

# VALDOSTA STATE

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1974

• *champions* •  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE**

• *champions* •  
**NCAA SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION**



• *second* •  
**FINAL NATIONAL POLL**

• *fifth* •  
**NCAA WORLD SERIES**

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*nineteen seventy four*

**BASEBALL**

*won 38 - lost 13*



## BLAZER NICKNAMES

Nicknames are a "special" ingredient in baseball. They add interest and luster to both players and fans alike. Below is a list of "nicknames" that BLAZER horsehiders have earned from their exploits.

DARRELL BRANAM .....	Little D
BILL PARSONS .....	Wilbur
VINCE MUSASHE .....	Hooter; Vinnie
JEROME REGISTER .....	J; Romeo
JEFF GREENHALGH (before tourneys) .	ML-Skyball
JEFF GREENHALGH (after tourneys) ..	Moose
DAN DARDEN .....	Deacon
STEVE McDIFFITT .....	The Giant Killer
JIM ROQUEMORE .....	Rock
FOSTER FORAN .....	Rooster
DANNY CHADWICK .....	Toad
MARTY LeFILES .....	Hat

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## A T R I B U T E

Eight men from this year's squad will not be with the BLAZERS next season. All of them have been with the team the past two years, when Valdosta State did what no other baseball team in history has ever done-- earn its way into the NAIA World Series one year, and into the NCAA World Series the next. Each man, in his own way, contributed greatly to the team's success. Listed on the following pages is each man's statistical record at Valdosta State.

### SAM BOWEN .. centerfield-pitch .. Brunswick, Ga.

Possibly the greatest baseball player in college during the past season....Transfer from Brunswick JC....Made first team NCAA All-American....MVP of the Blazers, the South Atlantic Conference, and the South Atlantic Region, and also a member of the 1974 All-World Series team....Signed a substantial bonus with the Boston Red Sox....His best games the past two years were in the tournaments, even though his play was "super" every game....Simply a pleasure to watch....Was 5-3 as a pitcher, and led the team last year with a 1.10 ERA....Threw smoke, and always won the "big-one" for the Blazers.

	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.	2B	3B	HR	SB
1973 .....	184	43	49	36	.266	11	5	7	14
1974 .....	160	52	55	37	.344	11	6	7	20
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>.302</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>34</b>

RICK BOWERS .. pitcher .. Tifton, Ga.

Transfer from Brewton-Parker JC....Undeclared at Valdosta State....  
His ERA of 0.90 has only been topped twice in VSC history....Pitched  
3 shut-outs in two years, and picked up a crucial win, 2-1, over West  
Georgia this season....Will rank among the top 10 ERA pitchers in the  
nation for 1974.

	G	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W-L	ERA
1973 .....	9	34	28	8	6	21	18	3-0	1.57
1974 .....	9	50	36	11	5	27	25	6-0	0.90
TOTALS	18	84	64	19	11	48	43	9-0	1.18

DAN CHADWICK .. pitcher .. East Gary, Ind.

A four-year letterman, who played on four championship teams....  
Made All-NAIA District 25 last season....Beat Shorter 2-1 in the  
District finals, as a frosh....Beat Mercer four consecutive times....  
Had four shut-outs the past two seasons....Known as the "Toad"....  
Hit .500 as a frosh....A good fielding pitcher....Will be difficult  
to replace.

	G	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W-L	ERA
1971 .....	5	24	16	6	2	8	20	2-1	0.75
1972 .....	8	30	45	24	20	7	20	3-3	6.00
1973 .....	9	55.2	44	18	12	19	48	6-0	1.94
1974 .....	10	57.2	53	25	20	28	21	3-3	3.12
TOTALS	32	167.1	158	73	54	62	109	14-7	2.90

GENE FELTS .. leftfield .. Lakeland, Ga.

The greatest career player in Valdosta State history....Holds  
every career hitting record....Only missed the stolen base record to  
make a clean sweep....Had a tremendous year in 1974, except for him....  
Had a fantastic sophomore season....Made first team NAIA All-American  
in 1972 and 1973....Made All-NAIA World Series in 1973....Hit the  
best pitchers, and against the best teams....Led the team in batting  
for two years....Signed a bonus contract with the New York Mets....  
With Bowen and Register, comprised the best outfield in college ball  
in 1974....Most accurate arm on the team....A pleasure to know.

	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.	2B	3B	HR	SB
1971 .....	167	28	46	12	.275	4	2	2	14
1972 .....	168	54	61	50	.363	9	6	13	19
1973 .....	212	41	78	29	.368	11	6	4	20
1974 .....	183	39	53	30	.290	10	4	0	14
TOTALS	730	162	238	121	.326	34	18	19	67

MARTY LeFILES .. pitcher .. Valdosta, Ga.

Best relief pitcher in Valdosta State history....During 1973, entered every game he pitched with men in scoring position, and allowed only one run to score; that on an error....Beat Grand Canyon in 1973 NAIA World Series, and Rollins in 1974 Atlantic Regional.... Was 8-16 as a career hitter, with 2 home runs....President of his frat, and has 3.8 GPA....1974 VSC Spirit-award winner...No one has ever been more coachable.

	G	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W-L	ERA
1972 .....	7	17	8	4	1	4	5	1-0	0.53
1973 .....	14	53.1	48	21	14	14	25	8-0	2.36
1974 .....	16	44	43	27	22	18	17	2-2	4.50
TOTALS	37	114.1	99	52	37	36	47	11-2	2.91

JEROME REGISTER .. rightfield .. Valdosta, Ga.

Transfer from Middle Georgia JC....Out from his JC team as a sophomore....Worked way into Blazer line-up in 1973, when he was the team's second leading hitter....Led VSC to 1973 NAIA World Series when his throw, and run-scoring double toppled David Lipscomb 1-0....Always hit in the clutch....All-South Atlantic Conference in 1974....Passed up last year of eligibility to sign a substantial bonus contract with the Boston Red Sox....A money ballplayer, with best speed on the team.... Very coachable, a highly popular with the fans....Hit well in the 1974 Regional and World Series....Part of an irreplaceable outfield.

	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.	2B	3B	HR	SB
1973 .....	141	28	43	34	.305	5	3	1	10
1974 .....	150	32	52	29	.347	8	3	1	10
TOTALS	291	60	95	63	.326	13	6	2	20

LARRY RENEW .. manager .. Lumpkin, Ga.

Like another coach....100% a baseball man....Tremendous worker and organizer....Lived and died with the team's success....Pressed into service as the 1973 "Sparks" catcher, and did a fine job....Announced retirement at last team meeting in Springfield....Will be greatly missed.

	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.	2B	3B	HR	SB
1973 Sparks ..	11	2	3	4	.273	0	0	0	2

RALPH STARLING .. outfield .. Valdosta, Ga.

First substitute in greatest outfield in VSC history....Transfer from Norman JC....Played in 40% of Blazer games for past two seasons.... Great defense, with good, accurate arm....Went 2-5 against Eckerd in 1974 Regional final....Very active in Baptist Student Union....Oldest player on team, and added maturity to squad....Would have started for other conference teams.

	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.	2B	3B	HR	SB
1973 .....	18	1	3	1	.167	0	0	0	0
1974 .....	24	3	6	1	.250	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	42	4	9	2	.214	1	0	0	0

VALDOSTA STATE  
 1974 Exhibition Game Statistics  
 March 3, 1974  
 won 12 - lost 2

	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.	2B	3B	HR	SB
Jerry Dennis, 1b	20	3	9	4	.450	1	0	0	1
Ralph Starling, of	20	3	9	2	.450	0	1	0	0
Dan Alford, ss	29	10	13	11	.448	4	0	0	9
Jeff Greenhalgh, 1b	21	1	8	9	.381	1	2	0	2
Gene Felts, lf	31	15	11	6	.355	2	0	1	7
Bill Petty, p-dh	17	5	6	2	.353	1	0	0	1
Vince Musashe, 2b	19	6	6	3	.316	1	0	0	3
Darrell Branam, c	23	2	7	4	.304	1	0	0	0
Bill Parsons, inf	26	3	7	3	.269	0	0	0	0
Jim Roquemore, c	4	0	1	0	.250	0	0	0	0
Foster Foran, c-p	25	5	6	3	.240	1	1	1	2
Steve Sumner, 3b	25	3	6	4	.240	0	0	0	1
Marty Bishop, 3b	22	3	5	1	.226	1	0	0	0
Dan Darden, p-dh	19	6	4	5	.211	0	0	1	0
Sam Bowen, cf	26	13	5	11	.192	1	0	1	4
Jerome Register, rf	33	9	6	3	.182	2	0	0	8
Lark Hahn, of	16	1	2	0	.125	0	0	0	0
Pete Reeves, inf	11	0	1	2	.091	0	0	0	0
Marty LeFiles, p	1	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Steve McDiffitt, p	1	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Tony Ferrera, p	2	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>.286</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>38</b>

	G	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W-L	ERA
Marty Lefiles	4	12	4	1	0	3	3	1-0	0.00
Foster Foran	2	4	0	1	0	3	3	1-1	0.00
Sam Bowen	1	2	0	1	0	1	4	1-0	0.00
Tony Ferrera	3	7	5	1	1	4	5	0-0	1.29
Dan Darden	4	15	8	3	3	7	13	3-0	1.80
Dan Chadwick	5	15	14	6	3	4	4	1-0	1.80
Larry Felts	3	5	3	3	1	2	7	1-0	1.80
Bill Petty	4	14	11	6	3	10	7	0-0	1.93
Rick Bowers	4	15	14	8	5	14	7	3-1	3.00
Steve McDiffitt	3	6	8	7	5	5	2	1-0	7.50
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>12-2</b>	<b>1.99</b>

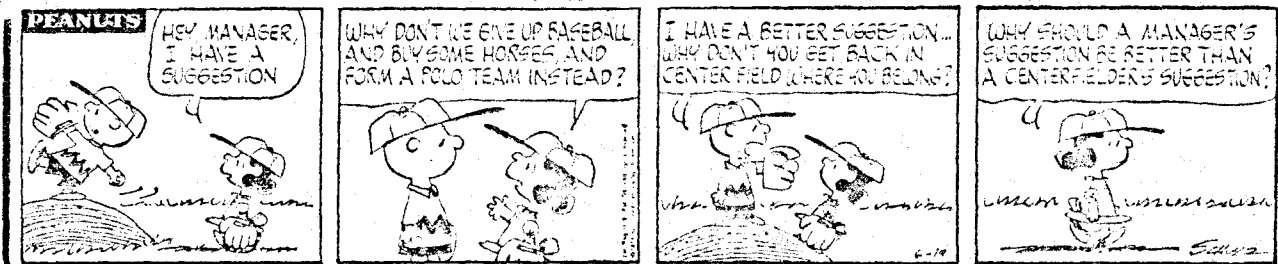
BLAZERS 1, VSC Alumni .....	0	BLAZERS 10, South Georgia ...	7
BLAZERS 4, VSC Alumni .....	3	BLAZERS 13, South Georgia ...	4
BLAZERS 6, South Georgia ...	2	BLAZERS 4, South Georgia ...	1
BLAZERS 2, South Georgia ...	1	BLAZERS 0, South Georgia ...	2
BLAZERS 12, ABAC .....	1	BLAZERS 8, ABAC .....	9
BLAZERS 11, ABAC .....	1	BLAZERS 6, ABAC .....	2
BLAZERS 6, ABAC .....	1	BLAZERS 5, South Georgia ...	1

\* statistics include 2-2, tie, with South Georgia

VALDOSTA STATE  
Final Statistics  
June 3, 1974  
won 38 - lost 13

	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.	2B	3B	HR	SB
Foster Foran, dh	42	12	17	18	.405	3	0	2	1
Dan Darden, dh	106	25	39	8	.368	4	0	0	7
Jerome Register, rf	150	32	52	29	.347	8	3	1	10
Sam Bowen, cf	160	52	55	37	.344	11	6	7	20
Darrell Branam, c	132	28	43	34	.326	7	0	3	2
Gene Felts, lf	183	39	53	30	.290	10	4	0	14
Steve Sumner, 3b	98	16	28	15	.286	3	1	0	3
Vince Musashe, 2b	32	6	9	3	.281	0	0	0	1
Pete Reeves, ss	96	17	26	4	.271	3	0	0	3
Marty Bishop, 3b	85	9	23	15	.271	5	1	0	2
Ralph Starling, of	24	3	6	1	.250	1	0	0	0
Jeff Greenhalgh, 1b	117	20	27	26	.231	2	1	3	2
Dan Alford, 2b	127	19	24	18	.189	3	2	1	12
Bill Parsons, ss	46	12	8	4	.174	1	0	0	3
Jerry Dennis, 1b	44	3	7	3	.159	1	0	0	1
Bill Petty, dh	29	7	3	1	.103	1	0	0	4
others	20	4	7	4	--	0	0	0	0
<b>VSC TOTALS</b>	<b>1491</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>.286</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>OPPONENTS</b>	<b>1468</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>.234</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>38</b>

	G	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W-L	ERA
Rick Bowers	9	50	36	11	5	27	25	6-0	0.90
Bill Petty	13	80.1	64	24	18	24	30	11-2	2.02
Dan Darden	13	69.2	48	32	17	42	56	7-2	2.70
Dan Chadwick	10	57.2	53	25	20	28	21	3-3	3.12
Steve McDiffitt	9	46	42	21	18	18	19	5-1	3.52
Foster Foran	5	27.1	30	21	12	15	16	2-2	3.95
Marty LeFiles	16	44	43	27	22	18	17	2-2	4.50
others	10	22	28	13	11	19	23	2-1	--
<b>VSC TOTALS</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>38-13</b>	<b>2.79</b>
<b>OPPONENTS</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>13-38</b>	<b>5.39</b>

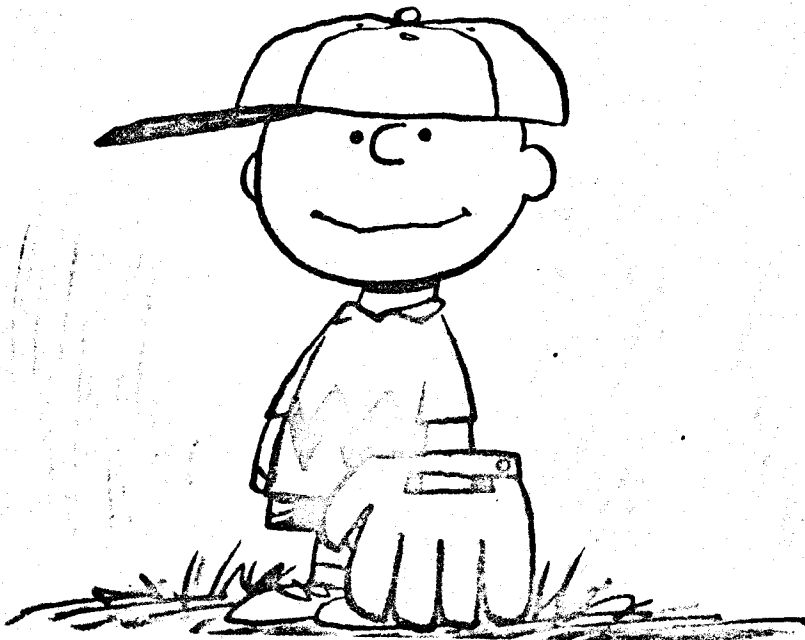


LARK HAHN has another "brilliant" suggestion for COACH THOMAS during a Blazer BP session.

VALDOSTA STATE  
 Final South Atlantic Conference Statistics  
 May 12, 1974  
 won 16 - lost 2

	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.	2B	3B	HR	SB
Dan Darden, dh	43	12	17	4	.395	3	0	0	3
Steve Sumner, 3b	28	7	11	9	.393	2	1	0	3
Jerome Register, rf	52	12	19	10	.365	4	1	0	5
Darrell Branam, c	51	10	18	15	.353	3	0	2	2
Sam Bowen, cf	55	17	19	14	.345	3	0	5	5
Gene Felts, lf	58	10	18	16	.310	5	1	0	4
Marty Bishop, 3b	29	6	9	5	.310	2	0	0	0
Foster Foran, dh	17	6	5	5	.294	1	0	0	1
Pete Reeves, ss	29	5	8	1	.276	1	0	0	1
Dan Alford, 2b	41	7	11	7	.268	1	0	0	1
Jeff Greenhalgh, 1b	42	8	10	6	.238	1	1	1	3
Bill Parsons, ss	16	6	2	2	.125	1	0	0	0
others	27	7	7	3	--	0	0	0	3
<b>BLAZER TOTALS</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>.316</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>31</b>

	G	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W-L	ERA
Rick Bowers	4	22.1	16	6	2	7	11	3-0	0.81
Bill Petty	8	41.1	30	12	9	10	18	6-1	1.96
Steve McDiffitt	2	13.2	8	4	4	6	7	2-0	2.63
Dan Chadwick	3	14.1	13	5	5	6	6	1-0	3.14
Foster Foran	1	5.2	5	3	2	4	6	1-0	3.17
Marty LeFiles	7	14	15	7	7	4	4	1-1	4.50
Dan Darden	4	13.2	18	9	7	17	13	2-0	4.61
<b>BLAZER TOTALS</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>16-2</b>	<b>2.59</b>



"BILLY" PARSONS poses before his first starting assignment.



VALDOSTA STATE  
Final Record  
won 38 - lost 13

VSC	9,	Shorter .....	4
VSC	7,	Shorter .....	4
VSC	4,	Vanderbilt .....	8
VSO	5,	Vanderbilt .....	8
VSC	4,	Morris Harvey (W.Va.) ..	3
VSC	10,	Morris Harvey (W.Va.) ..	0
VSC	2,	Morris Harvey (W.Va.) ..	7
VSC	3,	Bowling Green State ....	2
VSC	1,	Georgia .....	3
VSC	7,	Ashland (O.) .....	2
VSC	0,	Ohio .....	7
VSC	5,	Ohio .....	3
VSC	1,	Mercer-Atlanta .....	0
VSC	7,	Mercer-Atlanta .....	1
VSC	8,	Georgia Southwestern ...	1
VSC	3,	Florida State .....	6
VSC	4,	Erskine (S.C.) .....	1
VSC	3,	Mercer .....	0
VSC	5,	*Southern Tech .....	3
VSC	8,	*Southern Tech .....	0
VSC	6,	*Armstrong State .....	1
VSC	5,	*Armstrong State .....	6
VSC	6,	Lewis (Ill.) .....	5
VSC	6,	Lewis (Ill.) .....	7
VSC	11,	*Columbus .....	6
VSC	6,	*Columbus .....	3
VSC	6,	Georgia Southern .....	3
VSC	5,	Georgia Southern .....	4
VSC	3,	*Augusta .....	0
VSC	4,	*Augusta .....	0
VSC	8,	*Armstrong State .....	0
VSC	12,	*Armstrong State .....	4

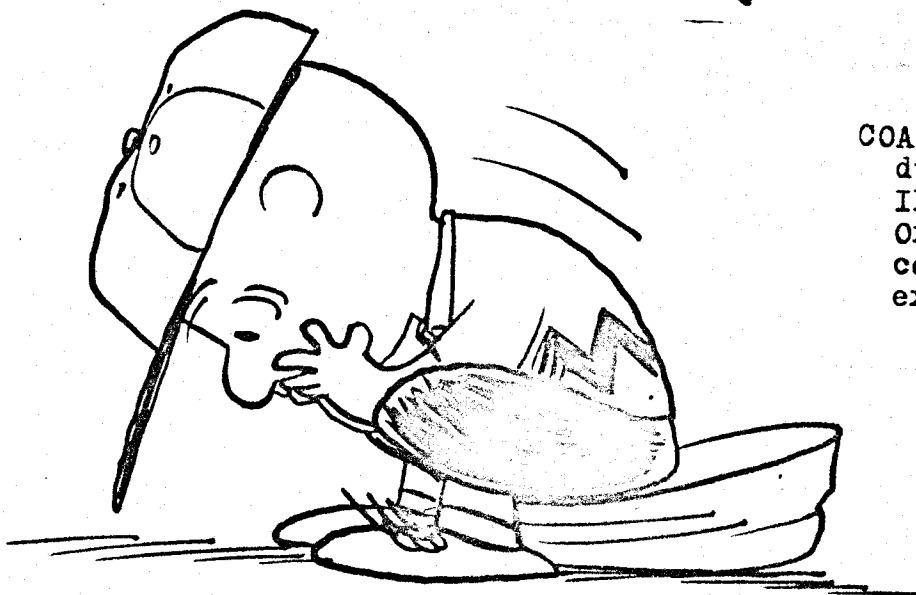
VSC	15,	Florida State .....	1
VSC	18,	*Southern Tech .....	3
VSC	6,	*Southern Tech .....	5
VSC	3,	*Columbus .....	7
VSC	5,	*Columbus .....	4
VSC	10,	Georgia Southwestern ..	7
VSC	1,	Mercer .....	2
VSC	4,	*West Georgia .....	3
VSC	2,	*West Georgia .....	1
VSC	2,	Albany State (Ga.) ....	1
VSC	4,	Albany State (Ga.) ....	3
VSC	6,	*Augusta .....	0
VSC	1,	*Augusta .....	0

NCAA SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL  
@ Lakeland, Florida

VSC	13,	Rollins .....	6
VSC	11,	Eckerd (Fla.) .....	4
VSC	5,	Eckerd (Fla.) .....	8
VSC	15,	Eckerd (Fla.) .....	3

NCAA WORLD SERIES  
@ Springfield, Illinois

VSC	9,	New Orleans .....	13
VSC	0,	New Haven (Conn.) .....	1



COACH THOMAS sits in the dugout in Springfield, Ill., during the New Orleans game. What could be on his mind except baseball?

March 9

	123	456	7	R	H	E	
Shorter .....	103	000	0	-	4	8	3
Valdosta State .....	000	342	x	-	9	10	0

Wright, Dean (5) & McGinnis; Darden & Branam. (Felts 2x4; Bowen 3x4, 2b-2b-2b; Branam 2b, 2 rbi's) WP- Darden (1-0), LP- Wright (0-1)

	123	456	7	R	H	E	
Shorter .....	000	130	0	-	4	4	2
Valdosta State .....	010	420	x	-	7	6	2

Robbins, Johnston (4) & Summers, McGinnis (5); Petty & Branam. (Felts 2x3; Branam 2 rbi's) WP- Petty (1-0), LP- Robbins (0-1)

March 10

	123	456	7	R	H	E	
Vanderbilt .....	202	000	4	-	8	10	1
Valdosta State .....	000	202	0	-	4	7	5

Coyne, Palmore (7) & Tinsley; Foran, LeFiles (3), L. Felts (7) & Branam, Foran (3). (Felts 2x3; Register 3b, 3 rbi's) WP- Coyne (2-0), LP- LeFiles (0-1)

	123	456	7	R	H	E	
Vanderbilt .....	020	013	2	-	8	11	1
Valdosta State .....	000	005	0	-	5	9	3

Wilson, Rhodes (6), Palmore (7) & Garcia; Bowen, McDiffitt (6), Ferrera (7) & Foran. (Alford 2 rbi's; Foran 3x3, HR, 2 rbi's; Dennis 2x4, Starling 2x4) WP- Wilson (1-1), LP- Bowen (0-1)

March 11

	123	456	789	1011	R	H	E		
Morris Harvey .....	000	020	100	0	0	-	3	8	4
Valdosta State .....	000	001	200	0	1	-	4	8	3

Glover, Farrell (8) & Cappuccio; Chadwick & Foran. (Foran 2x5, 2b, 2 rbi's; Register 3x5) WP- Chadwick (1-0), LP- Farrell (0-1)

March 12

	123	456	789	R	H	E	
Morris Harvey .....	000	000	000	-	0	7	5
Valdosta State .....	000	261	01x	-	10	15	1

Francis & Cappuccio; Bowers & Branam, Roquemore (8). (Foran 3x3, 2b, HR, 5 rbi's; Reeves 2x3; Felts 2x5; Dennis 2x5) WP- Bowers (1-0), LP- Francis (0-2)

March 13

	123	456	789	R	H	E
Morris Harvey .....	000	005	002	- 7	8	1
Valdosta State .....	200	000	000	- 2	9	5

Farrell & Cappuccio; Darden & Foran, Roquemore (7).  
 (Felts 2x4, 3b; Register 2x4; Petty 2x4) WP- Farrell  
 (1-1), LP- Darden (1-1)

March 20

	123	456	7	R	H	E
Bowling Green State ..	010	100	0	- 2	6	1
Valdosta State .....	200	100	x	- 3	6	0

Hale, Frilling (5) & Owen; Petty, LeFiles (6)  
 & Branam. WP- Petty (2-0), LP- Hale (0-1)

	123	456	7	R	H	E
Georgia .....	000	210	0	- 3	4	0
Valdosta State .....	000	100	0	- 1	2	3

Ivie, Tripp (6) & O'Conner; Darden & Branam.  
 WP- Ivie (1-0), LP- Darden (1-2)

March 21 - @ Mercer-Atlanta (2), rain

March 22

	123	456	789	R	H	E
Ashland .....	000	110	000	- 2	6	1
Valdosta State .....	000	030	40x	- 7	11	1

May, Woolford (7), Pedichord (8) & Rupert;  
 Bowers & Branam. (Sumner 2x5, 2b; Felts 2x4, 2b;  
 Bowen 2b, 2 rbi's; Greenhalgh 2x5) WP- Bowers  
 (2-0), LP- May (1-1)

March 23

	123	456	7	R	H	E
Ohio .....	000	304	0	- 7	11	1
Valdosta State .....	000	000	0	- 0	5	1

Tobik & Robertson; Chadwick, Ferrera (6),  
 Roquemore (7) & Branam. (Felts 2x4, 2b)  
 WP- Tobik (2-0), LP- Chadwick (1-1)

	123	456	7	R	H	E
Ohio .....	011	000	1	- 3	8	2
Valdosta State .....	040	100	x	- 5	3	1

Corron, Williams (4) & Nicholson, Robertson (6);  
 Foran & Branam. (Bishop 2b, 2 rbi's) WP- Foran  
 (1-0), LP- Corron (0-1)

March 24

	123	456	7	R	H	E
Mercer-Atlanta .....	000	000	0	- 0	0	1
Valdosta State .....	001	000	x	- 1	2	0

Hurst & Reed; Darden & Branam. (Register  
 2x2, HR) WP- Darden (2-2), LP- Hurst (2-2)

	123	456	7	R	H	E
Columbus .....	300	000	0	- 3	4	1
Valdosta State .....	023	100	x	- 6	9	1

Marschand, Witt (3), Mallory (6) & Chester;  
 Petty & Branam. (Felts 2x3, 2b; Register 2x3,  
 2b, 3b) WP- Petty (5-0), LP- Marschand (5-4)

April 18

	123	456	7	R	H	E
Georgia Southern .....	000	300	0	- 3	8	2
Valdosta State .....	300	003	x	- 6	5	2

Beck & Salter; McDuffitt & Branam. (Darden  
 2x3; Register 2 rbi's; Alford 2 rbi's) WP-  
 McDuffitt (2-0), LP- Beck (3-2)

	123	456	7	R	H	E
Georgia Southern .....	020	020	0	- 4	8	1
Valdosta State .....	032	000	x	- 5	7	0

Kruppa & Salter; LeFiles, Petty (5) & Branam.  
 (Greenhalgh HR, 3 rbi's) WP- Petty (6-0), LP-  
 Kruppa (3-1)

April 20

	123	456	7	R	H	E
Augusta .....	000	000	0	- 0	4	0
Valdosta State .....	002	100	x	- 3	4	2

Brown & Tillman; Bowers & Branam. WP- Bowers  
 (4-0), LP- Brown (1-3)

	123	456	7	R	H	E
Augusta .....	000	000	0	- 0	3	3
Valdosta State .....	010	030	x	- 4	4	2

Belcher & Tillman; Chadwick & Branam.  
 WP- Chadwick (3-1), LP- Belcher (2-3)

April 23

	123	456	7	R	H	E
Armstrong State .....	000	000	0	- 0	5	2
Valdosta State .....	200	105	x	- 8	12	1

Bumgardner & Barnhill; Petty & Branam.  
 (Darden 3x4; Branam 2x4, 2 rbi's; Sumner 2x2,  
 2b-2b; Greenhalgh 2 rbi's) WP- Petty (7-0),  
 LP- Bumgardner (6-2)

	123	456	7	R	H	E
Armstrong State .....	200	011	0	- 4	6	2
Valdosta State .....	471	000	x	- 12	12	3

Maner, Holland (1), Zettler (2) & Graham;  
 Darden, Petty (2), LeFiles (7) & Branam,  
 Roquemore (6). (Bowen 3x3, HR, 3 rbi's; Felts  
 2x4, 2b-2b; Register 2b, 2 rbi's; Bishop 2x3, 2b,  
 2 rbi's; Greenhalgh 2 rbi's) WP- Petty (8-0),  
 LP- Maner (4-3)

May 4 - with VSC ahead 4-2 in the 4th, with the bases loaded, and one out, a cloud-burst (named the Archie Drip, by "Little 'D'") rained-out a win over West Georgia; but the next day...

May 5

	123	456	7	R	H	E
West Georgia .....	200	000	1	-	3	4
Valdosta State .....	001	002	1	-	4	7

Bennett, Camp (6) & Jandl; Petty & Branam.  
 (Bowen 2x4, HR, 2b, 2 rbi's; Branam 2x3, 2b, 2 rbi's) WP- Petty (9-1), LP- Camp (12-3)

	123	456	7	R	H	E
West Georgia .....	000	010	0	-	1	3
Valdosta State .....	000	020	x	-	2	3

Camp, Newkirk (4) & Lewis; Bowers & Branam.  
 WP- Bowers (6-0), LP- Newkirk (4-4)

May 6 @ Albany, Ga.

	123	456	789	R	H	E
Valdosta State .....	000	000	101	-	2	3
Albany State .....	010	000	000	-	1	2

LeFiles, Darden (4), Bowen (7) & Roquemore, Branam (4); Harris & McConnell. WP- Bowen (1-1), LP- Harris (3-1)

May 9

	123	456	789	10	R	H	E
Albany State .....	100	100	000	1	-	3	11
Valdosta State .....	010	010	000	2	-	4	7

McConnell, Harris (10) & Stroble, McConnell (10); Chadwick, Darden (6) & Branam. (Bowen HR; Musashe 3x4, 2 rbi's) WP- Darden (7-2), LP- Harris (3-2)

May 11 @ Augusta, Ga.

	123	456	7	R	H	E
Valdosta State .....	200	040	0	-	6	8
Augusta .....	000	000	0	-	0	2

McDiffitt & Branam; Fitzgerald, Belcher (5) & Tillman. (Bowen 2x4, HR, 2b; Branam 2x3) WP- McDiffitt (5-0), LP- Fitzgerald (0-5)

	123	456	7	R	H	E
Valdosta State .....	000	001	0	-	1	0
Augusta .....	000	000	0	-	0	4

Petty & Branam; Brown & Crawford. WP- Petty (10-1), LP- Brown (3-4)

NCAA SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL  
 May 24-26, 1974  
 Lakeland, Florida

	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.	2B	3B	HR	SB
Darden, dh	12	7	8	3	.667	0	0	0	1
Branam, c	15	5	8	5	.533	1	0	0	0
Greenhalgh, 1b	16	5	8	9	.500	1	0	1	1
Parsons, ss	2	0	1	0	.500	0	0	0	0
Register, rf	12	5	5	4	.417	1	0	0	1
Starling, of	5	1	2	0	.400	1	0	0	0
Sumner, 3b	11	4	4	1	.364	0	0	0	0
Bowen, cf-p	18	6	6	7	.333	0	2	1	1
Bishop, 3b	3	0	1	2	.333	1	0	0	0
Felts, lf	16	3	5	3	.313	0	1	0	1
Alford, 2b	16	4	4	4	.250	2	0	0	0
Reeves, ss	16	3	2	0	.125	1	0	0	0
Musashe, 2b	0	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Hahn, ph	1	0	0	1	.000	0	0	0	0
Roquemore, ph	1	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
VSC TOTALS	144	44	54	39	.375	8	3	2	5
OPPONENTS	138	21	41	17	.297	5	1	1	5

	G	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W-L	ERA
Parsons	1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0-0	0.00
Darden	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0-0	0.00
LeFiles	2	10.1	10	5	3	2	3	1-0	2.61
Bowen	1	9	9	3	3	7	11	1-0	3.00
Petty	1	9	10	4	4	3	1	1-0	4.00
Bowers	1	1.2	2	2	1	3	0	0-0	5.39
McDiffitt	1	3.1	7	4	4	1	0	0-0	10.81
Chadwick	1	1.1	3	3	2	1	0	0-1	13.53
TOTALS	4	35	41	21	17	19	15	3-1	4.37
OPPS.	4	33	54	44	33	26	20	1-3	9.00

May 24 @ Lakeland, Fla.

Rollins	004	020	000	-	6	12	3
Valdosta State	160	000	60x	-	13	16	3

Lorenz, Benson (2), Anderson (7), Poropatch (7) & Goetz; McDiffitt, LeFiles (4) & Branam. (Darden 3x5; Register 3x4, 2b, 3 rbi's; Branam 3x4, 2 rbi's; Alford 2b, 2 rbi's; Sumner 2x5; Greenhalgh 2x4, 2 rbi's) WP-LeFiles (2-2), LP- Lorenz (9-6)

May 25 @ Lakeland, Fla.

Eckerd	400	000	000	-	4	10	2
Valdosta State	001	001	36x	-	11	13	1

Gordon, Cipriano (7), Marshall (8) & DiNoble; Petty & Branam. (Darden 3x4, 2 rbi's; Bowen 2x5, 3b, 3 rbi's; Felts 3x4; Register 2x3; Greenhalgh 2x4, HR, 2 rbi's) WP- Petty (11-1), LP- Gordon (10-4)

May 26 @ Lakeland, Fla.

	123	456	789	R	H	E
Valdosta State .....	004	001	000	- 5	9	4
Eckerd .....	110	000	33x	- 8	10	1

Bowers, LeFiles (2), Darden (7), Chadwick (7),  
 Parsons (8) & Branam; Cipriano, Gordon (3) &  
 DiNoble. (Darden 2x3; Branam 2 rbi's; Sumner 2x4)  
 WP- Gordon (11-4), LP- Chadwick (3-3)

	123	456	789	R	H	E
Eckerd .....	010	000	002	- 3	9	4
Valdosta State .....	204	014	22x	-15	16	1

Marshall, Johnson (3), Gallo (6), Cioffi (7) &  
 DiNoble; Bowen & Branam. (Bowen 2x4, 3b, HR, 3 rbi's;  
 Felts 2x6, 3b; Branam 4x5, 2b; Greenhalgh 3x5, 2b,  
 5 rbi's; Bishop 2b, 2 rbi's; Alford 2b, 2 rbi's)  
 WP- Bowen (2-1), LP- Marshall (1-1)

Other Scores

Eckerd 8, Florida Southern .. 5  
 Rollins 8, Florida Southern .. 7  
 Eckerd 8, Rollins ..... 3

NCAA WORLD SERIES  
 June 1-6, 1974  
 Springfield, Illinois

	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.	2B	3B	HR	SB
Bowen, cf	8	0	5	4	.625	1	1	0	1
Register, rf	7	1	3	0	.429	0	0	0	0
Musashe, 2b	5	1	2	0	.400	0	0	0	0
Branam, c	8	1	2	1	.250	0	0	0	0
Greenhalgh, 1b	9	1	2	3	.222	0	0	1	0
Darden, dh	8	1	1	0	.125	0	0	0	0
Felts, lf	8	1	1	0	.125	0	0	0	0
Bishop, 3b	2	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Sumner, 3b	4	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Alford, 2b	4	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Reeves, ss	5	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
VSC TOTALS	68	9	16	8	.235	1	1	1	1
OPPONENTS	61	14	20	14	.328	1	1	1	1

	G	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W-L	ERA
Petty	1	8	6	1	0	1	3	0-1	0.00
Chadwick	1	3.1	5	3	3	3	1	0-0	8.11
Parsons	1	1.1	3	2	2	2	0	0-0	13.53
McDiffitt	1	3	4	5	5	3	2	0-1	15.00
LeFiles	1	0.1	2	3	3	1	0	0-0	81.00
TOTALS	2	16	20	14	14	10	6	0-2	7.88
OPPS.	2	18	16	9	9	8	11	2-0	4.50

June 1 @ Springfield, Ill.

	123	456	789	R	H	E
Valdosta State .....	030	040	020	- 9	8	0
New Orleans .....	300	520	30x	-13	14	0

McDiffitt, LeFiles (4), Parsons (4), Chadwick (5) & Branam; Kieffer, Mills (8) & Miller. (Bowen 3x4, 2b, 3b, 4 rbi's; Register 2x4; Greenhalgh HR, 3 rbi's) WP- Kieffer (14-0), LP- McDiffitt (5-1)

June 2 @ Springfield, Ill.

	123	456	789	R	H	E
Valdosta State .....	000	000	000	- 0	8	1
New Haven .....	000	001	00x	- 1	6	1

Petty & Branam; Pulit, Powers (8) & Menswar. (Bowen 2x4) WP- Pulit (9-1), LP- Petty (11-2)

Other Scores

UC-Irvine 6, New Haven .. 2  
 Central Missouri State 2, Ohio Northern .. 0  
 UC-Irvine 8, Ohio Northern .. 1  
 New Orleans 6, Central Missouri State .. 2  
 New Haven 4, Central Missouri State .. 0  
 UC-Irvine 12, New Orleans .. 6  
 New Orleans 5, New Haven .. 3  
 New Orleans 7, UC-Irvine .. 6  
 UC-Irvine 14, New Orleans .. 1

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"Final Records of all Tournament Teams"

	- tourney -			- all games -		
	Won	Lost	Pct.	Won	Lost	Pct.
Valdosta State .....	3	1	.750	38	11	.776
Eckerd .....	3	2	.600	30	12	.714
Rollins .....	1	2	.333	29	20	.592
Florida Southern .....	0	2	.000	23	15	.605
UC-Irvine .....	4	1	.800	48	8	.857
New Orleans .....	4	2	.667	34	14	.708
New Haven .....	2	2	.500	26	8	.765
Central Missouri State ..	1	2	.333	30	14	.682
Valdosta State .....	0	2	.000	38	13	.745
Ohio Northern .....	0	2	.000	23	9	.719



# BLAZER BASEBALL, 1974

by Mike Chason

"Pitching is our key to victory." No, Sandy Koufax did not say it or Bob Gibson or even Curt Gowdy. This is the philosophy of VSC's very own head baseball coach, Tommy Thomas.

According to Thomas, the Blazers have the hitters to produce another national tournament team comparable to last year's NAIA third Place winners. However pitching is still a question mark at this point.

In his own words, "If our hitting holds up like it has the past two weekends, the entire season will rest on pitching. I know that's putting the pressure on these guys, but with the type of competition we face, these men will carry a heavy load."

Valdosta State suffered heavily via the graduation route last year as Blazer standouts Frank Sumner, Steve Jones, Bobby Tripp, Terry Fields, Bob White, and Pat Arnett used up their eligibility. This group includes the entire infield, and the top pitcher and catcher from the 1973 team which went 43-14.

Returning regulars include Gene Felts, Sam Bowen,

Jerome Register, Dan Chadwick, and Marty LeFiles. Also returning are Vince Musashe, Pete Reeves, Marty Bishop, Ralph Starling, Darrell Branam, and Rick Bowers.

Two-time NAIA First team All America Gene Felts, Sam Bowen, and Jerome Register will man the outfield capably enough but the infield is wide open.

At first base, Jeff Greenhalgh and Jerry Dennis will be battling it out with Dennis getting the call for the first seven games since

Greenhalgh will be ineligible. The other three infield spots are definitely up for grabs.

Newcomers Steve Sumner from ABAC, Bill Parsons from South Ga., and Dan Alford will vie for these positions along with Marty Bishop, Pete Reeves, and Vince Musashe.

Of this group, Thomas said, "All have played well at times, but I'm looking for consistency, particularly in the hitting dept. I'm going to play the man who hits the ball. None of these guys will hurt us defensively."

"For example," he continued, "there is not a

better defensive player on the team than Reeves, but right now Vince is hitting the ball better. If we were starting today, Dan Alford would have to play somewhere because of his hitting so far. Of course, nothing is definite yet."

Sophomore Darrell Branam appears to have the catcher's job sewed up, but Chipola J.C. transfer Foster Foran and rookie Jim Roquemore from Lakeland, Ga. are also available for duty. Foran will also see action from the mound.

Dan Darden, Bill Petty, Steve McDiffit, Tony Ferrara, Foran and Larry Felts will join Chadwick, Bowen, LeFiles, and Bowers to form the VSC hurlers. LeFiles will again assume his role as chief reliever. He was extremely effective in this category last season. Chadwick was undefeated last year, and Bowen was the tournament hero as he came through time after time to pull the Blazers to victory.

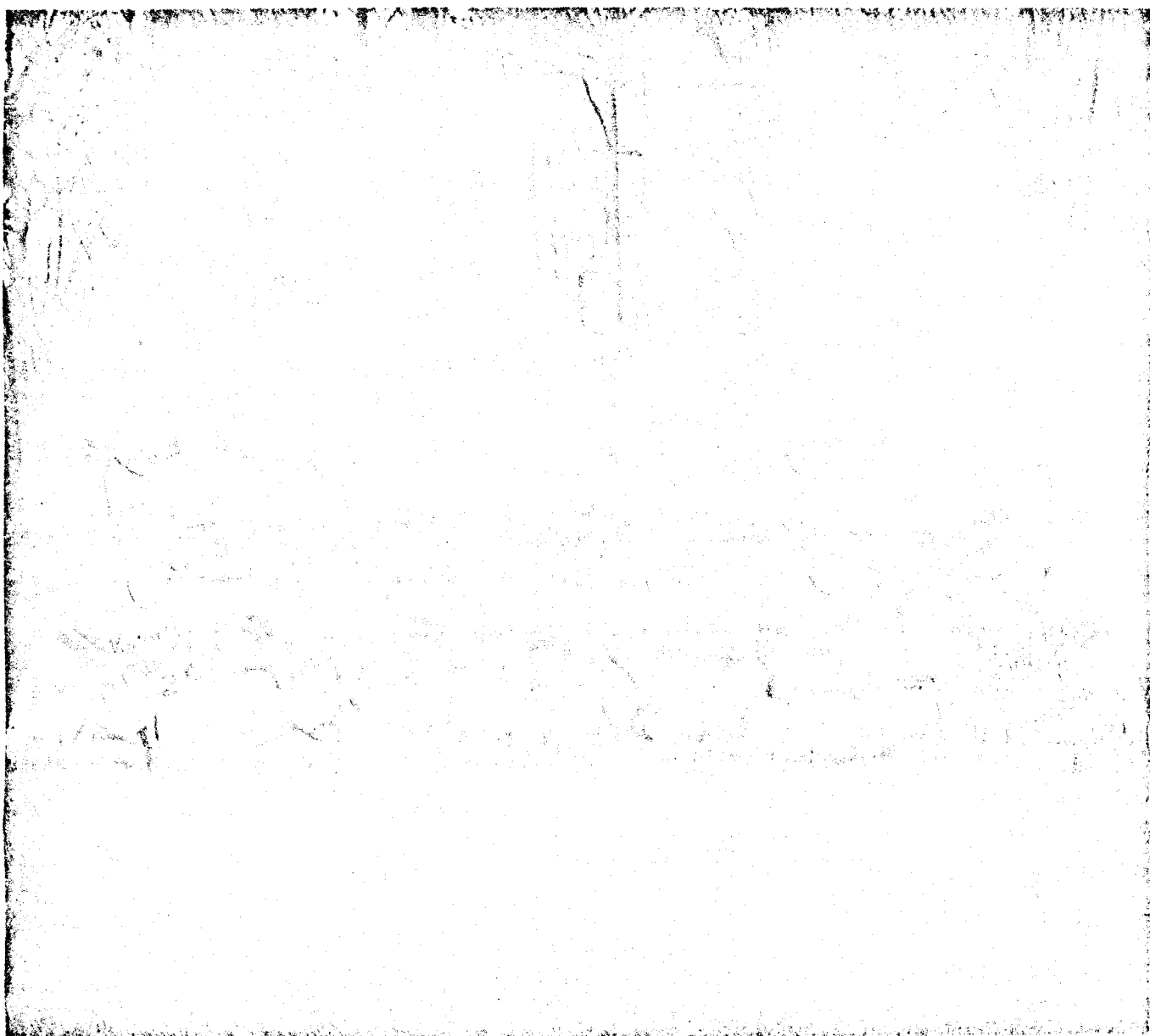
So far, Coach Thomas and his able assistant Dave Waples have tentatively tabbed Darden, Bowen, and Foran as three of the four starters in the vital South Atlantic

Conference games. Thomas was quick to add, "all of our pitchers will get plenty of chances to show what they can do. Everything is subject to change."

Concerning the schedule, Thomas had his usual comment, "It's the toughest we have ever faced." According to the only bachelor coach at VSC, the Blazers never have an "easy" schedule but somehow they always come out with more than their share of victories.

