21).

In the triple jump, Valdosta's Ter-

rence Daniels (42') was second while Wrice (37'4 1/2") was third.

Brice Hunter won both hurdles events. In the 300 meter hurdles, Hunter (43.38) won while John Copeland (44.39) was second and McKinnon (45.44) was third. In the 110 high hurdles, Hunter (15.8) won while Copeland (16.09) was third and McKinnon was fourth (16.32).

Lowndes's Carlton Johnson (11:12) won the 3,200 meter run while teammate Ben Chatraw (11:41) was fourth. In the 1,600, Valdosta's Scott Jones (5:03) edged Lowndes's Johnson (5:04) for the win. Valdosta's

Edward Moore was fourth (5:23).

In the 800 meter run, Jones (2:17) won while Lowndes's Stephen Gregory (2:19.47) was second and Copeland (2:19.99) was third.

"Valdosta has got a great team this year with some excellent runners," said Lowndes coach Chuck Landy. "I think we're going to be pretty good. We didn't run as well overall as we did last Thursday but we're going to get better."

Valdosta will be at home again Monday, March 16 for their next meet while Lowndes hosts Coffee, Fitzgerald and Tift County next Tuesday.



Clinch County third baseman Jamie Bass tags out Valdosta's Jason Jelks at third during action from Tuesday's Panther-Wildcat clash. Jeff Allen.

Baker Leads Cats

Past Panthers

By CHRIS JOHNSON
March 4, 1992
Times Sports Writer

Matt Baker pitched five solid innings and had the game-winning hit in the seventh inning to lead the Valdosta High Wildcats to a come-from-behind 4-3 win over the defending Class A state champion Clinch County Panthers in prep baseball action Tuesday afternoon at Bazemore Field.

With the win, Valdosta improves to 2-1 overall. It was the season opener for Clinch County.

The Wildcats entered the seventh trailing 3-1, but the Cats, who had just four hits in the previous six innings, came up with three clutch hits in their last-inning rally.

Clinch used four different pitchers, the last of which, Jamie Bass, came on in the ninth inning and was saddled with the loss.

Valdosta High center fielder Blake Patterson started the rally with a one-out bloop single into short right field. Phillip Pieplow, pinch-hitting for Jamey Waters, followed by ripping a hard single to left to put runners on first and second. But the Cats' chances seemed slim after Brahm Kellerman struck out for the second out of the inning.

Bass then began to lose control. He ran the count to 3-and-2 against Keith McConnehead, who then watched ball four go by to load the bases. The next batter, Chris Rockey, also drew a walk after Bass let the count get to 3-2. Rockey's walk scored Patterson to cut the lead to 3-2.

Baker stepped up next and drove a 2-2 pitch deep into the gap in right-

Wildcats 4, Panthers 3

CLINCH CO.		VALDOSTA	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
Booth cf	3 0 0	Everson lf	3 0 0
Flowers ss	4 1 2	Rockey c	3 0 0
Shirley p	3 0 0	Baker p	4 1 2
Hart c	2 1 0	Waters lf	2 0 0
LeCesse lf	2 1 0	Pieplow rf	2 0 0
Bass 3b	3 0 0	Howell 2b	2 0 0
Thomas 1b	3 0 2	Patterson	3 1 0
Blanton rf	2 0 0	Waters ss	1 0 0
LeCesse 2b	3 0 1	Brooks 3b	2 0 0
Hart p	1 0 0	O'Brien ph	1 0 0
		Pieplow ph	1 0 0
		Kellerman ph	1 0 0
		McConhead ph	0 1 0

Totals 25 3 7 1 Totals 26 4 7 2

CLINCH CO.		VALDOSTA	
IP	H	R	ER
Shirley	2	2	1
Hart	2	1	0
Blanton	2	1	0
Bass, L	2-3	3	3
Valdosta	5	5	3
Baker, W	2	2	0
Denley, W	2	2	0

000 300 9-3
100 800 100
LOB-4

E-Shirley, Bass, Thomas, Rockey, DP-one
Clinch: S. Valdosta: 4, 2B-Baker, Thomas, Flower, WP-Denley, Blanton.

center field and Keith McConnehead easily scored the winning run from second base.

Baker was the star from the plate going 3-for-4 with two RBIs and a run scored. "We were a little lucky," said Valdosta High head coach Charles Tarpley. "But we had the two pinch hitters really come through for us at the end."

Baker got VHS on the board first after hitting a two-out double in the first and scoring on a single by Jason Jelks.

Clinch scored all three of its runs in the fourth as Thomas Flowers led off with a double and Kevin Morrison, Vince LeCesse, and Jeremy Thomas each had singles.

The Panthers had runners on second and third in the top of the seventh inning with one out, but VHS pitcher Greg Denley struck out Jason Booth and Flower to end the in-

Local Student Gets 'Eyes' From State

By KRISTINE HARNAGE
Times Staff Writer

"We want everyone to look at the disabled as a person first and disabled person second," said Charlotte D. Cook, rehabilitation employment specialist for the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). One potential DRS client is Brian Hickox, a 15-year-old Valdosta High sophomore who's been legally blind since birth.

Brian uses a visual tech machine which enlarges print for his studies. He'll be served by the Council for Visually Impaired in the DRS starting his senior year of high school to determine what training he needs for vocation and employment. Brian's an honor roll student wishing to become a physical therapist or chiropractor after graduation. He was at the Georgia Academy for the Blind last year and is adapting well to Valdosta High, according to the staff.

The DRS is an agency within the state Department of Human Resources.

Rehabilitation Services works with individuals who have mental and/or physical disabilities which prevent them from working. "This agency which may include psychological tests, medical evaluations and vocational evaluations," said Ms. Cook.

"Once the diagnostic evaluation has been completed and the person has been determined to be disabled, a plan of services will be jointly planned by the individual and the Rehabilitation Services," she said. "Ser-

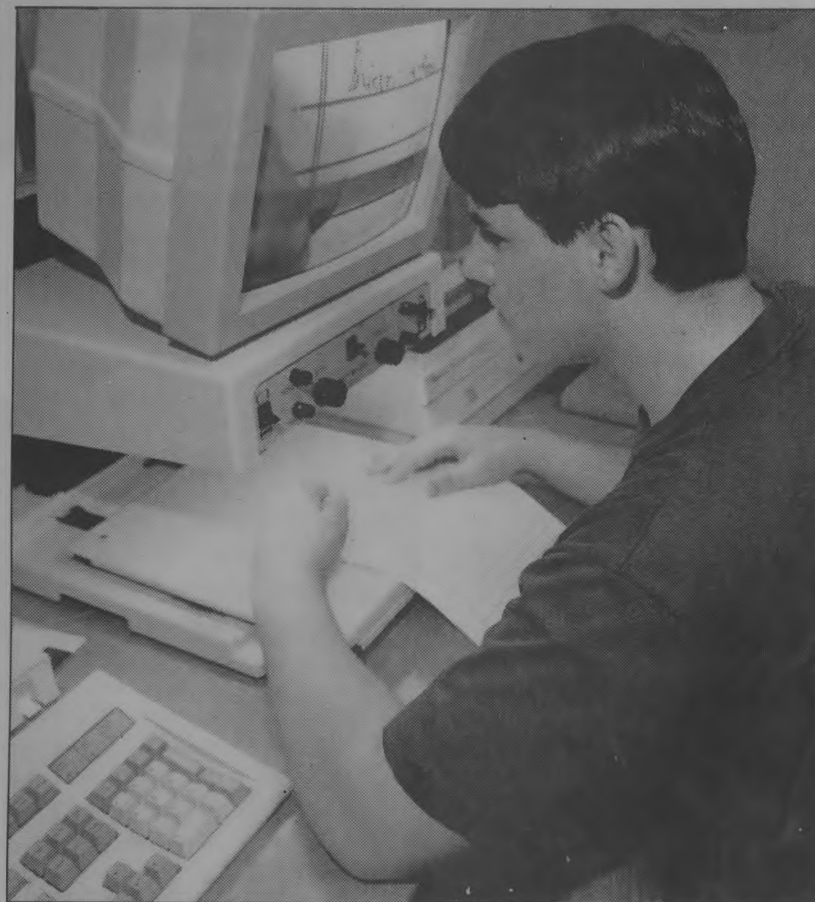
vices are individualistic and can be on-the-job training, vocational training, college training, limited medical services, job development, counseling and guidance and job placement. The goal is to return the person to gainful employment or to enable the person to live independently."

Business and Rehabilitation is a partnership program for employment of disabled workers. "Quality disabled workers are the industry's untapped resource," said Ms. Cook. "Rehabilitation Services has over 64 years of experience in meeting employer needs with qualified disabled workers. Studies have shown that disabled workers compare favorably or rate higher than non-disabled workers in productivity, safety and attendance."

Disabled workers have proven themselves in a broad range of occupations, according to DRS.

Employing disabled workers through DRS saves employers money by providing employment services at no cost to the employer and no fee to employee, assisting employers in obtaining tax credits for hiring disabled workers, advising employers how to remove architectural and transportation barriers, consult-affirmative action plan and reducing overhead and training costs.

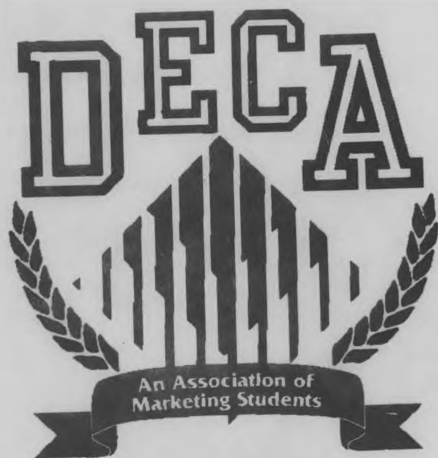
DRS provides services to employers such as job analysis, job restructuring, accessibility and follow-up-services, awareness seminars, assistance with injured workers, assistance with current troubled employees and affirmative action.



Brian Hickox, 10th grader at Valdosta High School, is in the vision impaired program at the school, using a Opteclec which makes it possible for him to see regular print — Times Photo By Jeff Allen.

FORTY-FOURTH EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE BANQUET

Valdosta Chapter



Distributive Education Clubs of America



VALDOSTA HIGH SCHOOL

Williams Leads Lowndes To Win

Staff Reports

The Lowndes High girls track team ran away with first place in a seven-team meet Wednesday afternoon at Valdosta High School while Valdosta finished in second place.

Lowndes High rolled up 150 points en route to the victory, while Valdosta High finished with 87 points. Thomasville finished third with 80 points.

Vicky Williams had three first-place finishes to key Lowndes' win.

Williams won the high jump with a jump of 4'8". Lowndes' Tyra Foster finished fifth with a jump of 4'6".

Valdosta's Tiffany Wright captured one of two first place finishes for VHS with a leap of 16'8 1/2" in the long jump. VHS' Beth Schnake was fourth at 15'5 1/4", while Lowndes' Sabrina Montgomery was second at 16'6" and Jenkins third at 16'1 1/2".

Lowndes' Gretchen Lawson finished third in the discus with a throw of 90'5" while teammate Lazonya Berrian was fourth at 89'. VHS' La-Shon Hargett was fifth at 77'9".

VHS' Maggie McDonald was top in the 1600 meter run at 6:07, while tea-

mmate Kristina Lyons was third at 6:13. Donna Hall's fourth place time of 6:16.9 was best for Lowndes, while Stacey Brinkley was fifth at 6:17.72.

Lowndes' Veronica Williams finished second in the 100 meters at 12.43, while Tara McFadden was third at 12.62. VHS' Heather Harris was fifth at 13.11.

VHS' Hargett was third in the shotput at 31'10". Lowndes' Lawson was fourth at 31' and Kathy Washington was fifth at 30'3 1/2".

Lowndes' number one team of McFadden, Montgomery, Wanda Floyd and Jenkins was tops in the 400 meter relay at 51.31 while the number

two team of Octavia Graham, Loretta Arrington, Jackie Kegl and Pam Jones was fifth at 53.21. VHS' number one team of Wright, Tonya McCleoud, Michelle Hendricks and Harris was third at 53.06.

Lowndes' Vicky Williams was best in the 400 meters with a time of 59.72, while Valdosta's Kristin Sanderson was fifth at 66.13.

Lowndes' Sabrina Montgomery won the 800 meters with a time of 2:40.29, while Loretta Arrington was fourth at 2:44.15. VHS' McDonald was second at 2:41.

Lowndes' Brinkley won the 3200 meters with a time of 13:15.0 while

Hall was third at 13:41.99. VHS' Lyons was fourth at 13:51.

Lowndes' number one team of Arrington, Jones, Montgomery and Vicky Williams won the 1600 meter relay with a time of 4:16.31, while the team of Jenkins, Graham, Foster and Kegl was third at 4:34.55. The VHS team of Hendricks, Wright, Harris and Sanderson was second at 4:34.

Lowndes' McFadden finished second in the 200 meters with a time of 26.52, while Floyd was fifth at 28.12. VHS' Wright was fourth at 27.20.

Lowndes' Jenkins won the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 15.33. VHS' Wright was second at 16.31, while Hendricks was third at 17.03.

6-B Thursday, March 19, 1992



VDT

Up And Over

Valdosta High School's Michelle Hendricks makes a successful leap over the bar in the high jump during a track meet held Wednesday afternoon at Valdosta High School. See related story on page 4-B — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

■LOWNDES NIPS VHS IN GOLF: The Lowndes High golf team beat crosstown rival Valdosta High by just one stroke in prep golf action Tuesday afternoon at Francis Lake.

The Lowndes High team fired a team total of 346 compared to 347 of Valdosta. Josh Romine was the low man for the Vikings with a round of 78. Sonny Simpson fired an 86, Jimbo Bennett fired a 90 and Russell Barbee shot a 92.

■VALDOSTA GIRLS TENNIS TEAM FALLS: Colquitt County downed Valdosta High school five matches to one in girls prep tennis action Tuesday in Moultrie.

Number four seed Jennifer Eidson defeated Susie Sirmons 6-2, 6-4 for Valdosta High's only win of the day. In other singles matches, number one seed Leigh Willis defeated Mallette Mitchell 6-3, 6-2, number two seed Amy McGilvey defeated Rachael Bairunos 7-6, 6-1 and Farise Pickens beat Hilary Davis 6-0, 6-0.

In doubles action, Colquitt's Carrie Cannon and Janna Vick teamed up to beat Keri Langdale and Emily Bowling 6-4, 6-1, while Randall Hughes and Amanda Taylor defeated Valdosta's Andrea Moody and Robyn Hastings 6-1, 6-3.

Valdosta, which falls to 1-1, will be in action again Thursday, March 19 against Irwin County. The Coffee County match that was rained out has been rescheduled for Monday, March 30 in Douglas. VDT 3-18-92

Lowndes, Valdosta Start Region Slate

VDT Fri, Mar 20, 1992
By LEN ROBBINS
Times Assistant Sports Editor

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There has been no intra-region play in 1-AAAA thus far, but many teams have shown flashes of what will come. Lowndes, Coffee and Bainbridge (6-0) are all currently unde-

feated. Colquitt County is a strong 5-2 and Tift County is 4-5 in non-region competition.

Tarpley predicted before the season how the teams would stack up.

"Coffee, Colquitt, Lowndes and Bainbridge should all be up there, with us and Tift being young and inexperienced," Tarpley said.

After a convincing 5-0 win over Berrien County Wednesday, Lowndes coach Steve Kebler agreed with Tarpley's assessment of the region.

"Bainbridge is looking real good, so is Colquitt. I guess we'll find out about Coffee Friday," Kebler said.

As for his own team, Kebler said, "We're looking good. We'll be in the thick of it."



Roy Kilgard, Wilson Faircloth and Lee Scott of wood, metal, plastics and a lot of ingenuity play their instruments that they constructed out — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Playing Their Own Music

VDT 3-13-92

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

There's a new band in Valdosta but they only know two songs. That's not bad considering they're playing on plywood and PVC pipe.

Valdosta High students Wilson Faircloth, Roy Kilgard and Lee Scott won first place in the "Sounds of Music" category held at the Region Science Olympiad in Tifton last month. The teens played "America the Beautiful" on instruments they helped build.

"We had to build it, play it and explain it," Wilson, 17, said of his Tupperware drums and PVC trombone. "It was educational. You had to know all the physics behind the instruments to build them."

The instruments were built with the help of other VHS Science Club members and chemistry teacher Jimmy Carter, who cut out the wood frames for the bass, chimes and drums.

To meet the requirements of the region tournament, participants had to explain the physics laws that guided design and tuning of the instruments.

That was the easy part. Not as simple was finding materials to

build the band. The use of real musical materials was disallowed in order to challenge the students' knowledge of physics.

They used regular wire for bass strings. Tupperware canisters posed as drums, and regular old plywood formed the body of the award-winning bass.

The guys had to render the patriotic melody to win the prize but are working on a few more tunes for the state contest in April. They're also building more instruments to dazzle the judges. The more diversity, the better their chances, they said.

Although their names are on the trophy, the effort was shared by all 14 Science Club members who composed the Olympiad Team and Science Club Sponsor Karen Burroughs.

On the eve of the competition the entire team went on a frantic search for a cymbal to complement the drums.

"We split up and went in Knart banging on everything we could find," Roy, 17, said. A metal pot lid won the audition and quickly joined the ensemble.

"Playing it was pretty easy," compared to building the instru-

ments, Lee, 16, said. Obtaining the right tone from the metal pipes portraying chimes was probably the most difficult task.

The trio is working on a rendition of "Unchained Melody" and a few others. With the addition of the new instruments, they plan to play two each per song.

The VHS Olympiad Team finished second in the contest, making them eligible to participate in the state competition. In addition to Roy, Wilson and Lee, the following first-place winners will go to state in their category: Alex Penn and Lee Scott in balancing equations; Bill Howard and Rebecca Morgan in computer programming; Wilson Faircloth and Roy Kilgard in the Scrambler — involving a self-propelled hand-built car; and Alex Penn in Designer Genes.

Second place individual winners were: Sara South and Jennifer Spencer in chemistry lab; Bill Howard and Holland Alday in rocks, minerals and fossils; Joe Langdale and Bert Eidson in bridge building; Lee Scott in metric estimation; Alex Penn in bio-process lab; Pete Tucker and Holland Alday in circuit lab; Wilson Faircloth in Get Your Bearings; and Pete Tucker and Bert Eidson in measurement.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Tuesday, March 17, 1992 9-A

Wildcats Cruise In Home Meet

Staff Reports

The Valdosta Wildcat track team overwhelmed four other teams Monday in a four-way meet at VHS. Valdosta won handily with 196 points while Suwannee was second with 56, Colquitt County was third with 36, Thomasville was fourth with 28 and Berrien County was fifth with 11.

Valdosta collected 13 first places out 16 events. Ernest Lowe and Aldrich Graham had a hand in four first places each. Lowe won the high jump (6'6") while teammate Joey Benjamin was second (6'2"), Andre James was third (6'0") and Michael Roberts was fourth (5'8"). Lowe won the long jump (22'0").

Lowe gained first place in the 400 meter dash (51.02) while Benjamin was third (51.66) and Valdosta's Michael Hopper was fourth (52.59). In the mile relay, the Wildcat team of Lowe, Hopper, Benjamin and Graham claimed first (3:32) while the second VHS team of Scott Jones, Roberts, James and Terrence Daniel was third (3:45.25).

Graham finished first in the 100 meter dash (10.97) while Robert Randolph was fourth (11.25). Frank Wiseman, the Cats' top sprinter, missed the meet with a pulled hamstring suffered in a meet last week. Boys track coach Larry Jester said Wiseman will not return to the team until after the spring break.

Graham's second individual first was in the 200 meter dash (22.69). Valdosta's Tito Thomas was second (23.04) while Lowe was fourth (23.34). Graham was also a part of the winning 400 meter relay team along with Randolph, Alfred Barnes and Roberts (43.50). The second VHS team in that event which consisted of Brian Wiseman, Derrick Crowder Thomas and Trampis Wrice was second (44.20).

Dexter Daniels won both the shotput (48'10") and the discus (149'8"). Valdosta's Jason Yearby tied for third in the shotput (43'5") while Tim McClain was fifth (42'3"). Marcus Williams was fourth in the discus (121').

Matt Vannus claimed first place in the pole vault (10'6") while Jones was second (9'6"), Michael Ronn was third (8') and John Yeargen was fourth (7'6"). Jones won the 800 meters (2:06.06) while Benjamin was second (2:06.34) and James Canady was third (2:07.14).

Brice Hunter did the job in the hurdles, winning the 110 high hurdles (15.56) and the 300 intermediate hurdles (41.82). John Copeland was second in the 110 (15.57) and third in the 300 (43.59) while Shaddrick Green was fourth in the 110 (18.45) and in the 300 (44.56).

Terrence Daniels was second in the triple jump (42'9 3/4") while Wrice was third (40'10"). Tysha Washington was fifth in the 3,200 meters (11:20).

"Because we didn't have Frank (Wiseman) we had to adjust four events but everybody stepped up and did a good job," said Jester. Jester also gave much of the credit of the Wildcats' early success to the other Wildcat assistant coaches and track coordinator Jerry Don Baker.



Rachael Baiorunos of the Valdosta High County. VHS lost the match 5-0 to the Lady Indians' tennis team prepares to hit the ball in action from Thursday's match against Irwin Leavy. — Times Photo by Paul

VHS Girls Fall To to Irwin

B-team Is Victorious

VDT, Fri., March 20, 1992

Staff Reports

The Irwin County Lady Indians girls tennis team came to Valdosta High Thursday and soundly defeated the Lady Wildcat netters 5-0 in a non-region match.

The loss brings the girls' record to 1-2 with their next match being on March 30 at Coffee County, according to Lady Wildcats coach Frank Hjort.

VHS' Rachael Baiorunos, the number one seed, was defeated by Melissa Posey 6-7, 6-2, 6-7. Number two

player Hillary Davis was beat by Melanie Sumner 2-6, 3-6 and Jennifer Eidson lost to Irwin's Dana Coley 0-6, 1-6.

In doubles action, the team of Keri Langdale and Emily Bowling was defeated by Krissy Thompson and Amber Smith 4-6, 1-6. Valdosta's tandem of Andrea Moody and Robyn Hastings lost to Melinda Cargile and Leticia Bryant 2-6, 0-6.

In girls' b-team play, the Valdosta squad won 3-2 over the visiting Lady Indians.

Mendi Ray lost to Amy Hopkins 4-6, 2-6. Jennifer Crick beat Kim Coley 6-4, 7-5. Katie Stone defeated Brandi Kilgore 6-4, 6-0 and Lady Wildcat Mandi Turner was beat by Diana Griffith 4-6.

In b-team doubles, Valdosta's girls won their only match 9-8 (7-3). The team of Amanda McGhin and Betsy Richards beat Susan Taylor and Mandy Tucker of Irwin.

The match brings the b-team's record up to an undefeated 2-0. Their next match will be in Fitzgerald April 6.

Valdosta is a member of Region 1-AAAA while Irwin County is a member of Region 2-A.

VHS Places Second In State Contest

VDT 3-9-92
Valdosta High School placed second in the state competition of Georgia's Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Math and Science (TEAMS) held recently at Columbus College.

Coached by Perry Baskin, varsity team members included Brian Stanley, Bill Howard, Laura Barbas, Jennifer Eidson, Alexander Penn, Jennifer Edwards, Jennifer Spencer and Phil Alday.

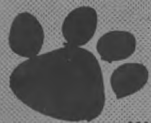
Shaw High School of Columbus took top honors, and Pacelli High School, also of Columbus, placed third. Ten schools were represented in the annual high school academic competition with teams of about six-12 members. They competed in the academic areas of English, mathematics, computer fundamentals, biology, chemistry, physics and engineering graphics.

TEAMS is sponsored by the Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS), a national, non-profit youth activity which emphasizes the study of engineering, technology, mathematics and science.

For additional information, contact Columbus College's Department of Chemistry and Geology at 568-2075.

■ **Skill Olympics:** Valdosta High School students captured high honors in the Area Vocational

Valdosta High School



NEWS

Written and Compiled
By VHS Students

Industrial Clubs of America Skill Olympics Feb. 8 in Moultrie:

Extemporaneous Speaking, Michael Johnson, first; Job Interview, Robin Rowe, first; Prepared Speech, Rebecca Morgan, second; Nurse Assisting, Tina Costello, first; Job Skill Demonstration A, Natasha Johnson, third; CAD Architectural, Joel Bius, second; Mechanical Drafting (Board), Eric Stanley, second; Outstanding Student, Rebecca Morgan, first; Medical Assisting, Matthew Loveday, first; Dental Assisting, Jodi Osborne, first; Health Occupations Knowledge Bowl, Amanda McGhin, Ryan Coyne, Jessica Morgan, Rebecca Morgan and DeDe Dennis,

first; Basic Health Care Skills, Arthur Rizer, first; Graphic Communications, Spence Carver, first.

■ **FBLA Competes:** Valdosta High School students competed well in the Future Business Leaders of America region competition Jan. 30 at Lowndes High School:

Joel Smith, first place in Public Speaking; Alysia Walker, second place in Machine Transcription; Althea Cochran, third place in Database Management; Dana Pompey, fourth place in Ms. Future Business Leader. Danny Johnson, fifth place in Mr. Future Business Leader. Sylvia Robinson, fifth place in Spreadsheet Applications.

Other students participating were Brian Adams, Alfred Barnes, Michelle Collins, Quinlin Parker and Tawana Woods.

■ **Students Honored:** Each month a representative cross section of Valdosta High School students who are striving to achieve their academic best are honored by the Academic Booster Club for their efforts. They are selected by the faculty members for consistently demonstrating academic performance, work ethic, cooperative and positive attitude/behavior

and regular attendance. The following persons were chosen as Students of the Month for January:

Phillip Allen, Eric Arnold, Julie Arnold, Tara Brown, Vaughn Clark, Leah Collins, John Copeland, Bruce Douglas, Jennifer Eidson, Shalina Flucas, Melody Fulton, Billy Gay, Sabrina Griffin, Wendy Griffin, David Jenkins, Lakeshia Johnson, Jeremy Lamb, Melissa Lyons, Ben Matson, Andrae Mazion, Robbie McCranie, Jessica McMullen, Tammy Means, Permelia Moore, Rebecca Morgan, Travis Murray, Jordi Pelfort, Alex Penn, Moneka Peterson, Charles Quiggins, David Roddey, Lee Scott, Marcus Scurry, Michael Singletary, Sentoria Sirmans, Jamie Smith, Greg Soshnik, Ebony Story, Edwin Thomas, Lawrence Thomas, Carol Wade, John Walker, De Jaris Washington, Rachel Winston and Eureka Woods.

These students were honored with a party during their lunch period Feb. 20. Burger King on North Ashley, one of the Community Partners in Education, was the host this month with Academic Booster Club parents' furnishing home-baked desserts and serving these young people.

Lowndes Takes First; VHS Second

VDT 3-12-92
Staff Reports

The Lowndes High girls track team won a five-team meet at Lowndes High Wednesday with a team total of 109 points. Valdosta High took second place with a total of 93 points.

Senior Vicky Williams was the star of the day for Lowndes finishing first in the high jump, 400 meter dash and the 1600 meter relay.

