
Community Archives – Valdosta High School Scrapbooks

CA/001-01-034

1984

Valdosta High School Scrapbook 34, 1984-1985

Valdosta High School

For this and additional works see: <https://vtext.valdosta.edu/xmlui/handle/10428/7103>

UUID: 0F3C5EF5-0755-4343-B112-4BE3C339E4A7

Recommended Citation:

Valdosta High School. "Valdosta High School Scrapbook 34, 1984-1985". *Valdosta High School Scrapbook Collection*, Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections, Valdosta, Georgia. <https://vtext.valdosta.edu/xmlui/handle/10428/7487>

This item is part of the *Community Archives: Valdosta High School Scrapbook Collection* at Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections. Physical and intellectual rights are reserved by the Lowndes County Historical Society. Physical materials were loaned to Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections for the purposes of digital preservation. The digital items here are part of an online collection only. If you have any questions or concerns contact archives@valdosta.edu

FOOT

BALL

'84



VALDOSTA WILDCATS

Schedule:

Aug.	31	Thomasville
Sept.	7	At Waycross
Sept.	15	At Monroe
Sept.	21	Westover
Sept.	28	At Bainbridge
Oct.	5	At Tift County
Oct.	12	Central, T'ville
Oct.	19	At Colquitt County
Oct.	26	Dougherty
Nov.	9	Lowndes

No.	Player	Pos.	Wt.	Yr.
1	Greg Talley	QB	154	10
2	Dick Harkin	DB	152	10
3	Charles Steward	WR QB-T	199	9
4	Russ Rudolph	TE	147	11
5	Derrick Folsom	DB	170	12
6	Mike Martin	DB	152	12
7	Kevin Rawlins	WR	145	10
8	Derek Shaw	DB	170	10
9	Hosea Heard	WR	163	11
10	Ben Hayslip	QB	145	9
11	Ernie Bishop	DE	176	11
12	David Thomas	DB	159	12
13	Johnny Monroe	WR	142	9
14	Keith Henry	DB	147	9
15	Berke Holtzclaw	QB	159	12
16	Eric PriMe	RB	123	10
17	Guy Belue	WR	136	10
18	Troy Toth	LB	147	11
19	Randy Bell	WR	152	11
20	Monroe Gamble	RB	144	11
21	Tony Anderson	RB	205	11
23	Trevor Shaw	DB	144	12
24	Greg Johnson	DB	148	11
26	Mac Graham	DB	140	12
27	Lyn Johnson	WR	145	11
28	Tony Manghrum	RB	142	11
29	Antonio Henderson	RB	124	10
30	Don Ryan	DB	157	11
31	Darrell Blair	DB	135	12
32	Dwayne Hart	DB	160	11
33	William Jones	WR	135	10
35	Scott Braswell	RB	156	12
37	Anthony Bryant	DB	162	12
38	William Dixon	RB	154	10
39	Elijah Holmes	DB	155	12
41	Earnest Manghrum	DE	170	12
43	Keith McClary	LB	145	11
45	Freddie Richardson	LB	189	9
46	Tony Johnson	LB	164	11
47	John Porter	LB-RB-K	210	12
48	Willie Lewis	RB	164	12
49	Brian Dufek	LB	141	10
50	Matt Stanaland	C-G	192	11
51	Steve Hazelhurst	DL	180	11
52	Todd Holtzclaw	T	146	11
53	Greg Bryant	C	151	12
54	Jon Reaves	G	180	12
55	Michael "Doc" McBride	G	175	11
56	Michael Spencer	DL	177	12
58	Joey Matchett	DE	179	11
59	Charles Jascczak	G	132	10

No.	Player	Pos.	Wt.	Yr.
60	Chris Diamonditis	G	137	10
62	Eric Henderson	G	190	12
63	Ronald Fleming	DL	160	9
64	Herman Smith	G	148	10
65	Jim Godbee	G	178	12
66	Jeff Davis	C	195	11
67	Todd Hatcher	T	186	11
70	Joey Tippet	T	165	11
74	Michael Tolbert	DE	164	10
75	Ron Jones	T-C	183	9
76	Marty Howell	T	172	11
77	Johnny Crook	T	245	11
78	Darryl Robinson	DL	151	12
79	Jodie Sprenkle	T	212	10
80	Mack McGuyrt	WR	138	11
81	Innis Davis	WR	151	11
82	Joe Paoletti	TE	150	9
83	Bruce Thomas	DE	158	10
84	Bill Kirby	LB	165	10
86	Mario Smallwood	WR	170	12
87	Seaborn Williams	DE	150	10
89	Darrell Leonard	TE	190	12
91	Andy Griffin	DL	153	10
92	Jimmy Lewis	DL	211	12
93	John Wheelless	DL-T	273	10
94	Kelvin Miller	DL	187	11
95	Scott Barton	DL	175	9
96	James Wakefield	DL	210	12
97	Darriet Perry	DE	141	10



COACHES

Nick Hyder Ath. Dir. • Head Football Coach
 Jack Rudolph Def. Cord.
 Charles Tarpley Def. Ends • LB's
 Freddie Waters Def. T • MG
 Bob Bolton Receivers
 Jerry Don Baker Off. Line
 Mike Obrien Off. Backs



Sports

VHS's Anderson Appears Well On Way To Recovery

Fullback's Illness Forces Shuffle In 'Cats Lineup

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High fullback Tony Anderson was at football practice Wednesday evening doing light exercises, following intestinal surgery July 29.

A belt-like strap of tissue had formed across Anderson's intestines, forcing Dr. William C. Retterbush to remove the blockage. However, the surgery seems to have been a success, with Anderson already on his road to recovery.

"The surgery was not that painful — it was painful before surgery," Anderson said. "The pain was pretty bad, and that was the reason for the surgery."

Anderson rushed for more than 700 yards last season, trailing only Michael Turner of Tift County and Kerry Salary of Albany-Westover in total yards rushed in Region I-AAAA.

He also scored 12 touchdowns and ran back a few punts for the Wildcats.

And his Valdosta teammates were glad to see him Wednesday as they welcomed him back at practice.

"It was good to be back out there," he said. "I'm doing pretty good, and I'll probably be back for the third game of the season."

"That's just what my body feels like. I'll know more when I talk to the doctor (Retterbush) on Monday. He's going to put me on a regular daily program."

The rising junior is hopeful that he'll experience a speedy recovery, as are the Valdosta players and coaches, although Wildcat opponents probably hope he takes his time returning.

"I'm feeling pretty good," he said. "I feel like the surgery was very successful. Dr. Retterbush told me I was a very sick boy, and I'm just glad he got to it (the blockage) when he did."

"I'm just walking and stretching. Those are about the only things I'm able to do."

Another person who's very happy Anderson is on the road to

recovery is Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder. Hyder will play Scott Braswell in Anderson's fullback position, with John Porter coming in as backup.

But Hyder's just glad Anderson is recovering well. "He came out of the hospital on Monday or Tuesday, and he came to practice yesterday," Hyder said. "He was walking and doing abdominal exercises. That's about all he can do right now."

"The big thing is that he can eat food again. He had been fed intravenously."

"He was just all clogged up, but now his intestines are functioning and he's gradually getting back to normal. He was swollen up almost to the point of gangrene (when the doctor operated)."

And Hyder should be more than happy to get Anderson back as soon as possible. Braswell, weighing in at about 150 pounds, could be a little light for starting fullback. And Porter will probably get tired of shuttling in from linebacker to run the ball.

"He's made remarkable progress," Hyder said. "He's up on his feet — he's quite an athlete."

"He's one of those really outstanding running back athletes, in the mold of a George Rogers or Herschel Walker."

"I don't know when he'll be back. I expect it will be later on in the season. We'll put him back in there when the doctors say it's okay. He's getting his health back, and he's so eager. The team was mighty glad to see him."

"And the doctors were happy with the surgery. Dr. Retterbush performed the surgery. Dr. (Ira H.) Wenzel is his family doctor and our team doctor is Jose Campa."

Anderson and Porter will be chosen to the *Florida Times-Union/Jacksonville Journal Super 11* football team, when the Jacksonville newspaper publishes its North Florida/South Georgia special football edition in a few weeks.

'Cats Conclude Conditioning Drills

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

Everything is in working order and the machine is once again clicking like clockwork. There was a kink in the armor last week with Tony Anderson's illness, but Valdosta High has moved on without missing a beat, which is more than pleasing for head coach Nick Hyder.

The Wildcats received some good news this week in the order of a 6-foot-1, 270-pound package by the name of John Wheelless. The sophomore guard, who saw action as a freshman last year, has returned to the team and Hyder couldn't have received any better news after the news of Anderson last week.

"We are real delighted to have him back with us," Hyder said. "He was going to sit out this season and work to help out his family, but decided to come back out and it was a pleasant surprise."

The 'Cats have been practicing in shorts for the past three weeks and are gearing up for camp next week at Twin Lakes and two-a-day drills.

"They have been working real hard and have shown a tremendous work attitude," Hyder said. "We have about 25 guys who were with us when we won the championship (state) two years ago, and they know what is takes to get back to the top."

"Our seniors have shown some outstanding leadership and it

past three weeks, we have accomplished a lot and have just tried to get the mental part of the game down pat."

Hyder says the 'Cats have been making steady progress, but he really wouldn't be able to tell just how much progress they've made until they put on the pads.

"They have done about as well as we expected, and have worked hard to improve every day," he said. "We have a few bumps and bruises, but we are in pretty good condition and look forward to camp next week."

Hyder also noted that he has been pleased with the play of his quarterbacks so far in the pre-season drills. Berke Holtzclaw is the top quarterback and will be backed by sophomore Greg Talley and a pair of freshmen — Charles Steward and Ben Hayslip.

Another player who has looked good in pre-season drills is fullback John Porter. Yes, that is the same John Porter who is a pre-season prep all-America pick at linebacker. He was shifted to the fullback slot after Anderson was sidelined for the first half of the season.

"Porter is a magnificent athlete and he has looked real good at the fullback slot," said Hyder. "He will do anything to help the team and we have been very pleased with his transition to offense."

The 'Cats wind up pre-season work in shorts today and will have their first workout in pads Monday morning for the beginning of two-a-day drills.



Anderson Hopes To Be Back By Mid-Season

Wildcats Hobbling After First Week

15 Sidelined For Opening Scrimmage

V Times 8-18-84

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

Depth was a major concern for Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder before the start of summer camp at Twin Lakes, and one of his main objectives was to find and develop some depth. Well, of the 81 players who started camp last week, 15 were sidelined for Friday's scrimmage, including six defensive starters.

About 250 Wildcat fans came out to see the first-team offense and defense outscore the rest of the team 27-13 in their first public appearance of 1984.

"We wanted to look at some of the younger kids and we got a chance to do so tonight," said Hyder. "We had a few kids out with injuries, but that's just the nature of the game."

The first-team offense got on the scoreboard on its initial series when senior quarterback Berke Holtzclaw connected with Hosea Heard on a 70-yard scoring strike with 10:37 left in the period.

Charles Steward, who handled the kickoffs, extra points and punting for both teams was good on the first of four successful extra points in the scrimmage.

That advantage quickly jumped to 14-0, when the second team was forced to punt after three plays and Heard returned it 53 yards to paydirt with 8:47 left. They added another score with 3:50 still to play in the initial quarter on a four-yard smash by fullback Scott Braswell.

Holtzclaw and Heard hooked up again with only 13 seconds left in the period on a 55-yard scoring toss to end the first period scoring blitz. John Wheelless blocked the conversion attempt following the last score and the first team settled for a 27-0 first period lead.

Greg Talley tossed a 23-yard scoring strike to Steward with 7:27 left in the first half, to climax a 53-yard, seven-play drive that took more than four minutes off the clock. Steward's conversion made it 27-7, and that's how the first half ended.

After a scoreless third period, William Jones caught a 25-yard touchdown pass from freshman quarterback Ben Hayslip with just 3:11 left to play. The try for two points failed when a pass attempt to Steward was batted away.

"I was real proud of the young kids tonight and I thought that our quarterbacks and receivers had a good night," Hyder said. "I was

glad that we got a chance to play a lot of kids and this was a good experience for them."

Offensive backfield coach Mike O'Brien was also pleased with the play of the offense and he feels like they can only get better by going against the Wildcats defense.

"I thought our running backs had a good night and they are doing a good job of taking up the slack after Tony Anderson's injury," said O'Brien. "We're not real big, but we have good quickness and the kids are working extremely hard."

"I thought that Holtzclaw had a good night and did a good job of running the offense," he said. "He did a lot of the things that we expect of him and he's making steady improvement."

O'Brien also noted several other players for their play in the scrimmage, including running backs Willie Lewis, Tony Mangrum, and Braswell. He was also pleased with the play of the young quarterbacks and the offensive line.

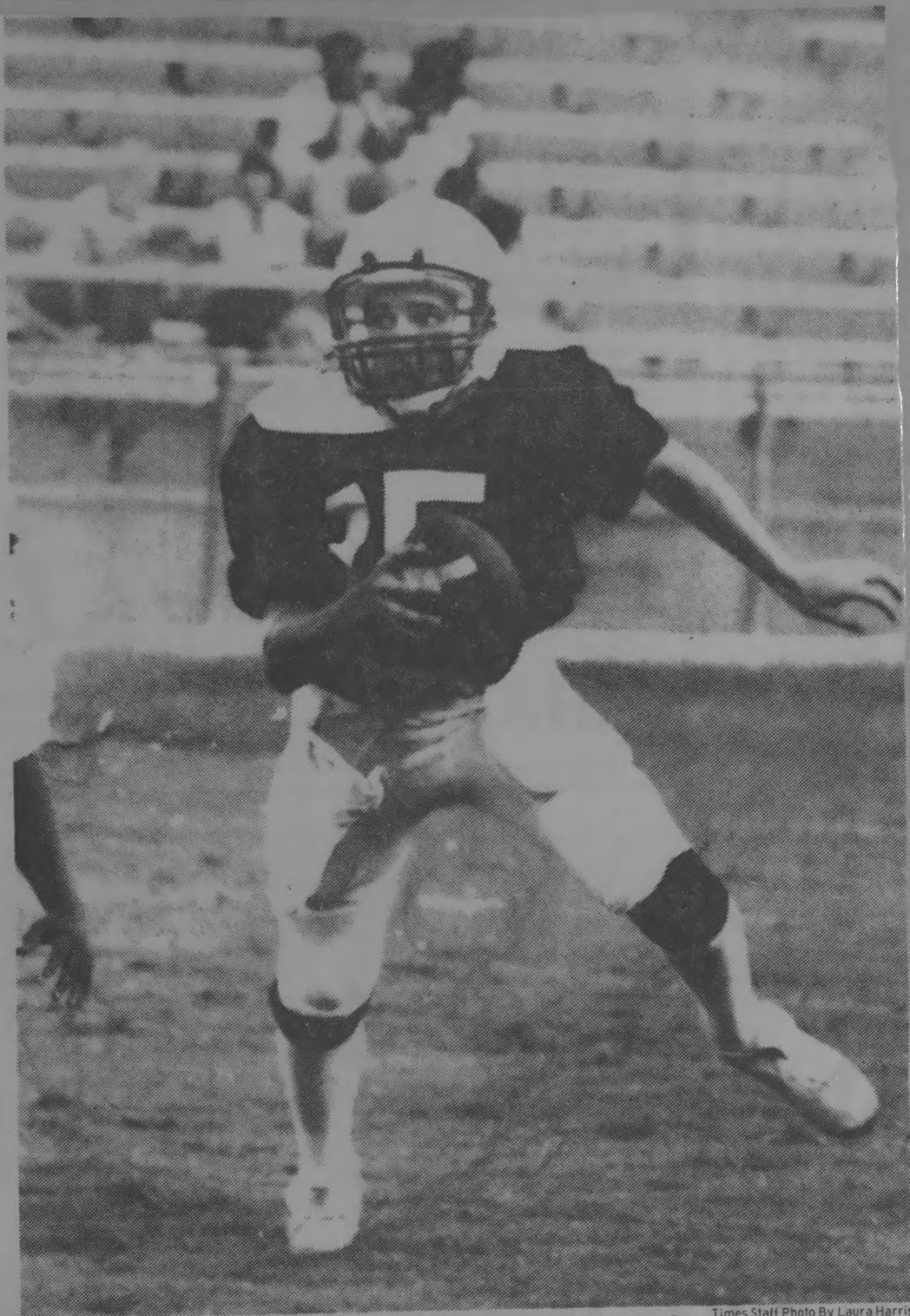
Another coach who was real pleased after the scrimmage was defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph.

"There were two important things about tonight's scrimmage," said Rudolph. "First, we got a chance to play a lot of young kids, which afforded them an excellent chance to get some game type of experience. And second, we hated to have so many guys out because we'd like for them to get used to playing together as a unit to develop some cohesiveness."

Rudolph also pointed out that the defense still has a long way to go and a lot of work ahead in preparation for the season opener against Thomasville Aug. 31. Defensive back Mike Martin, first-year player Darrell Blair and nose guard John Wheelless were some of the players Rudolph noted for their effort in the scrimmage.

"The effort was there tonight and the kids tried real hard," he said. "I thought James Wakefield had a good night and showed a lot of leadership in anchoring the defensive line with so many of our other players out."

"We have a lot of things to work on and it was good to find out about some of these things now instead of later," Rudolph said. "This is probably the first time the young kids will get a chance to look at themselves on film, and now they'll be able to see some of the mistakes that we've been talking to them about."



Berke Holtzclaw Tossed Two TD Bombs

Times Staff Photo By Laura Harris



V Times 9-2-84
VHS Freshmen Socialize Before Class

Sun., Aug. 12, 1984-

Sports

Wildcats, Vikings, Valiants

Ready For The Pads

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

It's that time of year again. The equipment is packed, the trucks are loaded and Valdosta and Lowndes are ready to go to camp. Or Paris Island, as one coach prefers to call it.

For the next two weeks, two-a-day drills will swing into full force, with less than three weeks before the opening game of the season. Valdosta will travel to Twin Lakes for their two-week expedition, while Lowndes will hold its camp at the high school and Valwood will continue to practice at its regular site.

The teams have all been working out in shorts for the past three weeks with most of the work geared to fundamentals and conditioning. Both Lowndes and Valdosta have put in their basic schemes for the offensive and defensive units during this three-week period.

"The conditioning period went very well for us, but we're ready to move on to the next phase," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder, who is heading into his 11th season at the Wildcat helm. "We'll be looking for depth when we go to camp, because you have to have it to play in our league."

Hyder said the Wildcats will be looking for help in the offensive line and the secondary. There will be 81 players heading to camp, and he hopes to play between 55 and 60 during the season.

The 'Cats have also spent extensive time working on the kicking game after losing last year's punter and most of the return people. John Porter returns to handle place kicking and David Thomas moves up to take over the punter's slot after serving as the backup for the past two years. He will be backed by sophomore Greg Talley and freshman Charles Steward.

Hyder said the most impressive thing in conditioning workouts has been the leadership from several of his senior players. He cited several offensive performers, such as linemen Jon Reaves and Alerica Henderson, as well as tight end Darrell Leonard.

"Burke Holtzclaw has provided us some solid leadership from the quarterback position and he's been a real steady performer," Hyder said. "Willie Lewis and Scott Braswell have both filled in admirably for Tony Anderson at running back."

Hyder also praised several senior defensive standouts for their preseason work. Heading the list are Porter at the linebacker post and defensive backs Derrick Folsom, David Thomas and Elijah Holmes. He has also been pleased with the play of Earnest Mangham, James Wakefield, Jimmy Lewis and Darrel Robinson from the defensive line.

"When we put the pads on, we move into the next phase — the collision phase — which is the uniqueness of football," said Hyder. "There's just nothing else like it, and we would like to get

our first two units ready for the first game."

The Twin Lakes camp is sponsored by the Valdosta Touchdown Club and the 'Cats first practice is Monday morning at 9:30. They will hold a scrimmage every Friday at Cleveland Field in preparation for what Hyder calls "one the toughest high school schedules anywhere."

For Joe Wilson's Vikings, there are several question marks he'd like to clear up in camp. One thing he won't have to worry about, though, is the quarterback. Highly-rated Randy Gay returns for his senior season.

Wilson is looking at several people for the depleted offensive and defensive line that graduation took a heavy toll on. He is also looking for a running back to step out of the pack and move to the front.

"We are looking at several youngsters and won't be able to tell a whole lot until we put on the pads," said Wilson. "Then we'll see who wants to play. Some guys have already shown that they want to play and just have to do what's necessary between camp and game time to maintain that posture."

Another position that had Wilson worried before the start of conditioning drills was tight end. That seems to be taken care of now with transition of former quarterback Bobby Eason to the position.

Wilson plans to cover all phases of the game extensively during camp and will try to develop some depth in the offensive and defensive lines.

"There are several positions open right now and we are going to give everybody a shot," Wilson said. "If two or three kids come through for us, we'll be competitive."

"We've got some guys working and some that are not working the way they should," Wilson said. "But camp starts Monday, and we'll be working all day from then on."

Valwood is preparing for their initial football season under the guidance of head coach Allen Fort.

The Valiants have been stressing fundamentals and Fort has also put in his offense. They will run from a multiple set, with a lot of option-type plays.

"The kids are ready to hit and are raring to go," Fort said. "We've had some good workouts so far and are just trying to put it all together."

"This is the next step in our phase to get the program going and we're anxious to see how the kids will react with the pads on," said Fort. "We have some good athletes and most of the kids will have to go both ways, which could cause a few problems with depth."

Look Who's Back On Top Of AAAAA

Valdosta Is No. 1 In First AP Poll
Times 8-29-84

ATLANTA (AP) — One of the constants in an otherwise changing world is that Valdosta will be ranked No. 1 when it's time for high school football to begin in Georgia each year.

And once again, in 1984 the Wildcats are ranked far ahead of their Class AAAAA challengers in the season's first Associated Press poll of Georgia high schools.

Americus tops Class AAA, West Rome is no surprise as the best Class AA team and Palmetto is again first in Class A.

The season opens this weekend with most schools playing either Friday or Saturday night.

The Wildcats received six first place votes and 91 of a possible 100 points, far ahead of their nearest competitor in voting by a panel of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters.

Valdosta lost only once in 12 games last year, 17-13 to eventual state champion Tift County, and 14 starters return to Coach Nick Hyder's 10th Wildcat squad.

Ranked second is Tift County, which competes in Subregion 1-A AAA North. Lowndes, which joins Valdosta in Subregion 1-A AAA South, is No. 8.

Clarke Central, which opened last year on top, begins this season ranked third. The Gladiators have gone through consecutive undefeated regular seasons, only to lose in the quarterfinals of the playoffs — a last-minute defeat by Griffin in 1982 and 28-20 to a Vince Sutton-led LaGrange in 1983.

While Valdosta is solidly on top of Class AAAAA as the season begins, there's another clear division after third place.

No. 4 Warner Robins heads up the second echelon, followed by Statesboro, LaGrange and Southwest DeKalb. Next comes Lowndes, Baldwin and Northside-Warner Robins.

possible 100 points to second place Gainesville's 73.

The Panthers were one of four teams to receive two first place votes. Gainesville got only one vote for the top spot, but picked up more second place votes than any other team.

There is a 23-point gap, however, between the Red Elephants and No. 3 Marist. The War Eagles also had two first place votes as did No. 4 Cairo.

No. 5 Glenn Hills claimed one and No. 6 Dalton got the remaining two.

The rest of the classification had Thomasville, Woodward Academy and a tie for ninth between Cass and Carrollton.

There was little disagreement on the best of Class AA and Class A as West Rome and Palmetto were runaway picks to successfully defend their respective state championships.

West Rome, winner of 34 straight games, was 20 points ahead of Mitchell-Baker and Dooly County, who tied for second. The Eagles won the Class AAA championship last year, before being dropped to Class AA this year. Dooly County was runner up to the Chieftans last year.

Mary Persons leads the rest of Class AA, followed by Waycross, Greene-Taliaferro, Manchester, Duluth, Cartersville and Claxton.

Class A Palmetto had the largest margin of any No. 1 team as the Raiders were on top of six ballots and had 85 total points. That should be no surprise, however, as the Raiders have gone to the state finals three straight years, winning the last two.

Wrens, runnerup to Palmetto both of the last two years, is once again in second place.

Emanuel County Institute is third while Bremen and Greenville are tied for fourth.

Lincoln County, which has been successful in Class AA, arrives in its new division ranked sixth, followed by Metter, West Point, Buford and Clinch County.

Class AAAAA

1. Valdosta (11-1), 91, 6
2. Tift Co. (14-1), 78, 2
3. Clarke Central (12-1), 74, 2
4. Warner Robins (10-2), 59
5. Statesboro (10-1), 41
6. LaGrange (14-1), 36
7. Southwest DeKalb (10-3-1), 22
8. Lowndes (8-3), 21
9. Baldwin (11-2), 20
10. Northside-W. Robins (6-4), 16

Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Bainbridge, Benedictine, Campbell-Smyrna, Cedar Shoals, Central-Macon, Evans, Effingham Co., Griffin, Hardaway, Marietta, Morrow, Newnan, Peachtree and Therrell.

Class AAA

1. Americus (12-1), 75, 2
2. Gainesville (13-1), 73, 1
3. Marist (13-2), 50, 2
4. Cairo (6-4), 44, 2
5. Glenn Hills (13-1), 40, 1
6. Dalton (6-4), 30, 2
7. Thomasville (7-4), 28
8. Woodward Academy, 23
9. (Tie) Cass (12-1), 22
- Carrollton (8-4), 22

Also receiving votes: Appling Co., Avondale, Camden Co., Cedartown, Chamblee, Chattooga, Coffee Co., Crisp Co., Dodge Co., Fitzgerald, Fulton, Lithonia, North Springs, Peach Co., Perry, Riverwood, Thomson, Washington Co., Westminster, Westside and Worth Co..

Class AA

1. West Rome (15-0), 84, 5
2. (Tie) Mitchell-Baker, (14-1), 64, 2
- Dooly Co. (14-1), 64, 1
4. Mary Persons (11-1), 53
5. Waycross (8-3), 51, 1
6. Greene-Taliaferro (10-2), 34
7. Manchester (11-2), 28
8. Duluth (10-3-1), 24
9. Cartersville (8-3), 22
10. Claxton (11-1), 21

Also receiving votes: Brantley Co., Brooks Co., Central-Carrollton, Early Co., East Hall, East Laurens, East Rome, Hawkinsville, Jefferson, Lamar, R.E. Lee, Lovett, Morgan Co., Oconee Co., Pierce Co., Swainsboro, Terrell Co., Vidalia, Washington-Wilkes, West Laurens (1) and Woodland.

Class A

1. Palmetto (12-2), 85, 6
2. Wrens (12-2), 58, 1
3. Emanuel County Institute (11-3), 57, 1
4. (Tie) Bremen (12-1-1), 47
- Greenville (10-3), 47
6. Lincoln Co. (12-1), 43, 2
7. Metter (9-3), 37, 1
8. West Point (11-1), 32
9. Buford (8-4), 28
10. Clinch Co. (8-2), 19

Also receiving votes: Atkinson Co., Bowdon, Chattahoochee Valley, Commerce, Hogansville, Montgomery Co., Pelham, Portal, Savannah Country Day, Treutlen, Warren Co. and Wilcox Co.

Get A Program So You Can ID Running Backs

Times 8-29-84
New Names Come Galloping Out Of 'Cat, Vike Backfields

They go galloping across the practice fields at Valdosta and Lowndes, football tucked snugly under their arms. Helmets are strapped on tight, and webbed facemasks block out all signs of life. No eyes, ears, mouth — no person, just running backs.

No names, especially not this year, just running backs. Who are these guys, anyway, that run with the ball? What are their names? Aren't these supposed to be the guys that grab all the glory?

Without a program it's going to be hard to tell this year. After two years of knowing who was going to get the ball — Dana Brinson and Tony Anderson at Valdosta and Lorenzo Thomas and Bruce Jones at Lowndes — the two schools will be looking for some new faces to step forward this Friday night when the 1984 season opens.

At Valdosta, coach Nick Hyder got some good news Tuesday when Anderson, a junior fullback, was given the okay to start running and lifting weights. But it will still be at least a week before he can return to live action.

In that time, the Wildcats will be counting on seniors Willie Lewis and Scott Braswell and juniors Tony Mangrum, William Dixon and Monroe Gamble to carry the load.

At Lowndes, four juniors are vying for the vacated spots — Roger Culpepper, Mark Jones, Ben Wright and Andy Mansukhani. Wright and Culpepper were moved from the defense during the offseason to help give the Vikings depth at running back.

"Right now they've all been fairly consistent," says coach Joe Wilson, who readily admits he is surprised at the progress the four have made. Prior to the season, Wilson was concerned he would have to pass on every down.

Now, Wilson says he will "start off trying to run a balanced attack," when the Vikings open the season Friday night in Douglas against Coffee County. "We're going to do what the situation calls for."

A bigger-than-usual offensive line anchored by 238-pound junior Bill Miller, should give the inexperienced Viking running backs plenty of support up front.

"They better," Wilson says of the line, "or we won't gain a yard."

Valdosta will be in much the same boat when it opens at home against Thomasville at 8 Friday night. The 'Cats have a big offensive line, but, as yet, unproven running backs.

Lewis saw a lot of action last year. "He's been our most consistent back," Hyder says of his starting tailback. "He's not big, but very strong."

After starting off in the band in the ninth grade, Hyder saw Lewis' potential and moved him to the football field where he's been ever since.

Braswell's forte is his blocking, which could come in quite handy for Lewis when Braswell plays fullback. "He's a very tough youngster," Hyder says of Braswell, who is in his third season on the VHS varsity.

Hyder says the biggest surprise this preseason has been Mangrum. He can play both fullback and tailback, and Hyder says his speed is incredible. "Tony's got only one speed — wide open."

Dixon and Gamble round out the field. Dixon, who's been to three camps with the 'Cats, has been impressive with his blocking. Gamble, meanwhile, is coming back from a torn muscle.

It's Super in South Georgia

Times-Union and Journal, Jacksonville, Saturday, August 25, 1984

By Daryl Bell
Sports writer

It's that time of year again.

Another South Georgia high school football season is about to begin, and as usual, the area is loaded with talent.

And in selecting this year's Florida Times-Union/Jacksonville Journal annual Super 11 — an all-star team comprised of the 11 best players regardless of position in the newspapers' circulation area — there have been many players omitted from the list.

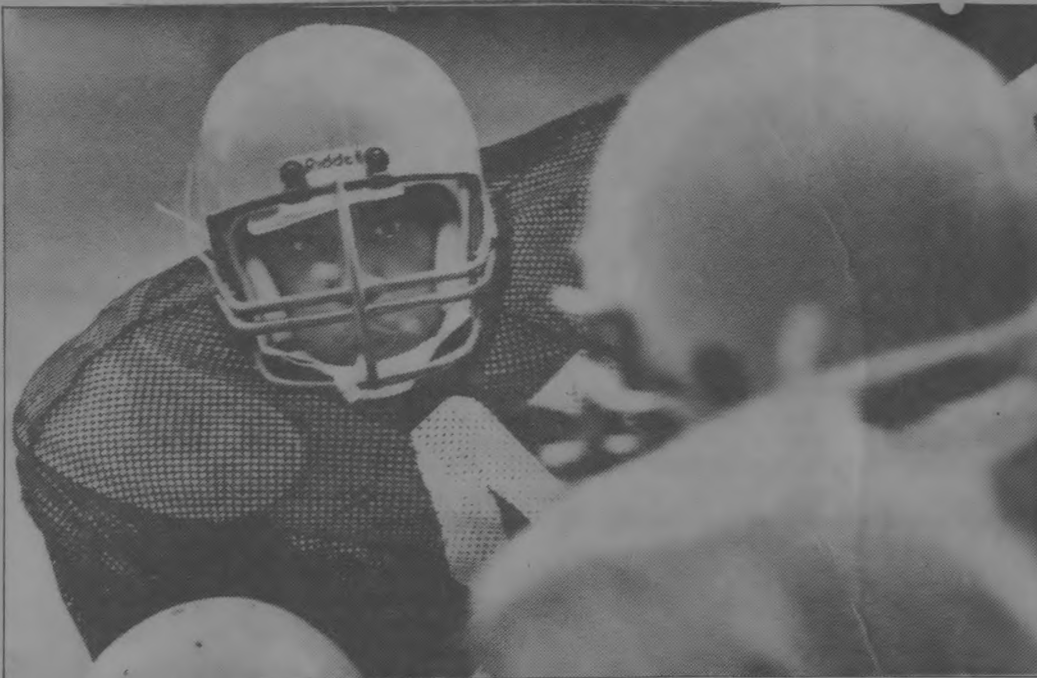
There were literally dozens of legitimate first-team Super 11 nominees, and a lot of those who weren't selected to the elite 11 likely will wind up playing football in college next fall. There's that much talent in South Georgia, one of the nation's prep football hotbeds.

As always, the 11 players chosen on this fall's Super 11 team were picked after conferring with area coaches, sports writers and collegiate scouts.

Leading the parade of blue chip stars is John Porter, a 6-foot-1, 215-pound linebacker from Valdosta. A three-year starter, Porter is the only repeat member on the Super 11 team. He was also selected for last year's season-ending Super 24 team — an all-star team comprised of North Florida and South Georgia players. On top of all that, he was the only junior named to last year's Georgia Class AAAA all-state team.

Valdosta, which is a threat to win another state championship, has another top prospect in junior Tony Anderson, who ordinarily would be included on the Super 11 team.

However, Anderson, a burly 6-foot, 208-pound fullback who rushed for 705 yards last season, underwent abdominal surgery over the summer, and will be hard-pressed to repeat those statistics this season — he is expected to miss the first few games. He is expected back during the season.



— Staff
Valdosta linebacker John Porter is a repeat member of the Super 11 team.

South Georgia prep schedules

Valdosta
Aug. 31-Thomasville
Sept. 7-at Waycross
Sept. 15-at Monroe-y
Sept. 21-Westover
Sept. 28-at Bainbridge-x
Oct. 5-at Tift Co.
Oct. 12-Central, T'ville
Oct. 19-at Colquitt Co.
Oct. 26-Dougherty
Nov. 2-Open
Nov. 9-Lowndes-x

GOOD LUCK
WILDCATS
YOU'RE ALWAYS

#

1

WITH US
FOR THE FINEST IN HEATING & COOLING.

WALLER
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
SERVING THE GREATER VALDOSTA AREA SINCE 1963
405 ST. AUGUSTINE RD. 244-1200

Just Who Is Tift's Quarterback

Massingill's Replacement Has Devil Of A Job To Do

By CARLTON FLETCHER
The Tifton Gazette

TIFTON — On Saturday, Dec. 10, the Tift County Blue Devils devastated the LaGrange Grangers 59-6 to win the state AAAA football championship.

On Sunday, Dec. 11, people began asking Tift head coach Gene Brodie "The Question." And in the eight months that have followed, few days have gone by in which The Question has not been asked of Brodie.

So, Gene Brodie, who is going to be your quarterback next year?

"I need to hang a sign around my neck," Brodie said as his team prepared to open its title defense. "It should say 'I don't know who's going to play quarterback.' Then, maybe I wouldn't hear that same question dozens of times every day."

While Brodie and his legion of inquisitive fans seek an answer to The Question, the Tift coach and members of his coaching staff are busily trying to answer a series of questions that face the Devils.

When Tift opens its defense of the state crown Aug. 31 against Warner Robins-Northside in Warner Robins, 14 new faces will dot the Blue Devil lineup. And, while replacing departed all-state quarterback Brian Massingill is indeed a pressing problem, the Tift coaches are just as concerned about replacing an entire offensive backfield and three-fourths of a hard-hitting defensive backfield.

"Our chief concern going into camp is the entire middle of our offense," Brodie said. "We've got to replace our center, fullback, tailback and quarterback. Plus, we will go with an inexperienced group in the secondary."

"The biggest factor missing from last year's team, though, is the leadership. There were some great leaders on that team. We have very little leadership right now with this group. It will be important that we have some kids step forward and take on leadership responsibility."

One factor working in Brodie's favor as he and his staff try to restructure last season's Region 1-AAA-leading offense which produced 208 yards rushing, 150 yards passing and 32 points per game, is an interior offensive line that has both tremendous size and experience.

Tackles Randy Brooks (250, sr.) and Andy Gill (240, sr.) are both preseason all-state picks, while guards Bobby Bennett (210, sr.), Chris Waters (215, sr.) and James Cox (225, sr.) filled the guard slots well during the 1983 season.

The quartet of Trent Williams (197, sr.), Beau Byrd (192, sr.), Lawton Bassett (170, jr.) and Stan McKellar (215, jr.), who is also the Tift quarterback, are vying for the starting center berth.

Throw in Gene Walker (230, so.) at guard and backups Chad Golden (220, sr.), Glenn Willis (210, sr.), Michael Casey (217, jr.) and Al Copeland (255, sr.) at the tackle slots, and it's easy to see why the Tift line is expected to be one of the state's best.

"This is by far the biggest group of linemen we've had here," Brodie said. "They worked extremely hard with the weights over the summer, and there's not a lot of fat in that group. They'll have to carry our young backs until they get their feet wet."

Another plus for Tift is its talent-rich receiving corps, led by returning all-stater Darrien Teals (150, sr.). Teals caught 39 passes for 665 yards last year, despite playing his final four (playoff) games with a dislocated elbow.

David Casper (145, sr.), who doubles as the Tift punter, had an excellent spring and is expected to join Teals as a wide receiver. Tight end Charlie Darrington (202, sr.) is also a returning starter.

Shawn Utley (190, sr.) and Kenneth Hicks (198, sr.) are backups for Darrington, while Russ Underwood (142, so.), Ray Ewing (166, so.) and Ronnie McKinnen (166, sr.) provide relief for Tift's wide receivers.

The Tift offensive backfield will be totally lacking in experience, although Wesley McGriff (180, sr.) had a good spring at the tailback position. Rodney Hill (202, jr.) and Lloyd Bozeman (169, sr.) are the leading fullback candidates; Teals, Dennis Coney (160, so.), Wayne Engram (185, so.) and Rob Rowe (175, so.) will be given a look at tailback.

As for The Question, Brodie has stood firm in his decision to wait until the last possible moment to pick a starting quarterback.



Times Staff Photo

After Beating Valdosta For Region Title, Tift Was On Its Way To State

"We've got four guys who have worked extremely hard since Christmas," Brodie said. "And all of them have the physical ability to play. The one that does the best job at camp when the hitting starts is the one that will play."

"We may not decide on a starter until the week before our first game."

Steve Nixon (160, sr.) and Tye Cottle (168, so.) were running close one-two in the quarterback race after Tift's spring game, but David Hobby (175, sr.) and Rowe have gotten into the picture during summer workouts.

Of the four, only Nixon has varsity experience, having served as a backup to Massingill last year.

Along the defensive front, the return of starters Cox and Waters at defensive tackles and Bozeman and Craig Haggins (175, jr.) at linebackers gives the Tift coaches a solid foundation on which to build.

Eldra Hughes (190, sr.) and Johnnie Lee Brown (168, jr.) are probably starters on the ends, while Andre Jackson (225, so.) will see action on the line as backup for Waters and Cox.

Engram, Utley and David Dawson (193, sr.) will split playing time with Bozeman and Haggins at linebacker positions.

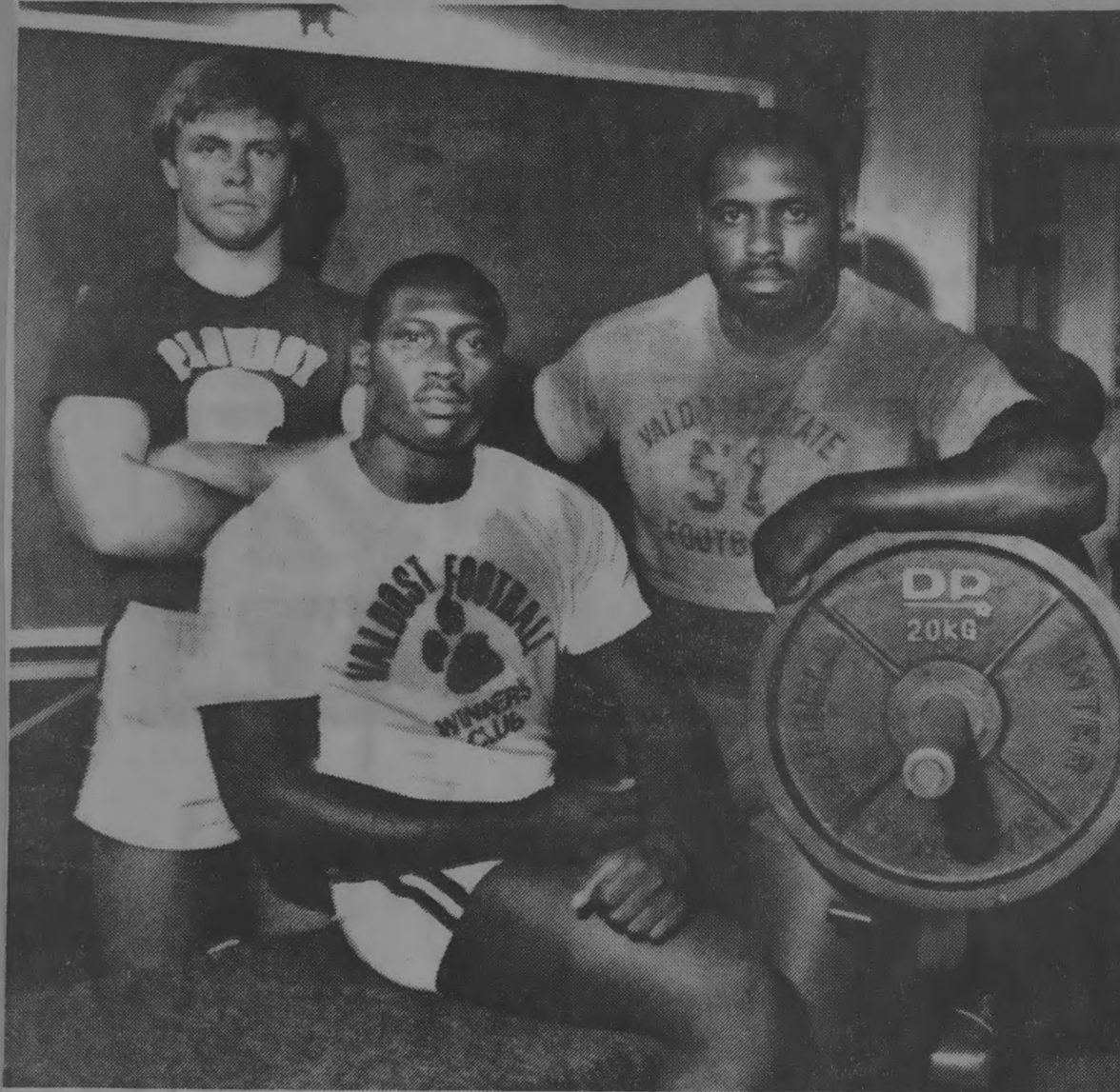
In the secondary, McGriff, a preseason all-stater, is the only returning starter. Petrome Harris (150, jr.), Jarrod White (163, jr.) and Jay Cole (175, sr.) are likely to join McGriff in the secondary, but Brad Dun (132, so.), Hullett and Austin Scott (135, so.) will also get a look.

Brodie says that Valdosta and Lowndes should be the teams to beat in the Region 1-AAAA, but he expects to join those two teams in the playoffs.

"We should win our subregion," Brodie said. "People say that this is a rebuilding year because we lost 14 starters, but we are in a position where we don't rebuild, we reload."

"We have got to win one of our first two games (against Northside and Clarke Central); we must have some kids step forward as leaders, and we have to have a minimum number of injuries. If all these things happen, and a few things fall in place, we have the potential to be a very good football team."

"An important factor for us is going to be how well we take our first loss. We don't want to lose — we don't expect to — but when it comes, we have to pick things up and go back over it. There's a lot of pride in this program. We're defending state champions. We'll fight to defend our title."



Best LBs: Wally Hubert of Lowndes, Lenny Parker of VSC, John Porter of Valdosta

The 1984 List Of Top Recruits In Nation, South, State

Top 13 National — 1, Quintus McDonald, 6-3, 225, 4.6, Mt. Clair, N.J. (DE-LB); 2, Hart Lae Dykes, 6-4, 200, 4.6, Bay City, Texas (WR); 3, Melvin Gilliam, 6-2½, 190, 4.45, Tulsa, Wash. (CB); 4, Ray Heckestein, 6-2, 240, 4.8, Allegheny (Wexford), Pa. (DT); 5, Chris Osgood, 6-3, 195, 4.6, Moss Point, Miss. (QB); 6, Ned Bolcor, 6-3, 210, 4.7, Phillipsburg, N.J. (LB); 7, Larry Rose, 6-4, 270, 4.9, Gadsden (Emma Sanson), Ala. (OT); 8, Andy Heck, 6-6, 240, 4.8, Fairfax (Woodson), Va. (OT); 9, Chris Pettaway, 6-5, 255, 5.0, Hialeah (American), Fla. (OT); 10, Reggie Davis, 6-2, 205, 4.45, Jasper, Texas (WR); 11, Sammy Smith, 6-2, 210, 4.45, Apopka, Fla.; 12, Jamie Bice, 6-3, 205, 4.6, Lake Charles (LaGrange), La. (RB); 13, John Porter, 6-0, 215, 4.6, Valdosta (LB).

Dixie Dozen, not including Louisiana — 1, Osgood, Miss.; 2, Rose, Ala.; 3, Pettaway, Fla.; 4, Smith, Fla.; 5, Keith Carter, 6-3½, 223, 4.7, South Miami, Fla. (LB); 6, Curt Mull, 6-5, 275, 5.0, Altamonte Springs (Lake Brantley), Fla. (C); 7, Anthony Butts, 6-6, 250, 4.9, Atlanta (Fulton), Ga. (DT); 8, John Porter, 6-0, 215, 4.6, Valdosta (LB); 9, Arthur Mitchell, 6-5, 215, 4.6, Montgomery (Jeff Davis), Ala. (TE); 10, James Dotson, 6-1½, 261, 4.8, Vicksburg (Warren Central), Miss. (NG); 11, Victor Adams, 6-3, 248, 4.9, Middlesboro, Ky. (OG); 12, Michael Timpson, 6-0, 167, 4.45, Miami Lakes, Fla. (WR).

Georgia Top 15 — 1, John Porter, 6-0, 215, Valdosta (LB); 2, Benji Rowland, 6-3, 250, Dodge Co. (Eastman) (G); 3, Darrell Kennebrew, 6-3, 175, Atlanta (Fulton)

(CB); Anthony Butts, 6-6, 250, Atlanta (Fulton) (DT); 5, Steve Davenport, 6-0, 185, Decatur (SW DeKalb) (WR); 6, Joey Hester, 6-0, 190, Cairo, QB; 7, Paul Giles, 6-4, 260, Monroe (Monroe Area) (L); 8, Keith Henderson, 6-2, 190, Cartersville, (RB-DB); 9, Charlie Hall, 6-4, 200, Columbus, (Jordan) (LB); 10, Ron Geohaghan, 5-11, 215, Savannah (Jenkins) (RB); 11, Roderick Zanders, 6-0, 190, Dooly Co. (QB); 12, Randy Gay, 6-3, 200, Lowndes (QB); 13, Chris Morocco, 6-0, 175, Athens (Clarke Central) (DB); 14, Bryce Cantrell, 5-10, 170, Buford (RB); 15, Derrick Folsom, 5-10, 180, Valdosta (S).

Dixie Handbook, regional sneak preview — Offense: QB, 1, Chris Osgood, 6-3, 185; 2, Joey Hester, Cairo, 6-0, 190, 4.55; RB, 1, Steve Bryant, 5-10, 195, 4.45, Hollywood Hills, Fla.; 2, Bobby Humphrey, 6-0, 185, 4.5, Birmingham (Glenn), Ala.; FB, 1, Sammy Smith; 2, Randy Kaiser, 6-1, 220, 4.6, North Miami Beach, Fla.; WB, Darryl Edwards, 5-11, 190, 4.6, Enterprise, Ala.; WR, 1, Michael Timpson; 2, Steve Davenport, 6-0, 185, 4.5, Decatur (SW DeKalb); QT, Larry Rose, 6-4, 270, Gadsden (Emma Samson), Ala.; QG, Benji Rowland, 6-3, 250, 4.9, Dodge Co. (Eastman); C, Curt Mull; SG, Eric Still, 6-2, 270, 5.0, Germantown, Tenn.; ST, Chris Pettaway; TE, Darrell Edwards; Power wide receiver, Tony Mack, 6-4, 180, Brandon, Fla.; Kick returner, Eugene Julks, 5-11, 180, Gadsden (Emma Samson), Ala.; Kicker, Johnny Clark, 5-11, 170, Birmingham (Homewood), Ala.; Top Athlete, Darrius Braison, 6-3, 215, 4.55, Greenville, Miss.

'Cats' Porter, Colquitt's Lewis Lead All-Region Team

Special To The Times

It seemed appropriate that Region 1-AAAA's outstanding offensive and defensive players — Colquitt County's Nathaniel Lewis and Valdosta's John Porter — met in the region championship game. The play of both embodied their respective teams.

Porter, the two-time all-region linebacker who is repeating as the region's top defensive player, led a Wildcat defense that ranked No. 1 in the region. The region champions went through champions went through their first 12 games allowing just over five points per game and less than 1½ yards per rush. Porter was the catalyst of the Wildcats' stubborn and swarming defense. He was credited with 19 tackles and eight assists as the Wildcats defeated Colquitt County 35-7, giving the 'Cats another region crown.

"He does have some natural ability as a football player, but he has worked hard to develop it," Hyder said of his two-time defensive captain. "He's one of the hardest-working players we've got here."

"And he's been our kicker too. He's a good pressure kicker. And when Tony Anderson had abdominal surgery (in August), we had John ready to play fullback for us. He is always mentally in the game and has those instincts that are always helpful. Yes, he is one of the most highly-recruited players we've had since I've been here."

Lewis ranked among the region leaders in both rushing and receiving this year, spearheading a Packer offense that had 10 runs of 50 or more yards and ranked second in the region in rushing offense. He opened the season at tailback for the Packers and scored on runs of 71 and 73 yards in the Packers' season-opening victory over Lowndes.

Three games later, he moved to wide receiver and finished the season with 29 catches for 479 yards and four touchdowns. A second-team all-region choice last year as a defensive back, he also rushed for five touchdowns this season, including 71-, 73-, 74- and 53-yard runs.

"He is one of the most exciting players I have ever been able to coach," said Colquitt head coach Jim Hughes, who was chosen Region 1-AAAA coach of the year. "He contributed more big plays than anybody I can recall in a long time."

Lewis is joined on the all-region first team by the quarterback who threw him passes by the tailback who filled in for him when he moved to receiver.

Colquitt's Darrell Funderburk, who completed 67 of 148 passes for 1,104 yards and nine touchdowns, was named the first-team quarterback. In the backfield with him are Valdosta's Tony Anderson and the Packers' T.J. Edwards.

Anderson led the region in scoring with 84 points and rushed for 902 yards, despite limited playing time early in the season while recovering from abdominal surgery. Edwards was the first Packer to lead the region in rushing since 1970 and gained 1,089 yards.

Tift County's Darrien Teal's, who caught 50 passes for 1,000 yards, joined Lewis at wide receiver. Teals and Porter are the only repeat selections on the all-time region team.

The Wildcats placed two players on the first team all-region line. Guard Jon Reeves and 272-pound junior tackle Marty Howell anchor the unit, along with the Bainbridge center-guard combination of Leon Campbell and Wade Kirkland. The other tackle was Randy Brooks, a 250-pounder from Tift County, who

was a second-team choice a year ago.

Dave Davis of Central, who caught 15 passes for 335 yards and two touchdowns, was selected at tight end. Tift County's Stan McKellar, who was 28-of-30 on extra points and hit on all four of his field-goal attempts, was the all-region placekicker. McKellar was second-team choice last year as a sophomore.

The Blue Devils placed two players on the first-team defensive line, including sophomore end Eldra Hughes. Tift's 215-pound Chris Waters joined Valdosta's Jimmy Lewis and Lowndes' James Carter as the three down linemen selected. Lewis moved up from last year's second team. Jessie Small, who averaged eight tackles a game and 15 sacks for Central, was the other defensive end.

Thomas Jones, who had four fumble recoveries, three sacks and won Bainbridge's Headhunter Award, joined Porter and Albany Monroe's Steve Zellner as the first-team linebackers. Zellner had 93 tackles for the Tornados.

Lowndes' Calvin Orr, Monroe's Lee Mathis and Colquitt's John McCranie, the Packers' 140-pound free safety, finished with six interceptions, giving 11 for his career. Orr was a second-team pick last season.

Junior David Helms of Bainbridge was named the region's top punter after averaging 39.8 yards per kick.

Hughes was selected as the region's top coach after leading the Packers to the region championship game. He took over a Packer program in 1983 that had but one winning season since 1975 and took it to the region title game in two years.

Despite a 15-year record of 120-42-4 compiled with both Thomasville and Colquitt, Hughes had never won the honor before.

"I'm pleased to be recognized," he said. "But I think anyone who has watched us practice understands that what this award means is that Colquitt County has an outstanding staff."

"I'd rather that recognition and that esteem be directed down toward those six men who do the bulk of the work on our staff."

The second-team offensive backfield was made up of the region's top passer, Randy Gay of Lowndes, and running backs Willie Lewis of Valdosta and Martin Redding of Bainbridge. The Vikings' Todd Williams and the Wildcats' Hosea Heard, the Nos. 2 and 3 receivers in the region, are the wide outs. Darrell Leonard, also of Valdosta, is the second-team tight end.

The offensive line featured Valdosta guard Eric Henderson and VHS's 237-pound junior tackle Johnny Crook. Colquitt County had center Rodger Hall and junior tackle Horace Robinson named to the team. Central's Oliver Blount, a 230-pounder, was the other tackle. Westover's Todd Northrop was the second team place kicker.

The two defensive ends are Tift sophomore Andre Jackson and Valdosta's Ernest Mangham. James Cox of Tift, James Wakefield of Valdosta and Jonnell Walker of Colquitt are the three down linemen.

Central placed two of the three linebackers — seniors Bruce Conage and Myron Guyton. Roger Miller of Colquitt also was named to the second-team linebacker unit.

The secondary had Bainbridge's Pat Clark, Central's John Wiche and Valdosta's Derrick Folsom. David Cosper of Colquitt was the second-team punter. The all-region team was selected by writers from the newspaper's covering the nine region 1-AAAA schools.

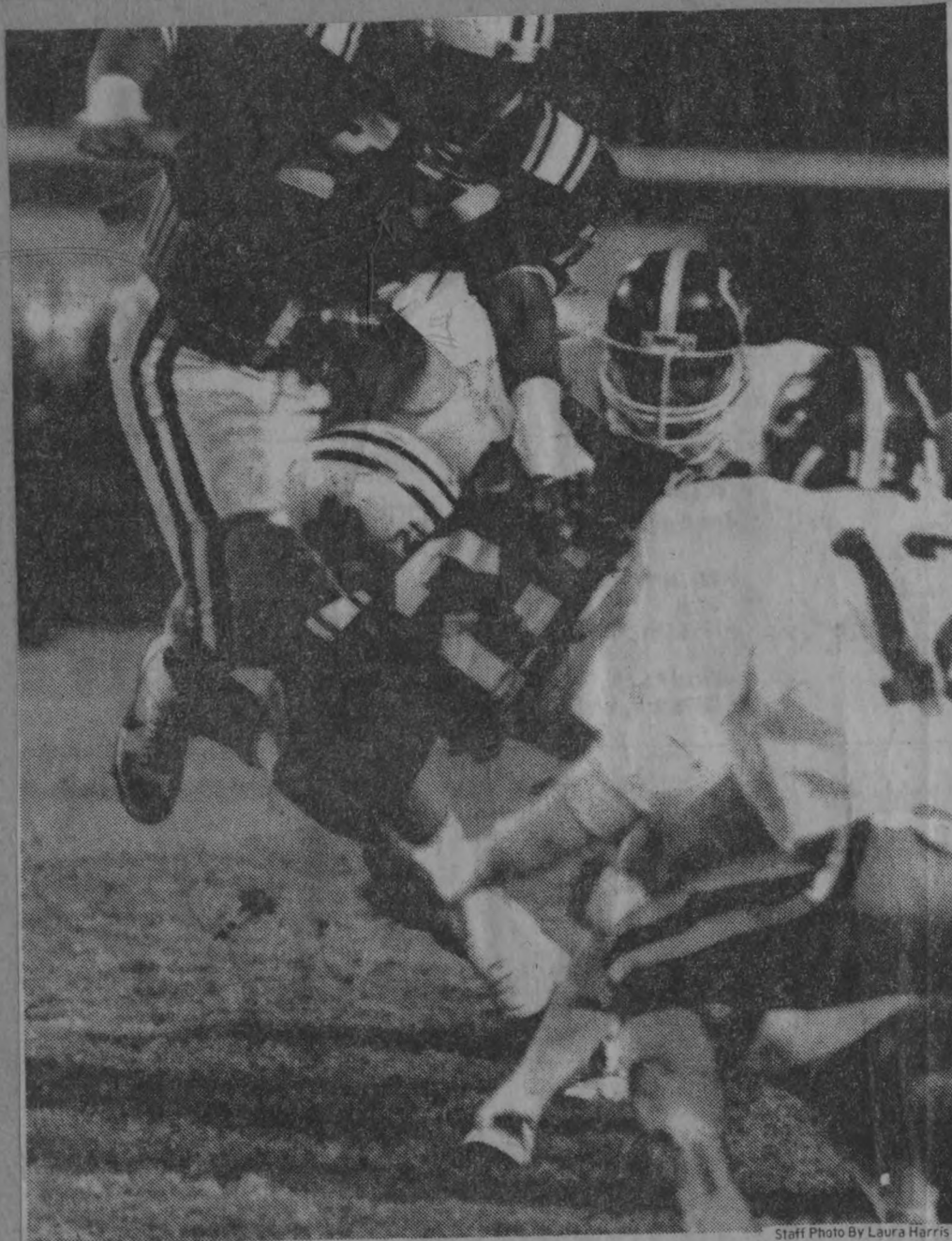


Times Staff Photo

Porter Was VHS Defensive Leader



New VHS Band Director Dan Gaultney With Band Students At Camp



Staff Photo By Laura Harris

Johnny Crook (77) And Tony Anderson Impressed Colquitt County

Spotlight Shines On Linebackers

**Steve
Corrigan**

Times Sports Editor

Valdosta's John Porter Listed As Best In State

Most of the attention this year in the high school and college football ranks won't be focused on a strong-armed quarterback, fleet-footed running back, or a sure-handed receiver. In fact, most action on the field during the 1984 season won't even be on that side of the ball.

No, this is the season of defense in general, and the year of the linebacker in particular.

From hamlets such as Auburn, Ala., to Atlanta to Athens, Ga., to Gainesville, Fla., and places in between — Valdosta for instance — the linebacker will be the steady force on defense and a team leader. He will be the one grabbing the headlines this time around. After all, turnabout is fair play, especially on the gridiron.

Offensive players have had their day in the sun. Now it's time for the defense. And what better place to start than linebackers?

They have to do it all: rush the passer, stop the run and even drop back into pass coverage. They are the equivalent of the tight end on offense, and more.

More? You bet. The defensive quarterback would be a more accurate term. They call plays in the defensive huddle, audible at the line of scrimmage — heck, they even stand over the line like a quarterback.

At Auburn, Florida, Georgia Tech and Georgia, linebackers are the main hope for all-America honors. Oh sure, there is Bo Jackson at Auburn and Robert Lavette at Tech figuring in on some of the postseason accolades, but people such as Gregg Carr of Auburn and Dante Jones of Tech (who just happens to be a product of Valdosta High), will be in there pushing for recognition, too.

At Georgia, the best hope to make an all-star team is linebacker Knox Culpepper. Mark Korff is in much the same boat at Florida, although the Gator linebacker does have a better supporting cast.

A little closer to home, three of the top players for Valdosta State, Lowndes High and Valdosta High are linebackers: Lenny Parker for the Blazers, Wally Hubert for the Vikings, and highly-touted John Porter for the Wildcats. They represent the gamut of football — an established college player, a big-time college recruit and a promising youngster.

Of the three, though, Porter may be the most talked about going into this season.

"I'd take him today," says Auburn defensive coordinator Frank Orgel. "He's a good football player, and he'd fit in fine at Auburn if he decided to come here."

That would please Porter just fine.

"I love Auburn," he says. "I like the SEC teams."

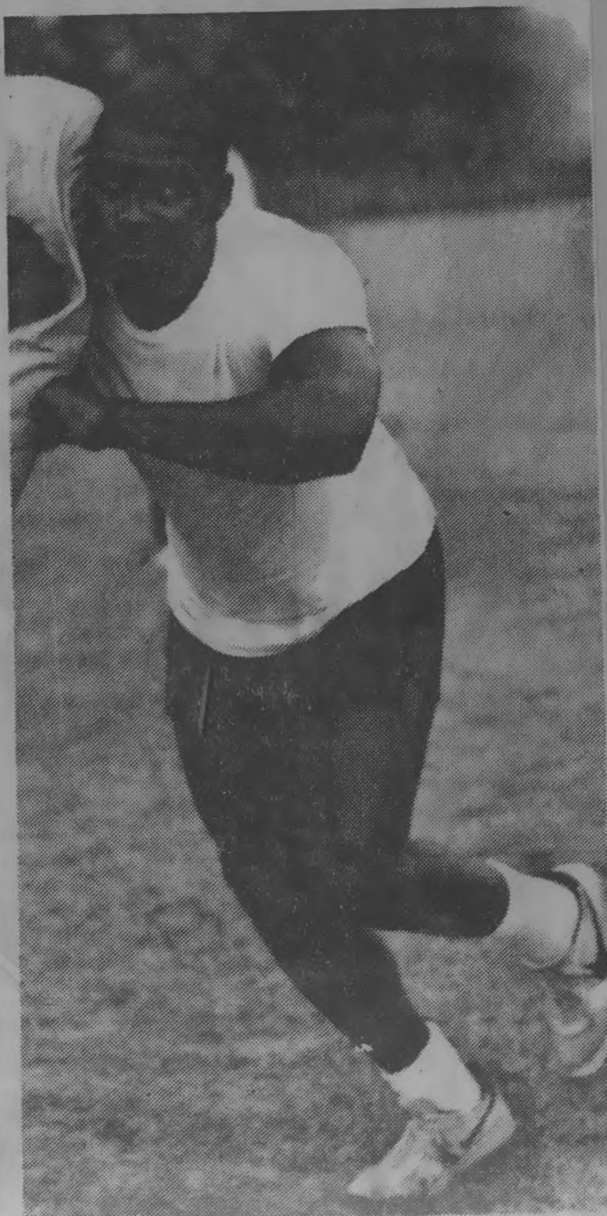
But Porter likes one school even better.

"I'd like to follow my dream to Penn State," he says.

And Porter is no stranger to Penn State. When the 'Cats won the Class AAAA state championship in 1982 — Porter's sophomore year, the Nittany Lions had singled him out from a film they received of one Valdosta's games.

"He's the type of player all schools would love to have," Orgel says.

And they show it with telephone calls, letters and, in the near future, visits to his home, school and practice field.



Times Staff Photo

Porter Says Season Comes Before Recruiters

"He's certainly deserving of all the attention," Porter's high school coach Nick Hyder says, "because of his hard work and teammanship. Any coach would love to have him."

Right now, though, Porter says all the attention hasn't caused him any problems.

That suits him just fine. He'd rather spend his time concentrating on the upcoming season. "The season always comes first," he says.

If he can shake a nagging back injury suffered in the first week of camp, which put him in traction and out of practice for five days, this season should be his showcase.

"I'm looking to play better than I have all three years," he says. "I'm looking forward to having a strong season."

With all this attention he's getting, you'd think having a great senior season would put a lot of pressure on him. But that's just it — he's not used to all this attention.

"It's kinda frightening," he says, "because I've never been looked upon as I am now. I was surprised. I always looked on myself as just a part of the team."

More than just a linebacker, though, Porter will be asked to play beyond the call of duty. With running back Tony Anderson sidelined for the first half of the season, Porter will be asked to play fullback, a position he excelled at in junior high. Porter looks at the added role as his duty.

"The team comes first," he says.



JOHN PORTER
Top Recruit In State



BERKE HOLTZCLAW
QB With Outside Threat



WILLIE LEWIS
Powerful Running Back



JAMES WAKEFIELD
Experience At DT



JOHNNIE CROOK
245-Pound OT



JIMMY LEWIS
Size, Speed At DT

Valdosta High

From Page 4

There will be all new faces in the backfield, at least until Tony Anderson (205, jr.) returns from offseason intestinal surgery. By then, though, the group that has filled in may be household names. Willie Lewis (164, sr.) seems assured of starting at one running back. Scott Braswell (156, sr.) has been used in Anderson's position, as has Monroe Gamble (144, jr.). Tony Mangrum (142, jr.) "has been a pleasant surprise," at running back, Hyder says. Porter is also available.

Berke Holtzclaw (159, sr.), a backup to Ted West the last two years, who started at wide receiver last year, is the starting quarterback.

"With Berke back there, we might be a

little more of a gambling team," Hyder says. "Berke's exciting. He's not afraid to turn up field at any time and run."

If he chooses to pass he has speedy Hosea Heard (163, jr.), who started last year, to throw to. "Hosea has good speed and range," Hyder says. "We need to utilize him more."

Sure-handed Mac McGuryt (138, jr.) is likely to start on the other wide out. Mario Smallwood (170, sr.) and Charles Steward (199, fr.) have also looked good.

Steward will also be used as a reserve quarterback, as will Greg Talley (154, so.) and Ben Hayslip (145, fr.).

Steward and Porter will handle the kicking duties.



DERRICK FOLSOM
Range In Secondary



MARTY HOWELL
272-Pound OT



JON REAVES
Offensive Line Leader

Undefeated Colquitt Hosts No. 1 Valdosta Packers Attempt Another Giant Killing

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

The stage is now set for the confrontation between the only two unbeaten teams in Region 1-AAAA when the top-ranked team in Class AAAA — the Valdosta Wildcats — visits the No. 8 Colquitt County Packers Friday at Mack Tharpe Stadium for an 8 p.m. clash.

The Wildcats have romped past seven opponents on the way to a perfect season so far. Meanwhile, Colquitt is 5-0-1. The only blemish on its slate is a 21-21 tie in the fourth game of the season with Thomasville.

Since that tie, the Packers have come back with resounding wins over Bainbridge and Albany Monroe — outscoring them 66-19 — in the last two weeks. They also beat defending state champion Tift County, 21-16.

Colquitt officials are expecting a sellout for the contest which features the respective sub-region leaders in Region 1. And, according to Packer officials it should be one of the largest home crowds in more than a decade.

"This is a big game for us, but they've all been big considering the year we had last year," said Colquitt head coach Jim Hughes. "But this one seems to have attracted a little more attention than some of the other games."

The Packers have yet to lose a game at home this season — 3-0, and they're unbeaten in their last seven regular-season games dating back to a 20-16 win over Thomasville Central in the season finale last year.

The Packers were handed a 42-14 setback last year by the Wildcats at Cleveland Field, and the last time they beat Valdosta was in 1975 by a 28-20 count. Valdosta leads the overall series, which started back in 1913 by a 47-11-4 margin.

Hughes came to Colquitt from Thomasville where he compiled a 107-34-3 record, and his first Packer team finished with a 4-6 record last year.

"I don't know if there has been any one thing to turn things around for us this year," Hughes said. "It has taken a collective effort from everybody and we've been pretty fortunate on a couple of occasions."

Offensively, the Packers are paced by running back T.J. Edwards, who leads the team with 496 yards on the ground. Edwards has also thrown four passes this season and completed two, with one going for a touchdown. Nathaniel Lewis follows closely behind Edwards with 379 yards on 48 carries.

The Packers have scored 15 touchdowns on the ground and has outscored their opponents in the first six games 140-70.

Another major force in the Packers' offense is senior

"This is a big game for us, but they've all been big considering the year we had last year. But this one seems to have attracted a little more attention than some of the other games."

— Jim Hughes

Wed., Oct. 7, 1984 Colquitt Head Coach

quarterback Darrell Funderburk, who has completed 43.6 percent of his passes for 257 yards and three touchdowns. Lewis is the top receiver with eight catches and Joe Bradford is close behind with six receptions.

Colquitt is also second in the region in rushing offense behind the Wildcats, with an average of 197.67 yds per contest. The offensive line is anchored by senior center Roger Hall and tight end Preston Cornelius.

John McCranie is the top defender for the Packers and he is third in the region in interceptions with three on the season. Another top defender is cornerback Grady Blackely.

Colquitt has allowed only one touchdown in the last eight quarters, and the pass defense — which ranks No. 2 in the region — has not allowed a touchdown pass in the last three games, after surrendering three in the first three games.

The Packers' defense has allowed only five rushing touchdowns this season and ranks fifth against the run, and third in overall team defense.

"Our defense has gotten a little better as the season has progressed," Hughes said. "But it hasn't faced the type of challenge that Valdosta's offense will present Friday."

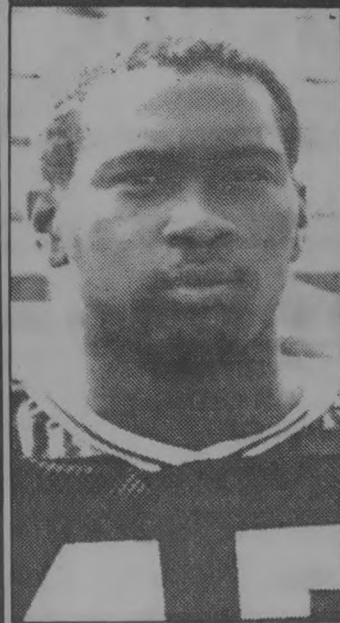
"It'll be nice to be playing them at home but it won't make that much of a difference against Valdosta," Hughes added. "The key in the game will be our running game against their rush defense. That is the strength of both teams and we have to control the ball."

The two teams could possibly end up meeting again in the region playoffs if things continue as they are in sub-region play.

"If we can run the ball, we could control the game and maybe keep their offense off the field," Hughes said. "You don't want to give them too many opportunities to pull the trigger because sooner or later they're going to get you."



Times Staff Photos



Valdosta Linebacker
John Porter

Porter Named Among Top 100 Prep Players

From Staff, Special Reports

NEW YORK — John Porter of Valdosta High is one of 100 rising seniors named today to the U.S. Army Reserve Junior All-Stars Football Squad.

Porter, a 6-foot, 210-pound linebacker has been a three-year starter for the Wildcats. He is one of two players from Georgia named to the team. The other is Ron Geohaghan, a 5-11, 215 running back from Savannah Jenkins.

"He's an excellent team player," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "I think that was proven his junior year when his teammates elected him one of their team captains."

"He never misses practice, he understands the difference in a pain and an injury and he's highly coachable. He's a versatile

athlete. He can go on offense and defense but we use him on defense. On offense, he could be anywhere on the line and he was a fullback in our junior high program."

"The nature of football is collision," Hyder added. "And he's good at collision."

Porter is also a member of the Wildcats track team.

This is the second straight year a committee of college recruiters selected by *Scholastic Coach Magazine* has selected the 100 all-stars from the nation's top high school football players. This year's all-stars are high school juniors from 29 states.

California led the way with 10 players named to the team. Ohio had eight, and Illinois and Texas had seven all-stars each.

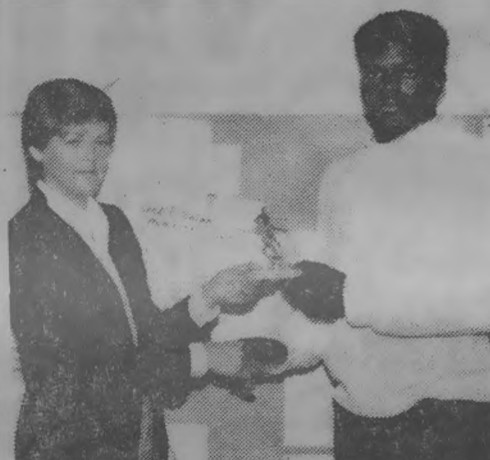
VALDOSTA WILDCATS

1984 RECORD
10-0-0

1984 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

August 31	Won 21-3	Thomasville High
September 7	Won 47-14	at Waycross
September 15	Won 47-6	at Monroe
September 21	Won 42-0	Westover
September 28	Won 49-7	at Bainbridge
October 5	Won 28-0	at Tift County
October 12	Won 35-7	Central, Thomasville
October 19	Won 40-7	at Colquitt County
October 26	Won 68-0	Dougherty
November 9	Won 21-6	Lowndes

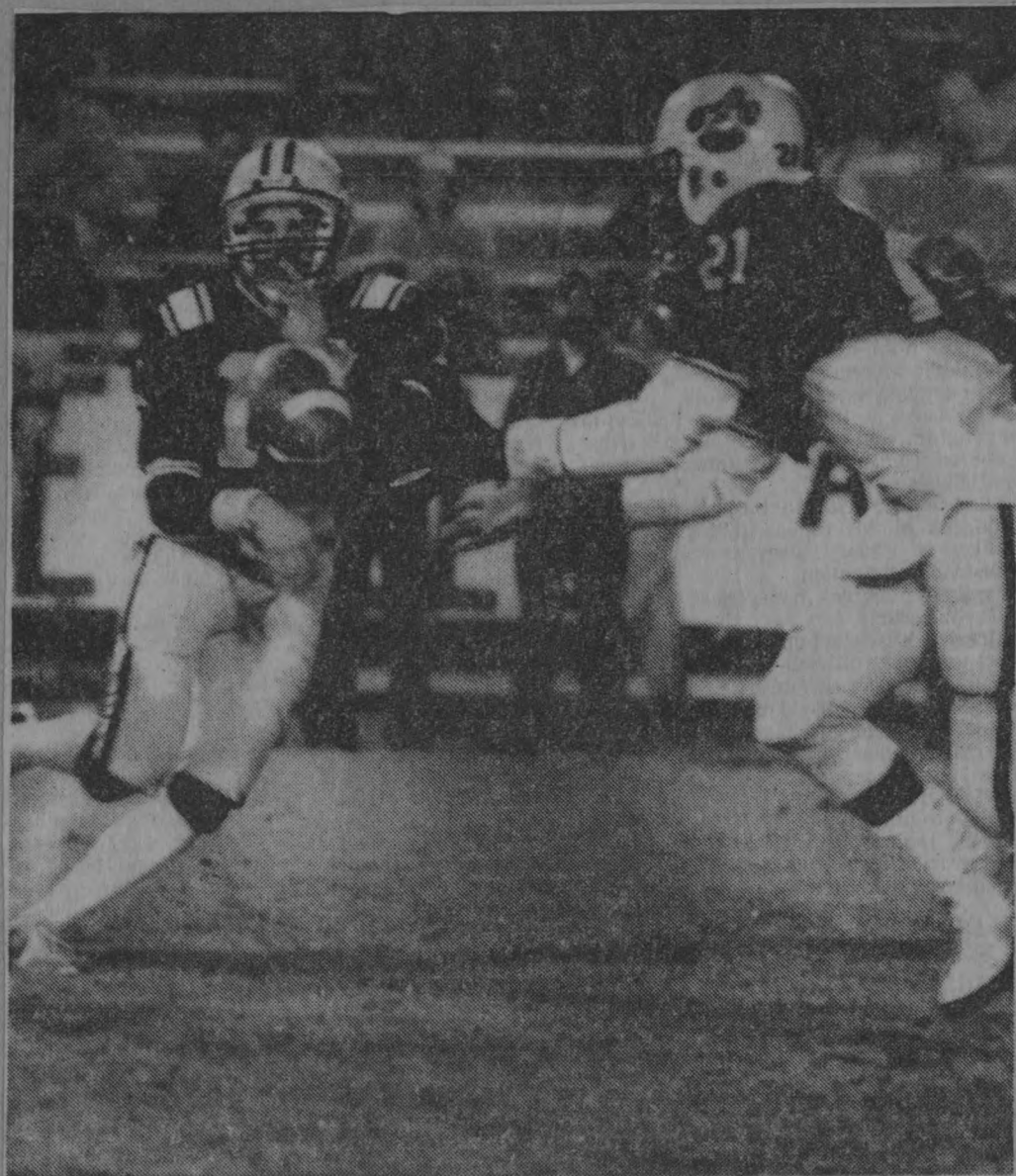
PLAYER OF THE WEEK



TONY ANDERSON RUNNING BACK

Scored Two Touchdowns
135 yds. — 29 carries

Tony accepts the Player of the Week trophy from S. Ga. Travel.



Dynamic 'Cat Duo

These two guys were among many who were instrumental in the Valdosta High Wildcats' 45-0 thrashing of Statesboro for the South Georgia AAAA football championship held Friday night at Cleveland Field. Quarterback Berke Holtzclaw, left, threw for 108 yards and

had two touchdowns to his credit on the night, while Tony Anderson ran for 48 yards and a touchdown. The 'Cats host Clarke Central of Athens Saturday night for the state crown. — AP Laserphoto.

VALDOSTA WILDCATS

1984 RECORD
7-0-0

1984 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

August 31	Won 21-3	Thomasville High
September 7	Won 47-14	at Waycross
September 15	Won 47-6	at Monroe
September 21	Won 42-0	Westover
September 28	Won 49-7	at Bainbridge
October 5	Won 28-0	at Tift County
October 12	Won 35-7	Central, Thomasville
October 19		at Colquitt County
October 26		Dougherty
November 9		Lowndes

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



JOHNNY CROOK

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

Key Blocks Resulting
In Big Gains.

Key Block on 30 Yd.
TD Run.

Zeke Dorsey Presents
Johnny Crook the C&S Bank
Player of the Week Award.



CONGRATULATIONS FROM

We're
Here

C&S

Member
FDIC

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



JOHN PORTER LINEBACKER

One Pass Interception
And One Fumble
Recovery For Touchdown.

Jay Christian, Manager of
The Golden Corral Presents
John Porter the Player of
the Week Trophy!



CONGRATULATIONS FROM



**GOLDEN CORRAL
FAMILY STEAK HOUSE**

2801 N. ASHLEY ST. 247-4626



ACTION SHOTS FROM CENTRAL GAME



GO CATS!

ACTION SHOTS FOR MONROE GAME

S. Georgia

Title Game 45-0 Cakewalk For 'Cats

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

If the South Georgia championship matchup between Valdosta and Statesboro had been broadcast on Monday Night Football, Dandy Don Meredith would have gotten a chance to sing his now famous rendition of "Turn Out the Lights" early in the first quarter as the Wildcats strolled past the Blue Devils 45-0 at Cleveland Field's Death Valley stadium Friday night before 10,500 frenzied fans.

STATISTICS		STB	VAL
First Downs		7	20
Yards Rushing		110	266
Yards Passing		46	127
Passes	15-6-3	18-7-1	
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1	
Punting	5-34.0	3-29.1	
Penalties	3-35	2-20	

Valdosta all-America linebacker John Porter intercepted Statesboro's quarterback Chris Johnson's first attempt of the game and raced back 35 yards untouched down the right sideline with the game just barely two minutes old.

Porter proved that he was still human by missing the point after, which was wide left. So with 10:25 to go in the initial period, Meredith could have started tuning up his voice just about then as the 'Cats never looked back from that point on.

"That was a clutch play by Porter and it gave us a tremendous lift," Hyder said. "It could have worked in one or two ways for us."

"It could have been a tremendous motivating factor," Hyder added. "On the other hand, it could have set up an attitude of complacency."

Oh, the 'Cats still managed to come out of the gates slowly and Statesboro coach Charles Winslette said there were three key factors in the early going.

which preceded the blowout.

On Valdosta's very first offensive play, Tony Anderson fumbled and Demetrius Donaldson recovered the ball for the Blue Devils to give them possession at the 'Cats' 42.

Statesboro picked up one first down and drove as far as the 'Cat 19 — its deepest penetration all game long. But on a fourth-down-and-one, Reggie Perkins tried to run right on a toss sweep, only to be thrown for a loss by Seaborn Williams and a host of other 'Cats.

Valdosta took over on downs, but failed to move the ball and was forced to punt. Statesboro reclaimed possession of the ball following the punt at its 39 and quickly moved to the 'Cats 38 after a 17-yard run Johnson.

Four plays later, the Blue Devils again were faced with a fourth-down situation — this time they needed four yards. Following a time out, Johnson tried to hit Leroy Mincey with an out pass, but it was batted away by Porter, and the Blue Devils never came close to scoring again.

Valdosta then started on a long, time-consuming march which carried over into the second period. The big play and final key factor which killed any hope of a Statesboro upset of the nation's No. 1 team ended when the Blue Devils were hit with a roughing the punter penalty on a fourth down and 34 for Valdosta.

The penalty gave the 'Cats the ball back, with an automatic first down and new life. And, this is one Cat team that doesn't need nine lives.

Five plays later, Anderson atoned for his earlier miscue by smashing into the end zone from two yards out with 9:33 left in the first half. Porter added a two point conversion run on an option pitch from back up quarterback Greg

Talley after the 'Cats had set up in a regular kicking formation.

"Those three crucial mistakes really killed us and we just weren't able to overcome them," Winslette said. "The roughing-the-kicker penalty was a tough break for us because they had fourth down and forever."

"We thought that we would be able to get to it because they had a low snap on their first punt," Winslette added. "They have as good a football team as I've ever seen and capitalized on any mistake that we made."

Hyder agreed with Winslette by saying the roughing penalty gave his team new life and seemed to give it the spark it needed.

"I thought our defense made some clutch plays early and it kind of set the tone of the game," Hyder said. "They have consistently made the big plays all season long and that's a tribute to coaches Jack Rudolph, Charles Tarpley and Freddie Waters."

"We got a bonus with the interception return by Porter and we poked up some good field position in the second quarter when we started to move the ball a little better," Hyder added. "I thought it was a total team effort and the offensive coaches — Mike O'Brien, Jerry Don Baker and Bob Bolton — all did a fine job of making adjustments in the second quarter to get our offense started."

Valdosta also scored on their next two possessions in the second quarter to carry an insurmountable 28-0 advantage into the dressing room.

After Anderson's touchdown run, the 'Cats forced a Statesboro punt in three plays and took over at the Blue Devils 34. Two plays later, senior quarterback Berke Holtzclaw tallied the first of his two touchdowns on a 29-yard



LB John Porter Started Fireworks On Interception Return

bootleg with 8:23 left in the first half. Porter's extra point made the count 21-0.

Statesboro was forced to punt again after three plays by the intimidating Valdosta defense and Valdosta took over at its own 34 with just under five minutes left.

They maintained possession on another time-consuming march, capped by a 1-yard quarterback sneak by Holtzclaw with just 32 ticks remaining in the half. The drive featured a good mixture of passing and running and took 14 plays. Porter added the conversion to conclude the first-half scoring.

Valdosta made quick work of Statesboro in the second half by scoring all 17 points in the third period.

Senior wideout Mario Smallwood snared a 48-yard scoring toss from Holtzclaw with 10:04 left to cap an 80-yard, eight-play march which opened the second half. Porter came on to add the extra point for a 35-0 Valdosta lead and the starters had the rest of the evening off.

Porter was roughed by the Blue Devils' rush on the

point-after attempt and the penalty was marked off on the kickoff. The 'Cats tried an

inside attempt, which worked to perfection, with Charles Steward recovering at the Statesboro 38.

The 'Cats got as far as the Statesboro 7, before settling for a 30-yard Steward field goal for a 38-0 lead with 6:22 still left in the third period. On their next series, William Dixon scored

on an 11-yard scamper with 1:28 left in the quarter. Steward's extra-point kick gave Valdosta a 45-0 advantage and concluded the scoring in the contest.

Valdosta rolled up almost 400 yards in total offense as nine different ball carriers ran the ball. The 'Cats played as many as 70 players in the game as their depth just surged in waves.

"We moved the ball very well tonight and the offensive line opened up some tremendous holes for our running backs," Hyder said.

Score By Quarters

Statesboro 0 0 0 0-0

Valdosta 6 22 17 0-45

SCORING

Valdosta — Porter 35 in-

46. Receiving: Valdosta —

Leonard 2-34, Anderson 2-27,

Smallwood 1-48, Heard 1-13,

Rudolph 1-5, Statesboro —

Harrison 2-26, Mincey 2-11,

Perkins 1-8, Bradley 1-1.



Leonard And 'Cats Crossed Up Devils



Valdosta's Tony Anderson Made His Return With 11-Yard Run

Top-Ranked Valdosta ^{V.D.T. Sat. Sept. 1984} Has Its Way With Waycross

2-0 Wildcats Play Impressively In 47-14 Win Over Bulldogs

See Related Stories, Page 7

By EARL PERKINS

Times Staff Writer

WAYCROSS — The temperature was 78 degrees, the sky was clear and there was that slight fall nip in the air — perfect conditions for a Friday night football game.

STATISTICS

	VAL	WAY
First Downs	24	12
Yards Rushing	160	122
Yards Passing	116	113
Passes	5:10-0	10:17-1
Fumbles Lost	6-4	6-4
Punting	3:21.6	3:31.0
Penalties	3-45	12-85

And although the Valdosta High was still making mistakes, the Wildcats played impressively in a 47-14 win over the Waycross Bulldogs at Memorial Stadium before a crowd of 6,000.

Waycross scored first and was very much in the game throughout the first quarter, but couldn't sustain any momentum in the second quarter and final half.

Early in the first quarter, Bulldog tailback Victor Daniels cut up the middle, broke two tackles and scored on a 41-yard run. The Bulldogs took four plays to drive 73 yards, with Tyler Faulk adding the extra

point for a 7-0 Waycross lead.

Waycross jumped to the early lead, but was unable to keep Valdosta from scoring, according to Waycross head coach Dale Williams.

"We played good the first quarter, but we just didn't have enough depth to go after that," said Williams, a former Wildcat standout. "And there were a lot of big turnovers.

"The difference was, when we got them (turnovers), we didn't do much with them, but when Valdosta got their's, they did something with them."

Valdosta struck back with two touchdowns in the first quarter and three more before halftime. With 5:27 left in the first quarter, Hosea Heard caught a 12-yard pass from Berke Holtzclaw for Valdosta's first score. The touchdown pass capped a 12-play, 83-yard drive, which was a highlight of the game for Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder.

"That (the first drive) is what I like to see," Hyder said. "The kids didn't panic when they got down.

"The defense got the ball back, and our offense came down to score a couple

touchdowns."

After the first Valdosta score, Waycross fumbled the kickoff and the ball landed in Wildcat John Porter's arms. He grabbed it at the Waycross 22 and was tackled on the 7. Valdosta scored in three plays with Willie Lewis going in from the 4. Holtzclaw passed to Lewis for the extra points, and Valdosta led 14-7.

Valdosta controlled the ball throughout much of the second quarter. Holtzclaw scored from the 1 with 5:42 left in the half, and he'd helped set up the score with a 46-yard keeper around the right end. Lewis also aided on the drive with runs of 18 and 19 yards.

The Bulldogs then ran a series of plays before having to punt, and the Wildcats drove down for another score. The 'Cats went 59 yards in two plays, aided by a 15-yard Waycross conduct penalty, a 16-yard Holtzclaw run and a 28-yard touchdown pass from Holtzclaw to Mario Smallwood.

The Bulldogs took over at their 19, but Daniel fumbled the ball on the second play from scrimmage, allowing 'Cat defensive back Elijah Holmes to

fall on the ball at the 5. Monroe Gamble scored on the first play from scrimmage, and Porter split the uprights, making the score 34-7.

The Wildcats held the ball almost the entire third quarter, although their only score was a 12-yard touchdown run by Holtzclaw with 2:39 left in the frame. During the final quarter, Hyder sent in every Wildcat he felt deserved playing time.

"We played 79 people," he said. "There are two players we didn't get eligibility back on, and one is out for disciplinary reasons — everybody else played."

The second- and third-stringers put on a fine performance, with the offense scoring almost twice and the defense relinquished just one score. When Hyder pulled out his starters, the Bulldogs were able to score with 10:43 left in the fourth quarter. Ben Streeter scored on a 1-yard run, capping 10-play drive that went 80 yards.

The backup 'Cats got the ball back, fumbled it away, got it fumbled back to them, and almost scored on a nine-play,

71-yard drive. They drove the length of the field and almost went in on a perfect pass play down the right sideline from sophomore quarterback Greg Talley to sophomore wide receiver William Jones. But the 35-yard pass gave the 'Cats a first down on the Waycross 4-yard line, and they fumbled.

Score By Quarters

Valdosta	14	20	7	6-47
Waycross	7	0	0	7-14
Waycross — Daniels 4 run (Faulk kick)	10:15 1st			
Valdosta — Heard 12 pass from Holtzclaw (kick failed) 5:27 1st				
Valdosta — Lewis 4 run (Lewis pass from Holtzclaw) 4:08 1st				
Valdosta — Holtzclaw 1 run (Porter kick) 5:42 2nd				
Valdosta — Smallwood 28 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick) 3:42 2nd				
Valdosta — Gamble 5 run (kick failed) 2:25 2nd				
Valdosta — Holtzclaw 12 run (Henderson kick) 2:39 3rd				
Waycross — Streeter 1 run (Faulk kick) 10:43 4th				
Valdosta — Steward 22 pass from Hayslip (kick failed) 3:00 4th				

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 16-29, Lewis 12-94, Braswell 12-94, Gamble 4-19, Talley 3 minus 12, Mangrum 2-4, Dixon 2-4, Henderson 1-4, Hayslip 1 minus 10, Anderson 3-10, Waycross — Daniels 12-60, Streeter 9-39, Harris 4 minus 15, Butts 3-23, Evans 2-8, White 1-5, Roach 2-3, Edwards 1 minus 9.
Passing: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 6-3-0, 49; Talley 2-1-0, 35; Hayslip 2-1-0, 22; Waycross — Jones 10-6-0, 52; Saussy 1-1-0, 28; Harris 6-3-1, 33.
Receiving: Valdosta — Heard 2-32, Smallwood 1-27, Steward 1-22, Jones 1-35, Waycross — Butts 4-40, Daniels 3-39.

Top-Ranked 'Cats Aren't Taking Westover

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

Just because Valdosta High is Georgia's No. 1 team in The Associated Press football poll, doesn't mean head coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats are slacking off in practice.

The 'Cats, ranked No. 4 in the nation by *USA Today*, seem to be just as concerned in preparation for Friday's 8 p.m. kickoff at Cleveland Field as they've been for their three previous victories, according to Hyder.

"We're trying to adjust to the different problems that we'll be facing with the defensive and offensive alignments of Westover," he said. "They have a different secondary look than we've faced with the other three teams we've played so far."

"That linebacker (215-pound Michael Williams) is one of the best football players in the state. And their defense is built around him — kind of like ours is built around (linebacker) John Porter."

The Wildcats will be using misdirection-type plays, screen passes and draws in an attempt to get Williams away from the play, Hyder said. And Hyder, who's in his 11th season at the Wildcat helm, isn't being swayed by reports of massive injuries

to Westover's squad.

"I know they've had difficulty up to this point with injuries," he said, "but if they get some people back, they could play respectably."

"And any team that plays their best in this region (1-A-AAAA) could win on any given night. I think it was only '81 the last time they were in the playoffs, so they know what it takes to get there."

In addition to the 'Cats being fairly deep at most positions in comparison to many other teams, their injury report is light. Running back Walter Gill was injured on a tackle in Tuesday's practice, and will probably miss this week's game. Gill is still learning the Wildcats' plays, as he started on a team in Geneva, Ala., two weeks ago before his family moved to Valdosta.

"His shoulder was bruised, and it was slightly separated," Hyder said. "It was a recurrence of an injury he had had."

"He was working out today, mostly running and stuff like that, because the doctor said to give him several days for the separation to heal."

Running back Monroe Gamble, a 145-pound junior, reinjured a torn calf muscle during last week's Albany Monroe game, and

probably won't see action Friday night.

"He's been doing a real fine job, but we might hold him out this week," Hyder said. "That's the reason we work on depth so much."

"If a youngster is hurt, we'll have the kids to fill in. They (the injured) could probably play, but we may hold them back to get them well."

"Jimmy Lewis is a good example of that (holding out a player). He's back almost to full speed, and he played most of the game last week."

The 220-pound defensive tackle went down with a shoulder injury earlier in the season. Junior running back Tony Anderson had intestinal surgery before the season started, and has also been working his way back.

"I think he's pretty close to 80 percent," Hyder said. "But I've been mighty happy with Scott Braswell."

"Braswell's played quite well in our system, and by getting Tony back, we'll have two players who can function at that position."

The remainder of Valdosta's injuries are "the type like walking wounded," Hyder said.

"There are a lot of bruises, strains and sprains, but everybody could play, if they had to. Everybody is capable of making a contribution — they might have to put an extra pad on or something, but they'll be ready."

Hyder said the Wildcats had a good week of practice, although their defense has looked particularly good. And Valdosta will be looking at numerous faves of its game, according to Hyder.

"We've been working on (defensive) depth, and we've got a few more people ready," he said. "We're continuing to work on depth on our offense, and I think we've got a few more players who can play at more areas."

"Competition is the thing that makes our team improve. And we're working hard on our kicking game, punt protection, kickoff coverage and the return situation."

"Just because a team lines up in a punting formation, doesn't mean they're going to kick the ball."

Overall, Valdosta's morale has been very high, but the Wildcats' biggest friend this week has been the weather, Hyder said.

"We've had unusually fine practice weather," he said. "It's not that burning hot or bitter cold — it's just right for practice."

It's Valdosta Again; Nobody Else Is Close

Griffin, Newnan, Clarke Central, Wheeler and Northside-Warner Robins.

No. 9 Towers and No. 10 Central Gwinnett were ranked for the first time this season.

In Class AA, No. 2 Manchester moved closer to No. 1 Dooly County on the strength of its seventh straight shutout this season. The Blue Devils blanked previously undefeated R.E. Lee 19-0 Friday night.

West Rome remained in third, but Central-Carrollton moved to fourth, followed by Mitchell-Baker, Duluth, Lamar County, Oconee County and Irwin County. No. 10 Villa Rica was ranked for the first time this season.

Defending Class A state champion Palmetto moved back into the rankings after a two-week absence. The Raiders — ranked ninth this week — downed then-No. 6 Buford last weekend, knocking the Wolves from the poll.

Greenville again led the class, followed by Wilcox County. Lincoln County fell from second to third after being tied by No. 5 Louisville. Wrens was ranked fifth.

Glennville was No. 5, followed by Commerce and Bremen. Hogansville was in 10th.

ATLANTA (AP) — Habersham Central helped itself and Marist last weekend when the Raiders knocked off previously undefeated Gainesville.

The victory enabled Marist to solidify its hold on No. 1 in Class AAA and boosted the Raiders two notches in The Associated Press poll of Georgia high school football teams.

Marist received all but one vote for first place in balloting by a panel of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters to get 98 of a possible 100 points. Cairo remained second and Thomson, which received the other No. 1 vote, moved to third, replacing Gainesville, which fell to sixth.

Habersham Central, meanwhile, jumped from sixth to fourth, continuing a climb it began four weeks ago.

Woodward Academy moved up a notch to fifth. North Springs was seventh, followed by Riverwood, Westside and Northwest Whitfield, ranked for the first time this year.

In Class AAAA, the dynamo otherwise known as Valdosta was a unanimous No. 1 choice for the fifth straight week. Southwest DeKalb moved to second, followed by Warner Robins,

Valdosta unanimous No. 1 pick

Valdosta High was once again the unanimous pick as the No. 1 Class AAAA team; Greenville was just one vote short of unanimous in Class A; and Marist stayed on top in Class AAA in the Associated Press' latest poll of Georgia high school football teams. Dooly County remained on top of Class AA, but Manchester — which is unscored on this season — edged within two points of the Bobcats. There was little movement in the rest of the poll as 23 teams were ranked the same as last week. Dooly County and Manchester have been ranked first and second for five consecutive weeks, but the Bobcats have maintained a clear margin over their closest challenger. Valdosta's 9-0 record has been built on an offense that averages 41.9 points per game while the defense is allowing only 4.9. The Wildcats' victims include defending state champion Tift County (28-0) and rejuvenated Colquitt County (40-7).

Fri., Nov. 30, 1984

'Cats Crowd Into Warner Robins

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

Traffic on Interstate 75 should be more crowded than usual early this evening in south Georgia, but Valdosta football fans can come up with a good reason for the predicament.

Thousands of people will be heading north to Warner Robins for an 8 p.m. high school football game, with the No. 1 Wildcats playing the No. 5 Warner Robins Demons in International City Stadium. And Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder seems to think Warner Robins coach Bob Davis is pulling a Vince Dooley routine.

"They're trying to prepare from the standpoint of 'Big Valdosta is coming up here to play little, old us,'" Hyder said. "Anytime you play Warner Robins, you better strap it on tight, because they're capable of winning."

"They always field an outstanding team, and I don't think anybody can find a (Demons') team in the last 15 years they've had that hasn't been outstanding."

The year 1981 comes to mind when you start looking for confirmation in Hyder's statement. The Wildcats were 11-1

going into the south Georgia playoff game, but the Demons stood in their way, according to Hyder.

"They did the same thing in '81 that they're doing this year (underdog routine), and they beat us 17-14," he said. "It was a great game, but they beat us."

"There was some controversy (with official's calls) but it wasn't bitter, or anything. There was just a difference of opinion. They earned it — they won the ballgame and went on to be state champions."

Hyder came to Valdosta as the head coach 11 years ago, and Davis is also in his 11th season as the top man at Warner Robins. He's been with the Demons for 19 years, starting out as offensive line coach in 1966. His record is 10-1-1 this season, but it's 130-14-1 overall for the best winning percentage (.90) of active coaches in the state of Georgia. And Hyder is the first to praise the Warner Robins coaching staff.

"They've put together some of the finest teams and greatest athletes you can see, and that's why they're so good," he said. "They're hard-working

and they put things together over there. They're a total program from top to bottom."

Former VHS head coach Wright Bazemore is the only man who can claim more mythical national championships (three) than Davis. Warner Robins won the state title in 1976 and 1981, later receiving the national honors. And those teams were certainly among some of the finest ever, according to Hyder.

"Valdosta faced them in the playoffs in 1971, and that was coach Bazemore's last year (at VHS)," he said. "He (Bazemore) had probably the best team that's ever been assembled on a high school football field."

The Wildcats went 13-0 and scored 629 points that season, beating Avondale 62-12 in the state championship contest. But Davis has had several teams that have been among Georgia's finest, according to Hyder.

"1976 was one of those (Warner Robins) teams that rivals coach Bazemore's (1971)," he said. "I said rivals — I didn't say they were better."

"They beat the world that year — several of those players

play in the NFL now. They had Ron Simmons, James Brooks, James Womack and three or four others. They beat Griffin something terrible that year (for the state title)."

The Wildcats met the Demons the following year, but they'd lost just enough momentum from 1976 to have then-senior quarterback Buck Belue engineer a 27-8 VHS victory. In 1982, the format changed from quarterfinal to semifinal playoffs, and Valdosta certainly didn't get any breaks, according to Hyder.

"That was one of the hardest fought ballgames Valdosta's been involved in in some time," he said. "Hank 'The Tank' Williams was a bull of a runner for them, and he's playing for Jacksonville State now."

"We scored 14 points in the first half, and hung on to beat them 14-7. We went on to beat (Atlanta) Peachtree the next week (10-7) for state."

Valdosta is the No. 1-ranked AAAA team in Georgia, but USA Today acknowledges the Wildcats as America's No. 1 team. But tonight's encounter should be a tough one for Valdosta, according to Hyder.

"You're going to find one of the winningest teams over the last decade in Warner Robins," he said. "They're a hard-working team, with excellent coaching. They're always a hard, tough game. They're like Thomasville, Colquitt County — all hard-nosed teams."

And Warner Robins faced new challenges this season, created primarily through the realignment of state regions. The Demons were moved into Region 4 with the Augusta schools and former members of the Region 2 East sub-region.

Davis scheduled 1981 state champion Newnan for the opening game, after the Demons went 10-2 last year. When this season started for the Demons, Davis said he was looking to begin with fresh hope, because his team had a burning desire to win every time they stepped on the field. The moment of truth for Hyder's 'Cats and Davis' Demons comes tonight at 8.

"We're going to be ready (tonight), just like Valdosta's going to be ready," he said. "Valdosta is an experienced team, and we're a young, rebuilding team."

VHS Coach Nick Hyder

The Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville, Friday, October 19, 1984

E-7

Colquitt faces No. 1 challenge in Valdosta

By Lawrence Dennis
Sports writer

Colquitt County football coach Jim Hughes will find out just how far his program has come tonight.

The Packers, at 5-0-1, are one of only five unbeaten teams remaining in South Georgia. Ranked No. 8 in the state, they are in the driver's seat for a Region 1-AAAA North title and a playoff spot after beating defending state champion Tift County 21-16 two weeks ago and Albany Monroe 34-7 last week in a battle of sub-region unbeaten.

But for all of that, Hughes says his team will find out just how good it is when it plays host to Region 1-AAAA North power Valdosta at Moultrie tonight in what could well be a preview of the region championship game. The Wildcats, who so far have proved to be perhaps more awesome than usual, are the state's top-ranked team at 7-0.

"Well, they've gotten to their unbeaten condition with a lot more class than we have," said Hughes, who took on the job of rebuilding Colquitt's football program two years ago after turning out powerhouses for a decade at Thomasville High. "We have struggled. Our goal is to be able to play on a level with the best programs. This gives us a chance to assess how far we've gotten. It's a chance for us to see if we're even close to the caliber of program that they enjoy."

The Colquitt-Valdosta game is one of several non-sub-region games on tonight's slate, but there are a couple of key league games that will have a bearing on the playoffs.

Glynn Academy will play host to Statesboro in a game that's crucial if the Red Terrors are to have any chance of repeating as Region 3-AAAA "B" champions. Despite a 2-4 overall record, Glynn is still in the sub-region race with a 1-1 mark, but can't afford another loss.

The Terrors have already lost to sub-region leader Savannah High, which is 5-0 and ranked No. 9 in the state. Statesboro, at 4-2 overall and 1-0 in the sub-region, also needs a victory to stay in the league race. The Blue Devils meet Savannah Nov. 2.

GEORGIA PREPS

Tonight's games

Tift Co. at Lowndes
Valdosta at Colquitt Co.
Appling Co. at Camden Co.-x
Ware Co. at Worth Co.
Waycross at Pierce Co.-x
Bainbridge at Monroe
Brunswick at Effingham Co.-x
Statesboro at Glynn Academy-x
Thomasville at Coffee
Calhoun at Lee Co.-x
Irwin Co. at Bacon Co.
Berrien Co. at Brantley Co.-x
Arnold at McIntosh Co. Academy
Atkinson at Charlton Co.-x
Clich Co. at Cook Co.
Thomasville Central at Dougherty
Benedictine at Beach-x
Jenkins at Groves-x
Savannah at Bradwell Inst.-x
Windsor-Forest at Johnson-x
Fitzgerald at Albany
X—Region or sub-region game.

Savannah is at Hinesville to play Bradwell Institute in another key 3-AAAA "B" game. Bradwell is in much the same position as Glynn, 2-5 overall but 1-0 in the sub-region.

In Region 1-AAA East, one team will most likely be eliminated from sub-region contention when Appling County plays Camden County at St. Marys. Both teams are 1-1 in league play behind unbeaten (6-0, 3-0) and eighth-ranked Ware County.

In other games in South Georgia, Tift County is at Lowndes, Brunswick is at Effingham County in a 3-AAAA "A" game, Ware County is at Worth County, Atkinson County is at Charlton County in a Region 2-A matchup, Thomasville Central is at Albany Dougherty, Thomasville visits Douglas to play Coffee and Waycross is at Pierce County in a 2-AA South game.

Valdosta and what was then known as Moultrie High were fierce rivals in the '50s and '60s, but the Packers have fallen on hard times since then. Hughes says he hopes to revive the rivalry.

"It hasn't been much of a rivalry in a long time," Hughes said. "The last time Moultrie whipped Valdosta was in 1975. It's not a rivalry unless you have an equal chance of winning, and the state of the rivalry over the past 10 years has not been very good."

Hughes says that Colquitt has to run the ball and keep Valdosta from breaking the big play to have a chance against the Wildcats.

"Our strength has been our rushing game," the Colquitt coach said. "They (Valdosta) are giving up virtually no yardage to the rush. That's going to be the key. We can't possess the football if we don't rush it well. We can't give them an unlimited opportunity to pull the trigger. Preventing the long pass or run is the key for us."

The keys to Colquitt's rushing game are senior running backs Nathaniel Lewis and Howard Edwards. Lewis, a 185-pounder, has gained 332 yards in 44 tries. Edwards, a 165-pounder, has 360 yards in 67 rushes. Lewis is also senior quarterback Darrell Funderburk's main receiver, with eight catches for 110 yards as a wide receiver.

The Packers will be facing an explosive Valdosta offense that has scored no fewer than 21 points in any game. Nick Hyder's Wildcats demonstrated their big-play potential in their last two games, 28-0 and 35-7 victories over, respectively, Tift and Thomasville Central.

In last week's romp over Central, which came in to the game unbeaten in 1-AAAA South, 'Cat scores included 66- and 30-yard bombs from quarterback Berke Holtzclaw to Darrell Leonard and Charles Steward and a 30-yard run by Willie Lewis.

Against Tift, Valdosta broke 95- and 28-yard scoring passes from Holtzclaw to Leonard and Hosea Heard and a 70-yard run by Lewis.

Valdosta's victory over Central assured the Wildcats of no worse than a tie for the sub-region championship and a state playoff spot.

Valdosta's Still No. 1; Clarke Is Closing Fast

ATLANTA (AP) — Lincoln County and Marist are newly anointed No. 1 teams in this week's Associated Press poll of Georgia high school football teams, moving up to replace Palmetto and Americus, both of which lost Friday.

Clarke Central remains No. 2 in Class AAAA, although the Gladiators moved closer to top-ranked Valdosta. In Class AA, West Rome and Dooly County continued their recent one-two tradition.

Gainesville, 3-0, received seven votes for first place in Class AAA, while Marist got only one. But the War Eagles, 2-0, piled up four second- and four third-place votes to go along with two for fourth and one for fifth, edging the Red Elephants by one point in voting by a panel of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters.

Points are awarded on a basis of 10 for first, nine for second, eight for third and so on.

Americus had been ranked first, but the Panthers were defeated Friday by ninth-rated Cairo, opening the way for a new No. 1 team. And Marist's 13-7 victory over then-fourth ranked Woodward Academy last weekend apparently impressed the panelists more than Gainesville's 24-0 defeat of Elbert County.

Cairo, 2-1, moved into third and Americus, 1-1, dropped into a sixth-place tie with Thomson, 2-0.

North Springs continued its climb in the rankings. After debuting at eighth three weeks ago, the Spartans, 2-0, moved to sixth last week and fourth this week. Westside, 2-0, climbed to fifth.

Cedartown's Friday night victory over Dalton, then tied with Woodward for fourth, elevated the Bulldogs, 3-0, into the rankings for the first time this season.

Fitzgerald, 2-0, and idle last weekend, nevertheless entered the poll at ninth this week, followed by Woodward Academy, 1-1.

It wasn't surprising that Lincoln County ascended to the No. 1 position vacated by Palmetto in Class A.

Before last year's reclassification dropped them to Class A, the Red Devils fielded a successful Class AA team, compiling a 42-7 record in the last four seasons and making it to the state semifinals the last two years.

So even though idle last weekend, Lincoln County was in the best position to benefit from the Raiders' loss to Collins Friday. No. 3 Bremen might have been able to take advantage of a losing Palmetto and idle Lincoln to jump into first. But the Blue Devils, 2-1, were defeated by Villa Rica and fell to 10th.

Greenville, 3-0, moved to second, followed by Wrens, 3-0; Chattanooga Valley, 3-0; Buford, 2-0; Wilcox County, 2-0; Palmetto, 2-1; Hogansville, 2-0; and Commerce, 2-0.

Griffin's 17-14 defeat of LaGrange caused the only change in the Class AAAA rankings.

Valdosta, 3-0, received seven of 11 first place votes to stay ahead of Clarke Central. Even though the Wildcats punished Monroe 47-6 Friday, Clarke Central's 13-0 shutout of a highly rated Jeff Davis, Ala., team caused the Gladiators, 3-0, to pick up two more first place votes than last week. Still it wasn't enough to unseat Valdosta.

Following the Gladiators were Southwest DeKalb, 3-0; Warner Robins, 2-0-1; Tift County, 2-1; and Newnan, 1-0-1 — all the same as last week.

Griffin, 2-0, moved from eighth to seventh, followed by Bainbridge, 3-0; Wheeler, 3-0; and Central-Thomasville, 2-0 — each of which moved up one notch, with the exception of Central which was unranked last week.

Hosea Heard won the 440-yard dash with a 51.81 time, and also won the 220-yard dash with a 22.25 time to pace the Valdosta Wildcats to 71 points in a three-team track meet.



Opening Night

Valdosta High School quarterback Berke Holtzclaw (15) had a good night in his first game as starting quarterback for the Wildcats Friday night. He scored two touchdowns to lead the 'Cats to a 21-3 season-opening victory over Thomasville at Cleveland Field. Young fan John Ashley Parramore, 4, would have been happy just to catch one of the miniature footballs the cheerleaders threw into the stands. For more on the first night of the season, see Page 5. — Times Staff Photos by Laura Harris.



People

Lowndes, Valdosta Students Attend TSU Camp



Students from Lowndes and Valdosta high schools and Valdosta Junior High School attended the 19th annual high school band camp at Troy State University in Troy, Ala., July 22-27. Both groups are shown with Valdosta Billy Martin, back left, marching bands clinician, and Dr. Johnny Long, back right, TSU bands director. In the LHS group pictured at top were, (front row from left) Jeffrey B. Edmondson, Mona Abbott, Kenneth Williams, Kim Robbins, Fred Wetherington. Back row from left, former Valdosta Frank Butenschon, directors clinic coordinator, standing next to Martin; Alan Drew, Hahira Middle School band director; students John Fitchjarrell and Bill Mizell, and LHS assistant band director Woody Leonard, next to Long. In the Valdosta high and junior high schools group were (front row from left) were Laura Bailey, Laura McMillan, VJHS Drum Major Leanne Yeager, VJHS student Meredith McMillan, Susan Burns. In the back row were Shawn Smith, standing next to Martin, Michael Williams, Steve Pruitt and Reginald A. Payne, standing next to Long. — Photos Special To The Times.



Valdosta tradition in good hands

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

"He throws like Buck Belue." "He runs like John Bond." "He gets the job done like Teddy West and John Lastinger."

Berke Holtzclaw is growing accustomed to the comparisons. Everywhere the current Valdosta High School quarterback goes, he hears comparisons to his distinguished predecessors.

"Comparing teams is a favorite pastime in Valdosta," said Valdosta coach Nick Hyder. "Nobody is ever critical. They just like to talk about the teams."

Holtzclaw, the current Valdosta High School quarterback, hasn't given them much to be critical of as he has settled into his place among the Valdosta quarterbacks. He has thrown for 627 yards and nine touchdowns and has rushed for 290 yards, leading his team to a 7-0 record and a No. 1 ranking in Class AAAA, No. 3 in one national poll.

When the Valdostans are talking about Holtzclaw, they invariably get around to his father, Billy Holtzclaw. The elder Holtzclaw was a tight end and defensive end on the 1961 and 1962 state championship teams of Wright Bazemore.

Now the younger Holtzclaw is

Quarterback Holtzclaw joins long line of greats at position

poised to be a part of a championship team, two decades later. A senior, Holtzclaw is starting for the first time at quarterback despite the fact he has been groomed for the spot since he caught Bazemore's eye in the seventh grade. Last year, he was backup quarterback to West and was a starting flanker.

"He was too good an athlete to not start in the games," Hyder said.

This year, Holtzclaw is playing under several shadows — those of his predecessors and the one cast by his father. The feeling of following Belue, Bond, Lastinger and West is "strange. It's indescribable. I don't think there's anything like it."

"I'm just going to do the best I can," Holtzclaw said. "You want to do good. Everybody else wants you to do good. But you can't always do the things that they (other quarterbacks) did."

"You can't listen to all the talk. You just have to do the best you can, and let the other things take care of themselves."

Hyder, who has coached at

Valdosta for the past eight years, has had a chance to coach quarterbacks Belue through Holtzclaw. "He (Holtzclaw) ranks up there with them all," Hyder said. "They are all proven quarterbacks. I wouldn't put him ahead of them, but he's a little faster than they were and that certainly would work in his favor."

"I'm really impressed with his pure athletic ability," said former Valdosta and Georgia quarterback John Lastinger. "Gosh, I don't know how far he can throw the ball. He has good foot speed."

"In terms of athletic ability, he may be better than all of us. Buck could run and throw it. John could run. And me and Teddy, we just did the best we could."

Hyder said Holtzclaw has "unusual" speed for a quarterback, running 4.6 in the 40 yard dash.

"He's quick. He has good speed. He's a tough youngster with a good strong arm," Hyder said. "We're very well pleased with the progress he has made as a passer. He has de-

veloped into a double threat for us. He gives us the added dimension that we need to do the things we have to do."

Growing up seeing Belue and Bond play and playing with Lastinger and West helped Holtzclaw develop into a Valdosta quarterback, Hyder said. "He and Teddy were the best of friends, and they were pretty even so far as effectiveness goes."

A few colleges around the South are stopping by for a look at Holtzclaw. "Florida State is taking a big interest," Hyder said. "Auburn is looking at him. And Ray Goff of Georgia has seen him, but he hasn't made any comment."

At this point, Holtzclaw says he hasn't decided which school he will attend. So all the talk about following the Valdosta trail to Athens is speculative. "I just want to go to a school where I can get some playing time and get a good education," he said.

Hyder says from what he has heard about the top high school quarterbacks in the state, he would rank Holtzclaw in the same group as Cairo's Joey Hester, Lowndes' Randy Gay and Newnan's Johnny Cash.

But, in Valdosta, the real comparisons are with the ones who have worn the black and gold before him.



Valdosta's Berke Holtzclaw has thrown nine touchdowns passes

Special



In Georgia, what goes up must sometimes come down

By Daryl Bell
Sports writer

When people talk about traditional rivalries in the hotbed that is South Georgia high school football, they mention historic series like Valdosta-Thomasville and Waycross-Ware County.

This year, though, those traditional grudge battles have had just a little bit of the intensity stripped from them.

The Georgia High School Association's biennial reclassification, moving schools up or down in class and realigning regions and sub-regions, has seen to that.

The GHSA, the state governing body of high school athletics, has four classifications ranging from AAAA to A. The classifications for schools participating in athletics are based on average daily attendance. Schools competing in Class AAAA must have an ADA of 975 or more, while AAA schools have an ADA of 550-874. Schools participating in AA have an ADA of 325-549, while A schools are from 324-down.

This year, several South Georgia Schools have been moved either up or down in class, including perennial powers Thomasville (from AAAA to AAA) and Waycross (AAA to AA) and Bainbridge (AAA to AAAA).

And while teams like Thomasville and Waycross will continue to play their traditional rivals, the games won't be quite the same, since they'll have no significance in the region championship chases.

"There were many people opposed to the move," said Waycross football coach Dale Williams. "They look at the higher classification and feel that it is more competitive. That's not true. Football is football, and in our case, it was a move that was definitely for the better."

"You want to give your team a decent chance at competing, and we felt that we couldn't do that playing in AAA. Many people like to play in the higher class just to say that they're a AAA or an AAAA school, but what good does that do

Class of '84

Schools in the Times-Union/Journal circulation area reclassified by the Georgia High School Association:

School	1983	1984
Albany	AAAA	AAA
Bainbridge	AAA	AAAA
Charlton Co.	AA	A
Coffee	AAAA	AAA
Effingham Co.	AAA	AAAA
Mitchell-Baker	AAA	AA
Thomasville	AAAA	AAA
Waycross	AAA	AA
Wayne Co.	AAAA	AAA

if you aren't successful? There are many teams that are just as good in the lower classes as there are those in the higher ones."

According to GHSA bylaws, Waycross — and Thomasville — could have opted to remain in the higher classification, but chose not to do so. Bainbridge had no choice — its ADA was two students over the maximum for Class AAA, so it was forced to move up.

In some cases, there's no question that reclassification can mean success. Three years ago, Bainbridge was faltering in rugged Region 1-AAAA, where it now finds itself once again. The Bearcats finished the 1981 season with a 5-5 record. The following year, Bainbridge went down to 1-AAA and the school promptly won its first and only state championship, finishing the season at 14-1. The Bearcats did well last year, too, going 10-2 after losing in the region title game.

But those days of glory may be over.

"The ADA that they [the GHSA] use is from two years ago," said Bainbridge coach Ralph Jones.

"And by those numbers, we're only two students over the mark. We petitioned to try and remain in AAA but lost. Now, we're back in AAAA and it's a whole new ballgame for us. I'm not angry, just a little bit dissatisfied."

"What it really boils down to is that we're a AAA playing in AAAA, and that's going to hurt us," said Jones. "When you're playing in Region 1-AAAA, you have to be ready every week. There are no weak sisters there like there are in other regions. When you have powerhouses like Lowndes, Valdosta and Tift, you have to be ready to go every week. You can't afford to rest players like you can in AAA. The competition in AAAA is just that keen."

But both Jones and Williams agree that moving up and down can be a blessing as well as it can be a curse. For example, chances are slim that Bainbridge would have won a state title in 1982 if it were competing in AAAA. That was the same year that Valdosta finished 15-0 with a state title.

"In some cases, it helps to make the move down," said Williams. "In 1976, we were dropped to AA after playing in AAA [then the largest classification] for several years. Our first year in AA wasn't that good. We finished 3-7 and there was a lot of flack but the following year we went 14-0 and won the state title."

"It's funny but we never won a thing in AAA. People thought we should have stayed there, and we really caught a lot of flack when we had that bad season. But when we won the title, it was as if nothing ever happened. I'm not saying that the same thing is going to happen this time around."

"Goodness knows, it would be nice if it did but what people don't seem to realize is that you must compete on the level that you're on. I have no qualms about playing in AA this year and I'm looking forward to it. Prestige is nice, but football is played with 11 players, and believe me, you don't need to be in a higher classification to lose a ball game."

WHERE THEY ARE NOW

Here is a list of players on last year's Times-Union/Journal Super 11 team and where they are now:

Name	High School	College
* John Porter	Valdosta	Valdosta High
Leon Johnson	Valdosta	Eastern Kentucky
Eddie Gozier	Lowndes	VSC
James Medlock	Waycross	Purdue
Brian Massingill	Tift County	Florida
Terry Revels	Tift County	Not playing
Jimmy McBride	Pierce County	Valdosta State
Ricardo Ingram	Coffee County	Ga. Tech
Barry Johnson	Camden County	VSC
Duke Donaldson	Cairo	Auburn
Greg Folsom	Cook County	Naval Academy

*Porter was the only junior picked on last year's team.

T.U. and Journal
Jax., Sat., Aug. 25,
1984

THE SUPER 11 TEAM

Name	School	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Pos.
Randy Brooks	Tift Co.	6-2	240	Sr.	DT
Victor Daniels	Waycross	5-10	150	Sr.	RB
Randy Gay	Lowndes	6-3	200	Sr.	QB
Joey Hester	Cairo	6-1	185	Sr.	QB
Bill Miller	Lowndes	6-0	240	Jr.	OT
Calvin Orr	Lowndes	5-8	140	Sr.	DB
John Porter	Valdosta	6-1	215	Sr.	LB
Darien Teals	Tift Co.	5-9	160	Sr.	WR
Earl Williams	Camden Co.	5-11	180	Sr.	RB
Herschel Wooten	Waycross	6-2	250	Sr.	DT
Tony Yeomans	Wayne Co.	6-4	299	Sr.	DT

Valdosta — as usual — is loaded again

Times-Union and Journal, Jacksonville, Saturday, August 25, 1984

By Lawrence Dennis
Sports writer

Valdosta is loaded again.

Valdosta has another standout quarterback.

Valdosta is being touted as the team to beat in tough Region 1-AAAA and the probable state Class AAAA champion this year.

So what else is new?

The question is, can the Wildcats regain the state championship form that took them to the title in 1982 and get out of what is undeniably Georgia's toughest region as the champion?

Last year, Valdosta won the North sub-region title and its first playoff game to extend its two-season win streak to 26 games. But then the 'Cats ran into a Tift team that they had beaten 14-10 in the regular season for the sub-region title and were knocked out of the playoffs by a 17-13 loss with an 11-1 record.

Tift, naturally, went on to win the state championship.

This year, Valdosta won't have to beat Tift for the regular-season title, since the Wildcats will be playing in the South sub-region as the result of the Georgia High School Association's realignment. Still, there's little reason for Nick Hyder, entering his 11th season at the Wildcats' helm, to rejoice in that.

Valdosta is in the sub-region with cross-town arch-rival Lowndes, which is always tough, a Bainbridge team that won the state Class AAA title in 1982 and made the playoffs last year before moving up to AAAA and a Thomasville Central team that is expected to be rejuvenated under new coach Charles Greene.

What Hyder can be happy about is that the Wildcats, as usual, will field enough top-flight football players to make two or three region-championship-caliber teams in most leagues.

Leading the list is senior quarterback Berke Holtzclaw. Quarterback is the key position at Valdosta, and Wildcat teams have been famous

for all-everything signalcallers like Stan Bounds, Buck Belue, John Lastinger and Ted West, who led the region last year with 71 completions on 132 attempts for 1,190 yards and 10 TDs.

Holtzclaw might join that select club. Hyder said he was good enough to be the starting quarterback last year, but the Valdosta coach, using his patented system of having his signalcaller of the future start at wide receiver, usually had the 6-foot, 175-pound senior catching footballs, not throwing them.

Still, Holtzclaw, a second-generation Wildcat whose father Billy was an end on Wright Bazemore's 1960-62 state and national championship teams, is hardly a rank rookie under center — he hit on 14 of 41 for 233 yards last season.

"If you're talking about taking snaps, Berke probably took as many as Teddy," Hyder said. "Teddy was just older and had more experience."

This year, Holtzclaw is expected to come into his own.

"He's a good passer and a good ball handler, and he's a little more mobile, foot-wise [than West]," Hyder said of Holtzclaw.

The rest of the Wildcats' multiple offense is expected to be just as versatile as ever, but Hyder's boys will have to do without their premier running back for at least the first few games.

Tony Anderson, a bruising (6-0, 208-pound) fullback who was fourth in the region rushing last year with 705 yards on 124 attempts for a 5.69 average and who is a Times-Union/Journal Super 11 preseason pick, underwent an abdominal operation in late July and will miss the first few weeks of the season.

But the Wildcats are as deep at running back as they are everywhere else. Willie Lewis, a 5-10, 160-pound senior who ran behind Dana Brinson last year (Brinson signed with Nebraska), senior Scot Braswell (5-9, 165) and junior Tony Man-

grum (5-8, 145) will mind the store until Anderson's return.

On the catching end, tight end Darrell Leonard (6-0, 190) is back for his final year after catching 16 passes for 286 yards as a junior, and Hosea Herd, a 6-1, 170-pound junior who has 4.5 speed in the 40, returns at split end. That's not to mention Charles Steward, a 6-2, 199-pound freshman who, when he's not playing wide receiver, is a backup — what else? — quarterback.

Up front, the offensive line has good size. John Reaves, a 5-11, 190-pound senior, has been moved to guard from center, where he'll be replaced by Jeff Davis, a 6-0, 200-pound junior who made the long snaps last year. Johnny Crook, a 5-11, 240-pound junior, is back at one tackle slot, while the other will be manned by Marty Howell, a 6-2, 270-pound junior who was second-string last season.

The heart of the defense will be senior linebacker John Porter. Porter has already been all-everything. The senior 6-0, 215-pounder was the only junior on the Class AAAA all-state team last year and is a Super 11 preseason pick this year.

"Porter is one of those once-in-a-lifetime players," Hyder said, adding that he has also been the 'Cats' regular placekicker for two years.

Porter is just one of eight starters back on the Wildcat defense. Other regulars include cornerback Elijah Holmes, a 5-10, 170 senior; safety David Thomas, a 6-1, 175-pound senior who also does the punting (in the 36-37-yard range); safety Derrick Folsom (6-1, 175, senior); defensive end Ernest Mangrum (5-9, 180, senior); tackles Jimmy Lewis (6-1, 218, senior) and James Wakefield (6-3, 210, senior); and middle guard Kevin Miller (5-10, 190, junior).

Also expected to see plenty of action, if not to start, is John Wheeless, a 6-0, 240-pound sophomore middle guard/tackle who logged quite a bit of playing time last year.

It looks like a battle for second

T.U. Jax. Sat., Aug. 25, 1984

By Lawrence Dennis
Sports writer

Charles Greene is no stranger to Region 1-AAAA.

Greene, who is battling this year to restore Thomasville Central to respectability in the league as the Yellow Jackets' first-year coach, played at Valdosta, was an assistant to the legendary Wright Bazemore, succeeded him at the Wildcat helm in 1972 and coached two seasons before leaving for Toccoa Stephens County.

So you figure Greene knows whereof he speaks when he says that Valdosta is the team to beat in the new, four-team 1-AAAA South sub-region.

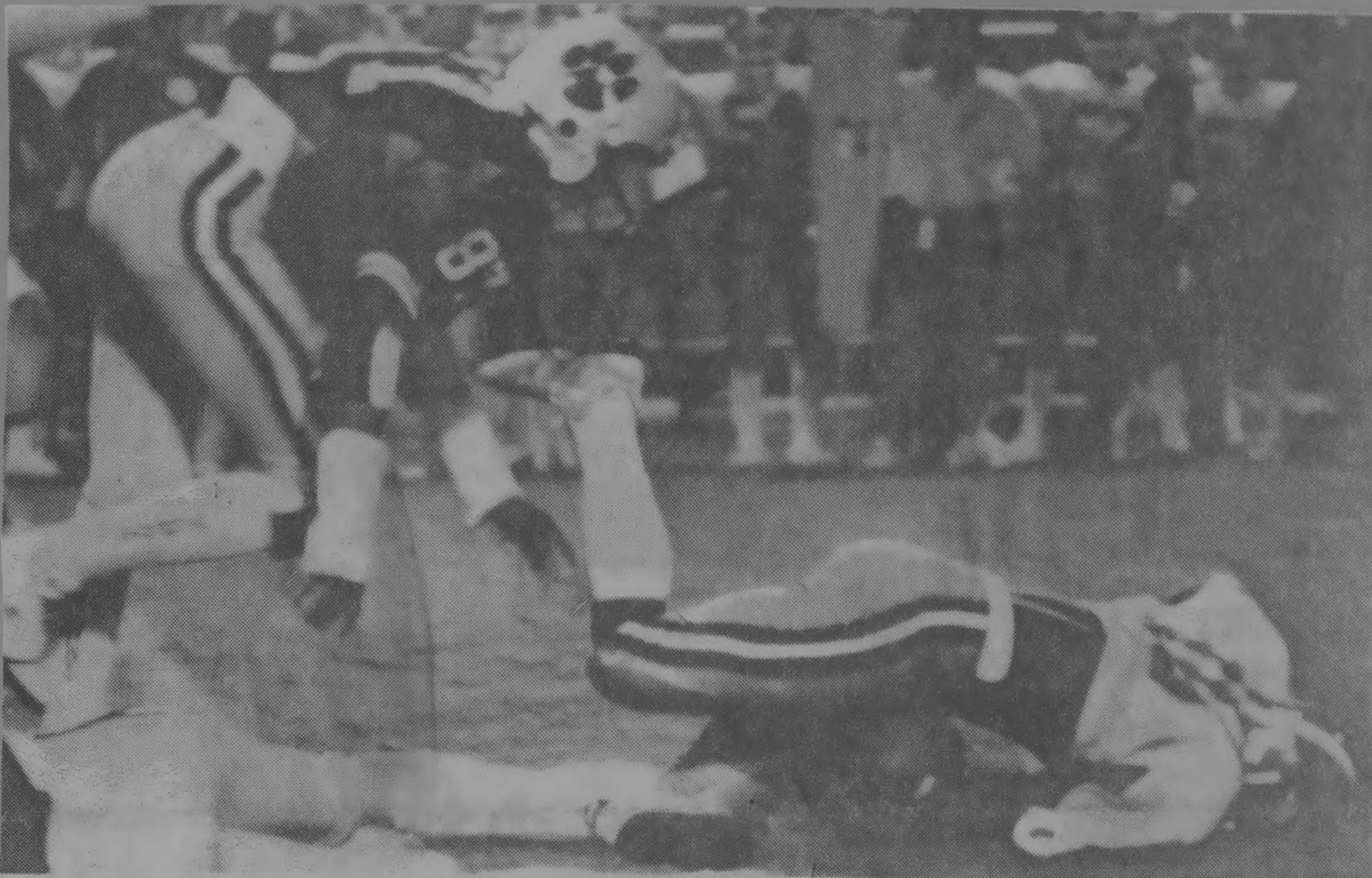
"I think that's definitely right," Greene said when asked if it was a matter of a battle for second behind the Wildcats among Lowndes, Bainbridge and Central. "He [Valdosta coach Nick Hyder] oughta be the state champion. I think us, Bainbridge and Lowndes are all pretty much equal to each other. I think any one of us can step in and play some sort of spoiler role."

Of course, the new sub-region alignment could mean that for the first time in years, Valdosta and crosstown arch-rival Lowndes could settle the championship on the field in one climactic, season-ending Armageddon.

As long as Valdosta remained in 1-AAAA North and Lowndes in 1-AAAA South, the primary thing the

REGION 1-AAAA SOUTH

head-to-head Wildcat-Viking clash was for was bragging rights for Lowndes County. Now, when the two meet Nov. 9 in the last game of the regular season, it could be for the sub-region title. And the loser could take second place, meaning a playoff spot and possibly a rematch of the title game two weeks later.