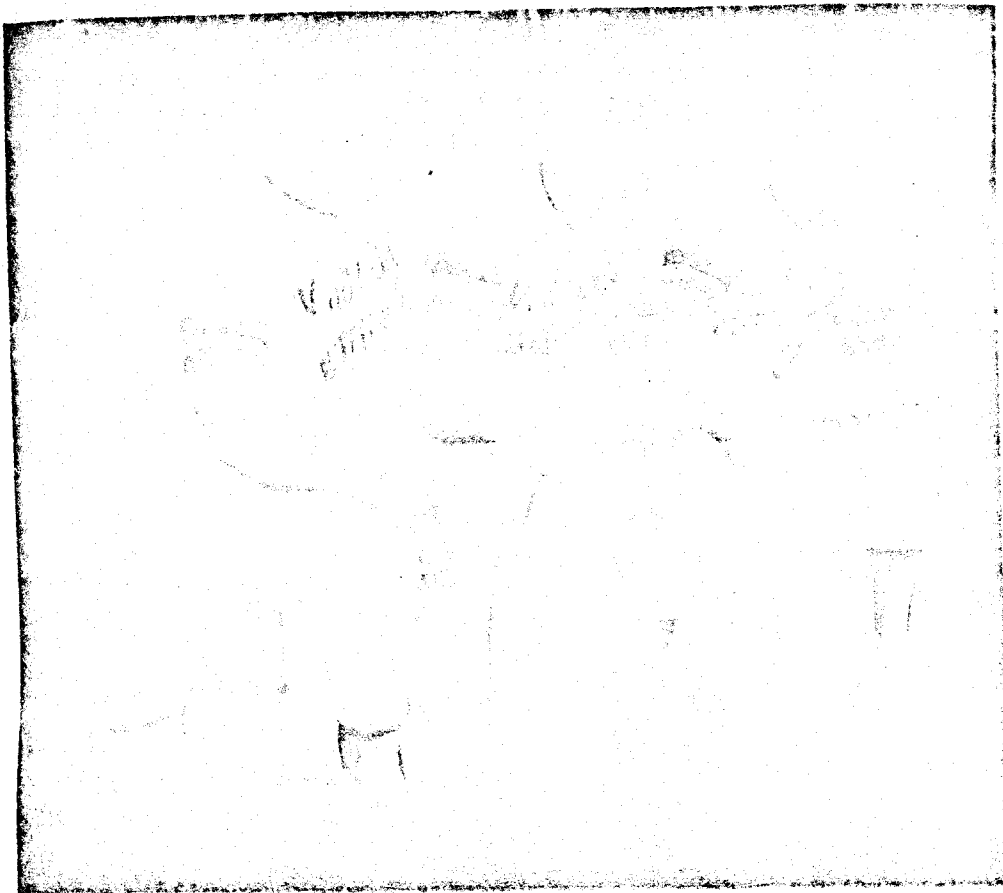
Vanderbilt, the defending SEC champ, Ga. Southern, sixth in the nation last year, and always tough Florida State are only a few of the major baseball powers which VSC must face this season. In the conference, Thomas picked Armstrong and Columbus as the teams to beat.

VSC will campaign as an NAIA independent again this year. As in the past, the top rated independent will play in the District 25 tourney and advance to the Area V playoffs, at Knoxville. The winner there will travel on to the NAIA National Tournament.



#### THE 1974 BLAZERS

Front Row from left--Lark Hahn, Vince Musashe, Marty Bishop, Steve Ferrera, Larry Felts, and Darrell Branam. Second Row from left--Bill Petty, Sam Bowen, Gene Felts, Steve Sumner, Dan Chadwick, Bill Parsons, and Dan Darden. Third Row from left--Jerome Register, Rick Bowers, Dan Alford, Ralph Starling, Marty LeFiles, Steve McDiffit, and Manager Larry Renew. Top Row from left--Assistant Coach Dave Waples, Head Coach Tommy Thomas, Foster Foran, Jerry Dennis, Jeff Greenhalgh, Thomas Drazdowski, and Ralph Johnson.



The Blazer coaching staff and two-time NAIA All-American Gene Felts are all set for the upcoming campaign.

## Baseball Blazers Test Hawks As College Season Opens Sat.

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta State College's baseball Blazers take on a Shorter College Hawk team they have played for the past three seasons in the NAIA District 25 tournament in the first game of a 54 game season here

The Blazers, who last year compiled a 43-14 record along with a third place finish in the NAIA World Series in Phoenix, Ariz., begin their seventh year under Coach Tommy Thomas. Thomas views the schedule as the toughest in his tenure as coach. Still, Thomas is enthusiastic.

"By this time next week we should have a pretty good idea of what kind of team we are," said Thomas. "We know Shorter and Vandy will be top notch

competition and Morris Harvey is well-coached and is a hustling ball club. I think it will be a good series."

Shorter appears stronger on paper than it was last season when the Hawks were 25-5 with two losses coming in the district tourney.

Vanderbilt, whom the Blazers play in a Sunday twinbill

beginning at 1:30 p. m., is coming off its most successful season ever, last season compiling a 36-13 record for the Southeastern Conference title.

Saturday's doubleheader with Shorter starts at 1 p. m. All the games are to be played at Blazer Field on North Patterson Street, adjacent to Valdosta Junior High School.

# Baseball Starts Saturday

By Mike Chason

Valdosta State has ended its exhibition season with a sparkling 12-2 mark for the campaign.

Last weekend, the Blazers split with South Georgia on Friday, winning 4-1 and losing 2-0 in the nightcap. On Saturday, ABAC slipped by the hometown nine by a 9-8 score, but VSC came right back for a 6-2 win in the second game. In the final day of competition, Valdosta chalked up a 5-1 victory in Douglas against South Georgia.

Ace reliever Marty LeFiles led in cumulative pitchers' stats for pre-season play with a 1-0 record and a 0.00 ERA for 12 innings

pitched. Close behind were Dan Darden and Dan Chadwick with identical 1.80 ERA's and 3-0 and 1-0 records respectively.

Ralph Starling and Jerry Dennis punched out nine hits in 20 at bats for .450 averages to pace the hitters. Other sluggers were Dan Alford .448, Jeff Greenhalgh .381, and Gene Felts at .355.

In other categories, Felts led in runs scored with 15, Sam Bowen and Alford had 11 RBI's each, and Alford socked out four doubles to lead the team. Dan also streaked down the basepaths for nine stolen bases.

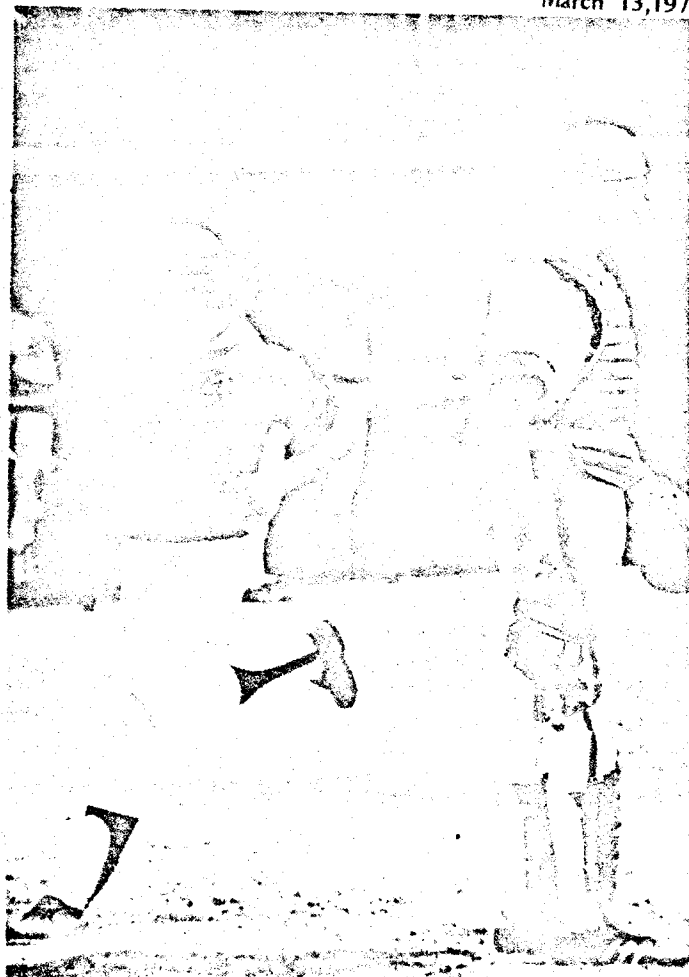
According to assistant coach Dave Waples, the tentative starter for

Saturday's opener with Shorter is Dan Darden with Bill Petty throwing the second game.

On Sunday, Sam Bowen and Foster Foran will be on the mound for a double header with SEC champion Vanderbilt. Against Morris Harvey on the first three days of next week, Dan Chadwick, Rick Bowers, and LeFiles will be ready to relieve as the occasion premits.

At press time, a definite starting lineup had not been decided upon by the Blazer coaches. However the flame red and black clad Blazers will be in action Saturday at 2 p.m. at the VSC diamond on North Campus. Come out and see for yourself!

March 13, 1974



Sluggo Sam Bowen chalks up another VSC run

# Blazers Sweep Opening Games

By Billy Tyler

The Blazers of Valdosta State opened their 1974 season by sweeping a pair of games from the Hawks of Shorter 9-4 and 7-4 here Saturday.

Relying on the booming bats of Sam Bowen, who was 3-4 with 3 doubles, Gene Felts, and Daryl Branum, the Blazers came from behind to take the initial game of the season. Shorter got on the scoreboard first, when Lamar Wright walked and scored on a single by Ken Kezzia. That made the score 1-0 after one. Shorter then strung 4 singles together in the 3rd inning to pull ahead 4-0, and things looked bleak for the Blazers. The 4th inning marked the explosion of the potent

Blazer offense. Bowen drilled a double to left to open the inning. Branum matched suit with another double to give the Blazers their first run of the game. Foster Foran's grounder was mishandled by Bob Rock, Shorter's shortstop and the Blazers had another run. Jerry Dennis followed with a single to close out the scoring and set the score at 4-3. Dan Darden bore down on the Hawks from here on, never allowing a runner past first base. Valdosta's bats continued to pound the Hawks Lamar Wright as they bunched 5 hits together in the 5th to take a 7-4 advantage. The Blazers added their final two tallies in the sixth on a walk to Dan

Alford, Felts' single and Bowen's third double of the ballgame. Dan Darden was the winner, striking out six and walking 3 to set his mark at 1-0.

In the second game, the Blazers relied on a big fourth inning which they scored 4 runs on 5 hits to notch their 2nd victory of the '74 campaign. Valdosta scored first without a hit when Sam Bowen walked, stole two bases and scored on Daryl Branum's sacrifice fly. Shorter tied the score at 1-1 in the fourth, bunching 2 singles and a walk for a run off of Blazer lefty Bill Petty. Valdosta took a 5-1 lead in the bottom of the Shorter capitalized on a spurt of

wildness by Petty resulting in two walks, added a hit and an error to climb to within one at 5-4. Valdosta added 2 more in the 5th on Steve Sumner's and Gene Felts' singles and an error to set the score at 7-4. Petty bore down in the final two stanzas setting the Hawks down 1-2-3 in both to preserve the Blazer victory and gain his 1st victory against no defeats.

Leading hitter of the day were Sam Bowen who had four hits in six trips, four runs scored and 2 RBI's. Gene Felts was 4 for 7 with four runs scored and 1 RBI, and Darryl Branum was 3 for 4 with 2 runs scored and 4 RBI's. The Blazers are now 2-0 for the season.



Felts loses his hat, but VSC wins the game against Shorter on Saturday

# Bowen, Blazers Bomb The Hawks

By STEVE ROBERTS

The booming bats of Sam Bowen and Gene Felts combined with the clutch pitching of Dan Darden and Bill Petty to spark the Valdosta State College Blazers to a twin bill sweep of the Shorter College Hawks Saturday afternoon at Blazer Field.

Valdosta State, opening its 1974 schedule before a large, sunbathing crowd, rallied from a 4-0 deficit to take a 9-4 victory in the opener, then jumped out front early and held on to win the nightcap, 7-4.

Coach Tommy Thomas' Blazers take the 2-0 record into another doubleheader this afternoon against highly-regarded Vanderbilt University. The first game is to get underway at 1:30 p.m. at Blazer Field.

Against Shorter, which also opened its season Saturday, VSC combined timely hitting and daring base running with crucial Hawk errors to produce several big innings in both games.

After falling behind 4-0 and managing just one hit against Shorter ace lefthander Lamar Wright in the first game, the Blazer bats came alive in the fourth inning when Bowen led off with a line drive double.

Catcher Darrell Branam followed with another two-bagger which scored Bowen. After Jerome Register fanned, Foster Foran was safe on a throwing error by Shorter third baseman Johnny Dean and Branam scored on the play, cutting the Hawk lead to 4-2.

Blazer first baseman Jerry Dennis looped a single to left, and Foran scored when left-fielder Randy Hawkins couldn't come up with the ball.

VSC took the lead for good in the fifth with Felts and Bowen keying the rally. With one out, Felts singled and was chased to third by Bowen's

second straight double. Branam rapped a ground ball to short and Felts beat the throw to the plate to tie the game at 4-4.

Register drilled a single to right to score Bowen and Foran followed with a single that chased home Branam. Register later scored the inning's fourth run, teaming with Dennis on a perfectly executed double steal.

The Blazers added two insurance runs in the sixth when Felts singled home Dan Alford and scored himself on Bowen's third double of the game.

Darden, a junior righthander, survived a shaky third inning to record his first win as a Blazer. The hard throwing junior college transfer was touched for four of the eight hits he allowed in the third frame when Shorter scored three times.

Wright, who compiled an outstanding 32-3 record in his first three years at Shorter, was no mystery to Blazer batters after the third inning and absorbed the loss. All four of Wright's career losses have been handed out by VSC.

In the second game Bowen got the Blazers on the board in the second inning when he walked, stole second and third and scored on Branam's sacrifice fly.

After the Hawks tied the count in the top of the fourth, VSC jumped on righthander Vaughn Robbins for four runs in its half of the inning.

Steve Sumner walked and quickly moved to third on bunt singles by Felts and Bowen. He scored the go-ahead run on Bowen's bunt when Shorter third baseman Zane Holland threw wildly to first.

Felts added the inning's second run by again beating the throw to the plate after Alford had grounded to short. After Branam had beaten out a bunt, Register singled home Bowen, sending Branam to third. Branam scored on Dennis' sacrifice fly.

After Shorter had cut the lead to a single run in the fifth, the Blazers added two runs on singles by Sumner and Felts, a Hawk throwing error and another double steal. Sumner scored on the error and Felts crossed on the double steal.

Petty, a freshman and the team's only lefthander, was in control most of the way. His own throwing error got him in trouble in the fifth when the Hawks scored three times. Two of the runs were unearned.

The Grove City, Ohio native allowed only four hits and went the distance, as did Darden. Robbins took the loss.

Thomas, obviously pleased with the two impressive wins, had praise for his entire ball club and singled out Felts and Bowen along with Darden and Petty.

"Against a pitcher with Wright's ability, it is very difficult to come back from a 4-0 deficit. But I kept hoping our bats would come alive," he began.

"The one thing I enjoyed most about the first game comeback and the entire second game was we proved we have the hitting we thought we had. And that's the kind of hitting he'll need

all year long.

"I thought Bowen and Felts lived up to what we expect from them. They showed just how good they are."

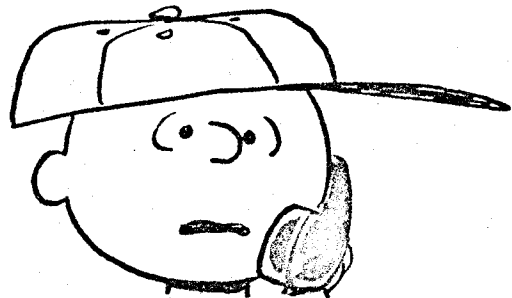
Thomas was also pleased with the pitching, which was tough when it had to be.

"I liked the way Darden battled back, and I think Petty did a better job than the score indicated."

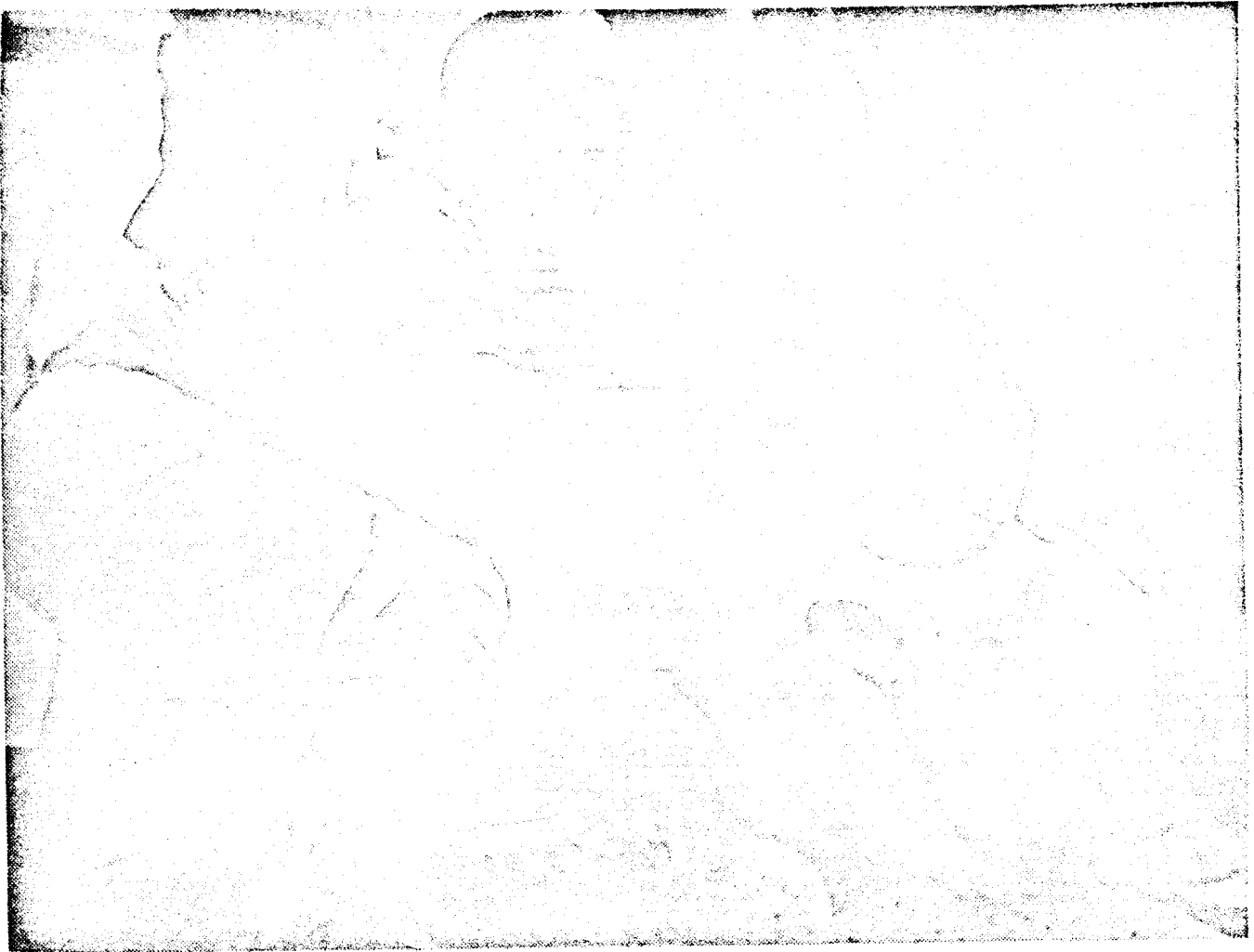
"But overall, it was a team effort. Everybody contributed."

The Blazers will find out more about what kind of team they are today when they host the defending Southeastern Conference champion Vanderbilt Commodores.

Vandy, who was 36-13 a year ago, is 7-4 so far this season. The Commodores split a doubleheader with Florida Friday and defeated the Gators 8-3 Saturday.



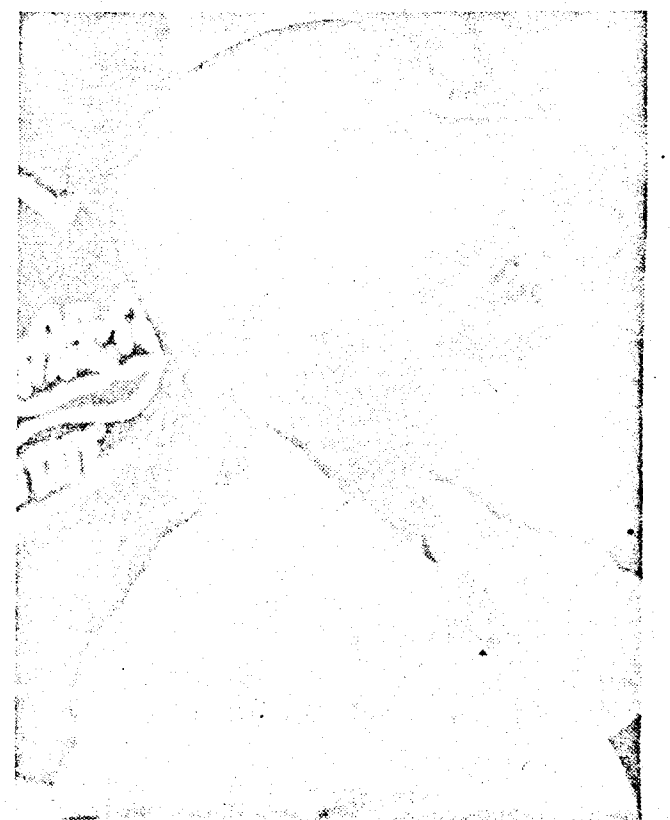
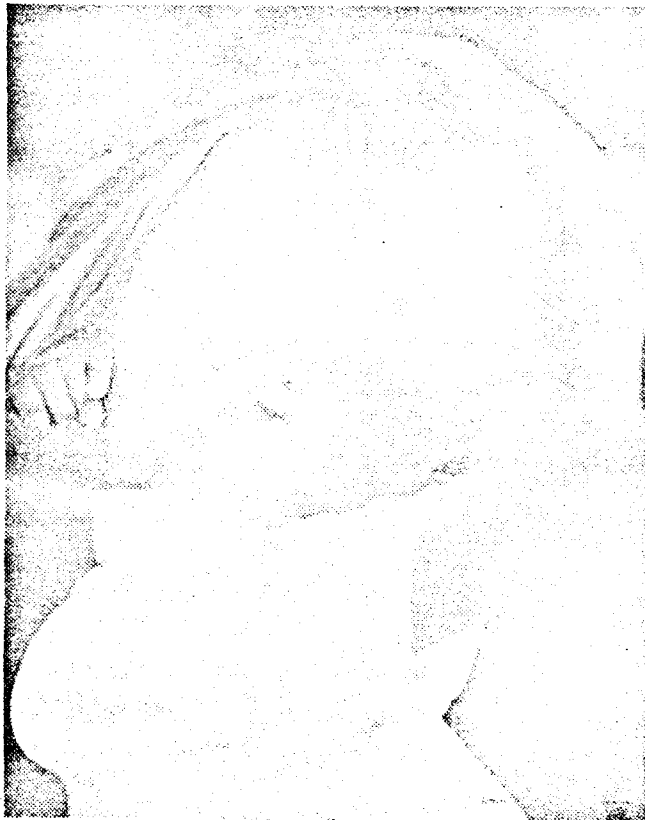
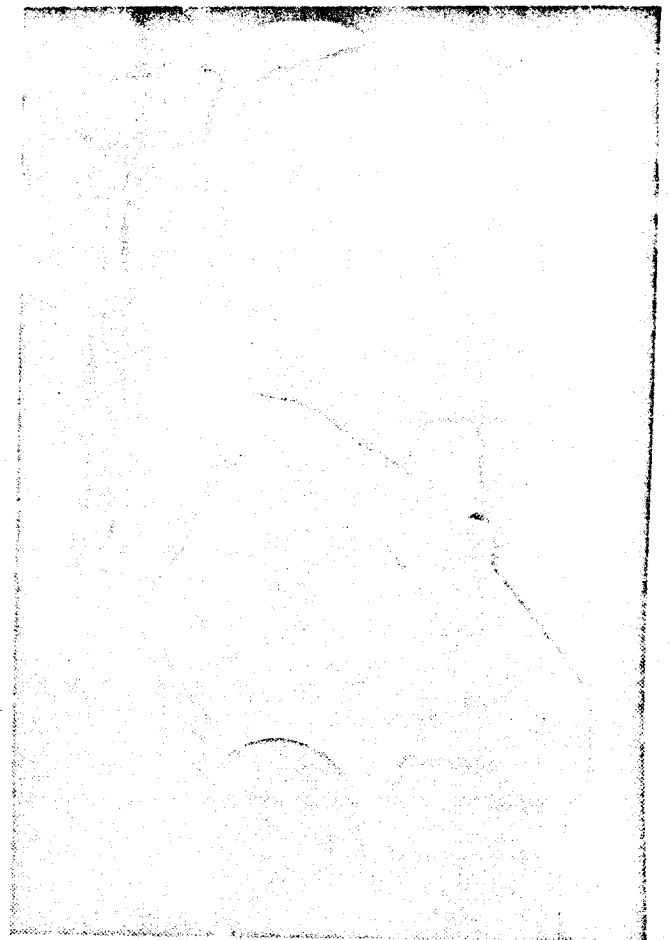
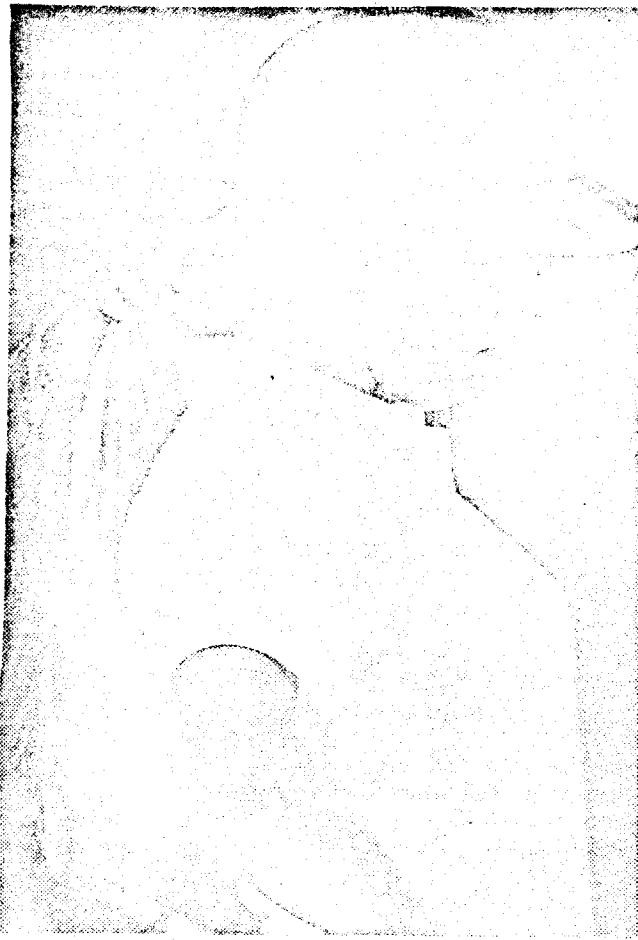
**JIM ROQUEMORE has a problem. Coach Thomas said the team was to leave at 7:50 A.M.; Coach Waples said 10 until 8:00 A.M. "THE ROCK" calls to find out which time is correct?!?!**



—Times Staff Photo

Darrell Branam Awaits Late Throw As Shorter's Vaughn Robbins Slides Safely Home

FIRST GAME											SECOND GAME										
	AB	R	H	REI		AB	R	H	REI		AB	R	H	REI		AB	R	H	REI		
Shorter						Shorter					Shorter					Shorter					
Bruck ss	3	1	2	0		Bruck	2	1	0	0	Wright p	3	0	0	0	Wright 1b	3	0	0	0	
Wright p-1b	3	2	1	0		Wright 1b	3	0	0	0	Robbins p-1b	3	0	1	0	Robbins p	1	0	0	0	
Robbins 1b	3	1	1	1		Robbins p-1b	3	0	1	0	Kizziah rf	1	1	0	0	Kizziah rf	1	1	0	0	
Kizziah rf	4	0	2	1		Kizziah rf	4	0	2	1	Hawkins lf	2	1	1	0	Hawkins lf	2	1	1	0	
Dean 2b-p	3	0	2	2		Dean 2b-p	3	0	2	2	McGinnis c	2	1	1	1	McGinnis c	2	1	1	1	
Hawkins lf	2	0	0	0		Hawkins lf	2	0	0	0	Summers c-of	3	0	0	0	Summers c-of	3	0	0	0	
Summers c-of	1	0	0	0		Summers c-of	1	0	0	0	Holland 2b	2	0	0	0	Holland 2b	2	0	0	0	
Amick cf-lf	2	0	0	0		Holland 2b	2	0	0	0	Dean 3b	1	0	0	0	Dean 3b	1	0	0	0	
McGinnis c	3	0	0	0		Dean 3b	1	0	0	0	Amick cf-lf	2	0	0	0	Amick cf-lf	2	0	0	0	
Johnston 2b	2	0	0	0		Amick cf-lf	2	0	0	0	Farrer 2b	0	0	0	0	Farrer 2b	0	0	0	0	
Totals	27	4	9	4		Farrer 2b	0	0	0	0	Cox 2b	2	0	1	1	Cox 2b	2	0	1	1	
VSC	AB R H REI					Totals	24	4	4	2	Totals	24	4	4	2	Totals	24	4	4	2	
Summer 3b	4	0	1	0		VSC	AB R H REI				Petty p	4	0	0	0	Petty p	4	0	0	0	
Alford ss	3	1	0	0		Petty p	4	0	0	0	Summer 3b	3	2	2	0	Summer 3b	3	2	2	0	
Felts lf	4	2	2	1		Summer 3b	3	2	2	0	Felts lf	2	2	1	0	Felts lf	2	2	1	0	
Bowen cf	4	2	3	1		Bowen cf	2	2	1	0	Bowen cf	3	1	0	1	Bowen cf	3	1	0	1	
Branam c	3	2	1	2		Alford ss	1	0	1	1	Branam c	1	0	1	1	Branam c	1	0	1	1	
Register rf	4	1	1	1		Alford ss	1	0	1	1	Register rf	0	0	0	1	Register rf	0	0	0	1	
Foran dh	2	1	1	1		Register rf	0	0	0	1	Dennis 1b	2	0	0	0	Dennis 1b	2	0	0	0	
Dennis 1b	3	0	1	0		Dennis 1b	2	0	0	0	Foran dh	3	0	1	0	Foran dh	3	0	1	0	
Farsons 2b	3	0	0	0		Foran dh	3	0	1	0	Dennis 1b	0	0	0	0	Dennis 1b	0	0	0	0	
Totals	30	9	10	6		Dennis 1b	0	0	0	0	Farsons 2b	3	0	0	0	Farsons 2b	3	0	0	0	
Innings	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	R H E				Totals	29	7	4	4	Innings	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	R H E			Innings	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	R H E			
Shorter	1 0 3 0 0 0 0	4 7 3				Shorter	0 6 0 1 3 0 0	4 4 2			Shorter	0 6 0 1 3 0 0	4 4 2			Shorter	0 6 0 1 3 0 0	4 4 2			
VSC	0 0 0 3 4 2	x-2 10 0				VSC	0 1 0 4 2 0	x-7 5 3			VSC	0 1 0 4 2 0	x-7 5 3			VSC	0 1 0 4 2 0	x-7 5 3			
Dean, Hawkins, McGinnis						E. Bruck, Holland, Alford 2, Petty					E. Bruck, Holland, Alford 2, Petty					E. Bruck, Holland, Alford 2, Petty					
IP VSC 1; Shorter 1						IP Shorter 3					IP Shorter 3					IP Shorter 3					
LOB VSC 6; Shorter 6						LOB Shorter 6; VSC 3					LOB Shorter 6; VSC 3					LOB Shorter 6; VSC 3					
2b Bowen 3, Branam						2B Robbins					2B Robbins					2B Robbins					
SB Alford, Felts, Register, Dennis						SB Felts, Bowen 2, Alford					SB Felts, Bowen 2, Alford					SB Felts, Bowen 2, Alford					
IP H R ER BB SO						S. Bruck					S. Bruck					S. Bruck					
Wright (L, 0-1)	5	8	7	5	1 7	SP Branam, Dennis					SP Branam, Dennis					SP Branam, Dennis					
Dean	1	2	2	2	1 0	IP H R ER BB SO					IP H R ER BB SO					IP H R ER BB SO					
Darden (w, 1-0)	7	8	4	4	4 6	Robbins (L, 0-1)	5	6	7	4 4 3	Robbins (L, 0-1)	5	6	7	4 4 3	Robbins (L, 0-1)	5	6	7	4 4 3	
HBP Foran (by Wright)						Johnston	1	0	0	2 0	Johnston	1	0	0	2 0	Johnston	1	0	0	2 0	
						Petty (w, 1-0)	7	4	4	2 6 2	Petty (w, 1-0)	7	4	4	2 6 2	Petty (w, 1-0)	7	4	4	2 6 2	
						HBP Kizziah (by Petty)					HBP Kizziah (by Petty)					HBP Kizziah (by Petty)					



## *Hard Hat, Hair And Baseball*

Hanky Prince, a Valdosta State College coed and a bat girl for the Blazer baseball team, tries to decide in the first three photos (above) the best way to wear her long blonde hair under her hard hat, which is part of her bat girl uniform. Some action on the field drew Hanky's attention in the lower right

photo, but she almost missed the play as her hat slipped over her eyes. The series of pictures was snapped during VSC's opening baseball game of the season against Shorter College. The Blazers took a doubleheader win from the Hawks and are to entertain Vanderbilt today at Blazer Field.



# Vandy Cuts Blazers Twice

By JULIAN MILLER

Valdosta State College's Blazers ran into the big bats, tough nosed defense and hard throwing pitchers of Vanderbilt and got a crash course in why the Commodores were number one in the Southeastern Conference here Sunday.

The Commodores squelched Blazers rallies in both games of their baseball doubleheader to take 6-4 and 6-5 victories over the Blazers at the VSC diamond.

A four run outburst in the top of the seventh broke a 4-all tie after the Blazers had rallied to make up for a quick Vandy start in the first game.

Then the Commodores squelched a Blazers rally in the bottom of the fifth in the second game to maintain their 6-5 lead and added two extra runs in the seventh for their second winning margin.

But while Vandy proved it's still a team to be reckoned with, Blazer Coach Tommy Thomas saw enough good work from his Blazers to feel they have the potential for another great year.

"I thought Vanderbilt has a good solid team," Thomas said after the games. "But we certainly did not play to our capability."

"I think we learned a lot about our personnel and what they can do and we can get better."

What did please Thomas was the way his Blazers rallied back in both games.

"We showed ourselves we never will be out of a ball game until the last out," he said. "We did all right with our hitting. If we can get the pitching and defense we ought to be able to win some ball games."

The Blazers will have to do it without starting Catcher Darryl Branam, however, who was taken to South Georgia Medical Center for stitches to close a head wound after a clash at second base at the start of the first game.

His absence at the plate was noticeable even though Foster Foran left his mound for the plate then and had one of his best days ever at bat.

The transplanted Valdostan went four for five at the plate including the only homer and was hit by a pitch on another trip scoring two runs and batting in another pair.

Branam is expected to be out the rest of the week.

"The loss of Darryl hurt us," Thomas admitted. "He was doing as great a job of hitting and defensive work as he has ever done. And we also hated to have to take Foster off the mound. His second inning looked pretty good."

The double loss dropped the Blazers to a 2-2 record in their second day of the season while Vandy upped its mark to 9-4.

Vandy first got on the boards in the top of the first inning when second base man Gene Menees walked and stole second and moved to third on a double steal as Bill Hardin went to second. Menees scored on a wild throw after the steal and Hardin tallied on a wild throw during a pickoff attempt by Foran.

It was the same story in the third inning when Menees singled and scored on Hardin's single. Hardin made it 4-0 on Rick Duncan's one-bagger.

VSC started its move in the fourth when Sam Bowen singled and Foran walked. Jerome Register's triple sent both of them home to cut the lead to 4-2.

But Register wasn't through. In the sixth frame centerfielder Gene Felts singled and came home on Alford's triple and Register sacrificed Alford home, tying the game at 4-all.

But Vandy turned it all around in the top of the seventh when they combined four singles, two stolen bases, a

base-on-balls and a throwing error by Bowen to chalk up four runs.

Bob Latimer led things off with a single and stole second. Menees did the same, sending Latimer home for the winning run. After Hardin walked, short stop Ted Shipley singled and the throwing error by Bowen allowed Menees and Hardin to score. Shipley then ended the scoring on Duncan's single.

Marty Lefites, a Valdosta native who replaced Foran in the third and gave up six runs on seven hits three walks and two strike outs took his first loss of the season. Michael Coyne, a former hurler for the Valdosta Red Sox, took the victory, his second straight.

In the second game, Vandy took the same 2-0 head start as Steve Tinsley and Fred Fisher scored on Martin Garcia's single in the top of the second.

In the fifth, Duncan made it 3-0 by scoring on Fisher's single.

It was in the sixth inning the Commodores won the game however. Garcia led things off with a triple and scored on

Menees' single. Shipley walked and Duncan powered them both home with a single, giving the visitors a 6-0 lead.

VSC's rally came in the bottom of the frame but it was too little and too late. Felts doubled to set the stage for Foran's two-run homer with two outs. Jerry Dennis batted out a single. Ralph Starling followed suit and Hardin bobbed Bishop's hit to send Dennis home.

Starling and Bishop then scored on Alford's single but Felts' pop up ended the inning at 6-5.

Vandy added to extra runs by Latimer and Garcia on an error bing by VSC to end the scoring.

Bowen, who pitched the first 5 1-3 innings and gave up six runs on nine hits and six walks took the loss. Steve Wilson, Vandy's starting pitcher, boosted his record to 2-1 with the win.

Morris Harvey of West Virginia was scheduled to play Middle Tennessee at the VSC diamond this morning before meeting the Blazers at 2 p.m. today.

## Box Scores

	AB	R	H	REI
Vanderbilt	3	3	2	1
Menees 2b	5	3	3	0
Hardin 2b	4	1	1	1
Shipley ss	4	0	2	2
Duncan 1b	3	0	0	1
Chandler If	2	0	0	0
Tinsley	3	0	1	0
Fisher cf	3	1	1	0
Latimer rf	3	0	0	0
Leopard dh	0	0	0	0
Coyne p	2	8	10	5
Totals	23	8	10	5

	AB	R	H	REI
VSC	4	0	1	0
Darden dh	2	0	0	0
Summer 2b	2	0	0	0
Felts If	3	1	1	1
Bowen ss	3	1	1	1
Musashi 7b	3	1	1	1
Felix cf-If	4	1	1	0
Bowen pcf	2	0	0	0
Register rf	2	0	1	3
Dennis 1b	3	0	0	0
Parsons 2b	2	0	0	0
Petty ph	1	0	0	0
Totals	24	4	7	4

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
Vanderbilt	2	0	2	0	0	0	4	8	10	1
VSC	0	0	0	2	0	2	0			

E - Felts, Bowen, Parsons, Foran, Lefites, Tinsley.  
 HP - Vanderbilt 1; VSC 2.  
 LOR - Vanderbilt 3; VSC 4.  
 BR - Alford, Register.  
 SR - Menees 3, Hardin 2, Duncan 2.  
 LF - Latimer, Bowen.  
 SF - Register.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
COYNE (W, 2-0)	6	7	4	4	1	3
Palmour	1	0	0	0	0	1
Foran	2	2	2	0	0	2
Lefites (L, 0-1)	4	7	7	6	2	3
L. Felts	1	3	1	0	0	0
HBP - Foran (by Coyne).						
WT - Lefites						

SECOND GAME				
	AB	R	H	REI
VANDERBILT	3	1	1	1
Menees 2b	3	0	1	1
Hardin 2b	3	1	1	0
Shipley ss	3	1	1	0
Duncan rf	3	1	2	2
Chandler If	3	0	1	0
Tinsley 1b	3	1	0	0
Fisher cf	4	1	2	1
Latimer dh	3	1	1	0
Garcia	4	2	2	1
Wilson p	0	0	0	0
Rhodes p	0	0	0	0
Palmour p	0	0	0	0
Totals	27	8	11	6

	AB	R	H	REI
VSC	4	0	1	0
Alford ss	4	0	1	2
Musashi 7b	3	0	0	0
Felix cf-If	4	1	1	0
Bowen pcf	2	0	0	0
Register rf	2	0	0	0
Petty ph	1	0	0	0
Foran c	3	1	3	2
Dennis 1b	4	1	2	0
Parsons 2b	3	0	0	0
Starling If-If	4	1	2	0
Bishop 2b	3	0	0	0
Reeves pr	0	1	0	0
Summer 2b	0	0	0	0
McDuffie p	0	0	0	0
Ferreira p	0	0	0	0
Darden ph	1	0	0	0
Totals	31	5	9	4

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
Vanderbilt	0	2	0	0	1	3	2	8	11	4
VSC	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	9	3

E - Felts, Hardin, Musashi, Bowen, LOR - VSC 2, Vandy 2.  
 BR - Garcia.  
 HR - Foran.  
 SB - Menees, Hardin, Shipley, Duncan.  
 2. Chandler, Latimer.  
 Bowen (L-1) 3 1 3 2 6 4 6 3  
 McDuffie 2 3  
 Ferreira 1 2 2 0 0 0 0  
 Wilson (W-1) 5 7 3 8 5 2 2 1  
 Rhodes 1 3 0 0 0 0 0 0  
 Palmour 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0  
 HBP - Hardin by Bowen, Bowen by Palmour.  
 WP - Bowen 2.  
 PB - Forehan.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
WILSON (W, 2-1)	5	7	3	8	5	2
Rhodes	1	3	0	0	0	0
Palmour	1	0	0	0	1	0
HBP - Hardin by Bowen, Bowen by Palmour.						
WP - Bowen 2.						
PB - Forehan.						