Valdosta's Tiffany Wright won the long jump with a jump of 15 feet, 1/2 inch. Lowndes' Shanell Jenkins was fourth with 14 feet, 3 1/2 inches, and Pam Jones was fifth with 14 feet, 1/2 inch.

Valdosta's LaShon Hargett won the discuss with a throw of 85 feet, 8 1/2 inches. Lisa Vincent took third, and Letesha Tharpe finished fourth.

Valdosta's Khristina Lyons finished second in the 1600 meter run with teammate Maggie MacDonald taking third. Lowndes' Stacy Brinkley took fourth with a time of 6:09.77.

Lowndes' Tara McFadden sprinted to victory in the 100 meter dash with a time of 13.14 with teammate Veronica Williams close behind at 13.16. Valdosta's Heather Harris finished third.

Vicky Williams' high jump of 4 feet, 8 inches was good enough for first place. Valdosta's Michelle Hendricks was third, and Lowndes' Chamanda Brooks was fourth with a jump of 4 feet, 4 inches.

Lowndes' Kathy Washington was the winner in the shotput with a toss of 32 feet, 2 3/4 inches. Valdosta's Hargett was third, and Lowndes' Gret-

chen Lawson was fifth with 27 feet, 7 1/2 inches.

Williams' time of 61.72 was best in the 400 meter run. VHS' Kristin Sanderson was second, Lowndes' Tyra Foster was fourth with 71.62 and VHS' Rashida Hitson was fifth.

VHS' team of Wright, Tonya McCleod, Hendricks and Harris was first in the 400 meter relay with a time of 53.78.

Lowndes' Sabrina Montgomery ran a 2:40.65 to capture first in the 800 meter run, while teammate Loretta Arrington was second with 2:41.40. VHS' MacDonald, Shantel Shigrist and Shalisha Tharpe finished third, fourth and fifth.

Lowndes' Stacy Brinkley and Donna Hall finished second and third
See TRACK, Page 6-B

Track

From Page 5-B

in the 3200 meter run with respective times of 13:36.00 and 13:45.00. VHS' Lyons and Jessica Morgan were fourth and fifth respectively.

Lowndes' team of Williams, Jones, Arrington and Montgomery was first in the 1600 meter relay with a time of 4:24.78. VHS' number-one team of Hendricks, Harris, McCleod and

Sanderson was second, and its number-two team of Beth Schnake, Natasha Jenkins, Ann Robinson and Hitson was third. Lowndes' number-two team of Brooks, Foster, Jonna Brimmer and Kackie Keglör was fourth at 4:59.60.

Lowndes' Tara McFadden and Wanda Floyd finished 1-2 in the 200 meter dash with respective times of 27.58 and 28.43. VHS's McCleod was

third and Harris was fifth.

VHS' Hendricks finished first in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 17.06. Lowndes' Shanell Jenkins was second at 17.30, and Marisa Troy was fifth at 20.43.

Fitzgerald finished third with 48 points, while Brooks County and Thomasville-Central tied for fourth with 10 points each.



Wildcats To Host Lowndes

VDT 3-31-92
By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Editor

Today, the team of the present meets the team of the future.

The Lowndes Vikings, sporting a 10-1 record, travel crosstown to meet Valdosta High today at 4:30 p.m. at Bazemore Field. The Wildcats have youth on their side against the Vikings but LHS has about everything else.

"They've got a lot of good pitching, a lot of good seniors and a lot of leadership," said VHS coach Charles Tarpley. "They're pretty good everywhere. I was talking to some scouts who saw them play against (Bainbridge's Brian) Powell and he was real impressed with them. This is the year they ought to do well."

Indeed, the Vikings have had the luxury of experience on their side. Michael Johnson is a four-year starter while Jimbo Scruggs and James Lester were major pieces of the puzzle a year ago. Along with Antoine Moran, Pete Ketterman and Gary Willis, Lowndes may be preparing for the subregion title.

Fewer of the names on the Valdosta roster are as familiar. Tarpley is trying to blend in some talented young players with the older ones without pushing the younger ones too fast. The mix is not easy.

"With the kind of pitchers and hitters we have in this region this year, you don't want to throw a bunch of young kids out there and destroy their confidence," Tarpley said. "We've got three or four sophomores and three or four freshmen who are playing a lot. We don't have a lot of seniors and the ones we have don't have any experience."

Tarpley cited last Friday's game at Colquitt County as an example. At the end of the game, the Wildcats had freshman Jared Bridges on the mound, sophomore Dean Vinson at shortstop and freshman Chad Parkerson in the outfield just to name a few.

Another underclassman, junior Greg Denly, will start on the mound against the Vikings today. Denly pitched 4 2/3 innings against the Packers Friday and collected 10 strikeouts. "He also had five walks and his teammates didn't help him a whole lot in the field," Tarpley added.

The Wildcats are currently winless in the region with an 0-3 record with losses to Colquitt County, Tift County and Coffee. Errors have been the main problem for the Wildcats who have shown some ability to reach base and score runs in their defense keeps them in the game.

Lowndes lost their first game of the year last Friday night in Tifton to the Blue Devils. The Vikings are 2-1 in the region with wins over Bainbridge and Coffee. Tift County is currently atop the Region 1-AAAA race with a 3-0 record. The Blue Devils travel to Bainbridge today.

Bainbridge is 2-1 in the region while Coffee is 1-2 and Colquitt County is 1-2. Coffee hosts Colquitt County tonight at 7 p.m.

Lowndes Nips Valdosta In Meet

VDT 4-1-92
Staff Reports

Lowndes High won first place in a five team track meet Tuesday in Tifton beating crosstown rival Valdosta High School by two points. VHS, however, was competing without 14 players who sat out the meet for violating team rules including Ernest Lowe.

Valdosta's Dexter Daniels won the shotput, and Jason Yearby was second. Lowndes High's Randall Godfrey was fourth.

Daniels was second in the discus, and Lowndes' James Thomas was fourth and Paul Rozell fifth.

Valdosta's Scott Jones won the pole vault, and teammate Mike Ronn was third.

Lowndes' Sedrick Neloms won the high jump, and Rod Slater was second. Valdosta's Tito Thomas was fourth.

Lowndes' Demarcus Rizer was fourth in the triple jump, and Slater was fifth.

Rizer was third in the long jump, and McKinnon was fifth.

Lowndes High's 400 meter relay team of Godfrey, Sibley Matchett, Tommy Starks and Cedric Mathis was first, and the team of Dana Smith, Rizer, Michael Moore and Michael Thompson was third. Valdosta's team of Marcus Williams, Trampis Wrice, Jerome Scurry, and Mike Roberts was fourth.

Lowndes' Carlton Johnson was second in the 1600 meter run, while Valdosta's Tysha Washington was fifth.

Lowndes' Smith won the 400 meter run, and Mathis was second.

Godfrey was tops in the 100 meter dash, Starks was third and Moore was fifth. Valdosta's Aldrich Brown was second, and Wrice was third.

Valdosta's Brice Hunter won the 110 meter hurdles, and John Copeland was third. Lowndes' McKinnon was fifth.

Valdosta's Thomas won the 200 meter dash, Brown was second and Roberts fourth. Lowndes' Godfrey was third, and Rizer was fifth.

Lowndes' McKinnon was second in the 300 meter hurdles, and Kenwin Hunter was fifth.

Lowndes' Johnson was first in the 3200 meter run, while Valdosta's Washington was fourth and Lawrence Roundtree fifth.

Lowndes' 1600 meter relay team of Starks, Rizer, Mathis and Smith was first, while the Valdosta team of James Canady, Roberts, Daniels and Ryan Coyne was second.

Canady won the 800 meter run, and Jones was third.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

10-A Wednesday, April 1, 1992

Vikes Win City Baseball Battle, 13-3

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Editor

Suspenseful it wasn't.

The hope of a possible Valdosta upset Tuesday didn't last long as the Lowndes Vikings scored seven runs in the first inning on their way to a 13-3 win at Bazemore Field.

The win pushes Lowndes to 11-1 overall and 3-1 in the Region 1-AAAA. The loss was Valdosta's fifth straight, dropping the Cats to 2-6 and 0-4 in the league.

Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley thought he had learned from last Friday night's loss at Colquitt County. In that game, starting pitcher Matt Baker was ineffective and was pulled after recording only one out. Greg Denly came on in relief and helped Valdosta get back in the game.

Tuesday, Tarpley started Denly. This time, Denly could do no right as he allowed the seven runs, five earned, before Baker relieved him. Baker pitched the next 5 2/3 innings and allowed only two earned runs.

"We didn't have a chance after the first inning," said Tarpley. "We hit it as good as we could've wanted to but the first inning just killed us. That's been the story of our life."

After Denly was pulled, he complained of pain in his shoulder and Tarpley said after the game there may be a possibility of rotator cuff damage.

Lowndes started the game with speedy Antoine Moran drawing a walk. After a stolen base, the first of five for Moran, he moved to third on Pete Ketterman's single. James Lester hit an infield single that scored Moran. Shawn Regan then singled to score Michael Johnson who had walked.

The biggest shot of the inning came from Roy Finnessee when he then delivered a two-run double that brought home Ketterman and Lester. Up 4-0, Regan, Finnessee and Jimbo Scruggs also scored in the inning to make it 7-0.



Roy Finnessee of Lowndes slides into third base on a double-steal during the first inning of Tuesday's game. Valdosta third

The scoring continued in the top of the second for Lowndes. Johnson started the inning with a single and moved to second on a Valdosta throwing error. Lester followed that with a one-out single to score Johnson and make it 8-0.

In the bottom of the second, Valdosta got on the scoreboard in a big way.

Keith McConnehead led off the inning with a walk and scored when first baseman Joel Bius crushed a Johnson offering over the right field wall for a two-run homer.

Lowndes stretched the lead in the third. Moran reached on a two-base error and stole third. Scott Regan scored him on a sacrifice fly. With the bases clear, Johnson ripped a double and scored when Ketterman followed him with a double to make it 10-2.

The Vikings got another in the sixth when Johnson singled, moved to second on a wild pitch and to third on an out. Lester reached base on an error and Johnson raced home to make it 11-2.

Valdosta scored their final run in the bottom of that inning when Blake

baseman Keith McConnehead's tag was late and Finnessee was safe — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Patterson singled, Bius singled him to second and Steve Everson's fielder's choice moved him to third.

Phil Pieplow singled to score Patterson and produce the final VHS run.

Lowndes added one more in the seventh off Bius, who entered the game in the seventh. Andy Cooper and Moran each reached base with one out and scored when Valdosta committed two errors in the inning.

"We never really hit it with authority," said Lowndes coach Steve Kebler. "Michael really didn't have

his good stuff today and give Valdosta credit — they hung in there. The seven runs in the first inning had to hurt them."

Valdosta goes to Bainbridge Friday while Lowndes will travel to Colquitt County.

In a ninth-grade game Monday, Valdosta defeated Lowndes 6-1. Jarrett Bridges went the distance on the mound, giving up four hits and striking out 10.

Chad Parkerson, Thompson Kurrie and Travis Howell each had two hits for the Wildcats.

■**VALDOSTA GIRLS SWEEP:** The Valdosta girls tennis team shut out the Lowndes girls at their home courts Wednesday, but the Lowndes boys saved face with a few victories of their own in area prep tennis action.

Frank Hjort's girls swept the Vikettes 5-0 in their varsity games, with number one seed Mallette Mitchell leading the way with a come-from-behind 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 win over Kami Bonner. Rachael Baiorunos was also victorious, winning 6-1, 7-5 over Darcie Leonard. Hilary Davis defeated Melissa Lahood 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, in the final singles match for the girls.

Lowndes' boys got their share of victories in the singles matches with Daniel Joe Hansson defeating Bryan Adams 6-0, 6-2, and Hyo Kim downing Greg Soshnik 6-0, 6-0. Valdosta's Danny Struble beat Tom Clifford 6-3, 6-7, 6-1.

In doubles competition, Valdosta's Blake Brantley and Ashley Giles defeated Travis Pate and David Broom 6-2, 6-4 and Jason Motley and Matt Cardella beat Lowndes' Jonathan Hall and Travis Paulk 5-7, 6-4, 7-5.

In girls doubles play, Valdosta's Emily Bowling and Keri Langdale beat Jenny Baxter and Tricia Clifford 6-2, 6-2, and the Lady Wildcat tandem of Andrea Moody and Robyn Hastings defeated Hannah Lahood and Marie-Anne Delthel 6-2, 6-2.

In b-team exhibitions, VHS's Jennifer Eidson beat Jenny Baxter 8-6, Mandi Ray lost to Tricia Clifford of Lowndes 3-8, Katie Stone of Valdosta downed Melissa Lahood 8-4, and Clifford won again, this time over Jennifer Crick 9-7.

The Valdosta girls, now 2-2, play next in Fitzgerald on Monday.



when Ware County forfeited a scheduled game in Homerville against the Panthers.

The Panther b-team won in their contest against the b-team Gators in a tight 5-4 match. The game lasted nine innings.

The varsity Panthers next game will be Friday against Atkinson County at 4:30 p.m. in Pearson.

VHS Hosts Region Rivals

VDT 4-3-92
By LEN ROBBINS
Times Assistant Sports Editor

With the Region 1-AAAA girls track meet less than a month away, today's Lady Wildcat Relays should be a good indication of who will be the contenders for the region crown, according to VHS track coordinator Jerry Don Baker and girls track coach Dick Sturtevent.

The meet, which begins at 2:30 p.m. at the Valdosta High track, will pit five teams from the region against one another, and will also feature Fitzgerald and Monroe of Albany, the defending Class AAA champions.

"Coffee and Colquitt and Lowndes and Bainbridge will be there, so this will give us a good reading on where we stand," Sturtevent said.

Baker agreed with Sturtevent, saying, "This (the meet) will give us a good indication of what to expect when the region tourney comes around."

The region tournament is scheduled for April 22-23 and will also be held at the Valdosta track facility.

This will be the first year Valdosta has hosted the Lady Wildcat Relays, but Baker plans to make it an annual event.

"We're looking forward to doing this every year. We've got a great track facility and once people see what we're doing here, I think this (the Lady Wildcat Relays) will be a great success," he said.

Harmon's Trophies and McDonald's of Valdosta are sponsoring the relays, with Harmon's furnishing trophies and McDonald's providing t-shirts to all event winners (first-third places).

Analyzing the competition, Sturtevent said his Lady Wildcats have a chance to do well in the meet.

"As far as teams go, Lowndes and Monroe look to be the top two teams, with us and Bainbridge being in their also. I'd say we stack up pretty good against these teams," he said.



Future Cadet

Valdosta High senior offensive lineman Tim O'Brien signs a football scholarship with West Point Academy at his home Thursday evening. On hand for the event were (from left to right) VHS head coach Nick Hyder, his mother Glynda, O'Brien, his father Mike, coach Jerry Don Baker and Tim's brother Ben — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Four Tied For McMoRan Lead

VDT 4-3-92
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Jay Haas sank a 5-iron from 196 yards for the first eagle in four years of tournament play on the tough 18th hole at English Turn and shared the lead Thursday in the \$1 million Freeport McMoRan Classic.

The 18th, a par-4 with a stroke average of 4.61, is the toughest finishing hole on the tour.

Seve Ballesteros, Chip Beck and Brad Bryant also carded 67s for the first round over the 7,116-yard course.

"I don't recall ever having holed a shot on the last hole, other than a chip or a putt," Haas said. "I could see it the whole way, and you could tell from the people, the building roar, that it was going to be close."

"I think that was the first time I ever got on that green in two. I was just trying to carry the green. When I hit the shot, it felt good — like a putt for a birdie. It just rolled on up there."

Six were tied at 68: Bob Eastwood, Scott Gump, Lon Hinkle, Jeff Maggert, David Rummells and Duffy Waldorf.

Robin Freeman, Neal Lancaster, Fran Quinn and Mike Standly were at 69.

Ballesteros failed to make the cut at the TPC last week, so he used Saturday and Sunday to consult with golf guru David Leadbetter in Orlando, Fla.

"Simple things," Ballesteros said. "Some adjustments with my shoulders. The swing was there, but the alignment wasn't there."

Rummells said his problem was his putting.

"Historically, I've been one of best putters out here. But not this year. I've really been struggling," Rummells said.

■LOWE, BENJAMIN TOP VHS AWARDS: Ernest Lowe and Esther Benjamin were the top award winners at Tuesday's basketball awards banquet for Valdosta High School.

Lowe, the Region 1-AAAA Player of the Year, won the boys most valuable player award, and Benjamin, who will attend Old Dominion to play basketball next year, was named the girls MVP.

Other award that were handed out for the Wildcat team were, Wildcat Spirit award-Aaron Lane; Most Improved-Billy Steinberg, Lane; Most Hustle award-Brian Adams; Best Scholastic Average-Matt Baker; Best Free Throw Percentage-Matt Baker; Best Rebounder-Joey Benjamin; Best Offensive Player-Lowe; Key Club Sportsmanship award-Billy Steinberg, Rodney Robinson; Coach's Achievement award-Brian Adams; Joel Montgomery award-Joey Benjamin.

The Lady Wildcats' awards were, Wildcat Spirit award-Natasha Johnson; Most Improved-Tracy Troutman; Most Hustle award-DeDe Dennis; Best Scholastic Average-Amanda McGhin; Best Free Throw Average-Yolanda Benjamin; Best Rebounder-Esther Benjamin; Best Offensive Player-Esther Benjamin; Best Defensive Player-Natasha Johnson; Key Club Sportsmanship award-Amanda McGhin; Coach's Achievement award-Natasha Johnson.

Awards were also handed out to the Wildcat and Lady Wildcat junior varsity players and the ninth-grade boys team. Winners of those awards were (boys j.v.) Larry Melton-Most Improved; Chad Brooks and Ivan Iverson-Best Offensive; Michael Roberts-Best Defensive; (girls j.v.) Melissa Sauls-Best All-Around; (ninth-grade boys) Alton McBurrough-Most Improved; Tim Kelsey-Best Offensive; Keith Washington-Best Defensive.

Wildcat coach John Miller and Lady Wildcat coach Linda Blackwell also recognized the seniors from their



teams for their contributions. Those seniors were Billy Steinberg, Ernest Lowe, Joey Benjamin, Aaron Lane, Brian Adams, Matt Baker, Luther Brantley, Philip Pieplow, Dennis Castleberry, Rodney Robinson, Natasha Johnson, Esther Benjamin, Tracy Troutman, DeDe Dennis, Detron Green and Stacy Jones, manager.

Profiles/A Weekly Feature About Local People

Flying High In Air Force Academy

VDT Tues., 4-7-92

Anne Clark

■ **Family:** parents, Retired Air Force Col. Richard R. Clark and Jacque Clark of Valdosta; brothers, Steven Clark and David Clark.

■ **Hobbies:** reading.

junior high. It wasn't the plan but Valdosta is where the Clarks decided to settle down.

Ms. Clark's two older brothers, David and Steven, weren't interested in the military but she was.

Both parents are proud of her decision to continue the Air Force legacy and of her achievements, Mrs. Clark said.

"Whenever a person says that South Georgia's educational system is poor, I have to disagree. I believe it is up to the individual student's efforts and participation," Mrs. Clark said of her daughter's schooling in Valdosta.

"Anne received everything she needed for the academy here and is applying it every day."

Since being in the Air Force Academy, Ms. Clark has maintained the Superintendent's Pin, which is just a cut above the regular Dean's List, academy officials said.

By DEAN POLING
Times Staff Writer

Anne Clark is making plans for the Air Force and she's doing it with flying colors.

She went straight to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs after graduating valedictorian from Valdosta High School in 1988. Ms. Clark is a Cadet First Class and is committed to at least five years in the Air Force, says her mother, Jacque Clark of Valdosta.

Now she's bound for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to finish her degrees in electrical engineering and applied mathematics. When Ms. Clark finishes at MIT, she will have her master's degree.

As part of her attendance to MIT, she received a full-paid scholarship and is one of the highest ranking students in her class of 1,100, say Air Force Academy officials.

So, many may ask, how does a woman end up choosing the Air Force as a career? To those who know Ms. Clark it is not much of a surprise.

Her father is retired Air Force Col. Richard R. Clark, also known as Dick Clark, Valdosta Airport's manager. The family lived in various places around the world.

Mrs. Clark said her daughter lived the life of a "military brat" until the family came to Valdosta's Moody Air Force Base when Ms. Clark was in



ANNE CLARK

VHS Rallies For Win

VDT 4-8-92
Staff Reports

The Valdosta High girls track team came from behind to take a three-point win over second-place Thomasville High School in a three-team meet Tuesday afternoon at Valdosta.

The 1600 meter relay team rallied Valdosta with a first-place time of 4:22 in the final event of the day. Michelle Hendricks, Tiffany Wright, Heather Harris and Kristin Sander-son were the four who brought VHS back for a victory.

Valdosta High finished with a total score of 58 points, and Thomasville finished with 55 points. Region 1-AAAA rival Tift County was third with 24 points.

Wright also picked up wins in the long jump (16 feet, 4 inches) and the 100 meter hurdles. She picked up a third place finish in the 100 meter dash.

Other first-place finishers were Maggie McDonald in the 1600 and 800 meter runs, and Jessica Morgan in the in the 3200 meter run with a time of 14:25. Khristina Lyons was second in the 3200 to complete a 1-2 finish for Valdosta High in the event.

Valdosta High also picked up a 1-2 finish in the 100 meter hurdles where Hendricks crossed the line after Wright.

The 400 meter relay team of Wright, Tonya McCloud, Hendricks and Harris took second place.

VHS did not pick up a victory in the 200 meter dash, but the team picked up some points with a 2-3-4 finish. McCloud was second, followed by Harris and Ann Robinson.

Third-place finishers were Latesha Tharpe in the discus and Lyons in the 400 meter run.

Fourth-place finishers were Beth Schnake in the long jump and Hendricks in the high jump.



National Cheerleading Association summer camp, they received BEST ALL AROUND SQUAD voted on by the instructors and the SPIRIT AWARD.

Squad members are Jana Whitehead - coach, Katherine Owens - manager, Angie Redden (captain), Maria Baratta (co-captain), Michelle Hendricks (co-captain), Alison Bass, Margaux Lakey, Kelly Mathis, Courtney Minchew, Amy Page, Tami Reed and Katherine Mathis.

■VHS CHEERLEADERS WIN CHAMPIONSHIP: The Valdosta High School Competition Cheerleaders won first place in the Small Varsity division at the Six Flags Over Georgia Cheerleading Championship held in Atlanta on March 28.

The squad competed against 14 other squads with second place going to Lakeside High, third to Troup County High and fourth to Jonesboro High School.

The VHS squad won a \$500 award, \$200 gift certificate, a first place trophy and each girl received \$50 worth of hair care products. This is the second year of the competition and the second year that VHS has taken first place. The squads are judged on tumbling, jumps, motion, techniques, dance ability and precision.

This year the squad has also taken first place at a competition in Macon and second place in Conyers. At

■VHS GOLFERS BEAT COLQUITT: The Valdosta High golf team defeated their Colquitt County counterparts Wednesday by 17 strokes in a region golf match-up, with the Wildcats accumulating 326 strokes and the Packers having 343 strokes.

Dow Drury was the low scorer for his team with a 77 on 18 holes. Following him for VHS was Clark Drury with an 80, Mike Cavan shot an 84 and Mabry Smith shot an 85.

The team will play next Tuesday when they face the Suwannee County and Lowndes teams at Francis Lake.



FITZGERALD EDGES VALDOSTA TENNIS TEAM: The Valdosta girls tennis team dropped a match to Fitzgerald Monday, 3-2.

Valdosta's Rachael Baiorunos defeated Jennifer Angel in the number two singles match (6-3, 7-5) while Valdosta's number one doubles team of Emily Bowling and Keri Langdale defeated Kim Lewis and Jennifer Lott (6-2, 6-1). Valdosta's Mallette Mitchell lost in the number one singles to Mandy Weeks (6-0, 6-4), Hilary Davis lost in number three singles to Rebecca McEchern (2-6, 3-6) and the doubles team of Robyn Hastings and Andrea Moody lost to Amy Spivey and Heather Vaughn (6-2, 6-1).

Valdosta is now 2-3 on the year and will host Coffee High today at McKey Park.

In B-team action, Valdosta defeated Fitzgerald to raise their record to 3-0. Valdosta B-team winners included Katie Stone over Jana Spivey (8-4), Mandi Ray over Lisa Gordon (8-6), Amanda McGhin and Betsy Richards over Spivey and Gordon (8-3) and Mandi Turner and Catherine Hutchinson over Rebecca Rutherford and Jessica Achord (7-6).

Jennifer Eidson and Jennifer Crick lost their singles matches while the doubles team of Marci Golivesky-Maura Miller and Merritt Green-Christy Ledbetter also lost.



WILDCATS PLACE THIRD: The Valdosta Wildcat track team finished third out of 23 teams in the L.C. Smith Monroe Relays Friday in Albany. Valdosta finished with 58 points while Monroe won with 101 and Bainbridge was second with 78.

Brice Hunter had the highlight of the day and the only first place for the Wildcat team. Hunter won the 110 high hurdles with a 14.28, setting a new school record in the process. Hunter also picked up points in the 300 intermediate hurdles where he finished third with a 40.99.

Ernest Lowe was second in the long jump (21'7 1/4") and third in the high jump (6'6"). Lowe was also a member of the 4x100 team that finished sixth (43.12). Also on that team were Robert Randolph, Aldrich Graham and Mike Roberts. Joey Benjamin, Michael Hopper, Graham and Lowe finished sixth in the 4x400 meter relay (3:28).

Dexter Daniels placed fourth in the shotput (47'6") and sixth in the discus (129'2") while Benjamin was third in the 800 meter run (2:03). Tito Thomas was sixth in the 400 meters (51.22) while Scott Jones and Matt Vannus tied for sixth in the pole vault (9'6").

The Wildcats were once again without top sprinter Frank Wiseman as he continues to comeback from a hamstring injury. Wildcat coach Larry Jester said Wis-

man would begin to return Tuesday in the Cats' next meet in Live Oak.

WILDCATS LYNCHED BY CLINCH: Paced by three home runs, one a grand slam, the Clinch County Panthers improved their record to 17-1 with a 15-0 win over region foe Echols County in Statenville Tuesday.

Jake Hart was the winning pitcher for Cecil Barber's Panthers, while Jose Martin got the save with two innings of work in relief.

Hitting home runs for the Panthers were shortstop Fred Edmonds, who hit a grand slam, Dallan Shirley and Thomas Flowers.

The Panthers will play today in Nashville against the Berrien County Rebels beginning at 3 p.m.

Wildcats, Vikings Favored in Relays

VDT Fri. 4-10-92
By LEN ROBBINS
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Last week, Valdosta High School hosted the first-ever Lady Wildcat Relays, and the track meet turned out to be an unqualified success. Jerry Don Baker, VHS track coordinator, and Larry Jester, the Wildcats' boys track coach, hope their male equivalent, the Wildcat Relays, to be held today at Valdosta High, will produce the same results.

"Like the girls' meet last week, we want to make this an annual event," Baker said. "With our track and how many trophies and t-shirts we're going to give out, I predict it will be real successful."