Seaborn Williams (87) Threw 'Dog QB Alvin Leaks To Turf On One Of 3 Sacks

Times Staff Photos

Valdosta Manhandles T'ville

Wildcats Win Season Opener, 21-3

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Mike Hodges hadn't tasted defeat in a regular-season game in over two years. But the first-year Thomasville coach had his memory refreshed Friday night at Cleveland Field.

STATISTICS			
	THO	VAL	
First Downs	4	20	
Yards Rushing	40	198	
Yards Passing	52	122	
Passes	7-3-0	18-7-1	
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	5-3	
Punting	7-28.0	4-35.1	
Penalties	4-38	4-25	

Top-ranked Valdosta handed Hodges and his Bulldogs a 21-3 setback in the season-opening game for both teams before a crowd of over 8,000.

Hodges came to Thomasville from West Rome where his teams the last two seasons went 30-0 and captured two Class AA titles.

But after jumping out to a 3-0 lead on a 34-yard David Ross field goal less than halfway through the first period, Thomasville could do nothing but watch as the Valdosta defense shut its offense down, while the Wildcat offense, which sputtered early with a rash of fumbles, cranked up for touchdowns in the first, second and fourth periods.

"Our defense was tough," said Valdosta coach Nick Hyder, whose Wildcats have now won 26 straight regular-season games spanning back to 1981 when Thomasville upended them 14-3. It was the last

time Thomasville beat Valdosta. "Our defense has to play like that until our offense gets the execution down."

Valdosta fumbled deep in its own territory on its first possession. Thomasville took over at the 18, but could only muster one yard before Ross came on to kick a field goal.

Valdosta again fumbled deep in its own territory on the ensuing kickoff at the 25. Again, though, the Wildcat defense stiffened and Ross was short on a 44-yard field goal attempt.

Thomasville never got that close to the Valdosta goal again in the game. In fact, the Bulldogs were limited to just four first downs — two in each half — and 92 total yards in the game.

Meanwhile, Valdosta, which fumbled five times in the game losing three and threw an interception, began executing on offense after the missed Thomasville field goal. Behind the running of quarterback Berke Holtzclaw, who led all rushers with 96 yards, tailback Willie Lewis, who was second with 79, and Scott Braswell, the 'Cats drove 80 yards in 10 plays to go up 7-3. Braswell covered the final three yards with a plunge off tackle for the touchdown. John Porter, who converted all three extra-point attempts he tried, booted the PAT putting the 'Cats on top for good.

"The factor for us was they tired in the second quarter,"

Hyder said, "and we got that long drive for a touchdown."

Taking over at its 20 with 3:55 left in the half, Valdosta ripped off runs of 20 and 10 yards by Lewis, 17 by Holtzclaw and 11 by Braswell to reach the Thomasville 16 in seven plays. Holtzclaw sprinted around end, dodging two defenders and racing the final 16 yards for the score and a 14-3 lead with 1:55 left in the half.

Following a scoreless third period, Holtzclaw raced 31 yards on the identical play he scored on in the second period for the Wildcats' final touchdown. This time he got some help near the goal line on a block by wide receiver Randy Bell.

"Randy made a beautiful block," Hyder said.

To go along with his 96 rushing yards, Holtzclaw completed six passes for 97 yards with no interceptions. The lone interception was tossed by back up quarterback Greg Talley in the fourth quarter. But Holtzclaw did lose a fumble when he mishandled a snap from center.

Besides three extra points, Porter was in on 10 tackles, including one quarterback sack and two vicious licks. He also made a fine solo stop despite having to fight off two Thomasville linemen.

Earnest Mangham, Bill Kirby and Seaborn Williams all recorded sacks for 42 yards in losses.



Berke Holtzclaw Rushed For 2 TDs

Score By Quarters				
Thomasville	3	0	0	0-3
Valdosta	7	7	0	7-21

SCORING				
T'ville	Ross 34 field goal, 7:41 1st			
Valdosta	Braswell 3 run (Porter kick), 1:42 1st			
Valdosta	Holtzclaw 16 run (Porter kick), 1:55 2nd			
Valdosta	Holtzclaw 31 run (Porter kick), 5:21 4th			

INDIVIDUAL STATS				
Rushing:	T'ville — Leaks 7, Jackson 11, Pittman 4, Williams 3, Clark minus 17, Ellis 27, Donald 5, Valdosta — Holtzclaw 96, Lewis 79, Braswell 25, Leonard 2, Mangham 1, Dixon 0, Talley minus-5.			
Passing:	T'ville — Leaks 6-2-0, 17; Clark 1-1-0, 35. Valdosta — Holtzclaw 14-6-0, 97; Talley 4-2-1, 25.			
Receiving:	T'ville — Williams 1-9, Bush 2-43, Valdosta — Heard 4-64, Leonard 1-18, Bell 2-26, McGuyrt 1-14.			

No. 1^{Oct. 13, 1984} Valdosta Routs Central,

Keeps Rolling Along

Wildcats Fall Behind Early, Rally For 35-7 Win

See Related Story, Page 7
By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

There's something about early deficits that seems to bring out the best in the top-ranked Valdosta Wildcats. Of the seven games the 'Cats have played so far this season, they have found themselves trailing in the first quarter in three of them, only to come storming back to win in a big way.

STATISTICS		
	CEN	VAL
First Downs	9	20
Yards Rushing	40	225
Yards Passing	82	175
Passes	9-5-0	27-11-2
Fumbles-Lost	3-0	2-2
Punting	6-31.0	1-30.0
Penalties	9-97	7-65

Valdosta followed the scenario to perfection Friday night at Cleveland Field against Thomasville Central in a Region 1-AAAA South sub-region game.

Down 7-0 barely five minutes into the game, the 'Cats struck for touchdowns in each period — two in the third — to rout the

Yellow Jackets 35-7 before an estimated 7,500 fans.

"I wasn't surprised," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder of finding his team behind early. "Central has a good team. That's a senior ballclub."

The win kept Valdosta's record unblemished at 7-0 overall and 2-0 in the sub-region. Central fell to 4-2 and 0-1. Across town, Lowndes beat Bainbridge in another South sub-region game, 28-6. The loss eliminated Bainbridge from the playoffs with an 0-2 sub-region worksheet. Lowndes is 4-2 and 1-0.

"We thought Central was a fine football team," Hyder added, "and I thought our youngsters played well against them."

Central's touchdown, a 7-yard run by quarterback Mark Hunter with 7:03 left in the first period, was the first time the Yellow Jackets have scored on

Valdosta since the 1980 Region 1-AAAA playoffs. Since then Valdosta has outscored them 93-0.

But first-year Central coach Charlie Greene, who coached Valdosta during the 1972 and '73 seasons, ended the scoreless string the first time his Jackets got the ball. After holding the 'Cats to three downs and a punt, Central marched 58 yards in eight plays capped by Hunter's touchdown run. Todd Wilson kicked the extra point and Central led 7-0.

That score only seemed to light a fire under the 'Cats, who responded with an 80-yard drive to paydirt following the ensuing kickoff. Fifteen plays (and a crucial Central offsides penalty at the Jacket 9) later, Willie Lewis swept right and scored on a 5-yard run with :23 left in the first period. John Porter kicked the first of five successful extra points to knot the score at 7-all going into the second period.

Lewis finished the game with

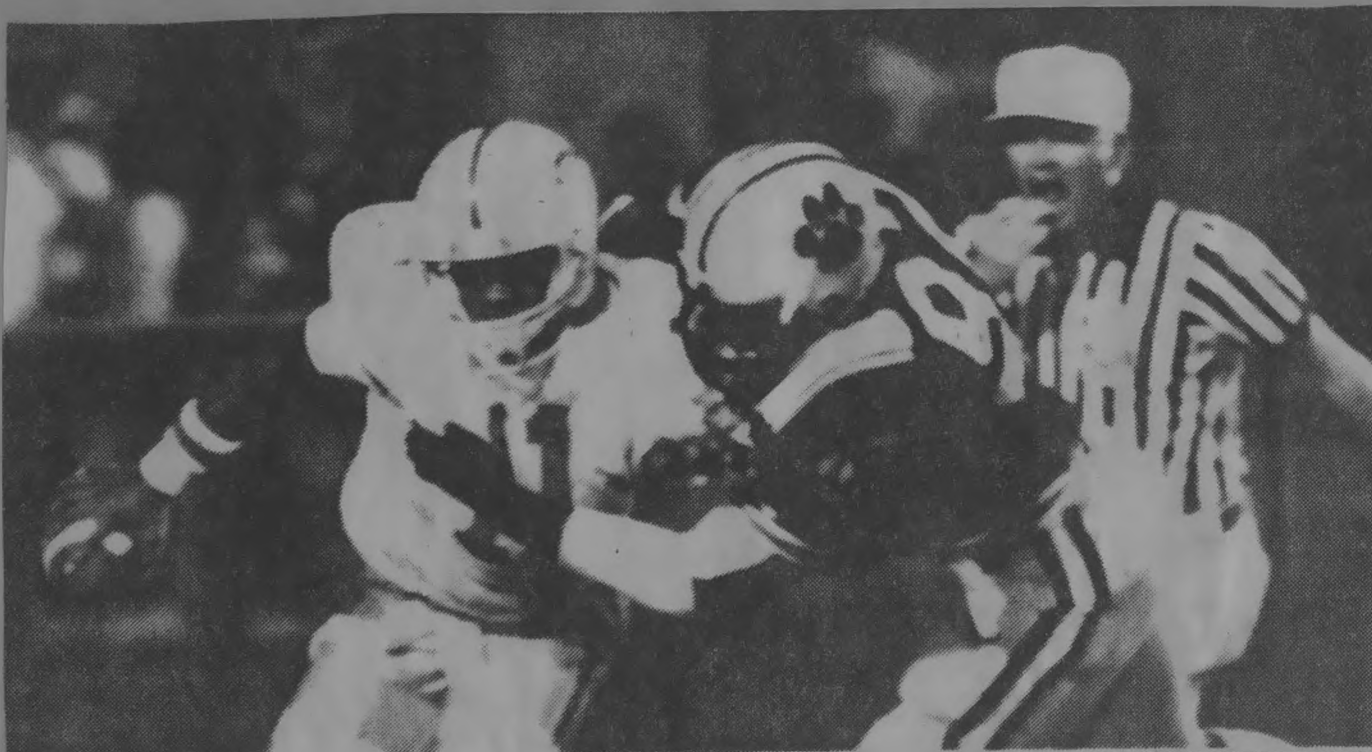
85 yards on 11 carries. He also scored two touchdowns. The senior tailback now has 554 yards rushing this season, which was enough to vault him into second place in the region rushing race.

Please See "Valdosta," Page 7

Score By Quarters				
Thomasville Central	7	0	0	0-7
Valdosta	7	7	14	7-35

SCORING
Central — Hunter 7 run (Wilson kick), 7:03 1st.
Valdosta — Lewis 5 run (Porter kick), :23 1st.
Valdosta — Leonard 66 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick), 6:49 2nd.
Valdosta — Lewis 30 run (Porter kick), 9:33 3rd.
Valdosta — Steward 30 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick), :43 3rd.
Valdosta — Braswell 1 run (Porter kick), 5:38 4th.

INDIVIDUAL STATS
Rushing: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 15-33, Anderson 13-60, Lewis 11-85, Braswell 7-22, Mangham 2-3, Dixon 5-22. Central — Hunter 7-minus 55, M. Davis 4-7, Brown 14-48, Jones 6-40.
Passing: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 23-9-2, 149; Anderson 1-0-0, 0; Talley 3-2-0, 9. Central — Hunter 9-5-0, 82.
Receiving: Valdosta — Heard 5-63, Leonard 3-82, Steward 1-30. Central — D. Davis 1-11, Bean 1-19, Johnson 1-16, Jones 1-16, Brown 1-20.



Jimmy Lewis And Valdosta's 'D' Sacked Central QB 6 Times

Times Staff Photo By Rick Bender

Valdosta Rallies To Drop Determined Tift 16-7;

Sat. Nov. 17, 1984

VDT.

Revenge No Factor

For Brodie's Blue Devils Vs. Valdosta

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

Tift County head coach Jim Brodie said revenge won't be a factor in Friday's first-round playoff encounter against the nation's top-ranked prep football team at Cleveland Field at 8 p.m.

Both teams will have a score of sorts to settle among themselves come Friday night.

Last year, the top-ranked Wildcats saw their unbeaten season come to an abrupt end when the Blue Devils avenged a 14-10 regular season setback by slipping by the Valdosta 17-13 in the Region 1 championship game.

This year, the Wildcats got a measure of revenge when they romped past the Blue Devils in Tifton by a 28-0 count enroute to another perfect regular season finish.

That loss dropped the defending state champion Blue Devils to the .500 level at 3-3. But, since then, they've been a different team. Tifton has run roughshod over three of the four opponents they've faced since that game, including a 56-3 stomping of

Albany Westover last week.

"The important thing is, we've won more than we've lost, and this (the playoffs) is what we've been playing for all season long," Brodie said. "We've been playing a lot better lately, and a lot of that has to do with the emergence of sophomore quarterback Tye Cottle as a team leader."

Cottle is playing with a lot of confidence right now, and he has really come on as of late," Brodie added. "We're also in probably the best physical shape that we've been in all season, with only one starter — senior defensive back Wesley McGriff — out of action."

Brodie said the regular season defeat is still lingers on his players minds, and that game let them know that "Valdosta was for real."

Brodie also said that he was concerned with the Wildcats running game, and called the Wildcats' Willie Lewis, "the best back in the entire region."

"He really broke our back in the regular season game with a long 70-yard run at the start of the second half," Brodie said. "I

heard that he was supposed to be hobbled a little bit with an ankle injury, which may be the only thing that'll slow him down."

As always, Brodie feels turnovers will be a key factor in Friday's winner. It was a problem his team was hampered with in the early part of the season, but seemed to have rectified in the last four games.

"We just have to hope that they'll make some mistakes, and that we can play a perfect game," Brodie said. "We have played with a lot more consistency in the past few weeks which has helped our overall confidence."

"We can't play an average ball game and expect to win," Brodie added. "We have to play over our heads, and almost a perfect game just to be able to have a chance to win it."

Another thing that concerned Brodie in the early part of the season was his defense, which he said wasn't playing like some of his previous defenses. But, he said they had a great game against Lowndes High as did the team, and things have kind of turned around since then.

According to Brodie, that Lowndes game was the best that his

team has played all season. He added that same kind of effort Friday would make for an interesting contest.

"I'm concerned about that Ghost at Cleveland Field, which will get you seven points before you even line up," Brodie said. "As long as its not before the game, it'll be alright."

"I'm expecting a tough, physical contest Friday night, and I'm excited about the opportunity to be coming to Valdosta," Brodie added. "Their defense is so dominant, I just hope that we won't be embarrassed by them like the last time."

The winner of the Valdosta-Tifton game will take on the Lowndes-Colquitt County winner for the Region 1 championship next week. The winner of that matchup will visit the winner of Region 4 in third round playoff action.

In the fourth round, the winner of the game between Region 1 and 4 will host the winner of the game between Region 2 and 3 for the South championship in the semi-final round.

In final round action, the North Georgia champion will visit the the South Georgia champ for the state championship game.

Colquitt Can't Pull Double Trick As 'Cats Win

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

An infamous south Georgia curse descended upon the heads of the Colquitt County Packers Friday night, as they lost a 14-13 heartbreaker to the Valdosta Wildcats. Colquitt found out something: It's hard to beat the 'Cats twice in a season.

Earlier this year, the Packers rolled to a 21-14 victory over Valdosta as Colquitt set the pace of the game, rolling up 190 yards on the ground against the stubborn 'Cat defense.

Friday night, the 'Cats held the reins of the game, holding 1-AAAA rushing leader T.J. Edwards to 88 yards rushing, while Valdosta's Jeffery Holmes put on a show of his own.

Holmes, who was almost absent against the Vikings last week, rushed for 104 yards in 18 carries, while teammate Tony Mangham had 93 yards in 16 carries, but it was the presence of Holmes that sparked the 'Cats as he hammered his way time after time for tough yardage.

Fittingly enough, Mangham scored Valdosta's first touchdown to lift Valdosta to a 7-0 lead, and Holmes added the last score of the game to give Valdosta the victory.

Holmes' touchdown may have seemed more dramatic and important to some, but Mangham's score may have been a little more crucial.

Mangham capped a 16-play drive on a fourth-and-goal from the 3-yard line with 9:09 left on the clock in the second quarter to put the first score on the board.

The drive opened from Valdosta's own 36-yard line, when quarterback Greg Talley hit receiver Randy Bell for a 16-yard gain on a second down play to move the ball up to the Colquitt 49.

Holmes then went to work, spurring out for an 11-yard gain followed by a 4-yard gain, moving the ball down to the Colquitt 34.

"Holmes performed well for us tonight," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "He gave us those tough running yards that we really needed. We really worked hard this week and I think we beat a good team, a great team."

With a first down on the 34, B.J. Mason was thrown for a five-yard loss on an end around, and on the next play, Talley threw wide to split end Charles Steward, but a defensive holding penalty gave the 'Cats a 10-yard gain.

On the crucial third-and-one play, Holmes again battered his way for six yards, giving Valdosta the needed first down.

Four more runs by Holmes moved the ball down to the three-yard line, and on a key fourth-and-goal play, Mangham went left off tackle for the gain and the score.

Holmes' score to wrap up the game for Valdosta ended a 13-play drive, catapulting the Wildcats into the 1-AAAA final against crosstown rival Lowndes High.

This time, Valdosta started from its own 23, and again moved the ball downfield on the legs of Mangham and Holmes. One of the more crucial plays of the drive came on a third-and-10 from Valdosta's own 47. Talley rolled right, spotted Steward open, and tossed a 21-yard dart, moving the ball all the way to the Colquitt 32.

Two runs each by Mangham, Talley, and Holmes moved the ball to the 1-yard line, and Holmes ran the ball in for the score. Dan Tillman added his second extra point of the night to end the scoring at 14-13.

The extra-point conversion from Tillman should have tied the game, but unfortunately for Colquitt, Herbert Hall missed the extra point try after the Packers' second score.

Despite the relative closeness of the score, the 'Cats dominated the game offensively, rolling up 190 yards on the

Valdosta..... 0 7 0 7-14
Colquitt..... 0 7 6 0-13
Val — Tony Mangham 3 run (Dan Tillman kick)
Col — T.J. Edwards 29 run (Herbert Hall kick)
Col — Stacy Middlebrooks 50 pass from James Lee (kick failed)

Val — Jeffery Holmes 1 run (Tillman kick)
Valdosta..... Colquitt

12..... First Downs..... 8
190..... Yards Rushing..... 88
46..... Rushing Attempts..... 24
146..... Yards Passing..... 108
14 41..... Passes..... 12 7-0
21..... Fumbles Lost..... 2-1
6 35 6..... Punting..... 6 35 5
7 35..... Penalties..... 2-15
1-4..... Sacks By..... 0-00
3 23..... Return Yards..... 2-7

Individual Leaders
Rushing — Valdosta, Holmes 18-104, Mangham 16-93,
Mason 2-13, Talley 10-14, Colquitt, Edwards 15-88,
Lamar 4-4, Lee 5-17, Sims 1-3.

Passing — Valdosta, Talley 4-13-1, Colquitt, Lee 12-7-0.
Receiving — Valdosta, Steward 2-30, Bell 2-16, Colquitt, Funderburk 4-39, Middlebrooks 1-50, Lamar 2-19.

ground, while Colquitt only had 85 yards rushing.

The Packers did have 108 yards in the air, however, but half of these yards came on one play when the Packers went up 13-7.

With the score tied at 7-7, Colquitt forced a fumble from Talley and got the ball back on the 50-yard line. On the first play from scrimmage, receiver Stacy Middlebrooks ran a deep pattern eluding the Valdosta defenders and quarterback James Lee hit him for the score.

Middlebrooks was wide open, at least 15 yards behind the nearest defender, and this was one of Valdosta's few defensive mistakes of the night.

"I don't really know what happened to our defense on that play," said Jack Rudolph, Valdosta defensive coordinator. "Middlebrooks ran inside and then cut back out and he was wide open."

Colquitt's first score to tie the game was almost as easy, as it took the Packers only four plays to score.

With the ball on their own 27 yard line after a punt, Colquitt got the big break it needed to spark the offense. Edwards ran right, got hit behind the line, broke a tackle and ran 31 yards all



Times Staff Photos by Nadine Shochet

Valdosta's Tony Mangham Bobbles The Ball As He Scores Early In The Second Period

the way to Valdosta's 42-yard line. his talent, ripping through the middle of the 'Cat defense for a 29-yard touchdown romp to tie the score at 7-7. That's how it remained until Colquitt's touchdown pass to go ahead.

On the next play, Edwards showed Lee then hit receiver Sam Funderburk over the middle for a 13-yard gain all the way to Valdosta's 29.

On the next play, Edwards showed his talent, ripping through the middle of the 'Cat defense for a 29-yard touchdown romp to tie the score at 7-7. That's how it remained until Colquitt's touchdown pass to go ahead.

Valdosta had a chance to break the 7-7 tie before the half, but a good gain by Mangham was eventually for naught as the offense bogged down and had to punt.

Sports

Valdosta Has Stranglehold On AP Prep

ATLANTA (AP) — Valdosta, riding reputation and reality, has a stranglehold on The Associated Press high school football poll. The Wildcats are the unanimous pick as the best Class AAAA team in the state for the fourth consecutive week.

Coach Nick Hyder's team has built a 7-0 record almost without trying — they have outscored opponents 269-37 and have an average victory margin of 33.1 points a game.

The Wildcats number among their victims defending state champion Tift County (28-0) and Bainbridge, which was undefeated before being blasted 49-7 by Valdosta Sept. 28.

The rest of Class AAAA also remained the same from last week. No. 2 Warner Robins, 6-0-1, led the way, followed by Southwest DeKalb, 7-0; Griffin, 6-0; Clarke Central, 5-1; Newnan, 5-0-1; Wheeler, 6-0; Colquitt County, 5-0-1; Savannah, 5-0; and Northside-Warner Robins, 6-1.

There was also little change in Class AAA as Marist, 6-0; Cairo, 6-1; and Gainesville, 7-0, remained the top three.

Next came Thomson, 6-0; Riverwood, 6-0; Habersham Central,

Class AAAA

1. Valdosta (7-0), 120, 12
2. Warner Robins (6-0-1), 97
3. Southwest DeKalb (7-0), 94
4. Griffin (6-0), 73
5. Clarke Central (5-1), 72
6. Newnan (5-0-1), 69
7. Wheeler (6-0), 47
8. Colquitt County (5-0-1), 38
9. Savannah (5-0), 32
10. Northside-Warner Robins (6-1), 15

Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Redan, Towers.

Class AAA

1. Marist (6-0), 115, 9
2. Cairo (6-1), 98
3. Gainesville (7-0), 90, 2
4. Thomson (6-0), 89, 1
5. Riverwood (6-0), 67
6. Habersham Central (6-0), 56
7. Woodward Acad. (5-1), 49
8. Ware County (6-0), 45
9. North Springs (5-1), 15
10. Westside (5-1), 12

Also receiving votes: Americus, Dodge County, Glenn Hills, Murray County and Northwest Whitfield.

Class AA

1. Dooly County (6-0), 114, 8
2. Manchester (6-0), 102, 3
3. West Rome (5-1), 84
4. Mitchell Baker (5-1), 79
5. Central-Carrollton (6-0), 76
6. Duluth (6-0), 62
7. R.E. Lee (6-0), 51
8. Lamar County (6-0), 34
9. Oconee County (5-1), 16
10. Irwin County (5-1), 9

Also receiving votes: Cartersville, Early County, Hancock County, Lakeshore, Vidalia, Villa Rica and Washington Wilkes.

Class A

1. Greenville (6-0), 114, 7
2. Lincoln County (5-1), 105, 5
3. Wilcox County (6-0), 86
4. Wrens (6-1), 80
5. Louisville (7-0), 67
6. Buford (4-1-1), 41
7. Glennville (6-0), 38
8. Commerce (5-1), 31
9. Bremen (5-1), 29
10. Hogansville (4-1), 24

Also receiving votes: Clinch County, Miller County, Palmetto, Reidsville and Southeast Bulloch.

Two 6-0 teams — Dooly County and Manchester — retained their Nos. 1 and 2 rankings for the third week. West Rome, meanwhile, took over third from Mitchell-Baker which moved into the fourth-place spot vacated by the Chieftains. West Rome,

5-1, had an easy 34-0 victory over East Rome last weekend while Mitchell-Baker, 5-1, was beating Thomasville 19-14.

The next four positions were unchanged: Central-Carrollton, Duluth, R.E. Lee and Lamar County, all 6-0.

Oconee County, 5-1, moved from 10th to ninth, replacing Cartersville, 35-19 losers to Central-Carrollton. No. 10 Irwin County, 5-1, was ranked for the first time this year.

Greenville, 6-0, retained its No. 1 Class A ranking with a 17-2 defeat of Hogansville, dropping the Greenwaves, 4-1, from a fourth-place tie to 10th.

Lincoln County, 5-1, defeated Wrens on Friday and replaced the Colts, 6-1, in second. Wilcox County, 6-0, moved to third from a tie with Hogansville, followed by Wrens.

Louisville, 7-0, jumped over No. 6 Buford, 4-1-1, to take fifth place. Glennville, 6-0, moved from ninth to seventh while Commerce, 5-1, rose from 10th to eighth. No. 9 Bremen, 5-1, returned to the poll after a several-week absence on the strength of a 17-6 victory over then-No. 8 Chattanooga Valley.



Randy Gay's pass fell short of receiver Todd Williams and defender Derrick Folsom



Times Staff Photo By Laura Harri



Special Photo by DeRon Coppage

RB Andy Mansukhani Was Tackled By 'Cat Defender Jimmy Lewis

Wildcat Fever

Valdosta High had strong competition from Lowndes High, but the Wildcats prevailed 28-6 in both team's final regular-season contest. Valdosta finished with a 9-0 overall record, 3-0 in Region 1-AAAA South sub-region action, while Lowndes closed at 6-3 overall, 2-1 in the sub-region. The schools advance to the high school football playoffs. The 'Cats host the Tift County Blue Devils Friday night at 8, while the Plowboys travel to Moultrie for a meeting with the Colquitt County Packers. See related story on page C2 for more details on Friday evening's game at Cleveland Field.



Special Photo by DeRon Coppage

Injured Roger Culpepper Was Consoled



Special Photo by DeRon Coppage

The 'Cats Celebrated Another Win Friday Night

V Times 9-5-84

Benedictine updated previously fifth-ranked Statesboro Friday night, dropping the Blue Devils from the rankings and claiming the seventh position. Cedar Shoals and Warner Robins were tied for eighth. The Jaguars defeated Baldwin, knocking it from the rankings. Warner Robins was tied by Newnan, which moved into the poll at No. 10.

In Class AAA, No. 2 Cairo used its 25-6 thrashing of defending Class AAA champion Mitchell-Baker to vault over Gainesville and Marist.

Americus, which did not play last weekend, held on to the top spot, even though the Syrupmakers had six first place votes to the Panthers' two.

Americus had eight second place votes, however, while Cairo had none.

1984 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

BERKE



Rushed for two touchdowns — completed 6 of 14 passes for 97 yards and no interceptions.



Mr. James W.
Brantley Presents
FNB Trophy To
Holtzclaw

Class A

1. West Rome (0-0),
2. Dooley County (0-0),
3. Waycross (0-0), 80
4. Mary Persons (0-0),
5. Greene-Taliaferro
6. Manchester (1-0),
7. Cartersville (0-0),
8. Mitchell-Baker (0
9. Duluth (0-0), 24
10. (Tip)-Claxton (0-0)

Terrell County (1-0)

Also receiving votes
County, **Brooks**
Centra-Carrollton, E.
East Laurens, Jeff
Davis, Lovett, Morg
Oglethorpe County,
Swainsboro, Villa
Woodland.

Class A

1. Palmetho (1-0), 110, 11
2. Wrens (1-0), 95
3. (Tie) Bremen (1-0), 82
4. Lincoln County (1-0), 82, 1
5. Greenville (1-0), 70
6. Buford (0-0), 46
7. Clinch County (1-0), 40
8. Emanuel Co. inst. (0-1), 26
9. (Tie) Bowdon (1-0), 18
10. Wilcox County (1-0), 18

Also receiving votes: Atkinson County, Banks County, Chatahoochee Valley, Commerce, Greenville, Hogsheadville, Metter, Palmetto, Portal, Red Bud, Reidsville and West Point.

Dalton defeated Cass Friday night and moved from sixth to fifth, while dropping Cass out of the rankings from its tie for ninth. Glenn Hills slipped a spot to sixth, followed by Woodward Academy.

The final three spots in Class AAA were taken by newcomers to the poll. Weekend victories moved North Springs, Thomson and Westside into the rankings. Thomasville, which had been ranked seventh, and Carrollton, the team tied with Cass were both

Few ranked Class AA teams played last weekend, but Mitchell-Baker's loss to Cairo caused some movement in the middle of the rankings.

No. 1 West Rome increased its lead, taking 10 of 12 first place votes. Dooly County, tied with Mitchell-Baker last week, was by itself in second this week.

Waycross moved from fifth to third; Mary Persons remained in fourth; and Greene-Taliferro climbed from sixth to fifth. Manchester moved up one to sixth, Cartersville went from ninth to seventh.

Claxton stayed in 10th, but this week the Tigers were tied with Terrell County, an easy winner over West Laurens and new to the poll this week.

Palmetto received 11 of 12 first place votes in establishing itself as the team to beat in Class A. Wrens was second for the second week.

Bremen and Lincoln County were tied for third. Bremen had been tied for fourth last week and Lincoln County was sixth. Greenville dropped from a fourth-place tie to fifth, followed by Buford, up from ninth to sixth; Clinch County, which moved from 10th to seventh; and Emanuel County Institute, which fell from third to eighth after losing to Swainsboro.

Miscues Plague Wildcats Again

Valdosta Sputters, Wins Anyway

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

WAYCROSS — Mistakes, mistakes, mistakes. Valdosta High had its share and maybe a few more here Friday night.

The Wildcats fumbled six times, losing four. Two 15-yard penalties in the third quarter cost them a sure touchdown and potentially a second. The 'Cats had one punt blocked and missed two extra points. And the three Valdosta quarterbacks who saw action were sacked for 75 yards in losses.

Those things hurt the 'Cats statistically. But the scoreboard read Valdosta 47, Waycross 14 at the end of the game. And as 'Cats coach Nick Hyder said, "That's the main thing."

But he admitted the errors are a cause of some concern.

"We have some things we need to work on," Hyder said. "For example, our kicking game is not as sharp as it could be. Our kickoff coverage was not good at times, we had a punt blocked and we missed two extra points. Those are things I'm concerned about."

Wayscross sacked reserve quarterback Greg Talley late in the first half and recovered his fumble at the VHS 25-yard line with 14 seconds left in the second quarter. But time ran out in the half with the Bulldogs at the Valdosta 5.

Early in the fourth quarter, another sack and a fumble again gave Wayscross the ball deep in 'Cats territory. This time Wayscross cashed in on a 1-yard run by Ben Streeter with 10:43 left in the game.

The 'Cats got hit with two costly penalties in the third quarter. An 80-yard touchdown pass from Berke Holtzclaw to Darrell Leonard was called back by a holding penalty. Later, Derrick Folsom intercepted a Victor Daniels' pass and returned it 28 yards. But he lost 15 yards of

"We have some things we need to work on. For example, our kicking game is not as sharp as it could be. Our kickoff coverage was not good at times, we had a punt blocked and we missed two extra points. Those are things I'm concerned about."

— Nick Hyder
VHS Head Coach

that on a late hit penalty.

Fumbles continued to plague the 'Cats, who also had four in their opener with Thomasville. Their last fumble of the night killed a drive at the Wayscross 5.

"I think you have to remember those last couple of fumbles came when we had our younger kids in there," Hyder said.

As for the sacks, Hyder said, "Our protection broke down a few times. But people tend to blitz a lot when they play us."

But while Valdosta lost a few opportunities because of mistakes, the 'Cats cashed in on most of Wayscross' errors.

A Wayscross fumble led to Willie Lewis' game-winning touchdown run with 4:08 left in the first quarter. And Valdosta was able to take control of the game in the second quarter with a touchdown that was set up by a blocked field goal. And two of Valdosta's last three touchdowns in the games were set up by Wayscross fumbles.

"I thought our youngsters again showed the poise they have to have when they get behind," Hyder said of the 'Cats' second straight come-from-behind effort.

"I guess we were a little more opportunistic than they were."



Times Staff Photos
Heard Scored Valdosta's First TD On 12-Yard Pass Reception



Waycross Tight End Malcome Jackson 'Cats Give Wayscross A Rush

By CHARLES CORDER
Times Staff Writer

WAYCROSS — Except for the reception he got going in, Valdosta running back Tony Anderson's 1984 debut wasn't a particularly auspicious one. But he and his coaches both agreed it will do for now.

Especially with runners like Willie Lewis around.

Anderson, who underwent surgery for an intestinal blockage six weeks ago, missed all of pre-season camp and Valdosta's opener with Thomasville. He dressed out for the first time Friday night.

On Valdosta's second series of the third quarter, Anderson ran onto the field for the first time this season. The sight of No. 21 entering the game brought the 'Cats fans to their feet.

Anderson immediately gave them the

kind of play they were hoping for. He took a pitch from quarterback Berke Holtzclaw around the left end for 11 yards.

He carried the ball just two more times to finish the night with a net of 10 yards.

"I thought Tony did well in the short time he played," Hyder said. "He's just coming back and he's going to have to play himself back into shape."

Lewis again showed the form that has kept Hyder from hitting the panic button in Anderson's absence. He carried the ball 12 times for 94 yards.

"Willie has done a good job for us," Hyder said. "He and Anderson make a fine pair in the backfield for us."

Anderson seems to be looking forward to better things.

"I've got some more work to do," Anderson said. "But there's a lot of games left."

Top-Ranked Valdosta Has Its Way With Waycross

V. Times 9-8-84

2-0 Wildcats Play Impressively In 47-14 Win Over Bulldogs

See Related Stories, Page 7

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

WAYCROSS — The temperature was 78 degrees, the sky was clear and there was that slight fall nip in the air — perfect conditions for a Friday night football game.

STATISTICS

	VAL	WAY
First Downs	24	12
Yards Rushing	160	122
Yards Passing	116	113
Passes	5-10-0	10-17-1
Fumbles Lost	6-4	6-4
Punting	3-21.6	3-31.0
Penalties	3-45	12-85

And although the Valdosta High was still making mistakes, the Wildcats played impressively in a 47-14 win over the Waycross Bulldogs at Memorial Stadium before a crowd of 6,000.

Waycross scored first and was very much in the game throughout the first quarter, but couldn't sustain any momentum in the second quarter and final half.

Early in the first quarter, Bulldog tailback Victor Daniels cut up the middle, broke two tackles and scored on a 41-yard run. The Bulldogs took four plays to drive 73 yards, with Tyler Faulk adding the extra

point for a 7-0 Waycross lead.

Waycross jumped to the early lead, but was unable to keep Valdosta from scoring, according to Waycross head coach Dale Williams.

"We played good the first quarter, but we just didn't have enough depth to go after that," said Williams, a former Wildcat standout. "And there were a lot of big turnovers."

"The difference was, when we got them (turnovers), we didn't do much with them, but when Valdosta got their's, they did something with them."

Valdosta struck back with two touchdowns in the first quarter and three more before halftime. With 5:27 left in the first quarter, Hosea Heard caught a 12-yard pass from Berke Holtzclaw for Valdosta's first score. The touchdown pass capped a 12-play, 83-yard drive, which was a highlight of the game for Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder.

"That (the first drive) is what I like to see," Hyder said. "The kids didn't panic when they got down."

"The defense got the ball back, and our offense came down to score a couple

touchdowns."

After the first Valdosta score, Waycross fumbled the kickoff and the ball landed in Wildcat John Porter's arms. He grabbed it at the Waycross 22 and was tackled on the 7. Valdosta scored in three plays with Willie Lewis going in from the 4. Holtzclaw passed to Lewis for the extra points, and Valdosta led 14-7.

Valdosta controlled the ball throughout much of the second quarter. Holtzclaw scored from the 1 with 5:42 left in the half, and he'd helped set up the score with a 46-yard keeper around the right end. Lewis also aided on the drive with runs of 18 and 19 yards.

The Bulldogs then ran a series of plays before having to punt, and the Wildcats drove down for another score. The 'Cats went 59 yards in two plays, aided by a 15-yard Waycross conduct penalty, a 16-yard Holtzclaw run and a 28-yard touchdown pass from Holtzclaw to Mario Smallwood.

The Bulldogs took over at their 19, but Daniel fumbled the ball on the second play from scrimmage, allowing 'Cat defensive back Elijah Holmes to

fall on the ball at the 5. Monroe Gamble scored on the first play from scrimmage, and Porter split the uprights, making the score 34-7.

The Wildcats held the ball almost the entire third quarter, although their only score was a 12-yard touchdown run by Holtzclaw with 2:39 left in the frame. During the final quarter, Hyder sent in every Wildcat he felt deserved playing time.

"We played 79 people," he said. "There are two players we didn't get eligibility back on, and one is out for disciplinary reasons — everybody else played."

The second- and third-stringers put on a fine performance, with the offense scoring almost twice and the defense relinquished just one score. When Hyder pulled out his starters, the Bulldogs were able to score with 10:43 left in the fourth quarter. Ben Streeter scored on a 1-yard run, capping 10-play drive that went 80 yards.

The backup 'Cats got the ball back, fumbled it away, got it fumbled back to them, and almost scored on a nine-play,

71-yard drive. They drove the length of the field and almost went in on a perfect pass play down the right sideline from sophomore quarterback Greg Talley to sophomore wide receiver William Jones. But the 35-yard pass gave the 'Cats a first down on the Waycross 4-yard line, and they fumbled.

Score By Quarters

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Valdosta	14	20	7	6	47
Waycross	7	0	0	7	14

Waycross — Daniels 4 run (Faulk kick) 10:15 1st
Valdosta — Heard 12 pass from Holtzclaw (kick failed) 5:27 1st
Valdosta — Lewis 4 run (Lewis pass from Holtzclaw) 4:08 1st
Valdosta — Holtzclaw 1 run (Porter kick) 5:42 2nd
Valdosta — Smallwood 28 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick) 3:42 2nd
Valdosta — Gamble 5 run (kick failed) 2:25 2nd
Valdosta — Holtzclaw 12 run (Henderson kick) 2:39 3rd
Waycross — Streeter 1 run (Faulk kick) 10:43 4th
Valdosta — Steward 22 pass from Hayslip (kick failed) 3:00 4th

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 16-29, Lewis 12-94, Braswell 12-94, Gamble 4-19, Talley 3 minus 12, Mangrum 2-4, Dixon 2-4, Henderson 1-4, Hayslip 1 minus 10, Anderson 3-10. Waycross — Daniels 12-60, Streeter 9-39, Harris 4 minus 15, Butts 3-23, Evans 2-8, White 1-5, Roach 2-3, Edwards 1 minus 9.
Passing: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 6-3-0, 49; Talley 2-1-0, 35; Hayslip 2-1-0, 22. Waycross — Jones 10-6-0, 52; Saussy 1-1-0, 28; Harris 6-3-1, 33.
Receiving: Valdosta — Heard 2-32, Smallwood 1-27, Steward 1-22, Jones 1-35. Waycross — Butts 4-40, Daniels 3-39.



Times Staff Photo

Valdosta's Tony Anderson Made His Return With 11-Yard Run

LHS, VHS SAT Scores Well Above State Average

By SYLVIA COOPER
Times Staff Writer

V. Times 9-21-84

Scholastic Aptitude Test scores for Lowndes High and Valdosta High School graduating seniors have risen for the third straight year.

The test scores, released Wednesday, show composite 1983-84 SAT scores for both schools were well above Georgia's average score of 822.

Georgia, however, still ranks 49th among the 50 states, ranking only above South Carolina.

1984 graduating seniors from Lowndes High scored an average of 41 points above the state average, and Valdosta High School seniors scored 40 points above the state average, although both schools scored below the national average of 897.

The College Board, which administers the SAT, the nation's most widely accepted test for college admission, said Wednesday that Georgia seniors taking the test during the 1983-84 school year

averaged 392 on the verbal section and 430 in math, up two points in each section from 1982-83.

The national average was 426 verbal and 471 math. A perfect score is 800 on each section.

Bill Sears, superintendent of Lowndes County schools, said Lowndes students had a composite score of 863. This score represents 414 scored on the verbal part of the test and 449 on the math section.

Sears credits the three year test score rise to the "strong emphasis" the system places on a good academic program as well as its college preparatory program.

Sears said teachers and counselors offer seminars at night to students who want to take the SAT.

The composite score of the 214 Valdosta High School seniors who took the test was 862. Those students scored 414 on the verbal part of the test and 448 on the math portion.

Ralph Brandon, superintendent of Valdosta City Schools, said,

"I think you can attribute this to a number of things. VHS is preparing students for taking the SAT. They are encouraging people who go to college to take the preliminary SAT in the eleventh grade which gives students an indication of any weak points they have, so they can take courses to eliminate those weaknesses."

"Also I think we're doing a better job in elementary and junior high in the areas of English language and mathematical skills."

Brandon joined other state educators and the College Board in warning that the statistics can be misleading, citing the fact that nearly half of Georgia's high school seniors take the SAT, compared with one-third nationally and just 3 percent in Iowa and South Dakota, the top ranked states.

Brandon said in Georgia every potential college entrant is required to take the test which he said is a significant factor in reducing the over-all score.

'Cats Romp By Monroe

V. Times 9-16-84

Valdosta Takes 47-6 Win

By ROGER BROWN
Times Staff Writer

ALBANY — After jumping out to a 21-0 first-quarter advantage, it became a case of name that number as the No. 1-ranked Valdosta Wildcats romped past previously unbeaten Albany Monroe 47-6 at Hugh Mills Stadium Saturday night before a crowd of 9,000.

First Downs	VHS 28	MHS 9
Yards Rushing	251	9
Yards Passing	108	185
Passes	14-8-2	24-9-1
Fumbles Lost	3-2	4-4
Punting	2-33-5	7-33-0
Penalties	3-25	9-78

It was the third straight game in which the Wildcats have faced an unbeaten opponent and this was the first game they didn't have to come from behind to win.

Valdosta left no doubt that it was ready to play, scoring on its first possession of the game. Following a short Shed Jones punt, Willie Lewis capped a drive with a 12-yard scamper and John Porter's extra point split the uprights to open the floodgates.

After forcing another Monroe punt in three plays, the 'Cats capping a 62-yard drive with a 7-yard run by Scott Braswell. Porter's conversion made it 14-0 with 3:16 left in the initial quarter. Just before the close of the quarter, the Wildcats got a gimme when Monroe quarterback Lee Mathis was sacked by James Wakefield and fumbled the ball. After a mad scramble, Porter recovered the ball in the end zone for a touchdown and the period ended with the 'Cats ahead 21-0.

"We played good ball early and that was important because Monroe came out fired up and ready to play," said Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder. "Our guys rose to the occasion and we had good execution from our offense."

The Wildcats only score in the second period came on an 11-yard scamper by Tony Anderson with 1:14 left in the first half. Porter's extra point concluded scoring in the half.

"We were very crisp in the first half and our offense looked sharp," Hyder said. "Our offensive line had an outstanding night and they came off the ball very well."

If Monroe had any hopes of coming back, they were dashed when the 'Cats took the kickoff and marched 76 yards in five plays. Quarterback Berke Holtzclaw got the honor on a 26-yard keeper around left end. The extra point attempt by Eric Henderson was wide right and the lead remained at 34-0.

That was the final series of the night for the first-team offense, and the defense didn't last but one more series before taking the rest of the night off.

Monroe finally got on the scoreboard midway into the third period when Jones connected with Roswell Smith for a 78-yard scoring strike. The run for two points was stopped short of the goal line and Valdosta led 34-6 with 7:40 left in the third period.

Valdosta came right back and drove 60 yards in five plays, capped off by a 9-yard scoring toss from backup quarterback Greg Talley to tight end Darryl Leonard. This time Henderson was true with the extra point and Valdosta led 41-7. The Wildcats closed out the scoring on a 2-yard smash by Monroe Gamble with three minutes to play in the third period. The conversion attempt by Charles Stewart was blocked and the score remained 47-6.

Valdosta dominated the game statistically, with more than 300 yards in total offense and had 10 players carry the ball at least three times. Braswell had 68 yards on nine carries to lead the ground game, which chewed up 251 yards. Lewis followed Braswell with 59 yards, while Anderson and Holtzclaw added 53 and 50, respectively.

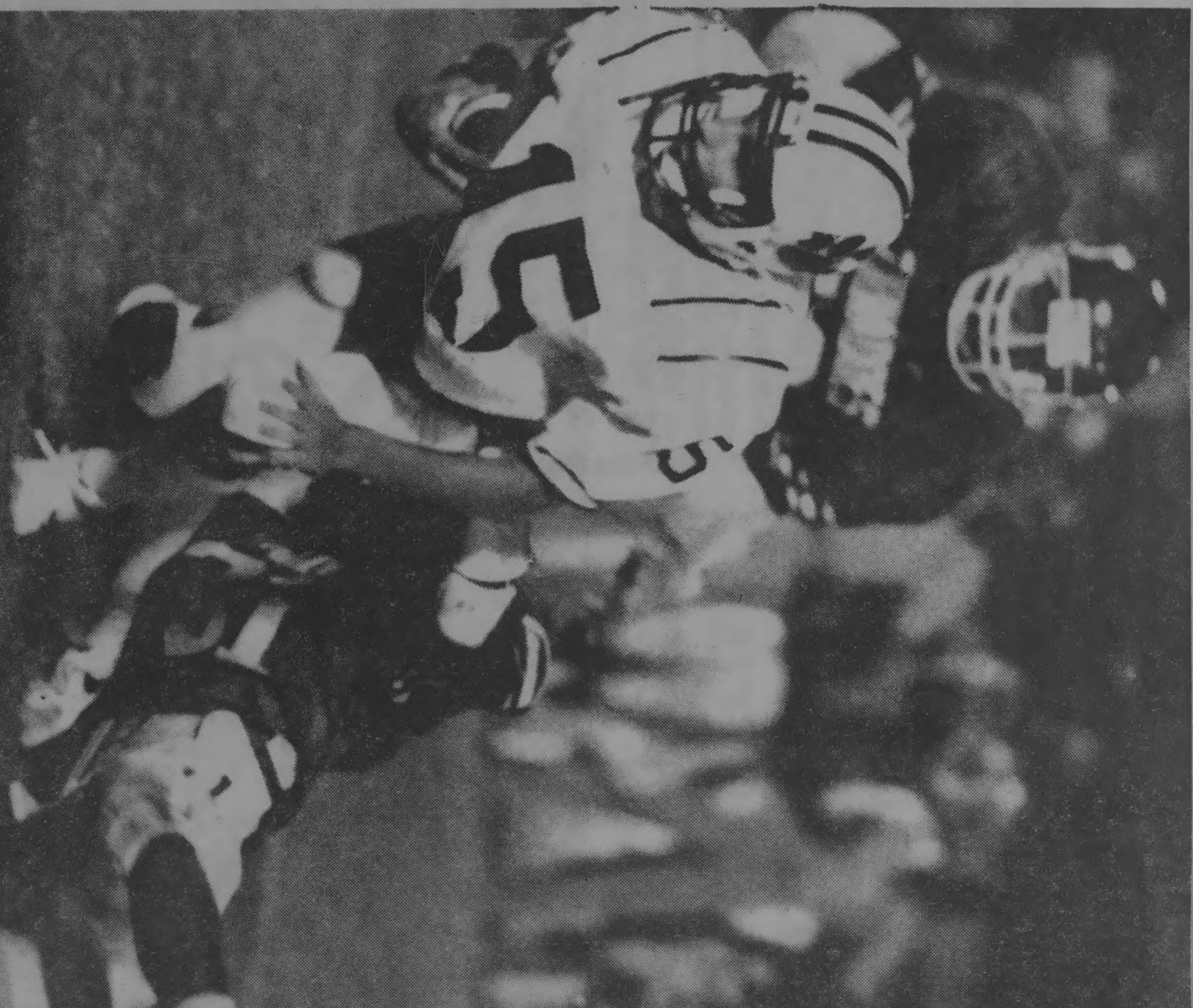
The win improved the 'Cats overall record to 3-0 and their Region 1-AAAA slate to 1-0, while Albany dropped to 2-1 and 0-1. Next week Valdosta will host Westover at Cleveland Field. Westover's record is 0-3.

Score By Quarters					
Valdosta	21	7	19	0	47
Monroe	0	0	6	0	6

VHS — Lewis 13 run (Porter Kick) 8:40 1st
VHS — Braswell 8 run (Porter Kick) 3:16
1st
VHS — Porter fumble recovery in end zone (Porter Kick) 2:33 1st
VHS — Anderson 11 run (Porter Kick) 1:14 2nd
VHS — Holtzclaw 26 run (Kick failed) 10:00 3rd
MHS — R. Smith 67 pass from S. Jones (run failed) 7:40 3rd
VHS — Leonard 9 pass from Talley (Henderson Kick) 5:27 3rd
VHS — Gamble 27 run (Kick failed) 3:00 3rd

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — Valdosta: Braswell 9-48; Lewis 8-59; Anderson 4-53; Holtzclaw 6-50; Gamble 9-44; Leonard 1-8; Dixon 1-0; Manprum 2 minus 3; Talley 1 minus 5; Hayslip 2 minus 23; Monroe: Sessions 7-29; Moore 4-13.
PASSING — Valdosta: Holtzclaw 12-0, 14; Talley 5-8, 76; Hayslip 2-4, 20; Monroe: Mathis 6-18, 1, 46; Jones 3-6, 139.
RECEIVING — Valdosta: Heard 2-53; Dixon 2-23; Monroe: R. Smith 3-95; Sessions 2-26.



Wildcat Quarterback Berke Holtzclaw Is Tackled By Monroe Defenders

Times Staff Photo By Laura Harris

Albany Westover No Match For

Top-Ranked

Valdosta



Times Staff Photo By Rick Bender

QB Berke Holtzclaw Pitches To Anderson On Option

The 'Cat Is Back — Anderson Runs For 107 Yards And 3 TDs

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High running back Tony Anderson may not be 100 percent, but you couldn't convince the Albany Westover Patriots of that fact Friday night at Cleveland Field.

	WES	VHS
First Downs	4	21
Yards Rushing	7	317
Yards Passing	53	87
Passes	4-6-1	6-17-1
Fumbles Lost	3	1
Punting	8-32.0	1-35.0
Penalties	5-51	3-15

Anderson rushed 17 times for 105 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Wildcats to a 42-0 non-sub-region win over the Patriots, but the junior hasn't fully recovered from intestinal surgery which was performed prior to the season, according to head coach Nick Hyder.

"Tony is playing at 190 (pounds) instead of 205, and playing 12 to 15 pounds lighter makes a difference," Hyder said. "His acceleration and velocity is hindered, so he can't generate the power needed. But he's back — he's ready to

go."

The Wildcat offense was stagnant in the first quarter, but Anderson scored twice in the second quarter and helped the Valdosta rout. However, Anderson wasn't the only Wildcat who had an outstanding night, as Hyder said quarterback Berke Holtzclaw "handled the offense real well."

Holtzclaw completed 4 of 11 passes for 70 yards, plus he carried the ball 10 times for 83 yards. Holtzclaw drove the Wildcats down the field in the second quarter, but Anderson was the one who punched the ball in.

The 'Cats went 10 plays in 80 yards, with Anderson scoring on a 7-yard run with 7:07 left in the first half. The 'Cats kicked, the Patriots ran three plays and then punted. Valdosta drove 60 yards in seven plays, with Anderson scoring on a 2-yard run. He had helped sustain the drive with a 28-yard run.

Valdosta had trouble in the first quarter, but began coming

back in the second frame and fully regrouped during halftime, according to Hyder.

"The first quarter was a big problem for us," he said. "They came out with loops and slants, and it was difficult to pick up the blocking angles."

"We were surprised, because they hadn't shown that before. That was their (the Patriots') best effort all year, to my knowledge."

Hyder credited Valdosta's offensive and defensive coaches with adjusting to Westover's new look. The defense shut down the Patriot offense in the second half, allowing the 'Cats' offense to come back for four touchdowns, Hyder said.

"I don't think their (Westover's) offense sputtered — I think it was the Wildcat defense," he said. "It was the same thing for them (Westover) — they did a good job against our offense."

"You can't take anything away from their defense in the first quarter, but it was a good effort on our part to score two

touchdowns in the second quarter."

Valdosta scored near the end of the third quarter on a 55-yard yard run, and the Wildcats got the ball back on Westover's first play from scrimmage as John Porter intercepted the ball. The 'Cats went 69 yards in seven plays, with running back Scott Braswell capping the drive on a 1-yard touchdown.

The 'Cats set up another score as defensive lineman Jimmy Lewis recovered a fumble on the Westover 26. Two plays later Anderson scored on a 17-yard run. The 'Cats had gone up 35-0 with 6:58 left in the game, but the weren't through scoring. Valdosta drove 56 yards in six plays, with Greg Talley throwing a 13-yard scoring strike to Joe Paoletti.

Westover head coach Paul Lounsberry could have been more pleased with the score, which can be directly related to when his starting quarterback returns. Todd Northrup broke his wrist two weeks before the

season started, causing grave problems for the Patriot offense, according to Lounsberry.

"What counts is the score, and we didn't execute our offense enough to put the ball in the end zone," he said. "I'm still displeased with the quarterback situation."

"He (Northrup) may be able to kick next week, but I don't think he'll be able to throw for awhile. Hopefully, he'll be back quarterbacking for the Dougherty game in two weeks."

But Valdosta was Lounsberry's biggest concern Friday night. The 'Cats' defense made Montrel Green Westover's leading rusher with six carries for 27 yards.

	Score By Quarters	0	0	0	0	0
Westover		0	0	0	0	0
Valdosta		0	14	7	21	42

VHS — Anderson 7 run (Porter kick) 7:07 2nd
VHS — Anderson 2 run (Porter kick) 2:17
2nd
VHS — Holtzclaw 55 run (Porter kick) 3:4
3rd
VHS — Braswell 1 run (Porter kick) 9:12
4th
VHS — Anderson 17 run (Steward kick) 6:58
4th
VHS — Paoletti 13 pass from Talley (Steward kick) 3:36 4th

Valdosta's Still No. 1; Clarke Is Closing Fast

V. Times 9/19/84

ATLANTA (AP) — Lincoln County and Marist are newly anointed No. 1 teams in this week's Associated Press poll of Georgia high school football teams, moving up to replace Palmetto and Americus, both of which lost Friday.

Clarke Central remains No. 2 in Class AAAA, although the Gladiators moved closer to top-ranked Valdosta. In Class AA, West Rome and Dooly County continued their recent one-two tradition.

Gainesville, 3-0, received seven votes for first place in Class AAA, while Marist got only one. But the War Eagles, 2-0, piled up four second- and four third-place votes to go along with two for fourth and one for fifth, edging the Red Elephants by one point in voting by a panel of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters.

Points are awarded on a basis of 10 for first, nine for second, eight for third and so on.

Americus had been ranked first, but the Panthers were defeated Friday by ninth-rated Cairo, opening the way for a new No. 1 team. And Marist's 13-7 victory over then-fourth ranked Woodward Academy last weekend apparently impressed the panelists more than Gainesville's 24-0 defeat of Elbert County.

Cairo, 2-1, moved into third and Americus, 1-1, dropped into a sixth-place tie with Thomson, 2-0.

North Springs continued its climb in the rankings. After debuting at eighth three weeks ago, the Spartans, 2-0, moved to sixth last week and fourth this week. Westside, 2-0, climbed to fifth.

Cedartown's Friday night victory over Dalton, then tied with Woodward for fourth, elevated the Bulldogs, 3-0, into the rankings for the first time this season.

Fitzgerald, 2-0, and idle last weekend, nevertheless entered the poll at ninth this week, followed by Woodward Academy, 1-1.

It wasn't surprising that Lincoln County ascended to the No. 1 position vacated by Palmetto in Class A.

Before last year's reclassification dropped them to Class A, the Red Devils fielded a successful Class AA team, compiling a 42-7 record in the last four seasons and making it to the state semifinals the last two years.

So even though idle last weekend, Lincoln County was in the best position to benefit from the Raiders' loss to Collins Friday. No. 3 Bremen might have been able to take advantage of a losing Palmetto and idle Lincoln to jump into first. But the Blue Devils, 2-1, were defeated by Villa Rica and fell to 10th.

Greenville, 3-0, moved to second, followed by Wrens, 3-0; Chattanooga Valley, 3-0; Buford, 2-0; Wilcox County, 2-0; Palmetto, 2-1; Hogansville, 2-0; and Commerce, 2-0.

Griffin's 17-14 defeat of LaGrange caused the only change in the Class AAAA rankings.

Valdosta, 3-0, received seven of 11 first place votes to stay ahead of Clarke Central. Even though the Wildcats punished Monroe 47-6 Friday, Clarke Central's 13-0 shutout of a highly rated Jeff Davis, Ala., team caused the Gladiators, 3-0, to pick up two more first place votes than last week. Still it wasn't enough to unseat Valdosta.

Following the Gladiators were Southwest DeKalb, 3-0; Warner Robins, 2-0-1; Tift County, 2-1; and Newnan, 1-0-1 — all the same as last week.

Griffin, 2-0, moved from eighth to seventh, followed by Bainbridge, 3-0; Wheeler, 3-0; and Central-Thomasville, 2-0 — each of which moved up one notch, with the exception of Central which was unranked last week.

Class AAAA	Class AAA
1. Valdosta (3-0), 116, 7 2. Clarke Central (3-0), 103, 4 3. Southwest DeKalb (3-0), 78 4. Warner Robins (2-0-1), 68 5. Tift County (2-1), 63 6. Newnan (1-0-1), 51 7. Griffin (2-0), 46 8. Bainbridge (3-0), 36 9. Wheeler (3-0), 20 10. Central T'ville (2-0), 7 Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Colquitt County, Effingham County, Harper, Northside-Warner Robins, Savannah, Southwest Macon and Towers.	1. Marist (2-0), 98, 1 2. Gainesville (3-0), 97, 7 3. Cairo (2-1), 85 4. North Springs (2-0), 61, 1 5. Westside (2-0), 57, 1 6. (Tie) Americus (1-1), 51 7. Thomson (2-0), 51 8. Cedartown (3-0), 30 9. Fitzgerald (2-0), 12 10. Woodward (1-1), 11 Also receiving votes: Appling County, Chamblee, Dalton, Dublin, Fulton, Glenn Hills, George, Habersham Central, Henderson, Riverwood, Screven County and Wayne County.
Class AA	Class A
1. West Rome (2-0), 108, 9 2. Dooly County (2-0), 95, 1 3. Greene-Taliaferro (2-0), 71 4. Mary Persons (2-0), 69 5. Manchester (3-0), 47 6. Mitchell-Baker (2-1), 45 7. Duluth (2-0), 28 8. Waycross (1-1), 25 9. (Tie) Cartersville (1-1), 20 10. Central-Carrollton (2-0), 20 Also receiving votes: Berrien County, Bleckley County, Early County, Hawkinsville, Jeff Davis, Lamar County, Oconee, Oglethorpe County, Randolph-Clay, R.E. Lee and Villa Rica.	1. Lincoln County (2-0), 107, 9 2. Greenville (4-0), 93, 1 3. Wrens (3-0), 87, 1 4. Chattanooga Valley (3-0), 61 5. Buford (2-0), 56 6. Wilcox County (3-0), 51 7. Palmetto (2-1), 50 8. Hogansville (2-0), 37 9. Commerce (2-0), 20 10. Bremen (2-1), 12 Also receiving votes: Clinch County, Glennville, Portal and Treutlen.

Wildcats Nail Down No. 1 Unanimously

U. Daily Times 9/26/84

ATLANTA (AP) — There is little doubt this week as to which of Georgia's high school football teams are the best in their classification.

Valdosta is a unanimous pick as the best in Class AAAA, and West Rome and Lincoln County are one vote short of unanimous in Class AA and Class A. Class AAA Marist received seven of 12 possible first place votes to strengthen its position as the top Class AAA school.

In the previous poll, Clarke Central challenged Valdosta for the lead in Class AAAA, but the Gladiators were upset 31-6 by Lowndes and fell to eighth in voting by a panel of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters.

Six schools benefited from Clarke Central's demotion. Southwest DeKalb moved from third to second, followed by Warner Robins, Tift County, Newnan, Griffin and Bainbridge, each up one notch from last week.

Wheeler remained in ninth, and Northside-Warner Robins returned to the poll in 10th, replacing Central-Thomasville which lost to Tift County Friday night.

Class AAA was the only place where more than two teams received votes for first place.

Marist was ranked No. 1 last week, even though the War Eagles had only one first place vote to No. 2 Gainesville's seven. But this week, Marist got seven and the Red Elephants received three, solidifying both teams' positions. Cairo was third for the second week.

No. 4 North Springs and No. 5 Westside received the other first place votes.

Thomson was in sixth, followed by Woodward Academy, Wayne County, Riverwood and Chamblee.

Weekend losses by Americus — which had been tied with Thomson for sixth last week, Cedartown and Fitzgerald cleared the way for Woodward to move up from 10th and Wayne County, Riverwood and Chamblee to be ranked for the first time this season.

West Rome won its 37th consecutive game Friday night and was rewarded with 11 of 12 possible first place votes in Class AA, two more than the Chieftans received last week. No. 2 Dooly County received the other.

Greene-Taliaferro's loss to Oconee County Friday dropped the previously third-ranked Tigers from the rankings.

As a result Mary Persons moved to third, followed by

Class AAAA	Class AAA	Class AA	Class A
1. Valdosta (4-0), 120, 12 2. Southwest DeKalb (4-0), 93 3. Warner Robins (3-0-1), 80 4. Tift County (3-1), 67 5. Newnan (2-0-1), 66 6. Griffin (3-0), 59 7. Bainbridge (4-0), 46 8. Clarke Central (3-1), 45 9. Wheeler (3-0), 26 10. Northside W.R. (3-1), 16 Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Benedictine, Central, Gwinnett, Colquitt County, Harper, LaGrange, Lowndes, Redan, Savannah, Southwest Macon and Towers.	1. Marist (3-0), 114, 7 2. Gainesville (4-0), 100, 3 3. Cairo (3-1), 95 4. North Springs (3-0), 76, 1 5. Westside (3-0), 71, 1 6. Thomson (3-0), 66 7. Woodward Acad. (2-1), 37 8. Wayne County (4-0), 18 9. Riverwood (3-0), 17 10. Chamblee (2-1), 10 Also receiving votes: Americus, Appling County, Cedartown, Dalton, Dublin, Fulton, Glenn Hills, Habersham Central, Monroe Area, Murray County, Northwest Whitfield and Screven County.	1. West Rome (3-0), 119, 11 2. Dooly County (3-0), 107, 1 3. Mary Persons (3-0), 84 4. Manchester (4-0), 80 5. Mitchell-Baker (3-1), 64 6. Duluth (3-0), 49 7. Central-Carrollton (3-0), 45 8. Cartersville (2-1), 31 9. Oglethorpe County (4-0), 21 10. R.E. Lee (3-0), 15 Also receiving votes: Berrien County, Greene-Taliaferro, Irwin County, Jeff Davis, Lamar County, Oconee County, Rabun County, Villa Rica and Waycross.	1. Lincoln Co. (3-0), 119, 11 2. Greenville (4-0), 104 3. Wrens (4-0), 90, 1 4. Chattanooga Valley (3-0), 84 5. Buford (3-0), 67 6. Wilcox County (3-0), 60 7. Hogansville (3-0), 48 8. Commerce (3-0), 35 9. Palmetto (2-1-1), 19 10. Bremen (3-1), 14 Also receiving votes: Clinch County, Glennville, Louisville and Portal.

Mitchell-Baker and Duluth — all up one position from last week.

Central-Carrollton and Cartersville, tied for ninth last week, also moved up with Central making it to seventh and Cartersville taking eighth.

Oglethorpe County and R.E. Lee rounded out Class AA, both ranked for the first time this season.

In Class A, Lincoln County also was picked first on 11 ballots, an increase of two from last week. No. 2 Greenville held its position as did No. 3 Wrens, which received the other first place vote.

Next came Chattanooga Valley, Buford, Wilcox County, Hogansville, Commerce, Palmetto and Bremen.

Valdosta Batters Bainbridge, 49-7 'Cats Turn In Best Game Of '84

By ROGER B. BROWN

Times Staff Writer

BAINBRIDGE — When Valdosta High took off for Bainbridge Friday, dark storm clouds hovered and everyone was preparing for the big storm — Isidore. But, in this case, just as it had been for four previous Wildcat opponents, the biggest storm to hit Bainbridge was top-ranked Valdosta.

	VAL	BAI
First Downs	23	4
Yards Rushing	202	5
Yards Passing	11	0
Passes	20-1	0-7
Fumbles Lost	1-0	2-2
Punting	1-0	6-42
Penalties	1-5	4-47

The Wildcat Express continued to roll as the 'Cats pounded No. 1 Bainbridge into submission with a 49-7 pummeling here Friday night before 5,000 fans at Centennial Field in the Region 1-AAAA South sub-region opener for both teams.

Before the start of the game, the Bearcats had set up a burial tent for the Wildcats, and signs were plastered all over town about the coming demise of the state's top-ranked Class AAAA team.

But all the air was soon let out of the Bainbridge balloons and hopes as they soon found out that the only ones who would be buried on this night would be the bunch wearing the purple and gold uniforms.

The Bearcats weltered under a 21-point scoring barrage by Valdosta in the first quarter in a span of seven minutes to leave no doubt that the Wildcats had come to play after a "somewhat lackadaisical game last week," according to head coach Nick Hyder.

Valdosta used a methodical offense that scored on all but one first-half possession. The only time the 'Cats failed to

score was on the final drive of the half when John Porter missed on a 29-yard field goal attempt. But, by that time, the Wildcats were already comfortably ahead 35-0.

The Valdosta offense pounded out more than 400 yards in total offense and featured a balanced attack which saw it chew up more than 200 yards on the ground and another 200 in the air.

However, even more impressive than all of the offensive fireworks, was the bone-crushing play of the VHS defense. The defense proved to be just as dominating as the offense and limited the Bearcats, which were tops in the region in scoring, total offense and passing, to a meager five yards in total offense for the game.

Bainbridge didn't complete a pass in the game, while quarterbacks Micheal Stubbs and Trent Hatten were sacked eight times and continuously harassed all game long by the Wildcat defensive front.

The Valdosta defense was so dominant that the Bearcats didn't get their initial first down of the game until 5:22 left in the third quarter.

"I was very proud of the effort of our defense and everything just seemed to click for us just right tonight," defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said. "We had some good individual play tonight and I thought Porter, Jimmy Lewis, James Wakefield, Earnest Mangrum, Wayne Hart, Bill Kirby and Derrick Folsom along with several other players had good games."

Valdosta forced a Bainbridge punt after three plays to start

the game, and promptly drove 59 yards in three plays on its first possession culminated by a 39-yard scoring strike from senior quarterback Berke Holtzclaw to junior wideout Hosea Heard.

Porter came on to add the first of six successful extra-point attempts to give the 'Cats a 7-0 lead with 9:58 left.

Again, Bainbridge was forced to punt after three plays and Valdosta took over at the Bearcat 43. Tony Anderson got the first of his three touchdowns — he has scored six in the last two weeks — to climax the 57-yard, 10-play drive with 3:00 left in the first quarter.

Hart set up the next score when he picked off a halfback pass from Martin Redding at the Bearcat 22 and returned it to the 1 with :58 left. Willie Lewis smashed in for the score six seconds later and Porter added the conversion to give the 'Cats a 21-0 first-quarter advantage.

Please See "Valdosta," Page 6

Score By Quarters	1	2	3	4	Total
Valdosta	21	14	14	0	49
Bainbridge	0	0	0	7	7
Valdosta — Heard 39 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick) 9:58 1st					
Valdosta — Anderson 1 run (Porter kick) 3:00 1st					
Valdosta — Lewis 1 run (Porter kick) :52 1st					
Valdosta — Anderson 2 run (Porter kick) 8:02 2nd					
Valdosta — Leonard 19 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick) 3:39 2nd					
Valdosta — Heard 9 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick) 11:04 3rd					
Valdosta — Anderson 7 run (Steward kick) 7:03 3rd					
Bainbridge — Redding 5 run (Brenton kick) 4:55 4th					

INDIVIDUAL STATS

RUSHING: Valdosta — Dixon 4-51, Anderson 14-47, Lewis 8-34, Mangrum 4-28, Talley 2-27, Bainbridge — Redding 15-47, Stubbs 10 minus 50, Roddy 5-22, Hatten 4 minus 14.
PASSING: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 9-60, 117; Talley 9-41, 50; Hayslip 2-10, 35. Bainbridge — Stubbs 3-0-0, 0; Redding 1-0-1, 0; Hatten 3-0-0.
RECEIVING: Valdosta — Leonard 4-79, Heard 3-61, Bell 1-7, Mangrum 1-2.



Reserve QB Greg Talley Rushed For 27 Yards On 2 Carries

Times Staff Photo By Rick Bender



Roger B. Brown

Times Sports Writer

It's Traditional At Valdosta High

According to Webster's Dictionary, *Tradition* is: 1., the passing down of elements of a culture from generation to generation. 2., (a) A cultural custom or usage, (b) a set of such customs and usages viewed as a coherent body of precedents. 3. Any time-honored set of practices.

Well, some or all of that means one thing in the world of sports — winning.

Not just once in awhile, mind you, or every so often, but year in and year out. There is at least one such program right here in Lowndes County that could qualify with the best of traditions anywhere.

The Valdosta High football Wildcats.

Much has been said and made of the Wildcats' football program, and for a fledgling sportswriter who stumbled into town from Mississippi almost four months ago, it has been an impressive sight.

Upon moving here, I had heard much about the program from a former Wildcat standout who just happened to be the most successful quarterback in the history of Mississippi State football — John Bond.

He talked of the legend who had once coached here and set a precedent for winning that would be hard-pressed for any coach to match. He also talked about the new regime and how it kept things rolling right along. While tracing through the memories, he still seemed to be in awe of the accomplishments of the program.

Not many high school programs anywhere can rival the accomplishments of the Wildcats through the years.

There has been 17 state championships since 1940, and several win streaks that seemingly go on and on. At least 23 former Wildcat players within the last five years are now playing in the collegiate ranks.

Only four colleges have won more than 600 games, and Valdosta is fast approaching that level in the high school ranks. The football program, which totally supports all the other athletic programs, made almost \$100,000 last year. And the training room, which is a \$100,000 facility, can rival any high school or small college weight room in the country.

What does all of this mean? And, does it put too much pressure on the coaches and players to win?

"No," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder, who is the chief architect of the Wildcats' fortunes. "The only pressure I feel, comes from within myself because I always want the players to do the best they possibly can, and it's my job to make sure they do so."

During my prep days, my high school football team won a total of seven games in three years, which won't get you any cigars, but we really enjoyed winning. Of course everybody enjoys the taste of victory, but after the Wildcats opening win of the season, I heard some echoes among the crowd, "What's wrong with the 'Cats?"

To my amazement, some people were disappointed in the score of the game. They felt a few more points should have been put on the left side of the scoreboard.

My only remark was, a win is win is a win, anytime.

Isn't there enough pressure already on the 17- and 18-year-old kids just to get out there and perform, and worry about pleasing the coaching staff?

"I think the fans need an outlet to vent their emotions," said Hyder. "We do not isolate ourselves from the community, and we try to involve an already totally committed community in our program."

There's one thing more to be learned from all this, and that's Valdosta High football and winning are synonymous. They go hand in hand and there's one constant that is a happening year in and year out: The 'Cats are always somehow playing or in the running for the state championship.

Only one word can describe the Valdosta High football program, *Tradition*.

VALDOSTA WILDCATS

9/84
1984 RECORD
5-0-0

1984 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

August 31	Won 21-3	Thomasville High
September 7	Won 47-14	at Waycross
September 15	Won 47-6	at Monroe
September 21	Won 42-0	Westover
September 28	Won 47-0	at Bainbridge
October 5		at Tift County
October 12		Central, Thomasville
October 19		at Colquitt County
October 26		Dougherty
November 9		Lowndes

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



DARRELL LEONARD

5 Pass Receptions

1 For 89 Yd. TD

**GO
CATS!**

Earl Copeland Presents
Darrell the Player
Of the Week Trophy



CONGRATULATIONS FROM

BARKER & COPELAND GARAGE

242-5795

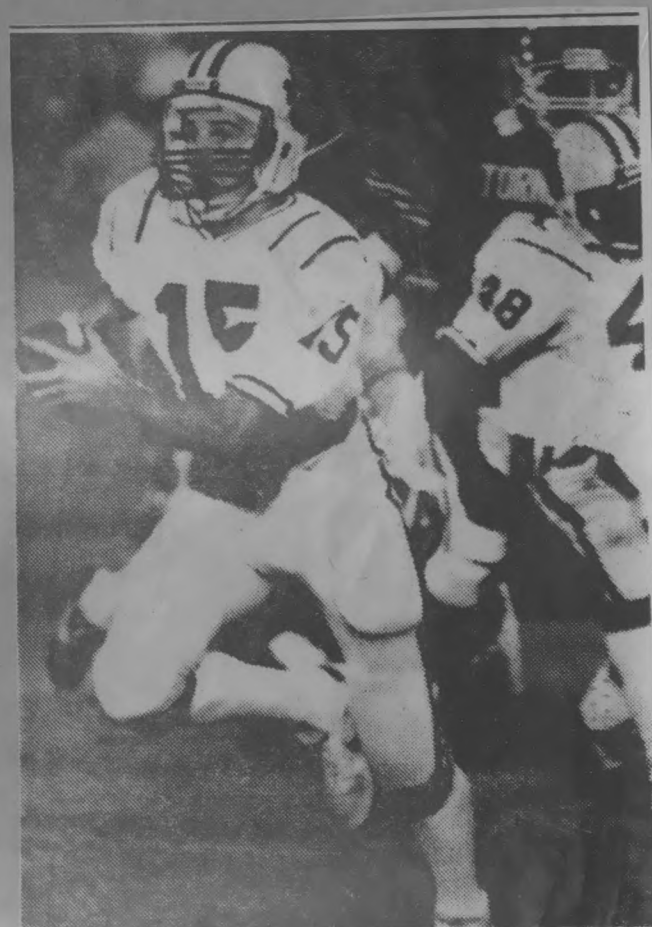
1000 North Ashley Street, Valdosta



ACTION SHOTS FROM BAINBRIDGE GAME



VHS Offensive Tackle Johnny Crook In A Relaxed Moment



VHS Signal Caller Berke Holtzelaw
V. Times 10-2-84



While Kathaline Morgan, Right, Is Drum Major For The Marchin' Cats

Valdosta's Still The One; LHS Is Still Missing

V Times 10-3-84

ATLANTA (AP) — After almost a year playing second fiddle to West Rome, the Dooly County Bobcats have passed the Chieftans and sit on top of Class AA in the latest Associated Press poll of Georgia high school football teams.

Dooly County is the only new No. 1 team, as Lincoln County and Marist solidified their positions as the best in Class A and Class AAA. Valdosta, meanwhile, remained a unanimous choice as the No. 1 Class AAAA team in voting by a panel of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters.

Since the middle of last season, the Bobcats have been one notch behind West Rome in the rankings, but that changed after Carrollton knocked off the Chieftans Friday night, ending West Rome's winning streak at 37.

The Bobcats have been a victim of that streak, losing to West Rome 35-0 in the state championship game last year.

That was Dooly County's only loss last year and the Bobcats are once again on an unbeaten march, with victories over Perry, Crisp County, Washington County and Turner County.

Behind Dooly County came Manchester, 5-0; Mitchell-Baker, 3-1; Central-Carrollton, 4-0; Duluth, 4-0; and R.E. Lee, 4-0.

West Rome wasn't the only highly ranked Class AA team to lose during the weekend — Mary Persons was ranked third but fell to 10th after a 7-0 upset by Lamar County. The victory propelled the Trojans into No. 8, the first time this season they have been ranked. Cartersville, 3-1, was up a notch to ninth.

Lincoln County's Red Devils have been increasing their hold on the No. 1 Class A ranking ever since they took over from Palmetto in the fourth poll of the season.

That control became complete this week as Lincoln County received all 12 first place votes. The Red Devils have built their 4-0 record on defense, allowing a touchdown in the first game of the year and nothing else since.

While the offense hasn't been overwhelming, it's hard to lose when your opponent doesn't score. Lincoln defeated Washington-Wilkes 20-7; Abbeville, S.C., 7-0; Harlem 24-0; and Greene-Taliaferro 6-0.

Greenville, 5-0, and Wrens, 4-0, remained No. 2 and No. 3 for the third consecutive week. Buford, 4-0, replaced Chattanooga Valley in fourth, up one from last week. Wilcox

County, 4-0, was also up one to fifth, followed by Hogansville, 4-0; Commerce, 4-0; and Palmetto, 3-1-1.

Louisville, undefeated after five games, debuted at No. 9 while Chattanooga Valley dropped to 10th.

Valdosta has been ranked No. 1 in Class AAAA all season, and this week the Wildcats were the unanimous pick for the second straight time.

On Friday, the Wildcats rolled over previously undefeated and seventh-ranked Bainbridge 49-7, knocking the Bearcats from the rankings.

Southwest DeKalb, 5-0, and Warner Robins, 4-0-1, remained in second and third. Griffin, 4-0, and Newnan, 3-0-1, were tied for fourth, followed by Clarke Central, 4-1, and Wheeler, 4-0.

Class AAAA

1. Valdosta (5-0), 120, 12
 2. S.W. DeKalb, (5-0), 101
 3. Warner Robins (4-0-1), 86
 4. (Tie) Griffin (4-0), 71
 - Newnan (3-0-1), 71
 6. Clarke Central (4-1), 58
 7. Wheeler (4-0), 36
 8. Colquitt County (3-0-1), 30
 9. Savannah (4-0), 23
 10. Northside-W.R. (4-1), 21
- Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Cedar Shoals, Central Gwinnett, LaGrange, Lowndes, Redan, South Cobb, Southwest Macon and Tift County.

Class AAA

1. Marist (4-0), 111, 8
 2. Gainesville (5-0), 93, 2
 3. Cairo (4-1), 85
 4. North Springs (4-0), 81, 1
 5. Thomson (4-0), 74, 1
 6. Westside (4-0), 64
 7. Riverwood (4-0), 44
 8. Woodward Acad. (3-1), 38
 9. Habersham Central (4-0), 14
 10. Ware County (4-0), 13
- Also receiving votes: Americus, Appling County, Dalton, Dublin, Murray County, Northwest Whitfield, Screven County and Wayne County.

Class AA

1. Dooly County (4-0), 117, 9
 2. Manchester (5-0), 101, 2
 3. Mitchell-Baker (3-1), 72
 4. Central-Carrollton (4-0), 70
 5. West Rome (3-1), 69, 1
 6. Duluth (4-0), 66
 7. R.E. Lee (4-0), 39
 8. Lamar County (5-0), 35
 9. Cartersville (3-1), 32
 10. Mary Persons (3-1), 16
- Also receiving votes: Collins, Greene-Taliaferro, Hancock Central, Irwin County, Lakeshore, Oconee County, Oglethorpe County, Vidalia and Villa Rica.

Class A

1. Lincoln Co. (4-0), 120, 12
 2. Greenville (5-0), 105
 3. Wrens (4-0), 93
 4. Buford (4-0), 76
 5. Wilcox County (4-0), 62
 6. Hogansville (4-0), 57
 7. Commerce (4-0), 50
 8. Palmetto (3-1-1), 38
 9. Louisville (5-0), 14
 10. Chattanooga Val. (3-1)
- Also receiving votes: Bremen, Clinch County, Glennville, Gordon Lee, Miller County, Pacelli, Portal and Southeast Bulloch.

Wakefield, Lewis:

V. Times 10-3-84

Defenders Elite

Duo Makes It Tough On Opponents

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

Down on the far end of the Valdosta High practice field, back where very few dare to tread, you'll find "The Family" pounding on each other in "The Boneyard."

And two of the toughest members of "The Family," seniors James Wakefield and Jimmy Lewis, wouldn't trade their hangout for any place in the world. The defensive linemen are definite college prospects, but school isn't the subject that comes up when you speak to Wakefield.

"The toughest part of the team is down there in the boneyard," Wakefield said. "That's where all the people get hurt — it'll make a man out of you down there."

"It's a unique group — we do everything different. And we've got just about the best coach (Freddy Waters, defensive line) out here. He's shown me everything I know. He's the first real coach I've had. I think the whole team really looks up to him."

Another group that will see Wakefield and the rest of "The Family" is the Tift County offense when the Wildcats travel to Tifton Friday night at 8 for a non-sub-region encounter.

The 6-foot-3, 210-pound starting right defensive tackle will give the Blue Devils plenty to look at, and he plans on being ready to play the whole game, although many 'Cats on defense have been sidelined due to injury this season.

"They're (trainers) not going to get me," he said. "I work too hard in the weight room."

Wakefield is a four-year starter at right defensive tackle, coming onto the Wildcat varsity as a ninth-grader. He played on the 1982 team that won the state championship, and football isn't his only sport, according to head coach Nick Hyder.

"He's a member of our wrestling team, and he was region champion last year," Hyder said. "He's a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and I think he'll make a good college athlete."

The "aggressive" Wakefield is a team leader, holding down the title of defensive co-captain and helping to guide the Wildcat defensive unit. However, the football field isn't the only place

Wakefield works hard.

"He's a very intelligent youngster. He's definitely a college prospect," Hyder said. "If he can hold up his grades, and work toward that end (good grades), he'll do fine."

As athletes, Wakefield and Lewis certainly "have as much potential as anybody we've had around here in a long time," Hyder says.

Lewis is a 210-pound right defensive tackle, and he's been on the 'Cats varsity for three seasons. When he was a sophomore, Lewis played "a lot of football" behind Ricky Daniels, who has become a strong performer for the South Carolina Gamecocks. And Lewis is also an important link on Valdosta's defensive line, according to Hyder.

"He's also an excellent wrestler, and he is a region champion," he said. "He's a college prospect also. And he's done a better job lately academically."

"He's good enough to play (college football) if he keeps his grades up. Colleges are getting tougher on their admission requirements, but he's capable of doing it."

But Lewis is still coming back from a shoulder injury he sustained prior to the start of the season. He's played sparingly throughout the early part of the season, although he hasn't fully recovered, according to Hyder.

"He bruised his shoulder in July," he said. "He was there (working out), but he's not full speed. He's probably not 100 percent — probably 80 or 90 percent."

The two seniors have been guided through much of their football training by Waters, and he's done his job well, according to Hyder.

"It's tough and lonely down there in the boneyard, and where the folks get hungry, I guess," he said. "Your defensive line is sort of the braces that hold up your structure."

"Without a good, sound defensive line, the secondary people are put under pressure, and if there's a mistake in the secondary, there's six points on the board."

"Coach Waters has coached the defensive line for four years, and he's done a great job. I know, from just scrimmaging against them — it's awfully tough to move the ball on them."



Times Staff Photo By Rick Bender

Jimmy Lewis (L), James Wakefield — Valdosta Defensive Tackles

Valdosta, Tift Co. Rematch

10-4-84

Should Be A Dandy

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High meets another major test Friday night at 8 against the Tift County Blue Devils in Tifton, and Wildcats' head coach Nick Hyder isn't taking the opposition lightly.

"We have an enormous amount of respect for the Tifton program," Hyder said. "They're the defending quad-A champion, their record is 3-2, but they've lost to two good football teams (Colquitt County and Clarke Central)."

"Coach (Gene) Brodie is an excellent coach. His staff has taken that system and won two state championships (last season and at Macon Central, 1975), so their system is proven."

The Wildcats were the No. 1-rated AAAA team in Georgia before the season started, maintaining the ranking with victories over their first five opponents — Thomasville, Waycross, Albany Monroe, Albany Westover and Bainbridge. But Hyder isn't looking back — he's studying Tift, and the 10th-year Wildcat

leader doesn't like what he sees.

"Tift features the leading rusher in the region (169-pound tailback Lloyd Bozeman) and the leading pass receiver (split end Darrien Teal). Teal is a great one, and he hurt us bad last year. He leads the state in passes caught (30)."

The Blue Devils also have the region's leading punter in David Cosper, who's been averaging 39.5 yards per punt. Their secondary is led by Wesley McGriff, who Hyder calls "a definite college prospect and a fine football player," and the Blue Devils also have a "fine offensive line."

"We're preparing to defend and stop those people," he said. "We'll try to do whatever they'll let us do on offense."

"They (the Blue Devils) certainly have a well-conceived offense and defense, and they have a quality football team. They work very hard and the town backs them very similar to the way Valdosta backs us. We're throwing our program — the team,

fans, band, faculty and administration against their team, fans, band, faculty and administration."

And although Hyder's team is off to an undefeated season thus far, he doesn't consider that fact very important as the Wildcats go on the road Friday night.

"We've been 10-0 in four of the last six years, so it's nothing for us to win all our games during the regular season," he said. "It doesn't matter in our system what your record is as long as you're in the playoffs."

"It's like in baseball — there are four teams now, there will be two next week and then one. What matters is if we can learn from it (regular-season play)."

"Everybody has a chance to win it until they're eliminated. The teams we've defeated — Bainbridge, Thomasville, Waycross, they could all still win the region they're involved in."

"We don't want to have any celebration when nothing's been

earned to celebrate. The only thing that matters is what happens at the end of the season."

The Blue Devils have lost two games so far this year, but they've also beaten Warner Robins Northside, Albany Dougherty and Thomasville Central. And Hyder noted that losing early doesn't especially hinder a team.

"You could go 2-8 and still win the region," he said. "You have to play two seasons — if you qualify."

"When I played, each game really meant something — now the regular season is just an exhibition season."

But Friday's non-sub-region encounter has "statewide interest," according to Hyder, with No. 1 Valdosta facing a Tift team that has possibly played well enough to a Top 10 ranking.

Valdosta beat Tift 14-10 during the regular season last year, but fell 17-13 in the Region 1-AAAA playoff, putting its 1983 record at 11-1.

'Cats Look For Senior Leadership Tonight

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

Senior leadership has helped the Valdosta High football team go 5-0 this season, and head coach Nick Hyder hopes the Wildcats continue their roll Friday at 8 p.m. against Tift County in Tifton.

"I've been very happy with our leadership — especially the seniors," Hyder said. "(Linebacker) John Porter has given good leadership, along with (safety) Derrick Folsom and (defensive lineman) James Wakefield — they've been honest with us, because sometimes it's hard for coaches to know what's really going on."

But the AAAA Wildcats, ranked No. 1 in this week's state poll, will probably know plenty when they face the Blue Devils, who received votes in this week's poll.

In other area games Friday night, Colquitt County travels to Bainbridge, Albany Monroe is at Thomasville Central and Albany Westover hosts Lowndes. Albany Dougherty is scheduled to host Albany on Saturday evening.

But Friday evening Hyder will be looking for some individuals to take charge in key situations. On offense he'll have center Jon Reaves and quarterback Berke Holtzclaw, along with

REGION 1-AAAA SOUTH SUB-REGION

	Sub-region			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Valdosta	1	0	0	5	0	0
T'ville Central.....	0	0	0	3	1	0
Lowndes	0	0	0	3	1	0
Bainbridge.....	0	1	0	4	1	0

tight end Darrell Leonard, running back Willie Lewis, running back Scott Braswell and guard Eric Henderson. Other Wildcats who have shown leadership skills are defensive end Ernest Mangham, cornerback Elijah Holmes and safety-punter David Thomas, according to Hyder.

"We've had good senior leadership in all areas, and I think that is awful important to surviving in football," he said.

Injuries should not be a primary factor for the Wildcats as they face a tough Tift team, according to Hyder.

REGION 1-AAAA SOUTH SUB-REGION

	Sub-region			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Monroe.....	2	0	0	3	2	0
Colquitt Co.....	1	0	0	3	0	1
Tift Co.....	1	1	0	3	2	0
Westover	0	1	0	0	5	0
Dougherty.....	0	2	0	1	4	0

"We're pretty bruised up," he said. "We're coming off a real tough game last week (a 49-7 win over Bainbridge)."

"We've got an awful lot of walking wounded types, but we've just got to patch them up. Everybody out there who plays for us has been bruised up."

One phase of Valdosta's game which had previously been disappointing was the kicking, but that attitude has changed, Hyder said.

"I'm extremely pleased with the morale of the team and the way the coaching staff has responded to continual challenges," he said. "We

had problems with our punting and punt coverage, but we've worked hard on that.

"And we've continued to work on depth. We've got to get as many people ready to play as possible."

Valdosta's opponent this week has also been preparing heavily for the game. The Blue Devils have already lost to Colquitt County and Clarke Central, but they've beaten Warner Robins Northside, Dougherty and Thomasville Central. And they are probably looking forward to meeting Valdosta, according to Hyder.

"We're going to play the defending state champion in front of a capacity crowd," he said. "It should be a sellout — somewhere between 13,000 and 14,000."

"It will certainly be among the games with statewide interest," he said. "That could be due to good coaching on their part — they have a tough tradition."

"They're mighty proud of what coach (Gene) Brodie's done since he's been there (1976). He's won the state championship at two different high schools (last year and at Macon Central, 1975), and I think that's very significant."

Valdosta's Region 1-AAAA South record is 1-0, while Tift is at 2-0 in 1-AAAA North sub-region action.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Oct. 7, 1984-

The Final Test

High School Seniors Must Pass New State Test Before Graduating This Year

By SYLVIA COOPER
Times Staff Writer

Seniors graduating from city and county schools this school year say they are glad they had to take a test that is now required by state law for graduation.

"I think anybody who has graduated from high school should be able to pass it. It's stuff any high school graduate should know. It was not difficult," said Blake Ellis Jr., a senior at Lowndes High School.

As a graduating senior in 1985, Ellis is one of thousands of students throughout Georgia who has had to pass the Basic Skills Test in order to receive his diploma this June.

The test is part of the restructuring of graduation requirements by the state Department of Education, according to Mrs. Virginia Wisenbaker, Valdosta High School guidance counselor.

The tests were given in city and county high schools here this week.

Rowland Hall, a Lowndes sophomore who took the test for the first time this week, said, "I think it's a good thing. It sorts out people because it's basic skills. It's what you need to know to survive in the world."

The Basic Skills Test is the last phase of a three-phase Competency Based Education program, a program designed to upgrade education in public schools.

During the first phase courses were added to the curriculum. The second phase included the addition to the curriculum of life-skill abilities, such as balancing a checkbook or registering to vote.

"The State Department began phasing

in the program in 1978-79, beginning with the curriculum and every year something was added. This is the first year seniors have been required to pass the test before graduating although it has been given for several years," she said.

The test is first given to students when they are sophomores. If they pass it then, they are not required to take it again. If they fail it as a sophomore, they may take it twice a year through their senior year and even beyond the time the student has finished course work.

Most guidance counselors and students alike think the Basic Skills Test is a needed requirement, including those students who haven't yet passed the test. Most agree it is a fair test and measures skills that are necessary in getting along in the world.

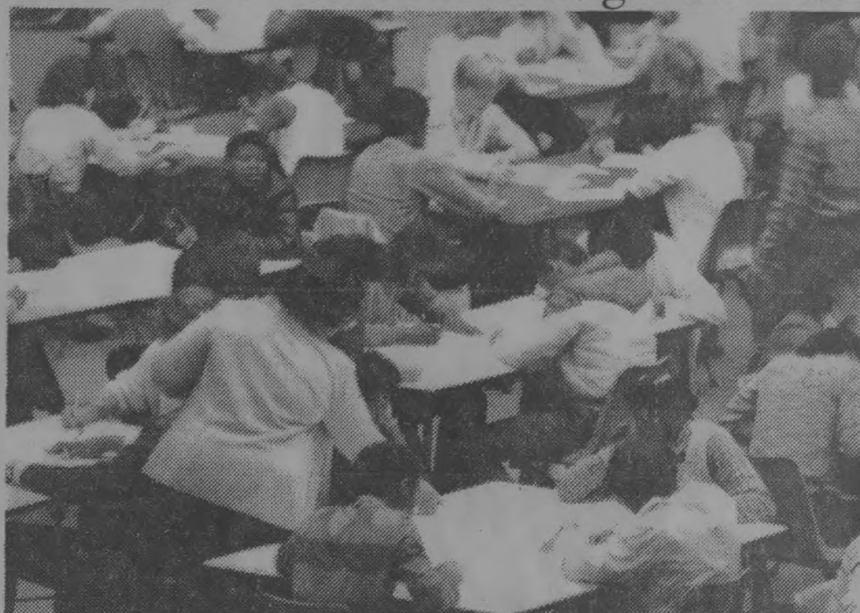
Sheila Kearce, a senior who passed a similar test in Fla., took the test this week and said the Georgia test was much easier than the one she passed as a sophomore in Fla.

VHS sophomore, Georgia Graves, took the test this week for the first time and said, "It was hard. It was interesting though, because I could see all the things I'd accumulated through the years could be put to use to take a test like this. That's why I had to learn all that stuff."

Like Ellis, Kristin Coleman is also graduating this year, but from VHS.

"I like the test. I'm not a good tester, but I feel like it prepared me for the PSAT and the SAT," she said.

"I think by the time you're in the tenth grade, you ought to know the basic skills."



Times Staff Photo By Rick Bender

VHS Students Taking Basic Skills Test Last Week

The Basic Skills Test gives employers some measure of a high school graduate's abilities, according to Mrs. Judy Quinif, Lowndes High guidance counselor.

"Several years ago employers were saying a high school diploma did not give any guarantee that this child could read or write, but now in the state of Georgia, at least employers know that a diploma

means something.

"It means the student can read and write and comprehend and think out problems."

"We're seeing our students take pride in their diplomas. It's not just a piece of paper they march down the aisle and get after 12 years. It means something, and they know it," she said.



Willie Lewis Scored Two Touchdowns To Lead Valdosta Offensively

Times Staff Photo By Laura Harris

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Oct. 6, 1984—7—

Blue Devils Mere Shell Of '83 Team

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

TIFTON — Tift County head coach Gene Brodie is known for the scowl on his face and he has a haircut that seemingly is ready for war duty. Well, he had to bite his lip Friday night at his home stadium — the Devils' Den — and watch his team be whitewashed by the top-ranked team in Class AAAA, the Valdosta Wildcats.

Last year the two teams split their two confrontations, with Valdosta winning 14-10 in the regular season finale. But, Tift came back to win the big one in the semifinals of the state playoffs, 17-13.

The shutout was only the third in Brodie's nine-year tenure at Tift, and the 'Cats have administered two of those. The other one came in 1977 when Valdosta won 31-0, with the only other shutout coming against Thomasville Central in 1976, Brodie's second year at the school.

"This is a real disappointment and I thought our guys would make a better showing than this," Brodie said. "We were just totally outplayed in every facet of the game and their defense totally dominated us."

Brodie saw his team slip to a break even 3-3 mark after the loss to the Wildcats, including earlier losses to Clarke Central (15-9) and Colquitt County (21-16). His Blue Devils will have an open date before taking on the Lowndes High Vikings in two weeks at the Devils' Den.

"This was the best Valdosta team that I've seen in all the time that I've been here," Brodie said. "Their kick coverage was the best I've seen of any high school and it was just outstanding all game long."

"They made a lot of big plays when they had to and the big bomb just killed us. It's not going to get any easier for us and we have a tough road ahead."

After the loss last week to Colquitt, the Blue Devils were knocked into a second place tie with Albany Monroe in the North sub-region of Region 1.

"That puts us in a must win situation for the rest of our sub-region games if we hope to make the playoffs," Brodie said. "We still have the ability to improve and get better and I'm very disappointed in our record so far."

Brodie has said all along that his defense hasn't played well this year and the Blue Devils gave up almost 200 yards on the ground, while the offense continued to be inconsistent, according to Brodie, mustering only 95 yards rushing.

"If we expect to be playing after the regular season, we're going to have to play a lot better than we did tonight," Brodie added. "We have the players to do it — they just have to make up their minds to do so, and we will start on that Monday."

Beef Brothers Answer Call In Trenches

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

TIFTON — When you need a hole, who you gonna call? Beef Brothers!

Or better yet, the Valdosta Wildcats offensive line which dominated Tift County's defensive line as the offense chewed up more than 300 total yards, including nearly 200 on the ground.

During practice this week, the Wildcat coaches designed a new play especially for the Tift game, and it worked to perfection all night long. Well, actually the play wasn't all that new. It was just the people that were out front leading it were new.

Two weeks ago, starting senior guard Jon Reaves went down with an injury, and the coaches decided to move nose guard John Wheelless over to the offensive tackle slot from his regular defensive position. Starting tackle Johnny Crook was then shifted to left guard alongside man-child Marty Howell.

Now, nobody's asking "Where's the beef?" It's all on the Wildcats offensive line.

"By making that Wheelless switch, it gave us more bulk up front and Crook is just like a big old freight train when he gets out on the corner," said offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker. "We have made good steady progress all season long and we've gotten better with experience."

In the last couple of contests, the Wildcats have rolled up around 350 yards of offense, and Friday night the coaches wanted to establish the run right from the start against Tift County.

"We thought we could run on them and we decided to take it right at them after the first couple of drives," Baker said. "Our running game opened up our passing game and that was the key for our offense."

After the game Baker praised several players for their night's work such as Crook, Howell, Wheelless, Eric Henderson, Mike Stanaland and tight end Darrell Leonard.

"We got good yardage all game long on the special trap play and when we lined up in the unbalanced formation," Baker said. "We're also improving on our pass protection and set up a good pocket for Berke (Holtzclaw) on a couple occasions."

Tift County head coach Gene Brodie seemed to be in agreement with Baker and said the 'Cats offensive line just whipped his defensive front and "won the battle of the trenches."

"They gained good yardage on the trap play all game long and it was either a case of good blocking or bad tackling or maybe a combination of both," Brodie said. "All I know is they kicked our rear ends all over the field and had holes big enough to drive a truck through."

Baker said the "Beef Brothers" still have a lot of improving to do and will get better with experience. Say it ain't so coach.

'Dosta Defense Dominates

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

TIFTON — Before the start of the Tift County-Valdosta High football game, Blue Devil head coach Gene Brodie didn't know if the Wildcat defense had a weak link and wasn't exactly sure how to attack the stingy bunch.

And, some 48 minutes later, he was still wondering the same thing as his team was shut out for the first time since 1980 when Lowndes turned the trick in a 31-0 Region 1-AAAA playoff win.

"We were thoroughly beaten in every possible way and they were just awesome and very overpowering," Brodie said. "They just beat the stuffing out of us and kicked us all over the field."

The 'Cats staved off repeated Tift County scoring threats in the second half after jumping out to a 21-0 halftime advantage. The Blue Devils drove inside the 'Cat 15-yard line on three different occasions, but came up empty all three times.

"They put a lot of pressure on us in the second half, but our kids responded to the challenge and I'm very proud of them for that," said Wildcat defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. "It was a real pleasure to see the kids stand up to this type of pressure of being on the road, in front of rowdy Tifton crowd, and the shutout was just icing on the cake."

The usually jovial Rudolph was serious all week long during the Wildcats practices, according to head coach Nick Hyder.

"I've never seen him so intense for a ballgame and I've known him for more than 10 years," Hyder said. "He's usually good for a couple or three jokes during the week, but this week he was all business and it carried over to the players."

Several players were cited by Rudolph for their efforts in the contest Friday night at the Devils' Den before 11,500 fans. Defensive linemen James Wakefield and Jimmy Lewis, linebacker John Porter, safety Derrick "Kool" Folsom and end Earnest Mangrum.

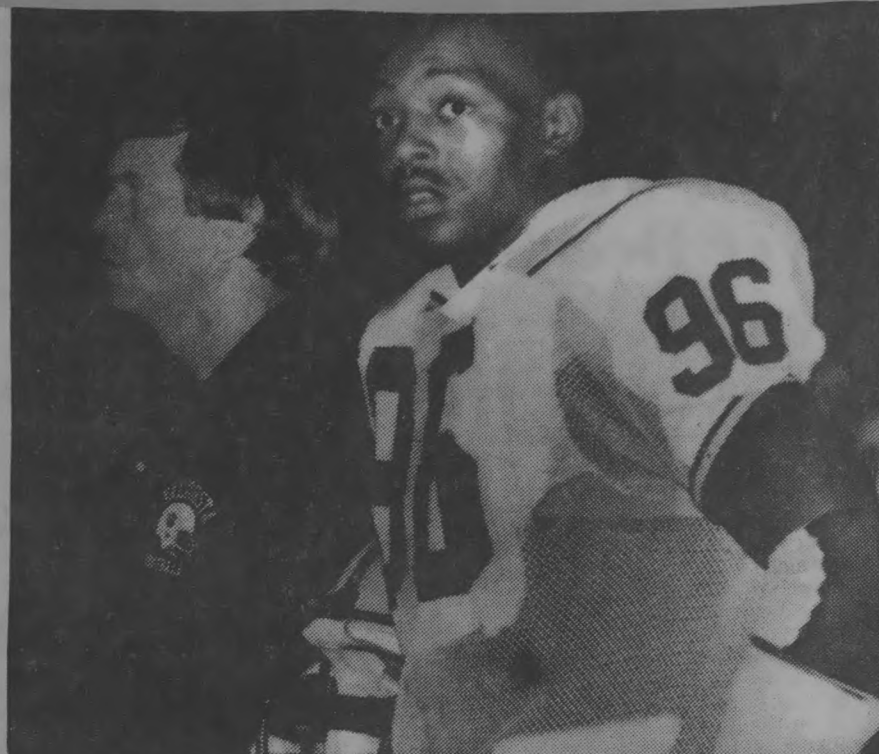
"The thing that we knew we had to do before the game was keep constant pressure on their quarterbacks and contain their big play man (Darrien Teals)," Rudolph said. "I thought we did a good job of covering Teals and we pretty much controlled the line of scrimmage."

Tift County ran 65 plays from scrimmage, but could muster only 95 yards on the ground and no running back gained more than 44 yards. In the last 16 quarters, the 'Cats defense has given up only 13 points and both of those scores came late in the game against substitutes.



Willie Lewis Scored 2 TDs

Times Staff Photos By Laura Harris



James Wakefield (r), Coach Nick Hyder Watch Action



Valdosta Handed Tift Its 1st Shut Out Since '80 + Here Hart (32), Derrick Folsom (5), Kelvin Miller (94) Bring Down Engram

How Sweet It Is — Valdosta

'Cats Shut Out Blue Devils 28-0

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

TIFTON — Revenge, they say, is sweet. After Valdosta High's 28-0 rout of Tift County here Friday night before an estimated crowd of 11,500 in the Devils' Den, the top-ranked Wildcats needed to keep an eye on their blood sugar.

STATISTICS

	VHS	Tift
First Downs	12	16
Yards Rushing	181	95
Yards Passing	127	200
Passes	12-3-1	28-18-1
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	5-4
Punting	4-34.5	5-33.4
Penalties	5-35	6-68

Tift was the only team to beat Valdosta last year and the first to knock off the 'Cats in a span of 26 games. It was the only loss suffered by this year's junior class at VHS.

But the 'Cats made up for that defeat and more Friday night when they jumped out to 21-0 halftime lead then staved off three Blue Devil scoring threats to hold on to the shut out, the first for a Tift team since 1980 when Lowndes accomplished the feat in the Region 1-AAAA playoffs, 31-0. Valdosta's last shutout of Tift came in 1977, 31-0.

"Naturally that loss was the bitter taste in the players' mouth," said Valdosta coach Nick Hyder, whose 'Cats are now 6-0 on the season and host Thomasville Central next Friday night.

Tift fell to 3-3 overall with its second loss in a row. The Blue Devils are idle this week then host Lowndes on Oct. 19.

"It's a big win for us," Hyder said. "I couldn't be prouder of the preparation, the coaching and the players."

Despite two scoring opportunities early in the game thanks to Tift fumbles, the 'Cats did not get on the scoreboard until late in the first quarter when they drove 61 yards in 11 plays — all of which were on the ground — capped by a 13-yard sweep by Willie Lewis for the touchdown with :43 left in the first period. John Porter's extra point, the first of four by the VHS All-American, made it 7-0 and the 'Cats never looked back.

They really didn't have to with the way the defense was playing. Jack Rudolph's crew only allowed the Devils inside VHS territory once in the first half. Later, it turned away three Devil scoring opportunities with an Earnest Manghrum interception, a John Porter fumble recovery and a stalled Tift drive.

"Our defense was ready to play," said Tift coach Gene Broadie, "but our offense couldn't match their defense and that was the difference in the game. Their defense overpowered us and kept pressure on our quarterbacks all game long, which took us out of

our offense."

Following Valdosta's first score, Tift mounted its only threat of the first half when it moved to the Valdosta 36. But the 'Cats stiffened and forced a Tift punt which was downed inside the VHS 1.

Two running plays moved the 'Cats out of the shadow of their own goal and set up Tift's death knell. On third and six from the VHS 5, Berke Holtzclaw launched a bomb to Hosea Heard, who had sprinted behind a Tift defender. Heard hauled the pass in near mid-field and high stepped his way into the end zone that put Valdosta up 14-0 and sealed Tift's doom.

"The long pass, it's a break I guess," Hyder said, "although Hosea has great speed and Berke has the strong arm. I think that gave us the momentum we needed when we didn't score early in the game."

Brodie agreed.

"That pass out of the end zone was the key play in the game and swung the momentum in their favor," he said. "It was a gutsy call, but it's the kind you have to make if you expect to win this type of ballgame. That pass play was just a real killer."

A 15-yard penalty was tacked onto the ensuing kickoff, allowing the 'Cats to line up at the Tift 45. Valdosta executed a perfect onside kick, which Jimmy Lewis recovered at the 28. Five plays and two penalties later Holtzclaw, whose only other completion of the game went 95 yards for Valdosta's second score, found a wide open Darrell Leonard over the middle for a 28-yard touchdown and a 21-0 halftime lead.

Please See "Valdosta," Page 7

Score By Quarters

Valdosta	7	14	7	0-28
Tift Co.	0	0	0	0-0

SCORING

Valdosta — Lewis 13 run (Porter kick), :43 1st.

Valdosta — Heard 95 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick), 6:32 2nd.

Valdosta — Leonard 28 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick), 2:54 2nd.

Valdosta — Lewis 71 run (Porter kick), 11:42 3rd.

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing: Valdosta — Lewis 14-129, Anderson 12-44, Braswell 3-18, Holtzclaw 9-minus-10. Tift — Bozeman 9-18, Nixon 2-minus-5, Cottle 5-0, Ingram 3-16, Hill 12-44.

Passing: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 11-3-1, 127; Anderson 1-0-0, 0. Tift — Nixon 16-11-1, 82; Cottle 12-7-0, 118.

Receiving: Valdosta — Heard 1-95, Leonard 1-28, Steward 1-4. Tift — Teals 6-113, Darrington 6-34, Bozeman 4-34, Cosper 2-19.

Routs Tift

V. Times

10-6-84

From Page 5

Senior tailback Willie Lewis didn't wait long to get back in on the scoring act in the second half. On the second play of the third quarter, Lewis, behind beautiful trap blocking by the offensive line, raced 71 yards up the middle to make it 28-0.

"That was the identical play Dana Brinson scored on Tifton last year that gave us a win in the regular season," Hyder said. "The only difference was that Willie's run was to the

opposite side."

Lewis finished the game with 129 yards on 14 carries, the highest total of any 'Cat this season. He also had two touchdowns. Backfield mate Tony Anderson, who was starting first game of the season, had 44 yards on 12 carries.

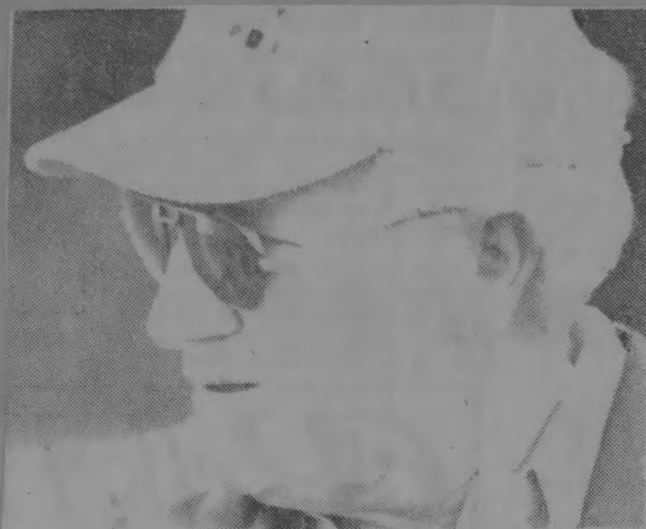
"The ground game tough," Hyder said. "Having (John) Wheelless over there puts 1,000 pounds on the offensive line."

Tift responded with a pair of drives to the Valdosta 11, but Manghrum turned the first

away with an interception, which had been batted high in the air before it fell into his hand, and Porter turned the second away with an interception, which caused quite a stink on the Tift side. The Blue Devils fans felt the play had been an incomplete pass before the fumble.

"We've always felt that you've got to play them as the challenges arise," Hyder said. "All we can do is get ourselves ready."

Friday night, Valdosta met the challenge. And was it ever sweet.



Joe Wilson: Must Game For Us



Nick Hyder: Central Can Beat Us

Hyder Wary Of Greene's Jackets

Valdosta Hosts Central Friday

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

Charlie Greene was a big name in Valdosta High football for many years, and Friday at 8 p.m. he again steps under the lights at Cleveland Field.

But this time he's bringing a Thomasville Central team to meet the Valdosta Wildcats in a 1-AAAA South sub-region contest. The first-year Central head coach was the Wildcats' offensive line coach for 10 years under Wright Bazemore. Greene took over for two seasons following Bazemore's 1971 retirement, and VHS head coach Nick Hyder has a healthy respect for Greene.

"He was a member of the Valdosta coaching staff for 15 years, and this is an emotional factor I've been concerned about all year," Hyder said. "I think this gives Central a definite advantage, because they're going to play extremely hard for their coach."

"The enthusiasm at Central has been very, very high since coach Greene arrived, and we're aware that they've developed many fine athletes over the past few years."

And the Yellow Jacket team is heavily laden with seniors, listing eight on offense and eight on defense, which has Hyder very much concerned.

"This team is capable of beating us," he said. "The Valdosta system is that of a multiple system, and coach Greene was a part of that system for many, many years."

"He's a very, very thorough scouter, which makes him an excellent coach. And not only is he a fine coach, but he brings a fine group of

athletes with him."

The Wildcats stand at 5-0 overall, 1-0 in sub-region action, while the Yellow Jackets bring a 4-1 overall record (0-0 in sub-region) into town. And when Central lost 27-5 to Tift County on Sept. 21, the game could have gone either way, according to Hyder.

"I heard it was a hard-fought, evenly-fought game with Tifton," he said. "I've been told the game was decided by breaks."

The Wildcats have the usual scrapes and bruises, but senior defensive back Darrell Blair will be the only VHS player not ready for action, Hyder said.

"Darrell has a broken fibula bone in his leg, but he should be back next week," he said. "He's been out a couple weeks."

"And (senior flanker) Mario Smallwood hurt his hand in a home accident the other day. He put his hand through a window and took 34 stitches, but he should be back for the (Albany) Dougherty game in two weeks."

Going into Friday's game you might think Hyder's biggest problem would be game preparation, but the 11th-year Wildcat mentor stresses academics over athletic performance, and he won't tolerate his players falling behind in the classroom.

"I've been happy with the attitudes of our players, but I have to keep reminding them that they're student-athletes," Hyder said. "The first mid-terms just ended, and our faculty is very good about telling us when a player gets behind."

V. Daily Times
10/10/84

Valdosta Holds On To Top Spot For Sixth Week

ATLANTA (AP) — The Greenville Patriots nudged out Wrens to take over the No. 1 Class A ranking in the latest Associated Press poll of Georgia high school football teams.

The Patriots were first on six of 12 ballots and received 111 of a possible 120 points. No. 2 Wrens was first on three ballots and got 108 points.

Lincoln County, a unanimous No. 1 pick last week before losing to Glenn Hills Friday, dropped to third, but still received three first place votes in voting by a panel of Georgia sports writers and sportscasters.

There was no change in the other three No. 1 teams — Valdosta remained a unanimous pick in Class AAAA; Marist held on in Class AAA and Dooly County continued to lead Class AA.

Greenville, 5-0, became the third team to be ranked first in Class A this year. Defending state champion Palmetto opened the season on top, but fell after losing to Collins in the third game of the season. Lincoln County, 4-1, replaced the Raiders and held No. 1 until this week.

Wrens returned to the spot where it began the season. The Colts, 6-0, have slipped as low as a fourth place tie and had been ranked third for three weeks.

Wilcox County, 5-0, Hogansville, 5-0, were tied for fourth. They were fifth and sixth respectively last week. Buford, 4-1, dropped from fourth to sixth after losing to Duluth.

Louisville, 6-0, jumped from ninth to seventh; Chattanooga Valley, 4-1, rose from 10th to eighth. Glennville, 6-0, entered the poll in ninth, and Commerce, 4-1, fell from seventh to 10th after losing to Oconee County.

While there was no change at the top of the other three classifications, there was some reshuffling down the line.

Valdosta, 6-0, received all the first place votes in Class AAAA for the third straight week. But the No. 2 and No. 3 teams swapped places.

Southwest DeKalb, 6-0, had been second and Warner Robins, 5-0-1, third for two weeks. Both had impressive victories Saturday — Southwest DeKalb shut out Douglass-Atlanta 42-0 while Warner Robins blanked Southwest Macon 44-0. But the Panthers fell to third while the Demons were second.

Griffin, 5-0, remained in

fourth while Clarke Central, 5-1, moved from sixth to fifth.

Next — in the same positions as last week — came, Wheeler, 5-0; Colquitt County, 4-0-1; Savannah, 5-0; and Northside-Warner Robins, 5-1.

And in Class AAA, Marist, 5-0, remained on top but as in Class AAAA, the second and third teams switched places.

Gainesville, 6-0, defeated Franklin County Friday and Cairo, 5-1, walloped Thomasville 42-14. But the Syrup-makers overcame the Red Elephants and moved into second while Gainesville was third.

North Springs, 5-0, was fourth in the fourth consecutive poll, and Thomson, 5-0, remained in fifth.

Riverwood, 5-0, moved up a notch to sixth, replacing Westside, which was unranked following its 52-22 defeat by Thomson.

Class AAAA

1. Valdosta (6-0), 120, 12
2. Warner Robins (5-0-1), 94
3. Southwest DeKalb (6-0), 88
4. Griffin (5-0), 78
5. Clarke Central (5-1), 71
6. Newnan (4-0-1), 69
7. Wheeler (5-0), 46
8. Colquitt County (4-0-1), 40
9. Savannah (5-0), 25
10. Northside-W.R. (5-1), 17

Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Central, Thomasville, Effingham County, Redan, LaGrange and Tift County.

Class AAA

1. Marist (5-0), 115, 8
2. Cairo (5-1), 93
3. Gainesville (6-0), 89, 2
4. North Springs (5-0), 81, 1
5. Thomson (5-0), 79, 1
6. Riverwood (5-0), 52
7. Habersham Central (5-0), 35
8. Woodward Acad. (4-1), 34
9. Ware County (5-0), 26
10. Appling County (4-1), 16

Also receiving votes: Americus, Lithonia, Murray County, Northwest Whitfield, Screven County and Westside.

Class AA

1. Dooly County (5-0), 114, 8
2. Manchester (6-0), 100, 3
3. Mitchell Baker (4-1), 80
4. West Rome (4-1), 72
5. Central Carrollton (5-0), 68
6. Duluth (5-0), 57
7. R.E. Lee (5-0), 51
8. Lamar County (5-0), 35
9. Cartersville (4-1), 26
10. Oconee County (4-1), 12

Also receiving votes: Early County, Hancock Central, Irwin County, Lakeshore, Mary Persons, Vidalia, Villa Rica and Washington-Wilkes.

Class A

1. Greenville (5-0), 111, 6
2. Wrens (6-0), 108, 3
3. Lincoln County (4-1), 94, 3
4. (Tie) Hogansville (5-0), 71
5. Wilcox County (5-0), 71
6. Buford (4-1), 54
7. Louisville (6-0), 47
8. Chattanooga Valley (4-1), 22
9. Glennville (6-0), 21
10. Commerce (4-1), 16

Also receiving votes: Bremen, Clinch County, Gordon, Miller County, Palmetto, Reidsville and Southeast Bulloch.

No. 1 Valdosta Routs Central,

V-Times 10/13/84

Keeps Rolling Along

Wildcats Fall Behind Early, Rally For 35-7 Win

See Related Story, Page 7
By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

There's something about early deficits that seems to bring out the best in the top-ranked Valdosta Wildcats. Of the seven games the 'Cats have played so far this season, they have found themselves trailing in the first quarter in three of them, only to come storming back to win in a big way.

STATISTICS		
	CEN	VAL
First Downs	9	20
Yards Rushing	40	225
Yards Passing	82	175
Passes	9-5-0	27-11-2
Fumbles-Lost	3-0	2-2
Punting	6-31.0	1-30.0
Penalties	9-97	7-65

Valdosta followed the scenario to perfection Friday night at Cleveland Field against Thomasville Central in a Region 1-AAAA South sub-region game.

Down 7-0 barely five minutes into the game, the 'Cats struck for touchdowns in each period — two in the third — to rout the

Yellow Jackets 35-7 before an estimated 7,500 fans.

"I wasn't surprised," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder of finding his team behind early. "Central has a good team. That's a senior ballclub."

The win kept Valdosta's record unblemished at 7-0 overall and 2-0 in the sub-region. Central fell to 4-2 and 0-1. Across town, Lowndes beat Bainbridge in another South sub-region game, 28-6. The loss eliminated Bainbridge from the playoffs with an 0-2 sub-region worksheet. Lowndes is 4-2 and 1-0.

"We thought Central was a fine football team," Hyder added, "and I thought our youngsters played well against them."

Central's touchdown, a 7-yard run by quarterback Mark Hunter with 7:03 left in the first period, was the first time the Yellow Jackets have scored on

Valdosta since the 1980 Region 1-AAAA playoffs. Since then Valdosta has outscored them 93-0.

But first-year Central coach Charlie Greene, who coached Valdosta during the 1972 and '73 seasons, ended the scoreless string the first time his Jackets got the ball. After holding the 'Cats to three downs and a punt, Central marched 58 yards in eight plays capped by Hunter's touchdown run. Todd Wilson kicked the extra point and Central led 7-0.

That score only seemed to light a fire under the 'Cats, who responded with an 80-yard drive to paydirt following the ensuing kickoff. Fifteen plays (and a crucial Central offsides penalty at the Jacket 9) later, Willie Lewis swept right and scored on a 5-yard run with :23 left in the first period. John Porter kicked the first of five successful extra points to knot the score at 7-all going into the second period.

Lewis finished the game with

85 yards on 11 carries. He also scored two touchdowns. The senior tailback now has 554 yards rushing this season, which was enough to vault him into second place in the region rushing race.

Please See "Valdosta," Page 31

Score By Quarters				
Thomasville Central	7	0	0	0-7
Valdosta	7	7	14	7-35

SCORING
Central — Hunter 7 run (Wilson kick), 7:03 1st.
Valdosta — Lewis 5 run (Porter kick), :23 1st.
Valdosta — Leonard 66 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick), 6:49 2nd.
Valdosta — Lewis 30 run (Porter kick), 9:33 3rd.
Valdosta — Steward 30 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick), :43 3rd.
Valdosta — Braswell 1 run (Porter kick), 5:38 4th.

INDIVIDUAL STATS
Rushing: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 15-33, Anderson 13-60, Lewis 11-85, Braswell 7-22, Mangham 2-3, Dixon 5-22. Central — Hunter 7-minus 55, M. Davis 4-7, Brown 14-48, Jones 6-40.
Passing: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 23-9-2, 149; Anderson 1-0-0, 0; Talley 3-2-0, 9. Central — Hunter 9-5-0, 82.
Receiving: Valdosta — Heard 5-63, Leonard 3-82, Steward 1-30. Central — D. Davis 1-11, Bean 1-19, Johnson 1-16, Jones 1-16, Brown 1-20.



Jimmy Lewis And Valdosta's 'D' Sacked Central QB 6 Times

Times Staff Photo By Rick Bender

Curry To Address Valdosta Hall Of Fame

V. Daily Times 10/15/84

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

Georgia Tech Coach Bill Curry has led the Yellow Jackets to a start their football program hasn't seen in quite some time, but he's still found time to address the seventh annual Valdosta-Lowndes County Sports Hall of Fame banquet on Nov. 5.

The individuals slated for induction this year include John Copeland, Earl O'Neal, Bill Myddleton, Jack Rudolph and Giles Smith.

Some fans may recognize some or all of the Valdosta sporting figures, but each has a unique story that bears telling.

Copeland was the first black athlete for Valdosta High, which required he fill a special role that few might be suited for.

His poise, grace and leadership withstood the test of time, and he helped lead coach Wright Bazemore's 1966 Wildcat team to the state title — an honor few people thought the 'Cats would attain. The high point of his season was a punt return against Marietta that sealed a VHS victory.

Copeland eventually moved on to the University of Louisville on a football scholarship, where he starred in football and track, along with making the dean's academic list.

Myddleton was known as "The Bombshell" because when he blocked or tackled, he seemed to explode. The Boys Club product became a standout for Bazemore's 1960, 1961 and 1962 Wildcat teams which won three consecutive state championships.

Valdosta golfing legend Dynamite Goodloe recruited Myddleton, and he became a starting offensive guard for Georgia Tech. He played in the 1965 Gator Bowl and the 1967 Orange Bowl as a Yellow Jacket.

Myddleton is presently a Valdosta resident and a Boys Club

volunteer football coach.

O'Neal is a name that continues to be dominant when talk surfaces concerning area athletic teams. He was a standout guard at Valdosta High under Valdosta-Lowndes County Hall of Famers Bazemore and Buck Thomas. He eventually lettered three times at Florida State, where he was voted most valuable player his senior season.

He joined the VHS staff in 1956, going on to become head coach and athletic director at Waycross High, where his team's won the state football championship in 1960 and 1961. He's presently principal at Conyers Middle School in Conyers.

Rudolph, possibly the most recognized individual of the inductees, is presently defensive coordinator for the Wildcats.

He was an all-state linebacker for Atlanta Grady, where he was voted the best all-around athlete his senior season. He played for Georgia Tech in two Cotton Bowls and the Gator Bowl.

He went on to the National Football League's Boston Patriots, where he starred for six seasons, moving on to the Miami Dolphins in 1966. He became an assistant to Bazemore at VHS in 1967, where he has remained to this date.

Smith's story is quite interesting, with his most famous time being 1962, when he accepted a 5-yard penalty against Richmond Academy, then returned a booming punt 65 yards for a touchdown.

He played for the Wildcats from 1959 until 1962, before moving on to Georgia Tech. He lettered four years as a Yellow Jacket, playing in the Gator Bowl against Texas Tech and the Orange Bowl against Florida.

Giles is presently president of his own construction and development company in Marietta.



Photo Special To The Times

Bill Curry Has Led Georgia Tech To A 3-1-1 Start

The Valdosta Daily Times

Mon., Oct. 15, 1984-7-



Earl Perkins

Times Sports Writer

Wildcats' Hyder Stresses Academics

Nick Hyder is in his 11th season as head coach at Valdosta High, where you might believe his primary concern is on the football field, but it's not.

The first mid-term examinations were recently concluded at VHS, with the teachers and administration being quick to inform the football program of any backsliding in the classroom, according to Hyder.

"I've been happy with the attitudes of our players, but I have to keep reminding them that they're student-athletes," Hyder said. "I've spent a lot of time reminding them (the players) that academics can be a problem."

"We've had some youngsters do great with football, but then struggle to do equally well in the classroom. The problem is academic qualifications. We've had lots of youngsters who were good enough to play, but (they) didn't put forth the effort scholastically."

Players with poor grades don't get taken out of games until the 12th week, but Hyder likes to catch the problem as soon as it surfaces. Some players stay five or six years for their diploma, so Hyder finds stressing academics of primary importance.

"It (academics) is a constant struggle — it's my biggest problem," he said. "The Valdosta High program is very well-structured, particularly in academics, and that's a tribute to the school administration."

"It's (success) what the community wants and what the community demands — I demand it. You get a (diploma) here, and it means something. We don't give them the grades — they have to stay until they finish."

"I don't want them to come back five years from now and say 'coach, you taught me how to block but not how to make a living.' Procrastination is probably the worst thing. There are two reasons they fail — either they don't have the learning ability or they have lazy study habits, and most fall into the latter category."

Hyder noted playing football at VHS has its advantages because the administration tells the coach the day the player flunks a class, and the school even attempts to aid students after they fail.

"Our school administration offers a tutoring program an hour before and an hour after school," he said. "And we excuse students from practice to attend these sessions."

Hyder doesn't deny there haven't been academic problems throughout the years at VHS, and he won't sidestep the issue, but he's just as quick to point out the athletes who've advanced to higher institutions of learning.

"We've had a few (players) that have been lost through attrition, and maybe a couple have had academic problems," he said. "Like I've said many times before, the No. 1 problem with our youngsters is an academic one."

Presently there is only one former Wildcat listed on the Valdosta State roster, although another is en route. Sophomore tight end Ben Reaves has been played sporadically for the Blazers due to a knee injury, and William Collier is in the process of transferring to VSC. The 235-pound offensive lineman will be returning to Valdosta from Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Fla. Questions are raised with only one former VHS player on the VSC roster, but Hyder easily explains the shortfall.

"VSC has a wide recruiting domain," he said. "They go all across north Florida, over into Alabama, as well as Georgia."

"With their recruiting being so spread out, I guess it puts you thin locally."

One list that's anything but thin is the list of student-athletes who have gone on from VHS to play for major colleges. Notable former Wildcats attending national academic bastions include quarterback David Parker at Princeton and safety Jeff Lee at Dartmouth. Lee has also become an adept player on the Dartmouth lacrosse team, quickly picking up a sport he'd never played before joining the Ivy League.

Linebacker Dante Jones has started four years at Georgia Tech, while defensive end Ricky Daniels and defensive back Chris Major are making names for themselves at the University of South Carolina. Free safety Nathaniel Ceasar is doing well at Auburn, while running back Fred Motes is at Austin Peay State in Clarksville, Tenn. And noting the success of many former Wildcats, it's no wonder Hyder continues to stress the VHS academic program.

"It's just tough out there — they've got to work for it," he said. "We don't have any welfare grades out there."

Valdosta Has Stranglehold On AP Prep Poll

V. Times 10-12-84

ATLANTA (AP) — Valdosta, riding reputation and reality, has a stranglehold on The Associated Press high school football poll. The Wildcats are the unanimous pick as the best Class AAAA team in the state for the fourth consecutive week.

Coach Nick Hyder's team has built a 7-0 record almost without trying — they have outscored opponents 269-37 and have an average victory margin of 33.1 points a game.

The Wildcats number among their victims defending state champion Tift County (28-0) and Bainbridge, which was undefeated before being blasted 49-7 by Valdosta Sept. 28.

The rest of Class AAAA also remained the same from last week, No. 2 Warner Robins, 6-0-1, led the way; followed by Southwest DeKalb, 7-0; Griffin, 6-0; Clarke Central, 5-1; Newnan, 5-0-1; Wheeler, 6-0; Colquitt County, 5-0-1; Savannah, 5-0; and Northside-Warner Robins, 6-1.

There was also little change in Class AAA as Marist, 6-0; Cairo, 6-1; and Gainesville, 7-0, remained the top three.

Next came Thomson, 6-0; Riverwood, 6-0; Habersham Central, 6-0; Woodward Academy, 5-1; and Ware County, 6-0, all up one notch from last week. North Springs, 5-1, was fourth last week but fell to ninth in the latest poll after losing to Marist. Westside, 5-1, returned to the poll in 10th after a one-week absence.

Class AAAA	Class AAA	Class AA	Class A
1. Valdosta (7-0), 120, 12 2. Warner Robins (6-0-1), 97 3. Southwest DeKalb (7-0), 94 4. Griffin (6-0), 73 5. Clarke Central (5-1), 72 6. Newnan (5-0-1), 69 7. Wheeler (6-0), 47 8. Colquitt County (5-0-1), 38 9. Savannah (5-0), 32 10. Northside-Warner Robins (6-1), 15 Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Redan, Towers.	1. Marist (6-0), 115, 9 2. Cairo (6-1), 98 3. Gainesville (7-0), 90, 2 4. Thomson (6-0), 89, 1 5. Riverwood (6-0), 67 6. Habersham Central (6-0), 56 7. Woodward Acad. (5-1), 49 8. Ware County (6-0), 45 9. North Springs (5-1), 15 10. Westside (5-1), 12 Also receiving votes: Americus, Dodge County, Glenn Hills, Murray County and Northwest Whitfield.	1. Dooly County (6-0), 114, 8 2. Manchester (6-0), 102, 3 3. West Rome (5-1), 84 4. Mitchell-Baker (5-1), 79 5. Central-Carrollton (6-0), 76 6. Duluth (6-0), 62 7. R.E. Lee (6-0), 51 8. Lamar County (6-0), 34 9. Oconee County (5-1), 16 10. Irwin County (5-1), 9 Also receiving votes: Cartersville, Early County, Hancock Central, Lakeshore, Vidalia, Villa Rica and Washington-Wilkes.	1. Greenville (6-0), 114, 7 2. Lincoln County (5-1), 105, 5 3. Wilcox County (6-0), 86 4. Wrens (6-1), 80 5. Louisville (7-0), 67 6. Buford (4-1-1), 41 7. Glennville (6-0), 38 8. Commerce (5-1), 31 9. Bremen (5-1), 29 10. Hogansville (4-1), 24 Also receiving votes: Clinch County, Miller County, Palmetto, Reidsville and Southeast Bulloch.

6-0; Woodward Academy, 5-1; and Ware County, 6-0, all up one notch from last week. North Springs, 5-1, was fourth last week but fell to ninth in the latest poll after losing to Marist. Westside, 5-1, returned to the poll in 10th after a one-week absence.