Mike

Chason

SPORTS

## Baseball Has Arrived

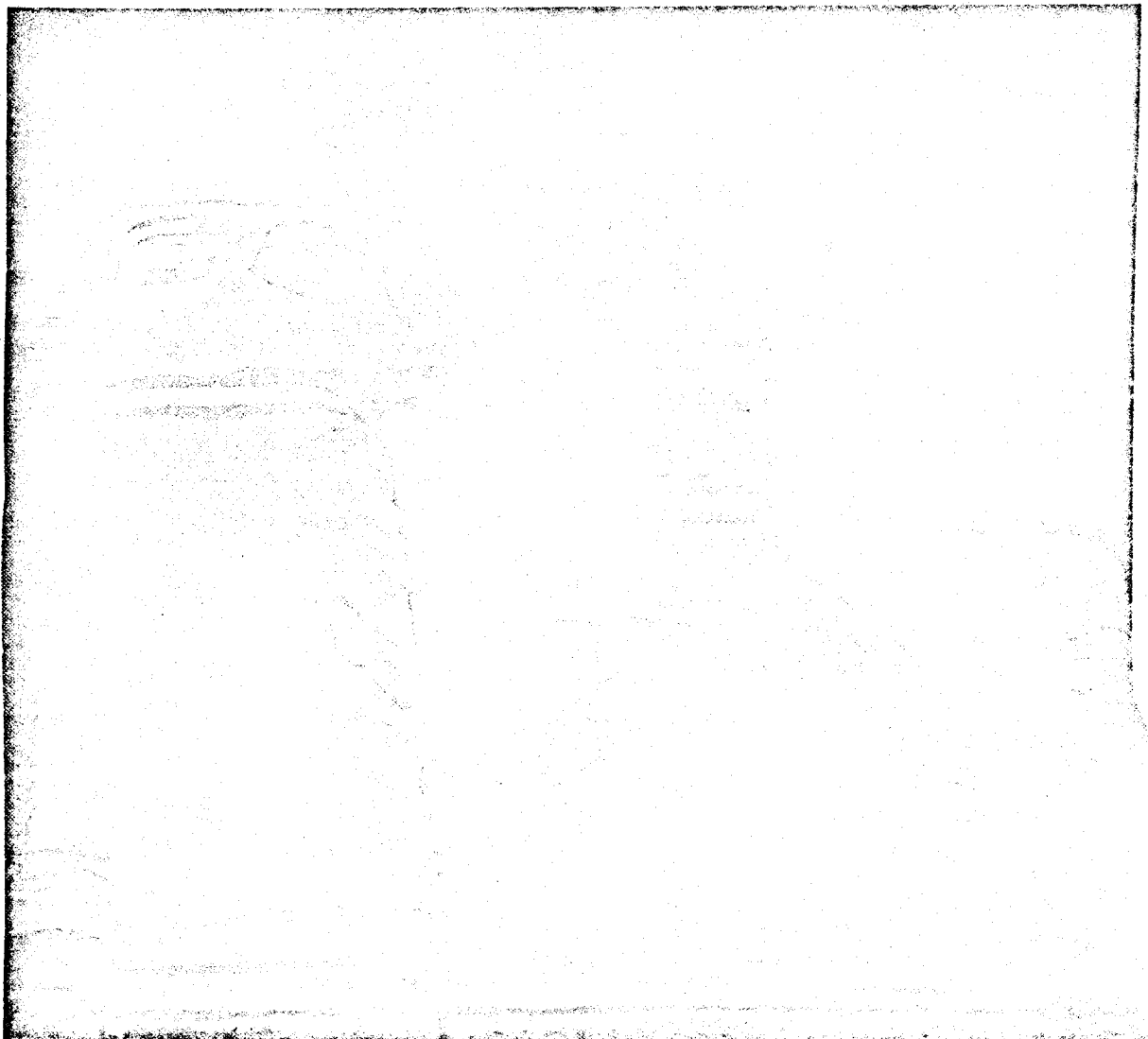
*It was a great day for baseball!! With the sun providing just the right touch of warmth, the car hoods lining the outfield fence were coated by scantily clad co-eds and half naked males enjoying the first hint of spring and a brand new Blazer Baseball season.*

*Coach Tommy Thomas' charges did their part by providing back to back victories over the Shorter College Hawks from Rome, Ga. Sam Bowen and Gene Felts picked up where they left off they left off last year as Bowen socked three doubles and a single to go 4-6 on the day, and Felts cracked four hits in seven at bats.*

The Valdosta Daily Times, Mon., Mar. 11, 1974 —11—

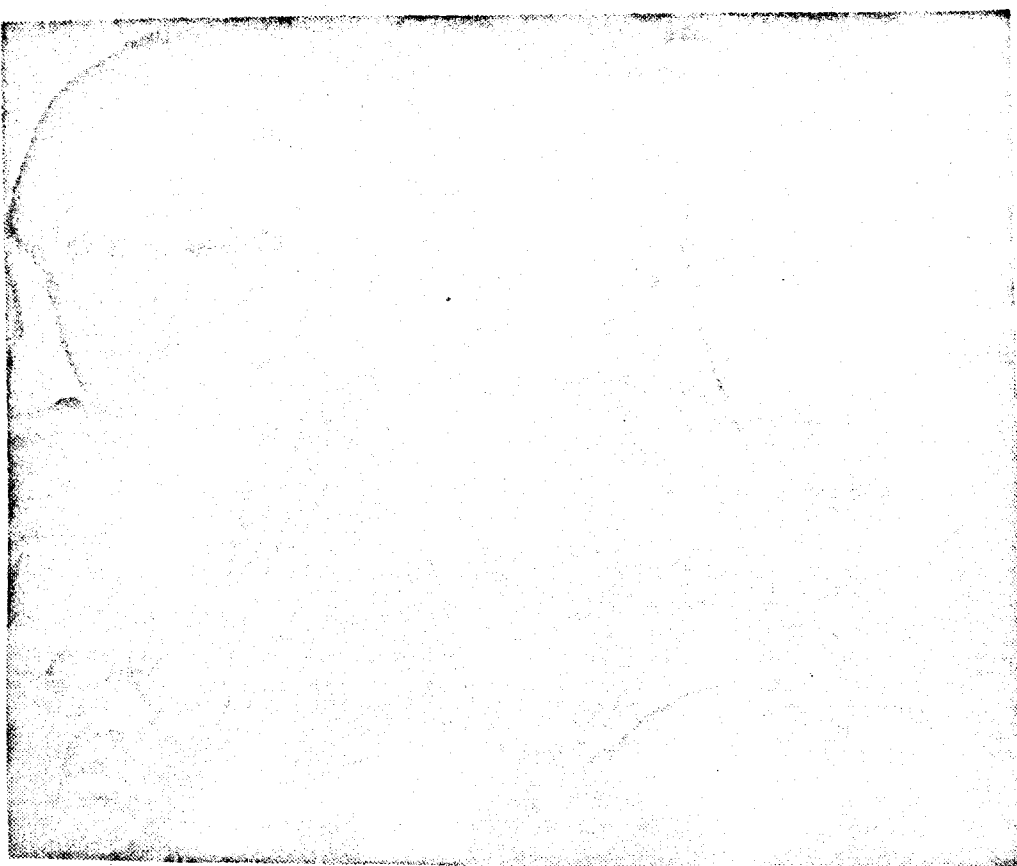
*Dan Darden and Bill Petty both got into early trouble from the mound, but with the offense pounding out hit after hit, they each chalked up a win. Coach Thomas apparently had his team pegged perfectly when he said pitching might be a problem, and our hitting was sound.*

A lively crowd was present for both games Saturday. Hopefully this trend will continue. Last year, although the Blazers posted their best record ever, (43-14), attendance dropped near the midway point of the season. The 1974 Blazers appear to have more hitting and better speed on the basepaths. This combination makes for an exciting brand of baseball.



—Times Staff

Safe: Vanderbilt's Gene Menees Strides For First Base While VSC's Jerry Dennis (19) Awaits Throw



## Grid Coach-Baseball Fan

Nick Hyder, recently-hired football coach at Valdosta High School, takes time out from the rigors of spring drills to attend a Valdosta State College baseball doubleheader Sunday. Hyder, left, talks over the Blazer

situation with Lowndes County businessman and VSC supporter Jack Sullivan. If Hyder looks serious, there's good reason. VSC dropped both ends of a doubleheader to Vanderbilt, 8-4 and 8-5.

## Vandy Takes Two From VSC

By Mike Chason

Defending SEC champion Vanderbilt University upped their record to 9-4 last Sunday with two wins over the VSC Blazers.

The Commodores broke a 4-4 tie in the final frame to defeat the Blazers 8-4 in the first game. Left fielder Gene Felts went 2-3 on the day for a .600 average in the first three games. Jerome Register knocked in three runs with a triple to his credit. Dan Alford also tripled.

Marty LeFiles took the loss for the first time ever in his three year career. LeFiles came on in relief of Foster Foran after Darrell Branam was injured and Foran had to move to catcher. Head coach Tommy Thomas cited this move as a key factor in the game.

"Foran was doing the job, but when Darrell got hurt, we had no other choice.

Out other catcher candidate, Jim Roquemore, is just not ready yet," Thomas stated.

"Of course," he continued, "we were confident Marty could do the job and he did until that final inning."

In the second game, Vandy took an 8-5 win. Sam Bowan got the loss after leaving in the top of the sixth with VSC trailing. Steve McDiffit and Tony Ferrera came on in relief.

Foster Foran led the

Blazer barrage of hits by going 3-3 with a home run. Jerry Dennis and Ralph Starling both went 2-4 to add to the offensive display.

Although only 2-2 at press time, Coach Thomas was not at all alarmed about the season so far.

"We know our pitching could stand some improvement, but we knew that before the season. It was a little shaky in all four games, but we saw some bright spots. All these new

men are bound to be a little nervous. They'll get better."

"As far as hitting goes, I was really impressed. If they maintain this type of hitting, all we need is decent pitching and decent defense."

Thomas also had this to say about the week-end attendance. "We are extremely pleased and grateful to all students and fans for showing up at those games. I hope we can repay them with winning baseball."

**SAM BOWEN's three doubles against Shorter broke the Valdosta State single game record. Numerous VSC players had tied for the mark, with two each.**

# Felts Is A Hero As Valdosta State Rally Succeeds

By JULIAN MILLER

A rally finally paid off for Valdosta State College's Blazers and Gene Felts is a hero again. But the All-America senior didn't plan on a fielder's choice making him one.

Felts' ground ball to second with one out in the bottom of the 11th sent Bill Parsons scrambling home to break a 3-all tie and give VSC it's third win of the season over luckless Morris Harvey.

It was the third time in two days the Blazers, coached by Tommy Thomas, staged

rallies but the first that succeeded after they dropped 8-4 and 8-5 decisions to defending Southeastern Conference champion Vanderbilt here Sunday.

Monday things were different. Down 3-0 to the Golden Eagles inspired by their first win of the season, an 11-4 decision over Middle Tennessee on the Blazer field Monday morning, the Blazers started their scoring in the same frame where Morris Harvey stopped...the seventh.

It was then Jerome Register led off with a single, moved to second when MH second-baseman Junior Amburgy

bobbled erry Dennis hit to that base and moved to third when Pitcher Butch Glover hit pinch hitter Bill Darden with a pitch to load the bases.

That set the stage for a double play on designated hitter Bill Petty's grounder which scored Register to cut the Morris Harvey lead to 3-1.

The eighth frame was twice as successful for VSC: Glover walked his second batter when Sam Bowen led off and Dan Alford's full count single put runners on first and third.

After Alford stole second, catcher Foster Foran, who went four for five against Vandy with a home run,

banged out a double to score both runners and tie the game.

VSC pitcher Dan Chadwick managed to keep the visiting team's efforts to a minimum for the rest of the game but reliver Whitey Ferrell held VSC's at the same point...until the 11th inning.

Ferrell came apart on the mound when he walked Parsons, intentionally walked Petty and sent Steve Sumner to first on the fourth ball to load the bases with only one out.

That set the stage for Felts' RBI. The most Valuable player from the 1973 season

hit a grounder to the centerfielder who tossed the ball to secondbaseman Randy Cappuccino in hopes of a double play.

But Sumner blocked the path to first and Cappuccino's throw went straight up as Parsons crossed the plate for the winning run.

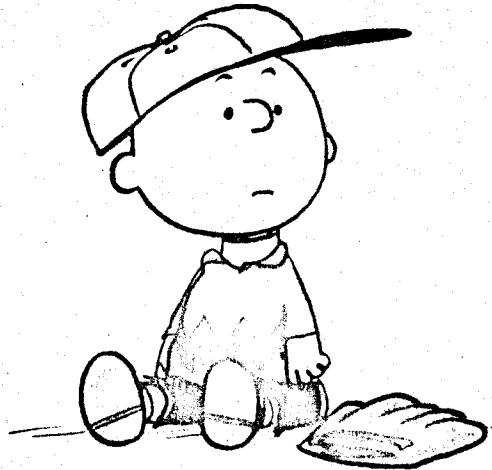
Morris Harvey had taken the edge in the top of the fifth with the use of two straight throwing errors on Blazer shortstop Dan Alford.

Center fielder Ken Given reached on a fielder's choice which cut off Glover going home after a triple. Given stole second before Vic

Alford's first throwing error sent Given home and Garlucci to second. On the next play Alford again threw wide to first to cut off Amburgy and Garlucci tallied.

Given and Garlucci teamed up with a triple and a sacrifice fly in the top of the seventh to give the visitors a 3-0 lead before the Blazers got into the scoring act.

Garlucci, besides going two for four with one run and RBI, held the Blazers in check most of the game with tough defensive play from his shortstop position. He made several super impressive stops on his way to nine



putouts in the game.

Chadwick, in his first decision of the season, gave up eight hits but only one earned run while walking four and fanning five batters. Register and Foran were the offensive heroes. Register, a left fielder from Valdosta went three for five with one run while Foran, whose family moved to Valdosta over the summer, went two for five with two RBIs.

The Blazers and Morris Harvey were to continue their three-game series today at 3:30 p.m. with another game set Wednesday at the same time.

MH	AB	R	H	RBI
Given CF	4	2	1	0
Garlucci SS	4	1	2	1
Amburgy 2B	3	0	1	0
Smoot 1B	5	0	0	0
Freeland RF	3	0	1	0
McCormick LF	5	0	0	0
Cappuccino C	4	0	2	0
Hutchinson 3B	4	0	0	0
Glover P	3	0	1	0
Ferrell P	2	0	0	0
TOTALS	37	3	8	1

VSC	AB	R	H	RBI
Petty DH	5	0	0	0
Sumner 3B	4	0	1	0
Felts LF	6	0	1	0
Bowen CF	4	1	0	0
Alford SS	5	1	1	0
Foran C	5	0	2	2
Register RF	5	1	3	0
Dennis 1B	5	0	0	0
Reeves 2B	1	0	0	0
Darden	1	0	0	0
Parsons 2B	2	1	0	0
TOTALS	40	4	8	2

INNINGS	MH	VSC
1	0000	2010
2	0000	3-8-4
3	0000	1-2-0-1-4-8-3

E. Sumner, Foran 2, Given, Garlucci, Amburgy, Cappuccino.  
DP Garlucci to Smoot Reeves to Alford to Dennis  
LOB VSC 11, MH 7.  
2B Foran  
3B Given, Glover  
SB Given, Alford Dennis  
SF Garlucci

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Chadwick (w-1-0)	11	8	3	1	4
Glover (L-1)	7	0	3	2	2
Ferrell	21	3	2	1	0

H.P. Darden by Glover

VINCE MUSASHE hears his name called, and ponders leaving his sand box.

# Blazers Put It Together To Down Eagles

By JULIAN MILLER

Valdosta State College put it all together here Tuesday and Morris Harvey's Golden Eagles suffered the consequences.

Tommy Thomas couldn't have been happier with his Valdosta State College Blazers as they combined flawless hitting, pitching and field work to shutout Morris Harvey's Golden Eagles 10-0 in the second game of their three-game stand here Tuesday.

"We played about as perfect a game as we could," Thomas said of his Blazers who bumped their record to 4-2 and dropped the Eagles from West Virginia to 1-6.

"As far as the three main facets of the game, pitching, hitting and defense, all of them were flawless."

Besides tying a school record with four double plays, the Blazers found a pitching anchorman in Rick Bowers, a designated hitter in Foster Foran and the chance to play someone besides the starting nine.

Foran, a junior college transfer student from Chipola who moved to Valdosta with his parents over the summer had already slammed the Blazers' first homerun of the season in their loss to Vanderbilt Sunday.

But the pitcher, turned catcher, turned designated

hitter did that and much more in his first day in the role of designated hitter. He reached every time he batted, going three for three including three-run homer and a run-scoring double, with five RBIs.

On the mound, Bowers, a returning backup pitcher from Tifton, showed he could be one of the top men in the Blazer lineup by going the distance in the shutout, giving up only seven hits, while walking two and striking out four.

"Rick did an outstanding job," Thomas said. "He couldn't have pitched much better. Pitching is our biggest concern and he showed he

could really help us.

"And you couldn't say enough about Foran. The season has just begun of course, but Foster has been one of our better hitters every day. That's a pleasant surprise, they didn't use him at bat much at Chipola."

Foran first got into the act in the bottom of the fourth when Morris Harvey pitcher Phil Francis picked up his sacrifice bunt meant to advance catcher Darryl Brannam to third and overthrew first to score Brannam. Foran then found the plate on a wild pitch by Francis to give VSC a 2-0 lead.

The fifth inning was a nightmare for Francis. He

gave up seven hits including Jerry Dennis' double and Foran's homer over the left field fence enroute to a six-run scoring outburst by the Blazers.

Still dissatisfied, Foran continued making the Eagles miserable in the sixth when he brought home singling Gene Felts with a double and in the eighth when he singled to send Felts home again, this time from third.

The Blazers infield showed it was on its toes by picking up three double plays in the first third innings. Shortstop Dan Alford, second baseman Peter Reeves and first baseman Jerry Dennis teamed up for two with Alford

and Dennis taking it alone in the second. In the fourth inning third baseman Steve Sumner replaced Alford and teamed with Reeves and Dennis to tie the school record.

It was a bad day all round for the Eagles who also dropped a 14-4 decision to Middle Tennessee State University, a team they defeated 11-4 Monday for their only win so far.

The two teams were scheduled to square off in the last of their three games at the VSC diamond on the school's north campus at 3:15 p.m. today.

## Blazers Box Score

Morris Harvey					
Given, cf	3	0	2	0	
Carucci, ss	4	0	1	0	
Amburgey, 2b	4	0	1	0	
Smoot, 1b	4	0	1	0	
Freeland, rf	2	0	0	0	
Capuccio, c	3	0	0	0	
Glover, dh	3	0	0	0	
McCormick, lf	3	0	2	0	
Dahon, 3b	3	0	0	0	
Francis, p	0	0	0	0	
Totals	29	0	7	0	
VSC					
Sumner, 2b	3	1	1	0	
Dishop, 3b	2	0	1	0	
Alford, ss	3	1	1	1	
Parson, ss	1	0	0	0	
Felts, cf	5	3	2	1	
Brannam, c	4	1	0	0	
Roquemore, c	1	0	1	0	
Foran, dh	3	2	3	5	
Register, rf	4	0	1	0	
Hahn, rf	1	0	0	0	
Dennis, 1b	5	1	2	0	
Starling, lf	4	0	1	1	
Reeves, 2b	3	1	2	0	
Mushashe, 2b	1	0	0	0	
Bowers, p	0	0	0	0	
TOTALS	39	10	15	8	
Morris Harvey	000	000	000	0-7-5	
VSC	000	261	01x	10-15-1	
E-Mushashe, ...Amburgey, ...Dahon	...	...	...	2-	
Francis 2					
LH-VSC 5, MH 5.					
2B-Foran, Dennis.					
HR-Foran.					
S-Foran.					
Francis (L-0-2)	8	15	1	7	2
Bowers (W-1-0)	9	7	0	0	2
WP-Francis.					

## Chadwick Wins Hard One

By Billy Tyler

A bases loaded error by Morris Harvey in the bottom of the eleventh inning, gave Valdosta State and Dan Chadwick a hardfought 4-3 victory, their third of the season against 2 defeats. The Blazers scored one in the 7th and two in the eight to send the game into extras. Chadwick looked strong in picking up his first victory against 0 defeats.

Foster Foran's 3-run homer, his 2nd of the season, and a 6 run Blazer explosion in the 5th backed the 6 hit pitching of Rick Bowers and carried the Blazers to a 10-0 victory over Morris Harvey, their first shutout of the year. Foran was 3-3 for the day with a double and the HR for 5 RBIs.

Errors plagued the Blazers, allowing Morris Harvey 5 sixth inning runs, all unearned, and an eventual 7-2 victory. The loss drops the Blazers to 4-3. Valdosta

started hot combining Bill Petty's leadoff double and Gene Felts' and Sam Bowen's triples for an early 2-0 lead. After that the Blazers were allowed only 5 scratch singles and the West Va. delegation

went home with their first victory over VSC in a long while. Dan Darden absorbed the loss, despite a fine 7 strikeout performance to set his mark at 1-1.

# Beer or Baseball?

As another season of VSC baseball begins, so begins another season of Spring fun. The warm afternoons of carefree fun lend themselves to the popular student passtime of having a few beers and a snack at the ball park.

And with a prevailing jocular mood, it becomes very easy to throw cans and litter about the grounds and to leave them when the day closes. Our first official weekend of baseball found this the case, as Sunday afternoon the grounds around the outfield fence were strewn with garbage.

But not all of this was the fault of the fans. The three trash barrels located around the outfield fence are not nearly enough to contain the amount of litter accumulated. A more practical number of cans would be ten or twelve. I would like to suggest that the college place an adequate number of trash containers around the outfield and that the fans use them.

Almost all of the trash is recyclable, and with a minimum amount of effort, the aluminum cans could be separated and sold to the Reynolds "cash for cans" unit on its monthly trip to Valdsota. The money from such an effort could go for the upkeep of the ballpark.

If the fans prove themselves unable to conform to such a worthwhile effort, then perhaps the college should begin to enforce the rules concerning drinking and littering at the games. Hopefully such a measure need not be taken, for that action, should it occur, would have a drastic effect on the student backing of the baseball program.

*W. Clint Nicely*

According to THOMAS DRAZDOWSKI, Blazer manager who led a clean-up brigade after the Vanderbilt games, Budweiser was the fans favorite. A distant second was Pabst, followed in order by Miller's, Busch, Falstaff, Old Milwaukee and Red, White & Blue.



—Times Staff Photo

Hit By Pitch: Foster Foran Plays Dodge Ball

Mike

Chason

SPORTS

## The Pros Are Back

On June 5-6 when major league baseball holds its annual summer draft, two members of the Valdosta State College Blazers could be on the list.

Gene Felts and Sam Bowen have both been contacted by several pro scouts this season. Of course, being approached by a pro scout is nothing new to Bowen since he has already been drafted four times. Upon graduation from Glynn Academy in Brunswick Georgia the Cleveland Indians offered him \$2,000 and a full college scholarship.

Sam turned them down after deciding that he would further his education. Later Montreal, Atlanta, and the California Angels offered him straight contracts, but Sam opted for a college scholarship.

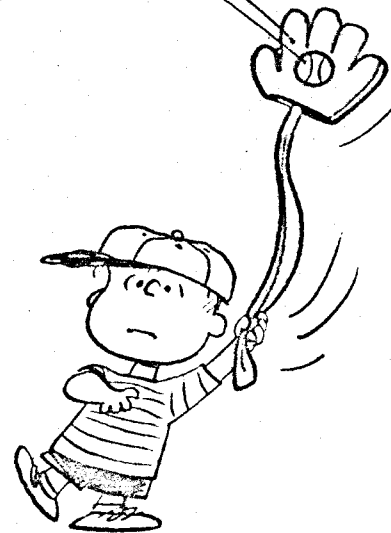
Looking back on the offers now, Bowen said "I don't regret one bit not having signed. I have played three good years of college baseball and I've got my education. No one can ever take that away from me."

Felts had a fantastic high school career batting .408 as a freshman, .462 as a sophomore and .617 as a senior with five home runs. As a junior, Gene broke his ankle in a backyard scrimmage.

With these kind of statistics, it seems that college and pro scouts would be flocking to the little Lakeland, Georgia community. Unbelievably, VSC's Tommy Thomas was the only coach who saw the potential in the 6'2" slugger. "Coach Thomas was the only one who recruited me," Felts said. "The only reason I came to college at all was to play baseball."

Bowen and Felts had good words for Thomas' baseball program here. "Somehow he gets good ball players, but I don't see how since baseball isn't given much money to work with," Felts said.

"Coach Thomas has a winning system," Bowen added. "Without money he can still bring home a winner every time." The two talented outfielders have contributed greatly to that system with Felts twice being named first team NAIA All America, and Bowen leading the squad in homers last year and capturing the Most Valuable Player trophy.



Is it any wonder that  
SAM BOWEN was both  
an "ALL-AMERICAN"  
and the Blazers'  
Golden Glove winner!

Blazer assistant coach Dave Waples feels that both men have a great chance of getting drafted but believes that neither will get the big bonus money.

"The pros look at players a lot differently than we do. They want people they can groom into good ball players," Waples said. "I think if both of them go into it with an open mind and give it 100% they've got a good chance of making it." And now, what do Sam and Gene think about their chances? "I know it'll be a big change from college ball," Felts said. "But I think I can play if they'll just give me a good shot at it. I can't do it sitting on the bench, but if they let me play every day, I believe I'll make it."

"With the guidance of the pro coaches, they might be able to help my game enough to make me a player," Bowen said. "If I don't make it, it won't be the end of the world, but I'm sure willing to give it a try."

Many pro players join minor league organizations right out of high school so the age factor might hurt VSC's two superstars. However, I agree with Waples in that if they so get drafted and go into the minors with the right attitude, we may be watching both of them on the Saturday Game of the Week.





# Blazers Prepared For Rough Going

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

With four wins and three losses behind them, Valdosta State College's baseball Blazers head into the toughest part of their schedule with six games scheduled this week. And they start the series in high style.

The Blazers play host to both Bowling Green State University and The University of Georgia here Wednesday, travel to Atlanta Thursday for a doubleheader with highly regarded Mercer-Atlanta, and return Friday to meet Ashland, Ohio with another doubleheader against Ohio University Saturday.

"We're really getting to the toughest part of our schedule," admitted VSC head coach Tommy Thomas. "These three teams from Ohio, Bowling Green, Ashland and Ohio, are all outstanding baseball teams.

"That fact is born out by what they do every year in the Mid-American Conference. Ohio U. was a big winner last year. Bowling Green is always in contention and Ashland is always a winner.

"Mercer-Atlanta was probably one of the best teams in our NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletic) District last year. I think they went 15-9.

"And of course, Georgia is always very competitive. They usually don't have winning seasons but knock off the big teams. Georgia doesn't win big in the SEC but they beat teams

like Florida State University.

"We've got FSU the following weekend."

The trip to Atlanta Thursday will be VSC's first on the road this season and Thomas believes it will not only be a welcome change, but one of the most important games on the schedule.

"I really think it will be a good break for us," he said. "We've played a lot of home games and we've got a lot to come. We'll be able to tell a lot by playing Mercer-Atlanta."

The doubleheader will be VSC's first against District 25 foes since their opening twin-bill with Shorter.

"We're both independents in the NAIA," he explained, "To get in the district tournament we've got to show we can be better than they are. It's like another conference game for us."

With a little improvement in fundamentals, Thomas believes his Blazers, who finished third in the NAIA national tournament last year, can again turn themselves into a top notch ball club.

"I feel we are still capable of being a real good ball team," he said. "A lot depends on how sound we become fundamentally, especially defen-

sively fundamentally.

"In other words we can still become a good ball club. But a lot depends on defense and if the pitching continues to come through like the way it has been."

Rick Bowers' 10-0 shutout win over Morris Harvey impressed Thomas, as did Bill Petty's four hit win over Shorter.

"Dan Chadwick showed he can win an 11-inning game against Morris Harvey," Thomas added. "And Dan Darden lost a heart breaker in a defensive lapse. He's leading the team in strikeouts. When you're striking out people you've got to have something on the ball."

The only real setback for the Blazers is at the plate. They can't depend on using Foster Foran, a right handed junior transfer student from Marianna, Fla., who has turned into the team's best hitter. He chipped a bone in his left hand sliding during his five-RBI outburst against Morris Harvey last week.

He won't be able to bat for a while, but VSC is depending on him for some help from the mound.

The Blazers take on Bowling Green at 2 p. m. and Georgia at 4:30 p.m. here.

## VSC Entertains Bowling Green, Georgia Today

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta State College Blazers head into what head coach Tommy Thomas believes could be the toughest part of their schedule with a mixed doubleheader here this afternoon.

The Blazers, 4-3 so far, are scheduled to take on Bowling Green State University on their own baseball diamond on the school's North Campus here at 2 p.m.

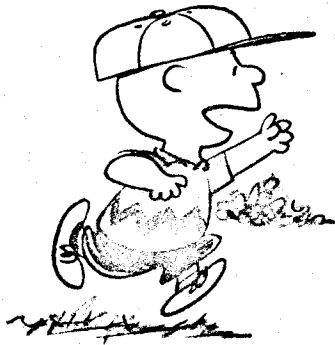
Then they follow it up with the University of Georgia at 4:30 p.m. in the Bulldogs' opening day of the season.

The two visiting teams were scheduled to play each other this morning at the VSC diamond in Georgia's season opener.

"We're really getting into the toughest part of our schedule," said Thomas, whose Blazers took third place in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics last year.

"We have three teams from Ohio this week. Georgia, and a road trip to Mercer-Atlanta. The Blazers travel to Atlanta Thursday for their first road trip to play for a twin-bill which could carry weight in deciding which team earns a berth in the NAIA District 25 tournament this season.

Friday they return to host Ashland Ohio with another twin-bill against Ohio University Saturday. Thomas is counting on pitching backed up by good defense to carry his Blazers through.

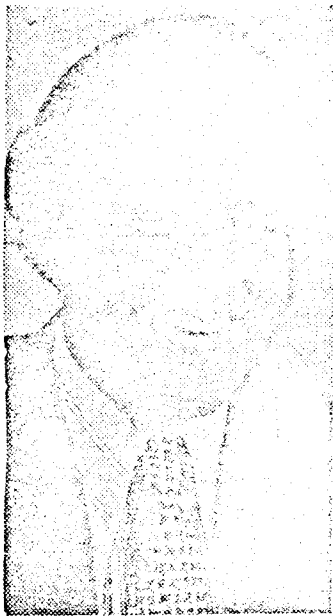


**"PEETIE" REEVES dashes home to Thomasville to announce the news that he has made the team!**

*Could Get 'Em All*

# Felts Going After Blazer Records

If you're any kind of Valdosta State College baseball fan you've heard of Gene Felts. And if you've ever attended a VSC baseball game you know Dave Waples.



MILLER

Waples is the assistant coach under Tommy Thomas. He's the man with light brown hair that raised such a ruckus, umpires seldom walk near him and never very slowly.

And Felts is the senior outfielder Waples says is on his way to capturing every school baseball record.

It's not hard to believe. Felts is a born leader when it comes to baseball. And Waples, a sucker for statistics, has learned the Lakeland, Ga. native led the nation in hits for small colleges last season and was third overall.

Felts had 78 hits last season, one which ended with his being named National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics All-America.

The only two players to top Felts in the country were a player from St. Mary's of California, who hit 85, and another from Loyola with 83.

There's more. The 1973 season, which ended with VSC taking the number three spot in the NAIA national tournament, saw the Blazers tie for sixth in total victories in the nation.

Julian

*Miller*

Times Sports Editor

The Blazers finished with 43 wins along with Georgia Southern and Tulsa. Arizona State led the nation with 59, Southern California had 52. Texas 50, Oklahoma 48, and U.C., Irvine with 44. Rounding out the top 10 were Birmingham Southern with 41 and Grand Canyon with 40.

"With a good year," Waples said, "Felts could break every career record at VSC, maybe even nationally. I'm going to have to write to find out for sure."

The congenial outfielder has already broken the 191 total hit barrier set by Bobby Tripp with 195, extended his career record for extra bases to 59 after breaking Craig Courtney's old record in 1973, and has also broken Courtney's 94 RBI record with 95 of his own so far.

"He's gonna break the most runs held by Tripp,"

Waples said. "He already has scored 126 and the record is 133.

If he hits about .330 this season, he could have his best career batting average, about .340. The old record is .333 held by Noel George in 1955 and 1957."

Felts already has the best slugging percentage (at bats divided into total bases). But that can't be computed until his career at VSC is over. The old mark is .513 held by

(See Felts — Page 27)

## -Felts And Records

(Continued from Page 24)

Courtney.

Felts appears on the way to breaking the most doubles set by Courtney (31). He already has 25. He also leads in most home runs with 10, triples with 14 and total bases with 309.

"And if he has a real good year on the bases he should lead in steals," Waples said. "With a decent year he can hold every one of them."

While Waples is pulling for Felts, so is the rest of the team. As Gene has gone, so have the Blazers and since he became part of the team they have gone nowhere but up.

And with the start VSC has already had so far this season, it could be the year of the Blazer again. So watch carefully, you may get hit with a falling record.

GENE FELTS' final career records at Valdosta State include, most AB's (730), most RUNS (162), most HITS (238), most RBI's (121), most DOUBLES (34), most TRIPLES (18), most HOME RUNS (19), most TOTAL BASES (365).

# VSC Cuts Bowling Green, Falls To UGA

By JULIAN MILLER

Valdosta State College's Blazers got their defensive strategy together to hand Bowling Green University a 3-2 defeat, then lapsed in the same department to take a 3-1 defeat at the hands of the University of Georgia in two games of a three-team tripleheader here Wednesday.

The Blazers turned out an errorless performance to break a 2-run tie with a fourth inning rally to defeat the Ohio team, then chalked up three costly errors against UGA to make the Bulldogs' season opener a happy one.

All-in-all it was a good day for the Bulldogs, who started their season with two straight wins. They had defeated Bowling Green in 3-2 in an earlier game here Wednesday.

The split left Coach Tommy Thomas' Blazers with a 5-4 record and their head coach stressing the importance of strong defense again.

"It's not really disappointing to be 5-4," Thomas said, "but every game we lost we can attribute to our own mistakes. Had we played the type ball games we had hoped to play we would have maybe one loss at the maximum and possibly none."

The Blazers made no mistake in their first encounter with the Ohio team. They found themselves on the road to the victory after a two game outburst in the opening frame.

It was then designated hitter Dan Darden led off with a single, moved to second in an overthrow on a pickoff attempt, and scored after Sam Bowen walked and teamed up with him in a double steal from third. Darrell Branam then banged out a single that scored Bowen and VSC had a two run lead.

Bowling Green started its comeback in the top of the second however, when third



- Times Staff Photo

## Scrambling: Georgia's Joe Herb Lunges Safely Back To First As Greenhalgh Awaits Throw

baseman Joe Meyer led off with a double and scored on Garry Kohorst's single to cut the lead to 2-1. They made a new ball game of it in the top of the fourth when Meyer singled moved to second on an infield out and scored on Jim Owens' single to tie it up at 2-2.

It was in the bottom of that same frame however, that the Blazers took the lead for good. Catchers Darrell Branam led off with a base on balls, moved to

second on Jeff Greenhalgh's sacrifice bunt and scored on Jerome Register's hard hit single to win the game.

Bill Petty, who went the first five innings, giving up six hits and only two runs, both earned, took the victory, his second in as many starts. He was relieved by Marty LeFles, who gave up only one base on balls in the last two frames.

Petty and Darden traded positions in the second game

but Darden couldn't get the same support from his team mates.

Georgia took a two-run lead on a comedy of errors in the top of the fourth and never lost it.

In that frame left fielder Joe Herb walked, followed by Terry Thompson's base on balls. Catcher John O'Conner then banged a hit out to right field where Jerome Register bobbled the catch

While Register ran after the ball, Herb arrived safely to score. A wild pitch on the next batter by Darden allowed Thompson to score and Georgia had a 2-0 lead.

in the fifth.

Baker walked and moved to second on Charles Winslette's sacrifice. Sparky Wilson's single loaded the bases. But Baker took advantage of Darden standing at first with the baseball to steal home

The pitcher noticed it in time to get the baseball to Branam but the catcher dropped it after tagging the runner and the run counted.

The loss was Darden's second in his last two starts, leaving him with a 1-2 record.

Thomas said mistakes at the mounds were as much to blame as fielding errors.

"I call it mistake when we walk that many batters after two outs," Thomas said. "We need to work not to do that."

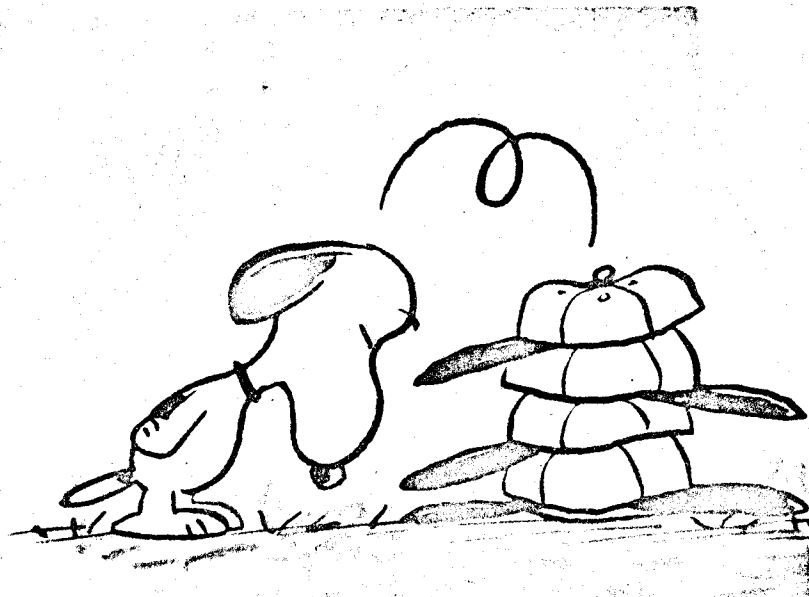
VSC's scheduled doubleheader in Atlanta with Mercer-Atlanta today was rained out and must be rescheduled. The Blazers return to action against Ashland, Ohio, Friday at 3:15 p.m.

Georgia had to rally to regain it's early lead in their morning game with Bowling Green. A double by Jimmy Turner followed by three straight bases-on-balls walked the Georgia centerfield in for the winning run in the bottom of the eighth.

### First Game

RGV	ab	r	h	rbt
Haase, ss	4	0	0	0
Greenhalgh, rf	2	0	0	0
Selso, l	4	0	1	1
Meyer, dh	3	0	0	0
Meyer, 2b	3	2	3	0
Kohorst, 1b	3	0	1	1
Owens, c	2	0	1	1
Fox, cf	3	0	0	0
Aprile, 2b	3	0	0	0
Hale, p	0	0	0	0
Prillman, p	0	0	0	0
Totals	27	2	6	2
VSC	ab	r	h	rbt
Darden, dh	3	1	1	0
Alford, 2b	3	0	0	0
Felles, lf	3	0	0	0
Powen, cf	2	1	1	0
Branam, c	2	1	1	0
Greenhalgh, 1b	2	0	0	0
Register, rf	3	0	1	0
Washop, 2b	2	0	1	0
Reynolds, ss	2	0	1	0
Petty, p	0	0	0	0
LeFles, p	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	22	3	6	1
RGV	0.10	103	0	24-1
VSC	220	100	x	-3-6-0

E.Hale	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
DP - Haase to Aprile to Kohorst.						
LOB - RGV 7, VSC 4.						
2B - Selso, Meyer, Owens, Bowen.						
SB - Darden.						
S - Greenhalgh.						
Hale (L-6-1)	4	5	3	2	1	0
Prillman	2	1	0	0	0	2
Petty (W-2-0)	5	6	2	2	2	1
LeFles	2	0	0	0	1	2



**MARTY LeFILES readies his hat for safe-keeping in the red bag, after another fine relief performance**

Second Game		ab	r	h	rbi
UGA		4	0	0	0
Saber, 3b		2	1	0	0
Erker, rf		3	0	1	0
Winslette dh		3	0	0	0
Griffith, lb		3	0	0	0
Wilson, ss		3	0	1	0
Turner, cf		3	0	0	0
Herb, lf		2	1	0	0
Camp, lf		0	0	0	0
Thompson, 2b		2	1	1	0
O'Conner, c		2	0	1	0
Ivie, p		0	0	0	0
Tripp, p		0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
VSC		ab	r	h	rbi
Petty, dh		2	0	0	0
Aford, 2b		3	0	0	0
Felts, lf		2	0	0	0
Bowen, cf		1	1	1	0
Greenbaugh, lb		3	0	0	0
Branham, c		2	0	1	1
Register, rf		3	0	0	0
Bishop, 3b		3	0	0	0
Parsons, ss		3	0	0	0
Darden, p		0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
UGA		500 210	11	3-4-0	
VSC		050 100	1-2-3		

E - Register, 2, Branham.  
 DP - Thompson to Wilson to Griffith.  
 LOR - VSC 6, UGA 7.  
 2B - Branham.  
 SB - Wilson.  
 S - Winslette, O'Conner.

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Ivie (W-1)	5	1	3	2	1	1
Tripp	1	2	3	0	0	0
Darden (L-2)	7	4	3	1	5	3
BALK - Ivie.						
WP - Darden.						
PB - O'Conner.						

## VSC - Ashland Set Battle Here Today

BY TIMES STAFF WRITER

Looking for consistency, Valdosta State College's Blazers take on Ashland College of Ohio here today in a college baseball game.

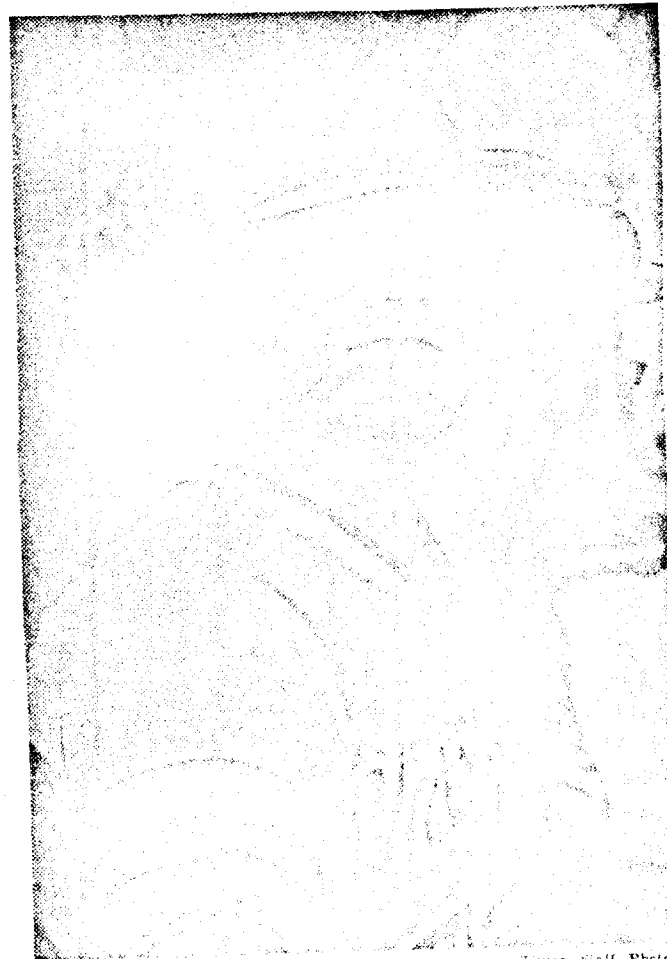
And head coach Tommy Thomas is hoping to see the wind of play that put his Blazers on top in five of their first nine games, and not the type play they have shown in the past four losses.

Thomas complained after VSC's 3-1 loss to the University of Georgia here Tuesday every loss could be attributed to Blazer mistakes in the field.

But he added later, the team has looked impressive in its victories such as the 3-2 decision over Bowling Green University in the same double header.

The Blazers were scheduled to take on Ashland at 2 p.m. today at the Blazer diamond on the school's North Campus before taking on another Ohio team, Ohio University, in a doubleheader Saturday at 2 p.m.

Sunday, they get back to area action playing host to Mercer of Atlanta in another twin-bill beginning at 2 p.m.



-Times Staff Photos

## Country Ball Player

Off hand you might suspect him of being just a country ball player, and you'd be partly right. Times Photographer Ken Klanicki caught Valdosta State College center fielder Sam Bowen clowning around during the VSC - Ashland, Ohio game Saturday. When he's not clowning around, Bowen is the field leader for the Blazers.

# Blazers Ramble Past Ashland

By MIKE CHASON

Ashland pitcher Jerry May held Valdosta State's Blazers in check for four innings, but VSC exploded for three runs in the fifth and four more in the seventh to take a 7-2 win over the visitors here Friday.

Senior Rick Bowers allowed only six hits on the way to picking up his second victory in as many starts this year. May was the loser lowering his record to 0-1.

"I was real pleased with the way Bowers threw today. In fact, I was satisfied with the whole team's performance," said VSC head coach Tommy Thomas.

"Our defense looked a lot better. They made some good plays and eliminated a lot of mistakes.

"Overall the hitting turned out well, although we did get a real slow start. We could have blown the game open earlier, but I'm not complaining. They did a good job."

Neither team scored until the top of the fourth inning when Cliff Zunic of Ashland lashed a hit to right field and scored when Steve Ickes drove him home with a double.

The Ohio team registered another run in the next frame after Ralph Tomassi walked, stole second, went to third on a fielder's choice, and crossed the plate on a wild pitch by Bowers.

The Blazers finally got their scoring machine cranked up in the bottom of the fifth when Ralph Starling led off with a sharp single to center.

He advanced to second on a passed ball, and came home after Rete Reeves' sacrifice bunt was thrown wild by May.

Dan Alford followed with another single, and Felts walked to load the bases with nobody out.

At this point, relief pitcher Tom Wolford entered the picture. He promptly walked Bowen and Darrell Branam, and gave up hits to Jeff Greenhalgh and Jerry Dennis.

When the dust cleared, VSC had added four runs to their total, and Wolford had retired for the day.

In the ninth, Ashland loaded the bases with two outs, but Larry Felts came on the mound to quell the uprising, and the Blazers had their seventh win against four losses.

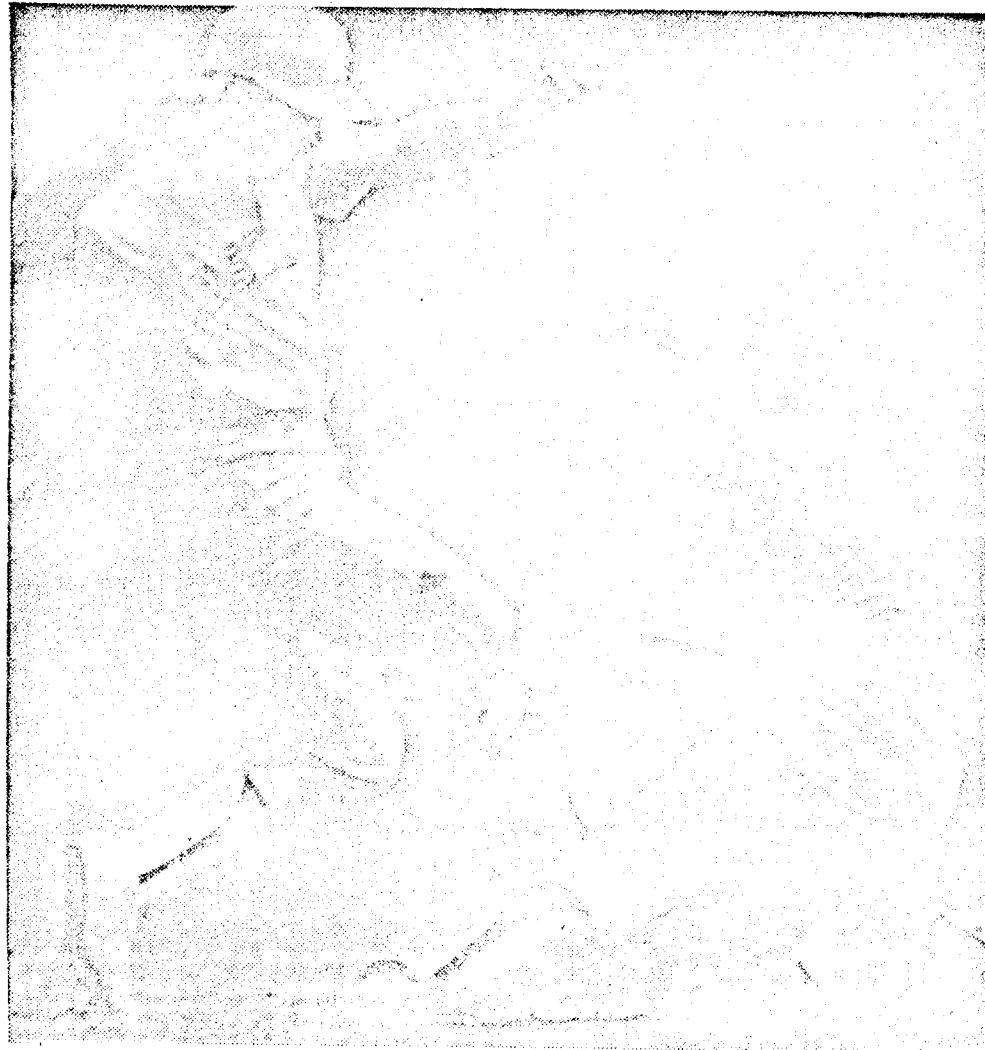
Sumner, Felts, and Greenhalgh paced the Valdosta State hitting attack with two hits apiece. Jim Rey and Steve Ickes also had a pair of hits for Ashland.