The meet will feature seven teams from the area. Lowndes, Valdosta, Coffee, Jeff Davis, Cairo, Thomas County and Thomasville will all send their boys teams to Valdosta High for the meet today, with field events beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Baker said Lowndes, Valdosta and Thomas County are the favorites going into the meet.

"I would say that we (Valdosta) would be the favorite, along with Lowndes and Thomas County. Lowndes fields a strong team. They are well-coached and work real hard, and Thomas County has a good team too," Baker said.

The meet is being co-sponsored by Harmon's Trophies and McDonald's of Valdosta, Baker said.

Rebels Spoil Wildcats' Night-Game Opener, 6-3

VDT Fri. 4-10-92
By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

The first game played under the lights at Bazemore Field was a memorable one, but more for Berrien High's Rebels than the Valdosta Wildcats.

The Rebels scored three runs off just one hit in the eighth inning, and held on in the bottom half of the inning to take a 6-3, extra-inning win Thursday night.

The Wildcats then loaded the bases with no outs, but the Rebels came up with a key double play to end the threat, and the Wildcats came up empty.

Berrien improves to 11-7 overall with the win, and the Wildcats fall to 4-9 overall with the loss.

Chris Walker picked up the win for Berrien which improves to 10-7 with the victory. Freshman Jarrett Bridges took the loss for VHS, but pitched seven strong innings, giving up six hits and four earned runs.

Blake Patterson was 3-for-4 with a double for the Wildcats who play a Region 1-AAAA contest today against Coffee High at home.

"We've been playing a lot better of late," said Berrien head coach who won a 6-5 contest over defending Class A state champion Clinch County Wednesday. "After the win against Clinch County, we were sort of on an emotional down today, and it took us a while to get it in gear. But deep down I felt like our guys were going to come through in the end, and they did."

"We did some things late in the ball game — sacrificing and running the bases real well," he added. "And we needed all the help because every time we turned around Valdosta had base runners on."

VHS head coach Charles Tarpley was pleased with his freshman pitcher, but not with his team's defense or base running.

With no outs and the bases loaded in the bottom of the eighth inning, Valdosta's Mark Howell ripped a line drive that was snagged by Berrien's Akihira Uchida, who caught Patterson off third base for a double play.

"I said, 'Don't take any chances. Squat on a line drive,'" Tarpley said. "With nobody out and the bases

See WILDCATS, Page 7-A

Wildcats

From Page 6-A

loaded, you don't go on a line drive."

The Rebels loaded the bases in the top of the eighth with a hit batsman and two bunts on which the Cats failed to get anyone out. Uchida then hit what appeared to be a double-play ball, but VHS shortstop let the ball roll under his glove and Berrien's Mike Nazworth and Michael Nix scored on the play to put the Rebels ahead 5-3.

Jason Smart later scored to make the final 6-3 on a bases-loaded walk to Chris Walker.

Valdosta took a 1-0 lead in the first

inning when Howell led off with a walk, moved to second on a Matt Baker ground out and scored on a two-out error by Nazworth.

Berrien tied it at 1-1 in the second as Jelks committed a throwing error allowing Nazworth to reach first, and he went to third on a passed ball on VHS' Chris Rockey. He scored on a ground out by Smart.

Patterson doubled with one out in the bottom of the second and came home as Rebel shortstop Jimmy Dupree booted a Phillip Pieplow grounder to make it 2-1, VHS.

Walker led off the third with a walk, but the Cats appeared to have

him caught in a run down between first and second before VHS first baseman Joel Bius' throw was offline allowing Walker to take second. Walker then stole third, and catcher Rockey's throw sailed into left field, allowing Walker to come home at tie it at 2-2.

Berrien's Ryan Hancock led off the fifth with a single, stole second and scored on two wild pitches by Bridges to make it 3-2, Berrien.

Valdosta's final run came in the bottom of the fifth when Rockey led off with a single and later scored on a ground out by Jelks.



Lowndes Girls

Dominate Meet

VDI. Feb. 4-10-92
Staff Reports

Lowndes High used the home-track advantage to the maximum Thursday, dominating their opponents at the girls track meet held at the Lowndes track facility.

The Lowndes girls accumulated 178 points to win the meet, with the second place team, Valdosta High, finishing with 70 points in the seven-team meet.

In the field events, Tiffany Wright of VHS finished second in the long jump, with Lowndes' Shanell Jenkins placing third. Vicky Williams of LHS was second in the high jump, while teammate Tyra Foster finished third.

The discus was won by Lowndes' Lazonya Berrian, who set a school record with a throw of 112 feet and 5 1/4 inches.

Kathy Washington of Lowndes and teammate Gretchen Lawson finished second and third in the shot put event.

In the 4 X 100 relay, the Vikettes set another school record, with a time of 49.17. The record-setting relay team was made up of Tara McFadden, Sabrina Montgomery, Wanda Floyd and Veronica Williams. The VHS team of Tiffany Wright, 70-

nya McCloud, Michelle Hendricks and Heather Harris finished second.

In the other relay event, the 4 X 400, Lowndes again won, with the quartet of Loretta Arrington, Pam Jones, Montgomery and Vicky Williams. Their second team placed second. Shanell Jenkins, Foster, Jackie Keglor and Octavia Graham made up that team. Valdosta's team of Michelle Hendricks, Wright, Harris and Kristin Sanderson placed third.

In the 100 meter hurdles, Jenkins took the prize, with Hendricks of Valdosta and Wright following her, placing second and third, respectively. Veronica Williams won the 200 meter dash, with teammate McFadden finishing behind her in second place.

The 400 meter dash was won by Vicky Williams, with fellow Vikette Montgomery following her in second. Sanderson of Valdosta finished in fourth for Dick Sturtevant's team. The 800 meter race was won by LHS's Arrington, while teammate Brinkley placed fourth.

Lowndes' Donna Hall was the leading local finisher in the 3200 meter run, placing third.

In the 1600 meter run, Stacey Brinkley of LHS placed second and Maggie McDonald of Valdosta finished third in the event.



Michelle Hendricks of Valdosta High School propels herself over the bar in the high jump competition from Thursday's girls track and field meet held at Lowndes High School. The len.

Hall Leads Devils Past Wildcats, 4-0

VDI 4-8-92
By LEN ROBBINS
Times Assistant Sports Editor

TIFTON — Three late-inning errors and a superb pitching performance by Tift County hurler Mike Hall spoiled an otherwise solid outing by the Valdosta Wildcats as they lost to the home-standing Blue Devils 4-0 Tuesday at the Devil Diamond.

A two-base throwing error by Wildcat second baseman Mark Howell in the fifth inning and two errors on one play by starting pitcher Jason Jelks in the sixth spelled the eventual doom for Charles Tarpley's Cats, as Tift scored three runs on those errors.

"If we'd have made those plays, it could have been 1-0 going into the seventh inning," said a disappointed Tarpley after the game.

But Tarpley's troops also had to contend with Blue Devil starting pitcher Mike Hall, who dazzled the Tift County crowd with a complete game, three-hit, 13-strikeout shutout.

"I think he is the best pitcher in the region," Tarpley said. "We have a couple of other ones (in the region) that are better baseball players, but not better pitchers."

Tarpley definitely has a point, as Hall's pinpoint control only yielded one base on balls in the contest.

TIFT		VALDOSTA	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
Hullett 2b	2 1 2 1	Howell 2b	2 0 0 0
Griffin rf	3 0 1 0	Rockey c	2 0 0 0
Stone lf	2 0 1 1	Baker 3b	2 0 1 0
Hall p	2 1 1 0	Jelks p	2 0 2 0
Tucker cf	4 0 0 0	Bius 1b	2 0 0 0
Phillips 3b	3 1 2 0	McCohead dh	2 0 0 0
Webb ss	2 0 0 0	Vinson lf	2 0 0 0
Pridgen c	3 0 2 0	Patterson cf	2 0 0 0
Henderson dh	0 0 0 0	Pleplow rf	2 0 0 0
Blanchett dh	0 1 0 0		
Totals	21 4 9 2	Totals	23 0 3 0
Tift County		010	012 x-4
Valdosta St.		000	000 0-0
E—Jelks 2, Howell, LOB—Tift County 11, Valdosta 2. 2B—Baker, 3B—Hullett. SB—Griffin, Phillips, Pridgen.			
Tift County IP H R ER BB SO			
Hall, W (7-3)		7	3 0 0 1 13
Valdosta			
Jelks, L (1-2)		5	7 4 1 7 1
Denly		1	2 0 0 0 1

The Blue Devils got on the board first in the second inning. Marcus Phillips singled, then advanced to third on a single by Shane Pridgen. Jelks walked Cliff Henderson to load the bases. Phillips then scored on a grounder by leadoff hitter Scott Hullett.

The Wildcat defense fended off Blue Devil advances until the fifth inning, where Tift again scored a lone run.

Hall walked to begin the inning. After catching a line drive, Howell tried to get Hall off of first base, but threw over the outstretched arm of first-bagger Joel Bius and over the fence. Hall went to third on the error. Hall scored his team's second run when a

See WILDCATS, Page 9-A

Wildcats

From Page 8-A

ball got past Wildcat backstop Chris Rocky.

The sixth inning proved to be the fatal blow for the Cats, who gave up two runs.

Jelks walked Chad Blanchett to begin the inning. Hullett bunted, and Jelks bobbled the ball and then threw it over the again-outstretched arm of Bius. Blanchett scored from first on the error and Hullett advanced to third base. Greg Denly then came in, relieving Jelks. Denly didn't fare much better, giving up a

single to David Stone that scored Hullett.

In the top of the seventh inning, the Wildcats threatened to make a game of it. Matt Baker doubled off of Hall to begin the inning. Jelks then hit a short single, advancing Baker to third. Suddenly, the Blue Devils' ace looked hitable.

Unfortunately for the Wildcats, that look was just a mirage, as Hall downed the next three batters, two by strikeout, to end the game.

Of the three Valdosta base hits, Jelks had two of them, while Baker was 1 of 2 at the plate with the sev-

enth-inning double.

Jelks went five innings, walking seven, giving up seven hits and one earned run.

Tarpley said that he was pleased with Jelks' performance on the mound.

"I thought he did a good job. J.J. pitched as well as I can ask from a young kid with his experience," he said.

The 4-8 Wildcats will play Thursday at home against Berrien County. The game will be the first ever under the lights at the Valdosta High field.

Altman Deals With Changing Times

VDT 4-15-92
By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Public school days are not what they used to be.

Despite the negative criticism leveled at America's public schools over the years, some of the changes are positive: better facilities and technology and a broad spectrum of programs to challenge and aid different types of students.

But other developments are not as laudable.

Instead of checking the bathroom for the occasional smoker, today's teachers and principals are on the lookout for guns and "crack" cocaine. Alternative classes are set up for pregnant teens, young mothers burdened with child care and students with discipline problems.

After 27 years in the business, Valdosta City Schools Superintendent Walter Altman is familiar with this metamorphosis. Altman's ascension to system chief began in the classroom. But he says it really started in childhood under his mom's guidance. She too was a school teacher.

Altman has served in the appointed position of superintendent for seven years and previously was assistant superintendent for eight years. Before moving to the Williams Street administration building, Alt-

Walter G. Altman III

■ **Occupation:** Superintendent, Valdosta City Schools

■ **Education:** Bachelor's degree in education and master's degrees in administration and school social work from Valdosta State; education specialist from University of Georgia.

■ **Family:** Wife, Jackie; sons, Walter, 22; and Dan, 19

man was principal of Sallas Mahone for four years. Before that, he was a teacher.

■ **QUESTION:** Did you plan on a career in education?

■ **ALTMAN:** I don't think that when I was going to college that I necessarily was shooting toward a goal of being a teacher. I had spent so much time around schools and working with school children and stuff through the church and through my associations because my mother was a teacher, I had sort of grown up in the schools.

I think it was just next in line for me — that was what I knew. My life was spent in schools.

It's just an experience that I fell in and I never have regretted one minute of it.

■ **QUESTION:** Is education rewarding?

■ **ALTMAN:** Over a period of time I've had opportunity to see so many success stories, and that's a thrill to me to see kids come along that you've worked with and dealt with on a daily basis and all of a sudden they come back to you and they're a doctor or a lawyer.

■ **QUESTION:** How has the public school changed?

■ **ALTMAN:** I feel like there's still a large group of people in our school system ... who are very concerned and constantly involved with their children in trying to help them pursue as much education as they can.

There is also an extreme on the other end where we have a large group of children ... who have a very difficult time. And I think a lot of the problem with those children ... is there's just not that much support for what's happening, at home. It creates a tremendous problem for them because the young children need a lot of encouragement and love, and the teens need more guidance and support and encouragement than anything else.

■ **QUESTION:** How do you tackle those problems?

■ **ALTMAN:** It probably is the most challenging problem we deal



WALTER ALTMAN

with because you want everybody to be successful. If we could have 100 percent of the kids who start the kindergarten program graduate from high school, that would make me happy.

We're dealing with some things today we didn't have to deal with early in my career ... We know the direction we need to go, and there is a certain portion of the student population that we will have to drag kicking and screaming the whole way. But we're not going to stop trying to get them there.



From left, Bridget Taylor, Lori Swilley and Maggie McDonald receive Student of the Year awards from the Elks — Valdosta Elks Lodge Photo.

Elks Lodge Honors Area Students

The Valdosta Elks Lodge recently honored three area high schoolers during a family supper get-together. According to Steve Regan of Nashville, who coordinates the Valdosta Elks Youth Scholarship Contest, Maggie McDonald of Valdosta High School, Lori Swilley of Lowndes High and Bridget Taylor of Nashville's Berrien County High were all winners in his estimation.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks presented each teen-ager the "Student of the Year" award for their respective schools. In addition, Regan presented each contestant a U.S. savings bond award for her winning efforts in the Valdosta Elks contest for the local area.

Ms. McDonald was also a finalist and winner in the Georgia Elks Youth Scholarship Competition. She has been awarded a \$500 scholarship from the Georgia Elks

Association and an \$800 scholarship from the Elks National Foundation for the college of her choice.

The Elks Youth Scholarship Contest is just one of the projects aimed at youth activities sponsored by the Elks. The Youth Leadership Contest, the Elks "hoop shoot" contest, sponsorship of little league baseball and the Eagle Scout Award program are other Elks projects that recognize the outstanding efforts of young people.

According to an Elks spokesman, Regan was well pleased with the quality of the entries submitted for the local contest, but he was disappointed at the quantity. Several local area high schools were not represented, and no male students entered the scholarship contest.

The contest which begins at the local Elks lodge level can lead to national awards. The national male and female winners receive \$16,000 scholarships from the Elks National Foundation.

SPORTS BRIEFS

■ **LOWNDES 5, VALDOSTA 4** (9th grade game): Winning pitcher Kevin Hiers gave up five hits in seven innings as the ninth-grade Vikes pulled out a one-run victory at Bazemore in the season finale for both teams.

Thompson Kurrie led Valdosta with a 2-for-3 performance at the plate.

■ **VALDOSTA 5, LOWNDES 4** (JV game): Winning pitcher Kevin Nolan fanned eight batters in seven innings as the Cats pulled out a one-run victory Thursday at Bazemore Field. Valdosta's John Green and Stephen Register were both 2-for-4 from the plate in the season finale for both teams.

■ **VALDOSTA GIRLS SWEEP:** The Valdosta girls tennis team was swept Monday by Bainbridge at the Valdosta State tennis courts. VHS's season record is now 2-4.

Valdosta's top seed Mallette Mitchell lost to Margaret Pettyjohn 6-4, 6-0 while second-seeded Rachel Baiornos lost to Gina Bryan 6-3, 6-0. Third-seeded Hilary Davis lost to Amanda Coker 6-1, 6-1 while fourth-seeded Jennifer Eidson beat Heather Hodges 6-3, 6-2.

In doubles action, Valdosta's Emily Bowling and Keri Langdale lost to Katie Poiteviant and Glee Pernal 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 while Robyn Hastings and Andrea Moody lost to Allison Henderson and Sara Beth Bryan 6-4, 6-0. Only the first three singles matches and the two doubles matches officially count.

■ **LOWNDES B-TEAM WINS:** The Lowndes High baseball B-team defeated Valdosta Monday, 12-0. Chuck Woodall got the win on the mound as he went seven in-

SPORTS BRIEFS

nings, allowing two hits with four strikeouts. His record is now 4-0.

Erin Cullen and Jeremy Davis each had two hits while Shad Stevens and Case Spencer had one hit each. The win raises Lowndes' record to 8-2.



Award To Bazemore

Dick Ray, Bettie Bazemore, Wright Bazemore and Charles A. Little Jr., share a moment during the presentation of a plaque and check to Coach Bazemore at Valdosta High Tuesday afternoon. Story, Page 14-A — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Armstrong State Pushes For University Status

VDT 4-15-92

Staff and Wire Reports

All of Georgia's senior colleges should be redesignated as universities, Armstrong State College's faculty said Tuesday.

The Savannah school's faculty members voted unanimously to seek to end its role as a senior college affiliated with Georgia Southern University.

Georgia Southern became the state's first regional university in 1990, with Armstrong and Savannah State College as its affiliates.

When Georgia Southern got university status, the state Board of Regents set a July 1, 1992, target date for Valdosta State College to become the next regional university. Since then, however, a budget crisis combined with pressure from other colleges and state lawmakers prompted the regents to decide in January to "revisit" its policy on university status.

VSC most likely will learn its fate when the Regents' Planning and Oversight Committee — the group charged with assessing the potential

of all senior colleges to become universities — reports back to the board in June.

The Armstrong faculty's non-binding resolution called for the regents to designate as universities all Georgia's senior colleges, which would include Armstrong and Valdosta State.

In addition, Armstrong said it wants to regain control of its graduate studies, placed in Georgia Southern's hands as part of the regional university concept.

Armstrong President Bob Burnett said he would pass the faculty's concerns on to university system Chancellor H. Dean Propst and Arthur Gignilliat, Savannah's representative on the Board of Regents.

Only a majority of the 15-member Board of Regents could change the regional university system or declare as universities all senior colleges in the state.

The push from those schools prompted Armstrong faculty to call for a statewide university redesignation and elimination of the regional university plan, Burnett said.



Meet...

■ **NAME:**
Andy Sheffield
■ **RESIDENCE:**
Valdosta
■ **OCCUPATION:**
Senior at Valdosta High School.
■ **HOBBIES:**
Football and fishing.

■ **QUOTE OF THE DAY:**
"Recycle for a better tomorrow."

People File

4-15-92

VDT
Local Folks

Youth & Schools

VJHS, VHS TSA Chapters Win Big

4-28-92
 By KRISTINE HARNAGE
 Times Staff Writer

Valdosta Junior High School Chapter of Technology Student Association captured first runner-up for Outstanding Chapter in the state and Valdosta High School Chapter fourth at the 30th Annual Georgia Technology Student Association Conference April 9-12 in Atlanta.

Junior High Adviser Tommy Pitchford landed The Jim Coffey Inspirational Teacher Award for the junior high level while a former student of his, Adviser Keith Middleton of VHS, received the award for the high school level.

"It feels real good for a former student of mine to go on and use what I've taught in his everyday life," said Pitchford. "Some other former students of mine are at Georgia Tech, at the Naval Academy and one is an engineer with Proctor & Gamble in Albany."

Pitchford's son, Ben, of the VHS Chapter, received a Georgia Power scholarship for full tuition for one year.

The conference was held at the Castlegate Hotel and Conference Center in Atlanta, and the theme was "Georgia TSA: Achieving Excellence Through Technology Education." The students demonstrated their skill and knowledge in 20 different areas.

The students from the junior high who placed were: Ben O'Brien, 2nd - Aerospace; Carol Baker, 2nd - Technology Research; Cara Melton, 1st - Graphic Design; Thomas Hiromoto, Finalist - Architectural Models; Carol Baker, Austen Carroll, Johnny Goodwin, Cara Melton, Brad Respass and Rita Walker, Finalists - Chapter Team; Rita Walker, Finalist - Creed; Whitney Gaston, 3rd - Safety Illustration.

Brad Respass, Finalist - Electronics; Thomas Hiromoto, 1st - Engi-

neering Graphic Analysis; Johnny Goodwin, 7th, Thomas Hiromoto, 3rd and Brad Respass, 1st - Technology Bowl (written); Goodwin, Hiromoto and Respass, 1st - Technology Bowl (oral); Rita Walker, Finalist - Technology Process Display; Austen Carroll, Preston Grant, Finalists - Structural Engineering.

Johnny Goodwin, Ben O'Brien and Andy Bolton, Finalists - Radio Control Transportation; Austen Carroll, 1st - Research and Design; Preston Grant, 3rd - Manufacturing Prototype; Brad Respass, 1st - Outstanding Student; and chapter, second - Tourette Syndrome Fund-raiser (The junior high students raised \$600.)

Pitchford was very proud of his students and proud to be the recipient of the Jim Coffey Award. "I think this was great," he said. "The kids did real good, and we all had a lot of fun. I hate to see them leave."

Pitchford teaches five Exploration in Technology classes at VJHS. He has been teaching there since 1969.

The students from the high school who placed were: Bill Roberts - Technology Bowl, 8th (written), 3rd (oral); Jennifer Grant, top 10 - Technology Process Display; Tiffany Roan, top 10 - Graphics Logo, 3rd - Outstanding Student; Jessica Roan, top 10 - Graphics Logo, 2nd - Chapter Team; Ben Pitchford, 2nd - Chapter Team, 3rd - Technology Team (oral).

Jimmy Fields, 1st - Manufacturing Prototype; Jonathan Burns, 1st - Engineering Graphic Analysis; Tim Smith, top 10 - Aerospace, top 10 - Architectural Models; Holland Alday, top 10 - Electronics, Technology Bowl - 4th (written), 3rd (oral); Ryan Sanderson, 2nd - Chapter Team; Alan Sanderson, 3rd - Aerospace, 2nd - Chapter Team and top 10 - Research and Design.

The chapter had the second highest amount raised for the Tourette Syndrome Fund-raiser.



VHS TSA: Brad Soshnik, Jessica Roan, Fields, Jonathan Burns, Alan Sanderson, Tim Smith, Tiffany Roan, Julie Hiromoto, Jennifer Grant, Ryan Sanderson, Jimmy Fields, Jonathan Burns, Alan Sanderson, Ben Pitchford, Bill Roberts and Adviser Keith Middleton - Photo by Jeff Allen.



Danny Struble catalogs the bar codes of shoes at a store.

V-Time 4-29-92

5-4-92
Honor Rolls

■ Valdosta High: Principal Bill Aldrich announces the honor roll for the fourth sixth weeks at Valdosta High School.

Sara Adams, Mizi Albritton, Terri Albritton, Holland Alday, Cory Alexander, Glenn Alexander, Tamala Allen, Clint Allred, Ken Altman, Christopher Ames, Elizabeth Arnold, Julia Ann Arnold, Rachael Baiorunos, Don Baker, Matthew Baker, Russell Baker, Salista Baker, Dinah Baldwin, Rachel Baliles, Maria Baratta, Jason Barbas, Laura Barbas, Brinson Barker, Alfred Barnes, Becky Barrette, Alison Bass, Latonya Bass, Timothy Bass, Brook Bearden, Edward Bell, Chad Benefield, Joey Benjamin, Emily Bentley, Ethel Berrian, Felicia Berrian, Joel Blus, Yasmine Bivins, Lee Boatenreiter, Trish Ann Bolen, Emily Bowling, Jay Bowling, Blake Brantley, LaTasha Brantley, Jarrett Bridges, Paul Briggs, Lardell Brinson, Deanna Brisco, Lana Brooks, John Eric Brown, Kimberly Brown.

Sabrina Brown, Tara Brown, Archie Bryant, Larry Bryant, Matthew Buckland, Melissa Buckland, Kayse Budd, Tiffany Burgman, Heather Burns, Anthony Bynes, Latonya Byrd, Laurie Campbell, Belinda Cantrell, Ingrid Carroll, Steven Carson, Dee Carter, Spence Carver, Lyle Causey, Dan Childs, Rachel Childs, Che Christie, Gregory Clark, Vaughn Al Clark, Monica Clifton, Helene Colbion, Oliver Colbion, Matt Cole, SallyAnn Coleman, Leah Collins, Timothy Costello, Stephanie Cowart, Rebecca Coyle, Lindsay Crane, Stacey Cranor, Kevin Cronin, Meadowlark Daniels, Matt Daugherty, Hillary Davis, Nycole Davis, Wilhelmina Davis, Jason Day, Lamont Debro, Greg Denly, Dow Drury, Travis Dular, Jennifer Edwards, Gee Edwards, Bert Eldson, Jennifer Eldson, India Elliott.

Kendra Elliott, Alma Ennon, Richard Ennis, Steven Eppes, Latoy Michele Ezell, Misty Faglie, Wilson Faircloth, Ginny Ferrell, Jimmy Fields, Regina Flannigan, Seymond Floyd, Shalina Flucas, Kimberly Shantel Folsom, Shonda Freeman, Janna Futch, Farrah Gage, James Galloy, Erica Galvin, Kristin Suzanne Ganas, Genora Garland, James Garrison, Joshua Gay, Timothy Gay, John Woodward Gayle, Melissa Geier, Ashley Giles, Amy L. Glines, Lacarra Godfrey, Dixon Goff, Marcie Golvesky, Alfred Graham, Denise Grant, Mari Gravlee, Charles Gray, April Green, Detron Green, Karen Green, Merritt Green, Tamara Green, John Benjamin Green, Amy Griffin, Daniel Griffin, Sabrina Yolanda Griffin, Wendy Griffin, Parker Grow, Jennifer Halter, John Halter, Leigh Hamby, Sung No Han, Theresa Harper.

Dajuan Harris, Karen Harris, Andreu Harrison, Marinese Hart, Heather Harvey, Robyn Hastings, Douglas Henderson, Joe Herndon, John Hickox, Kevin Hiers, Meg Hiers, Shannon Lee Hilliard, Julie Hiromoto, Benjamin Hofmeister, Keshier Hogan, Laura Holland, Jodie Hollenbeck, Michelle Howard, Thomas Howard, Mark Howell, Ashley Hudson, Matt Hunt, Greg Hunter, Van Nerson, Margaret Iverson, Crystal James, Dashanti Jefferson, Lakeisha Jefferson, Ladeitra Jeffery, Cheryl Jenkins, Keri Jenkins, Matthew Johnson, Michael Johnson, Patrick Johnson, Angela Gail Jones, Marlene Jones, Xavier Antron Jones, Brahm Kellerman, Roy Kilgard, Stephanie King, Jerome Kirkland, Amy Knowles, Asia Knowles, Wendy Kuter, Derrick Kyer, Sarah Lamprey, Michael Lancaster, Tharon Lane.