Two 6-0 teams — Dooly County and Manchester — retained their Nos. 1 and 2 rankings for the third week. West Rome, meanwhile, took over third from Mitchell-Baker which moved into the fourth-place spot vacated by the Chieftains. West Rome, 5-1, had an easy 34-0 victory over East Rome last weekend while Mitchell-Baker, 5-1, was beating Thomasville 19-14.

The next four positions were unchanged: Central-Carrollton, Duluth, R.E. Lee and Lamar County, all 6-0.

Oconee County, 5-1, moved from 10th to ninth, replacing Cartersville, 35-19 losers to Central-Carrollton. No. 10 Irwin County, 5-1, was ranked for the first time this year.

Greenville, 6-0, retained its No. 1 Class A ranking with a 17-2 defeat of Hogansville, dropping the Greenwaves, 4-1, from a fourth-place tie to 10th.

Lincoln County, 5-1, defeated Wrens on Friday and replaced the Colts, 6-1, in second. Wilcox County, 6-0, moved to third from a tie with Hogansville, followed by Wrens.

Louisville, 7-0, jumped over No. 6 Buford, 4-1-1, to take fifth place. Glennville, 6-0, moved from ninth to seventh while Commerce, 5-1, rose from 10th to eighth. No. 9 Bremen, 5-1, returned to the poll after a several-week absence on the strength of a 17-6 victory over then-No. 8 Chattanooga Valley.

Undefeated

V. Daily Times 10/18/84

Eight Unbeaten State Prep Teams Square Off Friday

By The Associated Press

The ranks of the undefeated will be thinned Friday night as four Georgia high school football games match opponents with unblemished records.

While none of the eight teams have lost, Manchester hasn't even been scored against. Only R.E. Lee, Manchester's opponent, approaches that perfection, giving up only two touchdowns this year.

Two of the games involving undefeated opponents occur in Class AAA, where No. 3 Gainesville entertains No. 6 Habersham Central and No. 1 Marist travels to No. 5 Riverwood.

The fourth pits Valdosta, No. 1 in Class AAAA, against No. 8 Colquitt County.

Also, surprising Louisville, 7-0, and fifth in Class A, faces No. 2 Lincoln County, 5-1.

This is the second straight year Manchester has faced R.E. Lee with an undefeated record and unscored-upon defense.

But the Rebels won last year 7-0, Manchester's only regular season loss. The Blue Devils allowed only 34 more points the rest of the way, ending with an 11-2 record, losing to Dooly County in the state quarterfinals.

Rebel Coach Tommy Perdue is even more impressed with this year's team. "They're the best Manchester team since we've been playing them," he said. The series began in 1975.

Manchester's Juby Shiver was equally complimentary of the Rebels. "They could be the best defensive team that Coach Perdue has had," he said.

"The only reason we've had success is because of our defense," Perdue agreed. "We've averaged turning the ball over four or five times a ball game. We're not even close to 'fair' offensively."

But Perdue said, "I've been probably as pleased with this team as any I've ever coached." Before the season began, he said the best he had hoped for at this point was a 4-2 record, but expected the Rebels to be 3-3.

He also doesn't predict victory over Manchester.

"I think if we hold on to the ball, there's a possibility of us playing with them for a while because of our defense. As far as beating them, that's far-fetched," he said.

Shiver points out, however, that R.E. Lee defeated Manchester on its own field last year and this year's game will be in Thomaston.

"R.E. Lee has a lot of tradition, and they have a lot of pride. They're extremely hard to beat on their home field. You've got to be good and have a little luck on the way to do it."

He said the Rebels gained 350 yards on the ground against Harris County last week, and use a veer offense similar to one that troubled Manchester against Pike County.

The winner will move to 3-0 in the Region 3-AA, arguably the best AA region in the state with three of its nine teams ranked in the Top Ten.

Meanwhile in Gainesville, Habersham Central will be trying to wrest control of Region 8-AAA away from the Red Elephants.

Gainesville is on top with a 5-0 region mark; Habersham Central trails closely at 4-0.

"They're probably the strongest team we've faced this year," said Gainesville Coach Bobby Gruhn, whose team is 7-0 overall. "I think they're a real fine football team. They have done an excellent job."

Gruhn is surprised at his team's success this year. "We didn't know we were going to be in this position this time of year. We lost all our skill people last year, including three backs who gained 3,000 yards." The Red Elephants were 13-1, losing the North Georgia title to Marist by one point.

Defense has led the way for Gainesville, Gruhn said, but added, "We don't know how good our defense really is. They haven't been tested like they will be tested Friday night."

Larry Black, in his first year as head coach at Habersham Central, is hoping his team can provide that test.

"Our offensive line has played well and our backs have played well," he said. "We've been able to drive it on people, but I don't know if we'll be able to do that this week."

Gainesville is "solid... We just haven't been able to come up with any weaknesses," he said.

Valdosta, 7-0, also is without apparent weakness, pummeling opponents by a combined score of 269-37.

"The scores, of course, look one way, but the games look another," Wildcat Coach Nick Hyder insisted. "We have to battle for it, scratch for it. Our youngsters work awfully hard."

Colquitt Coach Jim Hughes reviews the scores, however, and sees trouble.

"According to comparative scores, they are better than we are," he said. "We struggled with Tifton; they beat them bad. Valdosta is very good. They may simply be in a league all their own."

Hughes is leading Colquitt, 5-0-1, back to respectability. The Packers were 4-6 last year, his first after successful 13-year reign at Thomasville, where he posted a 107-34-1 record.

Although the Packers are guaranteed of only their second winning season since 1975, Hughes cautions against high expectations against Valdosta.

"I think folks ought to look at (the game) as a measure of how far we've come, not necessarily a final exam," he said.

"It will be a measure of how much we've matured and how capable we are of playing with the very best our region and south Georgia has to offer," he said.

"We are very close to the point where our kids think they can line up and play with anybody," he said. "The fears where Tifton were concerned and where Lowndes were concerned are behind us now."

"Now we need to do that with Valdosta."

'Cats Expect Surprises

From Surprising Colquitt

V. Times 10-18-84 V. Daily Times 10/18/84

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

It seems as if the Valdosta Wildcats have trekked down this same road many times this season. Friday night the top-ranked 'Cats will once again face the prospect of taking on another unbeaten team when they visit Colquitt County for an 8 p.m. encounter at Moultrie's Mack Tharpe Stadium.

On four separate occasions, the Wildcats have pinned the first loss on opposing teams. The task will be the same when they take on the Packers in the "Hog Pen."

Colquitt is 5-0-1 on the season — including a 21-16 win over defending state champion Tift County — and leads the Region 1-AAAA North sub-region.

The Wildcats sport a 7-0 ledger and have outscored the opposition by a 269-37 margin in the process. The Wildcats are averaging more than 38 points per outing and giving up just over five points per game defensively.

'(Colquitt) has one of the most talented backfields in the state and it will probably be the best that we'll see all season long. They also have some good overall talent at other places and a good, balanced offensive attack.'

— Nick Hyder
VHS Head Coach

"It should be a tough, hard-nosed football game," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "They have the best team that they've had in the last 10 years and Jim Hughes has done an

excellent job in just his second year over there.

"They have one of the most talented backfields in the state and it will probably be the best that we'll see all season long," Hyder added. "They also have some good overall talent at other places and a good, balanced offensive attack."

The Packers are paced by running back Nathaniel Lewis, who Hyder describes as a "game-breaker," along with backfield mates T. J. Edwards and Leroy Berry. Roger Hall and Cliff Barlow anchor the veteran offensive line and senior quarterback Darrell Funderburk engineers the attack.

"They obviously have a very fine running game, with good ball handling," Hyder said. "They also have the potential to put the ball in the air and feature a good, balanced attack."

Another thing that could be a factor in Friday's game is the kicking game, according to Hyder.

"It's usually a deciding factor in all close games and we've improved in certain phases of our overall kicking game," Hyder

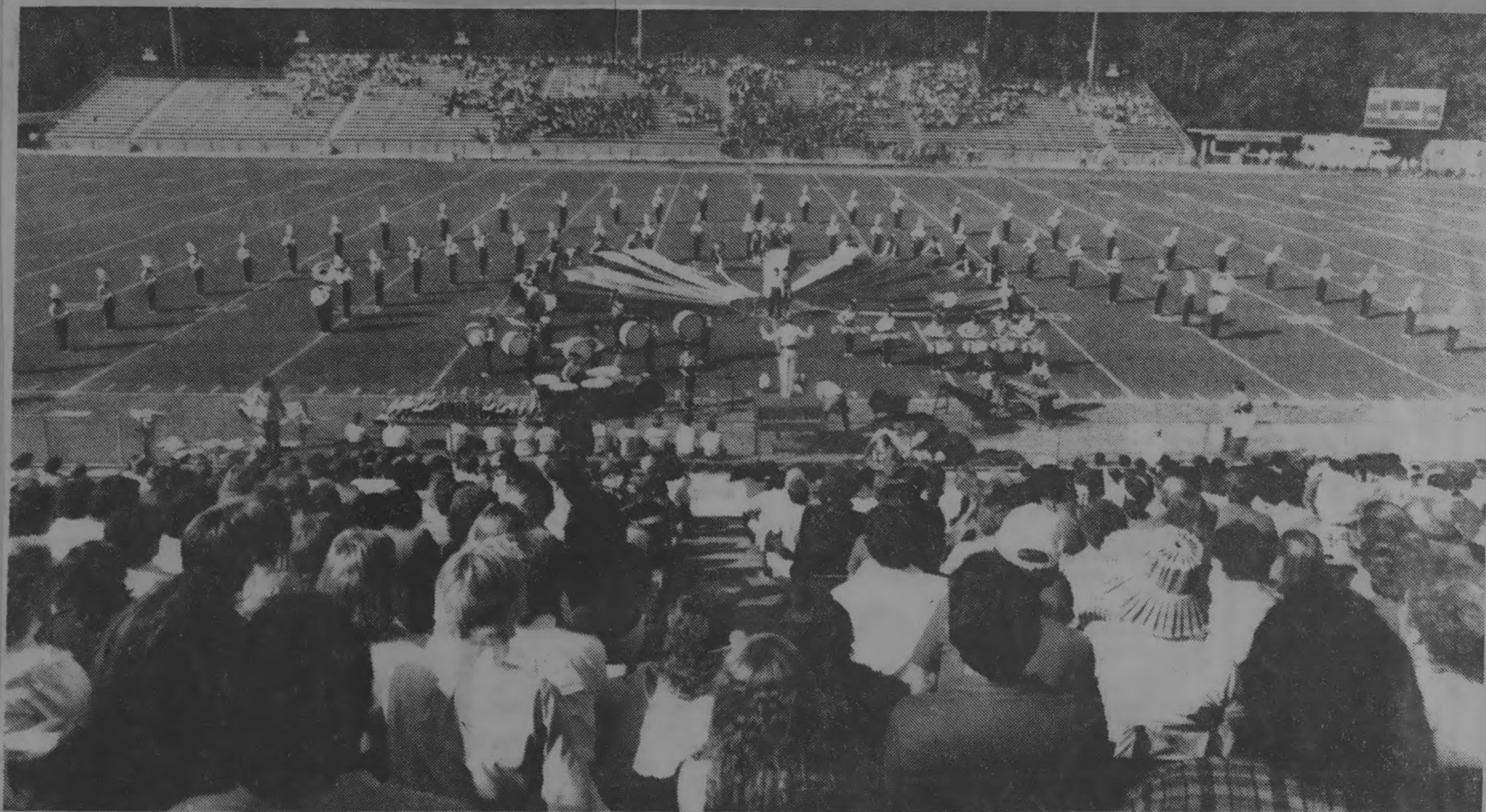
added. "We have made steady improvement and have gotten better as the season has progressed."

So far this season, the Wildcats have been able to avoid any serious injuries during the course of the season after a rash of them during the pre-season training drills.

"We have a lot of bumps and bruises, but we expect that and it's just the nature of the game," Hyder said. "We've been treating them and our trainer Jim Burris and team team doctor Jose Campa have both done an excellent job for us."

Hyder said the keys to Friday's game will be the ability of the 'Cats to maintain a consistent and balanced offensive attack of running and passing the ball. Defensively, they will have to contain those same things and have a good night in the kicking game.

"Coach Hughes has his program in more solidly now and they have some fine athletes," Hyder said. "They will be totally prepared for us and we'll have another tough fight on our hands."



And The Bands Played On

The Largo (Fla.) High School Band was among the high school bands on hand at Cleveland Field Saturday for the ninth annual Southern Open marching band competition. The contest, which is hosted by the Valdosta Marchin' Cats, began with

preliminaries Saturday morning and the finals Saturday night. High school bands from Georgia, Alabama and Florida participated. — Times Staff Photo By Rick Bender.

V. Daily Times 10/21/84

Valdosta Takes A Stand At Colquitt

V. Times 10-20-84

Wildcats Pen Packers, 40-7

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

MOULTRIE — It's usually difficult to point out just one play as the turning point in a football game. But Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder had no problem singling out a T.P. (turning point) in the Wildcats' 40-7 rout of previously undefeated Colquitt County here Friday night.

Valdosta and junior running back Tony Anderson.

Anderson added his second touchdown of the night later in the fourth quarter to pace the 'Cats to 19 final-period points.

The VHS fullback finished the game with a season-high 159 yards on 20 carries. At the half, Anderson had 115 rushing yards.

In all, the 'Cats rushed for 288 yards. Willie Lewis, who came into the game the second-leading rusher in Region 1-AAAA, added 85 yards on 13 carries and also had a scoring run.

"The offensive line blocked extremely well and the running backs did an excellent job behind them," Hyder said. "All the credit has to go to Coach (Jerry Don) Baker (offensive line coach) and Coach (Mike) O'Brien (offensive backfield coach). They had the kids ready and developed a fine game plan."

The line blocking was no more evident than on Anderson's 34-yard touchdown run in the first period that put Valdosta up 7-0. A new formation called "Pro-Ton Right," which was installed to take advantage of the 'Cats' three massive tackles — 272-pound Marty Howell, 237-pound Johnny Crook and 273-pound John Wheelless — simply exploded off the ball and blew the Colquitt defenders five yards downfield. When An-

derson reached the line of scrimmage, there wasn't a Packer in sight.

"All I had to do was run," Anderson said. "The line did a great job all night long."

"The hole was wide open," he added. "The team knew we needed this game. We pulled together and did the job."

The win ran top-ranked Valdosta's record to 8-0. The 'Cats host Albany Dougherty next Friday in their annual Homecoming game before taking the week off to get ready for Lowndes on Nov. 9.

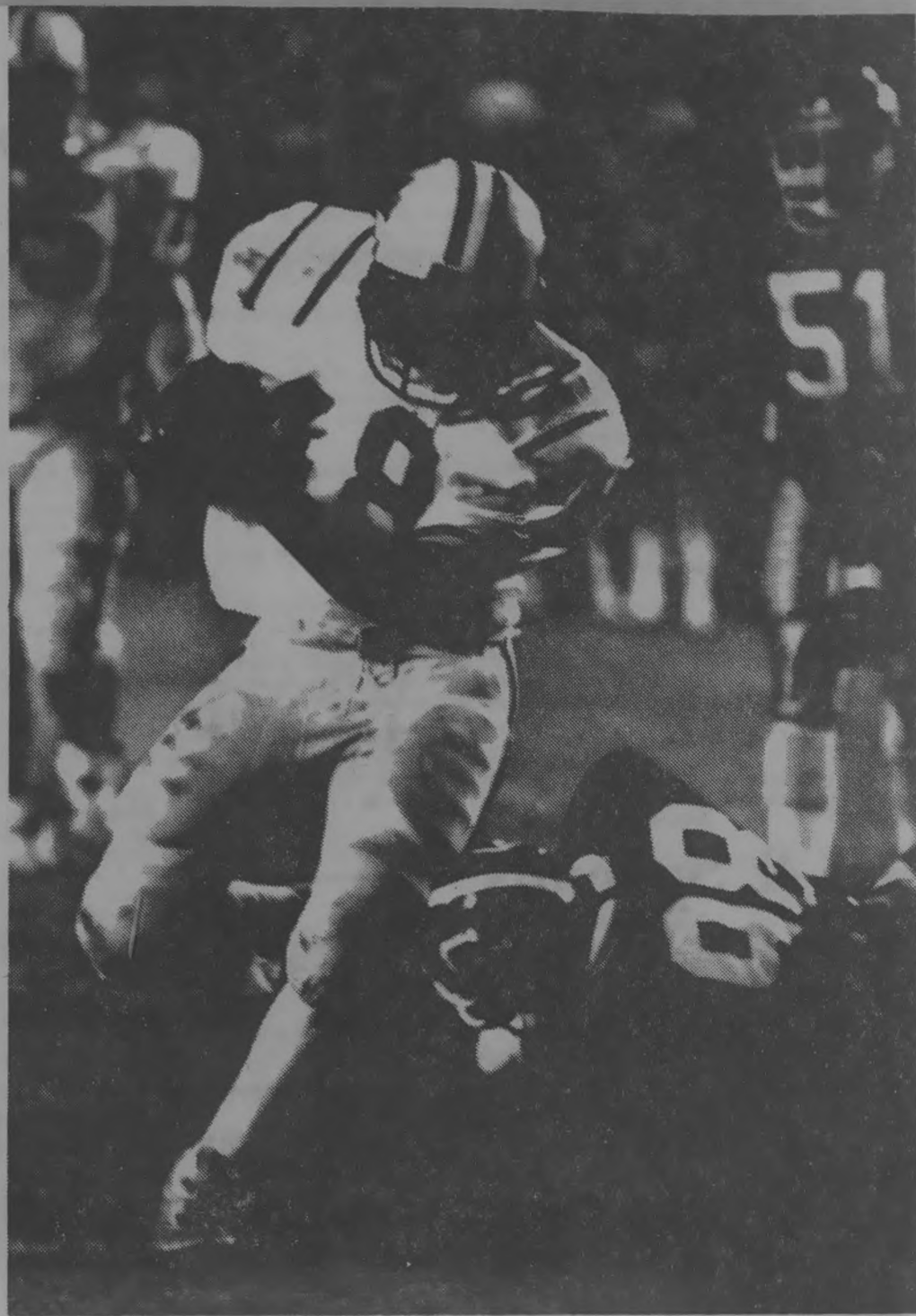
Colquitt is now 5-1-1 and still has Albany Westover, Thomasville Central and Albany Dougherty remaining.

Please See "Valdosta," Page 7

Score By Quarters				
Valdosta	7	7	7	19-40
Colquitt Co.	0	7	0	0-7

SCORING
Valdosta — Anderson 34 run (Porter kick), 5:47 1st.
Colquitt — Middlebrooks 19 pass from Funderburk (Parrish kick), 6:58 2nd.
Valdosta — Lewis 10 run (Porter kick), 3:44 2nd.
Valdosta — Bell 21 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick), 8:01 3rd.
Valdosta — Anderson 5 run (run fails), 10:08 4th.
Valdosta — Leonard 22 run (Porter kick), 6:00 4th.
Valdosta — Heard 15 pass from Talley (kick fails), 2:27 4th.

INDIVIDUAL STATS
Rushing: Valdosta — Anderson 20-159, Lewis 13-85, Holtzclaw 4-12, Leonard 1-22, Talley 3-10. Colquitt — Berry 8-46, Edwards 8-6, Funderburk 7- minus 10, Mansfield 2-6, Lewis 2- minus 2.
Passing: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 14-2-2, 38; Talley 2-1-0, 15. Colquitt — Funderburk 24-7-0, 169; Edwards 1-0-0, 0.
Receiving: Valdosta — Heard 1-15, Leonard 1-17, Bell 1-21, Colquitt — Lewis 3-17, Middlebrooks 3-48, Edwards 4-92, Cornelius 2-12.



Times Staff Photo By Laura Harris

Senior Willie Lewis Rushed For 85 Yards And 1 TD

Valdosta

V. Times 10-20-84

From Page 6

The Packers responded to Valdosta's score with a touchdown of their own to start the second quarter. Mixing the pass and the run to perfection, Colquitt drove from its own 20 to the Valdosta 19 before appearing to stall. But on fourth down, Funderburk hit Stacy Middlebrooks with a 19-yard scoring strike. Bennie Parrish's extra point knotted the score at 7-all with 6:58 remaining in the half.

Valdosta took the ensuing kickoff and marched 53 yards in 10 plays to go back on top 14-7. Lewis carried the ball the final 10 yards to paydirt with 3:44 left in the half.

After failing to complete a pass in the first half, Berke Holtzclaw hit Randy Bell for a 21-yard touchdown toss to cap Valdosta's opening possession of the second half. John Porter's extra point, his third of the game to that point, put Valdosta up 21-7 with 8:01 left in the third

period.

Colquitt responded with that drive to Valdosta 1. But after failing to score, the momentum seemed to be drained from the Packers.

Valdosta went on to score three more touchdowns in the final period. The first was set up by Darrell Leonard's recovery of Colquitt's fumbled punt at the Packer 21. Three plays later Anderson burst in from five yards out with 10:08 left. The 'Cats bot-

ched the extra-point attempt but still led 27-7.

A short Packer punt allowed Valdosta to score on its next possession. Leonard, who also caught one pass for 17 yards, raced 22 yards on an end around for a touchdown. Porter's extra point, his fourth of the night, made it 34-7 with 6 minutes left in the game.

Michael Spencer's fumble recovery at the Colquitt 24 set Valdosta's final score. Spencer, a senior nose guard, also blocked a

punt and had five solo tackles.

Reserve quarterback Greg Talley hit Hosea Heard with 15-yard slant over the middle to close out the 'Cats scoring.

"Forty points (actually 33) is not the difference between our football teams," Hyder said, comparing the 'Cats with Colquitt. "They have a fine football team. If they score down there in the third quarter it's a different game."



U Times 10-20-84
Valdosta's Offense Cheered Its Defensive Counterparts On During Goal-Line Stand In Third Quarter

Which Lowndes Team Will Show Up Friday Night?

By EARL PERKINS *U Times 10-21-84*
Times Staff Writer

One of the biggest questions this week in South Georgia high school football will center around which team might appear Friday night at 8 in Thomasville to play Central.

Lowndes High is on the Yellow Jackets' Region 1-AAAA South schedule, but the Vikings seem to have almost brought different squads to certain games. They played exceptionally well in victories over then-No. 2-ranked Clarke Central and tough sub-region rival Bainbridge, but faltered in contests with then-winless Albany Westover and defending AAAA state champion Tift County.

The Plowboys may well have fallen on hard times with their 38-7 loss to the Blue Devils Friday evening at Martin Stadium. Lowndes' record dropped to 4-3 overall, but the Vikings will carry a 1-0 sub-region record into Friday's key battle against Central.

The Plowboys then play Monroe at Martin Stadium and close out the season as the 'visitor' against Valdosta.

Lowndes attacked a worthy opponent in Tift, with the Blue Devils evidently being more hungry than the Plowboys. The Blue Devils had just come off two consecutive losses to Valdosta and Albany Dougherty.

In the win over the Plowboys, Tift was led by four touchdown passes from sophomore quarterback Tye Cottle, including three to wide receiver Darrien Teals, who is the heart of the Blue Devil team.

Tift head coach Gene Brodie noted the win was a long time coming, with the off-week prior to the contest helping his team get into the right frame of mind.

The victory lifted Tift's overall record to 4-3, with its sub-region slate remaining at 1-1 in Region 1-AAAA North. Tift plays at Monroe Friday evening in a sub-region tilt.

The Region 1-AAAA South sub-region standings are starting to take shape with this week's results. Valdosta beat Colquitt County 40-7 in a non-sub-region contest, giving the Wildcats an 8-0 overall record, 2-0 in sub-region play. Valdosta hosts Dougherty Friday, and it could win the sub-region by closing its season with a victory over Lowndes at Cleveland Field.

In Friday's contest, the Wildcats pulled away for a wide margin of victory, but this game was different in one way from past contests. Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder was able to single out one turning point in the game for his Wildcats.

In the third quarter, the Valdosta defense was able to stop the Packers on a goal-line stand, forcing Colquitt to fumble at the Wildcat 1. From that point on, the game was all Valdosta.

Valdosta is trailed in the sub-region by Lowndes at 1-0, with Bainbridge holding a 5-3 overall record, 0-2 in sub-region action. The Bearcats took a 38-23 non-sub-region win from Albany Monroe on Friday. Going into its non-sub-region game late

Saturday evening against Dougherty, Central stood at 4-2 overall, 0-1 in sub-region play.

Looking at the Region 1-AAAA North sub-region, Colquitt's overall record stands at 5-1-1 after taking its first loss of the season against Valdosta, but the Packers' sub-region slate stands at 2-0. Monroe's overall record is 3-5, with a 2-1 sub-region slate. Tift has garnered a 1-1 sub-region record, with the two remaining Albany schools bringing up the rear. Colquitt's schedule finishes against Westover, Central and Dougherty, with Monroe going after Tift at home and Lowndes on the road. Tift is looking at Monroe, Bainbridge and Westover to finish its season.

Westover stands at 2-5 overall, having a 1-1 sub-region record during a week of rest. Prior to their Saturday evening game against Central, the Dougherty Trojans were 1-6 overall, 0-3 in sub-region action. Westover closes its season against Colquitt, Albany and Tift, while Dougherty has drawn tough encounters against Valdosta and Colquitt.

Porter One In Long Line From Feeder System

This is the first of a two-part series on Valdosta High all-America linebacker John Porter.

By ROGER B. BROWN

Times Staff Writer

When John Porter was a toddler, he would go to Valdosta High football games always wishing and dreaming about the day he'd get a chance to wear the black and gold uniform.

It's all a part of what some say is the Wildcat tradition, which spans from Tomcats, Straycats, Alleycats and so on all down through the renowned football feeder system.

Porter is a product of that very system as he battled his way through the ranks. According to Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder, over 85 percent of his players come out of this program, which is run machine efficient.

Porter has been a member of the varsity squad for four years now, and in the preseason he was listed on just about everybody's prep all-America teams.

He is one of only two players during Hyder's 11-year tenure to be named as a permanent team captain for two years. The only other player to claim such an honor is former Valdosta standout quarterback Buck Belue.

With so much notice it seems like it would be easy for Porter to get an inflated attitude. But, according to Hyder that hasn't been the case and he adds a lot of that has to do with his mother (Mrs. Lille Porter).

"John is a very likeable young man and will do anything that we ask of him," Hyder said. "He's a very versatile athlete and can do everything but throw the football. He might could do that if we asked him."

During summer camp when (Tony) Anderson was out with an illness, we had him lined up to play some fullback," Hyder added. "He is a unique individual like all others are and he reaches for his limit as far as competition about as well as anybody that we've had."

With the Wildcats' being ranked No. 1 in the nation by *USA Today* and in the state all season long, Porter says this has been a fairly pleasing year. In his four years at Valdosta, he's played in only two losses.

"We're just lucky enough and work hard enough to have some breaks go our way," Porter said. "I feel a little more relaxed this year because I know we have some guys who can do as much or more than I can."

"That increases my intensity level and makes me want to improve on each and every play," Porter added. "The publicity hasn't affected me at all because I feel like everybody is contributing equally and giving it their all."

With his senior season about to come to an end, Porter says it makes him feel sad to be leaving Valdosta football. While reflecting back through some of the years, he said his most disappointing moment came when he was in the eighth grade.

It was in a spring game against Waycross, who was coming off a AAA championship just the year before. Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph summoned a young linebacker to get in the game and told him that it was his big chance.

Well, for a couple of series everything went fine, but then



Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris

Valdosta High Linebacker John Porter Gets Attention From Trainer Jim Borroughs

Waycross scored the winning touchdown in Porter's coverage area. It was then he learned a very valuable lesson.

"I was down because up until the touchdown I felt like I

was having a good game," Porter said. "But I found out that I could play 1-AAAA football then and swore to myself that it would never happen to me again and it hasn't so far."

Valdosta Takes A Stand At Colquitt

Wildcats Pen Packers, 40-7

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

MOULTRIE — It's usually difficult to point out just one play as the turning point in a football game. But Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder had no problem singling out a T.P. (turning point) in the Wildcats' 40-7 rout of previously undefeated Colquitt County here Friday night.

STATISTICS		VAL	COL
First Downs		18	8
Yards Rushing		288	46
Yards Passing		53	169
Passes		16 3 7	25 7 0
Fumbles Lost		2 0	4 3
Punting		3 35 0	7 21 1
Penalties		6 30	8 61

"The goal-line stand," he said, referring to 'Cats dogged defense which forced a Packer fumble on a first-and-goal play at the VHS 1 in the third quarter. "That turned it around. Beautiful defense ... Relentless ... Relentless defense."

Down 21-7 midway through the third period, Colquitt drove from its own 24 to Valdosta goal line thanks mainly to a 57-yard swing pass from Darrell Funderburk to T.J. Edwards. Two more completions and a Valdosta offside penalty moved the ball to the 1.

"It had to be inside the 1," Hyder said, "on the foot line." But the Packers were unable to punch it in when Funderburk fumbled and Valdosta linebacker Bill Kirby came up with it. For all practical purposes the game was over then. That is for everyone but

Valdosta and junior running back Tony Anderson.

Anderson added his second touchdown of the night later in the fourth quarter to pace the 'Cats to 19 final-period points.

The VHS fullback finished the game with a season-high 159 yards on 20 carries. At the half, Anderson had 115 rushing yards.

In all, the 'Cats rushed for 288 yards. Willie Lewis, who came into the game the second-leading rusher in Region 1-A-AAA, added 85 yards on 13 carries and also had a scoring run.

"The offensive line blocked extremely well and the running backs did an excellent job behind them," Hyder said. "All the credit has to go to Coach (Jerry Don) Baker (offensive line coach) and Coach (Mike) O'Brien (offensive backfield coach). They had the kids ready and developed a fine game plan."

The line blocking was no more evident than on Anderson's 34-yard touchdown run in the first period that put Valdosta up 7-0. A new formation called "Pro-Ton Right," which was installed to take advantage of the 'Cats' three massive tacklers — 272-pound Marty Howell, 237-pound Johnny Crook and 273-pound John Wheelless — simply exploded off the ball and blew the Colquitt defenders five yards downfield. When An-

derson reached the line of scrimmage, there wasn't a Packer in sight.

"All I had to do was run," Anderson said. "The line did a great job all night long."

"The hole was wide open," he added. "The team knew we needed this game. We pulled together and did the job."

The win ran top-ranked Valdosta's record to 8-0. The 'Cats host Albany Dougherty next Friday in their annual Homecoming game before taking the week off to get ready for Lowndes on Nov. 9.

Colquitt is now 5-1-1 and still has Albany Westover, Thomasville Central and Albany Dougherty remaining.

Please See "Valdosta," Page 7

Score By Quarters		1	2	3	4	Total
Valdosta		7	7	7	19	40
Colquitt Co.		0	7	0	0	7

SCORING

Valdosta — Anderson 34 run (Porter kick), 5:47 1st.
Colquitt — Middlebrooks 19 pass from Funderburk (Parrish kick), 5:58 2nd.
Valdosta — Lewis 10 run (Porter kick), 3:44 2nd.
Valdosta — Bell 21 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick), 8:01 3rd.
Valdosta — Anderson 5 run (run tails), 10:08 4th.
Valdosta — Leonard 22 run (Porter kick), 6:00 4th.
Valdosta — Heard 15 pass from Talley (kick tails), 2:27 4th.

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing: Valdosta — Anderson 20-159, Lewis 13-85, Holtzclaw 4-12, Leonard 1-22, Talley 3-10, Colquitt — Berry 8-46, Edwards 8-6, Funderburk 7- minus 10, Mansfield 2-6, Lewis 2- minus 2.
Passing: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 14-22, 38; Talley 2-1-0, 15 Colquitt — Funderburk 24-7-0, 149; Edwards 1-0-0, 0.
Receiving: Valdosta — Heard 1-15, Leonard 1-17, Bell 1-21, Colquitt — Lewis 3-17, Middlebrooks 3-46, Edwards 4-97, Cornhus 2-12.



Senior Willie Lewis Rushed For 85 Yards And 1 TD

Times Staff Photo By Laura Harris

Valdosta Hosts Dougherty; Lowndes At Central

V Times 10-26-84

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

Charley Greene was raised in Valdosta, being imbued with a winning tradition from childhood through his college years. When Greene stepped onto the football field, one coach seemed to be there — Joe Wilson.

"I've known Charley all his life," Wilson said. "I coached him at the Boys Club years ago. When he was going to Valdosta State he used to help me coach the B-team at Valdosta (High)."

Greene became a Wildcat assistant coach in 1963, eventually becoming head coach upon Wright Bazemore's retirement in 1971. After being an assistant at Valdosta from 1960 to 1975, Wilson moved on to the top spot at Lowndes High, where he's remained for the past eight seasons.

Tonight at 8 Greene and Wilson step onto the same football field in Thomasville, but this time Greene will lead the Central Yellow Jackets against Wilson's Lowndes Vikings in a pivotal Region 1-A South sub-region game.

Valdosta's homecoming game is scheduled tonight at 8 on Cleveland Field when the Wildcats play Albany Dougherty in a non-sub-region contest, while Bainbridge is idle this weekend.

However, the Lowndes-Central matchup is one of the biggest in South Georgia, with both teams urgently needing a victory.

Lowndes' record is 4-3 overall, 1-0 in sub-region action, while Central is 5-2 overall, 0-1 in the sub-region.

The Plowboys' sub-region win came over Bainbridge (28-6) two weeks ago, with the Wildcats dropping the Yellow Jackets 35-7 the same evening. However, Wilson sees this year's Central team playing at peak performance.

"They're a senior football team," he said. "What people don't realize is that 18 of 22 of their starters are seniors."

"Twenty-one of their first 25 players are seniors. They've got eight seniors starting on offense. They've got 10 starting seniors on defense."

"All their skill people are seniors. They're a senior-dominated football team and they'll have to rebuild next year, so they'll be going full-tilt this year."

The Plowboys pulled out a 6-0 win over Central during the regular season last year, which helped them into post-season action. However, this game could lead to elimination from the playoffs for either team, according to Wilson.

"It's a must game for them," he said. "In a sense, it's a must game for both of us, because we'd have to beat Valdosta in Valdosta (Nov. 9)."

The Plowboys' victories came over Coffee (13-0), Clark Central (31-6), Dougherty (42-0) and Bainbridge. Lowndes was beaten by

defending state champion Tift County (38-7), coupled with losses to Colquitt County (22-6) and Albany Westover (11-7), the latter two of which might have been avoided, according to Wilson.

"I'm pleased with the effort (of the Plowboys), but not with the record," he said. "We could have won either of those (Colquitt, Westover)."

"But Tifton just had us outclassed. They were just too good a football team for us at that stage (of the season)."

Lowndes has also come under close scrutiny from certain irate fans, eliciting boos and jeers from the aforementioned individuals. However, Wilson claims the fans ought to show more compassion.

"We've been up and down this season, and we've been hearing rumblings from some fans out here," he said. "They don't know the situation about injuries and what we're trying to do with the players out here."

Lowndes won eight games last year but 16 players graduated off that squad, forcing Wilson into a youth movement.

"That's the problem with having a young team," he said. "They play good at times and not so good at times."

"We're just trying to win football games with very few seniors. We have 25 or 30 juniors out here. We're trying to do as well as we can and build for the future."



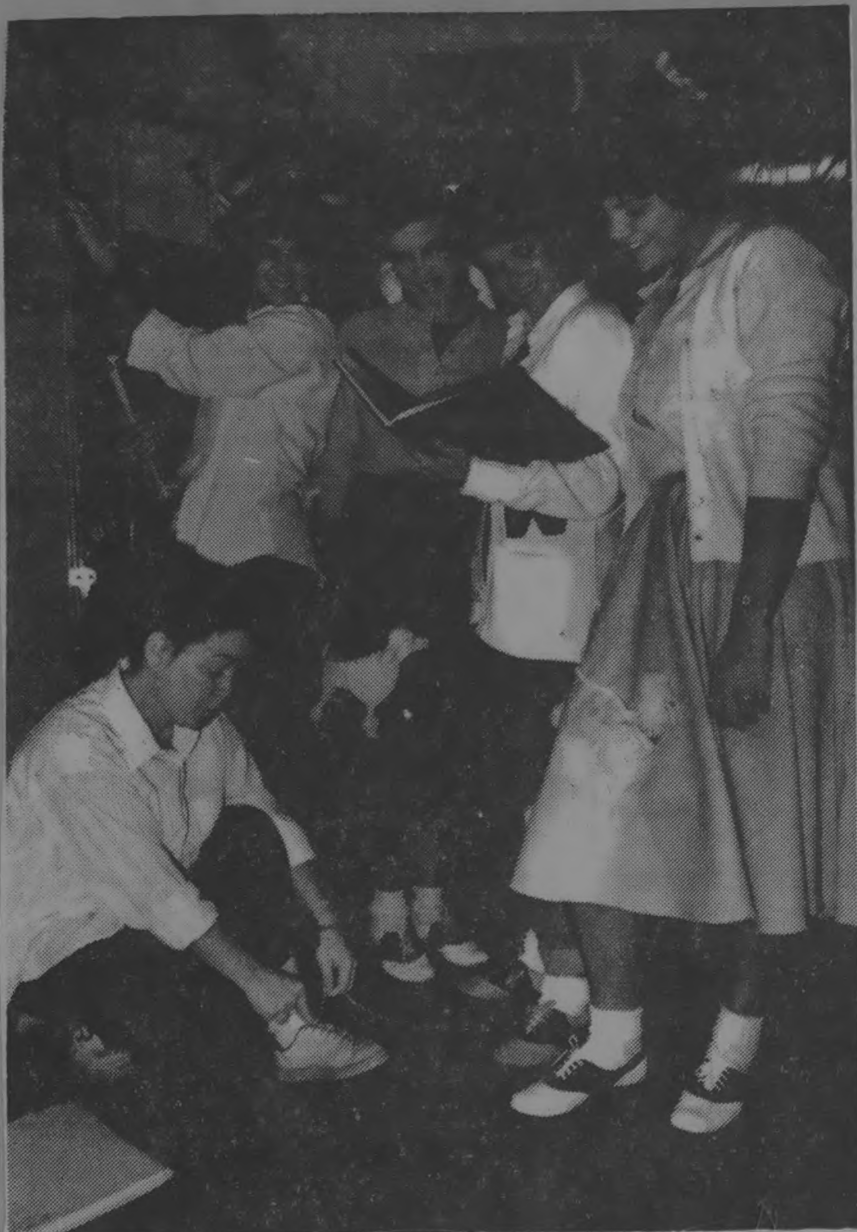
VHS Homecoming Parade

V Times

10-27-84

Valdosta High School students showed up en masse Friday to celebrate their annual homecoming parade. Floats, marching bands and beauty queens streamed down Patterson Street in the parade Friday afternoon. This year's homecoming theme was

"The Wildcats Bring Out The Animal In Me," which class floats exemplified. Evidently the spirit worked because the 'Cats trounced the Dougherty Trojans 68-0. For more on the game, see page 8. — Times Staff Photo by Cas Shearin.



Latest Fashion At VHS?

Not exactly. These students were among the many Valdosta High Schoolers who participated on "50s Day" at the school Wednesday. As part of homecoming festivities, VHS's week features a different

way to dress for every day. Homecoming will culminate in the Valdosta Wildcat-Dougherty County Trojan football game Friday at Cleveland Field. — Times Staff Photo by Rick Bender.

So Long Valdosta, It's Been Fun

Just a week ago, the cloudy skies of mediocrity seemed to be parting to reveal the blue skies of accuracy. Picking winners of area high school football games was fun once again.

But Friday night fell and so did the dreams. By Saturday morning it was perfectly clear: 3-3 for the week for yet another .500 percentage, the third in eight weeks. The overall record, 32-18 (.640), was nothing short of embarrassment.

With that, the crystal ball, the one which once knew all, strapped on its traveling shoes. The last I heard, it was heading toward South Bend, Ind., mumbling in its best Richard Nixon impersonation, "They won't have me to kick around anymore." Or was it, "I'm not a crook." Whatever, he should feel right at home in Notre Dame country.

So I'm left to try Week 9 on my own. My swan song if you will. You see, I'll be taking the same road out of town that my partner, the glass gazer, took. But I won't go quite as far North. My destination? Athens, Ga. Mama's calling. So long, Winnersville. But first ... the picks. I'll pick, you grin.

DOUGHERTY at VALDOSTA

Valdosta High will be celebrating Homecoming tonight. What that means is Dougherty will be wishing it was back at home.

The top-ranked Wildcats, who moved up to No. 2 nationally this week, have been nothing short of awesome. Just ask the folks in Thomasville, Tifton, Moultrie ... Dougherty, on the other hand, is, well, Dougherty.

Valdosta's only fear is a letdown. A letdown? Come on ... Valdosta 63, Dougherty 6.

LOWNDES at THOMASVILLE CENTRAL

Lowndes passed Test No. 1 in the Region 1-A AAA South sub-region by beating Bainbridge. Fortunately for the Vikings, who have flunked almost every other test this season, that's all that matters in making the playoffs.

And the Plowboys can earn a spot in the playoffs by beating Central tonight in Thomasville. If they don't, they'll have to beat Valdosta at the end of the season. They better beat Central tonight, because the other possibility seems unlikely. Then again, beating Central will be no pushover ... Central 24, Lowndes 14.

BULLOCH at VALWOOD

Valwood has tuned up for its home opener by playing its first six games on the road. Whoever made the schedule should be flogged. Then again a 5-1 record after that nightmare schedule has only helped toughen up the first-year Valiants. But will they be tough enough to beat defending state champion Bulloch? I hope so ... Valwood 21, Bulloch 19.

WAYCROSS at BERRIEN CO.

Waycross was supposed to ride roughshod over Region 2-AA, while Berrien was expected to be fair to middling. That shows what the experts know. Waycross is struggling and Berrien, at least before last week, was on top of the world. In a mild upset ... Berrien 18, Waycross 14.

COOK at THOMASVILLE

Cook is on a roll. The Hornets have won one straight. After losing their first six games, the Hornets upended Clinch County last week.

Will they be able to carry that momentum into tonight's game with Thomasville? It's not likely ... Thomasville 21, Cook 0.

BROOKS CO. at MACON CO.

Brooks needs this game in the worst way. The Trojans are 1-1 in the Region 1-AA East sub-region, so they must beat Macon County if they hope to make the playoffs. Macon will put up a fight before rolling over ... Brooks 12, Macon 10.

CLINCH CO. at ATKINSON CO.

This game and the Nov. 9 rematch in Homerville will decide the winner of Region 2-A. Atco must win, since it lost last week to Charlton County to stay in the hunt. After tonight, though, the hunt will be over ... Clinch 24, Atco 12.

It's Valdosta Again; Nobody Else Is Close

ATLANTA (AP) — Habersham Central helped itself and Marist last weekend when the Raiders knocked off previously undefeated Gainesville.

The victory enabled Marist to solidify its hold on No. 1 in Class AAA and boosted the Raiders two notches in The Associated Press poll of Georgia high school football teams.

Marist received all but one vote for first place in balloting by a panel of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters to get 98 of a possible 100 points. Cairo remained second and Thomson, which received the other No. 1 vote, moved to third, replacing Gainesville, which fell to sixth.

Habersham Central, meanwhile, jumped from sixth to fourth, continuing a climb it began four weeks ago.

Woodward Academy moved up a notch to fifth. North Springs was seventh, followed by Riverwood, Westside and Northwest Whitfield, ranked for the first time this year.

In Class AAAA, the dynamo otherwise known as Valdosta was a unanimous No. 1 choice for the fifth straight week. Southwest DeKalb moved to second, followed by Warner Robins,

Griffin, Newnan, Clarke Central, Wheeler and Northside-Warner Robins.

No. 9 Towers and No. 10 Central Gwinnett were ranked for the first time this season.

In Class AA, No. 2 Manchester moved closer to No. 1 Dooly County on the strength of its seventh straight shutout this season. The Blue Devils blanked previously undefeated R.E. Lee 19-0 Friday night.

West Rome remained in third, but Central-Carrollton moved to fourth, followed by Mitchell-Baker, Duluth, Lamar County, Oconee County and Irwin County. No. 10 Villa Rica was ranked for the first time this season.

Defending Class A state champion Palmetto moved back into the rankings after a two-week absence. The Raiders — ranked ninth this week — downed then-No. 6 Buford last weekend, knocking the Wolves from the poll.

Greenville again led the class, followed by Wilcox County. Lincoln County fell from second to third after being tied by No. 5 Louisville. Wrens was ranked fifth.

Glennville was No. 5, followed by Commerce and Bremen. Hogansville was in 10th.

Class AAAA

Class AAAA

1. Valdosta (8-0), 100, 10
 2. Southwest DeKalb (7-0), 81
 3. Warner Robins (6-0-1), 78
 4. Griffin (7-0), 65
 5. Newnan (6-0-1), 61
 6. Clarke Central (6-1), 60
 7. Wheeler (7-0), 43
 8. Northside W. Rbns (6-1), 22
 9. Towers (7-0), 19
 10. Central Gwinnett (6-1), 7
- Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Benedictine, Colquitt County, Morrow, Savannah and Statesboro.

Class AAA

Class AAA

1. Marist (7-0), 98, 9
 2. Cairo (7-1), 88
 3. Thomson (7-0), 77, 1
 4. Habersham Central (7-0), 73
 5. Woodward Acad. (6-1), 62
 6. Gainesville (7-1), 38
 7. North Springs (6-1), 36
 8. Riverwood (6-1), 22
 9. Westside (6-1), 18
 10. N.W. Whitfield (7-0), 14
- Also receiving votes: Americus, Dodge County, Glenn Hills, Murray County and Ware County.

Class AA

Class AA

1. Dooly County (7-0), 96, 7
 2. Manchester (7-0), 89, 2
 3. West Rome (6-1), 75
 4. Central-Carrollton (7-0), 60
 5. Mitchell-Baker (6-1), 59
 6. Duluth (7-0), 52
 7. Lamar County (7-0), 41
 8. Oconee County (6-1), 27
 9. Irwin County (6-1), 20
 10. Villa Rica (7-0), 14
- Also receiving votes: East Laurens, Mary Persons, R.E. Lee, Oglethorpe County and Washington-Wilkes.

Class A

Class A

1. Greenville (7-0), 98, 8
 2. Wilcox County (7-0), 84
 3. Lincoln County (5-1-1), 72
 4. Wrens (6-1), 68, 1
 5. Louisville (7-0-1), 62, 1
 6. Glennville (7-0), 45
 7. Commerce (6-1), 38
 8. Bremen (6-1), 31
 9. Palmetto (5-2-1), 23
 10. Hogansville (5-1), 14
- Also receiving votes: Buford, Clinch County, Miller County and Emanuel County Institute.

Statesboro Could Be Devilish Problem For Valdosta

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High's last loss came against a bunch of Blue Devils at Cleveland Field's Death Valley Stadium on Nov. 18, 1983. Those Blue Devils were from Tift County and they went on to claim the state championship.

Well, Friday night, the 'Cats will once again play hosts to some Blue Devils at 8 p.m. for the South Georgia championship. However, these Blue Devils are not from Tifton, but Statesboro.

Statesboro (11-2) has won its three games since the end of regular season by a combined 84-3 margin. They have compiled an 11-2 mark by winning their last 10 games in a row.

The Blue Devils stumbled out of the gates with a 1-2 record, and a lot of that had to do with coach Charles Winslett taking over the head coach position just a month before the season started.

"By getting here just a month before the season started, it took us a while (the players and coaches) to get used to one another,"

said Winslett. "We didn't play very well in the first three games, but we made some personnel changes and everything started to click then."

Winslett went to Statesboro from Fayette County where he had won more than 80 percent of the time. In 1977 when Valdosta and Griffin tied for the state championship, Winslett's Fayette County team lost to Griffin 3-0 in the regular season and 10-6 in the playoffs.

In 1980 when Lowndes defeated Griffin for the state title, Winslett's team lost to Griffin 14-10. This was a team that had enjoyed only one winning season before Winslett took over the reins.

Since losing to Effingham County 27-24 in the third game of the season, no other team has scored more than two touchdowns against the Blue Devils. In fact, they have shut out their opponents in four of the last six ballgames.

Meanwhile, the Blue Devils offense has averaged almost 30

points per outing in the last eight games, while the defense is yielding just over four points per contest.

"We are primarily a running-type of team," Winslett said. "We have two fine runningbacks — Bobby Martin and Reggie Perkins — who have had outstanding seasons for us."

"Ronnie Rivers, our sophomore fullback has also done a good job for us," Winslett added. "We'd prefer to run the ball because we don't throw the ball very well."

Chris Johnson is the leader of the offense from his quarterback post and he has been a steady influence according to Winslett. "He's done a real fine job for us and has been consistent with doing all the things that we've asked of him."

Anchoring the offensive line is 6-1, 220-pound senior tight end Lonnie Bradley, who is also the top receiver on the team. Winslett says, "our interior line is not overly big, but they're productive."

"Anytime you come into a situation like we did you have a lot

of catching up to do," Winslett said. "We only had four weeks to do what normally takes six to eight weeks to accomplish."

"The preseason workouts were more like spring practice for us," Winslett added. "We just tried a lot of different combinations at the start and we really didn't even know some of the kids' names."

Winslett is quick to point out that the success of his team can be pointed out like most other good teams — the defense.

Linebacker Leroy Mincy (6-0, 200) leads the stop troops, while Perkins also doubles as a linebacker when he's not running over tacklers. Sophomore Anthony Munford (6-0, 225) anchors the line from his end post.

"The Effingham game was a big disappointment, but the kids gained a lot out of it," Winslett said. "They felt like we should have won it and it got them in the right frame of mind."

"They now seem to have an idea of what it takes to play with the type of competition that we face," Winslett added. "I don't know if any of that will help us against Valdosta though."



Special Photo By DeRon Coppage

RB Tony Anderson Ran For 148 Yards And Scored 2 Touchdowns

VHS-Warner Robins Tickets Go On Sale

From Staff Reports

Tickets to the Valdosta-Warner Robins high school football playoff game are being sold for the contest.

Game time is 8 p.m. this Friday in Warner Robins. Valdosta High students may purchase tickets at the school this week, with elementary and junior high schools also selling tickets.

Football players and band members whose parents are season ticket holders may buy those tickets at VHS on Monday. Touchdown club members who are season ticket holders may buy their tickets at VHS on Monday at 7 p.m.

Tickets to season ticket holders go on sale at the superintendent's office on

Slater Street from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

All remaining tickets will be sold beginning at 8 a.m. Wednesday. Reserved seating tickets will cost \$4, with student tickets going for \$2.

Seats remain available on buses chartered to the game, with the fee being

set at \$20. The money should be given to touchdown club president John Burch by Tuesday at noon.

The buses will leave at approximately 4 p.m. Friday from the Mathis City Auditorium. For more information contact Burch at 244-3925 or 244-7304.

Wildcat Tradition

Valdosta rolled again Friday night, beating Colquitt County 35-7 for the Region 1-AAAA high school football championship. The 'Cats are ranked No. 1 in Georgia by The Associated Press and No. 1 in the nation by USA Today. The Wildcats travel to Warner Robins this Friday to face the Region 4 champion Demons. Game tickets and bus rides may be taken care of through officials at Valdosta High. If the 'Cats win this time, they'll be coming home for the remainder of their playoff schedule.



Special Photo By Mike Dowse

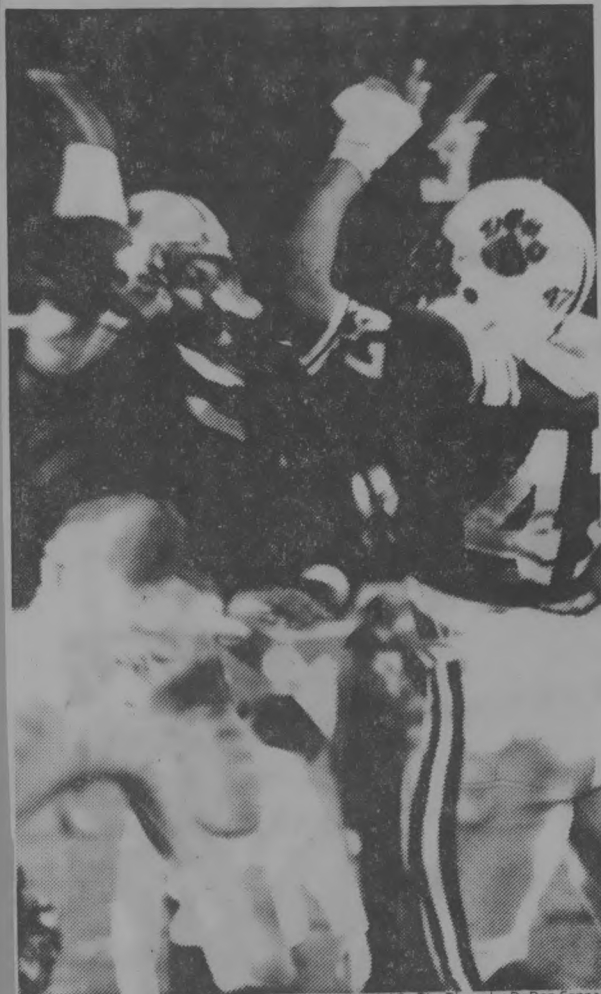
Wildcat Darrell Leonard Scored On A Tight End Reverse



Special Photo By Mike Dowse

WR Mack McGuyrt Caught A Touchdown Pass From QB Berke Holtzelaw

'The Force' To Be With 'Cats' Defense



Special To The Times by DeRon Coppage
'Kool' Folsom And John Porter Fly For VHS

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

And may the force be with you.

Valdosta's defense has been that force all season long in its romp to a sparkling 14-0 record.

The "Portergeist" defense, featuring "Kool and the Gang" in the secondary, has been through it all in four years of varsity play at Valdosta High. Tonight, they'll face Athens-Clarke Central in the state championship game at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field's Death Valley.

This is the second time around for some of the defensive players such as John Porter, Derrick "Kool" Folsom, James Wakefield and David Thomas, who are going after the state title on their home field.

In 1981, the 'Cats defeated Atlanta-Peachtree 10-7 to claim VHS head coach Nick Hyder's first undisputed title at the school. Those guys, along with several others, were freshmen on that team.

Now, four years later, they'll try to conclude their careers the same way they started — by winning the state title. But it won't be an easy task, according to VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph, who says "Clarke Central is their (the 'Cats) biggest

challenge yet."

The senior-laden defense will lose eight starters to graduation, and five of those have been playing together since the pee-wee league, according to Rudolph. That, he says, is one of the keys to this year's defense.

"They have a great feeling of togetherness, which gives them outstanding chemistry and an innate ability to blend together," Rudolph said. "Since I've had them in the ninth grade, they've worked extremely hard to want to accomplish something before leaving Valdosta."

"They wanted to be remembered as one of the top teams to ever play here, and they are very close to attaining their goal," Rudolph added.

"We're at the point now where we have the unanswered question. And, what lies in store is what keeps you wake at night wondering about it. The question that you ask yourself is if you have peaked already, or can you do it for one more week?"

There were several question marks that Valdosta had to fill before the start of the season, with the departure of nose guard Leon Johnson, cornerback Aundray Irvin and linebacker Frank Abney.

"The guys who took their place really matured and came through for us," Rudolph said. "The togetherness of the unit probably compensated for some of the gaps until the guys gained some confidence."

"You're only as strong as your weakest link on defense, and the other kids were willing to pay the price while some of the younger guys came around," Rudolph added. "You must make sure that you have other kids who can take up the slack, and help out to make the weakness a strength."

In the last eight quarters, Valdosta has held its opponents scoreless, giving up just 14 points in four games. Defending state champion Tift County got its only score when the 'Cats fumbled at their own 25. It took them nine plays to push it in for a score, with the drive being kept alive by a third-down pass interference penalty.

Colquitt County got the only other score late in the game (with 26 seconds left) on a 53-yard pass against the reserves in the region championship game, and those were the last points scored on the 'Cats. In the last two weeks, Warner Robins and Statesboro have both been

shut out.

"Our defense has played with a consistent, high level of intensity all year," said head coach Nick Hyder. "They've made the big play all season long and that has come through hard work in practice."

"We've stood the test of 10 regular season challenges and four post season challenges and we haven't been able to look past any of them," Hyder added.



Special To The Times by DeRon Coppage

Bruising Runners

Valdosta running back Willie Lewis (l) and Wildcat tailback Tony Anderson (r) are among the leading rushers in Region 1, with many of their yards being gained by running through defenders. The bruising backs are an integral part of the VHS offense, and they've saved many a drive by getting that valuable first down.



GEORGIA PREP SATURDAY

Valdosta explodes in second half to rout Colquitt

Special to the Times-Union/Journal

MOULTREE, Ga. — Top-ranked Valdosta broke open a tight first half, scoring seven points in the third quarter and 19 more in the final period to rout host Colquitt County 40-7 in a non-subregion game last night.

The win kept Valdosta, ranked No. 1 in last week's Class AAAA state prep poll, unbeaten at 8-0. Rapidly improving Colquitt, ranked eighth in the same poll, suffered its first loss of the season and is now 5-1-1.

After leading 14-7 at the half, Valdosta came alive in the third quarter, marching 52 yards for a touchdown on its first possession of the second quarter. Randy Bell caught a 21-yard scoring pass from senior quarterback Berke Holtzclaw, and John Porter's extra point kick made it 21-7.

Colquitt came right back, taking the ensuing kickoff from its own 23 to Valdosta's 1-yard line, but on first-and-goal, Valdosta linebacker Bill Kirby recovered a Packer fumble to end the

threat.

That seemed to put the momentum Valdosta's way, as Tony Anderson scored on a 5-yard run early in the fourth quarter, and Darrell Leonard added a 23-yard touchdown run before Hosea Heard closed out the scoring on an 18-yard pass from Greg Talley.

Valdosta finished with 286 yards rushing and another 56 passing for a 342-yard total.

Anderson was the game's leading rusher, gaining 157 yards on 20 carries. Valdosta, which already has wrapped up at least a tie for a Region 1-AAAA South playoff spot, took a 7-0 lead midway through the first quarter, driving 41 yards in just three plays. Tony Anderson, who gained 114 yards on 10 carries in the first half, sprinted 35 yards for the Wildcats' first score.

Colquitt responded with a touchdown on its first possession of the second period when quarterback Darrell Funderburk flipped a 19-yard scoring strike to Stacy Middlebrook on a fourth-

and-3 situation.

That play capped an 80-yard drive, kept alive by a 26-yard pass from Funderburk to tailback T.J. Edwards.

But Valdosta came right back to take a 14-7 lead before halftime when Willie Lewis broke loose on a 6-yard touchdown run.

The drive, which covered 63 yards in eight plays, saw Anderson doing most of the heavy work, as the 200-pound junior lugged the ball four times on runs of 11, 5, 15 and 21 yards.

The Wildcats missed out on another scoring opportunity just before the second quarter ended when Scott Penuel of Colquitt had a punt partially blocked and Valdosta recovered at the Packers' 43.

With 40 seconds left, Valdosta drove to the Colquitt 28, with the help of a 15-yard personal foul. But Colquitt's John McCramie picked off a Holtzclaw pass in the end zone with 27 seconds remaining to keep his team within striking distance.

Holtzclaw, who has passed for at least 100 yards in every game this season, completed only one of 10 passes in the first half with two interceptions.

Colquitt's pass rush forced Holtzclaw out of the pocket numerous times, resulting in several overthrown passes.

Valdosta turned to its running game, gathering 174 yards in the first half, which kept the Wildcats in control.

Lewis gained 53 yards on seven carries to complement the efforts of Anderson.

Colquitt managed only 66 rushing yards on 17 tries during the first two periods.

Valdosta Colquitt Co.
77 7 19-40
0 7 0 0-7

V-Anderson 35 run (Porter kick)
V-Middlebrook 19 pass from Funderburk (Porterish)
V-Lewis 6 run (Porter kick)
V-Bell 21 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick)
V-Anderson 5 run (run failed)
V-Leonard 23 run on end around (Porter kick)
V-Heard 18 pass from Talley (kick failed)

Valdosta's Backs Are Hyder-Tough

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

When it comes to running backs, Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder gets offensive about how they're treated compared to most other positions on the football field.

"Running backs are the least-protected, according to the rules, than any other person on the field," Hyder said. "They can get clipped from behind, socked below the waist and grabbed by anything other than their face mask."

"You can kill the running back by hitting him any way that you can, but let's not block below the waist," Hyder added. "That's why we feel like our running backs have to be tough."

As far as toughness goes, the Wildcats have a fit-

ness-training condition system that rivals many colleges. It's broken down into four categories — strength, speed, agility and endurance — and points are awarded on how well the athlete does in each category.

It goes even a little deeper than that, with added incentives such as t-shirts, trophies and plaques, from the junior high ranks on up through the varsity. When a player is through with all of his tests, he's placed in one of six categories.

These are the TomCats (100 points), the Winners Club (125 points), the Champions Club (150 points), the SuperCats (175 points), the Superior Cats (200 points) and the Top Cats (225).

The Top Cats category was just added when halfback Willie Lewis blew the system apart by scaling out at 235 points — the highest total ever registered in Hyder's 20 years at this type of conditioning. Defensive end Earnest Mangrum also topped 200 points with a 215 total. Before Lewis' feat, Superior Cat was the highest level a player could attain.

"We've always believed in the theory that a top physical athlete can come back quicker from an injury, and to survive they've got to be tough," Hyder said. "Another thing that we believe in is quickness, and we feel like a well-conditioned athlete is much quicker than just your average player."

Lewis led the 'Cats in rushing during the regular season, and finished third in the region, carrying 112 times for 731 yards and 10 touchdowns, for a team-leading 6.5 average per carry. In post-season play, Lewis has carried 49 times for 235 yards and two touchdowns.

Tony Anderson, who missed the first two games and didn't play in half of two others, teams with Lewis in the backfield to form a dangerous tandem. Anderson still managed to pick up 725 yards on 133 carries, for a 5.9 average per attempt. He led the 'Cats in scoring with 14 touchdowns during the regular season. In four post-season games, Anderson has slashed for 406 yards on 69 totes and scored six touchdowns.



Berke Holtzclaw
Scrambling first half

Valdosta Toasts Homecoming In Style

No. 1 Wildcats Thump Dougherty 68-0

By ROGER B. BROWN

Times Staff Writer

"Cocktail Hour" came early here at Cleveland Field Friday night as top-ranked Class AAAA Valdosta romped past Albany Dougherty 68-0 in a Homecoming game that was not as close as the score indicates.

STATISTICS

	DOU	VAL
First Downs	4	18
Yards Rushing	97	294
Yards Passing	27	30
Passes	11-3-3	12-3-0
Fumbles-Lost	4-3	1-0
Punting	8-25.3	2-40.0
Penalties	5-45	2-10

In fact, unfortunately for the Trojans, with 11:56 remaining in the first half, when halfback Willie Lewis slashed into the end zone from two yards out, opened the floodgates.

The Valdosta side of the scoreboard continued to light up for the rest of the period and the Wildcats added 33 more points before the half was out.

The win improved Valdosta to 9-0, while Dougherty dropped to 1-9 for the year.

For the Wildcats, who led only 7-0 at the end of the first period, it was one of a number of big plays recorded in the first half. On virtually every opportunity that presented itself, the Wildcats were there to answer.

The 'Cats scored in every conceivable fashion as they

played near-perfect football. The defense put the clamps on the Trojans offense, dominating the game. Dougherty didn't record its initial first down until midway of the third period.

The Trojans only crossed into Valdosta territory once. They weren't able to put together consecutive first downs until their final series of the game. They reached the 'Cat 8, but ended the drive on the 15 after consecutive quarterback sacks.

Meanwhile, the Valdosta offense put on a methodical showing. The 'Cats never had to drive further than 50 yards for any of their eight first-half touchdowns.

In fact, the first score of the game was a 30-yard interception return by safety Derrick "Kool" Folsom.

John Porter came on to add the first of five extra points in what proved to be a busy night for Valdosta placekickers.

The 'Cats muffed two other scoring opportunities in the period when Willie Lewis came up two yards shy of a first down at the Dougherty 30 on a fourth and five play.

Valdosta started its next possession at the Trojan 49 following a short punt, but was unable to move and punted for the only time in the half.

"In the early going we had a little trouble getting cranked

up," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "We seemed a little over-anxious and tried to force things at the start of the game.

"But we settled down and just took advantage of what they were giving us. They played us very tough at the start and gave us a few different looks that we hadn't worked on."

Whatever the Trojans were doing it didn't take the 'Cats long to master it. They pounded Dougherty for 40 second-quarter points.

Lewis' score came on the first play of the second quarter and Porter's kick made it 14-0.

Dougherty quarterback Steve Mitchum fumbled on the Trojans' next play and Porter recovered at the 12.

Lewis scampered in for his second score of the game with 11:29 left in the half. The snap from center was muffed, making the score, 20-0.

Dougherty fumbled again on its next series at its own 19. Two plays later, quarterback Berke Holtzclaw hooked up with Hosea Heard for a 16-yard touchdown toss. Porter's kick made it 27-0 with 9:40 still showing on the clock.

Folsom picked off his second pass of the game on the Trojans next series and returned it 27 yards to the Dougherty 13. Four plays later,

Tony Anderson scored the first of his three touchdowns in the game from six yards out. The pass for two points was batted away and Valdosta led 33-0.

Dougherty got off three plays on its next series, but that also worked against them. Anderson got touchdown No. 2 on a 52-yard punt return with 5:08 left in the half.

Please See "Valdosta," Page

	Score By Quarters	
Dougherty	7 40 14 0 0 0-0	
Valdosta	7 40 14 7-68	

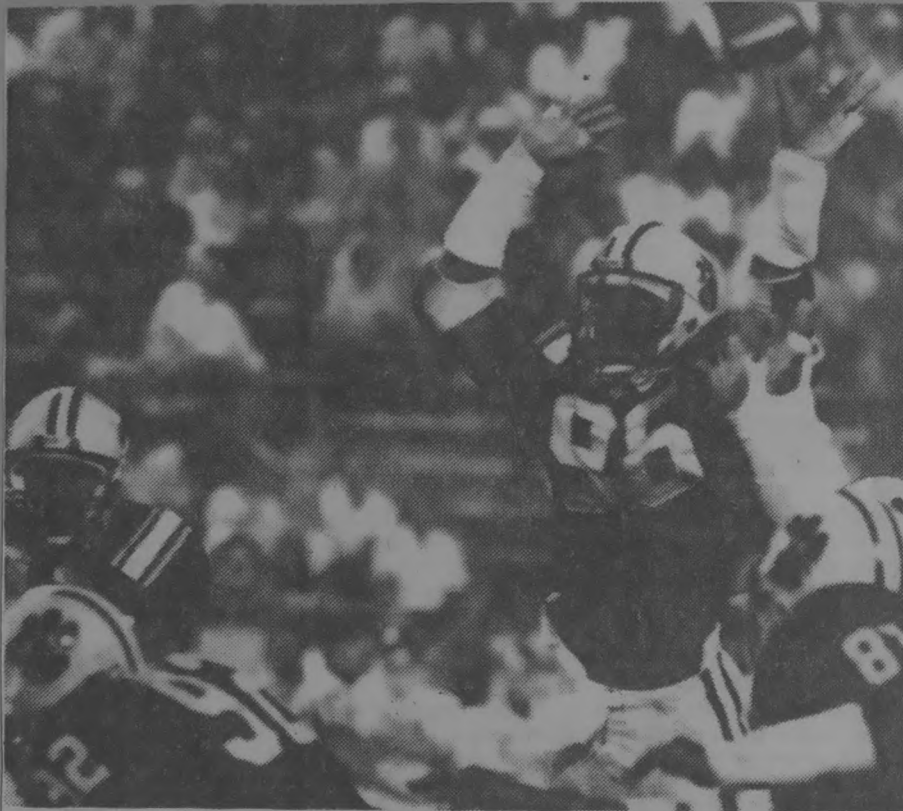
SCORING
Valdosta — Folsom 37 interception return (Porter kick) 10:45 1st
Valdosta — Lewis 2 run (Porter kick) 11:56 2nd
Valdosta — Lewis 12 run (run failed) 11:29 2nd
Valdosta — Heard 16 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick) 9:40 2nd
Valdosta — Anderson 6 run (pass failed) 7:31 2nd
Valdosta — Anderson 52 punt return (Porter kick) 5:08 2nd
Valdosta — Dixon 2 run (Steward kick) 1:45 2nd
Valdosta — Anderson 30 run (Porter kick) 8:45 3rd
Valdosta — Leonard 11 run (Steward kick) 7:19 3rd
Valdosta — Dixon 1 run (Steward kick) 3:30 4th

INDIVIDUAL STATS
Rushing: Valdosta — Anderson 10-109, Lewis 9-54, Mangham 7-45, Dixon 7-29, Henderson 3-18, Dougherty — Sisroe 13-72, Covin 9-24, Mosley 4-6, Mitchum 5 minus 10.
Passing: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 7-2-0, 23, Talley 5-1-0, 7, Dougherty — Mitchum 7-3-2, 27; Taylor 3-0-1, 0.
Receiving: Valdosta — Heard 2-25, Steward 1-7, Dougherty — Glen Edwards 2-17, Cobbler 1-7.



Derrick Folsom Started Off Scoring Barrage With 37-Yard Interception Return

Times Staff Photo By Laura Harris

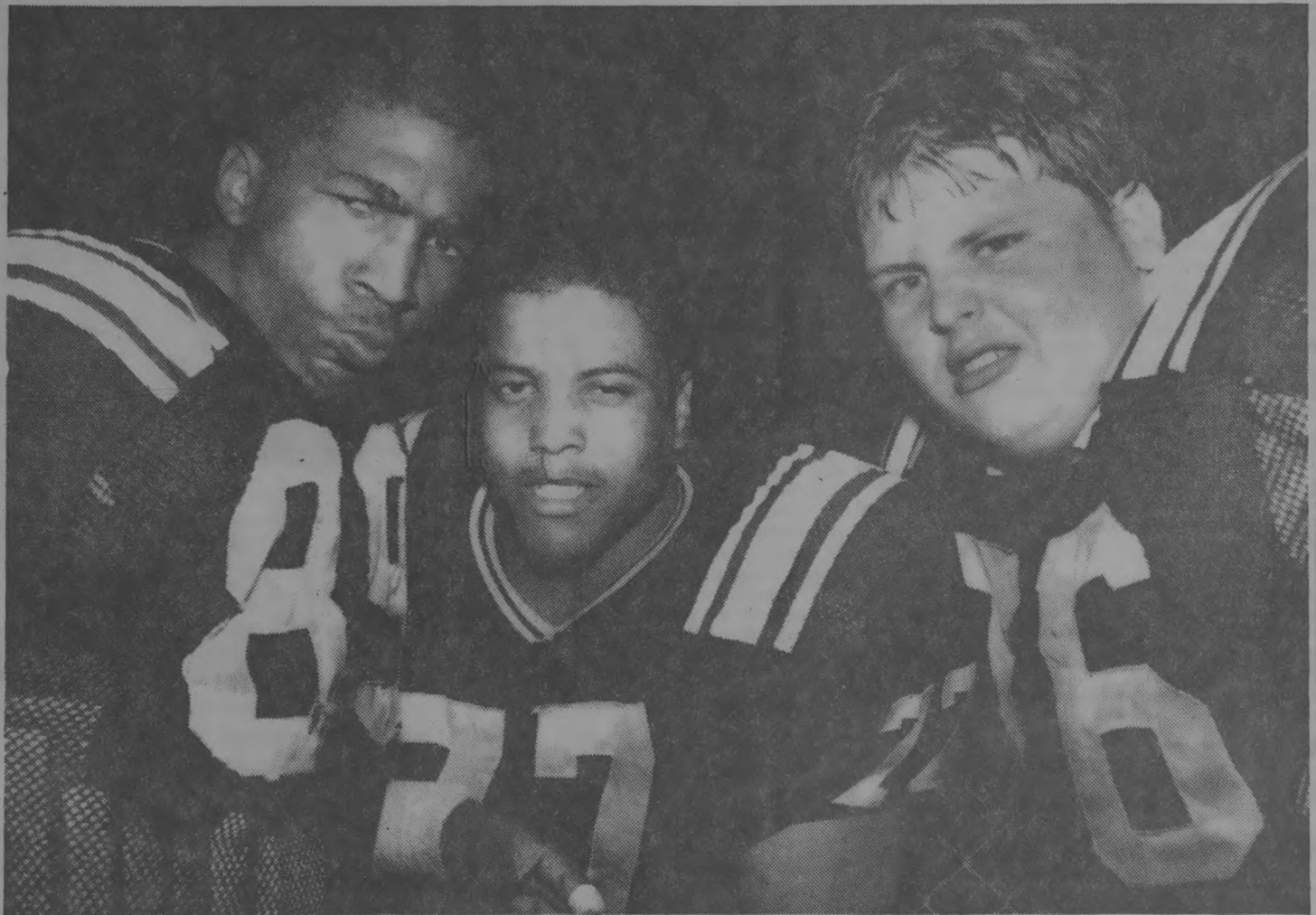


James Wakefield Batted Down This Dougherty Pass



Times Staff Photos By Laura Harris

Tony Anderson Scored 3 TDs



Valdosta Offensive Linemen (l-r) Darrell Leonard, Johnny Crook, Marty Howell,

V. Time's

Valdosta 68, Dougherty 0

10-27-84

From Page 8

Dixon concluded the scoring for the evening when he plowed in from the 1 in the fourth period.

Valdosta piled up 324 yards of total offense, including 294 on the ground and had 18 first downs.

Dougherty finished with 124 yards in total

offense, 55 coming on a late run by Charles Sisroe. The Trojans managed just four first downs and only 27 yards passing.

Valdosta played 76 of the 81 players that dressed for the game and will have next week off before concluding its regular season at home against arch-rival Lowndes on Nov. 9.

"It was real fine effort for Homecoming and it capped off all the other activities that were

going on this week," Hyder said. "We still have one more regular-season game to go and have to start preparing for it right away."

"We have to flush this one and put it behind us," Hyder added. "We've arranged next week where we feel like it will be advantage for us. We just have to maintain our intensity and keep striving to improve."

Valdosta

From Page 21

Lewis was third coming into the game, trailing Lloyd Bozeman of Tift County (the Blue Devils were idle Friday night) and Derrick Moore of Albany Monroe. Moore gained 52 yards on 11 carries in Monroe's 34-7 loss at Colquitt County Friday night to maintain his lead with 559 yards.

In all, Valdosta rolled up 225 yards on the ground against Central. The 'Cats also passed for 175 yards to end the game with 400 yards of total offense.

That offense went to work again the next time it got its hands on the ball after the first score. The 'Cats used just six plays — and another crucial Central offside penalty — to drive 73 yards to go up 14-7. The 'Cats covered the final 66 yards with a touchdown pass from Berke Holtzclaw to tight end Darrell Leonard. Leonard raced into the end zone, fist firmly in air, to close out the first-half scoring.

Valdosta had two opportunities in the final four minutes of the half to put additional points on the board, but a Holtzclaw interception — the first of two by the VHS signal caller — and a missed 31-yard field goal attempt prevented additional points.

But the 'Cats didn't have to wait long. They took the opening kickoff of the second half and marched 71 yards in six plays to go up 21-7 with 9:33 left in the third quarter. Lewis carried the ball the final 30 yards on a sweep behind great line blocking. Senior lineman Jon Reaves kept the drive alive when he fell on a Holtzclaw fumble at the Central 35.

The Valdosta defense then went to work, holding Central to three downs and a punt on its first three possessions of the second half. The 'Cats second stand set up VHS's second score of the third period. Central was forced to punt from its 17, putting the 'Cats in business at their own 45. Seven plays later, Holtzclaw hit freshman Charles Steward for a 30-yard touchdown and a 28-7 lead. This time Lewis kept the drive alive when he recovered his own fumble.

But Central also hurt its cause when it roughed Holtzclaw on a third and 13 play. In all, Central was penalized nine times for 97 yards in losses.

Greene was in no mood to talk about officials after the game.

"I'm not going to say anything about them," Greene said. "The thing I hate to see is something taken away from the kids who have worked so hard."

But Hyde had a different explanation. "Sometimes those things happen."

Valdosta ended the scoring on the night when Scott Braswell, who started at fullback, burst into the end zone from 1 yard out.

"The just beat us," Greene added. "They've got a good football team. I think we got intimidated in the second half."



Times Staff Photo By Rick Bender

Charlie Greene, In His First Appearance At Cleveland Field In 10 Years, Had No Kind Words For Officials Greene's Homecoming Dampened By Defeat

By STEVE CORRIGAN
Times Sports Editor

Over 7,000 Valdosta High fans turned out to welcome former VHS coach Charlie Greene back home Friday night at Cleveland Field. But 30 or so Wildcats of the VHS variety were not as kind to the first-year Thomasville Central coach.

The top-ranked 'Cats mauled Greene's Yellow Jackets 35-7 in a Region 1-AAAA South sub-region game. The loss dropped the Jackets to 4-2 overall and 0-1 in the South sub-region.

But even though Greene had not stepped onto Cleveland Field since 1973, he said the experience was nothing special.

"It's just like playing anywhere else," he said after the game amid well-wishers from Central and Valdosta.

Greene coached Valdosta in 1972 and '73 to a 17-3 record. Following the '73 season he went to Stephens County in Toccoa. Last spring he returned to South Georgia.

"We thought Central was a fine football team," the VHS coach said after the game, "and our youngsters played well against them."

"I've been concerned since Charlie signed on," said Valdosta coach Nick Hyde. "I knew he would turn the program around."

And Hyde said it didn't take him long to do it.

Valdosta appeared to have its hands full from the start. On Central's first possession of the game, the Jackets drove 58 yards in eight plays to go up 7-0. Central, mixing the run and pass to perfection, looked almost unstoppable during its opening drive.

But Valdosta responded with a drive of its own

Hyder said the 'Cats' second score of the night — a 66-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Berke Holtzclaw to tight end Darrell Leonard — appeared to catch them off guard.

"I don't know that Darrell Leonard's touchdown didn't fool them," Hyde said.

Central returns to action next Saturday at Albany Dougherty. The Jackets host Lowndes on Oct. 26 in a must-win sub-region game.

"We just gotta work and get better and aim for the playoffs," Greene said.

Wildcats Rest Up Before Lowndes

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High Wildcats will not win a football game this week for the first time this season. However, their prospects of victory would rise dramatically if they'd scheduled a game Friday evening.

The Wildcats are off to an overall start, standing at 2-0 in the Region 1-AAAA South sub-region action. And although mixed reviews have come in about off weeks, head coach Nick Hyder claims the rest has done Valdosta good.

"I've heard coaches for 25 years say an off week can work for you or against you," he said. "I feel some year's one is true, and some year's the other is true."

"But we had 12 of 80 players who didn't even dress out last week because of injuries such as cuts, scrapes, concussions and fractures. We're just glad to have these youngsters healed."

The Wildcats haven't taken the week completely off, but their workouts haven't been too strenuous in comparison to game weeks. They didn't practice on Monday, they worked out for two hours Tuesday, and they'll work out two hours today.

They'll prepare 1½ hours on Thursday, followed by a B-team game against Albany Monroe that afternoon at Cleveland Field. On Thursday evening they'll attend a season-ending supper sponsored by the Valdosta High Touchdown Club. Friday will be another off-day for the 'Cats, but Hyder says they deserve a break.

"We're giving them some times with their families and to rest up," he said. "They appreciated the time off, and I think it helped all of us — the coaches and players alike."

Also, exams in the classroom are less than two weeks away, while "a lot of youngsters are battling to keep up in the classroom and this gives them the chance to catch up."

Valdosta had been working "awful hard" for 14 to 15 weeks, which included workouts five days each week. And the 'Cats can definitely use the off week anyway, with their final game

coming Nov. 9 against Lowndes at Cleveland Field. The game is not only between two strong, cross-town rivals, but is a decisive sub-region contest, according to Hyder.

"The winner will be the No. 1 team in the south sub-region, and it means the winner will have the home-field advantage in the opening game of the playoffs," he said. "The loser will go on the road to Moultrie (Colquitt County), and I think the winner will play Tift County at home."

Lowndes beat Thomasville Central 20-17 in a key sub-region game last week, with senior quarterback-kicker Randy Gay hitting a 27-yard field goal with :57 left in the contest. The win eliminated the Yellow Jackets from the playoff picture, but it pushed the Plowboys' overall record to 5-3 overall, 2-0 sub-region, which has Hyder concerned.

"They've shown they're capable of playing championship football," he said. "In beating Central last week, they moved heavily into the playoff picture."

"They're hot when they have to be. I've only seen them play one time — that was against Dougherty, and they looked great that night."

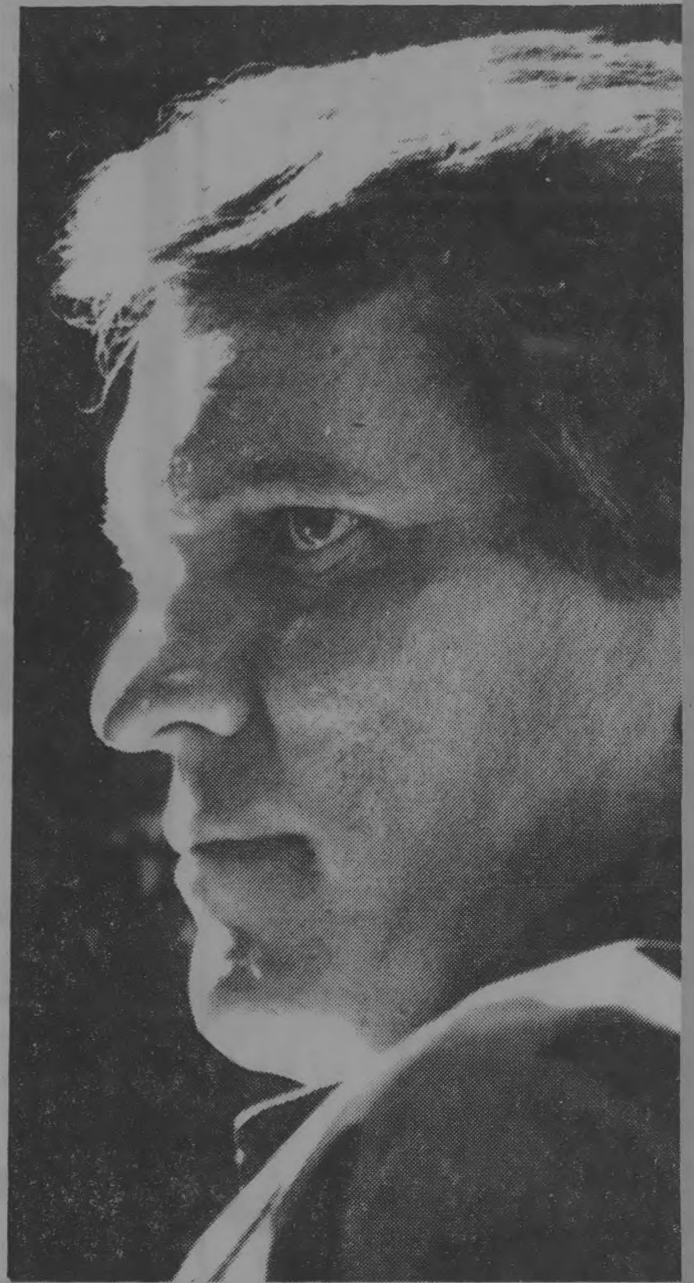
"And they beat Clarke Central, so they're capable of beating anybody."

Hyder noted the Plowboys are a "highly competitive team, with a very fine coaching staff."

But Lowndes' offense is the primary factor that stands out when discussions of playing the Plowboys come up. Gay guided the Vikings' offense last week, not only hitting the winning points, but kicking another field goal, running for one touchdown, throwing for another and passing for more than 200 yards.

"You have to respect the things they're strong at, and they're very strong in their passing attack," Hyder said. "I don't know of a better one in the state."

"They throw the ball extremely well, they have a strong offensive line and a good defense. And their kicking game is the best all-around kicking game in the region."



Times Staff Photo

Hyder's Troops Are Taking A Break This Week

VHS, LHS Top South Sub-Region

U. Daily Times 11/5/84

Valdosta's overall record stands at 9-0, and it's 2-0 in the sub-region, having beaten Bainbridge and Thomasville Central. Lowndes carries a 6-3 overall slate, also defeating Bainbridge and Central in the sub-region.

Colquitt's North sub-region record is 3-0, and its last regular-season game is Friday night in a sub-region matchup against Albany Dougherty. Tift rests at 2-1 in the sub-region, having taken the No. 2 slot after falling to Colquitt.

But from a football standpoint, Hyder isn't looking at this game any differently than he would against any other team.

"We always consider our next opponent our toughest opponent," he said. "You've got to look at it that way, because blocking and tackling is serious."

"They're (the Plowboys) our next opponent, so they're the toughest. They've got a great quarterback (Randy Gay) and a great offensive line, plus they've improved the running-back situation."

"Both times I've seen them, they (the Vikings) looked tremendous. They certainly have done the area extremely proud. Coach (Joe) Wilson and his staff have done an outstanding job preparing them to play football."

Hyder also cited Lowndes' kicking game as something his team will be preparing to counter this week in practice. Lowndes senior defensive back Calvin Orr will also be studied by the 'Cats, according to Hyder.

"He's one of the finest football players I've seen in quite some time," he said. "I believe every coach in the state would love to have him."

CLASSIC COVERAGE — The Valdosta Daily Times will be running feature stories, comparisons and advances throughout the week in preparation for the game, which is scheduled Friday night at 8 on Cleveland Field.

VALDOSTA WILDCATS

1984 RECORD

9-0-0

U. Daily Times 11/2/84

1984 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

August 31	Won 21-3	Thomasville High
September 7	Won 47-14	at Waycross
September 15	Won 47-6	at Monroe
September 21	Won 42-0	Westover
September 28	Won 49-7	at Bainbridge
October 5	Won 28-0	at Tift County
October 12	Won 35-7	Central, Thomasville
October 19	Won 40-7	at Colquitt County
October 26	Won 68-0	Dougherty
November 9		Lowndes

Staff Is Heart Of 'Cat's Team

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

They all have one single purpose each Friday night, which is to win football games. But it's hard to keep a good staff of assistants together. Just ask Don Shula of the Miami Dolphins, or look at the number of former assistants under the legendary Paul "Bear" Bryant who are now head coaches.

If they were in an army, the general would get all the credit for the war victories, but in this case it's the head coach who gets all the credit. However, don't tell Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder that, because he says a head coach is only as good as his staff of assistants.

The Wildcats' staff has been together for a number of years now. In fact, Charles Tarpley has been with Hyder through every one of his coaching victories, which cover some 19-odd years.

The two started together as assistants at West Rome, and Tarpley came to Valdosta with Hyder. Tarpley is in his 11th season at Valdosta, and he coaches the linebackers and defensive ends.

Tarpley began his athletic career in high school at Richmond Academy in Augusta. From there he went on to play college baseball at Georgia Southern, which won the national championship in 1962.

Tarpley also serves as the head baseball coach at Valdosta, after serving in that same capacity at West Rome.

"It's been a great experience for me here at Valdosta, and I don't know why anybody would want to go anywhere else," Tarpley said. "All the other coaches that we worked with in West Rome are now head coaches somewhere, but I made a commitment to come here with coach Hyder."

"This is the top of the line unless I wanted to be a head coach somewhere," Tarpley added. "It's a lot of long, hard work involved, but I'm sure it would be the same anywhere that you attempt to win consistently."

Tarpley is also quick to point out that he and Hyder coached the first black player — Chuck Kinnebrew — while at West Rome to ever play for Georgia. Tarpley also named his son (Brad) after another former player — Brad Cescotti.

Another long-time Valdosta assistant is defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. He has been with the Wildcats for 16 years, spending his entire coaching career at the school.

Rudolph is a Georgia Tech graduate, and a recent inductee into the Valdosta-Lowndes County Hall of Fame. He played seven years of professional football with the Boston Patriots and the Miami Dolphins.

Rudolph started his first stint at Valdosta under legendary Wildcat coach Wright Bazemore after completing his pro football

career. He coached for seven years before moving into private business for two years with his brother-in-law.

But, Rudolph got back on the field when Hyder took over the Wildcat reigns, and he's now in the 10th season of his second stint.

"Back when I played, the game was mostly involved with kicking and defense," Rudolph said. "It was influenced a lot by Tennessee, and a 21-7 score was sort of a shootout back then."

"But, television has brought about a lot of changes because people want to see more offense, and the rules have been changed to afford this type of game," Rudolph added. "Basically blocking and tackling hasn't changed regardless of how technical offenses are today."

Rudolph said the kids today are much bigger and faster than when he played, but he says "pride and the what's inside the heart has been a constant through the years."

Rudolph said he isn't concerned with the "burnout" that has sidelined some of the modern day coaches.

"There was a time when I was player when I realized that I had used up my usefulness, and I'm sure that the same thing will happen when it's time to quit coaching," Rudolph said. "I think we all want to continue as long as we feel like we can contribute something."

Bob Bolton is the Wildcats receivers coach, and he's a former player for Valdosta. He graduated college from Valdosta State, and has been on the Wildcat staff for 11 years. He spent two years as an assistant on the 9th grade and then served as head 9th grade coach for two years.

"I have really enjoyed my time here and I really love working with the kids," Bolton said. "We have a big game this week and it gives us a chance to complete a goal that we set back at the stat of practice."

Jerry Don Baker is the offensive line coach, and the leader of the Wildcats "Blood Pressure" interior front. He's also a graduate of Valdosta, and played on two state championships for the Wildcats. He was also on one national championship team, and he was on the first team which started the series against Lowndes. In his two years against the Vikings, Valdosta was 2-0.

Mike O'Brien is the offensive backfield coach, and he's in his fourth year at Valdosta. He came over from Moultrie where he coached for four years. He also had coaching stints at St. Joseph's High and Washington High in Greenville, Miss.

Freddie Waters is the defensive line coach for the Wildcats and he's been with them for 11 years. He's been in the coaching business for 25 years, including stints at Holly Grove High in Holly Grove, Ark. and A.S. Clark in Cordele.



VHS Staff Has Helped 'Cats Run To 9-0 Record

Majors, Daniels Hit Hard For No. 5 S.C. Gamecocks

*U. Daily Times
11/1/84*

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

Looking across the line at South Carolina's defense, you might think you were viewing a Valdosta Wildcat football game from a few years ago. There's defensive end Ricky Daniels staring at you, and behind him stands Chris Majors at cornerback.

Daniels was red-shirted last season, and he's a second-stringer this year as a freshman. But Majors could be one of the biggest Gamecock playmakers, starting at his defensive back position as a freshman and sophomore.

"I've been coming up with a couple interceptions, fumble recoveries, blocked punts and game-saving tackles," Majors said. "In the Kansas State game I blocked a punt in the second half, and so did another guy."

"We put 14 points on the board, and it sort of gave us the game after that."

South Carolina went on to win 49-17, and the 175-pounder was also instrumental in the Gamecocks' 49-17 victory over The Citadel.

"I made the game-saving tackle in that one," he said. "I was a safety, and a wall had set up."

"I saw all blue jerseys, and I knew I had to get by them. I got by a blocker and ran down their runner at the 18-yard line — it was a 72-yard kickoff return."

The playing of Majors and Daniels has helped lead the Gamecocks to a 7-0 overall record this season, along with a No. 5 ranking in The Associated Press poll this week. Their victory last week was a 42-20 win over East Carolina, which helped spotlight Majors' talents.

"I got an interception early in the game, and broke up a



CHRIS MAJORS
Game-Saving Cornerback

pass," Majors said. "We play North Carolina State this week."

"We've been playing them game-by-game, instead of looking past them, and it's paid off pretty well for us. Last year we went 5-and-6, and at this point we were hoping to be 5-2, but we're 7-0 and ranked fifth in the nation, and hoping to move up even higher."

Majors started "six or seven" games as a freshman, and the extended playing time has definitely helped him throughout the two seasons.

"The experience helped me a lot," he said. "I know all the defenses, and I seem to be playing real well."

But Majors' winning attitude may be traced back to his days in Winnersville USA, when he played defensive back for the Wildcats as a junior and senior.

In 1981, Valdosta finished its season at 11-2, finally losing to Warner Robins (17-14) in the south Georgia sub-region playoffs. Majors was named to the second-string all-region team that year.

During Majors' senior year, the 'Cats went 15-0, winning the state AAAA title over Atlanta Peachtree (10-7).



RICKY DANIELS
Defensive End

"We won the state championship. I was first-team all-region. I played in the all-star game and I was all-state that year," he said. "It was all right — I was glad to be a part of it."

"Everybody we played was out to beat us, because that would have made their season. We just played hard and tried to keep the winning tradition in Valdosta."

Besides helping the Gamecocks retain their prestigious ranking, Majors eventually hopes to play professional football. His short-range goal is to be nominated as an all-American during the next two seasons.

Daniels' goals are presently less grandiose, finding himself as backup to starting defensive end Willie McIntee (so., Dooly Co.).

"I've been getting quite a bit of playing time," he said. "Like last week, I got a whole bunch of playing time."

"I've been playing in each quarter. They might let the first-stringer go two series, then I'd go in for two series, or something like that."

Curry To Address Hall Of Fame Banquet;

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

UTIMES
11-5-84

The Valdosta-Lowndes County Sports Hall of Fame will induct five members at its annual banquet tonight at 7:30 at Valdosta Country Club, and the list reads like a Who's Who in Area Sports.

Georgia Tech head football coach Bill Curry is scheduled to be the guest speaker, flying in from Atlanta following a Yellow Jacket practice today.

The inductees are Jack Rudolph, John Copeland, Earl O'Neal, Bill Myddleton and Giles Smith, but all of their stories are inextricably entwined with the career of one legendary individual — Wright Bazemore. Bazemore was head coach at Valdosta High in 1941 and 1942, before joining the military service. He returned in 1946 to take back his old job, which he retained until his retirement in 1971.

Bazemore finished with 268 wins, 51 losses and seven ties for an .833 winning percentage. All the inductees except for Rudolph were players on Bazemore's Wildcat teams, but the former professional linebacker may be one of the more colorful characters associated with the 'Cats.

"You could write a book on Jack," he said. "He played with the Patriots and the (Miami) Dolphins for about seven years, and then he coached with me for about 12 to 15 years.

"He's probably about as knowledgeable about defenses as anybody in high school, college or professional football. I don't know anybody that's more knowledgeable about defenses than him — I'd put him up against anybody."

Rudolph was an all-state player for Atlanta Grady, being named all-around athlete his senior year. He played in two Cotton Bowl games and in one Gator Bowl for Georgia Tech, eventually signing with a team then known as the Boston Patriots. He played

six seasons in New England, including the 1964 league championship against the San Diego Chargers. He was traded to the Miami Dolphins in 1966, and he retired following that season to join Bazemore's VHS staff.

John Copeland was the first black athlete to participate in VHS sports, and he was the primary reason the school had little problem when forced integration transpired, according to Bazemore.

"He played when there was freedom of choice — before forced integration," Bazemore said. "I don't think he'd played much at Pinevale, but he wanted to play football for us.

"We took him to camp and put him on defense, and we couldn't get anybody by him. We put him on offense, and he could run, catch the ball and run back punts. He was an outstanding pass receiver and punt returner."

But Copeland's finest contribution to Valdosta athletics may well have been his deportment and personal attitude, according to Bazemore.

"I can't say enough about him — he was a gentleman," he said. "We had he and John Carter, who was his running mate, and our integration was one of the smoothest of any school in the country because of them.

"Both boys were so fun and likable, there was no problem when we integrated. John (Copeland) was a hero to Valdosta sporting fans."

O'Neal was a standout guard for VHS under coaches Bazemore and Buck Thomas before moving on to Florida State. He lettered three years as a Seminole and was voted most valuable player his senior year.

"He was on one of my first teams the year I came back from

5 'Cats To Be

Inducted



BILL MYDDLETON
Starred For Tech



GILES SMITH
Could Do Everything



JACK RUDOLPH
Guides VHS Defense



JOHN COPELAND
First Black 'Cat

the service (1946)," Bazemore said. "He played on the all-state team, he was captain and a team leader.

"He was a star down at FSU — he made all kinds of honors down there. They still consider him one of the best players ever to play down there.

"Then he came back and coached with me for three or four years. And then he went over to Waycross (High) and had two or three state championships there."

During his coaching days at Waycross, O'Neal's teams beat Valdosta two of four times the squads met. He is presently principal of Conyers Middle School in Conyers.

The stories of Myddleton and Giles are so closely woven they could hardly be separated. They were members of a group of athletes who played on virtually the same football squad from seventh grade at Valdosta Junior High, at Valdosta High and then at Georgia Tech. And Giles was a sophomore at Tech before the group lost its first ballgame.

Throughout all the years Bazemore coached at Valdosta, there was one player who stood out from the rest — Giles.

"He might have been one of the toughest guys I coached," Bazemore said. "He was a halfback on offense, he punted, he kicked extra points, he ran back punts, kicked off, passed — he could do everything.

"He was a great athlete, and he was a character to go along with it."

The character label came from his junior year in high school when the 'Cats won the state championship. The opposing team hit a 9-yard punt, which Giles refused so the team would have to kick to him again. The 'Cats would have taken over at the 45- or 50-yard line, but instead the team's punter hit a 60-yarder, and

according to Bazemore, Giles "must have ran through all of them twice."

"He knew he was running for his life, because if I'd have had a 30-30 rifle, I'd have shot him," Bazemore said. "He brought it back 25 or 30 yards, and all he had to do was go around one guy to score. But he ran over him and didn't score.

"He said 'Coach, you've got to stick 'em now and then.' The next time he came down (returning a punt) he was in the same situation. This time he made like he was going to run over the guy again, but he just faked past the man and scored."

Myddleton was an offensive guard, defensive middle guard, tackle and linebacker on those fine squads with Giles. He also was a kicker, a linebacker and an outstanding down-field blocker.

"He had tremendous speed and was just a real fine player," Bazemore said. "I think he was all-state, all-Southern, all-everything.

"He started at guard for three years at Georgia Tech. He was on the coaching staff up there and here for a little while. He played baseball, and he threw the discus and shot in track."

A capacity crowd is expected at the Valdosta Country Club by John B. Lastinger, Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce executive vice-president.

"There's room for about 300 out there, and we feel that's what we'll have," he said. "We've been very fortunate to have a lot of top speakers.

"We had Georgia coach Bobby Dodd the first year, and we had Furman Bisher of the Atlanta paper one year.

"I think it's great we have a coach of that caliber (Curry) this time of year. It speaks well of Valdosta and its sports program, because they probably feel it (their appearance) indirectly helps sell their program."



EARL O'NEAL
Standout At Guard

Banquet Speaker

Georgia Tech head football coach Bill Curry is scheduled to address the Valdosta-Lowndes County Hall of Fame banquet this evening. — Photo Special to The Times.



Wilson's Coached For 26 Short Years

Times 11-7-84

By ROGER B. BROWN

Times Staff Writer

Ain't it funny how time just slips right on away when you're having fun?

For Lowndes High head coach Joe Wilson, it has been some 26 short years of football coaching and it all has come in one county.

Wilson has spent practically his entire life in this south Georgia town, including his prep days as a running back for legendary Valdosta coach Wright Bazemore.

While attending Valdosta High in the early 1950s, Wilson got a chance to play in two state championship games. In 1950, Wilson was a halfback on the Wildcat team which lost to Rockmart 52-21. The following year, Valdosta came back to redeem itself by whipping Newnan 14-9 for the state championship.

After high school, Wilson went on to junior college for a year before joining the service. After serving a two-year stint in the army, Wilson went on to finish college at Georgia. He also attended Georgia Southern and Valdosta State for a little while.

Upon finishing college, Wilson joined the Valdosta High coaching staff as an assistant for the man (Bazemore) who he says taught him everything he knows.

"We had some very successful years under coach Bazemore, and he was the greatest coach of all times as far as I'm concerned," Wilson said. "I always felt like he could have been a great coach on any level, and he accomplished about everything there is to accomplish on the high-school level."

In Wilson's first year back at Valdosta, he served as a backfield coach and was in charge of the B-team. During his stint at Valdosta, the Wildcats claimed eight state championships and played in three others.

Wilson served as assistant at Valdosta for 15 years before accepting the head-coaching position at Lowndes High in 1976.

Since Wilson took over the post at Lowndes, the Vikings have posted a 70-27 record. They also won their first and only state championship in 1980

under Wilson.

"The highlight of my coaching career was probably being accepted as the head coach of Lowndes," Wilson said. "It was a lot of fun taking a bunch of country boys who hadn't won very much to the state championship in 1980."

"It's always a pleasure just to get up every day and work with a great bunch of kids," Wilson added. "I'm pleased with the progress of our program so far, but there are still some things that we need to do which other schools are doing to stay competitive every year."

Wilson's first team went 8-2 and broke an 11-year trend of non-winning seasons. The worst season that Lowndes has ever had under Wilson was in 1981 when they went 5-5 following the championship season.

"I just want the people of Lowndes County to have the very best football program possible and want them to be proud of the team — win, lose or draw," Wilson said. "You always like to win every game, but that's not always possible."

Wilson said his team has gone back to the basics in the

last few weeks after stumbling out of the blocks to open the season. He said the Vikings are going back to fundamentals to try and gain some consistency in their performance.

"We're down to a precious few players, and they are the ones who really want to play," Wilson said. "We've re-dedicated ourselves, and these guys have really worked hard to improve."

On Friday, Wilson and his Vikings face a stern test when they try to knock off top-ranked — Class AAAA — and unbeaten Valdosta at Cleveland Field at 8 p.m.

Wilson is a long-time veteran of the Valdosta-Lowndes rivalry, and he says they haven't changed much over the years. He has had some mild success against the Wildcats, sporting a 3-8 record against them during his tenure.

"It's the biggest rivalry in the state as far as I'm concerned," Wilson said. "We're 6-3 and have struggled all year, and they're unbeaten, and it will still be a sellout crowd there Friday."

Valdosta has extraordinary speed and it's the biggest

difference between the two teams," Wilson added. "You can do some things to combat the weight difference, but the speed difference is a hard intangible to overcome."

Wilson also said this may be the best Valdosta team since the 1952 bunch, which beat West Springfield, Mass., 28-26 for the national championship in the Peanut Bowl.

Both teams are pretty much structured the same, according to Wilson. They both are still influenced by some of the things left over from the Bazemore days.

"We pretty much know what to expect from each other, and it's mostly just a matter of who has the better athletes," Wilson said. "This is a great game for the people to get involved in, and it's the American way although they've pretty much dominated the series."

"This is good for the community and it gives the fans somewhere to go to let out their anxieties," Wilson said. "This is a big game for both teams for many reasons, and I'm looking forward to it."

Vikes Have Been Guided By Wilson For Nine Years



11th-Year Wildcat Head Coach Has Led 'Cats To 113-21-4 Record And Two State Titles

Hyder Has Winning Formula

V Times 11-7-84

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

The year was 1973, and West Rome head football coach Nick Hyder walked off Rome's Barron Stadium for the last time. He'd guided a perennial powerhouse to a 53-12-3 record over six seasons, but he was headed south.

Hyder had accepted the head-coaching job at Valdosta High, where a Winnersville USA tradition had been built. The legendary Wright Bazemore had accumulated a 268-51-7 record for an .833 winning percentage. The average was the best in Valdosta's history, and Bazemore's career spanned from 1941 until 1971.

Charley Greene moved up from assistant coach upon Bazemore's retirement, and he finished with a 17-3 record over two seasons. So Hyder had some big shoes to fill, but that's not how the 11th-year Wildcat mentor feels.

"The game comes down to blocking and tackling," Hyder said. "It involves collisions and you've got to prepare yourself for that. People enjoy the hitting — the collisions. I like to call it intelligent tenacity. There are 11 human beings out there with brains and hearts, going against another 11 human beings with brains and hearts, and that's what makes the sport unique."

"The language has become more sophisticated, but the fundamentals don't change. And if you work hard, you'll reap the benefits."

And Hyder, in his 27th year of coaching, has compiled an overall record of 166-33-4. After coming here from Rome, his Wildcats have gone 113-21-4, making the playoffs nine times and winning the state championship twice.

And Hyder's storied career at Valdosta may never have come about if it weren't for one phone call.

"I'm here at his (Bazemore's) invitation — he called me," Hyder said. "He represented the committee that was chosen to hire a coach."

"Coach Bazemore is a great backer — he's helped me in every way possible. My success is just another chapter in his great career."

And Hyder has no secret about how his teams win, except that they work hard. However, it doesn't hurt that the Wildcats start

playing football at a very early age. In the seventh and eighth grade at Valdosta Junior High, players are broken into four classifications. The most experienced are placed on the Tomcats, while the remainder are drafted onto the Bobcats, the Alley Cats and the Stray Cats. These four groups include approximately 140 to 150 players.

Norman Sainz leads the junior high players, with aid from seven other coaches. The ninth-grade team is led by Al Akins, John Davis and John Bennett, who usually guide about 40 youngsters. And the feeder program seems to have helped the Wildcats after they moved onto a higher level.

"We've been behind three times this year, and the youngsters didn't panic — the fought back every time," Hyder said. "They've proven they can handle that situation, and I think you can attribute that to senior leadership."

"But the first thing you notice is the attitude. Attitude propels the effort, and that's what makes things happen."

And when it comes to giving credit for Valdosta's victories, Hyder points to almost every individual involved with the Wildcat program except himself.

"We work hard on conditioning, and the youngsters show a lot of character," he said. "It's their hard work and willingness to give the best according to the situation (that makes a winner)."

The Wildcats have compiled a 9-0 overall record this year, facing Thomasville, Waycross, Albany Monroe, Albany Westover, Bainbridge, Tift County, Thomasville Central, Colquitt County and Albany Dougherty. The Bainbridge and Central games were Region 1-AAAA South sub-region encounters, and Valdosta has one more game. The Wildcats face Lowndes Friday night at 8 on Cleveland Field in both team's final regular-season encounter.

CAT SCRATCHES — The Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Christ Makes Winners Rally is scheduled Wednesday night at 7:45 at Martin Stadium. The event is part of the Chamber of Commerce Winnersville Classic Week activities.

There will be music and singing throughout the evening, with testimonials being given by athletes from Lowndes, Valdosta and Valdosta State. The guest speaker will be Cincinnati Bengal Ken Johnson.

Secondary Only Barrier Between Offense And TD

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

V Times
11-7-84

When a team gets desperate and decides it must begin throwing the ball long, there's only one thing that stands between it and scoring — the other team's defensive secondary.

If the secondary makes a mistake on coverage or tackling, six points are placed on the scoreboard. And one of the finer high-school secondary matchups is scheduled Friday night at 8 on Cleveland Field when Valdosta meets Lowndes.

Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph has been preparing his deep men all season for this Region 1-AAAA South sub-region matchup, and the Wildcats' defensive captain is Derrick (Cool) Folsom.

"He's the leader of the secondary — he calls all the defensive changes when there's a change in the (opposition's) offensive set-ups," Rudolph said. "He also leads the team with four interceptions, and he returned one of those for a touchdown against (Albany) Dougherty. He's been back there (in the secondary) for four years with me."

The 175-pound, senior defensive back has "been a starter for three of the four years he's been with us," according to Rudolph.

"He shows fine leadership and he's great to work with," he said. "He acts like a coach on the field, and that's very important."

Mike Martin will be starting at left cornerback in place of Elijah Holmes. Holmes started seven of nine games this season, but has been plagued with a bruised knee.

"Martin's been a replacement at left and right cornerback all

season, and he started two games (at cornerback)," Rudolph said. "He's probably the biggest surprise coming out of summer camp."

"He's probably the most improved player we've had in the secondary."

Martin is a 160-pound senior, while Holmes is a 154-pound senior. Holmes will also be backup for both starting cornerbacks, according to Rudolph.

"It's not the kind of injury where it will keep him out of the ballgame," he said. "It just put him behind, and Mike just moved ahead of him."

"So Martin will start, unless something changes between now and the ballgame — someone getting hurt or something we can't see."

David Thomas, a 160-pound senior, will start at left safety, according to Rudolph.

"He started last year and he's been a consistent player throughout the year for us," he said. "He's done a good job and had a couple key interceptions for us during the year."

"Maybe he's not spectacular, but he brings steady safety play to the position. And we especially need that this week, with the anticipation that Lowndes will throw the ball a lot."

Trevor Shaw, a 160-pound senior, is scheduled to be the first backup at safety, with his brother Derrick backing up the other safety position.

The Wildcats' starting right cornerback will be Dwayne Hart, a 160-pound junior. This is his first year as a starter, and he's the

only starting underclassman in the secondary.

"He came on the varsity as a ninth-grader, so he's had an extra year to learn what region play is like," Rudolph said. "You've got to experience the game sensation."

"It's easy to look good in practice, but you've got to get that game experience. He's been consistent and shown a good, workman-like job over there."

Donald Ryan, a 156-pound junior, is scheduled to be the backup at cornerback for Valdosta.

But Lowndes will be coming out with a few big guns of their own, according to Vikings' defensive secondary coach O.C. Williams.

"(Senior cornerback) Calvin (Orr) is the key man back there," Williams said. "He's been playing that positions for three years."

"He's got more experience than anybody else back there. Calvin gives everything he's got. He's not very big in size, but he's got a big heart."

"And he keeps the guys straight back there. He works with the guys, and they've done a pretty good job of coming around (maturing)."

However, when starting free safety Brad Almon went down with a shoulder bruise last week, the Plowboys were forced to shuffle their starting lineup. Sophomore David Hargett will be starting at free safety, according to Williams.

"Hargett's been playing the corner, and after moving him to free safety, we put (Roger) Culpepper at strong safety," he said. "We're playing people that have played these positions before,

and they played them well."

"The only difference is they'll have to go the whole game, instead of pulling them out for rest."

Junior Dale Baker will be starting at cornerback, although he's been slowed by an injury. But Lowndes is planning to start Baker not only because he should be able to play, but because he's a team leader, according to Williams.

"He got his back hurt in the Bainbridge game, and he's not in the best of condition," he said. "But we're going to have to go with him anyway, because he's the only other experienced secondary man we have (besides Orr). He's gone to the doctor and he's not 100 percent physically, but we're going with him because we can depend on him to get the job done."

Senior Terry Hogan will probably alternate at one of the cornerback positions, along with seeing action at free safety.

Culpepper will probably start at roverback for the Plowboys, although he'll be seeing action throughout the game, according to Williams.

"Roger's been playing both ways — he's more or less a utility man," he said. "He can play tight end, running back, cornerback, linebacker. He's been alternating on offense and defense because of the injuries we've had."

Tight end Dirk Harrell had his ribs injured earlier in the week, and Benny Pierce has been playing sporadically at the position throughout the year. He had a thigh muscle bruised three to four games ago, and "has been going back and forth from the whirlpool to the practice field," according to Williams.

Wildcats Take Edge Over Vikings

In Friday's Sub-Region Game

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High will put its unbeaten record (9-0) and top-ranked status on the line Friday when it hosts cross-county rival Lowndes High (6-3) at Cleveland Field at 8 p.m. for the Region 1-AAAA South sub-region title.

Both teams go into the confrontation with 2-0 sub-region records. Valdosta blasted Bainbridge 49-7 and Thomasville Central 35-7 for its two wins. Meanwhile, Lowndes whipped Bainbridge 28-6 and slipped by Central 20-17 in overtime.

Valdosta leads the region in rushing offense with an

average of 236 yards per game, while Lowndes ranks last with an average of 86.1 yards per contest. However, the Vikings have the top passing team in the region, with 17 touchdowns and an average of more than 160 yards per game. The Wildcats rank fifth in the region with a 113-yard average.

As far as defense, the Wildcats give up only 52 yards per game on the ground, while Lowndes is third with a 109.6 average. Valdosta ranks third against the pass and has given up just two touchdown passes. Opponents average only 98.6 yards against the Cats through the air.

Lowndes is fifth against the

pass and gives up 110 yards a game. Six touchdowns have been scored on the Vikings through the air.

Both teams have several players who rank near the top of the region in individual statistics.

Valdosta senior running back Willie Lewis is second in rushing with 693 yards on 101 attempts for a 6.8 average per carry. Junior Tony Anderson is sixth with 590 yards for a 6.3 average per attempt. Andy Mansukhani is the top runner for the Vikings, and he ranks 11th in the region with 414 yards for a 4.1 average.

Lowndes senior quarterback Randy Gay tops the region in

passing with 15 touchdowns and 1,132 yards. Gay has hit on 80-of-204 attempts for a 39 percent average. He has also been prone to the interception and has suffered 15 in nine games.

Valdosta quarterback Berke Holtzclaw ranks fifth in passing with 36 completions in 96 attempts. Holtzclaw has tossed 10 scoring strikes and has been picked off just five times. He has hit on 37 percent of his passes for 688 yards.

The Vikings have two of the top three receivers in the region in the form of Eric Blades and Todd Williams. They both have 29 receptions apiece to tie for second in the

region. Blades has 384 yards receiving and has caught four touchdowns. Williams is the big play receiver, with seven touchdowns for 744 yard.

Hosea Heard is the top pass catcher for the Wildcats, with 23 receptions and five touchdowns for 448 yards. Darrell Leonard is seventh with 13 catches for 271 yards and five touchdowns.

Defensively, Lowndes has two players in the top five in interceptions. Brad Almon is second with six, while Roger Culpepper is tied with Valdosta's Derrick Folsom with four swipes.

In the kicking game, Valdosta's David Thomas is sixth in

the region with a 35-yard average, while Gay is just behind Thomas in seventh place with a 34-yard average.

Lowndes has two players ranked in the top five in punt returns. Blades is second with 152 yards on 10 returns and Calvin Orr is fourth with 113 yards on five returns. Valdosta's Tony Mangham is seventh with 45 yards on eight returns.

So, just what will be the keys in Friday's encounter?

"This is the most pressure-packed and intense game that we'll play in the regular season," said Valdosta assistant coach Bob Bolton, who is also a former Valdosta player. "This game means so much, because the winner will win the

region and have the home-field advantage in the playoffs. It's also for the bragging rights in the county against people that we'll see every day."

Valdosta offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker said the key will be the team that can win the war in the trenches. Baker is also a graduate of Valdosta, and was on the first two VHS teams that played against Lowndes.

"The intensity of this game has gotten fierce over the years, especially with the competition between the two schools evening out," Baker said. "Anything can happen in this type of game, and that wasn't always the case in the early years."

Matchups

	L	V
Offensive Line		✓
Quarterbacks	✓	
Running Backs		✓
Wide Receivers	✓	
Defensive Line		✓
Secondary	✓	
Kicking Game	✓	
Intangibles		✓

Gay, Holtzclaw Meet Again

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

The bell rang and the first-grade class at Pine Grove Elementary filed from the classroom. Randy Gay passed Berke Holtzclaw in the hall, and little did either realize they'd someday face each other on the football field.

Holtzclaw moved from the neighborhood after that school year, but the two met again in junior high, according to Holtzclaw.

"I played one year for the YMCA, and then we played against each other in the eighth grade," he said.

Gay was quarterbacking the Hahira Junior High team against Holtzclaw's Valdosta Junior High squad. The Valdostans beat Hahira that year, so a win against Holtzclaw would be a sweet victory for him.

The senior quarterbacks will be guiding the fortunes of opposing high school teams in a major football game Friday at 8 p.m. Gay will lead the Lowndes Vikings against Holtzclaw's Valdosta Wildcats at Cleveland Field.

This game would be another feather in Holtzclaw's cap after helping the Wildcats make the region playoffs each season he's been at Valdosta.

"It seems like it's (making the playoffs) a tradition," Holtzclaw said. "Every year I've been up here, we've been in the playoffs, and that's when it counts."

"Everybody plays together, and I think that's the main thing that puts us in the playoffs."

But Gay would like to make the Cats go into the region playoffs with a loss in Friday's Region 1-AAAA South sub-region contest.

"This will be the last chance I'll get to beat him (Holtzclaw)," he said. "My freshman year (at Lowndes) they beat us 20-13, and that was a heartbreaker."

"We were going into the fourth quarter, and we had them beat. They led 6-0 at halftime, but they fumbled a punt in the third quarter and we scored. They fumbled another punt, and we drove down and scored again. But in the fourth quarter they started moving the ball really well. The last time they scored, they ran a two-minute drill. We were unable to do anything offensively, and all we had to do was lay on the ball."

The score was even closer the following season, with Valdosta taking a 2-0 halftime lead. However, a Lowndes player "dropped a pass in the end zone to kill a drive, and it was all Valdosta after that," according to Gay. Valdosta went on to win 22-0, eventually beating Atlanta Peachtree (10-7) for the state championship.

And 1983 was an even less-pleasing experience for the Plowboys, according to Gay.

"Last year was so bad I don't even remember," he said. "I didn't play a whole lot in that game."

Lowndes was beaten 35-6, with Bobby Eason playing much of the game as the Plowboys' signal-caller. Gay is scheduled to start Friday, with Eason being the backup quarterback.

This season the Vikes are off to a 6-3 overall start, including two sub-region victories. And the encouraging record has been done with a fairly-inexperienced squad, according to Gay.

"I credit the losses to a lack of maturity at some of the key positions," he said. "We've got a lot of young people at the skill positions, and that hurt us. But when the adrenalin starts flowing, they seem to get more consistency."

But win or lose Friday night, Gay hopes his football days aren't over. He definitely plans on playing college ball, finding encouragement by phone calls and letters from many major universities.

"I plan to continue playing football on into college and thereafter, if that's where I end up," he said. "I've been getting calls from Georgia Tech, Florida State, Vanderbilt, Florida and Alabama."

Gay didn't care to hazard a guess as to which university he might attend, although he's likely to go with one that will best utilize his style. Gay is known for his strong passing out of the pocket rather than rolling out, although he's had several good runs this season.

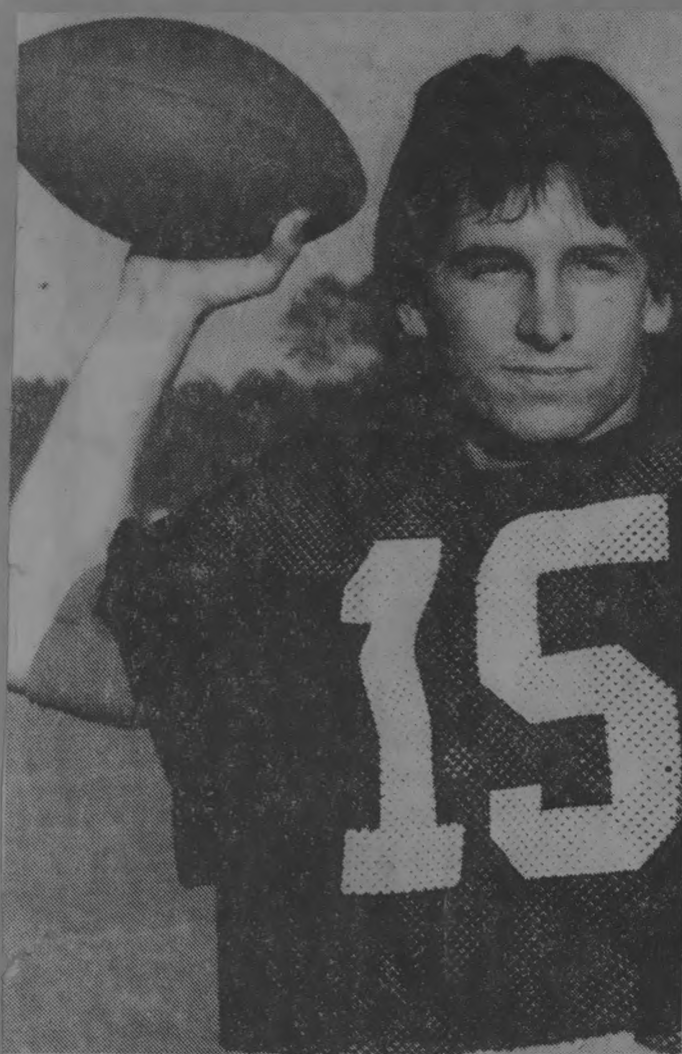
Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder offered an incisive analysis of Friday night's quarterback matchup, which reads like a scouting report for a major game.

"Berke is very mobile — he's got good foot speed and he's a good passer," Hyder said. "He led the region in total yardage last week, but I think Randy passed him after the Monroe game."

"Randy is a drop-back quarterback. He's not a running quarterback, but he flat puts it (the ball) out there. He's lost quite a bit of yardage this season, but many times when that happens, your protection has broken down."

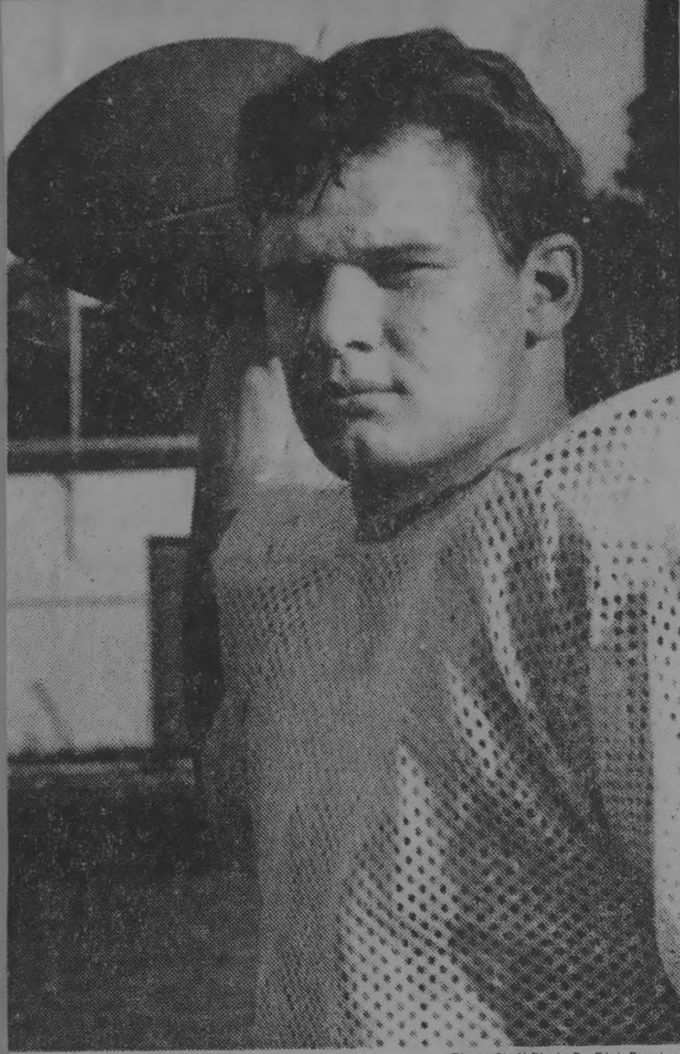
Every football team seems to center around the quarterback, and Hyder noted the Valdosta and Lowndes signal callers have been a credit to their schools.

"The quarterback and head coach have to weather criticism," he said. "I think both of them have done well, and I think that's a credit to them and their families."



Times Staff Photo By Rick Bender

Berke Holtzclaw Has Led VHS To 9-0 Record



Times Staff Photo By Rick Bender

Lowndes Is 6-3 With Randy Gay At The Helm

Smaller Crowds Just As Vocal

Fans Integral Part Of

Valdosta-Lowndes Rivalry

By EARL PERKINS *V Times*
Times Staff Writer 11-8-84

Thousands of eyes are trained on every movement you make as you stand on the sideline at Cleveland Field, and the decisions you make will lead them to either cheer or boo.

The job of being the head football coach of a high school team in Valdosta is an awesome responsibility, but Valdosta's Nick Hyder and Lowndes' Joe Wilson relish the task. The coaches meet Friday at 8 p.m. when the Wildcats and the Vikings play their final regular-season game. It's a Region 1-AAAA South contest, although both teams have made the playoffs with 2-0 sub-region records. But come game time, coaches can "honestly feel the crowd," according to Hyder.

"My job is to mentally function as a coach, but I feel the response of the crowd," he said. "They do a great job for us."

"The fact that they've been there for support really impresses me. They were there for all five of our out-of-town games — Waycross, Albany (Monroe), Bainbridge, Tifton (Tift County), and Moultrie (Colquitt County). And I mean there in large

numbers — often more than the home crowd."

However, Hyder couldn't talk about fan support without discussing two other factors related to Wildcat spirit — the cheerleaders and the band.

"Their support is unbelievably effective," he said. "The fight song is unique to Valdosta — it will grab you. They put on a very entertaining halftime show, and they (band members) play all during the game."

"The cheerleaders are highly organized, and they're the best I've ever seen. They work extremely hard — they do a class act for us. It's quite an honor to be selected (cheerleader), and they have to maintain a very high academic average."

Hyder also included the works of the Valdosta Touchdown Club, the VHS administration and the school board as being vital to the Wildcat effort. And when it comes to spirit, Valdosta really puts forth some energy, according to Hyder.

"Our pep rallies are famous everywhere," he said. "I don't know anybody who can top our pep rallies."

"But when you think about it, the cheerleaders, the band, the fans, all the people, all the fans, the former players — they all make up the Valdosta Wildcats."

However, Wilson's cross-town team has had to contend with a younger squad, which has brought inconsistency to the Plowboy effort. Most fans understand that inexperienced players are prone to make mistakes, but there are always a few who find they must criticize, according to Wilson.

"For the most part, a large majority of our fans are there for entertainment and to support the team and coaches," he said. "But we have a few (fans) who are disappointed no matter what we do."

"If we don't win they're unhappy, and if we win then we didn't win by enough. The real fans are those that know these are 16- and 17-year-olds out there playing a game — and that's what it is — a game. Those are the true supporters."

The Plowboys' 6-3 overall record has drawn fair fan support this season, but crowd size has dropped off markedly the past few

years, according to Wilson.

"Fan support has fallen off all over in high school football," he said. "I remember when we'd go on the road we'd send off 10,000 or 15,000 tickets. This year we've been lucky to send off 200 or 300 dollars."

One sure sign of dimmed interest is the fact that Friday night's game hasn't sold out. Tickets may be obtained from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. today at the superintendent's office on Slater Street, at The Ticket Outlet from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and at the South gate of Cleveland Field on Friday at 6:30 p.m. And the smaller crowds were duly noted by Wilson.

"The stands have been emptying," he said. "I guess fans have got other things to do. Maybe they're watching television, but I expect the economy may have something to do with it (lower attendance)."

"You can still buy tickets Thursday to the Lowndes-Valdosta game, and it used to be you couldn't buy a ticket Tuesday morning of game week."

Wildcats May Be No. 1 Nationally

U. Daily Times 11/12/84

Cincinnati (Ohio) Moeller lost a high school football game to Centerville (10-7) on Friday night, which will probably have local ramifications in this week's *USA Today* national rankings.

The Valdosta Wildcats were ranked No. 2 in the nation last week, and will probably move into the No. 1 slot. The 'Cats topped the Lowndes Vikings 28-6 on Friday for their 600th win.

A national ranking should be a source of pride, but it should be taken in a different context from that of a nationally-ranked college team.

I'm not knocking the high school rankings of a paper that is among America's top three in circulation. But I'd like to note the rankings are reached by one man who gets on the phone each week and calls high school coaches around the nation.

He talks to them about their team, individual players and how they performed that week against a given opponent. I'm not saying the rankings are bad, but they shouldn't be looked to as confirmation that America's finest prep football team resides in Valdosta.

The 'Cats may well be America's best, but there's no real way of knowing everything about each high school team in the country. And the decision is made by one person, and not by scores of people constantly studying the progress of each team.

At one time, someone suggested Moeller and Valdosta meet on the same football field. However, the proposal was quashed by uncooperative high school associations that noted how much time might be missed by students.

An interesting fact about the 'Cats is that they recently became television stars in the metropolis of Jacksonville, Fla.

The Region 1-A AAAA South sub-region game between Valdosta and Thomasville Central (Oct. 12) was broadcast on Area Cablevision in the Bold New City of the South, and the show was evidently well-received by all concerned parties.

There are 110,000 subscribers to the Florida cable company, and the response has been all positive, according to David Reid, Area Cablevision director of community relations.

"We were impressed by the caliber (of football) and fervor (of the fans)," he said in a recent phone interview. "It's nice to see a game where there are 9,000 or 10,000 people in the stands. You don't see that down here (Jacksonville)."

"We were really impressed with the football teams, and I think now there are some teams down here that would like to go up there and play."

And although Reid's time has been monopolized recently with negotiating rights for the basketball season, he voiced concern over covering the Georgia high school AAAA championship contest, should it be held in Valdosta this year.

"We'd love it if it were in Valdosta, from a production standpoint," he said. "It's something we'd be interested in doing if the state and school system approve."

"We'd love to get several markets in the state to buy the game, and we'd like to show it live or taped. But I don't know if we've got the time to put it all together. I've got to do my homework and find out what's involved with doing it."

A primary stumbling block could be the \$20,000 that must be paid for broadcasting rights. According to the Georgia High School Association, each team must receive \$10,000 for allowing the company to film. But Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder would love to see the game broadcast.