Branam hit the longest ball of the day when he lofted an apparent home run over the left field fence in the fourth inning. Unfortunately, a time out had been called before the pitch.

The Blazer nine was to face Ohio University in a doubleheader today at the Blazer field with a 1 p.m. starting time.

Dan Chadwick was scheduled to hurl the first game, and Foster Foran was tabbed for the nightcap.

Ohio University is the perennial Mid-American conference champion. Last year, they were 28-9 on the year.



Tiptoe To Second: Ashland's Cliff Zunic Dances Safely To Base

All-America Gene Felts cracked a double to the base of the left field fence to bring Reeves home, and Sam Bowen duplicated Felts' feat in his turn at bat to score his outfield partner.

In the seventh, Steve Sumner picked up his second hit of the day on a single up the middle.

## Box Score

Ashland	ab	r	h	rbt
Rey cf	3	0	2	0
Florence 2b	4	0	1	0
Zunic ss	5	1	1	0
Litteral lf	4	0	0	0
Ickes 1b	3	0	2	1
Groth lf	2	0	0	0
Frank 2b	4	0	0	0
Tomassi dh	3	1	0	0
May p	3	0	0	0
Wolford p	0	0	0	0
Petichord p	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	27	2	6	1
Valdosta State	ab	r	h	rbt
Sumner 2b	5	1	2	0
Alford 2b	3	1	1	0
Felts lf	4	2	2	1
Powers cf	3	1	1	2
Greenhalgh 1b	5	0	2	1
Tranham c	3	0	0	0
Dennis dh	4	0	1	1
Starling rf	3	1	1	0
Reeves ss	3	1	1	0
Bowers p	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	35	7	11	6

INNINGS  
 Ashland 000 110 000 0-2 6-1  
 VSC 000 000 400 X-7 11-1  
 E. Reeves, Rupert  
 LOB VSC 1, Ashland 11  
 RB Ickes 2, Sumner, Felts, Bowen  
 SB Rey, Tomassi, Alford, Felts,  
 S Alford, Reeves

	ip	r	h	nn	an
May 1 (6-1)	6	0	5	4	4
Wolford	1	2	1	2	1
Petichord	1	1	0	0	0
Bowers W (2-0)	82:3	6	2	6	3
Felts	1:3	0	0	0	0
RPB Florence (By Bowers), Alford (By Petichord)					
WP Bowers					
PB Branam, Groth					

-Times Staff Photo

# VSC Wins Nightcap For Twin Bill Split

By JULIAN MILLER

Ohio University's Dave Tobik guarded the mound while Bobcat batters assaulted Valdosta State College pitchers for 11 hits enroute to a 7-0 shutout here Saturday.

But they then had to suffer through the same treatment from the Blazers in the second game as the two schools split a college baseball doubleheader.

Righthander Dave Tobik led the Bobcats from both the mound and the plate with his two-hit, two-run performance which included a two-run homer as the Bobcats defeated VSC 7-0.

But Foster Foran was the hero of the second game, going the distance as VSC handed the Ohio team its first defeat of the season by a 5-3 margin.

Tobik, who VSC coach Tommy Thomas termed "one of the best pitchers we'll face all year," gave up five hits and two walks while striking out a dozen Blazer batters in registering his first start of the year.

Foran, a right handed transfer student from Chipola Junior College, boosted his record to the same 1-0 mark going the distance to five up eight hits, three earned runs, three walks and three strike outs.

"I'd have to say we were beat by a real good pitcher in the first game," Thomas said, "one of the best we'll face all season. He deserves credit for the shutout.

But in at least four of the seven innings we had runners in scoring position so we were able to get to him a little bit. We've got to give him credit for pitching well in the clutch. "And the Ohio hitting was also the best we've seen.

"In the second game we have to applaud Foran. He deserves a lot of credit. He was injured most of the season and hasn't had a chance to pitch.

Thomas also praised the defensive field work of shortstop Pete Reeves who made some unbelievable plays, third basemen Marty Bishop and Steve Sumner and centerfielder Sam Bowen, who twice cut down runners going home.

Ohio third baseman Mike Walsh started things off for his team in the top of the fourth inning of the first game.

He singled, followed by Steve Bihl with another single and Topik's intentional walk loaded the bases to set the stage for Jax Robertson's sacrifice fly, scoring Walsh. Emil Drzavich's two-run double gave Ohio a 3-0 lead.

In the sixth inning the Bobcats iced the victory with a four-run outburst on six hits, including Topik's two run homer.

VSC's biggest threat came in the third when a single by Steve Sumner and double by All-America Gene Felts put runners on second and third. But Topik hurled three

straight strike outs to end the threat.

Ohio started a little earlier in the second game, but then so did VSC.

In the top of the second, Steve Harris broke the ice with a double then scored on Doug Nicholson's single and Ohio led again. . . but not for long.

VSC first bagger Jeff Greenhalgh started a Blazer hit parade that brought in four runs to turn the tables.

Greenhalgh's single was followed by Dan Allford's Sacrifice, Marty Bishop's drive down the third base line for two RBI's, Felts' single and two base on balls and the Blazers took a 4-1 lead.

They followed it up with another run by Bill Petty in the bottom of the fourth to end their scoring and allowed Ohio a second run in the top of the third and their third in the top of the seventh.

That's when Steve Bihl slammed his anti-climatic solo home run over the left field fence.

Tempers flared briefly in the bottom of the fourth inning when Foran hit two straight batters with pitches. Both benches emptied onto the field but Blazer coaches were able to quell the outburst before any incident.

The split left the Blazers with a 75 overall record which they are scheduled to take into action here today in a twin-bill with Mercer Atlanta at the Blazer diamond

See VSC . . . Page 15-A

## --VSC

Continued From Page 14-A  
on the school's North Campus.  
Those games are to get underway at 2 p.m.

## Boxscores

OHIO	ab	r	h	rbi
Lybarger, ss	4	0	1	0
Walsh, 2b	3	1	1	0
Bihl, 1b	3	2	2	0
Allen, rf	1	0	0	0
Topik, p	3	2	2	2
Robertson, c	3	1	1	1
Drzavich, 1b	3	0	1	2
Reeves, 1b	0	0	0	0
Brenly, cf	2	1	1	0
Harris, cf	0	0	0	0
Kerber, 2b	3	0	1	1
Godec, lf	3	0	1	1
Thomas, lf	0	0	0	0
Totals	28	7	11	7
VSC	ab	r	h	rbi
Sumner, 3b	3	0	1	0
Allford, 2b	4	0	0	0
Felts, lf	4	0	2	0
Bowen, cf	3	0	1	0
Greenhalgh, 1b	3	0	0	0
Branam, c	3	0	0	0
Register, rf	3	0	0	0
Musache, dh	1	0	0	0
Reeves, ss	3	0	1	0
Chawick, p	0	0	0	0
Ferrera, p	0	0	0	0
Roquemore, p	0	0	0	0
Totals	27	0	5	1
Ohio	000	304	0-7-11-1	
VSC	000	000	0-0-5-1	

E - Bowen, Tobik  
2b - Drzavich, Felts  
HR - Tobik  
SF - Robertson

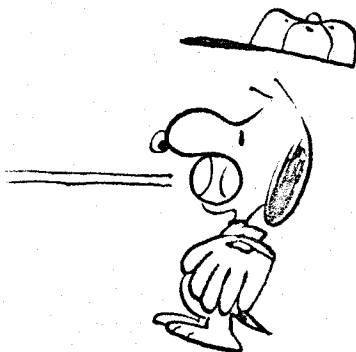
	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Tobik (w-1-0)	7.5	0	0	3	-	-
Chawick (l-1-1)	5.2	3	9	7	7	3
Ferrera	2.3	1	0	0	0	0
Roquemore	2.3	1	0	0	1	0

OHIO	ab	r	h	rbi
Lybarger, ss	3	0	0	0
Walsh, 3b	3	0	1	0
Bihl, 1b	3	2	2	1
Topik, dh	4	0	2	0
Allen, rf	2	0	1	1
Drzavich	1	0	0	0
Harris, lf	4	1	1	0
Thomas, lf	2	0	0	0
Fleming, 2b	1	0	0	0
Kerber, 2b	1	0	0	0
Nicholson, c	1	0	1	1
Robertson, c	1	0	0	0
Corran, p	0	0	0	0
Williams, p	0	0	0	0
Totals	27	3	8	3
VSC	ab	r	h	rbi
Petty, dh	2	2	0	0
Bishop, 3b	4	1	1	2
Felts, lf	3	0	1	1
Bowen, cf	1	0	1	0
Branam, c	3	0	0	0
Greenhalgh, 1b	3	1	1	0
Allford, 2b	2	0	0	0
Stirling, rf	3	0	0	0
Reeves, ss	1	1	0	0
Foran, p	0	0	0	0
Totals	27	5	3	3
Ohio	011	000	1-3-8-2	
VSC	040	100	x-5-3-1	

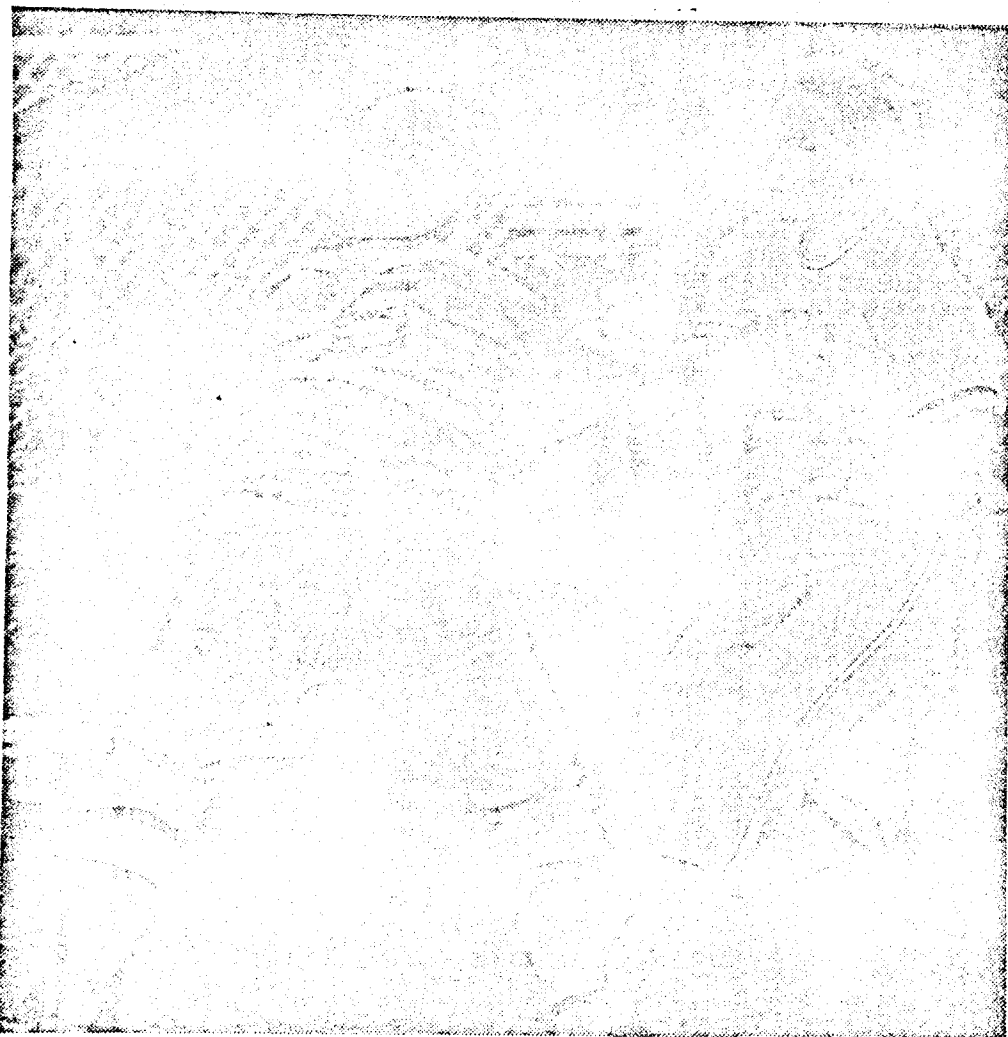
E - Bishop, Lybarger, Waiske  
DP - Bishop to Allford to Greenhalgh  
2b - Harris, Bishop, Bihl, Allen  
HR - Bihl  
S - Allford  
SF - Allen

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Corran (l-0-1)	3.2	3	3	5	4	5
Williams	2.1	3	0	0	0	1
Foran (w-1-0)	7	8	3	3	3	3

HRP - Fleming-Foran, Waiske-Foran  
Felts-Corran



GENE FELTS hit the ball  
hard all year, but it  
never seemed to fall in.



-Times Staff Photos

VSC's Darrell Branam (5) Cuts Down Dale Kerver At Plate

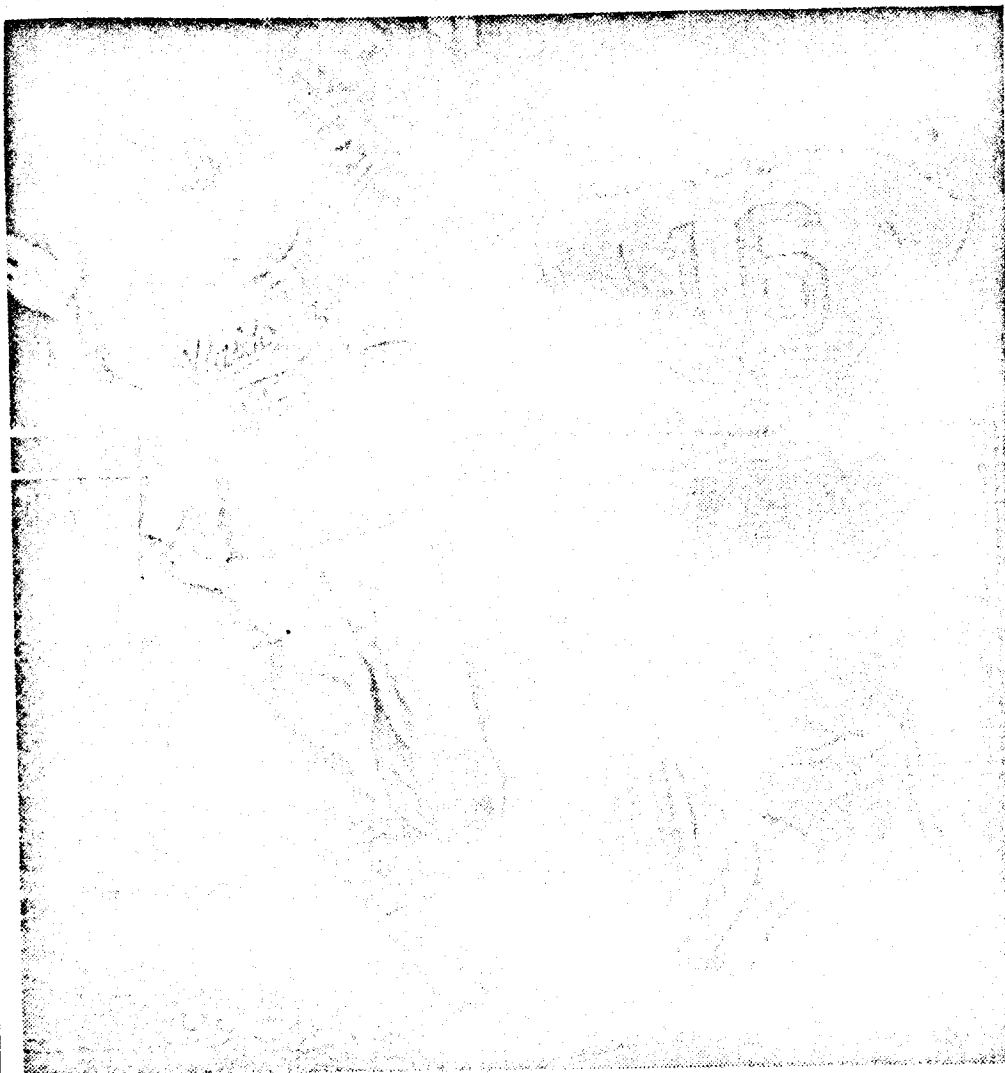
## VSC At A Glance

### BATTING

	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.	2B	3B	HR	SB
Foster Foran	14	5	9	10	.643	2	0	2	0
Jim Roquemore	2	0	1	0	.500	0	0	0	0
Gene Felts	45	12	17	6	.378	3	1	0	3
Sam Bowen	29	9	10	4	.345	5	1	0	7
Pete Reeves	15	4	5	0	.333	0	0	0	0
Jerome Register	33	2	10	6	.303	0	1	0	1
Ralph Starling	14	2	4	1	.286	0	0	0	0
Steve Sumner	26	4	7	0	.269	1	0	0	0
Dan Darden	8	1	2	0	.250	0	0	0	1
Marty Bishop	17	1	4	2	.235	1	0	0	0
Darrell Branam	22	4	5	7	.227	2	0	0	0
Jerry Dennis	29	2	6	2	.207	1	0	0	1
Jeff Greenhalgh	16	1	3	1	.188	0	0	0	0
Dan Alford	40	6	6	5	.150	0	1	0	5
Bill Petty	19	3	2	0	.105	1	0	0	1
Bill Parsons	11	1	0	0	.090	0	0	0	1
Vince Musashe	7	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Lark Hahn	1	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
<b>VSC TOTALS</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>.261</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>OPPONENTS</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>.261</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>

### PITCHING

	G	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W-L	ERA
Tony Ferrera	2	1.2	3	2	0	0	0	0-0	0.00
Jim Roquemore	1	.2	1	0	0	1	0	0-0	0.00
Steve McDiffitt	1	.2	0	0	0	0	0	0-0	0.00
Larry Felts	2	.2	1	0	0	0	0	0-0	0.00
Rick Bowers	2	17.2	13	2	2	8	7	2-0	1.02
Dan Darden	3	23	20	14	7	12	17	1-2	2.74
Bill Petty	2	12	10	6	4	8	3	2-0	3.00
Foster Foran	2	9	10	5	3	4	5	1-0	3.00
Danny Chadwick	2	16.2	17	10	8	7	6	1-1	4.32
Marty LeFiles	2	6.2	7	6	4	4	4	0-1	5.40
Sam Bowen	1	5.1	9	6	6	6	6	0-1	10.19
<b>VSC TOTALS</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>7-5</b>	<b>3.26</b>
<b>OPPONENTS</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>5-7</b>	<b>4.11</b>



-Times Staff Photo

Darden (22) Arrives Too Late To Beat Throw To First Baseman Joe Daniel

**DAN DARDEN's combined record as a pitcher (7-2), and a hitter (.368), was the best in VSC history. BUCK ETHREDGE was 6-3, and hit .333 in 1959, for the old mark.**

# Dan's Zip Leads Blazers' Sweep

By MIKE CHASON

Junior righthander Dan Darden was the man of the hour at Blazer field Sunday when he hurled VSC's first no-hitter since 1970.

And Jerome Register ran a close second as he blasted a home run in the third inning for the game's only score in the Blazer's 1-0 victory over Mercer of Atlanta.

In the second game of the twin-bill, lefthander Billy Petty hurled six consecutive innings of shutout ball before the Hawks picked up one run in the last frame to make the final score 7-1 with the Blazers on top.

Darden, a Macon, Georgia native, struck out five and walked only one. Rico Christou, designated hitter, was the only Hawk baserunner in the third inning.

"From the fifth inning on, the no-hitter was on my mind," Darden said.

"My arm was hurting pretty bad before the game, but after I got started, the ball was moving real well.

"In the late innings, I was

getting stronger, but I was awful glad to see Sam (Bowen) catch that last one," Darden laughed. He is now 2-2 on the year.

Bowen simply ran down a drive to center field turning it into a routine flyout to end the game and preserve the shutout.

Valdosta State's last no-hitter prior to Darden's came in 1970 when LeRoy Purdy and Steve Sorgius pitched back-to-back no-hit games against Shorter.

Besides his home run, Register cracked the only other Blazer hit off Mercer-Atlanta's Mike Hurst with a single in the fifth.

Hurst had a fine day himself by striking out five and walking two, but his record fell to 1-2.

In the nightcap, the Blazers scored five runs in the third and two in the fifth to capture their third straight win and fourth in the last five games.

Petty upped his record to 3-0 with the triumph. He showed superb control all afternoon by walking only one and whiffing three.

Darden, in the designated hitter's role, singled to left in the third inning to start the action. Marty Bishop followed him with a base on balls, and Bowen drove Darden home with another single.

Bishop scored a second later when the leftfielder, Chuck Gillman, threw the ball away on the relay. Bowen went to third on the play.



"LITTLE 'D'"



Darrell Branam and Jeff Greenhalgh then drew walks to load the bases.

Jerome Register continued his heroics by lofting a double just inside the right field foul line to plate Bowen and Bill Parsons, who came in as a courtesy runner for Branam.

In the fifth, Mercer-Atlanta relief pitcher Gene Hunter walked Bowen. The talented Blazer centerfielder, who went 3-3 in the game, then went to second on a passed ball.

Branam waited out another walk, and Greenhalgh advanced both runners with his bouncer to the first baseman, Joe Daniel.

Lark Hahn, batting for Register, then slammed his first hit of the year, driving Bowen home.

Bill Parsons, hitting for Dan Alford, then pounded a safety to bring in Jim Roquemore, running for Branam, for the final tally.

Head coach Tommy Thomas was proud of Darden and Petty, but equally pleased by the Blazer defense.

"We had great pitching and outstanding defense in both games today," Thomas said.

"Our defense has looked real good since we made our change a few games ago," he continued.

The change Thomas was referring to was moving Dan Alford from shortstop to second base and adding Pete Reeves to the lineup at shortstop.

"Reeves has made some tremendous plays at short. In fact, the whole defense is not only making the routine play, but the really tough play also."

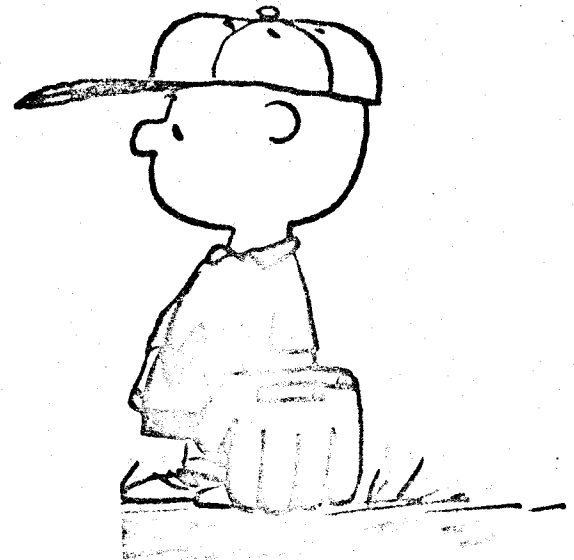
"If our hitting would just

come around, we'd be in really great shape.

"Of course, with good pitching and defense, we could conceivably stay in every game, but good hitting would make things a lot simpler," he added.

The Blazers are now 9-5 on the year. They were scheduled to take on McMurray College (Illinois) today in a doubleheader beginning at 2 p.m.

Thomas had slated rookie Steve McDiffit to start the first game, and Valdostan Marty LeFiles in the second.



JEFF GREENHALGH is "wide-awake" at first base.

## Darden Fires No-Hitter

Junior righthander Dan Darden hurled a no-hitter Sunday to highlight the Blazers doubleheader sweep of the Mercer-Atlanta Hawks 1-0, and 7-1 at Blazer Field. Darden, who upped his record to 2-2 with the pitching gem, was masterful throughout allowing but one walk in facing the minimum 21 batters. Jerome Register proved to be the Blazer offensive hero garnering two hits in three times at bat including a 380 ft. blast to give Valdost its margin of victory.

In the second freshman lefty Bill Petty scattered seven hits while striking out three and walking one to up his record to 3-0 tops on the Blazer staff. Valdosta struck for 5 runs in the 3rd combining 3 walks and 3 hits for their tallies with Register's double was the big hit of the inning. Darden's no-hitter was the first for Valdosta since 1971 when Leroy Prudy and Chuck Sorguese hurled back to back no-hitters against Shorter College.

Mercer-Atlanta	ab	r	h	rbt
Gilman, rf	3	0	0	0
Mayo, 2b	3	0	0	0
Rutcheson, 3b	3	0	0	0
Eberhard, ss	2	0	0	0
Reed, c	2	0	0	0
Daniel, cf	2	0	0	0
Walker, rf	2	0	0	0
Kruselo, 1b	2	0	0	0
Kruselo, 1b	1	0	0	0
Christon, c	1	0	0	0
Hurst, p	0	0	0	0
Totals	20	0	0	0
Valdosta State	ab	r	h	rbt
Sumner, 2b	3	0	0	0
Dennis, dh	3	0	0	0
Feltz, lf	3	0	0	0
Bowen, cf	3	0	0	0
Branam, c	1	0	0	0
Greenhalgh, 1b	2	0	0	0
Greenhalgh, 1b	2	0	0	0
Register, rf	2	1	2	1
Alford, 2b	2	0	0	0
Reeves, ss	1	0	0	0
Darden, p	0	0	0	0
Totals	25	1	2	1
Mercer-Atlanta	000 000 0-0-0-1			
VSC	001 000 X-1-2-0			
E - Eberhard				
LOB - VSC 3, M-A 0.				
HR - Register				

	ip	h	r	bb	so
Hurst (1-1-2)	6	2	1	2	5
Darden (2-2)	7	0	0	1	5

### SECOND GAME

Mercer-Atlanta	ab	r	h	rbt
Rutcheson, 2b	4	0	1	1
Eberhard, ss	3	0	0	0
Daniel, 1b	3	0	0	0
Reed, c	3	0	0	0
Christon, cf	3	0	1	0
Mayo, 2b	2	0	1	0
Walker, rf	3	1	2	0
Gilman, lf	3	0	1	0
Wilson, dh	3	0	1	0
Caldwell, p	0	0	0	0
Hunter, p	0	0	0	0
Totals	27	1	7	1
VSC	ab	r	h	rbt
Darden, dh	3	1	1	0
Fisnop, 3b	2	1	1	0
Feltz, lf	4	0	0	0
Bowen, cf	3	2	3	1
Branam, c	1	2	0	0
Greenhalgh, 1b	1	1	0	0
Register, rf	2	0	1	1
Alford, 2b	2	0	0	0
Reeves, ss	3	0	0	0
Petty, p	0	0	0	0
Misashelp	1	0	0	0
Hahn, ph	1	0	1	1
Parsons, 2b	1	0	1	1
Roquemore, c	1	0	0	0
Totals	25	7	8	4
Mercer-Atlanta	000 000 1-1-7-2			
VSC	005 020 X-1-8-2			
E - Reeves, Branam, Reed, Gillman.				
LOB - M-A 6, VSC 7.				
HR - Register				
SB - Bishop				

	ip	h	r	bb	so
Caldwell (1-0-1)	4	4	5	5	2
Hunter	1	1	2	0	0



-Times Staff Photo

## Let The Games Begin

Valdosta State College baseball is a serious matter for players but the fans appear to be rather casual about it. Of course, spring and warm weather might play a part in the way these VSC students

viewed the VSC-Mercer of Atlanta doubleheader Sunday. The relaxed atmosphere doesn't mean there's a lack of interest and it didn't affect the Blazers' play. They took both ends of the twin-bill.

*At press time, the Blazer baseball team had racked up a 10-6 record. Some mighty tough teams have invaded Blazer Field in recent weeks including Ohio University, University of Georgia, and Florida State.*

*Dan Chadwick, a 7-1 loser to Ohio University, called them "the toughest team I've faced in my college career." Chadwick's loss was his first in the 1st nine games.*

*The high flying Seminoles of Florida State handed Coach Tommy Thomas' nine a 6-3 loss on Saturday to end a four game winning streak by VSC.*

*All-America Gene Felts and sure-fire pro prospect Sam Bowen have been leading the VSC nine at the bat, hitting .355 and .333 respectively. Shortstop Pete Reeves has been a terror with the glove and at bat hitting .333 in 27 trips to the plate. Marty Bishop and Jerome Register, who overcame an early season slump, are slapping the ball at .304 and .302 clips.*

*Rick Bowers and Bill Petty are 3-0 from the mound with team leading 0.70 and 2.37 ERA's. Dan Darden is 2-2 on the year, but had a beautiful no-hitter against Mercer-Atlanta.*

*The Blazers get into conference competition on Saturday against Southern Tech in a double header*

## VSC Beats GSW 8-1

Valdosta State moved its record to 10-5 Wednesday with an 8-1 victory over Georgia Southwestern. A three run first proved to be the winning margin for the Blazers as they strung together two walks, a hit

batsman and Sam Bowen's 2 RBI single. Rick Bowers picked up his third victory against no defeats with relief help from freshman Steve McDiffitt who struck out 2 in the 9th inning to register a save.

## In 6-3 Decision

# Seminoles Stall Blazers

By JULIAN MILLER

Florida State University's Seminoles toughened up when the going got rough and took advantage of Valdosta State College's inability to hit when it counted to pound out a 6-3 baseball victory here Saturday.

The Blazers loaded the bases four different times but couldn't cash the base runners in as they dropped their sixth loss of the season and watched the Seminoles rack up their 14th win in 26 games.

"I think that was the whole story," said VSC coach Tommy Thomas, "other than we did not play superb defense in the game. However we could have forgotten about the errors had we delivered a couple of times in the clutch.

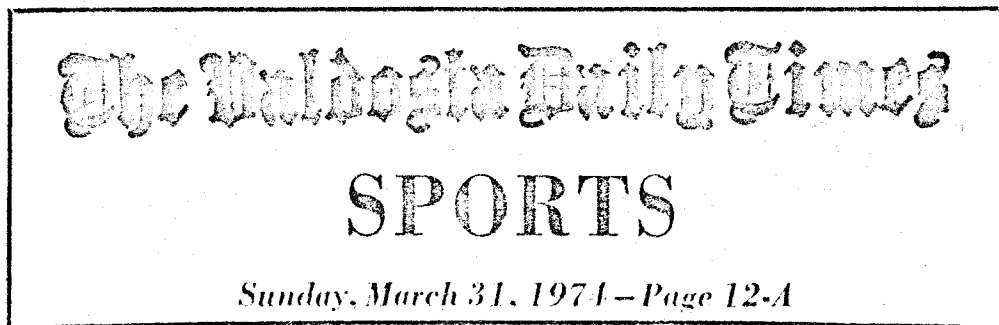
"I'm at a loss to explain it. They all tried to hit the ball and when they don't, they feel as bad as anybody about it."

Both teams knocked out 11 hits but the Seminoles made theirs count with the heavy breeze almost no factor in the hits.

FSU jumped ahead in the first inning, backed it up with two more in the second and three in the fifth and sat back to allow VSC only one run each in the second, sixth and eighth innings.

Valdosta righthander Foster Foran walked the first batter, Steve Tebbets, to put the first run on base. A line shot single by Jim Busby a batter later pulled in the score.

In the top of the second, the Seminoles took advantage of an error by usually super shortstop Pete Reeves, to put Wendell Higgenbotham on first. The next batter, catcher



Jeff Tandlich, slammed a 300-foot two-run homer over the left field fence and FSU was on its way.

The Blazers started their taken comeback in the bottom of the frame when Sam Bowen walked followed by a single by Darrell Branam and another walk to Jeff Greenhalgh to load the bases. Marty Bishop was handed a base on balls and Bowen walked the first run in.

It was the only time the Blazers were able to take such advantage of the loaded bases.

VSC packed the bags again in the third before a double play ended the threat, and again in the seventh and eighth innings before FSU pitchers Larry Rothschild and Larry Kelly fanned two straight batters respectively to end the innings.

The Seminoles iced the victory in the top of the fifth when Jim Busby, who had walked, scored on Carlos Lezcano's double, James Foxwell tallied on Wendell Higgenbotham's fielder's choice and Lezcano scored on a second error by Reeves.

The Blazers managed to eke out a second run in the bottom of the sixth when Bowen reached on an error by Mike

Eissey, stole second and came home on Daryl Branam's single.

The final run of the day came in the bottom of the eighth when Reeves reached on an error and scored on Steve Sumner's single.

The Blazers are scheduled to take a 10-6 record into battle against the Erskine, S. C. Flying Fleet in the first of a two-game series here Monday.

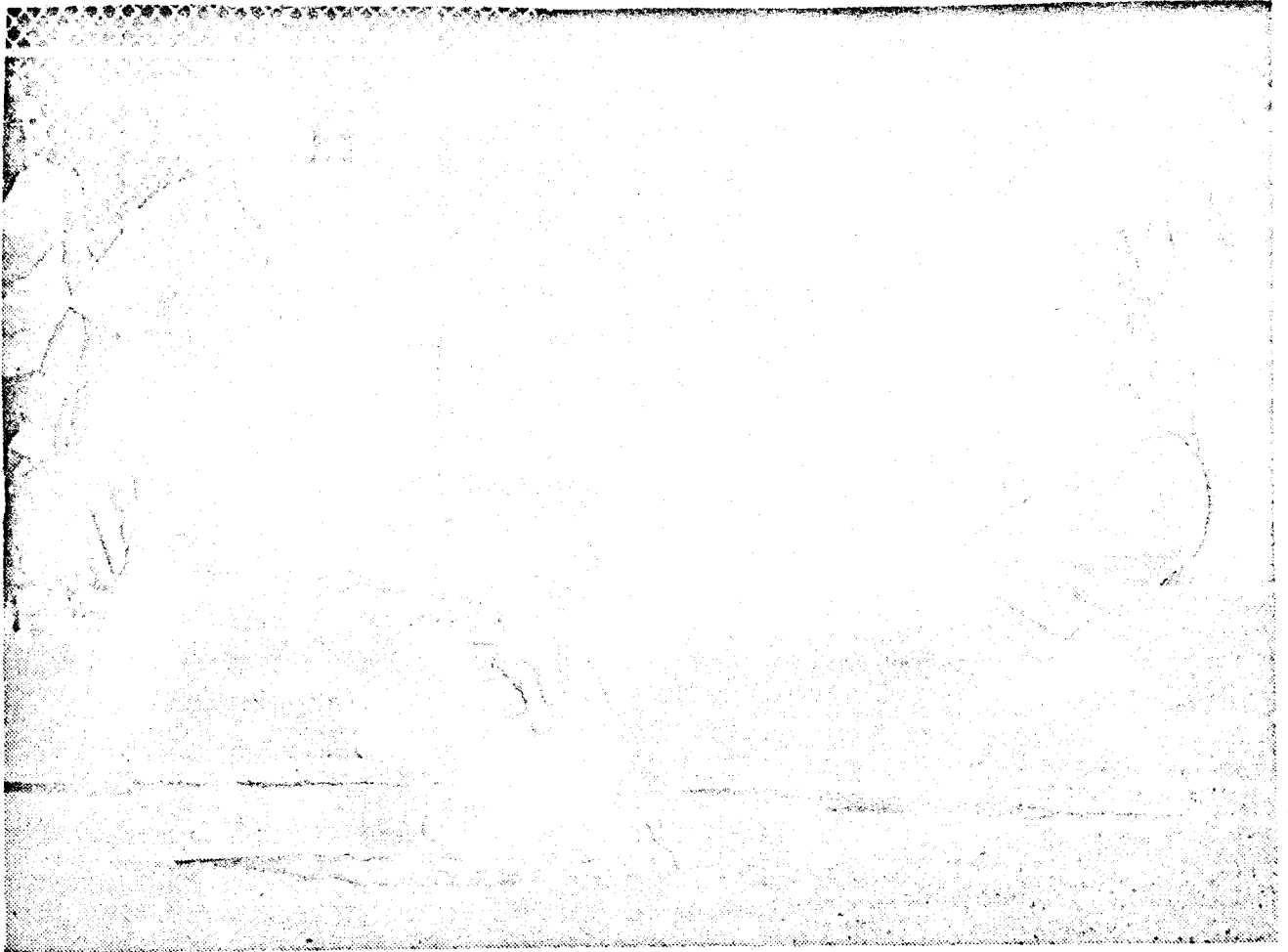
The two teams are to meet at the Blazer diamond on the school's North Campus at 3:15 p.m. Monday and Tuesday.

Thursday the Blazers host Mercer with their South Atlantic Conference opener, a doubleheader with Southern Tech of Marietta, slated for Saturday at 1 p.m.

## Box Score

FSU	ab	r	h	bi		
Tebbetts, lf	3	1	2	0		
Davidson, 2b	5	0	0	0		
Busby, cf	3	1	2	1		
Foxwell, dh	5	1	3	0		
Lezcano, rf	5	1	3	1		
Bonita, 3b	5	0	0	0		
Higgenbotham, lb	5	1	0	1		
Tandlich, c	4	1	1	2		
Drews, c	0	0	0	0		
Eissey, ss	4	0	0	0		
Farmer, p	0	0	0	0		
Rothschild, p	0	0	0	0		
Kelly, p	0	0	0	0		
Totals	39	6	11	5		
VSC	ab	r	h	bi		
Darden, dh	6	0	2	0		
Sumner, 2b	3	0	1	1		
Felts, lf	5	0	3	0		
Bowen, c	4	2	0	0		
Reeves, rf	4	0	0	0		
Branam, c	5	0	2	1		
Greenhalgh, lb	4	0	0	0		
Bishop, 3b	3	0	1	1		
Reeves, ss	4	1	2	0		
Foran, p	0	0	0	0		
LeFites, p	0	0	0	0		
Totals	38	3	11	3		
FSU	120	630	690	-6-11-3		
VSC	0-0	001	010	3-11-5		
E - Reeves 3, Bishop, Greenhalgh, Farmer, Rothschild, Eissey.						
DP - Eissey to Davidson to Higgenbotham; Reeves to Sumner to Greenhalgh 2; Bishop to Branam to Greenhalgh.						
LOB - FSU 8, VSC 14.						
2B - Lezcano 2, Felts.						
HR - Tandlich.						
SB - Tebbets, Davidson, Register.						
DP	h	r	er	bb	so	
Farmer, w	5	3	4	2	1	5
Rothschild	2	5	1	1	3	2
Kelly	1	2	5	2	0	0
Foran (L, 1-1)	4	9	6	3	3	0
LeFites	5	2	0	0	1	2

In the last three years VALDOSTA STATE has won only 2 and lost 4, against Florida State. However, VSC has won 14-2 and 15-1, and lost 3-2, 3-2, 9-8 and 6-3.



- Times Staff Photo

VSC's Daryl Branam Waits Patiently For FSU's Jeff Tandlich At Home

During the last two years, in four games against Florida State, GENE FELTS has been 9-20, for a .450 average.

## Blazers Fall to FSU

Florida State using a powerful 12 hit attack including a second-inning home run powered it's way to a 6-3 victory over Valdosta here Saturday. The Blazers had several opportunities to win but four times they left

the bases loaded and totaled 16 men left on base in all. Gene Felts led the Blazers at the plate with 3 hits in 4 at bats including a seventh inning double. Valdosta is now 10-6 on the year.

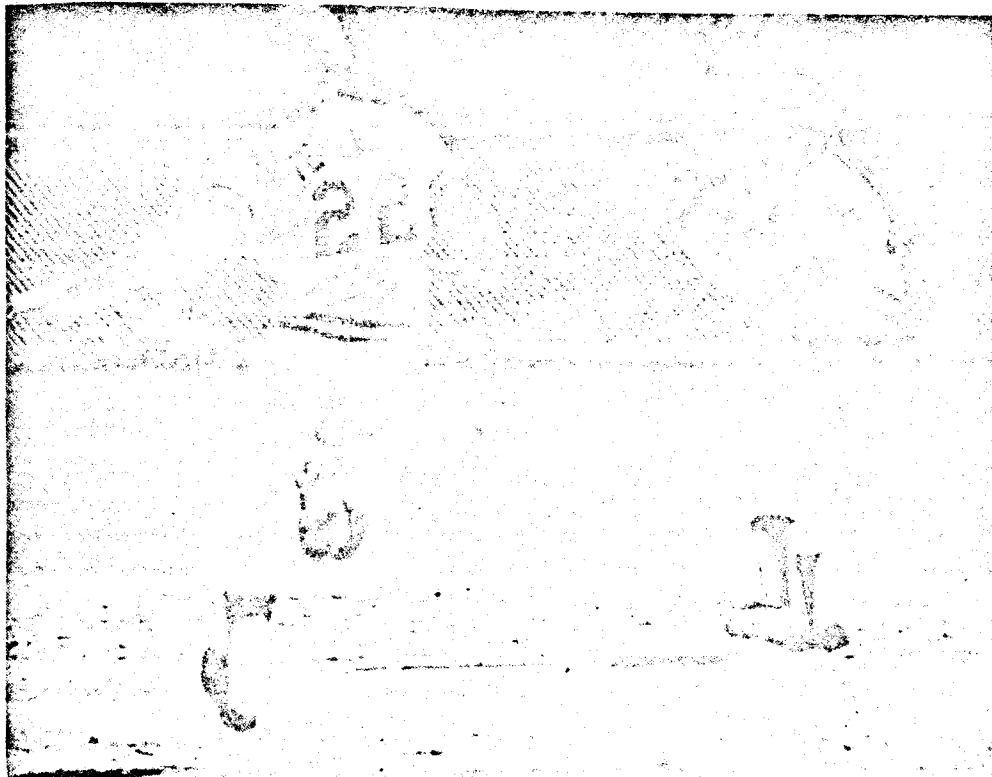
## -Blazers At A Glance-

### HITTING

	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.	2B	3B	HR	SB
Foster Foran	14	5	9	10	.643	2	0	0	0
Lark Hahn	2	0	1	1	.500	0	0	0	0
Gene Felts	62	13	22	6	.355	4	1	0	4
Sam Bowen	42	16	14	7	.333	5	1	0	9
Pete Reeves	27	5	9	1	.333	1	0	0	0
Jim Roquemore	5	0	1	0	.333	0	0	0	0
Marty Bishop	23	2	7	4	.304	2	0	0	1
Jerome Register	43	4	13	8	.302	1	1	1	3
Dan Darden	17	2	5	0	.294	0	0	0	1
Ralph Starling	14	2	4	1	.286	0	0	0	0
Darrell Branam	31	6	8	9	.258	2	0	0	0
Steve Sumner	33	4	8	1	.242	1	0	0	0
Jerry Dennis	34	2	6	2	.176	1	0	0	1
Jeff Greenhalgh	24	2	4	2	.167	0	0	0	1
Dan Alford	46	6	6	5	.130	0	1	0	5
Bill Petty	20	4	2	0	.100	1	0	0	2
Bill Parsons	13	2	1	1	.077	0	0	0	1
Vince Musashe	9	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
<b>VSC TOTALS</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>.263</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>OPPONENTS</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>.243</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>

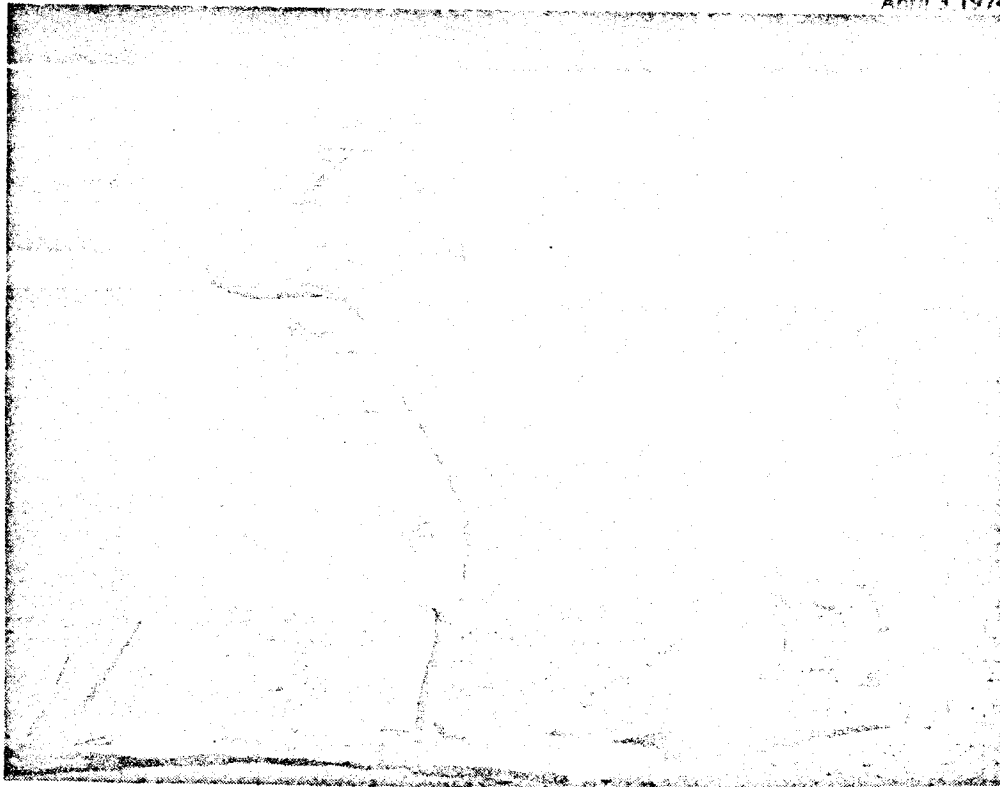
### PITCHING

	G	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W-L	ERA
Steve McDiffitt	2	1.2	0	0	0	0	2	0-0	0.00
Larry Felts	2	.2	1	0	0	0	0	0-0	0.00
Jim Roquemore	1	.2	1	0	0	1	0	0-0	0.00
Rick Bowers	3	25.2	17	3	2	14	9	3-0	0.70
Dan Darden	4	30	20	14	7	13	22	2-2	2.10
Bill Petty	3	19	17	7	5	9	6	3-0	2.37
Marty McFiles	3	11.2	9	6	4	5	6	0-1	3.08
Foster Foran	3	13	19	11	6	7	5	1-1	4.15
Danny Chadwick	2	16.2	17	10	8	7	6	1-1	4.32
Sam Bowen	1	5.1	9	6	6	6	6	0-1	10.19
<b>VSC TOTALS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>10-6</b>	<b>2.71</b>
<b>OPPONENTS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>116.2</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>6-10</b>	<b>4.40</b>

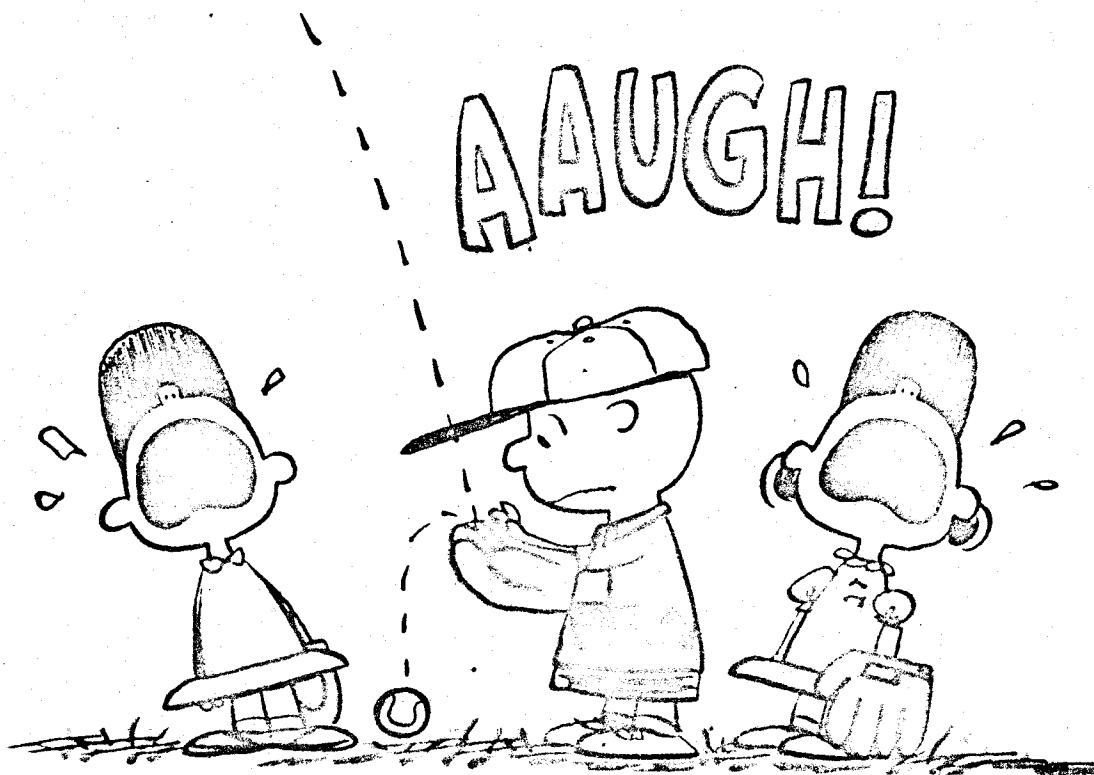


Hit him, hit him; right between the eyes. Not really. Blazer infielder Steve Sumner turns a perfect double play in recent baseball action.