Keri Langdale, Mary Lasseter, Cate Lawrence, Christie Ledbetter, Michelle Levy, Ericka Nicole Lewis, Christee Leynes, Lindsay Lloyd, David Lockhart, Karmell Logan, Jaxon Longeliere, Matt Loveday, Sara Luke, Lewis Lynch, Heather MacDonald, Elizabeth Mackey, Vivian L. Mangham, Adriana Marques, Katherine Mathis, Ben Matson, David Matthews, Katrina Maxwell, Andrae Deshawn Mazion, Mickey McAfee, Tammy McCain, Martin McClure, Brian McCombs, Eric McCombs, Charlotte McCormick, Ann McCranie, Maggie McDonald, Amanda McGhin, Mona McMillan, Jessica McMullen, Diedric McNair, Angela McSween, Tammy Means, Ches Melton, Hallie Ann Meyer, John Meyer, Dutton Miller, Maura Miller, Courtney Minchew, Mallette Mitchell, Beth Mitchell, Adrienne Moore, Rett Moore, Jud Moritz, Jason Morris, Crystal Morrison, Tad Moseley, Eric Motes, Monica Motes, Jennifer Moxley, James Neal, Latammy Newsome, Robby Norris, Tony Norton.

Tracy O'Brien, Tony O'Neal, Stephanie O'Neal, Sophia Owens, Jason Page, Chad Parkerson, Ekta Patel, Hemali Patel, Rachel Paterson, Geveda Patrick, James Pearce, Alex Penn, Katresa Peterson, Moneka Peterson,

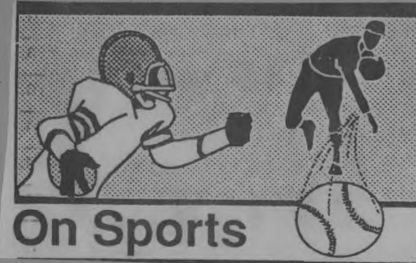


Philip Pleplow, Benjamin Pitchford, Pinckney Pitcock, John Pitcock, Lisa Plair, Dana Pompey, Tenya Ponder, Melissa Porter, Jennifer Powell, Andrew Priester, Holly Rackley, Dan Rackley, Sarita Rainey, Tamika Rawls, Kristi Rayford, Angela Redden, Nick Reed, Gloria Reese, Amy Register, Betsy Richards, Stephanie Richter, Arthur Rizer Jr., Monica Rizer, Tiffany Roan, Lashunda Roberts, Shanda Lawanna Roberts, Terrace Roberts, Dustin Robinson, Solange Robinson, David Roddey, Christopher Rodgers, Brandon Rogers, Tomika Rome, Michael David Ronn, Gary Russ, Rhoda Russ, Chris Roush, Timothy Roush, James Rowe, Robin Rowe, Jeremy Rowell, Ty Sainz, Norma Leigh Saliba, Chris Sanders, Alan Sanderson, Kristin Sanderson, Ryan Sanderson, Monica Savage, Joseph Brandt Schnake, James Scott.

Lee Scott, Travis Dane Sharp, Jennifer Sharpton, George Shaw, Melody Shaw, Lamar Sheffield, Monique Sherman, Michael Singletary, Aimee Smith, Joyette Smith, Rhonda Smith, Tim Smith, William Smith, Brad Soshnik, Gregory Soshnik, Sara South, Alexandria Spells, Jennifer Spencer, Jesse Spencer, Michelle Dawn Staab, Stephanie Staley, Bill Steinberg, Jacquelyn Stewart, Katie Stone, Andy Stone, Julie Strickland, Leilani Struzick, Eileen Sweeney, Sherry Swigart, Miki Swilley, Meredith Tart, Sarah Tatum, David Wayne Taylor, Leigh Taylor, Sandra Taylor, Teto Thomas, Raymond C. Thomas, Terrance Thomas, Tanya Tovar.

Tracy Troutman, James Tucker, Mandi Turner, Matthew Van Nus, Felipe August Vanderlei, Mark Thomas Vannortwick, Lisa Vincent, Alysia Walker, Blake Walker, Robin Walker, Michelle Walsh, Dejaris Washington,

Richard Washington, Trevor Washington, Jamey Waters, Jennifer Weaver, John Weaver, Amanda Weldon, Bonita Werts, Trent Wetherington, Wendy Whatley, Christopher Wheeler, Isiah Whitfield, Erin Matisha Williams, Keisa Williams, Shwanda Williams, Telly Williams, Jennifer Willis, Franklin Wiseman, William Woodall, Lashonna Wrice, Lavonda Wright, Tiffany Wright, Cynthia Yarborough, Laurie Young, Shannun Yow.



Cats Win Region Track Title

By LEN ROBBINS
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The Valdosta High Wildcats captured their first region track championship in a decade Thursday, edging defending champion Bainbridge at the VHS track facility to clinch the 1-AAAA title.

The Wildcats finished with 167.5 total points, just ahead of the Bearcats, who accumulated 150 points. Tift County placed third, with 91 points, Lowndes had 60.5 points, good for fourth, and Coffee and Colquitt County rounded out the meet's placings.

Wildcat coach Larry Jester was pleased his squad took the title from the Bearcats, who had won the championship six straight times, but thought his team's slim lead would be even closer.

"Based on the times turned in and the prelims yesterday, I thought it would have been even closer," he said. "But our kids came out like they've done all year long and with the pressure on, they just turned it up a notch. They just gave an all-out effort and I'm tickled to death."

Jester should be tickled, for his team won four of Thursday's seven events and VHS will send a caravan

of tracksters to the state track meet, to be held May 8-9 in Jefferson. First- and second-place finishers in region events will be eligible for the state meet.

In action from Thursday, the second day of the region meet, Valdosta shined most brightly in the 4 X 100 relay, with their first quartet placing first and their second team finishing in second. Robert Randolph, Ernest Lowe, Mike Roberts and Frank Wiseman comprised the first team, which had a time of 43.15 in the event. The second team was made up of Donald Hitson, Alfred Barnes, Larry Melton and Trampis Wrice.

In the 100 meter dash, Wiseman also placed, finishing second to a Bainbridge runner's first. Randall Godfrey of Lowndes placed fourth, Aldridge Graham of Valdosta was fifth and Lowndes' Tommy Stark finished sixth.

Wildcat Brice Hunter continued his dominance of the 110 meter hurdles, finishing with a time of 14.6 to claim first place in the region. Teammate John Copeland finished second.

Joey Benjamin of Valdosta was the region's top 800 meter runner with a time of 1:59.98. James Cannady of Valdosta placed fifth in that event.

Graham was the winner in the 200 meter dash, posting a time of 21.90. The Viking tandem of Cedric Mathis and Demarcus Rizer placed fourth and fifth.

Lowndes' Carlton Johnson was the only local runner to place in the 3200 meter run, finishing fifth.

Valdosta couldn't recreate their showing in the other relay event, the 4 X 400, placing third and fourth with their two teams. The team of Michael Hopper, Randolph, Benjamin and Lowe placed third. The fourth-place quartet was comprised of Roberts, Wrice, Terrence Daniels and Graham. The Lowndes team placed second in the event.

Wildcats

From Page 1-A

Scruggs relieved Lester and shut out the Cats until they added what proved to be crucial insurance runs in the top of the seventh.

In the seventh, Steve Everson led off with an infield single, and Tarpley instructed Mark Howell to sacrifice Everson to second. But Howell put down a perfect bunt past the pitcher's mound and reached with a bunt single. Chris Rockey was also instructed to sacrifice and he also reached base before the Vikings could field his slow roller down the third-base line.

That loaded the bases with no outs for Baker, who drove home Everson with a sacrifice fly. Two batters later, designated hitter Dean Vinson drove

home Howell and Rockey by slapping a two-out single into right field to make it 9-4.

"We try to teach them in high school that any time you bunt the ball and bunt it on the ground, good things usually happen to you," Tarpley said. "Those bunts were clutch, and the hit was big too."

After Johnson's two-run shot to right-center gave the Vikes a 2-0 lead, the Cats chased Lester from the mound with the six-run second inning.

The Cats loaded the bases on a Blake Patterson single, a Greg Clark double and a walk to Phillip Pieplow. Everson then scored Patterson on a ground out, and Clark scored as Lowndes' Johnson's throw to first

got away from Ketterman, allowing Everson to advance to second.

Everson moved to third on a single by Howell and scored on an infield single by Rockey. Baker then ripped his three-run shot over the left field fence to make it 6-2, Valdosta.

Lowndes cut it to 6-3 in the bottom of the second as Moran scored Drew with a sacrifice fly, and the Vikes made it 6-4 in the third on an RBI double by Lester which scored Johnson, who reached on an error by Baker. Both the runs were unearned.

The Cats' will hope to play the role of spoiler again Monday when they conclude the season against Bainbridge. Lowndes hosts Colquitt Monday in its regular season finale.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

8-A Wednesday, April 22, 1992

Wildcats Cruise To Home Meet Win

Staff Reports

The Valdosta Wildcat boys track team finished their regular season Tuesday with a good warm-up for the Region 1-AAAA track meet next week. The Wildcats won a five-team meet at the VHS track.

Valdosta totalled 180 points to far outdistance second-place Tift County, who had 50 points. Thomasville finished third with 48 points, Berrien County was fourth with 29 and Coffee had 26 points.

"We had a good regular season and we just hope everything comes together for next week," said Valdosta track coach Larry Jester.

The Wildcats won six meets, placed second in three and finished third in another. Jester added that one of the team's top sprinters, junior Franklin Wiseman, will probably not be back for the rest of the season. Wiseman pulled a hamstring muscle earlier in the year and has run only once since.

Valdosta built big points in the speed events Tuesday with nearly a complete domination of the relay events. In the 4x400 relay, the team of Ernest Lowe, Michael Harper, Joey Benjamin and Aldrich Graham finished first while classmates Trampis Wrice, Michael Roberts, Robert Randolph and Terrance Daniels were second.

The third Valdosta team of Ryan Coyn, Andre James, Donald Hitson and James Cannady placed fourth while the Valdosta team of Scott Jones, Jason Yearby, Alfred Barnes and Larry Melton was fifth.

In the 4x100 relay, Valdosta took the first four spots. The team of Hitson, Roberts, Barnes and Melton took first while Randolph, Lowe, Graham and Wrice was second. Placing third was the team of Brian Wiseman, Derrick Crowder, Jerome Scurry and James Cannady while the foursome of Marcus Williams, Tim White, Cedric Brown and Terrance Daniels was fourth.

Lowe added a first place in the long jump and another in the high jump, where Benjamin was second. Matt Vannus was sec-

ond in the pole vault while Michael Ronn was third, Scott Jones was fourth and John Yeargan was fifth.

Dexter Daniels was second in the discus while Daniels was third in the triple jump.

In the 100 meters, Graham finished first while Randolph was second, Wrice was third and Brian Wiseman was fourth. Graham also won the 200 meters with Randolph finishing second, Barnes placing third, Daniels finishing fourth and Brown taking fifth.

Lowe won the 400 meters while Benjamin was second. In the 800 meters, Cannady won with Benjamin placing fourth.

Brice Hunter continued his dominance of the hurdles, winning both the 110 high and the 300 intermediate events. John Copeland finished second in the 110 and third in the 300 while Shadrack Green was fifth in the 300.

In the 1,600 meters, Tysha Washington was fourth and Washington finished fourth in the 3,200 meters while Lawrence Roundtree was fifth.

Lowndes High Wins Region 1-AAAA Meet

VDT 4-24-92
Staff Reports

Lowndes High's girls track team ran away with the Region 1-AAAA track meet Thursday afternoon, winning with a total of 176 team points. Bainbridge finished second with 74 points, and Valdosta High took third place with a total of 69.

Coffee High finished fourth, followed by Tift County and Colquitt County.

Valdosta High's Tiffany Wright and its 400 meter relay team qualified for the state meet with second place finishes. The state meet will

be held next Thursday through Saturday in Albany.

Wright finished second in the 100 meter hurdles, and the team of Wright, Tonya McCloud, Michelle Hendricks and Heather Harris placed second in the 400 meter relay with a time of 51.01.

VHS' 1600 meter relay team just missed a shot at the state meet with a third place finish as did Hendricks in the 100 meter hurdles. Hendricks was also running with the 1600 meter relay team along with Harris, Wright and Kristin Sanderson.

VALDOSTA NETTERS FALL IN TOURNNEY: The Valdosta High girls tennis team advanced to the second round in the Region 1-AAAA tournament Monday before falling to the girls team from Tift County in the semifinals. The boys lost to Coffee 1-6 in the first round of the boys' tournament.

In action from the girls' sweep of Coffee, Mallette Mitchell defeated Holly Hoyle 6-2, 6-1, freshman Rachael Baiornos defeated Mary Catherine Dudley 6-2, 6-2, and Hilary Davis completed the singles domination with a 6-4, 4-2 win.

The doubles team of Keri Langdale and Betsy Richards won 7-6, (7-4), 2-1, and Andrea Moody and Robyn Hastings won handily, 6-1, 6-1.

The Lady Wildcats didn't fare as well against Tift in the semifinals. Mallette Mitchell lost to Jennifer Brim 1-6, 0-6, Baiornos lost 1-6 and Hilary Davis was defeated 0-6, 1-6. The doubles teams also were defeated, as both tandems fell.

The region singles begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday. Mallette Mitchell, a Valdosta junior, is seeded fourth.





Valdosta left fielder Steve Everson dives back to first as Bainbridge first baseman Brian Harrell awaits the throw. Everson got back in time as Valdosta won the game, 3-2 — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Wildcats End Year With Upset, 3-2

VDI Tues., 4-21-92

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Editor

If consecutive wins over Colquitt County and Lowndes had Valdosta head baseball coach Charles Tarpley wondering about the possibilities of the future, Monday night made him downright anxious to get next season underway.

The youth-oriented Wildcats finished their regular season Monday by pulling yet another upset. Though they waited through one rain delay and ten innings of cliffhanger baseball, the Wildcats scored in the bottom of the tenth to defeat the Bainbridge Bearcats 3-2 at Bazemore Field.

While Valdosta's postseason chances were put to rest after beginning their Region 1-AAAA schedule with seven straight losses, Bainbridge will continue to play sometime

Wildcats 3, Bearcats 2	
BAINBRIDGE	VALDOSTA
Pearson cf	4 0 1 0
Smart 2b	4 0 0 0
Andrews ss	5 0 0 0
Powell 3b	4 1 1 0
Harrell 1b	3 1 2 1
Brown lf	4 0 1 0
Miller rf	2 0 1 1
Porter rf	1 0 0 0
Frazier p	3 0 0 0
Lively dh	4 0 0 0
Totals	34 2 5 2

Wildcats 3, Bearcats 2	
BAINBRIDGE	VALDOSTA
Pearson cf	4 0 1 0
Smart 2b	4 0 0 0
Andrews ss	5 0 0 0
Powell 3b	4 1 1 0
Harrell 1b	3 1 2 1
Brown lf	4 0 1 0
Miller rf	2 0 1 1
Porter rf	1 0 0 0
Frazier p	3 0 0 0
Lively dh	4 0 0 0
Totals	34 2 5 2

Wildcats 3, Bearcats 2	
BAINBRIDGE	VALDOSTA
Pearson cf	4 0 1 0
Smart 2b	4 0 0 0
Andrews ss	5 0 0 0
Powell 3b	4 1 1 0
Harrell 1b	3 1 2 1
Brown lf	4 0 1 0
Miller rf	2 0 1 1
Porter rf	1 0 0 0
Frazier p	3 0 0 0
Lively dh	4 0 0 0
Totals	34 2 5 2

this week. Bainbridge ends their season at 6-4 in the subregion and will continue in the playoffs since Lowndes lost to Colquitt County Monday night 4-3. Bainbridge will play Tift County in the first round of the playoffs this week with the winner playing Coffee for the region

championship next week. Coffee defeated Tift County Monday night 2-1 in Tifton.

Tied 2-2 for from the fifth inning on, Valdosta scored the winner in the bottom of the tenth off Bainbridge's best. Senior Brian Powell had allowed only hit in 3 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings going into the final inning. But junior catcher Chris Rockey led off the frame with a double to right-center.

Senior third baseman Matt Baker was intentionally walked to first to set the stage for shortstop Jason Jelks. Jelks bunted to the third-base side of the pitcher's mound and Powell fielded the ball. With time to get Rockey, he threw to third but the throw sailed wide and Rockey raced home with the game-winner.

"That was sweet," said Tarpley. "Both pitchers did a great job. That's the best defense we've played all year and we got the big hit in the

tenth. It's just a great way to end the year."

Rain delayed the start of the game by nearly 30 minutes and the visitors went ahead in the second inning. Powell, who started the game at third base, singled to lead off the second and he moved to third on first baseman Brian Harrell's single. Right fielder Mallory Miller's sacrifice fly scored Powell.

The Bearcat added their second run in the fourth as Harrell crushed a shot over the left field fence for a solo home run off Wildcat starter Greg Denly. Denly also gave up a single to Gohneil Brown before getting out of the inning and leaving the game.

In the bottom of the fourth, the Wildcats tied the game. Baker and Jelks led off with back-to-back singles and Dean Vinson's sacrifice bunt moved up both runners while chasing Bainbridge starter Brett Frazier out of position as he took Frazier's turn at bat, killing another rally.

Wildcats

From Page 7-A

from the mound. He was relieved by Jason Andrews but Andrews gave up a two-run double to Blake Patterson that tied the game.

Valdosta freshman Jarrett Bridges relieved Denly to start the fifth and shook off some early trouble to dominate. Bridges walked the bases loaded in the fifth before escaping with no runs scored. From there, he sat down batter after batter and allowed no hits in his six innings on the mound.

"Bridges was just on. He got bet-

ter as the game went on and really showed something out there," Tarpley said.

Valdosta had a chance to take the lead in the bottom of the sixth after Andrews walked Jelks, who went to second on another Vinson sacrifice bunt. Powell then stepped to the mound and struck out Patterson. But the ball escaped the Bainbridge catcher, who made a wild throw to first and that left runners on second and third with one out. Powell got out of the jam with a strikeout and a ground out.

Two major mistakes cut Bain-

bridge's momentum in the top of the eighth. Harrell led off with a walk and a pinchrunner entered the game. Brown hit a line shot to left field that reserve Keith McConnehead caught. The pinchrunner left first base too early and was called out after the Wildcats threw back to the infield and tagged the base.

The next batter, pinchhitter Tommy Porter, reached on an error and designated hitter Vidal Lively moved him to third with a double. But Lively was called out for batting out of position as he took Frazier's turn at bat, killing another rally.

See WILDCATS, Page 8-A

Cats Pull Region

Upset

By LEN ROBBINS
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The Valdosta Wildcats were cast in a new light Tuesday at Bazemore Field — both literally and figuratively.

Prior to the Wildcats' region game against Colquitt County, the new lights at Bazemore Field were dedicated. And during the game, Charles Tarpley's Cats surprised the Packers, relying on clutch batting and the solid pitching of frosh phenom Jarrett Bridges to win their first Region 1-AAAA contest, 5-4.

"It's just good to win," Tarpley said. "We had the freshman (Bridges) out there and he did the job."

With the game tied 4-4 and two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning and pinch-runner Octavio Oliver on second base, Chris Rockey drilled a liner to Packer second baseman Wes Horne. The ball went through Horne's legs and Oliver scored on the error to give Valdosta a one-run advantage.

The Wildcats had to sweat it out to get the win, though. In the top of the seventh inning, with two outs, Colquitt left fielder Bill Tucker reached on an infield single and then stole second. Another infield single by Horne put Packer runners on first and third. Tony DeRosso then lined a ball to leftfield that Steve Everson caught on a sprint to secure the victory for the Wildcats.

Bridges pitched seven innings, striking out nine Packers, allowing seven hits and four runs, while walking three.

Jeremy Merritt was the starting pitcher for Jerry Crofts' team. He pitched a complete game, striking out six, walking five and giving up 10 hits.

Bridges got off to a rocky start. In the top of the first inning, he gave up a double to Colquitt shortstop Chris McCranie. He then threw two wild pitches, the last one which McCranie scored on.

See WILDCATS, Page 10-A

Wildcats 5, Packers 4

VALDOSTA		COLQUITT CO.	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
Howell 2b	3 1 1 0	McCranie ss	3 2 1 0
Rockey c	3 1 1 0	Tucker lf	3 1 0 0
Baker 3b	2 2 0 0	Horne 2b	4 0 2 1
Jelks ss	2 0 1 0	TDeRosso 1b	3 0 0 0
Vinson dh	3 0 2 2	Bullard rf	3 1 2 1
Patterson cf	3 0 2 2	DeRosso 3b	1 0 0 0
Clark 1b	3 0 2 2	Merritt p	3 0 1 1
Pleplow rf	2 0 1 0	Dunn c	3 0 1 1
Oliver pr	0 1 0 0	Fox dh	3 0 0 0
Everson lf	3 0 1 0		
Totals	24 5 9 4	Totals	26 4 7 4

Valdosta	202	001	x-5			
Colquitt	111	010	0-4			
E—Bridges, Horne, DP—Valdosta 1, LOB—Valdosta 8, Colquitt 5. 2B—McCranie, Bullard, Vinson.						
Valdosta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Bridges, W	7	7	4	4	3	9
Colquitt						
Merritt, L	6	9	5	4	5	6

Wildcats

From Page 9-A

The Wildcats doubled their opponent's first inning output in the bottom half of the inning.

Mark Howell walked to begin the inning. After Howell advanced on a sacrifice bunt by Rockey, Merritt walked Matt Baker. A double by designated hitter Dean Vinson scored both runners.

The Packers tied it up in the top of the second inning. A double by Jason Bullard began the inning. A sacrifice fly by David DeRosso put Bullard at third base. Merritt then helped his cause with a single that scored Bullard.

In the top of the third inning, the visitors from Moultrie again scored a lone run. Bridges walked Tucker to lead off the inning. Tucker then stole

two bases to get to third base. Tucker scored on a Bullard infield single to give the Packers the slim 3-2 lead.

Their lead didn't last for long, as the Cats got back on top in the bottom of the third inning. A single by Rockey and two walks loaded the bases full of Wildcats with no outs. Merritt then struck out Vinson and Blake Patterson popped out. First baseman Greg Clark came up with the clutch hit with two outs, slapping a flare single over the head of the Colquitt second-bagger to score Rockey and Baker. Jason Jelks also tried to score on the play, but was called out trying to come home.

Offensively, VHS, now 5-10, was led by Vinson and Clark, who were both 2-of-3 at the plate and both had two RBIs.

Sports Editor



Chris Beckham

Big Hitter Keeps His Dream Alive

The telephone call came like many others do to the sports desk every day. I answered the phone anticipating another score from a ballgame or an inquiry as to how the Blazers were doing on the road that particular night.

"This is Gary Ross," I heard. "Do you remember me?"

Believe it or not, I'm usually very good with names. But this one escaped me. When I confessed my lack of memory, he jogged it for me. "Gary Ross, the boxer?"

Ross's name probably would escape even the most ardent ring followers. I met young Mr. Ross nearly a year and a half ago when I did a story on a young Valdosta kid who lived and breathed boxing. When I met again with him, I found that some things had changed while others were exactly the same. The same quick smile on a more-defined frame. The same exuberant manner coming from a more mature young man.

Ross is a senior at Valdosta High who has trained for the past two years to be a boxer, an unusual dream smack in the middle of gridiron country. Last weekend, Ross finished seventh overall in the Georgia Golden Gloves competition in Doraville. Most of his competitors come from boxing clubs run by experienced trainers and from years of dedication. Ross still runs by himself and works out in his makeshift training center at home.

Though the 201-pound, 18-year-old has lost a couple of matches, he has not lost sight of his dream.

"I've won enough to know that I'm good but I've lost enough to know that I need to get better," said Ross. "I've got big plans. I've

got a lot to learn but I'm going to learn it. I'm not going to stop."

The only thing Ross has hit harder than the heavybag in the past 24 months has been the books. Ross will attend Paine College in September on an academic scholarship and he plans to major in psychology. While at Paine, Ross will work with the Augusta Boxing Club and train with Tom Moraetes. While trying to increase his weight and move up to the super-heavyweight category (201 pounds is the heavyweight limit), he will keep one goal in mind.

"I'm really trying for the '96 Olympics," Ross said. "Some people might call it a long shot but I think I've got a good chance. If I can at least get into the (Olympic) trials, I think I've got a chance."

The popular theory that boxing comes down to who hits hardest does not apply to amateur boxing. Instead, the winner is the one who hits the most and the fastest. Ross says that because he has trained with his father, a former boxer, and at professional boxing clubs in Philadelphia, Detroit and Louisiana, his style is more suited to power and the professional game.

He has raised eyebrows at some pro boxing camps because of his powerful style. He maintains that college is first on his list of priorities, but ...

"If the right offer comes along to turn pro, I'd take it," he said. "But it's really got to be a good one. College and the Olympics are my big goals."

Since most great athletes in south Georgia strap on a helmet to gain fame, Ross has found that acceptance is not always gained quickly. "Some people are interested in it but they say 'Well, that's his thing.' One day, they'll be saying 'Hey, I knew that kid!'"

"But some people in Valdosta have really helped me out. Jerry Radney has helped me out a lot with getting me equipment and my family and the members of my church have supported me a lot."

Ross has accomplished what he needed, some experience in a rough sport that will get rougher as he goes along. But Ross's quick smile reminds you that he can be as tough as needed.

"I'll keep swinging. I'm in the best shape of my life and I'm getting better. Ask the guys I hit."

Wildcats Looking

To Upset

By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High Wildcats have had a forgettable season with a 5-10 overall record and a 1-7 mark in Region 1-AAAA's baseball standings. But the Cats are fresh off their first region victory — 5-4 over the Colquitt County Packers at Bazemore Field Tuesday night.

Now that they have had a taste of success in the region, the Cats are hungry for more. And what better place to notch another victory than at the home field of crosstown rival Lowndes High.

The two rivals will meet at 7 p.m. tonight in a crucial region battle for the Vikings.

The Vikings cannot afford to be the victim of an upset as they continue their quest for the region title and, hopefully, continued success in the state playoffs.

Valdosta High head coach Charles Tarpley said that his Cats would like nothing more than to play the role of spoiler Friday night.

"I think it would be a great way to finish the season, and it would give us a positive outlook going into next year," Tarpley said. "It would be a great victory for the kids, beating their archrivals."

Lowndes High head coach Steve Kebler refuses to acknowledge any differences in playing Valdosta as opposed to any other opponent.

"Every game is important — whether its Cook or Bainbridge or whoever," said Kebler who added that his team will not overlook Valdosta. "I've said that all along. It's important to come out of any game with a win."

"That's what I try to teach — that every game is important," he stressed. "We just want to go out and do our best every time we take the field."

Tarpley said that getting the first region win of the year has provided a boost for the Wildcats.

"It meant an awful lot to the kids," he said. "And we did it with a freshman (Jarrett Bridges) pitching, and only used two or three seniors. It's good to get that first win or any win. But now they realize that they can play with anybody."

Lowndes High, now 5-3 in the region, is also coming off a big win. The Vikings defeated front-running Tift County 1-0 in extra innings behind the no-hit performance of Michael Johnson. The win moved the Vikes to within one game of Tift (6-2) in the race for the number one seed.

"We never quit," Kebler said. "We had the will to win. And, of course, I was very pleased with the pitching."

Jimbo Scruggs will take the hill for the Vikings, while Jason Jelks is slated to start for the Cats. Tarpley said that he will probably pitch Greg Denly as well and may pitch Bridges if he gets the chance.