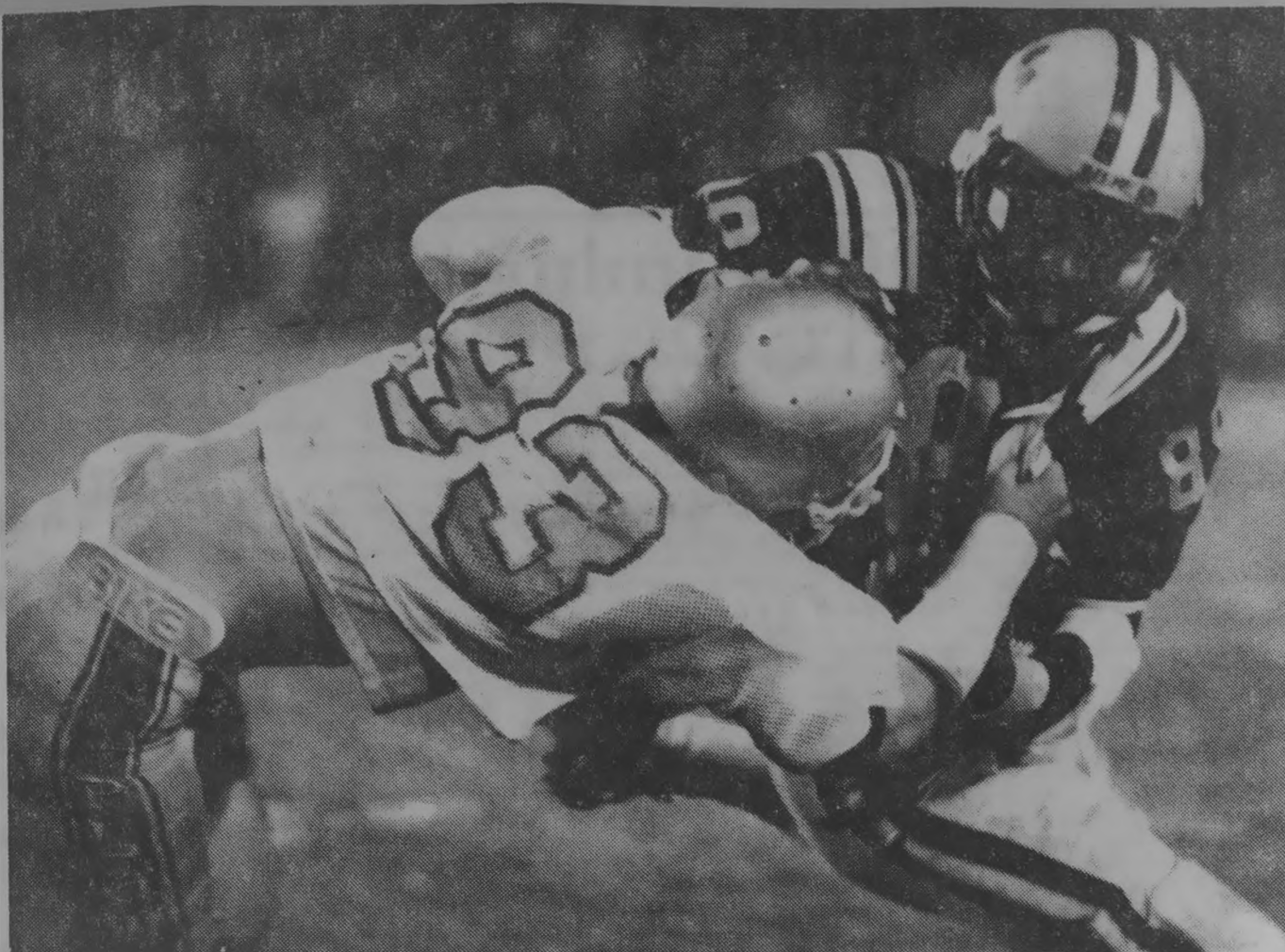
"I think they ought to do it," he said. "It's going to be a classic game, but it (the broadcaster) will more than likely be a station in Georgia."

Hyder cited the high cost of purchasing rights and the short time to acquire sponsors as the primary reasons Area Cablevision probably won't carry the game. However, he had no problem with the company's handling of the Valdosta-Central game.

"I've seen the tapes, and they did a real fine job," he said. "I think they had three cameras, they did their research and their graphics were good."

"They had timely comments (about the game), and they were real professionals. I enjoyed dealing with Reid and the whole crew."

"Everybody I've talked to around town really liked it (the broadcast). And everything I heard from people down in Florida was positive. I think the people who saw it really enjoyed it."



Going Down

Lowndes Defensive lineman Ronald Warren (93) tackles Valdosta tight end Darrell Leonard in Friday night football action. The 'Cats topped the Vikes 28-6 in both team's final

regular-season game. The win was No. 600 for the Valdosta team. — Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris.

Valdosta Looks Forward To Tift Co. In Playoffs

U. Times 11-10-84
By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

As the balloons rose into the stratosphere and the plastic cups fell to the turf of Cleveland Field, the scoreboard read Valdosta 28, Lowndes 6.

The Wildcats were once again rolling into the Region 1-A AAAA playoffs with a victory, but the Vikings also found themselves in post-season play despite the loss.

And VHS senior linebacker John Porter found next week's meeting with Tift County a very interesting subject.

"I'm looking forward to next week," he said. "It's time to pay them (the Blue Devils) back."

"It's a game that means a lot to us. It means a lot to me, because it's my last year. We're going to be even more fired up next week (than Friday). We're going to be there — every snap, every whistle, every down of every quarter. And when that one's over, we'll be looking forward to the week after that."

Quarterback Berke Holtzclaw is another senior who's a team leader for the Wildcats, but he preferred to discuss Valdosta's play last night, rather than their upcoming matchup.

"I feel like we didn't play the way we should have the first half," he said. "But the defense did a great job the whole night."

"We kept the ball on the ground because we have a pretty sound running game. But we didn't run many plays tonight."

"They (the Vikings) came out in the first half ready to play — they came out in the second half ready to play. Now we've just got to get ready for next week."

All of Friday night's action revolved around VHS center Jon Reaves, whose cousin Stan plays for the Plowboys. However, both are offensive linemen, so the only chance they get to hit each other is on special teams.

"In the first half, all of us came out ready," he said. "But they (the Plowboys) were ready for it too — they came out and played good ball in the second half."

"We were overconfident and our minds weren't right. But you've got to commend our

defense. They strapped it on (in the second half) and we won, but we can play a better ballgame."

The win was a satisfying one for VHS head coach Nick Hyder, who watched his charges up their overall record to 10-0, 3-0 in sub-region action. But the game started off on a poor note, according to the 11th-year VHS mentor.

"In the first half we lost the opening kickoff on poor judgment," he said. "I'm the head coach and I've got to take responsibility."

"But it was alert, heads up coverage by Lowndes. I don't blame the youngsters, because it's my job to follow through and show them how to react in these situations."

The Plowboys recovered the ball on the Valdosta 19-yard line, but failed to convert the golden scoring opportunity. Randy Gay missed on a field-goal attempt, and Valdosta came down for a score before the halftime intermission.

"It (the early mistake) didn't destroy us, because we fought back," he said. "We drove down and scored, and then Derrick (Folsom) intercepted a pass and went 85 yards for a touchdown."

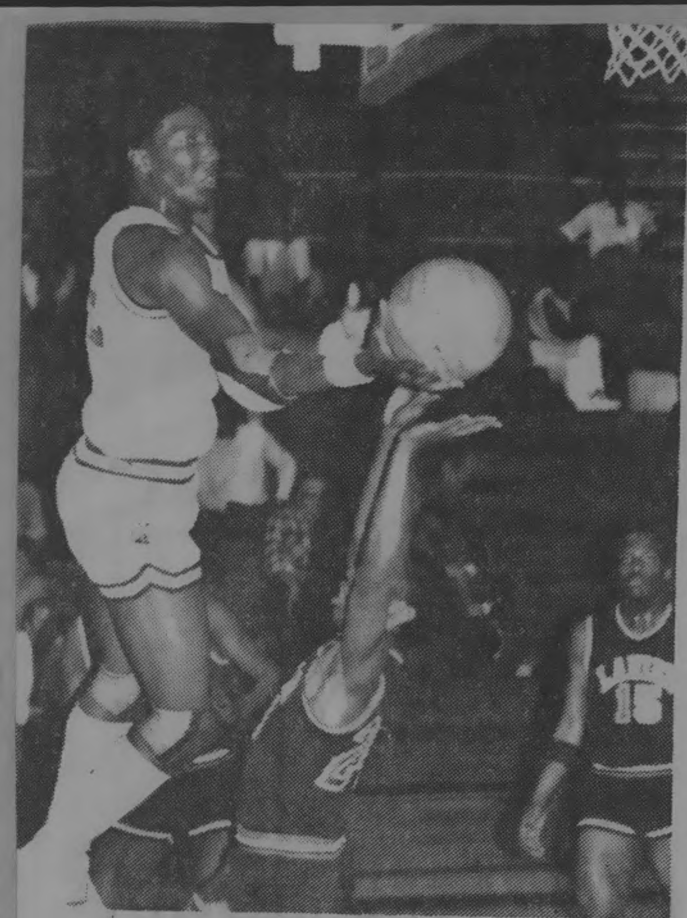
First-half scores for Valdosta besides Folsom's return were Holtzclaw's 2-yard touchdown run and running back Tony Anderson's 1-yard touchdown trot. However, Valdosta's offensive effort wasn't the only group Hyder felt had a good night.

"The defense was fantastic," he said. "They hit well, covered well and did a great job all night. Berke hit a couple passes and Tony had a good night."

"David Thomas hit some good punts and (center) Jeff Davis had some fine snaps."

The game looked like it might be a rout when the 'Cats scored three touchdowns in the first half, but the Plowboys came back after halftime. And Hyder was quite impressed by the effort put forth by both teams.

"I thought both teams played their hearts out," he said. "This was south Georgia football at its finest."



'Cats Are Flying High

Times Staff Photo

'Cat Boys, Girls Open Vs. Tift

U. Daily Times 11/13/84

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta opens its roundball season at home tonight against Tift County at 7 p.m. in girls and boys tilts.

The Wildcats return three starters, and will be looking to improve on its 15-8 slate from last year.

Mike O'Brien is heading into his fourth season in charge of the Wildcats, and he's excited about the work of his team so far in preseason drills.

Last year, the Wildcats won the sub-region championship, and O'Brien is hoping for more of the same this time around. There isn't very much height to work with, since the tallest player is 6-4 senior center Wallace Campbell.

Campbell will be joined in the lineup by seniors Victor Walker (6-0) and James Edwards (6-3), while juniors Anthony Brown (6-2) and Sylvester Kitchens (5-5) will fill out the rest of the lineup.

Several newcomers have been impressive in preseason workouts and is expected to provide some immediate help. Sophomore Kyle Lowe (5-10) moves up from the B-Team and classmate Adolphus Kimmons (5-6) steps up from the 9th-grade team.

Juniors Howard Wright (5-6) and Moses Madison (5-9) are expected to provide some added depth. Wright played on the B-Team last year, while this is Madison's first year out for the team.

Senior Fredrick James (5-9) who gained some experience last year with the varsity will help out at the guard position. Glenn Lapointe (5-10) is a newcomer to the school and is also expected to help out in the backcourt.

Valdosta also has two players on the football team — Derrick Folsom and Monroe Gamble — who are expected to see extensive playing time once the season is completed.

"We're not very big, and our outside shooting may be questionable at this point," O'Brien said. "We basically try to run a patterned offense, but we'll take the (fast) break if it's there."

"We try to have a disciplined-oriented team on both offense and defense, and a big key for us will be patience," O'Brien added. "Quickness is probably our strong suit right now, but we won't really know how quick we are until we get a few games under our belts."

The Lady Wildcats' also return three senior starters, including top scorer and rebounder Felicia Henderson. Lisa Irvin and Wendy Irvin are the other two returning starters for Valdosta.

Last year, coach James Studstill's Lady Wildcats finished with a 7-15 mark. However, Studstill is looking for improvement in this his third season at Valdosta, with the influx of new talent from the B-Team and 9th-grade teams.

Aimee Bass and Avis Weatherspoon fill out the rest of the starting lineup for the Lady 'Cats, while depth will come from Pam Gardner and several other underclassmen.

"The girls have a very good attitude this year, and it has showed in their work habits," Studstill said. "We have a young team with only six seniors and juniors, with the rest being underclassmen."

"We have some good outside shooters, but our lack of height will hurt our inside game," Studstill added. "The girls are working very hard, and we've had some spirited workouts so far in our preseason drills."

Studstill also said he was pleased with the schedule this year. His squad won't have to play any region games before the Christmas break, which he says will give them time to develop a personality.

"We're hoping to build some early momentum before the start of sub-region play," Studstill said. "By not having to play any sub-region games before the Christmas break, it gives a chance to experiment with some things in the early going."

"We're fortunate to have some depth this year, which has been a problem with some of our past teams," Studstill added. "We won't be afraid to substitute at all this year because we have a lot of girls who are just about even as far as talent goes."

Valdosta is No. 1 in high school poll

By Jack Carey
USA TODAY (Nov. 13, 1984)

Valdosta, Ga., a town with a rich high school football tradition, can add to its long list of accomplishments — the school is now No. 1 in the nation in the latest USA TODAY Super 25 high school football poll.

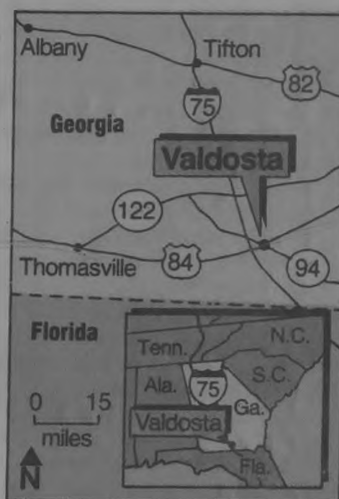
David Waller, three-time past president of the school's 1,200-member Touchdown Club, said: "We had heard that (Cincinnati) Moeller (former No. 1) lost, and the town will be thrilled at the news that we're No. 1. This is a town that takes its football seriously."

Valdosta's first test as the No. 1 team will come Friday against Tift County in their opening game of the Class 4A state playoffs.

Moeller, which finished 10-1, fell to 13th after being upset 10-7 by Centerville in the first round of the Ohio state playoffs. Moeller had held the top position since preseason.

"This is something the team has been working for all year," said defensive tackle James Wakefield, a four-year Valdosta starter.

"Our town is very much



By Marcy Eckroth Mullins, USA TODAY

aware of the poll and very proud of the situation," said coach Nick Hyder, 114-21-1 in 11 years at Valdosta.

"Two years ago, we were ranked No. 2 (behind Moeller). It's quite an honor. We're glad for the recognition, but we have to earn it on the field."

Valdosta has averaged 41 points and 350 yards a game this season, while allowing 4.9 points and 140 yards.

■ Super 25, 10C

Valdosta football at a glance

- City population: 43,000; school enrollment: 2,000, Class 4A (largest)
- National Sports News Service national champions: 1962 (12-0), 1971 (13-0)
- 17 Georgia state championships
- Touchdown (booster) Club with 1,200 members
- Average attendance: 10,000 fans per home game
- 1984 team has 81 players on varsity squad, 40 on junior varsity
- 25 graduates now playing major college football
- Former players to go on to major college or pro football include Buck Belue (Georgia), John Lastinger (Georgia), John Bond (Mississippi State and the Canadian Football League), Bruce Bennett (CFL), Rhett Dawson (Houston Oilers and Boston Patriots)

High Schools Prepare For Games That Count

11/15/84

U. Daily Times

By The Associated Press

The second phase of Georgia's high school football season gets under way this weekend as region playoffs begin, matching many teams that already faced each other this year — a factor Lincoln County Coach Larry Campbell believes makes the region playoffs doubly difficult.

Lincoln, ranked second in Class A, plays host Friday to No. 10 Wrens, a team it defeated 22-14 on Oct. 12 when Lincoln was ranked third and previously undefeated Wrens was second.

Another rematch on tap Friday is No. 6 Riverwood facing No. 9 Henderson in Region 5-AAA. Both teams are 9-1, with Henderson's only loss coming to Riverwood 30-10 in the third game of the season.

A third game Friday also has ranked Class AA opponents fighting for the right to continue playing. In Camilla, No. 4 Mitchell-Baker, last year's Class AAA champion, entertains No. 4 Dooly County, runner up to West Rome for the state AA title last year.

Also, Valdosta, 10-0 and first in Class AAAA, entertains defending state champion Tift County. The Wildcats defeated Tift 28-0 in the regular season. In the other Region 1-AAAA game, Lowndes 6-4, plays No. 10 Colquitt County, 8-1-1, on the road in Moultrie. Colquitt beat Lowndes 22-6 in the Packers' first game of the year (Lowndes second).

Elsewhere, Manchester, first in Class AA, entertains Mary Persons for the second straight week. The Blue Devils defeated Bulldogs 9-0 last Friday, running their shutout string to 10 straight games.

"It's harder, by all means," to win the second game if you've also won the first one, Lincoln's Campbell said. He said last year, when Lincoln was in Class AA, the Red Devils lost to Greene-Taliaferro in the regular season, but defeated the Tigers in the region playoffs. The year before, Harlem defeated Lincoln in the playoffs after losing in the regular season.

To high school football players, motivation

means so much," Campbell said. "The football team that's motivated the most wins more football games."

Campbell said it's easier to motivate a team to play a school that already has beaten it.

But Campbell said playing at home will negate Wrens' advantage.

Lincoln, 8-1-1, needed two fourth quarter touchdowns to overcome Wrens on the Colts' home field, a game that ended with Wrens, 8-2, on the 3-yard line.

This time around, Campbell has decided to start different defensive ends.

"We're replacing some big, strong folks with some people who've got a little experience, but who are quicker," he said. The quickness is needed to contain Wrens quarterback Kevin Thomas, who Campbell described as "maybe the finest athlete in the region."

He admitted the move was a gamble, "but that's what the playoffs are."

Henderson's earlier loss to Riverwood "is a little bit of an advantage to our kids, that being the only game we've lost," Henderson Coach James Parham said. "How much of an advantage that will be, no one really knows. (But) we'll be prepared mentally."

Riverwood used a option offense to beat Henderson and Parham said he expected to see it again, although he has realigned his defense to counter Riverwood's backs.

"We'll change our coverages, and our assignments," he said. "Hopefully we can get enough people there — different people at different times — to stop it."

While trying to contain the Riverwood runners on defense, Henderson will look offensively to quarterback Chuck Owen. A 6-foot-1, 185-pound senior, Owen has run for 749 yards and nine touchdowns and completed 55 percent of his passes for 1,375 yards and seven touchdowns.

While Mathis said Henderson may have a slight motivational advantage, he said his team would gain from knowing it already had beaten the larger Cougars.

USA Today 11-13-84 Super 25 high school football teams

The USA's top 25 high school football teams, as ranked for USA TODAY by consulting high school editor Dave Krider:

- 1 Valdosta**
Valdosta, Ga.
Record: 10-0
Last week: 2
Moved into No. 1 spot with 28-6 victory against Valdosta Lowndes before 12,300. Junior Tony Anderson ran 24 times for 135 yards and two touchdowns. Safety Derrick Folsom had 10 solo tackles and scored on 85-yard pass interception return. Opens state playoffs Friday against Tift County.
- 2 East St. Louis**
East St. Louis, Ill.
Record: 11-0
Last week: 3
Beat previously undefeated Romeoville 30-13 in state playoffs before 10,000 for 24th consecutive victory. Ronnie Cameron completed 10 of 17 passes for 190 yards and one touchdown and also ran for one TD. Plays host to Buffalo Grove Saturday.
- 3 Manatee**
Bradenton, Fla.
Record: 9-0
Last week: 4
Posted 23rd consecutive victory, 38-22 against Sarasota. Alfonso Clark ran 13 times for 83 yards and one touchdown. Ronnie Mitchell scored on 7-yard pass and 95-yard kickoff return. Plays host to Bradenton Bayshore Friday.
- 4 T.C. Williams**
Alexandria, Va.
Record: 10-0
Last week: 5
Defeat Lake Braddock 28-0 as Glenn Williams completed 10 of 13 passes for 172 yards and two touchdowns. Rodney McNeil ran for 131 yards and Bren Lowery 127 yards. Opens state playoffs Saturday at home against Fort Hunt.
- 5 Permian**
Odessa, Texas
Record: 10-0
Last week: 6
Beat Odessa 34-7 before 16,000 as Alton Holloway completed nine of 15 passes for 121 yards and four touchdowns. Greg Anderson caught five passes for 88 yards and two TDs. Opens state playoffs Saturday in Lubbock against Amarillo Palo Duro.
- 6 Union**
Union, N.J.
Record: 8-0
Last week: 7
Edged Cranford 14-13 before 6,500 as Tony Stewart ran 12 times for 95 yards and scored on 5-yard run. Todd Simonson added 35 yards and 3-yard TD run on 10 carries. Opens state playoffs against Montclair Saturday at home.
- 7 Page**
Greensboro, N.C.
Record: 10-0
Last week: 8
Defeated North Forsyth 50-8 for 16th consecutive victory. Keith Welborne scored touchdowns on 20-yard pass from Todd Eliis and 77-yard punt return. David Smith had TD runs of 2 and 4 yards. Begins state playoffs Friday at Northern Durham.
- 8 McClintock**
Tempe, Ariz.
Record: 10-0
Last week: 9
Shut out Tempe Corona del Sol 14-0 as Art Greathouse ran 14 times for 79 yards and scored on 40-yard screen pass. Kent Kiefer completed 11 of 20 passes for 100 yards. Begins state playoffs Thursday at home against Tempe Marcos de Niza.
- 9 Brockton**
Brockton, Mass.
Record: 9-0
Last week: 10
Defeated Quincy 51-8 as Odell Wilson scored five touchdowns and had 194 yards rushing on eight carries. Tom Colombo completed three of five passes, all for TDs, for 184 yards. Pat Khoury was in on 12 tackles. Does not play this week.
- 10 Catholic**
Joliet, Ill.
Record: 11-0
Last week: 11
Defeated Chicago Julian 36-0 and Orland Park Carl Sandburg 22-13 in state playoffs. Against Sandburg, Steve Pullara scored two touchdowns. Against Julian, John Gromos passed for three TDs. Plays host to Peoria Richwoods (11-0) Saturday.
- 11 Berwick**
Berwick, Pa.
Record: 11-0
Last week: 12
Recorded fourth shutout, 27-0 against Shamokin, before 6,000. Berwick has posted perfect regular-season record last four years and has won 24 consecutive games. Billy Knorr ran 18 times for 102 yards and one touchdown. Does not play this week.
- 12 Madison**
Houston
Record: 10-0
Last week: 13
Defeated Houston Worthing 30-13 as Ronald Jiles completed 11 of 17 passes for 184 yards and one touchdown of 40 yards to Pat Overshown. Opens state playoffs against Alief Elsik Friday in Houston Astrodome.
- 13 Moeller**
Cincinnati
Record: 10-1
Last week: 1
Season ended with 10-7 upset loss to Centerville in state playoff opener before 12,100. D'Juan Francisco scored one touchdown but did not play in second half because of knee injury. Mark Kamphaus completed 10 of 24 passes for 145 yards.
- 14 Summerville**
Summerville, S.C.
Record: 11-0
Last week: 15
Defeated Charleston Burke in state playoff opener 60-30 for 22nd consecutive win. Darrell Middleton rushed for 63 yards on six carries and scored two touchdowns. Steve Williams also scored twice. Plays host to Conway (10-1) Friday.
- 15 Snohomish**
Snohomish, Wash.
Record: 10-0
Last week: 16
Defeated Seattle Roosevelt 55-7 as Pat Thompson ran for 98 yards and three touchdowns on nine carries. Kevin Nelson added 70 yards on eight tries. Will play state's No. 2-rated team, Kirkland Juanita (10-0), Friday at Memorial Stadium in Seattle.
- 16 Woodham**
Pensacola, Fla.
Record: 9-0
Last week: 17
Shut out Gonzalez Tate 35-0 before 6,000 to complete third consecutive undefeated regular season. Charlie Krasnosky completed eight of 12 passes for 197 yards and three touchdowns. Robert Gaddy rushed for 112 yards. Does not play this week.
- 17 Harrison**
Farmington, Mich.
Record: 10-0
Last week: 18
Gave previously unbeaten Birmingham Seaholm its first loss, 17-6, before 12,000. John Miller ran 28 times for 150 yards. Will play Dearborn Fordson (10-0) in state quarterfinals Saturday at Pontiac's Wisner Stadium.
- 18 Oak Grove**
San Jose, Calif.
Record: 10-0
Last week: 19
Edged San Jose Independence 14-6 before 10,000 as Shannon Mornhinweg completed nine of 12 passes for 104 yards and one touchdown of 35 yards to brother Brad. Will play Cupertino Friday at San Jose Independence Field.
- 19 Warren Central**
Indianapolis
Record: 12-0
Last week: 20
Defeated Indianapolis North Central 19-9 in state playoffs as Jeff George completed 14 of 22 passes for 227 yards and one touchdown and ran for two TDs. Ron Clark rushed 15 times for 101 yards. Plays host to Martinsville Saturday.
- 20 Centerville**
Centerville, Ohio
Record: 11-0
Last week: NR
Recorded biggest victory in school history with 10-7 upset of USA's top-rated team, Cincinnati Moeller, in state playoffs. Jason Zeller kicked 27-yard field goal for winning points. Will play Toledo St. Francis Saturday at Welcome Stadium in Dayton.
- 21 Lincoln County**
Fayetteville, Tenn.
Record: 10-0
Last week: 21
Defeated Chattanooga Baylor 36-18 before 6,000 as Ricky Blake ran 17 times for 188 yards and three touchdowns. Benny Jennings returned kickoff 74 yards for another TD. Opens state playoffs Friday against Murfreesboro Oakland.
- 22 Natick**
Natick, Mass.
Record: 9-0
Last week: 25
USA's longest winning streak reached 32 games with 21-7 victory against previously undefeated Framingham North. Paul Ghilani completed 11 of 13 passes for 148 yards, and Joel Crisafulli ran 28 times for 179 yards. Does not play this week.
- 23 Gallatin**
Gallatin, Tenn.
Record: 10-0
Last week: 22
Beat Rhea County 20-14 in two overtimes to avoid upset. Charlie Jenkins scored all three touchdowns on runs of 2, 2 and 16 yards. Begins state playoffs Friday at home against Dickson County (10-0).
- 24 Ridley**
Folsom, Pa.
Record: 9-0
Last week: 23
Defeated Lower Merion 23-8 as Rusty Richter ran for 225 yards and one touchdown on 35 carries. Kevin McNicholas ran 7 yards for one TD and passed for another. At Springfield Saturday.
- 25 John Ehret**
Marrero, La.
Record: 10-0
Last week: 24
Beat New Orleans Brother Martin 21-13 as Leonard Valentine ran for 157 yards and scored touchdowns on runs of 69 and 20 yards. He also kicked three extra points and averaged 40.1 yards punting. Plays host to New Orleans St. Augustine Friday.

Also under consideration: Banning, Wilmington, Calif. (7-1); Barboursville, W.Va. (10-0); Central Bucks West, Doylestown, Pa. (9-0); Central, Phenix City, Ala. (11-0); Corvallis, Ore. (10-0); De Matha, Hyattsville, Md. (10-0); Manhattan, Kan. (10-0); Picayune, Miss. (8-0); Plano, Texas (10-0); Poly, Baltimore (9-0); Southington, Conn. (9-0); South Kitsap, Port Orchard, Wash. (10-0); South, Williamsville, N.Y. (9-0); Southwest DeKalb, Atlanta (10-0); Thomas Jefferson, Denver (12-0).

Dropped out: Steel Valley, Munhall, Pa. (10-1), No. 14, lost to Franklin Regional 7-6.

Sears, Brandon React To Ed Reform Measures

V. Daily Times 11/13/84

By SYLVIA COOPER
Times Staff Writer

Governor Joe Frank Harris and members of the Georgia Education Review Commission are saying full speed ahead to school reform, while local school officials are saying proceed with caution.

The review commission presented its \$859 million educational reform package to Gov. Harris Monday afternoon. The proposals outlined in the 24-page report are designed to upgrade the teaching profession and improve the Georgia school system through 26 "critical" reforms which include:

- full day mandatory kindergartens
- an increase in the present \$14,329 base teaching salary to \$16,750
- a career ladder for teachers
- pay incentives for principals, superintendents and other certified personnel
- a statewide sequenced core curriculum
- a vocational education program that de-emphasizes job specific training and emphasizes basic skill mastery in reading, math and English

The proposals, to be phased in over a four-year period, will be presented to the legislature who will have to appropriate \$158 million in 1985 to begin implementing them.

Although Gov. Harris said the improvements will require "significant commitment in new and improved funding," he reiterated his "commitment to providing those funds without a tax increase."

Review commission chairman Edward C. Harris said the funding proposals will generate "equalization of



RALPH BRANDON
City Superintendent

property tax wealth." School systems with millage rates under 5 mills will be required to raise them, Harris said.

However, local school superintendents express skepticism that the program can be implemented without a tax increase on some level.

Superintendent of Valdosta City Schools Ralph Brandon said, "I think everybody should understand that it is going to require additional funding, and if Gov. Harris is not going to increase taxes, the funding of it will depend on economic growth. While he says economic growth will pay for it, that is a very big question. What if it doesn't?"

"A tax is a tax whether it comes from the state or the local people. They've got an



BILL SEARS
County Superintendent

equalization plan built in, but some of the poorer schools won't be able to participate. Some won't be able to pass additional millage rates. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

"I think that equalization formula they're talking about should be part of state funding and not dependent on local systems. What makes them think these poorer schools that can't do it now will do it on their own later? I just don't think it's going to happen."

Bill Sears, superintendent of Lowndes County schools said he would have to take "a long look" at the commission's funding proposals to see how it would affect Lowndes County. "I would have to have a copy of the commission's report to see how the various students would be weighted before I could tell whether it would be an advantage or disadvantage to the Lowndes County School system."

Sears said the governor and the legislature would "hold the line" on spending at the state level, knowing that the local school systems will be forced to make up the difference between money received from the state and the amount needed for school operation.

"It makes them look like heroes and makes us look like the bad guys," Sears said.

Brandon and Sears agree that a statewide sequenced core curriculum is a bad plan although Brandon said he can

see some advantages in a basic statewide curriculum.

"The legislature should not get into the business of offering courses and content because you leave out local input. Curriculum is much better developed on the local level by local teachers because if they have input into it they have an interest to see that it works," Brandon said.

"These canned programs that you buy from other people just don't work. A program may work fine for Oregon, but it might not work here."

"At the same time I understand that some school systems won't develop an adequate curriculum for their people unless there is some pressure from the state level or the legislature to do so."

One of the most controversial of the review commission's recommendations is its proposals for drastically altering the state's vocational education programs.

Review commission member Alton C. Crews said the commission's recommendations to limit vocational programs to 110 hours in grades 6-8 and limit hands-on job training to the 12th grade is an effort to keep vocational education classes from becoming "dumping grounds" for academic non-achievers.

The vocational education recommendations are viewed with dismay by both Sears and Brandon.

Sears said the commission's recommendations will severely limit the program at the junior high level. "A student couldn't take a quarter of home ec, industrial arts, and agriculture during the three years. They would have to give up one or the other," Sears said.

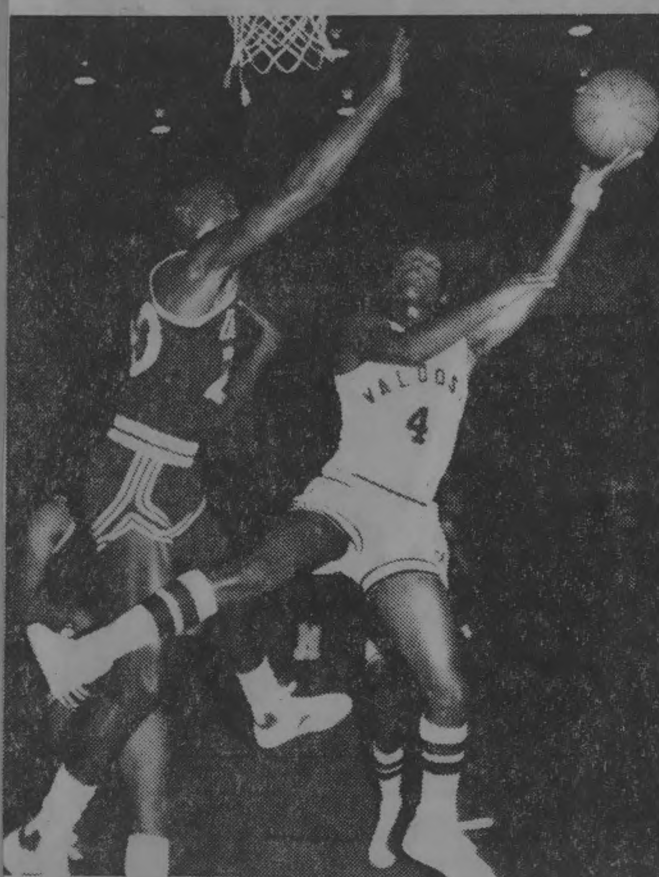
"I think Gov. Harris and his review commission need to leave our vocational program as is. Georgia is known as a leader throughout the U.S. for its vocational program in the high schools," Sears said.

Brandon said he thinks "everybody can live with" the modifications at the junior high level, but that limiting specific job training in vocational education to the 12th grade is a mistake.

"I'm against that. That's wrong," Brandon said. "Decisions like that should be left up to local systems. At that age a lot of students drop out. You must have courses they are interested in and have an aptitude for. I think they're making a tragic mistake doing this."

The Valdosta Daily Times

Wed., Nov. 14, 1984-13-



Howard Wright Hit Key Points For Valdosta

Times Staff Photo

Sports

Walker Scored 24 Points For VHS

Valdosta Boys Win Opener, Girls Fall To Tift

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta boys' basketball team was a little rusty in its season opener Tuesday night at VHS, but guard Victor Walker came through with 24 points to pace the Wildcats' 56-50 win over Tift County.

The Lady Wildcats were not as fortunate, dropping a 55-44 decision to the Lady Devils after trailing by one point at halftime.

In the boys' game, Walker hit four field goals in the first period, which equaled Tift's output for the entire frame. Head coach Mike O'Brien's 'Cats jumped to a 14-8 lead as the first period finished, but were unable to retain the margin. And although the 'Cats will be working hard following Thursday's exams, their effort was a strong one, according to O'Brien.

"I was well-pleased with the kids," he said. "We had some kids who were untested, and

they stepped forward and did a good job.

"I saw a lot of mistakes I hope to correct, and if we don't correct them, we're going to be in trouble."

The third period was hotly contested, but Valdosta outscored Tift 12-8 to extend its lead to 37-32 as the third frame finished.

"At the half we were ahead 25-24," he said. "We came out in the third quarter and tried to change the tempo, and we jumped out on them."

"But they came right back in the fourth quarter. If we hadn't hit some free throws at the end — even though they (the 'Cats) did miss 10 foul shots — they were very big. We hit nine (free throws) — they scored 18 points and we hit 19 in the fourth quarter. Our main problem was we didn't hit our foul shots."

The fourth frame was the pivotal one for both teams, with Walker and center

Wallace Campbell canning two field goals apiece, while forward Kyle Lowe added one for Valdosta. Valdosta received a boost as guard Howard Wright pumped in 4-of-5 free-throw attempts, aided by guard Sylvester Kitchen (two), Campbell (two) and Walker (one). However, the 'Cats could certainly use improvement in some departments, according to O'Brien.

"We're going to have to hit the boards and work on our foul shots, and we've got to continue working on defense," he said. "That (better defense) would have helped us a lot, because we got in some difficulties we shouldn't have."

In the girls' game, if losing can provide answers, then the Lady Wildcats are learning quickly, according to head coach James Studstill.

"We did a lot of substituting and we learned a lot of things,"

he said. "I know what each one of them can do under pressure now."

"I'm real proud of them for the way they came back. We were down by quite a score at halftime (29-16), but as long as the girls have heart and come back, we've got a chance down the road."

The Lady Wildcats pushed three players into double figures, with Wendy Irvin hitting 19, aided by Felecia Henderson (12) and Lisa Irvin (11). Tift's leading scorer was Tracie Carter with 24 points, while no other Lady Devils hit in double figures. And the game was vital as a teaching tool for Valdosta, according to Studstill.

"We got two or three unnecessary fouls under their (Tift's) boards, and one or two under ours, but that comes with inexperience," he said. "We had several ninth-graders out there tonight, so we had a lot of young kids."

"I know I'm going to be weak as far as a pivot player, but I played everyone I had, so at least I know what they can do."

Henderson is Valdosta's captain, and she was taken from the game several times with stomach cramps. Terry Longiere and Yolanda Chestnut did not dress out for the Lady Vikings last night, but Studstill wasn't complaining.

"There are no excuses — we just learned a lot," he said. "And we don't play another game until Nov. 30, so those girls should be well by then."

Henderson and Pam Gardner pulled down eight rebounds apiece, while Wendy and Lisa Irvin had five steals each.

Valdosta's basketball games scheduled here Friday night against Albany Westover have been moved to Jan. 12, because of the high school football playoffs. The 'Cats' next game is Nov. 27 vs. Colquitt County in Moultrie, starting with the

girls' game at 7 p.m., followed immediately by the boys.

BOYS

Tift Co. 8 16 8 18-50
Valdosta 14 11 12 19-56

INDIVIDUAL STATS

SCORING — Tift: Dennis 7 4-4 18, Bailey 2 0-0 4, Ingram 4 0-0 8, Revels 2 0-0 4, Smith 2 0-0 4, Spurlin 2 1-2 5, Johnson 3 1-6 7; Totals 22 6-12 50. VHS: Kitchen 0 2-3 2, Walker 11 2-8 24, Campbell 6 2-5 14, Brown 3 0-0 6, Wright 1 4-5 6, James 1 0-0 2, Lowe 1 0-0 2; Totals 23 10-22 56.

GIRLS

Tift Co. 14 15 6 20-55
Valdosta 7 9 18 10-44

INDIVIDUAL STATS

SCORING — Tift: Carter 8 6-14 24, Simmons 3 0-0 6, Robinson 4 1-3 9, Bennett 2 4-6 8, Brooks 2 0-4, Burr 2 0-0 4; Totals: 21 11-27 55. VHS: L. Irvin 3 5-8 11, W. Irvin 8 3-7 19, Henderson 5 2-3 12, Gardner 1 0-0 2, Ceasar 0 0-2 0, Shown 0 0-1 0; Totals: 17 10-21 44.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Sat., Nov. 17, 1984-8-

Sports

Valdosta Comes Back To Top Tift

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

There are four moral fibers Valdosta coach Nick Hyder likes to stress to his team. Spiritual guidance, moral character, mental toughness and physical toughness. Friday night at Cleveland Field, the nation's top-ranked high school football team needed every one of them to pull out a 16-7 first-round playoff win over defending state champion Tift County.

The 'Cats had to overcome a 7-0 halftime deficit against a fired-up Tift team, which they had romped past 28-0 earlier in the season. The Blue Devils seemed to have everything going in their favor at the half, when they stuffed a Valdosta drive inside the 'Cats' own 5 as time expired in the first half.

"We knew that we would have to score again to have a chance to win it though," said Tift head coach Gene Brodie. "We told our guys that at the half, but we couldn't take advantage of our chances and Valdosta came back like true champions will."

That could have been a real critical point in the game

according to Hyder.

"We turned from panic to poise in the second half when we took the kickoff and marched back down the field for the Porter field goal," Hyder said. "The crowd got into the game then, and it sort of gave us some momentum."

"That was a real big drive for us, and we needed some points at that time," Hyder added. "The youngsters responded extremely well under the conditions, and rose to the occasion."

Once again the Wildcats' defense proved to be a dominant factor, holding the Blue Devils to 17 yards rushing. Tifton finished with just 141 yards total offense in the game.

Tift's only score was set up by a Tony Anderson fumble at the Valdosta 26 in the second period.

It took the Blue Devils seven plays to push the ball in. The big play was a third-down pass interference call on Derrick Folsom at the Valdosta 5, which gave Tift a first-down-and-goal.

Three plays later, sophomore quarterback Tye Cottle hit Charlie Darrington on a 5-yard

scoring pass with 5:19 left in the first half. Stan McKeller added the conversion to complete first-half scoring, but those were also Tift's final points.

"The kids played as hard as they can play and you couldn't ask them to give anything more," said Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. "We had a good team effort, and the defense rose to the occasion when they had to."

Two series later, Valdosta came back with its best drive of the half. Moving from its own 44 to a first-and-goal at the Tift 10. The big play was a 14-yard quarterback keeper by Berke Holtzclaw on a bootleg, which seemed to work all game long. Tift was also hit with a 15-yard late-hit penalty on the play which put the ball on the 24.

Holtzclaw connected with Hosea Heard, who finished with eight catches in the game, including an 11-yard first-down pass at the Tift 10. But three plays netted only five yards, and with time running out, Anderson was caught behind the line for an eight-yard loss as time expired in the half.

"We gathered our composure in the second half, but so did Tifton," Hyder said. "This game was very reminiscent of the two we played last year, and this should have been for the state championship."

"Our youngsters came out and played with great emotion and showed a lot of character. We just told the guys to go back out and play to their capabilities in the second half, and we also made some minor adjustments in our passing game."

After driving for the Porter field goal on their first possession of the second half, the Wildcats came right back the following series. They covered 56 yards in nine plays, with Holtzclaw getting the honors on a 1-yard sneak. Porter added the conversion with 1:48 left for a 10-7 lead, and Valdosta would never be headed again.

However, on the series before that, Tift had a 63-yard scoring toss from Cottle to Teals called back due to an illegal-procedure penalty. Four plays later, they were forced to punt, and Valdosta drove in for the go-ahead score.

"That was a real big play, and it was at a critical point in the game," Hyder said. "If they get that score, there's no telling what might happen."

Valdosta iced the game on a 4-yard smash by Anderson with 1:07 left in the contest. The score was set up when defensive tackle Jimmy Lewis recovered a fumble.

Porter missed the extra point and the score remained 16-7 for the final count.

I'm disappointed that we lost, but the best team won," Tift head coach Gene Brodie said. "We had our chances, but their defense was just too dominant."

Valdosta improved its record to 11-0 with the win and will host Colquitt County (9-1-1) in the Region 1-AAAA title game next week. Tift finished its season with a 7-4 mark, and had a four-game winning streak snapped.

"It's never easy to unseat the defending state champions and Tifton played a great game," Hyder said. "Our coaching staff did an outstanding job of preparing the kids for this game, and that was a key factor in the game."

STATISTICS

	TIF	VAL
First Downs	12	12
Yards Rushing	17	153
Yards Passing	124	77
Passes	29-12-1	16- 9-1
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Punting	7-31.2	5-31.4
Penalties	14-106	4-20

Score By Quarters

Tifton	0	7	0	0	7
Valdosta	0	0	10	6	16

SCORING

Tift — Darrington 5 pass from Cottle (McKeller kick), 5:19 2nd

Valdosta — Porter 30 yard field goal, 8:00 3rd

Valdosta — Holtzclaw 1 run (Porter kick), 1:48 3rd

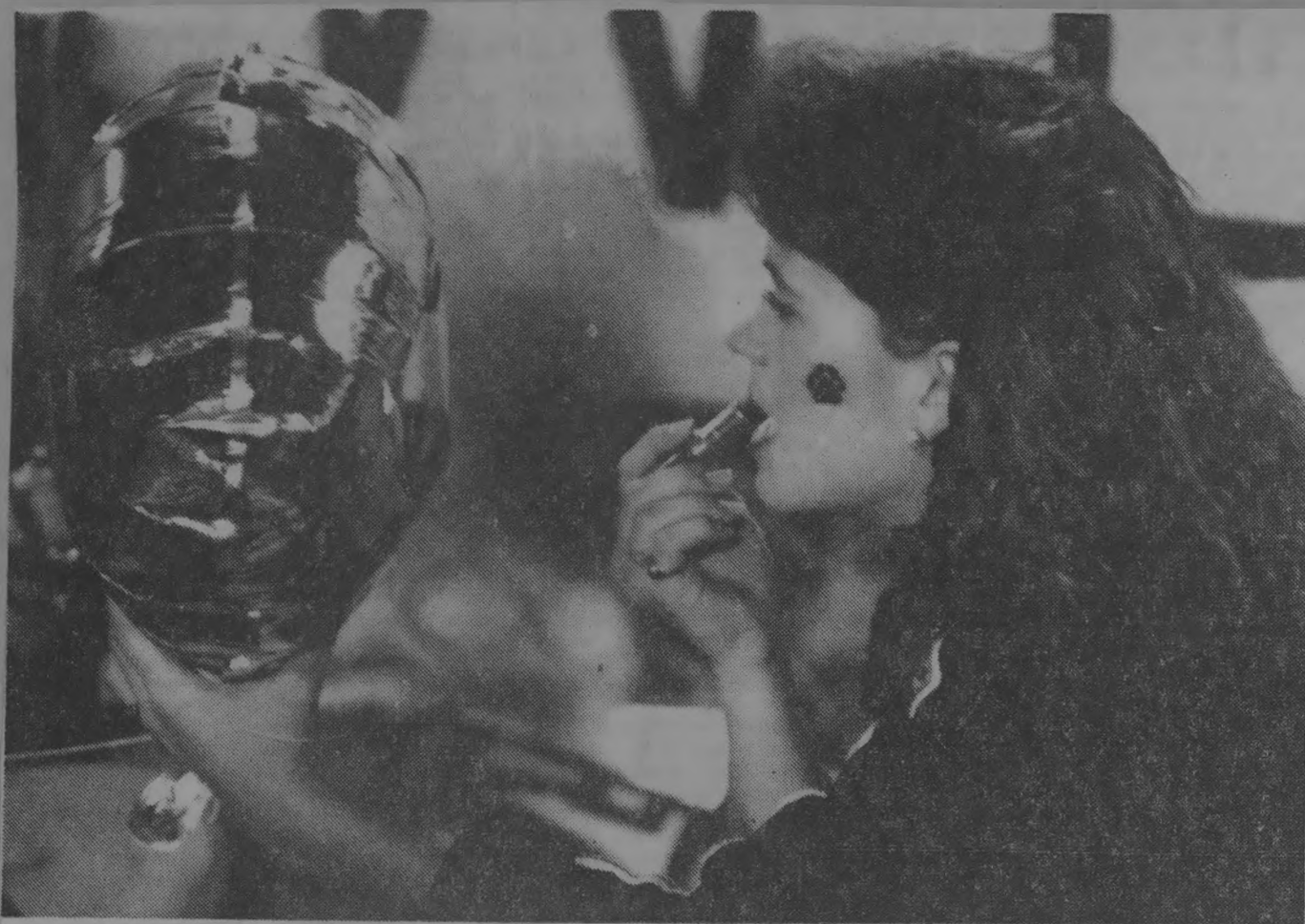
Valdosta — Anderson 4 run (kick failed), 1:07 4th

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing — Valdosta: Anderson 20-54, Holtzclaw 8-55, Lewis 13-38, Leonard 1-5. Tift: Ingram 7-17, Hill 5-17, Cottle 9-(-7), Nixon 2-(-10).

Passing — Valdosta: Holtzclaw 16-8-0, 77. Tift: Cottle 28-11-1, 116; Nixon 1-1-0, 4

Receiving — Valdosta: Heard 8-72, Lewis 1-5. Tift: Stokes 5-58, Darrington 3-20, Utley 1-15, Hicks 1-12, Teals 1-11, Cottle 1-4.



A Sideline View

V Daily Times 11/19/84

All eyes were on the 'Cats Saturday night as they claimed their fourth national title, but there was action on the sidelines as well. Above left, a Valdosta High School cheerleader applies some

lipstick before the game using a foil balloon as a mirror. At right, two youngsters who were lucky enough to view the game from

the sidelines take a break from their own game. Photos by DeRon Coppage.



V Times 11-17-87

Times Staff Photo

Willie Lewis Pounded Out Yardage For Valdosta

West Rome Takes Top Honor In State's AA High School Poll

V Times 11/28/84

ATLANTA (AP) — West Rome became a nearly unanimous choice at the top of Class AA high school football teams in Georgia with an overtime playoff victory over Central-Carrollton.

West Rome, seeking a third straight state championship, received 11 of 12 possible first-place votes in balloting by a panel of Georgia sportswriters and sportscasters in the latest Associated Press poll.

The Chieftans moved into the top spot last week after an eight-week absence.

Meanwhile, Valdosta made it 10 straight weeks as the unanimous pick for the No. 1 in Class AAAA and Greenville was No. 1 with 11 of 12 first-place votes again in Class A.

Marist retained its top ranking in Class AAA, although No. 2 Thomson took a first-place vote away from the War Eagles to edge closer.

Central-Carrollton, 11-1, had been named first on three ballots last week in taking second to West Rome's first place. The two met Friday night for the Region 7-AA championship, however, and the Chieftans, 11-1, overcame a 7-0 deficit in the fourth quarter to take a 20-7 victory in overtime.

The loss dropped the Lions to sixth place.

Dooly County, 11-1, received the other first-place vote this week and climbed from fourth to second, followed Oconee County, 10-1-1; Lakeshore, 11-1; and Mary Persons, 9-3.

Waycross, 9-3, vaulted into the poll at No. 7 by virtue of a 19-0 shutout of Irwin County in the 2-AA championships. Manchester, 10-1, fell to eighth, followed by Greene-Taliaferro, 9-3, and Duluth, 10-1-1.

In Class AAA, Thomson's impressive

back-to-back victories in the Region 2-AAA playoffs caused the shift of one first-place vote, giving the Bulldogs 111 points to Marist's 117.

Both teams are undefeated and have held their respective spots for three weeks. They will not meet on the playing field unless they reach the state championship Dec. 15.

Habersham, 11-1, was in third place after its second victory this year over old nemesis Gainesville in the Region 8-AAA title game. Gainesville, 10-2, dropped to sixth.

Worth County, 9-3, was unranked three weeks ago, and eighth last week.

Murray County, 11-1, also made a big jump, climbing from 10th to fifth.

Valdosta continued to dominate Class AAAA, which includes the state's largest schools. The closest the 12-0 Wildcats have come to losing this season was in the first game of the year when then beat Thomasville 21-3. Valdosta rolled against last weekend, beating then-No. 10 Colquitt Co. 35-7 in the Region 1-AAAA championship game.

The rest of Class AAAA was: Southwest DeKalb, 12-0; Griffin, 12-0; Clarke Central, 11-1; Warner Robins, 10-1-1; Statesboro, 10-1-1; Campbell-Smyrna 10-2; and Wheeler, 11-1. Newnan, 9-2-1, and Northside-Warner Robins, 10-2, were tied for 10th.

In Class A, Greenville, 12-0, again led the way, followed by Lincoln County, 10-1-1, which received the other first place vote.

Miller County, 11-1, was third, followed by two-time defending state champion Palmetto, 8-2-1; Reidsville, 11-1; Buford, 8-2-1; Louisville, 10-1-1; Clinch County, 7-2-1; Wilcox County, 10-2; and Bowdon, 9-3.

Winnersville Classic Week

Story By
Sylvia Cooper

Photos By
Times Staff

Wildcats fumbled the opening kickoff. The Lowndes Vikings recovered the ball at the Valdosta 19-yard line, but the Vikings failed to score, setting the tone for the night.

Valdosta quarterback Berke Holtzclaw scored on a 1-yard run with 1:23 left in the first quarter and again on Derrick Folsom's 85-yard interception return in the second quarter. VHS running back Tony Anderson scored on touchdown runs in the second and fourth quarters. The final score of the game was 28-6 Valdosta.

tinguished themselves in the field of sports were inducted.

Mid-week activities were a jazz ensemble presentation at Valdosta State College, a Bosses and Secretaries Coffee Break, a Christ Makes Winners rally and a VSC theatre production.

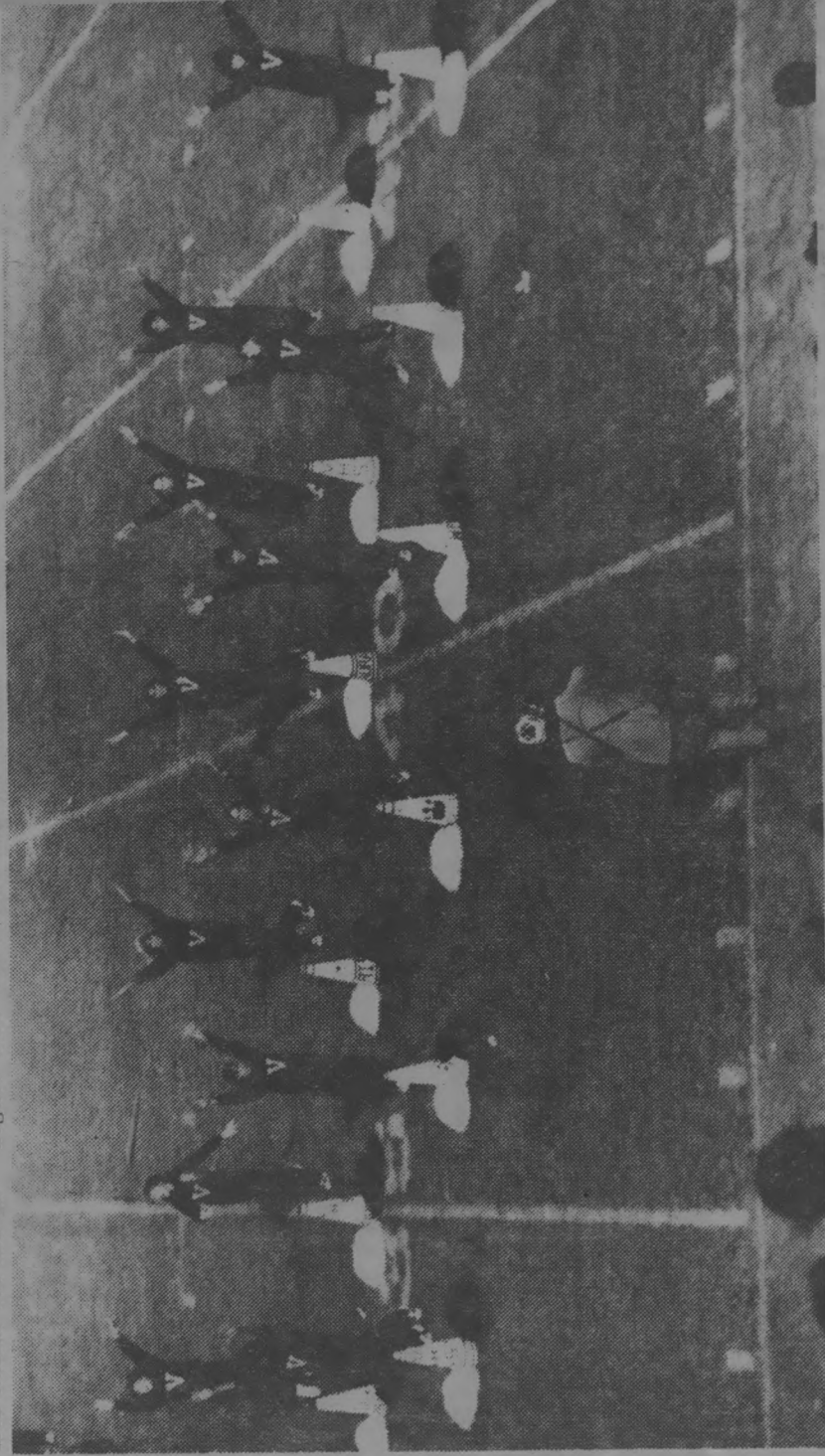
Golfers teed off at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Winnersville Classic Golf Tournament. That night the spirit of competition reached fever pitch at pep rallies held at the rival schools.

Then, of course, there was the big game Friday night. The Valdosta

Five years ago it was just a game, but it wasn't always a classic. It was

Today it is a week long series of competitive activities designed to create a spirit of cooperation among schools, civic clubs and businesses in the area — The Winnersville Classic Week.

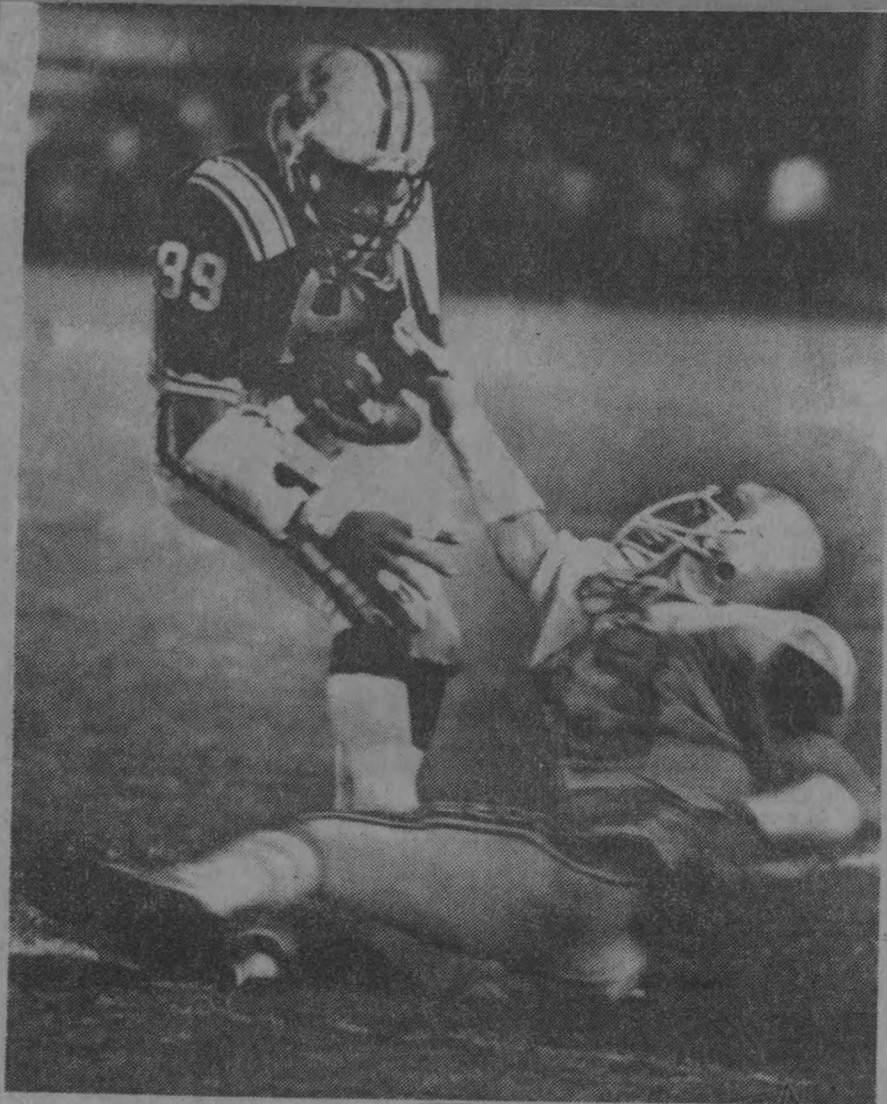
Among those activities were tennis, racquetball and wallyball tournaments; a parade, a benefit skate, a beauty pageant and the Hall of Fame banquet at which Georgia Tech head football coach Bill Curry spoke, and four area citizens who had dis-



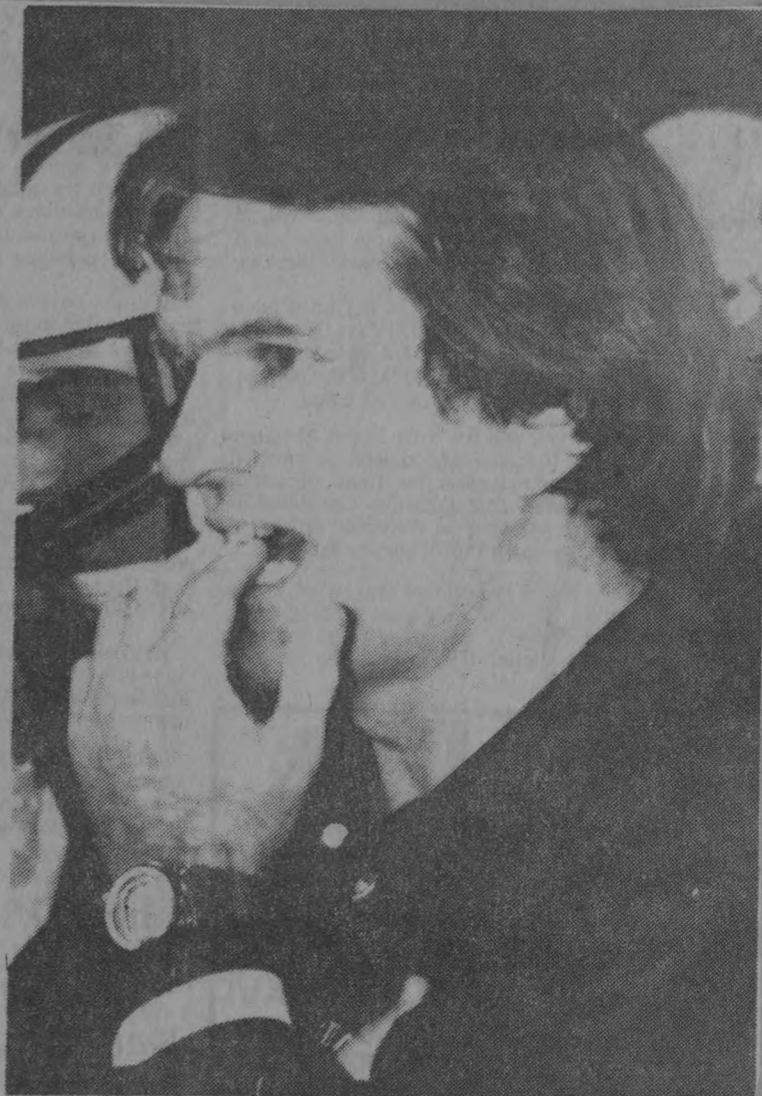
Valdosta High Cheerleaders Got VHS Fans Ready At Pre-Game Pep Rally



Pageant Contestants Among The Attractions In The Winnersville Parade

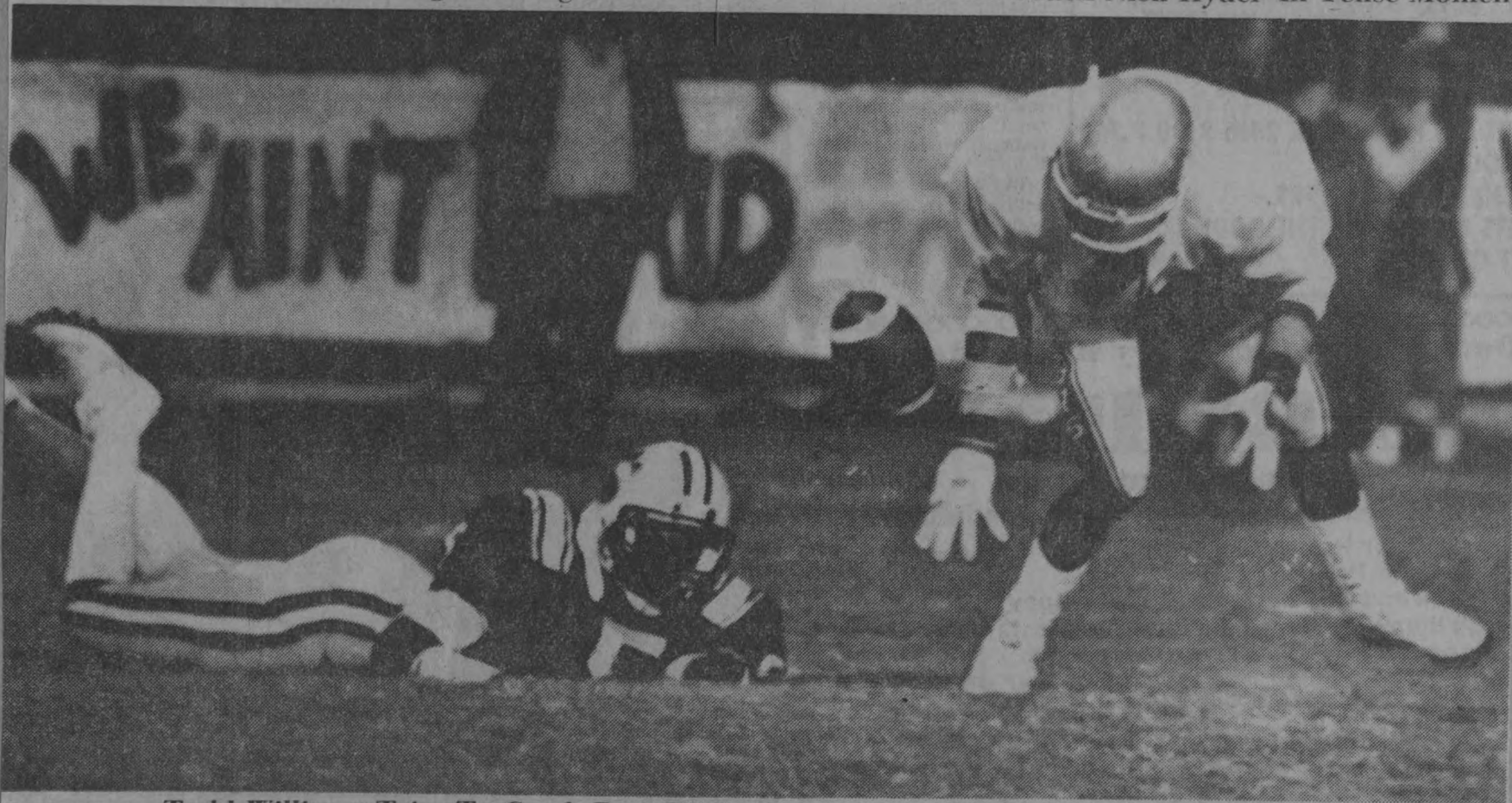


VHS's Darryl Leonard Dodges Viking Ronald Warren



Wildcat Coach Nick Hyder In Tense Moment

V Times 11-18-87



Todd Williams Tries To Catch Pass While 'Cat Defender Derrick Folsom Looks On

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Jack O. Howell presents Willie the Player of the Week Trophy from Langdale Ford.

WILLIE LEWIS

Led Wildcat rushers for second consecutive week, gaining 94 yards on the ground and one touchdown.



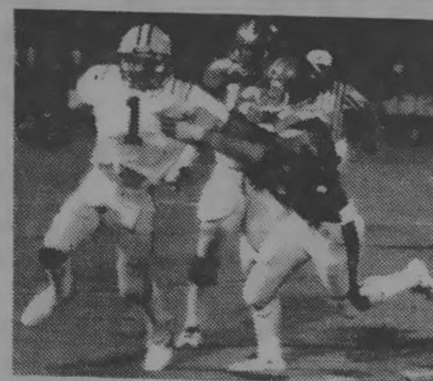
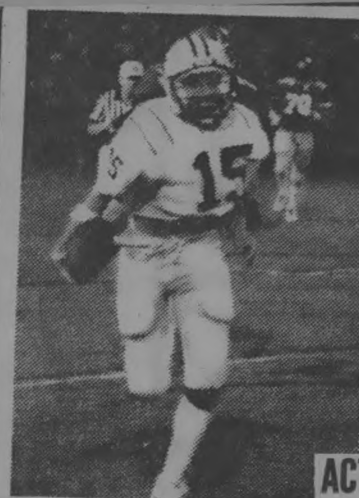
CONGRATULATIONS FROM

LANGDALE FORD CO.

"Largest Volume Ford Dealer in South Georgia And North Florida"

Corner Oak & Magnolia

242-8320



GO CATS!

ACTION SHOTS FROM WAYCROSS GAME

'Cats' Pat Hand

Packs In Colquitt County 35-7

Sat., Nov. 24, 1984

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

And the beat goes on and on. Friday night at Cleveland Field, the nation's top-ranked Valdosta Wildcats slammed Colquitt County 35-7 before 10,500 fans for the Region 1-A AAAA championship in second-round playoff action, pushing their record to 12-0 for the season.

STATISTICS

	COL	VAL
First Downs	12	23
Yards Rushing	104	253
Yards Passing	200	105
Passes	37-13-1	14-6-1
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Punting	4-39.2	3-34.0
Penalties	4-47	2-10

If the 'Cats had been playing cards, they would have had a pat hand as they rolled a lucky seven (plays) on four of their five scoring drives.

Tailback Tony Anderson paced the Wildcat victory with 148 yards on 18 carries and two touchdowns as Valdosta churned up 253 yards on the ground. The 'Cats also chalked up 23 first downs and had 360 yards in total offense.

Once again the 'Cats defense — which is tops in the region — proved to be a dominant force, limiting Colquitt to less than 200 yards after three quarters, before the reserves took over.

"The thing that I was most proud about was that we didn't give up the big bomb," said Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. "We gave up some yards, but I thought it gave us a big lift early to stop them those two times deep in our territory."

"If we had given up a quick touchdown, it could have given them some early momentum, which would have been dangerous," Rudolph added. "Our safeties did a good job of covering deep and we got a good team effort from everybody."

Colquitt opened the game like it meant business, driving to a first down at the 'Cats 12 on its second possession of the game. From there however, the door slammed shut as the 'Cats defense rose to the occasion and stuffed the Packers' scoring threat.

On first down, fullback Leroy Berry picked up one yard, and T.J. Edwards was stopped for no gain on second down. Nathaniel Lewis picked up just two yards on a third-and-nine on the 'Cats 11. Lewis made a big play earlier in the drive on a 29-yard pass reception which put the ball on the Valdosta 11.

On fourth down, the Packers decided to go for the field goal, which was wide left. But a motion penalty against Colquitt before the snap gave it a second chance, and this time kicker Bennie Parrish was wide left again from 31 yards out.

After Valdosta was forced to punt on its following possession, Colquitt drove down the field, with the big play coming on a 30-yard draw by Berry. Berry's run moved the ball to the Valdosta 27. However, from there the Packers' offense was again stuffed by the 'Cats' awesome defense. Four plays netted a minus two yards, and Valdosta took over on downs at its own 29.

Valdosta ran off one play before the quarter ended in a 0-0 tie.

"The thing started to swing in our favor a little bit after we held them on that fourth-down play," Rudolph said. "When they missed that field goal, it gave us a big lift and we played with confidence from that point on."

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder concurred with Rudolph and lauded the defense for its play.

"Our defense did a great job and they really took charge

after the first two Colquitt drives," Hyder said. "I thought it was a total team effort and the staff did a tremendous job of preparing the kids, and they deserve a lot of credit for the win."

From the second period on, it was all Valdosta as the 'Cats ambushed Colquitt for 35 consecutive points in the next two periods.

Anderson got the first Valdosta score on a 1-yard smash with 10:28 left in the half. The entire 71-yard drive was on the ground, with Willie Lewis picking up 37 and Anderson garnering 33. John Porter added the conversion to give Valdosta a 7-0 and they never looked back.

After forcing the Packers to punt in three plays, Valdosta took over possession at its own 26. Once again, it took the 'Cats seven plays to cover the distance.

Anderson had big gains of 18 and 12 yards before senior quarterback Berke Holtzclaw connected with junior wide out Mack McGuyrt on a 24-yard scoring toss on a third down and six play with 6:01 left in the half. Porter came on to add the second of five successful extra point attempts for a 14-0 lead.

Colquitt was able to pick up one first down on its next possession, but was forced to give up the ball with 3:32 left in the half. That proved to be plenty of time for the 'Cats to put another score on the board before the close of the half.

Anderson set up the final score by returning a punt 43 yards to the Packers' 43. Once again, it took the 'Cats seven plays to cover the distance, with Holtzclaw getting the honors on a 1-yard sneak with 43 seconds left in the half. Porter's kick made the count 21-0 at the half.

"Our offensive line really

took charge in the second quarter and we did a good job of controlling the ball," Hyder said. "We made a few adjustments and did a good job of mixing our running and passing games."

"We just tried to take advantage of what they were giving us and we finally got some decent field position, which has hampered us in the last couple of weeks," Hyder added. "We felt like we were in control of things with a 21-point halftime lead, but you never know because football is a 48-minute game."

Valdosta stormed down the field on its first possession of the second half with the big play coming on a 42-yard run by Anderson. However, Anderson fumbled four plays later on at the Packers' 14 and Johnell Walker recovered for Colquitt.

"I thought that fumble might give them a little extra spark and fire them up," Hyder said. "But our defense did a good job of containing them and keeping them backed up, which gave us the ball back in good field position."

Valdosta roared 51 yards in what else — seven plays — capped by a slashing 11-yard run by Anderson with 5:32 left in the third quarter. Porter's kick made gave the 'Cats a 28-0 advantage.

Colquitt suffered more hard luck on its next possession when the snap from center was high on a fourth down punting situation and Scott Penuel's desperation pass was knocked down.

Valdosta took over at the Packers' 25 and took only four plays to add to its margin on a 11-yard reverse run by tight end Darrell Leonard with 2:54 left in the quarter. Porter's conversion ended the scoring for the 'Cats as the reserves took over for the rest of the game.

"Football is a game of field position and when we are able to start a drive at the 50 we usually score every one out of two possessions," Hyder said. "On the other hand, when we have to go more than 50 yards, we only score every one in seven times."

"We got a chance to play a lot of people tonight which was very pleasing because we guys hung in there and practiced in 20 degree weather for most of the week," Hyder added.

Score By Quarters

Colquitt	0	0	0	7	7
Valdosta	0	21	14	0	35

SCORING

Valdosta — Anderson 1 run (Porter kick), 10:28 2nd.
Valdosta — McGuyrt 24 pass from Holtzclaw (Porter kick), 6:01 2nd.
Valdosta — Holtzclaw 1 run (Porter kick), :43 2nd.
Valdosta — Anderson 11 run (Porter kick), 5:32 3rd.
Valdosta — Leonard 10 run (Porter kick), 2:54 3rd.
Colquitt — Edwards 53 pass from Funderburk (Parrish kick), :24 4th.

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing: Valdosta — Anderson 19-148, Lewis 12-55, Leonard 2-20, Holtzclaw 7-17, Dixon 2-8, Braswell 2-6 Talley 2-3, Mangham 4-(-4). Colquitt — Berry 10-56, Edwards 10-35, Lewis 3-8, Mansfield 1-3, Funderburk 2-2.

Passing: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 6-4-0, 72, Talley 8-4-0, 28, Hayslip 2-1-1, 5. Colquitt — Funderburk 36-14-1, 206. Oenuel 1-0-0.

Receiving: Valdosta — Rudolph 2-14, McGuyrt 1-24, Steward 1-22, Lewis 1-15, Heard 1-11, Belue 1-10, Davis 1-5, Dixon 1-4. Colquitt — Edwards 5-58, Middlebrooks 4-51, Edwards 2-63, Holland 1-19, Mansfield 1-9, Funderburk 1-6.

Anderson Brightest Valdosta Star

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

Saturday night at Cleveland Field, there were all kinds of college prospects bounding about, and stars lined up on both sides of the field in Valdosta High's 21-14 victory over Clarke Central for the Class AAAA State championship title before 12,500 fans.

There were enough college scouts and coaches around to start a mini-convention, and they were all out to see about 16 prospects on the field.

But, the star whose light shined brightest of all is a player the coaches will have to wait around for another year to drool over ... Tony Anderson please stand up and take a bow.

Just when it looked like Clarke Central had taken control of the contest, here comes Mr. Anderson to turn the 'Cats' fortunes from despair to hope, to victory. He keyed a crunching Valdosta rushing attack, picking up some bruising inside yards, also running back punts for good measure.

In fact, Anderson's punt return with just over eight minutes left in the final period set up the 'Cats' game-winning touchdown. Three plays later, Anderson dove in from one yard out for his third score of the game to give Valdosta its 18th state title since 1940.

"The punt was short and low, which gave me just enough time to get to the wall we had set up," Anderson said. "When I got to the wall, there were no Clarke players around and all I had to do was run as fast as I could."

"I just wanted to make something happen, and I'm just glad that I was able to come through when I got the chance," Anderson added. "This was what we had been playing for all season long, and we came through when we really needed it to pull out the win."

Anderson finished the game with 63 yards on 18 carries, after carrying the ball just five times for 10 yards in the first half. Anderson scored all three touchdowns for the 'Cats, pushing his season total to 23, including the five post-season games.

"We came out with a lot of emotion at the start of the game and jumped on them real quick by scoring on our first drive," Anderson said. "But we couldn't keep it up and we had to regroup in the second half."

"We were determined to win this one any way that we could, and just kept fighting until we made something happen," Anderson added. "You can't take anything away from Clarke though, because they made us earn everything that we got."

It was the second state championship for the 'Cats in three years, and during that time their record is 41-1. Since Anderson has been on the varsity, he's been on the losing side of the ball just once.

With seven offensive starters returning from this year's national championship team, plus a host of letter winners, even brighter days may loom ahead for Anderson in his final season.

But, first things first. The 'Cats' 21-14 win over Clarke



Staff Photo By Laura Harris

VHS Tailback Tony Anderson Romped For 148 Yards And Two Touchdowns

The Valdosta Daily Times

Sat., Nov. 24, 1984-8-

Sports



Times Staff Photo

Junior RB Carried For Three TDs

Central gave them their fourth mythical national championship, and first since the legendary Wright Bazemore retired.

"This championship means a lot more to me than the first one in my freshman year (1982), because I played a more significant part in it," Anderson said. "This is a great feeling, and I'm so very happy for the guys in the senior class because they really showed us the way."

Of course they did, with a little help along the way from the junior running back called T.A.

Valdosta Boys Split Hoop Tilts, While Girls Fall To Colquitt County

V. Times 11/28/84

From Staff Reports

MOULTRIE — Valdosta split a doubleheader here Tuesday night as the boys squeaked by the Colquitt County Packers 54-52 in a thriller, while the girls were rapped 77-38 by Lady Packers.

In the boys action, Victor Walker took an inbounds pass and dribbled the length of the court before putting up a game-winning bank shot with only 3 seconds left to give the Wildcats the win over the packers.

Colquitt then misfired on a desperation attempt from near midcourt as the clock expired.

Johnny Hawk had just tied the game by hitting the first of two freethrow attempts for Colquitt. On his miss, the ball rolled out of bounds off a packer player and gave Valdosta the last-ditch chance.

"I'm pleased with the way the kids fought and batttied the entire game," said Valdosta head coach Mike O'Brien. "But, I was disappointed in the number of foul shots that we missed and the floor mistakes that we made."

The win improves the Wildcats slate to 2-0 for the season, while Colquitt suffered its initial setback to drop to 2-1.

Meanwhile, the Lady Packers hammered the Lady 'Cats 77-38 to hand them their second straight setback.

Colquitt led just 35-27 at the half, but Valdosta's top scorer Lisa Irvin (11) went down with an ankle injury and didn't play in the second half. Colquitt outscored the Lady 'Cats 38-11 in the second half to pull away for the win.

Irvin and Felicia Henderson topped Valdosta with 11 points apiece, with Wendy Irvin adding nine. Brenda Christopher led the Lady Packers with 18, while Angie Richardson added 16.

Colquitt won both of the B-Team games in earlier action.

The Packer boys B-team raced past Valdosta 54-27 as Casey Williams led Valdosta with eight points, with Reginald Butler and Bernie Grimes adding six points each.

Colquitt won the girls B-Tem game 45-27 as Terri Longielliere and Abratine Hill score eight points apiece to pace the attack.

The Lowndes boys beat Berrien County 68-41, while the Vikettes won 80-46 on the road in Nashville.

In the boys' game, Eric Davis scored 19 points for Lowndes, Paul March hit for 12 and Undrae Mitchell canned 10.

In the girls' game, Beverly Williams pumped in 11 points for Lowndes.

'Cats Punish Colquitt Co. For 2nd Win

V. Times 11-30-84

By CHARLES CORDER

Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High dominated both ends of the court as the Wildcats opened Region 1-A AAAA South Sub-region play with a 73-51 win over Colquitt County in the second game of a high school basketball double-header at VHS Tuesday night.

The win was the second in a row for the 'Cats who improved to 2-1. Colquitt, the defending sub-region champion, fell to 1-3.

The Lady 'Cats found themselves outgunned as the Colquitt County Packerettes rolled to a 57-41 win. The win improved Colquitt's record to 4-0 overall and 2-0 in sub-region play. The loss, Valdosta's second straight, dropped the Lady 'Cats to 1-2.

"I was pleased with the way the kids played," said 'Cats Coach Mike O'Brien. "We've been striving for consistency on offense and defense and we got it tonight."

"The one thing we've done these last two ballgames that we didn't do last year and didn't do in the game against Monroe (the 'Cats' only loss) is we continued it through four quarters."

The contest was virtually over after the first four minutes of the first quarter. Colquitt led briefly, building up a 5-2 lead with 5:30 remaining in the opening period. But Victor Walker hit three straight baskets to give Valdosta a 10-5 margin with 2:57 remaining and Colquitt never came closer than three points after that.

Valdosta led 18-12 at the quarter and the 'Cats got their fast break going in the second period to race to a 41-20 halftime lead.

"We started getting on the boards heavy and we went down on the fast break a couple of times," O'Brien said. "Plus he (Packers head coach Bob Bray) pulled his first bunch out. I don't know if he was trying to rest them or discipline them."

The Colquitt starters returned in the second half, but things had long since gotten out of hand. Valdosta led by 31 points at the end of the third

Valdosta
Colquitt Co.

BOYS

10 15 15 14-54
15 10 12 15-52

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta: Wallace Campbell 6 10-14 22, Victor Walker 6 2-4 14, Anthony Brown 3 0-0 6, James Edwards 2 0-0 4, Howard Wright 2 1-4 5, Sylvester Kitchens 1 1-5 3. Totals: 20 14-31 54; Colquitt: Johnny Hawk 8 5-7 21, Pat Harper 6 0-0 12, Erwin Harper 3 1-2 7, Alvin Spivey 1 2-2 6, David Harrison 1 2-2 4, Willie Slaughter 1 0-0 2. Totals: 21 10-14 52.

GIRLS

Valdosta 12 15 4 7-38
Colquitt Co. 17 18 17 21-77

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta: Lisa Irvin 5 1-3 11, Felicia Henderson 4 3-3 11, Wendy Irvin 4 1-1 9, Casandra Ceasare 1 0-0 2, Pam Gardner 0 1-1 1, Avis Weatherspoon 1 0-0 2, Terri Longielliere 1 0-0 2. Totals: 16 6-8 38; Colquitt: Brenda Christopher 9 0-0 18, Angie Richardson 8 0-0 16, Venessa Taylor 2 1-1 5, Kendra Lyons 4 0-0 8, Missy Criss 3 1-1 7, Donna Turner 1 0-0 2, Melanie Yates 1 1-1 3, Lisa Stallings 4 1-1 9, Sabrina Hadler 1 0-0 2, Carla Hurst 1 0-0 2. Totals: 34 4-4 77.

Lowndes
Berrien Co.

BOYS

16 17 26 9-68
13 7 15 6-41

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Lowndes: Eric Davis 7 5-5 19, Paul March 6 0-1 12, Undrae Mitchell 4 2-3 10, Chuck Cooper 4 1-1 9, Earl Gray 2 1-3 5, Greg Kirk 1 1-2 3, Todd Williams 1 2-2 4, Kirk Robinson 0 2-3 2, Walter Montgomery 1 0-0 2, Chris Shroyer 1 0-0 2. Totals: 27 14-20 68. Berrien: Anthony Newsome 5 0-0 10, Andre Newsome 4 1-3 9, Alphonso Boone 4 0-0 8, Trace Stovall 1 2-3 4, Dan Knight 2 0-0 4, Dexter Fuller 1 0-0 2, Darren Russ 1 0-0 2, Tommy Clark 1 0-0 2. Totals: 19 3-7 41.

GIRLS

Lowndes 17 28 27 8-80
Berrien Co. 3 17 8 18-46

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Lowndes: Pam Walker 1 0-0 2, Debbie Richardson 3 1-2 7, Pansy March 3 1-2 7, Sherice Willis 7 3-5 17, Natasha Horn 9 4-5 22, Jennifer Griffin 1 0-0 2, Cindy Hall 3 0-1 6, Beverly Williams 3 5-6 11, Angela Wood 3 0-0 6. Totals: 33 14-21 80. Berrien: Tracy Mackey 7 3-7 17, Annette Mapp 3 4-7 10, Rhonda Walker 0 3-6 3, Jennifer Leland 0 3-4 3, Fanny Greene 3 1-4 7, Latrelle Smith 2 0-1 4, Molly Clark 0 2-4 2. Totals: 15 16-33 46.

quarter. The Packers were unable to make any real dent in Valdosta's lead until O'Brien put his starters on the bench in the fourth quarter.

Valdosta's Wallace Campbell and Jerome Berrian both had big nights. Campbell had 26 points and 14 rebounds. Berrian scored 18 and had 12 boards. "I thought Campbell and Berrian dominated the boards," O'Brien said.

Walker had 12 points for the 'Cats and Moses Daniels had eight.

Colquitt didn't have a single scorer in double figures. Erdis Anderson led the Packers with nine points.

"We won and I'm pleased," said O'Brien. "But there are still a lot of things we need to iron out...We missed a lot of free throws we don't need to be missing (the 'Cats were 17 of 28 from the line) and we missed a lot of layups."

"...Hopefully we can build from these first two games we've won and continue through the season."

In the girls' game, Colquitt was pretty much of control of things from the outset. The Packerettes led by just 19-12 at the half but they never let the Lady 'Cats get any closer than that.

Colquitt ballooned its lead to 34-22 at the end of the third quarter. The Lady 'Cats stayed within 12 until nine quick points in the final two minutes gave Colquitt its final 16-point margin.

Connie Weatherspoon led Valdosta with 14 points and Shevon Peeler had 10. Colquitt's Vanessa Stewart led all scorers in the game with 19 points and Gwen Richardson had 12.

Girls Game
Colquitt Co. 8 11 15 23-57
Valdosta 8 4 10 19-41

INDIVIDUAL STATS

CC — Stewart 19, G. Richardson 12, Logan 8, Christopher 8, A. Richardson 4, Johnson 3, Seay 2, Taylor 2, Jenkins 1.
VHS — C. Weatherspoon 14, Peeler 10, Elder 7, Henderson 4, W. Irvin 4, L. Irvin 2.

Boys Game
Colquitt Co. 12 8 12 19-51
Valdosta 18 23 22 10-73

INDIVIDUAL STATS

CC — E. Anderson 9, Blakely 8, McBurrows 7, Spivey 7, Lewis 5, Hawk 5, Eddie Anderson 4, Simpson 4, G. Anderson 2.
VHS — Campbell 26, Berrian 18, Walker 13, Daniels 8, Register 3, Edwards 2, Bradley 2, Blair 1.

Jones Wears

V Times 11/28/84
By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

The stony visage of Georgia Tech outside linebacker Dante Jones cuts across the this year's Georgia Tech media guide, and the Yellow Jackets' opponents look for openings elsewhere to run through.

The former Valdosta High standout is one of Tech's defensive leaders, having become a Yellow Jacket when Bill Curry returned to his alma mater. The rebuilding process took a couple seasons, and Jones even found his view on defense entirely different from his high school days.

"I was fortunate enough to start three years, and I guess I was lucky," he said. "I started at a position I hadn't played until my freshman year in college."

Jones was an honorable mention high school all-American VHS head coach Nick Hyder's 1981 squad, but he was a free safety back in those days. The '81 Wildcats may have been one of the best teams around, but that year the major honors went to another area school, according to Jones.

"We won 11 straight and then lost to Lowndes in the playoffs, and they went on to win the state championship," he said. "We lost to them 6-0 (in the playoffs) after beating them during the regular season. We had an excellent team — a team that nobody thought would do any good."

Jones then move on to Tech, where good reaction and height (6-4) helped him see action as a freshman safety, but moving him outside may have been one of Curry's best decisions.

"I felt like I'd have a lot more trouble getting used to playing outside linebacker, but I adjusted pretty quick and got to play."



Photo Special to The Times

Former 'Cat Moved To Linebacker For Tech

Well On Yellow Jackets

and I'm pretty happy with that," he said. "I thought I had a good season all three years."

"My sophomore year I think I was fourth (on the team) in tackles and second in interceptions, and the same thing my junior year. This year I'm currently fifth on the team in tackles."

Jones has 49 primary tackles, 23 assists and one quarterback sack this season. He's also accounted for opposition losses twice, he's caused two fumbles, recovered two fumbles and broken up three passes.

The 223-pound defender has increased his upper body strenght from last season, and he thrives on the outside linebacking slot.

"I play a mixture of the linebacker and strong safety position — we call it the Bandit," he said. "I lost around 13 pounds (from 223 to 210) to play this season, because I've got a lot more pass coverage."

"Sometimes I line up as a true inside linebacker, sometimes I line up on the end as a true outside linebacker, and sometimes I line up back off the line like a strong safety."

"It seems to fool other teams and seems to work. Our defense is No. 1 in the Atlantic Coast Conference, and I think that says something."

Curry is concluding his fifth season in one of the world's great rebuilding teams, and his job seems to have been a success. The Jackets went 9-1-1 in Curry's first season (1980), followed by 1-10 ('81), 6-5 ('82) and 3-8 ('83). But Georgia Tech and Jones have made great strides since those days of 1-10, and both parties have reaped rewards this season.

"I feel Tech has definitely turned the football program around," he said. "I was in the first class coach Curry recruited, and the attitudes have totally changed in four years here."

"There was a time when people didn't even believe we could

win. We know we've got the talent and the coaching staff, and we can win. It's up to us to go out there and do it on the field."

Atlanta is a long drive from Valdosta, but Jones hasn't had any problem with missing the old stomping grounds. He's been home just three days this year, and maybe Georgia's biggest city is beginning to feel more comfortable.

"I've spent four years up here, and I've been really happy," he said. "I'm just glad God gave me the opportunity to play at a major college."

"If I had it to do all over again, I'd come to Georgia Tech and do things pretty much as I did before. I have no regrets — I haven't second-guessed myself on the decision."

The Yellow Jackets could finish quite well this season, but they have one game left on their schedule. The game against No. 12 Georgia is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. at Sanford Stadium in Athens and it brings out different feelings in Jones.

"Things have been going pretty good this season, but we haven't had the kind of season we should have," he said. "We hope to end up with a 6-4-1 record, but we have one obstacle, and it's a big one."

"They're a good team offensively and defensively, but they've had some bad luck this year. But they're championship calibre, and this game could make or break their season."

"They've had a real good season, they've won the close games and they've played consistent. One thing they know how to do is win. Most of the close ones they've come out on top."

Jones also hopes to win in another aspect of his life besides football. After this weekend's game, he'll be concentrating on academics. The industrial engineering major hopes to graduate in the fall and land a job in his field of study.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Wed., Nov. 28, 1984-15-

Sports

Traditions Clash In VHS-Demons' Game

Playoffs Put Pressure On Valdosta's Hyder; 'Cats Won 2 of 3 Meetings

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

Friday night at Warner Robins, it will be tradition versus tradition when the Valdosta Wildcats take on the Warner Robins Demons first-round state playoff action at 8 p.m.

There are many similarities in both programs especially in winning football games.

Since coming to Valdosta, Nick Hyder has faced the Demons three times and has come up on the short end of the stick once. It was a stinging 17-14 setback at at Cleveland Field and the Demons went on to earn the state championship by whipping Newnan 21-0.

However, the Wildcats did comeback to avenge that loss by whipping the Demons 14-7 the following year in the state playoffs on the way to its first state championship under Hyder.

The last time the two teams met in Warner Robins was in 1977 and the Wildcats won 27-8 to claim the South Georgia championship. Valdosta went on to lose to Clarke Central 16-14 in the finals.

On four separate occasions, the Wildcats have lost to the eventual state champions in the playoffs. After Clarke Central in 1977, the 'Cats lost to Lowndes High in 1980 playoff action,

Warner Robins in 1981 and Tift County last year.

But wait a minute, we're getting ahead of ourselves. Valdosta will have its biggest test of the season ahead this Friday before an expected sellout crowd according to Hyder.

"It's one game season from week to week and we feel like the playoffs put the pressure on everybody," Hyder said. "They have playoff experience and has been a consistent playoff participant."

"They run the ball extremely well and like to do a lot of different things offensively," Hyder added. "They have the ability to throw the ball but prefer to run with an excellent stable of backs."

Since taking over the head coach position at Warner Robins in 1973, Robert Davis has compiled a remarkable 130-14-1, including 10-1-1 this year. His team have won more than 90 percent of their games during his 11-year tenure.

The Demons feature a standout defense which is led by linebackers Eddie Lust and Garnett West. Steve Franklin, Albert Solomon and Denny Maddox are the interior linemen and all rage in the 200-pound area. Eddie Hurst and Ricky Topkins are the defensive end.

Chris Kennedy and Tom Latham are the safeties, while Dominko Anderson and Ben Smith are the cornerbacks. Al

Maxwell is the fifth defensive back for the Demons and comes in on passing downs.

"They have a very impressive defense, which has held seven opponents to one touchdown or less," Hyder said. "They always have pretty good speed, and they've got some fine athletes on their defense."

"We will have to control the offensive line to have a chance at winning," Hyder added. "Field position is always a key and we like to pass so that we can run the ball."

Hyder said his team is a little banged up from its two previous games against some "tough competition." But, he says they've had a good week of practice and the four dimensions — spiritual, moral, physical and mental — have been the driving force.

"We've continued to work on blocking, tackling and the fundamentals," Hyder said. "The kids have demonstrated a good work attitude, with a determined spirit and we've had some good workouts."

"We have had some tough games against Warner Robins and the memories are very real," Hyder said. "The past losses make you humble and we remember what the real world is like. We know that we have a tough task ahead of us and Warner Robins has an outstanding football organization."



VHS Coach Nick Hyder

Times Staff Photo

Young Demons Are Looking To Future

Coach Davis' Warner Robins Team Sees Little Chance Of Beating Valdosta

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

The Warner Robins Demons might beat some pretty awesome competition in a few years, but they'll be hard-pressed to advance any further in Georgia's AAAA high school football picture, according to head coach Robert Davis.

"We're very fortunate — we're tickled to have come as far as we have," the 19th-year Demon mentor said. "We're a very young football team, but we got hot when it counted."

"We made a lot of improvement through the season, and we just got in the playoffs. Last week we had a big, rival-type game against (Warner Robins) Northside, and we beat them (34-7). That game's about as big to us as the Lowndes-Valdosta game (is to Valdosta)."

Last Friday's encounter in International City Stadium certainly was one of the biggest high school events around, drawing 13,000 rabid fans. Two weeks earlier the Eagles had claimed the city championship (17-14) and the No. 1 slot in Region 4.

The Demons have a storied past of state championships and national titles, but this year the pickings have been slim for Warner Robins, according to Davis.

"We started a sophomore quarterback (Lane Maddox) the second game, and he's been starting for us ever since," he said.

Photo Special to The Times

Davis Has Inspired Demons For 19 Years



"We haven't started a sophomore quarterback here in a long time at Warner Robins, but he's just been doing a good job for us — for a sophomore."

"He's not a real good quarterback, but he's getting better. And we've got a little junior wingback (Dennis Roberts, 6-0, 175). He's adequate, and we're starting a sophomore tailback (Jeff Thompson)."

Roberts has carried 53 times for 663 yards this season, while senior running back Joe Butler has ran 118 times for 733 yards. Senior fullback Jimmy Peterman (5-11, 176) leads Warner Robins ball carriers with 110 carries for 793 yards, but the Demons seem to have a shuttle service out of the backfield. They have six runners who have carried the ball for more than 300 yards apiece.

Maddox has completed 32 of 67 attempts this season for 644 yards and four touchdowns. Senior backup Mike Creech was used sparingly in the early part of the season, completing nine of 33 passes for 136 yards and no touchdowns.

The Demons run their backs out of the Wing T, which has the guards pulling and faking any way they can to confuse the opposition. But Warner Robins will have to come up with more than misdirection plays to beat Valdosta, which is ranked No. 1 in Georgia by The Associated Press and No. 1 in the nation by USA

Today.
"They've got a great football team, and there's no doubt about it," he said. "I think they deserve it (recognition)."

"We've just got a bunch of young kids, so I'm just being realistic about it — this is a rebuilding year. I've been around awhile — I'm no rookie, and I know what it takes to win. With such a young team, I hope a couple years from now we'll have the chance to challenge somebody."

The Demons' record is at 10-1-1, and they were ranked No. 9 in last week's Associated Press poll. But they've been to the top before, winning the mythical national championship in 1981 and tying for it in 1976. They'll be going against VHS head coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats, whose record stands at 12-0.

Valdosta beat Tift County 16-7 in first-round playoff action two weeks ago, followed by a 35-7 whipping of Colquitt County last Friday. And the Wildcat practices have been going along at their usual pace, according to Hyder.

"They're going like they always do," he said. "I couldn't tell any difference between this week and any other week."

"The team has a good attitude, and they practiced awful well for three days in cold weather last week. I really felt it (cold-weather practice) was a factor in how well we played."

Can Clarke Central end Valdosta bid for 15-0?

12-14-84

Clarke Central at Valdosta ■ Saturday, 8 p.m.

By Steve Figueroa
Staff Writer

The match-up is a classic: A meeting between two of the most successful high school football programs in Georgia history, two of the best teams in the nation and two of the state's most established coaches.

It's Clarke Central at Valdosta, at 8 p.m. Saturday, for the Class AAAA state championship. A sellout crowd of 12,500 is expected at Valdosta's Cleveland Field, and what a game it should see.

You want talent? A conservative estimate places the number of college prospects on both teams at 16. Clarke has blue chip major college athletes in defensive end Derrick



Little (6-5, 235, 4.8), linebacker Barry Glenn (5-10, 170, 4.5), center Stan Wilbanks (6-3, 230, 5.0), safety Steve Law (6-1, 180, 4.5) and cornerback Amp Foster (5-11, 170, 4.5). Valdosta can counter with linebacker John Porter (6-0, 220, 4.7), defensive back Derrick Folsom (6-1, 175, 4.6), defensive tackle Jimmy Lewis (6-2, 220, 5.0), tailback Willie Lewis (5-9, 165, 4.45) and quarterback Berke Holtzclaw (6-0, 170, 4.6).

Valdosta also has several juniors who will be prospects next year:

tackle Marty Howell (6-2, 270), guard Johnny Crook (6-0, 255) and 1,000-yard rushing tailback Tony Anderson (6-0, 210).

"The game is truly a classic match-up," said Valdosta coach Nick Hyder. "The programs involved, the tradition at both schools and the strength of these two particular teams should make this one of the best AAAA championship games in quite a while."

Make that ever. Not in recent memory has there been a AAAA title match-up with as many attractive facets as this one.

Besides shooting for their second 15-0 season in the past three years,

See AAAA, Page 10-D



BILL MAHAN/Staff

A classic match-up, says Valdosta's Hyder



BUD SKINNER/Staff

Clarke Central's Henderson shoots for No. 1

Valdosta, West Rome Tops

Times 12-19-84

Throughout Football Season

By JOHN A. BOLT
Associated Press Writer
ATLANTA — Valdosta and West Rome ended the 1984 Georgia high school football season where they began it in August — on top of their classifications.
Both the Class AAAA Wildcats and Class AA Chieftains won the Associated Press picks in the Associated Press poll. Only Valdosta, however, maintained its position from the first to last.
Valdosta defeated Clarke Central 21-14 Saturday for the

Class AAAA championship and in this week's final poll was the unanimous pick as the top team in the class for the 11th consecutive time.
The last poll also had West Rome on top. The Chieftains had dropped out of the No. 1 ranking in October after Carrollton snapped their 37-game victory streak. They returned in November after the first round of the region playoffs and won the championship with a 14-7 victory over Mary Persons. Thomson, unrunked in the preseason, capped its

undefeated campaign with a 27-17 victory over Marist for the Class AAA title. Americus had been No. 1 in the first poll, but didn't make the state playoffs and ended the season unrunked at 8-3.
Greenville began the season tied for fourth in the Class A rankings, but the Patriots did not lose a game, taking over the No. 1 spot in the sixth week and holding on. Included among the Patriots' victims was Palmetto, the preseason pick to win a third straight championship. Greenville won

the title with a 19-7 victory over Lincoln County.
Clarke Central, 13-2, was listed second on 11 of 12 ballots in voting by a panel of Georgia sports writers and sportscasters to follow unranked Valdosta in the final AAAA rankings.
Southwest Dekalb finished at 13-1 after losing in the state semifinals to Clarke Central and ended at No. 3, followed by Griffin, 12-1; Warner Robins, 10-2-1; Statesboro, 11-3; Campbell-Smyrna, 10-3; and Newnan, 9-2-1.

Northeast-Warner Robins, 10-2, and Wheeler, 11-1, were tied for ninth.
Four teams — Central Gainesville, 10-2; Cairo, 9-3; Murray County, 12-2; Habersham Central, 11-2; Crisp County, 8-5; Lithonia, 8-3-1; and Woodward Academy, 9-2.
Also receiving votes were Cedar town, George, Glenn Hills, Henderson, Riverwood, Upton County and Westside. West Rome has dominated AA for three years — winning championships in 1982 and 1983 with undefeated seasons. After losing to Carrollton, the Chieftains won their last 11 games, most by wide margins, to tie

Valdosta's state record for consecutive championships. Mary Persons, 11-4, peaked at the end of the season, knocking off then-No. 1-ranked Manchester in the Region 3-AA semifinals and finishing the season ranked second. Greene-Taliferro, 10-4, led the rest of the class, followed by Dooley County, 11-2; Lakeshore, 12-2; and, in a tie for sixth, Central-Carrollton, 11-1, and Manchester, 10-1. Oconee County, 10-2-1, was eighth, followed by Waycross, 9-4, and Mitchell-Baker, 9-2.

Others receiving votes were: Bass, Duluth, Early County, Lwin County, Lamar County, Swainsboro, Villa Rica and Washington-Wilkes. In Class A, Lincoln, 12-2-1, was second behind undefeated Greeneville. Clinch County, 8-3-1, finished in third, followed by Palmetto, 9-3-1; Miller County, 11-2; Louisville, 10-1-1; Buford, 8-3-1; Reidsville, 11-2; Wilcox County, 11-1; and Bowdon, 9-4. Commerce, Montgomery County and Wrens also received votes.

Valdosta, Ga.: Winnersville, USA



NO. 1 TOPIC IN TOWN: Wildcats players John Porter (47) and Marty Howell know what the fiercely loyal fans are expecting. "There are two definities in Valdosta," says Mayor Ernest Nijem. "On Sunday everybody goes to church. On Friday everybody goes to the football game."

Photos by H. Darr Beiser, USA TODAY

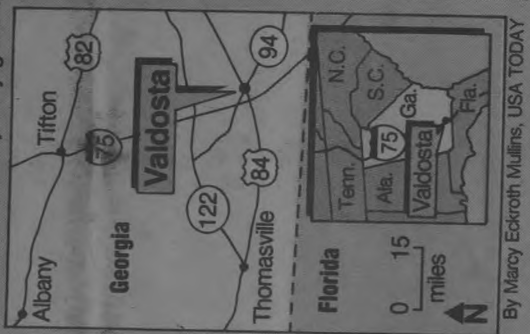
Pressure's on the Wildcats

Valdosta, recognized as one of the USA's most successful high school football programs, will have more than its reputation at stake when it plays Clarke Central on Saturday. On the line will be:

- A 15-0 season
- An 18th Georgia state championship since 1940
- The No. 1 ranking in USA TODAY's Super 25
- A fourth national championship



NICK HYDER: Coach has "rule book in one hand and Bible in the other."



By Marcy Eckroth Mullins, USA TODAY

VIA SATELLITE

USA TODAY

Sports

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1984

'Cats Set For Statesboro

Valdosta Discovers Keys To Success Over

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

WARNER ROBINS — There were three keys in top-ranked Valdosta High's 28-0 first-round playoff win over Warner Robins Friday night at International City Stadium before 11,000 fans.

The first key was and always is the rough-house Wildcat defense, which turned back repeated Warner Robins scoring threats early in the game. The other keys were senior leadership and a few halftime adjustments.

"Our senior leadership was great at halftime, and the guys really came back to do an outstanding job of shutting down their (Warner Robins') offense in the second half," said Valdosta defensive

coordinator Jack Rudolph. "They really chewed up some big yardage on us in the first half — 154 yards — but we made a few adjustments by putting our tackles on the outside shoulders of their guards and it helped us to slow them down."

The adjustments slowed the Warner Robins offense down to a walk as the 'Cats defense held the Demons to just 36 yards on the ground in the second half. Warner Robins never advanced any further than its own 48 in the second half and the Wildcats defense set up two scores for the offense.

Dewayne Hart picked off a Lane Maddox pass at the Demons' 35 and raced back 20 yards to set up the third Wildcat touchdown. And on the next series,

Valdosta stopped Joe Butler on a fourth-down-and-three play at the Demons' 45 to set up the final score of the game.

"That was a very big interception by Hart and it kind of put the icing on the cake," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "We were able to tack on another score and pretty much put it out of reach."

Hart was elated in the dressing room about the interception and said it was all just a matter of being in the right place at the right time.

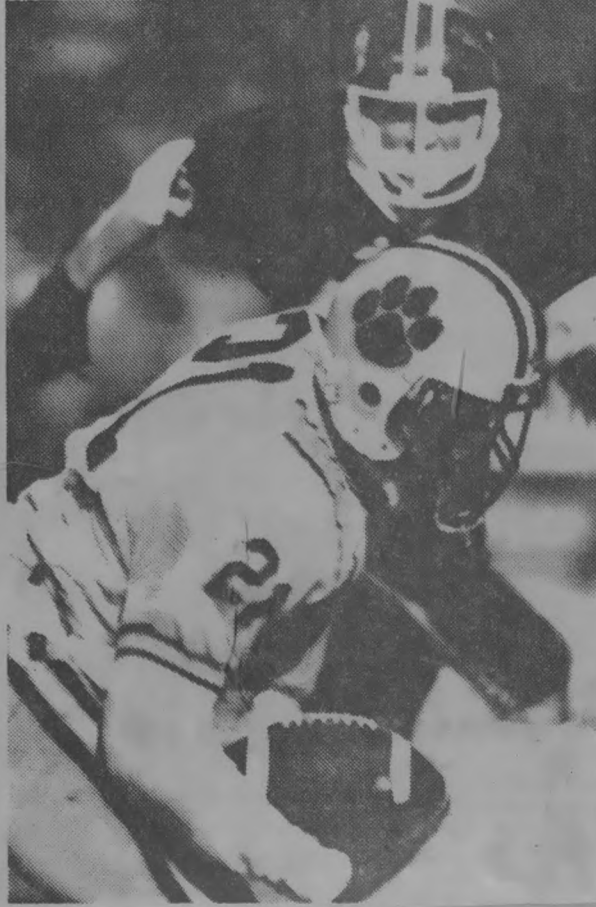
"I was just doing what the coaches told me to do and thank God for giving me the opportunity to help the team," said Hart. "The entire team did a great job, and we knew that we had to pull together to get

out of here with a win."

That seemed to be a theory echoed by the rest of the Wildcats in an elated Valdosta dressing room.

"They came out like gangbusters and were really fired up in the first half," said senior defensive tackle James Wakefield. "We dug a hole for ourselves at the start of the game by letting them return the opening kickoff to our 38, but we were up to the challenge."

Warner Robins' offense featured a mixed variation of reverses, traps and options in the first half, which kept the 'Cats' defense off balance. The Demons raced up and down the field on their first four possessions, chalking up big yardage but coming away each time with no points.



Warner Robins

Hard Hitters

The No. 1-ranked Valdosta Wildcats battered the No. 5 Warner Robins Demons 28-0 in first-round state playoff action Friday night at International City Stadium in Warner Robins. Strong rains soaked the field and players, but certainly couldn't dampen the spirits of Wildcat faithful who drove two hours to watch the game. However, Valwood Valiant faithful weren't quite as fortunate, watching their team lose 40-6 to Tiftarea in the Southeast Association of Independent Schools championship game in Chula. But the Valiants have shown a strong effort in their initial season, winning all their games except for their two encounters with the Panthers. VHS tailback Tony Anderson (near left) carried 19 times for 134 yards and two touchdowns, running through holes opened by Jon Reaves (far left) and the remainder of the Wildcat line. However, Valwood running back Maurey Copeland was held to 41 yards.



"We knew that if we were going to win this game, we would have to stop their running game," said senior defensive tackle Jimmy Lewis. "I was kind of scared at the start of the game, because they came out and really moved the ball well on us."

"But they didn't score any points and that kept the crowd out of the game," Lewis added. "They did a good job of trapping and getting outside on us early, and we made some adjustments at halftime to stop that."

Derrick "Kool" Folsom, who made two touchdown-saving tackles for the 'Cats, said it was just a matter of getting through that initial surge by Warner Robins.

"Everybody we play comes out fired up

at the start, and it's important that we don't get caught up in the other team's excitement," Folsom said. "We knew we had a job to do and it was just a matter of doing what we had practiced all week long."

"I was glad to get a chance to make a few tackles in this game, but it's kind of scary at times, because I am the last man back there," Folsom said. "We came out and just did what we had to do in the second half, which was to shut off their running game."

Valdosta's defense closed the door shut on the Demons' offense in the second half, repeatedly dropping them for losses in the backfield, which is highly unusual, according to Rudolph.

Statesboro is next hurdle for Valdosta

By Lawrence Dennis
Sports writer

Valdosta's Nick Hyder could perhaps be forgiven for being a bit euphoric after his football team's 28-0 win over always tough Warner Robins Friday night landed the Wildcats in this week's state semifinal game.

But Hyder, whose charges are not only now 13-0 this year, but are 42-1 over the past three years and ranked No. 1 in the state (AP) and the nation (USA Today), is characteristically wary of Statesboro, Friday night's opponent in the South Georgia championship game.

"I don't know much about them," Hyder said of the Blue Devils, who won the Region 3-AAAA championship and beat Columbus Hardaway 34-0 last Friday night to earn a berth opposite the Wildcats at Valdosta this Friday night. "This I do know — Statesboro is one of those communities like Moultrie, Tifton and, hopefully, Valdosta, where the [football team] gathers the support and loyalty of the community."

The winner of the game will play host to the victor of the North Georgia title game between Athens Clarke Central and Decatur Southwest DeKalb in the state championship game Dec. 15 (Saturday night).

Elsewhere in the Georgia state playoffs, surprising Clinch County, ranked No. 10 in the final poll of the regular season and fresh off a 31-15 win over No. 7 Reidsville in last Friday night's Class A quarterfinals, travels to Lincoln County to determine who will meet the winner of the Palmetto-Greenville game in the state title contest; Worth County is at home to Thomson and Murray County is at Atlanta Marist in Class AAA; and Forsyth Mary Persons is at Greensboro Greene-Taliaferro and West Rome is at College Park Lakeshore in Class AA.

Mary Persons made the semifinals by routing Region 2-AA champion Waycross 29-12, while Greene-Taliaferro beat Dooley County 14-0,

PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

GEORGIA State semifinals (Friday night) Class AAAA Statesboro (11-2) at Valdosta (13-0) Decatur Southwest DeKalb (13-0) at Athens Clarke Central (12-1) Class AAA Thomson (13-0) at Worth Co. (11-2) Murray Co. (12-1) at Atlanta Marist (13-0) Class AA Forsyth Mary Persons (10-3) at Greensboro Greene-Taliaferro (10-3) West Rome (12-1) at College Park Lakeshore (12-1) Class A Clinch Co. (8-2-1) at Lincoln Co. (11-1-1) Palmetto (10-3) at Greenville (12-0) (State championship games will be played Saturday night, Dec. 15.) Friday's quarterfinal results Class AAAA Valdosta 28, Warner Robins 0 Statesboro 34, Columbus Hardaway 0 Athens Clarke Central 45, Smyrna Campbell 18 Decatur Southwest DeKalb 27, Griffin 20 Class AAA Worth Co. 21, Lithonia 13	
Thomson 13, Crisp Co. 7 Atlanta Marist 13, Cornelia Habersham Central 12 Murray Co. 18, Atlanta George 16 Class AA Forsyth Mary Persons 29, Waycross 12 Greene-Taliaferro 14, Dooley Co. 0 College Park Lakeshore 30, Oconee Co. 15 West Rome 41, Atlanta Bass 0 Class A Clinch Co. 31, Reidsville 15 Lincoln Co. 21, Miller Co. 7 Greenville 29, Buford 15 Palmetto 21, Bowdon 20 FLORIDA State semifinals (Friday night) Class AAAA Pensacola Woodham (12-0) at Lakeland (10-2) Miami Southridge (11-1) at Winter Park (11-1) Class AAA Bartow (11-0) at Pensacola Escambia (10-2) St. Petersburg (12-0) at Homestead (9-2) Class AA Port St. Joe (11-1) at Alachua Santa Fe (10-2) Wildwood (8-4) at Riviera Beach Suncoast (11-1) Class A (Championship) Baker (12-0) at Belle Glade Glades Day (10-2)	
Friday's sectional results Area Section I-AAAA Pensacola Woodham 33, Lake City Columbia 6 Section I-AAA Pensacola Escambia 28, Jacksonville Lee 25, (4 OT) Section II-AAA Alachua Santa Fe 20, Daytona Beach Lopez 3 Section I-A Baker 39, Trenton 0 Other Section II-AAAA Lakeland 19, Bradenton Manatee 14 Section III-AAAA Winter Park 13, Vero Beach 10 Section IV-AAAA Miami Southridge 24, Hialeah American 14 Section II-AAA Bartow 20, Orlando Jones 13 Section III-AAA St. Petersburg 22, Titusville 9 Section IV-AAA Homestead 26, Lantana Santaluces 14 Section I-AA Port St. Joe 21, Milton Pace 7 Section III-AA Wildwood 25, Mulberry 0 Section IV-AA Riviera Beach Suncoast 17, Clewiston 0 Section II-A Belle Glade Glades Day 6, Tampa Berkley Prep 2	

ried in its 34-0 romp over Region 2-AAAA champ Hardaway, which was playing its first game in three weeks after wrapping up the title in its league, which isn't sub-divided, and doesn't have a playoff.

Clinch was in much the same situation as Hardaway, but the Panthers showed few effects of the three-week layoff in their 31-15 rout of Reidsville. Dewayne Gainey ran for 118 yards on 12 carries and quarterback Hosie Williams threw touchdown passes of 17 and 66 yards and ran 32 yards for another score as the Panthers exploded for 18 points in the final period.

Valdosta 28, Warner Robins 0

Valdosta	0	7	21	0—28
Warner Robins	0	0	0	0—0

V—Anderson 2 run (Porter kick)
 V—Anderson 5 run (Porter kick)
 V—Lewis 12 run (Porter kick)
 V—Lewis 2 run (Porter kick)
 Statesboro 34, Hardaway 0

Hardaway	0	0	0	0—0
Statesboro	7	7	20	0—34

S—Cone 25 pass from Johnson (Rafter kick)
 S—Perkins 4 run (Rafter kick)
 S—Johnson 1 run (Rafter kick)
 S—Atmore 26 pass from Johnson (run failed)
 S—Martin 6 run (Rafter kick)
 Mary Persons 29, Waycross 12

Waycross	6	0	6	0—12
Mary Persons	0	16	0	13—29

W—Roach 57 run (kick failed)
 MP—Oglethorpe 7 run (kick failed)
 MP—Grier 20 run (Green kick)
 MP—Green 31 field goal
 W—Daniels 34 run (kick failed)
 MP—Oglethorpe 29 run (kick failed)
 MP—Oglethorpe 1 run (Green kick)
 Clinch Co. 31, Reidsville 15

Clinch Co.	7	6	0	18—31
Reidsville	0	7	0	0—15

C—Williams 32 run (Gainey kick)
 C—Edmons 66 pass from Williams (kick failed)
 R—Johnson 1 run (Alexander kick)
 C—Gainey 32 field goal
 C—McBride 17 pass from Williams (Gainey kick)
 R—Anthony 3 run (Alexander pass from Browder)
 C—Browder tackled in end zone
 C—Gainey 4 run (kick failed)

Lakeshore downed Oconee County 30-15 and West Rome blasted Atlanta Bass 41-0.

In Class AAAA, Clarke Central trounced Smyrna Campbell 45-18 and Southwest DeKalb edged Griffin 27-20.

In AAA, Worth County advanced by beating Lithonia 21-13, Marist nipped Cornelia Habersham Central 13-12, Thomson downed Crisp County 13-7 and Murray County eliminated Atlanta George 18-16.

In Class A, Lincoln County beat Miller County 21-0, Greenville stopped Buford 29-15 and Palmetto edged Bowdon 21-20.

As has been the case in many of its games this year, Valdosta had a tough first half against Warner Robins, only to blow the game open in the second half.

The Wildcats were only ahead 7-0 at the half, thanks to a 2-yard run by

fullback Tony Anderson and a goal-line stand inside their own 5 by the Wildcats that kept the Demons off the scoreboard.

Then Valdosta went to work in the third period, scoring three touchdowns on a 5-yard Anderson run and 12- and 2-yard scampers by halfback Willie Lewis.

Though the offense put up 28 points, Hyder said it was the Valdosta defense that won the game, despite the fact that Warner Robins moved the ball with more ease than most of the Wildcats' opponents have this year.

"They moved the ball pretty well on us," Hyder said. "They had about 200 yards of [rushing] offense, but it was all in between the 20s."

Clinch County and Statesboro also used big second halves to roll up their lopsided margins of victory.

At Statesboro, the Blue Devils (10-2) scored 20 points in the third pe-

LHS, VHS Runners Reach Finals

JEFFERSON — Four local runners qualified for the Class AAAA finals of the Georgia Olympics here Saturday, two from Lowndes and two from Valdosta.

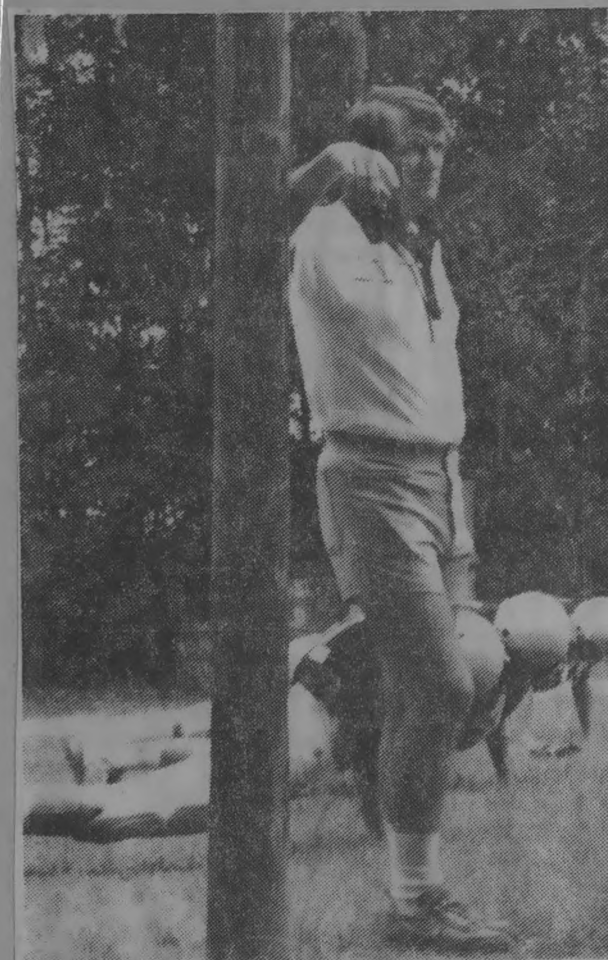
Valdosta's Derrick Folsom reached the finals with a time of 39.81 in the 330-yard hurdles. Teammate Hosea Heard made it in the 440-yard run (49.64).

Lowndes 120 hurdler Casey Footman (14.78) and 440 man Jonathan Lazard (49.25) also reached the finals.

In all, 11 spots in the AAAA finals went to Region 1-AAAA runners.

Albany High was the only Region 1 school to place more than two individuals or teams in the finals. Steve Robinson made it in the 100 with a time of 9.95, despite stumbling out of the blocks. Robinson's teammate, Alexander Wright qualified in the 220 (22.20) and the 100 (9.97). Both ran legs on Albany's 440 team which won its qualifying heat with a time of 42.85.

Other 1-AAAA qualifiers included: Albany Westover's mile relay team and Tift County's mile relay team.



Nick Hyder Eyes 'Cats At Camp

VHS Boys Win; Girls Fall To Coffee

Times 12-2-84

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

It was a game of spurts and surges and in the end Valdosta had one more spurt than Coffee County, which proved to be the difference in the 'Cats 47-39 win here Saturday night.

The Lady Wildcats' saw their record dip to 0-3 as Coffee County handed them a 62-43 setback.

In the boys' tilt, Valdosta jumped out to a eight-point advantage at 31-23 with 3:44 left in the third period on a 20-foot jumper by Howard Wright, Coffee County reeled off nine straight points to take the lead at 32-31 with 51 seconds left.

Wallace Campbell, who topped all scorers with 17 points, hit a turn-around jumper to give the 'Cats the lead for good at 33-32 as the quarter ended.

The two teams traded a couple of baskets to start the final period, but Valdosta outscored Coffee 10-3 down the

stretch to pull out the win.

"I'm happy that we got the win, but we're still not playing up to our capabilities," said Valdosta head coach Mike O'Brien. "We're not playing consistent at all and it's causing us to have mental lapses, which let other teams get back in the game.

"We're very happy to be 3-0 at this point, but there is still an awful lot of improving to do," O'Brien added. "However, we are making strides in the right direction and we improved a lot from our first two games."

Coffee got the first basket in the game, but Valdosta came back to score the next eight points. Then, Coffee came back to take the lead with eight consecutive points before Valdosta tied the score at the end of the quarter on jumper by Victor Walker.

The second quarter went pretty much the same way and Valdosta finished by outscoring Coffee 8-3 in the final three

minutes to take a 22-17 lead at halftime.

Valdosta went to a three-two zone defense after Coffee fought back to take the lead in the third period. It proved to be very effective as it shut down some of Coffee's outside bombing.

The move also helped the 'Cats to take control of the boards, which proved to be a key factor down the stretch.

"I thought James Edwards did a good job for us down the stretch and he gave us a big lift when we really needed it," O'Brien said.

GIRLS

Coffee 20 12 13 9-62
Valdosta 8 13 13 9

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta — Felicia Henderson 11, 0-0, 22, Wendy Irvin 3, 2-5, 8, Avis Weatherspoon 1, 1-2, 3, Cassandra Ceasar 2, 0-0, 4, Terri Longeliere 2, 0-0, 4, Ellen Shown 0, 0-1, 0,

Tangelia Lowe 1, 0-1, 2, Coffee — Donna Braswell 4, 2-3, 10, Sandra Brockington 3, 2-2, 8, Michelle Wilkerson 3, 0-0, 6, Janet Cole 4, 0-1, 8, Jackie Bryant 7, 1-7, 15, Denetra Peacock 4, 3-5, 11, Leigh Simmons 1, 1-3, 3, Leigh Kirkland 0, 0-0, 0, Donna Osteen 0, 1-2, 1.

BOYS

Coffee 10 7 15 7-39
Valdosta 10 12 11 14-47

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta — Sylvester Kitchen 1, 0-1, 2, Victor Walker 2, 0-1, 4, Wallace Campbell 7, 3-4, 17, Anthony Brown 4, 1-1, 9, James Edwards 3, 0-0, 6, Moses Madison 0, 0-0, 0, Howard Wright 4, 1-2, 9, Coffee — Joe Jordan 5, 1-2, 11, John Royal 1, 0-0, 2, Nate Collins 3, 0-3, 6, Pat Carter 4, 1-3, 9, Michael Wilkerson 1, 1-2, 3, Stacey Turner 0, 0-0, 0, Danny Ross 2, 0-0, 4, Jeff Williams 2, 0-0, 4, James Gifford 0, 0-0, 0.



Special Photo By DeRon Coppage

Lady Wildcats Dropped 62-43 Decision

Wildcats Preparing For Statesboro

V. Daily Times 12/2/84

Georgia Preps

The north Georgia crown will be decided when Southwest Dekalb, 13-0, travels to Athens to battle Clarke Central, 12-1.

In other action, missed extra points cost Habersham Central (AAA) and Bowdon (A) chances to defeat higher-ranked teams in quarterfinal play. No. 3 Habersham Central lost to No. 1, undefeated Marist 13-12 and No. 10 Bowdon dropped a 21-20 decision to No. 4 Palmetto, the defending Class A champion.

In AAA, No. 2 Thomson slipped past No. 9 Crisp County 13-7; No. 8 Lithonia fell to No. 4 Worth County 21-13; and No. 5 Murray County edged George 18-16. Marist, 13-0, faces

conquerors of No. 7 Waycross, and Greene-Taliaferro.

Greenville, 13-0, will put its No. 1 ranking on the line against Palmetto, 9-2-1, in the North Georgia Class A championship. The Patriots handled No. 6 Buford 29-15. No. 2 Lincoln County, 11-1-1, took No. 3 Miller County 21-7. The Red Devils play Clinch County, 8-2-1, for the South title. No. 9 Clinch upset No. 5 Reidsville 31-15 Friday night.

Marist scored first in Friday's game in Cornelia on an 11-yard run by quarterback Rob Holmes. Habersham, playing in its first state playoff game, scored in the second quarter on a 10-yard pass from Kevin Black to Charles Gipson, but Black missed the extra point.

The War Eagles took a 13-6 lead on Phillip Espinosa's 26-yard run, but Habersham blocked the extra point try. Then hit Johnny Griffin with a 23-yard touchdown pass.

On the crucial extra point try, however, the snap from center was low and a desperation pass was knocked away.

In Southeast Association of Independent Schools play, the No. 1-ranked Tiftarea Panthers beat the Valwood Valiants 40-6 for the state title among private schools. Denard Scoggins' experienced Tiftarea squad proved too much for the first-year Valdosta school, although the Valiants put forth a strong effort, according to head coach Allen Fort.

COVER STORY

A town that bleeds black and gold

Times 12-13-84 U.S.A. Today
By D.I. Strunk
USA TODAY

Valdosta's love affair with its championship football team

VALDOSTA, Ga. — After the coach exhausted the game films and the lights in the high school auditorium flickered back on, several good ol' boys from the Touchdown Club quickly fell into their favorite pastime: bragging about who's the biggest Wildcats fan.

"I moved away for a year, back to Tennessee. But my long distance phone bills got too big because I'd call down here every Friday night and listen to the entire game," said Bob Spradlin, 46, who first came to Valdosta 17 years ago while stationed at Moody Air Force Base at the edge of town. "I decided to get back here even if it meant having to take a job pumping gas."

Ken Garren, planning director of Valdosta and surrounding Lowndes County, boasted: "My son enters high school next year, and I'm buying a second house, one in the city limits so he will be eligible to go to Valdosta High and play for coach (Nick) Hyder."

"It's amazing," said Hyder, a Tennessee native lured to Valdosta 11 years ago to take the reigns of one of the country's most successful high school football programs. "I don't know when people earn a living, because they talk football all day long."

The nearly 40,000 folks in this south Georgia town tucked among flat, sandy tobacco fields four hours south of Atlanta don't just talk football. They bleed black and gold, the colors of the Wildcats team.

And this week, the town is bleeding anxiously until Saturday, when the Wildcats play Clarke Central for a 15-0 season and their 18th state title since 1940. A victory also would clinch a fourth national championship. The Wildcats already top USA TODAY's Super 25 high school teams.

Porter Won't Leave 'Cats Behind

This story is the second installment in a two-part series on VHS linebacker John Porter.

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

There will be a last time for John Porter to put on his Wildcat uniform, and it's a task that he'd just as soon put off for another couple of weeks at least.

Porter and his senior classmates won the rubber game in their final confrontation against Warner Robins by shutting out the Demons 28-0 Friday night. In 1981, (Porter's freshman season) the Demons tripped the 'Cats 17-14 at Cleveland Field for the south Georgia championship on the way to the state title.

However, the two teams met again the following year for the south Georgia championship at Cleveland Field. Valdosta eliminated the Demons from the playoffs by a 14-7 count on the way to a perfect 15-0 mark and the state championship.

"Winning that state championship was one of the biggest thrills of my life," Porter said. "The guys who were a part of that know how it is to feel like you've accomplished something and I want to get that same type of satisfaction this year."

"It's within our reach, but we have to go out and get it because nobody is going to just give it to us," Porter added. "It's important that we stay in the right frame of mind, because when we're clicking on both sides of the ball it's hard to beat us."

Porter says he's a "sports freak," and when he's not playing football he's usually playing some other sport. Whenever he gets the time, he likes to go fishing and hunting to just relax and think to himself.

When playing football, Porter says a force or something just seems to take over inside him, but off the field he's quiet and reserved. While he's constantly encouraging others to do better on the field, off the field he's just one of the boys. He's being recruited nationally, but that hasn't changed his personality one bit, according to Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder.

"He wants to do well in life and get a good education," Hyder said. "Football will give him the opportunity to do so. Contrary to what some people might say or believe, we're in the business of educating young people."

"I think football is a valuable education, and it helps the kids to be able to deal with a lot of different situations," Hyder added. "Competition is the best teacher in the world,

and you move up if you can handle it. The higher you go the more delicate the risk are, but you gain even more valuable lessons."

Most of this season, opponents have run the opposite direction from Porter, but it hasn't hindered his aggressiveness. He says it is frustrating at times, but the key is patience and sticking to his regular style of play.

"I think it just gives him a chance to showcase probably the best part of his game, which is his knack for being around the ball," said Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. "He's a great team leader and a very knowledgeable football player at this point in his career."

"He's fundamentally sound and has lived up to what's been expected of him," Rudolph added. "He's a physical and inspirational leader, and has made the big plays whenever we needed them."

Porter has worked awfully hard on his study habits, and he says increased study time has made him a better student. He adds that he was always conscious of making good grades, but he has gotten a little more serious about them in the past two years.

"He has developed some good study habits, which hasn't always been the case," Hyder said. "The definition of student is to study or at least to try and have some sort of study habits."

"John knows that as easy as the recognition comes, it can all go away in a heartbeat," Hyder added. "He's not perfect though, and we have to remind him of a few things sometimes. Strangely enough though, he reminds me of some things also."

Porter is getting a chance to fulfill a boyhood fantasy by playing for the 'Cats, and he figures all the recognition he's received is just a part of the Wildcat tradition.

"It's very hard to get the big head at Valdosta because there have been so many other great players before me," Porter said. "Maybe I've just been at the right place at the right time."

"But we have plenty of other guys who can do the job who contribute equally," Porter added. "I have really enjoyed my four years on the varsity and I wouldn't trade them for anything in the world."

Porter, who doubles as the placement kicker for the Wildcats, says he will just try and relax a little following the end of the season. The time will then come for Porter to decide just which direction he wants to take his football exploits. And there are plenty of coaches who are hoping that he is pointed in their direction.



Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris

VHS LB Porter Backs Valdosta

Campbell Hits For 29

U. Daily Times

Valdosta Boys Top Monroe; Lady 'Cats Fall

From Staff Reports

ALBANY — The Valdosta High boys stretched their unbeaten streak to four games with a 68-65 win over Monroe Tuesday night, while the girls were not as lucky and came up short in a 71-45 setback.