April 3 1974



Blazer pitcher fails to pick off alert FSU base runner.



Typical of BLAZER early season action.

# Blazers, Darden Skuttle Fleet

By MIKE CHASON

The Dan Darden Show gave another hit performance at Blazers field Monday with the star of the spectacular throwing a two-hitter, and his supporting cast, the VSC Blazers, rapping out seven hits to pick up a 4-1 win over the Erskine Flying Fleet.

Darden, a junior righthander from Macon, Ga., went the distance on the mound, raising his record to 3-2.

The flame-throwing Middle Georgia junior college product has now allowed only two hits in his last 16 innings. He struck out seven and walked only three enroute to his victory.

Erskine's only run came in the fourth when Tim Whipple reached first on an error by third baseman Marty Bishop and advanced to second on a fluke hit by A. J. Cox which dropped between three Blazers.

The fleet's second sacker trotted to third after Darden threw an attempted pick-off

play into right field.

Whipple streaked to the plate on a sacrifice fly by Vic Schelechow.

VSC's initial run came in the second frame when centerfielder Sam Bowen's double got by the Fleet's rightfielder, Schelechow, and Bower slid into third.

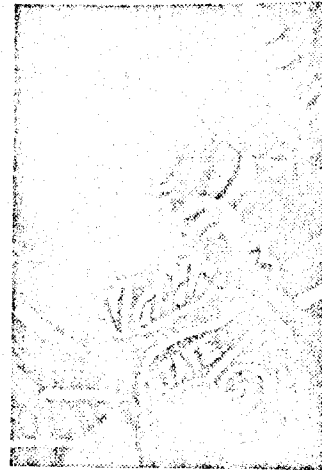
The talented centerfielder, who went 2-3 on the day, crossed the plate on Foster Foran's sacrifice fly.

Foran, in the designated hitter's role, drove in three runs in the game.

The Blazer's added another run in the fourth when Gene Felts reached base on a fielder's choice, stole second, and moved to third on Jerome Register's single.

Felts scored on a deep shot to the shortstop who knocked the ball down just in time to get Register at second.

Coach Tommy Thomas' diamond nine chalked up a pair of insurance runs in the sixth



**DAN DARDEN**  
Leads Attack

when Felts beat out a double play to first, and Bowen singled.

Felts, the All-America leftfielder, scored on another error by Schelechow, and Bowen raced to third. Foran plated Bowen with a base hit.

Thomas was pleased with the pitching performance, but a little troubled by the errors.

"We made some errors that a better hitting ballclub could have cashed in on," Thomas said.

"Fortunately for us, when they had the opportunity to score, they left their men stranded.

"Fortunately for us, when they had the opportunity to score, they left their men stranded.

"We hit the ball hard on several occasions, but it was right at the people. Branam did that on several occasions."

Valdosta State's record zoomed to 11-6 with the win, while the Fleet sunk to 6-4.

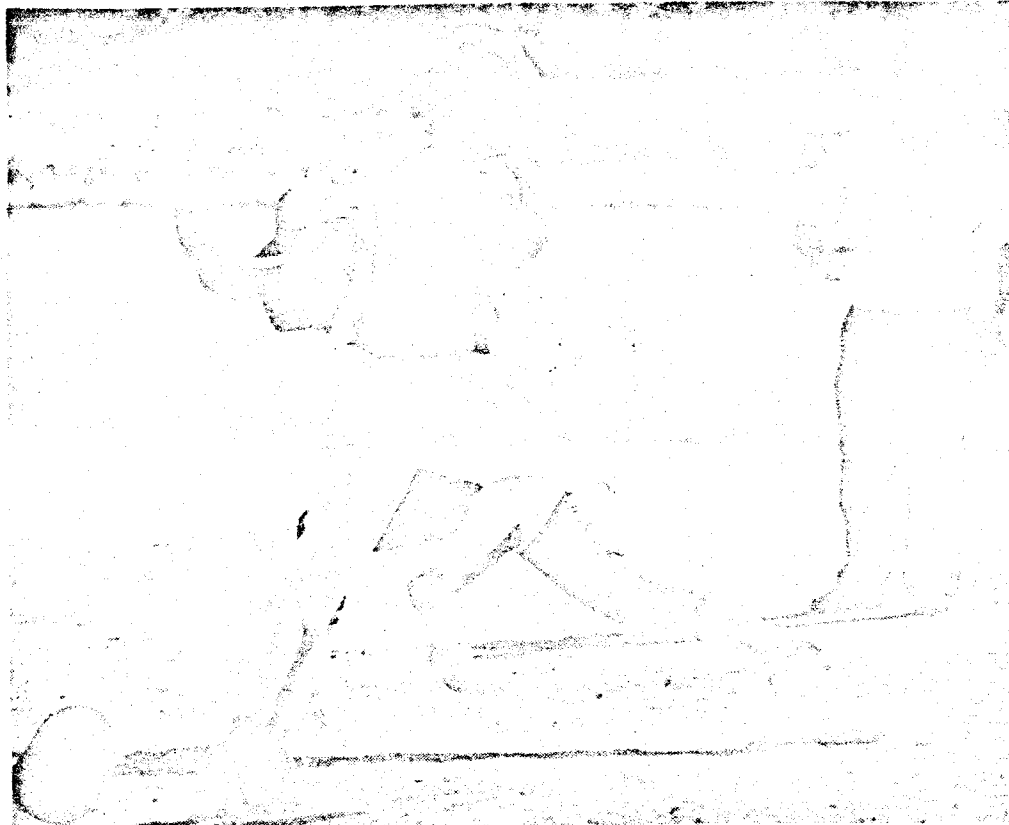
East Gary, Indiana native Dan Chadwick attempts to better his 1-1 record against Erskine today in a game scheduled for 3:15 p.m. at Blazer field.

Mercer is to invade Valdosta on April 4, and the South

Atlantic Conference opener with Southern Tech is scheduled for Saturday, April 6.

## Blazers

	AB	R	H	RFI		
Bennage, ss	4	0	0	0		
Whipple, 2b	4	1	1	0		
Cox, 2b	3	0	1	0		
Evatt, 1b	4	0	0	0		
Andrews, lf	3	0	0	0		
DeLeon, dh	3	0	0	0		
Holzworth, cf	3	0	0	0		
Penley, c	2	0	0	0		
Hirt, p	0	0	0	0		
Schelechow, rf	3	0	0	1		
Line, h	0	0	0	0		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		
Valdosta State		ab				
Alford, 2b	4	0	0	0		
Reyes, ss	3	0	2	0		
Felts, lf	4	2	0	0		
Bowen, cf	3	2	2	0		
Register, rf	3	0	1	0		
Foran, dh	3	0	1	3		
Branam, c	2	0	0	0		
Bishop, 2b	3	0	1	0		
Greenhelgh, 1b	3	0	0	0		
Darden, p	0	0	0	0		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>		
Erskine	026	103	020	-1-2-2		
Valdosta State	010	102	08	-4-7-3		
F. Schelechow	2	Darden,	Bishop,			
Branam						
DP - Bishop to Alford to Greenhelgh.						
LOB - Erskine 5, VSC 5.						
2B - Bowen.						
SB - Felts.						
SP - Schelechow, Foran.						
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Hirt (L-2-2)	8	7	4	2	4	1
Darden (W-3-2)	9	2	1	0	3	4



This Erskine first baseman needs a checkered flag, but he seems to be content with just the baseball.

## Darden Does It Again

Valdosta State moved its record to 12-6 here Thursday by taking a 3-0 decision from Mercer-Macon. Dan Chadwick picked up his 2nd. victory of the season against one defeat, twirling a neat 1 hitter, a single which came in the sixth. The Blazers got their

first run in the second inning when Bill Parsons reached first on an error and came home on Marth Bishops shotgun triple to the right centerfield wall. Valdosta added two insurance runs in the sixth by tying together three hits an error and a wild

pitch.

Dan Darden followed up his masterful no hitter with a brilliant 2- hitter Monday to defeat the Flying Fleet of Erskine College 4-1. Darden struck out seven and walked but three in gaining his third victory and two deafeats. Erskine scored in the fourth on an error, a hit, a muffled pick- off attempt and a sacrifice fly. Valdosta scored the initial run in the second on Sam Bowen's double, an error and Foster Foran's sacrifice fly. The Blazers second run came in the fourth with Gene Felts scoring on a fielder's choice.

The Blazers added two more in the sixth to waltz to their eleventh victory against six defeats. Foster Foran had three RBI's batting in the designated hitters spot.

**DAN DARDEN** was the **BLAZERS** leading hitter in the South Atlantic Conference with a .395 average. **STEVE SUMNER** followed at .393, with **JEROME REGISTER** at .365. **SAM BOWEN** led the loop in home runs with 5.



# Chadwick, Blazers Shutout Bears

By JULIAN MILLER  
It was a familiar story of Dan Chadwick against the Mercer Bears but the junior righthander lived things up with a one-hit shutout to lead Valdosta State College's Blazers to a 3-0 baseball victory here Thursday.

It was the third time in three years Chadwick had defeated the Bears and was by far the sweetest.

"I started thinking about a no-hitter in the fifth inning," Chadwick admitted. "But I knew just as soon as I let that one go in the sixth it was going to be a hit."

The East Gary, Ind., native saw his intended high and inside pitch go high and outside in that frame and Mercer Pitcher

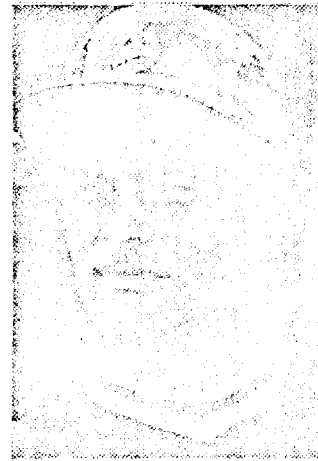
John Hart drove it to center field for a safety, the only Bear hit of the day.

"I was glad to get it (the one-hitter), the student teacher at Lowndes High School said. "Last year I pitched 15 innings against them and we won 5-4. I pitched against them the year before too and we won."

Blazer head coach Tommy Thomas was just as pleased with his team's effort.

"I thought it was one of the finest jobs we've done this year although our hitting wasn't overly impressive," Thomas said. "Chadwick dominated their hitting but he was a little wild at times."

"We did a good job defensively with Bill Parsons doing



DAN CHADWICK  
Second One Hitter

a good job at shortstop and Marty Bishop making some outstanding plays at third."

Chadwick, now 3-0, wiffed only one batter while walking eight in his second one-hitter of his career. Both Bishop and Parsons turned in key plays to spearhead the Blazer defense.

Almost ironically it was also the duo of Parsons and Bishop that teamed up for the winning run for the Blazers in the bottom of the third.

That's when Parsons reached on an error, stole second, took advantage of a passed ball to reach third and came home on Bishop's line drive triple to the centerfield fence.

Right fielder Jerome Register then took over the RBI slot, bringing two insurance runs for the Valdostans. His first came in the bottom of the sixth when his standup double plated VSC's talented outfielder Sam Bowen, who had singled, in the bottom of the eighth his sacrifice fly brought in Bowen again to end the scoring.

Three times Chadwick worked himself into trouble by walking two successive batters to put runners in scoring position, in the initial frame, the fifth and the top of the eighth. But each time the Blazer defense backed

him up to end the threats harmlessly.

The shutout set the scene for VSC's South Atlantic Conference opener against Southern Tech of Marietta in a doubleheader scheduled to be held at the Blazer diamond Saturday.

Thomas said Easter Foran is scheduled to start the 1 p.m. game with Bill Petty manning the mound in the second Saturday.

BLAZER BOX SCORE

	AB	R	H	RBI
Mercer	30	0	0	0
Parsons, ss	3	0	0	0
Chadwick, 2b	4	0	0	0
Fussell, lf	2	0	0	0
Swartz, 1b	2	0	0	0
Hart, 3b	3	0	1	0
Dennis, c	3	0	0	0
Sims, dh	3	0	0	0
Hall, cf	1	0	0	0
B. Williams	1	0	0	0
Yoon, p	1	0	0	0
J. Williams, 3b	3	0	0	0
Totals	25	0	1	0
VSC	AB	R	H	RBI
Summer, 2b	4	0	1	0
Bishop, 3b	4	0	1	1
Feltz, lf	3	0	1	0
Parsons, cf	3	2	2	0
Parson, dh	4	0	1	0
Register, rf	3	0	2	2
Brannan, c	2	0	0	0
Parsons, ss	4	1	0	0
Greenhalgh, 1b	3	0	0	0
Chadwick, p	0	0	0	0
Totals	29	2	8	3

DAN CHADWICK compiled a 3-1 record against Mercer in his four years at Valdosta State. He beat the Bears in 1971, 4-1, last season 5-4 in 15 innings, and this year 3-0. He lost a heart-breaker this year, 2-1, in Macon.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Chadwick (W-2-4)	9	1	0	0	8	1
Hart	6	5	2	1	2	7
Yoon	2	3	1	1	1	1

HRP—Parson, Hart  
WP—Hart, Chadwick  
PB—Dennis

# A Question of Character

*In the past few weeks there has been some controversy and some question about the behavior of spectators at the baseball games. Previously, the discussion had centered mainly around the smaller problem caused as a result of beer drinking on the part of the fans.*

*Personally, I think that there is nothing more relaxing than a cold beer on a hot day at baseball games. Recent developments, however, have caused me to question the need for a cold beer at the Blazer games.*

*Last Thursday afternoon a group of VSC students attending the Blazer game against Mercer behaved in a very degrading, irresponsible, and embarrassing manner. This group of students continually harassed the Mercer centerfielder by means of obscenities, threats, and assaults using large chunks of ice.*

*I think it is the duty of any fan to support his own team: this includes verbally distracting the opposition at crucial moments. But I also think that while distracting our opponents, we must do it intelligently.*

*Last Thursday's episode did not end at this distraction, however. In fact, one individual in the group of ice throwers was over bearingly belligerent. This particular student yelled and cursed, threw ice, and even on one occasion, climbed the fence into the outfield. Indeed, at one point, the umpire stopped the game and came to the centerfield fence to calm him down. The effort, however; was in vain. The most unbelievable act, though, occurred after the game. This same belligerent individual went to the gate to await the Mercer ball club, and when the players came into the parking lot, he succeeded in picking a fight with one of them. Fortunately, the Mercer team broke up the fisticuffs and sent the VSC student on his way.*

*My question is this: "Is such behavior characteristic of a supposedly mature college student?"*

*This group and particularly this individual have caused a great embarrassment to themselves, their fraternity, the entire Greek system, and the school. Personally, I have no use for anyone who behaves in such a manner. I find it disgusting.*

*I think that it is important for each of us to keep in mind the fact that we reflect not only ourselves, but that we reflect the character of our peers and our school.*

*As a student and potential graduate of this institution, I naturally do not like to see the name of this school marred, nor do I like to see the student body in general be criticized or labled unjustly because of the actions of a specific student or group of students.*

*I, like many others, take pride in this school, and I would like my degree to carry with it the reflection of pride and decency deserving of this school. For this reason, and in the interest of humanitarianism, sportsmanship, and good relations for this college, I sincerely hope the Administration will now take action to help prohibit and prevent the occurrence of future incidents similar to the ones which took place at Blazer Field on April 4.*

# Blazers Sweep Hornets

By STEVE ROBERTS

Valdosta State relief specialist Marty LeFiles slammed the door on a Southern Tech first game rally and freshman lefthander Bill Petty throttled the Hornets in the nightcap to give the Blazers an important South Atlantic Conference doubleheader triumph Saturday at Blazer Field.

LeFiles bailed out VSC starter Foster Foran and protected a 5-3 lead in the opener while Petty allowed only two hits in the second game as the Blazers exploded for an 8-0 victory and the sweep.

The two wins lifted Valdosta State's overall record to 14-6 and put its conference worksheet at 2-0. Southern Tech is now 0-7 overall and 0-2 in the league.

Blazer coach Tommy Thomas called on his ace reliever in the sixth inning of the first game after Southern Tech had sliced VSC's lead to two runs and had the tying runs on base.

LeFiles responded by getting the third out of the inning on a routine grounder to second, then retired the Hornets in order in the seventh to record his second save of the year.

The Blazers built an early

4-0 lead in the second inning, rapping out five hits off Southern Tech's Mike Braun, who absorbed his second loss of the year.

Sam Bowen started the uprising by working Braun for a walk and went to second when Braun's pickoff attempt went astray. Foran plated Bowen with a single to left and went to second on the throw to the plate.

Jerome Register, who rapped out six straight hits in the twin bill, doubled Foran home and scored moments later on a single by Steve Sumner. Sumner scored the inning's fourth run on a single by Marty Bishop.

Register's six straight hits Saturday, coupled with two hits in Thursday's win over Mercer, established a new VSC record for most consecutive hits. The old mark was seven, set by Bobby Tripp in 1972.

Southern Tech battled back, picking up a single run in the fourth and adding two more markers in the fifth to cut the lead to 4-3.

Bowen gave the Blazers an insurance run in the fifth when he walked, stole second and scored when the throw went into center field and was bobbled by centerfielder Bruce Kapperman.

Foran, who was struggling

with his control, found himself in trouble again in the sixth when after two were out he walked third baseman Leon Griffin and gave up a single to rightfielder Allen Kemp.

That's when Thomas issued his call for LeFiles and the Valdosta junior came on to do the job, saving Foran's second win.

The outcome of the second game was never in doubt after the Blazers scored a pair of runs in the second inning. Petty was superb throughout the game, allowing two scattered singles, walking nobody and striking out three.

The slender southpaw raised his record to 4-0 and lowered his earned run average to a sparkling 1.73 while going the distance for the third time in four starts.

VSC's Dan Alford got the first two runs home with a double down the right field line in the second inning. The two-bagger followed an error and singles by Register and Darrell Branam.

The Blazers added a single run in the fourth, picked up three more in the fifth and got two runs in the sixth, giving Petty much more of a cushion than he needed.

Alford added a sacrifice fly in the fifth for his third RBI of the game, and Bowen knocked in two runs with a

double in the sixth.

Thomas, while praising his entire club for a good effort, had special accolades for LeFiles and Petty.

"Marty LeFiles did another yeoman's job coming in from the bullpen," Thomas said. "That's the way we remember him from last year. He was just outstanding.

"And Petty is getting better it seems every time he pitches. I thought he did an outstanding job also."

Thomas said he was not aware Register was approaching the record for most consecutive hits but was very happy for the Valdosta junior.

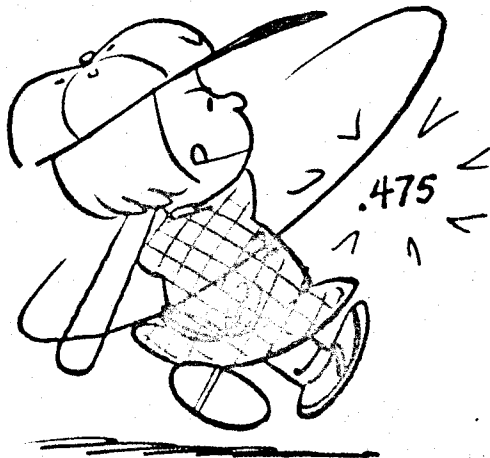
"I certainly think he deserves the record. He has been doing a good job at the plate lately."

The Blazers have today and Monday off before returning to action Tuesday with a conference doubleheader against Armstrong State in Savannah.

VSC returns home Wednesday for a two-game series with Lewis (Ill.) College.

Blazer Bits—Thomas said he will probably start Dan Darden(3-2) and Rick Bowers (3-0) against Armstrong State. Darden has a sore arm and if he can't go the assignment will probably go to Dan Chadwick (2-1) . . . Register's

See —Blazers, Page 11-A



DAN DARDEN during his two hitting streaks!

He's Out At The Plate: Hornets Jewell Newman Puts Tag On VSC's Gene Felts

-Blazers

(Continued From Page 10-A)

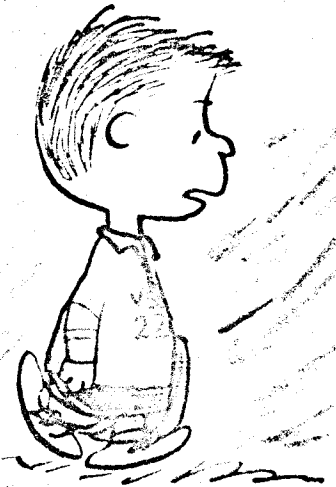
eight straight hits has lifted his average to an even .400 . . . Foran's two RBIs Saturday padded his lead in that important category. The Marianna, Fla., native now has 15 . . . Thomas said he will continue to platoon in the infield positions. He said several infielders have shown the capability of doing different things well.

First Game				
	AB	R	H	RFI
Southern Tech				
Wingom, 2b	3	1	2	0
Gillum, ss	2	0	0	0
Kapperman, cf	4	0	0	0
McDaniel, 1b	4	0	1	2
Newman, c	3	1	1	0
Godfrey, rf	3	0	0	0
Benson, lf	0	0	0	0
Farren, dh	3	0	1	1
Griffin, 3b	2	0	0	0
Kemp, rf	2	1	1	0
Braun, p	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	26	3	5	3
VSC				
	AR	R	H	RFI
Reeves, ss	4	0	1	0
Bishop, 2b	3	0	1	1
Felts, lf	3	0	1	0
Bowen, cf	1	2	0	0
Foran, p	3	1	1	1
LeVes, p	0	0	0	0
Register, rf	3	1	3	1
Farling, rf	0	0	0	0
Braun, c	3	0	0	0
Sumner, 2b	3	1	2	1
Greenhalgh, 1b	3	0	0	0
TOTALS	25	5	9	4
Southern Tech	000	120	0-3-5-3	
VSC	040	010	x-5-9-3	
E. Bishop, 2. Braun, Sumner, Newman, Kapperman.				
LOB—St. 7, VSC 5.				
2B—Register, McDaniel.				
3P—Felts.				
SB—Register, Reeves, Bowen.				
S. Gilliam				

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Braun (L, 0-2)	6	9	5	4	2	4
Foran (W, 2-1)	52-3-5	3	2	3	4	

Southern Tech	ab	r	h	rbi		
Corbett, 2b	3	0	0	0		
Gillum, ss	3	0	0	0		
Kapperman, cf	3	0	0	0		
McDaniel, 1b	3	0	0	0		
Newman, c	3	0	0	0		
Godfrey, dh	2	0	2	0		
Kemp, rf	2	0	0	0		
Murray, lf	2	0	0	0		
Griffin, 3b	2	0	0	0		
Prince, p	0	0	0	0		
Benson, p	0	0	0	0		
Felber, p	0	0	0	0		
Totals	23	0	2	0		
VSC	ab	r	h	rbi		
Reeves, ss	3	0	0	0		
Parsons, ss	0	1	0	0		
Sumner, 2b	2	2	0	0		
Felts, lf	3	1	1	0		
Bowen, cf	4	2	2	2		
Foran, dh	3	0	0	1		
Register, rf	3	1	3	0		
Stallins, rf	0	0	0	0		
Braun, c	2	1	2	1		
Hahn, lf	0	0	0	0		
Boquimore, c	0	0	0	0		
Alford, 2b	2	0	1	3		
Murphy, 2b	1	0	0	0		
Greenhalgh, 1b	3	0	1	1		
Petty, p	0	0	0	0		
Totals	25	8	10	8		
er	020	000	0-0-2-1			
VSC	020	132	x-8-10-1			
V — Griffin, Reeves						
DP — Gilliam, Petty to Alford to Greenhalgh						
LOB — ST 2, VSC 6.						
2B — Alford, Braun, Bowen						
SB — Foran, Alford						
Prince (L, 0-3)	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Benson	5	9	4	5	3	1
Felber	0	0	2	2	2	0
Petty	1	1	0	0	2	0
Petty (W, 4-0)	7	2	0	0	0	3

DAN DARDEN is ready to go back to pitching during his big hitting slump!



# Blazers Win Double Header Over Southern Tech

Valdosta State swept its conference opening series Saturday taking a twin bill from the Hornets of Southern Tech 5-3 and 8-0 at Blazer Field.

The Blazers jumped out front early in the first game picking up four quick runs in the second inning to take a 4-0 lead. Sam Bowen scored an insurance run after Southern had pulled to within one with two fifth inning runs. With two men on and two out, Coach Tommy Thomas brought in his fireman Marty LeFiles who quickly extinguished the fire by forcing a routine grounder to end the inning, and setting the Hornets down in order to preserve Foster Foran's second victory of the campaign.

In the second game it was freshman lefty Bill Petty's sparkling mound work which highlighted the Blazer victory. Petty who is 4-0 on the year was masterful

striking out three and walking none, while allowing but two scratch singles, in going the distance for the third time in four starts. Don Alford drove in three runs with a double and sacrifice fly, while Sam Bowen picked up two RBI's

with a sixth inning double to lead the Blazers at the plate. The twin victories set the Blazers record at 14-6 on the year, and 2-0 in the conference.

Jerome Register was six for six in the Southern

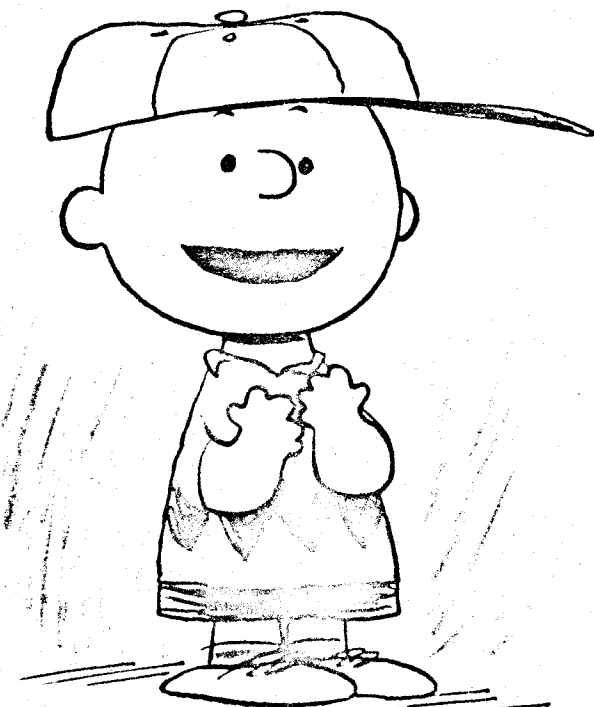
double header. These six hits coupled with two hits in the Mercer game set a new VSC record for consecutive hits (8) eclipsing the old mark of seven set by Bobby Tripp in 1972.

Want to hear about my homerun,  
asks FOSTER FORAN?

## Blazers At A Glance

BATTING									
	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.	2B	3B	HR	SB
Lark Hahn	2	0	1	1	.500	0	0	0	0
Foster Foran	27	6	12	15	.444	2	0	2	0
Jerome Register	55	6	22	11	.400	3	1	1	4
Sam Bowen	53	24	20	9	.377	7	1	0	12
Gene Felts	75	16	25	6	.333	4	2	0	6
Jim Roquemore	3	0	1	0	.333	0	0	0	0
Pete Reeves	37	5	12	1	.324	1	0	0	1
Marty Bishop	33	2	10	6	.303	2	1	0	1
Dan Darden	17	2	5	0	.294	0	0	0	1
Ralph Starling	14	2	4	1	.286	0	0	0	0
Steve Sumner	42	5	11	2	.262	1	0	0	0
Darrell Branam	40	7	10	10	.250	3	0	0	0
Jerry Dennis	34	2	6	2	.176	1	0	0	1
Jeff Greenhalgh	36	2	5	3	.139	0	0	0	1
Dan Alford	52	6	7	8	.135	1	1	0	5
Bill Petty	20	4	2	0	.100	1	0	0	2
Bill Parsons	17	4	1	1	.059	0	0	0	2
Vince Musashe	10	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	567	96	151	76	.272	25	6	3	36
OPPONENTS	569	63	123	44	.216	11	3	3	21

PITCHING									
	G	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W-L	ERA
Steve McDiffitt	2	1.2	0	0	0	0	2	0-0	0.00
Larry Felts	2	.2	1	0	0	0	0	0-0	0.00
Jim Roquemore	1	.2	1	0	0	1	0	0-0	0.00
Rick Bowers	3	25.2	17	3	2	14	9	3-0	0.70
Dan Darden	5	39	22	15	7	16	28	3-2	1.62
Bill Petty	4	26	19	7	5	9	9	4-0	1.73
Marty LeFiles	4	13	9	6	4	5	8	0-1	2.77
Danny Chadwick	3	25.2	18	10	8	15	7	2-1	2.80
Foster Foran	4	18.2	24	14	8	10	9	2-1	3.86
Sam Bowen	1	5.1	9	6	6	6	6	0-1	10.19
Others	2	1.2	3	2	0	0	0	0-0	0.00
TOTALS	20	158	123	63	40	76	78	14-6	2.29
OPPONENTS	20	144.2	154	96	72	88	84	6-14	4.48



# VSC Ace Reliever Has Right Attitude

By MIKE CHASON

When Marty LeFiles started playing Pee Wee baseball at the age of eight, he never dreamed that one day he would be the ace reliever for the third best college baseball team in the country.

In 1973, LeFiles found himself in that position as he compiled a perfect 8-0 record coming off the bench, and the Valdosta State College Blazers captured the third place trophy in the NAIA World Series in Phoenix, Arizona.

How does Marty feel about his fireman's role? Well, he's proud of it even though it has kept him from starting but one game since he's been at VSC.

"After last year, I feel like I'm contributing just as much as any starter," LeFiles said.

"I pitched about as many innings as any starter last year, and most of the time when I came in we were either tied or behind.

"That made it a little more exciting I guess," LeFiles said.

LeFiles is a Valdosta native, and in his senior year, he racked up a 5-0 record for the Wildcats.

As a VSC sophomore, Marty came out for the squad on his own initiative. His love for the game remained, and he hoped he'd be able to help out the team.

That year, LeFiles pitched several games in relief and got his only start of his college career. He finished the season undefeated to set the stage for his banner year in '73.

"As a relief pitcher, I don't have time to psyche myself up, but then again, I don't sit around the day of the game worrying to death that I might lose," LeFiles reasoned.

"I try to keep up with the game, and when Coach Thomas gives me the word, I try to get myself up when I'm throwing my warmup pitches in the bullpen.

"I always want to be out there pitching, but I like relieving," LeFiles said.

Marty got his first loss of his college career this season when he came in against last year's SEC champions, Vanderbilt, and lost in the final inning.

In the four appearances he has made for VSC this year, the talented junior has two saves, the loss to Vandy, and one no-decision game.

"It goes in cycles," LeFiles said. "One week I'll get in three or four games, and the next week, I'll sit on the bench all the time.

"You've just got to be ready."

LeFiles is proudest of the win he got in Phoenix last year when he came in against Grand Canyon (Arizona) in the first inning and stifled them until the sixth.

Another reliever finished the game, but LeFiles got credit for the victory.

"One of the most important games, I ever pitched was last year against Columbus in the District 25 title game," LeFiles said.

Needless to say, the Blazers won that one too and advanced to the Area V playoffs at Knoxville, Tenn.

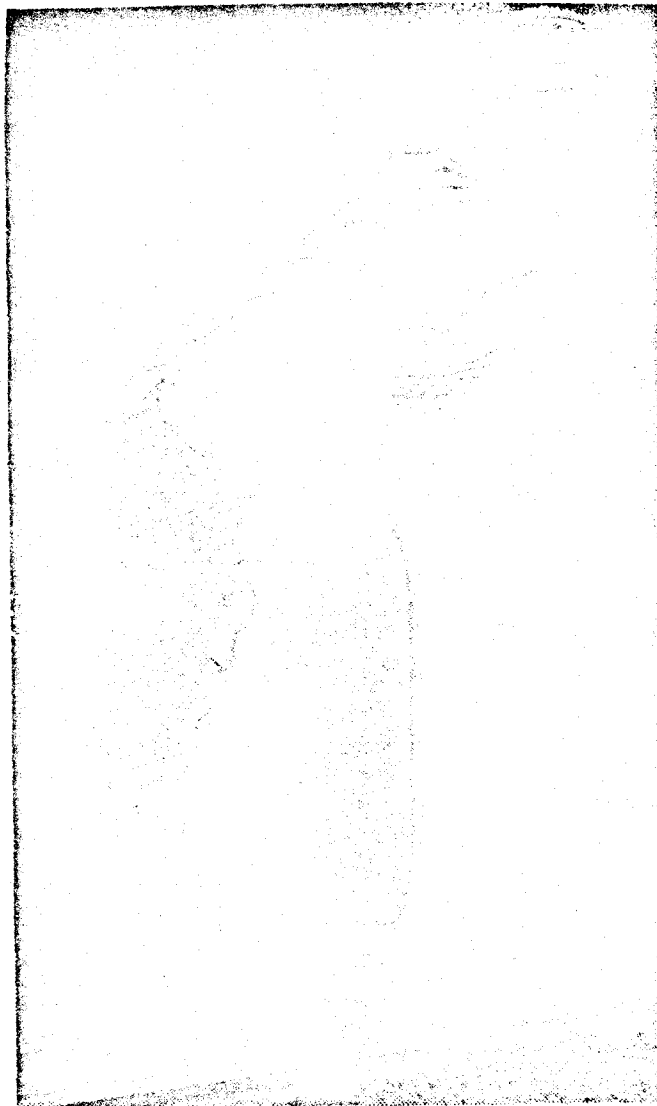
LeFiles is of the opinion that relief pitching is becoming more and more a part of major league baseball.

"You take somebody like Tug McGraw of the Mets," LeFiles offered. "He got just as much publicity as any of the mets.

"I think the relief pitcher will soon be looked upon just like the designated hitter is now in the American League.

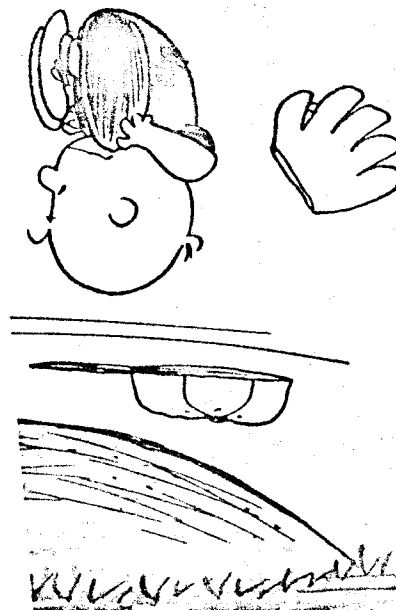
"It'll be just like a 10 man team," he concluded.

If all relief pitchers have the same attitude as LeFiles, he could be absolutely right.



-Times Staff Photo

On Duty: Marty LeFiles Does His Thing



DANNY CHADWICK during  
Blazer tournament  
action.

# VSC Divides Pair With Armstrong

By JAMES STAFF WRITER

SAVANNAH — Back to back homeruns by Darrell Branam and Dan Alford put Valdosta State College's Blazers on the road to victory here Tuesday but Armstrong State College's Pirates showed the visitors one rally wasn't enough to make a clean sweep of things.

The Blazers picked up a 4-0 lead on the two homeruns in the top of the fourth and went on to defeat the Pirates 1-1 in the first game of the doubleheader.

But the Pirates chalked up three runs each in the fourth and fifth innings while shutting the door on a second Blazer rally in the top of the seventh to take a 6-5 victory and hand the Valdostans their first conference loss.

The split left Coach Tommy Thomas's Blazers with a 15-7 overall record and a 3-1 SAC mark while the Pirates are now 13-6 and 3-1.

Branam, the Blazer catcher, put the Blazers on the victory route in the top of the second when he slammed his homerun, his first of the season, after Foster Foran and Jerome Register had each walked to give VSC a 3-0 lead. Alford, not to be outdone, duplicated the slam with a solo shot to boost it to 4-0. Armstrong never recovered.

The Blazers added two insurance runs in the top of the sixth when Marty Bishop walked and scored on Gene Felts' single, then Felts tallied when Sam Bowen's single was bobbled by Pirate left fielder John Snelling.

Armstrong's only run came in

the bottom of the sixth when David Barnhill walked, moved to second on Tony Wolfe's single and scored on Ricke Coleman's double.

With a little help from VSC reliever Marty LeFiles, Dan Darden picked up his fourth win in six decisions after going 5 1-3 innings on the mound. LeFiles came in to strike out one batter and give up nothing in the last inning and a third.

LeFiles didn't have it so easy in the second game, however, when he came in to replace Rick Bowers in the middle of the fourth inning. The roof fell in with LeFiles underneath leaving him with his second loss of the season.

Armstrong vaulted in to the lead in the bottom of the fourth when Steve McNeill, Linn Burnsed and Bruce Coleman scored on three hits, two walks and a VSC error.

But the Blazers evened it up

at 3-all in the top of the next frame when Foran, Bill Parsons and Jeff Greenhalgh tallied on two hits, three walks and a sacrifice.

It was in the bottom of that frame when the Pirates clinched it, with Ben Thomas, McNeill and Snelling scoring on a two run double by Snelling, two singles and two walks.

VSC tried to rally again in the top of the seventh when Steve Sumner walked and scored on Sam Bowen's hit. Bowen then scored on Foran's single to cut the margin to 6-5 but it was too little to overtake the Pirates.

VSC returns to action today at 3:15 p.m. hosting Lewis College of Illinois in the first of their two-game series at the Blazer diamond on the school's north campus.

VSC	AB	R	H	RBI
Reeves, ss	4	0	0	0
Bishop, 3b	3	1	1	0
Felts, lf	4	1	1	0
Bowen, cf	4	0	1	1
Foran, dh	1	1	0	0
Register, rf	2	1	0	0
Starling, rf	0	0	0	0
Branam, c	2	1	1	3
Alford, 2b	3	1	1	0
Greenhalgh, 1b	3	0	0	0
Darden, d	0	0	0	0
LeFiles, p	0	0	0	0
Totals	26	6	5	5

ASC	AB	R	H	RBI
McNeill, cf	4	0	0	0
Burnsed, rf	2	0	0	0
Snelling, lf	4	0	1	0
Burnsed, rf	2	0	0	0
Yarbrough, 1b	3	0	0	0
Barnhill, c	2	1	2	0
Coleman, b-3b	3	0	1	0
Wolfe, ss	2	0	1	0
Coleman, 1-dh	3	0	1	1
Mauer, p	25	1	6	1
Totals	24	5	4	4

VSC 040 020 0 6-5-3  
ASC 000 001 0 1-6-2

F - Reeves, Bowen, Alford, Coleman  
R - Snelling  
PP - Alford, Reeves, Greenhalgh  
LOP - VSC 3, ASC 8  
2B - Bishop, Coleman R.  
HF - Branam, Alford

	ip	h	r	er	lb	so	
Darden (W-4-2)	5	2-3	6	1	1	5	7
LeFiles	1	1-3	0	0	0	0	1
Mauer (L)	7	5	6	5	5	1	

VSC	ab	r	h	rbi
Sumner, 3b	3	1	1	2
Bowen, cf	3	1	1	0
Felts, lf	3	0	0	0
Branam, c	2	0	0	0
Petty, rf	0	0	0	0
Register, rf	2	0	0	0
Foran, dh	4	1	2	2
Alford, 2b	2	0	0	0
Masche, 2l	2	0	0	0
Parsons, ss	1	1	0	0
Greenhalgh, 1b	2	1	0	0
Bowen, p	0	0	0	0
LeFiles, p	0	0	0	0
Chadwick, p	0	0	0	0
Totals	24	5	4	4

ASC	AB	R	H	RBI
McNeill, cf	4	2	4	0
Snelling, lf	3	1	1	1
Burnsed, rf	3	1	0	0
Yarbrough, 1b	2	0	1	2
Coleman, b-3b	2	1	0	0
Graham, c	2	0	0	1
Wolfe, ss	3	0	1	1
Burzdorfer, dh	3	0	0	0
Thomas, 2b	3	1	1	0
Moore, p	0	0	0	0
Zetter, p	0	0	0	0
Burzdorfer, p	0	0	0	0
Totals	25	6	8	5

VSC 000 030 2-5-4-2  
ASC 000 350 0-6-8-1

R - Greenhalgh, Moore.  
LOB - VSC - 8; ASC - 6.  
2B - Snelling.  
SB - Petty, McNeill.  
S - Register, Greenhalgh  
Innings IP R H ER BB SO  
Bowers 3 1-3 3 3 2 2 3  
LeFiles (L, 0-2) 2 3 4 3 3 1 1  
Chadwick 2 1 0 0 2 1  
Moore 4 2-3 2 3 2 4 1  
Zetter (W) 2 2 2 2 3 4  
HBW - Register (Zetter).  
BALK - LeFiles  
WF - Moore.

VALDOSTA STATE has a losing record versus Armstrong State, counting only games played in Savannah. The Pirates seem to have a jinx over the BLAZERS there, and this held true in 1974 when ASC clipped VSC 6-5 in the second game of a twin-bill.

# VSC Heroes Nip Lewis, 6-5

By JULIAN MILLER

Steve McDiffitt held onto the mound for eight and a third innings to keep the Valdosta State College's Blazers above water; Jerome Register and Marty Bishop scored the tying and winning runs; Marty LeFiles came in to squelch a last minute Lewis College rally and Gene Felts stretched to pull in the last out.

All-in-all it was hard to find the hero of the day when the Blazers came from behind in one of their most exciting starts of the season to put down a determined bunch of Flyers' from Lewis, Illinois, 6-5, in a college baseball clash here Wednesday afternoon.

It was Darden, one of VSC's leading pitchers, taking the role of designated hitter who finally put the Blazers ahead with his fly out to the center field fence to score Marty Bishop.