Valdosta's Brice Hunter received a lot of recognition for this spring, Hunter has dedicated himself to being the state's signing a football scholarship with the University of Georgia. But best hurdler — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Hunter Sets His Goals High

VDT 4-19-92

By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

Brice Hunter is most recognized in the state of Georgia as one of the University of Georgia's top football recruits. But Hunter is looking to make a name for himself on the track as well.

Among Valdosta High's opponents on the area track circuit, Hunter has already made a name for himself as the man to beat in the 110 and 300 meter hurdles. He set a school record this year with a time of 14.28 seconds in the 110 meter hurdles — two hundredths of a second faster than last year's Class AAAA state champion.

For that reason, Hunter sets his goals high for the rest of the season which is exclusively post-season competition.

"I'm the favorite," Hunter said of the region tournament which will be held April 29 and 30 at Valdosta High School. "I've got to stay focused, but I'm the favorite right now.

"My goals are to go to state, win state, and maybe go to the nationals in California," he added.

Hunter decided to try out for the Wildcats' track team after watching a hurdles event on television. "I just saw it on TV one day, and I liked it," he said. "So I decided to try it."

Since then, Hunter, with the permission of head coach Larry Jester, has dedicated himself entirely to the two hurdles events.

"I asked Coach Jester if I could concentrate on only the hurdles this year, and he was all for that," Hunter said.

"That was fine with me," Jester said. "I recruited Brice last year because he had a lot of ath-

letic ability. Last year, the first time we lined Brice up (in the 110 meters) he ran an 18.24, and his best time last year was a 17.52."

But Jester allowed Hunter to stick with the hurdles because it was what Hunter wanted to do, and Jester knew he would show the dedication it takes to be a standout hurdler.

"The hurdles is one of the events in track that you kind of have to work at and coach a lot in order to get better," Jester said.

Hunter's times this year show the improvement and they prove Jester made the right decision.

"He had a little trouble last year, but he had the right attitude and a great work ethic," Jester said. "He continued to work, and, mentally, he stayed focused during the offseason.

See HUNTER, Page 2-C

Hunter

From Page 1-A

"So when we came back out this year, he picked up where we left off last year," Jester added. "We added to some of the things that we did last year, and his work ethic remained the same. And he just got better and better to the point where he's broken the school record."

Hunter, though, is continuing to improve and maintains that he has yet to peak this season. "I figure I can run a 13.9," he said confidently.

"Right now, in his mind, he believes he can run (that time)," Jester said. "And that's 70 percent of winning or as coach (Nick) Hyder would say — 90 percent of winning. You have to believe."

Though Hunter is striding toward a shot at the state championship in the 110 meter hurdles, his track experience serves another purpose.

"It keeps me in shape for football season," says the future receiver for the Georgia Bulldogs. "It helps your speed too. It keeps my speed where it should be. It's going to help a lot (when practice begins in August). I'm gonna need it."

Jester, who is also the defensive line coach for the Wildcat football team, believes that Hunter's two sports feed each other.

"I think one helps the other," he said. "For track, the thing that we get most from him being a football player is discipline and mental toughness. But in turn I believe we give football an athlete that's going to be in a little bit better condition."

While the Bulldogs will be getting a faster and better-conditioned receiver than they might realize, the Georgia track team may also be getting a surprise gift in Hunter, who plans to run track for the Dawgs.

"Of course, he's going to Georgia as a football player," Jester said, "but he most certainly can be a dual sport athlete and run track."

Jester, though, hopes Hunter maintains the proper focus when he starts fall quarter in Athens.

"First of all, he needs to maintain his focus that he is going to Georgia to get a degree," Jester said. "Athletics is just a tool for that. But once he gets in and becomes acclimated to college, especially the big-time Division I college, Brice could run track and even get better."

Valdosta Tunes Up With Win

By LEN ROBBINS
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Valdosta High showed once again that their track team is one to be reckoned with in the upcoming Region 1-AAAA meet as they walked away with first-place honors in a meet hosted by region rival Lowndes High Friday.

Larry Jester's team accumulated 152 total points to take first place at the meet, with host Lowndes finishing second with 106 points. Thomas County Central placed third, Lanier County placed fourth and Brooks County brought up the rear in the five-team meet.

Jester said considering the hot temperatures Friday, he was pleased with his team's performance.

"This was the first real, real hot day that we have competed. I feel like considering the heat and the fact that we were away from our home track, we did as well as expected," Jester said.

Jester said his team will probably be without the services of Franklin Wiseman for the rest of the season, including the region meet. Wiseman, who was the Wildcats' top sprinter, injured his hamstring earlier in the season and hasn't run for the team since, Jester said.

Lowndes coach Chuck Landy said his team's inconsistent performance won't do in the region meet.

"In spots, we had some good performances by some of our people, but we need to get some better performances for the region," Landy said.

Landy was also without his top sprinter, as Randall Godfrey was sidelined with a slight groin injury. He will be available for the region track meet, Landy said.

Ernest Lowe of Valdosta continued his dominance of the high jump, jumping 6 feet, 4 inches to win. Sedrick Neloms of Lowndes placed second.

In the other field events, Valdosta continued their winning ways. Dexter Daniels won the discus event, and teammate Jason Yearby finished behind him.

Terrence Daniels of Valdosta won the triple jump, with Lowndes' Rod Slater and Demarcus Rizer finishing third and fourth.

Godfrey did compete in the shot put, winning the event. Dexter Daniels finished third and Neloms placed fourth.

Dana Smith of Lowndes was the top finisher in the long jump. Lowe of Valdosta placed second.

In the relay events, Valdosta and Lowndes split. Valdosta won the 4x100 with the quartet of Robert Randolph, Lowe, Mike Roberts and Trampis Wrice. The number one Lowndes team finished second and the Valdosta second team finished third.

In the 4x400 relay, Lowndes won, with Valdosta's number one and number two teams taking second and third places, respectively.

In the 100 meter dash, Trampis Wrice was the victor, with Kevan Henry of Lanier County placing second. Tommy Starks of Lowndes was the third-place runner.

Aldridge Graham of Valdosta won the 200 meter dash with a time of 22:63. Lanier's Henry placed second.

Joey Benjamin of VHS was the 400 meter dash winner. Cedric Mathis of Lowndes finished second, Mathis' teammate Dana Smith was third and Scott Jones of Valdosta placed fourth
See TRACK, Page 2-B

Track

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in the event.

Valdosta's James Cannady took the 800 meter run, with teammate Jones placing second.

The Wildcats dominated the hurdle

events, with Brice Hunter taking the 110 meter event with a 14:59 time and teammate Shadrick Green winning the 300 meter hurdles race. Hunter finished second in that event.

The long-distance events were

both won by Viking Carlton Johnson. Johnson won both the 1600 meter and 3200 meter runs easily.

The Region 1-AAAA track meet will be held April 29-30 at Valdosta High School's track facility.

WILDCATS EDGE LOWNDES IN THRILLER



Valdosta first baseman Greg Clark stretches and records the out as Lowndes' James Lester races down the first-base line. Valdosta upset the Vikings in a 9-8 decision at Lowndes — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Cats' Hold Off Lowndes, 9-8

VDT 4-18-92

By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

Matt Baker hit a three-run homer to cap a six-run second inning for Valdosta High, and the Wildcats held off a seventh-inning rally by the Lowndes High Vikings to upset their archrivals, 9-8 Friday night at Lowndes Field.

The loss dropped the Vikings to 5-4 in Region 1-AAAA and eliminated Lowndes from the race for the regular season region title. The race now is between Tift County, Bainbridge and Coffee — all are 6-3 in the region. Bainbridge beat Tift 6-2 Friday, and Coffee beat Colquitt County 5-4.

It was the second win in a row for the Wildcats who improve to 6-10 overall and 2-7 in the region.

Lowndes High head coach Steve Kebler had nothing but praise for the Valdosta squad and refused comment on his team's performance.

Wildcats 9, Vikings 8		LOWNDES				
VALDOSTA	ab r h bi	LOWNDES	ab r h bi			
Howell 2b	4 2 2 0	Moran cf	3 0 0 1			
Rockey c	4 2 2 1	Sc. Regan rf	4 2 2 0			
Baker 3b	2 1 1 4	Johnson ss	2 3 1 2			
Jelks p	3 0 0 0	Ketterman 1b	1 1 0 0			
Vinson dh	3 0 1 2	Sh. Regan dh	4 1 2 1			
Patterson cf	3 1 1 0	Lester p	4 0 2 2			
Clark 1b	3 1 1 0	Drew lf	4 1 3 1			
Pieplow rf	2 0 0 0	Scruggs 3b	3 0 1 1			
Everson	3 2 1 1	Willis 2b	3 0 0 0			
		Finnissee ph	1 0 0 0			
Totals	27 9 9 8	Totals	29 8 11 8			
Valdosta	060 000 3-9					
Lowndes	211 000 4-8					
E—Johnson 3, Baker 2, Howell, Clark LOB—Valdosta 3, Lowndes 8 2B—Lester, Clark. HR—Baker, Johnson. SB—Johnson, Sc. Regan. SF—Moran. S—Patterson, Jelks.						
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Valdosta						
Jelks, W	6	8	7	5	2	7
Bridges	0	3	1	1	0	0
Denly, S	1	0	0	0	0	1
Lowndes						
Lester, L	1.2	5	6	6	1	3
Scruggs	5.1	4	3	3	0	1

"I told (Lowndes' players) to give the credit to Valdosta," Kebler said. "Don't take anything away from them, and don't make any excuses. Give all the credit to Valdosta — every one of them. It was a team effort, and that's why they won."

It was the pitching of Greg Denly that ultimately decided the game.

Valdosta led 9-4 going into the bottom of the seventh inning with Jason Jelks on the mound. Jelks had given up just two earned runs in the previous six innings, both coming on a two-run home run by the Vikes' Michael Johnson in bottom of the first inning.

But Jelks allowed a lead-off single to Scott Regan in the last half of the seventh, and then walked Johnson and Pete Ketterman to load the bases with no outs.

Valdosta High head coach Charles Tarpley then put in freshman sensation Jarrett Bridges to put out the fire, but Bridges gave up consecutive run-scoring singles to Shawn Regan, James Lester and Jonathan Drew which cut the Cats' lead to 9-7.

Bridges was then replaced by Denly, who took over with the bases loaded and no outs. He first faced Jimbo Scruggs who flied out to center for the first out, but Shawn Regan

scored on the play to cut it to 9-8. Denly then got pinch-hitter Roy Finnissee to ground into a force play, leaving Drew at second and Finnissee at first with two outs.

The game then boiled down to a showdown between Denly and Antoine Moran, the Vikings' lead-off man. But Denly struck out Moran on three straight pitches, the last one swinging, and the Valdosta players mobbed Denly in the middle of the infield to celebrate the win.

"Denly came in and was throwing some danged heat in there," Tarpley said. "Denly can be a good pitcher for us. He's always been a curve-ball pitcher, but he doesn't realize that he's grown three or four inches in the last year, and he can throw it in there."

Valdosta led 6-4 after six innings, scoring all six runs in the second inning off Lowndes' Lester. But See WILDCATS, Page 2-B



Lowndes' Stacy Brinkley crosses the finish line as the winner in the 1,600 meters as Valdosta High's Bob Bolton holds the stopwatch — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

V Times 4-23-92

Vikettes Cruising After First Day Of Region

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Editor

The Lowndes Vikettes did what they and everyone else expected them to do Wednesday as they jumped out to a commanding lead after the first day of the Region 1-AAAA girls track meet.

The Vikettes totalled 66 points, far outdistancing themselves from the rest of the field. The real battle is for second place as Bainbridge has 31 points, Valdosta has 29, Tift County has 28, Coffee has 26 and Colquitt County has four points.

All of the field and distance events were completed Wednesday with the top two finishers in each event qualifying for the state meet next weekend in Albany. Three of the six event winners were from Lowndes with two others coming from Coffee and one from Tift County.

In the 1,600 meters, Lowndes' Stacey Brinkley won with a time of 5:49:35 while Valdosta's Maggie McDonald finished second. Lowndes' Donna Hall was third.

Lowndes' Vicki Williams will also return to the state meet with a first-place finish in the 400 meters. Williams snuck in under the minute mark with a time of 59.20. Valdosta's Kristin Sanderson was fourth in the event while Tyra Foster was fifth in the event.

In the discus, Lowndes' Lazonya Berrien won the event with a throw of 109'8½". Valdosta's Latesha Tharpe was third and teammate Lisa Vincent was fifth. Lowndes' Gretchen Lawson was sixth.

Lowndes also had a state qualifier in the shotput as Lawson finished second while Tift County's Lisa Patterson won the event with a 35'10" throw. Lowndes' Kathy Washington placed third while Valdosta's Lashon Hargett was fifth.

Lowndes' Foster will also be in the state meet as she placed second in the high jump to Coffee's Beth Stockwell, who had a jump of 5'2". Vicki Williams was tied for third in that event. In the long jump, Valdosta's Tiffany Wright just missed a trip to the state meet as she placed third. Coffee's Stephanie Carter won with a jump of 17'10¼". Valdosta's Beth Schnake was sixth in that event.

See VIKETTES, Page 5-B

Vikettes

From Page 4-B

"We like the results in the field events and all the credit for that should go to Coach Williams," said Lowndes track coach Hiram Johnson. "He's done a great job and we're pleased with how we did today. We're expecting another good day. I'll be disappointed if we don't get

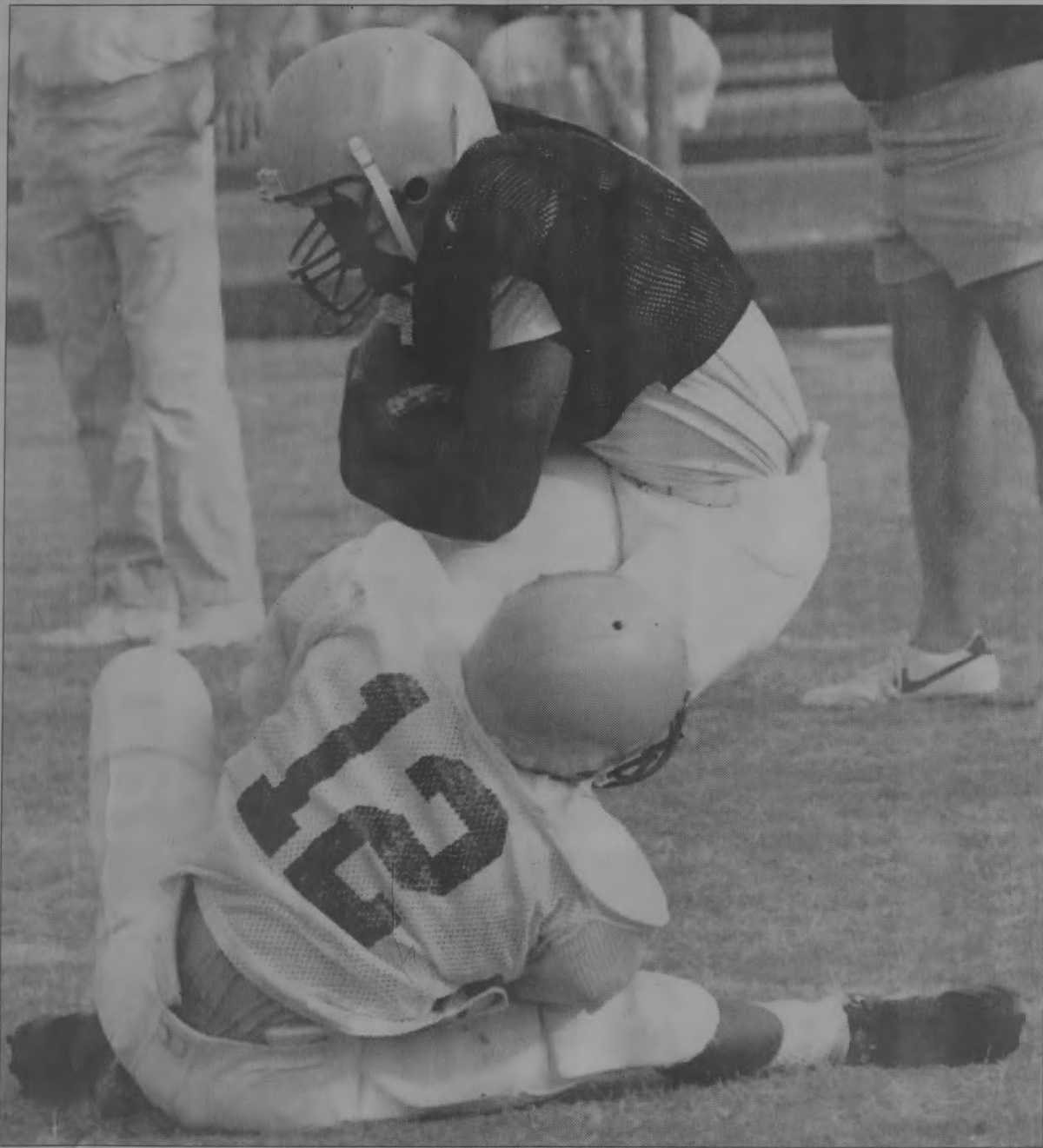
points in all of the events.

"Last year, we sent 14 girls to the state meet and I think we've got a lot better chance this year," Johnson added. "We've got another year of experience and the girls have matured. They're focused."

"Everything went about as I expected," Valdosta coach Dick Sturdivent said. "I think it will be

between us and Bainbridge for second tomorrow with Lowndes way out ahead. The heat sort of affected our distance runners but it was great for the sprinters."

Qualifying for sprint events, relays and hurdles were also held Wednesday and the completion of those events will be today at the Valdosta High track.



Valdosta running back Cory Richardson is the Wildcats' first practice Monday — Times hit by defensive player Johnny Jones during Photo by Jeff Allen.

Wildcats Waste No Time Getting Going

VDT 5-5-92

By LEN ROBBINS
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The Valdosta High Wildcats began their spring practice Monday at the VHS practice field and they wasted little time getting into the thick of things.

Monday's practice was played in pads, full contact, with the emphasis being on offensive sets and defensive adjustments to those sets, head coach Nick Hyder said.

Hyder said he was particularly impressed with performance of the offensive line. Hyder pointed out that offensive lineman Jamie Griffin (center), Allen Holt (guard), Jesse Hunter (guard), Neil Rountree (guard), Andy Harrison (tackle), Kris Gingrow (tackle), and Tad Moseley (tackle) all had good practices Monday.

Hyder also said the tight ends, Shadrick Green and Wayne DeVane, played well.

"All of them played well. We were pleasantly surprised with the offensive line," Hyder said.

On defense, defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley said linebacker Marcus Williams and defensive tackle Sebastian Davis were the standouts.

"Today we were working with our offensive sets and the defensive adjustments to those sets. What we're trying to do is achieve a competitive balance of pass and run," Hyder said.

"And we've got some good quarterbacks for it. We have Steve Everson, who returns. And Steve had a good day. Then we're working with John Green and Matt Mumme, who are our upcoming 11th-graders. Our upcoming 10-grader is Woody Gayle. We're real pleased with those young men," Hyder said.

Hyder was also pleased with the Wildcat running backs.

"Our running backs are looking good. We've got Nakkia McMullen and Brock Sanford back there, as well as Carlos Moore, who looked pretty good today, along with Joseph Edwards," Hyder said.

According to Hyder, the Wildcats will continue to focus on their offensive sets throughout the week.

4-27-92



Amanda McGhin, daughter of Robin and Janie McGhin, is the 1992 Miss Valdosta High School — Photo From Olan Mills.

Junior Captures Crown Of Miss Valdosta High

Amanda McGhin was crowned the 1992 Miss Valdosta High School April 18 at Mathis Municipal Auditorium. The 16-year-old junior is the daughter of Robin and Janie McGhin.

The new Miss VHS plays on the girls' softball, basketball and tennis teams and serves as a student trainer for the VHS football team. She is also a member of the Beta Club, VICA and the Health Occupations Knowledge Bowl Team.

Miss McGhin has been named to *Who's Who Among American High School Students*, *Who's Who in High School Sports* and *All American Scholars*.

Tami Reed was first runner-up for the Miss VHS crown. She is the daughter of William and Charlene Reed. Second runner-up was Kelly Mathis, the daughter of Ronald and Rose Mary Mathis. Third runner-up was Becky Barnette, the daughter of Ronald and Candy Barnette.

Other finalists included Courtney Minchew, Jennifer Powell and Rachel Shirley.

Special awards were presented to contestants Rebecca Coyne for most ticket sales and Tami Tanguay for most sponsorships.

The Miss VHS Beauty Pageant was coordinated by math instructor Tammy Davis. Other VHS faculty assisting with the pageant included Donna Hall, Sharon Taylor, Norma Gail Spencer, Lisa Daughtry, Sherry Bennett and Mary Ann Saliba.

Miss McGhin was crowned by VHS Principal William Aldrich and the 1991 Miss VHS, Christee Leynes. The program was emceed by Russell Baker and Lisa Fernandez.

Entertainment during the judges' deliberations was provided by Matt Hunt, Margaux Laskey, Missy Hiers, Kemisha Davis and Nicole Lee.

Contestants for the Miss VHS crown competed in casual wear, evening gowns and interviews.

Miss McGhin wore an off-white ball gown with puffed sleeves and fitted bodice for the evening gown competition. For casual wear, she modeled a red-checked blazer over a white shell and white denim skirt.

Youth Briefing

VDT 5-1-92

■ **Leadership:** Dana K. Pompey, a 10th grader at Valdosta High School, is attending the Hugh O'Brien Georgia Youth Leadership Seminar today-Sunday in Atlanta.

Dana is an honor roll student, who is a member of the Y-Club, Beta Club, Interact, Future Business Leaders of America, Student Council, Wind Symphony and Dance Team. She is included in the 1990-91 *Who's Who in American High Schools*.

Dana is a member of the South Side Church of Christ, where she is involved in the nursing home ministry and the youth activities. She is the daughter of Rubye Pompey and the late William L. Pompey.



POMPEY

Rosetta and Stephen Coyne of Valdosta.

She will be competing in the state program at Wesleyan College in Macon Aug. 7-8. The Young Woman Program is a statewide scholarship program designed to recognize, reward and encourage excellence in young people. It is not a beauty pageant, but a scholarship program in which participants are judged on fitness, creative and performing arts, presence/composure, scholastic achievement and a judge's interview.

Rebecca's activities at Valdosta High School include National Honor Society, Student Council, track team, debate team and Interact reporter — president-elect. Her hobbies are art, writing poetry, playing the piano and jogging. Rebecca plans to attend Boston College and major in pre-med.

■ **Scholarship:** Rebecca Morgan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Morgan of Valdosta, has been awarded a Burgess Merit Scholarship at Queens College in Charlotte, N.C.

Burgess Merit Scholarships are awarded to new students who have exhibited outstanding records in scholarship and leadership.

Rebecca, a senior at Valdosta High School, has been a member of the band and the Drama Club and is a member of the Science Club.

■ **Young Woman Of Year:** Rebecca Leah Coyne has been named Valdosta's Young Woman of the Year for 1993 and will participate in the Georgia Young Woman of the Year Scholarship Program (formerly known as Georgia Junior Miss), a scholarship competition for high school senior girls.

The 16-year-old Valdosta High School student is the daughter of

Wednesday, April 29, 1992 B-3

Military Roll Call

Sgt. Carla R. Stanford has re-enlisted in the U.S. Air Force for six years.

Stanford, an operations intelligence specialist, is the daughter of Margie A. Stanford of Route 2. The sergeant is a 1986 graduate of Lowndes High.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Oliver Monroe has been decorated with the Army Commendation Medal. The medal is awarded to those individuals who demonstrate outstanding achievement or meritorious service in the performance of their duties on behalf of the Army.

Monroe, a multiple-launch rocket system crewmember, is the son of Carrie M. Monroe of Valdosta. He is a 1976 graduate of Valdosta High.

Honor Society Inducts Students

V. Times 4-30-92

One hundred and fourteen students were inducted into the Valdosta Junior High Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society at its 15th annual induction ceremony April 9 in the school cafeteria.

Dr. Mike S. Chiang, 1969 graduate of Valdosta High School and local physician, delivered the keynote address before a capacity crowd of students, parents, teachers and city and county officials.

Membership in the NJHS is earned by effective demonstration of scholarship, leadership, citizenship character and service.

Those inducted were Margaret E. Armstrong, Marcus D. Bailey, Renee C. Baiorunos, Justin A. Baker, Katy L. Barrs, Rachel L. Bauer, Jeremy A.

Bennett, Justin R. Bennett, Daphnie L. Berrian, Shakena S. Berrian, Andy S. Boutwell.

Chris Butler, L. Stuart Carmichael, Kelly R. Cason, Mima R. Cavan, Joanna Y. Cheng, Andy M. Choens, Ashesh A. Chokshi, Phillip W. Clark, Walton C. Coleman, Christopher J. Daniels, Jonathan A. Daniels, J. Danta Davis, J. Kenan Davis, Randy DeCoudres, Jacquelyn Dickey, Gerald H. Dixon Jr., Shaun P. Dougherty, Nikki Joy Duckworth, Jenny Dutton, Julie M. Edwards, Jennifer K. Ely, Rebecca D. Ennis, Elizabeth A. Ferguson, Nicholas A. Fernandez, Jennifer A. Finland.

Ryan W. Gandy, Carlona R. Gardin, Preston R. Grant, Nathan A. Greene, Lynnel A. Haldeman, Pamela R.

Head, Chris M. Heddon, Anne E. Henry, Robyn S. Hickok, Jerome B. Hubbard, Tabitha L. Huewitt, Meghann D. Humel, Leigh A. Hutchinson, Lois E. Kelley, Will Kemp, Clinton M. Leonard, Leander N. Lester, Denise L. Levy, Mabelle V. Lewis, Brian N. Lewis, Benjamin K. Li, Amy F. Lin, Stephen P. Lincoln, Santanas K. Locklear, J. Katherine Luke, Erin E. Mann, Rusty Masters, Karen A. Matthews, Daniel S. McCranie, Dwaine A. McKinney, Tiffany Merriweather, Cherre L. Moore, Cheryl N. Morrison, Marcus A. Mullis, Christie M. Nichols.

Ben O'Brien, Lant Oukrop, Elizabeth A. Parker, Mandy Parks, Alex Patterson, Carla D. Payton, Charles A. Payton, Latonya E. Perkins, Irro-nica T. Pye, Jamie Y. Rabon, Eliza-

beth R. Richter, Shameaka L. Robinson, Yoruba J. Robinson, Whitney R. Robinson, Matt Ronn, W. Brick Rosenbaum, Elizabeth Rountree, Kimily D. Sanford, Russ Sarratt, Chris Saturday, R. Scott Shaffer.

Janet M. Sheeley, Erin M. Short, Ryan K. Smith, William D. Smith III, Elizabeth M. Snell, John F. South, Roger H. Sparks, Thomas E. Street, Michael W. Sumler, Jasen L. Tatum, Raymond S. Tatum, Bryan Taylor, Mary H. Tyson, Matt Walker, Belinda A. Werts, Wes L. Whatley, Noel A. White, Rosanna J. White, Patrick B. Wiggins, Ko J. Williams, Alex S. Wiseman, Chris Young.