Wallace Campbell paced the 'Cats to the win with 29 points, while Victor Walker and James Edwards added 17 and 13 respectively.

The teams battled to a 12-12 standoff in the initial period, but Valdosta took the lead for good in the second quarter and led

27-23 at the half. The 'Cats maintained that four-point advantage by the end of the third period leading 46-42.

Things remained close all through the final period and Valdosta hung on for the win to remain unbeaten for the season.

"I thought we played our best game of the season and we got a total team effort from everybody," said Valdosta head coach Mike O'Brien. "The kids performed well from the opening whistle until the end of the game and we didn't have any lapses this time like we have in some

other games."

Monroe placed four players in double figures. Joseph Edwards led the way with 14 points, while Ernest McGill added 13, with Joe Stone and Cedrick Williams chipping in 10 apiece.

The Lady 'Cats trailed the entire game and was behind 39-20 at the half. Wendy Irvin topped the Lady 'Cats with 21 points, while Felecia Henderson chipped in 12.

Monroe had four players to hit the double-digits, with Martha Collins' 24 points leading the way.

Aundray Driskell knocked in 16, while Ingram Driskell and Norma King had 12 and 10 respectively.

GIRLS
Valdosta 8 12 13 12-45
Monroe 18 19 13 21-71

INDIVIDUAL STATS
Valdosta: Felecia Henderson 4 4-10 12, Wendy Irvin 9 3-6 21, Lisa Irvin 1 3-8 5, Terry Longeliere 1 0-0 2, Avis Witherspoon 1 0-0 2, Michelle Johnson 0 1-4 1, Amy Bass 0 2-2 2. Totals: 16 13-36 45. Monroe: Martha Collins 9 6-13 24, Norma King 4 2-4 10, Audrey Driskell 5 6-14 16, Cheryl Cheeks 0 1-4 1, Ingram Driskell 2 6-6 12, Trina Browner 1 4-4 6, Kojevana Holiday 1 0-0 2, Molly Terrell 1 0-0 2. Totals: 23 25-44 71.

BOYS
Valdosta 12 15 19 22-68
Monroe 12 11 19 23-65

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta: Wallace Campbell 6 17-24 29, Sylvester Kitchens 0 2-2 2, Victor Walker 6 5-6 17, James Edwards 6 1-2 13, Anthony Brown 2 1-1 5, Howard Wright 1 0-0 2, Lennis Williams 0 2-2 2. Totals: 20, 28-37 68. Monroe: Ernest McGill 6 1-2 13, Roswell Smith 2 0-0 4, Joe Stone 4, 2-3 10, Joseph Edwards 6, 2-7 14, Charles Henderson 2 0-0 4, Devin Kelley 1 0-0 2, Cedrick Williams 4 2-4 10, Adam Lewis 3 0-0 6. Totals: 29 7-16 65.

VALWOOD DROPS PAIR — The Valwood girls fell 41-19 to Brookwood, while the Valiant boys lost 64-40.

In the girls' game, Valwood's leading scorer was Jackie Marcous with

10 points. Brookwood's top scorer was Laura Dunaway with nine points.

In the boys' game, the leading scorers for Valwood were Jamey Willis with 14 points and Jeff Hall with 10. Brookwood was led by Ross Singletary with 18 points.

This was both team's season opener. Valwood plays at Lumber City Ocmulgee in a region contest on Friday night, while the Valiants host Douglas Citizen's Christian on Saturday.

Life Has Been Peaks And Valleys For Rome

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

U. Times 12-2-84
still lost 6-0.

For Stan Rome, life has been a trip ... and his odyssey isn't complete yet.

He's 28 years old, and if 'Cats have nine lives, Rome says he's lived a few already. Rome holds several high school records that are phenomenal even in this day and age of pass-happy offenses.

After five years of playing professional football, Rome is settling down to live a "normal life." He's working as a retail salesman in a local store and is just trying to find his niche in society.

Rome's life has had its share of peaks and valleys, and now he's coming out of one of the valleys.

It's hard to give up on a life-long dream and see it crumbling before your eyes, which is how Rome says he felt when he had to accept the fact that his football career was a thing of the past when he was let go by the Washington Federals of the United States Football League.

That was one of the valleys ...

"It really put me in a state of depression and I got involved in some things that weren't good for me," Rome said. "I got to feeling sorry for myself and sulking and just had to work my way out of it."

"It's still a day-to-day process for me and I'm all the time on guard," Rome added. "I just had to turn to God for guidance and my family gave me a lot of moral support."

Rome starred at Valdosta High from 1970 until 1974. He played his first two years under the legendary Wright Bazemore, and completed his career under Charlie Greene.

He compiled 4,477 yards receiving in his four years of varsity play, which is still a national high school record. His 201 career receptions is third on the national charts, and he's also third in touchdown receptions for a career with 45.

In his sophomore year at Valdosta, Rome snatched 75 passes for more than 1500 yards as the Wildcats captured the mythical national title. In the state championship game against Avondale, Rome caught 12 passes against double- and triple-team coverage in the 62-12 Valdosta win.

That win helped to soothe some of the pain from the previous campaign when the heavily favored Wildcats were upset 17-14 by Richland Academy in the championship game during Rome's freshman year.

But, Rome's most memorable football game came during his final year against Thomasville in the season opener when he doubled as a starting linebacker on defense. He caught 14 passes for 278 yards and was in on 19 solo tackles, and yet the Wildcats

However, football wasn't the only sport Rome could play, and it wasn't his first love. Rome's first love was basketball, and he was every bit as dangerous on the courts as he was on the football field.

Rome led the Wildcats to three consecutive state tournaments and averaged more than 35 points in his final season. The 'Cats went 26-2 that year and Rome ended up playing in the high school all-star game. He ended up being named the Most Valuable Player of the game after scoring 29 points.

So after the illustrious prep career, Rome had to make a decision.

He was being recruited nationwide from all of the biggies from across the land, such as UCLA, USC, Notre Dame, Georgia, Penn State and Georgia Tech, just to name a few. But, he wanted to go to a school that was offering him a shot at both sports, and he ended up choosing Clemson.

"I just narrowed it down to what I wanted to do, which was to give basketball a shot first," Rome said. "If that didn't work out, I always felt like I could still play football."

"Also Clemson wasn't too far from home and I felt like I could get the exposure that I needed to get a shot at pro basketball by playing in the Atlantic Coast Conference," Rome added. "It was the best basketball conference in the nation then, and still is at or near the top."

After going to Clemson, Rome ended up playing just one year of football (his sophomore season), but gave up the sport completely to concentrate on basketball after that.

"Everybody was trying to tell me what to do and that I was crazy picking basketball over football," Rome said. "But, it was something that I wanted to do and it was my decision."

After completing his college career at Clemson, Rome was picked in the fourth round of the National Basketball Association draft by the Cleveland Cavaliers. He made it all the way until the last cut, but was let go because of no-cut contracts by Walt Frazier and Austin Carr.

He spent the next year bouncing around playing semi-pro basketball in Las Vegas, Nev. He finished third in the league in scoring and was offered another shot in the NBA with Los Angeles, Cleveland and Golden State.

That didn't materialize though, because Rome was drafted in the 11th round by the Kansas City Chiefs of the National Football League.

Rome ended up signing with the Chiefs and made the team as a wide receiver. "I felt like I had proved that I could play pro basketball and that it was time to move on," Rome said. "I knew

that making it was just a matter of being at the right place at the right time."

Rome stayed with the Chiefs for four seasons, but was frustrated with limited playing time. It took him two years to catch his first NFL pass and three years to score his initial touchdown. The frustrations continued to build, and in his final season he got caught up in a whirlwind of the fast life that professional sports has to offer.

"My last year with the Chiefs was a real downer, and I felt like I deserved a better fate than what I got so, I let it get to me and ended up doing some things that are totally against my beliefs."

"Life became a 24-hour party for me and all I wanted was to get out of Kansas City," Rome added. "I got to where I didn't care about anything or anybody."

That was another valley ...

Rome eventually caught on with the Federals at the tail end of the of the USFL's inaugural season. But once more he found himself in a state of depression after the Federals released him at the beginning of this past season.

With the help of his family and strong religious faith, Rome realized he had fulfilled a dream that many people can only fantasize about. He had said all along that he just wanted to play five years of pro ball, and that's exactly how long he played.

"I just had to get back to the basics of what my parents had instilled in me when I was growing up," Rome said. "I got a lot out of playing sports and accomplished a lot of things, but now it's time for me to settle down and find a wife."

"I really feel like I needed to go through all of those things to be able to appreciate some of life's simple pleasures like I do now," Rome added. "I've really matured over and I basically feel like I'm just starting to grow up."

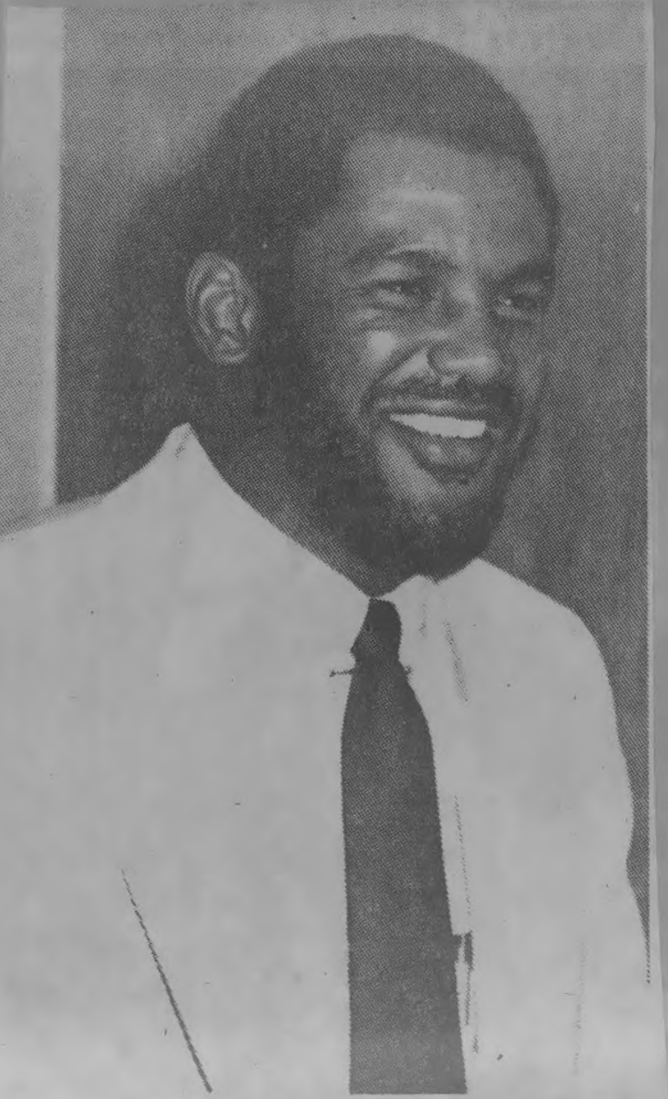
Now, he's trying to reach another peak ...

"Sports was good to me and gave me the opportunity to do some things that I probably wouldn't have been able to do if I hadn't played," Rome said. "I'm content and have some peace of mind with the way things are going now."

"God has showed me a new light and direction and it enabled me to get stronger," Rome added. "I feel like everything that happened, happened for a reason, and it was something that I had to work out myself."

"Things won't ever be the same for me again and all I want to do is to grow a little every day," he said. "I never did play for the money, but only because I loved the game. If I had to go through it all over again, I'd probably live the same way."

With that in mind, there will be a lot more peaks on down the road in Stan Rome's odyssey.



Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris

Former Wildcat Was A Pro

Football Coach Wins Award

Nick Hyder Receives Communication Award From Club

By Times Staff Writer

A football coach who sometimes fills the pulpit for his pastor was awarded the Toastmasters Communication Achievement Award.

Head Coach Nick Hyder of Valdosta High School was presented the award by the Valdosta Toastmasters Club at a Spouses Night banquet Saturday at the Holiday Inn. "That was one of the most pleasant surprises I've had in quite some time," he said. "My wife (June) and I were delightfully impressed."

"I'm very impressed with Toastmasters. The club is there for communication, public speaking and the ability to communicate from one person to another or to a group. The personality of the group was most impressive. Some of the most outstanding people in Valdosta were there. I felt very humble yet very honored."

Toastmaster member Dick Stewart, who presented the award, said Hyder was chosen because



NICK HYDER
Toastmasters Award

he sometimes fills the pulpit for the Rev. Jim Pitts of First Baptist Church here, speaks to civic organizations and promotes and communicates effectively with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Referring to a verse in the Bible, Stewart said he who would be chief is a servant of all. "Nick Hyder has been a math teacher and has communicated to the greatest assets we have in our community — our young people."

Stewart said the parents of one of his football players asked their son who, outside of home, influenced him more than anybody else and the teen-ager replied, "Coach Hyder."

Before each game a mini-service is held conducted by the Rev. Pitts and his staff, the Rev. Mack Weaver, the Rev. Robin Roush and Roy Dobyns. If the game is held out-of-town, the service is held before they go.

"Our youngsters respond very positively to the teachings," Hyder said earlier. "They only take eight or 10 minutes, it's well-outlined and it adds a dimension to what we're trying to do."

"We need to acknowledge our Creator, whom we're approaching, which

is what we were put here to do. I have no other explanation for our being here than to serve our Creator."

Hyder's efforts have been blessed. Stewart pointed out his record as a varsity coach is 170 wins with only 33 losses and four ties. "We could possibly be honoring a future legend who is following a legend Wright Bazemore," he said.

Stewart said a poem which typifies what Hyder stands for is "Four things a man must learn to do if he would keep his record true — to think without confusion clearly, to love his fellow man sincerely, to act with honest motive purely, to trust in God and Heaven securely."

Also at the banquet new member certificates were presented to Monica Brown, Carolyn Duncan, Marsha Dutton, Bob Jabon, Richard Ressinger and Liska Wetherington. New members not in attendance were Mona Grinstead, Mark Bohan and Larry Baggett Jr.

U. Daily Times
12/5/84

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer
12-5-84

Valdosta High's last loss came against a bunch of Blue Devils at Cleveland Field's Death Valley Stadium on Nov. 18, 1983. Those Blue Devils were from Tift County and they went on to claim the state championship.

Well, Friday night, the 'Cats will once again play hosts to some Blue Devils at 8 p.m. for the South Georgia championship. However, these Blue Devils are not from Tifton, but Statesboro. Statesboro (11-2) has won its three games since the end of regular season by a combined 84-3 margin. They have compiled an 11-2 mark by winning their last 10 games in a row.

The Blue Devils stumbled out of the gates with a 1-2 record, and a lot of that had to do with coach Charles Winslett taking over the head coach position just a month before the season started.

"By getting here just a month before the season started, it took us a while (the players and coaches) to get used to one another,"

said Winslett. "We didn't play very well in the first three games, but we made some personnel changes and everything started to click then."

Winslett went to Statesboro from Fayette County where he had won more than 80 percent of the time. In 1977 when Valdosta and Griffin tied for the state championship, Winslett's Fayette County team lost to Griffin 3-0 in the regular season and 10-6 in the playoffs.

In 1980 when Lowndes defeated Griffin for the state title, Winslett's team lost to Griffin 14-10. This was a team that had enjoyed only one winning season before Winslett took over the reins.

Since losing to Effingham County 27-24 in the third game to the season, no other team has scored more than two touchdowns against the Blue Devils. In fact, they have shut out their opponents in four of the last six ballgames.

Meanwhile, the Blue Devils offense has averaged almost 30

points per outing in the last eight games, while the defense is yielding just over four points per contest.

"We are primarily a running-type of team," Winslett said. "We have two fine runningbacks — Bobby Martin and Reggie Perkins — who have had outstanding seasons for us."

"Ronnie Rivers, our sophomore fullback has also done a good job for us," Winslett added. "We'd prefer to run the ball because we don't throw the ball very well."

Chris Johnson is the leader of the offense from his quarterback post and he has been a steady influence according to Winslett. "he's done a real fine job for us and has been consistent with doing all the things that we've asked of him."

Anchoring the offensive line is 6-1, 220-pound senior tight end Lonnie Bradley, who is also the top receiver on the team. Winslett says, "our interior line is not overly big, but they're productive."

"Anytime you come into a situation like we did you have a lot

of catching up to do," Winslett said. "We only had four weeks to do what normally takes six to eight weeks to accomplish."

"The preseason workouts were more like spring practice for us," Winslett added. "We just tried a lot of different combinations at the start and we really didn't even know some of the kids' names."

Winslett is quick to point out that the success of his team can be pointed out like most other good teams — the defense.

Linebacker Leroy Mincey (6-0, 200) leads the stop troops, while Perkins also doubles as a linebacker when he's not running over tacklers. Sophomore Anthony Munford (6-0, 225) anchors the line from his end post.

"The Effingham game was a big disappointment, but the kids gained a lot out of it," Winslett said. "They felt like we should have won it and it got them in the right frame of mind."

"They now seem to have an idea of what it takes to play with the type of competition that we face," Winslett added. "I don't know if any of that will help us against Valdosta though."

The Valdosta Daily Times

Wed., Dec. 5, 1984-15-

Hyder's 'Cats Seek South Georgia Championship

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats may be rated No. 1 in the nation by USA Today, and head coach Nick Hyder has to work with his team to insure they'll still be at the top when this season ends.

The 'Cats are also ranked No. 1 in Georgia in The Associated Press poll, which brings the 11th-year VHS mentor to a story he heard many years ago.

"There's this old story about laying a plank on the ground and laying a dollar down on it," he said. "You walk across it and it's not too difficult, but you lay it on the plank and put them between two tall buildings and it gets a little tougher."

Valdosta big plank comes in the shape of the Statesboro Blue Devils this Friday at 8 p.m. on Cleveland Field. The Blue Devils and the 'Cats meet for the south Georgia championship and the right to play the winner of Friday's Athens Clarke Central-Southwest Dekalb contest.

If Valdosta wins south Georgia and then beats the north Georgia champion, the 'Cats will probably garner their first mythical national championship since the days of the legendary Wright Bazemore. The longtime VHS mentor retired in 1971, which was the same year his school won the national title with what has been called by many the finest team to ever step onto a football field.

However, Charley Greene replaced Bazemore two seasons and then Hyder came in hoping to keep up the strong Valdosta reputation.

"We hope to have prepared hard enough to meet the challenge (Friday)," he said. "We're going into the semifinal game, and there are a lot of question marks."

"Are we tough enough to meet the challenge? But the youngsters seem to have good morale this week. And the coaches

seem to have done a fine job. They've been loyal, hard-working and unselfish."

Which brings us to another team that certainly has loyal, hard-working coaches and assistants. The Blue Devils were ranked No. 6 in last week's Associated Press poll, and they're led by head coach Charles Winslett.

Winslett came from the top spot at Fayette County, where he'd helped to build a perennial football power. But he was only at Statesboro for about 1½ months prior to the season, which may explain the Blue Devils' two early-season losses.

Hyder moves his troops down to their training facility in mid-July, and they could still be playing in the middle of December. But getting back to the Blue Devils, they opened with a loss to Benedictine (21-7), beating Swainsboro (28-10) and then falling to Effingham County (27-24).

But then came a 10-game string of victories which has led to this Friday's title matchup. Statesboro defeated Screven County (21-12), Coffee (17-0), Windsor-Forest (33-6), Glynn Academy (27-11), Savannah Johnson (47-0), Savannah (14-13) and Hinesville Bradwell Institute (30-0).

The Blue Devils certainly began to roll down near the end of the season, and things got even worse for their opponents after post-season play began. Statesboro dumped Savannah Jenkins (20-0) in first-round playoff action, and then it stomped Bradwell Institute (20-3) for the Region 3 championship. And the Blue Devils came up with a 34-0 shellacking of Columbus Hardaway, although Hardaway comes from a traditionally weak football area. Statesboro has outscored its opponents 322-103 through last weekend's contests, and this fact hasn't been wasted on Hyder.

"By their coaches' own admission, all they've only been thinking about for three weeks is Valdosta, so they want us," he said. "It seems to be just a natural thing for everybody to want to

play us. "But we just teach the youngsters to do the best with what God gave them. A lot of times it's easy to let your mind wander and do things you shouldn't, but we try to stay on the right track."

And Valdosta has yet to be untracked this season, garnering a 13-0 record thus far. They've beaten all 10 of their regular-season opponents — Thomasville, Waycross, Albany Monroe, Albany Westover, Bainbridge, Tift County, Thomasville Central, Colquitt County, Albany Dougherty and Lowndes.

And post-season matchups have been just as successful for the 'Cats, with victories coming against Tift, Colquitt County and Warner Robins. But Hyder certainly doesn't look at his schedule as having been one of the easiest ones around.

"Our opponents, for the most part, have done a real fine job," he said. "We've had to come from behind several times, and overcome poor field position many times."

"We've encountered lots of game pressure, and we've had to adjust to different pressure. Different teams give you different problems, so adjust is a good word (to describe the season)."

The 'Cats have scored more points in the second quarter than any other quarter, and there could be strong reasons for that. The 'Cats have gotten well ahead early in some games, which has allowed Hyder to work on team depth through playing second-stringers and underclassmen.

"In the fourth quarter we're usually playing the younger kids, or maybe we're not scoring with them in there," he said. "We want to play as many as we possibly can, because that's the only way you can develop depth."

"And they usually play well, because you don't want to look bad in front of your parents and family, so you prepare yourself."

And two teams should be prepared for the south Georgia high school football championship on Friday, Cleveland Field, 8 p.m.



Nick Hyder Eyeing Statesboro

'Cats' Porter, Colquitt's Lewis Lead All-Region Team



Times Staff Photo

Porter Was VHS Defensive Leader



Photo Special To The Times

Lewis Spearheaded Packer Offense

Special To The Times *Times 12-5-84*
It seemed appropriate that Region 1-AAAA's outstanding offensive and defensive players — Colquitt County's Nathaniel Lewis and Valdosta's John Porter — met in the region championship game. The play of both embodied their respective teams.

Porter, the two-time all-region linebacker who is repeating as the region's top defensive player, led a Wildcat defense that ranked No. 1 in the region. The region champions went through champions went through their first 12 games allowing just over five points per game and less than 1½ yards per rush. Porter was the catalyst of the Wildcats' stubborn and swarming defense. He was credited with 19 tackles and eight assists as the Wildcats defeated Colquitt County 35-7, giving the 'Cats another region crown.

"He does have some natural ability as a football player, but he has worked hard to develop it," Hyder said of his two-time defensive captain. "He's one of the hardest-working players we've got here."

"And he's been our kicker too. He's a good pressure kicker. And when Tony Anderson had abdominal surgery (in August), we had John ready to play fullback for us. He is always mentally in the game and has those instincts that are always helpful. Yes, he is one of the most highly-recruited players we've had since I've been here."

Lewis ranked among the region leaders in both rushing and receiving this year, spearheading a Packer offense that had 10 runs of 50 or more yards and ranked second in the region in rushing offense. He opened the season at tailback for the Packers and scored on runs of 71 and 73 yards in the Packers' season-opening victory over Lowndes.

Three games later, he moved to wide receiver and finished the season with 29 catches for 479 yards and four touchdowns. A second-team all-region choice last year as a defensive back, he also rushed for five touchdowns this season, including 71-, 73-, 74- and 53-yard runs.

"He is one of the most exciting players I have ever been able to coach," said Colquitt head coach Jim Hughes, who was chosen Region 1-AAAA coach of the year. "He contributed more big plays than anybody I can recall in a long time."

Lewis is joined on the all-region first team by the quarterback who threw him passes by the tailback who filled in for him when he moved to receiver.

Colquitt's Darrell Funderburk, who completed 67 of 148 passes for 1,104 yards and nine touchdowns, was named the first-team quarterback. In the backfield with him are Valdosta's Tony Anderson and the Packers' T.J. Edwards.

Anderson led the region in scoring with 84 points and rushed for 902 yards, despite limited playing time early in the season while recovering from abdominal surgery. Edwards was the first Packer to lead the region in rushing since 1970 and gained 1,089 yards.

Tift County's Darrien Teal's, who caught 50 passes for 1,000 yards, joined Lewis at wide receiver. Teal and Porter are the only repeat selections on the all-time region team.

The Wildcats placed two players on the first team all-region line. Guard Jon Reeves and 272-pound junior tackle Marty Howell anchor the unit, along with the Bainbridge center-guard combination of Leon Campbell and Wade Kirkland. The other tackle was Randy Brooks, a 250-pounder from Tift County, who

was a second-team choice a year ago.

Dave Davis of Central, who caught 15 passes for 335 yards and two touchdowns, was selected at tight end. Tift County's Stan McKellar, who was 28-of-30 on extra points and hit on all four of his field-goal attempts, was the all-region placekicker. McKellar was second-team choice last year as a sophomore.

The Blue Devils placed two players on the first-team defensive line, including sophomore end Eldra Hughes. Tift's 215-pound Chris Waters joined Valdosta's Jimmy Lewis and Lowndes' James Carter as the three down linemen selected. Lewis moved up from last year's second team. Jessie Small, who averaged eight tackles a game and 15 sacks for Central, was the other defensive end.

Thomas Jones, who had four fumble recoveries, three sacks and won Bainbridge's Headhunter Award, joined Porter and Albany Monroe's Steve Zellner as the first-team linebackers. Zellner had 93 tackles for the Tornados.

Lowndes' Calvin Orr, Monroe's Lee Mathis and Colquitt's John McCranie, the Packers' 140-pound free safety, finished with six interceptions, giving 11 for his career. Orr was a second-team pick last season.

Junior David Helms of Bainbridge was named the region's top punter after averaging 39.8 yards per kick.

Hughes was selected as the region's top coach after leading the Packers to the region championship game. He took over a Packer program in 1983 that had but one winning season since 1975 and took it to the region title game in two years.

Despite a 15-year record of 120-42-4 compiled with both Thomasville and Colquitt, Hughes had never won the honor before.

"I'm pleased to be recognized," he said. "But I think anyone who has watched us practice understands that what this award means is that Colquitt County has an outstanding staff."

"I'd rather that recognition and that esteem be directed down toward those six men who do the bulk of the work on our staff."

The second-team offensive backfield was made up of the region's top passer, Randy Gay of Lowndes, and running backs Willie Lewis of Valdosta and Martin Redding of Bainbridge. The Vikings' Todd Williams and the Wildcats' Hosea Heard, the Nos. 2 and 3 receivers in the region, are the wide outs. Darrell Leonard, also of Valdosta, is the second-team tight end.

The offensive line featured Valdosta guard Eric Henderson and VHS's 237-pound junior tackle Johnny Crook. Colquitt County had center Rodger Hall and junior tackle Horace Robinson named to the team. Central's Oliver Blount, a 230-pounder, was the other tackle. Westover's Todd Northrop was the second team place kicker.

The two defensive ends are Tift sophomore Andre Jackson and Valdosta's Ernest Mangham. James Cox of Tift, James Wakefield of Valdosta and Johnell Walker of Colquitt are the three down linemen.

Central placed two of the three linebackers — seniors Bruce Conage and Myron Guyton. Roger Miller of Colquitt also was named to the second-team linebacker unit.

The secondary had Bainbridge's Pat Clark, Central's John Wiche and Valdosta's Derrick Folsom. David Cosper of Colquitt was the second-team punter. The all-region team was selected by writers from the newspaper's covering the nine region 1-AAAA schools.

VHS Dedicated

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story is reprinted in its entirety from the

Sept. 10 edition of the Valdosta Daily Times. Mark Carmichael was

well-liked by Valdosta High students and faculty, and held a promising

1984 To Carmichael

future on the football field.

The Wildcats dedicated this season to his memory, and all VHS fans know the 'Cats have won every game thus far.

But Carmichael's untimely death brought sorrow and grief to many friends and relatives whose lives the young man touched.

By EARL PERKINS

Mark Carmichael was laughing and singing at home with his family at 9:30 on the evening of March 31, when he decided to visit friends in Valdosta.

Midnight was approaching as the Valdosta High sophomore headed his older sister's gray MG convertible back from the city toward Hahira. He drove out North Valdosta Road, taking the north fork onto U.S. 41. There were no curves and the ground was level as his car ran off the road, traveled 263 feet and struck a tree.

Doctors said he died from an aneurysm (dilation of a diseased blood vessel), but Mark's father Wayne doesn't even want to know what the word means, for he knew he'd never again be able to share good times with his 16-year-old son.

"It (the death) was a bitter shock," the elder Carmichael said Sunday evening. "We are a real close family."

"I don't know how to explain it — it was a big loss. I love our lord and savior, and it was his decision. I ask why, and it's hard to understand. It's just one of those things that happens — I can't answer the questions."

But Mark Carmichael will not be forgotten by his family and friends. The trophies he won as a boxer are still in the family home, and nothing has been moved in his room since that fateful evening six months ago, his father says.

"I think about him every minute of the day," Carmichael said. "We drove to Adel tonight, and we talked about him."

"His sisters write to him every night, and his friends at school pray for him every night. They visit him at the cemetery (Riverview Memorial Gardens in Valdosta) and talk to him there."

Being a Christian was a major part of Mark's life, and he also loved being a farm boy. Mark was always wearing his cowboy hat and chewing tobacco, so it only seemed right when his friends buried him with a can of Copenhagen in his hand.

"He loved his horses, the feed yard and the tractors," Carmichael said. "He'd been with me (around the farm) ever since he was old enough to toddle."

"We're from the Midwest, so we've always worn Western hats and boots and jeans, and Mark was no different."

Another part of the Carmichael legacy followed Mark home after his death. It seems he loved being an auctioneer — just like his father. He'd only started working auctions at 15, but the people began appearing at the Carmichael farm when Mark passed away.

"People from the western part of the state came here the day after he died," Carmichael said. "They cried their hearts out to us."

But Mark's death may have been a long time coming, as "he was a sick boy," according to his father.

"Mark went into the hospital in December with mononucleosis," Carmichael said. "He had hepatitis, and an infected liver and spleen — the doctors wouldn't let him do any lifting whatsoever."

"But if they'd been right there, there's nothing they could have done for him. They said when that happens (an aneurysm), you're going to die."

But dying wasn't on Mark's mind as he grew up in the Winnersville USA tradition. In junior high school he was a member of the Tomcat football team, moving on to the Wildcat varsity as a right cornerback in ninth grade. Mark started during that 1981 season, and the 'Cats weren't scored on.

He played for the 1982 state champion Wildcats, continuing at defensive back during 1983 until his hospitalization. Mark was also very popular on the Valdosta High campus.

"He touched them all down there (at VHS)," Carmichael said. "He was very well-liked, and I didn't know just how well."

"I didn't understand everything about my own son, but we didn't try to pry into his personal life. They all liked him — old, young, black, white."

At Wildcat Picture Day two weeks ago on Cleveland Field, a special ceremony was held to honor Mark. His jersey and the helmet he wore were presented to his parents as a

token from the team. The '84 Wildcats are dedicating this season to Mark, wearing his number (14) on the back of their helmets, and he won't soon be forgotten, VHS head coach Nick Hyder said.

"He was a real favorite with everybody down at the school," Hyder said. "The youngsters were quite shaken."

"He was pretty close to the junior class, and there are about 30 of them on the squad. It still strikes a serious tone with any of them if you mention his name."

"I've been coaching 27 years, and this was the first time I lost a player while he was a member of the team — it was quite an emotional experience."

Mark had come a long way since starting as a Tomcat in the seventh grade, and Hyder said "he figured to be one of our outstanding players."

"At times like these, you stop and take a good, long look (at life)," Hyder said. "You find out that life is not permanent."

"Everybody's got to stop and take a hard look at themselves. You ask who picks (who will die)? Who decides who is taken, and when you go?"

"It's not for us to question — there's a divine being somewhere who decides."

But there's one judgment nobody will probably make in the near future. That decision is the one to ever drive the gray MG convertible — which will never happen, according to his father.

"I still have the car right out there in the yard," Carmichael said. "The windshield wipers work and his side is pretty-much undamaged."

"The car is driveable, but I don't want it fixed up and put on the road."

"Some people don't understand that, but that's the way I feel."

SPECIAL NOTE — The following excerpt was taken from this season's VHS program, which in part explains the teams feelings about the situation.

Mark was a member of the 1982 state championship team, and continued

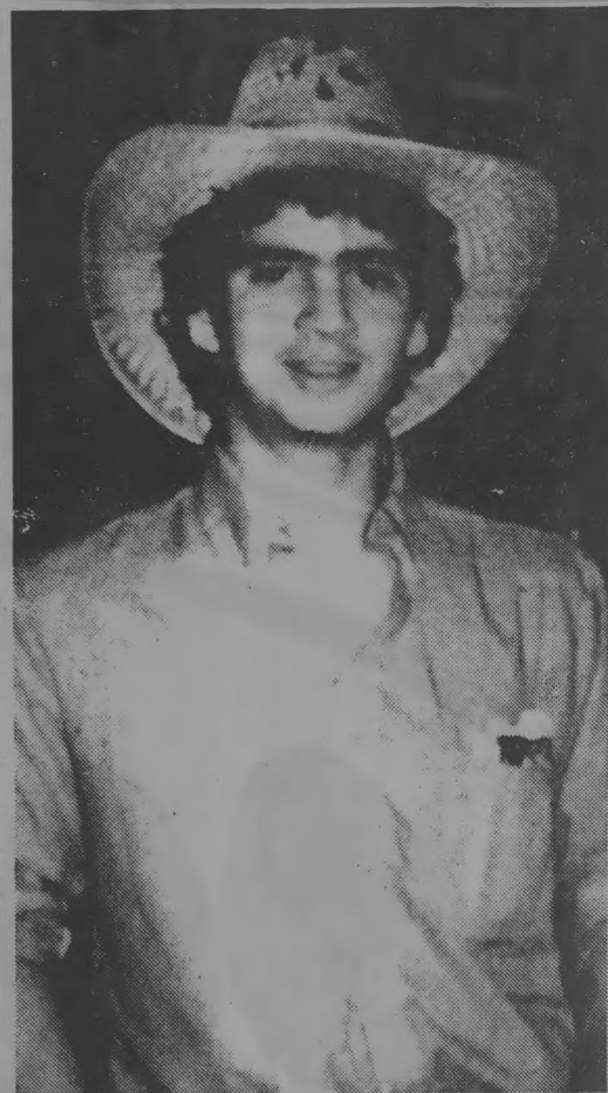


Photo Special To The Times

Former 'Cat Died Earlier This Year

playing for the Wildcats throughout the 1983 season.

While in junior high, Mark was a member of the 1980 and 1981 Tomcat football teams. During the 1981 season, Mark was the starting right cornerback and was a major reason that this defense went throughout the season without being scored on.

The death of Mark touched all our lives. Because of Mark's dedication to the Wildcats and the inspiration he gave us, we have decided to dedicate the 1984 season to him. To keep Mark's memory with us, we will wear his number, 14, on the back of our helmets.

Sports

'Cats Look To Strong Leadership Vs.

Helped Set 50-3 Mark, Including 13-0 This Year

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

It's been said that the foundation of a good football team is a strong senior class and a stern defense.

Well, if that's really the case, then the Valdosta Wildcats are in good shape. Friday at 8 p.m., coach Nick Hyder will trot out 23 seniors before the second-round playoff game against Statesboro at Cleveland Field.

In four years, this class has compiled a 50-3 mark, including a 13-0 record this season. They've already played on one state championship team in 1982, and this year is ranked not only tops in the state, but also in the nation by *USA Today*.

Since defense is supposed to be one of the trademarks of a good team, let's take a look at some of the senior 'Cats defenders.

You have to start with all-America linebacker prospect John Porter. He has started for four years on defense and has also served as the placekicker for three years.

Porter is a versatile athlete, who also participates in track — the region champ in the shot put and distance throws — and wrestling. He finished third in the state in his weight division last year.

He has served as a team captain for the last two years, and is only the second player in Hyder's 11-year tenure to be honored as so. Porter has served as a starter for four years.

"He's a very impressive youngster and is a great team leader," Hyder said. "He's a well disciplined person also, who comes from a strong family background."

The starting tackles are Jimmy Lewis and James Wakefield. Lewis has played three years on the varsity and he too is a three sport athlete. He finished third in the state in wrestling in his weight division, while also serving as a shot put and distance thrower.

"He's a very strong youngster who lets his action do his talking," Hyder said. "He's very aggressive and quick for his size."

Wakefield was also the region champion in wrestling in his weight division before losing out in the state. He has played four years on the varsity and started three of those years. He was elected as one of the team captains for the defense.

"He's a very coachable youngster as all of these young men are," Hyder said. "He takes football serious and is fine team leader. He's also a fine student in the classroom."

Farnest Mangrum is one of the two finest conditioned players — the other is Willie Lewis — on the squad according to Hyder. He has been on the varsity three years, and started the last two.

"He's a very tough, hard-nosed youngster," Hyder said. "He is possibly one of the truly outstanding players on the team."

"He never says very much, but he's a great competitor and the definition of competition," Hyder added. "He's a strong youngster who has good quickness, which balances everything out for him."

Michael Spencer has fought off academic problems to salvage his final season at Valdosta after sitting out the previous two due to grades. He is the starting middle guard and Hyder says, "he has enormous quickness and has the ability to pursue coast to coast."

In the secondary, Derrick "Kool" Folsom leads the way from his safety position. He has started four years and comes from a football family. His uncle — Lawrence Lowe — played four years for the 'Cats before moving on to Georgia Tech.

"He definitely has a fine future ahead of him in major college football," Hyder said. "He's a fine athlete who starts in basketball and holds the record for hurdles in track."

"He hits like a linebacker and is a certified intensifier," Hyder added. "He has a tremendous attitude and plays with pain. In his very first game he made a game-saving tackle against Bainbridge. He also serves as one of our defensive captains."

Elijah Holmes is a two-year starter at cornerback who has some injury problems throughout his career, but has always been there on Friday nights according to Hyder.

"I would rank him with any of the cornerbacks that I've seen around here and he does a very good job of handling a very tough position," Hyder said. "He's a sure tackler and a fine athlete who has good quickness."

David Thomas is the other starting safety for the 'Cats and he also doubles as the punter. He started out as a quarterback and Hyder still says "he probably has a better passing touch than any quarterback that he has now."

He has started for the last two years at safety and was shifted there from a wide out position. "He has made steady improvement and moved himself into continuing his football career."

Mike Martin is the other cornerback for the 'Cats and according to Hyder, he's one of the most improved players on the team. "He has made more progress than any of the seniors that we have," Hyder said. "He has worked hard and has made himself a good player through good coaching."

Martin has been on the varsity three years, but suffered broken hands in his first two seasons to set his progress back.

Guys like Martin makes coaching a pleasure and it takes time

Blue Devils



VHS's 22 seniors are (l to r), first row: Darrell Robinson, Mario Smallwood, Elijah Holmes, Berke Holtzclaw, Greg Brown, Anthony Brown, Mike Graham; second row: John Porter, Derrick "Kool" Folsom, Scott Braswell, Willie Lewis, Ernest Mangrum, Mike Martin, Darrell Blair; third row: Trevor Shaw, David Thomas, Jim Godbee, Michael Spencer, James Wakefield, Darrell Leonard, Jimmy Lewis, Eric Henderson.

for some fellows to develop, but he had that element of desire," Hyder added. "He responded to the challenge of mental toughness and kept working hard to get better."

Other defensive seniors are Trevor Shaw (two years), Darrell Blair (one year), Anthony Bryant (one year), Greg Bryant (one year), Mack Graham (one year) and Darrell Robinson (three years).

Offensively, the 'Cats are anchored by senior linemen Jon Reeves and Eric Henderson.

Reaves is a four-year player and is one of the offensive captains and comes from a football family. "He is a great competitor and has a winning attitude," Hyder said. "He plays at one speed, wide-open, hustling all the time."

"He seldom ever makes a mental mistake, which is outstanding for an offensive lineman," Hyder added. "Because of his size, he may be a better defensive end, linebacker or even corner back."

Eric Henderson has played three years of varsity and Hyder

compares his progress to Martin's. "he made himself one of the top linemen in the region through hard work."

Darrell Leonard has started two years at tight end and has been on the varsity for three years. "He ranks with the best tight ends that I've seen as far as blocking pass receiving and running the ball."

Lewis leads the 'Cats in rushing and is the best-conditioned athlete on the team. "The test scores are there to prove it," Hyder said. "we take great pride in our conditioning program and he has the highest scores of anybody that has taken the test."

Quarterback Berke Holtzclaw is the leader of the offense and he served his apprenticeship as a scout team quarterback for three years and a starting wide out. "He's worked extremely hard to be a quarterback and has drawn a lot of attention from the college scouts," Hyder said. "He was mentally prepared for the position and the kids have tremendous respect for him."

Other seniors are Scott Braswell (three years), Jim Godbee (three years), Mario Smallwood (two years), Senior trainers Martin Campa and Allen Robinson round out the list of seniors.

Hyder Preaches Four Dimensions To 'Cats' Football Preparation

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer *✓ Times 12/7/84*

Every team has its own little idiosyncracies about winning football games. Well, it's no different at Valdosta High where head coach Nick Hyder "preaches" four dimensional guidelines that he sets up for his team.

This is the key to their preparation for tonight's 8 p.m. kickoff at Cleveland Field in second-round state playoff action.

All season long, Hyder has talked of the spiritual, moral, physical and mental preparation that his team goes through from the very first day of practice.

They are not something that he just thought of one day, but rather a way of life that has developed since early childhood. It really started to shape up when Hyder was an eighth-grade football player on his junior high team.

After leading his eighth-grade team — which went through the entire season unscored on — in rushing and scoring, Hyder was promoted to the varsity his 9th grade year. But, things turned out to be little different with the big boys and he soon found himself on fourth or fifth string.

"I was cocky when they moved me up, but it hurt when I found out how far I had to go to earn some playing time," Hyder said. "I thought I was being mistreated so I went home and told my parents."

"Well, my mother — who had three brothers to play college

football — came out to see me practice one day and she didn't say anything about it for a week," Hyder added. "So, I got tired of waiting and finally asked her what was she going to do about it."

I expected her to call the coach and tell him that I should be playing, but she didn't. She said that the coach was right and that I had a bad attitude which was not helping the team."

Hyder went on to say that his mother came in to wake him before the crack of dawn the next day and started him on a training program that he still uses to this day.

"She asked me if I was really serious about playing and when I said yes, she made sure I was," Hyder said. "I ran up a hill 10 times, moved rock piles from the house to the street back to the house."

"And, I even pushed the car around some, which really helped build my strength. By the time fall practice rolled around, I was ready to play after months of training under my mother and I ended up starting. It was the greatest lesson that I learned in my life, which was I had to do it for myself and stand on my own."

Hyder's high school team lost only two games in his last two years and went on to play in two bowl games. He ended up going to Carson-Newman as a running back-defensive back.

That's how the mental and physical toughness started... "Football gives you the opportunity to develop in a lot of different ways, and it may be the bridge at Valdosta High to allow us all to be a witness for God," Hyder said. "Cleveland

Field doesn't have a top over it, but it is the biggest church in the Valdosta because every body is there for one common goal.

"We're not perfect and we don't profess to be," Hyder added. "We make our share of penalties and mistakes, but just try to be spiritually tough enough not to do it again."

Hyder likes to refer to another story when he talks of spiritual fitness.

"It's a kind of like falling out of an airplane without a parachute," he said. "Instead of just giving up, you search all the time for a heystack to fall on. It's a constant battle to do the best you can all the time."

"The best chance we have to win Friday night is to do the best we can with what we have," he said. "We don't berate our players for their mistakes, just try to look for the positives."

Hyder points out that his staff is always trying to maintain and build on the players character through the spiritual toughness. "I think that gives us values which is a combination of moral and spiritual toughness," Hyder said.

Hyder also uses the four dimensions in other ways like incentives for the players during the season and in the post season playoffs. One such incentive is the players will get to keep their road and home jerseys if they win the state. But, if they come up short, they only get to keep one of them for winning the Region 1-AAAA title.

"We try to be consistent with our objectives and priorities,"

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Dec. 9, 1984—2-B-

Sports Briefs

VHS Reschedules Hoop Tilt

From Staff Reports

Valdosta's basketball game that was scheduled for here Tuesday night, has been moved to Monday night.

There will be a girls' and boys B-team game along with the two varsity games. Action gets under way at 4 p.m. with the girls B-team game.

*V. Daily Times
12/9/84*

'Cats' Power

Valdosta Coaches (l to r) Nick Hyder, Jerry Don Baker, Mike O'Brien And Bob Bolton Honed Wildcats' game to perfection in practice, helping VHS stomp Statesboro 45-0 Friday night for South Georgia's championship. Darrell Leonard (l) was slowed by a Blue Devil defender, but not enough to keep the 'Cats from victory. Valdosta meets Clarke Central Saturday at 8 p.m. for the Georgia AAAA state title, and if VHS comes out the victor, the 'Cats will almost certainly be ranked as America's No. 1 team by USA Today. The Associated Press has placed the 'Cats atop its Georgia rankings throughout the season. — Staff Photos By Laura Harris.



Statesboro Test Biggest Of Season For Valdosta?

V Times 12/7/84
BY EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats seem to stress everything in preparation for their football games, but conditioning has to be one of the biggest concerns of the No. 1-ranked 'Cats.

Valdosta never really stops preparing for competition, with training going almost all the way back to when a miniature football was dropped into the crib at South Georgia Medical Center. The 'Cats host the Statesboro Blue Devils tonight at 8 on Cleveland Field for the south Georgia championship, and VHS head coach Nick Hyder hopes his charges are up for the challenge.

"We exchanged films, and they look better every time we look at them," he said. "They're very deserving to be in the south Georgia championship, and they've got several college prospects."

"Tight end Ronnie Bradley (6-3, 230) is a good blocker, and Leroy Mincey is a real good, tough player. He had 10 tackles, four assists and two interceptions against Hardaway — he's very explosive."

Mincey is a halfback, blocking back and middle linebacker for the Blue Devils, garnering mention in the *Atlanta Constitution's* prep honor roll for his outstanding play against Columbus Hardaway. The Big Blue Wrecking Crew stomped the Hawks 34-0 in the state quarterfinals, taking their 10th consecutive victory this season.

However, the Blue Devils have a number of other players who have helped them to an 11-2 record thus far under first-year head coach Charles Winslett, according to Hyder.

"Bobby Martin and Reggie Perkins are both close to 1,000 yards rushing, and they have a tough offensive line," he said. "They fire off the line very well. They have two real good blockers there (offensive tackle Ron Shellenberger, offensive guard David DeSmith)."

"They prefer to run the ball, but they can throw it. They protect their passer real well, and he's (Chris Johnson) a real fine quarterback."

Perkins has carried 140 times for 906 yards and 14 touchdowns, while Martin has ran 183 times for 868 yards and 10 touchdowns. Wide receiver Daniel Harrison is Statesboro's leading pass catcher with 19 receptions for 407 yards and three touchdowns. Mincey not only is an outstanding wingback, but he also leads the Blue Devils in tackles at the middle-linebacker position.

Hyder also noted Statesboro has an exceptional defensive squad, led by defensive ends Anthony Mumford and Stephen Franklin. Mumford tackles hard with his 230 pounds, while Franklin is a good pass rusher and penetrates well. But Hyder can't say whether the 'Cats are any more fired up for this game than any the rest of the season.

"Things have been pretty even all year," he said. "The

pressure and intensity in practice is so strong, it's hard to tell if they're more up for this game."

"Blocking and tackling is a serious business. You've got to stand up and pay attention to what you're doing. But the kids have had their usual good attitude, cooperating with us and doing the things we ask them to do. But they've done that all year there's nothing unusual about that."

Charles Winslett came to Statesboro just 1½ months prior to the start of this season, which is quite late for a head coach at any AAAA school. This may be a primary reason for the Devils' rocky start. Statesboro lost its opener to Benedictine 21-7, beat Swainsboro 28-10 and was dumped by Effingham County 27-24.

However, then they ran off a string of 10 consecutive victories, with the scores becoming greater after regular-season play concluded. They jumped Screven County 21-12, Coffee 17-0, Windsor-Forest 33-6, Glynn Academy 27-11, Johnson County 47-0, Savannah 14-13 and Hinesville Bradwell Institute 30-0.

Their post-season slate included wins over Savannah Jenkins (20-0), Bradwell Institute (20-3) and Hardaway (34-0). So the Blue Devils have garnered five shutouts this season, with three of those coming in their last four games. Bradwell was able to kick a lone field goal in second-round playoff action to avoid a shutout.

But the Blue Devils will be showing a healthy respect for the No. 1 'Cats when both teams hit the field this evening, according to Winslett.

"Looking at Valdosta on film, they're a well-coached team and they take away the things you know you do well," he said. "We're just working hard on the things we do well, and we'll certainly have to play our best against Valdosta."

"They're very potent on offense, and defensively they've just stifled everybody this year — they haven't given up many points."

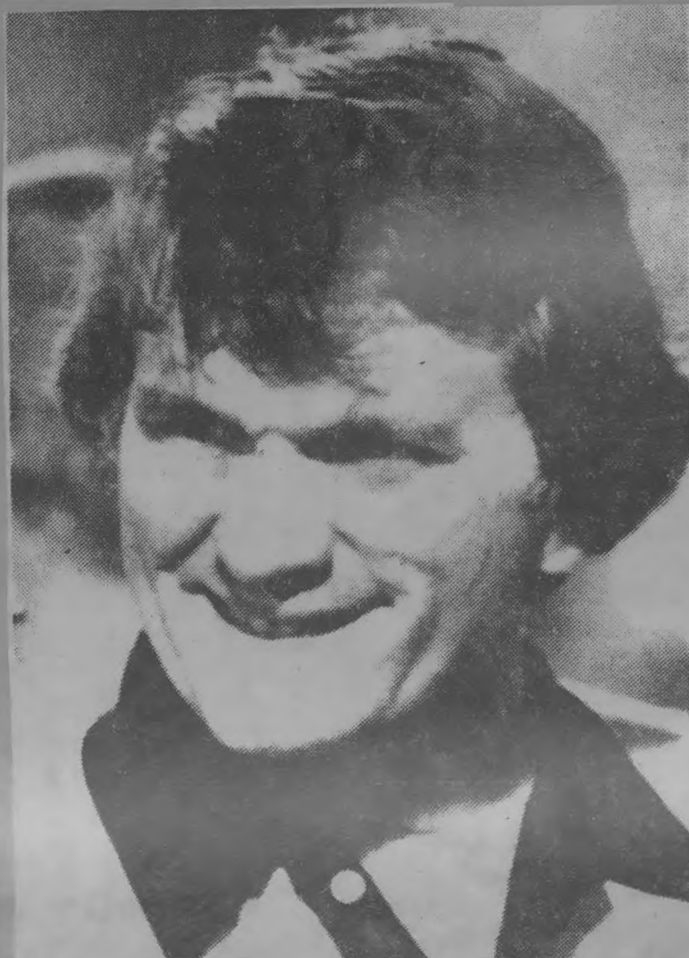
Winslett came over to Statesboro from Fayette County, where he'd compiled a 57-26-1 record in eight years at the Tigers' helm. And the Fayetteville team was playing in the same region as perennial powers Griffin, LaGrange and Newnan.

Winslett brought defensive coordinator Marvin Barton over in the migration, and they've teamed with secondary coach Clark Collins and offensive line coach Greg Sikes. But Winslett notes that he could certainly use a much larger group of coaches.

"We have basically a small staff," he said. "We have myself and three others on the varsity, and that's not exactly what I want."

"We'd like to have seven or eight coaches to handle 60 to 70 young men. It's hard to do the job with four people, but I'm real pleased with our staff."

Winslett noted that his defense has come through especially well in the playoffs, although there were some changes made earlier in the season. After losing two of their first three games, the Blue Devils replaced "three or four" key players on defense,



Nick Hyder's No. 1 Wildcats ...



... Tackle Charles Winslette's Blue Devils

and "they've played well ever since."

But the Devils will certainly have their hands full when they attack the No. 1-rated Wildcats. Valdosta stands at 13-0 with most of their games being tough in the first quarter or two and the final frames being practice for the backups.

The Wildcats beat regular-season opponents Thomasville, Waycross, Albany Monroe, Albany Westover, Bainbridge, Tift County, Thomasville Central, Colquitt County, Albany Dougherty and Lowndes. Valdosta's post-season wins came against Tift, Colquitt and Warner Robins.

**Wildcats Devastate Statesboro Blue Devils 45-0;
Will Face Clarke Central For State Championship**

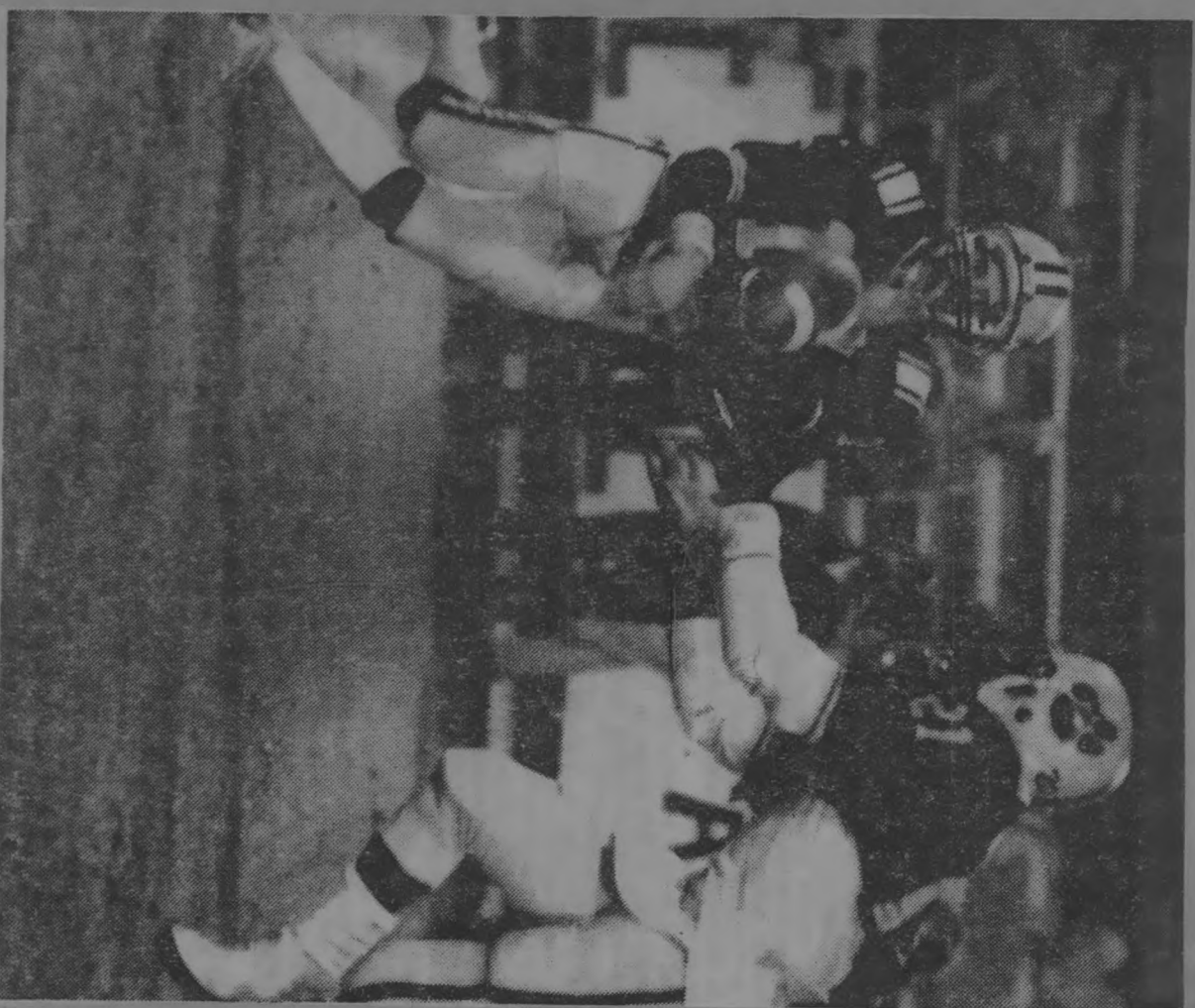
The Valdosta Daily Times

VOL. 80—NO. 54.

Price 25¢

Valdosta, Ga., Sat., Dec. 8, 1984

One Section—12 Pages



Dynamic 'Cat Duo

These two guys were among many who were instrumental the the Valdosta High Wildcats' 45-0 thrashing of Statesboro for the South Georgia AAAA football championship held Friday night at Cleveland Field. Quarterback Berke Holtzclaw, left, threw for 108 yards and

had two touchdowns to his credit on the night, while Tony Anderson ran for 48 yards and a touchdown. The 'Cats host Clarke Central of Athens Saturday night for the state crown. — AP Laserphoto.

*U. Daily Times
12/7/84*

SOUTH GA. CHAMPIONSHIP VALDOSTA WILDCATS

VS

STATESBORO BLUE DEVILS

FRIDAY NIGHT, DEC. 6

8:00 P.M. CLEVELAND FIELD

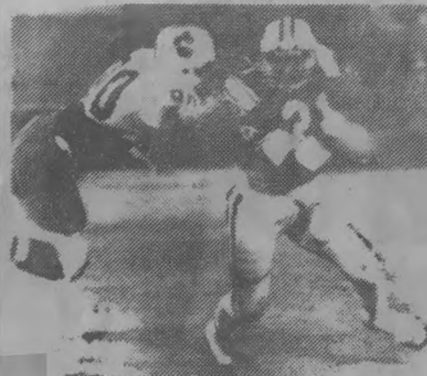
PLAYER OF THE WEEK



HOSEA HEARD

**3 Passes
47 Yards**

*Hosea accepts the
Player of the Week
Award from C&S Bank.*



**GO CATS!
ALL THE WAY
TO STATE!**

Glads Set For Death Valley Shootout

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

V Times 12/12/84

What? A shootout. Where? Cleveland Field ... Death Valley Stadium. When? Saturday night at 8 p.m. Why? It's for the Georgia state prep football championship in Class AAAA.

There's a lot at stake Saturday night at Cleveland Field, and to the victor goes the spoils — the state title — while the loser will go home with an empty feeling — agony of defeat.

Clarke Central of Athens, takes on top-rated Valdosta High in a classic championship matchup. Both schools are rich in tradition and have a storied past down through the years.

Clarke Central is coached by the man who's the most successful coach ever against the Wildcats — Billy Henderson.

Henderson has been in the business for more than 30 years, and his last 10 teams at Clarke have all made it to the state playoffs. He says every one of them had a legitimate shot at going all the way, and in a couple instances — 1977 and 1979 — they did just that.

In the 1977 season, Clarke defeated the Buck Belue-led Wildcats 16-14 in Athens, in the last meeting between the two schools. The 'Cats trailed 16-0 at the end of the first quarter, but fought back to within two points of Clarke before missing on a last-second field-goal attempt, which could have won the game.

"I have a great deal of respect for (VHS head coach) Nick Hyder," Henderson said. "He's a real credit to our profession and stands tall."

"I also have great respect for the Valdosta community, which developed when I was coaching at (Macon) Willingham years ago," Henderson said. "They have a great winning attitude and some very knowledgeable fans who are a model for the entire country."

According to Henderson, one of the biggest influences of his coaching career has been legendary VHS coach Wright

Bazemore. In the past, the two had a fierce coaching rivalry, according to Henderson. "But, I was just a young squirt, just trying to win the best way I knew how."

"I liked the way he approached the game and I still use the platoon system that he used way back then," Henderson said. "I liked the way he wanted his defense to just line up and get after the other team. I also liked the way he stressed the kicking game, which is the key to any good team — along with defense."

Speaking of defense, that is one of Henderson's favorite subjects and he has a lot to talk about with eight starters returning from last year.

Linebackers Barry Glenn and William Stevens led the stop troops, and the secondary is full of experience with an all-senior corps. The cornerbacks are Amp Foster and Darryl Brown, while Steve Law and Brock Rowe are the safeties.

Major college prospect, Derrick Little (senior) leads the front wall from his end post, and is joined in the line by seniors Jerry Harris (nose guard) and tackle Marvin Walker.

Juniors Rick Evans and Scott Mitchell share the other tackle slot, with Reggie Pratt and Clint Bennett working the end position opposite Little.

"The big key, like it is any other game, will be field position, defense and the kicking game," Henderson said. "Both teams' strong points are their defenses, so the team that can move the ball effectively offensively and have the least amount of turnovers, should have a good shot at winning the game."

Since an early-season loss (31-6) to Lowndes High at Martin Stadium, the Gladiators have rolled off 11 consecutive wins, including a smashing 42-13 win over previously and No. 2-rated Southwest Dekalb last Friday for the North state championship.

"Both teams are very similar and throw only when they want to," Henderson said. "We hit some key passes early last week, which opened things up for us and our offense just had a good

night.

"We only had three starters returning offensively and we knew they had a lot of room for improvement," Henderson added. "They have made a lot of progress through hard work and desire. And, lately they've really come on to a good job."

Senior quarterback Chris Morocco spearheads the Gladiators' offense, and gets plenty of help from fullback David Perno (jr.) and a trio of tailbacks — Doug Davenport (sr.), Richard Jewell and Randy Prater.

Juniors Carl Pratt and Tommie Stewart split time at the flanker spot, while seniors Willie Green and Daryl Hood share the split end position.

Center Stan Wilbanks anchors the offensive line, while the tackles are Kent Jordan and Greg Pope, a pair of juniors. David Nelson (sr.) and Cedrick Thomas share the strong guard slot, with Randy Williams at the other guard post. Derek Dooley is the starting tight end.

"We try to play a lot of people over the course of the game, and that was another little something that I picked up from coach Bazemore," Henderson said. "We run something close to a platoon system and try to keep fresh people in the game all the time."

"We have faced a tough schedule this year and I think it has helped us prepare for a game like this when there'll be an overflow crowd going for the opposition," Henderson said. "It helped develop our level of mental toughness to an even higher level and we are looking forward to the challenge."

Henderson also said that his team's early-season loss to Lowndes really helped his team's mental preparation for games. He said that his squad picked up its intensity and became recommitted to the rest of the season.

Henderson is just hoping that his second trip to Valdosta this year will be a much better trip than the first time around.



Henderson Guides Tough Clarke Central

'Cat Varsity Opens

V Times 12/14/84

Valdosta's High's first varsity wrestling matches are scheduled at 10 a.m. Saturday against Atlanta-Sprayberry at VHS.

Four-of-five Wildcat starters are still playing football, so will be substituted for this weekend's matches. The 'Cats were 14-2 last year, losing to eventual state champion Atlanta-Redan.

Wrestling

V Times 12/14/84

Valdosta JV Wrestlers Win

From Staff Reports

The Valdosta junior varsity wrestling team beat Lowndes 51-14, and the Vikings fell 39-27 to Cook in a double-dual meet Thursday at Lowndes' gymnasium.

The Valdosta-Lowndes results were — 98: Greg Hebner (V) p. Chandler Griffin 5:1; 105: Jimmy Mallory (L) d. Kenneth Gonis 15-8; 112: Mike Woodruff (L) p. Mike Schmier 1:27; 119: Scott Young (V) p. Mike Harris 2:50; 126: John Marconi (V) p. Koby Knight 4:4; 132: Steve Wyrick (V) p. Scott Roberts 1:56; 138: Art Bass (V) p. Mike Huff 2:57; 145: Bret Tinney (V) d. Jody Platt 8-7; 155: Zane Coats (V) p. Darren Broome 2:56; 167: Tim Mitchell (V) p. Brett Eason 1:00; 185: Carl Johnson (V) p. Padon Hurst 5:0; Hvy: Kenny Marquis (L) by forfeit.

The Lowndes-Cook results were — 98: Marese Wright (C) p. Chandler Griffin 2:4; 105: Jeff Fiveash (C) d. Jimmy Mallory 6-2; 112: Brad Bush (C) p. Mike Harris 3:07; 126: Spencer O'Quinn (C) p. Koby Knight 3:26; 132: Scott Roberts (L) d. Harry Hansen 10-8; 138: Chris Holton (C) p. Mike Huff 5:41; 145: Jody Platt (L) p. David Payne 2:10; 155: Robin Tippins (C) p. Darren Broome 1:00; 167: Brett Eason (L) p. Earl Joiner 2:33; 185: Jerome Tucker (C) p. Padon Hurst 1:47; Hvy: Kenny Marquis (L) by forfeit.

Lowndes' junior varsity record falls to 0-2 overall on the season, and its next matches are scheduled at home on Jan. 10 against the Brooks County Trojans.

66

'Cats Should Be In Classic Matchup

By EARL PERKINS *V Times 12/12/84*
Times Staff Writer

When it comes to classic matchups, this Saturday's AAAA Georgia high school football championship should go down in the books as one of the finest on record.

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder leads his undefeated Wildcats against Billy Henderson's once-beaten Athens-Clarke Central Gladiators at 8 p.m. on Cleveland Field. The game seems to have more twists than the world's largest pretzel, and Hyder sounds like Georgia coach Vince Dooley as he tries to untangle the puzzle.

"Today (Tuesday) we're getting ready for the first of three days of collision work for a very outstanding Clarke Central team," he said. "Coach Henderson is the dean of high school coaches in Georgia."

"He's been doing it for 34 years, and I don't know if any other coach has been at it longer. He's got a really fine program, and unlike some teams we've played (this year), these folks have playoff time. And they're a talented team. By coach Henderson's own admission, this is one of the most talented teams he's ever had."

The Gladiators are led in the rushing department by tailback Doug Davenport, who's carried 167 times for 1,048 yards and 11 touchdowns. He's backed by tailback Richard Jewell (122 carries, 762 yards, six touchdowns), fullback David Perno (74 carries, 370 yards, two touchdowns) and quarterback Chris Morocco (73 carries, 245 yards, seven touchdowns).

This is the second consecutive season the 175-pound (6-2) senior has started as Clarke's signal caller, completing 66 of 131 attempts for 1,172 yards, eight interceptions and 14 touchdowns. When Morocco goes down with an injury, the Gladiators look to backup Robbie Kamerschen, who's completed 27 of 63 attempts for 464 yards, two interceptions and four touchdowns.

Kamerschen came on to quarterback much of Clarke's game against Lowndes this season, although Morocco played sparingly

in the second half. The Vikings beat the Gladiators 31-6, which proved to be Clarke's only loss this season.

The Gladiators stand at 13-1 through last weekend, having won 11 consecutive contests after falling to the Plowboys. Clarke won the north Georgia championship last Friday, beating then-No. 2-rated Decatur-Southwest Dekalb 42-13. The Wildcats are at 14-0, having beaten playoff opponents Tift County, Colquitt County, Warner Robins and Statesboro.

Henderson's teams are usually known for their powerful defense, but this year's squad seems to have an impressive squad on offense as well, according to Hyder.

"We've reviewed the films and checked our scouting reports, and they've got some tough, big backs," he said. "I don't think Doug Davenport (sr., 190) played in the Lowndes game, but he's a bruising, Earl Campbell-type runner — he gets the yardage for them."

"And for a change of pace, they bring in Richard Jewell. He plays very low (to the ground) — he's quick and he's got great balance. These two backs are frightening."

The Gladiators are led in the receiving department by split end Willie Green, who's caught 29 passes for 664 yards and 10 touchdowns. He's aided by Vince Dooley's son, Derek, who's hauled in 17 receptions for 245 yards and three touchdowns. However, the Gladiators just don't seem to have a weak spot in their armor, according to Hyder.

"The line of scrimmage on offense and defense is strong," he said. "It looks like the best we've seen all year. They've got two major college prospects on the defensive line."

Defensive end Derick Little (6-4, 226) runs the 40-yard dash in 4.8 seconds, while middle guard Jerry Harris is a three-year starter who wreaks havoc on the opposition's backfield, according to Hyder.

The 11th-year Wildcat mentor claims nobody has been able to block the 190-pound senior this season. The Gladiators' defensive tackles are Scott Mitchell (6-2, 235) and Marvin Walker (5-9, 256)

with Clint Bennett (6-0, 180) anchoring the defensive end slot opposite Little.

Clarke's defensive line is backed up by linebacker Barry Glenn (5-9, 165), who runs the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds. Henderson was recently quoted in *The Atlanta Constitution* as saying the third-year starter is the best hitter he's ever coached.

And the 'Cats won't be able to run the other way, because they'll be going at linebacker William Stephens (5-10, 176), who's known as an extremely good tackler.

A quick, all-senior secondary returned from last year, and it's led by cornerbacks Amp Foster (6-1, 165) and Daryl Brown (5-10, 160). The safeties are senior Brack Rowe (6-1, 175) and Steve Law (6-0, 170). And Hyder certainly isn't underestimating the potential of Clarke's deep defenders.

"This may be the best secondary we've seen in some years," he said. "They're well-coached, very fast, aggressive and experienced."

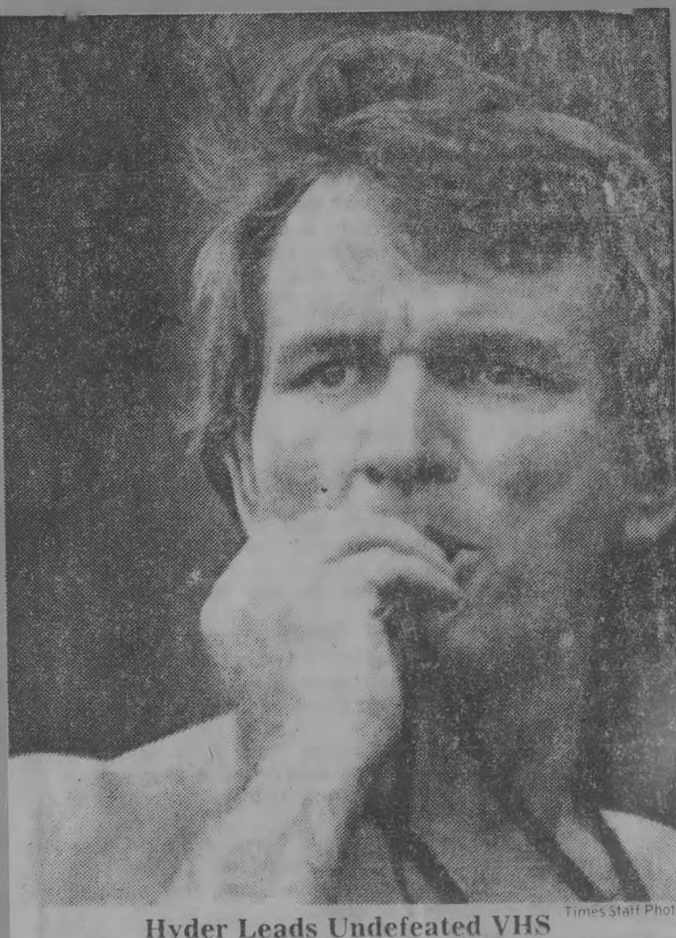
A major Gladiator threat comes not from their powerful offense or awesome defense, but from two players who kick the football like they're playing soccer, according to Hyder.

"Maybe the most outstanding thing on special teams their kickers," he said. "They've got a long-range kicker and a short-range kicker."

"The long one is John Kasay, and we've seen films of him kicking a 50-yard field goal. He works out with (Georgia's) Kevin Butler."

"They can come away with three points. He (Kasay) can put the ball down at the 40-yard line and blow it through there. And he kicks off into the end zone. But they're (Kasay and Chip McGinley) very, very good kickers."

Sophomore Kasay has kicked 12-of-15 field-goal attempts, including a 50-yarder and one for 51 yards to set an Athens city record. McGinley is the short man, splitting the uprights on 47-of-50 attempts for the Gladiators.



Hyder Leads Undefeated VHS *Times Staff Photo*

18th State Title In 'Cats' Grasp

V Times 12/14/84
Victory is at hand, and all the Valdosta Wildcats have to do is reach out and grab it. Oh, if it were only so simple. The 'Cats (14-0) are The Associated Press's No. 1-ranked AAAA team in Georgia, and they're atop the national rankings published by *USA Today*.

However, the Clarke Central Gladiators (13-1) are rated No. 4 in the state and they've got a shot at the state championship Saturday at 8 p.m. on Cleveland Field. The Athens teams wants a victory in the worst way, and head coach Billy Henderson even admits this group is one of the best he's coached in quite some time. And the Clarke mentor is his 34th season of coaching, which could be the most of any active coach in Georgia.

The more I start to write about this game, the more excited I get. There's just so much history behind both programs and people across Georgia and around the nation are beginning to take notice. I was over at the ticket office yesterday afternoon and the passes were selling like hotcakes to a hungry audience.

And then there's *USA Today*. Approximately 3 million people woke up yesterday morning and opened their paper to the smiling faces of Valdosta players John Porter and Marty Howell. Porter is an all-America senior linebacker for the 'Cats, while Howell is a 270-pound junior lineman.

But there they were yesterday, busting through a Winnersville poster to point at another victory. The each had one finger held up to signify the 'Cats' ranking and how many more wins their fans expect this season.

And VHS head coach Nick Hyder was certainly not left out of the picture, proclaiming that he carries "a rule book in one hand a bible in the other."

But let's get down to the nuts and bolts of this championship contest. It depends on how you look at it as to what their records are while playing each other. The Gladiators didn't really even exist until 1970, when old Athens High (a racially white school) and Burney-Harris (a racially black school) merged to form Clarke Central.

According to the Valdosta people, the teams have met six times with both team's records standing at 2-2-2. In 1920, the Wildcats beat Athens High 20-13 in a North-South playoff game which was never actually acknowledged as the state championship.

The teams met again in 1939, at which time they tied 0-0 in Valdosta's first regular-season game that year. This game was the only regular-season matchup between the teams, with all other meetings being state title games.

In 1955, Fran Tarkenton led Athens to a 41-20 victory in Athens' Sanford Stadium. In 1965, Valdosta won 14-13 as Athens scored late in the game and kicker Chuck Perry missed the extra-point attempt. Perry had made split the uprights 62-of-63 times before missing that fateful shot.

In Athens' last year of existence (1969), the teams tied 26-26 as quarterback Andy Johnson engineered a touchdown drive in the closing minutes of the game. The Trojans scored the two-point conversion to tie the game, and Johnson went on to fame and fortune with the Georgia Bulldogs and the New England Patriots.

But the big game came on a bitterly cold night in 1977, when the Gladiators took a 16-0 halftime lead and finished 16-14 victors. The Gladiator people claim their defense threw VHS quarterback Buck Belue out of the end zone and into the stands for a safety and the win.

Some fans are probably prone to exaggerate, but Belue is said to have never forgotten the one that got away. He may have gone on to lead the Georgia Bulldogs to a national championship and international recognition, but he's supposed to have driven different routes around Athens to avoid going past the stadium where he'd played his last game for VHS.

But the teams this season are truly almost mirror images of each other. They have tradition, they throw the ball well, they run it even better, their defenses are tremendous, they have great coaches and some of the finest athletes around.

Which brings me back to tell you why I'll not be picking this as a 0-0 tie. For one thing, I don't want the entire western world's wrath to come down upon my head. For another, you don't become a prognosticator to tell people there won't be a winner or a loser.

But you don't know how close I came to picking this contest as a tie. But that's neither here nor there, because I'm here to tell you the the Gladiators will pound on the 'Cats, and the 'Cats will pound on the Gladiators. However, Valdosta just wants this game too bad to give it up to anybody. So look for the 'Cats to dig down deep one more time ... Valdosta 17, Clarke Central 10.

AROUND GEORGIA — Looking at the remainder of state championship games from state schools should be no problem. On second thought ...

In Class AAA, No. 2 Thomson (14-0) is on the road against No. 1 Marist (14-0, which should give Marist the nod, 23-17).

The Class AA championship should be a little easier to pick, with No. 1 West Rome (13-1) travelling to No. 5 Mary Persons (11-3). The Chieftains from Rome beat Mary Persons a few years ago for the title, and they'd have truly brutalized them if the field hadn't been wet. Look for the Chiefs to scalp Mary 35-7.

In Class A, anybody who could beat Clinch County has to have some merit. So look for No. 2 Lincoln County (12-1-1) to defeat No. 1 Greenville (14-0) in this week's upset special.

State

Cliches Fitting For Saturday's Valdosta, Clarke Matchup

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

All the old football cliches can be pulled out of the bag for Saturday's AAAA championship final between Valdosta and Clarke Central at 8 p.m. in Cleveland Stadium.

The last time the two teams met in 1977, it was under the same type of conditions. The Gladiators pulled out the win 16-14 when Valdosta missed a last-second field goal attempt to oull out the win.

That was the only time that Valdosta's Nick Hyder and Clarke Central's Billy Henderson teams have ever met.

Valdosta will be sporting a 14-0 mark going into the contest and will be putting its No. 1 ranking by *USA Today* on the line against the 13-1 Gladiators, whose only loss came at the hands of Lowndes High 31-6 in the fourth game of the season.

Since that loss, the Gladiators have reeled 10 consecutive wins enroute to the North state championship. After the loss to Lowndes, no team has come any closer than 17 points of the Gladiators.

"They present a very tough challenge for us and we'll have to play our best game of the season," Hyder said. "They are a well-coached and very physical football team, with an outstanding defense."

"They have some fine athletes on offense and make very few

mistakes," Hyder added. "We have looked at this game like we have all the others and the youngsters are taking it all in stride. Our practices and routines have been the same as they were all year long."

The AAAA finals feature two of the state's most successful football programs. The series between the two schools is deadlocked at 2-2-2. Saturday's game will be the fifth time for the two powers to meet in the final game of the season.

Valdosta has a 15-3-2 slate in the state finals, but two of those losses came against Clarke Central. The championship game in 1969 was probably one of the more talked about games in the rivalry.

Henderson has compiled a 179-71-15 record in 30 years as a coach, claiming four state titles along the way. Henderson's last championship team was in 1979.

Hyder is 171-33-4 overall and a sparkling 118-21-4 at Valdosta in 11 years. The Wildcats have won 18 state titles since 1940, with last one coming in 1982 against Atlanta Peachtree (10-7).

"The game is what you might call a classic matchup between two of the state's better football programs," Hyder said. "The tradition at both schools and the strength of the two teams involved should make this game a pretty good matchup."

If the 'Cats can pull off the win, it would tie them for the best record in the schools storied football tradition. The senior class is

hoping to add its second state title to its sparkling 51-3 record over the last four years.

"They have played against some good competition and this is what both teams have been shooting for all season," Hyder said. "This series has featured some of the nations finest athletes through the years and the case will be the same Saturday."

"We feel like the keys will be the same as it was in all the other games, good defense, good field position and a sound kicking game," Hyder added. "We are looking forward to the challenge and this is what we set out for way back at the start of the year."

Clarke Central was ousted out of the playoffs last year by Lagrange 28-24, while Valdosta was upset by Tift County — the eventual state champions — 17-13 at Cleveland Field. Before the Gladiators' lost to Lagrange, they had held the No. 1 ranking in the nation by *USA Today* for 13 weeks.

Valdosta's loss to Tifton, is the only blemish on its record in two years. The 'Cats have won 35 consecutive regular season encounters. But, all of those records and history data won't mean a thing Saturday night. These two teams have been on a collision course all year and somebody's dream will come to a crashing stop.

The game Saturday is expected to draw a sellout crowd of 12,500 fans and most of them will be hoping that the end results will be more like 1982 than say, 1983.



Henderson's Glads Are Set ...



... But So Are Hyder's 'Cats

Glads Get Message: 'Cats Are For Real

If you drove by Cleveland Field on Sunday, all the subliminal clues were still there from Saturday night's game. Businesses around Valdosta may have put up signs welcoming Athens Clarke Central to the Azalea City, but the Gladiators must not have gotten the message. On Sunday, the football field across from Drexel Park and the surrounding area didn't seem overly welcoming.

There were "No Trespassing" signs at every gate, barbed wire around the top of the concrete walls, a caution sign on a tree outside the stadium and numerous barricades with flashing caution lights. Signs in our near the stadium said "Parking By Permit Only," "Construction Area, Keep Out," and "Please Show Ticket, No Out Passes Issued."

The No. 4-ranked Gladiators (14-1) were surely wondering what happened as they were beaten 21-14 by No. 1 Valdosta (15-0) for the Georgia AAAA high school state championship. The 'Cats have been ranked No. 1 in Georgia by The Associated Press throughout the season, and they took over the top national spot in *USA Today's* Super 25 listings near the end of the year.

The state title win should also mean they'll be No. 1 nationally when this week's rankings come out, unless a meteor hits every *USA Today* facility around the world. Three million people will probably be hearing about America's top high school team when that national newspaper hits the streets.

It seems that everything came together for the Wildcats when the chips were down, but it sure looked like Central had a good shot at winning when it took a 14-7 lead late in the third quarter.

But VHS running back Tony Anderson ran back a Central punt to the Gladiator 3-yard line, and scored on touchdown runs of two and one yards in the fourth quarter.

Clarke head coach Billy Henderson cited key penalties as the deciding factor in the game, but coach Nick Hyder's Valdosta team almost always figures out a way to win. Hyder says football is a game of field position, but it seems likes his team always exploits mistakes made by the opposition.

But the Wildcats deserve any recognition they receive locally and nationally, because they earned the victory — throughout the season and on the practice field. To be the best, you've got to be driven to your limit and perform your best on the field of battle. And warfare seems to be how the 'Cats and their fans look at the sport of football.

Emphasis will obviously be on one factor in a town that's called Winnersville USA, and it's been thus for several decades. Losing is neither condoned nor allowed in this football-crazy area, where almost everyone seems to judge the year on a gridiron calendar. They look at what part of the football season it is this week, or when camp is coming up or when there's a banquet scheduled — or when they can win a national championship.

This was Valdosta's fourth mythical national championship and their 18th official state title. Winning the title probably won't change the way the 'Cats prepare for a season, but it certainly won't dampen their enthusiasm for the game. But people are so crazy about the sport around here that, when they do lose, they just start preparing for next year.

Which brings me to another point — my preparation for next year. I try to rarely bring up subjects of a personal nature in print, but this forum now affords me the opportunity to say a couple things I want said.

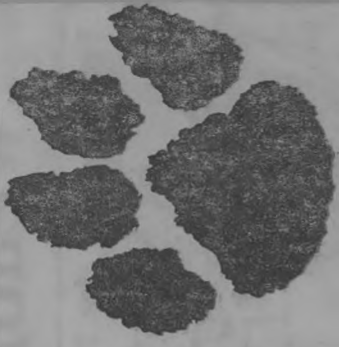
This will be my last column for the Valdosta Daily Times, because I've taken a job for another publication in the bustling metropolis of Monroe, La. I'll deeply regret leaving Valdosta and the south Georgia area, if for no other reason than the people have been so good to me.

The coaches, players and many fans I've been associated with have helped me in my endeavors and given me the encouragement to improve, which is probably the reason we're all here on Earth. At any rate, I want to take this opportunity to thank all those people who were so good to me and to give the coaches and players the recognition they deserve for their unselfish giving.

And I'll also miss all the good sports in this area, because I didn't dream I'd really have the opportunity to see some of the contests I've seen. There were some fantastic football and basketball games I'd never have witnessed, and I got to see a local high school team win the national championship. These are rare opportunities, and I consider myself lucky to have been associated with Winnersville USA and its people.

AAAA Football Championship At VHS's Death Valley Tonight

Special Section On The 'Cats Inside Today's Edition



The Valdosta Daily Times

VOL. 80—NO. 61.

Price 25¢

Valdosta, Ga., Sat., Dec. 15, 1984

Two Sections—20 Pages

Clarke Gladiators Retain Storied Past

By EARL PERKINS

Times Staff Writer

A high school football team from Athens has officially played for the state championship five times, and four of those encounters have been against the Valdosta Wildcats.

Numbers are certainly conflicting on this point. If you take into consideration that Clarke Central hasn't always been the only football team from Athens to be reckoned with. The Gladiators came into existence in 1970, when Athens High (a white school) merged with Burney-Harris (a black school).

Valdosta beat Athens 20-13 in 1970 in the final North-South matchup, but

the contest was never truly recognized as the state championship game. But if you want to, you might note the 'Cats and a team from Athens have records of 2-2-2 while playing each other.

The history of these teams have become inextricably entwined with the state championship and quality football through the years, with Athens winning in 1955 (41-20) and Clarke taking a victory in 1977 (16-14). There was a tie in 1969 (26-26), while the 'Cats were victorious in 1965 (34-13). Clarke's only other state title game was in 1979, when the Gladiators defeated the Tift County Blue Devils 20-10 for the crown.

Therefore, you might

say Athens/Clarke Central is one of the few teams the 'Cats have a losing record against (short of just a one- or two-game series). And if you don't count the 1920 game as a title matchup, the Athens' teams have never lost a state championship (2-0).

To garner more information on the rivalry, one must go back well before 11 years ago when Nick Hyder came to Valdosta as the 'Cats' head coach. Clarke Central head coach Billy Henderson has only coached the Gladiators for 12 seasons, but he's been guiding teams from the sidelines for 34 years.

Before taking the job at Clarke, Henderson was the first coach at non-

consolidated Willingham High when the Macon school opened in the early 1960s. During his tenure he faced legendary VHS coach Wright Bazemore, and it seems there's no other team or coach Henderson wanted to beat worse.

Bazemore's 'Cats defeated Willingham for three consecutive years coming out on top in 1960 (21-0), 1961 (27-0) and 1962 (12-0). Legend has it that Henderson's teams had been shut out three times, and he wouldn't put up with it again.

He supposedly carried a picture of Bazemore around in his wallet, tearing off part of it each time his team beat the 'Cats until finally having nothing

left. Henderson's Rams won in 1963 (13-0), 1964 (14-18) and 1965 (12-7). The 'Cats may have lost to Henderson in '65, but they went on to beat Athens for the state title.

Bazemore coached the 'Cats to a 27-7 win over Henderson in 1966, and the teams tied 7-7 in 1977. The region realignment ended that rivalry, and the Gladiators won in the Class AAA state title matchup gave Henderson a 4-4-1 slate against Valdosta.

Henderson then moved on to Clarke, where he's run up a 115-29-1 slate, winning two state championships, five region titles and seven sub-region titles. The Gladiators have won 106 of their last 121

games, including a 13-1 marker this year. Henderson's record dating back through his coaching days at Willingham rests at 179-71-15.

But Clarke is playing Valdosta Saturday night at Cleveland Field for the state championship, and this Iowa has been known as Wimmersville USA for quite some time now. The 'Cats' record is 14-0 so far this season, and they're ranked No. 1 in the state by The Associated Press, and No. 1 in the nation by USA Today.

The game's obviously one of the biggest prep contests in the nation, and that fact hasn't been lost on big-name football coaches from around America. When Valdosta

beat Statesboro 45-0 last week for the south Georgia title, the list of invaders was topped by Alabama's Ray Perkins. Georgia Tech's Bill Curry, Vanderbilt's George McIntyre, Tennessee's Johnny Majors and Auburn's Pat Dye.

And it seems Dooley only interest in the game won't be scouting potential recruits. Dooley's son, Derek, is Central's starting tight end and is one of four players on the team whose fathers are on the Georgia coaching staff. Senior kicker John Kasay Jr. has a father who's strength and conditioning coach. The youngster has kicked a 50-yard field goal and he's also booted a 51-yarder to set an Athens city record.

'Cats Take State Championship

Stories, Photos: Pages 1B, 2B

The Valdosta Daily Times

VOL. 80—NO. 62.

Price 50¢

Valdosta, Ga., Sun., Dec. 16, 1984

Four Sections—48 Pages



Wildcat Victory Celebration

Valdosta Head Coach Nick Hyder and the rest of the Wildcats celebrate their state championship victory over Clarke Central Of Athens, Ga. The 'Cats came back from a 14-7 third quarter deficit

to win 21-14. The Wildcats took their fourth national crown and 18th state title.—Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris.

Winnersville Fans Take Football Serious



Lewis (1), Wakefield Anchor Defensive Line

By RICHARD SELLERS
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta Wildcat Head Coach Nick Hyder is quite fond of saying people in Winnersville USA "take their football serious," and this has been quite true since the 'Cats started winning games in 1913.

That year, Turner Rockwell quit being editor at *The Valdosta Daily Times* to lead VHS to a 3-2-1 season, with the 'Cats' only loss coming against Sparks Junior College. Valdosta scored 54 points and relinquished 33 in that initial season.

Since the Wildcats first stepped on the football field, they've piled up 594 victories across eight decades. And everything's on the line this Saturday night at 8 for Hyder and his charges. The 11th-year Wildcat mentor could lead the 'Cats to a 15-0 record, an 18th Georgia state championship (since 1940), USA Today's No. 1 national ranking and a fourth mythical national championship.

Following is a synopsis of each game Valdosta has played this season, including the four playoff matchups and synopsis of the 'Cats' year.

Valdosta 21, Thomasville 3 — The 1984 season started with great hope and expectation for Valdosta. Although the Wildcats were plagued with an early rash of fumbles, they cranked up for touchdowns in the first, second and fourth periods.

VHS quarterback Berke Holtzclaw had a good night in his first game as starting quarterback for the top-ranked Wildcats. He scored two touchdowns to lead the 'Cats to a 21-3 season-opening victory over the Bulldogs at Cleveland Field.

VHS team captain (linebacker-kicker) John Porter also added to the Wildcat drive, converting on three extra-point kicks.

Valdosta 47, Waycross 14 — Although Valdosta was still making mistakes through its second game of the season, the Wildcats played impressively in a 47-14 win over the Waycross Bulldogs at

Memorial Stadium.

The Bulldogs scored first and dominated the first few minutes of the first quarter, but were unable to keep Valdosta from scoring after that.

The Wildcats struck back with two touchdowns in the first quarter and three more before halftime.

Valdosta then kept adding points to the board, holding Waycross in a no-scoring position until early in the fourth quarter. The Bulldogs finally hit pay dirt after a 10-play drive before the clock ran out.

Valdosta 47, Albany Monroe 6 — Valdosta jumped to a 20-0 first-quarter advantage over Monroe to romp past the Tornadoes on its home turf with a 47-6 win.

In their third game against a previously-unbeaten opponent, the Wildcats dominated Monroe statistically, turning in more than 300 yards in total offense and having 10 players carry the ball at least three times.

The win improved the 'Cats' overall record to 3-0 and their Region 1-AAAA slate to 1-0, while Albany fell to 2-1 (0-1 region).

Valdosta 42, Albany Westover 0 — VHS running back Tony Anderson rushed 17 times for 105 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Wildcats to a 42-0 non-sub-region win over the Westover Patriots, who had not won a game this season.

Quarterback Holtzclaw

also handled the Westover defense well, completing 4-of-11 passes for 70 yards and carrying the ball 10 times for 83 yards.

Valdosta 49, Bainbridge 7 — The Valdosta defense was as strong as ever during its game against Bainbridge, keeping the Bearcats away from their initial first down until halfway into the third quarter, and from their first score until the fourth period.

Meanwhile, the Wildcat offense stamped out a 21-point lead in the first quarter in a span of seven minutes, and scored 14 points in both the second and third stanzas.

The 49-7 win left no doubt that the 'Cats had come to play after playing what Coach Hyder termed a "somewhat lackadaisical game" the week before.

Valdosta 28, Tift County 0 — Tift was the only team to beat Valdosta in 1983, and the first to knock off the 'Cats in a 26-game span.

But the 'Cats made up for that when they jumped out to a 21-0 lead and staved off three Blue Devil scoring threats to retain a shutout. The Wildcats walked off with a 28-0 win over the defending state champion.

The shutout was only the third in Tift head coach Gene Brodie's nine-year tenure, and the Wildcats were responsible for two of those.

Valdosta 35, Thomasville Central 7 — Central racked up seven points early in the first quarter for the first and last time during this game. This contest marked the first time the Yellow Jackets had scored against the 'Cats since the 1980 Region 1-AAAA playoffs.

Wildcat running back Willie Lewis hit pay dirt with 53 seconds left in the first period, tying the score at 7-7. Valdosta followed the scenario laid by Lewis in the following quarters, with the 'Cats outscoring Thomasville Central 35-7 for their seventh consecutive win in '84.

Valdosta 40, Colquitt County 7 — Coach Hyder had no problem singling out one play as the turning point in the Wildcats' 40-7 rout over the Colquitt Packers. It came on a defensive play against Colquitt in the third quarter, when the Packers had worked their way down to the Valdosta 1-yard line.

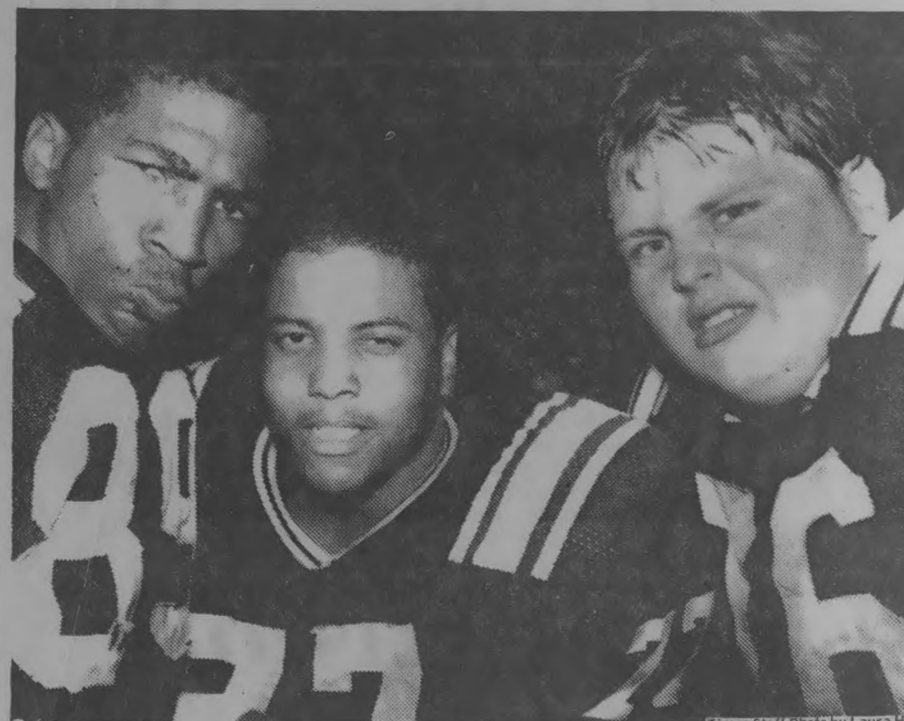
The 'Cats' defense forced a fumble, and Valdosta linebacker Bill Kirby came up with the ball.

Valdosta 68, Albany Dougherty 0 — The Dougherty Trojans had the misfortune of reaching Valdosta on the heels of the Colquitt game, and this was also the 'Cats' homecoming. The result was a 68-0 Valdosta victory.

The win was as solid as it was convincing, and the 'Cats played near-perfect football. Dougherty didn't record its initial first down until midway through the third quarter. Valdosta scored 47 points by halftime, 40 of those in the second quarter.

Valdosta 28, Lowndes 6 — The Lowndes High Vikings put up a gamely battle in the Winnersville Classic, before succumbing to the top-ranked Wildcats 28-6 at Cleveland Field before an overflow crowd of about 12,300 fans.

The win topped off an unbeaten regular season for the Wildcats, improving their slate to 10-0. The win also gave Valdosta the South sub-region title with a 3-0 record.



Darrell Leonard, Johnny Crook And Marty Howell Show Game Face

Taking a quick look at stats tells the crux of the game. Valdosta rushed for 182 yards, while Lowndes managed a total of minus-6. Lowndes had seven first downs to Valdosta's 14.

PLAYOFFS

Valdosta 16, Tift County 7 — Things got tough for the nation's top-ranked high school football team in the 'Cats' first-round playoff game, as they encountered Tift for the second time.

The 'Cats were forced to overcome a 7-0 halftime deficit against a fired-up Tift team, which Valdosta had romped past 28-0 earlier in the season.

The Wildcats held the Blue Devils back for a no-score second half and added 16 points to their side of the board, emerging victorious 16-7.

Once again the 'Cats' defense proved to be a dominant factor, holding the Blue Devils to 17 yards rushing. Valdosta chalked up 153 yards.

Valdosta 35, Colquitt County — The Wildcats slammed Colquitt 35-7 before 10,500 fans for the Region 1-AAAA championship in second-round playoff action, pushing their record to 12-0.

Valdosta led 21-0 at the half, and 35-0 at the end of the third quarter.

Anderson paced the Wildcat victory with 148 yards on 18 carries and two touchdowns, while Valdosta churned up 253 yards on the ground. The 'Cats also chalked up 23 first downs and had 360 yards in total offense.

"We got a chance to play a lot of people, which was very pleasing because the guys hung in there and practiced in 20-degree weather for most of the week," Hyder said.

Valdosta 28, Warner Robins 0 — Valdosta opened defense of its sub-region championship with a convincing 28-0 victory over Warner Robins.

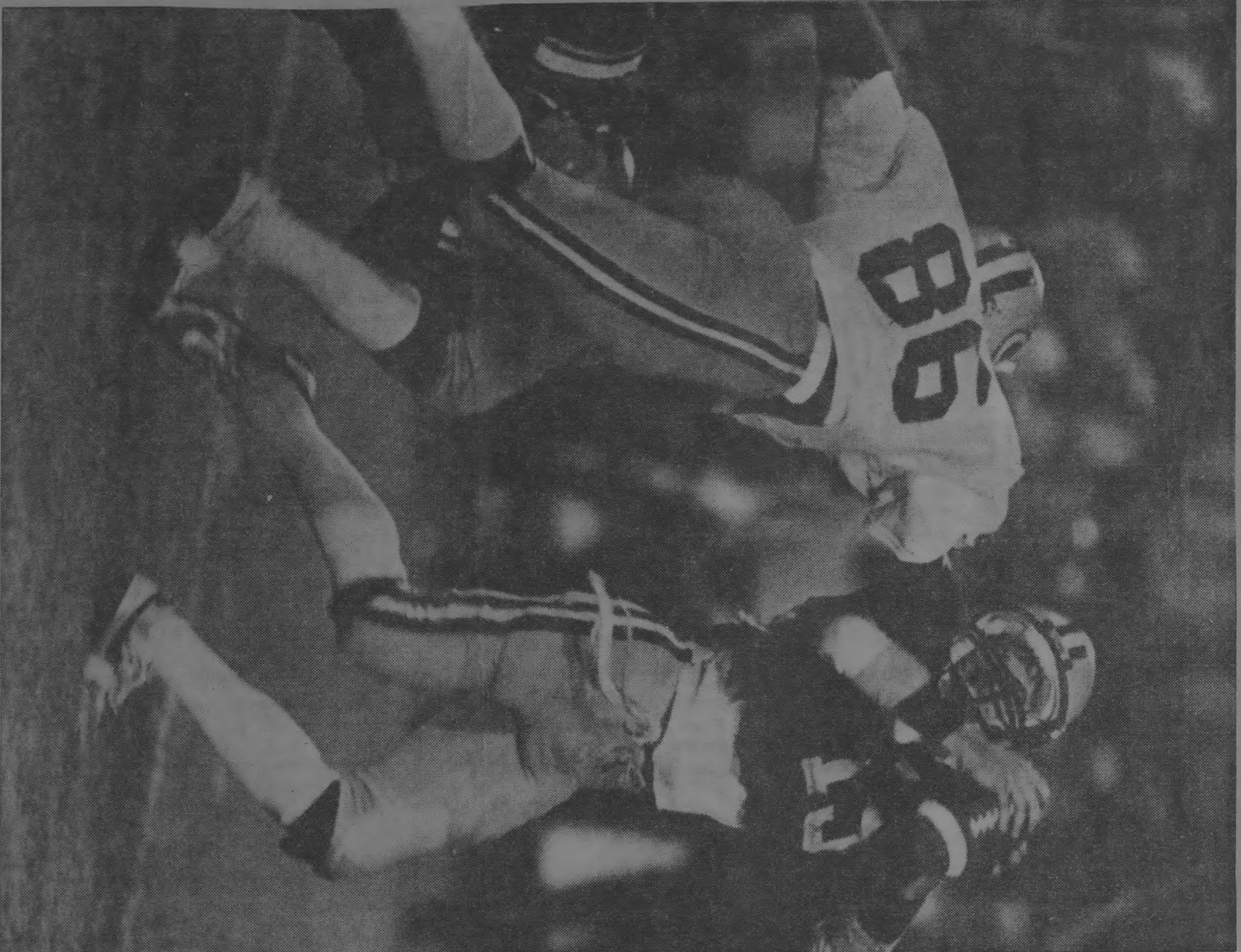
For most of the first half, the Demons played the Wildcats to a near standoff, except for one Valdosta drive which resulted in the first half's

only touchdown.

The Wildcats exploded in the second half with 21 second-half points en route to a shutout win before about 11,000 fans.

Valdosta 45, Statesboro 0 — Valdosta all-American Porter intercepted Statesboro quarterback Chris Johnson's first pass of the game, racing back 35 yards untouched for a score. That was the first indication of how the rest of the south Georgia state championship game would shape up.

The 'Cats defeated the Blue Devils by a 45-0 margin. Valdosta chalked up six points in the first quarter, 22 at the half and 17 by the end of the third quarter. Signal-caller Holtzclaw added two touchdowns to the Wildcats' rally.



— Dan Sheehan/staff

Valdosta quarterback Berke Holtzclaw tries to avoid the rush of Clarke Central's Reginald Parrott. The Wildcats wrapped up another

state and national championship with a 21-14 victory. Valdosta scored two second-half touchdowns after falling behind 14-7.

Valdosta captures state title

Florida Times Union
By Lawrence Dennis
Sports writer
12/16/84

VALDOSTA, Ga. — A little fancy footwork by junior fullback Tony Anderson helped Valdosta High rally in the fourth quarter for a 21-14 victory over Athens Clark Central and the Georgia Class AAAA state championship last night.

The victory gave the Wildcats their 19th state title since 1940, but it almost assuredly gave them something far more important — the national high school football championship.

Valdosta, which finished the season 15-0, was ranked No. 1 in the nation by Washington-based newspaper USA today going into the game, and the win virtually assures the Wildcats of their fourth national title. It will be the first under 11-year coach Nick Hyder.

Valdosta last won the mythical national title in 1971, the last year the Wildcats were coached by Wright Baze-more.

But it looked in the third quarter like old nemesis Central, which came into the game 13-1 this season and 1-2-1 against Valdosta in modern state championship games, was going to frustrate the Wildcats again.

The two teams battled to a 7-7 tie at halftime, and Central marched 78 yards on 15 plays on its first possession of the third period to go ahead 14-7 on tailback Doug Dav-enport's 1-yard run with 3:51 left in the third quarter.

Valdosta, which had been unable to move the ball since scoring on its first possession of the game, rediscovered its offense and drove 80 yards on 18 plays with Anderson diving across from the 2, his second score of the night. The big play on the drive came with the Wildcats facing a third and 5 at the 14, when senior quarterback Berke Holtzclaw found Willie Lewis on a slant-in pattern at the middle and the senior tailback made a diving catch at the 3 for a first and goal. Johns Porter's PAT tied it, and then Valdosta's defense and Anderson went to work. Valdosta held Central after the kickoff and a pair of penalties from the Gladiators backed the ball up to the 2.

Punter Brack Rowe got off a 36-yard kick which Anderson fielded at the Central 38, followed a wall around the right side and didn't stop until he was knocked out of bounds at the 3.

The 196-pound junior then scampered around left end for what proved to be the winning touchdown three plays later.

The two teams fought to their 7-all halftime tie in two wild quarters of play.

Valdosta started the game as if it was setting out to perform one of its patented routs, scoring on its first possession in only six plays with a 44-yard drive.

VHS Defense Foils Clarke Strong In Final Quarter

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer
12/17/84

Valdosta's defense rose to the occasion just as it had all season long, to turn the championship game around against Clarke Central early in the final quarter of the 'Cats 21-14 victory.

Early in the final quarter, with the score tied at 14-14, Clarke Central had possession of the ball at its own 20-yard line. Fullback David Perno picked up 10 yards on first down to give the Gladiators a first down at their own 30.

However, from that point on, they were pushed steadily backward by their own mistakes and the fierce 'Cats' defense.

After a holding penalty pushed the ball back 15 yards, Gladiators' senior quarterback Chris Morocco, who had picked the 'Cats apart for some key passes all game long, was hit with an intentional grounding penalty while trying to avoid Valdosta's Jimmy Lewis.

That penalty moved the ball back to the Gladiators' 3-yard line, and they were able to pick up just one yard in two plays before having to punt out of their own end zone.

It set up a short punt, which Valdosta's Tony Anderson raced back 37 yards to set up his own game-winning touchdown dive to give the 'Cats their 18th state title since 1940 and fourth national championship.

"That was a key series in the game and the guys really came through when we needed it," said Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. "We got good pressure on their quarterback in that series who had hurt us all game long with his scrambling ability."

"That was a crucial time in the game for us and we did a good job of keeping them backed up in the hole and our offense just did the rest," Rudolph added. "I thought it was a total team effort from everybody tonight and our offense really did an outstanding job of keeping us in it when the defense was struggling for a while there."

Clarke Central picked up 14 first downs in the game to 10 for Valdosta, but managed just 138 yards on the ground to 171 for the 'Cats. Morocco added another 129 yards in the air and the Gladiators finished with 150 for the game for a total of 288 yards in the game.

"They were as tough as we thought they'd be and they did a good job of executing their offense all game long," Rudolph said. "We missed on a few tackles by not locking up and they put together a couple of real good drives against us."

"We got a tremendous effort from the kids and they just fought off challenge after challenge," Rudolph added. "Our senior leadership really came through for us once again and it proved to be a key factor in our mental attitude when we were still behind going into the final period."

Holtzclaw Helped 'Cats Smash To Shot At State

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer
Before each football season, a piece of tin is nailed tightly above the locker room door at Valdosta's Cleveland Field.

It's snug and flat when the season begins, but now the nails are coming out and it's smashed beyond recognition.
Before the Wildcat coaches release their

charges prior to a game, the 'Cats get fired up by beating the tin with their helmets. And one VHS player who's always up near the front is senior quarterback Berke Holtzclaw.

"Something special happens when you hear the helmets hitting that tin coming out of that locker room," he said. "I can go home at night and think about hearing the helmets hitting, and (I'll) have chill bumps all over me."

The offensive co-captain noted the action gets the 'Cats fired up and signifies togetherness on the team.

"To me, it lets me know we're ready to go out there and play," he said. "I just want to go out there and play the best I can — I know everybody else is. I think both (VHS and Clarke) of us will be fired up, but we want to bring it (the title) home."

Speaking of home,

Holtzclaw recently had his car radio and speakers stolen from his pickup outside his house. However, that's one of the few things going wrong in Holtzclaw's life right now.

He's helped lead the No. 1-ranked 'Cats to a 14-0 record so far this season, and all the chips are down this weekend. VHS hosts Athens-Clarke Central Saturday at 8 p.m. on Cleveland Field for the Georgia AAAA high school football championship, and the 'Cats have been anticipating this game for a long time.

"Being in this system for these four years, plus another couple years in junior high, has been an experience," he said. "It's something you'll never forget. There's been a lot of good and a lot of bad, but it's all going to pay off (Saturday night)."

"We've worked too hard to stop now. We've got 23 seniors on this team, and we all came up together. They know what it's like, because they've been in playoff action before. Some even started as freshmen, like (linebacker) John Porter and (safety Derrick) 'Kool' Folsom.

"This is our last game being able to play on Cleveland Field and in Death Valley. This is it — our last time around, our last chance to say we're No. 1."

But other people have been saying all along that the 'Cats were No. 1. Valdosta has been the No. 1-rated AAAA high school team in Georgia throughout the season, according to The Associated Press poll. And USA Today boosted VHS into the highly-vaunted No. 1 slot in the nation during the latter part of the season.

But this football year ends Saturday night, whether Valdosta wins the state championship or not. And Holtzclaw is beginning to look ahead, although he doesn't have any firm plans about his future. Numerous colleges have contacted him about attending their schools to play football, but he still plans to carefully examine all his options.

"I want to get the best education and the best opportunity I can get," he said. "Hopefully, I'll be able to play pro ball someday."

"It's a childhood dream of mine. Look at (Boston College quarterback) Doug Flutie. People said he was too small to play pro ball, and people have told me I'm too small (for college or pro ball)."

However, football isn't the only facet of his life that Holtzclaw has excelled in. He loves to draw and paint, going so far as to do a work for VHS to hang at the school.

"I guess it goes back to my stepfather (Jerry Dodds)," he said. "He draws around the house, and I kind of drew a little bit every once in awhile."

"I took a liking to it, and when I got over to the high school, I started taking a lot of art classes from Mrs. Patsy Smith."

Mrs. Smith is known as the 'Wildcat Lady,' having gone to VHS many years ago and being associated with VHS and its art department through the years. And she's not only a good teacher, but a "great person, a great lady and a

great friend," according to Holtzclaw.

Holtzclaw says the past-time helps him relax, with his favorite works being animals, deer, ducks, still lifes and landscapes. He draws quite a bit, but his favorite is painting with acrylics.

But Holtzclaw and his Wildcat teammates have drawn one more contest. Cleveland Field. 8 p.m.

Saturday night. And the 'Cats are fired up, according to Holtzclaw.

"Saturday night it's going to come down to who's the best," he said. "Whichever team proves it can play under pressure will win."

The Wildcats have made great strides in progress this season, which probably wouldn't be possible

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat. Dec. 13, 1991

12-15-84

Game Lineups

Here's Saturday's AAAA state title starting lineups.
VHS — offense: QB Berke Holtzclaw (170, sr.), RB Tony Anderson (205, jr.), RB Willie Lewis (165, sr.), SE Hosea Heard (165, jr.), FL Mack McGuyrt (160, jr.) or FL Charles Stewart (200, fr.), TE Darrell Leonard (190, sr.), OT Marty Howell (270, jr.), OT Todd Hatcher (205, jr.) or John Wheelless (275, so.), OG Eric Henderson (190, sr.), OG Johnny Crook (245, jr.) and C Jon Reaves (190, sr.).

VHS — defense: DE Ernest Mangham (175, sr.), DE Seaborn Williams (155, so.), DT James Wakefield (220, sr.), DT Jimmy Lewis (220, sr.), MG Michael Spencer (180, sr.) or John Wheelless (275, so.), LB John Porter (215, sr.), LB Tony Johnson (170, jr.) or Bill Kirby (170, so.), CB Elijah Holmes (160, sr.), CB Mike Martin (165, sr.) or Dwayne Hart (160, jr.), S Derrick Folsom (175, sr.) and S David Thomas (165, sr.).

Clarke — offense: QB Chris Morocco (185, sr.), RB Richard Jewell (165, sr.), RB Doug Davenport (190, sr.), SE Willie Green (170, jr.), FL Carl Platt (160, jr.), TE Derek Dooley (185, jr.), T Greg Pope (215, jr.), T Kent Jordan (195, jr.), G Randy Williams (185, jr.), G David Nelson (188, sr.), C Stan Wilbanks (225, sr.).

Clarke — defense: DE Derrick Little (225, sr.), DE Clint Bennett (180, jr.), DT Marvin Walker (230, sr.), MG Jerry Harris (205, sr.), LB Barry Glenn (160, sr.), LB William Stevens (190, sr.), CB Darryl Brown (165, sr.), CB Amp Foster (170, sr.), FS Steve Law (170, sr.), SS Brack Rowe (175, sr.).



Coach's Hyder, Jerry Don Baker Whistled 14-0 'Cats



Times Staff Photo

VHS Senior QB Guided 'Cats To 14-0 Slate Through Last Weekend

without the VHS coaching staff, according to Holtzclaw.

"We've got a great bunch of coaches out here," he said. "They've

given us everything they've got, and we're going to give them everything we've got Saturday night — just like we've done all year."



V Times
12-15-84

Bruising Runners

Valdosta running back Willie Lewis (l) and Wildcat tailback Tony Anderson (r) are among the leading rushers in Region 1, with many of their yards being gained by running through defenders. The bruising backs are an integral part of the VHS offense, and they've saved many a drive by getting that valuable first down.



Times Staff Photo

Valdosta's Backs Are Hyder-Tough

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

When it comes to running backs, Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder gets offensive about how they're treated compared to most other positions on the football field.

"Running backs are the least-protected, according to the rules, than any other person on the field," Hyder said. "They can get clipped from behind, socked below the waist and grabbed by anything other than their face mask."

"You can kill the running back by hitting him any way that you can, but let's not block below the waist," Hyder added. "That's why we feel like our running backs have to be tough."

As far as toughness goes, the Wildcats have a fit-

ness-training condition system that rivals many colleges. It's broken down into four categories — strength, speed, agility and endurance — and points are awarded on how well the athlete does in each category.

It goes even a little deeper than that, with added incentives such as t-shirts, trophies and plaques, from the junior high ranks on up through the varsity. When a player is through with all of his tests, he's placed in one of six categories.

These are the TomCats (100 points), the Winners Club (125 points), the Champions Club (150 points), the SuperCats (175 points), the Superior Cats (200 points) and the Top Cats (225).

The Top Cats category was just added when halfback Willie Lewis blew the system apart by scaling out at 235 points — the highest total ever registered in Hyder's 20 years at this type of conditioning. Defensive end Earnest Mangrum also topped 200 points with a 215 total. Before Lewis' feat, Superior Cat was the highest level a player could attain.

"We've always believed in the theory that a top physical athlete can come back quicker from an injury, and to survive they've got to be tough," Hyder said. "Another thing that we believe in is quickness, and we feel like a well-conditioned athlete is much quicker than just your average player."

Lewis led the 'Cats in rushing during the regular season, and finished third in the region, carrying 112 times for 731 yards and 10 touchdowns, for a team-leading 6.5 average per carry. In post-season play, Lewis has carried 49 times for 235 yards and two touchdowns.

Tony Anderson, who missed the first two games and didn't play in half of two others, teams with Lewis in the backfield to form a dangerous tandem. Anderson still managed to pick up 725 yards on 133 carries, for a 5.9 average per attempt. He led the 'Cats in scoring with 14 touchdowns during the regular season. In four post-season games, Anderson has slashed for 406 yards on 69 totes and scored six touchdowns.

The Force' To Be With 'Cats' Defense

V Times 12-15-84

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

And may the force be with you.

Valdosta's defense has been that force all season long in its romp to a sparkling 14-0 record.

The "Portergeist" defense, featuring "Kool and the Gang" in the secondary, has been through it all in four years of varsity play at Valdosta High. Tonight, they'll face Athens-Clarke Central in the state championship game at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field's Death Valley.

This is the second time around for some of the defensive players such as John Porter, Derrick "Kool" Folsom, James Wakefield and David Thomas, who are going after the state title on their home field.

In 1981, the 'Cats defeated Atlanta-Peachtree 10-7 to claim VHS head coach Nick Hyder's first undisputed title at the school. Those guys, along with several others, were freshman on that team.

Now, four years later, they'll try to conclude their careers the same way they started — by winning the state title. But it won't be an easy task, according to VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph, who says "Clarke Central is their (the 'Cats) biggest

challenge yet."

The senior-laden defense will lose eight starters to graduation, and five of those have been playing together since the pee-wee league, according to Rudolph. That, he says, is one of the keys to this year's defense.

"They have a great feeling of togetherness, which gives them outstanding chemistry and an innate ability to blend together," Rudolph said. "Since I've had them in the ninth grade, they've worked extremely hard to want to accomplish something before leaving Valdosta."

"They wanted to be remembered as one of the top teams to ever play here, and they are very close to attaining their goal," Rudolph added.

"We're at the point now where we have the unanswered question. And, what lies in store is what keeps you wake at night wondering about it. The question that you ask yourself is if you have peaked already, or can you do it for one more week?"

There were several question marks that Valdosta had to fill before the start of the season, with the departure of nose guard Leon Johnson, cornerback Aundray Irvin and linebacker Frank Abney.

"The guys who took their place really matured and came through for us," Rudolph said. "The togetherness of the unit probably compensated for some of the gaps until the guys gained some confidence."

"You're only as strong as your weakest link on defense, and the other kids were willing to pay the price while some of the younger guys came around," Rudolph added. "You must make sure that you have other kids who can take up the slack, and help out to make the weakness a strength."

In the last eight quarters, Valdosta has held its opponents scoreless, giving up just 14 points in four games. Defending state champion Tift County got its only score when the 'Cats fumbled at their own 25. It took them nine plays to push it in for a score, with the drive being kept alive by a third-down pass interference penalty.

Colquitt County got the only other score late in the game (with 26 seconds left) on a 53-yard pass against the reserves in the region championship game, and those were the last points scored on the 'Cats. In the last two weeks, Warner Robins and Statesboro have both been

shut out.

"Our defense has played with a consistent, high level of intensity all year," said head coach Nick Hyder. "They've made the big play all season long and that has come through hard work in practice."

"We've stood the test of 10 regular season challenges and four post season challenges and we haven't been able to look past any of them," Hyder added.



Special To The Times by DeRon Coppage

Kool' Folsom And John Porter Fly For VHS

Wildcat History

V Times 12/15/84 Fan Has Fond Memories Of Storied Past

By JOHN B. LASTINGER
Special To The Times

At first, I was quite flattered that *The Times* asked me to do this piece, but then I realized I was one of the few guys old enough to remember any of this stuff.

I have always been somewhat of a "nut" about Wildcat football, a disease I came about honestly. You see, I was born at the old Little-Griffin Hospital which was one block from Cleveland Field. Dad was a former Wildcat and mother a teacher at Valdosta High School. It must have been osmosis.

Valdosta's first state championship was in 1940, that is, the first recognized by the Georgia High School Association.

However, back in 1920 the team journeyed to Athens and defeated Athens High in a "post-season" contest.

Maxwell Oliver, a former Valdosta mayor, remembered it well because in those days it took two days to drive to Athens.

My first recollection of a championship was, of course, the 1940 team that defeated Cedartown 21-0. Although too young to be in attendance, I've heard it discussed many times.

"Big Lou" Blanton, our giant tackle, picked up the opening kickoff and promptly fumbled it to Cedartown. Lou still eats with those hands which have served him well over the years.

The 1947 champs were perhaps my favorite bunch because I was a manager on that team. Billy Grant and Sonny Stephenson were the stars, but tackle Sam Register provided most of the laughs.

We played Gainesville High in Albany for the state championship and spent the night at Radium Springs famous resort.

It was there that Sam Register and I attempted to light a gas space heater in one of the cottages.

After many unsuccessful attempts with a match it finally caught with a loud poof!! I looked up in time to catch Sam Register bursting through a latched screen door. Fortunately, Sam was not as fearful of Gainesville as we won 24-12.

Valdosta followed with consecutive champion-

ships in 1952 and '53, playing in two Peanut Bowls in Columbus. Familiar names like Joe Wilson, Noel George, Sonny Shroyer, Sammy Hardin and Bobby Renfroe made names for themselves.

All of them were once good-looking guys, but playing without face masks finally got 'em.

Two straight championships followed in 1956-57. When names like Robert Johnson, Dale Williams and Ben Smith were household words. We defeated Rockmart for the state behind QB Bozey Thomas who replaced starter Dale Williams who suffered a kidney injury the week before against Thomasville.

The 1960-61-62 era saw the Cats roll to 36 consecutive wins and three state crowns behind such names as Billy Schroyer, Bill Myddleton, Bruce Bennett and Stan Reeves.

Perhaps the funniest incident was halfback Giles Smith who accepted a five-yard penalty, negating a 9-yard Richmond Academy punt and excellent field position.

Giles promptly returned the ensuing unit 65 yards for a touchdown. Coach Bazemore later said, "Giles scored because he was running for his life!"

1965 and 1966 brought two more state champions to VHS. I rode in the back of a chartered bus to Athens in 1965 with Billy Grant and the late Julian Tucker to see the Cats defeat Athens 14-13. Marietta was the victim in 1966, 14-3 highlighted by John Copeland's monumental, 76-yard punt return.

We journeyed to Grant Field in Atlanta in 1968, defeated Forest Park 37-12 and absolutely froze to death. I have never been so cold in my life as the WAGA-TV thermometer showed 17 degrees at kickoff.

We settled for co-champs in 1969 as Andy Johnson led a furious Athens High comeback to tie us 26-26. An eight-year-old John Lastinger cried all the way home. Who said a tie was like kissing your sister?

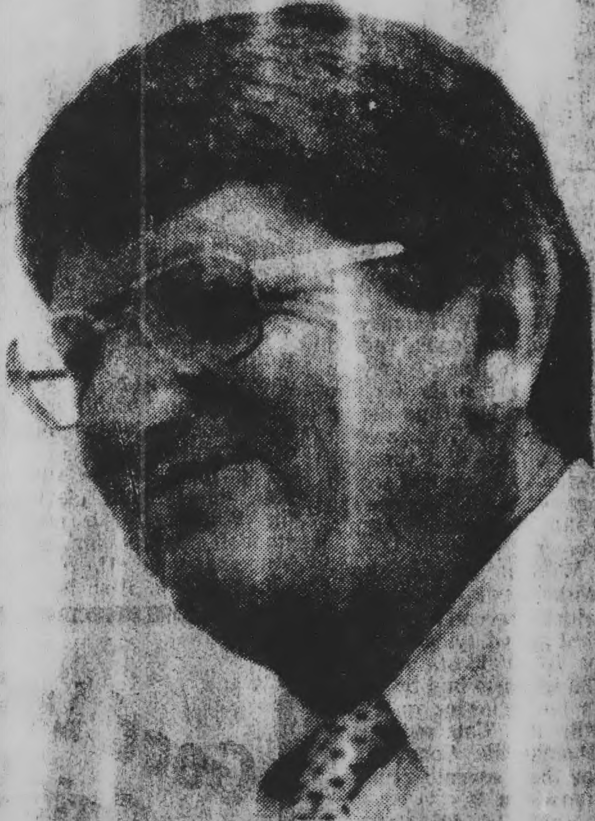
Who can forget the 1971 title game, Bazemore's last, a 62-12 triumph over Avondale. Stanley Bounds passed them silly with Stan Rome on the receiving end.

That team scored 629 points in 13 ballgames and became national champions.

Nick Hyder's 1977 team made it to the finals against Clarke Central losing a heartbreaker 16-14 as they hissed a last second field goal try.

The Cats were right back in the championship fight in 1978 winners of 13 games straight, but again settled for a co-chairmanship when the Griffin Bears rallied for a 7-7 tie.

Valdosta fans were disappointed, but respectful for a fine Griffin team with athletes like Willie Gault and Freddie Gilbert.



Lastinger's Seen It All At VHS

1982 became Valdosta's finest year ever as the Cats rolled to a 15-0 record, the most games ever won in a season, highlighted by Herbert Lowe's last minute field goal to defeat Atlanta Peachtree 10-7.

Georgia's great kicker, Kevin Butler, spent the night with us and was among the first to reach Herbert Lowe as the game ended.

As a kicker, he recognized the pressure on that kick, but as a longtime fan, I appreciated what that victory meant for Nick Hyder... an albatross had been removed from around his neck.

Valdosta's record has truly been amazing. Think of it in terms of this senseless piece of trivia. Anybody who entered VHS since 1943 and played on the football team all four years was involved in state playoff games.

Doctor, Trainer Most Important 'Cats?

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

One of the primary reasons the Valdosta Wildcats win so many football games could be the fact they've got such a good doctor and trainer, according to VHS head coach Nick Hyder.

"At all points you've got to be concerned with the physical aspects of the players," he said. "They're human beings and not machines."

"And we've got to be concerned about preventive as well as corrective medicine. This is where Dr. (Jose) Campa, (trainer) Jim Burroughs and the other physicians come in."

Campa, Burroughs and a host of Valdosta doctors have been closely studying the 'Cats' health throughout the season, and they should be doing so up to kickoff Friday night. Kickoff is set for 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field, where the 'Cats play the Statesboro Blue Devils for the south Georgia high school championship.

Valdosta is the No. 1-ranked team in Georgia according to The Associated Press, and it's No. 1 in the nation in this week's USA Today list. But the 11th-year VHS mentor knows everything comes back to the health of his athletes.

"I'd like to stress that Dr. Campa is an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in sports medicine," he said. "He's with us every day to take care of

anybody's problems. And he helps set up things with specialists, if that's what is needed."

Hyder also noted the athletes aren't forced to use Campa as their doctor, although almost every athlete at Valdosta works through the man who's been with the 'Cats for 12 years. Campa has certainly been an asset in many ways to the Valdosta football program and the health of its athletes, according to Hyder.

"We try to rehabilitate as much as we can, but preventing injuries is our primary concern," he said. "It all ties together, and that's why Dr. Campa always has input into our conditioning program."

"We had a youngster with a neck problem, and he saw where we didn't have enough neck exercises. So now we work on the Nautilus machine in the high school and junior high. But that's just one example of how he helps us."

Hyder made the point that many Wildcat athletes recover quickly from injuries, and he attributed this to their intensive training which goes throughout the year. He also said extremely slow recovery usually means the player was in poor condition, although he noted there are exceptions to the rule.

Campa came into the Wildcat program in 1972, when Charley Greene had just taken over for

retiring head coach Wright Bazemore. And the job of helping Valdosta players as a physician can be a challenging and rewarding experience, according to Campa.

"Usually I'm the one involved with the physicals, and this means that about 98 percent of the athletes on the high school and junior high level come to my office," he said. "I check their eyes, look for deformities, check their teeth. And if I find anything, I report it to the parents and the coaches."

Campa is aided in his endeavors by many doctors at South Georgia Medical Center. Dr. Briggs Smith helps with ears, nose and throat, while Dr. Ben Moye is consulted on the eyes and Dr. William Broadfoot studies teeth. But when you talk about winning football games and good health, the program must begin at a very early age, according to Campa.

"We start a conditioning program on the junior high level — that's the time to initiate the program on the players, not the in high school," he said. "That's the way we've developed some of the great athletes we have."

Coaches, trainers and managers are lectured at South Georgia Medical Center on first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and taking care of the athletes' nutrition. The 'Cats receive aid from all

sectors of the community and the players always give 100 percent, but there's still more to building a program, according to Campa.

"It would be useless if we didn't have a good trainer like Jim Burroughs, along with the managers and student trainers," he said. "I get great help from Mr. Burroughs."

"We keep a record of all injuries that happen in practice, what position the player was in, when it happened and the time of recovery."

These factors have certainly contributed to keeping the 'Cats on the field instead of on the training table, but there are a few other aids the doctor and trainer employ. They help supervise the weight training, provide medications and even counsel on emotional problems on occasion.

And concern for the well-being of Valdosta's football players is no less apparent when you talk to Burroughs than when discussing the subject with Campa.

"What we try to do is prevent injuries before they get started," he said. "If you do that, you don't have to treat them as long (when they do happen)."

"As the season progresses, the number of injuries increases, and this is usually due primarily to a letdown on the

player's part."

The letdown almost certainly comes from the lengthy season in Georgia high school football. The Wildcats have won all their games thus far, but the important fact could be that they've played in 13 ballgames. Burroughs noted the Wildcats are probably in better condition than they were last year, but that injuries are still a part of the game.

"If an injury does occur, I make my evaluation and I forward it on to Dr. Campa," he said. "What we try to do is put their health and welfare above all else."

"We've held some people out who probably could have played, but it was probably to their advantage to hold them out until they were fully-recovered. And all the coaches have the welfare of the players in mind. They want the players to play, but they realize if they're injured they can't play up to their capability."

Burroughs also said he and Dr. Campa would have a difficult job if it weren't for South Georgia Medical Center physical therapist Andy Whitner, along with the Wildcat student trainers and managers. Seniors Martine Campa and Allen Robinson were singled out as being of utmost assistance when aid was demanded in key situations this season.



Trainer Jim Burroughs Assists LB John Porter

Times Staff Photo

Champions

1984 Wildcats Moving Into Realm Of Legends

By The Associated Press
Valdosta High's 1984 football team has moved into the realm of legend with other Wildcat squads, and West Rome has become only the second school to win three consecutive state championships.

The top-ranked, undefeated Wildcats added to their lore Saturday night as Tony Anderson scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns to give them a 21-14 victory over No. 4 Clarke Central in the Georgia High School Association's Class AAAA championship game.

West Rome got two TDs from Joe McCluskey within 1:25 of the third quarter, and the Chieftains held on to win the Class AA title with a 14-7 victory over No. 5 Mary Persons, tying Valdosta's record of three consecutive state titles.

In Class AAA, No. 2 Thomson made No. 1 Marist a bridesmaid for the fourth time in six years as the Bulldogs came away with a 27-17 victory.

No. 1 Greenville finished an undefeated season by beating No. 2 Lincoln County 19-7 for the Class A title.

Valdosta had been a unanimous pick as the best Class AAAA team in the state since late September. But it was Clarke Central which appeared

on the verge of the state crown Saturday night on Valdosta's home field.

The Gladiators were leading 14-7 in the fourth quarter when Anderson went to work, scoring from 2 yards out with 9:57 left in the game. John Porter's extra point tied it.

Penalties stalled Clarke's next possession, and when Brack Rowe got off a short punt, Anderson returned it 32 yards to the Gladiators' 3-yard line.

From there it took four plays, but with 6:22 left Anderson leaped into the end zone from the 1, giving the Wildcats the victory.

"This was a special ball game," said Anderson. "This is what you work for all summer long. You always work toward a state and national championship — and tonight, we got both." Valdosta is ranked No. 1 in the nation by *USA Today*.

Anderson, a junior, also scored the Wildcats' first touchdown on a 1-yard run in the first quarter.

After Anderson's third TD, Clarke Central had another opportunity, but on a fourth-and-2 at the Valdosta 45, Seaborn Williams stopped Richard Jewell for a 1-yard loss and Valdosta was able to run out the clock.

"We had a chance. I'm really proud of our boys' effort," said Clarke Central Coach Billy Henderson. "But give credit to the Valdosta offense. They did the job; they deserve it."

This year's championship is the 18th for Valdosta, and the Wildcats' second undefeated season in two years. Clarke Central finished the year at 13-2.

Earlier this year, West Rome saw its winning streak snapped at 37 games, one short of an apparent state record. But the Chieftains recovered from that loss to win their next 10 games, most by decisive margins, and head to Forsyth for the championship game against late-blooming Mary Persons.