But it was LeFiles, VSC's senior reliever, making his third appearance in two days, who squelched a Lewis rally with his strike out and Gene Felts,

VSC's All-America left fielder who snatched the last popup to end the threat and preserve the victory for the Blazers.

Trailing 5-3, as a result of a Lewis three-run outburst in the top of the seventh and solo insurance run in the eighth by the visitors, the Blazers, coached by Tommy Thomas, turned on the steam for a three-run outburst of their own in the eighth.

Foster Foran, a pitcher-catcher turned first baseman to replace an ailing Jeff Greenhalgh beat out a hit to first and took second on an overthrow, scoring on a bases loaded blooper by Marty Bishop to begin the Blazer rally.

Then Jerome Register, who set a VSC record for eight hits in as many at bats in the game, singled and scored when Steve Sumner drew four balls with the bases loaded to tie the game at 5-all and Darden's high flyer to plate Bishop brought in the winning run for the Blazers.

But it was the entrance of LeFiles, who chalked up his

third save of the season, after appearing in one win and one loss against Armstrong State College in Savannah Tuesday, that seemed to calm the Blazers down and bring about the confidence for the win.

LeFiles fanned Lewis Catcher Baranak, who had earlier hit a three-run homer, and then forced centerfielder Wally Onysio to pop up to Felts for the last out.

The visitors from Illinois had jumped off to a 1- lead in the top of the fourth when third baseman Bob Landi singled to plate Onysio, only to see the Blazers claim the lead when Felts, Register and Darryl Branam scored runs on three Lewis errors and two hits in the bottom of the frame.

But in the seventh inning Lewis took the lead again when Steve Verban hit a sacrifice fly to plate leadoff batter Mike Manderino and Baranak cracked a 375 foot two run homer. The insurance run in the eighth that didn't hold up came about when

leadoff batter, Jim Alessio, rambled to second on a throwing error by Bishop and advanced on two ground outs to score.

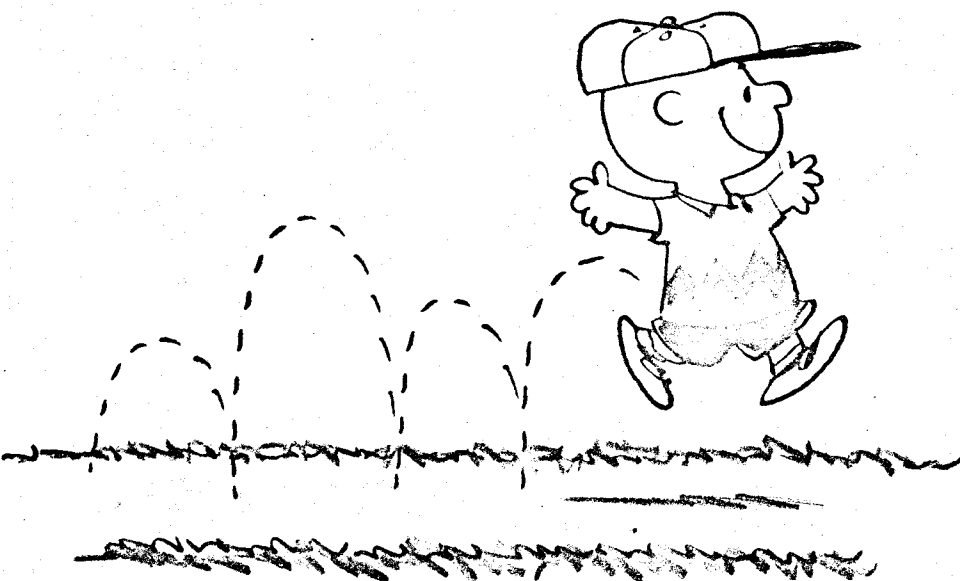
The loss as the first of the season for starting Lewis Pitcher Dick Fick, 2-0 before the thriller. It was only the second defeat in Lewis' nice games and boosted the Blazers to a 16-7 mark.

The two teams were scheduled to play again today at 3:15 p. m.

	ab	r	h	rbi
Lewis				
Manderino 2b	5	1	1	1
Dardeno dh	5	0	2	0
Verban lf	4	0	1	0
Crowley lb	3	1	1	0
Baranak c	5	1	2	2
Onysio cf	3	1	1	0
Landi 3b	4	0	1	1
Alessio ss	4	1	2	0
McCarthy rf	4	0	0	0
Fick p	0	0	0	0
Quisley p	0	0	0	0
VSC	ab	r	h	rbi
TOTALS	37	5	11	4
VSC	ab	r	h	rbi
Darden dh	4	0	1	1
Bowen cf	4	0	1	0
Felts lf	2	1	0	0
Foran lb	4	1	1	0
Register rf	4	2	2	0
Branam c	4	1	3	1
Bishop 3b	4	1	1	1
Sumner 2b	3	0	1	3
Parsens ss	3	0	1	0
Dennis	1	0	0	0
Reeves sa	0	0	0	0
McDiffitt p	0	0	0	0
LeFiles p	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	33	6	11	6
Lewis	000	100	310	-5-11-6
VSC	000	300	03x	-6-11-2

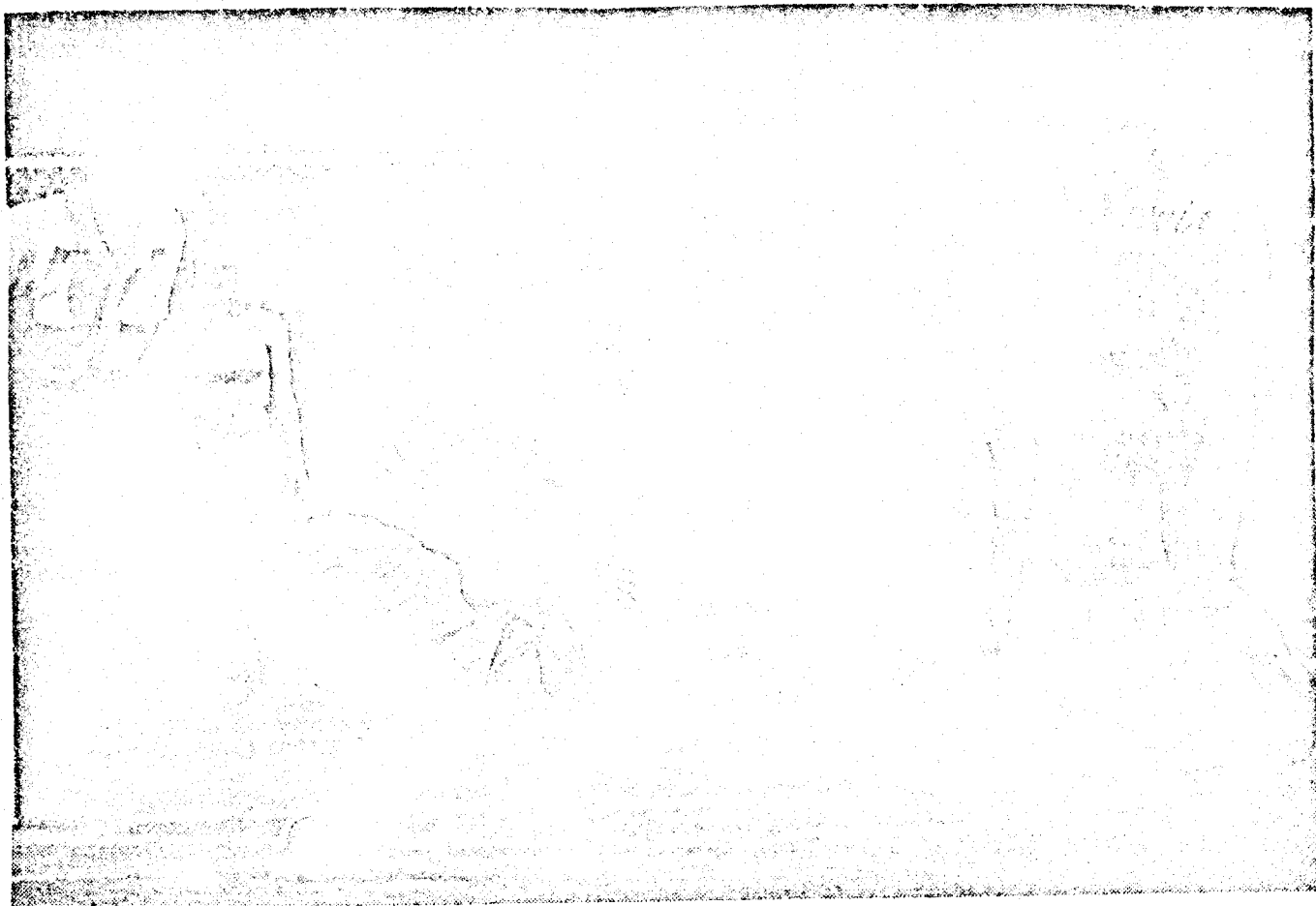
000 300 3x-6-11-2  
 VSC 000 300 3x-6-11-2  
 D-Verban 2, Sumner, Fick, Landi,  
 Alessio 2, Bishop.  
 DP-Alessio to Manderino to Crowley  
 (2)  
 LOS-VSC 9 Lewis 10  
 2E-Alessio, Darden, Branam, Crowley.  
 HR- Baranak.  
 SB-Verban, Alessio.  
 SP-Darden.

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Fick (L, 2-0)	7	3	11	6	1	4
Quisley	2	3	0	0	0	1
McDiffitt (W, 1-0)	6	3	11	5	3	5
LeFiles	2	3	0	0	0	1
RAIw-McDiffitt...						
WP-McDiffitt 2, LeFiles.						



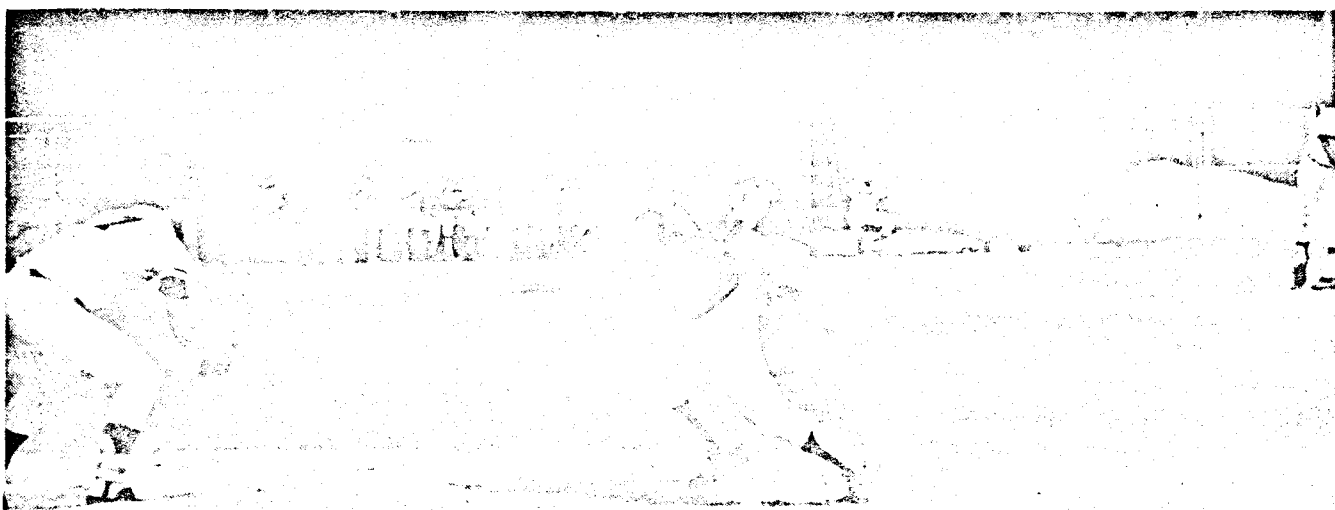
JEFF GREENHALGH gets a hit during regular season action.





-Times Staff Photo

VSC Catcher Branam Waits For Lewis' Steve Verdán After Throw From Right Fielder Jerome Register



Steve Sumner tests the Lewis College pitching ace in recent baseball action here.

## After Comeback

# Lewis Squeaks By VSC 7-6

By MIKE CHASON

Valdosta State jolted NAIA All-America Tom Brennan for four runs in the first inning Thursday, but when the smoke cleared at the end of the game, Brennan had a perfect 3-0 record and his Lewis College teammates had a 7-6 victory over the homestanding Blazers.

Coach Tommy Thomas' VSC nine exploded for all six of their runs in the opening three frames of the ballgame and pounded out eight hits in the process.

It is the hardest Brennan has been this since he entered college four years ago, according to his coach, Gordy Gillespie.

Thomas was proud of the way his now 16-8 Blazers hit, but

not so pleased with their defense.

"Our errors just killed us today," Thomas said. "I know they're doing the best they can, but to really have a good ballclub we're going to have to stop making foolish errors."

"These boys have the potential to be a great team, but right now, we're battling to be just a good team."

Assistant coach Dave Waples was a little more to the point when he said, "we've got to start hitting in more runs than we kick in."

Dan Darden, in the designated hitter's role, led off the game with a single to center field followed by a double by Sam Bowen which sent Darden scurrying to third.

Brennen then intentionally walked Gene Felts to load the bases. Darden came home on a wild pitch to Jerome Register, but he needn't have bothered since Register delivered a hit up the middle to plate Bowen and Felts a moment later.

Register moved to second on Darrell Branam's single, went to third on Steve Sumner's sacrifice bunt, and scored on Marty Bishop's fly ball.

The Blazers struck again in the second frame when Pete Reeves singled, swiped second, jogged to third on Darden's second hit, and came home on Bowen's sacrifice fly.

In the third inning, the Flyers from Illinois chalked up three runs on two hit batsmen by

Blazer pitcher Foster Foran and a pair of bloop hits which fell in just out the reach of VSC defenders.

Branam drove a 330' homer in the third stanza for his second of the week and the Blazer's final run of the game.

At this point, Gillespie had thoughts of pulling his ace. "But," said the three time NAIA coach of the year, "I haven't pulled him in four years so why start now?"

Lewis tied it up in the sixth when Wally Onystio walked, went to second on Jim Alessio's hit and came home when Register mishandled the ground ball. Alessio scored when Bob Landi smacked another single to left field.

Landi circled the bases on a fielder's choice, an error on Pete Reeves, and slid home on George DiMatteo's sacrifice.

In the final frame, Mike Manderino walked, went to second on DiMatteo's sacrifice bunt, and barely beat the throw to plate on Steve Verban's sacrifice fly.

Foran took the loss for Valdosta State, lowering his record to 2-2 on the year.

The Blazers are scheduled to face South Atlantic Conference rival West Georgia in Carrollton

Saturday for a doubleheader.

Left-hander Bill Petty is scheduled to start the first game, and East Gary, Indiana native, Dan Chadwick is slated to hurl the nightcap.

### Blazers' Box

	AB	R	H	KB	
Lewis					
Manderino, 2b	3	2	0	1	
DiMatteo, dh	3	1	0	0	
Verban, lf	5	1	2	1	
Crowley, 1b	4	0	1	1	
Baranack, c	3	0	1	0	
Onystio, cf	3	1	0	0	
Alessio, ss	5	1	1	0	
Landi, 3b	4	1	1	0	
McCarthy, rf	3	0	0	0	
Brennen, p	0	0	0	0	
TOTALS	32	9	4	4	
VSC					
	AB	R	H	KB	
Darden, dh	4	1	2	0	
Bowen, cf	3	1	1	1	
Felts, lf	4	1	0	0	
Register, rf	5	1	1	2	
Branam, c	5	1	2	1	
Sumner, 2b	2	0	1	0	
Bishop, 3b	4	0	2	1	
Dennis, 1b	3	0	0	0	
Reeves, ss	3	1	2	0	
Foran, p	0	0	0	0	
Bette, 1b	1	0	0	0	
TOTALS	32	7	7	4	
Lewis	003	003	001	-7-7-0	
Valdosta	411	000	000	-5-11-5	
E - Bowen, Register	..2.			Sumner, Reeves	
DP - Baranack to Manderino					
LOB - Lewis 9, VSC 10					
2B - Verban, Bowen					
HR - Branam					
DeMatteo, Reeves					
S - DeMatteo, McCarthy, Sumner					
SB - Verban, Bowen, Bishop					
	IP	H	R	BB	SO
Brennen (W-3-0)	9	11	6	3	13
Foran (L-2-2)	8	23	6	7	5
Reeves	1-3	1	0	1	1
HEP - Manderino, Baranack by Foran					
Rank - Sumner 1 by Brennan					
WP - Brennan 2					

**LEWIS won the 1974 NAIA World Series, defeating Sam Houston State (Tex.) in the finals. The BLAZERS hold a 3-2 total won-lost mark versus the Flyers.**

## Blazers Lose to Lewis

Lewis (Illinois) came from behind Thursday scoring a ninth inning run to hand the Blazers of Valdosta State a 7-6 setback at Blazer Field.

Tom Brennan, the Lewis hurler who Florida State University baseball head mentor Jack Stallings calls "Probably the best pitcher in collegiate baseball" survived a shaky start in picking up the victory. Valdosta State jumped on the Lewis right-hander for four runs in

the first inning. After Dan Darden had singled, Sam Bowen lined a double to right centerfield, Gene Felts walked and when Jerome Register sent a sharp single up the middle the Blazers had their first two runs of the day. Daryl Branum's single and Marty Bishop's sacrifice fly brought home the other two first inning marks. Valdosta picked up another run in the second to extend its lead to 5-0. Lewis came up with three runs of their own

in the third, to close the gap to two, 5-3. Daryl Branum's 340 foot homer down the left field line in the bottom half of the third put Valdosta up by three a lead which held up until the sixth when Lewis strung together two hits, a walk, and 2 Blazer mis-cues to knot the score at 6-6. In the ninth a walk, a sacrifice bunt, and a long fly ball to center, brought home the winning run for the Inninois nine.

# West Georgia, Mays Lead In SAC Baseball Stats

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Henry Mays of West Georgia College is the terror of the South Atlantic Conference so far, leading the league in four baseball categories.

According to statistics released by SAC statistician Dave Waples, Mays is on top in batting average, (.473), runs batted in (28), triples (three), and home runs (four).

Jerome Register of Valdosta State is third in the hitting category with a .373 average, and VSC's Sam Bowen is right

behind, hitting at a .367 clip.

Bowen is also first in runs scored with 24, third in doubles with seven, and third in stolen bases with 12.

Rick Bowers and Dan Darden of VSC are third and fourth in the pitching department with 1.24 and 1.62 earned run averages.

### WEST GEORGIA TAKE 2 BG

Team	SAC Standings	Overall
West Georgia	3-1	17- 8
Valdosta State	3-1	14- 7
Armstrong State	3-1	13- 6
Augusta	2-2	3- 4
Columbus	1-3	8-13
Southern Tech	0-4	0- 9

West Georgia finished the season with a 5-36 mark. Twenty-two of these losses were by forfeit, thus the Braves were technically 27-14. The BLAZERS have defeated the Braves five straight times.

# VSC, West Georgia Try Again Today

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

CARROLLTON — Wet grounds forced postponement of a scheduled South Atlantic Conference doubleheader between West Georgia College and Valdosta State College here Saturday.

The two teams, currently tied for second place in the SAC race, will try again today, with the first game of the twin bill scheduled to begin at 1 p.m.

Blazer Coach Tommy Thomas said he will start freshman lefthander Bill Petty, 4-0, in the opener and senior righthander Danny Chadwick, 2-1, in the nightcap.

West Georgia and VSC have identical 3-1 records in league play. They trail league leading Armstrong State by one game.

Armstrong State grabbed sole possession of the lead Saturday by taking a doubleheader from Southern Tech. The Pirates won the opener 4-0 and took the second game 4-2.

In other SAC action Saturday, Augusta and

Columbus split a twin bill, Augusta winning the opener 4-3 but dropping the nightcap 9-6. Augusta is now 3-3 in the league and Columbus is 2-4.

### SAC STANDINGS

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.	GB
Armstrong State	5	1	.833	—
Valdosta State	3	1	.750	1
West Georgia	3	1	.750	1
Augusta	3	3	.500	2
Columbus	2	4	.333	3
Southern Tech	0	6	.000	5

# VSC's Thomas Vows Not To Return To Carrollton

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Valdosta State College Blazer baseball team suffered another rainout of their scheduled doubleheader with the West Georgia College Braves Sunday for their second in two days. Or was it their first in two days?

According to VSC head coach Tommy Thomas, the West Georgia diamond at Carrollton was acceptable for play Saturday, but due to the arguments of the Braves' head coach, Archie White, the game was put off until Sunday.

Thomas said on Sunday the field really was too wet to play on since it was drizzling rain at game time, and some rain had fallen during the night. But White was ready to begin play although the conditions were twice as bad according to Thomas.

That's when Thomas removed his team from the field, boarded the bus for Valdosta, and made his big decision.

"I will not return to

Carrollton unless ordered to do so by the South Atlantic Conference Commissioner (J. B. Scearce Jr.) or by my own school officials, and then only if they're really adamant in their request," Thomas vowed.

"It rained pretty hard Friday night, but when coach White and I looked at the field Saturday morning, there were only a few small puddles on the infield and the pitcher's mound and home plate were slightly soggy.

"That could have been easily fixed with a little sand, but coach White was reluctant to do any work at all on the field. "His argument was that his boys might get hurt, and he'd have to use up two dozen baseballs. Of course, he didn't think about us having to spend an extra \$200 for another night up there," Thomas added.

"I'm not accusing him (White) of anything but I know that West Ga. played Columbus in a doubleheader on Wednesday, thus his top two pit-

chers were not available before our game.

The little drama continued to unfold on Saturday afternoon when the sun shone brilliantly all afternoon according to Thomas.

"In fact," the VSC mentor continued, "we had a practice session late Saturday afternoon, and the field was in good shape."

On Sunday, a slight drizzle began when the Blazers ended their batting practice at 12:45 and the skies "darkened considerably," Thomas said.

Nevertheless the Braves took the field and White was ready to play baseball. By that time, Thomas said the sky was almost black and the rain was coming down in a steady drizzle, and he decided he'd had enough.

"I'm going to call the commissioner today to tell him the whole story and my decision not to go back," Thomas said.

"Right now, I don't see how I would go back without some kind of compensation," he

# VSC Sweeps Two From Columbus College

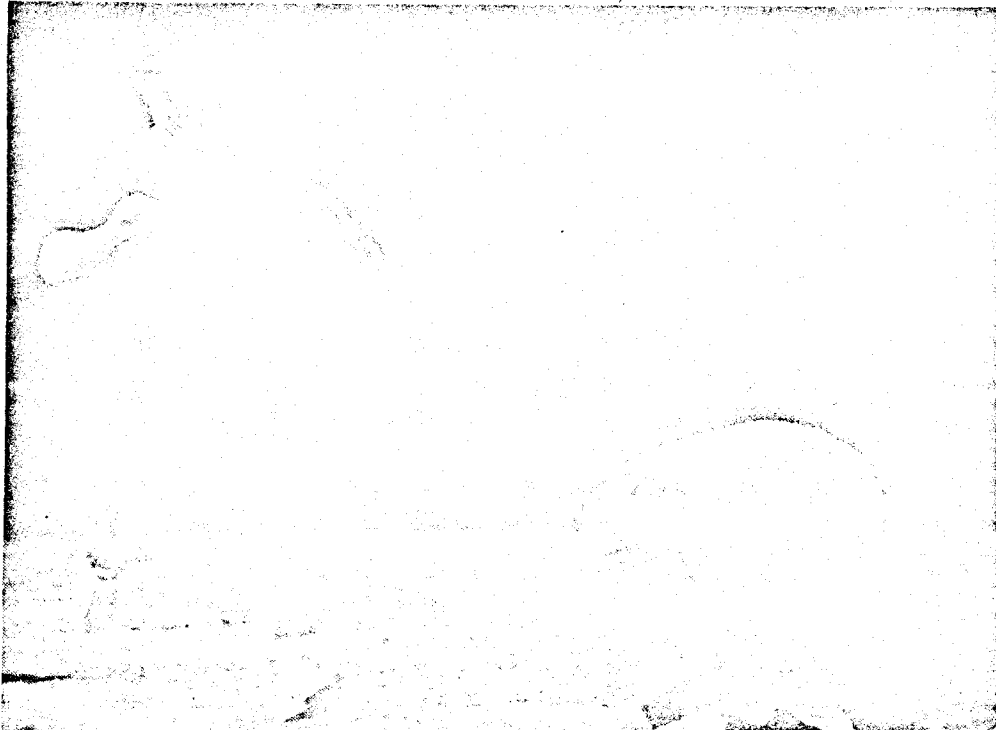
Combine the booming bats of Daryl Branum and Gene Felts, and the clutch relief pitching of fireman Marty LeFiles in the first game, and the offensive assault of Jerome Register and Sam Bowen added to Bill Pettys mound work in the second and you come up with a Valdosta State doubleheader sweep of conference opponent Columbus College 11-6, and 6-3.

In the first game the Blazers jumped on Cougar starter Paul Wright, who had previously hurled two no hit, no-run games this year, for four first inning, four third inning, and three sixth inning runs, all earned. Dan Darden got the scoring parade going in the first when he singled to be followed by four more resulting in the first 4 Blazer

runs. Valdosta's third inning uprising was highlighted by Gene Felts 3-run double. LeFiles came on in the fifth for an ailing Dan Darden after the Cougars had closed the gap to 8-6. He then proceeded to hurl 3 innings of one hit shutout ball to pick up his 4th save of the year and help Darden to his fifth win in seven outings. In the sixth Daryl Branum's towering two run blast to left, his third 4-bagger of the year, and a double steal by Felts and Foster Foran brought home three Blazer insurance runs.

In the second game Bill Petty survived a shaky first inning in which the Cougars pushed across three runs, to hurl one hit shutout ball the rest of the way and record his fifth victory of the year

against no defeats. They erased the three run deficit in the third when Sam Bowen powered a 365 foot solo homer to left center to tie the score at 3-3 after Valdosta had pushed across two second inning markers. Felts and Foran continued the third inning onslaught with back to back doubles followed by Register's opposite field triple to propel the Blazers to a 5-3 lead. Dan Darden's sacrifice fly in the fourth scored Dan Alford who had singled to set the score at its final 6-3 mark. With the victories the Blazer improved their record to 18-8 overall, 5-1 in the conference. They are tied for second with West Georgia one game behind 7-1 Armstrong State. The Blazers meet Florida State this afternoon



Students against faculty in Intramural action last week. Pick up the ball!

Blazer assistant coach, DAVE WAPLES, is shown trotting around the bases after his third consecutive home-run (or was it four; no matter). Head coach TOMMY THOMAS followed with a four-bagger (his ninth consecutive hit), to lead the Faculty to yet another slaughter of a hapless student intramural team.



# Felts Ends Hitting Slump Just In Time For Honors

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

After weeks of soul searching and misery, Gene Felts exploded from the biggest slump of his collegiate career to the front position of the Valdosta State College Blazer attack and the change came none too soon.

After going hitless for four straight games, the only full-fledged All-America baseball player ever at VSC, went five for seven against Columbus College in a South Atlantic Conference doubleheader here Tuesday to spark two Blazer wins.

It was just in time for the senior from Lakeland, Ga., is to be honored for his All-America status when he is presented a plaque by Georgia Southern head coach Jim Polk in the intermission of their traditional battle double header here Thursday afternoon.

Felts hit three doubles and two singles while scoring three runs and batting in four others and stealing two bases as VSC defeated the Cougars 11-6 and 6-3 in their two games Thursday.

"And I just loved it," said the congenial centerfielder who has become obviously upset with his hitting thus far this season. "I don't know what made me come out of the slump. If I knew that I'd

make a million dollars.

"Slumps are funny. You don't know what causes them and you never know what makes you come out of them. And I don't know how long I'll stay out of it, but I know I can be a little more confident when I go to bat now."

Felts came into the season already clutching most of the VSC records in his memoirs and was said to have a chance of easily capturing all of them this season. The slump almost ruined all that but not his hopes.

"I really didn't think about the records," he admitted. "I knew the records will be broken if I can just hit the ball."

While Felts stayed constantly worried about his slump, he couldn't worry too much for fear it would ruin the rest of his game.

"I wondered about why I was having one and what to do to get out of it. But you know you can worry so much you change your style and soon you're not doing anything like you should do.

"Then you could start thinking about it when you're in the field and miss some plays. I tried to do better in the field than ever when I was in my slump so I could be helping the team somehow. When you're hitting good the

whole game improves.

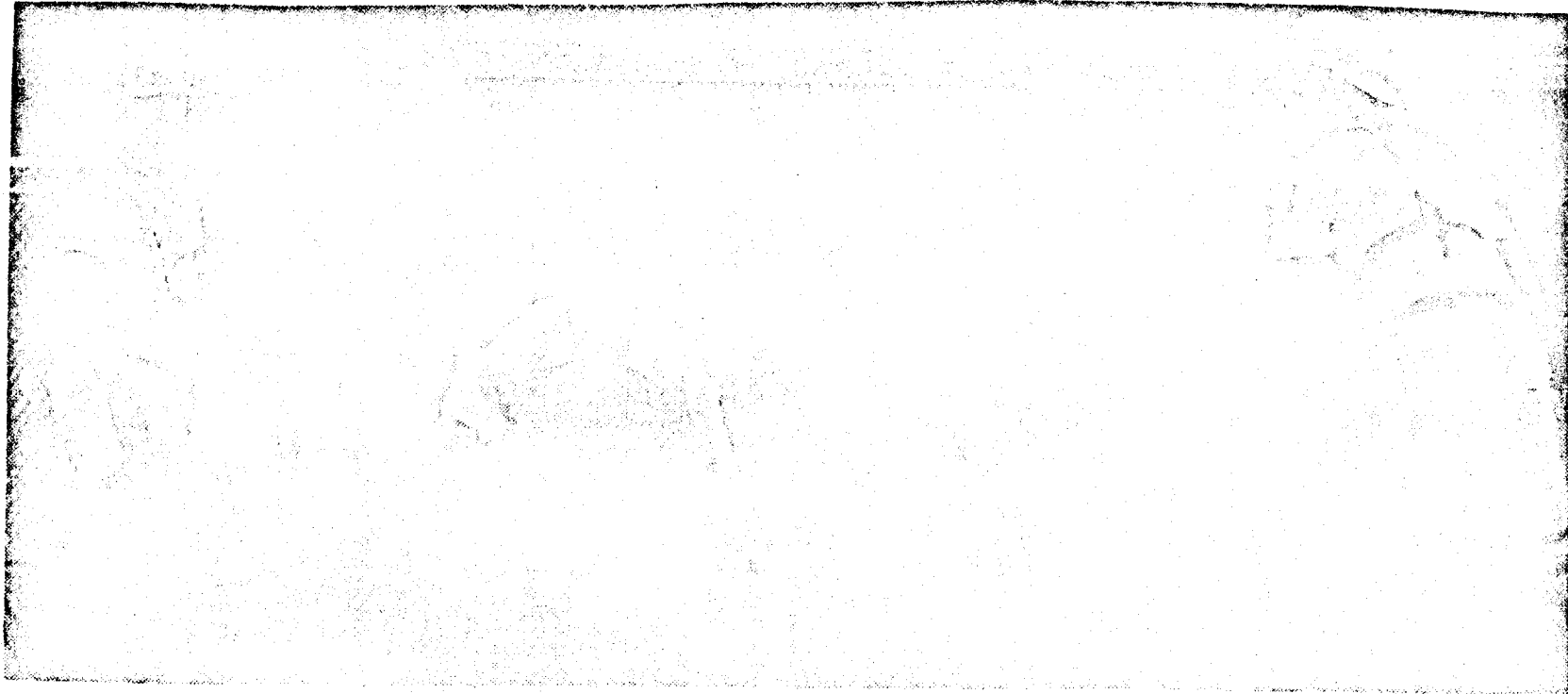
Although his hits are coming back the homeruns he led the team in for the past two years aren't. But the brown haired green eyed senior isn't too worried about them.

"Two of them bounced off the fence today," he noted. "Those made the fifth or sixth this year to do that. Just a little longer and they would have had five or six home runs. Right now I have none. But if I can keep rappin' it like today, those homers will come."

Being presented the award by Polk is an honor to the Lanier County High School graduate, and nothing personal is meant. But he'd like to be a little less hospitable to the Eagles Thursday.

"Hey, I want to beat them...I'd rather beat them than eat," the pro baseball hopeful admitted. "I have several reasons. Jamie an older brother coaching in Brooks County) went there and he likes to rag me all the time.

"They're one of the best teams in the nation and I'd like nothing better than to knock them off at least once, maybe twice. They've got the feeling now that they can't be beat and I'd like to rub them in the dirt."



Sate: Sliding Gene Felts And Columbus Catcher Bill Chester Wait For Ump James Jennings To Decide

## Nationally Ranked Eagles To Battle Valdosta State

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Georgia Southern's high flying Eagles are scheduled to invade Blazer Field today in a 2 p.m. doubleheader with the Valdosta State College diamond nine.

Coach Ren Polk's GSC squad brought some impressive statistics with them including a 32-2 record, a .315 team batting average, and a fourth place ranking in the major college baseball poll.

The Eagles' two losses came at the hands of Central Michigan and Lewis (III) College. Lewis' Tom Brennan,

a 7-6 winner over VSC, shutout Southern 6-0 earlier in the week.

According to Polk, this will be the first road trip of the year for his team, and not one he is particularly looking forward to.

"I have a lot of respect for Valdosta State because they always have a fine ball club," Polk said.

"It's always tougher to play on the road, and I hate seven inning games like we'll be playing today. These games just get over to quick."

Polk said that righthander Barry Beck, 5-1, would pitch the first game, and ace reliever

Kenny Ciuppa, 3-0, would get his first start in the nightcap.

VSC head coach Tommy Thomas believe his offense will have to come through for the Blazers to win.

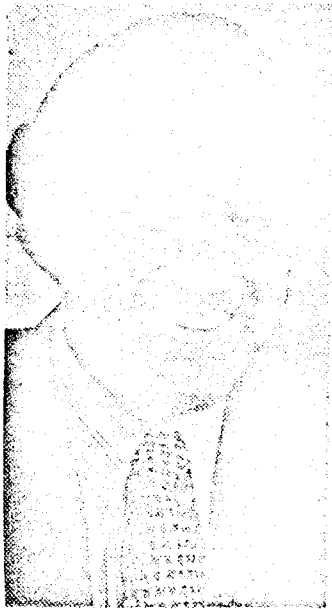
"I hope they do, but I don't think our pitchers can hold them," Thomas said.

"To win, we'll have to play great defense and score some runs. We can't mess around on the field and expect to beat a team like Southern."

Thomas planned to start Steve McDiffitt, 1-0, in one of the games and wither Foster Foran, 2-2, or Marty LeFiles, 1-2, in the other.

# The Unknown Side Of Tommy Thomas

One of the most successful baseball coaches this area has ever known; yup, that's Tommy Thomas. And his 178-90 record and subsequent honors his team has compiled prove it.



MILLER

and best home run hitter.

He still holds the record for hitting the round trippers, although no one remembers what it was. But everyone remembers the day he hit two homeruns in a single inning.

"It happened in the state playoffs for the NBC National Baseball Congress) championship in Marietta," Thomas laughed, after being coaxed into remembrance.

"The funny thing about it Duck Barnes (another Red Sox player then) had asked my dad to go back to the hotel and get something. While he was gone I hit the first one. He was upset about that until I came back up to bat in the same inning and hit another one."

But don't think Thomas could have rivaled the Hammer and the Babe.

"That homerun thing is vastly overdone," he laughed. "I was a pretty good country ball player but that's about it. I was a spury hitter. I'd hit some out of the stands on some days, but on others nobody would want to take a second look at me. I couldn't have gone anywhere in the pros, I had too many handicaps.

Thomas was bounced around the Red Sox and old VSC Rebel starting line up like a basketball at a midget league convention.

He made the route starting at pitcher in ("when I was in little league that was what I was,") to catcher, first base, outfield, short stop and third.

But there's another story to the young Valdosta native who pilots the Valdosta State College Blazers, a side he doesn't particularly like to talk about but keeps coming back to him.

Before his coaching career ever started, his playing career led him to become one of the most versatile players ever and subsequently one of the most error prone.

Don't think it was all bad. Ralph Starling, who annually builds a semi-pro baseball team here called the Valdosta Red Sox readily admits Thomas was not only the most versatile player he's ever had, he was the best catcher ever

## Memories Vary

Starling remembers him as one of the greatest, Thomas remembers different.

"My first day at shortstop I made some of the most fantastic catches . . . but I finished the day with about five errors 'cause I would throw them into the trees, the stands the dugout...you name it."

But the moving around made him a better coach, he believes. "I learned how to catch and how to pitch by catching Randall Copeland. He had such pinpoint control. I don't tell the catcher and pitcher what to call now, but I can suggest things."

But the best thing he learned was not to play someone at a position he wasn't used to.

"When I played for VSC I was moved to first base one day and I wasn't used to it. I went up for a bunt and I forgot the second baseman was supposed to cover first.

"When the bunt was thrown to first I caught it . . . about three feet from the bag where the second baseman was waiting for it, and the runner was safe."

## Still Holds Records

Thomas isn't a Red Sox any more...hasn't been for about four years now. The weekend traveling and bad eyesight caught up with him.

"I knew I'd better do something when I started misjudging fly balls and striking out three times in a row with the bases loaded," he said.

But one record will remain probably forever. In Thomas' own words:

"I am the slowest eater in all athletics."

It's true. Team members returning from a trip with Thomas once counted him chew one bite of banana 72 times before swallowing.

When he played for VSC, Billy Grant then head coach and now Athletic director, made sure Tommy was first in the Chow Line. Now his players catch a short nap while the coach finishes his meal.

It's not all bad though.

"It's kept me from having an ulcer I'm sure," Thomas beamed.



# Blazers Shock Powerful Eagles In Twin-Bill Sweep

By MIKE CHASON

The powerful Georgia Southern College Eagles swooped down on Blazer Field Thursday carrying an amazing 33-2 record and a fourth place ranking in the major college baseball poll atop their shoulders.

But the weight was a bit too heavy, because it only took a pair of Valdosta State College freshmen pitchers with nothing to lose to topple the Eagles from their perch with back-to-back Blazer baseball victories by 6-3 and 5-4 margins.

Steve McDiffitt from New Martinsville, W. Va. went the

distance in the first game scattering eight Southern hits and walking only one to raise his record to 2-0.

Ace reliever Marty LeFiles started the nightcap, but yielded to lefthander Bill Petty in the fifth inning with the bases loaded and nobody out.

Petty, a Grove City, Ohio native, allowed only two hits the rest of the way, boosting his record to 6-0 on the year.

Blazer head coach Tommy Thomas didn't try to hold back how proud he was of his team.

"We got great jobs from all our boys today from the mound and at the bat,"

Thomas said.

"Our pitchers did the job I didn't think they could do. They kept Southern from killing the ball like everyone knows they're capable of doing. Alford (Dan) hit the ball solid all day, and Jeff Greenhalgh's home run in the second game proved to be the big winner."

Southern's head coach Ron Polk, although disappointed with the losses, was not surprised at the strength at the VSC squad.

"We knew Valdosta State had a fine team when we came down here," Polk said.

"I think being on the road

and the seven inning games hurt our team, but you can't take anything away from Valdosta. They hit the ball better than I thought they would."

Valdosta State wasted no time in getting on the board when they rapped Eagle pitcher Barry Beck for three hits and three runs in the first inning of the afternoon.

Dan Darden led off with an infield hit, followed by Sam Bowen who reached first on a miscue by Southern's shortstop Rich Toth.

Gene Felts then slammed a double off the left field fence to plate Darden and send

Bowen to third.

Foster Foran walked, and Jerome Register delivered a clutch single to center to score Bowen and Felts.

That ended the scoring for the inning, but not the action. When Foran was sliding into third, his foot jammed against the bag, and the result was a broken ankle which will sideline him for the rest of the season.

In the fourth, Southern came roaring back to chalk up three runs after McDiffitt hit Jim Morrison, and Mike Cash drove him home with a double down the right field line.

of the situation by lining a single to right to score Felts and Register. Branam scored on Marty Bishop's fielder's choice.

In the second game, Southern's Cash hit a two run homer in the top of the second to put the Eagles on top.

Not to be outdone, Jeff Greenhalgh crashed a three run shot off GSC's Ken Cruppa in the bottom half of the frame to send the Blazers out front to stay.

Register legged out a triple in the third frame to score Bowen who had singled and then crossed the plate himself a moment later on Branam's

Cash scored on a sacrifice fly by Rich Toth after Steve Garcia had singled. Garcia moved into scoring position on a walk to Jamie Ivins, and Bobby Salter obliged him by slashing a single to left.

Ivins had a notion of going home on the play, but a perfect strike from Bowen in center field to Darrell Branam behind the plate ended his hope as well as the Eagle scoring.

In the sixth, Beck walked Register and Branam, and Felts reached base on an error by second baseman Cash.

Dan Alford took advantage

single to left.

The Eagles added two more runs in the fifth on four consecutive walks and a fielder's choice, but a double play from second baseman Alford to Greenhalgh wiped out any scoring hopes.

"On this day, I'd have to say that Southern was not the club I thought they would be," Thomas surmised, "but if we played again tomorrow, things might be different."

VSC, now 20-3 is scheduled to take on South Atlantic Conference foe Augusta College at Blazer Field Saturday in a 1 p.m. doubleheader.

*Blazers Shock*

*Eagles Twice*

... see page 19

# Blazer Box

FIRST GAME

Ga. Southern	ab			
Chauncey, cf	4	0	2	0
Butler, rf	4	0	0	0
Person, lb	4	0	1	0
Morrison, 3b	2	1	0	0
Cash, 2b	3	1	1	0
Garcia, dh	3	1	1	1
Ivins, lf	2	0	1	0
Toth, ss	2	0	1	1
Salter, c	3	0	1	1
Beck, p	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	27	3	8	3
Valdosta State	ab			
Darden, dh	3	1	2	0
Bowen, cf	3	1	0	0
Felts, lf	3	2	1	1
Foran, lb	0	0	0	0
Register, rf	2	1	1	2
Branam, c	2	1	0	0
Alford, 2b	3	0	1	2
Bishop, 3b	3	0	0	1
Parsons, ss	3	0	0	0
McDiff, p	0	0	0	0
Starling, rf	0	0	0	0
Greenhalgh, lb	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	23	6	5	6

Ga. Southern 000 3000 0-3-8-2  
 Valdosta State 300 003 x-6-5-2  
 B-Toth, Cash, Bishop, Alford.  
 E-Toth, Cash, Bishop, Alford.  
 DP-Bowen to Branam, Parsons to Alford to Greenhalgh, Cash to Toth to Person.  
 LOB-GSC 6 VSC 3.  
 2B-Cash, Felts.  
 SB-Bishop.  
 S-Greenhalgh  
 SF-Toth  
 Beck (L. 5-2) 6 5 6 3 4  
 McDiff (W. 2-0) 7 8 3 1 3  
 HBP-Morrison  
 WP-Beck, McDiffy

SECOND GAME

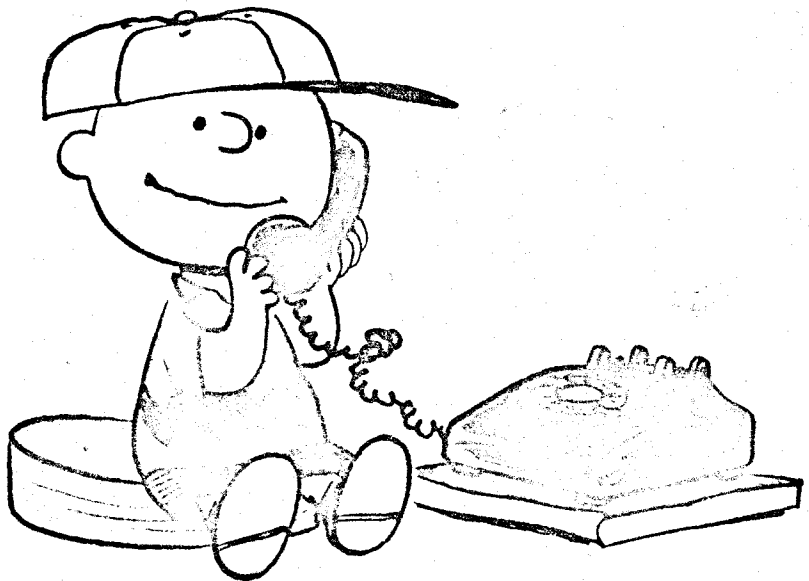
Ga. Southern	ab			
Chauncey, cf	3	1	1	0
Butler, rf	3	1	0	0
Person, lb	2	0	0	0
Morrison, 3b	3	1	2	1
Cash, 2b	3	1	1	2
Garcia, dh	3	0	1	0
Ivins, lf	3	0	1	0
Toth, ss	3	0	2	0
Salter, c	3	0	0	0
Chiappa, p	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	25	4	8	3
Darden, dh	3	0	0	0
Bowen, cf	3	1	1	0
Felts, lf	3	0	1	0
Register, rf	3	1	1	1
Branam, c	2	0	1	1
Alford, 2b	3	1	1	0
Sumner, 3b	3	0	0	0
Reeves, ss	3	1	1	0
Greenhalgh, lb	2	1	1	3
LeFiles, p	0	0	0	0
Petty, p	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	25	5	7	5

Ga. Southern 070 020 0-4-8-1  
 Valdosta State 032 000 x-5-7-0  
 E-Butler  
 DP-Alford to Greenhalgh 2, Branam to Sumner  
 LOB-GSC 6, VSC 4  
 SB-Register  
 HR-Cash, Greenhalgh  
 Chiappa (L. 3-1) 4 7 5 1 3  
 LeFiles 4 4 4 4 1  
 Petty (W. 4-0) 3 2 0 1 0



-Times Staff Photo

Dan Alford (1) Goes For Two After Nailing Southern's James Ivins



DAN DARDEN reports to WVLD that he had two hits in the first Southern game!