Valdosta Junior High Choral Director Clifton Young serves as adviser for the honor society.

VHS Faculty Honors Students

Each month a representative cross section of Valdosta High School students who are striving to achieve their academic best are honored by the Academic Booster Club.

They are selected by one or more of the faculty members for consistently demonstrating academic performance, work ethic, cooperative and positive attitude/behavior and regular attendance. The following persons were chosen as Students of the Month for March:

Desi A. Albritton, Corey Alexander, Clint Allred, Ken Altman, Don Baker, Michelle Banacke, Latanya Bass, Sheldra Bivins, Trish Bolen, Kayse C.

Budd, Corlisa Bussey, Cedric Carter, Elizabeth Collins, Belinda Ann Downs, Kevner Dyer, Lisa Fernandez, Teresa Fiffie, Jaime Finland, Melissa Fisher, Joshua Franklin, Parker Grow, Serena Yvette Hamilton, Andrew Harrison, Doug Henderson, Brian Hickox, Tanya Renee Hosendoll, Ashley Hudson, Derek Jenkins, Altreek Jones, Mark Josey, Franklin Levail Kier, Derick J. Kyer, Mary Beth Lasseter, Khristina Lyons, Dedrick Mathis, Courtney Minchew, Beth Mitchell, Adrienne L. Moore, Geveda Patrick, Dan Rackley, Cody Radney, Latesha Roberson, Wendy Robinson, Barbara Seawright,

Jennifer Sharpton, Clay Shaw, George Shaw, Lamar Sheffield, Greg Soshnik, Alexandra Spells, Jennifer Spencer, Stephanie Staley, Eric Stanley, Chet Stewart, Melissa Taylor, Roosevelt Thomas, San Thomas, Wendy Whatley, John Weaver, Kenya Chantel Webb, Eddie Wooten.

These students were honored with a party during their lunch period April 16. Kentucky Fried Chicken, Winn-Dixie at the Marketplace and the Academic Booster Club at VHS were co-hosts. Academic Booster Club parents furnished home-baked desserts and served the young people.



Developing Character/A Weekly Feature About Local Young People

Keeping Academically Busy Pays Off For Eidson

VDT 5-1-92

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta teen Bert Eidson is going to take it easy this summer.

For the past year he's been a professional student and college applicant. The effort was well worth the reward, however.

The recipient of two cash scholarships and a full scholarship and housing allowance from the college of his choice, Eidson, 17, will be headed to a prestigious Atlanta school this fall with college funds to spare.

After landing one of Georgia Tech's highest honors — the President's Scholarship — last month, Eidson was notified this week he'll receive

\$2,000 from the Eastman Kodak Company, his reward for being one of 14,000 high school seniors named National Merit Finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Eidson also received a \$1,000 National Beta Club Scholarship. The awards were based on the student's superior SAT score, academic record and involvement in extracurricular activities.

He didn't have much time for fun this year, but will try to make up for it this summer.

In the coming months he'll make more time for tennis and pleasure reading and, for one week, will be repairing housing in the Appalachian Mountains with his youth group at

Park Avenue Methodist Church. Eidson missed the church's yearly mission trip last summer because of his academic endeavors. He was a participant in the Governor's Honors Program at Valdosta State College.

Eidson will be studying industrial engineering at Georgia Tech, which he hopes to couple with a law or graduate business degree before plunging into the work world.

Industrial engineering involves the marriage of pure science and practical application, Eidson said. "Instead of actually building stuff, it's more like thinking and problem solving ... and quality improvement."

Although he's got a lot of time to think about it, Eidson's dream career

entails working for an Atlanta law firm or in politics.

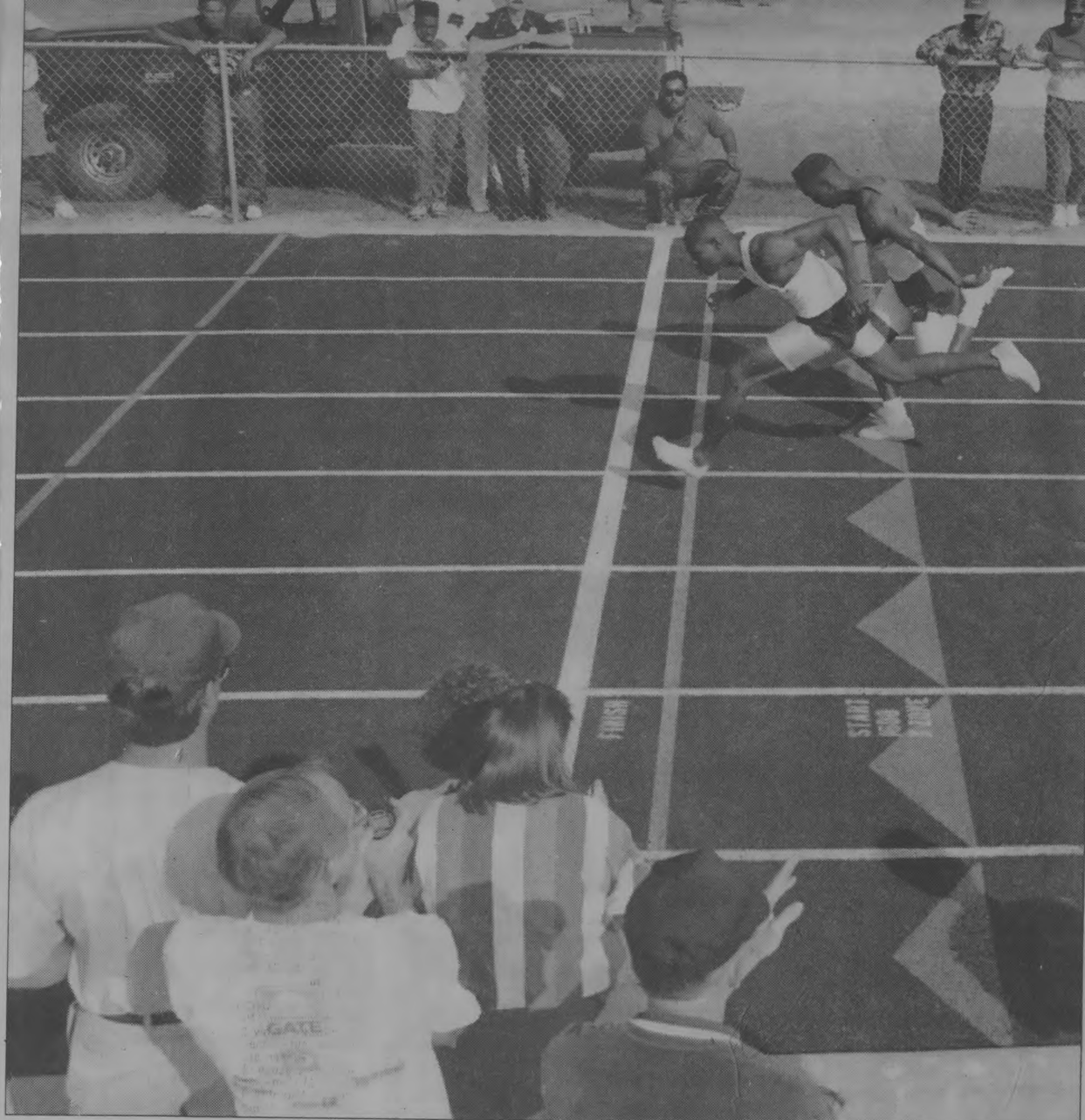
He's not sure he wants to run for public office but would like to be involved somehow in federal policymaking.

Recipients of National Merit Scholarships were chosen by a committee of college admissions officers and secondary school counselors who evaluated a substantial amount of information collected from all finalists and their high schools.

Five other VHS students who ascended to finalist status hope to hear about scholarships when NMSC makes another announcement May 20.



BERT EIDSON



Valdosta's Aldrich Graham crosses the finish line first during a heat race in the 400 meters at the Region 1-AAAA track meet at Valdosta High — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

VHS Track Team Out Front In Region Meet

VDT 4-30-92
By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High School holds a commanding 23 1/2-point lead after the first day of the two-day Region 1-AAAA boys track meet. Tift County and Bainbridge were neck-and-neck at 67 and 66 points respectively and Lowndes High was fourth with 37 1/2 points.

All six field events were completed Wednesday as well as the 1600 meter and 400 meter runs and the 300 meter hurdles. The remaining running events will be completed this afternoon at the Valdosta High School track.

In the nine events, Valdosta had seven individuals qualify for the state track meet with first or second place finishes led by Ernest Lowe's three victories in the long jump, high jump and 400 meter run.

Lowndes High's Dana Smith was the lone qualifier for the Vikings with a second-place finish in the 400 meter run. The Vikings picked up third-place finishes in the 1600 meter run with Carlton Johnson and in the long jump with Demarcus Rizer.

Lowe won the high jump with a 6'6" inch leap, won the long jump at 22'9 3/4" inches and captured the 400 meters with a time of 49.16.

Valdosta's Dexter Daniels qualified in the shotput and the discus. Daniels was expected by Valdosta head coach

Larry Jester to win the shotput and take second in the discus, but Daniels turned the tables on his coach, winning the discus with a 151 foot, two inch throw and taking second in the shotput.

Valdosta's Brice Hunter qualified for state with a second-place showing in the 300 meter hurdles and is the favorite in today's 110 meter hurdles. Matt Van Nus also qualified for the Cats, finishing second in the pole vault.

Jester was pleased with his team's performance, but stressed that the meet is a long way from complete.

"They've been working hard all year," Jester said. "I was real pleased with the effort today. They came really focused today and did a good job. Right now, in the two years that I've been here, these kids are more focused than I've ever seen them."

Jester cited the performances of Trampis Wrice and Lawrence Roundtree as representative of the team's effort. Wrice was third in the triple jump and tied for third in the long jump, and Roundtree was seventh in the 1600 meter run.

"Roundtree ran a 4:59 in the 1600 today," Jester said. "He didn't place. But even though he didn't place, that's his best time of the season. That's the first kid we've had this year to run under a five-minute mile."

See TRACK, Page 5-B

From Page 4-B

"Wrice jumped 21 feet, 7 inches in the long jump," he added. "That was his best jump of the season."

It was the effort, not the results that most pleased Jester.

"That was all I asked," Jester said. "All I ask for is the best they can give. If we're focused, we can be a team that can contend."

Lowndes head coach Chuck Landy was pleased with his team's performance as well, and hopes that his team will make up a lot of ground today in the running events — the Vikings' biggest strength.

"We hope we can catch at least one of the teams," Landy said. "We felt like we were pretty strong in our running events, but our field events

have been our Achilles Heel a little bit all year. We felt like we made progress in our field events, but this is a good region.

"Last year, we were able to make up a lot of ground on the second day," he added. "But we've got a lot to make up. But we've got good guys, and they'll work hard at it. We hope we can close the gap a little bit."

Wildcats Searching For Depth

VDT 5-4-92
By LEN ROBBINS
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Some things never change at Valdosta High School.

As the Wildcats prepare for their 19th spring practice under head coach Nick Hyder, they will continue to do the same things they've done for his entire successful reign as coach.

They will dress out over 100 players, they will play anywhere from 50-60 players a game, and they will again be favored to be one of the top Class AAAA teams in the state come fall. And their goals during the spring season, which begins today, will be the same as well.

"We're looking for depth at every position," Hyder said. "Our goal will be to build our kicking game, our defensive and offensive fundamentals, and, of course, stress character and fundamentals of academics and family values. Those things are very important to us, as well as spiritual values."

But while the Wildcat coaching staff will continue to stress the fundamentals that have won them 21 state championships since 1940, their road to their 22nd state title will be a tough one, something Hyder plans to address during spring practice.

"We need to get the team ready to play what some feel is the toughest schedule Valdosta has ever faced," Hyder said.

Included in that schedule will be homestands against Cedar Shoals, Columbia County (Fla.), Glen Mills (Pa.), and cross-town rival Lowndes, among others. On the road, the Cats will face Bainbridge, Colquitt County and Tift County in three consecutive weeks.

But there is no reason to shed tears for the Wildcats, for they return many from last year's 11-1 team. The most noteworthy returnee is quarterback Steve Everson, the Region 1-AAAA offensive player of the year in 1991. Around Everson, a talented offensive cast also returns.

The Wildcat spring game will be held May 14 at Cleveland Field. The game, being sponsored by the Valdosta Touchdown Club, will begin around 7:30 p.m., immediately after the junior varsity game, which will start at 6 p.m.

Long Way For Nothing

Wildcats Rout Kentucky Guests

With Sweep In Doubleheader

By LEN ROBBINS
Times Assistant Sports Editor

✓ Times 4-5-92

The Daviess County (Ky.) Panthers' annual pit stop to Valdosta on their way to Florida turned out to be the pits for them as the VHS Wildcats swept the Panthers 5-3 and 17-0 in a doubleheader Saturday at Valdosta's home field.

In the first game, junior Jason Jelks was the Wildcat hurler, striking out eight and allowing only one earned run in 6²/₃ innings. Greg Denly came in to relieve Jelks in the seventh and got the save for Charles Tarpley's squad.

"He (Jelks) came in and only gave up three hits and four walks and really pitched well," Tarpley said.

Freshman Jarrett Bridges pitched the second game and also received accolades from Tarpley on his performance.

"He (Bridges) is going to be a real good pitcher. He just pitched real well and the guy that came in for him at the end, (Kevin) Nolan, did a great job too, striking out the side in that last inning," Tarpley said.

Bridges only allowed two Panther hits in four innings of work, striking out five, while sophomore Nolan got the save, striking out the last three Panther batters.

Bridges got a lot of support in his victory.

The Wildcats scored seven runs in the third inning and

terrorized three DCHS hurlers in the fourth, scoring 10 more runs. The slaughter was stopped in the fifth inning due to the 15-run rule.

In the opening game, the Panthers got on the board first, as Jelks got off to a rocky start. The first batter got on base on a Wildcat error, then Jelks gave up a walk and a base hit. Daviess County led 2-0 at the bottom of the first inning.

VHS came back in the third and fifth innings, scoring one and two runs in those respective innings. Then a rally in the sixth inning gave the Wildcats two more runs and a 5-2 lead. Denly walked home a batter in the seventh for the Panthers' final run.

Veterans Chris Rockey and Matt Baker were the offensive leaders for Valdosta, each going 2-for-3 with two RBI in the game.

A game that began quietly became a slugfest for VHS in the third inning of the second game, when Wildcat bats came alive after two dead innings.

Both teams filled their rosters with younger players in the second game, with the Valdosta players getting the best of their northern-most counterparts, banging out 13 hits.

Panther catcher Ashley Walker couldn't hold on to the ball, letting by five passed balls in
See WILDCATS, Page 2-B



Valdosta's Chad Parkerson reaches high for a throw as the Daviess County runner slides safely into second base Saturday at Bazemore Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Valdosta Schools Present

Spring Concerts Of Bands

✓ VDT 4-27-92

The Instrumental Music Department of the Valdosta City Schools will present their spring concerts this week.

The Junior High School Tomcat Band and Junior Tomcats will perform at Mathis Municipal Auditorium at 7 p.m. today. There is no admission fee.

The seventh grade Junior Tomcats, under the direction of Curt Sanders, will perform "Safari," "Kum-BaYah," "Themes from March Slav," "Gershwin Medley," "Mack the Knife" and "Spiritual Rock." The Junior Tomcats are 130 members strong.

Terry Rountree will direct the Tomcat Band of 80 eighth graders. The band will play selections from the Broadway musical "Annie," "Clarinetstencis," "Suite in a Minor Mode," "Exaltation" and "General Grant March."

In May, the Tomcat Band will participate in a regional competition in Panama City, Fla. They will perform in the concert competition and the parade competition.

On Tuesday, also at Mathis Municipal Auditorium at 7 p.m., the high school bands will perform. The Concert Band is directed by Paul J. Guilbeau. They will perform "A Flourish For Wind," "A Celebration of Spirituals," "Summertime" and "Jungle Drums."

Steven Hankla will direct the High School Wind Symphony. This band will feature several solos and ensembles by the seniors in the group.

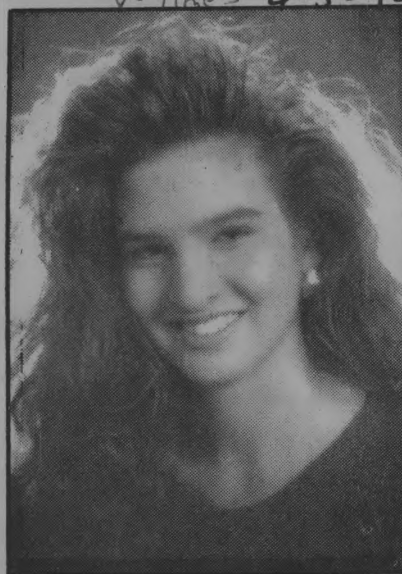
The selections will include "Galop for the Comedians for Xylophone Duet and Band" by a Russian-born composer, Dimitri Kabalevsky. Soloists are Wendy Kuter and Brady Harrison. The popular ballad "Danny Boy" as arranged by Warren Baker will feature the lush sounds of the symphonic woodwind section. "A

Bayside Portrait" is a contemporary work for the band by American composer Robert Sheldon. Sheldon wrote this piece while in residence at Florida State University. "Bayside Portrait" will be conducted by VHS student intern, William Shaw. "Autumn Soliloquy" written by American composer, James Barnes, will feature the following wind symphony personnel: Sarita Rainey on flute, Alysia Walker on flute, Amy Spann on clarinet, Ginny Ferrell on oboe, Mickey McAfee on bassoon, Bernard Scully on French horn, Clint Allred on alto saxophone and Bert Eidson on euphonium. "Autumn Soliloquy" is a delightful discourse between soloists with an autumn painting in mind as a backdrop.

No concert would be complete without a march. The march is characteristic of the American band movement. By proclamation of the United States Congress, John Philip Sousa's immortal "The Stars and Stripes Forever" is now the official march of the United States of America. Sousa is affectionately known as the "March King." The VHS Wind Symphony will perform Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

The Wind Symphony will conclude its concert with Bob Louden's arrangement of "Dixieland Jam!" This fun, upbeat arrangement includes "Basin Street Blues," "Maple Leaf Rag," "Tin Roof Blues" and "When the Saints Go Marching In." The Dixieland Combo is made up of Mickey McAfee tenor sax, Carlos Jones on tuba, Amy Spann on clarinet, Wilson Faircloth on trombone, Reggie Jordan on trumpet and Brady Harrison on trapset.

Valdosta High School Music Department will perform this concert in honor of the administration of the Valdosta City Schools. A reception will follow the concert in the lobby of the Mathis Auditorium.



MARIA BARATTA
In Beauty Pageant

VHS Student State Finalist

Maria Baratta, daughter of Olivia Baratta and the late Charles Baratta of Valdosta, has been selected as a state finalist in the 1992 Miss Georgia Teen-USA pageant at the Airport Hilton in Atlanta April 11-12.

The winner will represent Georgia in the 10th annual Miss Teen USA pageant to be telecast nationally by CBS-TV next summer. About 55 teenage girls from across the state will compete for the coveted title.

Maria will be judged on beauty, poise, personality, grooming, intelligence and speaking ability. She is attending Valdosta High School where she participates in cheerleading and several academic honor societies.

Her other activities include bat girl for varsity baseball, reading, working out and spending time with friends.

Miss Baratta's sponsors include: South Georgia Pecan, Dixie Honda Dodge of Valdosta, The Valdosta Daily Times, Park Avenue Bank and Stan McClellan.

VHS Principal: Career Center Well-Kept Secret

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Principal William Aldrich says it's the best kept secret at Valdosta High School.

A 1991 graduate can attest to that. After spending six weeks in the VHS Career Center, she was successful in landing \$60,000 in yearly renewable college scholarships.

"I call it a warehouse because it looks like a warehouse because of all the information we have," said career center commandant and VHS Vocational Supervisor James R. Studstill.

The busy center is anchored by computers hooked to the Georgia Career Information System. After taking a 21-question test that assesses interests and skills, the computer comes forth with dozens of potential careers.

Push another button and here comes a list of possible majors in college; push a couple more and you'll see what types of scholarships are available in that field, where and how to apply for them.

Not just for the financially disadvantaged either, Studstill pointed out. Some scholarships are never applied for because they involve esoteric disciplines and requirements, or people

just don't know their out there, he said.

"If you put in the time and you put in the effort, you're going to get something."

It's a snowball effect, Studstill said. The more you ask the computer, the more options it gives for accessing additional data.

Freshman Terry Taylor visited the center a few days last week in hopes of garnering some direction. He wants a summer job, but has no idea where to look.

His GCIS profile said he'd be good at several things, two of them being child care and construction. The pro-

file will be forwarded to Terry's guidance counselor who will try to set up interviews. Once the interviews are scheduled, Terry can return to the center and brush up on his interviewing skills with the plethora of resources on the topic.

"It will keep me better informed of what I have to do," the teen said.

Studstill said students left the center last year with more than \$1 million worth of scholarships in their pockets, all landed through the school's resources.

Although the warehouse is there, brimming with merchandise, not everyone is coming to claim it.

"Most people worry about what they're going to do in the last 30 seconds before Mr. Altman (school superintendent) hands them their diploma," Studstill said. "We need to put a lot more emphasis on trying to plan."

The center serves between 300 and 400 students each month, Studstill said. Teachers and faculty are doing their best and the VHS boosters have

started pushing the center as well. Currently, most 9th-graders are taking advantage of its services, but there's much more for the taking and school officials would like to see every student make a visit.

The center serves between 300 and 400 students each month, Studstill said. Teachers and faculty are doing their best and the VHS boosters have

The Valdosta Daily Times

Valdosta High Honors Students

5-7-92
Staff Reports

Bert Eidson was named valedictorian and Sarita Rainey was named salutatorian as part of Valdosta High School's honors program Tuesday night at the school.

Eidson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Eidson, was also named the best all-around senior. Rainey is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Malcolm F. Rainey.

Laura Barbas, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John T. Barbas, was named third honor graduate.

Other award winners included:

■ **SENIOR SUPERLATIVES:** Ann McCranie, Kevin Hiers, Brian Adams, Angela Redden, Maria Baratta, Jennifer Weaver, Dexter Daniels, Laura Barbas, Tim O'Brien, Bert Eidson, Ryan Coyne, Bill Howard, Sarita Rainey and Natasha Johnson.

■ **HONOR GRADUATES:** Matthew Baker, Rachel Bailles, Maria Baratta, Laura Barbas, Joel Bius, Michelle Buckland, Jonathan Burns, Laurie Campbell, Spence Carver, Hilary Davis, Bert Eidson, Lisa Felts, Jim Galloy, Kristin Ganas, Lacarra Godfrey, Scott Goodwin, Jennifer Halter, Kevin Hiers, Ashley House, Bill Howard, Crissie James, Natasha Johnson, Wendy Kuter, Mickey McAfee, Ann McCranie, Maggie McDonald, Beth Mitchell, Rett Moore, Rebecca Morgan, Tim O'Brien, Katherine Owens, Hemali Patel, Phillip Pieplow, Ben Pitchford, John Pitcock, Sarita Rainey, Jeff Reames, Angela Redden, Nick Reed, Betsy Richards, David Roddey, Brandon Rogers, Leigh Saliba, Aimee Smith, Gregory Soshnik, Brian Stanley, Tanya To-var, Pete Tucker, Alysia Walker, John Walker, Jennifer Weaver, Shannon Yow.

■ **COMMUNITY, STATE & NATIONAL AWARDS:** Alysia Walker, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Michael Archers, bronze, American Legion medal; George Strickland, silver, American Legion medal; Chris Powell, gold, American Legion medal; Rebecca Coyne and Becky Burnett, both American Legion Post Auxiliary Post 13 Girl's State; Kristina Lyons, AMVETS; Natasha Johnson, Ciyatt Scholarship; Bianca Booker, junior, and Chester Stewart, senior, both Daedalion Award; Melissa Lyons, Daughters of American Colonist NJROTC Award; Laura Barbas, Good Citizenship Award, Felecia Berrian, NJROTC Award, Lee Scott and Russell Baker, essay contest, all Daughters of the American Revolution awards; Katresa Peterson, Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship; Joel Bius, Kenneth Jerome Rose Scholarship; Sarita Rainey, STAR student, and Lee Pulliam, STAR teacher, both Kiwanis Club awards; Maggie McDonald, The Literary Guild's Ruth Templeton-Webbie Smith Award for Excellence in English Literature; Joel Hodges, The Retired Officer's Association; Nick Reed, U.S. Air Force Academy Appointment; Ryan Coyne and Tim O'Brien, both U.S. Military Academy Award; Angie Redden, USPA and IRA; Chad Benefield, Valdosta Tech; Terry Williams, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1777; Jennifer Edwards, Woodmen of the World; Brandon Rogers, Wymodausis Club's Alice Bingle Essay winner.

■ **ART AWARDS:** Neil Rodgers, Most Outstanding Freshman Art Student; Shniece Cooper, Most Outstanding Sophomore Art Student; Jennifer Edwards, Most Outstanding Junior Art Student; Shannon Yow, Most Outstanding Senior Art Student.



EIDSON



RAINEY

■ **ATHLETIC AWARD:** Tim O'Brien, Academic Athlete Student of the Year.

■ **BUSINESS EDUCATION AWARDS:** Greg Soshnik, Outstanding Accounting Student; Dashanti Jefferson, Outstanding Business Law Student; David Roddey, Outstanding Data Processing Student; Wendy Whatley, Outstanding Keyboarding Student; Delleese Brisco, Outstanding Typing Student; Lucretia Hand, CBE Student of the Year and Business Education Student of the Year.

■ **ENGLISH AWARDS:** Mary Beth Lasseter, Most Outstanding Freshman English Student; Wendy Whatley, Most Outstanding Sophomore English Student; Courtney Minchew, Jennifer Edwards and Jennifer Spencer, all Most Outstanding Junior English Students; Laura Barbas, Sarita Rainey and Ann McCranie, all Most Outstanding Senior English Students; Sarita Rainey and Jim Galloy, both Most Outstanding Drama Students; Laura Barbas, Most Outstanding Student in Composition; Laura Barbas and Brandon Rogers, both Co-Editors of Literary Magazine.

■ **FOREIGN LANGUAGE AWARDS:** Meg Hiers, Most Outstanding French I Student; Brandon Rogers, Most Outstanding French II Student; Sarita Rainey, Most Outstanding French III Student; Dana Pompey, Most Outstanding Spanish I Student; Courtney Minchew, Most Outstanding Spanish II Student.

■ **MATH AWARDS:** Mary Beth Lasseter, Most Outstanding Algebra I Student; John Weaver, Most Outstanding Geometry Student; Parker Grow, Most Outstanding Algebra II Student; Brook Bearden, Most Outstanding Trigonometry Student; Courtney Minchew, Most Outstanding Pre-Calculus Student; Bert Eidson, Most Outstanding Calculus Student; Alex Penn, First Place Senior Varsity Individual, Bert Eidsen, Sarita Rainey, Nick Reed and Alex Penn, First Place Senior Team, all in the Coastal Plains RESA Math Tournament.