The game also had West Rome Coach Rodney Walker facing Mary Persons' Dan Pitts, who coached Walker in high school.

After the victory, Walker said, "I knew we were going to have to earn it. It's a great feeling, the best feeling I've ever had in athletics."

Mary Persons held the explosive Chieftain offense scoreless until 6:16 remained in the third quarter, but McCluskey capped a 62-yard, 13-play drive with a 12-yard reception from quarterback David Grier.

West Rome took the lead 1:25 later, set up by Spencer Hammond's recovery of Albert Brown's fumble on the ensuing kickoff.

McCluskey again scored, this time on a 12-yard run and the Chieftains had their third straight title.

After a first half filled with fumbles and penalties, Walker said, "I told them we couldn't self-destruct. We were self-destructing in the first half. We were moving the ball and we needed to keep doing that."

Mary Persons' Pitts said: "We weren't able to get the ball back and when we did get it we weren't able to do anything."

West Rome, which finished at 14-1, began its championship string in 1982 with a 7-6 victory over Mary Persons. The Bulldogs closed the season at 11-4.

Marist has been in the Class AAA championship four of the last six years and entered Saturday's game at home ranked first and undefeated.

But just as in the other three finals, the War Eagles came away with second place.

After giving up three first-half fumbles, Marist appeared ready to stage a comeback in the second half, closing to 13-10. Mike Ingram re-

established Thomson's momentum, however, when he caught a tipped pass and eluded the secondary for a 66-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter.

"That was the one that took us out of the game," said Marist Coach Dean Hargis. "Our kid hit him (quarterback Terry Pettis) right before he released the ball, our linebacker batted the ball, and he (Ingram) still catches the thing."

"I look up, and I can't believe it. I can't ask any more from our kids than that."

Thomson also got a 31-yard scoring pass from Pettis to Jerry Mays and a 32-yard run by Pettis to take a 13-3 halftime lead.

"Marist did play the run, like we knew they would, and we had the kid open two times deep in the first half," said Thomson Coach Luther Welsh. "They just dropped back, we threw underneath... All year long we've had a big-play offense. They've come through when they've had to."

The Bulldogs ended the year at 15-0 and with their first state championship since back-to-back Class A titles in 1967 and 1968. Marist finished at 14-1.

In Class A, Willie Matthews gave Greenville its state title



Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris

James Wakefield (96) And Ernest Mangham Chased Down Glads All Night

as he scored twice on offense and intercepted two passes on defense. Matthews' second interception and second TD sealed the victory and the Patriots' undefeated season.

Lincoln trailed 13-7, but was marching to a potentially game-winning touchdown when Matthews stepped in front of a Steve Harmon pass, giving the

Patriots the ball at their own 40 yard line.

Seven plays later, Matthews took off on a 37-yard TD run, giving Greenville an insurmountable 19-7 lead with only 1 minute left in the game.

The victory capped Greenville's first-ever undefeated year, a goal set before the season by Coach Dwight

Hochstetler.

Lincoln Coach Larry Campbell said the Red Devils lost the game when they fell behind 13-0.

"We had never been in that situation before," he said. "When we did get behind, we got away from our game plan, and I'll take full responsibility for that."



Fla. Times Union 12/17/84
Valdosta High School running back Tony Anderson (left) hugged assistant coach Mike Clarke Central Saturday night.

'Instant replays' didn't ruin 'Cats

Fla. Times Union 12/17/84

The National Football League will have to take a back seat to Georgia high school football. While many fans and some coaches have been crying for instant video-tape replays on officials' decisions, the refs in Valdosta's state Class AAAA championship game with Athens Clarke Central Saturday night put the idea into effect on the field — twice.

The first time, Valdosta was driving in the second quarter with the score tied at seven when quarterback Berke Holtzclaw apparently hit wide receiver Hosea Heard with an 8-yard pass near midfield.

Heard appeared to make a diving, roll-over catch, but the officials on the spot couldn't decide whether he had caught the ball or trapped it.

So after a prolonged conference, they decided to play it all over, kind of like a "let" serve in tennis. The ball went back to the original line of scrimmage, the sideline pole marker went back to second down and the Wildcats tried again.

On what appeared to be the same play call, Holtzclaw's pass, intended for Heard again, was incomplete.

The officials, incidentally, did not order Valdosta coach Nick Hyder to call the same play again.

"They felt so bad about it, because nobody was able to make a decision," Hyder said. "They decided to replay the down. There was no rule on it, so they decided that was the only fair thing to do. It was kind of like a jump ball

O'Brien after the Wildcats knocked off Athens Clarke Central Saturday night.

in basketball."

Officially, Holtzclaw only got one incom- pletion on the play, by the way.

The second instant replay came in the fourth quarter, when Valdosta scored the touchdown that won the game.

After fullback Tony Anderson's 36-yard punt return set the 'Cats up with a first-and-goal at the Central 3 with the score tied at 14 and tail-back Willie Lewis carried to the 1-inch line, Lewis appeared to dive across the goal line to give Valdosta the lead.

But there was a flag against Clarke Central for encroachment. Under current high school rules, when a lineman, on offense or defense, crosses into the neutral zone before the snap, it's an automatic penalty and a dead-ball foul.

So Valdosta had no choice, the score was nullified and the Wildcats had to take two more plays to get the winning touchdown on a 1/2-inch run over left tackle by Anderson.

Central, by the way, was penalized half the distance to the goal on the call.

"I asked the official whether he penalized them 1/2-inch or 1/4-inch," Hyder said after the game. "He told me, 'Well, we penalized them about 3/4 inch.'"

• Senior quarterback Holtzclaw and brother Todd, a junior offensive lineman, are second-generation Valdosta national champions — their father, Billy, was a player on the Wildcats' 1962 national championship team, the first of three for former coach Wright Bazemore.

— Lawrence Dennis

Anderson Brightest Valdosta Star

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

Fla. Times Union 12/17/84

Saturday night at Cleveland Field, there were all kinds of college prospects bounding about, and stars lined up on both sides of the field in Valdosta High's 21-14 victory over Clarke Central for the Class AAAA State championship title before 12,500 fans.

There were enough college scouts and coaches around to start a mini-convention, and they were all out to see about 16 prospects on the field.

But, the star whose light shined brightest of all is a player the coaches will have to wait around for another year to drool over ... Tony Anderson please stand up and take a bow.

Just when it looked like Clarke Central had taken control of the contest, here comes Mr. Anderson to turn the 'Cats' fortunes from despair to hope, to victory. He keyed a crunching Valdosta rushing attack, picking up some bruising inside yards, also running back punts for good measure.

In fact, Anderson's punt return with just over eight minutes left in the final period set up the 'Cats' game-winning touchdown. Three plays later, Anderson dove in from one yard out for his third score of the game to give Valdosta its 18th state title since 1940.

"The punt was short and low, which gave me just enough time to get to the wall we had set up," Anderson said. "When I got to the wall, there were no Clarke players around and all I had to do was run as fast as I could."

"I just wanted to make something happen, and I'm just glad that I was able to come through when I got the chance," Anderson added. "This was what we had been playing for all season long, and we came through when we really needed it to pull out the win."

Anderson finished the game with 63 yards on 18 carries, after carrying the ball just five times for 10 yards in the first half. Anderson scored all three touchdowns for the 'Cats, pushing his season total to 23, including the five post-season games.

"We came out with a lot of emotion at the start of the game and jumped on them real quick by scoring on our first drive," Anderson said. "But we couldn't keep it up and we had to regroup in the second half."

"We were determined to win this one any way that we could, and just kept fighting until we made something happen," Anderson added. "You can't take anything away from Clarke though, because they made us earn everything that we got."

It was the second state championship for the 'Cats in three years, and during that time their record is 41-1. Since Anderson has been on the varsity, he's been on the losing side of the ball just once.

With seven offensive starters returning from this year's national championship team, plus a host of letter winners, even brighter days may loom ahead for Anderson in his final season.

But, first things first. The 'Cats' 21-14 win over Clarke



Times Staff Photo

Junior RB Carried For Three TDs

Central gave them their fourth mythical national championship, and first since the legendary Wright Bazemore retired.

"This championship means a lot more to me than the first one in my freshman year (1982), because I played a more significant part in it," Anderson said. "This is a great feeling, and I'm so very happy for the guys in the senior class because they really showed us the way."

Of course they did, with a little help along the way from the junior running back called T. A.

Fla

Winnersville, USA



Valdosta's title highlights Hyder's reign

By Lawrence Dennis
Sports writer
Fla. Times Union
12/17/84

VALDOSTA, Ga. — It was an end of an era Saturday night when Valdosta High beat Athens Clarke Central 21-14 for the Georgia Class AAAA championship, or the beginning of one, depending on how you look at it.

It was the 19th state title since 1940 for the school that has become legendary because of the prowess of its football teams.

But it was more than that. It was the brass ring, a national title, for the Wildcats.

The significance of that title, awarded this year by national newspaper USA Today? Simple. It was the first for the school since 1971, when the championship was won by the last team coached by legendary coach Wright Bazemore, the football wizard who won three national crowns and 14 state championships and amassed a 290-43-6 record in a 26-year career.

"It took a game like this to put history in its proper place," explained David Waller, a Valdosta school board member and the treasurer of the Wildcats' 1,200-strong booster club. "That was the most important thing about this game. It took a game like this to really put the Hyder era in perspective."

The Hyder era? The fact that people are even thinking that way in this football-mad city of some 40,000 is noteworthy. Present coach Nick Hyder, since coming to Valdosta in 1974, has a record of 119-21-1. The Wildcats have been to the state playoffs every year Hyder has coached, except for the first season, when Valdosta slumped to a very uncharacteristic 3-7 record. The win over Clarke Central Saturday night gave the Wildcats their third state title in the last six years, their second in three years. Valdosta is now 44-1 over that three-year period, and Hyder teams are 51-2-1 since 1980.

But despite those sterling statistics, things were incomplete, until Saturday night.

Valdosta's program is indelibly stamped with the imprint of the Bazemore era — 1945-71. Bazemore served as the school's athletic director until 1978, remains close to the program in retirement and was in the stands Saturday night. And everything the Wildcats have done since he was coach has always been compared to the "Bazemore standard."

The "ghost" has not been laid to rest, and it probably never will be, those close to the Valdosta program say. They say Bazemore's record will never be surpassed, and probably will never be equaled, and that everyone, including Hyder, realizes that.

"Coach Bazemore's tenure, his genius and his championships will never be matched," Hyder said after his Wildcats won the title Saturday night. "Baze" is the greatest high school coach in the history of the game."

"Coach Bazemore's record speaks for itself," Waller, who was a member of the committee that lured Hyder away from West Rome High 11 years ago, said. "But we've put ourselves in a new era now."

To begin with, though Valdosta dominated high school football in Georgia the way no team ever has during 1960-1971 (winning eight state titles), Waller said that many people forget that there were a few — very few — lean years.

"People don't remember the bad years, and that's as it should be," he said. "But Nick's worst year [the 3-7 '74 season] wasn't as bad as coach Bazemore's worst year [a 2-7-1 in 1963, the only sub-.500 season of Bazemore's career]."

"The nostalgia plays a part in it, and it should," Waller continued. "But it's a part of history, now, and we are so proud that we have a man like Nick Hyder carrying on the tradition."

The national title, Waller feels, is the surest indication that the torch has been passed on.



Valdosta High coach Nick Hyder (far left) allowed himself a smile as the Wildcats finished off Athens Clarke Central 21-14 Saturday night in Valdosta, Ga., for the state AAAA championship.

~~Times~~ 12/17/84
Florida Times Union



Unidentified Valdosta High School cheerleaders hug each other after the Wildcats won the Georgia AAAA state title. The 'Cats, ranked No. 1 by USA Today, also won the national title.

VDIT. Sun. Dec. 16, 1984

Community Spirit

Edge For Wildcats

Riding North on Ashley Street on Saturday, there was a neon sign flashing brightly in the early evening, and it was directed primarily at a group of visitors from the north Georgia town of Athens.

It read "Welcome To Death Valley, Clarke Central Gladiators, Until 8:01." The welcome was certainly there, but the veiled threat of doom hung strongly in the misty December night. No. 1. It has a beautiful ring to it, doesn't it?

Football fans in Winnersville USA expect nothing less and they'll tolerate nothing less. But they've found cause to rejoice this weekend, with Valdosta High's 21-14 win over Clarke Central for the Georgia AAAA high school championship.

The Saturday night contest was witnessed by a more-than-capacity crowd at Cleveland Field, which goes by the appellation Death Valley — the place that swallows victims who VHS fans call outsiders. The No. 4-ranked Gladiators may have been invited to spend a short time in the gloaming of Valdosta, but the welcome was anything but heartwarming for Central fans.

The 'Cats have been ranked No. 1 in Georgia by The Associated Press poll throughout the 1984 season, and they were moved atop USA Today's Super 25 national rankings late in the season.

Few high school football fans are more rabid than those living here, where the Valdosta Touchdown Club claims approximately 1,200 members. People who attend the weekly meetings during the season might be treated to anything from watching game films to discussing the 'Cats' storied past, according to president Jon Burch.

"This one was started in 1945, and has grown through the years," he said. "And the members come from all over. Last year we had a lady visit her daughter (in Valdosta), and she lives in London, England."

"We have one fan who was at Moody (Air Force Base), who lives in Virginia. He's been one of our biggest backers for 15 or 20 years. But the large concentration (of members) is here in Valdosta."

The group's primary functions are taking care of housing and feeding the Valdosta team at camp, holding a midseason cookout and holding the major banquet after the season ends.

But the beginning of the season might be traced to March, when the touchdown club provides a supper for the team during spring practice. This feed comes on the night of the has-been-will-be game. This gridiron encounter has the seniors battling the younger players, and it's scheduled midway through the spring workouts. However, the touchdown club had a very narrow view of its function going into Saturday's game, according to Burch.

"Our main project right now is to win (state)," he said. "We've been contacting people about marquee signs around town welcoming Clarke Central. And we had some Paw Power signs printed up to hand out to some people at the game."

The club rarely holds meetings during the offseason, unless you count banquets and special sessions as convocations. But the Wildcat spirit lasts year-round in Winnersville USA, according to Burch.

"It's quite interesting to go to out-of-town games where the interest is greater for the out-of-town team than for the home team," he said. "And coach (Nick) Hyder certainly gives us a lot of credit (for helping the team) every chance he gets. We try to do as much as we can for the team when they need something."

SPIRITUAL 'CATS — One facet of the Wildcat program that hasn't been overly publicized over the years is the spiritual aspect of the team, which could be the single most important, according to Hyder.

"Reverend Jim Pitts of the First Baptist Church of Valdosta, or one of his staff, conducts a devotion before each game which is always very timely and appropriate," he said. "They're held at Cleveland Field at 7 p.m. when we play at home, and in the VHS Little Theatre before leaving on road trips. The topics always relate to Christian values, and moral and ethical standards."

Pitts' assistants, also all reverends at First Baptist, are education director Mike Weaver, music director Robin Rousch and youth and activities director Roy Dobyns.

But when looking to win football games consistently in a bruising sport that injures many people, it might be hard for some to draw parallels between the gridiron and God, but not for Hyder.

"Our No. 1 objective is to teach Christian character, which is consistent with their priorities," he said. "We place God first, family second, academics third and the Wildcats fourth. We've worked real hard to keep those priorities in the proper order."

AND EVEN MORE 'CATS — All the coaches over at VHS, and on the junior high level, certainly deserve singling out for outstanding jobs in developing the talent that's made Valdosta No. 1 in the nation. But Hyder would surely want two staff members to be pushed to the forefront as the season ends.

Jose Campa has been team doctor to the 'Cats for 12 seasons, and Jim Burroughs has been their trainer for more than seven years. And Hyder notes these two Wildcats could be among the most important he relies on for support.

"At all points, we've got to be concerned with the physical aspects of the players," he said. "You've got to realize those are human being out there, and not machines."

And there certainly won't be a true loser emerging from the weekend contest. These teams are so into football that a loss just gives them a bigger reason to come back stronger the next season.

So the boys riding the bus back to Athens will have a long trip to think about next year, while America's No. 1 team rejoices in victory. Long live the ruling 'Cats — until next year.



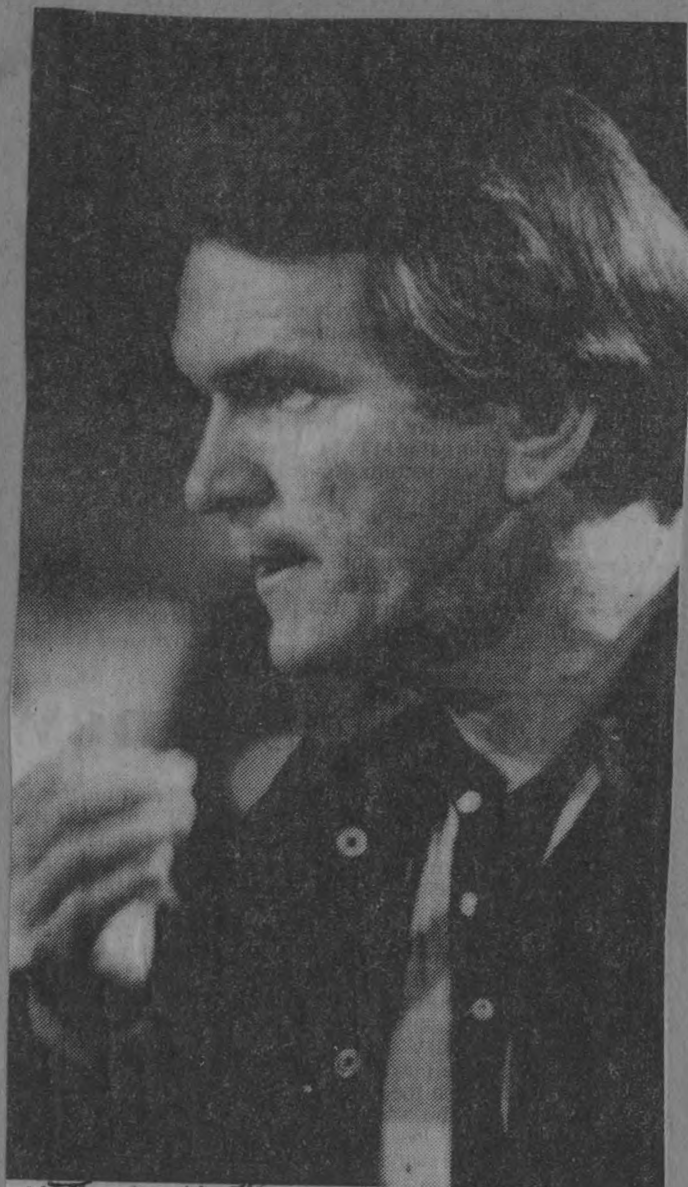
12-16-84 VDT.
POST-GAME HANDSHAKE — Clarke Central Coach Billy Henderson and Valdosta Touchdown Club President Jon Burch shake hands after the Wildcats clinched the state championship.



VDT. 12-16-84
CONGRATULATORY PAT — Wildcat Jeff Davis gets congratulations after the 'Cats fought back from a 14-7 deficit in the third quarter to defeat Clarke Central 21-14.



VDT. 12-16-84
RUDOLPH VS. REFEREE — Defensive Coordinator Jack Rudolph looks at the referee as wide receiver Randy Bell looks on.



VDT. 12-16-84 Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris
TENSE MOMENT FOR HYDER — Wildcat Head Coach Nick Hyder caught in one of many tense moments of the title game.



VDT. 12-16-84 Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris
CRUSHING THE INTERCEPTION — Valdosta Wide Receiver Mack McGuyrt pulls down Clarke Central Defensive Back Amp Foster after Foster intercepted a Valdosta pass in the second quarter



VDT. 12-16-84
ANDERSON IN FLIGHT — Wildcat running back Tony Anderson dodges a Clarke Central Defender enroute to picking up yardage for VHS in its 21-14 conquest for the state crown.



VD. 12-16-84 Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris
HOLTZCLAW ON THE MOVE — Valdosta Quarterback Berke Holtzclaw pushes his way past Clarke Central Defensive End Reginald Parrott in first quarter action.

Anderson Man Of The Game

Hauling In Winning Reception

VDT, 12-16-84

By ELLIS POPE
Special to the Times

Game-breaker Tony Anderson did it one more time Saturday night and it was, by far, the biggest play-buster of the season. The state championship was waiting in the endzone.

With Valdosta and Clarke-Central locked jaw-to-jaw, 14-14, and 8:11 left to play, Anderson hauled in a punt at the Gladiator 40-yard line, weaved his way to the right side line and unleashed his bruising speed through the Clarke-Central defense to the Gladiator three-yard line. With the ball sitting just three yards away from the go-ahead touchdown, the Valdosta stands erupted with enough enthusiasm to wake the dead, or in the case of Valdosta, a ghost or two.

"It was a short punt and I knew I would have a chance to run it back," Anderson said. "When I cut to my right, I saw it open up and I just turned it on. I thought I was going to be able to run it in the endzone, but I didn't see the punter coming over until it was too late. He got me at the there, but I knew we were going to score then."

Valdosta did score, although it took several plays to maneuver the three yards. Anderson got the call from the one on third down and dove over for the go-ahead TD.

Anderson got the chance to be a game-breaker when this Wildcat defense kept the Gladiators backed up near their own endzone and forced a punt from the Clarke-Central four-hard line. Clarke Central was trying to overcome a holding penalty by attempting a pass from their 16 when they found themselves in even worse shape. Wildcat defensive tackle Jimmy Lewis chased Gladiator quarterback Chris Morocco out of the pocket and drove him out of bounds for an eight-yard loss. But Morocco compounded the situation by attempting to pass before Lewis nailed him. The problem was Morocco having no receiver in sight and being flagged for intentional grounding. The ball was moved back to the three-yard line setting the stage for Anderson's punt return.

"We were in a defense where I was supposed to read and react," Lewis said. "I saw the quarterback roll out a little so I just went with him. We came out ready

to play the second half."

After Valdosta's initial scoring thrust in the first quarter, the Wildcats had done little the remainder of the first half that would lend themselves to being called national champs. Clarke-Central had driven the ball for the tying score in the second quarter and had marched 78-yards to take a 14-7 lead in the third period with 3:51 left.

"I think the thing that scares me the most about Clarke-Central," said Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph before the game, "is their ability to drive the ball on us with sustained drives and keep the ball away from us. We don't know who can out-muscle who. You can't tell that by looking at a film."

After Clarke-Central had taken the lead following the 78-yard drive that Rudolph had feared, the Wildcat offense decided it was time to show the muscle that had put them in the state title game with a 14-0 record. The Wildcats, behind the running of Anderson and Willie Lewis, and the passing of Berke Holtzelaw, put together a nifty 80-yard drive for a touchdown following the Gladiator's score that took the steam out of Clarke-Central.



VDT 12-16-84 VHS Running Back Tony Anderson Rolled Into End Zone

Special To The Times By Deron Coppage

VD. 12

Gladiators Not Tough

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

There's an old cliché that says, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going."

The going got plenty tough for the Valdosta Wildcats here Saturday night at Cleveland Field, and they had to overcome a 14-7 third-quarter deficit to pull out a 21-14 win over Clarke Central in a classic championship matchup to claim the class AAAA state title before 12,500 fans.

Tony Anderson scored all three of Valdosta's touchdowns to lead the Wildcats to their 18th state title since 1940, and fourth national championship since 1962.

"This was a great win for our team and it culminates everything that we've worked on since our loss to Tifton last year," Hyder said. "We are very proud of these youngsters and they worked very hard for this championship."

Clarke Central seemed to have things well in hand about midway in the third quarter when Doug Davenport dove in from two yards to give the Gladiators the lead for the first time in the game. Chip McGinley added the conversion attempt to give Clarke a 14-7 advantage with 3:51 left in the third quarter.

But, that's when the 'Cats went to work and showed what they're worth, putting together a classic 18-play, 80-yard drive, which started in the third period and finished in the fourth period.

The drive consumed almost eight minutes off the clock and featured several big passing plays from senior quarterback Berke Holtzclaw. Anderson got the honors on a two-yard dive with 9:57 left to play.

On a fourth down and four play at the Gladiators' 24, Holtzclaw connected with Hosea Heard for seven yards and a first down at the 17.

Three plays later, Holtzclaw did it again on a third down and seven on the 13, when he hit Willie Lewis for 11 yards a first down in the 1. Anderson got the honors three plays later with 9:57 left in the game. John Porter came on to add the conversion and tie the game at 14-14.

That's when old momentum decided to switch sides.

Clarke Central took over at its own 20 following the kickoff on what both head coaches called the most crucial series of the game. David Perno picked up 10 yards on first down, but from that point on the Gladiators moved steadily backward.

On first down at the 30, Clarke was charged with a holding penalty, moving the ball back to the 15. On the very next play, quarterback Chris Morocco was charged for intentional grounding and the ball was moved back to the three following the penalty.

Clarke Central picked up only one yard in two plays and was forced to punt. Punter Brack Rowe got off a low, short kick and Anderson raced the punt back 37 yards to the Gladiators three-yard line.

It took the 'Cats three plays to push it in for the score, with Anderson getting the honors once again on a one-yard dive with 6:22 left in the contest. Porter added the final points of the game with his conversion to give Valdosta the final 21-14 verdict.

"I can't explain exactly what happened to us in the final quarter," said Clarke Central head coach Billy Henderson. "Penalties proved to be the biggest difference in the game and we made them at the wrong time."

"You have to give Valdosta credit for hanging in there and taking advantage of

nation in pulling out the win.

"We made some clutch plays and that showed a lot of character after falling behind in the second half," Hyder added. "Our priorities held firm and true and we stayed on course with what we wanted to do. This was a maximum team effort from everybody involved."

Valdosta got on the scoreboard first on its initial drive of the game by driving 44 yards in five plays. Anderson smashed in for the touchdown from 1-yard out with 8:43 left in the first period. Porter added the conversion and Valdosta led 7-0.

Clarke Central came back to knot the count in the second period by moving 67 yards in eight plays. Morocco capped the drive on a 1-yard sneak and John Kasay added the point after to tie the game at 7-7 with 6:07 left in the first half.

Clarke Central had one other scoring opportunity slip away in the first half when Morocco threw a bad pitch to Davenport on a third down and eight play from the Valdosta 19 and James Wakefield recovered for the 'Cats.

"They hit some big passes on us in the

"This was a great win for our team and it culminates everything that we've worked on since our loss to Tifton last year. We are very proud of these youngsters and they worked very hard for this championship... Our spiritual fitness and three other dimensions were very much in evidence tonight... We just hung in there and the kids showed great determination in pulling out the win." — Valdosta Head Coach Nick Hyder.

the opportunities when they got the chance," Henderson added. "They have a fine football team and deserved to win the game tonight."

Clarke Central came back with one last drive, but tailback Richard Jewell was thrown for a one-yard loss by Valdosta defensive end Seaborn Williams at the 'Cat 45 with 3:28 left in the game.

Valdosta's offense controlled the ball for the rest of the game and ran out the clock to claim its second state title in three years.

"Our spiritual fitness and three other dimensions were very much in evidence tonight," Hyder said. "We just hung in there and the kids showed great determi-

first half and it kind of surprised us," said Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. "We made some big plays like we have all season long and that showed great determination by our kids."

"They did a good job of executing, but we started putting good pressure on the quarterback and it helped our secondary," Rudolph added. "It was a total team effort because our offense really turned it (the game) around for us in the second half and helped the defense to get its second win."

With the win, the 'Cats improved their seasonal slate to a perfect 15-0 and it ties them with the 1982 team for the best record in the history of the school's rich football tradition.

Enough For No. 1 'Cats

VD. 12-16-84

"We are very proud of this team and they've had an outstanding season," Hyder said. "This is the way a state championship game ought to be played and we beat a very good football team tonight."

"I thought both teams gave the maximum effort and we just made a few more big plays," Hyder said. "The teams were very evenly matched and we just made the most of our breaks, which is the mark of a good team."

"We got a supreme effort from the guys and we feel like everybody that is associated with our program has a part in this championship win," he added. "These guys have done everything that we've asked of them all year long and our senior leadership really came through for us. The youngsters just not stopped believing that they could pull this one

out."

For the senior class, who finished with a 52-3 mark and second state championship, it culminates a remarkable career. It was the 'Cats first national championship since 1971.

STATISTICS

	CLA	VAL
First Downs	14	10
Yards Rushing	138	171
Yards Passing	150	65
Passes	16-9-0	10-5-1
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	2-0
Punting	4-35.5	4-30.2
Penalties	5-38	6-50

Score By Quarters

Clarke	0	7	7	0-14
Valdosta	7	0	0	14-21

SCORING

Valdosta — Anderson 1 run (Porter kick), 8:43 1st

Clarke — Morocco 1 run (Kasay kick), 6:07 2nd

Clarke — Davenport 1 run (Kasay kick), 3:51 3rd

Valdosta — Anderson 2 run (Porter kick), 9:57 4th

Valdosta — Anderson 1 run (Porter kick), 6:22 4th

INDIVIDUAL STATS

RUSHING: Valdosta — Anderson 18-63, Holtzclaw 15-23, Lewis 15-85, Heard 1-13, Leonard 2-5, Clarke — Morocco 10-20, Sewell 4-14, Perno 4-15, Davenport 18-69.

PASSING: Valdosta — Holtzclaw 10-5-1, 65. Clarke — Morocco 16-9-0, 129. Green 2-1-0-21.

RECEIVING: Valdosta — Heard 2-18, Leonard 1-16, Steward 1-7, Lewis 1-11, Clarke — Dunn 1-8, Dooley 6-92, Stewart 1-24, Broen 1-29, Green 1-11.



Clarke's Defense Rarely Caught VHS QB Berke Holtzclaw

Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris

Recruiters Found Death Valley Temporary Home Saturday Night

VDT. 12-10-84

By CAS SHEARIN
Times Staff Writer

It's probably no surprise that Cleveland Field was crawling with college recruiters Saturday night. Anytime there's a showdown between the top two high school teams in a state, there's bound to be some guys around looking for new talent.

More than a dozen recruiters were seen last night, but naturally, none were talking about just who they were

eyeballing.

NCAA rules, you understand.

Georgia's Recruiting Director and Offensive Assistant Ray Goff said he was looking at "four or five guys but I can't mention their names. There's a lot more guys out there, though, that are juniors and sophomores, underclassmen."

He said while Georgia plans to sign players in most every position this year "Our biggest need this year is linemen. And of course, there's no doubt we need to

sign a quarterback." Georgia likes to sign as many positions as it can because it keeps players working to play, Goff said.

"It keeps them trying," he said.

This is prime recruiting time. Colleges weren't able to talk to any possible recruits until December 1 and the last day to sign is February 13, so Saturday night's game gave colleges a chance to do some talking, Goff said.

"John Porter (VHS all-American linebacker), for example. Nobody's been able to talk to him until after the game

tonight," he said.

Mississippi State Head Coach Emory Bellard was also at Death Valley Saturday night looking for prospects.

"We were looking at about four on VHS and at three or four fellows on Clarke Central," he said. Mississippi State wasn't looking to talk to the players last night, though. "We'll be taking out visits at an appropriate time."

Like Goff, Bellard naturally wouldn't say who he was viewing during the game,

or at any other game.

"We'll be recruiting people we think are good football players. We try to get as many as we can to give the kind of depth we need and also to have consistency," he said. Mississippi State is looking at high school ball players all over the Southeast to fill the 20 to 21 spaces it has open this year, Bellard said.

Both Bellard and Goff commented on the game itself, as well as the players. "There's a lot of good players on the field

tonight. There are two good teams here. It's truly a classic game so far," Goff said at half-time, when the score was tied, 7-7.

After the game, Bellard said "It was a real fine game. It was well-coached and they played competitively.

"Both are good teams and both played well. Except for that 15 yard penalty (against Clarke Central for holding) it was an even game. I would say it was an even game, even with the penalty."

Student Holidays: Dentist To Concerts

Area Student Holiday Plans Vary, But They're Mostly Traditional

By SYLVIA COOPER
Times Staff Writer

Area students' plans for the holidays range from a Michael Jackson concert in New York City to a trip to the dentist, but most activities fall into the traditional categories such as visiting grandparents and working.

Jeanette Dickens of the Georgia Department of Labor said many area students were placed in retail sales jobs during the holidays.

"We've had a good many part-time and temporary jobs listed, and we've been able to fill all of those with women and students. Most employers state they want to talk to VSC students, and that's who we refer," she said.

Ms. Dickens said the jobs became available

around Thanksgiving and will continue through first-of-the-year sales.

Valdosta High students have a variety of plans, but VHS guidance counselor or Virginia Wisenbaker reports, "Most just had a sigh of relief they were going to be able to sleep late, eat and take it easy for a week."

Quite a few VHS students will be going on skiing trips. Kelli Kennedy plans to go with her family on a skiing trip to New Hampshire. Susan Hill will be working during the holidays, but on the 26-29 of Dec. she will go with the Westminister Presbyterian youth group to North Carolina on a skiing and hiking trip.

Diane Reed is also working but will take time off after Christmas to go to North Carolina skiing.

One unfortunate VHS

student had planned a Bahamian cruise with her brother, but he got a better offer. A friend invited him to go skiing in Canada, so the cruise was cancelled, but at least she doesn't have to face what another VHS student does immediately after the new year.

Chris Hendry will have four teeth pulled Jan. 3, but before that he plans to do "a little dove and deer hunting." Hendry said he doesn't expect his Jan. appointment to put a damper on the holiday season though. "It's not going to hurt too bad," he said.

One VHS senior plans to spend the holidays visiting two colleges at which she has been accepted. Elaine Graves plans to visit Oglethorpe College in Atlanta and Shorter College in Rome, Ga.

At least two VHS stu-

dents will be attending concerts. Terrance Thomas, Jr., plans to attend a Michael Jackson concert in New York. Selena McCray is going to a Prince concert in Atlanta.

Susan Loutitt, a senior at VHS, will be on the staff of Winter Light, an episcopal conference near Hendersonville, N.C.

Three VHS Wildcat football players will be headed in different directions during the holidays. Offensive lineman and tackle Todd Holtzclaw will go to Alabama deer hunting with his father. Split end and wide receiver Kevin Rollins who recently moved to Valdosta from Atlanta will return to Atlanta to visit friends. Defensive cornerback Greg Johnson who moved to Valdosta from Oregon will meet his cousins from Idaho at Disneyland.

The last day of classes for Valdosta students will be Dec. 21. Classes will resume Jan. 7.

Lowndes High students will likewise be visiting, working, traveling and according to guidance counselor Judy Quiniff having a traditional holiday season.

"Many are doing the usual things with family and friends. A lot of the boys are planning on going hunting. A lot of the students are working. Some are going out of town on special trips."

Two Lowndes students will be traveling to Innsbruck, Austria, for a skiing and sightseeing trip. Paula and Brent Moyer will go with their parents for the 10 day-trip during which they will visit Vienna and attend a Vienna Choir Boys' concert.

Some Lowndes students will be going to the islands of St. Thomas and Puerto Rico. Others will be going to Disney World and Epcott. Some will be traveling to less exotic places both south and north.

Quite a few will be involved in basketball and wrestling tournaments at Lowndes High during the holidays.

"One thing I thought was rather interesting was one student is having family come from Korea and Christmas appearances."

Germany," she said. Celebrity Homer Formby of Formby's Furniture Refinishing products will visit in one student's home. Formby is the student's relative. Mrs. Quiniff said.

Kristie Hendly, reigning Georgia T.E.N. and first runnerup in the national contest in Albuquerque, N.M., will be resting up following a series of pre-Christmas appearances.

Tift County Calls In Bombing Raid On Valdosta 'Cats

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats were bombed by the Tift County Blue Devils yesterday afternoon, but the survivors could still bounce back to win the state AAAA high school football title. That's right, the skies were clear and the weather was beautiful as the small plane banked in over the water tower near Valdosta High's practice field.

The teams meet tonight at 8 on Cleveland Field in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs, but the big story was the action behind VHS yesterday. All the coaches and players were gathered on the field as the plane dumped several hundred leaflets, and head coach Nick Hyder had never seen anything like it.

"I believe it was a single-engine plane, and I think it was orange," he said. "It came flying over about 4 o'clock, and one batch hit right on top of us — right at the 50-yard line."

"It couldn't have been more than 150 feet up in the air. It came in right over the water tower out there, and that can't be more than 100 feet. I thought that was illegal (to fly so low)."

It might well be against the law, but rules established by authority weren't foremost in the minds of Tift's players last seasons when they beat Valdosta 17-13 for the Region 1-AAAA championship. And yesterday wasn't the first time Valdostans had read the message "Turn Out The Lights, The Parties Over, Go Blue Devils."

"That's pretty much what they told us last year," Hyder said. "But it's hard to say who did it."

"It might have been our people trying to fire us up, but evidently somebody remembered (the slogan from last season). It must have taken us eight minutes to pick 'em up. We had to stop practice and everything."

Valdosta has run its overall record to 10-0, including 3-0 in Region 1-AAAA South sub-region action, while Tift stands at 7-3

overall, 3-1 in the North sub-region. The Blue Devils lost a sub-region matchup to Colquitt County, and also dropped decisions to Valdosta and Clarke Central of Athens.

The Blue Devils eventually went on to beat LaGrange 59-6 for the state championship, but revenge will not be a factor for the Wildcats tonight, according to Hyder.

"We don't believe in revenge, but we have a great deal of respect for our opponents," he said. "Vengeance is for the almighty, and we don't teach that."

"We're getting ready for a very versatile team, and I'd like to stress that they're the defending state quad-A champion from Tift County, Ga.," he said. "They've got some very fine football players, and their improvement stems from the insertion of Tye Cottle at quarterback."

"He's a fine athlete and an excellent passer. He connects extremely well with (split end) Darrien Teals, who leads the state in receiving."

Champions

1984 Wildcats Moving Into Realm Of Legends

By The Associated Press

Valdosta High's 1984 football team has moved into the realm of legend with other Wildcat squads, and West Rome has become only the second school to win three consecutive state championships.

The top-ranked, undefeated Wildcats added to their lore Saturday night as Tony Anderson scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns to give them a 21-14 victory over No. 4 Clarke Central in the Georgia High School Association's Class AAAA championship game.

West Rome got two TDs from Joe McCluskey within 1:25 of the third quarter, and the Chieftains held on to win the Class AA title with a 14-7 victory over No. 5 Mary Persons, tying Valdosta's record of three consecutive state titles.

In Class AAA, No. 2 Thomson made No. 1 Marist a bridesmaid for the fourth time in six years as the Bulldogs came away with a 27-17 victory.

No. 1 Greenville finished an undefeated season by beating No. 2 Lincoln County 19-7 for the Class A title.

Valdosta had been a unanimous pick as the best Class AAAA team in the state since late September. But it was Clarke Central which appeared

on the verge of the state crown Saturday night on Valdosta's home field.

The Gladiators were leading 14-7 in the fourth quarter when Anderson went to work, scoring from 2 yards out with 9:57 left in the game. John Porter's extra point tied it.

Penalties stalled Clarke's next possession, and when Brack Rowe got off a short punt, Anderson returned it 32 yards to the Gladiators' 3-yard line.

From there it took four plays, but with 6:22 left Anderson leaped into the end zone from the 1, giving the Wildcats the victory.

"This was a special ball game," said Anderson. "This is what you work for all summer long. You always work toward a state and national championship — and tonight, we got both." Valdosta is ranked No. 1 in the nation by *USA Today*.

Anderson, a junior, also scored the Wildcats' first touchdown on a 1-yard run in the first quarter.

After Anderson's third TD, Clarke Central had another opportunity, but on a fourth-and-2 at the Valdosta 45, Seaborn Williams stopped Richard Jewell for a 1-yard loss and Valdosta was able to run out the clock.

"We had a chance. I'm really proud of our boys' effort," said Clarke Central Coach Billy Henderson. "But give credit to the Valdosta offense. They did the job; they deserve it."

This year's championship is the 18th for Valdosta, and the Wildcats' second undefeated season in two years. Clarke Central finished the year at 13-2.

Earlier this year, West Rome saw its winning streak snapped at 37 games, one short of an apparent state record. But the Chieftains recovered from that loss to win their next 10 games, most by decisive margins, and head to Forsyth for the championship game against late-blooming Mary Persons.

The game also had West Rome Coach Rodney Walker facing Mary Persons' Dan Pitts, who coached Walker in high school.

After the victory, Walker said, "I knew we were going to have to earn it. It's a great feeling, the best feeling I've ever had in athletics."

Mary Persons held the explosive Chieftain offense scoreless until 6:16 remained in the third quarter, but McCluskey capped a 62-yard, 13-play drive with a 12-yard reception from quarterback David Grier.

West Rome took the lead 1:25 later, set up by Spencer Hammond's recovery of Albert Brown's fumble on the ensuing kickoff.

McCluskey again scored, this time on a 12-yard run and the Chieftains had their third straight title.

After a first half filled with fumbles and penalties, Walker said, "I told them we couldn't self-destruct. We were self-destructing in the first half. We were moving the ball and we needed to keep doing that."

Mary Persons' Pitts said: "We weren't able to get the ball back and when we did get it we weren't able to do anything."

West Rome, which finished at 14-1, began its championship string in 1982 with a 7-6 victory over Mary Persons. The Bulldogs closed the season at 11-4.

Marist has been in the Class AAA championship four of the last six years and entered Saturday's game at home ranked first and undefeated.

But just as in the other three finals, the War Eagles came away with second place.

After giving up three first-half fumbles, Marist appeared ready to stage a comeback in the second half, closing to 13-10. Mike Ingram re-

established Thomson's momentum, however, when he caught a tipped pass and eluded the secondary for a 66-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter.

"That was the one that took us out of the game," said Marist Coach Dean Hargis. "Our kid hit him (quarterback Terry Pettis) right before he released the ball, our linebacker batted the ball, and he (Ingram) still catches the thing."

"I look up, and I can't believe it. I can't ask any more from our kids than that."

Thomson also got a 31-yard scoring pass from Pettis to Jerry Mays and a 32-yard run by Pettis to take a 13-3 halftime lead.

"Marist did play the run, like we knew they would, and we had the kid open two times deep in the first half," said Thomson Coach Luther Welsh. "They just dropped back, we threw underneath... All year long we've had a big-play offense. They've come through when they've had to."

The Bulldogs ended the year at 15-0 and with their first state championship since back-to-back Class A titles in 1967 and 1968. Marist finished at 14-1.

In Class A, Willie Matthews gave Greenville its state title

as he scored twice on offense and intercepted two passes on defense. Matthews' second interception and second TD sealed the victory and the Patriots' undefeated season.

Lincoln trailed 13-7, but was marching to a potentially game-winning touchdown when Matthews stepped in front of a Steve Harmon pass, giving the

Patriots the ball at their own 40 yard line.

Seven plays later, Matthews took off on a 37-yard TD run, giving Greenville an insurmountable 19-7 lead with only 1 minute left in the game.

The victory capped Greenville's first-ever undefeated year, a goal set before the season by Coach Dwight

Hochstetler.

Lincoln Coach Larry Campbell said the Red Devils lost the game when they fell behind 13-0.

"We had never been in that situation before," he said. "When we did get behind, we got away from our game plan, and I'll take full responsibility for that."



Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris

James Wakefield (96) And Ernest Manghram Chased Down Glads All Night

Everybody Had Good Game In Friday Evening's Matchup

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

The task is difficult when it comes down to singling out who won a football game for Valdosta High, because the Wildcat coaches emphasize every phase of the game.

However, the offensive line had an especially strong outing in the Wildcats' 35-7 win over Colquitt County, which gave Valdosta the Region 1-AAAA high school football championship Friday night at Cleveland Field.

Center-guard Jon Reeves has hopes of eventually playing for Georgia Southern or with his brother Matt at Valdosta State, and the scouts better be on the lookout after last night. If the 180-pound senior's performance and leadership are any benchmark of his potential, the offers may soon be rolling in.

"They (the Packers) were tough, but we weren't about to let what happened last week (vs. Tift County) happen this week," he said. "We had our minds set that we were going to take control, and we did. Our team really played as one tonight."

Valdosta pulled out a 16-7 win over the Blue Devils last Friday, but the 'Cats trailed at halftime and had difficulty handling Tift. The Blue Devils stress weightlifting, and Valdosta discovered the Tift attack stressed power. This week the 'Cats met a team that's long on finesse, although this factor didn't diminish their talent, according to Reeves.

"It was hard, but once we found the right combination and got to know our opponents, we knew it was time," he said. "On the line, we did a good job of talking to each other all night."

"Last week we didn't perform that well, and we were making up for it this week. We were going to make sure one of our backs broke 100 yards."

And the Valdosta offense certainly did its job, helping tailback Tony Anderson gain 148 yards and two touchdowns. But the 205-pound junior certainly wasn't reaching for accolades following the pivotal matchup.

"Everything was there, we had great execution and it was a total team effort," he said. "We were running 35 and 36, which goes off the side and the left side behind the tackles and guards."

"They were opening up the holes for us, and we just ran through them. The line had a great night blocking."

The 'Cats already had a 21-0 lead by halftime, but one tarnish appeared on Anderson's sterling effort for the evening. On Valdosta's first possession of the second half, he fumbled the ball over to Colquitt on the Packer 14-yard line.

"They hit me pretty hard and the ball just came loose," he said. "I've got to work a little harder at holding onto the ball."

But Anderson still rushed into triple figures, with a performance that helped make a very good team look only fair. The bruising back hopes to eventually run for Ohio State, but he's still got another year of smelling paydirt for Valdosta.

"It's a great feeling to get in the end zone," he said. "It keeps a lot of pressure off the defense if we score."

And the Wildcats were putting numbers on the board almost the whole evening. Along with Anderson's scores, the 'Cats had a touchdown pass from quarterback Berke Holtzclaw to wide receiver Mack McGuyrt, along with touchdown runs from Holtzclaw and tight end Darrell Leonard.

Leonard's run was a magnificent tight end reverse, but it should have been his second touchdown, according to the 190-pound senior. He took a handoff from Holtzclaw in the second quarter, running nine yards but going down on the Colquitt 1-yard line. The senior signal caller went over on the following play for Valdosta's third touchdown, but Leonard also had one of his finest games.

"That first time I should have scored," he said. "But Coach (Nick) Hyder said we'd come back to it, and I made my mind up I was going to come across into the end zone."

VHS receiver coach Bob Bolton had said earlier in the week that the 'Cats needed a good game from Leonard for Valdosta to win, and the senior leader came through last night. But it wasn't like Valdosta had been hiding the tight end reverse from its opponents this year.

"The first time we played them (the Packers), I scored on that same play on about the same yard line," he said. "That tight end reverse has become a secret weapon for us."

"And the big O (offense) made up its mind it was going to jump out (on the scoreboard). I told them we were going to keep them down and not let them come back. And we played the first half the best we ever have."

Holtzclaw not only handed off a touchdown to Leonard, but scored one himself and passed to McGuyrt for another. Late in the game after the winner had been decided, he left in favor of junior quarterback Greg Talley.

"Our offense was ready to go," he said. "The line was doing a great job tonight, and we just had to put it together."

"Tony can well with (Willie Lewis), and our receivers did a great job — they hustled on every play. We were ready — we were just all together this week."

The powerful Valdosta defense also had a fine night, relinquishing just one touchdown late in the game after all the 'Cats had seen playing time. And VHS's defense is led by senior linebacker John Porter, who was around the ball all evening.

"In the defensive scheme we had for tonight, we were well-prepared by the coaching staff," he said. "All the players knew what to expect from their team. Our offense and defense played great together, but I think our big advantage was being prepared."

The 210-pounder, who also kicks off and booms field goals for Valdosta, has been considering a collegiate football career at Penn State. But Colquitt was on his mind last night, with Warner Robins waiting in the wings.

"They had a great team, but there's just something about the region championship," he said. "I don't think they were 100 percent together, like we were. I'm just real thankful to get out of this region this year."



Times Staff Photo

Mrs. Carter Speaks At Sheraton Here

Rosalyn Carter Visits Valdosta, Plugs Mondale

By CAS SHEARIN
Times Staff Writer

Former First Lady Rosalyn Carter said President Reagan's "rhetoric" concerning the status of the United States and his complete "unwillingness" to work for peace in the world only serve to show that Democratic Presidential Candidate Walter Mondale should be in the White House.

"We are negotiating no where in the world for peace. This president doesn't believe in that. I just think we live in a very dangerous world now," she said.

Mrs. Carter was in Valdosta Friday at a luncheon given by the Lowndes County Democratic Executive Committee.

"We need a president who will assume the responsibility of the problems, one who will lead us towards peace, lead us to a good life for all the people, toward fiscal responsibility and

a secure future for our children. Fritz Mondale is that man."

Mrs. Carter recalled the day she met Mondale, while he was being considered as a vice-presidential candidate by her husband. "When Fritz left the house that day, Jimmy said that Fritz had done his homework. He said, 'He's for a balanced budget and a strong defense.'"

She said those are still two of Mondale's concerns. Under the present administration, "I don't think anybody knows what's going to happen with the deficit. It scares me because it's the future of our children."

Polls which indicate Mondale is still a good bit behind Reagan should not be taken into account. "Gaps can be made up. I know on Saturday before our election, we had pulled even with Reagan," she said. Then the situation with

the hostages in Iran plummeted, and so did Carter. "Polls can go either way in a short period of time."

"I think Mondale is gradually closing the gap and we have another 10 days to go. I feel pretty confident...I believe he can be elected, but we have to work. I appeal to you. Go to the polls. Take everybody you know with you. Don't sit this out and think it's all over."

Mrs. Carter said the Reagan administration's talk of problems the country continues to have due to the Carter administration only serve to show what a fine job Carter did while he was in Washington.

"I am so secure now of Jimmy Carter's place in history. You have to be to be criticized so much. Jimmy always said you weren't doing anything if you weren't criticized."

Young, Restless Waycross Hosts Wildcats Friday

Third-Ranked Bulldogs Drop Down To Class AA

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

When talking to Waycross coach Dale Williams about his current team, he likens it to a soap opera. "The Young and the Restless."

He lost 21 seniors off last year's 8-3 team, including all-state running back and Purdue signee James Medlock.

To top it off, Williams said "opening the season against the best team in the state (Valdosta) is probably the worst nightmare you can have, and that goes for anybody."

Waycross, the state's No. 3-ranked team in Class AA, opens its season Friday night at 8 when it hosts top-ranked Valdosta.

Waycross will be competing in the Region 2-AA South sub-region this year after several successful campaigns in Class AAA. The Bulldogs return five offensive starters and six defensive starters from last year.

They suffered a setback when starting linebacker Matt Thomas, who was also expected to take over Medlock's tailback slot, was ruled ineligible to play due to grade problems.

"That was a big blow to us because we like to run the ball and he had some experience," said Williams. "Now, we don't have any running backs who have played that much. We ended up moving Victor Daniels from his wingback position, where he started for the last two years, to tailback."

Tony Smith anchors the offensive line from his tackle slot and will be joined by returnees Ted Walden, Robert Owens and David Ring.

Williams is counting on a pair of juniors — Kevin James and Clarence Harris — to handle the quarterbacking chores. The two finished the season last year when the regular starter went down with an injury.

"We need a lot of work on our passing game and I'm not too satisfied with our offense at this point in our drills," Williams said. "We felt like we had a pretty good camp, but I wish we still had another week to get ready."

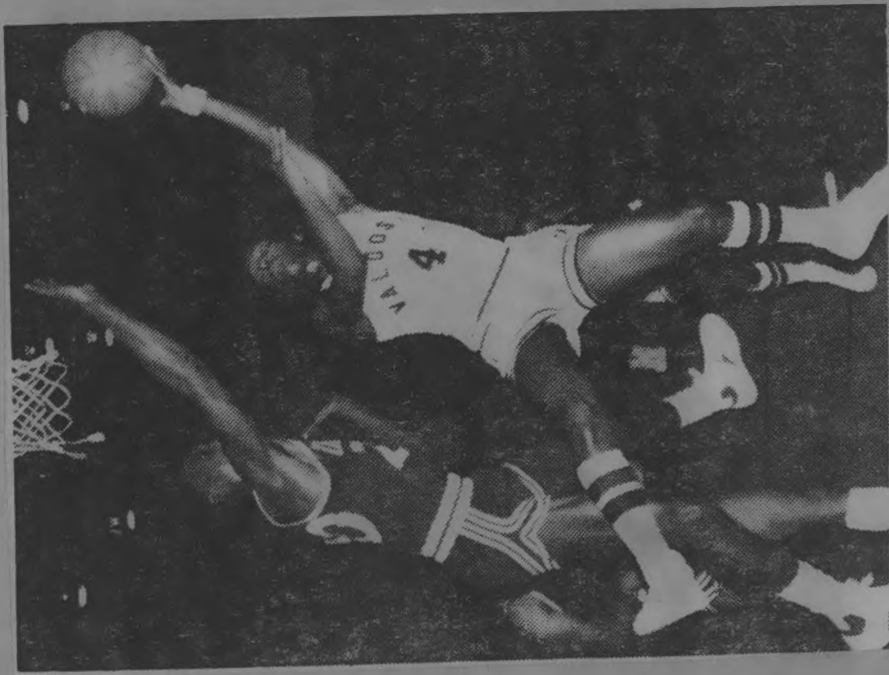
Defensively, Williams says he has a sound nucleus returning, and they will have to carry the team until the offense can gain some experience.

Herschel Wooten, the leader of the defense, is a three-year starter at defensive tackle. Dexter Taulk and Ray White also return in the defensive line, along with end James Prati, linebacker Joe Basden and safety Carson Davis.

Several newcomers are expected to provide some immediate help for the Bulldogs, like linebacker Scott Spite, end Rodney Davis, guard Kent Slack and halfbacks Ronnie Cooley and Mike Gattie.

"We have tried to do a lot of things during camp, but we have worked mainly on basics and fundamentals since we lost so many seniors," Williams said. "The kids have worked extremely hard and showed a tremendous attitude during camp."

Another major concern is the kicking game, which lost the punter from last year and all the return people. He said the Bulldogs have been working overtime on the kicking game and should be in pretty good shape come Friday.



Howard Wright Hit Key Points For Valdosta

Walker Scored 24 Points For VHS

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta boys' basketball team was a little rusty in its season opener Tuesday night at VHS, but guard Victor Walker came through with 24 points to pace the Wildcats' 56-50 win over Tift County.

The Lady Wildcats were not as fortunate, dropping a 55-44 decision to the Lady Devils after trailing by one point at halftime.

In the boys' game, Walker hit four field goals in the first period, which equaled Tift's output for the entire frame. Head coach Mike O'Brien's 'Cats jumped to a 14-8 lead as the first period finished, but were unable to retain the margin. And although the 'Cats will be working hard following Thursday's exams, their effort was a strong one, according to O'Brien.

"I was well-pleased with the kids," he said. "We had some kids who were untested, and

they stepped forward and did a good job."

"I saw a lot of mistakes I hope to correct, and if we don't correct them, we're going to be in trouble."

The third period was hotly contested, but Valdosta outscored Tift 12-8 to extend its lead to 37-32 as the third frame finished.

"At the half we were ahead 25-24," he said. "We came out in the third quarter and tried to change the tempo, and we jumped out on them."

"But they came right back in the fourth quarter. If we hadn't hit some free throws at the end — even though they (the 'Cats) did miss 10 foul shots — they were very big. We hit nine (free throws) — they scored 18 points and we hit 19 in the fourth quarter. Our main problem was we didn't hit our foul shots."

The fourth frame was the pivotal one for both teams, with Walker and center

Wallace Campbell canning two field goals apiece, while forward Kyle Lowe added one for Valdosta. Valdosta received a boost as guard Howard Wright pumped in 4-of-5 free-throw attempts, aided by guard Sylvester Kitchen (two), Campbell (two) and Walker (one). However, the 'Cats could certainly use improvement in some departments, according to O'Brien.

"We're going to have to hit the boards and work on our foul shots, and we've got to continue working on defense," he said. "That (better defense) would have helped us a lot, because we got in some difficulties we shouldn't have."

In the girls' game, if losing can provide answers, then the Lady Wildcats are learning quickly, according to head coach James Studstill.

"We did a lot of substituting and we learned a lot of things,

he said. "I know what each one of them can do under pressure now."

"I'm real proud of them for the way they came back. We were down by quite a score at halftime (29-16), but as long as the girls have heart and come back, we've got a chance down the road."

The Lady Wildcats pushed three players into double figures, with Wendy Irvin hitting 19, aided by Felecia Henderson (12) and Lisa Irvin (11). Tift's leading scorer was Tracie Carter with 24 points, while no other Lady Devils hit in double figures. And the game was vital as a teaching tool for Valdosta, according to Studstill.

"We got two or three unnecessary fouls under their (Tift's) boards, and one or two under ours, but that comes with inexperience," he said. "We had several ninth-graders out there tonight, so we had a lot of young kids."

"I know I'm going to be weak as far as a pivot player, but I played everyone I had, so at least I know what they can do."

Henderson is Valdosta's captain, and she was taken from the game several times with stomach cramps. Terry Longiere and Yolanda Chestnut did not dress out for the Lady Vikings last night, but Studstill wasn't complaining.

"There are no excuses — we just learned a lot," he said. "And we don't play another game until Nov. 30, so those girls should be well by then."

Henderson and Pam Gardner pulled down eight rebounds apiece, while Wendy and Lisa Irvin had five steals each.

Valdosta's basketball games scheduled here Friday night against Albany Westover have been moved to Jan. 12, because of the high school football playoffs. The 'Cats' next game is Nov. 27 vs. Colquitt County in Moultrie, starting with the

Valdosta Boys Win Opener, Girls Fall To Tift

girls' game at 7 p.m., followed immediately by the boys.

BOYS	
Tift Co.	8 16 8 18-50
Valdosta	14 11 12 19-56

INDIVIDUAL STATS	
SCORING — Tift: Dennis 7	
4-4 18, Bailey 2-0-4, Ingram 4	
0-0 8, Revels 2-0-4, Smith 2-0-0	
4, Spurlin 2-2-5, Johnson 3-1-6	
7; Totals 22 6-12 50. VHS:	
Kitchen 0-2-3 2, Walker 11-2-8	
24, Campbell 6-2-5 14, Brown 3	
0-0 6, Wright 1-4-5 6, James 1-0-0	
2, Lowe 1-0-0 2; Totals 23 10-22	
56.	

GIRLS	
Tift Co.	14 15 6 20-55
Valdosta	7 9 18 10-41

INDIVIDUAL STATS	
SCORING — Tift: Carter 8	
6-14 24, Simmons 3-0-0 6,	
Robinson 4-1-3 9, Bennett 2-4-6	
8, Brooks 2-0-4, Burr 2-0-0 4;	
Totals: 21 11-27 55. VHS: L.	
Irvin 3-5-8 11, W. Irvin 8-3-7 19,	
Henderson 5-2-3 12, Gardner 1	
0-0 2, Caesar 0-0-2-0, Shown 0-0-1	
0; Totals: 17 10-21 44.	

Wildcats Continue Slump, Lose 58-42

V Times 1-6-85

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High continued its slump by losing for the third time in the last four games as the Buchholz (Fla.) High Bobcats handed the Wildcats a 58-42 setback Saturday night.

After jumping out of the blocks with a 6-0 record, the Wildcats now stand at 7-3 for the season following the loss to the Bobcats.

In the girls' game, Buchholz held off a frantic fourth period rally by the Lady Wildcats to pull out a 60-58 victory.

"We came out kind of sluggish at the start of the game and dug ourselves a deep hole," said Valdosta Coach Mike O'Brien. "We couldn't hit anything at the start of the game and had to spend a lot of time just trying to catch up from that point on."

Buchholz controlled the game from the opening tip by scoring the first 13 points of the game before Valdosta finally got on the board on a 15-foot jumper by Derrick Folsom. The quarter ended with Buchholz ahead 15-4 as Valdosta was able to hit on just two-of-15 shots in the period.

Valdosta caught fire in the second period and pulled within four points of the Bobcats lead (24-20) with 3:10 left to play in the first half. Buchholz added a pair of baskets to push the lead back up to eight at 28-20, but Valdosta cut the lead in half on a pair of baskets by Wallace Campbell and Folsom.

Following a Buchholz miss shot, the Wildcats tried to hold on to the ball for the final shot in the half, but Mike Brown picked up a steal and scored on a layup with just five seconds left for a 30-24 advantage.

"We came back in the second quarter and did some of the things that we wanted to do at the start of the game," O'Brien said. "Our intensity picked up on defense and it helped to turn things around for us."

"I really felt like we had a chance to pull it out at the half. After playing so poorly in the first quarter, I was pleased to see the kids get back in the game in the second quarter and not try to do

it all at once."

But the third quarter started out just like the start of the game and Valdosta came out shooting poorly. Buchholz scored the first four points in the third period to pull out to an eight-point advantage at 32-24. But Valdosta came back with a pair of baskets by Campbell and Anthony Brown to cut the deficit back to four points.

However, Valdosta would get no closer as Buchholz scored 10 consecutive points to stretch the lead to 14 points at 42-28 with 2:43 left in the third quarter. Folsom finally broke the ice for Valdosta when he hit a 15-foot jumper with 1:28 showing on the clock.

Bill Koss, who topped all scorers in the game with 17 points, popped in a 20-foot baseline jumper for Buchholz before Valdosta's Campbell came back to hit a three-point play at the end of the quarter.

Valdosta made one final run at the Bobcats at the start of the fourth period by scoring the first four points to cut the lead down to seven at 44-37 with 7:05 left in the game. But, Buchholz outscored the Wildcats 14-3 the rest of the way to coast to the decision.

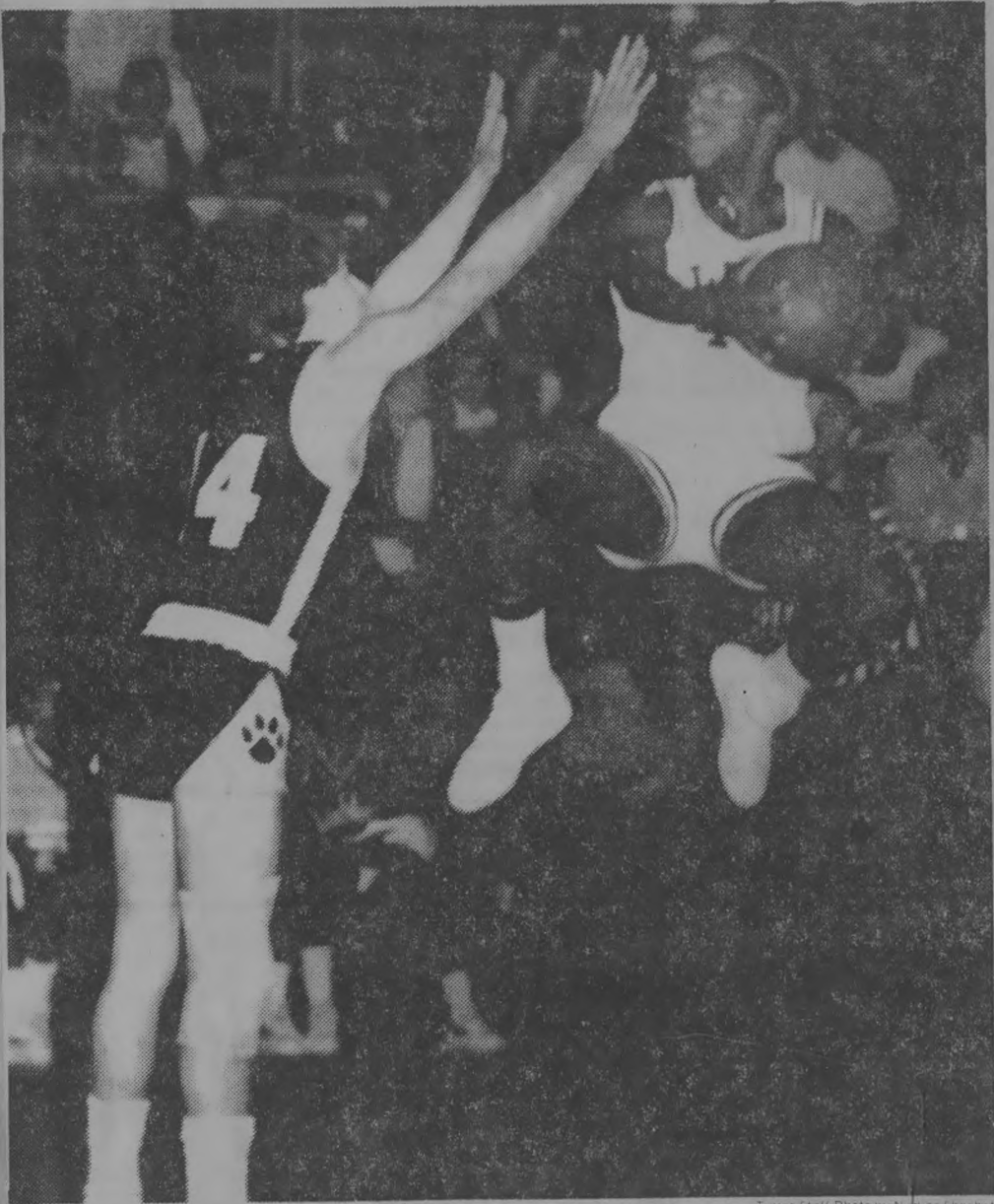
In the girls' game, Valdosta battled Buchholz to a 12-12 first period deadlock. And that was just the start. The game and stayed even throughout.

Buchholz outscored the Lady Wildcats 19-16 in the second period to move out to a 31-28 halftime advantage and stretched that lead to six points at the end of the third quarter at 46-40.

Valdosta fought back in the final period to tie the game at 58-58 with just over a minute left to play, but Pam White hit a 20-foot jumper to ice the win for the Lady Bobcats.

Felicia Henderson paced the Lady Wildcats in scoring with 21 points, while Lisa Irvin and Wendy Irvin added 16 and 14 respectively. White led the Lady Bobcats with 26 points. The loss dropped the Lady Wildcats record to 2-8 for the season.

Valdosta will swing back into action Tuesday at Lowndes High.



Valdosta's Derrick Folsom Tries The Alley-Oop

Times Staff Photo by Nadine Shochet

Boys' Game				
Buchholz	15	15	14	14-58
Valdosta	4	20	9	9-42
Buchholz (58) —	Mike Brown 3			
4-6	10, Tom Hammer 3	0-0	6,	
Steve Walker 5	1-5	11, Bill		
Koss 7	3-4	17, Craig Van Horn 3		
5-7	11, Pierre White 0	0-0	0,	
Greg Mulberry 2	0-1	5, Totals 23		
12-22		58,		
Valdosta (42) —	Wallace			
Campbell 6	4-4	16, Sylvester		
Kitchens 1	1-1	3, Victor Walker		

0-0	0, James Edwards 2	1-2	5,
Anthony Brown 3	0-0	6, Howard	
Wright 0	0-0	0 Derrick Folsom 6	
0-0	12, Lennis Williams 0	0-0	0,
Totals 18	6-7	42,	

Girls' Game				
Buchholz	12	19	15	14-60
Valdosta	12	16	12	18-58
Buchholz (60) —	Pam White			
11	4-7	26, Patty Zimmerman 4		
0-0	8, Tina Tomlin 5	5-11, Vivian		
Knappenberger 3	0-1	6, Janet		

Wevin 1	0-0	2, Angela Davidson	
1-0	1-2, Denise Cantliff 0	0-0	0,
Mary Wells 0	0-0	0, Brenda	
McLatcher 0	1-2	1, Totals 25	
10-22		60,	
Valdosta (58) —	Felicia Hen		
derson 8	5-6	21, Wendy Irvin 4	6-7
14, Cassandra Ceasar 1	0-2	2,	
Terri Longeliere 1	0-0	2, Ellen	
Shawn 0	0-0	0, Lisa Irvin 7	2-2
16, Avis Weatherspoon 1	1-2	3,	
Tangella Lowe 0	0-0	0, Rita	
Barnett 0	0-0	0, Totals 22	14-20
58,			

Winning Attitude Gains Parker Recognition

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

V Times 1-6-85

Valdosta has been known as "Winnersville" for many years. Maybe there is something in the water here that stimulates athletic competition or personal pride, but it seems that many youngsters absorb this winning attitude and carry it throughout their lives.

Such a winner is David Parker. You remember David. He was the Wildcat's quarterback until his graduation in 1982.

Those of you who tend to stereotype all athletes as empty-headed and vain had better not stop reading here. David Parker is neither an average athlete nor a below average student.

As a student, David was the valedictorian of his class, and he received the prestigious Scholar Athlete Award of Georgia, given each year to a student who excels both in and out of the classroom.

Parker is now a junior at Princeton University, where he is doing quite well as a football player and as a student.

Majoring in Biology, the 155-pound Parker has a 3.7 grade point average. He has considered entering medical school, and has already taken all pre-med requirements.

As Princeton's quarterback, David was selected to the All-League Team of the Eastern Lightweight Football League. The 50-year old league includes Princeton, Harvard, Cornell, Rutgers, Navy, and Penn.

The ELFL has an imposed weight limit of 158 pounds. These lightweight teams are not a part of the regular varsity football teams, but they are considered a varsity sport.

Although the Tiger team had a disappointing season at 3-4, Parker was happy with the team's play, as well as his own.

The Tigers started off 0-3, but Parker contributed the slow start to the unfamiliar option offense.

"We ran the option the first three games, and I wasn't familiar with it," said Parker.

The Tigers then changed to a split-back offense, an alignment that Parker had played with before. The Tigers won three of their last four games.

Parker was pleased with his passing ability.

"I averaged 165 yards a game, and that includes the first three games when we ran the option," said Parker.

Parker attributed his success both on and off the field to his "extreme ability to concentrate on what I am doing."

"I don't consider myself an emotional player," Parker said.

Parker was also complimentary of the training he received as a Valdosta Wildcat. Parker said that Valdosta's "unparalleled discipline" had been a major reason for his success.

Parker spoke well of past coaches who had helped him with his game.

"Coach (Butch) Brooks (former Valdosta assistant who is now the head coach at Washington-Wilkes High School) probably influenced my ability to concentrate on what I'm doing," Parker said.

"Coach (Mike) O'Brien (a current Valdosta assistant) taught me a lot about the intangibles of quarterbacking," said Parker.

Parker was constantly making the connection between competition on and off the football field.

"It is very competitive here. Every student was valedictorian of his class," said Parker about Princeton's competitive academic atmosphere.

"Actually, I think that football helped me in this respect too."

David Parker has achieved much at Princeton.

David Parker is truly a hero in an age where professional athletes are beset by drug problems and too many students are apathetic about the world around them.



Former Valdosta Star David Parker

Times Staff Photo

Basketball Running Full Steam

Area Boys', Girls' Teams Excite Faithful Followers

V-Times 1-6-85

January marks the rise of basketball into the limelight as football season is wrapped up and baseball is months away.

Many people begin to hibernate during this time of year, but true sport fans know that there are good times waiting at basketball courts throughout the area.

Basketball has deep roots in this part of Georgia. Last week, Lowndes played host to the 33rd Lowndes Christmas Invitational tournament, the oldest Christmas tourney in the state.

There are some excellent basketball teams in our area. Valdosta, Lowndes, Bainbridge, Central of Thomasville, and Valwood all have fine teams. Moving

slightly north are some more competitors such as Monroe, Westover, Tift, Colquitt, and Dougherty.

Lanier, Berrien and Echols also have some exciting basketball to offer, and these three teams came to town to participate in the Christmas tournament, along with Valdosta and Lowndes.

We here in Valdosta have good reason to be supportive of our basketball teams.

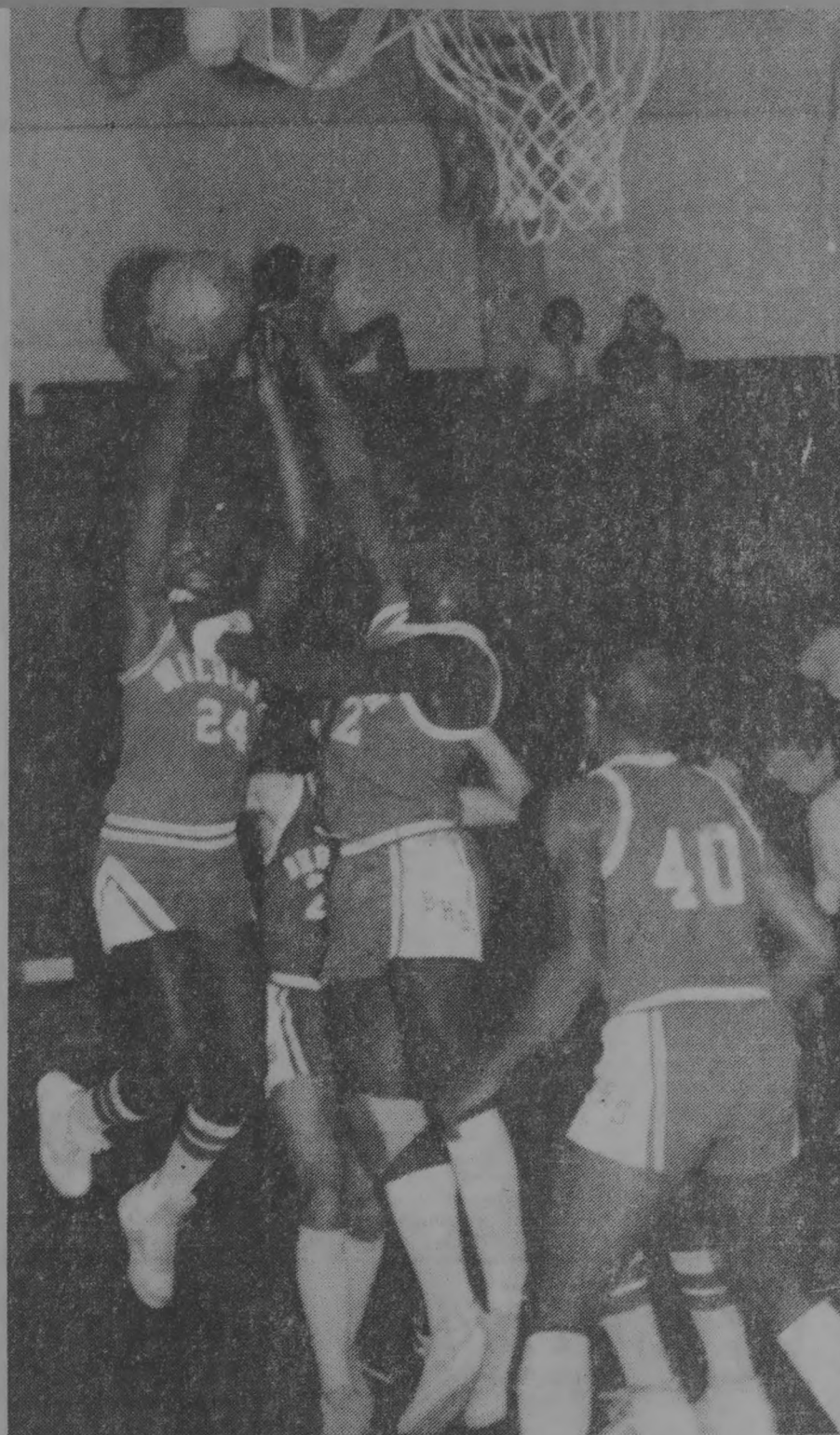
Both Lowndes and Valdosta have competitive boy's and girl's teams, and don't forget the Blazers and Lady Blazers from Valdosta State College.

Basketball is getting into gear, so get out and take in a game.

In Lowndes



A Wildcat Defender Stands In The Way Of Progress



Valdosta Wildcats Attempt A Jumper For A Bucket

Valdosta Looking To Break Slump Against Vikings

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High will be looking to break out of a slump and get back on the winning track tonight at 8:30, but it won't be an easy task going against the once-beaten Lowndes High Vikings at their own place.

Valdosta jumped off to a 6-0 start at the beginning of the season, but has stumbled in the last two weeks, losing three of four games to drop to 7-3.

Valdosta Coach Mike O'Brien cites several different reasons for the slump, but pointed out two major causes. O'Brien said inconsistent outside shooting and lack of floor leadership top the list.

"The effort is there and the kids are really trying very hard, but we just can't get anything going consistently," O'Brien said. "Everytime we seem to be ready to snap out of it, something else happens and we hit another lull period."

"We've had a problem with mental lapses all season long, but we were able to overcome them earlier in the season," he said. "However, we're not playing with much confidence right now and

need a win very badly."

Starting for the Wildcats will be top scorer and rebounder Wallace Campbell at center, Sylvester Kitchen at point guard and Victor Walker at the other guard, while James Edwards and Derrick Folsom open at the forward slots.

The last time the two teams met was in the Lowndes Christmas tournament. The Vikings fell behind by 11 points at halftime after hitting only one of its first 13 shots before pulling out a 60-51 victory.

"We caught them kind of cold in the first half the last time, but I don't expect that will be the case this time," O'Brien said. "They did a good job of coming back and we just couldn't hold on to the lead."

"They have a well-balanced team that can beat you a lot of different ways and we'll have to show more patience in offense and control the tempo of the game. Lowndes likes to run the break, but so do we. We'll just have to show better presence on the floor and know when to run and when to pull the ball back out."

One of the players who O'Brien is looking to break out of a

it's showing up in play."

In other action tonight, Lanier County travels to Cook County. Tift County will visit Colquitt, Echols County will play host to Clinch County, Pineland will visit Valwood, and Atkinson travels to Long County.

Berrien County and Brooks County are both idle tonight.

All girls' games will start at 7 p.m. with the boys' games starting at 8:30.

O'Brien added that Lowndes is not the ideal team to try and break out of a slump against, but he said a win would really help to restore his players confidence.

According to O'Brien, there will be two keys in the game for the Wildcats if they hope to win.

"We have to cut down on their second shot opportunities and we have to shoot the ball better outside to open up our inside game," he said. "They have some tremendous leapers and a pair of outstanding shooters and present a lot of different problems for the opposition."

"We haven't been doing a real good job of rebounding lately and it has killed us in all of our losses. Our season starts tonight and this is the most important game of the year for us and we

slump is Walker, the 'Cats top outside scoring threat. His outside shooting could take some of the heat off Campbell on the inside and give him some room to work with. In recent weeks teams have back off Walker, double and triple-teaming Campbell inside.

"He is fine shooter, but he's been reluctant to shoot and isn't playing with much confidence right now," O'Brien said. "This is the case with a lot of our players right now though and I don't know what it will take for us to break out of this."

Starting for the Vikings will be Paul March and Earl Gray at the guard positions, while Eric Davis will open at center. Undrae Mitchell and Chuck Cooper will open at forward.

"It's a big game for both teams and you can throw out all the records because the real season starts tonight," said Lowndes Coach Terry Wilkes. "It's important for both teams to start out on the right foot and both teams will do whatever it takes to pull out the win."

The Lady Vikings crushed the Lady Wildcats in their only previous meeting this season 98-31 and they're rolling with an 11-0 slate. Meanwhile, the Lady 'Cats are 2-8.

VHS Named To Ga. School Excellence List

By MICK HENDERSON
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School's recent selection a Georgia School of Excellence marks a first-time event for the institution.

The school is one of 30 middle, junior and high schools around the state to be honored by the state Board of Education as a School of Excellence for 1985.

The schools were selected based on their administrative leadership; teacher effectiveness; academic goals and achievements; school curriculum; discipline; and community involvement and support.

"It involved all aspects of the school's programs," said VHS principal Bill Aldrich. "There wasn't any emphasis on any particular one."

"We're delighted," he said. "I think this award is a reflection of the community's attitude toward education."

Aldrich said the School of Excellence program was initiated in 1983 as the result of a 1982 study of education in this country by a group known as the Education Council, appointed by President Reagan.

The program is "designed to identify and honor successful school programs throughout the state and to encourage excellence in all schools," according to a state Department of Education news release.

As well as garnering the state honor, VHS has been selected as one of six Georgia high schools to compete in the national School of Excellence competition, the results of which will be announced sometime this spring, Aldrich said.

Each school in the competition was first recommended by its county school superintendent and then had to complete a 20-page application outlining various programs, according to state department of education official Mike Tenoschok.

He said many of the questions in the application were "open ended" so the schools would have the opportunity to fully explain their particular programs.

The final nominations, consisting of one elementary, middle and high school from each school system, were then submitted to a panel of Tennessee educators for judging.

Tenoschok said the state has a reciprocal agreement with Tennessee involving school competitions to insure objectivity.

He said the final nominees were judged in such areas as clear academic goals; high expectations for students; order and discipline for students; and rewards and incentives for students and teachers.

Valdosta School Superintendent Ralph Brandon said the award "is a tremendous honor for the faculty and students and for the community as well."

"We're very pleased at being recognized in such a manner," he said, adding that the inclusion in the national competition is "an even more distinctive honor."

Valdosta Wrestlers Win, Lose

The Valdosta Wildcat wrestlers traveled to Wheeler High School in Atlanta Saturday to compete with the top two teams in Class AAAA, Wheeler and Berkmar. Wheeler is ranked No. 1 and Berkmar is No. 2.

Also participating were Wills and Fitzgerald.

The Wildcats defeated Wills 55-5, but lost to Wheeler and Berkmar by the scores of 50-10 and 49-3.

Ira Wence scored the only victory in Valdosta's loss to Wheeler. Wence defeated Wheeler's Scott Straiter in the 140-pound weight class.

In the win over Wills, Valdosta's Michael Schmier tied Paul Casey (107), Louis Gonis defeated Freddy Boyles (114), Chris Gray lost to Maurcia Mendez (121), Craig Clement defeated Kirk St. Clair (128), Andre Kaiser decided Chris Sparwell (134), Ira Wence pinned Joe Grimaldi (140), Ron Rowe defeated Milton Michols (147), Ashley Morrison won by forfeit (157), Tony Johns pinned Shawn Timberlake (169), Carl Johnson pinned Billy Fisher (187), and James Wakefield pinned Billy Fisher (Hvy. Weight).

In Valdosta's loss to Berkmar, Carl Johnson decided Jeff Finnegan to record the only Wildcat win.

The Wildcat wrestlers will play host to Lowndes and Coffee Co. Saturday at 1 p.m.

VHS Selected As 1985 School Of Excellence

By SYLVIA COOPER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School has been selected as a 1985 Georgia School of Excellence and will be one of the six Georgia high schools to represent the state in the national secondary school recognition program.

Valdosta High was chosen from among 155 Georgia public schools nominated to vie for the 1985 School of Excellence title.

Valdosta High School principal Bill Aldrich said Valdosta High was chosen as the high school to represent the second congressional district, and then chosen from the top state high schools to represent Georgia nationally.

The schools were selected based on their administrative leadership, teacher effectiveness, academic goals and achievements, school curriculum, discipline and community involvement and support.

Of the 30 schools chosen in the state, only 11 were selected to represent Georgia at the national level.

"Georgia was given a quota of six high schools and five middle schools," Julia Martin, coordinator of special projects with the state Department of Education said.

Applications were previously sent to all superintendents in the state, who nominated one elementary, one middle and one high school from their systems. After screening by the state education depart-

ment, the nominations were submitted to a panel of Tennessee educators for judging.

The judges selected one elementary, one middle or junior high school and one high school from each of Georgia's 10 Congressional districts to be 1985 Georgia Schools of Excellence.

The 30 schools will be honored by the Georgia Department of Education, the State Board of Education, Blue Bird Body Company and Governor Joe Frank Harris at a banquet April 10 in Atlanta.

"The Schools of Excellence program is designed to identify and honor successful public school programs throughout our state and to encourage excellence in all schools," said Charles McDaniel, state superintendent of schools.

"This is not necessarily a ranking of the top schools in our state, but a showcase of outstanding programs from various regions of Georgia."

Georgia's program is an expansion of the national Secondary Schools Recognition Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education to honor schools at the middle/junior high and high school levels.

McDaniel expanded Georgia's program to include outstanding elementary schools as well.

In 1984 five Georgia Schools of Excellence were named National Schools of Excellence.

Lowndes Downs Wildcats

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

V-Times 1-9-85

Before Lowndes and Valdosta met Tuesday night at Lowndes in the initial Region 1-AAAA South encounter, Viking Coach Terry Wilkes thought it was important that his team got off to a good start in the game.

Wilkes watched his team hit four of its first five shots and miss only two in the entire quarter. The Vikings led from start to finish and claimed a 77-67 victory over the Cats.

In the first head-to-head confrontation two weeks ago in the Lowndes Christmas tournament, the Wildcats jumped out to a quick first-half advantage when the cold-shooting Vikings opened the game by making only one of their first 13 shots.

Lowndes eventually overcame an 11-point halftime deficit to pull out a 70-61 decision.

But Tuesday, they didn't need any comebacks as four players scored in double figures and the Vikings led by as many as 19 points during the game.

The Vikings boys' win completed a four-game sweep as the girls romped past the Lady Cats 44-18 in earlier action. Lowndes also won both junior varsity games.

Lowndes made more than 70 percent of its shots from the field to set a blistering pace, and also outscored the Cats 18-7 from the free throw line by hitting 25-of-29 to only 7-of-12 for Valdosta.

"We played very well in all aspects of our game and the kids were really excited and fired up for this game," Wilkes said. "We were ready the last time we played them, but we were a little too high and it worked against us at the start of the game."

"We just wanted to come out and play a good, steady game for four quarters and play the way that we know we're capable of playing. I thought our kids played extremely well under the pressure-type of situation and it was a game that we had to have."

Lowndes jumped out to a 4-0 lead at the start of the game, but Valdosta came back to tie the game at 4-4 on a jumper by Wallace Campbell with 5:21 left in the first quarter.

The Vikings came back to score seven consecutive points to take the lead for good and led 21-12 at the end of the first quarter. Lowndes maintained that nine-point edge throughout most of the half, and led by as many as 16 points, (35-19) with 4:00 left before taking a 45-32 advantage into the dressing room.

Valdosta came out fired up in the second half and made run at the Vikings lead, getting within seven points at 51-44, but that's when Campbell picked up his third foul and had to leave the game.

The Cats still didn't fold and stayed within seven points of the Lowndes' lead (53-46) over the next three minutes. But Vikings' center Undrae Mitchell took over, scoring eight consecutive points to put them comfortably ahead 61-46 with 1:00 left in the quarter.

Valdosta made another run at Lowndes, scoring five of the final seven points in the period and trailed 63-53 at the end of the quarter.

The Cats never got any closer than 10 points the rest of the way as Campbell eventually fouled out with more than six minutes

left in the game. Lowndes stretched the lead to as much as 19 points (76-57) before settling for the final margin.

Mitchell paced Lowndes in scoring with 21 points, and also grabbed nine rebounds. Paul March added 16 points, while Earl Gray and Eric Davis collected 12 and 11 respectively.

Victor Walker broke out of his shooting slump to lead the Cats with 16 points, while Anthony Brown came off the bench to add 15. Campbell rounded out the double figure scorers with 11 points.

"I thought our kids played well and with a lot of intensity throughout the game," said Valdosta Coach Mike O'Brien. "We battled them the entire game, but they just wouldn't miss any shots and just killed us at the free throw line."

"Lowndes got off to a good lead and kept the pressure on us throughout the contest. They just played a tremendous game and not many teams will be able to play with them if they play like they did tonight."

"They continuously came up with the big shots everytime they needed it and we just ran into a superior team tonight," O'Brien said. "We played about as well as we could and the kids did a good job. This is the best that we've played in a while and hopefully we've put that slump behind us now."

Lowndes improved to 11-1 with the victory. Valdosta dropped to 7-4, after losing for the fourth time in five outings.

Lowndes' top-rated Class AAAA girls' team polished off the Lady Cats by controlling the game from start to finish, limiting Valdosta to just three points after three quarters of play and coasted to its 12th win against no losses.

Pam Walker was the only Lowndes girl to score in double figures with 14 points as the Lady Vikings were without the services of one of their top players — senior Natasha Horn Felicia Henderson led Valdosta with eight points.

"I thought our girls showed a lot of poise, and we got good contribution from everybody who played," Lowndes Coach Steve Kebler said. "They were a little impatient at times, but did what I asked of them and that's all you can expect."

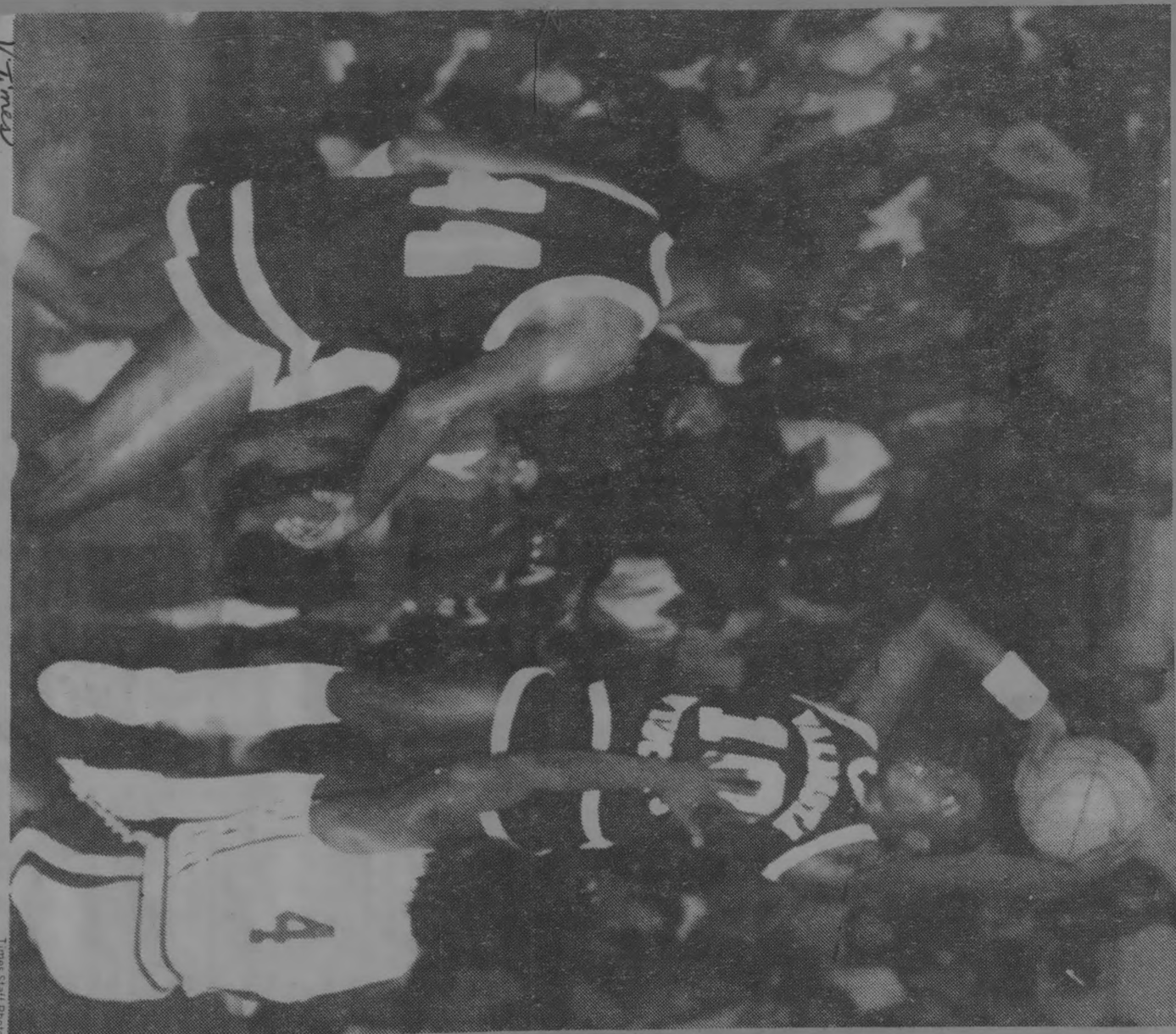
"We played excellent defense all game long and I thought our full-court pressure really bothered them. It was the first time all year that we had played without Horn and I thought the girls responded to the challenge very well."

"We didn't know how the girls would react without Horn in there, but we felt like they would play a good game," Kebler added. "We still have a lot of room for improvement and just try to do the best we can with what we've got."

Lowndes will be on the road Friday against Tift County, while Valdosta will be at home against Bainbridge.

Boys' Game		Valdosta		Lowndes	
Valdosta (47) — Wallace Campbell 5 1 4		12	20	21	14-67
11, Sylvester Kitchen 0 0 0, Victor Walker 8		21	24	18	14-77
0 0 16, James Edwards 1 2 2 4, Anthony					
Brown 6 3 15, Moses Madison 2 0 4, Derrick					
Folsom 4 0 0 8, Lennis Williams 4 1 3 9, Totals					
30 7 12 67 (32 fouls)					
Lowndes (77) — Earl Gray 4 4 4 12, Paul					
March 3 10 11 16, Undrae Mitchell 7 7 8 21,					
Chuck Cooper 2 0 0 4, Eric Davis 5 1 1 11,					
Kirk Robinson 2 0 0 4, Todd Williams 3 3 5 9					
Totals 26 25 29 77 (14 fouls)					

Girls' Game		Valdosta		Lowndes	
Valdosta (18) — Henderson 2 4 8 8, W. Irvin		12	20	21	14-67
1 2 4 4, L. Irvin 1 0 3 2, Wetherspoon 1 0 0 2,		21	24	18	14-77
Lowe 0 0 0 0, Caesar 1 0 0 2, Totals 6 6 15 67					
Lowndes (44) — Walker 7 0 0 14, Richardson					
4 0 0 8, March 2 2 3 6, Willis 3 2 2 8, Hall 0 1 3					
1, Williams 1 0 2 2, Griffin 1 1 2 5, Totals 19					
6 12					
Valdosta		2	1	0	15-18
Lowndes		9	2	14	19-44



V-Times 1-9-85

Valdosta's Sylvester Kitchen Goes Up For A Shot Against Lowndes

Wildcats Face Crucial Game

V Times 1-11-85

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Having just six Region 1-AAAA South games on the schedule, makes every game very important for the four teams in the subregion.

With the regular-season winner getting an automatic bye into the region playoffs, each game means that much more.

Valdosta boys' Coach Mike O'Brien was looking for a good season this year, especially since the Wildcats jumped out to a 6-0 start.

But then came trouble in the form of four losses in their next five outings, including a 12-point loss to cross-town and subregion rival Lowndes Tuesday night.

And although the loss hurt the Wildcats in their drive for the top spot in the subregion, O'Brien said they aren't out of the race yet. But with Bainbridge the next team on Valdosta's schedule, Valdosta will have to come out of its slump very quickly.

The Wildcats will play host to Bainbridge Friday. Other games scheduled for Friday will have Clinch County at Atkinson County, Cook County at Worth County, Dougherty at Colquitt County, Lowndes at Tift County, Pelham at Brooks County, Southwood at Valwood, and Georgia Christian at Ravenwood.

Saturday's games will have Westover at Valdosta, Cook County at Berrien County, and Georgia Christian at Fullington.

The Lowndes-Tift game is a region matchup, but will not affect the subregion standings.

Atkinson at Clinch is a Region 2-A game, while the Cook-Worth matchup is a Region 2-AAA West game. The only other region games will be Dougherty at Colquitt (1-AAAA North).

All girls' games are scheduled to start at 7 p.m. with the boys' games starting at 8:30.

"Bainbridge is a subregion game and it's real important for us," O'Brien said. "There are only three other teams in the subregion — Bainbridge, Central-Thomasville, Lowndes and us. The loss to Lowndes didn't knock us out of the subregion title chase. We're still shooting for the first or second seed.

"But Bainbridge presents a problem. They are huge — 6-foot-6, 6-6 and 6-5 across the baseline. They're one of the top contenders in the region. We've got to have a strong showing. I feel like we can and I feel like we can play with them, especially after the defeat to Lowndes. We've got Bainbridge twice, Lowndes once and Central twice. Anything can happen."

The Wildcats started the season 6-0, but enter Friday's game 7-4 and 0-1 in the subregion. But even with the quick start, O'Brien was not pleased.

"I told the kids then that I was not pleased with the way we were playing," O'Brien said. "We were just playing well enough to win. We weren't playing like we're capable of playing. Then we took a nose-dive before the holidays. We played real poor against Colquitt and they beat us. We played much better against Berrien, and then played a great first half against Lowndes. But we played the worst we've played since I've been here in the second half.

Even with the poor second-half performance, the Wildcats only lost by 12 points.

"Anytime a team (Lowndes) shoots 25 of 29 from the foul line and shoots the percentage they did from floor, I don't think anybody's capable of beating them. We gave them the poor percentage shots, and they still made them.

"We wanted our kids to have confidence. We wanted them to have more movement on offense, which we got, to rebound better, which we got, to play aggressively and with pride, no matter what the score was, and we got that. And we still lost by 12 points."

For Clinch boys' Coach Allen Robbins, the challenge of getting his 4-5 Panthers ready for 7-2 Atkinson is a big challenge.

"We're going to have to play extremely well, as well as we possibly can play," Robbins said. "We've got a chance, but it's going to be extremely tough."

Forward Terry Swinson is leader for the Panthers, scoring 18 points a game. Robbins has faced opponents who double-team Swinson.

"They've tried some, but he's very difficult to double-team," Robbins said.

We've struggled so far this year, we really have. We got off to a late start because of football. Half the team wasn't here for a while, but we've been trying to put it together since that point."

"We're beginning to get what we're trying to do. We've won our last two games, but this is going to be a rough weekend. We'll find out a lot about this team this weekend.

Robbins said his biggest concern about Atkinson was Atco's rebounding ability.

"They've got a pretty good bit of experience and are a real strong rebounding team," Robbins said. "They also shoot well."

The biggest game in the Clinch County gym will take place before the boys' game, however.

The Atkinson County girls' are undefeated on the season, 9-0, while the Clinch County girls' are 8-1.

With Clinch and Atkinson being just two of the three teams in Region 2-A, the game will have a lot of bearing on the state playoffs, more than a month before the region tournament even start.

Campbell Works Boards At Both Ends Of Court

V Times 1/10/85

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta's Wallace Campbell is a miniature Moses Malone on the basketball court.

And he works the boards just as hard on both ends of the floor.

"He's one of the best offensive rebounders I've ever been associated with," Valdosta Coach Mike O'Brien said. "For his size (6-foot-4), he's the strongest rebounder that I've seen also.

"It's that combination of strength and quickness that makes him so tough on the boards," he said. "He gets off the floor so quickly and can rebound time after time because of that."

Campbell is a two-year starter for 'Cats and was named the Valdosta Daily Times all-area Player of the Year last year after leading Valdosta to a 15-8 record and the Region 1-AAAA South championship.

With the graduation of two starters from that team, more of the scoring burden fell on his shoulders this year. And he's responded to the challenge by averaging almost 20 points per outing and adding another nine rebounds per game.

Campbell is rated as the top player in the area in the first Daily Times Area Top 10.

"I really didn't know what to expect this year. Teams we play put a lot of pressure on me by double and triple-teaming me," Campbell said. "Everybody was out to stop just me, but we have plenty of other guys who can do the job, too.

"It's my job to look for them when teams double-up on me and that makes it even better because the other guys will get their share of open shots," he said. "We don't have a one-man team because it's important that everybody plays together and contribute in any way they can."

After jumping out to a 6-0 start, the 'Cats have lost four of their last five games to drop to 7-4 for the season, but Campbell says there is no reason to fret just yet.

He's been the one steady influence throughout the dry-spell and O'Brien said there was a time when Campbell felt like he had to do it all.

"He got kind of frustrated at first and started to force things," O'Brien said. "But he settled down and just tried to take advantage of his opportunities when he got the chance.

"He has accepted his role and it has made him a better player as a end result," O'Brien said. "In our defeat against Lowndes Tuesday night, he demonstrated his ability to take over a game, even though he didn't get in very much playing time because of foul trouble. But while he was in there he was a terror on both boards."

Campbell is one of four senior starters for the 'Cats — Derrick Folsom, Victor Walker and James Edwards are the others — and he says that senior leadership has been the key to the early season success.

"We've lost four in a row, but I feel like we're coming out of the slump that we were in because we played a pretty good game Tuesday," Campbell said. "We just have to go out and try and give it our best shot every time out and help each other any way that we can because only teams win games, not individual players.

"I try to give 100 percent everytime out because I want to set an example for the young guys and let them know how important it is to hustle at all times," Campbell said. "We still have a long ways to go in this season and there's plenty of time for us to get things turned around. But there's no better time than the next game."

Campbell has been contacted by several colleges and he figures that he'll be shifted to an off-guard slot or small forward position once in college.

Because of that, he worked hard on his ball-handling skills during the summer. That has helped this year. When the opposition pressures the 'Cats, he has been used on occasions to bring the ball upcourt.

"His ball-handling has really improved and it has been a plus factor for us," O'Brien said. "His outside shot is a little suspect though, and he needs a little more work on it.

"He can hit it from out there, and just needs to be a little more consistent," he said. "He has to take charge for us in the game and give the team somebody to rally around."

VHS Selected As 1985 School Of Excellence

V Times 1-9-85

By SYLVIA COOPER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School has been selected as a 1985 Georgia School of Excellence and will be one of the six Georgia high schools to represent the state in the national secondary school recognition program.

Valdosta High was chosen from among 155 Georgia public schools nominated to vie for the 1985 School of Excellence title.

Valdosta High School principal Bill Aldrich said Valdosta High was chosen as the high school to represent the second congressional district, and then chosen from the top state high schools to represent Georgia nationally.

The schools were selected based on their administrative leadership, teacher effectiveness, academic goals and achievements, school curriculum, discipline and community involvement and support.

Of the 30 schools chosen in the state, only 11 were selected to represent Georgia at the national level.

"Georgia was given a quota of six high schools and five middle schools," Julia Martin, coordinator of special projects with the state Department of Education said.

Applications were previously sent to all superintendents in the state, who nominated one elementary, one middle and one high school from their systems. After screening by the state education depart-

ment, the nominations were submitted to a panel of Tennessee educators for judging.

The judges selected one elementary, one middle or junior high school and one high school from each of Georgia's 10 Congressional districts to be 1985 Georgia Schools of Excellence.

The 30 schools will be honored by the Georgia Department of Education, the State Board of Education, Blue Bird Body Company and Governor Joe Frank Harris at a banquet April 10 in Atlanta.

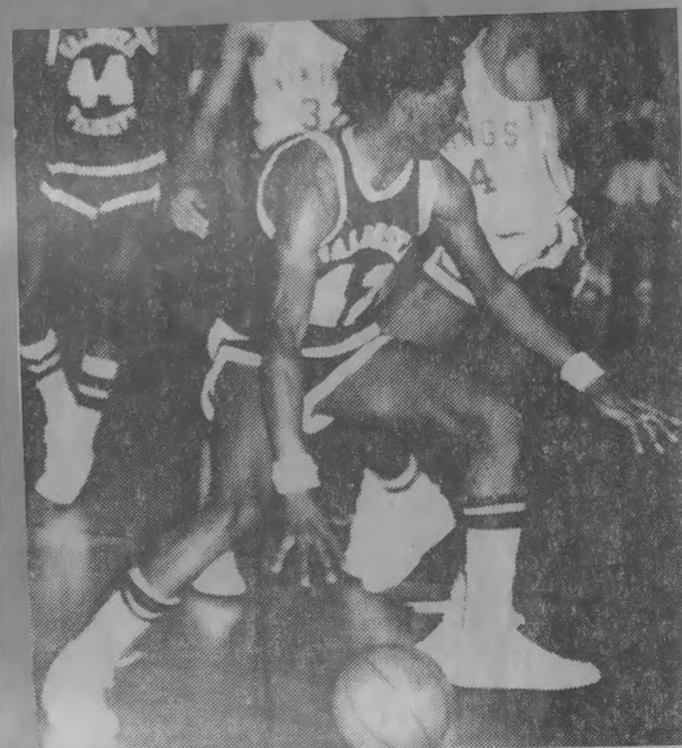
"The Schools of Excellence program is designed to identify and honor successful public school programs throughout our state and to encourage excellence in all schools," said Charles McDaniel, state superintendent of schools.

"This is not necessarily a ranking of the top schools in our state, but a showcase of outstanding programs from various regions of Georgia."

Georgia's program is an expansion of the national Secondary Schools Recognition Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education to honor schools at the middle/junior high and high school levels.

McDaniel expanded Georgia's program to include outstanding elementary schools as well.

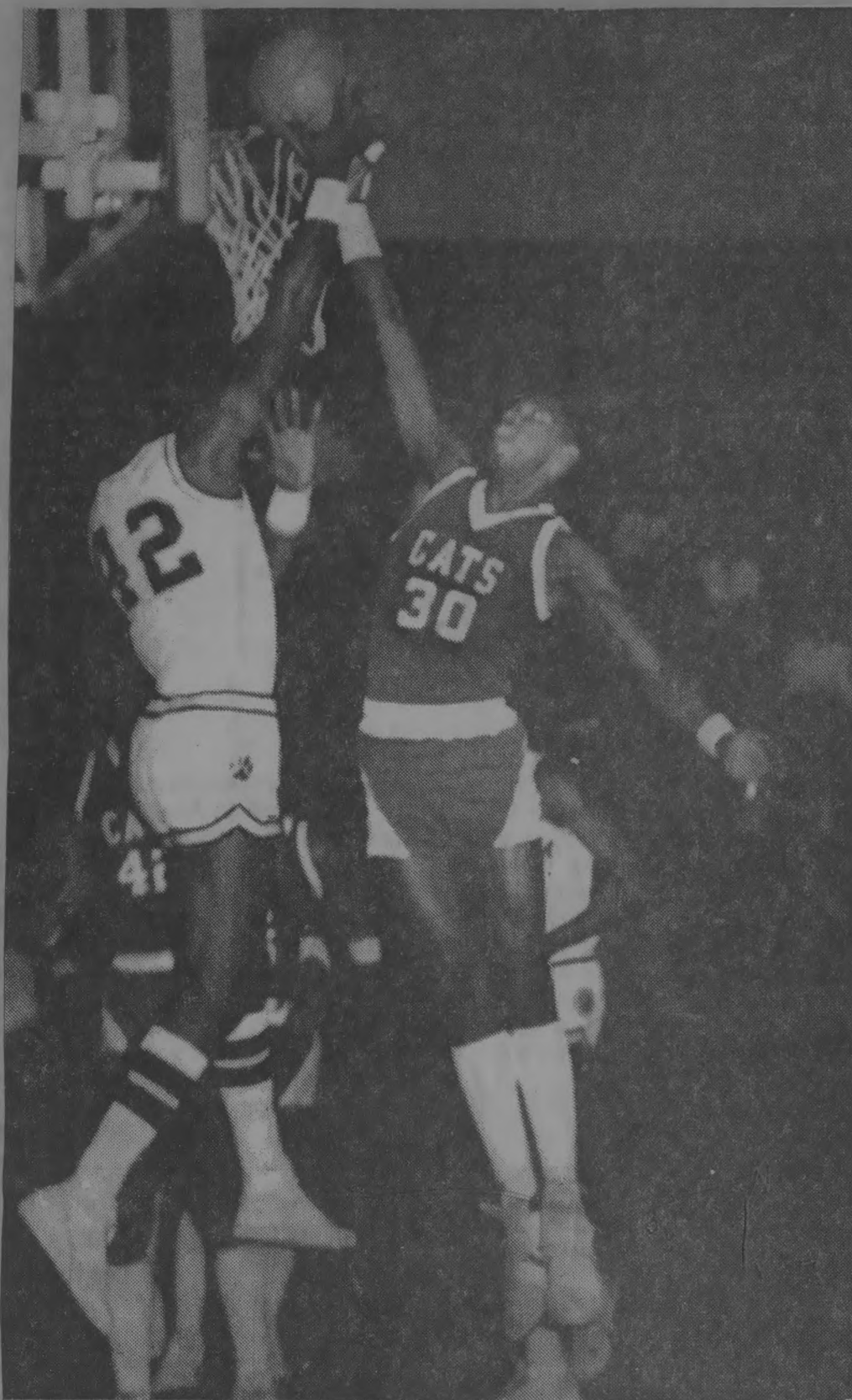
In 1984 five Georgia Schools of Excellence were named National Schools of Excellence.



Times Staff Photo by Nadine Shoc

Valdosta's Wallace Campbell

81



Times Staff Photo By Nadine Shochet

Ronnie Gaines (30) Blocks Shot By Valdosta's Wallace Campbell (42)

'Cats Come Up Short

U. Daily Times 1/12/85

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta Wildcats "played just well enough to lose," Friday night against Bainbridge.

The Wildcats trailed by 10 points with more than two minutes to play and cut the margin to five with 52 seconds left. But six consecutive free throws by the Bearcats enabled Bainbridge to escape the Valdosta gym with a 56-47 Region 1-AAAA South victory.

The loss was the fifth in the last six outings for the Wildcats. Valdosta, which opened the season with sixth consecutive victories, is 7-5 overall and 0-2 in the subregion. Bainbridge is 11-3 and 1-0.

"We've tried to keep the team's morale up (during the losing streak)," Valdosta Coach Mike O'Brien said. "At the first of the season, we just played well enough to win. Now, we're just playing well enough to lose. We can't get over the hump."

"We were five points down tonight and Wallace (Campbell) missed a shot inside. They didn't score and we got the ball back but threw it out of bounds. From there, they started hitting free throws and that was it."

We just turned the ball over too many times," O'Brien said. "I don't know how many times, but it was too many."

In the girls' game, the Lady Wildcats turned the ball over three consecutive trips down court with a chance to tie the game before losing, 40-37.

It was obvious from the start of the boys' game that Bainbridge had the height advantage. The Bearcats' had two players who are 6-feet-6 and another who is 6-5.

They kept setting up (on offense) inside the lane and stayed there the whole game," O'Brien said. "They were just too big for us."

"I was scared they would dominate us inside. Then they started hitting the outside shots and made us come outside to cover them. That's when we lost our inside game."

Wallace Campbell, at 6-4, was about the only Wildcat who could compete inside with the Bearcats. Campbell finished with 22 points and 16 rebounds.

"We had some other people who helped out some, but they didn't do as well as they need too," O'Brien said.

Bainbridge put its height advantage to work early, blocking seven Valdosta shots in the first half.

But O'Brien said the players were ready for that.

"I don't think they really intimidated us that much," O'Brien said. "We knew that they were going to block shots and that we would just have

to try and get the ball under, set up the shots and keep going at them. We had to look for the open shots, but they were there."

"We also missed free throws when we had to have them."

The Wildcats converted on just five of 11 shots from the foul line. Bainbridge, meanwhile, connected on 10 of 20 from the line.

The Bearcats led 37-29 heading into the final period and gradually increased their lead to 10, 50-40, with 2:04 left in the game.

But the Wildcats came back to score the next five points. Victor Walker scored on a tip-in with 1:51 left, Campbell hit a free throw with 1:27 left and Walke score on a layup 30 seconds later to pull Valdosta within five, 50-45.

Bainbridge, which had hit just four of 14 free throws in the first 31 minutes of the game, then got hot at the line. The Bearcats hit six consecutive free throws to earn the victory.

Campbell was the game's leading scorer with 22 points. Teammate Walker added 14. Bainbridge was led by Tommy Gaines with 15. Clint Smiley had 14, Daryl Green 12 and Ronnie Gaines 11.

"Right now, it's to our advantage to be lucky, rather than good," O'Brien said. "But bad luck's the only kind of luck we have."

For the Lady Wildcats, the loss was the fourth this season by three points or less.

"We were close again, but just couldn't pull it out," said Valdosta Coach James Studstill.

Bainbridge jumped out to a 15-4 lead at the end of the first quarter and led 25-13 at half.

But the Lady Wildcats rallied in the third period. They outscored the Kittens 9-4 to pull within 32-22 heading into the final period. Valdosta continued to shut down Bainbridge and closed the gap to four, 38-34, with less than two minutes left.

A free throw by Valdosta's Windy Irvin cut the deficit to three with 1:37 left. Bainbridge retaliated with a free throw by Felicia Bryant with 1:19 left. Another basket by Irvin with only 20 seconds left pulled the Lady Wildcats to within two, 39-37.

Valdosta had a chance to tie the game and send it into overtime, but Lisa Irvin's shot was off the mark. Bainbridge's Pake Markinson was fouled on the rebound and sank the front end of a one-and-one with one second left to seal the victory.

Windy Irvin led Valdosta with 12 points with Lisa Irvin getting 10.

Gloria Baulkman was the leader for the Kittens with 12 points.

"We've got a bunch of young kids who are helping out, but as of yet they haven't jelled," Studstill said. "They're scrapping, their enthusiasm is high and the desire is there."

Boys' Game
Bainbridge (56) — R. Gaines 3
5-8 11, Smiley 6 2-2 14, Green 5
2-9 12, Williams 2 0-0 4, T. Gaines
7 1-1 15, Screen 0 0-0 0. Totals
23 10-20 56.
Valdosta (47) — Campbell 9 4-7
22, Kitchens 0 0-0 0, Walker 7 0-0
14, Edwards 1 1-3 3, Brown 1
0-1 2, Wright 1 0-0 2, Folsom 2
0-0 4, Williams 0 0-0 0, McGuirt 0
0-0 0. Totals 21 5-11 47.

Bainbridge 13 8 16 19 —
56
Valdosta 11 10 8 18 — 47
Records — Bainbridge 11-3,
1-0; Valdosta 7-5, 0-2.
Girls' Game
Bainbridge (40) — Bryant 2 3-8
7, Malone 4 0-1 8, Thomas 1 0-0
2, Markinson 3 1-3 7, Baulkman 5
2-2 12, Rogers 1 1-2 3, Lewis 0
1-2 1, Powell 0 0-0 0, Brock 0 0-0
0. Totals 16 8-18 40.

Valdosta (37) — Henderson 4
0-2 8, W. Irvin 5 3-7 13, L. Irvin 5
0-2 10, Ceasar 1 0-0 2,
Weatherspoon 1 0-0 2, Bass 0 0-0
0, Hill 0 2-2 2, Longliere 0 0-0 0,
Gardner 0 0-0 0, Shown 0 0-0 0.
Totals 16 5-13 37.
Bainbridge 15 10 4 11 —
40
Valdosta 4 9 9 15 — 37
Records — Valdosta 2-10, 0-2.

VHS Students Offered Financial Aid Workshop

V. Times 1/16/85
By SYLVIA COOPER
Times Staff Writer

A financial aid workshop for students who will need money to attend college or technical school will be held at Valdosta High School Monday at 7:30 p.m.

VHS guidance counselor Virginia Wisenbaker will conduct the workshop which is open to all area students and their parents.

"With the cost of post-secondary school rising every year as evidenced by the Georgia University system going up 10.5 percent next year, more and more parents are needing financial assistance to send their children to school. One of the ways to get financial help is through programs set up by the federal and state governments."

"The paperwork necessary to receive these funds must be done, and that's what we're going to do Monday night. The firms

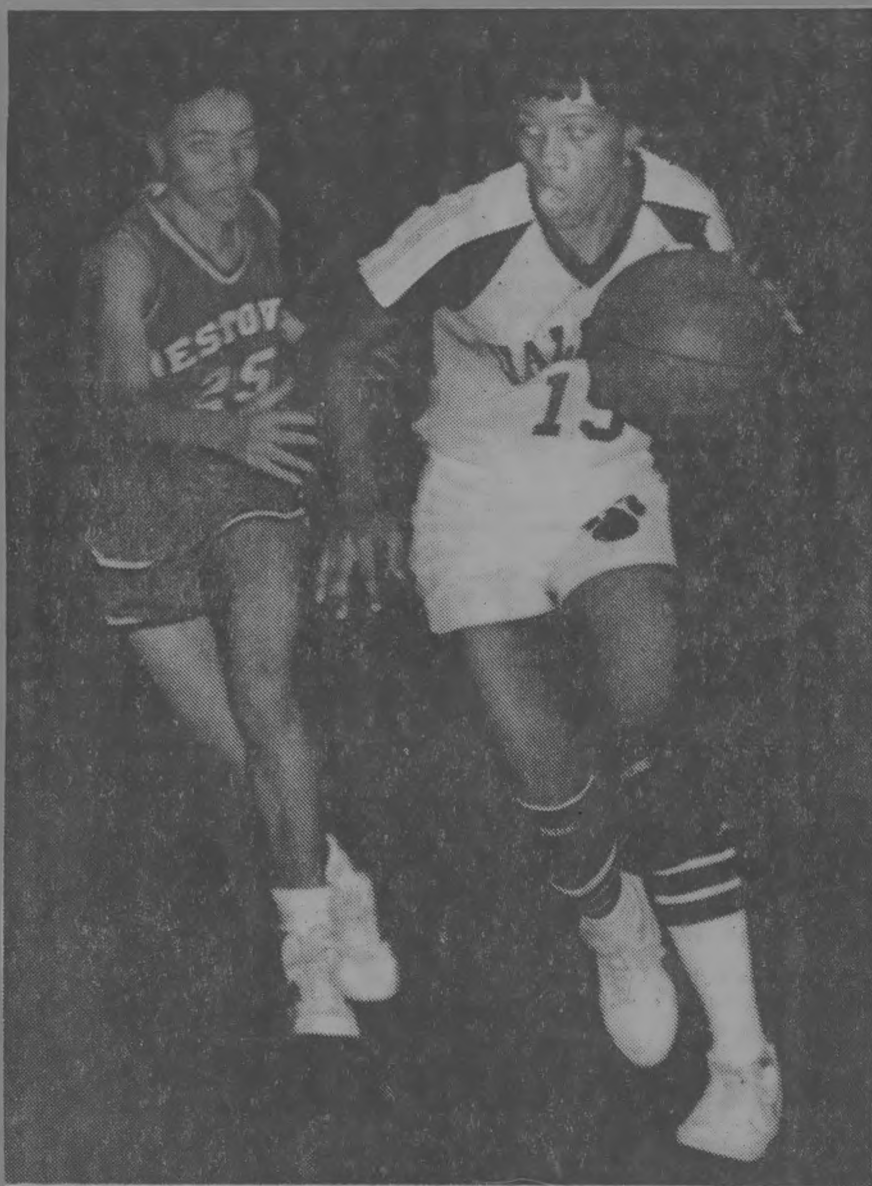
will be given to the parents and instructions will be given to them on how to fill them out," Mrs. Wisenbaker said.

Tommy Moore, Valdosta State College financial aid director and Mary Ann Witholte, Valdosta Area Technical School financial director will assist Mrs. Wisenbaker in showing parents how to fill out the forms.

Mrs. Wisenbaker emphasized that the financial assistance forms were the same for all institutions and that instruction concerning their use was not limited to those applying to VSC or Val-Tech.

She also emphasized that the workshop is not limited to VHS students and their parents.

"It is for all area high school seniors and their parents wherever they may be planning to go to school," she said.



VHS's Felicia Henderson Drives Past A Westover Defender

Times Staff Photo By Nadine Shochet

'Cats Hit Valley Against Patriots

V. Times 1/13/85

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

This season has been full of peaks and valleys for the Valdosta Wildcats' basketball team, and right now they're in the midst of a deep valley after Albany-Westover handed them a tough 31-30 setback Saturday night at Valdosta.

It was a loss Wildcat coach Mike O'Brien called the toughest all year, after he saw his team drop its third consecutive game, and sixth in the last seven outings to fall to 7-6.

Westover's Lady Patriots won the opener 46-41 in the girls' game to give the Patriots a sweep.

Valdosta led nearly the entire game after catching Westover early in the first period, but couldn't hold on to the advantage. One of the major reasons was the 'Cats lack of scoring punch in the final quarter — scoring just two points.

Despite all of that, the 'Cats still had a chance to pull out the win in the final five seconds after Westover's Ricky Harp missed the front end of a bonus free throw.

Wallace Campbell received the in-bounds pass and drove the length of the floor before passing to a wide open Anthony Brown under the Patriots basket, but the ball slipped through his hands as the buzzer sounded and so did Valdosta's chances of snapping its current losing slide.

"The kids showed great poise in the end and we got the ball exactly where we wanted it," O'Brien said. "It was perfect execution and Campbell was the guy we wanted with the ball."

"Campbell used good judgement in passing the ball and if he had to do it all over again, we'd tell him to do the same thing. We had the opportunity to win the

game, but it just wasn't meant to be.

"The kids never gave up, and hung in there all the way," O'Brien said. "They did a great job of executing our game plan and showed great patience."

The teams combined for only six points in the entire fourth period of the low scoring affair, but the Patriots' four points proved to be enough to pull out the win.

"I thought Coach O'Brien did a fantastic job of coaching and his kids showed outstanding patience in running their offense," Westover Coach Willie Boston said. "They controlled the tempo for most of the game and forced us to play the type of game they wanted."

"They forced us out of the zone defense, which we like to play, and we had to go to a man defense. Fortunately we didn't give up too many easy baskets and our big guys were able to get some big rebounds."

"I thought this was a very good win for us coming on the road against an outstanding Valdosta team," Boston said. "We like to run with the ball, but our guys showed a lot of patience themselves and I'm very proud of them for that."

Boston wouldn't get much argument from O'Brien about that fact as he saw the Patriots hold the ball for nearly the entire fourth period.

Campbell was the only player to hit double figures for the 'Cats with 12 points. Michael Green paced Westover with 10 points and Harp added nine.

Wendy Irvin led Valdosta's girls with 18 points, while Felicia Henderson added 14 in a losing cause. Latonya Wilson topped Westover with 12 points, while Cynthia Dixon and Teresa Akins added 11 and 10, respectively.

Hyder, 4 'Cats To Lead Georgia All-Stars

From Staff, Wire Reports

V. Times 1/13/85

MACON — Nick Hyder, who guided the Valdosta Wildcats to the Class AAAA football championship in December, will guide the Georgia All-Stars when the team meets the Florida All-Stars June 22.

Hyder, and at least four of his players, will join 31 other players and coaches from the state for the game. Hyder also will take two of his assistant coaches and two other coaches to be named at a later date.

A 10-member committee of coaches met Wednesday in Macon to choose 26 Georgia players for the first Georgia-Florida high school all-star football game, to be played in Orlando.

Hyder will add nine more players later to fill out the 35-man roster.

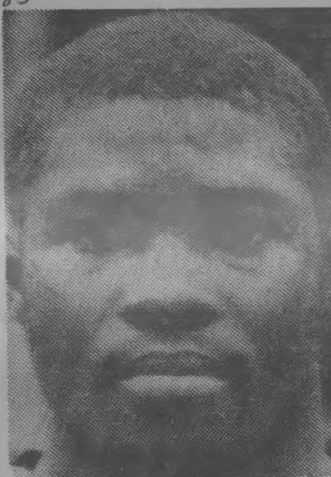
The players selected from Valdosta, which was 15-0 this year, include running back Willie Lewis, linebacker John Porter, defensive end James Wakefield and defensive back Derrick Folsom.

"Being able to take my top defensive and offensive assistants with me will really save us a lot of time and work," Hyder added.

Other offensive players named were quarterback Chris Morocco of Clarke Central; running backs Keith Henderson of Cartersville and Bryce Cantrell of Buford; wide receivers Steve Davenport of Southwest DeKalb, Vincent Bostick of Cairo and Darien Teals of Tift County; tight end Jerome Williams of Gainesville, and offensive linemen Bob Hodge of Marist, Benji Roland of Dodge County, Tony Smith of Waycross, Todd Wheeler of Pepperell and Troy Holland of Warner Robins.

Others chosen on defense include linemen Michael Tanks of Southwest DeKalb, Jimmie Cole of Manchester, Chris Warren of Terrell County and Jerry Harris of Clarke Central; linebacker Kevin Salisbury of Marist; backs Wayne Harps of Griffin, Cedric Stallworth of Southwest DeKalb, Al Maxwell of Warner Robins and Johnny Cash of Newnan, and kicker Joey Hester of Cairo.

The squad was selected from nominations turned in by region champion coaches, who met Tuesday and Wednesday to choose teams for the annual Georgia North-South all-star game to be played July 25 in Athens. Two 30-member teams were selected for that game, and the head coaches, who will be named later, will add six more players to each roster.



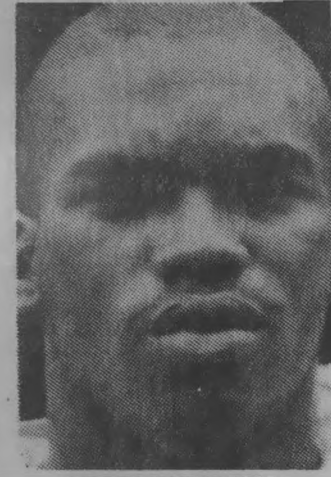
WILLIE LEWIS



JOHN PORTER



JAMES WAKEFIELD



DERRICK FOLSOM

Restrictions which apply to the state all-star game, including a limit of two players from a single school, were waived for the Georgia-Florida game, indicating the coaches are taking the game seriously.

"After all, Florida challenged us," said Hyder. "I have a lot of coaching friends in Florida, and they've been talking about something like this for years. They hope to embarrass us."

Valdosta's Lewis was the leading rusher in Region 1-AAAA during the regular season with nearly 800 yards. He averaged more than six yards per carry and scored 15 touchdowns.

Porter, who is being nationally recruited by almost every major college, was a four-year starter for the Wildcats at linebacker. Porter topped the 'Cats with more than 100 total tackles during the '84 season, including 11 behind the line of scrimmage.

Porter also picked up four fumbles and three pass interceptions, and was only the second player in the history of the school

to be named as a permanent Co-Captain for two years.

Folsom was another four-year starter for the National Champion Valdosta team in the secondary. He played cornerback and safety and was recognized as the 'Cats top coverage defender.

Folsom picked off only three interceptions during the season, despite rarely being thrown at by the opposition. He was named as the defensive captain last season, and is also headed for major college play.

Wakefield rounds out the foursome from Valdosta and he too was a leader of the hard-rock Wildcat defense, which held the opposition to less than 50 yards per game and just six points per outing during the season.

Wakefield, who was also a four-year performer for Valdosta, collected six quarterback sacks and had nine stops behind the line.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Fri., Jan. 18, 1985-10-



Roger B. Brown

Times Sports Writer

The First High School Awards

Time flies when you're having fun.
Or is it, fun flies when you're doing time?
Sometimes I feel one way, and then again, sometimes it's the other.

This season has had it's share of both these feelings and they were both good and bad.

This football season has been the year of the Cat. Valdosta High won its first national championship since 1972 by recording the best record in the history of the school (along with the 1982 team) by going 15 and 0.

Then out of nowhere, Brigham Young slowly crept to the top of the national rankings in the colleges and concluded its year by whipping long-standing power Michigan in the Holiday bowl to claim the national title after a perfect 13-0 campaign.

With the '84 football season finally laid to rest, it's time for me to give out my rewards to some of the teams for their great achievements during the year.

• **Most Improved Team** — Who would have ever thought that Colquitt County would rise from the ashes and come back to have the year that it had.

The Packers stormed through the regular-season, losing just one game. They whipped the defending state champions from Tift County early in the season on the way to claiming the Region 1-AAAA North title.

Colquitt opened the region playoffs with a victory over Lowndes. It was the second time this year that Colquitt had upset the Vikings — who were rated a tad better by the so-called experts even though the Packers had a better overall record.

However, the Packers' cinderella season came to a screaming halt the following week when they ran into an express train, better known as the Valdosta Wildcats, in the region finals.

• **Rookie Of The Year** — This one must be given to the Valiants' from Valwood in a runaway choice.

Valwood finished its initial season with a remarkable 10-2 slate and made it all the way to the SEAIS state championship finals before losing to Tiftarea.

Maurey Copeland raced through, around and over the opposition all year. He received plenty of help from Don Faircloth, Jamie Willis and several other Valiants to pace a potent offensive attack, which averaged more than 30 points per game.

Let's give a lot of credit to Coach Allen Fort, also, for putting together a team in less than three months, which ascended to the top of the ratings during a portion of the season.

That feat is even more remarkable when you consider the fact that the Valiants were on the road for a good part of their schedule due to the lack of a home field.

• **Most Disappointing Team** — This one goes to the Vikings from Lowndes High. During an inconsistent season, the Vikings had their ups and downs. However, the main reason for this, was the youth of the Vikings. Having just five seniors on the squad the inexperience showed in several games.

After opening with a victory in a surprisingly close contest against Coffee County, the Vikings were upended by Colquitt, and from then on, it was a roller-coaster year.

It was a year that saw the Vikings hand the Gladiators' from Clarke Central their worst defeat at Martin Stadium. It was also a year that saw the Vikings fall to a previously winless Albany Westover team.

Lowndes completed the regular season with a 6-4 mark and then lost to Colquitt in the first round of the region playoffs. But, this was a team that featured 26 juniors and should be one of the top teams in the state next year with most of its fireworks returning.

The biggest loss to overcome will be that of four-year starting quarterback Randy Gay, who will more than likely sign with a four year college when national signing day rolls around.

• **Most Valuable Team** — Who else but the 1984 National Champions from Valdosta.

It was a remarkable year for Nick Hyder and his Wildcats that concluded on a brisk, wintry night at Cleveland Stadium when the 'Cats rallied in the second half to whip Clarke Central 21-14.

Clarke Central lost only twice all season — and both occasions came within the boundaries of Lowndes County.

It was a fitting climax to a season that some long-time Valdosta faithful have called the greatest Wildcat team in the history of the school. The championship was the second outright title for Hyder at Valdosta in three years and his third since coming to the school 11 years ago.

• **Quote of the Year** — This one goes to a former Valdosta High assistant coach.

"I tell you, this is probably going to be one of the toughest games we've played this year. They have quickness and they are huge. They're a heck of a lot bigger than we are. I'm really worried about this game because they can explode so quick and are just ready to explode right now."

Those words of wisdom came from Butch Brooks, who is now the head coach at Washington-Wilkes High. But what Brooks failed to mention was the team his Tigers were playing were 1-8 and probably the worst team in Region 4-AA.

Needless to say, the Tigers rolled to an easy victory and Brooks looked like a great coach because Washington beat such a "high-caliber" team.

I wonder where Brooks learned that bit of coaching technique from. It must have come from his days of working as assistant under the old-bluesman himself — Valdosta's Hyder.

'65 Class Meets

V Times 12/4/85
Members of the 1965 graduating class at Valdosta High School will hold a meeting to make plans for their 20th class reunion. The meeting will be held today at 8 p.m. at the home of Lynn Sehlton Drumheller at 2609 Winding Way.