# McDiffitt Got His Chance At Ga. Southern's Expense

By JULIAN MILLER

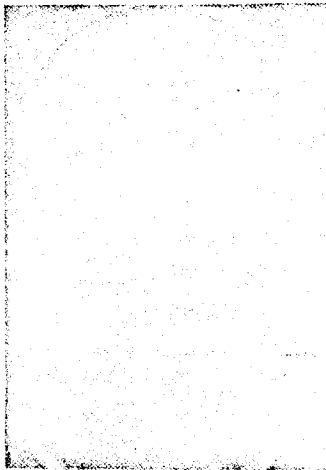
Steve McDiffitt left his home in New Martinsville, W. Va for the baseball diamond at Valdosta State College looking for some top name competition, but he never expected to his second start of his collegiate career to be against the fourth placed team in the nation.

It didn't seem to phase the freshman right hander here Thursday, however, as he mowed down the Georgia Southern College Eagles in his second start ever, going the distance with for the first of two victories the Blazers were to chalk up against the previously 30-2 Statesboro team.

"I kept telling myself they were no better than any body else," the mild mannered freshman said after the 6-3 win. "I had heard a lot about them..about how good they were

"But around the fifth inning I began thinking they didn't deserve that number four rating, that we were a better team. I still believe that."

Although he went the distance, McDiffitt was never sure of the win until the last



**STEVE McDIFFITT  
Gets Second Win**

play was over. His teammates had backed him up with three runs in the first inning only to be tied when he ran into trouble in the top of the fourth.

"I didn't know what to think then," he admitted. "I kept saying 'well, this is gonna be my last inning.' But we got out of it. Then Dan Alford came through with a great hit (one that scored two more runs for VSC to clinch the win) and

things looked different."

McDiffitt issued one base on balls, walked another by hitting him with a pitch and struck out three while giving up eight hits for his second win.

"My arm got tired in the fourth inning and I could tell I was losing alot," he admitted. "I started using a lot of change up pitches and the curve ball a lot more. My curve ball was working today, I'd have to say say it was."

Not being in the regular rotation, McDiffitt had vowed to prove himself any time he got to the mound. He had mixed reactions about pitching against the Eagles.

"You always hope to get a chance to prove yourself good enough," McDiffitt said. "I was a little scared when I heard I was going to start. "I guess I wasn't really sure what to think, I still don't. I think they might be a better team than what they showed me today." "I was really impressed, I had heard they played good baseball up here, but I didn't know that good. If we keep playing like we are I think we have a chance to go all the way."

Unheralded STEVE McDIFFITT finally got his chance, after being rained-out of two starts. The New Martinsville, W.Va., frosh proceeded to beat Lewis (the NAIA National champ), Georgia Southern (33-2, and 4th ranked), and Florida State. McDiffitt was well coached at Magnolia High School by DAVE CISAR.

## Valdosta Raps Southern Twice

VALDOSTA — Georgia Southern's baseball team should have stayed at home Thursday. After compiling a 33-2 record without hitting the road, Southern visited Valdosta State...and promptly lost both ends of a double-header. The scores were 6-3 and 5-4.

### FIRST GAME

Georgia Southern	630 300	0-3	8	2
Valdosta State	350 003	x-6	5	2
Back and Salter:	McDivitt, and			
Branam.				

### SECOND GAME

Georgia Southern	020 020	0-4	8	0
Valdosta State	037 023	x-5	7	0
Krueger and Salter:	LeFlies, Petty			
(5) and Branam.				

## Blazers Stun Fourth Ranked Eagles

Valdosta State accomplished what many thought to be the impossible Thursday by sweeping a twin bill from the Eagles of Georgia Southern 6-3 and 5-4. With the victories the Blazers upped their overall mark to 20-8 while dropping the Eagles to 33-4, almost assuredly toppling them from their number four national ranking in the college major league poll.

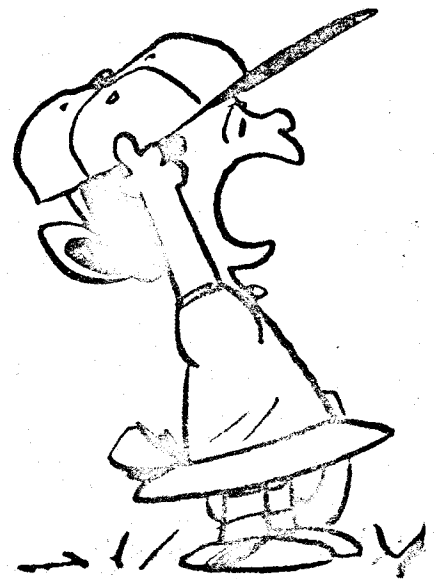
In the first game freshman right-hander Steve McDiffitt, a native of New Martinsville, W. Va., scattered eight hits, struck out three while walking only one. Except for a rocky fourth inning in which the Eagles pushed across three runs, McDiffitt was masterful hurling shutout ball. Valdosta State hit the scoring trail early tying together a single by Dan Darden, an error, and a lining double by Gene Felts for the first run of the ballgame. Foster Foran followed Felts' hit with a walk and Jerome Register then plated Bowen and Felts with a single up the middle. With three runs across and two men on in the fourth for GSC the Blazers turned to the arm of its talented

centerfielder Sam Bowen to pull them out of the jam. Bowen fielded a fly ball for the second out of the inning and then nailed James Ivins GSC's left fielder at the plate to end their last threat. Dan Alford who had an outstanding day, propelled the Blazers to victory by lining a clutch single to center to drive in two sixth inning runs to hand Valdosta the game.

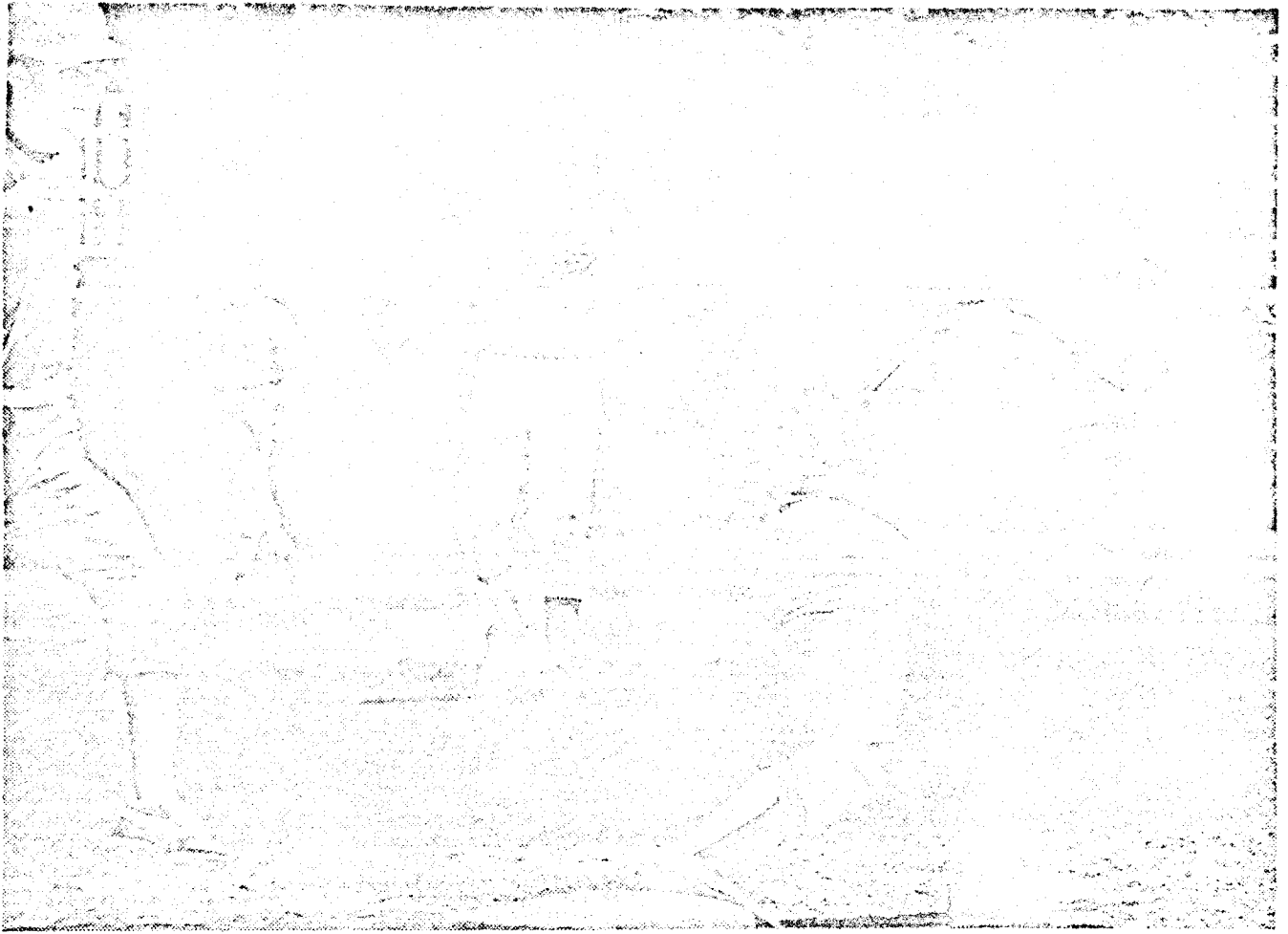
The Blazers continued their winning ways in the second game using Tampa native Greehalgh's 3 run homer in the second to take a 3-2 lead after Southern's Mike Cash had lined a two run job a half an inning before. In the third inning Bowen hit a line single and scored on Register's triple in the third and Register then scored the eventual winning run, scoring on Daryl Branum's single. In the fifth GSC loaded the bases with no outs against VSC reliever Marty LeFiles. Bill Petty switched roles with the Valdosta native and brought the Southern rally to a halt after they had pulled to within one, 5-4. He allowed but two hits the rest of the way to pick up his sixth victory against no losses.



Gene Felts boogies by the bases as VSC takes two from GSC.



COACH THOMAS, whose philosophy is, "have a lot of fun," discusses (?) yet another call with the umpire.



-Times Staff Photo

In Time; VSC's Jeff Greenhalgh Records Another Out, White Rick Bowers (16) Looks On Hopefully

## Pitchers Key Blazers Wins

By MIKE CHASON

It was a pitchers' day at Blazer Field Saturday where the Valdosta State College Blazers took both ends of a South Atlantic Conference baseball doubleheader from the Augusta College Jaguars by 3-0 and 4-0 counts.

In the first game, Augusta's Ricky Brown and the Blazers' Rick Bowers gave up four hits each, but the homestanding

VSC nine put their blows to better use.

Dan Chadwick, now 3-1, blew it past the Jags for only three hits in the nightcap, but his opposite number from Augusta, Brian Belcher, did almost as well by stopping Valdosta State on four hits.

Again, Coach Tommy Thomas' men just made better use of their extra base blows.

"I have to credit Bowers and Chadwick with these two wins," Thomas said. "They each got into trouble several times, but managed to pitch themselves out of it.

"I can't explain our hitting. How can you explain it when we hit two of the best pitchers around, here Thursday, and then today we don't do anything?"

"That's not to say that the

boys we faced today weren't good pitchers," Thomas added.

In the first game, VSC picked up their first two runs in the third inning when Steve Sumner walked, stole second, and raced home on Jeff Greenhalgh's hit up the middle. Dan Darden then blasted a double to plate Greenhalgh.

Darrell Branam led off the next frame with a checked-bat single to right. Sumner then tripled in the hole between right and left field and Branam trotted home.

Bowers struck out five in the victory which raised his record to 4-0 on the year.

With two away in the second inning of the nightcap, Blazer second baseman Dan Alford clobbered a triple to left center and came home when Jaguar shortstop Darrell Thompson threw Marty Bishop's groundball into the bleachers behind first base.

**Only MIKE PERRY with an 0.78 ERA in 1964, and EDDIE FISHER with an 0.85 ERA in 1966, topped RICK BOWERS' 0.90 ERA. BOWERS was 6-0, however, while Perry was 5-2, and Fisher 8-2.**

# Petty, VSC Top Armstrong Twice

By MIKE CHASON

In the old days of baseball, an iron man was a pitcher who was able to pitch back-to-back games, or pitch day after day without any rest.

A new "Iron Man" was born at Blazer Field Tuesday when Valdosta State College freshman lefthander Bill Petty picked up both wins in a baseball doubleheader with South Atlantic Conference for Armstrong State College.

Petty, a Grove City, Ohio native, shutout the Pirates 8-0 in the first game and pitched 42-3 innings in relief to gain credit for the Blazers' 12-4 triumph in the final game of the twin-bill.

"I didn't get tired until the fourth inning of that second game," Petty said. "I was throwing mostly fastballs, trying to keep them low." Petty is now 8-0 for the year.

"Petty has always had good control," VSC head coach Tommy Thomas said. "Also he's got a real good off speed pitch which he uses very effectively."

Although Petty did the job on the Armstrong nine from the mound, Thomas wasn't about to slight his Blazer offense.

"Today was without a doubt the best hitting day that we've had all year," Thomas said.

Dan Darden slammed the first pitch of the first game into left field for a clean base hit, and the Blazers were on their way.

The VSC diamond crew chalked up two runs in that first frame when Jerome Register drove Darden to third and Darrell Branam cracked another safety to left to plate both runners.

Dan Alford added a third run in the fourth inning when he reached base on a fielders'

choice, and Steve Sumner lined up his second double of the game down the left field line to send Alford home.

The Blazers' added insult to injury in the sixth inning when they pounded Armstrong's Tom Bumgardner for five hits and an equal number of runs.

Armstrong came to life in the second game when they managed a pair of runs in the first inning to end 24 consecutive scoreless innings by VSC pitchers dating back to the final Georgia Southern game on April 18.

In that inning, Blazer starter Dan Darden walked Lynn Burnsed, and gave up a single to Tommy Yarbrough and a double to Bruce Coleman.

In their half of the first, the Blazers barrage exploded for four runs on five hits including doubles by Gene Felts, Register, and Marty Bishop.

With one man out, and the bases loaded in the second inning, Petty came back to the mound much to the chagrin of the now 19-10 Pirates.

Pete Reeves backed him up with some outstanding infield plays, and Petty allowed only two runs the rest of the way including a home run by Burnsed in the fifth.

In the bottom of the second frame, the Blazers iced the game with seven big runs. Sam Bowen did most of the damage as he hit a 349' home run and single in this inning alone.

VSC marked up one more run in the third when catcher Branam punched out his third hit of the day to score Register.

Bowen, Felts, and Darden also collected a trio of hits for the afternoon.

Valdosta State is now 24-8 overall and 91 in the South Atlantic Conference. Armstrong fell to 7-5 in the SAC.

The Blazers are scheduled to travel to Florida State University tonight to collide with the high and mighty Seminoles in a 7:30 p.m. contest.

## Blazer Box Scores

### FIRST GAME

Armstrong		Valdosta State	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
McNeil cf	3 0 0 0	Darden dh	4 1 3 0
Coleman 2b	3 0 1 0	Bowen cf	3 0 0 0
Burnsed rf	3 0 1 0	Felts lf	3 0 1 1
Barnhill c	3 0 0 0	Registr rf	4 1 1 0
Yarbigh lb	3 0 0 0	Branam c	4 1 2 2
Graham dh	2 0 1 0	Alford 2b	3 2 1 0
Smith lf	2 0 0 0	Sumner 3b	2 1 2 1
Wolfe ss	0 0 0 0	Grhigh lb	3 1 1 2
McNair 2b	2 0 1 0	Parsons ss	3 1 1 1
Bumgardner p	0 0 0 0	Petty p	0 0 0 0
Snelling lf	1 0 1 0		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26 6 5 0</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>29 8 12 7</b>

Armstrong 000 000 0-0-5-2  
 Valdosta State 230 105 x-8-12-1  
 E--Barnhill, Wolfe, Sumner.  
 DP--Startling to Greenhalgh, Wolfe to McNair to Yarbrough.  
 LOB--Armstrong 5, VSC 6.  
 2B--Sumner 2.  
 SB--Branam 2, Alford.  
 SF--Felts.

	ip	h	r	bb	so
Bumgardner (1.6-2)	6	12	8	2	1
Petty (W-7-0)	7	5	0	0	2

### SECOND GAME

Armstrong		Valdosta State	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
McNeill cf	3 0 1 0	Petty dh	3 1 0 1
Snelling lf	3 0 0 0	Bowen cf	3 2 3 3
Burnsed rf	3 2 1 1	Felts lf	4 2 2 1
Yarbigh lb	3 1 2 2	Registr rf	2 1 2 2
Graham c	2 0 0 1	Branam c	2 1 1 1
Coleman dh	1 0 0 0	Alford 2b	1 1 0 1
Thomas 2b	0 0 0 0	Bishop 3b	3 1 2 2
Wolfe ss	2 0 0 0	Grhigh lb	3 1 1 2
Maner p	0 0 0 0	Reeves ss	3 1 1 0
Holland p	0 0 0 0	Darda p	0 0 0 0
Zettler p	0 0 0 0	Dennis 1b	2 0 0 0
McNair 2b	2 0 1 0	Hahn lf	1 0 0 0
Thomas ph	1 0 0 0	Rquinn c	1 0 0 0
Darden ph	1 0 0 0	Startling rf	1 0 0 0
		Lefls p	0 0 0 0
		Mussh 2b	2 0 1 0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24 4 6 4</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>29 12 12 11</b>

Armstrong 200 011 0-4-6-2  
 Valdosta State 471 000 x-12-12-3  
 E--B. Coleman, Thomas, Bowen, Startling, Bishop  
 DP--Reeves to Musashe to Dennis.  
 LOB--Armstrong 7, VSC 6.  
 2B--B. Coleman, Felts 2, Register, Bishop.  
 HR--Burnsed, Bowen.  
 SB--Register, Alford.  
 S--Wolfe, Branam.  
 SF--Graham, Alford.

	ip	h	r	bb	so
Maner (1-4-3)	2	3	4	4	1
Holland	2	3	4	5	1
Zettler	2	3	4	3	2
Darden	1	1	3	2	4
Petty (w 8-0)	2	3	3	2	0
LeFiles	1	1	0	1	0
HBP--Register by Zettler. WP--Petty 2.					

# New Found Blazer Ace Petty Strikes Again

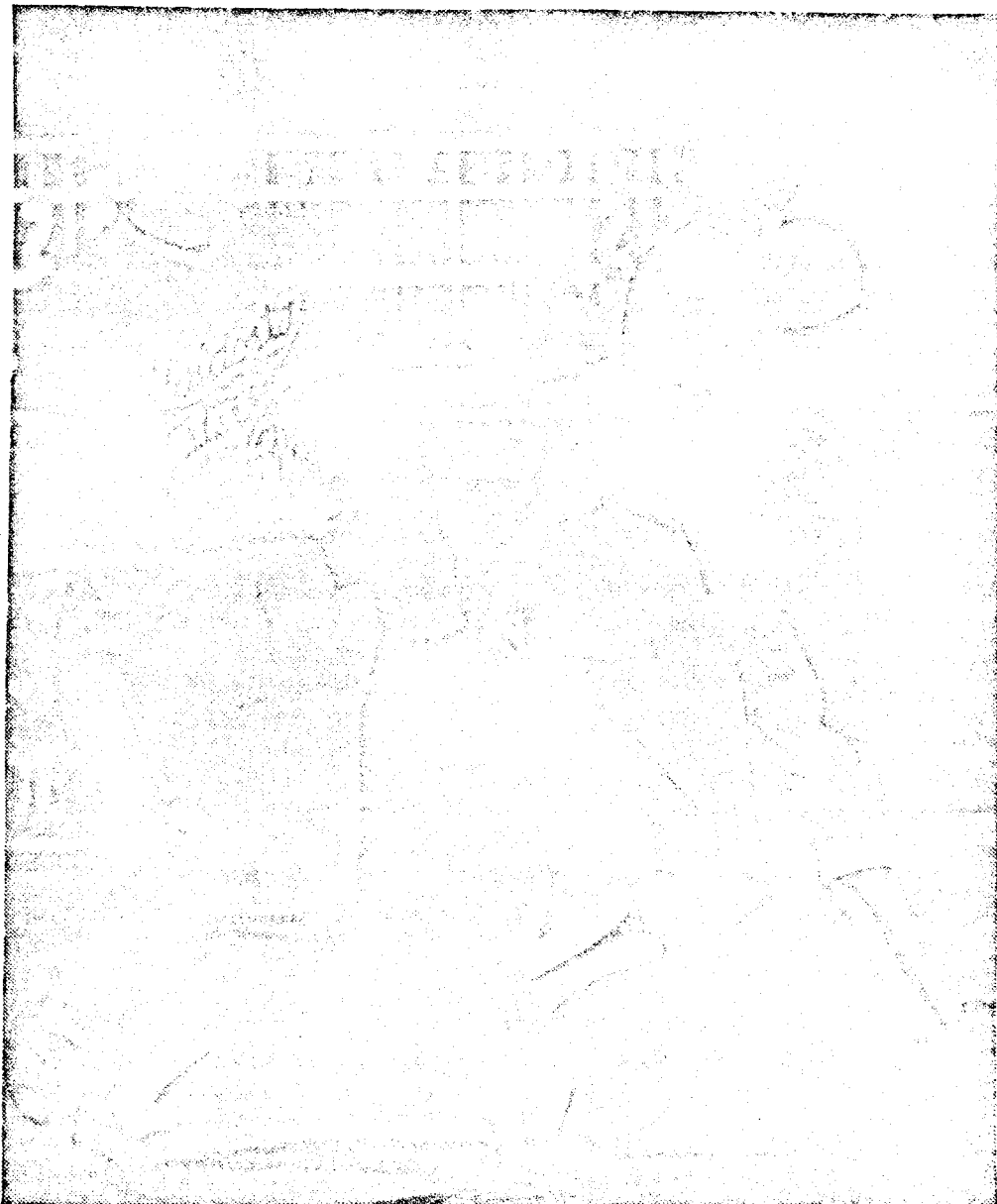
by Billy Tyler

Bill Petty earned the title of "Iron Man" Tuesday hurling the Blazers to victory in the first game and coming on in the second inning of the nightcap to gain credit for the victory as Valdosta State swept a crucial doubleheader from the Pirates of Armstrong State 8-0 and 12-4 at Blazer Field. The freshman lefty pushed his record to 8-0 with the twin victories. In game one Petty hurled 4-hit shutout ball while his teammates exploded for five runs in the bottom of the sixth to win going away. Leading 3-0, Daryl Branum led off the inning with a single. After Dan Alford had singled Steve Sumner walked to load the bases. Tampa Lets product Jeff Greenhalgh then hit a 3 run single going to third on the ensuing error. Bill Parsons then singled to drive home the fourth run of the inning and scored moments later on Gene Felts hit sacrifice fly.

The outcome of game two was decided early as the Blazers exploded for eleven runs in the first two innings. Bill Petty started the game with a walk and was followed by successive singles by Sam Bowen Felts, and Register scoring three runs. Dan Alford drove in the last run of the inning with a sacrifice fly. Marty Biship a native of Aucilla, Fla, drilled a ground rule double to top off the

inning. In the second, Sam Bowen lined his second homerun of the season to start the scoring parade all over. Gene Felts scored on an error after doubling. Bishop followed another error with his second of three hits on the afternoon, a 2-RBI single to set the score at 8-2. After Greenhalgh had singled and Pete Reeves had walked, Bowen ripped his second hit

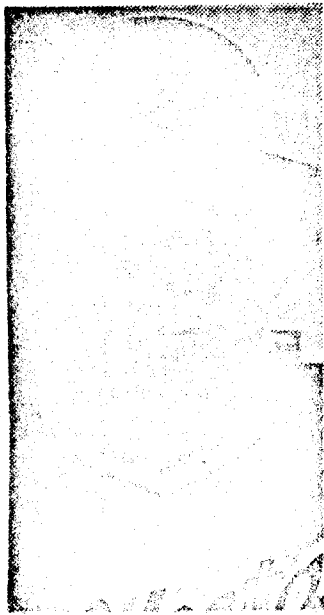
of the inning to move the score to 11-2. The Pirates almost made it a game in the second loading the bases with no outs against starter Dan Darden. Petty came on however to extinguish the potential rally. Valdosta State moved its' overall mark to an impressive 24-8 with the victories. They are 9-1 in SAC.



—Times Staff Photo

That's Confidence: Petty Appears Nonchalant On Arrival At Third

# McDiffitt, Blazers Rout Seminoles, 15-1



STEVE McDIFFITT  
VSC's Giant Killer

By JULIAN MILLER  
TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Gene Felts calmly stepped to the plate here Wednesday night and slammed a two-run triple to the Florida State University retaining fence and it was all Steve McDiffitt needed to chalk up his third straight win over an over-rated foe.

But someone forgot to tell the Blazers because it was nowhere near all Valdosta State College wanted as they pounded out 14 hits and added some nifty defensive work to slaughter the FSU Seminoles 15-1 for their biggest winning margin ever over the Tribe.

The wide open victory not only avenged an earlier 6-3 loss to the Seminoles in Valdosta, but boosted Coach Tommy Thomas' Blazers' winning streak to nine and their overall record to 25-3. And Thomas, who is usually straight faced, even after the

big wins, was having a hard time hiding his emotions.

"I am thrilled to death," he beamed after the victory. "I have to think back and look real hard to find a better night for Valdosta State hitters. And I'm thrilled for Steve McDiffitt who has done it again against top notched competition."

McDIFFITT, a freshman from Martinsville, W. Va. was just as thrilled. The congenial pitcher added the victory to his 6-3 decision over Georgia Southern College, ranked fourth nationally at the time, and a win over Lewis College.

Battling cold winds and a total of five Seminole pitchers on a brisk April night, the Blazers mounted up three runs in each of the first three innings, two more in the fifth and a twelfth in the seventh and went out with another three markers in the ninth while

holding the now 26-20 Seminoles to a single tally in the fourth.

Felts' triple came after FSU pitcher Ron Herring had walked leadoff batters Dan Darden and centerfielder Sam Bowen. Then the talented left fielder from Lakland, Ga. scored on a sacrifice fly to center by right fielder Jerome Register to make it 3-0.

That was enough to win it. But the Blazers began the runaway in the second when Jeff Greenhalgh, who had tripled, Bill Parsons and Bowen scored on two hits and two errors.

In the third Dan Alford, Greenhalgh and Alford scored again, making use of four singles, a fielder's choice and a wild pitch to make it 9-0 and VSC had already gone through three pitchers.

It seemed as though the Blazer attack would taper off

after mounting the 9-0 lead, but the Seminoles, after holding VSC scoreless in the fourth, started things again with their only run in the bottom of the frame.

Designated hitter Jim Foxwell doubled, advanced on a hit by Guillermo Banilla and scored on a fielder's choice by Carlos Lecano. It was enough to get the Blazers cranked up again.

Parsons, then got into the act the most of it. The shortstop singled and scored when Bowen slapped out VSC's third triple of the night. Then Bowen came home on Felts' third of four RBI's for the night and the visitors had an 11-1 lead.

Pete Reeves, filling in for Parsons then got into the act after walking and stealing home for the 12th run.

Then with mostly Blazer subs in the lineup VSC went

out in a final burst when Vince Musashe, Felts and Register scored on a single, a hit batter, two base on balls, two fielder's choices and FSU's sixth error of the night.

McDiffitt walked only two batters and fanned four enroute to his third win, holding the powerful FSU sticks to only four hits. The loss went to Herring to level his record at 4-all.

Felts, a first team All-America selection last season, showed why with his two hits and four RBI's in five times at bat. But Parsons had the best night of his career, going three for three, scoring three runs and batting in two other Blazers.

The Valdosta nine hits the road again Saturday, taking on Southern Tech in Marietta for a South Atlantic Conference doubleheader.

BILL PETTY's 11 wins tied the BLAZER record. In 1969 EDDIE FISHER was 11-0; PETTY lost 2. Other great VALDOSTA STATE pitching records have been BUCK ETHREDGE 7-1 in 1960, MIKE PERRY 7-2 in 1965, FISHER 8-2 in 1966, DANNY PETROVICH 9-3 in 1969, RUSTY SIMPSON 8-3 in 1970, MARTY LeFILES 8-0 in 1973, DAN CHADWICK 6-0 in 1973, ANDY HASSELL 7-1 in 1973, RICK BOWERS 6-0 in 1974, and DAN DARDEN 7-2 in 1974. PETTY's record in the best ever for a VALDOSTA STATE freshman.

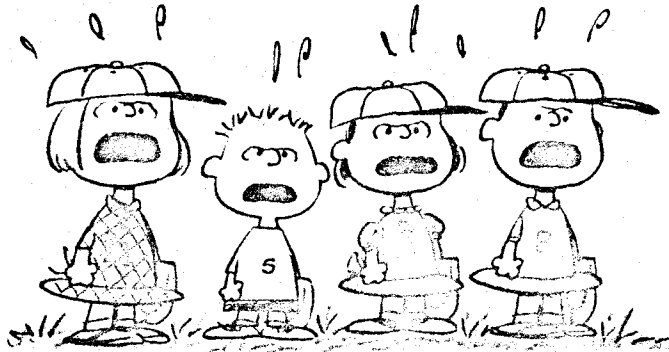


# Blazers Massacre FSU Seminols

by Billy Tyler

Valdosta State led by the mound work of Steve McDiffitt and a host of Blazer bats ambushed and massacred the Seminoles of Florida State down in Tallahassee coming away with a 15-1 victory. The freshman righthander who has come on as the Blazers "Giant Killer" of late allowed but four hits while striking out four and walking one to set his season record at 3-0. Valdosta gave the Seminoles an indication of things to come early, striking for three first inning runs. After Dan Darden and Sam Bowen walked, Gene Felts drilled a triple to the base of the left centerfield wall to score two Jerome Register then smashed a 400 foot sacrifice fly to score Felts. The Seminoles suffering was far from over though. Jeff Greenhalgh led off the second with a triple down the right field line and

then scored on a Pete Reeves' single, his first of three. After Bowen last walked the FSU hurler served up a wild pitch allowing both runners to score. The Blazers picked up three more in the third to extend their lead to 9-0 before the Seminoles finally broke the ice pulling to within eight with a fourth-inning run. That is as close as they came, for in the fifth Valdosta added two more with a single by Reeves, a Sam Bowen triple and Felts' single for an 11-1 lead. The Seminoles who might have been pushing for the 10 run rule to be applied could not hold back the overflowing Blazer offense. Valdosta picked up one in the seventh and three more in the ninth to deal the Seminoles their most humiliating defeat of the season. The Blazers are now 25-8 and face Georgia Southwestern this afternoon.



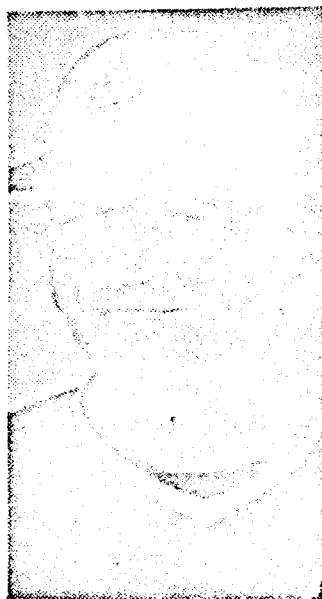
The BLAZER BENCH reacts to a "typical" call by umpire James Jennings!!

BLAZER BOX-				FSU			
VSC				FSU			
ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Darden dh	4	1	2	Davidson 2b	4	0	2
Musashe dh	1	1	1	Daniel lf	4	0	0
Bowen cf	3	3	1	Busby 2b	4	0	0
Felts lf	5	2	2	Lugo c	3	0	0
Register rf	3	1	2	Foxwell dh	4	1	1
Branam c	5	0	0	Bonilla 2b	2	0	1
Alford 2b	4	1	2	Lezard rf	4	0	0
Hahn	1	0	0	Higginson dh	4	0	0
Summer 2b	3	0	1	Eissey ss	2	0	0
Fisher 2b	2	0	0	Chapel	1	0	0
Sattler	0	0	0	Hering p	0	0	0
Greenhalgh dh	5	2	1	Brown p	0	0	0
Parsons ss	3	3	2	Ritchie p	0	0	0
Reeves	1	1	0	Farmer p	0	0	0
McDiffitt p	0	0	0				
TOTALS	40	15	14	TOTALS	32	1	4
VSC	333 020 103-15-14-3			FSU	000 100 00x-1-4-6		

E — Busby 2, Brown, Bonilla 2, Branam, Eissey, Alford, Parsons.  
DP — Eissey to Davidson to Higginbotham.  
LOB — VSC 8; FSU 5.  
2b — Foxwell  
2b — Felts, Greenhalgh, Bowen.  
SB — Alford, Felts, Davidson, Darden, Reeves  
SF — Register.

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
McDiffitt (W, 3-0)	9	4	1	1	2	4
Lerring (L, 4-4)	1	1	3	6	4	4
Brown	1	3	3	3	1	1
Ritchie	2	4	2	2	2	1
Summer	3	2	3	1	1	2
Mayer	1	1	3	0	1	0

1 — Lugo by McDiffitt; Felts by Mayer  
WP — Brown



GENE FELTS  
Big Night At Plate

# Blazers Get Two Wins In Marietta

MARIETTA — Gene Felts pushed in six runs in the first game and Valdosta State College scored one run each in the last six innings of an extra inning nightcap to give the Blazers two victories over Southern Tech in a South Atlantic Conference baseball twin-bill Saturday.

Felts, VSC's All-American left fielder slammed four singles in five times at bat, scoring one run himself and batting in one each in the first and second and two each in the fourth and sixth to lead the Blazers in their 18-3 onslaught.

And in the second game the Blazers slowly regained their composure with a steady attack to tie the game five all in the last frame and with 6-8 when Jerome Register singled Bill Petty home.

The second game had its close moments, along with its controversies, as then VSC's star centerfielder, Sam Bowen, assistant Coach Dave Waples and manager Larry Ranew were ejected from the game.

Bowen was ejected when he protested a called third strike that had hit the dirt, according to Waples. Head coach Tommy Thomas tried to discuss the ejection with the unidentified umpire but the ump stopped when Waples approached.

"Do you want to go to the bus too?" Waples quoted the ump.

"You missed one," Waples answered. He was sent to the bus. But later on when the ump saw Ranew, who wears a beard and long hair, unlike the coach he mistook him for the clean-shaven Waples and started to throw him out again.

"I made a mistake," said the ump.

"You certainly did make a mistake," an insulted Ranew replied.

"Now you're gone," the ump countered.

The Blazers, now 27-8 overall with a 11-1 SAC worksheet

for undisputed possession of first place in the fledgling conference had little trouble in the first game. Starting off with a three-run outburst in the first and two in the second they expanded a 51-1 lead to the 18-3 margin.

The second game was another story . . . a nip and tuck affair to the finish.

Southern jumped ahead in the bottom of the initial frame, when Godfrey slammed a two-run homer.

VSC didn't get in on the scoring act until the top of the third when they began their one-per inning rally. The Blazers tied it up in the fourth at 2-all only to see the Hornets take the lead again with a single run in the bottom of the frame.

VSC added a run each in the fifth and sixth only to see the Hornets tie it again with a two run outburst in the bottom of the sixth.

In the top of the seventh, Steve Sumner's clutch single scored Daryl Branam to tie it at 5-all and sent the game into extra innings.

It was then, in the top of the eighth with two away that Register singled Petty home for the winning run.

Dan Darden, who relieved starting Pitcher Dan Chadwick in the sixth then struck out the side in the bottom of the frame to preserve the win.

Darden picked up the win for the Blazers, his fifth in seven decisions. Rick Bowers, who turned the hill over to Marty LeFiles in the sixth was credited with the win, his fifth in as many starts.

"It was good for us that we got scared," said Thomas after his Blazers won their 11th straight game. "That should make us play harder."

The Blazers travel to Columbus Tuesday for another SAC twin-bill. Their game with Shorter scheduled to be played today was canceled due

(Continued on Page 10A)

Without Waples  
Blazers Win

... see page 9-A

## -Blazers

(Continued from Page 9A)

to the Shorter Administration requesting the Hawks play no more Sunday games.

### Blazers' Box

VSC		Southern Tech	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
Darden dh	3 3 3 0	Windom 3b	4 1 4 0
Roquemr c	2 1 1 1	Newman c	4 0 1 0
Bowen cf	3 1 1 1	Godfrey dh	4 1 2 0
Felts lf	5 1 4 6	McDaniel lb	2 1 0 0
Register rf	1 2 1 0	Kaperma cf	3 0 1 0
Hahn rf	2 0 1 0	Gillum ss-p	4 0 1 1
Branam c	2 0 1 1	Kemp lf	1 0 0 0
LeFiles p	1 1 1 0	Garrett 2b	3 0 0 0
Alford 2b	2 1 2 1	Murray lf	4 0 0 0
Musashe 2b	1 2 1 0	Griffin 2b-ss	2 0 1 0
Bishop 3b	5 2 2 2	Mrsfldr p	0 0 0 0
Greenhlg lb	2 1 2 1		
Dennis lb	1 1 1 1		
Reeves ss	4 2 2 0		
Bowers p	0 0 0 0		
Sumner pr	0 0 0 0		
TOTALS	34 18 23 14	TOTALS	31 3 10 1

VSC		Southern Tech	
ip	h r er	bb	so
Bowers (W, 5-0)	5 6 2 0	2	3
LeFiles	2 4 1 1	0	0
Merstelder (L)	3 1 3 11	9	8 5 1
Gillum	3 2 3 12	9	8 3 1
HBP — McDaniel by LeFiles. BALK — Bowers, Merstelder. WP — Gillum.			

VSC		Southern Tech	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
Darden	4 0 2 1	Windom 3b	4 0 1 0
Bowen cf	3 0 1 0	Newman c	2 1 1 0
Hahn lf	1 0 0 0	Godfrey dh	3 2 2 2
Petty lf	1 1 1 0	McDaniel lb	3 1 1 0
Felts lf-cf	2 1 0 0	Kaperma cf	3 1 2 1
Register rf	5 0 2 1	Gillum ss	2 0 0 0
Branam c	5 2 0 0	Renson lf	4 0 3 2
Alford 2b	4 0 1 0	Kemp rf	4 0 0 0
Sumner 3b	3 0 2 2	Griffin 2b	4 0 1 0
Greenhlg lb	3 1 0 0	Prince p	0 0 0 0
Parsons ss	3 1 1 1		
Chadwick p	0 0 0 0		
TOTALS	34 6 10 4	TOTALS	29 5 11 5

VSC		Southern Tech	
ip	h r er	bb	so
Chadwick	5 1 3 9	5	5 1 1
Darden (W, 5-2)	2 2 3 2	0	0 3 3
Prince (L)	8 10 6	3	5 3 3
WP — Prince.			

# Rolling Blazers, Booming Cougars Split

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

COLUMBUS, Ga.—The big bats of Columbus College were booming Tuesday as the home-standing Cougars blasted four home runs to gain a split in a South Atlantic Conference baseball doubleheader with the Valdosta State College Blazers.

Bobby Howard and Verlan Perry cacked round-trippers in the first game to power a 7-3 Columbus win and put the skids on an eleven game VSC winning

streak. In the nightcap, Bill Chester and Bill Bailey homered, but the Blazers managed to hold on for a 5-4 win.

"They're a good hitting team," Blazer head coach Tommy Thomas said of Columbus. "They hit us hard when they were in Valdosta, but we just outscored them."

"I must say though, that I don't think all those home runs would have been out of our park. I know the one that Sam (Bowen) hit for us would have

been just a fly ball at home (Blazer field).

Bill Petty, now 8-1, had his first really bad day of the year in the first game when he lasted only 1 one third innings before yielding to ace VSC reliever Marty LeFiles.

Dan Darden led off the first game for Valdosta State with the first of his six hits of the afternoon. Bowen then slammed his homer over the centerfield wall to put VSC out in front 2-0.

Columbus came on strong in

their half of the first on singles by Steve Horne, Chester, Phil Lienlief, and Howard. Butch Bell added a double and the Cougars were on top 4-2.

With the hint of victory almost upon them, the Cougars poured it on by piling up two more runs in the third and one in the sixth on Perry's homer.

VSC tried to start something in the final frame but singles by Darrell Branam and Steve Sumner combined with Jerome Register's double resulted in only a lone tally.

Valdosta State got in the first lick in the second game also as Register lined a single to plate Darden who had again led off with a hit.

Chester hit a solo shot off the Blazer's Steve McDiffitt in the second inning to tie the game and set the stage for two more Cougar runs in the fourth.

Trailing 3-1, the VSC diamond nine picked up a pair of runs in the fifth when Darden came home on a passed ball, and Branam drove in Bowen with

a hit. Jeff Greenhalgh socked a double in the sixth, and Bowen singled to send him scurrying to the plate. Pete Reeves then slid home with the winning run on Gene Felts' fielder's choice.

Bill Bailey homered in the seventh to give the Blazer's a scare, but Petty came back to the mound to put out the fire for VSC.

Thomas credited McDiffitt, now 4-0, with doing a good job on the always tough Cougars.

Valdosta State is now 28-9 overall and 12-2 in the South Atlantic Conference.

Darden is scheduled to be on the mound tonight when the Blazers get back on the road against Georgia Southwestern College in Americus in a 7:30 p.m. contest.

## Blazer Boxes

VSC		COLUMBUS	
ab	r	h	bi
Darden dh	4	1	2
Bowen cf	4	0	0
Felts lf	4	0	0
Reister rf	4	1	2
Branam c	3	0	2
Alford 2b	4	0	1
Sumner 3b	3	0	1
Greenhalgh lb	4	0	1
Parsons ss	2	0	0
Petty p	0	0	0
LeFiles p	0	0	0

VALDOSTA STATE		TOTALS	
32	3	11	3
326	660	1	3
402	000	x	7
E.—Sumner, Parsons, Horne, Marschand, JDP, Alford, Greenhalgh, Greenhalgh, Parsons, Howard, Sumner, Branam, Greenhalgh, LeFiles, Register, Bell, Howard, Bowen, Perry, LeFiles, SB—Parsons.			
Petty (L&C)	1	3	7
LeFiles	4	3	7
Marschand (w,5-3)	7	1	1
HBP—Howard by LeFiles.			

VALDOSTA STATE		COLUMBUS	
ab	r	h	bi
Darden dh	4	2	4
Bowen cf	4	1	2
Felts lf	3	0	1
Reister rf	4	0	1
Branam c	4	0	1
Alford 2b	4	0	0
Bishop 3b	4	0	0
Greenhalgh lb	3	1	1
Reeves ss	2	1	1
McDiffitt p	0	0	0
Petty p	0	0	0
Walt p	0	0	0

TOTALS		TOTALS	
32	5	10	0
190	622	0	5
010	297	1	4
E.—Bell, LOB—VSC 8, Columbus 5, 2B—Greenhalgh, Reeves, HR—Chester, Bailey, SB—Darden, Bowen, Register.			
McDiffitt (w, 4-0)	6	2	3
Petty	1	3	0
Walt (L)	5	1	3
HBP—Reeves by Walt, FB—Bailey.	1	2	2

# Cougars Split With Blazers

By KEITH MOYER  
Enquirer Correspondent

Columbus College split a doubleheader with Valdosta State Tuesday afternoon and thus failed to pick up any ground on the South Atlantic Conference-leading Blazers. The Cougars won the opener 7-7 then dropped the nightcap 5-3.

The loss was only the second setback in conference play for Valdosta State and its 10-2 record left the Blazers three full games ahead of the third-place Cougars who are now 8-6 in the SAC with only six games left to play.

Four runs scored by Columbus College in the first inning proved to be decisive in the first game as Greg Marschand scored his seventh win of the season scattering 11 hits along the way.

With one out in the Columbus half of the first, Steve Horne singled, Butch Bell followed with a single into right and when the outfielder misplayed the ball, Horne scored the first Cougar run.

Bill Chester followed with another base hit, and Bobby Howard singled into right to score Chester.

When the Valdosta short-stop misplayed Yogi Brooks' grounder, Chester came in with the third run and then Howard scored the final run

when John Lindlief drove out a base hit.

Valdosta State had jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in its half of the first when center-fielder Sam Bowden hit a home run with a runner on board.

Columbus College added two more runs in the third when Howard led off the inning with his fourth home run of the season.

Yogi Brooks then walked and Jeff Lindlief followed with a single. Two out later, Verlin Perry singled to right-field scoring Brooks with the Cougars' sixth run of the game.