■ **NAVAL SCIENCE AWARDS:** Derrick Jones, Distinguished Cadet First Year; Ayanna Sampson, Distinguished cadet Second Year; Chinequa Knight, Distinguished Cadet Third Year; John Copeland, Distinguished Cadet Fourth Year.

■ **SCIENCE AWARDS:** Holland Alday, Most Outstanding Student in Biology; Michelle Levy, Most Outstanding Student in Physical Science; Lee Scott and Alex Penn, both Most Outstanding Students in Chemistry; Pete Tucker, Most Outstanding Student in Physics; Rebecca Morgan, Most Outstanding Student in Anatomy/Physiology; David Roddey, Most Outstanding Student in Computer Science; Jennifer Eidson, Governor's Honors Program; Lee Scott, Kevin Hiers, Pete Tucker, Holland Alday and Mandy Moore, all First Place Team in Region Science Bowl; Roy Kilgard and Wilson Faircloth, both First Place Scrambler, Bill Howard and Rebecca Morgan, both First Place Computer Science, Lee Scott and Alex Penn, both First Place Balancing Equations, Roy Kilgard, Wilson Faircloth and Lee Scott, First Place Sounds of Music, all in the Science Olympiad; Alex Penn, First Place Southwest

Georgia Exam of National Chemistry Olympiad.

■ **SOCIAL STUDIES AWARDS:** John Weaver, Most Outstanding Freshman Social Studies Student; Alex Penn, Most Outstanding Sophomore Social Studies Student; Jennifer Spencer, Most Outstanding Junior Social Studies Student; Bert Eidson, Most Outstanding Senior Social Studies Student; Jennifer Spencer, Governor's Honors Program.

■ **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION OUTSTANDING STUDENTS:** Jennifer Weaver, marketing decision making; Ashley House, general merchandising supervisory level; Jonathan Burns, general merchandising supervisory level; Angela Redden, apparel and accessories master employee level; Ingrid Carroll, advertising services; Kendra Elliott, hotel/motel; Jason Page, general marketing master employee level; Vocational Industrial Clubs of America Awards: Michael Johnson, extemporaneous speaking; Robin Rowe, job interview; Tina Costello, nurse assisting; Rebecca Morgan, outstanding student; Matthew Loveday, medical assisting; Jodi Osborne, dental assisting; Spence Carver, graphic communications; Arthur Rizer, basic health care skills; Amanda McGhin, Ryan Coyne, Jessica Morgan, Rebecca Morgan and DeDe Dennis, all First Place, state, Health Occupations Knowledge Bowl; Eric Stanley, mechanical drafting, first in state; Technology Students Association Awards: Jimmy Fields, manufacturing prototype, first state; Jonathan Burns, engineering graphic analysis, first state.

■ **REGION LITERARY MEET WINNERS:** Laura Barbas, essay; Maria Baratta, spelling; Stephanie Everett, extemporaneous speaking; Bill Roberts, Stephanie Everett, David Matthews and Lee Scott, debate, all first place winners.

■ **GEORGIA'S AND UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR JUNIORS:** Russell Baker, Brook Bearden, Melissa Buckland, Kayse Budd, Che Christie, Gregory Clark, Rebecca Coyne, Stacey Cranor, Jennifer Edwards, Jennifer Eidson, Stephanie Everett, Wilson Faircloth, Parker Grow, Matt Hunt, Jessica McMullen, Courtney Minchew, Judson Rackley, Timothy Roush, Lee Scott, Jennifer Spencer and Christopher Wheeler.

■ **ERSKINE FELLOWS:** Jennifer Spencer, Jennifer Eidson, Kayse Budd and Lee Scott.

■ **GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY OUTSTANDING BLACK SCHOLAR AWARD:** Joyette Smith and Che Christie.

■ **PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE JUNIOR FELLOWS:** Jennifer Edwards, Matt Hunt, Courtney Minchew and Christopher Wheeler.

■ **GOVERNOR'S HONORS PROGRAM:** Jessica Roan, dance.

■ **NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, COMMENDED STUDENTS:** Jennifer Halter, Kevin Hiers, Ashley House and Nick Reed.

■ **NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, FINALISTS:** Maria Baratta, Laura Barbas, Bert Eidson, Bill Howard, Ann McCranie and Sarita Rainey.

■ **NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR OUTSTANDING NEGRO STUDENTS, COMMENDED STUDENTS:** Katresa Peterson.

■ **GEORGIA SCHOLARS:** Maria Baratta, Laura Barbas, Bert Eidson, Bill Howard, Ashley House, Kevin Hiers, Ann McCranie and Sarita Rainey.

■ **SPECIAL RECOGNITION:** Natasha Johnson, President Student Government Association; Ann McCranie and Bill Howard, Co-Editors Sandspur.

Wildcats To Unveil New Look

By **LEN ROBBINS**
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The Valdosta Wildcats ended their regular spring practice Thursday, and with all the new formations learned and the personnel evaluated, will finish their 10-day season tonight as they unveil the 1992 version of the team at Cleveland Field, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The unveiling will also include a few new experiments that the Wildcats have been working on during their spring workouts, according to Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder.

"One of the things that we don't do a lot of is a one-back set, which gives us three receivers. That gives us probably the newest wrinkle to what we've been doing," Hyder said.

"It (the one-back set) opens a whole new dimension to offensive football. We've integrated it real well with our other stuff so as not to confuse the offensive lineman from blocking."

This week, the Wildcat coaching staff has been trying to establish depth while also welcoming five players who had participated in track and weren't available until Monday.

"We're trying to settle in on who the top 44 is, and who is the next 44 after that is. We also added the track players this week, and they added a lot of quickness to the squad," he said.

The returning tracksters were Alfred Barnes, Donald Hitson, Larry Melton, Franklin Wiseman and Robert Randolph.

Hyder said he expects the spring game tonight to be an intense one, as the offense will be pitted against the defense.

"The practices have been real intense, so I think the scrimmage will be to. They have been pretty much even during practice, so it should be interesting," he said.

Prior to the varsity scrimmage, the upcoming 7th-graders will be playing at 4 p.m., the upcoming 8th-graders will scrimmage at 5 p.m., and the upcoming freshmen and sophomores will do battle at 6:30 p.m. Admission for the full day of Wildcat football will be \$2.

Cats' 'Green' On Offensive Front

By **CHRIS BECKHAM**
Times Sports Editor

For Valdosta football fans, black and gold are the usual colors of choice when viewing the Wildcats' practices and games from the stands. But offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker's vision has been blurred by youth. When he sees his group prepare for spring practice, all he sees is green.

"We've got a lot of work to do," Baker said. "But I tell you what, I'm excited about this group. They are quick, I mean real quick. They've worked hard but they just need a lot of reps and that's what we're doing now."

The starting offensive line will be full of unfamiliar faces as five fulltime or parttime starters will be gone to graduation. Three of those starters received college scholarships — Tim O'Brien (Air Force), Shawn Van Auld (Valdosta State) and Eddie Wooten (Tennessee State) — while Andy Sheffield will soon sign with a junior college. Add Jay Bowling to the list and there are a lot of shoes to fill.

This spring, Baker has had Andy Harrison (6-3, 225) and Chris Gingrow (6-3½, 220) at tackles, Jesse Hunter (5-10, 190) and Allen Holt (6-3, 190) at guards and Jamie Griffin (5-10, 205) at center. Shaddrick Green (6-3½, 190) is the tight end.

Baker added that Bradley Grant (6-2, 255) is academically ineligible but will be back in the fall at center. Harrison missed Monday's practice with a hamstring contusion but he should return today or Wednesday.

'We're young but that's what spring's for. We want to put them in a situation under pressure and see how they react. I know what it's like to go out and play Tift County or Lowndes and that's what we're trying to emphasize.'

— Jerry Don Baker
Wildcat Coach

Wayne Devane was moved from tight end to tackle in Harrison's place.

Neil Rountree (6-6, 220) seem some time with the first team at guard and "he is one of the best long snappers we've had in years. He does a great job there."

Working on the second team has been Ches Melton, Lamont Debro, Darren Atkins, Harvey Moore, Tad Mosley, Allen Baker, Josh Connor and Ken Altman.

"We've put in some new offensive sets this spring and tried to fit it to the personnel that we have on offense," Green said. "Coach Hyder is real good at that. This is one of the quickest lines I've ever coached. All of them can move. That'll help us roll out and sprint out and do some things."

"We're young but that's what spring's for. We want to put them in a situation under pressure and see how they react. I know what it's like to go out and play Tift County and Lowndes and that's what we're trying to emphasize."

Movin' On Up

VDI 5-14-92

Valdosta track star
in respective

Tiffany Wright, right, received college scholarship in sport

while Wright will continue at Albany State — Times Photos by Pat Leavy.



Lowndes' Johnson Makes First Team

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Editor

In high school athletics, versatility can often be the sign of talent as some players are asked to play more than one position. Lowndes' Michael Johnson was one of those athletes.

Johnson's versatility as a quality pitcher and hitter made him one of two baseball players selected to positions on both the first and second team 1992 All-Region 1-AAAA squad. Johnson made the first team as an outfielder while being selected to the second team as a pitcher. The team was selected by sportswriters who cover the region.

Tift County pitcher Mike Hall was named the region's Player of the Year. Hall, a senior, nearly single-handedly kept the Blue Devils in the race for the region crown. Tift County eliminated Bainbridge in the first round of the region playoffs before falling to Coffee in the championship.

Coffee coach Steve Wight was named Coach of the Year after the Trojans went 7-3 in the region and advanced to the postseason playoffs. Wight was also named the Coach of the Year last season.

Johnson and Hall were joined on the first team by Bainbridge pitcher Brian Powell, Coffee pitcher Shane Shook, Coffee catcher Cassius Johnson, Colquitt County first baseman Jeremy Merritt, Coffee second baseman Jeffrey Barnett, Coffee third baseman Danny O'Steen, Bainbridge shortstop Jason Andrews, Colquitt County outfielder Bill Tucker, Bainbridge outfielder Ryan Pearson and Colquitt County designated hitter Chris McCranie. Like Johnson, McCranie also made the second team as a shortstop.

Johnson ended a successful Viking career in 1992 as he led the squad with a .429 batting average. He also

All-Region Team

First Team

P - Mike Hall, Tift County
P - Brian Powell, Bainbridge
P - Shane Shook, Coffee
C - Cassius Johnson, Coffee
1B - Jeremy Merritt, Colquitt Co.
2B - Jeffrey Barnett, Coffee
SS - Jason Andrews, Bainbridge
3B - Danny O'Steen, Coffee
OF - Michael Johnson, Lowndes
OF - Bill Tucker, Colquitt Co.
OF - Ryan Pearson, Bainbridge
DH - Chris McCranie, Colquitt Co.

Second Team

P - Michael Johnson, Lowndes
P - Mona Sutton, Coffee
P - Tony DeRosso, Colquitt Co.
C - Shane Pridgen, Tift County
1B - Brian Harrell, Bainbridge
2B - Wes Horne, Colquitt County
SS - Chris McCranie, Colquitt Co.
3B - Matt Baker, Valdosta
OF - Antoine Moran, Lowndes
OF - Shawn Regan, Lowndes
OF - Chad Fussell, Coffee
DH - Scott Regan, Lowndes

Honorable Mention

P - Michael Adams, Coffee
P - Brad Hastings, Coffee
P - Jeremy Merritt, Colquitt Co.
P - David Stone, Tift County
C - Chris Rockey, Valdosta
C - Chad Bennett, Bainbridge
3B - James Lester, Lowndes
OF - Brady Tucker, Colquitt Co.
OF - Blake Patterson, Valdosta
OF - Cedric Barnes, Coffee

hit five home runs, scored 25 runs and had 18 RBI. On the mound, he was 7-2 with a 1.39 ERA and 75 strikeouts in 60 innings. The year in See ALL-REGION, Page 11-A

Cats' Line Looks To Fill Vacancies

By LEN ROBBINS
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Despite losing three seniors off of last year's Wildcat defensive line, the Valdosta High coaching staff is confident that the returning lineman can fill the necessary holes.

"We've got some kids we're real pleased with," defensive line coach Larry Jester said at Tuesday's practice. "We had a real good day today. We had a good practice yesterday, but today we were more aggressive because we had a better understanding of which way we are going."

Jester lost Tim McClain, John Gloster and Kevin Major from last year's front, with McClain and Gloster being starters. McClain was an All-Region selection and signed with West Georgia. Gloster will be playing football for Savannah State next fall.

Despite the loss of McClain and Gloster, Valdosta still has some players with experience returning to man the three-man frontline.

Upcoming senior Brinson Barker started eight games last year, but is

currently sidelined with a knee injury and won't practice this week. Jester said he hopes Barker will be available by next week.

"If we had to line up today, it would be Steve Carson at left tackle, Peter Failor at nose guard and Sebastian Davis at right defensive tackle," Jester said Tuesday.

Carson is an upcoming senior, as is Failor. Davis is an upcoming junior who has been impressive thus far in spring camp.

The defensive line is also being affected by academic casualties, as upcoming seniors Levalis Paul and James Robinson are ineligible to play due to grades. Jester said he hoped both would be back to play in the fall.

Joining the returnees on the line will also be a newcomer.

"We got a new kid that moved in here, Kelvin Dyer, who's a good-looking kid. He had a real good day yesterday," Jester said.

Dyer will add depth to the nose guard position, according to Jester.

DECA Pays Off For Pitchford

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Remember that talk you had with your dad?

The one where he said, "Enjoy your school days while you can, kid. Some day you'll have to work for a living."

Those were the good old days. Today, many high schools students have part-time jobs. Some even clock in before the last school bell rings.

Through a variety of cooperative education programs offered at local high schools, many students leave school early and go to work.

One such program is Valdosta High's Distributive Education Club of America. Last week it sent four state honorees to the DECA National Conference in Anaheim, Calif.

One of them, Ben Pitchford, came home a national winner.

Pitchford, 17, competed in the marketing and economic category. State winners from DECA clubs throughout the United States competed by taking written exams and performing role play scenarios found in the working world.

Pitchford leaves school at noon each day and heads for work at Harvey's grocer in the Castle Park Shopping Center.

The guidance DECA provides has helped the young employee on the practical end of his education. Knowing good customer service skills has come in handy at Harvey's, he said.

Knowing how to deal with and satisfy customers is paramount in any



BEN PITCHFORD

job, Pitchford said. "That's something you deal with everyday, no matter what you get into."

Pitchford will carry his academic and applied education to the Georgia Institute of Technology this fall where he'll study industrial engineering and work every other quarter at an Atlanta-based company.

Accompanying Pitchford to California last week, in addition to VHS' DECA Coordinator Norman Green, were state finalists from VHS: Jonathan Burns, who competed in general merchandising; Ingrid Carroll, who specialized in advertising; and Kendra Elliott, whose area is hospitality and tourism.

All-Region

From Page 10-A

cluded a first for Johnson as he hurled a no-hitter against Tift County while driving in the game's only run in extra innings in a 1-0 win.

Lowndes placed four players on the second team while Valdosta added one more.

Johnson, outfielder Antoine Moran, outfielder Shawn Regan and designated hitter Scott Regan were Viking representatives while Valdosta's Matt Baker was chosen as the second team third baseman.

Receiving honorable mention notice was Valdosta catcher Chris Rockey, Valdosta outfielder Blake Patterson and Lowndes third baseman James Lester.

Moran hit .295 for the Vikings this year with 17 runs, eight RBI and one home run. But he made his presence felt most once he got on base.

Moran also led the team with 27 stolen bases.

Shawn Regan hit .373 on the year with 12 RBI with seven runs scored while his brother Scott hit .333 with one home run at the designated hitter spot.

Baker pitched while also playing third base for the Wildcats. He ended the year with a team-leading .360 batting average and 10 RBI. He had only one home run but it came at a great time. His three-run shot against Lowndes helped the Wildcats defeat their crosstown rivals.

Rockey led Valdosta with 11 RBI while batting .254 at catcher. Patterson, a sophomore, got more playing time with the varsity as the year went on while continuing to play on the B-team. He ended the year with a .290 batting average.

Lester saw some time on the pitchers mound but made his mark as a hitter. He batted .321 with 11 runs scored and was second on the team with 17 RBI as the Vikings' third baseman.

Hall was 9-7 overall but he maintained a 1.44 ERA with 151 strikeouts and 38 walks in 112 innings. He pitched in every region game, building a 6-4 record.

Powell, a Georgia signee, had a 6-4 record with a 0.70 ERA. He struck out 118, walked only 17 and led Bainbridge to the region playoffs.

Shook was Coffee's ace with a 5-2 record and a 1.98 ERA. Shook's batterymate Johnson hit .281 for the Trojans including a pair of two-run home runs and an RBI single in Coffee's 6-1 win over Tift County to clinch the region championship.

Merritt finished with a .404 batting average while Coffee's Barnett batted .365 and had 10 RBI. Bainbridge's Andrews led the Bearcats with a .460 average while doubling as a pitcher. Andrews will continue his career at Georgia Southern.

O'Steen, also a member of the All-Region basketball second team, his .356 with six doubles, a home run and 14 RBI. O'Steen is a transfer this year from Citizens Christian.

Colquitt's Tucker hit .343 including three hits against Lowndes in the final game of the season. Pearson had a .304 average with two home runs and had several outstanding defensive plays.

McCranie put together one of the best offensive seasons the region has seen in years. The senior, who has signed with Georgia to play football and baseball, hit .562 while stealing 25 bases.

Wildcats Ready For State Meet

V. Times 5-8-92

By **LEN ROBBINS**
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Larry Jester is one tired man. Jester, the boys track coach at Valdosta High, is having quite a busy week. Since Monday, Jester has been coaching the defensive line during spring practice as part of his football responsibilities. All the while, he has been preparing his Region 1-AAAA

track and field champions for the state meet in Jefferson, which begins today. Thursday morning, he and 14 members of the Wildcat track team headed up to Jefferson to compete in the meet. Add these two jobs to his educational duties, and it is easy to understand why Jester is tired.

But he is not about to let that bother him today, as his Wildcats will be competing in 12 of the 16 events at the Class AAAA meet. Qualifying

trials for the meet were held Thursday night.

Jester is confident that of the 12 events, some of his Wildcats have legitimate shots at winning in their respective categories.

"We anticipate nothing but the positive," he said. "We feel we have a shot at winning some events."

"I feel like Ernest Lowe can do well in the high jump and the long jump. I think both our hurdlers,

Brice Hunter and John Copeland, should also do well," he said.

Besides Lowe, Hunter and Copeland, Jester also believes Dexter Daniels should be competitive in the discus at the meet.

"I look for some good things to happen to Dexter Daniels in the discus," he said.

"It's really hard to say how we'll do in the other events, like the 100 meters, the 200 meters, the 4 X 100 re-

lay. The 4 X 100 really scares me to death because at any time, the kid can drop the baton and the race is over," he said.

While Jester has been sharing time during the week, coaching both track and football, his tracksters haven't. Franklin Wiseman, Donald Hitson, Robert Randolph and Larry Melton haven't participated in spring football practice due to their track responsibilities.

Everson, Cats To Open Up Offense

By **CHRIS JOHNSON**
Times Sports Writer

Junior quarterback Steve Everson led the Valdosta High Wildcats to an 11-1 record last season and was named the Region 1-AAAA and area's offensive player of the year.

But Everson will be a senior next season, and the expectations and responsibilities will be higher for the versatile quarterback. Everson, though, welcomes the added responsibility.

"We've talked about it," Everson said of his conversations with head coach Nick Hyder. "He's asked me if I can handle it, and I feel I can. I think the team is behind me and we are going to do it. We're going for the state championship."

What Everson will have to handle in the 1992 campaign is an offense with a few more options for the quarterback to throw to.

"I feel like with the year I had last year, coach Hyder is going to give me a little more leeway to work with the receivers," Everson said. "He saw that I was pretty accurate last season so he's going to allow me to open up things a little more."

Valdosta offensive backs coach Mike O'Brien said that it is Everson's experience that allows the Cats to open up the offense.

"We have a lot of good receivers just like we did last year," O'Brien said. "But now I think he has a lot better understanding of the field and how he can get the ball to each and every one of them."

Everson feels that next season's offense will make better use of his passing ability, though many of Valdosta's 1991 opponents may remember more Everson's ability to run with the ball.

"Right now, I feel like my strength will be the pass because we have new offensive sets and we have more receivers," he said after Thursday's practice.

"Last year, we were basically a two-receiver offense. Now we have

the backs coming out of the backfield and we'll use the tight end more.

"We put in the new sets because of the speed we have," he added. "I think it's going to make us a better team, and it's going to make fans come to the game."

Everson said that opening up the offense will pose more problems for the Wildcats' opponents in 1992. It has even posed problems for the Valdosta defense in four days of spring practice.

"Right now, when we're practicing against our defense, they are confused," he said. "And they are one of the best defenses in the state. So if we run the offensive sets we have now against the defenses that couldn't stop the wing and the pro sets, I feel like it will just make us that much better."

"The offense has been clicking with all of the new offensive sets," he said. "Usually it's the other way around. Usually it's the defense that dominates in the spring."

Everson added that his seniority and experience are not the only reasons that the Wildcats are planning to open up the offense. Another reason is the return of several talented running backs from last season.

"We have some running backs back this year, but with the backs we have this year, they can run it and they can catch it," Everson said.

Other than a hip pointer which has slowed his running so far spring, Everson is pleased with his performance.

"Other than the hip pointer, everything has been great," he said. "My arm looks pretty good. I've been on target. I'm right where I was at the end of the season. But I don't wanna get lax — I want to improve."

O'Brien believes that Everson will draw plenty of attention from major colleges this fall.

"I think he can be a (Division I player)," he said. "I think he can run well. I think he throws well. And I think that he understands the offense, and would understand any offense he was put in."



Valdosta High quarterback Steve Everson (1) eludes a defender during the Wildcats' spring practice Thursday as head coach Nick Hyder, left, watches from the sideline. The 1991 Region 1-AAAA offensive player of the year completed 57 percent of his passes for 1153 yards and rushed for 451 yards last season — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Wildcat Running Backs Still Learning

VDT 5-13-92
By LEN ROBBINS
Times Assistant Sports Editor

With the nucleus returning from last year's Valdosta High offensive backfield, the Wildcat running backs would presumably have a spring practice devoid of change.

But due to numerous circumstances, the spring season has been an adapting one for the plethora of experienced running backs.

Returning starter Alfred Barnes didn't start practice until Monday due to his involvement in track. Fullback David Williams hasn't played this spring because he is academi-

cally ineligible. And a couple of personnel changes have changed the spring depth charts as well. But these changes have been beneficial to the running backs, according to offensive backfield coach Mike O'Brien.

"This has given us a good opportunity to work some of the younger running backs in there," O'Brien said at Tuesday's practice.

Some of those younger backs include upcoming junior tailback Nakia McMullen, who has been impressive this spring, Von Clark, Corey Richardson and Carlos Brown.

Sam Thomas, who played fullback last season, has been moved to line-backer, while Brock Sanford, who will

be a senior next fall, has been moved from defensive back to running back.

The Wildcats also have Tommy Speed at their disposal. Speed had previously attended VHS, transferred, and is now back. The upcoming senior, who'll play both back positions, "has come in and done a real good job for us," O'Brien said. "We're expecting him to play some."

The running backs have been working mainly on their base plays during the spring, but also have added a few wrinkles, according to O'Brien.

"We're experimenting with different blocks and other things. We're still doing our base stuff that we'll do

in the fall, but we're seeing now how we can do it and improve on it," he said.

The Wildcat backs have also been working on catching the ball out of the backfield, something that head coach Nick Hyder has said they will planning to do in the fall.

"We've been working on that," O'Brien said. "In the past, we've had problems with our hands. So we've really been concentrating on that. And with some of the new formations and sets we're going to use, the backs will be used as receivers. They are all catching the ball better. From where we started to where we are now, we have really improved."

Dennis' Choice Turns Out Well

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Editor

Choosing a college is sometimes a burden for any new graduate but the decision looms larger when the chooser is an athlete. Several added variables must be factored in, further complicating the process.

Laura Dennis faced that decision nearly a year ago. A standout slow-pitch softball player during high school, Dennis had two national junior college powers both located about an hour away. Her choice was made and now, she can look back and wonder if it was the right one.

It was.

During her freshman year at Lake City Community College, Dennis accomplished nearly every goal imaginable. The first baseman was named All-Conference, All-State, All-American, led her team in batting average (.488) and led the state in RBI (82) and played a big part in LCCC's tremendous season.

Her team finished as the Mid-Florida conference champions with a 55-17 record. After she made the state All-Tournament team, Dennis helped her team to the national championship tournament played at the E.B. Hamilton softball complex a couple of weeks ago.

There, the season took a dangerously sour turn as LCCC lost the first game of the tournament to Daytona Beach Community College. But they stormed back through the loser's bracket, advancing to the championship game against Abraham Baldwin, the defending national champions and the host team of the tournament.

But in their eighth and ninth games of the two-day event, LCCC twice defeated the Lady Stallions and

'I didn't think I would make All-American my freshman year because that's real hard to do. But that's one reason I went to Lake City. It's close and I had heard that they were recruiting some real good players. I thought I'd have a better chance to win.'

— Laura Dennis
Softball Player

won the national title. Dennis did her part for the team, hitting .500 for the tournament and being named to the All-Tournament team.

Now that the first successful year is history, Dennis finally has a chance to think about a couple of months without bats, balls and swinging for the fences.

"I didn't think I would make All-American my freshman year because that's real hard to do," she said. "But that's one reason I went to Lake City. It's close and I had heard that they were recruiting some real good players. I thought I'd have a better chance to win."

That theory was tested and proven early in her academic year. Last fall, LCCC was 27-3 during their scrimmage season. That kind of performance has become the rule for Dennis who played on several successful teams during high school. Aside from being a Lady Wildcat, Dennis played for the Tomboys 3, the Valdosta Sluggers and the Bandits which is based in Atlanta.

This summer, Dennis plans to take
See DENNIS, Page 7-A

Dennis

From Page 6-A

it easy and only work on her sport "every now and then." Her thoughts will be ready for the game next year when LCCC returns nine players with some more help on the way.

"I think we'll be better than we were this year," Dennis said. "We've got a lot of good players coming back

and a lot of good players coming in. In the last 10 years, our coach, Jean Williams, has won six national championships and finished second the other four times."

So how difficult will an encore be? Dennis is not only hoping to match her frosh success, but surpass it in spectacular fashion.

"We could be undefeated if we play together. We were for a while this year but then we hit a slump and lost some games. I think we'll be better," Dennis said. "But we're everybody's rivals. Everybody will want to beat us because we're the champs."

Such is the price of success.

The Valdosta Daily Times

6-A Monday, May 25, 1992



Laura Dennis displays some of the softball awards she has won during her freshman year at Lake City Community College
— Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

5-19-92



R.C. Redish takes great care when it comes to his gridiron responsibility. He has been tending Cleveland Field since 1984 — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Wildcat Pride Behind The Scenes

By DEAN POLING
Times Staff Writer

R.C. Redish is as much a fixture at Cleveland Field as the red swizzle stick that constantly droops from the corner of his mouth.