V Times 1-6-85
Free Time On The Bench Can Be Boring When You Aren't Playing



Sometimes Action Gets A Bit Rough

High School Basketball

Valdosta Faces Tough Bainbridge Tonight

V. Times 1/25/85
By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

If Valdosta High thought it was in the frying pan Tuesday night following its 49-47 upset loss to Lanier County, the Wildcats will be jumping into a fire Friday on the road against Region 1-AAAA South leader Bainbridge.

In an earlier game at home against Bainbridge, Valdosta played the much taller Bearcats almost on even terms for three quarters before succumbing, 56-47, in the final period.

Tuesday's loss against the Bulldogs continued the 'Cats' plunge and dropped them to 9-7, which includes six losses in the last seven games, after getting off to a 6-0 start.

In other area games Friday, Brooks County visits Dooly County, Brantley is at Berrien County, Colquitt County travels to Central-Thomaspville, Lanier County is the road against Nichols and Echols County visits Broxton.

In games Saturday night, Colquitt County visits Albany-Dougherty, Atkinson County travels to Adel to take on Cook County, Hawkinsville visits Brooks County and Open Bible meets Marantha in Tallahassee, Fla.

With the exception of the Open Bible-Marantha game, all girls' games are scheduled to start at 7 p.m., with the boys' games starting at 8:30.

"We're really not looking forward to this trip at all," Valdosta Coach Mike O'Brien said. "We know what they're going to try and do and we know what we have to do to have a chance to win."

"We will have to execute very well and make as few mental mistakes as possible. We'll definitely have to play our best game of the year to have a real chance of winning."

In Bainbridge's last subregion game, the Bearcats slipped by Lowndes 64-62 behind 31 points from sophomore Ronnie Gaines, and took control of the lead in the subregion with a 3-0 record.

The Bearcats have two of their final three subregion games at home.

In Valdosta's loss to Lanier Co., Wallace Campbell and Victor Walker combined for 33 of the Wildcats' 47 points, including all 12 in the third period.

"That was our most disappointing loss of the season because I thought we were finally coming out of this valley that we seemed to be trapped in, especially after our big win over Central (Thomasville)," O'Brien said. "Hopefully, we'll be able to regroup and play that same type of game against Bainbridge."

"We're going to try one or two things against them to try and control the tempo. We might try to keep constant pressure on the ball and then try to maintain that pressure where we know they want to get the ball (inside)."

The Colquitt County-Central Thomasville girls' game will feature a rematch of an early season game, which Central won after pulling away from a 24-24 halftime deadlock, and the Lady Packers will be out for revenge.

Colquitt is 13-3 overall and leads the Region 1-AAAA North with an 4-0 record. Two of the Lady Packers' two losses came against the top-ranked schools in Class AAAA and AAA.

Colquitt lost a one-point decision against Lowndes — the top-ranked AAAA school, and lost in the finals of the Albany Kentucky Fried Chicken Christmas Classic against Terrell County (13-1) of Dawson — the top-rated AAA team.

Angie Richardson leads the Lady Packers offensive attack, which features four players scoring in double figures, with a 16-point average. Richardson also leads the team in free throw shooting, hitting more than 80 percent of her shots from the line.

Brenda Christopher follows Richardson with an average of just over 12 points per outing, while Venessa Taylor and Kendra Lyles are just behind with 11- and 10-point averages.

Sophomore Missy Criss has been the first player off the bench

for the Lady Packers and she's averaging more than eight points per game. Christopher and Taylor rank one and two in the rebound category, while Lyles paces the team in steals and assists.

"We like to play a running type of game and score as quickly as possible," Colquitt Coach Julian Grantham said. "We like to put a lot of pressure on the ball defensively and try to create turnovers and a lot of easy baskets."

"We're not real strong on the boards and that has been a weakness of ours all season. We also have a tendency to slack-up after a half and that has cost us in a couple of the games that we lost."

"We're not at full strength right now because a lot of our girls have been hit by the flu bug. I think we'll be alright by game time, but you just never know."

Lanier Coach Jamie Felts is hoping that his teams big upset victory over Valdosta will be a "shot in the arm" for his team.

"Anytime that we win, it's a big thing for us, and it's always good to come out on top against a team as well-known as the 'Cats,'" Felts said. "It was one of our better efforts of the season, but the key was the fact that we didn't end up beating ourselves, like we have in some of our other games."

"We didn't make the crucial turnovers that have cost us in other games and we played a good overall game. There have been other games that we've shot the ball better, but we just put it all together in that one."

"We played with patience, poise and very intelligently," he said. "Our shot selection was excellent, and this win came at a very good time for us."

The win improved Lanier's record to 7-8, but 3-2 since the Christmas break. The Bulldogs' only losses came in a one-point decision at Cook Co. and a double overtime defeat against Clinch last Friday.

High School Basketball

Valdosta Loses By Six To Bainbridge

V. Times 1/26/85

From Staff Reports

BAINBRIDGE — The Bearcats from Bainbridge remained unbeaten in Region 1-AAAA South play by slipping past a stubborn Valdosta team, 54-48, Friday night.

Bainbridge improved its subregion record to 4-0 with the victory, with only two more subregion contests left, and one of those will be at home.

It was a close contest from start to finish, and the Bearcats made 10 consecutive free throws in the final period to preserve the win. For the game, Bainbridge connected on 14 of 18 attempts, while Valdosta was only 8-for-17.

Bainbridge led 46-44 with just over two minutes left in the game, and Valdosta stepped to the free throw line with a chance to tie the game. However, Derrick Folsom missed both attempts and Bainbridge added to its lead on the next possession with a pair of free throws to make the count 50-46.

After a Wallace Campbell basket cut the lead back to two points, 50-48, Ronnie Gaines was fouled and hit a pair of free throws with only 34 seconds left.

Following another Valdosta missed shot, Clint Smiley hit two free throws to put the game out of reach.

"We played real good ball, but just came up on the short end of the score,"

Valdosta Coach Mike O'Brien said. "I thought the kids played an excellent game, but Bainbridge just killed us at the free throw line."

"They hit the big shots when they needed to, and that's what counts in the end. That's also the mark of a good team, but we know that we can play with them."

Bainbridge led 11-9 at the end of the first period, but Valdosta cut that lead to one point by halftime, 20-19. The Bearcats outscored Valdosta 17-15 in the third period to take a three-point lead, 37-34, into the final quarter.

Valdosta scored the first basket of the period and stayed within two to three points of Bainbridge until the final minute of the game.

Campbell paced Valdosta with 15 points, while Anthony Brown contributed 12. Gaines topped Bainbridge with 21 points. Smiley had 10.

"The difference in the game came at the free throw line and we just couldn't convert ours, while they made us pay for everything," O'Brien said. "We had the opportunity to win it in the end, but we just couldn't pull it off."

"We could have controlled the tempo if we had hit some of those free throws and maybe could have forced them into doing some things that they don't normally like to do."

"You can't take anything away from Bainbridge, though, because they played a good, sound, steady game. It's real disheartening to lose one like this because we felt like we had this one and let it slip away. However, we do know that if we play well, we can play with anybody."

Valdosta, who travels to Gainesville, Fla. Tuesday to play Buchholz, drops to 9-8 overall and 1-4 in subregion play.

No details were available on the girls' game.

Boys' Game
Valdosta (48) — Campbell 15, Kitchens 3, Walker 7, Edwards 4, Brown 12, Folsom 7. Totals 20 8-17.

Bainbridge (54) — R. Gaines 21, Smiley 12, Green 7, Williams 6, T. Gaines 6, Clemons 2. Totals 20 14-18.

Valdosta 9 10 15 14-48

Bainbridge 11 9 17 17-54

Nicholls 4 10 14 8-36
Lanier 12 10 6 12-40
Records: Lanier Co. 7-9
Next game: Lanier vs. Cook Co. Tuesday.

VHS Wrestles 1/26/85
Atkins Co. V. Times

The Valdosta Wildcat wrestlers defeated the Atkinson County Rebels 39-17, Friday.

Winners for Valdosta were Mike Schmeir (100 pounds), Louie Gonis (114), Chris Gray (121), Craig Klement (128), Andrew Kaiser (134), James Wakefield (187), and Jimmy Lewis (Unlim.).

Valdosta will play host to Fayette County, Cook County, and Lowndes County in a four team match Saturday.

Boys' Game
Albany (71) — Fred Pickett 15, Swann 5, Tim Washington 17, Keith Pry 12, Darren Holley 14, Richards 8.
Cook County (72) — Kenny Tippins 10, Hart 2, William Smith 21, Robert Wood 16, White 3, Pitts 2, Jerome Calloway 18.
Albany 18 35 53 66 71
Cook 20 33 45 66 72
Records — Cook County 10-6, 4-3.



V. Times 1-6-85
A Lady Wildcat Makes It Tough Going For A Vikette

Sports

V. TIMES 1/29/85

Vikings To Battle Central-Thomasville

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

"Knock on wood."
That's the attitude Lowndes High basketball Coach Terry Wilkes is taking about his teams upcoming Region 1-AAAA South battle at home against Central-Thomasville.

Wilkes says he's not one of those superstitious-type people, but adds that he's "wary of the fact that his club will be going against the Jackets for the second time in a week.

"This is a tough assignment, but it's a game that we have to have," Wilkes said. "Everyone of them are important now, and we are in an uphill battle to get the No. 1 spot in the subregion."

In other area games tonight, Valdosta travels to Gainesville, Fla. to take on Buchholz, Berrien County visits Bacon County, Albany-Monroe is on the road against Colquitt County in Moultrie, Cook County meets Lanier County in Lakeland and Madison County (Fla.) visits Echols County.

All girls' games are scheduled to start at 7 p.m., with the boys' games starting at 8:30.

Lowndes, which beat Central 88-68 last Tuesday, is 15-2 overall and 2-1 in the subregion. Wilkes said the big 20-point victory over the Jackets last week could work one or two ways.

"It could help our confidence because we know what we did to beat them last time," he said. "However, it could backfire against us and the guys could get over-confident, which would be a big mistake.

"It's kind of scary because they've been up and down all year, but we know how good they can be because they took Bainbridge to overtime at their place two weeks ago. We're expecting a tough battle, but if it turns out like the last one, we'll be more than pleased."

With four of the last five regular season games coming on the road, including the next three in a row following tonight's contest, Wilkes said his Vikings desperately need to win.

"We're pleased with our progress at this point, and the kids have done an outstanding job of coming to the game prepared to play throughout the year," Wilkes said. "We have to take them one step at a time and if we win the rest of them everything else will fall in place."

In the girls' game, it will be a repeat of last week's confrontation of unbeaten teams that had top-ranked Lowndes coming out on top, 45-44. The Lady Vikings had to overcome a

seven-point deficit to claim the victory, and played without the services of senior starters Natasha Horn and Pansy March.

"We're expecting another tough battle against Central," Lowndes Coach Steve Kebler said. "They came back and beat a tough Colquitt County team last Friday, and will be out for revenge tonight."

The Lady Vikings are 17-0 overall and 3-0 in subregion play. Central is 13-1 and 2-1.

Once again, the Lady Vikings will have to tangle with the Jackettes without its full forces; Horn and March are still out of action. Sophomore point guard Beverly Williams, who has taken over for March, may also miss the game due to a virus.

However, three definites for Kebler is the senior trio of Debbie Richardson, Pam Walker and Sherice Willis. The rest of the lineup will come from Jennifer Griffin, Angela Woods, Cindy Hall, Sadie Strothers and Williams.

"Our seniors are the backbone, and they have held us together through all of the injuries and everything else that we've had to face," Kebler said. "In our last game against them, they did a good job of slowing things down and controlling the tempo.

"We'd like to kick the ball out and run with every chance that we get, but we can play the half-court game too. We play better when we're running, and we look like a different team. We're just hanging by a thread right now and just have to give it our best shot.

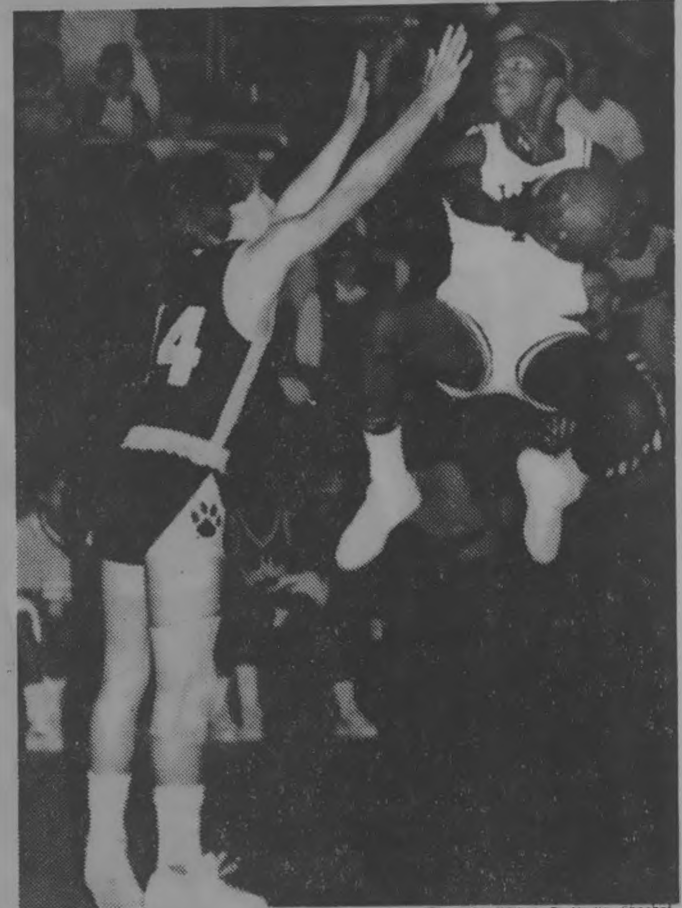
"Our seniors have to play well for us to win. This is a scrappy bunch, and they aren't worried about our win streak. We're just trying to hold on until we can get everybody healthy."

Valdosta will be out for revenge against the Bobcats from Buchholz, who beat the Wildcats 58-42 earlier in the season.

The 'Cats, 9-8 overall, will be trying to break out of a slump which has sent them reeling to eight losses in the last nine games.

"We played good ball in our last game (a 54-48 loss at Bainbridge) and made some improvement," Valdosta Coach Mike O'Brien said. "We missed some key free throws at the end and they hit all of theirs, which proved to be the difference in the game.

"It was a real disheartening loss for us because the kids gave such an outstanding effort, but we just have to forget about that one. We've just got to tighten up our straps and give it another try. We've got to be a little more consistent and continue to play strong defense, which could turn things around for us."



Times Staff Photo By Nadine Shochet

Valdosta's Derrick Folsom Leaps For Layup

VHS Named To Ga. School Excellence List

V. Times 1-13-85

By MICK HENDERSON
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School's recent selection a Georgia School of Excellence marks a first-time event for the institution.

The school is one of 30 middle, junior and high schools around the state to be honored by the state Board of Education as a School of Excellence for 1985.

The schools were selected based on their administrative leadership; teacher effectiveness; academic goals and achievements; school curriculum; discipline; and community involvement and support.

"It involved all aspects of the school's programs," said VHS principal Bill Aldrich. "There wasn't any emphasis on any particular one.

"We're delighted," he said. "I think this award is a reflection of the community's attitude toward education."

Aldrich said the School of Excellence program was initiated in 1983 as the result of a 1982 study of education in this country by a group known as the Education Council, appointed by President Reagan.

The program is "designed to identify and honor successful school programs throughout the state and to encourage excellence in all schools," according to a state Department of Education news release.

As well as garnering the state honor, VHS has been selected as one of six Georgia high schools to compete in the national School of Excellence competition, the results of which will be announced sometime this spring, Aldrich said.

Each school in the competition was first recommended by its county school superintendent and then had to complete a 20-page application outlining various programs, according to state department of education official Mike Tenoschok.

He said many of the questions in the application were "open ended" so the schools would have the opportunity to fully explain their particular programs.

The final nominations, consisting of one elementary, middle and high school from each school system, were then submitted to a panel of Tennessee educators for judging.

Tenoschok said the state has a reciprocal agreement with Tennessee involving school competitions to insure objectivity.

He said the final nominees were judged in such areas as clear academic goals; high expectations for students; order and discipline for students; and rewards and incentives for students and teachers.

Valdosta School Superintendent Ralph Brandon said the award "is a tremendous honor for the faculty and students and for the community as well.

"We're very pleased at being recognized in such a manner," he said, adding that the inclusion in the national competition is "an even more distinctive honor."

VHS Falls To Trojans

From Staff Reports
ALBANY — Valdosta High continued on its roller-coaster ride this season, falling to Albany-Dougherty 51-50 Saturday night.

Dougherty came back from a 25-22 halftime deficit to pull out the win. However, Valdosta had several chances to pull out the win, but failed to capitalize on the opportunities.

The Cats trailed the Trojans 48-46, but were in possession of the ball with just over a minute left to play. However, Valdosta was hit with a charging foul, and Dougherty made both free throws for a 50-46 lead with only 32 seconds left.

Valdosta came back to score on its next possession and cut the lead to two points, 50-48, but Dougherty iced the game by hitting one of two free throws for a 51-48 advantage with only seven seconds left. Valdosta added a basket as time was running out for the final 51-50 verdict.

"We had our chances, but didn't take advantage of them, which was the difference in the game," Valdosta Coach Mike O'Brien said. "We got a tremendous effort from all of the kids, but we just came up short this time."

Dougherty led 10-7 at the end of the first period, but Valdosta outscored the Trojans 18-12 in the second quarter to take a three-point lead into the dressing room.

Valdosta pushed its lead to 39-34 by the end of the third quarter, but couldn't maintain the advantage. The Trojans outscored Valdosta 17-11 in the final period to pull out the win.

"We played all out and

that's all that I can ask of the guys," O'Brien said. "Dougherty hit some key free throws in the end and we made some crucial turnovers that turned the game around. It gave them the momentum, but we kept after them all the way until the buzzer sounded."

Wallace Campbell was the only 'Cat to hit double figures with 12 points, while Glenn Edwards topped Dougherty with 19 and Tim Merritt added 10.

In the girls' game, Dougherty made it a sweep, racing by the Lady Wildcats 78-63.

Wendy Irvin and Felecia Henderson combined for 38 points for the Lady 'Cats, but it wasn't enough as their record dipped to 3-18.

"I thought we did a pretty good job of shooting the ball," Valdosta Coach James Studstill said. "We made more than 50 percent of our shots, but got in early foul trouble and they

just killed us at the free throw line.

"They hit something like 24 free throws and that's just too much to overcome. We are improving and have a young team, and everybody got a chance to play."

Valdosta will play host to Lowndes, Tuesday.

Boys' Game
Valdosta 7 18 14 11—50
Dougherty 10 12 12 17—51
Valdosta (50) — Campbell 12, Kitchens 7, Edwards 4, Walker 6, Folsom 6, Wright 4, Brown 7, Lowe 4. Totals 22-6-11-50.
Dougherty (51) — Johnson 6, Edwards 19, Merritt 10, Marshall 9, Smith 6, Kittle 1. Totals 23-5-8-51.

Record: Valdosta 10-10.
Girls' Game
Valdosta 10 17 18 18—63
Dougherty 21 19 24 14—78
Valdosta (63) — Henderson 18, Irvin 20, L. Irvin 7, Ceasare 4, Bass 3, Longielliere 0, Weatherspoon 6, Lowe 0, Shown 2, Gardner 1, Barnett 2. Totals 26 11-22 (24 fouls) 63.

Dougherty (78) — Whitlock 10, Baisden 2, Fisroe 2, Davis 25, Edwards 0, Davis 2, Brown 13, Smith 4, Hall 18, Rouse 2. Totals 27-24-35 (18 fouls) 78.

Record: Valdosta 3-18
Next game: Tuesday v Lowndes.

VHS Closes Season With Victories

The Valdosta High Wrestlers capped off the regular season in grand style Saturday, winning two matches. The Wildcats beat Westover 32-22, and Dougherty 49-12.

In the Westover Match, Jimmy Lewis of Valdosta scored a 39 second pin to remain undefeated at 15-0. Chris Gray and Tony Johnson also pinned their opponents. Winning by decision for the Wildcats were Mike Schmier, Louie Gonis, Andrew Kaiser, and Ira Wenzel.

Against Dougherty, Louie Gonis scored the quickest pin of the match, beating his opponent in just 51 seconds.

Wildcat James Wakefield was out of state, checking on a football scholarship, and Craig Klement is still out with a knee injury.

The Wildcats will host the Area Tournament next weekend February 8-9.

Valdosta vs Westover

100-pound class — Double Forfeit, 107 — Schmier (V) dec. Thanh, 114 — Gonis (V) dec. Snapp, 121 — Gray (V) pinned Goree, 128 — Green (W) dec. Hebner, 134 — Kaiser (V) dec. Burkett, 140 — Wenzel (V) dec. Tommy Lacy, 147 — Redding (W) pinned Tinney, 157 — Branch (W) pinned Moorman, 169 — Tony Johnson (V) pinned Goree, 187 — Northrop (W) won by forfeit, UNL — Lewis (V) pinned Bishop

Valdosta vs Dougherty

100-pound class — Schmier (V) won by forfeit, 107 — Double Forfeit, 114 — Gonis (V) pinned Green, 121 — Gray (V) dec. Smith, 128 — Hebner (V) pinned Moran, 134 — Kaiser (V) pinned Sanders, 140 — Wenzel (V) pinned Drew, 147 — Tinney (V) won by forfeit, 157 — Russell (D) pinned Moorman, 169 — Johnson (V) dec. Walker, 187 — Lyons (D) won by forfeit, UNL — Lewis (V) won by forfeit.

Vikings To Face Valdosta

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

The sports world is full of cliches, but there's one in particular that Lowndes High basketball Coach Terry Wilkes likes to stick to when talking about his Vikings, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

In 18 of their 19 games, the Vikings have started the same lineup of Earl Gray and Paul March at the guard spots, Chuck Cooper on the wing, with Eric Davis and Undrae Mitchell filling in the low post slots.

That group will have a chance to break the school's single season record for victories tonight against Valdosta in a key Region 1-AAAA South matchup.

In other area games, Berrien County visits Clinch County, Cairo travels to Cook County, Colquitt County is on the road against Albany-Westover, Lanier County takes on Brooks County in Quitman, and Tiftarea visits Valwood.

All girls' games are scheduled to start at 7 p.m. with the boys' game starting at 8:30.

"We shouldn't have any problems getting up for this one," Wilkes said. "There are a lot of incentives involved and we need to win this game to have any chance at gaining the top spot in the subregion."

"It's tough enough trying to beat a team twice in the same season, but this is our third time playing one another and the task won't be any easier this time. We've come out ready to play in all of our games, but we didn't play particularly well in our last game (against Colquitt Co.). We did just enough things to pull out the win and stay in control of the game."

Lowndes is 17-2 overall and 5-1 in the subregion. Two of those victories came against Valdosta, but one of the losses came at home against subregion leading Bainbridge. The loss snapped a nine-game winning streak for the Vikings. The Vikings have won four-in-row since that loss.

"We've been playing with confidence all season, but I still don't feel like we've reached our peak," Wilkes said. "Our play has been consistent all year, and I don't know if there's a way to prepare for a letdown except hard work."

Valdosta, 10-10, has been on a roller-coaster ride all season. Wallace Campbell leads the 'Cats in scoring, averaging nearly 18 per game, while seniors James Edwards, Victor Walker and Derrick Folsom lend support.

In the girls' game, Lowndes will be coming back from its first loss of the season — 1 51-32 decision to at Colquitt County.

That game marked the return to action of senior scoring leader Natasha Horn.

"It's always a big game when we play Valdosta and we shouldn't have any problem getting up for this one," Lady Vikings Coach Steve Kebler said. "We've been taking them one game at a time all season, and there's no reason to think that our girls won't be able to come back from that last game."

"They're more disgusted with themselves than anything else right now. We're not feeling sorry for ourselves. We're not going to change anything that we've been working on. We just have to do a better job of executing those things."

Lowndes is 18-1 overall and 6-0 in subregion play. Valdosta is 3-18 overall.

"We know they'll be high as a kite coming in here, especially after losing their first game last week," Valdosta Coach James Studstill said. "They'll be out for blood and all we can do is just hang in there and give it our best shot."

"I don't know how much of a challenge we'll be able to present them, but we're going to fight them all the way. We've been playing a lot of girls in recent weeks in what has been a rebuilding year."

Clinch County will be trying for its second win in just over a week's time against the Rebels from Berrien County. The Panthers are 10-8 for the season and clinched the Region 2-A title last Friday against Atkinson County.

"We're playing with a lot of confidence right now, but we still have a lot of things that we need to work on," Clinch Coach Allen Robbins said. "We beat them (Berrien) pretty good last time, so I'm sure they'll be out to make up for that."

"As I've said many times before, We've been playing extremely well since the Christmas break and I just hope that we don't get too overconfident. We're trying to build some momentum heading into the tournament, but a lot of things can happen in two weeks time."

"If we can continue to work hard, I think we'll be all right. We're going to put in some extra practice time on our ball-handling and rebounding techniques. We've got to do a better job in both those areas to become a complete basketball team."

VHS Upset Sidetracks Lowndes' Title Dreams

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

VDT 2-6-85

Before Lowndes and Valdosta met Tuesday night, Lowndes' Terry Wilkes and Valdosta's Mike O'Brien agreed that records didn't count for very much in the key Region 1-AAAA South game as Valdosta upset Lowndes 55-51 before a capacity crowd at Valdosta.

It was the final home game for Valdosta seniors Wallace Campbell, Derrick Folsom, James Edwards, Sylvester Kitchen and Victor Walker.

Meanwhile, Lowndes was shooting for a school single season record of 18 wins, hoping to remain in the thick of the subregion title chase with Bainbridge.

But, the third time proved to be the charm for Valdosta, who had lost in two previous meetings against the Vikings.

However, it didn't come easy by any means as Valdosta saw a seven-point lead, 48-41, with 2:35 left evaporate into a 51-51 tie in less than a minute and a half when Todd Williams hit a baseline jumper with 1:10 left.

Valdosta had been through this routine too many times before though, with seven of its 10 losses coming by less than five points. The Wildcats raced back up the court and scored on a follow shot by Anthony Brown, who had his first attempt blocked by the Vikings' Eric Davis.

Brown's follow up came with 49 seconds left, but Lowndes had plenty of time to decide to play for the final shot or try to score early. The Vikings didn't have any more time outs left though, and seemed confused about which strategic role to take.

They decided to go for the shot, but Paul March's jumper was short. He got his own rebound, but it was slapped away. The ball was inbounded to Undrae Mitchell, but his 10-foot turn around was off and Campbell rebounded the errant attempt.

Campbell was fouled immediately with five seconds left to play. He calmly stepped to the foul line, and hit both ends of his bonus free throws to seal the game and end the Vikings dreams of finishing in top spot of the subregion tournament, which will be played at Lowndes.

"We just got beat," Wilkes said. "We got the shot that we wanted at the end, but it just wouldn't drop for us."

"There were three big keys in this loss tonight. We didn't shoot well from the outside or inside. We had to play most of the game without our top scorer and rebounder (Davis) who was on the bench due to foul problems. And our free throw shooting, which has been our achilles heel all year, was once again just terrible."

"Those things in a nutshell is what cost us this game. But you have to give Valdosta credit because they had a lot to do with how we played. We came back in the end and showed a lot of character, but we just couldn't pull it off. We didn't shoot any free throws in the last quarter, while Valdosta was five-of-six."

Campbell, Folsom and Brown combined to score 42 of Valdosta's 55 points, with Campbell leading the way with 15 points and 14 rebounds. Folsom followed with 14 points, while Brown added 13 along with 12 rebounds.

Mitchell led Lowndes with 14 points, but March was the only other Viking to score in double figures with 10 points. Davis, who averages more than 16 points per game, was held to just eight points.

"The big thing that we got out of this game is that our kids now know that we can win some of these close games after being on the other end of so many of them," O'Brien said. "This can serve as a real shot in the arm and the kids have regained their confidence."

"We had to play super basketball to beat them because I feel like Lowndes has one of the best teams in the state. We made some costly mental mistakes at the end, but we regained our poise and pulled out a big win."

"Lowndes will never be out a game because they are so explosive and have the total team. They can hurt you inside or outside. We just tried to maintain our composure and stick to the things that got us the lead."

Lowndes led 15-12 at the end of the first quarter, but Valdosta fought back to take a 24-22 lead by halftime. Lowndes biggest advantage of the game came at the start of the second quarter when Mitchell hit one of two free throws for a 16-12 lead.

Valdosta came back and eventually took the lead for good on a three-point play by Brown with 1:38 left in the first half for a 24-21 advantage. Lowndes' Kirk Robinson hit a free throw with 1:06 left to complete the scoring in the half.

Valdosta opened the third period by scoring the first four points to lead 28-22, but Lowndes came back to cut it to 28-27 on a jumper by Chuck Cooper with 4:57 left. The margin stayed between one and three points for the rest of the period and Valdosta led 36-33 going into the final quarter.

Lowndes (51) — Gray 3, March 10, Cooper 8, Mitchell 14, Davis 8, Robinson 8, Williams 2. Totals 22-15 (13 fouls) 51.
Valdosta (55) — Campbell 15, Kitchens 4, Walker 6, Edwards 2, Wright 0, Brown 13, Folsom 14. Totals 23-16 (14 fouls) 55.
Lowndes 15 7 11 18-51
Valdosta 12 12 12 19-55
Records: Lowndes 17-2, Valdosta 11-10.
Next Game: Lowndes at Bainbridge, Friday; Valdosta at Central Thomasville, Friday.

Lowndes' Chuck Cooper Tries To Pass Over Valdosta's Sylvester Kitchen



VDT 2-6-85

Sorry, Coach

Lowndes High School roundball Viking Head Coach Terry Wilkes tries to convince the officials an error in their ways, as Wilkes saw it, Tuesday night at Valdosta High School. The VHS

Wildcats upset the Vikes 55-51 before a capacity crowd in the VHS gymnasium. — Times Staff Photo by Nadine Shochet.

Grapplin' Grapplers

Area Wrestling Programs Have Come A Long Way In Eight Years

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Imagine that you're in a small enclosed room. There are two heaters on the wall, raising the temperature to 80-85 degrees. You can hear the sound of people yelling and the sound of bodies dropping to the floor. Where are you? If you guessed Hartsfield International Airport or a dungeon of the Spanish Inquisition, you're wrong.

This is the hair-raising scene of the Valdosta High Wildcat Wrestling room during an afternoon's practice.

It's not that wrestling is barbaric or masochistic. It just demands a lot of physical exertion, and the heat is needed to help wrestlers shed weight.

Wrestling is a relatively new sport to this area of Georgia. Valdosta has established a good program in a short time, and Lowndes, which has had a wrestling team for only three years, has a respectable program also.

Valdosta Coach Jim Landrum has been the Wildcat's only wrestling coach, and he, along with Athletic Director Nick Hyder, are responsible for its beginnings.

"We started eight years ago. We had a young man who came here, named Ken Castro, who wrestled in North Dakota," Landrum said.

"He (Castro) came to me and asked me if I would get him involved with wrestling in this area. We took him to a couple of tournaments and we worked out, and he won the tournaments. He won the area and he eventually won state for us."

"We came back and talked to Mr. (Lloyd) Mims, who was our principle at that time, and we talked to Coach Hyder. They were in agreement and we started a team," said Landrum.

"Coach Hyder was very much behind

us. He came from West Rome, and wrestling was real strong there. He's backed us real well over the years."

The younger Lowndes program took root in 1982, and Newman Sanchez volunteered to coach the Vikings.

Valdosta Junior High has had a wrestling team for two years, building a feeder system similar to the football program. Wrestling is also being introduced to youngsters at the YMCA.

Systems like Valdosta and Lowndes are building have been in practice in the Atlanta schools for decades, which accounts for the supremacy of schools such as Berkmar, Wheeler, Westminster, and Woodward Academy.

In many of the Atlanta private schools, kids can take wrestling as early as the fourth or fifth grade, giving these schools the extra experience that almost makes them invulnerable to schools with less established programs.

Wrestling is so much different from the more popular sports like football, baseball, and basketball. But what is it that really makes wrestling so unique?

"It gives a little athlete a place to compete," said Sanchez.

"No other sport does that. In football, and even in track and field, when you talk about little people, you're talking about people who weigh 140 to 160 pounds.

Landrum agrees with Sanchez, but also emphasizes the one-on-one competition that most sports do not have.

"It's an individual sport," Landrum said.

"When those youngsters get out there, there's no one to save them but themselves. There's no one to embarrass them but themselves, and it builds confidence and character. Once you step

See Wrestling, Page 16A



Two Valdosta High Wrestlers Work For Position During Practice

Times Staff Photo By Mike Colombo

FHA Week Upcoming

The Future Homemakers of America at Valdosta High will celebrate FHA Week February 10-15. Activities include:

SUNDAY — All members will attend church together at the 11 a.m. service of First Baptist Church. Let Miss Smith know if you plan to attend.

MONDAY — Celebrate family night by being of service to your family. Members will help with dinner, read stories to younger children or organize family activities.

TUESDAY — Members will wear red and white, the official colors of the organization.

WEDNESDAY — Compete work on the Valentine pillow project.

THURSDAY — Deliver Valentine pillows to those who have ordered them.

FRIDAY — Button Day, all members will wear an identification button announcing they are proud FHA members.



VHS
News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

FBLA Week Begins Sunday

EDITOR'S NOTE: News For Valdosta High School students is coordinated by Janeen Josey.

By TINA TUCKER
VHS FBLA Member

National FBLA Week will be held starting Sunday, February 10, 1985 until Saturday, February 16, 1985. Valdosta High School will be involved in the following activities:

Sunday, Feb. 10: Attend church of choice—ask minister to print "FBLA WEEK" in bulletin an to recognize you as a group. Visit nursing home of choice in afternoon.

Monday, Feb. 11: Secretaries Day: Food Drive for Soup Kitchen; Volunteer work (Heart Assoc., etc.); Lunch—China Gardens—"dutch treat"; bowling.

Pillows Sold

The Valdosta High Future Homemakers of America are designing and sewing Valentine pillows as a money making project.

The FHA projects are an integral part and extension of the home economics courses they take each quarter. One of the important goals in FHA is to use leisure time wisely.

Yearbooks Sold

By Elaine Graves
Sandspur 1985 will go on sale Thursday, February 14. Cost of the yearbook is still \$15. Students should make their checks payable to Valdosta High School.

This year's book will cover the championship football season and feature sixteen pages of color photographs of homecoming and the first day of school.

An expanded Student Life section will allow more coverage of day-to-day student activities.

Vikettes Roll Again, Defeat Valdosta

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

It took a little longer than Lowndes Coach Steve Kebley would have liked, but his Lady Vikings finally regained their shooting touch in the second half of their 77-39 romp past Valdosta Tuesday.

The Lady Vikings proved they had the right stuff, by connecting on more than 70 percent of their shots in the second half, outscoring the Lady Wildcats 43-13 to cruise to the win.

Lowndes was coming off its first loss of the season last Friday against Colquitt, and shot only 30 percent from the field in that game. For two quarters Tuesday the shooting woes of the Lady Vikings continued, but they still led Valdosta 34-26 at halftime, despite shooting just over 40 percent.

However, that all changed in the second half. The Lady Vikings caught fire behind Sherice Willis and Natasha Horn, who combined for 26 second-half points to ease to their 19th win in 20 games.

"We started playing a little defense in the second half and that proved to be the difference in the game," Kebley said. "We were shooting the ball pretty good in the first half, but we were making so many floor mistakes."

"I told them at halftime to get their act together because Valdosta had come ready to play. In the second half, we went back to playing the way we're accustomed to and the girls pulled together."

"It took us a half to get that last game out of our heads, but I think we'll be okay now. It's always tough playing over here, and I would have been glad to get out of here with any kind of win, period."

Lowndes led throughout the game scoring the first four points of the game before settling for a 19-10 lead at the end of the quarter. Willis and Debbie Richardson scored baskets to open the second quarter, giving the Lady Vikings their biggest advantage of the half, 23-10.

But, Valdosta fought back, creeping within seven points (27-20) of Lowndes with 3:00 left on

a 15-foot jumper by Wendy Irvin. Lowndes came back to score the next five points on a pair of baskets by Horn, and a free throw by Jennifer Griffin to push the margin back up to 32-20 with 1:45 left.

However, Valdosta refused to wilt, and outscored the Lady Vikings 6-2 in the last minute to trail just 34-26.

Lowndes quickly put the game away in the third period by outscoring the Lady Cats 14-2 in the first four minutes. The lead continued to build throughout the half, and Lowndes took a 56-33 advantage into the final period.

Willis sparked the third period surge by the Lady Vikings by scoring 14 of her game 23 points in the quarter as Lowndes outscored Valdosta 22-7 in the period.

Horn took over in the final period to score 12 of her 17 points as Lowndes outscored Valdosta 21-6. Lowndes continued to roll in the final period, building a steady lead until the final winning margin of 77-39.

Two other Lowndes players also scored in double figures, Pam Walker contributed 13 and Richardson added 10. Willis and Horn also pulled down 11 rebounds apiece, while Walker had nine and Richardson seven.

Richardson also picked up three steals to lead Lowndes and handed out seven assists. Horn, Walker and sophomore Beverly Williams all contributed two steals apiece. Williams added five assists to back Richardson.

"We just decided to get the ball inside in the second half because they were fronting Willis," Kebley said. "We got good games from Horn and Willis inside and Walker hit some key shots outside to open things up."

Lowndes (77) — Walker 13, Richardson 10, Willis 23, Horn 17, Griffin 3, Williams 6, Hall 3, Woods 0, Maine 0, Campbell 0, Dennis 0, Trenor 0, Straughter 0. Totals 30-17-36 (14 fouls) 77.
Valdosta (39) — Henderson 10, W. Irvin 8, L. Irvin 7, Caesar 6, Johnson 2, Weatherpoon 2, Gardner 0, Hall 0, Barnett 0, Bass 4, Stown 0, Longeliere 0. Totals 15-9-20 (23 fouls) 39.

Records: Lowndes 19-1; Valdosta 3-19.
Next Game: Lowndes at Bamberg, Friday; Valdosta at Central-Thomasville, Friday.



Valdosta's Lewis And Lowndes' Lolley Work For A Takedown

Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris

Valdosta's Felicia Henderson (15) Battles With Jennifer Griffin (11)

Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris

'Cats Win Area Tourney

VD 2-10-85

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

In the most ferocious match of the Area 1-AAAA wrestling tournament, Valdosta's Jimmy Lewis squared off against Lowndes' Jimmy Lolley, and things really started spinning. Anyone familiar with the biblical story of Joshua had their hands over their heads, just waiting for the walls to come tumbling down.

There are some people who find high school wrestling boring. These people are merely deluded. If one of these skeptics was in the Valdosta gym Saturday night he would have been far from bored.

In the first period, Lolley slapped Lewis in the head, and the two wrestlers stood eye-to-eye glaring at each other. An angry Lewis then nearly threw Lolley into the bleachers, but luckily, neither one left the mat.

At the end of the second period, they were tied at three, but an escape by Lolley and a take down by Lewis gave Lewis the 5-4 edge he needed to hold on to the victory. This was the second time this year that Lewis beat Lolley in a close match.

The Valdosta Wildcats took the tournament by storm, placing 11 out of 12 wrestlers. All 11 will travel to the State match.

Another standout for the Wildcat's was Louie Gonis at 115. Gonis pinned all of his opponents in the first period, and won the title. Gonis was also named the Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament.

Craig Klement also came through for the Wildcats. Klement, wrestling with a badly swollen ankle, pinned his first opponent, and won his other matches by decisions. Klement was the winner in the 129-lb class.

This is the fifth consecutive year that the Wildcats have won the area tournament.

The Lowndes Vikings sent two wrestlers into the final round. Lolley lost to Lewis at Unlimited, and Jimmy Mallory was pinned by Westover's Ly Thanh.

Team Scores
Valdosta 202.5, Westover 134, Colquitt Co. 105, Monroe 87.5, Dougherty 54.5, Tift Co. 47.5, Lowndes 36, Effingham 0.

Championship Round
101 — Stanley Roberts (W) pinned Mike Schmier (V), 108
— Ly Thanh (W) pinned Jimmy Mallory (L), 115 — Louie Gonis (V) pinned Steve Snapp (W), 122 — Chris Gray (V) pinned Reginald Swan (W), 129 — Craig Klement (V) pinned Jimmy Green (W), 135 — Andrew Kaiser (V) dec. Scott White (C), 115, 141 — Ira Wentz (V) dec. Timmy Lacey (W), 111, 140 — Brett Tinney (V) dec. Arcellious Redding (W), 134, 138 — Anthony Branch (W) dec. Greg Yarbrough (C), 9.6, 170 — Sammy Tough (V) dec. O'Quinn (C), 7.4, 108 — Wakeland (V) pinned Northrup (W), Unt. — Lewis (V) dec. Lolley (L), 5.4.

VHS Hosting Area Wrestling Tournament

By Mike Colombo
Times Sports Writer

Anyone who's anybody has heard the adds for Georgia Championship Wrestling. You know the ones. They usually end with something really catchy like "Be There."

The place to be this weekend is the Valdosta High gym.

No, Andre the Giant won't be there, or the Anderson Brothers, but some of the area's finest wrestlers will be there because Valdosta is hosting the Area High School Wrestling Tournaments.

Traveling to Valdosta will be Lowndes, Tift County, Monroe, Effingham County, Dougherty, Colquitt County, and Westover.

The tournament will be split, with round one starting at 7:30 Friday night, and round two starting at 11:30 Saturday morning.

The championship round will begin at 7:30 Saturday night.

The Wildcats, who have won the tournament for the last four years, are hoping for a repeat performance and have several wrestlers coming back who did well in last year's Region 1-AAAA meet; Louie Gonis won last year in the 108-pound class; Wildcat captain Craig Klement won in the 122-pound class; James Wakefield placed third at 188; and Jimmy Lewis won at 198. Lewis is undefeated, 15-0, and is a strong contender at heavyweight.

Wildcat Coach Jim Landrum knows his team does not have the

tournament sewed up, and knows that there is more than enough competition for his team.

"I think Westover is going to be our competition. I thought Lowndes would be up until the last couple of weeks. (Lowndes Coach Newnan) Sanchez has had some tough luck. He lost three of his best wrestlers. I feel bad for Newnan because he's worked so hard," Landrum said.

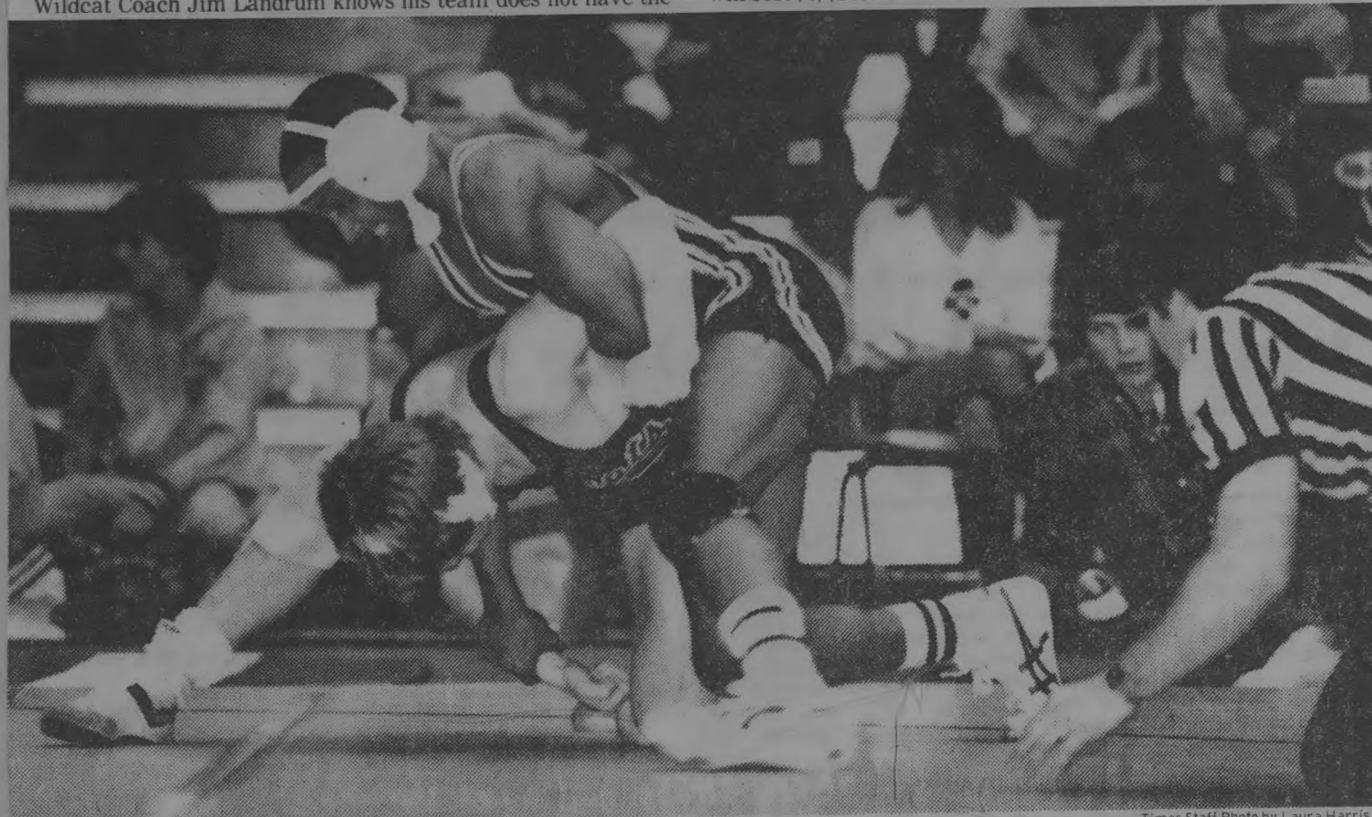
"Westover has a boy at a 101 (Stanley Roberts) and they have Thanh Ly at 107, and he's tough. They've got a kid named Todd Northrup at 187 who played quarterback for them, a super kid from up North. He won the Cook County Tournament. They've got some other kids who are real tough."

Reginald Swan, who placed fourth at 115, will return for Monroe.

Lowndes has two wrestlers returning who placed last year. Mike Woodruff placed third at 101, and Jimmy Lolley lost in the finals to Valdosta's Lewis. Lewis and Lolley stand a good chance to meet again this year in the heavyweight class. Lolley has lost only one match all year, a three point decision to Lewis.

Effingham is new to the tournament

The admission price will be \$3 per round, and the final round will cost \$4, \$2 for children under 12. A tournament pass costs \$10.



Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris

The Class AAAA Area Wrestling Tournament Will Be Held At Valdosta Friday And Saturday

Competitors

Records Are In Parenthesis

Colquitt
115 — Daniels (9-2); 122 — Fetterman (12-4-1); 129 — Goodnu (2-6); 135 — White; 141 — Mitchell (4-3); 148 — Revier (13-2); 158 — Yarbrough (12-2); 170 — Oakwili (12-2); 188 — Jackson (7-7); UNL — Caldwell (4-5).

Dougherty
115 — Darren Green (4-10); 122 — Corey Smith Corey (9-5); 129 — Robel Morgan (7-7); 135 — Travis Sanders (0-3); 141 — Stacy Drew (3-8); 148 — Steve Brooks (0-8); 158 — Johnny Russell (5-6-1); 170 — Scott Walker (8-3); 188 — Patrick Lyons (9-3); UNL — Ronnie Woodworth (0-5).

Effingham County
129 — Scott Peavy (0-2); 148 — Robert Griffin (0-1); 158 — Randy Caldwell (1-2); 170 — Edward Johnson (1-1).

Lowndes
101 — Holly Frye (6-6); 108 — James Mallory (10-3); 115 — Michael Woodruff (6-3); 122 — Chase Gregory (4-3); 129 — Barry Broome (3-6); 135 — Michael Milley (4-5); 141 — Richard Brunston (2-6-1); 148 — Jody Platt (5-5); 158 — Darren Broome (0-2); 170 — Ryan Broome (4-7); 188 — Dwayne Kelley (0-8); UNL — Jimmy Lolley (5-1).

Monroe
115 — Michael Waters (3-5); 122 — Reginald Swan (5-2-1); 129 — Christopher Floyd (3-1); 135 — Gromasky Albritten (5-2); 141 — Greg Peterson (6-1-1); 148 — Eddie Roberts (3-4); 158 — Mark Vickers (0-4-1); 170 — David Medlock (5-3); 188 — Anthony Reed (1-5).

Tift County
101 — Ricky Frambo; 115 — B. Irwin; 122 — L. Alexander; 129 — L. Sears; 135 — Thomas Dorsey; 141 — Dave Rogers; 148 — Petrone Harris; 158 — Chris Osby; 170 — Sammy Tuff; 188 — Bobby Gordon; UNL — Jackson.

Valdosta
101 — Mike Schmier (17-4); 108 — Greg Hebner (0-1); 115 — Louis Gonis (17-5); 122 — Chris Gray (13-6); 129 — Craig Klement (18-2); 135 — Andrew Kaiser (6-8); 141 — Ira Wenz (15-5); 148 — Bret Tinney (0-2); 158 — Ashley Mourman (5-11); 170 — Tony Johnson (8-7); 188 — James Wakefield (9-1); UNL — Jimmy Lewis (15-0).

Westover
101 — Stanley Roberts (5-0); 108 — Thanh Ly (4-1); 115 — Steve Snapp (4-1-1); 122 — Ken Goree (1-5); 129 — Johnny Green (8-1); 135 — Adam Burkett (4-6-14); 141 — Tommy Lacy (8-1); 148 — Arcillious Redding (7-1); 158 — Anthony Branch (6-2); 170 — Steve Goree (2-4); 188 — Todd Northrop (7-0); UNL — Curtis Kimbrell (3-2).

How They Score

Individual

- Take Down 2 Points
When a wrestler gets behind or on top of his opponent from the neutral or standing position.
- Escape 1 Point
Getting out from underneath an opponent to a neutral position.
- Reversal 2 Points
Getting out from underneath the opponent and behind or on top of him.
- Near Fall 2 or 3 Points
A near fall is a position in which the offensive wrestler has control of his opponent in a pinning situation with:
1) Both shoulders of the defensive wrestler held momentarily within four inches of the mat or less, or when one shoulder of the defensive wrestler is touching the mat and the other shoulder is held at an angle of 45 degrees or less with the mat. — 2 points
2) The criteria for a near fall having met uninterrupted for five seconds. The visual hand count is to be used in determining a three point near fall. — 3 points
- Stalling
First offense — 1 point; Third offense — 2 points; Fourth offense — Disqualified.
Stalling is avoiding wrestling in any position.
- Illegal Holds, Technical Violations, Roughness
First and Second offense — 1 point; Third offense — 2 points; Fourth offense — Disqualified.
A) Pulling back on thumb or less than four fingers on opponent's hand.
B) Any hold over nose, throat or mouth that restricts breathing.
C) Locking hands behind the back in neutral position.
D) Bending, twisting or forcing the head or any limb beyond normal limits or movement.
E) Double Arm Bar locking hands.
F) Unsportsmanlike conduct.
G) Unnecessary roughness.
H) Full Straight-Back Suplay.
I) Head Scissors.
J) Full Nelson.
K) Slams.

Lewis Learned Quick

This past football season, Jimmy Lewis helped lead the Valdosta Wildcats to a 15-0 record, the Class AAAA state championship and the mythical National Championship.

And Lewis hasn't stopped there. He was still 15-0 Friday. The only difference is the sport. And after this weekend's Class AAAA Area Wrestling Tournament at Valdosta High, Lewis has yet to be beaten this year. He walked away with the heavyweight championship after beating Lowndes Jimmy Lolley in the finals.



Lewis

something that just came natural to Lewis.

"We start all the wrestlers on just the basics," Landrum said. "Him and (James) Wakefield came out together as sophomores because they wanted to help their football with agility work in wrestling. We showed Jimmy the basic moves just like we do everybody. He just fell into it. All of sudden he woke up one morning and he was a wrestler. He wasn't like a kid you take for four years and hope you develop him. He came out and beat a kid who was region champion, and just beat him to death. He went on from there and did well in the state."

Lewis, like many football players, decided to participate in another sport to try and keep in shape. The only difference is the way he has terrorized opponents this year.

And that, according to Valdosta wrestling coach Jim Landrum, is

That was Lewis' sophomore year. Last year, he was the runnerup in the state in the 198-pound class. But this year, Lewis is having to compete in the unlimited class since the Georgia High School Association did away with 198.

"If they still had the 198-pound class, Jimmy would walk through the state this year," Landrum said. "The problem he's going to run into is that Berkmar just has an animal that weighs about 285 and placed fourth in the state last year and is tough. Jimmy can beat him, though. He can out-quick him and out-manuever him. Wheeler has a good kid that weighs about 225-230. Jimmy beat him last year at 198. That's the main competition right there. I also understand there's a good boy from LaGrange that's real tough. But we feel he has an excellent chance of winning it. He's a light-heavyweight. But Leon Johnson placed second up there and only weighed 206. We're looking forward to seeing what happens."

Lewis is looking forward to state meet as well.

"As a senior, I decided I should try and go undefeated and win the state," Lewis said. "I just made up my mind and decided I was going to go all out and give it my best shot. I think I've got a good chance of winning the state this year."

Although Lewis will be signing a football scholarship later this week, he said wrestling is a little bit tougher.

"I enjoy football more, but just a little bit over wrestling, because that's what I grew up on, playing football," Lewis said. "But in wrestling, you have to get a little more serious than you do in football. You have to take a lot of time by yourself to think. In football, you have to worry about holding your position down and doing your best. In wrestling, it's just one-on-one. It's really different from football."

"Trying to be prepared both physically and mentally is tough. You have to be ready physically and you have to get it in your mind what you're going to do on the mat."

But for Lewis, that's not much of a problem. He's had very little trouble getting by his opponents this year. His closest match was a 5-4 decision over Lolley this year. The rest have been walk-aways. And that's because he thinks while he's on the mat.

"You've got to think when you're on the mat," Landrum said. "And Jimmy does. He moves into his moves real natural. Probably the biggest two factors that help him are he's very quick, quicker than any heavyweight in Georgia, and his strength."

Randy Gay, John Porter Go With Georgia Tech

VD
2-13-85

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

The national signing date is finally here. Coaches at all levels have been busy sweeping the country on the hunt of prospects who could help either maintain the status of their program or turn it around.

Georgia, considered by many recruiters to be one of the top five states in the nation for high school talent, is no exception this year. Valdosta and Lowndes high schools alone have more major college talent than the entire state of South Carolina.

Put that with many other top programs in the state and it's no wonder 1985 will be a banner season for college recruiters.

The area's top recruit, Valdosta all-America linebacker John Porter signed with Georgia Tech Wednesday afternoon after narrowing his choices to Tech, Georgia and Pittsburgh.

"I think education is the most important thing," Porter said. "I wanted to play big-time football. I feel like I'll fit in better there (Tech). They stuck with me the whole time (recruiting) and seemed to really care."

Other area players who signed Wednesday are Lowndes quarterback Randy Gay, who is headed for Georgia Tech, Berrien County quarterback Clay McCall, who is going to Tulane, and Lowndes defensive lineman Jimmy Lolley, who will be going to Southwestern Louisiana.

Also headed to Southwestern Louisiana is Valdosta defensive lineman James Wakefield. In addition, Valdosta quarterback Berke Holtzclaw and running back Willie Lewis are both headed for East Carolina. Colquitt County's Nathaniel Lewis is considering South Carolina or Georgia, while Central-Thomasville's Jessie Small has several different schools still in the picture.

While Georgia, Georgia Tech, Clemson, South Carolina and Auburn will get their share of the wealth in the state, Valdosta State is also cashing in.

The Blazers have gotten off to a fast start under first-year head coach Jim Berryman in the recruiting season.

On Wednesday, the Blazers signed Valdosta center Jon Reaves, Lowndes corner back Calvin Orr, Colquitt County quarterback Darrell Funderburk, Albany Monroe quarterback-defensive back Lee Mathis, tight end Darrell Leonard of Valdosta, running back Stonewall Jackson of Thomasville, lineman Mike Sellers of Lee County, and lineman Oliver Blount (6-feet-2, 240-pound) of

Central-Thomasville.

Wide receivers Tony Ross (6-1, 185) of LaGrange, Anthony Mitchell (5-10, 182) of Griffin, and linemen Dana Fender (6-0, 220) and Macon-Northside product Bennie Laverette (6-5, 250) also signed with the Blazers.

Other players in the state who are expected to sign with the Blazers are a pair of linemen from Campbell-Fairburn, Jim Brooks (6-6, 290) and Kyle Jones (6-3, 260). Defensive lineman Hershel Wooten (6-2, 235) of Waycross, Savannah running back Tony Grant (5-11, 170) and Jonesboro fullback Bobby Seals also joined the fold.

Tift County defensive back Wes McGriff (6-1, 180) and all-state wide receiver Darrin Teals (5-8, 165) of Tifton, along with lineman Stewart Sauthall (6-2, 240) of Millidgeville-Brooks are all still considering VSC and won't sign until later in the week.

Running back Tony Williams (5-10, 170) of Perry, Fla., heads the lists of out-of-state signees for the Blazers.

Highly-regarded running back-defensive back, Donnie Harrell (5-7, 170) of Middleburg, Fla., turned down several major colleges to cast his lots with VSC. William Massey (6-0, 195), of Monticello, Fla., is another runner who signed with VSC this morning.

Charles Brooks of Chrystal River High in St. Petersburg, Fla., (6-0, 235) is a fullback-nose guard prospect and defensive backs Alphonso Williams (6-3, 195) — a teammate of Massey's — and Wayne Gallman (6-1, 170) of Parker are both expected to sign with the Blazers.

Orange Park High linebacker Troy Copeland (6-2, 220) is also expected to ink with the Blazers today.

Teammates Scott Brady (6-6, 220), Richie Giddens (6-2, 260) and Jim Mankins (6-1, 255) of Sandalwood High are expected to sign with VSC later in the week. Defensive end Michael Porter (6-2, 185) of Jacksonville Raines is also being looked at by the Blazers.

Several other out-of-state performers with some impressive credentials have the Blazers listed in their top two choices.

Wide receiver Teffin Benedict (5-11, 160) of Jacksonville Raines is considering VSC and Central Florida. Defensive end Godfrey Story (6-3, 215) of Jacksonville Ribault is considering VSC and Central Florida also.

The Blazers have also raided the junior college ranks for a pair of new editions, Albert Gant (5-11, 170) is a defensive back out of Tennessee Military Institute and Terrance Green (6-1, 230) is a sophomore transfer from Cowley (Kansas) Junior College. They are both already enrolled in school and will participate in the upcoming spring drills.

According to Berryman, the Blazers are recruiting across the board this year, with emphasis on running backs, wide receivers and linemen.

"I feel good about how things are progressing right now, despite the fact that we started a little late with the coaching change," Berryman said. "We are making good progress, and we're excited about our chances with some of the people."

"We have some definite areas of concern, but return a good nucleus of people to work with. We've got to get some players in here who we feel will be around for the next four years. We feel like we are on solid ground, but we have to continue to build as we grow."

The Blazers are still hoping to land several other area prospects. Valdosta defensive back Derrick Folsom is looking at VSC, Pittsburg, East Carolina and Tennessee-Chatanooga. Defensive lineman Jimmy Lewis is considering VSC, along with several junior colleges. Cook County Linebackers, Kenny Tippins and Rodney Hart are also still on the shopping list.



John Porter
Ga. Tech



John Reaves
VSC



Calvin Orr
VSC



Randy Gay
Ga. Tech



Darrell Leonard
VSC



Willie Lewis
East Carolina



Clay McCall
Tulane



James Wakefield
SW Louisiana



Jimmy Lolley
SW Louisiana



Berke Holtzclaw
East Carolina

VDT 2-13-85

Today's Area Signings

Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	High School	College
John Porter	LB	6-0	215	Valdosta	Georgia Tech
Randy Gay	QB	6-3	205	Lowndes	Georgia Tech
Calvin Orr	DB	5-7	150	Lowndes	Valdosta State
Darrell Funderburk	QB	6-1	165	Colquitt County	Valdosta State
Darrell Leonard	TE	6-1	190	Valdosta	Valdosta State
Jon Reaves	C	6-1	180	Valdosta	Valdosta State
Clay McCall	QB	6-2	190	Berrien County	Tulane
Jimmy Lolley	DT	6-3	230	Lowndes	Southwestern La
Berke Holtzclaw	QB	6-0	160	Valdosta	East Carolina
Willie Lewis	RB	5-8	170	Valdosta	East Carolina
James Wakfield	DT	6-3	210	Valdosta	Southwestern La

The Valdosta Daily Times, Tues., Feb. 12, 1985-5-



Club Sweethearts Display Emblem

DECA Emblem More Than Logo

The DECA emblem is much more than a simple logo offering a focal point for the club.

Rather it is a symbol demonstrating the essence of DECA. Each of the points on the diamond represent a particular aspect of DECA as does the wrapped package in the center.

The first point of the diamond represents vocational understanding. The MDE program at VHS is designed to help students understand their working conditions and how to handle unusual situations.

The second point of the diamond represents civic consciousness. MDE classes at VHS provide guidance toward and stress awareness of community needs. Projects are then planned to meet these needs.

The third point of the diamond represents social intelligence. This aspect of DECA is taught through activities and social events sponsored by the club.

The fourth point of the diamond represents leadership development. This point is the most heavily stressed by the MDE program at VHS. Activities sponsored by the club give students an excellent opportunity to practice what they have learned.

The center of the DECA diamond is occupied by a wrapped package. This package represents the student well prepared by a thorough education, who is capable of doing a good job.

This process is one that is begun with the young student and carried through by the teachers, administrators, parents and the businessmen who influence the student through his pre-college life.

Valdosta Begins Title Fight

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

A new day has dawned on the high school basketball season. It's playoff time, and now you either do or don't.

Region 1-AAAA South play gets under way tonight at Lowndes High when the Valdosta Lady Wildcats, who are seeded No. 4, takes on No. 3 Bainbridge in the opening-round girls' game at 7 p.m. and the Valdosta boys, seeded No. 3, meets Central-Thomasville, seeded No. 4, in the nightcap at 8:30.

The winner of the Valdosta-Central contest will take on No. 2 seed Lowndes Friday night at 8:30. Before that encounter, the girls No. 2-seeded team, Central Thomasville (17-2 and 4-2), will meet the Bainbridge-Valdosta winner at 7 p.m.

The Bainbridge boys' (18-4 and 6-0) and Lowndes girls' (21-1 and 6-0), the respective subregion winners, will swing into action Saturday in the finals against the survivors from the first two rounds. The final two teams get an automatic bid to the region tournament next week.

The Valdosta boys have suffered through an up and down season, and finished with an 11-12 overall mark and 2-4 subregion record. In the regular-season, Valdosta and Central split their two games. Valdosta won the first time around by 20 points, but Central came back to win the second time by 15 points.

"We have to play with a lot more intensity and enthusiasm than we did the last time," Valdosta Coach Mike O'Brien said. "It was hard to get up for them that second time after coming off a big win over Lowndes earlier in the week."

"We weren't ever mentally in the game, and they just killed us on both ends of the court on the boards."

"Rebounding will probably be the key, because we feel like we'll be able to stop their outside shooting, which just killed us in the last game. Hopefully, playing on a neutral gym will have some kind of effect on them."

The 'Cats have been hampered by poor free throw shooting, and are hitting less than 40 percent of their shots from the field. In the last meeting with Central, the 'Cats shot

less than 35 percent from the field.

"We had the shots in that game, but we just couldn't convert them," O'Brien said. "We have just got to do a better job of hitting those shots. Most of our shooting liabilities has to do with confidence."

"We know that this is it, and there's no tomorrow. We expect the kids to go all out, and if they do, we feel like we can win. If we're not in the right frame of mind now, then we never will be. Every game will be our last one until we reach the subregion final."

Starting for the 'Cats will be Sylvester Kitchens at point guard, Victor Walker and Derrick Folsom on the wings, with James Edwards and Wallace Campbell on the low post.

"Our inconsistent shooting has hampered our playing style," O'Brien said. "We like to kick the ball out and run with it, but we haven't been able to do much of that this year."

Lowndes Coach Terry Wilkes is cautiously-optimistic about his team's chances. The Vikings just completed the most successful season in the history of the school as far as wins in a single season — 18.

"That's all behind us now, even though this has been a good year," Wilkes said. "It's a one-game season now from here on out. I just hope that we're lucky enough to make it to Saturday, so we can keep our season going."

"We've played well at home all year (the only loss came in a 64-62 setback against Bainbridge) and I would rather be playing here than anywhere else."

"All the teams know each other pretty well right now and it won't be easy. The team that has the best chance of winning is the one that can relax and play its game. We hope that it will be us, but you never know just how things will turn out."

"We try to look at our situation as an advantage. I'd much rather finish second than fourth. I'm kind of worried about this bye. Playing at home will be a big boost for us. We won't have to make a bus ride and will be playing in familiar surroundings. Our guys won't have to break up their regular routine. But, it's the time of the year that if you mess up, you pack up and go home."

Nothing's Easy About Being Recruited

Feb. 17-85

Editor's Note: John Porter was one of the most highly-recruited high school football players in the nation this year. From getting mail as a sophomore up until this past Wednesday, Porter led a very public life. Wednesday, he signed a national letter of intent to attend Georgia Tech.

Although Porter was constantly receiving posters, calendars and stickers from schools recruiting him, he said he was glad it's finally over. He was looking forward to the national signing date when he could officially get everyone to leave him alone for some much-needed peace and quiet.

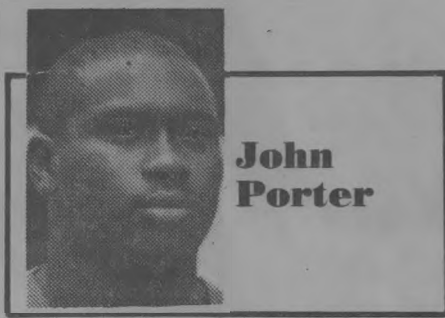
Following is his story as told to *Valdosta Daily Times Sports Editor Robert L. Bradley* about the ups and downs of being recruited by just about every major college in the nation.

I'm glad it's over. I was tired of the phone calls and the coaches showing up at the high school three times a week just to see me, leaving me notes, writing me post cards from what seemed like every little town they stopped in on their journey back to college. It really got boring, tiresome and aggravating. The phone calls were very aggravating.

At first, it kinda made me feel like I was in an elite group. As I read my mail and talked to my teammates even more, and they sat down and showed me what they had received. It made me really sit down and think about the opportunities I had in front of me. It made me more mature than I was because there were a lot of people looking at me and I really didn't have to impress anybody. I thought being myself would be good enough for anybody. If it's not, we'd go different ways. It helped me to be myself a little more.

After we won the national championship, I got a little rowdy. It helped me calm myself down and think about the opportunities that were presented before me and what was in my reach, what going to college, any college, and getting a quality education could do for me and my life after college.

When I first received any literature from a college was in my sophomore year, about the middle of the season. Later on that year, we went all the way in the state championship. By that time, I began to receive a lot — from Clemson, from University of South Carolina, University of Florida, Florida State, Georgia, along with Tech.



John Porter

Over the summer, I got letters, posters, stickers, and clippings from some of the papers their alumni would send me to build up their school. By the start of my junior season, I made the Super 11 team for the first time. There was a big picture they took in Waycross. As the season started, we were picked No. 1 in the state, I believe, and therefore that helped me get a little more publicity.

I started receiving letters from Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, UCLA, Pittsburgh, Penn State. That's the year Joe Paterno saw me on film and said if I was a senior he would sign me. After we got beat by Tifton, I kinda felt down and went into track and participated in the shot put and the discus. I started receiving letters from track coaches. My first year out, I was No. 1 in the region.

I received mail from the University of Georgia, Florida State and Auburn. I received some more from South Carolina.

My senior year, I got mail from everywhere. I have been asked several times where I have gotten letters from and I can't tell because it's been Division I, II and III schools. All the big-time colleges especially.

I had to narrow it down by the middle of the season because I had to look forward to my next year of playing football. I was still receiving literature from the University of South Carolina, heavily, the University of Georgia, Florida, Florida State, Clemson, Pittsburgh, Penn State and UCLA and several more big schools, along with Nebraska.

After we won the state championship and national title, more letters. I couldn't believe it. I couldn't believe I could get more letters. But I did. So everytime I'd come home from school, my mother would tell me my mail was in my room. I'd walk in there and my whole bed would be covered with mail. I took it all and shoved it under my couch. A week ago, I

went back and dug all of it out and counted up. I had about 325 letters. That may be over a period of a month from about 10 schools.

I could possibly receive five letters a week from one school, maybe two letters a day. Maybe two posters, two calendars, stickers, just anything. Sometimes it was just a word of encouragement.

By that time, after the season, I knew all I had to look forward to was next year and where I wanted to continue my education, continue my athletic career. I had to start looking at my offers and my chances to go on higher. From my first evaluation of all the schools, I narrowed it down to 10. I don't know what that 10 is now, because I'm trying to forget it. Some of them were Florida, Florida State, Auburn, Penn State, Pittsburgh, Georgia, Georgia Tech, South Carolina, and UCLA.

I wanted to be recruited by Nebraska, but it never really happened, heavily — as heavily as others recruited me. It was kind of a downer because they've got one of my teammates up there, Dana Brinson, he's doing real good. I thought since Dana was doing real good in their system and came from a good system here, maybe they'd think the same thing about me and think I could progress as fast as Dana's progressed.

That was about the only real letdown over the whole experience.

My next big experience was how it affected me, being a senior and senior class president. A lot of people would say 'Hey Mr. Newspaper Man,' or 'Hey Mr. TV Man,' because I was all the time in the paper or on TV. That got to be a problem. The biggest problem I had with the television was one day in class, I turned around and there was a man with a camera filming me in math class. That made me feel unequal to the rest of my classmates. I didn't want all that attention. It made me feel like I was a step apart from everyone else. That took me off balance a little bit.

I don't like feeling that any of my classmates are under my level because I know they're not. There were a lot of banquets, announcements, speeches, appearances. After all that, I had to sit down, calm down and keep my head on straight. It started getting to me because I started to neglect my homework, my studies. I just thank God my mother was there to push me and to show me that all of this is great, but you gotta study. She was the one who really motivated me to study, more than I was during this period

of recruiting.

As the recruiting season progressed and I narrowed it down to six schools — South Carolina, Auburn, Pittsburgh, Penn State, Georgia and Georgia Tech. I started getting phone calls, at least three a night. That would interrupt my studies, family discussions, eating, shower, sleeping. They would wake me up at 11 at night or 6:30 in the morning. That really irritated me. All I could do was ask them not to call me at 6 in the morning.

All of them did their part in not calling at that time.

From there, I started my visiting. First I went to Pittsburgh and I was very impressed with their program and all the opportunities their program offered in the Pittsburgh area. But I really didn't want to live in the Pittsburgh area. That's why I scratched them.

From there I went to Georgia Tech. I knew what to expect at Georgia Tech, that's why I wasn't very impressed. But I was already impressed by knowing what to expect. It lived up to all the expectations I had for it — all the opportunities, not only in Georgia, but all across the country.

From Georgia Tech, I went to Georgia on my last visit. I was scheduled to go to Auburn the weekend after Georgia, but I cancelled it because I made up my mind that weekend. I like the University of Georgia a lot, but I think one of the main points that should be considered in making the decision is the atmosphere of the college. The atmosphere at the University of Georgia was great if that's the kind of atmosphere you want to be in. But it really didn't suit me as a student to be in their atmosphere. As a football player, yes. As a student, not really. That is really what made me scratch the University of Georgia.

Back to Tech, everything and even more than I expected to be at Tech, or to be offered at Tech, or to be offered after I finish Tech, is there. I saw evidence of it. I saw the material evidence of it. Big business men coming in — the president of Coca-Cola, Sheraton and some other big plant near the school. That really impressed me because all of them are Tech graduates and doing real good for themselves. That's really what I'm looking for out of a college was a quality education that could open spots for me not only in Georgia, but all across the country. I felt Tech was the place that could open those spots for me. That was really my main reason on choosing Tech.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Feb. 27, 1985-9-

VHS Adds Credits For Graduation

By Times Staff Writer
Students at Valdosta High School will have to take an additional class once each year if they plan to graduate on time.

The change came after state regulations increased the current credit system,

requiring Georgia high school students to complete 300 credit hours, to 315.

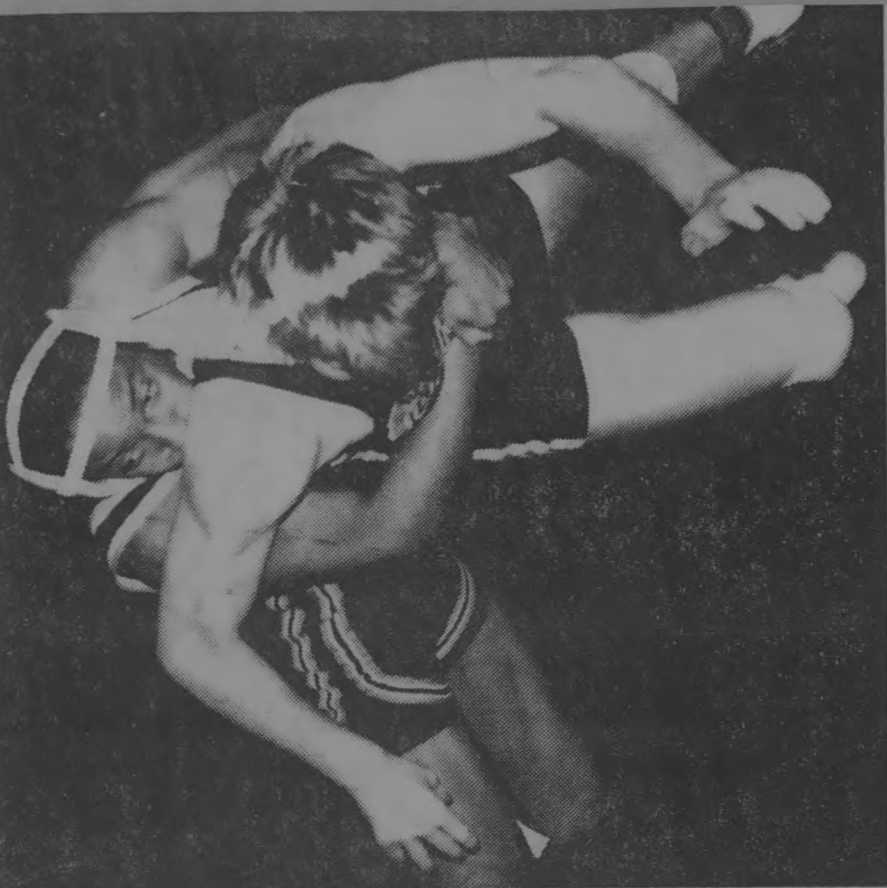
Only this year's freshman class will be affected by the change, Bill Aldrich, principal of VHS, said.

The additional credits will work out to about one additional class for one 12-week quarter each year, Aldrich said.

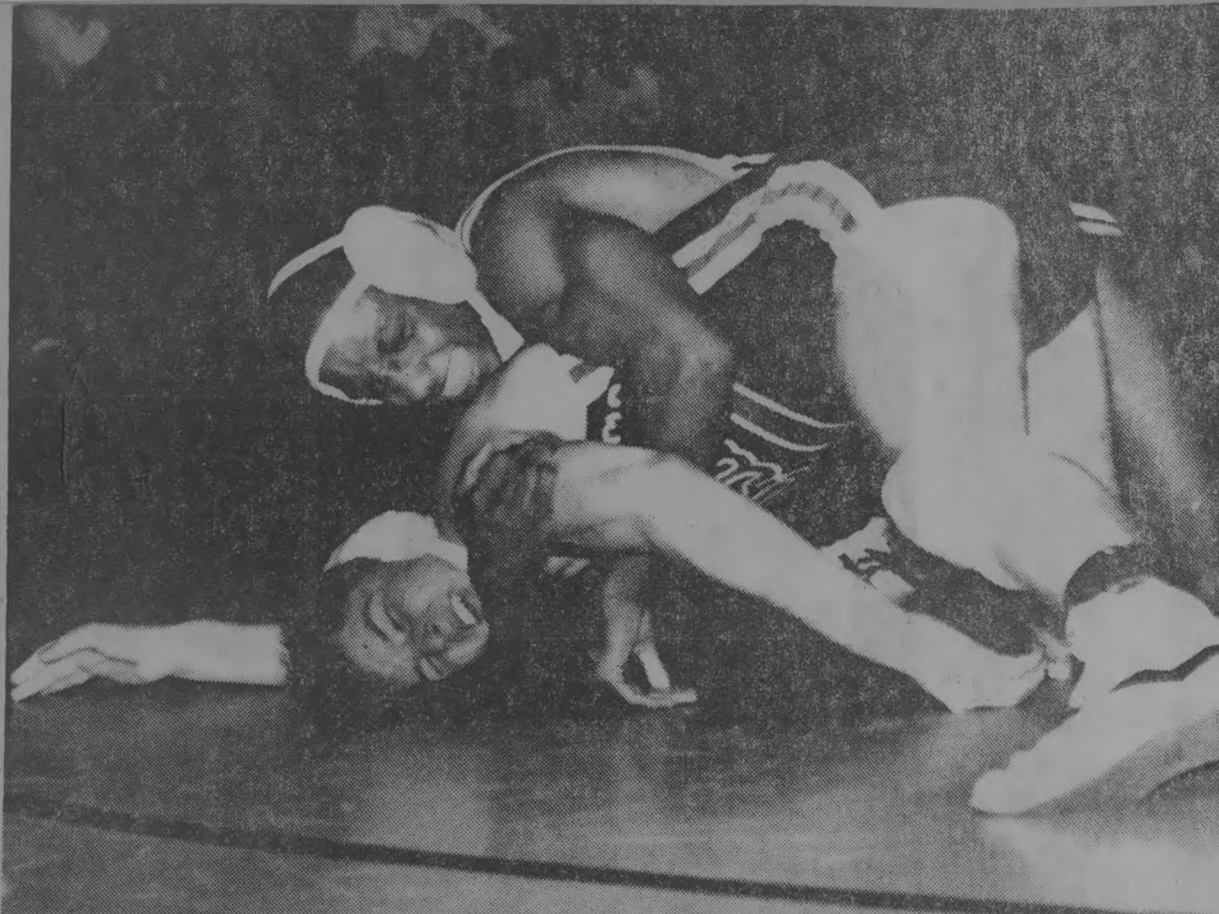
Sophomores and upper classman will not be affected, because some wouldn't be able to graduate under the new requirements.

VDT 2-17-85

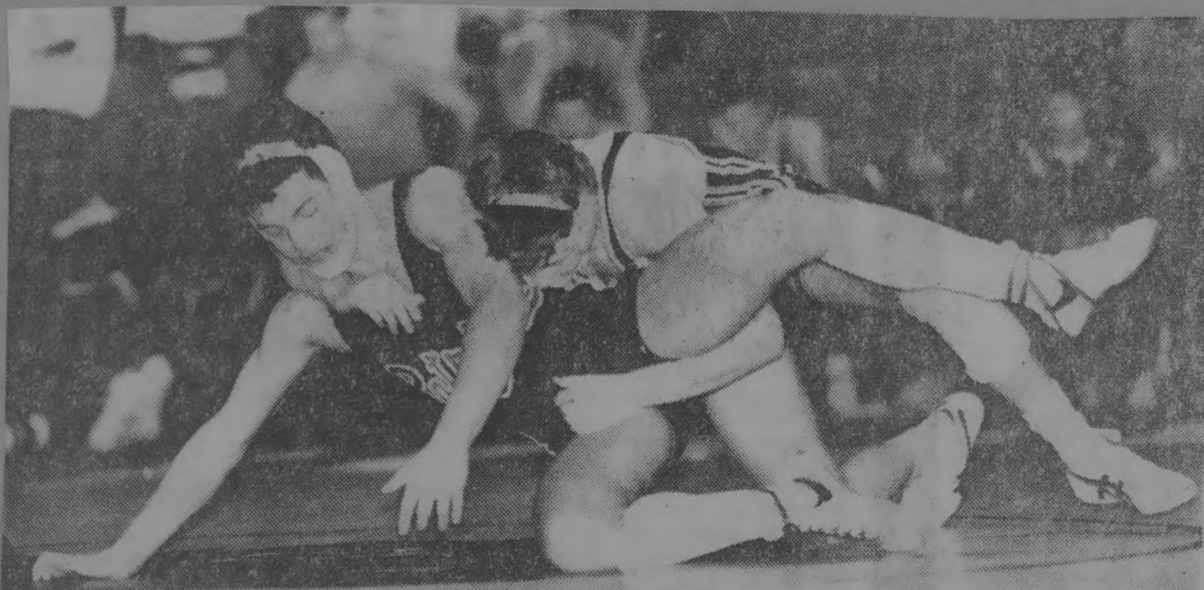
There Is A Definite Difference Between Rasslin And Wrestling



A Valdosta Wrestler Has His Opponent In A Sticky Situation



Judging By Their Faces, Neither Of These Wrestlers Seem To Be Enjoying The Match



VDT- 2-17-85

If The Top Wrestler Joins His Hands, He'll Have A Pinning Hold Known As A Cradle



VDT 2-17-85

Sometimes It's Necessary For The Referee To Get Down On The Mat In Order To See What's Really Going On. This Referee Is Looking For The Pin

WRESTLING IS GREAT

For Many, This Sign Says It All



This Referee Takes A Break Between The Action

No Ropes, Just Physical Athletes

VDT 2-17-85

If you happen to be a wrestling fan, you probably had a good time at the Area Wrestling tournament held at the Valdosta gym.

Valdosta won the tournament, sending 11 out of 12 wrestlers to the state tournament held at Stone Mountain this weekend. Lowndes sent two wrestlers to the tournament.

Wrestling is fairly new to this area of Georgia, especially compared to the amount of time football and basketball have been around.

The Wildcats have had a wrestling team eight seven years, while Lowndes has had one for three years.

In terms of world history, wrestling is one of the world's oldest sports. Some sport historians trace wrestling all the way back to 3,000 B.C., where it was popular with the Egyptians and Babylonians. In the west, wrestling was a favorite with the Greek and the Romans, where it was the most important part of the Olympic Games.

Wrestling is a sport based on all-around physical qualities. Not only must a wrestler be strong, but he must be agile and swift.

Standard wrestling matches are divided into three two-minute periods, with a short break in between to set the wrestlers in top and bottom positioning.

Wrestling may be confusing to watch, but the scoring is fairly simple.

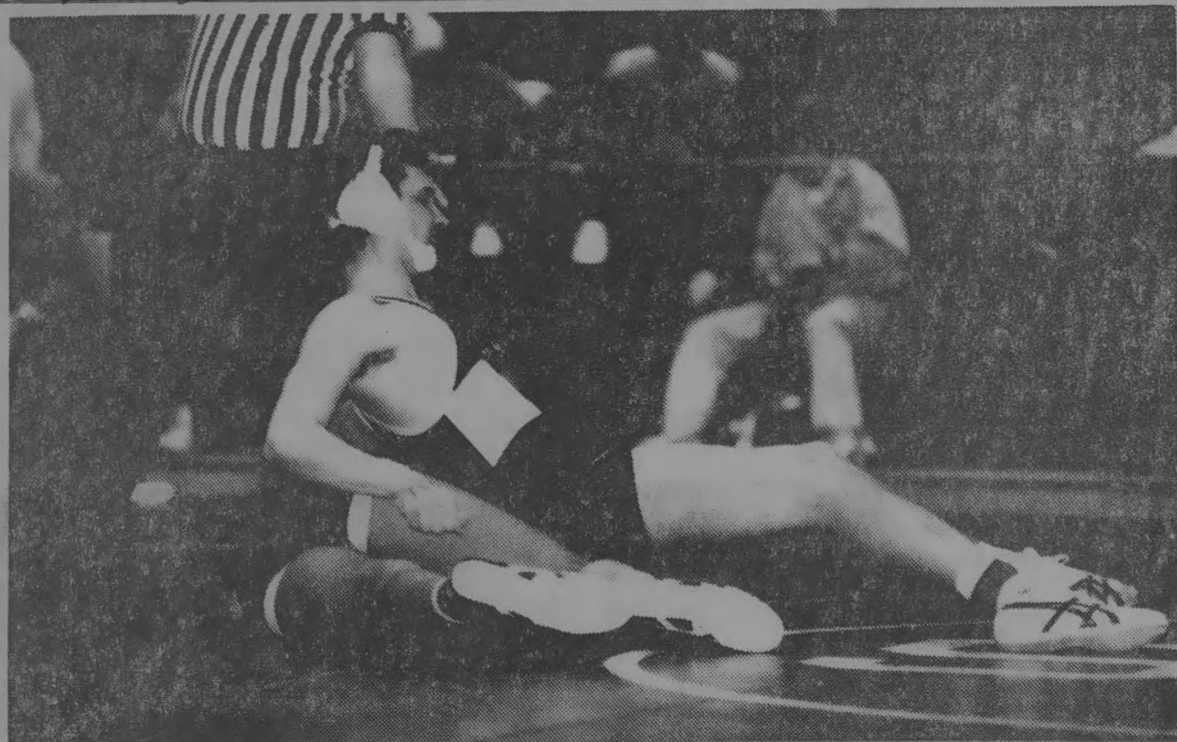
Two points are awarded for taking the opponent of his feet. Two or three points are awarded for turning the opponent on his back. One point is awarded for escaping from the grasp of the opponent, if the wrestlers are on the mat. Two points are awarded if a wrestler can reverse his positioning. Pinning occurs when a wrestler holds his opponent's shoulder blades to the mat for three seconds. A pin automatically ends the match.

Unlike professional wrestling, high school wrestling is divided into strict weight classes, so that no wrestler will have a significant advantage because of his size. Also, high school does not permit the striking of the opponent.

Story By Mike Colombo

Photos By Laura Harris

VDT 2-17-85



This Fellow Looks Like He's Trying To Find A Place To Sit Down

Spring Training Is Here

VDT 2-24-85

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

In some places they say there is football and more football.

Well, in Lowndes County, the saying must go something like this, "there's football and spring football."

With the area high school basketball season just winding down and baseball teams throwing out the bats, gloves and balls.

Lowndes and Valdosta will both start up spring practice Monday with a host of talented returning from the respective teams.

The Vikings lost only six seniors from last year's 6-5 squad, but three of those signed college scholarships. Lowndes' biggest hole, will be finding somebody to take over for departed four-year starting quarterback Randy Gay.

Coach Joe Wilson is expecting some 150-160 players from the 9th-through 12th grades to come out for spring practice.

"We have a good nucleus to work with returning from last year," Wilson said. "But, we lost six good ball players and somebody is going to have to step forward to replace them."

"In the first couple of weeks, we're going to try and run them three-deep so we can get a look at a lot of different people. The kids have worked hard in the off season drills. Anytime you lose only six players that means you have a good

nucleus returning.

"We may put in a few new wrinkles on both offense and defense. We have to see how it fits with our new personnel. We're hoping to have a little more speed than last year, but that's something that you can't coach. Our kids will be a year older and step stronger, and maybe that'll make a difference."

Some of the top performers returning for the Vikings are linebacker Wally Hubert, who Wilson calls a major college prospect, to lead the defense along with lineman James 'Wildman' Carter.

Offensively, the Vikings return wide receivers Eric Blades, Todd Williams and Ronald James, while Jimmy Rodgers will be switched from linebacker to tight end.

Several promising newcomers have caught Wilson's eye. Sophomore Eddie Pierce (6-3, 215) will be tried at fullback and linebacker, and quarterback Rhett Aikins and runningback Anthony Wright have also looked good in off season workouts.

"I'm real eager to get started and so are the coaches," Wilson said. "It has been a long winter, but it looks like we're going to have an early spring. If the weather stays as beautiful as it was last week, we hope to get in as many work days as possible."

Lowndes will conclude its spring workouts with a game Mar. 22 at Thomasville. The 8th and 9th-graders will

travel to Tifton on Mar. 21 to take on the junior Blue Devils.

Valdosta High will welcome back a host of offensive returnees, but defensive coordinator, Jack Rudolph will have his hands full with the departure of several starters from last year's top defensive unit in Region 1-AAAA.

Offensive linemen, Marty Howell and Johnny Crook are returning along with several other offensive linemen from last year's 15-0 National Championship team. John Wheelless, who started on both offense and defense, Matt Stanaland, Jeff Davis and Todd Hatcher are other starters returning in the offensive front.

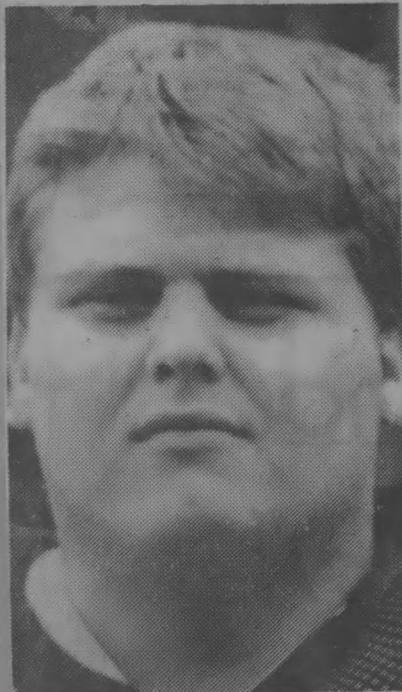
Wide Receivers Hosea Heard, Charles Steward, Randy Bell and Mack McGuirt also return as does top running threat Tony Anderson, who scored 23 touchdowns and rushed for more than 1,600 yards. Greg Talley, who will be a junior is expected to take over for the departed Berke Holtzclaw at quarterback.

Defense is the big question mark that Valdosta has to answer. Cornerback Dwayne Hart, lineman Kelvin Miller, end Seaborn Williams and linebackers Bill Kirby and Tony Johnson are the top returnees.

Valdosta will start workouts with 135 players, and concludes spring practice on Mar. 22 with its spring game at Cleveland Field against Newnan.



Lowndes' James Carter



Valdosta's Marty Howell



mar. 2-85

VHS
News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

With maximum lengths of nearly 100 feet, blue whales easily outstrip dinosaurs as the largest animals ever to live on earth, according to National Geographic. While nursing, blues gain weight at the rate of about 200 pounds a day.

Employer Appreciation Lunch Held

By FRANKIE KEELING

The Valdosta High School Vocational Office Training Program held its annual Employer Appreciation Luncheon Friday, Feb. 22 at the Sheraton Inn. Approximately 100 people were in attendance.

Pam Williams presided over the luncheon. Kimberly Rowe gave the invocation.

After lunch, Frankie Keeling introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. Helen Cofer McLain, state supervisor of business and office education at the

state Department of Education in Atlanta.

Mrs. McLain spoke to the group on the VOT program in general, but most of her presentation was geared toward leadership among young people.

After the presentation by Mrs. McLain, Angela Rykard introduced all special guests in attendance.

Employers were then honored with certificates presented to each of them by Cheryl Anderson, Gigi Gayle, Dee Dee Harris and Chandra Kinlaw.

Mrs. Janeen Josey, VOT coordinator, then presented several special awards to eleven VOT students.

Students receiving the award were:

Pam Williams, Most Industrious VOT'er; Frankie Keeling, Most Congenial VOT'er; Dee Dee Harris, Most Appropriately Dressed; Tina Tucker, Most Conscientious VOT'er; Ginna Pilcher, Most Improved VOT'er; Kimberly Rowe and Loreen Brown, Most Dependable VOT'er; Susie

Hill and Latonya Lately, Best Attitude; and Michele Alligood and Gigi Gayle, VOT Student of the Year.

VOT (Vocational Office Training) is a cooperative work study program at the high school level.

Students take regular classes four (sometimes five) hours per day and then go to work in an office in the afternoons.

Any office in Valdosta that needs a part-time employee to do clerical or secretarial work should contact Mrs. Janeen Josey, VOT coordinator.

Valdosta High School, at 242-8116.

Answering The Call

The 1985 All-Area Team Extinguished Many Opponents

V. Times 3-10-85



Wallace Campbell, Marla Lupo, Terry Wilkes And Keith Cox (L-R) Blazed Trails Through Opponents During The 1985 Season

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

Where there's smoke there's fire. And there was some heated basketball action going on in the area this season. Several area schools had outstanding seasons, with Colquitt County and Clinch County's girls teams making it to the state tournament. Meanwhile, the Lowndes Vikes opened the season by winning their first 18 games and claiming the No. 1 ranking in the state for most of the regular season.

Clinch County's Pantherettes finished 26-2 for the season and made it to the quarterfinals of the state tournament for the second consecutive year. Wilcox ended the Pantherettes' season with a 46-45 victory, but for their efforts, Coach Keith Cox was picked as the *Times* Coach Of The Year on this year's All-Area basketball team.

Team leader Marla Lupo, who is only a junior, was tabbed by the *Times* as girls' Player Of The Year for her outstanding season.

On the boys' side, Lowndes put together its best season ever, setting a school record for most victories in a season. The Vikings also made it out of the Region 1-AAAA South tournament for the first time in six years and Coach Terry Wilkes was named as the *Times* boys' Coach Of The Year.

Valdosta High started the season by winning its first six games, mostly behind the outstanding play of senior Wallace Campbell, who was the only returning starter. But, as the season went on, teams started to double and triple team Campbell and the Wildcats slipped to 11-12.

Despite all of the varied defenses he faced, Campbell continued to pace the Wildcats in just about every statistical category. Campbell was expected to carry much of the load this year. He did just that, averaging more than 22 points per game and another 14 rebounds. For his outstanding season, Campbell was picked as the *Times* boys' Player Of The Year.

Other members named on the girls' first team All-Area squad are Natasha Horn and Debbie Richardson of Lowndes, Tracy Mackey of Berrien County and Angie Richardson of Colquitt County. Clinch County's Wanda Ellis and Kathy

See All-Area, Page 16A

DECA's 37th Annual

V. Times 3/13/85

VHS Banquet Honors Employers, Students

By Times Staff Writer
The Valdosta High School Distributive Education Club will hold its 37th annual banquet Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Coordinator J. Norman Greene said he expects about 175 people to attend the event.

The banquet will show appreciation to the 42 business leaders in the Valdosta area who have employed 67 students this year.

The club organizes work-study programs, where students attend classes in addition to working in career-related jobs.

This year, the 67 students will have earned more than \$150,000 by the end of the school term.

Greene said.

The banquet will also be the seen of an award presentation to students and business leaders. Included in the awards are:

- Most improved student.
- W. E. Glenn Award. (Most valuable student.)
- Most Dependable Award.
- Warren Horton Memorial Award. (Most outstanding student in club activities.)
- Three area business

leaders will receive honor-ary life memberships to the club for their support of the organization.

One business leader will receive the Outstanding Service Award, who has "contributed a lot of time and effort to the program," Greene said.

News In Brief

VHS Student Runner Up

V.Times 3/12/85 From Staff, Wire Reports

A Valdosta High School senior placed first runner-up in the district Student and Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program, at a banquet Monday night at Valdosta State College.

Laura Faussone, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Faussone, will be traveling to Atlanta where she will attend the State STAR banquet, Valdosta guidance counselor Virginia Wisenbaker said. Ms. Faussone is sponsored the Kiwanis Club of Valdosta.

The winner of the STAR district competition is a student at Albany High School. That student will go on to compete at the State level in Atlanta in May.

STAR is a academic recognition program sponsored by the Business Council of Georgia. The competition is based on the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

The student with the highest score at the district level will compete against other district winners at the state level. From there, a national competition will be set.

Valdosta Sweeps Cook

V.Times 3/13/85

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High boys' swept past Cook County 12-0 Tuesday at Valdosta high and the girls' also made a clean sweep of things — 9-0 — at McKey Park to give both teams 2-1 records.

Valdosta High top player and one of the top players in the state, Eric Anderson led the way with a 6-0, 6-0 smashing of Cook's Tom Thomas.

Anderson is considered one of the top players in the region and is No. 6 in the state. Against Colquitt County last week, Valdosta managed only three wins during the entire match and Anderson picked up one of those in the top boys' singles match.

It was no contest against Cook's Thomas Tuesday. Anderson dominated the match from start to finish and it was over in less than an hour. Anderson used a strong service and net gain to control the match and go on to the easy straight-set victory.

After winning the opening game of the match without losing a point, Anderson went on to complete the first set in 30 minutes. Anderson did even better in the second set, as his net game continued to dominate and the second set was completed in even less time than the first set.

In other boys' matches, Valdosta's Kibby Wagner blanked Gagi Fulp 6-0, 6-0. Gabe Hotard beat Jason Walker 6-0, 6-0, Rob Mason defeated Tracy Green 6-0, 6-0 Simon Lee defeated Tom Facett 6-0, 6-0 and Michael Furkawa beat Jeff Fiveash 6-0, 6-0.

In single sets, Graydon Peirce beat Greg Fiveash 8-0 and Paul Alvarado beat Chris Newburn as Valdosta won all the singles matches without losing a game in the process.

In the doubles, Valdosta's Jim McIntyre and Alvarado teamed for a 10-9 victory over Thomas and Fulp. Michael Walker and Glenn Knowlton teamed to beat Walker and Green 6-0, 6-0. Matt Winters and Jaff Knotts of Valdosta defeated Cook's Faucett and Jeff Fiveash 6-1, 6-1. And in the final match, Kevin Breedon and Erik Johnson of Valdosta beat Newburn and Greg Fiveash 8-0 in one-set.

The Valdosta girls improved to 2-1 by losing only match to Cook.

Top Valdosta singles player Kristy Stabell beat Becky Holt 6-1, 6-0 to get things started. No. 2 Ethel Mitchell beat Wanda Whitaker 6-2, 6-1. Mandy Smitherman defeated Melanie Mathis 6-2, 6-2. Christie Pierce defeated schya Taylor 6-0, 6-0. Margaret Anne Sineath beat Judy Shannon 6-1, 6-1 and Teresa Carswell beat Menda McCrainie 6-0, 6-1. Kathy Farley suffered Valdosta's only loss of the day, as Cook's Dana Griffin beat her 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.

Stabell and Smitherman beat Holt and Mathis in the featured doubles match 6-2, 6-2. Mitchell and Pierce defeated Taylor and Shannon 6-0, 6-0 and Ronni Bartholomew and Ginna Pilcher beat Griffin and McCrainie 8-2 in one set.

"They both need a little work on their approach shots and doubles strategy, which will come with more time and playing experience. Right now we're just working on the basics. Cook has a young team and is just trying to establish thier program and get it going."

"I felt like we needed a sweep today to give our morale a boost after getting trampled by Colquitt last week. We came pretty close to it, and I'm happy we got back on the other side."



Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris

Eric Anderson Of Valdosta Romped To An Easy Victory

Washington Concert Set

V.Times 3/21/85

Valdosta High School Student Chosen For Sousa Honors Band

By Times Staff Writer

A member of the Valdosta High School Band has been selected for membership in the Sousa National High School Honors Band.

He is percussionist Keith Quarles, son of Jim and Linda Stephan of Valdosta. This is one of the highest honors in the nation which can come to a high school musician, a spokesman said.

Quarles was recommended for participation by Debbie Bradley, based on his outstanding musical accomplishments.

The band, sponsored by the John Phillip Sousa Foundation, a non-profit organization, is composed of more than 100 students, representing most states in



KEITH QUARLES
Band Percussionist
the nation. The band will

perform in Washington's Departmental Auditorium at 8 p.m. May 11, following 3½ days of rehearsals.

Conductor for the band will be Col. John R. Bourgeois, director of the United States Marine Band.

Dr. Al Wright, director of the symphony band and director of bands emeritus at Purdue University, and Col. George S. Howard, former conductor of the U. S. Air Force Band, will be guest conductors. Louis Sudler, prominent Chicago baritone and businessman, will appear as vocal soloist.

Also appearing on the same concert with the Sousa Honors Band will be the United States Marine Band.

VHS One Of 273 Finalists In Recognition Program

V.Times 3/21/85

By GARY SOBERAY
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School has been named one of the nation's 273 finalists in the United States Education Department's Secondary School Recognition Program, a department spokesman said.

The program will select the best schools in the country based on academic goals, student progress, teacher leadership qualities, curriculum and a host of other areas.

This is the first time the school has been named to the final list since the program's inception three years ago.

"I think we have a good chance at winning," said Valdosta High School principal William Aldrich.

The decision as to which schools will be honored will be decided following a visit to the school by a group of private education experts, Aldrich said.

The group will tour the school in May. Valdosta High was chosen from a list of 509

schools throughout the country. That list was gathered from each state's School of Excellence program.

Aldrich said there will be no changes in school procedures when the group visits.

"We seem to have impressed them with our written report," Aldrich said. The tour of the school, he said, will only show more clearly what the 21-page report was about.

Aldrich said the biggest asset the school has to offer is the well-rounded programs.

"Curriculum, student achievement and activities" working together is what put Valdosta High on the list," he said.

If the school wins the competition, Aldrich said, it will mean "a great deal of pride" for the students, teachers and community people.

Students at the school have expressed to Aldrich their interest in the competition.

"They (the students) are very proud as they would be of any other other part of our programs in which we have success," Aldrich said.



RAY CHITTY



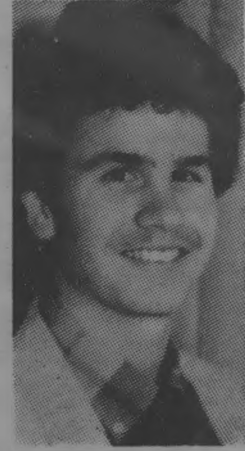
WILLIAM EANES



JENNIFER HARRELL



KEVIN LANCASTER



STEVE LOWE



KARMEN LYONS



JANE McLEOD



JACK RUDOLPH



CHARLES TARPLEY



ROUSE VALLOTTON

Annual Banquet Held

V-Times 3/15/85

VHS DECA Honors 6 Students, Others

By GARY SOBERAY
Times Staff Writer

Six Valdosta High School student were honored Thursday night at the annual Distributive Education Banquet at the high school.

The students are all part of the school's work-study program in which students attend high school classes while working in career-related jobs.

The winners are:

— Jennifer Harrell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

William Pearson, Coordinator's Award (most improved.)

— Rouse Vallotton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Vallotton, Rookie of the Year Award.

— Steve Lowe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Lowe, Most Dependable Award.

— Jane McLeod, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John McLeod, Most Valuable Student Award.

— Karmen Lyons, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

Charles Lyons, Warren Horton Memorial Award (most outstanding in club activities.)

— Kevin Lancaster, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Lancaster, Student of the Year Award.

Valdosta community leaders were also honored for their support of the distributive education program.

Coaches Jack Rudolph and Charles Tarpley received life memberships to the education club for their

support of the group.

Among other things, the two have been arranging the banquet and working as cooks to prepare for the banquet for a number of years, Greene said.

Former city councilman and school board member William Eanes also received a life membership to the club.

Greene said Eanes has supported the club for 15 years and had 5 children go through the work-study

program.

Also honored at the banquet was the First National Bank. Greene said the bank had helped the program by offering a four-year scholarship to students to Valdosta State College for 25 years.

The bank also employs students at the bank, Greene said.

Vice President of the bank, Ray Chitty, accepted the award on behalf of the bank.

LHS First, VHS Places High

V-Times 3/22/85
By Times Staff Writer

Students representing Lowndes High School placed first in a regional literary meet while Valdosta High placed third this past weekend.

The competition involves a number of activities from business skills and speaking to music and writing.

Lowndes scored 67 points in the event, followed by Tifton High School with 48. Valdosta High followed closely with 37 points.

In the spelling competition, Lowndes' Laura Goforth placed first, while Todd Tillman, also of Lowndes place fourth.

In Extemporaneous Speaking, Andy Phillips of Lowndes High placed third. The extemporaneous category involves speaking

impromptu on a randomly-selected topic, with 45 minutes of preparation.

Gavin Barnette and Laura Johnson, both of Lowndes, placed second and fourth respectively in oral interpretation.

The interpretation event is a reading of a dramatic monologue or a poem.

Essay divisions were won by Curt Starling and Penny Branem of Lowndes.

Chris Wood finished first in boy's solo singing, while Michelle Ricks placed second in Girls' solo singing. Both are from Lowndes High.

Lowndes students also took first in the girls' trio competition. The three singers were Lee Bland, Kim Stalvey and Leslie Kelly.

Larry Black, Jason Cox, Andy Cantrell and Larry Taylor placed first in the boy's quartet competition.

Wildcat Tennis Loses Two

V-Times 3/1/85

From Staff Wire Reports

The Valdosta High boys' and girls' tennis teams dropped a pair of matches to Colquitt County Saturday.

The boys lost 6-3 while the girls suffered a 9-0 setback. Four of the boys' singles matches went three sets, with Valdosta gaining all three of its wins on three of them.

The girls, meanwhile, lost all their matches in straight sets. Winning for the boys were Kibby Wagner over Gary Woods, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; Rob Mason over Stacey Hallaway, 6-1, 3-6, 6-4; and Michael Furukawa over Darin Merritt, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

The Wildcats will play host to Cook County Tuesday.

Boys' Match

Singles — Hiers (CC) d. Anderson, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; Wagner (V) d. Woods, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; Carlton (CC) d. Hotard, 6-2, 6-2; Mason (V) d. Hallaway, 6-1, 3-6, 6-4; Browning (CC) d. Lee, 6-0, 6-1; Furukawa (V) d. Merritt, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

Doubles — Woods-Merritt (CC) d. Wagner-Hotard, 7-6, 6-4; Hiers-Hallaway (CC) d. Anderson-Lee, 6-4, 7-5, 7-6; Carlton-Bradley (CC) d. Mason-Furukawa, 6-3, 6-3.

Girls' Match

Singles — Funderburk (CC) d. Stabell, 6-0, 6-0; Jolley (CC) d. Mitchell, 6-1, 6-1; Layfield (CC) d. Smitherman, 6-0, 6-1; Brock (CC) d. Pierce, 6-0, 6-2; Strickland (CC) d. Bartholomew, 6-4, 6-4; Marchant (CC) won by forfeit.

Doubles — Jolley-Layfield (CC) d. Stabell-Smitherman, 6-3, 6-3; Brock-Marchant (CC) d. Mitchell-Pierce, 6-2, 6-0; Colquitt County won by forfeit.

Sports Roundup

Sessions finished second overall with a score of 33.5. She was second on bars (8.60) and beam (8.10) and third in floor exercise (8.75).

Davis was fourth on bars (8.50) and qualified with an all-around score of 31.90.

The state competition will be held in two weeks at the Atlanta School of Gymnastics.

Lowndes, Valdosta Preparing For Spring Game

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer VDT 3-21-85

Come Friday night, Lowndes and Valdosta will both get a look see at their 1985 football editions, with both playing their annual spring games.

Lowndes travels to Thomasville to take on the Bulldogs at 8 p.m., while Valdosta plays host to Newnan for the fourth consecutive year.

For Lowndes, the script reads almost the same, since most of the entire starting cast from last year is returning on both offense and defense. The Vikings return a strong nucleus of experienced seniors on both sides of the ball and according to Coach Joe Wilson, "this is the most players that I've ever had that can go both ways."

"We have a good nucleus returning and we wanted to build around that," Wilson said. "We wanted to take a look at a lot of different kids to get a look at the overall picture and that's exactly what we've done."

Lowndes' entire offensive line returns from last year, which includes Bill Miller (sr.) and Stan Reaves (jr.) at the tackle spots, Tommy Hayes (sr.) and Danny Clark (sr.) at guard and Ed Falgout (jr.) at center. Homer Butler (jr.), Ron Jones (soph.) and Jody Platt (jr.) are pushing for time. Barry Curtis (jr.) is expected to lend a hand on both sides of the ball.

"We will be tested Friday against Thomasville," Wilson said. They lost only six starters from last year and will be one of the top teams in Class AAA. They're talking about winning the state championship over there."

One of the major areas of concern before the start of spring practice was at the running back position and at quarterback according to Wilson.

Andy Mansukhani, who was a starter last year, will miss Friday's game due to an injury as will Billy Pierce. Ben Wright and James Carter have been sharing the fullback slot, while Mark Jones and Anthony Wright are in the tailback slot.

Four-year starter Randy Gay has moved on to Georgia Tech and Bobby Eason is running No. 1 right now. Dirk Harrell is the backup, while Brad Almon and Rhett Aikins (soph.) are also taking some snaps. All-region receivers, Eric Blades and Todd Williams both return and are backed by Ronald James and freshman John White.

"Our major concern is the defensive secondary right now," Wilson said. "We feel like we are pretty strong up the middle and hopefully that will stabilize things."

Three starters return in the secondary headed by David Hargett. "He's a premeir-type player," Wilson said. "He's the only one back there with any size (6-1, 180). All the others are kind of small, but they're all good athletes."

The other starters returning are Dale Baker and Almon. Matt Reaves (fr.) and White are the top newcomers who will see a lot of action.

Wally Hubert, Roger Culpepper and Chris Jones are the linebackers, while Ron O'Neal (6-4, 230), Jimmy Gay (6-2, 250) and Joey Parker (6-0, 225) are all on the line.

"We didn't do as much work on the basics and fundamentals as we would have liked to because of the limited amount of time," Wilson said. "We worked on them to a point, but not nearly as much as we have in the past."

As for Valdosta, the 'Cats are coming off a perfect 15-0 and national championship season. But it will be the start of a brand new season Friday at Cleveland Field at 8 p.m. against Newnan.

However, most of those players have departed and the 'Cats

have some big gaps to fill. The holes got even bigger with the dismissal of three all-star calibre players Tony Anderson, Johnny Crook and Hosea Heard.

"Anderson is probably the best high school back in America. Crook was our most experienced offensive lineman returning and Heard was our big-play receiver who was just timed at 4.3 in the forty," Coach Nick Hyder said. "We had to let them go for disciplinary reasons, the players have picked up the challenge since, and we have put that behind us."

Meanwhile, there is a heated battle being waged for the vacated quarterback post between sophomore Charles Steward and junior Greg Talley.

"We've been pleasantly surprised with the competition at quarterback," Hyder said. "It's the best competition we've had in three of four years and right now Steward has pulled ahead of Talley."

Steward, who started at receiver last year as a freshman, also handles all of the kicking chores, along with soccer-style kicker Dan Tillman. Steward or Talley will be moved to wide out when the other one is quarterbacking. Other receivers are Randy Bell, Mack McGuyrt, Guy Belue and Lynn Johnson.

Anchoring the offensive line is senior Marty Howell. Jeff Davis, Todd Hatcher, Matt Stanaland and Jody Sprinkle are the other linemen. Newcomer Jeffrey Holmes (6-1, 220) is the front runner at tight end.

Several newcomers are also expected to see plenty of action, including sophomores Jackie Morgan, Reggie Thomas, Tommy McMillan and Ben Lane, plus 9th-graders Andy Richard and Bobby Benefield. Dock McBride, Jeff Hasty and Charles Jasceak will also be vying for playing time.

"I feel like the offensive line will be the key no matter who you

are," Hyder said. "We have to get good play out of them if we are going to have any success at all, we've stressed the kicking game and defense in most of our practices and have just tried to get as much work in as possible on both sides of the ball."

William Dixon and Tony Mangham are the top runningbacks, but freshmen Lawrence Sharpe (6-1, 210) and James Roberts (5-11, 190) are also expected to see plenty of action. Sophomores Antonio Hinson and Anthony Johnson along with junior Bernard Hitson round out the running back chart.

"Our objective as always was to develop depth and find out who can perform consistent collision course," Hyder said. "We've had to work a lot harder on the basics and fundamentals. Last year, we returned a veteran team, but this year, we're returning a lot of backups with limited experience."

Defensively, Seaborn Williams, Dwayne Hart, John Wheelless, Tony Johnson and Kelvin Miller are the top returnees. Joey Matchett is another returnee who saw a lot of action last year.

Ennis Davis, a convert from wide receiver, Derrick Shaw and Walt Gill are vying for the safety spots in the depleted 'Cats secondary, which returns only one starter (Hart). Steve French and Reginald Dandy are a pair of sophomores who will see plenty of action at cornerback.

Brian Dufek, Zabri Bell, Scott Barton, Coronzo Green, Willie Sauls, Eric Larry, and Joe Ethier are other newcomers who have been impressive in spring drills.

"We expect to be fully challenged by Newnan (Valdosta has won all three previous meetings)," Hyder said. "We've had an excellent spring so far, with good competition at every position. I don't like the 15 days to work because it's hard to work with 100 or more kids in such a short time and get the things done that you want to."

Wildcat Defense Shows Promise

In Spring Game Victory

By MIKE COLOMBO VDT 3/23/85
Times Sports Writer

When an agitated football fan wants the other team stopped, he usually yells "defense, defense!" How often do the fans cheer on the offense in the same manner? So often in football, it is the defense that makes the difference.

It took a while for the Valdosta offense to get rolling, but the Wildcat defense rose to the occasion to lead the defending state and national champs to a 26-7 decision over the Newnan Cougars in Valdosta's spring game Friday.

The Wildcat defense completely shut down Newnan's running game, holding the Cougars to only 45 yards. Tailback Jason Olvey was the top rusher for the Cougars with 34 yards. Fullback Joey Boozer had 21 yards while quarterback Dexter Holiday, who was sacked twice, had minus 19 yards rushing.

"I thought Marty Howell led the defense," Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said. "Jeff Davis and Matt Stanaland did good jobs. The whole defense worked extremely hard. We've got three or four youngsters who are considered front runners who weren't there because of injuries, and they played a lot last year."

"The ones who were there played extremely well. Ends Joey Matchett and Willie Sauls were tough. They continually threw them for losses. Also Andy Anderson did a fine job," Hyder said.

"Coach (Jack) Rudolph did a fine job adjusting along with Coach (Charles) Tarpley and Coach (Freddie) Waters. They changed into a different situation well. Other than (Newnan's) one score, there weren't any real threats."

The two teams played scoreless through the first quarter, but the Wildcats finally broke the ice early in the second quarter. Walt Gill intercepted a Holiday pass and returned the ball to the Cougars' 29-yard line. The Wildcats punched the ball down to the 10-yard line on short runs by William Dixon and Tony Mangham.

The Wildcats scored when quarterback Charles Steward threw a flare pass to Lyn Johnson on the right side, who ran the ball in for the score. Steward added the conversion kick to give the Wildcats a 7-0 lead with 10:22 left in the first half.

Steward and Greg Talley, who played two quarters each at quarterback, are competing for the starting spot, and both players are considered top athletes by Hyder. Steward also punted for the 'Cats and punted four times for distances of 30, 54, 51, and 38 yards. His 30-yarder rolled out at the 1-yard line while his 54- and 51-yarders went into the end zone.

"I can't remember someone who can boom a howitzer like

Steward can," Hyder said. "He got one out on the 1-yard line and had another one down there that was close. Both he and Talley did a fine job at quarterback. When one is at quarterback, the other's at wide receiver. They're both starting players."

The second half opened with good fortune for the Wildcats. Reginald Dandy ran the kickoff back 74 yards to Cougar's 14-yard line. The Wildcats scored five plays later on a 1-yard run by Dixon. The point after was missed and the 'Cats had a 13-0 lead.

"William Dixon had a real fine, hard nosed night," Hyder said. "Mangham gave us several good runs and blocked extremely well. The line blocked well too. Their defense was supposed to be the strength of their team, and it may be, but we moved the ball pretty well."

The 'Cats did move the ball successfully on the ground. Dixon carried the ball 12 times for 65 yards to lead in the rushing department. Mangham had 30 yards on 10 carries, and Lawrence Sharpe had 20 yards on nine carries.

Newnan scored its only points with 8:01 remaining in the second half. Boozer took a lateral to the right side and threw a 72-yard touchdown to Clifford Moreland. The point after was good, and the Cougars appeared to be back in the game at 13-7.

But the Wildcats were not done yet. Steward punched the ball in from the one after a long drive, but Valdosta failed on the two point conversion attempt, and the 'Cats led 19-7.

Valdosta scored again late in the fourth period. With a first-and-10 from their own 47, Talley hit Randy Bell for with an 11-yard pass. Steward then took a lateral from Talley and threw a 39-yard pass to Bell, moving the ball down to Cougars' 3-yard line. Sharpe ran the ball in two plays later to give the Wilcats the 26-7 victory.

Steward ended the night with three completions in as many attempts for 61 yards. Talley was 4-of-9 for 42 yards.

The Cougar passing attack was not much more effective than their running game. Holiday was 3-of-10 for 32 yards, and backup Jay Adcock had two completions in five attempts for 18 yards. Boozer threw for the most yards with only one throw, the 72-yard pass to Moreland.

Newnan	0	0	7	0	7
Valdosta	0	7	12	7	26
V — Lyn Johnson 10 pass from Charles Steward (Steward kick)					
V — William Dixon 3 run (kick failed)					
N — Clifford Moreland 72 pass from Stanley Boozer (Tom Hudson kick)					
V — Steward 1 run (run failed)					
V — Lawrence Sharpe 1 run (Dan Tillman Kick)					



Wildcat Reginald Dandy (23) Returns Kickoff For Big Gain Against Newnan Cougars

Times Staff Photo by Laura Harr

Lowndes High, Valdosta High Shine

The Valdosta Daily Times, Tues., Mar. 26, 1985-3-

At State DECA Competition

By GARY SOBERAY
Times Staff Writer

Three Lowndes High and five Valdosta High School Distributive Education Clubs of America students won awards at the state competition this past weekend, DECA coordinators for the schools said.

The competition in Atlanta was attended by eight students from Lowndes High School and 11 from Valdosta.

Students who were winners at the district levels throughout the state vied for the state titles.

Winners at the state

level will travel to San Francisco for the national competition.

Lowndes winners are:

— Mike Farmer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Farmer. Farmer won the competition in petroleum marketing.

— Kay Garner, daughter of Ms. Betty Butler. Garner won the competition in apparel and accessory marketing.

— Mark Shappaugh, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Shappaugh. Shappaugh won the competition in general marketing and student of the year.

Valdosta winners are:

— Karmen Lyons, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lyons. Miss Lyons won second in apparel and accessories marketing.

— Lynn Peace, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Mack Peace. Miss Peace won third in food marketing.

— Kevin Lancaster, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Lancaster. Lancaster won third in the Student of the Year competition.

— Michele Golivesky, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Golivesky, placed in the top six in the Reporter of the Year competition for Valdosta.

— Jane McLeod, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John McLeod, was elected as state Vice President for DECA.

In addition to Miss Lyons, Miss Peace, Lancaster and Miss McLeod, Robin Weeks will also travel to San Francisco for Valdosta as a district Vice President.

Others who competed in the state program were:

— Terry Rentz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Rentz, Lowndes High.

— Greg Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Smith, Lowndes High.

— Walter Page, son of

Mr. and Mrs. Steven R. Page, Lowndes High.

— Melisa Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Brown, Lowndes High.

— L. V. Fiege, son of Mr. and Mrs. Margie Wilson, Lowndes High.

— Jennifer Harrell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Pearson, Valdosta

High.

— Maria Moore, daughter of Mr. Leland S. Moore Jr., Valdosta High.

— Terri Worful, daughter of Ms. Susan Tibus, Valdosta High.

— Rouse Vallotton, son

of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Vallotton, Valdosta High.

— Robert Bagley, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bagley,

Valdosta High.

— Scott Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen J. Williams, Valdosta High.

Wildcats Lose Twice In Berrien Tourney

VT. TIMES 3/24/85

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

It just wasn't one of those days for the Valdosta High baseball team Saturday.

Madison County, Florida, scored five unearned runs in the second inning en route to an 11-8 victory while Berrien County pitcher Ray Garner turned back a late Valdosta rally to lead the Rebels to a 6-4 victory during action in the Berrien County Baseball Tournament at Blazer Field.

The two losses left the Wildcats with an 0-3 record. Berrien is 2-1 while Madison improved to 5-5.

"We've been to the playoffs 11 straight years and have never started like this," Valdosta Coach Charles Tarpley said. "We had two players who were gone taking their SAT another one who got sick and missed today."

"The region games don't start until April 8. We're going to play a lot of folks between now and then to find out what we've got. We wanted to play these games just to see."

Madison started the first game when pitcher Reggie Washington hit a two-run homer. Valdosta came back to take a 3-2 lead in the bottom of the first when one run scored on an error and two more crossed the plate on a single by Steve Malani.

The Cowboys took the lead for good in the top of the second inning with six runs. Madison took advantage of three Valdosta errors in the inning and Washington's second two-run homer of the game. Only one run was earned in the inning as the Cowboys sent 10 batters to the plate.

From there, Valdosta played catchup the rest of the game. The Wildcats scored three runs in the second, including two on a double by Trevor Nance. In the third, Martin Campa reached on a walk, went to third on a two-base error and scored when he stole home. Valdosta's final run came in the fifth when Campa walked and scored on a triple by Jon Reeves.

Madison, meanwhile, had scored two runs in the fourth when Jim Flournoy walked and David Stephens was hit by a pitch. Flournoy scored on a single by Reggie Graham with John Burnett scoring Stephens with a single. The Cowboys added one more run in the sixth when Stephens singled, went to third on consecutive singles by Washington and Graham,

and scored on a sacrifice fly by Burnett.

Reaves, Nance and Malani each had two hits for the Wildcats. Washington led Madison with three hits while Flournoy, Graham and Burnett had two each.

In the second game, Valdosta fell behind Berrien 4-0 after the first two innings. Although the Wildcats rallied to within 5-3, a two-out in the sixth gave the Cowboys another run.

"We're just not producing," Tarpley said. "Our people are not very good right now."

"We had a chance to come back, but let a ball go through our legs when they scored another run. We were down 5-3 at the time, then scored a run in the seventh. With the runner on third, we would have tied the game."

The Wildcats started a rally in the seventh. With one out, Joey Crosby walked. He scored on two-out triple to center by Brad Coleman. Coleman had a chance to score when a pitch got by Berrien catcher David Pope, but was held up at third by Tarpley.

At the time, the run wouldn't have helped the Wildcats. A hit would have scored Coleman anyway and if he had tried to score and was thrown out, it would have been the end of the game.

Garner went the distance for Berrien to even his record at 1-1. He scattered seven hits, struck out five and walked only two. Ralph Guarino, 0-2, went four innings, gave up seven hits and five runs.

"He (Garner) has really improved since Tuesday (a 9-8 loss to Cook County)," Berrien Coach Bart Shuman said. "He was getting his curveball and slider over, and that was helping his fastball. I knew he was capable of pitching this way. He didn't throw that bad Tuesday. I think he's really going to get better as the season goes on."

Valdosta and Berrien will play again Tuesday at Nashville, beginning at 4 p.m.

Madison County-Valdosta
Madison County.....260 201 0-11 11 4
Valdosta.....331 010 0-8 8 3
Washington (W, 3-1) and Burnett; Ja. Crosby (L, 0-1), Gill (2) and Reaves. HR — Washington 2 (MC). 3B — Reaves (V). 2B — Nance (V).

Records — Madison County 5-5; Valdosta 0-2.
Valdosta-Berrien County
Valdosta.....001 002 1-4 7 3
Berrien County.....221 001 x-6 11 0
Guarino (L, 0-2), Jo. Crosby (5) and Moore; Garner (W, 1-1) and Pope. 3B — Jo. Crosby (V), Coleman (V). 2B — Simmons (BC).
Records — Valdosta 0-3; Berrien County 2-1

Fight Follows Wildcat Game Friday Night

V Times 3/25/85

By Times Staff Writer

A fight involving at least a few students broke out Friday night following a Valdosta High School spring football game at Cleveland Field.

Valdosta Police Chief Roy Little said officers were sent to the stadium after Valdosta Head Football Coach Nick Hyder called the police department.

"Some boys were trying to pick a fight," Little said. "But when the officers arrived, they (the brawling students) were already gone," he said.

Little said the officers kept an eye open after the incident, but nothing happened.

The incident occurred about 10 p.m., following a spring football game between Valdosta High School and Newnan High School.

A witness said few were fighting, but a greater amount of people were watching. Little said no complaints were filed with the police department, and no arrests were made.

Valdosta High School Principal Bill Aldrich said the fighting was restricted to the Brookwood Plaza parking lot adjacent to the stadium.

Aldrich also said the incident was not connected to the football game, which he said had been over for some time before the fighting started.

But one witness said the incident followed the game by about 20-30 minutes. The witness also said the fighting was in the street and close to Cleveland Field.

V Times 3/31/85

VHS Student Awarded Scholarship

By Times Staff Writer

Laura Bailey, a Valdosta High School student, was recently awarded a Brevard Music Scholarship, sponsored annually by the Georgia Federation of Music Clubs and Georgia Power Co.

Georgia Power Valdosta division vice-president Joe Cordova said one Brevard scholarship is awarded annually from each of the company's seven geographical divisions.

Ms. Bailey, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh C. Bailey of Valdosta, will spend six weeks this summer at the Brevard Music Center in North Carolina studying under a staff of about 100 outstanding music teachers from across the nation.

High School Spring Sports

'Cats Down Berrien For First Victory

Baseball

From Staff Reports

NASHVILLE — Valdosta High won its first game of the year behind the pitching of Ralph Guarino, who struck out nine, giving up two walks and seven hits in a route-going performance that paced the Wildcats to a 3-2 victory over Berrien County Tuesday.

Berrien, which had defeated Valdosta 6-2 last weekend in the Berrien County Invitational, opened the scoring with a run in the bottom of the first inning.

But Valdosta came back to tie the game in the third. Mike Martin led off the inning with a walk, advanced on a sacrifice and scored on a double by Brent Moore.

Berrien came right back to go ahead with a run in the bottom of the inning to lead 2-1.

Both teams went scoreless in the fourth, but Valdosta came back to score the winning runs in the fifth.

David Thomas started the rally when he was hit by a pitch. Thomas moved to second on a sacrifice and scored on a Brian Parker double. Then, three consecutive walks by Rebel pitcher Ray Garner proved to be his undoing. Brad Coleman and Jon Reaves walked to load the bases for the Wildcats, while Trevor Nance drew the walk that drove in the

winning run.

Moore led Valdosta at the plate with three hits, including a pair of doubles. Shaw tripled and Brad Coleman singled to round out the hitting attack.

"It's good to win one," Valdosta Coach Charles Tarpley said. "Guarino (1-2) has been a real stabilizer for us. He has really done the job when we've called on him. All of his games have been one-run contests. He's been our strength."

"We had a chance to score more runs, which wasn't the case in our earlier games. But, we left a lot of runners because we couldn't ever get the clutch hit, and we did a terrible job of running the bases. We're about at the point where I thought we'd be at this time of the season, and the real games (sub-region) don't count for another couple of weeks."

Valdosta improved to 1-3 with the win and will play host to Tift County Friday at 7 p.m.

Valdosta...001 020 0-3 5 3
Berrien.....101 000 0-2 7 1

Guarino (W, 1-2) and Moore, Gill (5); Garner (L, 1-2) and Pope. 3B — Shaw (V). 2B — Moore 2 (V). E — Guarino (V), Nance (V), Shaw (V), Garner (BC). SB — Shaw 2 (V), Kendrick 2 (BC), McCall (BC), Hunkapillar (BC).

Records — Valdosta 1-3; Berrien 2-2.

V. Times 3-30-85



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students



Best Time Of The Day

Most students probably would agree that their favorite part of the school day is its end. Here,

Valdosta High School students depart the campus on one recent rainy day. — Times Staff Photo.

Wildcats Drop One To Tift, 8-6

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High came up short once again in high school baseball action Friday at Bazemore Field, and this time the bearer of bad news was a 8-6 victory for the Blue Devils.

"Everything is just going against us right now and we just can't seem to get any kind of break," Valdosta Coach Charles Tarpley said. "We just can't seem to make the big play when we need it, while our opponents always come up with four or five."

"We're not going to give up though. It gets discouraging at times, but the big thing today was the kids kept on battling. Some more good news, was finding a regular catcher and another pitcher."

"Our lack of aggressiveness caused us today, too," Tarpley said. "We didn't have good outfield play and still are making too many base running errors to win these close games. All of our losses have been in close ballgames."

Tift scored five of its eight runs following Valdosta errors. The Blue Devils opened the scoring with three runs in the first on a solo homer by David Cosper and consecutive run-scoring singles by Chris Taylor and Jay Cole.

Valdosta got two of the runs back in the bottom of the inning when Mike Martin ripped a two-run homer after Brent Moore led off the inning with a single to

left.

After a scoreless second inning, Tift added a pair of runs in the third on a two-run homer by Lawton Bassett. Andy Cross had reached base ahead of Bassett when Valdosta leftfielder Trevor Shaw dropped his fly to left.

Trailing 5-2, Valdosta came right back to cut the lead to 5-4 in the bottom of the inning when Steve Malina hit a two-run homer following a walk by Joey Crosby.

Tift pushed its lead back up to 7-4 in the fourth by scoring two runs with two outs. Taylor started the rally with a double to left, and Cole followed with a two-run homer. Steve Nixon then lined a single to center, but Cross flied out to left field.

Valdosta refused to fold though, coming back with a single run in the bottom of the fourth on Martin's second homer of the game to cut the deficit to 7-5.

However, Tift got that run back in the very next inning when Darrien Teals blasted a solo homer for some insurance.

After going down in order in the fifth, Valdosta got a rally started in the sixth on three consecutive singles, but Moore was thrown out at the plate.

Valdosta tried one last-ditch effort in the seventh by scoring one run, but it wasn't enough as Tift held on for an 8-6 victory. With one out, Brian Parker reached on a walk. He advanced to second on a balk and third on a wild pitch. Two other Wildcats also reached base

after Jon Reaves hit a run-scoring single to bring Parker home. Moore ended the game by flying out to left field.

Martin led Valdosta, 1-4, at the plate with three hits, including a pair of homers. Nance, Moore and Reaves also has two hits apiece. Tift, 9-1, was led by Teals, Cosper, Taylor, Cole, Nixon and Bassett with two hits apiece.

"We've lost to some good teams, but we haven't been out of any of the games," Tarpley said. "If we would play good and up to our potential, I feel like we'd start winning."

"That play at the plate in the sixth was a very big play. But if I had the same situation to come up again, I'd do the same thing. We needed some runs, and there was never any doubt in my mind to send the runner on home."

"I think we'll be all right with a little more experience," Tarpley said. "We're trying a lot of things and a lot of different people, just trying to get the right combination on the field. I was pleased with (Guy) Belue's pitching performance, and the way (Walt) Gill handled himself behind the plate."

Tift	300	210	0	—	8	13	3
Valdosta	202	100	0	—	6	12	4
Hamilton (W) and Cole; Guriano (L 1 3), Belue (5) and Gill. HR — Martin (V) 2, Malani (V), Teals (T), Cosper (T), Cole (T), Bassett (T). 2B — Taylor (T).							



Valdosta's Ralph Guriano Beats The Tag In a Close Play At Third Base

Times Staff Photo by Nadine Shocher

Two Valdosta High Students Compete In Driving Tests

By RICHARD SELLERS
Times Staff Writer

Two Valdosta High School Students were chosen to compete in "Operation Driver Excellence," a national program to encourage teenagers to be superior drivers to be held in Atlanta.

Kathy Harris, an 11th grader, and Yves Owens, a 10th grader, traveled to Atlanta this weekend to compete in state level competition.

Sponsored by the AMVETS national veterans organization and the Dodge Division of the Chrysler Corporation, Operation Drive Excellence is a type of car rodeo that strives for safe driving through local, state and national competition.

The two VHS students were chosen by Student Driver Instructor Robert Bolton at Valdosta High, said J.C. Williams, state president of the Georgia Chapter of AMVETS.

"Some schools have local drivers' tests for the competition, but I told them (the high school) to send me the best, and they said these two were the best they had," Williams said.

The program's emphasis is on good driving citizenship and defensive driving skills necessary to create a superior driver who can adapt quickly and safely to emergency situations.

At every level of competition Operation Driver Excellence is geared to test the knowledge and driving ability of teenagers in critical phases of automobile operations, including: (1) driving citizenship, (2) general driving ability; (3) knowledge of driving theory and traffic laws, and (4) ability to handle an automobile in emergency situations.

Students participating in the competition must take written exams on motoring laws and driving theory. They are tested on actual over-the-road driving and are required to maneuver a car through a serpentine course.

The final phase of Operation Driver Excellence competition involves car handling in emergency situations. In the emergency stop segment, a special "gun" is mounted on the front bumper of the car. The student drives the car through a lane and the course judge, who shares the front seat, triggers the "gun" when the car is cruising at a steady 30 miles an hour.

The sound of the shot alerts the driver to make his emergency stop while the "gun" marks the spot by firing a chalk pellet to the ground.

Scores are determined by the driver's ability to stop within the shortest distance. Should the car swerve out of the stopping lane, penalty points are assessed.

But, other than practicing safe driving, what does all this mean for students competing in the driving competition?

V. Times 3-31-85



Times Staff Photo by Nadine Shochet

Yves Owens, Kathy Harris Practice Driving Skills

Georgia's top winners win \$1000 for first place, \$600 for second, and \$400 for third, then have the chance to move up to national competition.

Also, Operation Driver Excellence competitions will award more than \$25,000 in prizes and scholarships to teenage safe drivers.

The national champion will win a \$5,000 scholarship and the use of a new Dodge car for a year plus a second new Dodge car to be used for a year by the champion's high school.

Runnersup in the national event will receive scholarships of \$4,000, \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000 respectively.

The national finals will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, on May 18, 19 and 20.

Kathy is the daughter of William and Kathryn Harris, of 922 Bunche Street.

Yves is the son of Cornelious and Brownie Owens, of 715 South Troup St.

Schools At Work

V. TIMES 4-3-85
From Times Staff Reports

With Valdosta City School students out of the classroom this week on spring break, school officials have found the ideal time to get some repair work done on five school buildings.

Walter Altman, school superintendent elect, said paint is being touched-up at Valdosta High School and Pinevale Lomax Elementary School.

In addition, carpeting is being replaced at an entrance hall to the high school.

Crews are repairing roofs at Sallas Mahone Elementary, Valdosta Junior High and the food services building at Cleveland Field, Altman said.

Funding for the roof work comes from the roof bond issue, Altman said.

All of the projects, however, are small-scaled and don't involve more than \$3,000 each, Altman said.

School officials chose to have the work done during break, because most of the projects would have been difficult with students in school, Altman said.

But because the jobs are small, he said the work should be completed by the time school starts next week.

'Cats Finish 2nd In Track Meet

4/8/84
From Staff Reports
TIFTON — The Valdosta boys track team opened its 1984 season with a second-place finish in a tri-meet Thursday afternoon at Tift County High School.

Tift won the meet with 93½ points with Valdosta second at 64½ and Berrien third at 11.

Valdosta won six individual events and two team events.

Individual winners for Valdosta included: Hosea Heard, 440-yard dash and 330-yard intermediate hurdles; Aundra Irvin, 100-yard dash and 220-yard run; John Porter, Discus and Randy Bell, long jump.

Bell, Heard, Derrick Folsom and Irvin combined to win the mile relay and Heard, Irvin, Bozie Sirmans and Willie Lewis teamed up to win the 440-yard relay.

Valdosta also had six second-place finishers, including: Sirmans, 100-yard dash; Lewis, 220-yard run; Porter, shot put, Charles Sullivan, high jump; Earnest Mangham, long jump and Bell, triple jump.

Third-place finishers for Valdosta included Bell in the 120-yard high hurdles and Folsom in the 330-yard intermediate hurdles.

Fourth-place finishers were Eric Sharp in the high jump and Lewis in the triple jump.

And fifth-place finishers included Folsom in the 440-yard dash and John Wheelis in the shot put.

Valdosta will return to action April 10 against Cook.

Vikettes

Win 4-3-88
V Times

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

Lowndes High's girls squeaked by Madison County, Fla. by one point, 49-47, and Tift County scored 97 points to win the boys side in the Lowndes quad-team track meet Tuesday.

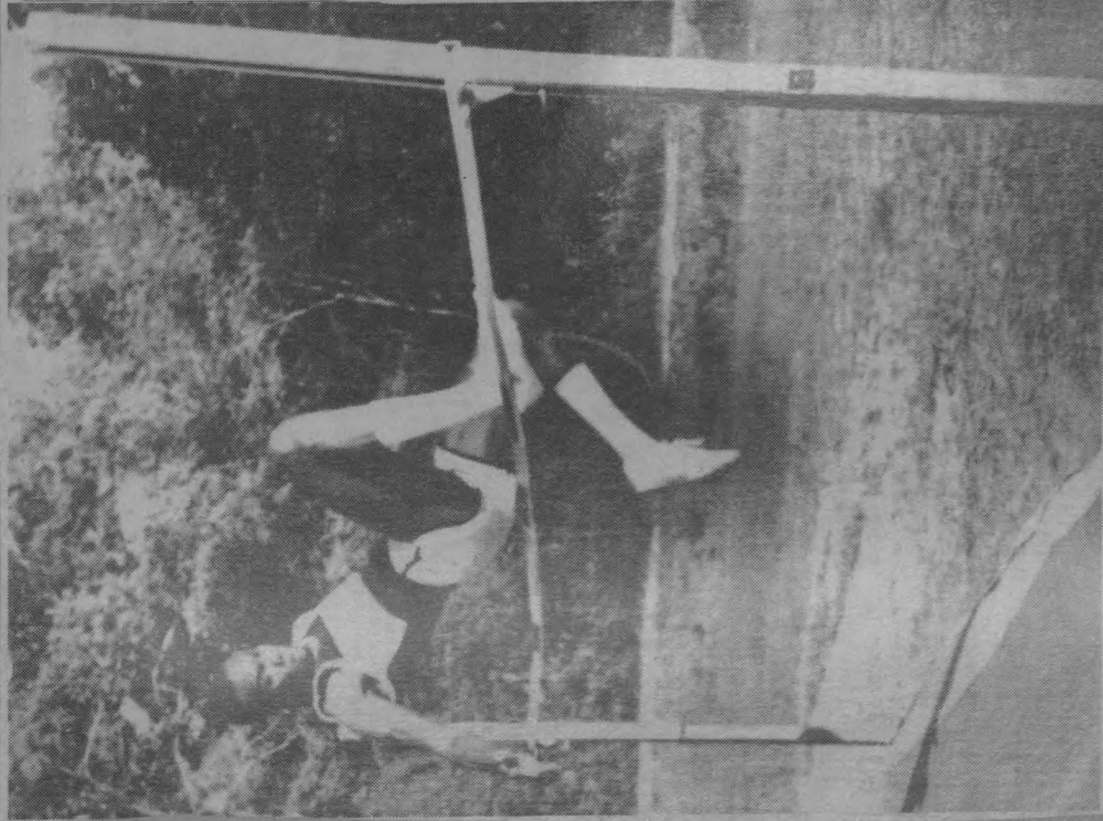
The meet featured four boys teams — Lowndes, Valdosta, Tifton and Madison — and all the schools but Tift participated in the girls events. Tift used multiple units to pick up added points to pace its win, while Valdosta actually totaled more first place finishers.

Valdosta finished in first place in eight of the 15 events held, including the 440-yard relay and mile relay to close out the meet as the 'Cats started and finished on a strong note.

"It was a good meet for us and I thought we did exceptionally well for it being our first time out," Valdosta Coach Freddie Waters said. "Anytime you can score 71 points your first time out, it shows you the potential that you have. We did this despite having a couple of people — Willie Lewis and Ernest Mangham — out with injuries."

"We also had several first-year people to come out and do a good job for us today. That's another big key and we have to have that from them. I feel good about this meet and I'm very pleased with the results. Our experienced players did about as well as you would expect from them."

The mile and 440 really teams was anchored by junior Hosea Heard, who had an outstanding day for the 'Cats. Heard also captured first place in the 220-yard dash and the 440-yard dash.



Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris

Valdosta's James Edwards Floats Over High Jump Bar

Valdosta Boys, Girls Track Teams

From Staff Reports

The Valdosta boys and girls easily won a dual meet with Cook Tuesday at the VHS track.

The Wildcats won 13 of 15 events to score a 93-28 win. The Lady 'Cats improved to 2-1 with their 85-23 victory.

The Valdosta boys won 14 of 16 events. Jerry Hatley was a winner for Cook in the shot put and Wayman White won the 2-mile run.

Winners for Valdosta in running events included: Danny Becton (1-mile run), Hosea Heard (440-yard dash, 330 intermediate hurdles), Aundra Irvin (100 dash, 220 dash), Randy Bell (120 high hurdles) and Mark Baker (880 run).

Field event winners for the 'Cats were: John Porter (discus), Charles Sullivan (high jump), Earnest Mangham (long jump) and Bell (triple jump).

4-11-84

The Lady 'Cats took 12 of 13 events from Cook. Cindy Quick scored Cook's lone win in the high jump.

Two-event winners for the Lady 'Cats were: Cassandra Cesar (shot put and discus), Melissa Evans (110 low hurdles and 220 dash), Ramona Wing (mile run and 2-mile run), and Lisa Irvin (440 dash and 880 run).

nerup. This should let us know exactly how we stack up against them.

"I was just disappointed in everything and didn't see any real bright spots for us. It was a bit surprising to finish as far back as we did. We had done real well in our previous three meets this year, but I told the kids that we were going against better competition today."

"This might be good for us because we know now how much work we have to put into this if we're going to be competitive in the region," Johnson said. "Our girls didn't look as bad, but they still need a lot of work, too. However, considering the fact that eight or nine of them are freshmen, we did very well. I just can't get over how bad the boys fared."

Pansy March captured first place in the shot put for Lowndes with a 34-5, while Angela Woods won the 110 hurdles with a 17.02. Lynn Angry finished first in the 880 with a 3:00.11, Nicole Fuller won the mile with a 7:50.65 and Maria Alderman captured the 440 with a 1:05.6.

"We could have done better, but they kept trying and that was the key for us," Johnson said. "I'm very pleased with the progress of some of our younger kids, but we have plenty of time to come around. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us and we'll start getting it done in practice."

"We've got to work harder in the field events to get good overall production. We've always been strong in the sprints and that should have been the case again today, although it wasn't very much in evidence."

Lowndes also won the mile relay event to pull out the victory as Madison won the 440 relay. Valdosta finished second in the 440 relay. Valdosta's Siroy Hartzon finished second in the 880 and Redden finished second in the high jump.

Gardner was the only first-place finisher for the Valdosta girls, capturing the long jump with a 14-6 $\frac{3}{4}$ as Valdosta compiled 29 points.

The Lowndes girls will travel to Douglas Monday for its next meet, while Valdosta will meet Westover in a dual meet here.

"I thought this was a very good meet for all the teams, and Coach Johnson did a good job of keeping things moving right along," Waters said. "Everything was well organized and went very smoothly for everybody. We just hope that things will continue to go in this direction for us. We have something to build on from this meet today."

Boys Score
Tift County 97; Valdosta 71; Lowndes 35; Madison County Fla., 29.

First Place Finishers
Shot Put — Cox (TC), 45'10"; Discus — Cox (TC), 145'10"; High Jump — Choice (MC), 4'7"; Long Jump — Bell (V), 20'11"; Triple Jump — Stokes (TC), 27'9"; 100 Relay — (V), 44.31; Mile Run — Tyson (TC), 4:44.33; 440-yard dash — Heard (V), 51.81; 100-yard dash — Folsom (V), 10.15; 120 High Hurdles — Bell (V), 13.93; 880-yard run — Stubbs (TC), 2:12.0; 220-yard dash — Heard (V), 22.25; 330-yard intermediate Hurdles — Folsom (V), 42.84; 2-mile run — Tyson (TC) — 10:35.26; Mile Relay (V) 3:37.98.

Girls Score
Lowndes, 48; Madison County, Fla., 47; Valdosta, 28.
First Place Finishers
Shot Put — March (L), 34'5"; Discus — Balloon (MC), 98'; Long Jump — Gardner (V), 14'6"; High Jump — Gibson (MC), 4'11"; 440-yard relay — (MC), 53.12; Mile run — Fuller (L), 7:50.65; 440-yard dash — Alderman (L), 1:05.56; 100-yard dash — Bradley (MC), 11.60; 110-yard hurdles — Woods (L), 17.02; 880-yard run — Angry (L), 3:00.11; 220-yard dash — Bradley (L), 27.73; Mile relay — (L) 4:40.0.

VHS Tennis Teams Sweep Coffee

Valdosta swept Coffee in high school tennis action on Monday.

The Valdosta boys ran their record to 6-0 with a 9-0 drubbing of Coffee on the VHS tennis courts. VHS won all but two of its matches in two sets.

Michael Furukawa, the No. 6 singles player, went three sets to defeat Mark Lott, 6-1, 6-7, 6-3. Furukawa also teamed with Jim Staup to win the No. 3 doubles match 6-7, 6-2, 7-6.

Other winners for the Wildcats included Eric Anderson, Kibby Wagner, Gabe Hotard and Simon Lee. Lee also teamed with Reggie Merritt to win the No. 2 doubles match.

The VHS girls rolled to a 6-3 win in a match played at McKey Park.

Winners for the Lady 'Cats included Kristy Stabell, Ethel Mitchell, Mandy Smitherman and Denise Fields. Smitherman and Ronnie Bartholomew won the No. 2 doubles match.

The VHS boys B-team (4-0) beat Coffee 5-2. The Lady 'Cats B-team (3-1) won 2-1.

The VHS varsity's next match is on Wednesday at home against Tift County.

4-11-84

VHS Student Bailey Nabs Scholarship

By Times Staff Writer

A 15-year-old Valdosta High School student was recently named winner of a scholarship to attend a six-week music course at the prestigious Transylvania Music Camp at North Carolina's Brevard College.

"I was pleased and very excited because it will be a great chance for me to learn," said Laura Bailey, who was selected from a group of musical performers who auditioned in February for the scholarship at Valdosta State College.

Ms. Bailey is the daughter of Hugh Bailey, president of the college and plays in the marching and symphonic bands at Valdosta High.

A student of the flute for the past five years and "an exceptionally talented young musician," according to VHS music teacher Regine Wiley, Ms. Bailey said she'll be performing in different groups at the camp and taking private lessons as well.

She'll also have the opportunity to rehearse with other high school students for weekly performances of the "Brevard Symphony Orchestra."

Ms. Bailey said the material practiced and played at the camp will include "a little bit of everything," including classical and contemporary selections.

The 40-year-old music camp, which will be staffed by professional musicians from around the country for the six weeks, is located near the

Transylvania Mountain range in North Carolina.

Major guest artists not yet announced are expected to visit and perform at the camp during the six weeks.

Seven of the music scholarships are awarded by Georgia Power Company annually to music students from each of the company's seven districts in the state. The Georgia Federation of Music Clubs is also a sponsor.



Laura Bailey Transylvania-Bound

14 The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Apr. 10, 1985

Bearcats Down Valdosta

By ROGER B. BBROWN
Times Sports Writer

Bainbridge hasn't been playing well all season, but Tuesday the Bearcats put it all together Tuesday in an 8-3 Region 1-AAAA South victory over the Valdosta Wildcats at Bazemore Field.

Jason Hutchins handcuffed the Wildcats on four hits as Bainbridge jumped out to an early advantage and held the lead throughout the game.

Bainbridge scored two runs in the first inning, and added two more in the second before Valdosta finally got on the board with a single run in the third inning.

"Hutchins pitched an outstanding game for us today and that's exactly what we needed," Bearcat Coach Stan Killough said. "He threw strikes and was consistently around the plate all game long and that was another key factor."

"He didn't allow very many walks (three) and made them earn their way on, which is a sign of good pitching. We also had good defense behind him (no errors) and that's always good to see."

Bainbridge opened the scoring when Bernie Weathersby reached on an error. He moved to third on a wild pick off attempt and scored on a fly to center by Hutchins.

Shawn Strickland then singled to center, advanced to second on a wild pitch and scored on a double by Tom Kelley after Kent Hatton had walked. Brian Calhoun the lined out to center to

end the inning leaving two runners stranded.

The Bearcats added two more runs in the second on four hits, including three consecutive singles. Bobby Duke led off the inning with a single to center. After Curt Wingham popped out to third, Ken Loeffler singled to left to move Duke around to third.

Weathersby came up next and lined a run-scoring single to center. Hutchins followed a run-scoring single to right to make the score 4-0, leaving runners at second and third and one out, but Valdosta's pitcher, Ralph Guriano got out of the inning by striking out Strickland and getting Hatton to fly out to right to end the inning.

Trailing 4-0 in the third, Valdosta got one of the runs back when Trevort Shaw, who had two of the four hits for Valdosta, doubled to right. He advanced to third on a passed ball and with two outs stole home when Brent Moore was trapped in a run-down between first and second on an apparent planned play.

Bainbridge came back with two more runs in the fourth on one hit and three Valdosta errors.

Whigham walked to lead off the inning and advanced to third on an error. After weathersby flied out, Whigham scored on a groundout by Hutchins. Strickland reached on an error and Hatton followed with a run-scoring single to give the Bearcats a 6-1 advantage.

Valdosta scored a single run in the fifth to close within 6-2 on a pair of hits. With two outs, Jon Reaves reached on a single and scored on a double by Shaw. Brian Parker stepped up next and he struck out to end the inning.

Bainbridge put the game away by adding two insurance runs in the seventh inning on two hits. Kelley reached on a walk, stole second and advanced to third on a wild pitch. Calhoun then hit a ground-rule single, which hit the base umpire. He was thrown out at first, but the umpires ruled that it was hit because the ball hit the base umpire after it had got past the pitchers mound.

After Duke flied out, Whigham singled to center to score both runners and complete the Bearcats scoring for the game.

Valdosta came back to score a run in the bottom of the inning to make up the final 8-3 count.

Steve Milani led off the inning with a single to center. Gill walked and Reaves hit into a force play. Both runners advanced on a wild pitch and Gill scored on a groundout by Shaw. Joey Crosby then grounded out to second to end the game.

"It's a big win for us," Killough said. "It's the first time all year that we've hit the ball like this. For our kids this should be a real shot in the arm. We took on the challenge and came through. Valdosta is a well-coached team and everybody knows about their



Jon Reaves
Doubled, Scored

program, which is well-stocked in winning tradition."

Meanwhile, Valdosta Coach Charles Tarpley was disappointed with his team, which dropped to 4-6 overall and 0-1 in subregion play.

"We didn't execute very well, especially in the clutch. We gave them five unearned runs and just killed ourselves with mental mistakes. I thought Guriano pitched good enough to win this ball game. We just didn't give him much help in the field or at the plate. The seniors are going to have to come through for us."

"We're playing people who are just not producing, and they have until Friday (at Lowndes) to show that they can do the job," Tarpley said.

Lowndes

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

Despite the dark clouds overhead, things turned out to be as bright as ever for the Lowndes High Vikings, who came from behind to whip the Valdosta Wildcats 6-4 Friday for the first time in three years.

"I was proud of the way that we were able to keep coming back on them today," Lowndes Coach Noel George said. "It's the first time that we've been able to beat them in quite a while, and it feels good."

Valdosta jumped out front with a single run in the third inning on a pair of hits and one Viking error. David Thomas reached on a single and moved to third on a wild pick off attempt by Lowndes pitcher Steve Nichols. He scored on a double by Brad Coleman to give the 'Cats a 1-0 lead.

Lowndes had been held hitless to that point by junior Valdosta pitcher Ralph Guriano. But, Shawn Heirs finally broke the ice with a single to left to lead off the bottom of the third.

Heirs stole second one out later, but was thrown out at third on a steal attempt, and Tony Hart bounced out to Guriano on the next pitch.

Valdosta increased its advantage in the fourth inning with two more runs for a 3-0 lead. Steve Milani led off the inning with a single to left and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Trevor Nance. Trevor Shaw then lined a single to left, which got by Mike Lansdell, and both runners scored as Shaw just beat the throw to home plate.

That's when Lowndes made its move. Bobby Eason led off the bottom of the inning with a triple to right, only the second hit of the game for the Vikings. On the next pitch, Chuck Cooper connected on a run-scoring double off the right-field fence.

That set up probably the most controversial play of the game. With a 1-2 count on Lowndes' Wayne Bradford, he was hit by a pitch according to the umpires, and Guarino was thrown out of the game.

Outshines 'Cats

"That really hurt us and was probably the turning point in the game," Valdosta Coach Charles Tarpley said. "The kid was throwing the ball real good and got a bad call, and on top of all of that was kicked out of the game, which more or less took us out of it even though we were still ahead at the time."

"But in judgement cases that happens. We got a lot of tough calls today and it makes it doubly tough when your top pitcher gets thrown out of the biggest game of the year."

Walt Gill came on to replace Guriano and face Vincent Brunson, who hit into a force play at second. With runners on the corners, Jimmy Gay grounded to Milani at third who threw the ball away at first base allowing Cooper to score to cut the deficit to 3-2.

Brunson scored to tie the game at 3-3 when Trammell Reed grounded out to shortstop, while Gay moved over to third on the play. Heirs then doubled to center to score Gay, but Heirs was tagged out at third after missing second base.

Valdosta came right back to tie the game at 4-4 in the fifth on a hit, wild pitch and a walk.

Thomas reached on a throwing error by Eason, and was sacrificed to second by Brent Moore. He moved to third on a wild pitch and scored on a single by Mike Martin, who was left stranded at second when Milani struck out to end the inning.

Lowndes came back to take the lead for good in the bottom of the inning by scoring two runs on two hits, a walk and a wild pitch.

With one out, Tony Hart singled an 0-2 pitch to center, stole second, and went to third on an errant throw by Moore. Eason walked to put runners on the corners and Hart scored on an infield hit by Cooper. Eason scored one out later on a wild pitch for the final margin.

"We're still making way too many



Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris

Valdosta's Jason Crosby (27) Bobbles Ball While Lowndes' Tracy Hart Slides Safely

break that today. It's always a tough battle everytime these two teams meet. We'll know more about ourselves after Tuesday when we go to Bainbridge, then we have to turn around and do it all over again."

Nichols went the distance for Lowndes and was credited with the win. He gave up only five hits and three walks while striking out eight. Gill was the losing pitcher for Valdosta.

Lowndes, 9-6, will travel to Bainbridge next Tuesday, while Valdosta, 4-7, will play host to Albany Monroe in a doubleheader today.

"I thought our kids played a good game today," Tarpley said. "We were

relaxed and very aggressive and just a lot better than we have been for the past couple of weeks. I thought they showed a lot of character by hanging in there, even with everything going against them."

"We're just in a situation now where we have to win all of our remaining games. If we can do that, we can still finish no worse than first place. Someday, something good is going to happen for us, and we just have to keep on working hard."

Valdosta

Lowndes

Guriano (3), Gill (L, 1-3) and Moore; Nichols (W) and Bradford. 3B — Eason (L), 2B — Heirs (L), Cooper (L), Coleman (V).



Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris

Lowndes And Valdosta Had Many Close Plays Friday

Times 4-13-84 Valdosta Hosts United Nations

These Valdosta High School students were among those who gathered at Valdosta State College's Whitehead Auditorium Thursday night for a mock session of the United Nations. They were representing Libya. Not to worry about the guns, though. They were just toys. —Times Staff Photo by Frank Williams.



Valdosta Relinquishes No. 1 Spot With 8-5 Loss To Colquitt County

By KEVIN PRICE
Times Staff Writer

Jim Turner was simply too much for Valdosta High Friday afternoon at Bazemore Field.

The Colquitt County right-hander limited Valdosta to one run in seven innings of work and hit three home runs to lead the Packers to an 8-5 victory in the Region 1-AAAA South sub-region contest.

"Anything I could say about Jim's performance would be inadequate," Colquitt coach Jerry Croft said after the game. "His pitching and hitting combined to be one of the best individual performances I've seen."

Turner's performance put Colquitt back into a three-way tie atop the sub-region standings with Valdosta and Lowndes, a 21-0 winner over Thomasville Central Friday.

All three teams have 3-1 marks in sub-region play.

"We made it a race again," said Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley. "We could have put ourselves in a good spot with a win. Now, we are right back where we started the season, tied."

"But Turner did a tremendous job, holding this team to one run in seven innings."

Turner, who went 0 for 4 in Colquitt's 10-2 loss to Valdosta Thursday in Moultrie, opened the scoring Friday with a two-run homer in the first inning off right-hander Lorenzo Matchett.

Colquitt starter Keith Croft failed to retire anybody, giving up a walk, two singles, a double and a three-run homer to Bruce Parker.

But Turner came in and shut the door on the 'Cats.

Colquitt added two runs in

Times 4-14-84
Region 1-AAAA South

Valdosta	W	L
Lowndes	3	1
Colquitt	3	1
Thomasville	1	3
Central	0	4

Friday's Games Colquitt 8, Valdosta 5 Lowndes 21, Central 0

the second and third innings to take a 6-2 lead.

Second baseman Terry Robinson doubled in both Packers runs in the second.

Turner led off the third inning with his second home run of the game, his fourth of the season.

Greg Studdard doubled in Colquitt's sixth run.

Turner, who struck out eight, most with a sharp-breaking curve ball, lost the strike zone in the fifth inning, walking two batters.

Matchett singled in Ted West to bring Valdosta within one, 6-5. But the 'Cats left the bases loaded.

Tarpley replaced Matchett, who gave up six runs on seven hits in five innings, with West, who pitched a complete game against Colquitt Thursday.

After getting the first two batters rather easily, West was rocked for a double by Darryl Funderburk and a two-run homer by Turner.

Turner again lost his control in the seventh, walking Parker and hitting Tim Register in addition to giving up a single to Matchett to load the bases.

However, Turner struck out

David Thomas and induced pinch-hitter Steve Milani to ground weakly to shortstop Funderburk to end the game.

"We left way too many people on base," Tarpley said. "We didn't get the clutch hits like we did Thursday, scoring seven runs after two outs."

"We just have to put this one behind us and get ready for the rest of the sub-region schedule."

Colquitt	ab	r	h	bi	Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi
McCrane	4	1	1	0	Gandy	2	1	0	0
Funderburk	3	1	0	0	Goff	2	1	0	0
Turner	4	3	5	0	West	2	1	1	0
Ruis	4	0	1	0	Parker	2	1	2	3
Croft	3	0	1	0	Matchett	4	0	3	1
Fdham	2	1	0	0	Adrian	2	0	0	0
Spres	2	1	1	0	Rgstr	3	0	0	0
Sturd	3	0	1	1	Thomas	3	0	1	1
Rbson	2	0	0	0	Hvege	2	0	0	0
TOTALS	28	8	10	8	Munip	1	0	0	0
					TOTALS	27	5	7	5

Colquitt Co.	222	002	0-8-10-2
Valdosta	400	010	0-5-7-2
Errors	—	Turner 2, Goff, Dinkins, Double	
Plays	—	none, Left On Base — C, 6, V, 10.	
Doubles	—	McCrane, Spres, Robinson,	
Funderburk	—	triples — none, Home	
Runs	—	Turner 3, Parker, Stolen Bases —	
Thomas, Matchett, West, Sacrifice Bunt —			
Register Sacrifice Fly — none.			

Colquitt Co.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Croft	0	4	4	1	0	
Turner	7	3	1	1	5	8
Valdosta						
Matchett	5	7	6	6	2	1
West	2	3	2	2	0	3
Winner — Turner 3.0, Loser — Matchett 2.3						
Passed Ball — Fordham. Hit By Pitch						
Register (by Turner)						

They Won't Forget Wildcats' Passing

Mark Carmichael was laughing and singing at home with his family at 9:30 on the evening of March 31, when he decided to visit friends in Valdosta.

Midnight was approaching as the Valdosta High sophomore headed his older sister's gray MG convertible back from the city toward Hahira. He drove out North Valdosta Road, taking the north fork onto U.S. 41. There were no curves and the ground was level as his car ran off the road, traveled 263 feet and struck a tree.

Doctors said he died from an aneurysm (dilation of a diseased blood vessel), but Mark's father Wayne doesn't even want to know what the word means, for he knew he'd never again be able to share good times with his 16-year-old son.

"It (the death) was a bitter shock," the elder Carmichael said Sunday evening. "We are a real close family."

"I don't know how to explain it — it was a big loss. I love our lord and savior, and it was his decision. I ask why, and it's hard to understand. It's just one of those things that happens — I can't answer the questions."

He's Remembered By Family, Friends

But Mark Carmichael will not be forgotten by his family and friends. The trophies he won as a boxer are still in the family home, and nothing has been moved in his room since that fateful evening six months ago, his father says.

"I think about him every minute of the day," Carmichael said. "We drove to Adel tonight, and we talked about him."

"His sisters write to him every night, and his friends at school pray for him every night. They visit him at the cemetery (Riverview Memory Gardens in Valdosta) and talk to him there."

Being a Christian was a major part of Mark's life, and he also loved being a farm boy. Mark was always wearing his cowboy hat and chewing tobacco, so it only seemed right when his friends buried him with a can of Copenhagen in his hand.

"He loved his horses, the feed yard and the tractors," Carmichael said. "He'd been with me (around the farm) ever since he was old enough to toddle."

"We're from the Midwest, so we've always worn Western hats and boots and jeans, and Mark was no different."

Another part of the Carmichael legacy followed Mark home after his death. It seems he loved being an auctioneer — just like his father. He'd only started working auctions at 15, but the people began appearing at the Carmichael farm when Mark passed away.

"People from the western part of the state came here the day after he died," Carmichael said. "They cried their hearts out to us."

But Mark's death may have been a long time coming, as "he was a sick boy," according to his father.

"Mark went into the hospital in December with mononucleosis," Carmichael said. "He had hepatitis, and an infected liver and spleen — the doctors wouldn't let him do any lifting whatsoever."

"But if they'd had been right there, there's nothing they could have done for him. They said when that happens (an aneurysm), you're going to die."

But dying wasn't on Mark's mind as he grew up in the Winnersville USA tradition. In junior high school he was member of the Tomcat football team, moving on to the Wildcat varsity as a right cornerback in ninth grade. Mark started during that 1981 season, and the 'Cats weren't scored on.

He played for the 1982 state champion Wildcats, continuing at defensive back during 1983 until he was hospitalized. Mark was also very popular on the Valdosta High campus.

"He touched them all down there (at VHS)," Carmichael said. "He was very well liked, and I didn't know just how well."

"I didn't understand everything about my own son, but we didn't try to pry into his personal life. They all liked him — old, young, black, white."

'Cats Dedicate Season To Him

At Wildcat Picture Day two weeks ago on Cleveland Field, a special ceremony was held to honor Mark. His jersey and the helmet he wore were presented to his parents as a token from the team. The '84 Wildcats are dedicating this season to Mark, wearing his number (14) on the back of their helmets, and he won't soon be forgotten, VHS head coach Nick Hyder said.

"He was a real favorite with everybody down at the school," Hyder said. "The youngsters were quite shaken."

"He was pretty close to the junior class, and there are about 30 of them on the squad. It still strikes a serious tone with any of them if you mention his name."

"I've been coaching 27 years, and this was the first time I lost a player while he was a member of the team — it was quite an emotional experience."

Mark had come a long way since starting as a Tomcat in the seventh grade and Hyder said "he figured to be one of our outstanding players."

"At times like these, you stop and take a good, long look," Hyder said. "You find out that life is not permanent."

"Everybody's got to stop and take a hard look at themselves. You ask who picks (who will die)? Who decides who is taken, and when you go?"

"It's not for us to question — there's a divine being somewhere who decides."

But there's one judgment nobody will probably make in the near future. That decision is the one to ever drive the gray MG convertible — which will never happen, according to his father.

"I still have the car right out there in the yard," Carmichael said. "The windshield wipers work and his side is pretty much undamaged."

"The car is driveable, but I don't want it fixed up and put on the road."

"Some people don't understand that, but that's the way I feel."



Times Staff Photo

Nick Hyder (l) Poses With Carmichael's Parents

Former 'Cat QB Buck Belue Is Fighting For His Life

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

Buck Belue is fighting for his life these days.

That is, his football life as a professional quarterback for the Jacksonville Bulls of the United States Football League.

Belue is listed behind three other quarterbacks on the Bulls' roster, Matt Robinson, Robbie Mafouz and Ben Bennett. Robinson was the starting quarterback for most of the season last year, while Mafouz signed a big-money contract, as did Bennett.

Belue is facing some mighty tough odds. Rarely do professional teams keep three quarterbacks, let alone four of them. But, the Bulls did last year and Belue filled out that last role by keeping the charts and only seeing action in just a couple of pre-season games.

Now, as far as a career in pro football

stands, Belue may be facing the second crossroads in the last three years.

Two years ago, while playing professional baseball in the Montreal Expos' minor league organization, Belue decided to give up the sport when the newly-found USFL started up its spring-summer league.

While playing for the University of Georgia, Belue led the Bulldogs to their first National Championship in 1980. But he was overlooked by the National Football League because the scouts said he wasn't the prototype quarterback. In other words, he was too short and was said to not have the big-league arm to throw it 60 or 70 yards by just the flick of the wrist.

So, he had no other choice but to try baseball after an outstanding baseball career at Georgia as an outfielder.

He tried it for two years, but wasn't making the kind of progress that he

anticipated.

Then the USFL came along.

He spent most of last year getting back in the swing of playing football after a two-year absence. He didn't get very much playing time, and mostly just kept a chart of the plays the Bulls ran in the games.

"My career has been on balance the last couple of years, and just getting back into football was a big step for me," Belue said. "I learned a lot last year, and was just glad that they decided to keep me around."

"Life on the professional level is different. It's a business and you have to be prepared for anything. I don't know a whole lot about my situation and just what their plans are at the present. I just know that I'm more prepared for this season than any other that I've been in my life."

"I was always taught to be ready when

my time came, and I just want to make the best of the opportunity whenever I do get the chance. It has happened for me on every level so far. The professional level has been the only time that things haven't fallen into place."

Belue is what coaches call a winner. He doesn't have the flashy stats or big-time arm, and he's not very big. However, he has that unique quality that always seems to find a way for his team to come out on the winning side. Those are the numbers that count to a coach who wants to maintain his job on any level of coaching.

As a mere freshman at Valdosta High, Belue found himself thrust into the starting lineup in Nick Hyder's first season at the school. It was a tense situation for Valdosta football, with a new coach and a 15-year old quarterback.

It was a tough year. Valdosta finished 3-7.

But Belue survived and went on to lead

the 'Cats offense for the next three years. In his senior season, Belue led Valdosta to the Class AAAA state finals against Clarke Central and rallied the 'Cats from a 16-0 deficit to within 16-14 before a last second field goal failed and ended the championship dreams.

"That was one of the biggest disappointments of my athletic career," Belue said. "It used to hurt so bad that I couldn't even drive by that stadium (Clarke Central's, where the championship was played) all the time that I was playing at Georgia."

One of the biggest influences on Belue's career other than Hyder was Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson, who served as an assistant at Valdosta during Belue's career.

"He (Wilson) taught me a lot about the mechanics of quarterbacking and I really learned a lot from him," Belue said. "He knew a lot about offense and was very

knowledgeable about the passing game."

"Coach Hyder stuck with me that first year, and that took a lot for him to do that. That year was probably the turning point in Valdosta football, and it was a dream come true for me to be able to quarterback the 'Cats."

"That was an adjustment period, but we all learned from it and it helped me to keep other things in the proper perspective throughout my career. It helps me now in the situation that I'm here and keeps me from just giving up."

By the time his senior year rolled around, Belue was being nationally recruited and he narrowed his choices to Georgia, Tennessee and Florida State before settling on the Bulldogs.

"That was another dream come true for me and I had thought about playing for Georgia since early childhood," Belue said. "I grew up a true Bulldog fan, and

See Belue, Page 15A

...Belue

Continued From Page 13A

felt like there was no other place for me.

"I had a pretty good career there and got a chance to play with some outstanding athletes. We had a lot of success while I was there and it seemed strange to me that some pro teams didn't want to give me a shot."

"I guess my playing baseball had a lot to do with it and some of the teams just figured that I would go that route. But, I always wanted to be able have the chance to choose one or the other."

"I feel like I'm in great shape right now, probably the best of my career because this will probably be my last shot. Things have gone pretty well in camp so far, and I've been getting in a lot of work. I came down early with the other quarterbacks and some running backs so that I could get in some extra work and be prepared for anything."

Belue is in an uphill battle for the quarterback position, but he just wants to go out firing his best shot if he doesn't make it this time. Despite the fact Robinson is the No. 1 quarterback, Robinson has been plagued by injuries throughout his career, and didn't complete the season last year.

Mafouz had a chance to take charge of the position, and was given every opportunity to do so, but he had a sub-par year. He never did fit the mold of the moveable, pocket-type quarterback that Bulls Coach Lindy Infante wants.

Bennett signed a big contract late in the year and got in some playing time at the end of the season, but he too was unimpressive. With that in mind, Infante says the quarterback position is wide open and will be given to the man who can get the job done.

"If things don't work out for me here, I'm looking to get into broadcasting," Belue said. "The offense that we run here suits me fine, but in pro football, the name of the game is being in the right place at the right time."

"The love of the sport has been the only thing that has kept me going. I've also gotten a lot of support from my family and friends, which keeps me going and helps me to stick it out. I enjoy the competition, and it's a great feeling to start out as individuals and end up accomplishing something together as a team."

"I would just like to prove it to myself that I do belong up here and that I can play on this level," he added. "It's easy to give up on something when people are doubting you, but I'm not a quitter."

Belue has been working out since the fall, anticipating his shot at making the Bulls' roster. He lifted weights to build his arm strength and ran three times a week to help his speed.

However, Belue is looking at several other options if it doesn't work out with the Bulls. During the off-season, he worked as the play-by-play announcer for Valdosta High football, and he's thinking of making a career out of it.

Belue has also had the opportunity to work with USA cable network as a color analyst. While attending Georgia, he worked for WSB in Atlanta as a reporter.

"I'm not looking past the immediate training camp," Belue said. "I'm physically and mentally prepared for anything that comes of it, and will just go from there."

And though Belue does have his foot in the door as a broadcaster, he's still fighting for his true love.

No. 1 Wildcats Seemed To Be Reading The Blue Devils' Thoughts

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

The Statesboro Blue Devils had been thinking about playing the Valdosta Wildcats for several weeks now. In fact, the team had been thinking about nothing else since the Georgia high school football playoffs began, according to Statesboro head coach Charles Winslette.

But no matter what the Blue Devils were thinking Friday night at Cleveland Field, the 'Cats were one step ahead as they dumped Statesboro 45-0 for the south Georgia championship and the right to play Athens Clarke Central for the state title.

And although all-America linebacker John Porter didn't say so, the game may well have been over with less than 2:00 gone off the clock. Statesboro received the opening kickoff, but quarterback Chris Johnson decided to throw on the highly-vaunted Valdosta defense, which could have been a mistake.

"We were looking for that play (tight end pass over the middle), and we were going to be watching for it the whole game," Porter said. "It was six quick, easy points. We were all just converging on them, and I guess I was at the right spot at the right time. And it was a clear shot into the end zone."

Porter may have missed the ensuing extra-point attempt, but his interception return early in the first quarter may have put the Blue Devils away. Only 1:35 had rolled off the clock, but Statesboro was already en route to losing the south Georgia crown. And everything was working out like Valdosta had planned throughout the week, according to Porter.

"Our game plan was to come out quick and have a great first quarter," he said. "That was a great first quarter, and it established what we were going to do. I guess they (the Blue Devils) were intimidated, and I don't think they were ready for us to get six points that quick."

But the 210-pound senior says there's a good reason the Wildcats always seem two steps ahead of their opponents. Valdosta works year-round on conditioning and planning for games such as Friday's, but Porter claims the coaching staff knows everything that could possibly happen.

"The coaching staff did a great job of preparing us for every offensive and defensive set," he said. "Fifty-one percent of the credit (for the win) has got to go to the coaching staff."

"It seems like every time they tell us something, it happens — and we're ready for it. And it seems the ball has bounced our way all season. If we can get the ball bouncing our way next week, it would be great."

Team captain Porter may have made the play that started the rout, but defensive lineman James Wakefield and safety Derrick "Kool" Folsom also had outstanding nights on defense. The senior defenders were expecting one of the most difficult tests of their season, but ended up rolling over much weaker competition.

"They just weren't as tough as everybody thought they were," Wakefield said. "We had a hard rush on (the Porter interception) them, and the dude (Johnson) just couldn't handle the pressure."

"Maybe it was because they just hadn't been in a (semifinal) playoff game, and they couldn't handle the pressure. We had a good game — I think it's one of the best games we've had as far as defensive-wise."

The defensive co-captain also noted that the 'Cats want to win badly next week, which would give them their first national championship since the coaching days of the legendary Wright Bazemore (1971). And Bazemore was there last night, cheering on the 'Cats he's loved since his coaching days during World War II. A war could easily have broken out if Statesboro's running game had blasted through Valdosta's line as some football



Seniors

VHS Senior Offensive Leaders Include (l, l to r, top), Scott Braswell, Willie Lewis, Eric Henderson, Mario Smallwood, (l to r, bottom), Darrell Leonard, Jon Reaves And Berke Holtzclaw.

continued next page.

Times Staff Photos by Laura Harris

watchers thought, but Folsom and his defenders were ready.

"We were here to play and we were ready to play," he said. "We'd heard so much about them, what their offense was going to do and how quick they were. They never showed it."

"I guess their defense couldn't hold up their offense. And I was a little disappointed (the game wasn't better), but you've got to take what they give you."

"But this has been a great season for me, and on behalf of the rest of the team and the seniors on this club, we're No. 1 in the nation and we're going for it (Friday vs. the Gladiators)."

Folsom is definitely a college prospect, and the schools he's been considering are Nebraska, South Carolina, Florida State, Georgia and Florida. Folsom has close ties to this area, which could make Nebraska a longshot just on distance, but all the other teams could be in the running for his services — except for Florida.

When the Gators were put on probation for dozens of violations, they were all but scratched from Folsom's list. Georgia hasn't shown a great deal of interest in the senior leader, so South Carolina and Florida State seem to be the frontrunners in pursuing Folsom.

One young man who was interested in preventing pursuit last night was offensive lineman Jon Reaves. The 180-pound senior is offensive captain for the 'Cats, and he found the victory as one of his sweetest.

"We worked as one team — we're one team — we're one person," he said. "The backs ran their hearts out and the linemen played their hearts out."

"We were a complete team tonight defensively, offensively, at every position. We've been playing long enough (together) now to where each one knows what the other's going to do and how

they're going to react."

Anytime a team scores 45 points, the offensive line has to be doing something right, and last night was no exception. But it seems the entire Valdosta team had a great night, according to Reaves.

"Us being so close and being together, and playing together — no one could have beaten us," he said. "But we'll find out next week (if the 'Cats can lose)."

"But the way we played tonight is the best we've played this year. We came out with new sets and things, and they were very hard to adjust to. I'm not trying to sound cocky or anything, but we just drove them off the ball. We took control, our backs ran their hearts out and they just can't stop us when we're like that."

Speaking of unstoppable, quarterback Berke Holtzclaw had a strong hand in leading the 'Cats to their 14th consecutive victory this season. He was mixing his passes well when not handing off to Anderson or running back Willie Lewis. Lewis, a 164-pound senior, also had a brilliant night for Valdosta. But Holtzclaw was the one who kept talking about those 'Cats.

"It was togetherness — the whole team played together, just like we have all year," he said. "We're not having any problems, and we had a great week of practice."

"Everybody's working together for one thing, and that's to go to state and win. The only way we felt like we could be stopped was by ourselves. Once we really get going good, it's just hard to stop us."

"We're going to have a tough game (next weekend), but we've just got to go out there and do it like we've done it all year, and play together."

Together, together. And one game at a time, every week, as Holtzclaw and VHS head coach Nick Hyder always say.

continued



Wildcat Senior Defenders include (r, l to r, top), John Porter, Michael Spencer, James Wakefield, Jimmy Lewis, Ernest Mangham, (l to r, bottom), Mike Martin, Trevor Shaw, Derrick "Kool" Folsom, David Thomas And Elijah Holmes.

Wed., Apr. 24, 1985

Lowndes' Rally Can't Catch VHS

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

Close is only good enough in horse-shoes.

The Lowndes Vikings were close, but it wasn't enough Tuesday. The Vikings trailed Valdosta 12-2 heading into the seventh inning and scored eight runs. But the rally fell short with the tying run at the plate and all Lowndes had was that feeling of being so close.

After the game, Valdosta had a 12-10 victory, had given Lowndes its first Region 1-AAAA South loss of the season, and Lowndes Coach George felt like he'd been pitching horseshoes.

Tony Hart represented Lowndes' tying run in the seventh. Hart had connected on a two-run homer earlier in the inning off of starting Wildcat pitcher Guy Belue. However, Walt Gill, who had come in one batter earlier in relief of Belue, got Hart on a called third strike to end the Vikings' rally and the game.

"We just played terrible and made too many mistakes to expect to win this one," George said. "That's been our problem all year. We gave them everything before we decided to play. We gave it our best shot in the seventh, but it was too late then. We just fell too far behind and had too much ground to try and make up."

"Our pitching was off and we didn't field the ball at all. Once again, errors killed us and we didn't hit the ball until the last inning. I thought Belue did a good job of pitching for Valdosta until he tired in the last inning."

"He kept our hitters off balance for the most part and we couldn't get any solid shots off him," George said. "It really hurt us when we failed to score in the first inning after having the bases loaded. That was a tough call at home plate."

With one out in the first, Lowndes' Hart, Bobby Eason and Chuck Cooper drew consecutive walks. But Valdosta got out of the jam when Hart was thrown out at home on a force play.

Still, with the bases loaded, Bradford struck out to end the inning and end the scoring threat.

The seventh-inning uprising started innocently with Shawn Hiers flying out to right.

Then the rally started. Mike Lansdell reached on a single and Hart connected with his homer to make the score 12-4.

Eason walked and Cooper singled. After Vincent Brunson flied out for the second out, Wayne Bradford reached on a walk to load the bases. Trammell Reed then reached on an error by Valdosta shortstop Brad Coleman and two runs scored to make the score 12-6.

Jimmy Gay followed with a run-scoring single and Hiers cleared the bases with a grand slam over the left field fence to make the score 12-10.

That was all for Belue, and Gill came in to face Lansdell, who greeted him with a single to center, which set up the final scenario.

"We played a good game and Belue did an outstanding job," Valdosta Coach Charles Tarpley said. "We just started making too many errors in the last inning and gave them too much in that last inning."

"I wanted Belue to finish this one because he had done such a fine job. They fought back and you have to give them a lot of credit for that. We got two outs and relaxed and couldn't get the final out. I knew Belue was tired, but Gill came in and did what he's supposed to do."

"We were fortunate to get out to that big lead and it was just barely enough," Tarpley said. "We did things today that we haven't done all year. As a matter of fact, we haven't hit the ball this well at any time in any game."

After dodging the first-inning bullet, Valdosta came in to score a run and was never headed. Gill reached on a single, advanced to second on a groundout and scored on a single by Steve Milani.

Valdosta padded the margin to 2-0 in the second when Trevor Shaw led off



Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris

After Settling Down, Guy Belue Pitched Effectively

with a single and scored two outs later on a double steal, with Brent Moore taking second and Shaw stealing home.

Lowndes cut the deficit to 2-1 with a single run in the third when Hart reached on a force play and scored on a two-out single by Cooper.

After two scoreless innings, Valdosta scored five runs in the fifth inning by sending 10 batters to the plate and collecting four hits.

Milani and Nance paced Valdosta with three hits each.

Lowndes dropped to 4-1 in the subregion, one game ahead of Valdosta, 3-2. Lowndes is 11-7 overall and

Valdosta is 7-9. Lowndes will play host to Bainbridge Thursday, while Valdosta will visit Central-Thomasville to close out the subregion race, also on Thursday.

"I don't know what happened to us today," George said. "Maybe we were too relaxed or something. That's unusual because most times when we play Valdosta, we're too high. But that wasn't the case at all today."

Lowndes 001 001 8-10 8 2
Valdosta 110 055 x-12 13 4
Nichols (L), Harrell (5), Hagan (6) and Bradford; Belue (W, 4-0), Gill (7) and Moore. HR—Hart (L), Hiers (L). 2B—Reaves (V), Milani (V).
Records—Lowndes 11-7, 4-1; Valdosta 7-9, 3-2.
Next Game—Bainbridge at Lowndes, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Valdosta at Central-Thomasville, Thursday, 4 p.m.

Musicians Take To Cleveland Field

By Times Staff Writer

About 190 musicians and 110 singers will take to Cleveland Field tonight at a benefit performance by the Valdosta High School Band and Chorus.

The 8 p.m. event will feature the band's field show which band members perfected at last week's competition in Mississippi.

The chorus will perform songs the group plans to use in a competition they will be in next week.

Band director Dan Gaultney said the band will perform the popular musical number, *On a Clear Day, Count Basie's One O'Clock Jump*, a percussion feature and a patriotic medley.

'75 Class Meets

V T. TIMES 5-2-85

The Valdosta High School class of 1975 will meet today at 7:30 p.m. to discuss plans for its 10-year reunion.

The meeting will be held at South Georgia Regional Library.

Further information is available from Scott Alderman at 244-1992 or Anthony Payton at 244-7331.

V T. TIMES 5-3-85

Valdosta High won the girls championship and the Columbus Blue Devils won the boys title in the Region 1-AAA tennis tournament here Saturday.

Final Play

By ROGER B. BROWN

Times Sports Writer

In the end, it all boiled down to the final play of the game. And, for once, according to Wildcat Coach Charles Tarpley, it worked in Valdosta High's favor.

With two out in the seventh inning, Tift County's Darren Teals ripped a single into left field and teammate Alan Nettles tried to score the game-tying run from second base. But he was nailed at the plate when Valdosta leftfielder Trevor Shaw gunned him out and catcher Brent Moore supplied the tag to preserve the 6-5 victory for the Wildcats in the opening round of the Region 1-A AAAA playoffs at Bazemore Field.

"That was a real big play, probably the most important play of the game for us," Tarpley said. "That was a great throw by Shaw and a great tag by Moore."

"If they had scored, it would have tied the game and put the winning run on second base. It would have been tough for us to come back if they had tied the game or gone ahead. We just wouldn't have been in the right frame of mind after blowing a six-run lead."

Valdosta jumped on Blue Devil pitcher Z. B. Hamilton for six runs in the first two innings and managed to hold on for the victory. Hamilton had beaten the 'Cats in the two regular season meetings, but Tarpley was still surprised to see him start in the playoff opener.

"Their top pitcher is Chris Taylor and we were expecting to face him, especially since this was the opener in the series," Tarpley said. "We had to have this one because it would have been awfully tough for us to go up there down one."

"Usually teams like to get out and win the opener because it helps to build some confidence. We were loose coming into the game, though, and didn't feel like we had anything to lose. There wasn't any pressure on us."

"All the pressure was off of us after we lost to Lowndes in regular season and was 0-2 in the subregion," Tarpley said. "Ever since then, there was no question about what we had to do, which was win or fold up our uniforms."

Valdosta opened the scoring with two runs in the bottom of the first inning on two hits and one Blue Devil error.

Brent Moore, who led the 'Cats with three hits, led off with a single, moved to second on a single by Walt Gill and was forced at third on a grounder by Mike Martin.

After Steve Milani walked, Gill scored when Trevor Nance reached on an error and Martin moved to third. Brad Coleman then connected on a sacrifice fly to right to score Martin for a 2-0 Valdosta advantage.

The 'Cats added four more runs in the second on three hits and two Blue Devil errors. With one out, Jon Reaves reached on a walk, stole second and advanced to third on Moore's second hit of

the game.

Gill came up and connected on a run-scoring single to bring Reaves home, with Moore moving to third on the play. Hamilton then threw wildly past first base on a pick off attempt, allowing Moore to score.

Milani drew a walk to put runners on first and second and Nance followed with a single to score Gill. Milani also came around to score when the ball got past Tifton's Robert Hullet in left field for a 6-0 Valdosta advantage.

But that was all the scoring for Valdosta and it proved to be just enough.

Tift scored three runs in the fifth on two hits and four Valdosta errors. Up until then, Valdosta pitcher, Guy Belue was breezing along with a four-hitter.

Teals and David Cooper reached on consecutive errors with Teal moving over to third on the second error. Cooper stole second and Moore threw the ball into center, allowing Teals to score from third, while Moore moved to third.

Taylor followed with a run-scoring single to bring in Cooper. Jay Cole bunted down third base line and Belue threw the ball away trying to get Taylor at second. After Hamilton walked to load the bases, Kenny Bilson blooped a run-scoring single just over the outstretched hands of Coleman at short.

But Belue battled back to get the next two batters with Nettles lining out to Coleman at short

Carries Valdosta Over Tift County

and Andy Cross going down on a called third strike. However, Tift had cut the deficit in half and trailed 6-3.

The Blue Devils added single runs in the sixth and seventh innings. In the sixth, pinch-hitter Bobby McClain reached on another Valdosta error, moved to second on a walk and went to third on a force play. McClain scored on a single to center by Taylor to make the score 6-4, which set up the final-inning heroics of Shaw.

Belue went the distance to get the win for the 'Cats, improving his mark to 5-0. He scattered five hits, walked two and struck out seven. Gill followed Moore at the plate with two hits. Nettles led Tift with three hits and Taylor had two.

Valdosta, 10-9, and Tift, 19-4, will meet again Thursday at 2:30 in Tifton to continue the best of three series.

"We've struggled against them in the playoffs the past two years and it just feels good to beat them for a change," Tarpley said. "We've met the last two years for the region championship and they've eliminated us both times. It'll be tough trying to beat them in Tifton, but that's what we have to do to win the series and advance any further."

Tift County
Valdosta
Hamilton (L) and Cole; Belue (W, 5-0) and Moore, 2B —
Nettles (FC).
Records — Tift, 19-4, Valdosta 10-9.
Next game — Valdosta at Tift, Thursday, 2:30 p.m.

VHS Boys Win; Girls Fall To Coffee

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Staff Writer

It was a game of spurts and surges and in the end Valdosta had one more spurt than Coffee County, which proved to be the difference in the 'Cats 47-39 win here Saturday night.

The Lady Wildcats' saw their record dip to 0-3 as Coffee County handed them a 62-43 setback.

In the boys' tilt, Valdosta jumped out to a eight-point advantage at 31-23 with 3:44 left in the third period on a 20-foot jumper by Howard Wright, Coffee County reeled off nine straight points to take the lead at 32-31 with 51 seconds left.

Wallace Campbell, who topped all scorers with 17 points, hit a turn-around jumper to give the 'Cats the lead for good at 33-32 as the quarter ended.

The two teams traded a couple of baskets to start the final period, but Valdosta outscored Coffee 10-3 down th

stretch to pull out the win.

"I'm happy that we got the win, but we're still not playing up to our capabilities," said Valdosta head coach Mike O'Brien. "We're not playing consistent at all and it's causing us to have mental lapses, which let other teams get back in the game."

"We're very happy to be 3-0 at this point, but there is still an awful lot of improving to do," O'Brien added. "However, we are making strides in the right direction and we improved a lot from our first two games."

Coffee got the first basket in the game, but Valdosta came back to score the next eight points. Then, Coffee came back to take the lead with eight consecutive points before Valdosta tied the score at the end of the quarter on jumper by Victor Walker.

The second quarter went pretty much the same way and Valdosta finished by outscoring Coffee 8-3 in the final three

minutes to take a 22-17 lead at halftime.

Valdosta went to a three-two zone defense after Coffee fought back to take the lead in the third period. It proved to be very effective as it shut down some of Coffee's outside bombing.

The move also helped the 'Cats to take control of the boards, which proved to be a key factor down the stretch.

"I thought James Edwards did a good job for us down the stretch and he gave us a big lift when we really needed it," O'Brien said.

GIRLS					
Coffee	20	12	13	9	62
Valdosta	8	13	13	9	
INDIVIDUAL STATS					
Valdosta — Felicia Henderson 11, 0-0, 22, Wendy Irvin 3, 2-5, 8, Avis Weatherspoon 1, 1-2, 3, Cassandra Ceasar 2, 0-0, 4, Terri Longeliere 2, 0-0, 4, Ellen Shown 0, 0-1, 0,					

Tangelia Lowe 1, 0-1, 2, Coffee — Donna Braswell 4, 2-3, 10, Sandra Brockington 3, 2-2, 8, Michelle Wilkerson 3, 0-0, 6, Janet Cole 4, 0-1, 8, Jackie Bryant 7, 1-7, 15, Denetra Peacock 4, 3-5, 11, Leigh Simmons 1, 1-3, 3, Leigh Kirkland 0, 0-0, 0, Donna Osteen 0, 1-2, 1.

BOYS

Coffee 10 7 15 7-39
Valdosta 10 12 11 14-47

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Valdosta — Sylvester Kitchen 1, 0-1, 2, Victor Walker 2, 0-1, 4, Wallace Campbell 7, 3-4, 17, Anthony Brown 4, 1-1, 9, James Edwards 3, 0-0, 6, Moses Madison 0, 0-0, 0, Howard Wright 4, 1-2, 9, Coffee — Joe Jordan 5, 1-2, 11, John Royal 1, 0-0, 2, Nate Collins 3, 0-3, 6, Pat Carter 4, 1-3, 9, Michael Wilkerson 1, 1-2, 3, Stacey Turner 0, 0-0, 0, Danny Ross 2, 0-0, 4, Jeff Williams 2, 0-0, 4, James Gifford 0, 0-0, 0.



Lady Wildcats Dropped 62-43 Decision

Vikettes Roll Again, Defeat Valdosta

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

It took a little longer than Lowndes Coach Steve Kebler would have liked, but his Lady Vikings finally regained their shooting touch in the second half of their 77-39 romp past Valdosta Tuesday.

The Lady Vikings proved they had the right stuff, by connecting on more than 70 percent of their shots in the second half, outscoring the Lady Wildcats 43-13 to cruise to the win.

Lowndes was coming off its first loss of the season last Friday against Colquitt, and shot only 30 percent from the field in that game. For two quarters Tuesday the shooting woes of the Lady Vikings continued, but they still led Valdosta 34-26 at halftime, despite shooting just over 40 percent.

However, that all changed in the second half. The Lady Vikings caught fire behind Sherice Willis and Natasha Horn, who combined for 26 second-half points to ease to their 19th win in 20 games.

"We started playing a little defense in the second half and that proved to be the difference in the game," Kebler said. "We were shooting the ball pretty good in the first half, but we were making so many floor mistakes."

"I told them at halftime to get their act together because Valdosta had come ready to play. In the second half, we went back to playing the way we're accustomed to and the girls pulled together."

"It took us a half to get that last game out of our heads, but I think we'll be okay now. It's always tough playing over here, and I would have been glad to get out of here with any kind of win, period."

Lowndes led throughout the game scoring the first four points of the game before settling for a 19-10 lead at the end of the quarter. Willis and Debbie Richardson scored baskets to open the second quarter, giving the Lady Vikings their biggest advantage of the half, 23-10.

But, Valdosta fought back, creeping within seven points (27-20) of Lowndes with 3:00 left on

a 15-foot jumper by Wendy Irvin. Lowndes came back to score the next five points on a pair of baskets by Horn, and a free throw by Jennifer Griffin to push the margin back up to 32-20 with 1:45 left.

However, Valdosta refused to wilt, and outscored the Lady Vikings 6-2 in the last minute to trail just 34-26.

Lowndes quickly put the game away in the third period by outscoring the Lady 'Cats 14-2 in the first four minutes. The lead continued to build throughout the half, and Lowndes took a 56-33 advantage into the final period.

Willis sparked the third period surge by the Lady Vikings by scoring 14 of her game 23 points in the quarter as Lowndes outscored Valdosta 22-7 in the period.

Horn took over in the final period to score 12 of her 17 points as Lowndes outscored Valdosta 21-6. Lowndes continued to roll in the final period, building a steady lead until the final winning margin of 77-39.

Two other Lowndes players also scored in double figures, Pam Walker contributed 13 and Richardson added 10. Willis and Horn also pulled down 11 rebounds apiece, while Walker had nine and Richardson seven.

Richardson also picked up three steals to lead Lowndes and handed out seven assists. Horn, Walker and sophomore Beverly Williams all contributed two steals apiece. Williams added five assists to back Richardson.

"We just decided to get the ball inside in the second half because they were fronting Willis," Kebler said. "We got good games from Horn and Willis inside and Walker hit some key shots outside to open things up."

Lowndes (77) — Walker 13, Richardson 10, Willis 23, Horn 17, Griffin 3, Williams 6, Hall 3, Woods 0, Maine 0, Campbell 0, Dennis 0, Trenor 0, Straughter 0. Totals 30 17 36 (14 fouls) 77.

Valdosta (39) — Henderson 10, W. Irvin 8, L. Irvin 7, Caesar 6, Johnson 2, Weatherspoon 2, Gardner 0, Hall 0, Barnett 0, Bass 4, Shown 0, Longeliere 0. Totals 15 9 20 (23 fouls) 39.

Lowndes 19 15 22 21-77
Valdosta 10 16 7 6-39

Records: Lowndes 19-1; Valdosta 3-19.

Next Game: Lowndes at Bainbridge, Friday; Valdosta at Central Thomasville, Friday.



Valdosta's Felicia Henderson (15) Battles With Jennifer Griffin (11)

VHS Upset Sidetracks Feb. 6, '85 Lowndes' Title Dreams

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer

Before Lowndes and Valdosta met Tuesday night, Lowndes' Terry Wilkes and Valdosta's Mike O'Brien agreed that records didn't count for very much in the key Region 1-AAAA South game as Valdosta upset Lowndes 55-51 before a capacity crowd at Valdosta.

It was the final home game for Valdosta seniors Wallace Campbell, Derrick Folsom, James Edwards, Sylvester Kitchen and Victor Walker.

Meanwhile, Lowndes was shooting for a school single season record of 18 wins, hoping to remain in the thick of the subregion title chase with Bainbridge.

But, the third time proved to be the charm for Valdosta, who had lost in two previous meetings against the Vikings.

However, it didn't come easy by any means as Valdosta saw a seven-point lead, 48-41, with 2:35 left evaporate into a 51-51 tie in less than a minute and a half when Todd Williams hit a baseline jumper with 1:10 left.

Valdosta had been through this routine too many times before though, with seven of its 10 losses coming by less than five points. The Wildcats raced back up the court and scored on a follow shot by Anthony Brown, who had his first attempt blocked by the Vikings' Eric Davis.

Brown's follow up came with 49 seconds left, but Lowndes had plenty of time to decide to play for the final shot or try to score early. The Vikings didn't have any more time out left though, and seemed confused about which strategic role to take.

They decided to go for the shot, but Paul March's jumper was short. He got his own rebound, but it was slapped away. The ball was inbounded to Undrae Mitchell, but his 10-foot turn around was off and Campbell rebounded the errant attempt.

Campbell was fouled immediately with five seconds left to play. He calmly stepped to the foul line, and hit both ends of his bonus free throws to seal the game and end the Vikings' dreams of finishing in top spot of the subregion tournament, which will be played at Lowndes.

"We just got beat," Wilkes said. "We got the shot that we wanted at the end, but it just wouldn't drop for us."

"There were three big keys in this loss tonight. We didn't shoot well from the outside or inside. We had to play most of the game without our top scorer and rebounder (Davis) who was on the bench due to foul problems. And our free throw shooting, which has been our Achilles heel all year, was once again just terrible."

"Those things in a nutshell is what cost us this game. But you have to give Valdosta credit because they had a lot to do with how we played. We came back in the end and showed a lot of character, but we just couldn't pull it off. We didn't shoot any free throws in the last quarter, while Valdosta was five-of-six."

Campbell, Folsom, and Brown combined to score 42 of Valdosta's 55 points, with Campbell leading the way with 15 points and 14 rebounds. Folsom followed with 14 points, while Brown added 13 along with 12 rebounds.

Mitchell led Lowndes with 14 points, but March was the only other Viking to score in double figures with 10 points. Davis, who averages more than 16 points per game, was held to just eight points.

"The big thing that we got out of this game is that our kids now know that we can win some of these close games after being on the other end of so many of them," O'Brien said. "This can serve as a real shot in the arm and the kids have regained their confidence."

"We had to play super basketball to beat them because I feel like Lowndes has one of the best teams in the state. We made some costly mental mistakes at the end, but we regained our poise and pulled out a big win."

"Lowndes will never be out a game because they are so explosive and have the total team. They can hurt you inside or outside. We just tried to maintain our composure and stick to the things that got us the lead."

Lowndes led 15-12 at the end of the first quarter, but Valdosta fought back to take a 24-22 lead by halftime. Lowndes' biggest advantage of the game came at the start of the second quarter when Mitchell hit one of two free throws for a 16-12 lead.

Valdosta came back and eventually took the lead for good on a three-point play by Brown with 1:38 left in the first half for a 24-21 advantage. Lowndes' Kirk Robinson hit a free throw with 1:06 left to complete the scoring in the half.

Valdosta opened the third period by scoring the first four points to lead 28-22, but Lowndes came back to cut it to 28-27 on a jumper by Chuck Cooper with 4:57 left. The margin stayed between one and three points for the rest of the period and Valdosta led 36-33 going into the final quarter.

Lowndes (51) — Gray 3, March 10, Cooper 8, Mitchell 14, Davis 8, Robinson 6, Williams 2. Totals 27 (15 fouls) 51.

Valdosta (35) — Campbell 15, Kitchens 4, Walker 6, Edwards 2, Wright 0, Brown 13, Folsom 14. Totals 29 (16 fouls) 55.

Lowndes 15 7 11 18-51

Valdosta 12 12 12 19-55

Records: Lowndes 17-2, Valdosta 11-10

Next Game: Lowndes at Bainbridge, Friday; Valdosta at Central Thomasville, Friday.



Times Staff Photo By Nadine Shochet.

Lowndes' Chuck Cooper Tries To Pass Over Valdosta's Sylvester Kitchen



THE SOCIETY OF DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Has Awarded

VALDOSTA HIGH SCHOOL

this certificate acknowledging the listing of the following students

BRIAN ANDERSON
LOREAN BROWN
MARTIN CAMPA
TOM CARROLL
KRISTIN COLEMAN
LAURA FAUSSONE
MICHAEL FURUKAWA
PAIGE GREEN
KEVIN HARPER
SHARON HART
BERKE HOLTZCLAW
ANDREW KAISER
CRAIG KLEMENT
SUSAN LOUTTIT
NATALIE MOORE
KATHLEEN MORGAN
EHTHEL MITCHELL
CATHY MC ELWAIN

STANLEY NEWMAN
ERIC ANDERSON
LOUIS GONIS
BETH HARRIS
KATHRYN HARRIS
FRANKIE KEELING
JUNE POWERS
VETA MOBLEY
DANITA ROSSER
MELANIE SEALS
JASON YOST
CHALANA MC FARLAND
DEBRA BAILEY
GINNA PILCHER
KEITH QUARLES
GAYLE ROBINSON
STEPHANIE SMITH
BRUCE SUMNER
DAVID THOMAS

as Members Of Distinction in The Society of Distinguished American High
School Students in recognition of excellence in Leadership, Scholarship
And Civic Contribution as attested to by the signatures affixed hereto

1985

Signature of Sponsoring Official

J. A. Rigelman

Executive Director

THE VALDOSTA HIGH SCHOOL
DRAMA CLUB
PRESENTS

MOLIERE'S



The
Imaginary
Invited

Cast

KEVIN HARPER — ARGAN
SUSAN LOUITTIT — TOINETTE
CHRISTINE BUEL — ARGAN'S MAID
JO BROWN — ANGELIQUE
SUANNON TINNEY — ARGAN'S DAUGHTER
KUN SMITH — BÉLINE
TOM COX — ARGAN'S SECOND WIFE
JOHN SNYDER — MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS
ANNA TACERMINA — A DOCTOR AND
FLEURANT
THOMAS' FATHER
CLEANTE
ANGELIQUE'S LOVER
ARGAN'S NURSE

Production Staff

MRS. PULLIAM — DIRECTOR
GAYLE ROBINSON — ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR
ELAINE GRAVES — STUDENT DIRECTOR
LAURA FAUSSONE — STAGE MANAGER

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ROBERT PULLIAM,
FOR ALL OF HIS HELP AND SUPPORT!

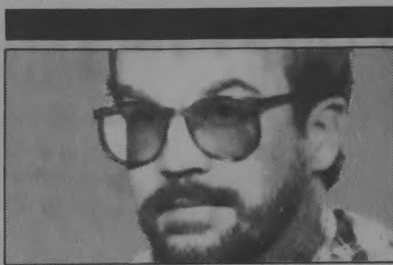
Carver Proves Can Play With Wildcats for Half

They arrived with a state police escort, like royalty, like a president, like Vince Dooley.

Once off their bus, they marched into Kinnett Stadium, clapping in cadence and strutting not so much like grunts on maneuvers, but Clydesdales.

Then they took the field for calisthenics, lining up in a neat little square and performing their routine as if they not so much were taught it, but were born with it.

This was Valdosta, the No. 2 high school football team in the nation, according to USA Today, which has some audacity to



STEVE ADAMEK

presume it can compare a high school football team in Georgia against high school football teams from 49 other states.

THIS WAS the all-time winningest football team in the country, winner of 18 state titles,

against a team that barely receives any respect in Columbus, much less the state.

This was Georgia's Region 1-AAAA champion, come to play Carver, the Region 2-AAAA champion, the best team Columbus had to offer.

This was the proverbial Lions vs. Christians.

These Lions won, 28-0. But these Lions did not devour.

THESE LIONS merely proved themselves human, proved that the publicity and reputation that preceded them could not block, could not tackle, could not hold onto the football.

These Christians proved that

they could play with these Lions for a half, a 0-0 half, because they found they could block and tackle and take the football from newspaper clippings.

When Valdosta's Wildcats strolled into the arena, Carver's Tigers were "supposed" to pick up their hats and their coats and leave. Fifty points and Carver wasn't considered a safe bet.

Then, on Valdosta's first play from scrimmage, running back James Roberts was tackled for no gain. And on Carver's first play from scrimmage, running back Tyrone Shaw dashed for 12

See **ADAMEK**, Page B-3

College Honors Valdosta Coach

By Times Staff Writer

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. — A Valdosta, Ga., man has been named recipient of Carson-Newman's 1985 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Samuel Nick Hyder of the Class of 1957 was chosen for the award which recognizes outstanding alumni whose personal lives, professional achievements and community service exemplify the objectives of the college, a spokesman said.

Hyder attended Carson-Newman on a football scholarship and played four years for the Eagles under Coach Roy Harmon. He led the team in scoring in 1956 and was voted Most Versatile Man by his fellow seniors in 1957.

After obtaining a master's degree from the University of Tennessee in 1958, he began a career which continues to this day as a leader of young men through secondary school coaching.

Hyder's first job was at West Rome High School in Georgia where he served as assistant football coach for 10 years and head coach for six. He became head football coach at Valdosta High School in Valdosta in 1974 and has built the Wildcat team into one of the most productive in the United States.

In 1982 and 1984 Valdosta won the Class AAAA Georgia state championship and in 1984 the Wildcats were named National High School Champions by *USA Today* and *Sporting News*. Hyder was selected as National Coach of the Year by *USA Today* at the conclusion of the '84 campaign.

Hyder is a much sought after lecturer at college and high school football clinics across the country. He spoke at a national convention of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and also addressed the American Football Coaches' Association in Dallas, Texas, last year.

Coach and Mrs. Hyder are active members of First Baptist Church in Valdosta where he serves as deacon.



Hyder Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

Tournament Honors

V. Times 4/23/85
Valdosta High School students placed first and Lowndes High School students placed third over-all in the Eleventh Annual Coastal Plains CESA Math Tournament in Tifton.

The event steeped students against each other in such subjects as Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry and Comprehensive mathematics.

Individual winners are:

- Carl Seglem, Valdosta, took first place in the Algebra I competition.
- Julie Anderson, Valdosta, took third in the Algebra I competition.
- Timothy Lee, Valdosta, took first place in the Algebra II competition.
- Peter Mikovitz, Lowndes, took second in Algebra II.

— Rhonda Brown, Lowndes, took third in Algebra II.

— Louis Gonis, Valdosta, took first place in the comprehensive competition.

— Laura Faussone, Valdosta, took second in comprehensive.

— Brian Anderson, Valdosta, took third in comprehensive.

Schools that participated in the event were from Berrien, Brooks, Fitzgerald, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Tift and Valdosta.

ADAMEK

Continued From Page B-1

yards and almost broke away for more.

This was not "supposed" to happen. The No. 2 team in the nation was "supposed" to pick up 20 yards a clip, maybe score a touchdown every time it handled the ball. The No. 2 team in the nation was "supposed" to throw up a brick wall every time the No. 1 team in Columbus tried to move the ball.

But these expectations Valdosta marched in with were their undoing, their burden. An interception, a drive-stopping holding penalty, a wretched pitchout that ultimately was lost, missed tackles, errant passes — this is not the stuff of which No. 2 in the nation is "supposed" to be made.

But this is the stuff that provoked stern words from a coaching staff and impatient grumbling from fans who have come to expect only the best.

"There's so much expected of our kids, there's so much pressure, sometimes we don't handle it right," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said.

"Newspapers, publicity, Carver coach Wallace Davis started to say about Valdosta's first half. Then he stopped, for he claims some of his words this season have gotten him in hot water with his superiors.

Eventually, Carver stopped and Valdosta started to prove its superiority. By the end of the third quarter, with the score something like it was "supposed" to be (21-0), reality set in and burst Carver's balloon. But Valdosta did it not with reputation, not with publicity, not with newspaper clippings, but with a long touchdown pass, a fumble recovery to set up another touchdown and a blocked punt to score a third.

By the fourth quarter, with another touchdown in the bank, the Wildcats let their hair down. Several danced to the beat of their band — a killer band, of course. Some exchanged signals and words with their cheerleaders — killer cheerleaders, of course.

Then, after adjourning to the center of the field to exchange the obligatory greetings, they walked off the field, out of cadence, out of routine. And out of expectations. Until next week.

Steve Adamek is Ledger-Enquirer sports editor.

VHS Girls Finish Fourth In Region Tennis

V-Times 4/23/85

Girls' Tennis

From Staff Reports

TIFTON — Valdosta High's girls' tennis team finished fourth in the Region 1-AAAA tournament at Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College Monday.

Senior Ethel Mitchell, seeded third in singles, defeated Kim Wages of Bainbridge, 6-1, 6-7 (2-7), 7-5. Sophomore Terri Longeliere defeated Twyla Jefferson of Dougherty, 6-3, 6-2.

The doubles team of senior Ginna Pilcher and junior Ronnie Bartholmew defeated Dougherty's Chery Boyd and Chery Jones, 6-1, 6-0. The other doubles team of junior Mandy Smitherman and Kristy Stebell, seeded fourth in doubles, were upset by Westover's Cathy Harrison and Elizabeth Wingate in straight sets of the second round.

All of the other VHS girls were eliminated in the third round.

"We have to be pleased with this finish," VHS Coach Frank Hjort said. "We had a poor regular-season record with no wins against any teams in our region."

The Lady Wildcats finished the regular season with a 2-6 record. Their only victories were over Cook County and Thomasville.

VHS finished fourth last year.

Tift County, Colquitt County and Thomasville finished first through third in the tournament.

Boys' Track

Valdosta 83, Thomasville 68 Pelham 8

Valdosta scored in all but one event to outdistance Thomasville and Pelham. The Wildcats finished with 83 points while Thomasville had 68 and Pelham 8.

Randy Bell was first in the triple jump and the 120-yard high hurdles and also ran on the winning mile relay team.

Jaes Edwards claimed firsts in the high jump and 880-yard run and was also on the mile relay team while Hosea Heard was first in the 440-yard dash and 220-yard dash and participated on both relay teams.

Edwards also placed second in the 440-yard dash and Bell was third in the long jump.

Long Jump — Guyton (T) 20-6, Mangham (V), Bell (V), Christian (T).
Triple Jump — Bell (V) 42-8, Hardy (T), Earnest (V), Adams (T).
High Jump — Edwards (V) 5-10, Turner (T), Adams (T), Hardy (T).
Shot Put — Ellis (T) 46-7, Simmons (T), Crook (V), Swackard (P).
Discus — Ellis (T) 123-4, Swackard (P), Smith (T), Crook (V).
Pole Vault — Harris (T) 8-0, no second, third, or fourth.

440-yard Relay — Valdosta No. 1 (Baker, Williams, Folsom, Heard) 44.39, Valdosta No. 2.
Mile Run — Smith (T) 5:16.0, Demps (V), Ross (T), McLane (V).
440-yard Dash — Heard (V) 52.9, Edwards (V), Christian (T), Gardner (P).
100-yard Dash — Baker (V) 10.28, Williams (V), Jackson (T), Orr (P).
120-yard High Hurdles — Bell (V) 15.23, Folsom (V),

Ross (P), no fourth.
880-yard Run — Edwards (V) 2:12.88, Davis (T), Ross (T), Boyd (V).
220-yard Dash — Heard (V) 23.3, Mangham (V), Christian (T), Stonewall (T).
330-yard Intermediate Hurdles — Smith (T) 47.45, Rudolph (V), no third or fourth.
Two-mile Run — Hazlip (T) 12:15.0, Demps (V), McLane (V), no fourth.
Mile Relay — Valdosta (Edwards, Baker, Bell, Heard) 3:37.0, Thomasville.

VHS Honored

Bill Aldrich, Principal of Valdosta High School, accepted a certificate from Gov. Joe Frank Harris recently proclaiming the school a 1985 Georgia Public School of Excellence.

The award was presented during a banquet ceremony in Atlanta by the Georgia Board of Education to honor successful public school programs.

VHS is one of the 30 state winners from more than 150 schools nominated in this year's Schools of Excellence recognition program

Valdosta High School's Symphonic Band will present its spring concert May 21 at the Mathis Auditorium.

Sponsored by the Band Parents Association, the performance will be under the direction of band director Frank Butenscheon.

Bell, Heard Capture Honors; Lead Valdosta To First Place

From Staff Reports

Valdosta broke five school-records en route to a first-place finish in the 17-team Albany Monroe Invitational Friday. Hosea Heard and Randy Bell led Valdosta by tying for the Best Individual Performance trophy.

Valdosta captured first-place honors with 100 total points, while Tift County was second with 90½ points. Albany High finished third, and Central-Thomasville came in fourth place. Lowndes High finished in eighth place by picking up 27½ points.

James Edwards set a Valdosta school record with a 1:58.4 time to finish first in the 880-yard run, while Derrick Folsom broke his own school record (39.14) in the Intermediate Hurdles with a 39.13 time and a first-place finish.

Bell broke a pair of records despite finishing second in the Triple Jump to Greg Stokes of Tifton with a 46-6½. Bell

captured first place in the 120-High Hurdles with a 14.51 to break his own record of 14.52.

Valdosta's Mile-Relay team of Kenneth Williams, Edwards, Folsom and Heard broke the 14-year old record of 3:21.3 by clocking in at 3:20.73 to finish in first place.

Greg Kirk finished in third place in the Long Jump for Lowndes, while Walter Montgomery finished in third in the 400-meter Dash, and Paul March was fourth in the 800-meter Run. The 1600-meter Relay team of Paul Smith, Melvin Colquitt, Kirk and Montgomery finished in second place, while 400-meter Relay team of Mark Jones, Montgomery, Colquitt and Kirk finished in fifth place.

Shot Put — Mormon (MB) 51-3, Barnes (MB), Session (Mon.), Strange (Wil.) Cox (Tift) Jackson (Fitz).
Discus — Cox (Tift) 139-9, Stranges (Wilcox), (Bain), Warren (Terrell), Lewis (V), Jackson (Fitz).
Long Jump — Salver (A) 22-¼, Williams (Wilcox), Victor (Mon.), Stokes (Tift), Bell (V), Pruitt (Fitz).
Triple Jump — Stokes (Tift) 46-10½, Bell (V), Kirk (L),

Smith (Cook), Pruitt (Fitz), Victor (Mon.).
High Jump — Small (Cent.) 6-4, Bevels (Tift), Monds (Brooks), Stanley (Fitz), Halley (A), Hawkins (Tri-Co.).
Pole Vault — Taylor (Tift) 12-0, Murphy (Cent.), Callow (Fitz), Bagg (Fitz), Allen (Cook), Lockett (Tift).
400-Meter Relay — Valdosta (Baker, Heard, Folsom) 42.40, Central-Albany, Monroe, Lowndes, Tift. 1,600-meter Run — Tyson (Tift) 4:33.73, Hagan (Wilcox), Luke (Tift), Richardson (Fitz) Hawkins (D), Bennett (D).
400-meter Dash — Heard (V) 48.66, Bridges (Mon.), Montgomery (L), Edwards (V), Smart (Cent.), Harris (Tift).
100-meter Dash — Wright (A) 10.46, Williams (MB), Davis (Cent.), Williams (V), Jones (Cent.), Harvey (Terrell).
110-meter Hurdles — Bell (V) 14.51, Folsom (V), DeBardege (D), Darrington (Tift), Young (D), Powell (L).
800-meter Run — Edwards (V) 1:58.39, Stubbins (Tift), Smart (Cent), March (L), Dawson (Tift), Green (A).
200-meter Dash — Wright (A) 21.63, Heard (V), Williams (MB), Williams (V), Mitchell (Brooks), Brown (Tift).
300-meter Dash — Folsom (V) 39.13, Battle (Fitz), Young (D), Bennett (D), Dooly (Tift).
3200-meter Run — Tyson (Tift) 10:04.8, Richardson (Fitz), Hawkins (D), Bennett (D), Crawford (Crisp), White (Fitz).
1,600-meter Relay — Valdosta (Edwards, Folsom, Williams, Heard) 3:20.77, Lowndes, Albany, Fitzgerald, Central.

Vikings Encounter Obstacle In Belue

By ROGER B. BROWN
Times Sports Writer
It was a Belue day for the Lowndes High Vikings Tuesday at Bazemore Field.

That's a Guy Belue day. Lowndes marched into Tuesday's contest against Valdosta with an unbeaten Region 1-AAAA South record of 4-0, and had won five of its last six games, including a win over the 'Cats for the first time in three years.

However, that was all before they faced the new king of the hill for Valdosta — Belue.

In the last three weeks, Belue, 4-0, has picked up all three of the subregion wins for the 'Cats to help turn around an 0-2 start. Belue also has a 2-0 record for the junior varsity.

Tuesday against Lowndes, Belue was cruising along with a two-hitter through the first six innings before the roof caved in by way of four walks and a pair of crucial Valdosta errors that could have ended the game long before it was finally over.

"I thought Belue had pitched a good game up until that last inning," Valdosta Coach Charles Tarpley said. "He got off to a shaky start in the first inning, but settled down and came back strong after that with five good innings before giving out in the last inning."

"I tried to stick with him as long as I could because he had pitched such a good game. He had thrown 140 pitches when we took him out of the game, but that shows you what type of competitor he is and he just kept battling them all game long."

"He's pitching with a lot of confidence right now and is our top pitcher unless somebody proves differently," Tarpley said. "He has won a couple of real big games for us and has really come through in the clutch, which is all you can ask."

Belue is quick to point his success to playing football and lifting weights.

He said the weight-lifting has helped his arm strength and helped to develop his fastball.

"I'm so proud of my teammates because we all came together today and jelled as a team," Belue said. "I just wanted to do the best I could today because I play against a lot of those same Lowndes players in the summer league."

"They ripped me last summer, so I made it up in my mind to do better today. I knew what I had to do. The main thing that I wanted to do was get the ball over the plate and make them hit my pitch."

"They have a lineup loaded with good hitters, and it's very satisfying to get a win over them," Belue said. "I've been working all year toward this. I felt like another key was that we played aggressive ball as a team and I tried to go after them with all I had."

After getting out of a bases-loaded jam in the first inning when he walked three Lowndes batters, Belue settled down and retired 15 of the next 18 batters before running into the last-inning trouble.

Lowndes collected two hits off Belue in the third on a single by Mike Lansdell and run-scoring single by Chuck Cooper for its first run of the game. The Vikings scored an unearned run in the fifth on a walk and a pair of Valdosta errors.

Before being pulled in the seventh, Belue had given up 10 runs on seven hits, with four strikeouts and eight walks.

"I've got to work on my control," Belue said. "That got me in some trouble today. I just wanted to give it my best shot and let everything take care of itself. This is something that I've been working for since last year and I'm just glad to have the opportunity to pitch."

Belue won't get much of an argument from Tarpley about that.

VHS Selected As 1985 School Of Excellence

By SYLVIA COOPER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School has been selected as a 1985 Georgia School of Excellence and will be one of the six Georgia high schools to represent the state in the national secondary school recognition program.

Valdosta High was chosen from among 155 Georgia public schools nominated to vie for the 1985 School of Excellence title.

Valdosta High School principal Bill Aldrich said Valdosta High was chosen as the high school to represent the second congressional district, and then chosen from the top state high schools to represent Georgia nationally.

The schools were selected based on their administrative leadership, teacher effectiveness, academic goals and achievements, school curriculum, discipline and community involvement and support.

Of the 30 schools chosen in the state, only 11 were selected to represent Georgia at the national level.

"Georgia was given a quota of six high schools and five middle schools," Julia Martin, coordinator of special projects with the state Department of Education said.

Applications were previously sent to all superintendents in the state, who nominated one elementary, one middle and one high school from their systems. After screening by the state education depart-

ment, the nominations were submitted to a panel of Tennessee educators for judging.

The judges selected one elementary, one middle or junior high school and one high school from each of Georgia's 10 Congressional districts to be 1985 Georgia Schools of Excellence.

The 30 schools will be honored by the Georgia Department of Education, the State Board of Education, Blue Bird Body Company and Governor Joe Frank Harris at a banquet April 10 in Atlanta.

"The Schools of Excellence program is designed to identify and honor successful public school programs throughout our state and to encourage excellence in all schools," said Charles McDaniel, state superintendent of schools.

"This is not necessarily a ranking of the top schools in our state, but a showcase of outstanding programs from various regions of Georgia."

Georgia's program is an expansion of the national Secondary Schools Recognition Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education to honor schools at the middle/junior high and high school levels.

McDaniel expanded Georgia's program to include outstanding elementary schools as well.

In 1984 five Georgia Schools of Excellence were named National Schools of Excellence.



VHS News

V Times 6/1/85 Compiled, Written By VHS Students

VHS Nabs Excellence Award

By DAVID GOMBAS

The Valdosta High School Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps has again won the Chief of Naval Education and Training Award for Excellence. This award ranked the unit as one of the best five units in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

The CNET Excellence award is based upon academics, military bearing, athletics, personnel inspection and community/school activities. The Valdosta High NJROTC has won the Excellence award three out of the past four years. Winning is accredited to an active program of community events, such as helping at blood drives, as honor guard for dignitaries and charity dances, and marching in community

parade/flag pageants, along with numerous school activities. The unit has participated in over 50 such events during the least school year.

NJROTC Team 10th In Nation

Valdosta High School NJROTC again excels as the academic team is ranked 10th in the nation.

The Valdosta team competed against 445 qualified teams. The postal exam was given to all teams in the nation March 11. The tests were sent to the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) who is in charge of all the NJROTC units in the nation.

The team consisted of cadets Melanie Seals, team commander; Derrick Cain, Anne Clark, Joseph Gombas and Jerry Smart.

Valdosta High School Announces 1985 Candidates For Graduation

By Times Staff Writer

More than 300 Valdosta High School seniors are expected to graduate Tuesday at the Physical Education Complex at Valdosta State College.

The program, scheduled for 8 p.m. will be highlighted with speeches by Valedictorian Andrew Parks Kaiser and Salutatorian Laura Ann Faussonne.

Board of Education members will present the diplomas as principal Bill Aldrich introduces the class.

Candidates for graduation are:

HONOR GRADUATES

Brian Leland Anderson, Travis Scott Braswell, Joanne Brown, Thomas Glenn Carroll, Julie Parker Dennard, Laura Ann Faussonne (salutatorian), Michael Fumio Furukawa, James Wendell Godbee, Jr., Sandra Annette Graves, Marshall Kevin Harber, Sharon Lynn Hart, Geoffrey Carl Hebler, Thomas Gabriel Hotard, Jr., Andrew Parks Kaiser (valedictorian), Erin Lynne Kirk, Craig Kenneth Klement, Susan Arledge Louttit, Julie Ann Moritz, Virginia Louise Pilcher, Michael John Rainey, Patricia Gayle Robinson, John F. Smith, Shannon Elaine Tinney.

GRADUATES

J. Eric Abel, Brian Christopher Aldrich, Roy C. Allen, Tearhester Allen, Laura Ellen Anderson, Amy Anthony, Richard Timothy Aultman, Karrie Jo Bailey, Angela Marie Bajalia, Timothy Ronald Balch, Lawanna Renee Barron, David Downing Bassford, James David Beatty, William Douglas Beatty, Danny W. Bection, Sonya Renee Bellamy, Dana Michelle Bennett, Sheila D. Berrian, Yolanda Darnette Berrian, Stanley Bernard Bess, Arnita Bines, Darrell D. Blair, Tylenne Latonya Blake, Mark Howard Blanchard, Donna Faye Blankumsee, Terri Boatright, Gussie M. Boone, Harrietta Boyd, Melinda Brandon, Rebecca Ellen Braswell, Regina Elizabeth Braswell, Renea Antonette Branner, Denise L. Brown, Kimberly Johnette Brown, Lorean Yvonne Brown, Anthony Jerome Bryant, Eloise Bryant, Jennifer L. Brzezienski, Pamela Chris Buie, William James Burns, Carroll Butler, Elizabeth Lynn Butler, Franklin David Butler, Tracy Lavette Butler, Martin Castillo Campa, Wallace Campbell, LaShonda Milissa Carrington, Sharon Evette Carter, Johnny L. Christopher, Jr., William M. Clark, Jr., Tamara Nichelle Cody, Bradley W. Coleman,

Kristin Coleman, Johnie Lee Collins, Steven Lynn Conyers, Jacquelyn Renee Cook, Stephanie Diane Cooper, Subrene Millette Copeland, Marvin W. Courson, III, Thomas Mason Cox.

Jewell H. Crowder, Jr., Timothy Hunter Crown, Joseph A. Culverhouse, Earnest Neal Curtis, Theresa Marie Danapilis, Tammye Phyllis Daniel, Moses Daniels, Ila Denise Daye, James Frederick Deloach, III, Jerry L. Demott, Jr., Melissa Gayle Denmark, Mary LaGwendolyn Denson, Tony Len Dinkins, Anita Donahue, Samantha Felicia Donaldson, Alden Alexandria Dowling, Susanne Marie Dufek, Glenda Leniece Duncan, James Vincent Edwards.

Randolph Ellis, Benita Mitchell Evans, David Lee Evans, Lori Ann Evans, Denise Fay Fields, George Marshall Fleming, Derrick Jerome Folsom, James H. Fountain, William Bret Ganas, Leesa Jane Garrett, Thomas Walton Gay, Helen Gracy Gayle, Patricia Annette Gibbs, Linda Gibson, Terry Lee Godwin, Jr., Kim Michele Golivesky, McDonald Graham, Jr., Elaine Lucile Graves, Paige Greene, Debbie Griffin.

Stephanie Ann Guess, Joann Guyton, Steven Eric Hall, Tony L. Hall, Barbara Lynn Hamilton, John L. Hamilton, Valerie Lynne Hampton, Vicki Rotrese Harden, Janice Denise Harrell, Jennifer Lynne Harrell, Susan Elizabeth Harrington, Allen Quentin Harris, Marshatta Rovanne Harris, Anderson Harl, Jr., Andrea Natasha Harl, Aerica A. Henderson, Felicia Henderson, J. Darren Henderson, Moranda Denise Henderson, Jennifer Henkels.

Preston Hester, Jr., Susan Elizabeth Hill, Shontell Janine Holsendolph, William Berkeley Holtzclaw, James Howell, Elvold Hunter, James Timothy Hufto, Rhonda Lynn Ingram, Lisa Garnette Irvin, Mia Arnette Irvin, Wendy Louise Irvin, Frederick James, Regina M. James, Travis L. James, Jana Lynn Jenkins, Karen Ann Jenkins, Anthony J. Johnson, Becky Lynn Johnson, Linda Grey Johnson, Terry Bernard Johnson.

Yvette Colleen Jolley, Cynthia Denise Jones, Sheila Yvette Kearce, Dana Andrew Kelly, Ethan Lynwood King, Litenette Regina King, Chandra B. Kinlaw, Cynthia Diane Lamar, James E. Lamb, Jr., John Kevin Lancaster, Latonya Yvette Lately, Jane Lee, Darrell B. Leonard, Allen Matthews Lester, Anthony Mark Lester, Debra A. Lewis, Georgiana A. Lewis, Willie James Lewis, April Michelle Linder, Steven Watson Lowe.

Jeffrey Paul Lynch, Karen Renee Lyons, Kent N. Mallow, Earnest Mangham, Antonette Marshall, Keith Wayne Marshall, James Albert Martin, Michael E. Martin, Lorenza Matchett, Walter Dan McCranie, Dexter Bernard McDougal, Genevieve McDougle, Catherine L. McElwain, Lynette McGee, Deverra McHellen, Kyle Stephen McLeod, Phillip N. Meeks, Steve E. Milani, Timothy M. Mills, Matthew W. Mink.

Ethel Scott Mitchell, Tina Lawanda Mitchell, Tyrone Mitchell, William Anthony Mitchell, Victor Floyd Mobley, Charles Brent Moore, David Gerald Moore, David Gerald Moore, Maria Lynne Moore, Natalie Sharone Moore, Valerie Denise Moore, Heidi Elizabeth Moorman, Mary Kathleen Morgan, Sherry Barbara Murajda, Milton Stephen Myddelton, Melinda Sue Neeley, Sean C. Neilly, Scotty L. Netter, Stanley D. Newman, Carolyn Denise Norwood, Carolyn Jean Oliver.

Brian Martin Parker, Callie Dennette Parker, William Timothy Parker, Shawn Allen Parrish, Shweta Patel, Marvin Lee Paul, Linda Elaine Peace, Carol Louise Peak, Patricia Ann Peak, Alfred Peek, Daniel Joseph Phillips, Christie Hill Pierce, David Thomas Pitts, John Timothy Porter, Brad Powell, Dan Millard Price, Jennifer Emily White Purvis, Frederick Keith Quarles, Sharon Ann Quarterman, Jonathan Allen Reeves.

Diane Denise Reed, Julie Rae Rensenhouse, John Patrick Tetterbush, Alex N. Revels, Ronald Lee Rhue, Degail Lynnia Rice, Mark Alan Rigdon, Felicia Wanda Renee Robey, Jammie Denise Roberts, Stefanie Renee Roberts, Allen Michael Robinson, Nicholas A. Roehm, Pamela Dawn Rogers, Shelly Delaine Roop, David Glenn Rowland, Brenda Joyce Royal, Phyllis Yvonne Ryan, Mary Elizabeth Saeger, Christine Lynn Scharf.

Karen Lanetta Scott, Reginald Scott, Sharon Annette Scott, Willie James Scott, Jr., Angelia Cherie Sellers, Yvette Monique Sharp, Jeffery E. Sharpe, Sheila Renee Sharpe, Donna Shirelle Sharper, Trevor Kyle Shaw, Mario Randal Smallwood, Darwin K. Smith, Mary Annette Smith, Mellonie K. Smith, Michael Alan Smith, Stephanie Leigh Smith, Car. S. Smithson, James A. Spates, Lisa Darsula Stacks, Rebecca Lynn Staley.

Pamela Annette Stanley, Victoria Stevenson, Deborah Jean Stone, Bruce Roy Sumner, Sheryl Lynn Supp, Robbie Lynn Taylor, Elizabeth Farris Templeton, Barbara Ann Thomas, David Marshall Thomas, Pamela Yvette Thomas, Tyrone Thomas, Kim Delisa Thompson, Tina Lynn Tucker, Kimberly Joyce Tyler, Robert Rouse Vallotton, II, Charles Eric Vinson, Scott Sanders Waddell, James Christopher Wakefield, Jacquelyn Evette Walker, Michael Steve Warren.

Sypenski LaRonda Washington, Pamela Renee Watson, Amanda Dawson West, Horace Reaves West, Jr., William Warren Wetherington, James Carl Williams, Jr., Joseph Nathan Williams, Jr., Pamela Darlene Williams, Stacey P. Williams, Tina Marie Williams, Tony Williams, Tracey Ann Williams, Roger V. Willis, Pamela Edmond Wilson, Sherry Elaine Wilson, Tammy Lynn Wilson, Theresa Sue Worful, Jerome Anthony Wright, Tara Michelle Wright, Susan Jane Wyatt, Jimmy Don Yeager, Jr., Jacqueline Marie Younger, Jeffrey Rudolph Zeigler.

V Times 6-1-85
Both joy and sorrow ruled the thoughts and words at Cleveland Field here Monday night where 230 Valdosta High School seniors received their diplomas.

'Cats Take State Championship

USA TODAY • FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1984 • 9C

USA TODAY'S 1984 HIGH SCHOOL ALL-USA FOOTBALL TEAM



By H. Darr Beiser, USA TODAY

NICK HYDER: After guiding Valdosta (Ga.) High to a 15-0 record and the No. 1 ranking, he feels football has tied his community together to show that "all economic levels can get together."

Hyder caps season with coaching honor

McDonald, Dykes top prep players

By Dave Krider
USA TODAY

Valdosta (Ga.) High School football coach Nick Hyder, who upheld his town's claim of "Winnersville, USA" by guiding his team to a 15-0 record and the No. 1 ranking in the nation, is USA TODAY's high school football coach of the year.

Hyder is joined on the third annual USA TODAY All-USA team by defensive player of the year Quintus McDonald, a linebacker from Montclair, N.J., and offensive player of the year Hart Lee Dykes, a multitiered receiver from Bay City, Texas.

A 21-14 victory against Clarke Central gave Hyder his third state Class 4A championship. He has a 119-21-1 record in 11 years as head coach at Valdosta.

"It's humbling," Hyder said of the national coaching honor. "I am deeply appreciative. I am very thankful on behalf of a great coaching staff, 90 unselfish young men and a grateful community. We're proud that high schools are getting their recognition."

His credo as a coach is "God is to be first, family second, academics third and then come the Wildcats. Every decision we make we can consider those priorities. We don't have to have any rules with these priorities."



By H. Darr Beiser, USA TODAY

John Porter, LB, Valdosta, Ga., 6-0, 215: Had 181 solo tackles, including 16 sacks, in leading team to USA's No. 1 ranking. Also had five fumble recoveries, three pass interceptions and made 55 of 59 extra points.

The 1984 USA TODAY All-USA high school football team was selected by consulting high school editor Dave Krider, after conferring with college recruiters, high school coaches, sportswriters and professional scouts. Krider, who has selected the All-USA football team the last three years, has done free-lance work for a variety of national publications for 16 years. He has been a sportswriter in Indiana for 24 years.

Golf

V.Times 5-7-85

Region 1-AAAA Tournament

TIFTON — Tift County's Tye Cottle won a playoff with Jim Lofton of Westover on the first hole to win the medalist honors as the Blue Devils captured the Region 1-AAAA championship at Sunset Hill Country Club.

Tift County finished with a 291 while Westover was second with a 328.

Colquitt County was third with a 336 and Valdosta finished fourth with a 339. Lowndes placed fifth with a 344.

Dean Studdard topped Valdosta with an 81. Walter Altman had an 83 while David Shadrack shot an 87 and Matt Stanlin fired an 88.

For Lowndes, Clint Holland was medalist with an 82. Eric Kilgore shot an 83 while Leslie Folsom had an 87 and Richard Pluchinsky had a 92.

Trailing Lowndes was Dougherty with 350, Bainbridge with 379 and Central-Thomasville with 437.

Both Tift County and Westover will advance to the state match Monday to be played at Jekyll Island.

Anderson In Final

Valdosta's Eric Anderson, the schools only player to qualify for state, will face Kyle Hiers from Colquitt County today in the final of the South Sectionals.

Anderson defeated two opponents on the way to the final round. He defeated C.J. Lang of Benedictine 6-2, 6-3 in the first round. Anderson downed Alexander Tolle from Macon, 4-6, 7-6, (7-1).

Hiers is the only player who has beaten Anderson this year, and both players will represent the South in the state final in Macon.

Wrestlers Battle Florida

Several area wrestlers competed in the Georgia vs. Florida Freestyle Wrestling Championships. Freestyle wrestling is basically the form used in the Olympics. It is open to persons of all ages. The South Georgia Takedown Club entered 20 wrestlers and 10 managed to place in the meet.

Ashley Moorman (165-pound class) of Valdosta High placed second in the Cadet division. Clarence Ryan (95) of Valdosta Jr. High placed second in the Kids division. Ryan Moorman (130) of

Bell Leads Wildcats To Invitational Title

From Staff Reports V.Times 5-6-85

THOMASVILLE — Randy Bell set a school and meet record en route to being named the top performer at the Yellow Jacket Invitational Friday.

Bell set his record in the 120-yard high hurdles with a time of 14.36. He finished the meet with 26½ points. In addition to his first place in the high hurdles, he was also second in the triple jump and third in the 330-yard intermediate hurdles.

The Valdosta mile relay team of James Edwards, Bell, Kenneth Williams and Hosea Heard also set a meet record with a time of 3:23.84.

The Wildcats finished with 112 points. Host Central-Thomasville was second with 103 points. Tift County was third with 93 points.

Lowndes had 20 points in the meet, which featured 11 teams.

Heard was also first in the 440-yard dash with a time of 49.24 and the 220-yard dash with a time of 22.22. Edwards also claimed a first in the 880-yard run with a time of 2:00.53.

Willie Lewis was second in the long jump while Williams claimed seconds in the 100-yard dash and the 220.

Edwards placed third for Valdosta in the high jump and Jimmy Lewis was second in the discus and fifth in the shot put.

Both Lowndes and Valdosta will compete in the Region 1-AAAA meet at Albany Tuesday beginning at 10 a.m.

Individual Results

High Jump — Small (Central) 6-6, Revels (Tift) Edwards (Valdosta), Robinson (Central), Foster (Lowndes).
Long Jump — Stokes (Tift) 22-6, W. Lewis (Valdosta), Drew (Central), Knight (M-Baker), Montgomery (Lowndes).
Discus — Cox (Tift) 144½, J. Lewis (Valdosta), Jackson (Tift), Burton (Bain) Austin (Bain).
Shot Put — Barnes (M-Baker) 50-2, Peterson (Westover), Moorman (M-Baker), Cox (Tift), J. Lewis (Valdosta).
Triple Jump — Stokes (Tift) 45-8½, Bell (Valdosta), Wright (Bain), Vickers (Monroe), Dixie (Central).
Pole Vault — Haberline (Westover) 13-3½, Cassey (Central), Mosely (Central), Lockett (Tift), Spencer (M-Baker).
330-yard Intermediate Hurdles — Clarke (Bain) 39.21, Holton (Central), Bell (Valdosta), Vincent (M-Baker), Moore (Lowndes).
440-yard Relay — Central No. 1 42.88, Monroe No. 1, Central No. 2, Valdosta No. 2, Bainbridge No. 1.
Mile Run — Tyson (Tift) 4:32.95, Tanner (Westover), Luke (Tift), Brown (Central), Daniels (Colquitt).
440-yard Dash — Heard (Valdosta) 49.24, Bridges (Monroe), Smart (Central), Harris (Tift), Brown (Tift).
100-yard Dash — M. Davis (Central) 9.77, Williams (Valdosta), Jones (M-Baker), Clarke (Bain), Mitchell (Brooks).
120-yard High Hurdles — Bell (Valdosta) 14.36, school and meet record, Holton (Central), Ross (M-Baker), Hargett (Lowndes), Bennett (Tift).
880-yard Run — Edwards (Valdosta) 2:00.53, Shefford (Westover), March (Lowndes), Smart (Central), Sherman (Westover).
220-yard Dash — Heard (Valdosta) 22.22, Williams (Valdosta), Williams (M-Baker), Kelly (Brooks), Michael (Monroe).
Two-mile Run — Tyson (Tift) 10:09.0, Tanner (Westover), Young (Dougherty), Daniels (Colquitt), Bryant (M-Baker).
Mile Relay — Valdosta (Edwards, Bell, Williams, Heard) 3:23.84, meet record, Westover, Central, Mitchell-Baker, Valdosta, Lowndes.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Monday, April 29, 1985



Miss Valdosta High School

June Powers, extreme left, smiles after being chosen Miss Valdosta High School in a pageant at Mathis city auditorium. The junior is the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Powers. Runners-up were, from left to right, Jennifer Purvis, a senior and the 17-year-old daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Jerry G. Purvis, first; Billie Jo

Guess, junior and the 17-year-old daughter of Billy and Ann Guess, second, and Kim Kitchens, 16-year-old junior and the daughter of Judy Quinif and William H. Kitchens, third. The pageant was sponsored by the junior class. Emcee was junior class President John Dowd. — Photo By Nadine Shochet.

Sports Stars

V.Times 5-5-85

Track



Pam Gardner jumped 16-4 in the long jump in the 1-AAAA meet to qualify as the only Valdostan for the state meet.

Gardner's distance is one of the best in this area in girls' track.

Valdosta finished with 24 points.

VHS Class Of '60

V Times 5-23-85

The Valdosta High School Class of 1960 will hold its 25th reunion the weekend of July 5 and 6.

Letters concerning the event have been mailed to all graduates for whom addresses were available.

Additional information is available at 247-7444 or 244-6472. The numbers are also available for those with information about classmates who live outside the Valdosta area.

VHS Class Of '60 5-19-85

The Valdosta High School Class of 1960 will hold its 25th reunion the weekend of July 5 and 6.

Letters concerning the event have been mailed to all graduates for whom addresses were available.

Additional information is available at 247-7444 or 244-6472. The numbers are also available for those with information about classmates who live outside the Valdosta area.

From Staff, Wire Reports V Times 5-20-85 VHS Places Sixth

JEFFERSON — Randy Bell and James Edwards paced Valdosta High, which finished with 21 points, to a sixth-place finish in the Class AAAA state track meet.

Griffin won the state championship with 52 points. Clark Central was second with 44 points, while Walden was third with 35. Parkview fourth with 24, and Lassiter fifth with 23.

Bell won the state triple jump with a 45-3 1/4 and finished fifth in the 110-meter high hurdles with a 14.84, while Derrick Folsom came in sixth place with a 15.01.

Edwards took second in the 400-meter dash and set a school record in the process with a 48.0. When converted to yards, that breaks the record set by Fredrick Mote of 48.6, with a 48.3.

"We had a shot to win it, but we just came up short and that's the way it goes sometimes," Valdosta Coach Freddie Waters said. "We had our chances and all we had to do was place in a couple of more events."

Sports

Tift Co. Rejects Valdosta Title Hopes

V Times 5-3-85

By ROGER B. BROWN

Times Sports Writer

TIFTON — Tift County used a human vacuum cleaner who goes by name of Darren Teals to complete a doubleheader sweep of Valdosta High in the Region 1-AAAA baseball playoffs Thursday.

Pac-Man wouldn't have anything on Teals after his outstanding effort in the second game, which included an incredible 12 putouts.

Tift County was also doing what it had to do offensively against Valdosta ace Guy Belue to pull out a 3-0 shutout victory despite being out-hit by the 'Cats 7-4.

Teals was simply all over the place. He ran from one end of the field to the other, gobbling up everything in sight. When he wasn't diving and making shoestring catches on balls barely inches off the ground, he was back at the fence, snaring would-be homers.

Tift rode the pitching of its ace Chris Taylor, who got the victories in both games. After going 5 1/2 innings in the opener, Taylor came back with a complete game effort in the second game.

Taylor spaced out the seven Valdosta hits and was never really in any serious trouble, despite several hard-hit balls. Valdosta had only three groundouts in the game.

Valdosta Coach Charles Tarpley wasn't too disappointed in the 'Cats, and was philosophical in defeat.

"I guess it just wasn't meant to be," Tarpley said. "We hit the ball very hard in the second game and I've never seen anything like that in all

my years of coaching.

"We hit it good, but it was right at them, mainly Mr. Teals. I told the guys after the first couple of innings to try and hit it somewhere else, but that's easier said than done."

Tift jumped all over three Valdosta pitchers in the opener for 11 hits, including six doubles in a 9-4 victory, which was never in doubt. That set up the crucial second game. Valdosta had won the first game in the series Tuesday.

"They just wore us out in the that first game and never gave us a chance," Tarpley said. "They hit some real good shots all game long and just never let up."

"Despite all of that, I thought pitching was the key in the series. They got an outstanding effort out of Taylor, and he just barred down on us in the second game."

"I thought we had him on the ropes after we knocked him out in the first game, but he came back real strong in the next game and did what he had to do," Tarpley said. "I don't think we could ask for a better pitching effort than what we got out of Belue. He did a tremendous job and didn't deserve to lose this one, but that's how it goes sometimes."

Belue gave up only four hits, but two of them came back-to-back in the third inning when Tift broke up the scoreless pitching duel. The Blue Devils added two insurance runs in the sixth on one hit and three Valdosta errors.

David Cosper, who was a thorn in the 'Cats side the entire series with six hits and five runs scored in the three games, reached on a one-out single to

center to start the Blue Devil third-inning rally.

Cosper stole second base — he was nine-for-nine in the series — and scored on a single by Taylor for a 1-0 Tift advantage.

The Blue Devils added two more in the sixth. Andy Cross reached on a walk and moved to second on a single by Alan Nettles. Jay Cole laid down a bunt, which Belue mishandled and left the bases loaded.

Danny Smith then flied out to short, but Teals scored Cross with a sacrifice fly for a 2-0 Tift lead. After Cosper reached on an error by Valdosta second baseman Trevor Nance, Nettles scored when Nance committed his second consecutive error on a grounder by Taylor to complete the scoring in the 3-0 Blue Devil victory.

Valdosta had only two scoring chances against Taylor.

With two outs in the second, Brad Coleman singled to center — he was 3-for-3 in the game. Trevor Shaw then reached on an infield hit and Coleman moved to second. But, Joey Crosby flied out to Teals in centerfield to end the inning.

In the fourth, Valdosta put together consecutive singles by Coleman and Shaw with two outs, but Crosby was out at first in a close play to end the inning. The 'Cats added single hits over the next three innings, but none of the runners got past first as Taylor slammed the door on any Valdosta hopes of an upset.

Coleman led Valdosta with three hits, while Brent Moore and Shaw had two each. It was the first loss of the season for Belue, 6-1, who went all the way for the 'Cats. Cosper got two of the four

Blue Devil hits.

There was never any doubt in the opener, with Tift jumping out to a 9-0 lead before Valdosta finally got on the scoreboard with four runs in the sixth. Tift opened the scoring with a single run in the first, three in the second, three in the third and two in the fifth.

In the first, Teals led off with a double and scored on a single by Cosper. Cross led off the second with a double and scored one out later on a double by Smith, who scored on a double by Teals. Cosper then reached on an error, stole second and scored on a bases-loaded walk to Z. B. Hamilton.

Cross led off the third with a double to center — his third consecutive double over two games — and scored one out later on a double by Smith, who scored on a single by Cosper. After Cosper stole second, he scored on a single by Taylor.

With two outs in the fifth, Teals reached on a single, stole second and scored on a single by Cosper, who stole second and scored on a double by Taylor to give Tift its nine-run advantage.

Valdosta came back in the sixth with four runs on four hits to knock Taylor out of the game and bring in Hamilton.

First Game

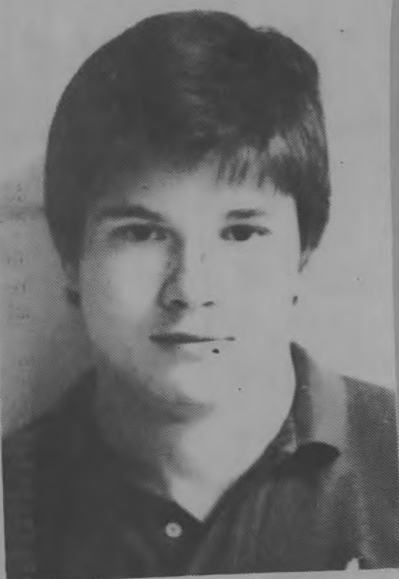
Valdosta

Tift Co. 000 004 0-4 7 5
Gill (L), Guarino (2), Crosby (6) and Moore; Taylor (W), Hamilton (5) and Cole, 3B — Nance (V), 2B — Gill (V), Milani (V), Teals 2 (TC), Cross 2 (TC), Taylor (TC), Smith (TC).

Second Game

Valdosta

Tift Co. 000 000 0-0 7 5
Belue (L) and Moore; Taylor (W) and Cole, 2B — Cosper (TC).
Records — Valdosta 10-11; Tift County 21-4.



ANDREW PARKS KAISER



LAURA ANN FAUSSONE

Honors Programs Held

V-Times 5/13/85

Valdosta High Honor Seniors

At Valdosta, Andrew Parks Kaiser placed first among honor graduates. Laura Ann Fausone placed second, and Patricia Gayle Robinson placed third. The three maintained the highest academic achievement among all other classmates at the high school.

Valdosta listed 20 seniors to graduate with honors.

They are Brian Leland Anderson, Travis Scott Braswell, Joanne Brown, Thomas Glenn Carroll, Julie Parker Dennard, Michael Fumio Furukawa, James Wendell Godbee Jr., Sandra Annette Graves, Marshall Kevin Jarper, Sharon Lynn Hart, Geoffrey Carl Hebner, Thomas Gabriel Hotard Jr., Erin Lynne Kirk, Craig Kenneth Klement, Susan Arledge Louttit, Julie Ann Moritz, Virginia Louise Pilcher, Michael John Rainey, John F. Smith and Sannon Elaine Tinney.



BRET BUSCH
First Honor Grad



JOEL WEAVER
Second Honor Grad



MICHAEL HERRIN
Third Honor Grad



JERRY PURVIS, JR.
Third Honor Grad

Valdosta High Honors Top Students

By TOM MATHER
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High's top students were recognized Tuesday evening at the school's annual Honor's Night.

Ceremonies included senior superlatives, honor graduates, National Merit Scholars, scholarship winners, departmental honors, community awards and many others.

Bret Busch, son of Dr. and Mrs. Trent Busch, was named first honor graduate for the 1983-84 school year.

Busch plans to attend Emory

University, where he was awarded a National Merit Scholarship.

Among his other honors, Busch was a senior superlative winner, most outstanding senior English student, and winner of the Elks Essay Contest.

Other honor graduates included Joel Weaver, second, and Michael Herrin and Jerry Purvis, Jr., who tied for third.

Weaver, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mac Weaver, also won top honors in the senior

superlatives by being voted "Best All-Round Senior."

Weaver plans to attend Samford University, where he was awarded a scholarship.

Among his other honors, Weaver was a National Merit Scholar, a U.S. National Leadership Merit Award winner, a Georgia Scholar, most outstanding calculus student, and most outstanding senior social science student.

Herrin, son of Mrs. Jean Williams and Dr. Glen Herrin, plans to attend Washington and

Lee University in Virginia, where he was awarded a National Merit Scholarship.

Herrin was also a Georgia Scholar and a member of the Valdosta High debate team, which placed third in state competition.

Purvis, son of Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Purvis, Sr., plans to attend Emory University or Valdosta State College.

He was also senior superlative winner and second-place winner of the Elks Essay Contest.



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

Beta Officers Elected

By ANGIE HOTCAVEG

Valdosta High School's Beta Club held their Annual Beta Banquet Monday, April 29, at the First United Methodist Fellowship Hall. To begin the night President Craig Klement, led the elections for the coming year. The new officers elected were Angie Hotcaveg, president; Jason Yost, vice president; Tanya Barker, secretary/treasurer. They ate a nice meal of chicken and ham. Then new members were inducted. New inductees for the year '84-'85 included the following:

Angela A. Alexander, Laura Ellen Anderson, Jane Debra Bailey, Angela Michelle Bradley, A. Tim Brady, Joanne Brown, Martin Castillo Campa, Kristen Coleman, Stephanie Diane Cooper, Elizabeth Crane, Ronald Edward Creque, Julie Dennard, Brett William Ganas, Joseph Allen Griffin, Marty Graves, Barbara "Lyn" Hamilton, Marshall Kevin Harp, Jennifer Harrell, Beth Harris, To Emory Hatcher, Geoffrey Carl Hebni, Felecia Henderson, Simon Lee,

Rebecca Ann Long, Teresa JoAnn Lonieliere, Susan Louitt, William Russell McCall, Michael Daniel McEachin, James H. McIntyre, Teresa Lee Moore, David H. Peoples, Christie H. Pierce, E. June Powers, Michael Rainey, Julie Rensenhouse.

Also Russell Dodd Rudolph, Michael Bruce Schmier, Melanie Seals, Angela Cherie Sellers, Stephanie Leigh Smith, Joey Tippet, Anna Lucy Tomberlin, Elizabeth Tyler Wallace, Michael Burgess Williams, Scott A. Williams, Matthew J. Winters, Mason Bradley Yost, Donna L. Blocker, Leah Jaszczak, Patricia Gayle Robinson, Chris Hendry, Tina Johns, Timothy Lee, Andy Anderson, Pam Guley. Also, Robert Mason, Tab Robinson, Byron Williams, Brad Coleman, and Alden Bowling. The present officers (Craig Klement, president; Michael Furukawa, vice president; Angie Hotcaveg, secretary/treasurer) gave up their titles for next year with honor knowing that the jobs will be successfully fulfilled.

Drill Team Competes

By CADET LT. ALVASTOLTE

On May 4, 1985, the Valdosta High School Navy J.R.O.T.C. unit Drill Team will compete against other Navy J.R.O.T.C. units in a national exhibition drill meet at Pensacola, Fla. The Valdosta Drill Team was selected by Commander Robert Burns (area six N.J.R.O.T.C. manager) based on their exemplary performance during their units annual inspection, which was held on January 31. They are one of the two schools selected to represent area

six (Georgia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina) in national competition.

The Drill Team consists of 17 cadets, lead by Cadet Ensign Juan Spencer. Along with the competition the cadets will have time to visit the naval air station, naval air museum and other Pensacola attractions, including a well earned trip to the beach.

VHS Choir

The Valdosta High School Choir will present a concert at VHS's Little Theater tonight at 7:30 p.m. A \$1 donation will be asked for at the event. Additional information is available from Carolyn Sirmans at 247-1942.



Photo Special to The Times

VHS's JROTC Unit In Action In Pensacola, Fla.

VHS Unit Third In Drill Competition

By Times Staff Writer
PENSACOLA, Fla. — Valdosta High School's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit placed third in the Fiesta of Five Flags Spring Drill Competition recently in Pensacola.

The JROTC unit, under the command of Cadet Ensign Juan Spencer, finished third from among 19 high schools from six southern states. The drills were sponsored by the Fiesta of Five Flags, Pensacola Council of the Navy League and the Navy Lt. Commander Larry Cupp, who heads the JROTC program at the school, said the Fiesta of Five Flags is a Pensacola city festival. But each year, the Navy holds a national drill competition at the celebration.

In addition to placing third in the drill competition, the high school group placed 10th in a national academic competition that involved 454 schools. Schools from all over the country took written examinations and sent them to the Navy. The Navy evaluated and scored the exams.

Cupp attributes the group's success to their hard work and the school's emphasis on academic skills. The ROTC team "spent extra time on their own to study for the exam," he said. He also said his assistant, Petty Officer DeWitt Wright, was also instrumental in the team's success. "He's a very valuable assistant to me," he said. "I couldn't do without him."

Students Attend State FHA Meet

By CHARLOTTE WRIGHT

Two students from Valdosta High School attended the annual Georgia Future Homemakers of America meeting in Atlanta, April 26th-28th. Those attending were Charlotte Wright and Natalie Tyler. The students were accompanied by their advisor, Mrs. Sandra Davis. The theme for the meeting was "Dynamic Dimensions-Forth Fabulous Years". Among the activities at the meeting was a gigantic birthday party for FHA. The Valdosta High FHA chapter was presented a certificate of award for being an Honor Roll Chapter.

VHS Represented At State VICA

By JIM LANDRUM

Valdosta High was well represented this year at the state VICA championships held this past weekend in Atlanta at the Waverly Hotel. Competitors for Valdosta High included Tim Crown, architectural drafting; Chyon Simmons, mechanical drafting; Norman Mathews, air conditioning and refrigeration. Top students from all over the state of Georgia competed for two days in their various skill areas. For Valdosta High Norman Mathews placed 3rd in the state in air conditioning and refrigeration. Mathew's instructor at Valdosta High is Edward Cannington. Chris Gray also attended the VICA leadership conference held at the Waverly.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 1984 VALDOSTA WILDCATS football team under Coach Nick Hyder's guidance were 1984 State and National Champions, compiling a record of 15-0; and

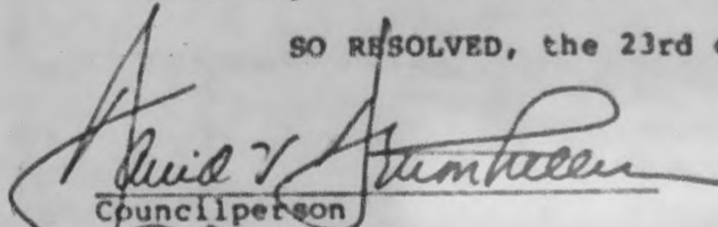
WHEREAS, Coach Nick Hyder was 1984 National and State Coach of the Year; and

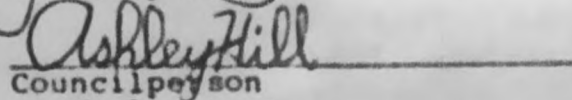
WHEREAS, the 1984 Seniors on the Wildcat team have compiled a four year record of 52-3, winning two State Championships and One National Championship; and

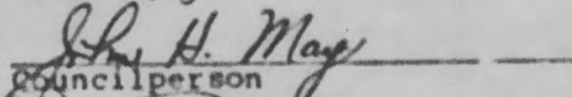
WHEREAS, the outstanding record and accomplishments of the 1984 Valdosta Wildcats Coach Nick Hyder and his staff have brought honor and recognition, not only to themselves, but to the City of Valdosta and the community as well.

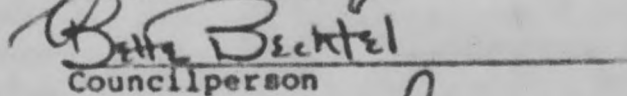
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Valdosta, for themselves and on behalf of the citizens of the City of Valdosta, that they do hereby recognize, honor and congratulate Coach Nick Hyder, his staff and the 1984 Valdosta Wildcats as National champion and State champions and in honor of the 1984 team do hereby proclaim Friday, May 24, 1985, "Valdosta Wildcat Day" in the City of Valdosta, Georgia.

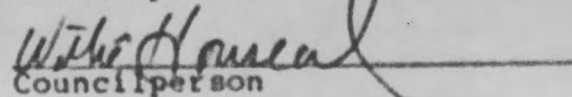
SO RESOLVED, the 23rd day of May, 1985.

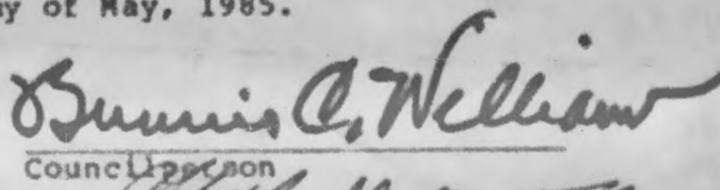

Councilperson

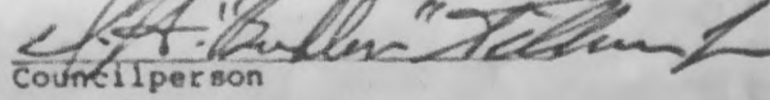

Councilperson

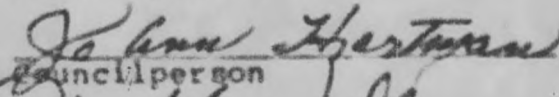

Councilperson

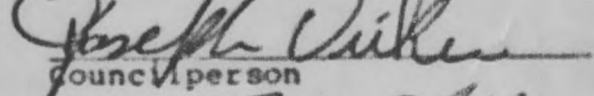

Councilperson

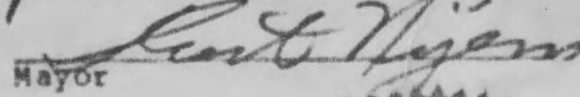

Councilperson


Councilperson


Councilperson


Councilperson


Councilperson


Mayor



Running 'Cats

✓ Times 5-25-85

For years now fans have been subjected to the same old, poor-mouthing routine from the coaching ranks about how bad their teams are or will be in whatever season they're about to embark. In some circles it is known as Dooleyism, while in others, it's been called the Bear Bryant trainee at work.

You've heard the sad story before when the coach says how bad his team will be, and how they won't have a lick of a chance. And, in most cases the teams usually end up tearing the heads off of their opponents and outscore them by some outrageous number.

Time usually tells the real story.

So, with that in mind, it's now time to pay tribute to the Valdosta High track program and Coach Freddie Waters, who said before the season that his team had the potential to be region champs, and guess what, he was right.

Valdosta won the region 1-AAAA championship, and went on to finish sixth in the state meet for the best season ever in the history of the school. However, the scary thing about it all for the rest of the region, is the fact that the bulk of the talent will be returning.

"I thought we'd do much better in the state than we showed, but that's a lot of pressure once you advance that far," Waters said. "I'm still proud of the guys for taking the region, and coming through the way they did."

"We had a good year and a few surprises and everybody carried their share of the load. Overall, I was very satisfied with our performance. I just wish we could have placed better in the state."

"With a little more experience, I think we could have," Waters said. "We were nudged out of a couple events and that can make a big difference. We had good depth, but that wasn't the main thing for us. We were very skilled in the long jump, triple jump, the hurdles and the sprints, and picked up an awful lot of points in all of those events."

After finishing second in the region for the last two years, the region championship this spring was the first for the 'Cats since 1982. Two players also won the state in their respective events for the 'Cats, and one of them will be returning next year.

At the start of the year, Waters was concerned about the field events, because in past years, it had been the difference in the two-consecutive second-place finishes. But he had a couple of surprises this spring that made up the difference and returned the region championship to Valdosta.

"I knew we'd be strong in the sprints because we had some people returning that were second last year to people who had already finished at other schools," Waters said. "We needed a distance runner bad, and some people to step forward in the field events so we could pick up a few points in those areas."

Randy Bell won the state in the triple jump, while James Edwards won the region in the 440-run after being the regular 880-yard runner. Edwards, who is being recruited by Georgia Tech and Albany State, set a school record in the 440-run at the state meet with a 48.3 time.

Edwards' showing really surprised Waters, who felt Hosea Heard would win the 440, but he finished in third place.

Heard along with Bell, Mark Baker and Kenneth Williams were the top four runners for Valdosta, and all will be back next year. Baker and Williams run the 100, while Bell handles the high hurdles, intermediates, the triple jump and the long jump. Heard and Williams run the 220, while Heard will also run the 440.

Waters is also thinking of trying Heard as a long jumper, which Heard hasn't done since junior high. Baker, Williams, Bell and Heard also make up the region-winning 440 and mile relay units.

Other top returnees will be Johnny Crook in the shot put and discus, along with freshmen Chad Burroughs, Willie Demps and Paul McClain. Jimmy Bell is another freshman who Waters is high on, but he was dropped from the team this spring due to academic problems.

Adron Curry and Dewayne Singleton are a pair of juniors who will also be counted on heavily according to Waters. Curry will run the mile, two mile and on the relay team, while Singleton will run the 440, 880 and mile relay.

"They can both run all day, and would be a tremendous asset to the experienced players we have returning," Waters said. "We want to develop a good second unit relay team, plus do a little bit better in the field event areas, which could put us right back into contention next year."

Some coaches feel like the pressure of being picked as favorite causes a tendency for a letdown, but not Waters. He likes the role and believes that it shows the type of talent that is in storage. Waters said all along his team would be the odds on favorite to win the region, despite excellent runners from Tift County.

"I felt like if we performed up to our capabilities, we could win the region and we did," Waters said. "Last year, we finished second, but most of the people that we were running against from the other schools had graduated."

"We have a lot of people returning from this squad, but you never know how they'll do from one year to the next. The kids could get senioritis or something like that and get the big-head."