Though Redish has never played ball on the Valdosta Wildcats' gridiron, he's probably worked up as much a sweat as any of the athletes. He's one of them unsung folks behind the scenes.

The coaches know him. The players know him. The sports writers know him. And anybody who has seen a Valdosta High football game during the past decade has seen his work.

Redish is Cleveland Field's groundskeeper and has worked the field since 1981.

Redish and Carl Roe, with the help of "some other fellas," are the ones who place the yard lines on the field, keep the grass growing, make sure folks don't fall through the bleachers when they sit down and do anything else that needs doing at the Williams Street field.

When asked if he considers Cleveland Field his baby, Redish points to the green, saying "That's everybody's baby."

And that's true. With the Wildcats' championship status, Valdosta High's playing field has got to look good. And Redish is keenly aware of that.

He took charge of maintaining the field in 1984 and has since known all of the players who've slugged it out on his handiwork.

"I'll be out here working or walking somewhere and see the kids riding through town. Of course, there not kids now. ...They'll yell 'Hey, R.C.!' and I'll wave back," the 56-year-old said, tugging at his baseball cap during a break behind Cleveland Field's bleachers.

Though he says he never played high school football, the big, white-haired, white-bearded man looks like he could have done a mean job of it.

Born in Lowndes County, Redish was raised on a farm and graduated from Pine Grove High School. He joined the Army after his school days and stayed with it 22 years before retiring as a sergeant first class.

R.C. Redish

- Residence: Valdosta
- Family: wife, Margie; children, Randall Redish, Shari White and Anita Redish; granddaughters, Kimberly and Amber White.
- Interests: Gardening, going to church and being with his family.

During his time in the military, Redish says he graduated military college and saw the world. He survived the Norse winters of Greenland, the combat of two tours of duty in Vietnam and lived in Europe on four different assignments. But when it came time to retire, he decided to settle back in his home of Lowndes County.

One of the reasons he gives for retiring was to give his son, Randall Redish, a chance to play high school ball. The younger Redish played for the Wildcats.

In addition to Cleveland Field, Redish handles Valdosta Junior High's field, the schools' gymnasium bleachers, as well as the school system's playgrounds. And his work load will increase with the return of Valdosta State College's football games at the field this fall.

"There's a satisfaction in doing something. That's one of the things I grew up with as a boy. You do the best you can," he said smiling, the red swizzle stick twisting in his teeth just a little.

HONORS PROGRAM

PROCESSION Elgar

PRESENTATION OF COLORS NJROTC Color Guard

INVOCATION Matt Baker

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER Jennifer Brown

WELCOME William E. Aldrich

Community, State, and National Awards

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Brenda Willis

American Legion Post 13 Leo Weaver

American Legion Auxiliary Post 13 Ann Register

AMVETS Post 607 Paul Haynes

Ciyatt Scholarship Larry Creamer

Daedalion Col. R.R. Clark USAF (Ret.)

Daughters of American Colonists Connie Christie

Daughters of American Revolution Anne Cork

Della Sigma Theta Sorority Betty O'Neal

Kenneth Jerome Rose Scholarship Rev. Booker T. Rose

..... Gloria Rose

Kiwanis Club Barbara Rentschler

Literary Guild Beverly Hickox

The Retired Officers' Association LCDR James R. Matthews USN (Ret.)

USPA and IRA Scholarship Dave Washnock

United States Air Force Academy Lt. Col. John Crowe USAF

United States Military Academy Ray Heath

Valdosta Tech James Bridges

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1777 William L. Fornes

Woodmen of the World Dick Rockey

Wymodausis Club Dot Johnson

Department Awards

Art Patsy Smith

Athletic Academic William E. Aldrich

Business Education Karen Folsom

English Lee Pulliam

Foreign Language Sharron Gandy

Mathematics Kathy Sheeley

Naval Science LCDR Larry Cupp USN (Ret.)

Science Jimmy Carter

Social Studies Nancy Hjort

Vocational James Studstill

Literary Lee Pulliam

Guidance Patricia Rayford

..... Larry Creamer

Special Recognition William E. Aldrich

SENIOR HONOR GRADUATES William E. Aldrich

Presentation of Rotary Awards John Harrington

SENIOR SUPERLATIVES

BEST ALL-AROUND SENIOR

ALMA MATER

**VALDOSTA HIGH SCHOOL
ALMA MATER**

Let our voices loudly ringing
Echo far and near
Song of praise thy children singing
To thy memory dear

Alma Mater, Alma Mater
Tender, fair and true
Dosta High with love unending
We our vows renew

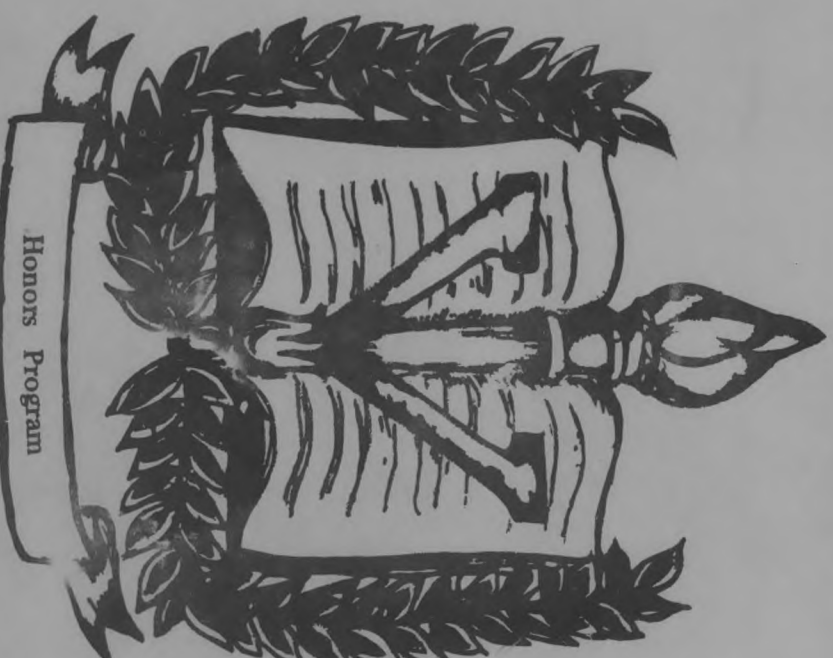
Vocalist
Jennifer Brown

Pianists
Tracy Bonner
Matt Hunt
Rebecca Morgan

Ushers
NJROTC Unit
Valdosta High School

Flowers compliments of Azalea City Florist

**VALDOSTA
HIGH
SCHOOL**



May 5, 1992
7:00 p.m.

Little Theater

Sports Sunday

The Valdosta Daily Times

Valdosta Places Second At State

Staff Reports

JEFFERSON — The Valdosta Wildcats completed their three days at the Class AAAA state track meet Saturday with a second-place finish. The Wildcats totalled 36 points while Southwest Dekalb won the title with 46 points.

Two Valdosta seniors accounted for all of the team's points with outstanding performances in three events. Senior Ernest Lowe won first place in the high jump with a 7'0" effort, finally reaching the personal goal in his final successful high school jump.

Lowe backed that effort up with another first place, this one in the long jump. His leap of 23'3" was good enough to outdistance the competition.

Last year, Lowe was second in both events.

The other standout senior was hurdler Brice Hunter. Only a few miles from where he will continue his football career as a receiver at the University of Georgia, Hunter won the 110 high hurdles with a time of 14.38. He came back to place third in the 300 intermediate hurdles with a time of 38.96.

South Cobb placed third with 32 points while Griffin, Parkview and Lovejoy rounded out the top six.

Valdosta head coach Larry Jester said the inclement conditions in Jefferson affected the performances in some events but he was excited about the final outcome.

"Thursday, it was 38 degrees and raining. You talk about culture shock," said Jester. "Friday, they moved all the field events that were scheduled back because of the weather. But this is a great accomplishment for us. We came up here with the attitude that we were going to win it all and the kids gave it their best."

"There is a lot of good competition up here and that's why we didn't have teams getting 60 or 70 points," he added. "We want to take this and build from it. We're going to start thinking about next year as soon as spring practice is over. We got better from last year and we want to come back next year and win it."

Last year, Valdosta placed fifth in the state.

"We got better as they year went on and that's because the kids just kept working hard," Jester said. "Everybody in the community supported us a lot and that also made a difference. We're real pleased with how everything went."



From left, Matthew Loveday, Spence Carver, DeDe Dennis, Ryan Coyne, Rebecca Morgan, Jodi Osborne and Eric

Stanley talk and laugh as Jessica Morgan and Amanda McGhin turn the wheel of chance — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Six VHS VICA Students Bring Home The Gold

Six Valdosta High School Vocational Industrial Clubs of America members walked away with gold medals at the Georgia State Skill Olympics in Atlanta. In June, they will go on to compete in the U.S. Skill Olympics in Louisville, Ky.

Junior Eric Stanley won first in state for machine drafting, and a team of five VHS students took first place in the Health Occupations Knowledge Bowl. The Knowledge Bowl team was made up of sophomore Jessica Morgan, junior Amanda McGhin and seniors Rebecca Morgan, Dede Dennis and Ryan Coyne.

Only team captain Rebecca Morgan was a member of the 1990 VHS team which also finished first in the state and seventh in the nation. She was joined on last year's team which finished second in the state by the

younger Morgan sister and Miss McGhin.

Stanley also had prior experience in VICA competition last year at the local, area and district levels and was a candidate for the state VICA president's office this year.

Jody Osborne also brought home a metal from the state competition. The VHS senior finished third in Dental Assisting.

Also competing for VHS were Matt Loveday in Medical Assisting and Spence Carver in graphic arts.

The Skill Olympics is sponsored by VICA and is held each year in conjunction with the state and national annual meetings. Students compete at local, area and district levels for the opportunity to participate in the state competition.

Joining the VHS group as delegates to the Georgia VICA Convention were Permelia Moore and Robin Rowe.

The students were accompanied by VHS VICA coordinator Lynne Wilson, vocational supervisor James Studstill and health occupations instructor Janie McGhin.

According to Ms. Wilson, VICA members are working to raise money to send the six gold medal winners on to the national contest. They sold drinks and snacks at the school's annual May Day, and a car wash is planned.

Several local businesses have also pledged support for the trip. Anyone wishing to make a contribution may contact Ms. Wilson at Valdosta High School.

Wildcats

Weather

V Times 5-10-92
First Week

By **LEN ROBBINS**
Times Assistant Sports Editor

It may have seemed like a year to the Valdosta Wildcats football squad, but it was only five days.

The Wildcats concluded the first half of spring practice Friday, and although they only practiced five times, the intensity of the scrimmages, and the weather, made it seem much longer.

"We had a variety of weather (last week)," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said Saturday. "We had summer and fall weather and close to winter. It got awfully cold one day. So in those days, we experienced a whole year's worth of weather."

Hyder and his coaching staff concentrated on offensive and defensive sets and the kicking game for the first week of spring. The Wildcats tried to get in the swing of things as quickly as possible Monday, for there are only 10 days in the spring season.

"What we set out to do was to get as many folks with as much repetition as we can on our offensive and defensive sets and our kicking game," Hyder said.

So far, Hyder said, the defense has been especially impressive, as have some individuals.

"The defense had a great day Friday," he said. "They dominated the scrimmage that day."

Among the individual efforts on defense, Sebastian Davis, Marcus Williams, Don Baker and Mychael Hopper stood out, according to Hyder.

"The most aggressive youngster that we had was Sebastian Davis. Sebastian will be a junior, and he's a defensive tackle," Hyder said.

Hyder said that both Hopper and Baker have had good weeks at defensive end, while college recruiters have been at practice all week looking at linebacker Williams.

On offense, Allen Baker at tight end and Kris Gingrow at offensive tackle have both been pleasant surprises, Hyder said.

Hyder also said that the leader of the offensive unit, returning starter Steve Everson, has had a good week.

"Steve Everson had an outstanding
See WILDCATS, Page 2-C

VALDOSTA HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES



JUNE 4, 1992

VALDOSTA STATE COLLEGE

P.E. COMPLEX

8:00 P.M.

Wildcats

From Page 1-C

week. He's adjusted to the new sets we're trying to do. He gives us excellent stability at the quarterback position," Hyder said.

As for the upcoming week, Hyder said he and the Wildcat coaches will be concentrating on establishing depth.

"We're looking for depth, and we're finding it," he said. "We're looking for youngsters who have really worked to

master the fundamentals. By that, I mean blocking and tackling in the situational scrimmages that we have."

The Wildcats will conclude the spring season Friday. The spring game will begin around 7:30 p.m. on Friday at Cleveland Field, following the junior varsity and ninth-grade teams' games. The event is being sponsored by the Valdosta Touchdown Club.

Gators Snag Cats' Daniels

2-5-92
By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

Sorry AT&T, but all of those long-distance inquiries concerning the status of Valdosta High senior linebacker Dexter Daniels will now come to a screeching halt. *The USA Today's* Defensive Player of the Year has chosen to attend the University of Florida.

Phones have been ringing constantly at media outlets throughout the Valdosta area concerning Daniels' decision. The 6-2, 225-pound linebacker chose the Gators over their main competition — the University of Georgia.

Daniels said that there was a lot of pressure to choose either school, but especially the University of Georgia. He even received a telephone call from friendly crosstown rival Randall Godfrey of Lowndes High. Godfrey, a 6-3, 215-pound linebacker who verbally committed to Georgia Monday afternoon, had indicated that he wanted Daniels to join him at Georgia. Valdosta split end Brice Hunter also committed to Georgia last week.

"They tried, especially Brice," Daniels said. "I just like Florida better. I like the program. I think it's a program on the rise. I really like it, and coach (Steve) Spurrier is a good coach."

According to Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder, the University of

Florida is elated to have snagged the All-American linebacker.

"They told me that, on paper, this might be the best recruiting class they've ever had down there," Hyder said.

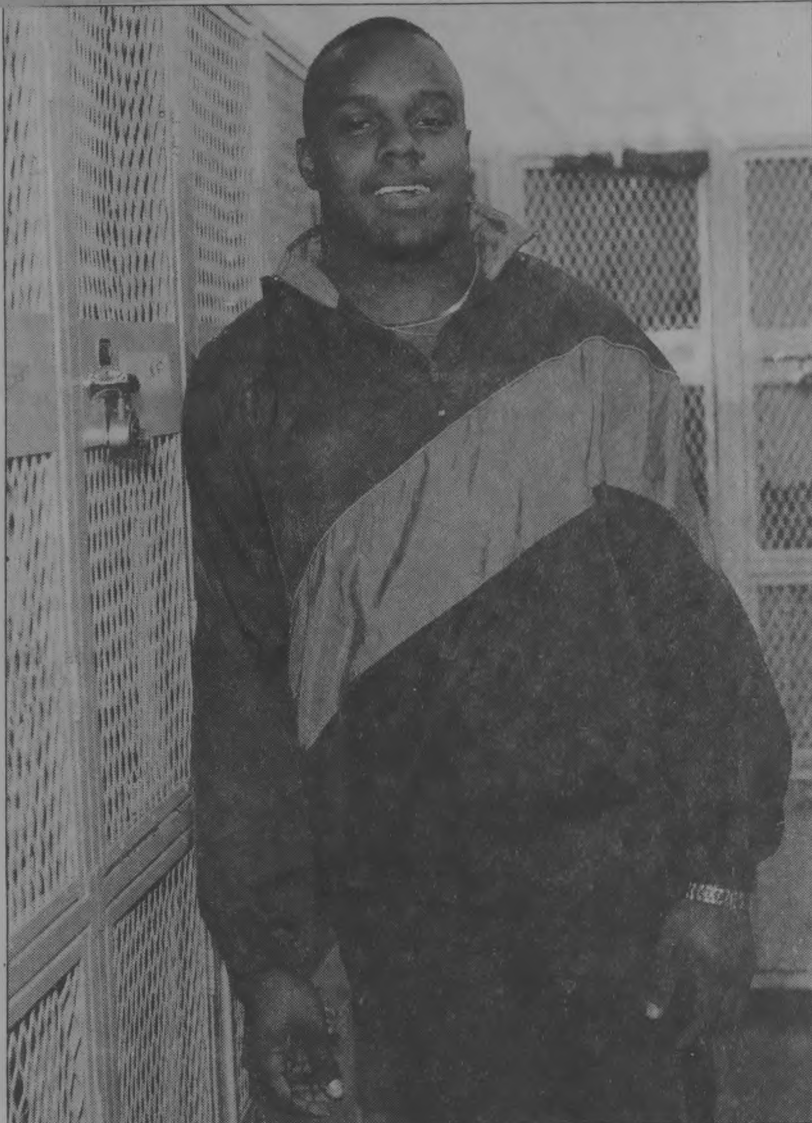
The Gators certainly have good reason to be excited about signing Daniels. The linebacker has shown promise since he was a freshman and one of only 12 freshmen to letter at Valdosta during Hyder's 18-year stint.

Daniels' best year at VHS was his last. During the 1991 campaign, the Wildcats compiled an 11-1 record, while the senior star racked up 174 tackles (108 solos), caused four and recovered two fumbles, and had four quarterback sacks. During his career, the Wildcats compiled a 50-3-1 record and won two Class AAAA state titles.

Daniels' many honors include *The USA Today* first-team All-America, All-State, All-Region, All-Area Defensive Player of the Year, Super Prep All-America, and WCTV Super Six along with many other honors.

Contrary to popular opinion, Daniels said that UF's proximity to his family and hometown was not a major deciding factor.

"It didn't play a real big factor," he said. But he did add that it was important to him that his family and friends would be able to make the shorter drive to Gainesville to watch him play.



Valdosta High School senior Dexter Daniels takes a time-out in the VHS locker room before deciding upon his choice of college. The highly recruited linebacker chose to attend the University of Florida — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Five Signings Scheduled For Today

By CHRIS JOHNSON
Times Sports Writer

While today may be the first day of the signing period with lots of college in the Valdosta area, there may not be too much ink flowing from the pens of college-bound Lowndes Vikings and Valdosta Wildcats.

Only one player from Lowndes High and four from Valdosta High are scheduled to sign letters-of-intent today. Others, however, may sign today, but had not scheduled signings by press time.

The lone Viking scheduled to sign today is Randall Godfrey. Godfrey committed to the University of Georgia Monday afternoon. Godfrey, a 6-3, 215-pound linebacker, is planning to sign with the Bulldogs between 3:30 and 4 p.m. this afternoon at the Lowndes High field house.

Valdosta High school senior linebacker, Dexter Daniels, plans to sign a letter-of-intent with the University of Florida at his home at 4 p.m.

While NCAA Division I-A rules do not allow college coaches to be present while recruits sign letters-of-intent, two players from Valdosta High

planning to join NCAA Division II's West Georgia college will have at least one member of the Braves' coaching staff present.

Cats' defensive back John Cope and defensive lineman Tim McClain plan to sign with the Braves at 9:30 this morning at Valdosta High School. Also planning to sign today is Wildcats defensive lineman John Gloster. Hyder said that Gloster will sign with Savannah State, but the time of the signing has not been set.

Other Wildcats that Hyder said could possibly sign letters-of-intent

today include split end Brice Hunter, cornerback Trampis Wrice, running back Albert Edmunds, and offensive linemen Eddie Wooten, Tim O'Brien, and Shawn Van Ausdall.

Hunter has committed to Georgia, and Wrice committed to Nebraska, but Hyder had not been informed as to if and when the two will sign with their schools today. Edmunds and Wooten have committed to Tennessee State, while UT-Chattanooga was still talking to both Van Ausdall and O'Brien.





Please join me for dinner on beautiful Ocean Pond to celebrate the end of the school year. Share in a delicious home cooked meal of Swamp Salad, Fried chicken and all the trimmings. The celebration begins at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 1992. Cost of the meal will be \$5.00 for a mate/date.

Reservations should be made with Mrs. Nitscke by May 8, 1992 so that final plans can be made. Don't miss this delightful evening of good food & great fun. See you there.

William E. Aldrich

P.S. More details to follow.

Octavius Dewayne Oliver
 Stephanie Susan O'Neal
 Jodi Lynn Osborne
 Sophia Vanessa Owens
 Charles Jason Page
 Marcus Scott Parker
 Quinlin Kay Parker
 Veronda Raquel Patterson
 Mary Sandra Payton
 James Ray Pearce
 Robert Wayne Peters
 Katresa KaShun Peterson
 Cedric Phillips
 Veronica Michell Phillips
 Felicia Michelle Ponder
 Natasha Renee Ponder
 Randall Frank Pope
 Gregory Bernard Porter
 Christopher Sean Powell
 Jennifer Anne Powell
 William Dewayne Raines
 Gloria Anne Reese
 Yolanda Yvette Reviere
 LaTricia Juanice Richardson
 Stephanie Michelle Richter
 Tracey Latonya Riley
 Arthur Jerome Rizer, Jr.
 LaShunda Taneka Roberts
 Latoya Denise Roberts
 Michael Karon Roberts
 Craig Antwane Robey
 Lonnieta Louise Robinson
 Rodney Fredrick Robinson
 Sylvia Nicole Robinson
 Adrienne Nicole Roman
 Tumika Lucinda Rome
 Gary Ricardo Ross
 James Rowe, Jr.
 Robin Michelle Rowe
 Jeremy Glen Rowell

Cynthia Diane Rumph
 Brian Ford Sanders
 Kenneth Christopher Sanders
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 Michael Robert Singletary
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 Joel Jameson Smith
 Larron Ashley Smith
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 Lousia Darnell Spencer
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 Lawanda Ann Swinton
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 Al Fresno Thomas
 Monteletto Montego Thomas
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Bridgett Michelle Tooley
 Keysha Simone Treadwell
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 Michelle Lee Buckland
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 Hilary Marie Davis
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 Lisa Nicole Felts
 James Frederick Galloy
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 LaCarra Charlette Godfrey
 Scott Eugene Goodwin
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John Kevin Hiers
 Ashley Rebecca House
 William Richard Howard III
 Crissie Latonja James
 Natasha Nicole Johnson
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 Michael Alva McAfee
 Ann Laura McCranie
 Maggie Kay McDonald
 Sylvia Elizabeth Mitchell
 William Errett Moore III
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 Timothy Michael O'Brien
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 Hemali Pravin Patel
 Philip Karl Pieplow
 Benjamin Neal Pitchford

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 Nicholas Jerome Reed
 Mary Elizabeth Richards
 David Cornwell Roddey
 Brandon Clay Rogers
 Norma Leigh Saliba
 Aimee Elizabeth Smith
 Gregory Bryan Soshnik
 Brian Andrew Stanley
 Tanya Maria Tovar
 James Pete Tucker
 Alysia Walker
 John Scott Walker
 Jennifer Kay Weaver
 Shannon Michelle Yow

VALDEDICTORIAN *Charles Bertram Eidson*

SALUTATORIAN *Sarita Ann Rainey*

THIRD HONOR GRADUATE *Laura Helen Barbas*

BEST ALL AROUND SENIOR *Charles Bertram Eidson*

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 Joel Bius.....Mr. and Mrs. H. Wayne Bius
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 Spence Carver.....Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Carver
 Hilary Davis.....Norman M. Davis, Jr. & Jane R. Davis
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 Lisa Felts.....Mr. and Mrs. Gene Felts
 Jim Galloy.....Michael and Carole Galloy
 Kristin Ganas.....Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Ganas
 Lacarra Godfrey.....Mr. and Mrs. Gene Godfrey
 Scott Goodwin.....Mr. and Mrs. Grady Goodwin
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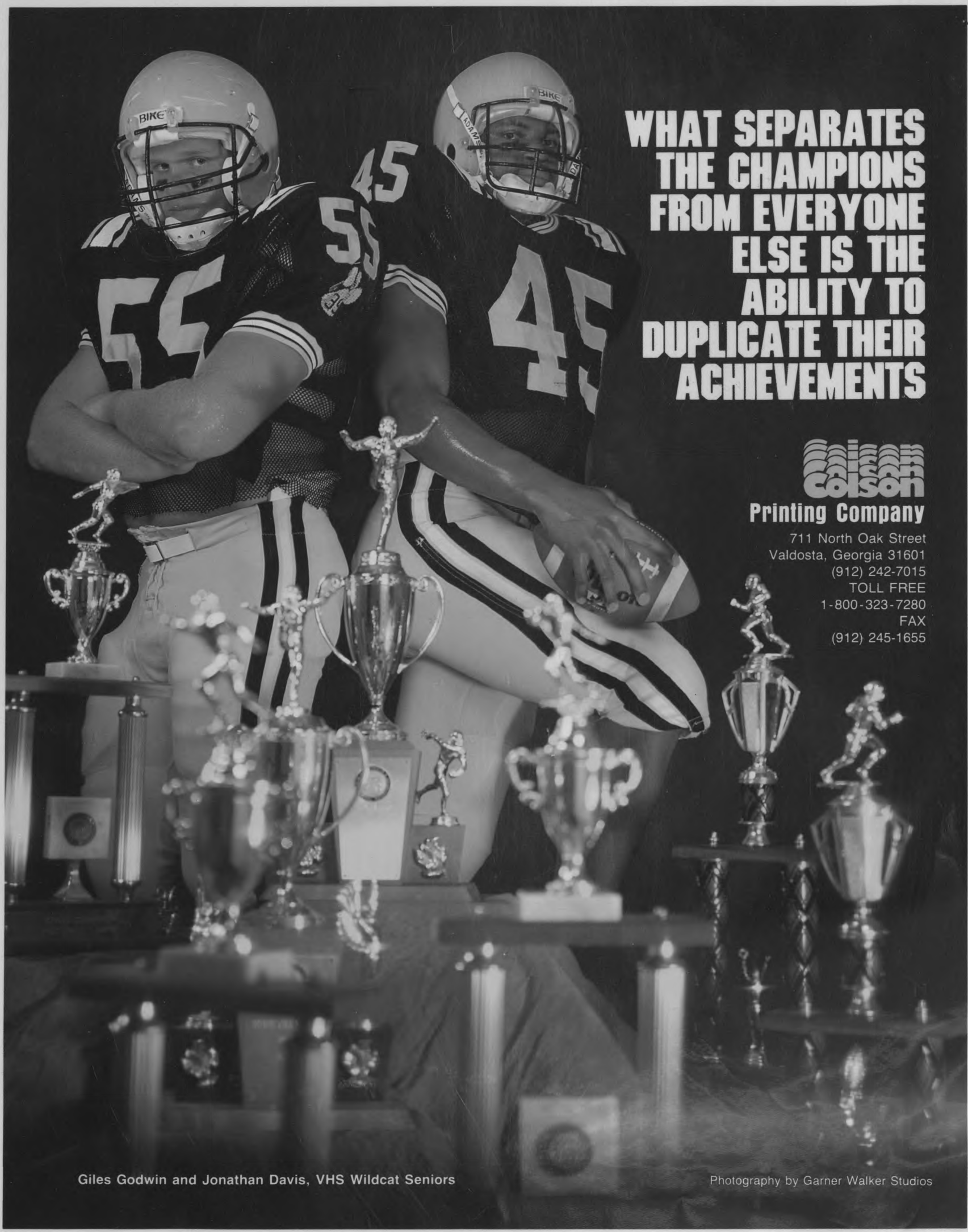
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