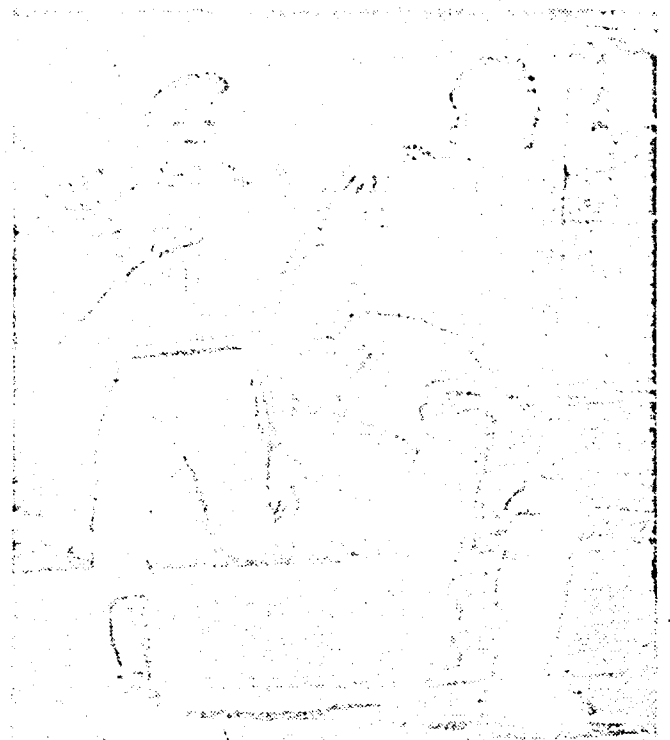
In the sixth inning, Verlin Perry hit a solo homer to right field to give the Cougars their final run of the game.

Valdosta State jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first inning of the second game only to see Columbus College tie the game in the second on Bill Chester's home run to rightfield.

In the fourth inning, Columbus College struck for two more runs as Howard led off with a walk.

Brooks and Bill Bailey followed with singles to load the bases and Steve Helms followed with a two-run single through second base.

Valdosta State tied the game up in the fifth inning



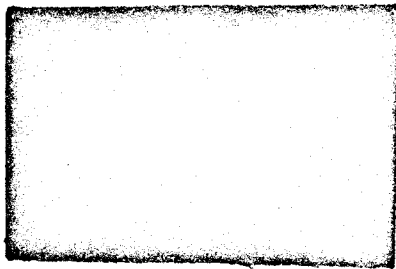
COUGARS JEFF LINDLIEF ON MOVE  
Races Past State's Darrell Branam

on singles by Don Darden and Bowen, followed by a walk to leftfielder Gene Felts.

1st GAME		COLUMBUS	
VALDOSTA	abr h bi	abr h bi	abr h bi
Darden dh	4 1 2 0	Ferry cf	4 1 3 2
Bowen cf	4 1 2 2	Horne ss	4 1 1 0
Felts lf	4 0 0 0	Bell 3b	4 1 3 0
Register rf	4 0 2 0	Chester dh	4 1 1 0
Brooks c	3 1 2 0	Howard 1b	0 0 0 0
Alford 2b	4 0 1 0	Brooks rf	3 2 2 2
Summer 2b	3 0 1 1	Bailey c	2 1 0 1
Ghatch lb	3 0 1 0	Helms lf	3 0 2 1
Parsons ss	3 0 0 0	Helms dh	2 0 0 0
Petty p	0 0 0 0	Clard 2b	3 0 0 0
Line p	0 0 0 0	Mellett p	0 0 0 0
TOTALS	32 31 13	TOTALS	29 7 12 6

Valdosta	259	609	1-3	11	2	
Columbus	462	901	x-7	12	1	
E—Howard, Parsons 2, DP—Valdosta 1						
Columbus 1, LOB—Valdosta 10, Columbus 6.						
2B—Register HR—Bowen, Howard, Perry						
S—Helms						
IP H R ER BBSO						
Petty (LP)	11	3	7	4	0	1
Lettes	4	2	4	3	3	1
Marschand (WP)	7	11	3	3	3	2
HBP—Petty (Howard).						

SECOND GAME		VALDOSTA		COLUMBUS		
abr h bi	abr h bi	abr h bi	abr h bi	abr h bi	abr h bi	
Perry cf	2 0 0 0	Darden dh	4 2 4 0			
Horne ss	3 0 1 0	Bowen cf	4 1 2 1			
Bell 3b	4 0 0 0	Felts lf	3 0 0 1			
Chester dh	3 1 1 1	Register rf	4 0 1 1			
Howard 1b	2 1 0 0	Brohan c	4 0 1 1			
Brooks rf	3 1 1 0	Alford 2b	4 0 0 0			
Bailey c	3 1 2 1	Bishop 3b	4 0 0 0			
Brooks pr	0 0 0 0	Greenhalgh 1b	3 1 1 0			
Helms lf	3 0 1 2	Reeves ss	2 1 1 0			
Clard 2b	2 0 0 0	Mellett p	0 0 0 0			
Jirawa ph	1 0 0 0	Petty p	0 0 0 0			
Wright p	0 0 0 0					
Witt p	0 0 0 0					
TOTALS	26 4 6 4	TOTALS	32 51 0 4			
Valdosta	100	922	6-5	10	0	
Columbus	010	259	1-4	6	1	
E—Bell, LOB—Valdosta 8, Columbus 5.						
2B—Reeves, Greenhalgh, HR—Chester, Bailey, SB—Register.						
IP H R ER BBSO						
McDuffitt (WP)	6	2	3	4	4	3
Petty	1	3	0	0	0	1
Wright (LP)	5	1	3	0	5	4
Witt	1	2	2	0	0	0
HBP—Wright (Reeves), PB—Bailey.						



JEROME REGISTER is shown playing defense in the well-lighted(?) Americus ball-park outfield.

# Mercer Nips VSC On Unearned Runs

By STEVE ROBERTS

MACON—Mercer University pushed across two unearned runs in the second inning to take a one-run lead, and junior righthander Robb Yopp made the slim margin stand up as the Bears nipped the Valdosta State College Blazers 2-1 in a baseball game here Friday afternoon.

Valdosta State had scored an unearned run of its own in the opening frame, but the lead was short lived as Mercer banged out three clutch hits after two outs in the second.

The Blazers, who had been on a torrid hitting streak for the last 10 games, were handcuffed by the crafty Yopp and manged just three singles for the day.

Meanwhile, the Bears rapped out seven safeties off VSC's Danny Chadwick, who pitched well enough to win but came away with his second loss in five decisions.

Valdosta State managed its lone run after two were out in the first inning. Gene Felts singled to left, stole second and went to third on a passed ball. Jerome Register walked and Felts scored when shortstop Joe Pettini misplayed Darrell Branam's grounder.

A Blazer error by shortstop Pete Reeves opened the door for Mercer's two runs in the second. Barry Allen reached on the boot to start the inning but

was forced at second by Pettini. Bob Williams popped out, but Tim Clifton slammed a double that chased Pettini to third. Joe Williams followed with a run scoring single as did Donnie Fussell and Yopp had all the support he needed.

Valdosta State could never

threaten again and saw its overall record fall to 29-10. Mercer improved its worksheet to 14-15 with the win and gained a split in the two-game series between the two schools. Chadwick and VSC blanked Yopp and the Bears 3-0 in an earlier game in Valdosta.

The Blazers were to return to action at 1 p.m. today, entertaining the West Georgia College Braves in a South Atlantic Conference double-header at Blazer Field in Valdosta.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Thur., May 2, 1974 —19—

## VSC Stalls GSWC For 10-7 Victory

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

AMERICUS, Ga.—Valdosta State College piled up four runs in the first inning here Wednesday and held off a late Georgia Southwestern rally to take a 10-7 baseball victory from the hometown Hurricanes.

Dan Darden lasted the duration on the mound for VSC, striking out six, and giving up only five hits. Darden is now 6-2 on the season.

In the first inning, the visiting Blazers loaded the bases when Sam Bowen walked, Gene Felts was hit by a pitch, and Jerome Register reached first on a fielder's choice.

Don Sprewell, Hurricanes' pitcher, then walked Darrell Branam to score Bowen. Jeff Greenhalgh and Pete Reeves followed with back to back singles to plate Felts, Register, and Branam.

Branam, the Blazer's durable catcher, crossed the plate again in the third frame after singling, stealing second, advancing to third on an out, and coming home on a miscue by Sprewell.

In the following inning, VSC chalked up four more runs on a walk to Petty, safeties by Felts and Register, a triple by Bowen, and a wild pitch by Aubrey Cartledge, GSWC

reliever.

Southwestern got something going in their half of the fourth when former VSC outfielder Eddie Cowart singled, Joey Sellers reached base on an error by first baseman Greenhalgh, and David Bales singled. Cowart scored on the hit and sellers plated on another VSC error by third baseman Steve Sumner.

Southwestern kept chipping away at the Blazer lead by adding single runs in the sixth, seventh, and three in the final inning.

Valdosta State marked up an insurance run in the ninth when Bill Parsons, was hit by a pitch, swiped second, went to third on error, and came home on a fielder's choice.

No Blazer punched out more than one hit, but Cowart and Bales did all the damage for the Hurricanes. Cowart scratched out three singles, and Bales lined a double and a single.

Valdosta State now carries a 29-9 record. The Blazers are slated for action again Friday against the Mercer University Bears in Macon.

South Atlantic Conference rival West Georgia is scheduled to invade Blazer Field this weekend for four games.

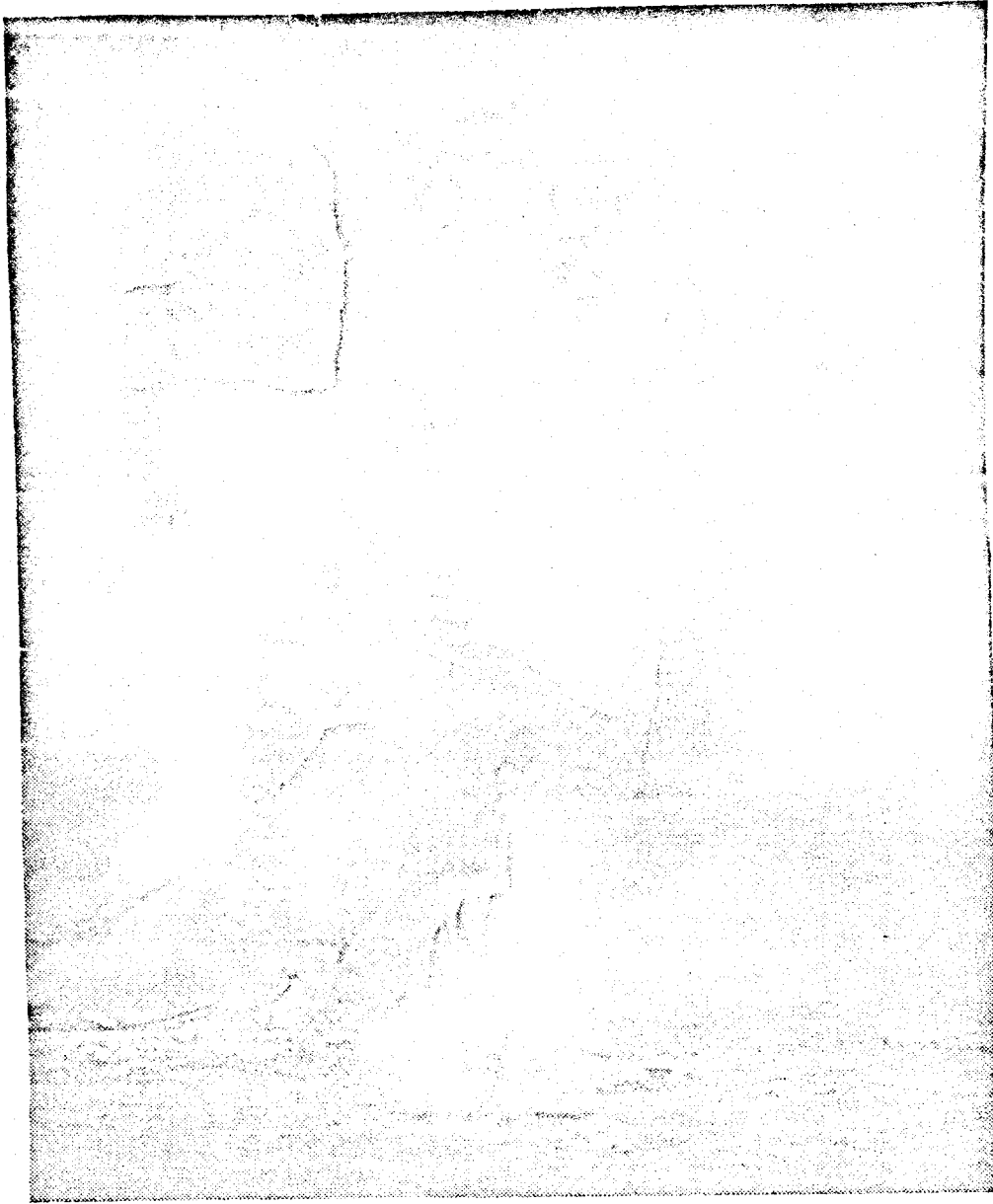
### Blazer Box

VSC				BSWC			
ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Petty, dh	2	1	0	Cowart, cf	5	2	3
Roberts, dh1	0	1	0	Barnes, 3b	4	1	0
Bowen, cf	4	2	1	Sellers, 1b	4	1	0
Felts, lf	4	2	1	Bales, dh	4	0	2
Hahn, lf	1	0	1	Chaffin, lf	5	0	0
Register, rf	3	2	1	Bailey, 2b	4	0	0
Stirling, rf	2	0	0	Jenkins, rf	3	0	0
Branam, c	2	2	1	McPherson, ss	4	1	0
Sumner, 3b	3	0	0	Sprewell, p	0	0	0
Bishop, 3b	2	0	0	Cartledge, p	0	0	0
G. High, 1b	3	0	1				
Dennis, 1b	2	0	0				
Reeves, ss	2	0	1				
Parsons, ss	1	0	0				
Allard, ss	0	0	0				
Musgshe, 2b	5	0	1				
Darden, p	0	0	0				
McDuff	0	1	0				

TOTALS	35	10	9	7	TOTALS	35	7	5	4
VSC	401	400	601	10-9-4					
GSWC	000	201	103	7-5-4					
E. Sumner, Greenhalgh 2; Musgshe, Bailey, Strong, Sprewell 2; DP Musgshe (unassisted); LOB—VSC 8, GSWC 7; 2B—Bales; 3B—Bowen; SB—Allard 3, Petty.									
ip	h	r	er	bb	so				
Darden (W, 6-2)	7	5	7	2	5	6			
Sprewell (L)	3	5	2	6	5	2			
Cartledge	6	3	1	0	4	2			
HBP—Felts, by Sprewell; Reeves, Parsons by Cartledge by Sprewell; WP—Cartledge, Darden.									

### Blazer Boxes

VSC				MERCER			
ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Darden dh	4	0	0	B. Wilms 3b	3	0	1
Bowen cf	3	0	0	J. Wilms cf			
Felts lf	4	1	1	4	0	1	
Registr rf	3	0	0	Fussell lf	4	0	2
Branam c	2	0	0	Swartz 1b	4	0	1
Allard 2b	3	0	0	Hart dh	4	0	0
Bishop 3b	3	0	1	Dennis c	3	0	0
Greenhalgh 1b	3	0	1	Allen rf	4	0	0
Reeves ss	3	0	0	Pettini ss	4	1	0
Chadwick p	0	0	0	Clifton 2b	3	1	2
Yopp p	0	0	0				
TOTALS	28	1	3	Yopp p	0	0	0
	ab	r	h	bi	TOTALS	33	2
VSC	100	000	000	1-3-2			
Mercer	020	053	009	2-7-1			
E.—Greenhalgh, Reeves, Pettini, DP—Clifton to Pettini to Swartz, LOB—VSC 2; Mercer 8; 2B—Swartz, Clifton, SB—Felts, Register.							
ip	h	r	er	bb	so		
Chaewick (L, 3-2)	8	7	2	0	1	4	
Yopp (W)	9	3	1	0	3	5	
PB—Dennis.							

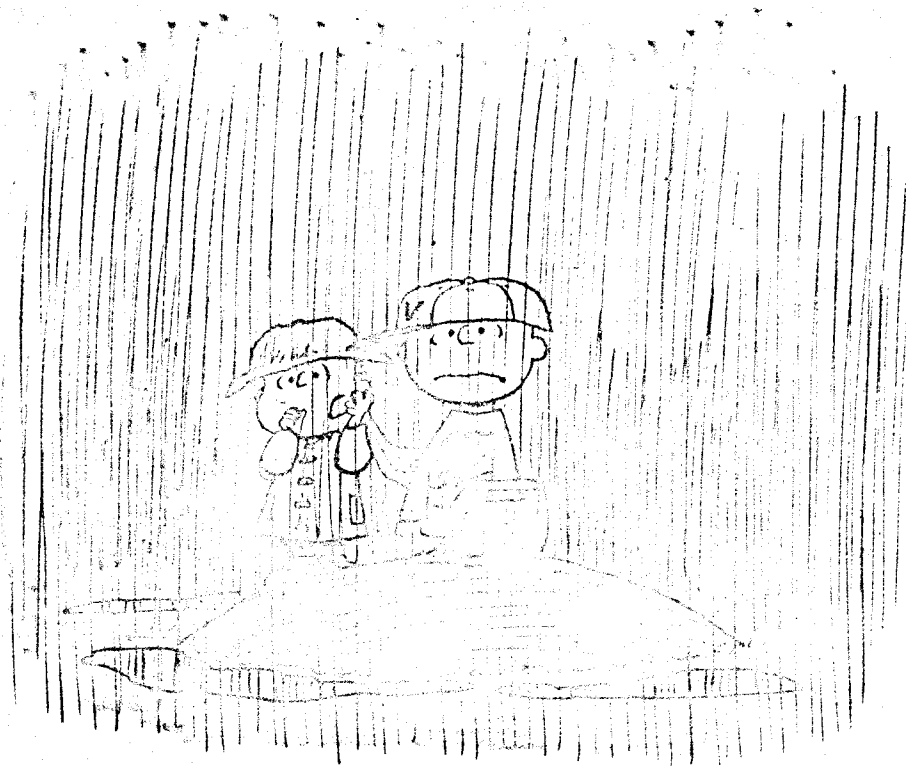


—Times Staff Photo

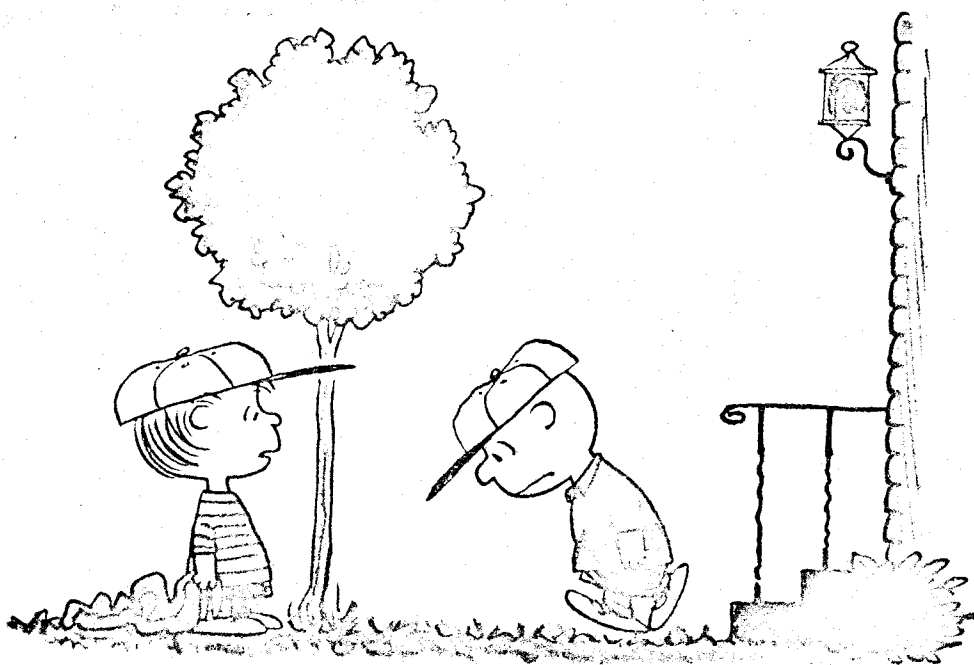
## *The Run That Didn't Count*

It was just a lot of wasted effort for both West Georgia's Steve Traylor and Valdosta State's Darrell Branam in a college baseball game here Saturday. Traylor slides safely home with West Georgia's second run in the third inning of the first game of a scheduled doubleheader, a run that gave the visiting Braves a 2-1 lead. The Blazers

rallied and took a 4-2 lead in the fourth, and had the bases loaded when the rains came . . . and came . . . and came. The game had not reached the halfway point and was canceled as was the second contest. The two teams will try again today at 2 p.m. at Blazer Field on VSC's North Campus.



MARTY BISHOP (left), consoles pitcher STEVE McDIFFITT during the West Georgia rain-out.



DARRELL BRANAM shows his enthusiasm as STEVE SUMNER (left) picks him up for work-study at the field. "Little 'D'" was always eager to work?

# Blazers Rally To Take Two From Braves

By STEVE ROBERTS

The clutch hitting of Sam Bowen and Darrell Branam in the first game and steady three-hit pitching by Rick Bowers in the nightcap paced the Valdosta State College Blazers to 4-3 and 2-1 victories over arch-rival West Georgia College Sunday afternoon at Blazer Field.

The Blazers had to come from behind in both games and by doing so improved their overall record to 31-10 and their league-leading South Atlantic Conference worksheet to 14-2.

The visiting Braves, who had to forfeit 30 wins for playing an ineligible player, saw their records drop to 4-35 and 3-13 respectively.

The opener, which was marred by controversy resulting in VSC coach Tommy Thomas being ejected in the bottom of the seventh inning, was a nip-and-tuck affair.

West Georgia broke on top in the first inning with a two-out rally that produced two runs. Ed Lewis singled off Blazer starter Bill Petty and moved to second on a walk to Tim Dedmon. Barry Evans followed with a single up the middle, scoring Lewis and chasing Dedmon to third. The Braves then faked a double steal, and Dedmon raced home when a flustered Petty threw to second base.

Valdosta State made it close in the third when Pete Reeves worked Brave starter Jeff

Bennett for a walk and scored when Bowen lined a double to the gap in left-center field.

Bowen got the Blazers even in the sixth with a line drive home run to straight away left to open the inning. After one out Jerome Register singled to right and scored the go-ahead run when Branam drilled a double to left-center.

Bennett was injured on the play when Register accidentally ran over him after crossing home plate. He was taken to South Georgia Medical Center but later returned. The injury was diagnosed as a bruise to the lower back area.

Rick Camp replaced Bennett and ended the rally with two quick strike outs.

West Georgia tied the game again in the seventh. Dedmon walked, moved to second on a single by Richard Wood and scored when VSC third baseman Steve Sumner booted Jim Johnson's ground ball with two out. The Blazers argued to no avail that the ball was foul, and the tying run counted.

Thomas got his early shower in the Blazer half of the seventh when plate umpire James Jennings called the first pitch to lead off batter Reeves a strike. The Blazer head coach questioned the call, maintaining it was low, but Jennings who also made the fair ball call in the top half of the inning, apparently had had enough and

asked Thomas to leave early.

When play resumed, Reeves singled to right but was forced at second on Dan Darden's attempted sacrifice. Bowen struck out, but Gene Felts and Register walked to load the bases and Branam delivered again with a line drive off the third baseman's glove which scored Darden with the winning run.

Petty, who allowed just four hits and struck out seven, won his ninth game of the year against only one loss. Camp was tagged with his third loss of the year in five official decisions.

In the fifth inning of the second game after West Georgia had scored an unearned run, the Blazers

took advantage of Brave reliever Paul Newkirk's wildness to score the game-winning runs.

Jeff Greenhalgh singled with one out and went to third when Newkirk threw Darden's bunt away. Bowen walked to load the bases, and Newkirk, who had relieved Camp in the fourth, then walked Felts and Register, forcing in two runs.

Bowers then retired the last six Braves in order to record his sixth victory of the year against no defeats.

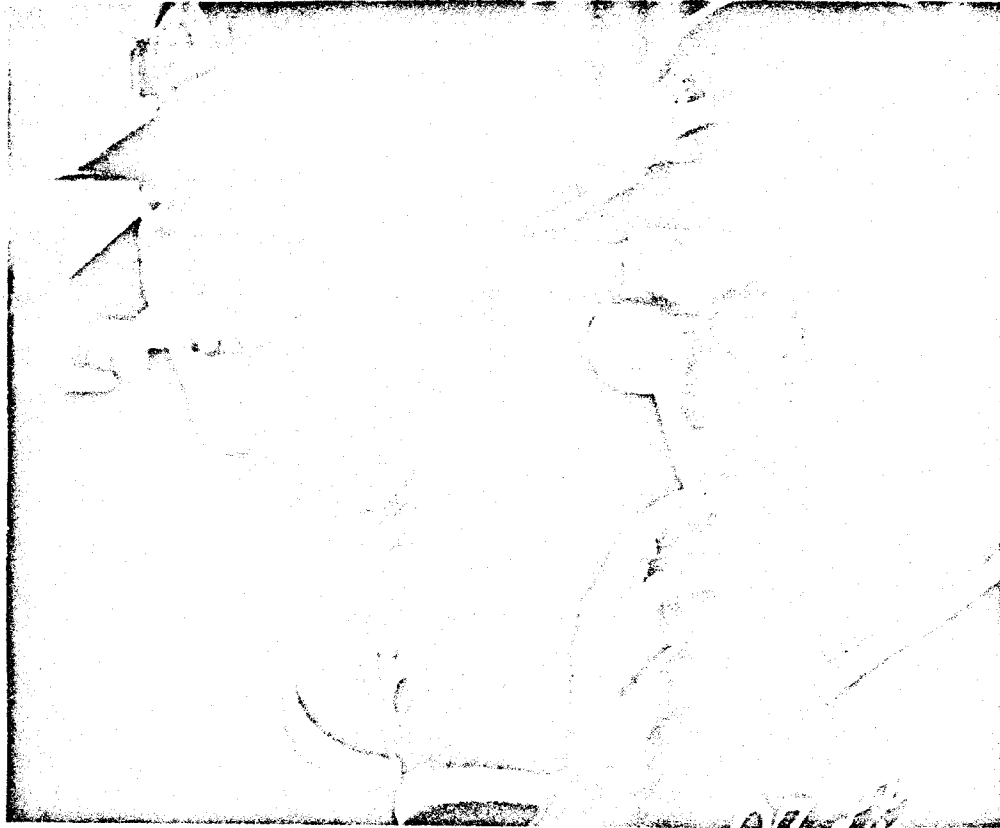
Valdosta State plays again today, traveling to Albany for a 6 p.m. game with the Albany State Rams. The final home game of the year is Thursday when the Rams come to Blazer Field for a 3:15 p.m. game.

## Blazer Boxes

WEST GEORGIA VSC				West Georgia VSC			
ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Payne 2b	3	0	0	Darden dh	4	1	0
Traylor rf	3	0	0	Bowen cf	4	1	2
Lewis lf	3	1	1	Felts lf	3	0	1
Dedmon cf	1	2	0	Register rf	3	1	1
Evans lb	3	0	2	Branam c	3	0	2
Wood dh	3	0	1	Alford 2b	3	0	0
Jandt c	2	0	0	Sumner 2b	2	0	0
Johnson ss	3	0	0	Greenblgh lb	3	0	0
Edwards 3b	3	0	0	Reeves ss	2	1	1
Ebennett p	0	0	0	Petty p	0	0	0
Camp p	0	0	0	Camp p	0	0	0
Rogers ph	1	0	0	Camp p	0	0	0
Totals	25	3	4	Totals	27	4	7

West Ga.				West Ga.			
ip	h	r	er	ip	h	r	er
200	600	1-3	4-0	000	010	0-1	3-1
001	002	1-4	7-1	050	020	x-2	3-1
E - Sumner, LOB -	West Ga.	3, Ga.	4, VSC 6, SB - Alford, S - Ed-				
VSC 8, 2B - Bowen, Branam, HR -	wards,						
Bowen, SB - Felts, Dedmon, Darden,							
Bennett	5	1-3	5-3	3	2	4	0-3
Camp (L, 2-0)	1	1-3	2-1	3	2	2	0-3
Petty (W, 9-1)	7	4	3-2	7	3	1-1	2-4





Concentration of this sort pays off. Blazer coaches Waples and Thomas study the situation carefully in Saturday's no hit victory over Augusta College. The win gave VSC the first annual SAC baseball crown.

## Blazers Dump Braves

Valdosta State virtually clinched the SAC baseball title Sunday taking a pair of games from the Braves of West Georgia 4-3, 2-1 at Blazer Field. Both games were nip and tuck throughout with Sam Bowen and Darrell Brannam turning in the heroics in the first game and Rick Bowers hurling 3-hit ball in the second.

West Georgia scored the initial runs of the first game pushing across two with two out in the first inning off Blazer starter Bill Petty. The Blazers closed the gap to one

in the third when Pete Reeves, who had walked, scored on Bowen's lashing double. Bowen delivered the tying run three innings later by lining his fourth homer of the season. The Blazers got the go ahead run moments later when Brannam doubled to score Jerome Register who had singled. A controversial call of a fair ball allowed the Braves to tie it in the seventh. A bases loaded single in the bottom half of the inning by Brannam, resulted in the Blazer victory. Petty who walked two, while striking

out seven pitched up his ninth win of the season against a lone defeat.

In game two, the Blazers took advantage of the wildness of West Georgia's Paul Newkirk to push across two fifth inning runs and in doing so pick up their thirty-first victory of the year. With the bases loaded Newkirk walked Gene Felts and Register to allow the winning runs. Rick Bowers allowed no earned runs, while walking two and fanning four to set his season mark at 6-0. Bowers continues to lead the nation in pitching (E.R.A.).

# VSC Stages Rally To Dump Rams 2-1

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

ALBANY--Valdosta State College's Blazers only got two hits, but they made them count as they scored one run each in the seventh and ninth to rally past the Albany State College Rams 2-1 in a college baseball game here Monday night.

Sam Bowen, the third pitcher VSC used, picked up his first win of the season after going the last three frames to boost the Blazers of coach Tommy Thomas to their 31st win in 41 starts.

But Thomas, although pleased with the victory and the efforts from his three pitchers, was a little concerned with his Blazers' current hitting slump that has held them to just 17 hits in four games.

"I thought the three pitchers did an outstanding job," Thomas said of Marty LeFiles, Dan Darden and Sam Bowen. Each pitched three innings, which was our pre game plan.

"But the big story in the game was our lack of hitting. Their pitcher (Lucious Harris) kept us off stride throughout the ball game. I can't explain it. We're suppose to be better hitters than that."

Excuses that Harris was a little slower than most of the pitchers th Blazers had seen didn't holdup for Thomas.

"A good hitter can hit any pitcher," Thomas answered. "I don't look for excuses. I can't explain what's wrong. But with 17 hits in four games, our hitting is not overpowering. We've won three of those game though, so we consider ourselves real fortunate."

"But I'm really puzzled, I don't know what we can't hit at sometimes when we hit at other times so authoritatively." take 2 vsc j.m.

LeFiles, VSC's constant

reliever, started off for a change and gave up two free walks while striking out two and giving up one run on one hit.

Darden took over in the fourth and gave up nothing while fanning five batters. And Bowen allowed another hit and one walk with six strike outs to level his record to 1-1.

Bowen is VSC's starting centerfielder and standout at that position.

"It sure felt good,; Bowen said after his victory, "especially over there."

Albany state had jumped off to a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the second when Bill Stroble walked, moved to third when LeFiles picked up Timothy McConnell's bunt and threw it over first baseman's Jeff Greenhalgh's head for an error, and scored when Harris hit to short stop.

In the seventh, the Blazers tied it up when right fielder Jerome Register doubled and scored on Steve Sumner's single. The winning run came in the top of the ninth when All-America left fielder Gene Fells reached on a fielder's choice, stole second, took third on a

wild pitch and came home when catcher Timothy McConnell, trying to cut him down at third, threw the ball into left field.

The defeat left the Rams with a 9-20 record.

VSC is scheduled to return home to host the Rams in their last home game of the season Thursday at 3:15 p.m. at the Blazer diamond on VSC's North Campus.

## Blazer Box

VSC				ASC					
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Petty dh	2 0 0 0	Woodrd cf	4 0 1 0						
Starling lf	1 0 0 0	Stokes lf	4 0 0 0						
Bowen cf	3 0 1 0	Harris p	4 0 1 0						
Fells lf	4 1 0 0	Wells lb	4 0 0 0						
Register rf	4 1 1 0	Stroble lf	3 1 0 0						
Atford 2b	3 0 0 0	McConll c	1 0 0 0						
Bishop 3b	2 0 0 0	Garrin	1 0 0 0						
Sumner 3b	2 0 1 1	Jacksn 2b	2 0 0 0						
Greenhalgh lb	3 0 0 0	Harris ss	2 0 0 0						
Parsons ss	2 0 0 0	Hill 3b	3 0 0 0						
Reeves ss	0 0 0 0	TOTALS	27 12 11						
Bouneur c	1 0 0 0								
Braun c	1 0 0 0								
LeFiles p	0 0 0 0								
Darden p	0 0 0 0								
TOTALS	28 2 3 1								

VSC	000	000	101	-2-3-1
ASC	010	000	000	-1-2-2
E--Leites, McConnell, Harris	DP--			
Harris-Wells; LOB--VSC 4, ASC 5; 2B--				
Harris, Register; SB--Bowen, Fells,				
McConnell; S--McConnell.				

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
LeFiles	3	1	1	0	2	2
Darden	3	0	0	0	0	5
Bowen (W, 1-1)	3	1	0	0	1	6
Harris (L)	9	3	2	1	5	8
WP--Harris 2.						

**DARRELL BRANAM's .326 average was the best for a catcher since head coach TOMMY THOMAS hit .343 in 1962.**

**Of the 24 runs that BILL PETTY surrendered this year, 13 came in the first inning.**

# Musashe Is Blazer Hero Against Rams

By MIKE CHASON

There were two heroes at Blazer Field Thursday where the Valdosta State College Blazers squeezed out a 4-3 extra-inning victory over the Albany State College Rams.

One was a 6'5" monster of a man from Albany State named Gregory Wells. The other was a 5'8" lad for VSC called Vince Musashe.

Wells slammed four hits for ASC including a pair of tremendous home runs. Musashe, usually a mainstay on the VSC bench, got his chance to start Thursday and came through with three hits in four trips.

The two men picked up hit after hit until the tenth inning. With the game tied 2-2, Wells crashed a 390' solo shot over the left field fence. VSC left-fielder Gene Felts never turned around to look at it. He had no doubt where the ball was going.

In the bottom of that frame with two men on and two outs, Musashe, the little guy from Chicago, Illinois, lined a single to centerfield to drive home the winning run, and the Blazers had their season worksheet raised to 33-10.

"I had the feeling I was going to hit it when I got up there," Musashe said. "Before the game, I told Pete (Reeves) that I felt dangerous today."

And dangerous he was. Besides his hot bat, Musashe assisted in three VSC double plays at second base and played errorless defense.

The Rams wasted no time in taking advantage of VSC hurler Dan Chadwick's first-inning jitters when LeRoy Stokes reached base on a fielder's choice. He crossed the plate on Wells' first hit of the day, a double which turned into a triple when rightfielder Jerome Register let the ball get by him.

The Blazers' durable catcher, Darrell Branam led off the bottom of the second inning with a walk. Dan Alford came in as a pinch runner for Branam and promptly swiped second.

of Chadwick in the sixth frame after the Rams scratched out back to back singles. Darden finished the contest, picking up his seventh win in nine starts.

In the Blazer half of the tenth, Register walked and went to third on Branam's sacrifice bunt, Shortstop Pete Reeves then slapped a single to left to plate Register and tie the score. That's when the Vince Musashe show really started.

VSC head coach Tommy Thomas was pleased with the win, but still worried about the Blazer offense.

"Just like I said the other day," Thomas moaned, "I just don't know what's wrong with our hitting."

"Fortunately, our pitching has been good enough to keep us in the game lately."

Valdosta State has now played five consecutive games decided by one run. VSC has emerged victorious in four.

## Blazers' Box

ASC				VSC					
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Woodard cf	3	0	1	0	Darden dh-p	4	0	1	0
Stokes dh	5	1	1	0	Powen cf	5	1	1	1
Sherion 2b	5	0	0	0	Felts lf	5	0	0	0
Wells 1b	5	2	4	3	Register rf	4	1	1	0
Harris 3b-p	4	0	1	0	Branam c	1	1	0	0
Sipple c-3b	4	0	1	0	Greenhugh lb	4	1	0	0
Chester rf	4	0	0	0	Reeves ss	3	0	1	1
Wise lf	2	0	0	0	Summer 3b	2	0	0	0
Jackson lf	1	0	1	0	Gishop 3b	1	0	0	0
Harris ss	3	0	2	0	Musashe 2b	4	0	3	2
McConnel p	0	0	0	0	Alford	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	36	3	11	3	TOTALS	33	4	7	4

ASC 101 100 009 1-3-11-1

VSC 010 010 002 2-4-7-1

E-Wells, Summer, DP-Sherion-Harris-Wells, Musashe to Reeves to Greenhugh, Reeves to Musashe to Greenhugh, Musashe to Reeves LOB-ASC 10, VSC 10 2B-Wells, HR-Wells 2, Bowen, SB-Alford 2, Parcen, S-Branam, Musashe.

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
McConnel	9	5	3	3	3	2
L. Harris (L)	2-3	2	1	1	0	0
Chadwick	5	7	2	2	2	3
Darden (W, 7-2)	5	4	1	1	2	4

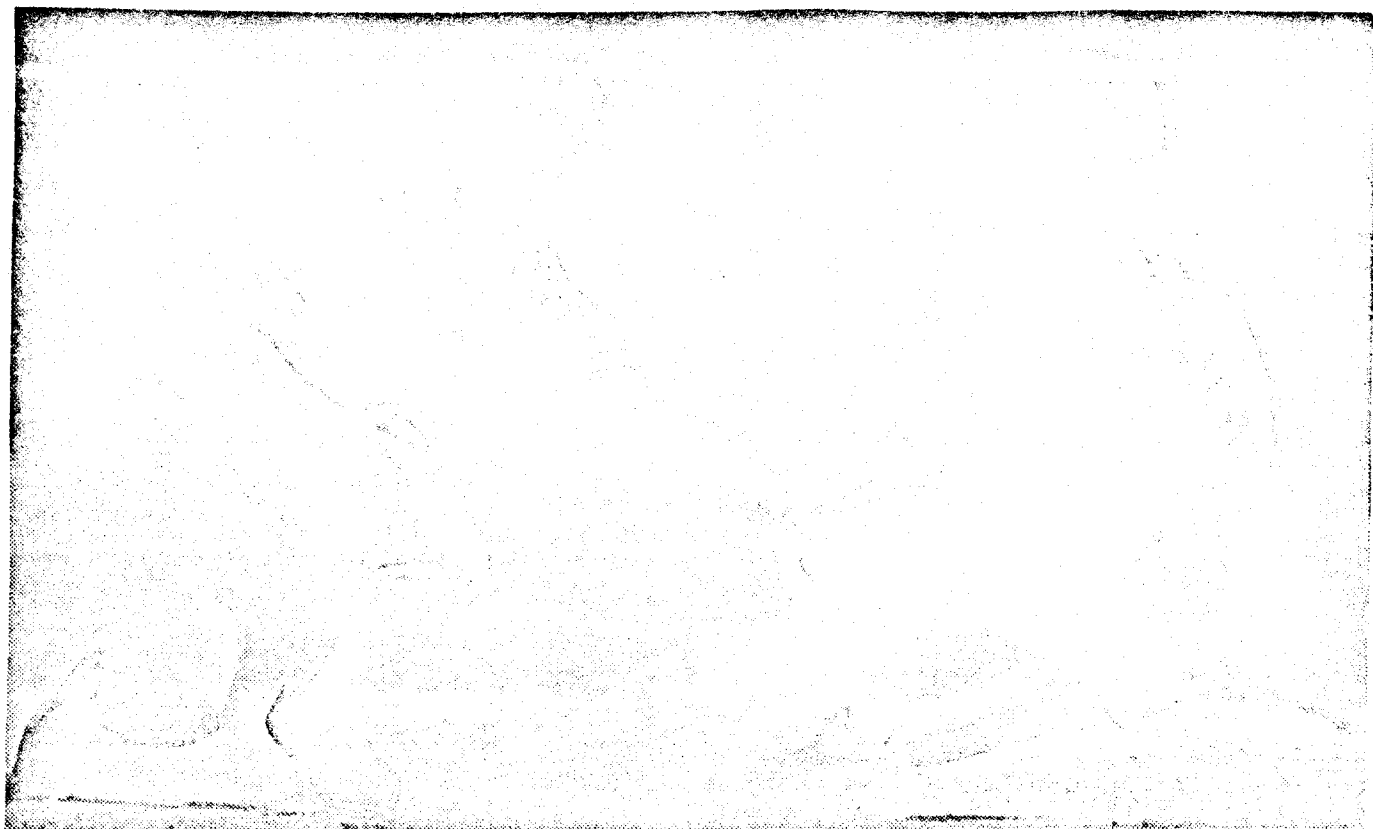
HBP-Woodard by Chadwick, SAC Branam by McConnel by Darden Greenhugh by L. Harris.

Musashe then knocked in his first run of the game with a solid single to center.

In the Ram fourth, Wells cracked a line shot over the left field fence to put ASC up 2-1.

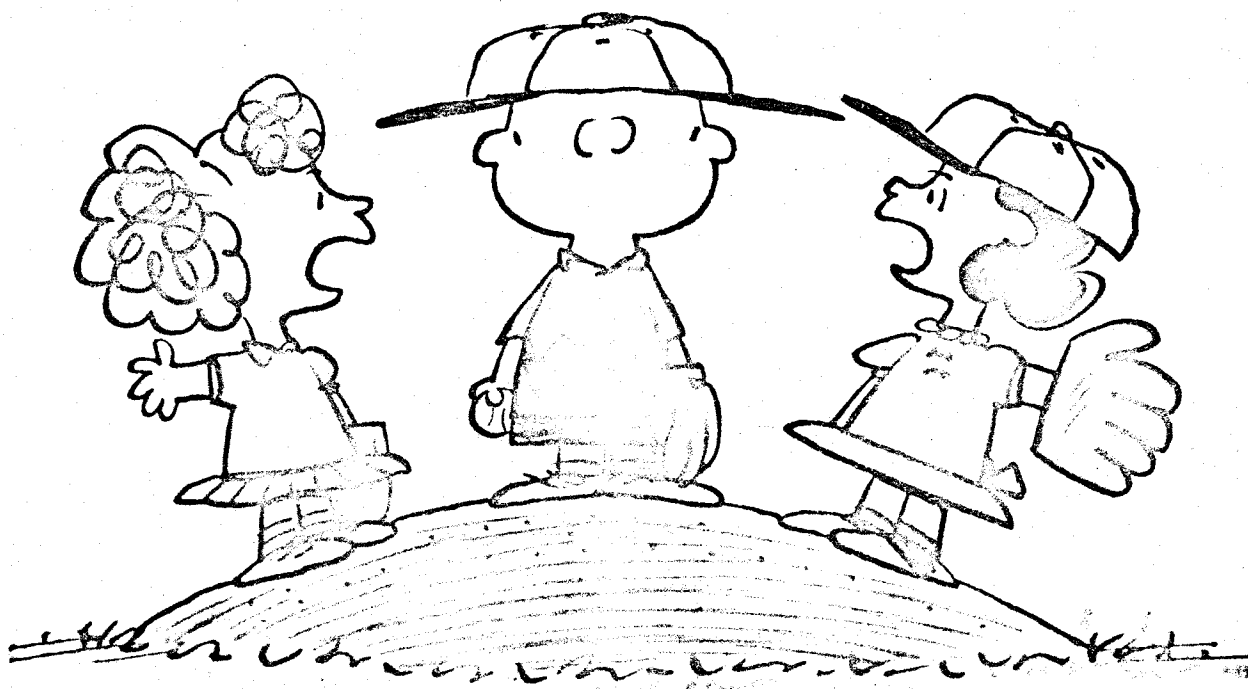
Blazer slugger Sam Bowen knotted the score at two all in the fifth inning with a home run, and it stayed that way until Wells' big blow in the tenth.

Dan Darden came on in relief



Got Him; VSC's Pete Reeves Tags Out A Sliding Ram At Second Base

-Times Staff Photo



Is it any wonder that RICK BOWERS took so much time between pitches!

May 15, 1974

# Blazers Beat Augusta, Clinch First SAC Baseball Crown



## What a Bunt !

Blazer catcher Darrell Branam shows his knowledge of the bunting exercise in a recent game here. Branam has proved to be one of the Blazer's most consistent players this year.

Valdosta State clinched the initial South Atlantic Conference baseball crown by sweeping the Jaquars of Augusta College 6-0, and 1-0 in Augusta Saturday. The wins left the Blazers with their best regular season record ever with an overall mark at 35-10 and their conference worksheet at 16-2.

The Blazers turned to the talented arm of freshman right-hander Steve McDiffitt, who allowed only two hits while fanning four, and the booming bat of centerfielder Sam Bowen who slammed a double and his sixth homer of the year for their first game victory. A pair of bases loaded walks got Valdosta off to an early 2-0 lead where the score stayed until the fifth. Bowen led off the inning with his round-tripper, a 330 foot shot to left. After Gene Felts had reached on an error and Register had been hit, reliable Daryl Brannam lined a single scoring Felts. A wild pitch and Pete Reeves single brought home the final two markers of the ball game.

An unearned run proved to be the difference in the nightcap as Bob Brown, the Jaquer hurler held the Blazers hitless. It was the first time in a while that Valdosta had been held without a hit and added to the worries of Coach Tommy Thomas whose charges have failed in the hitting department as of late.

"If we don't step out of our hitting slump, we won't last in the tournament," Thomas said.

Bill Petty was masterful in the second game allowing four hits, striking out five while running his record to 10-1. His only problem came in the second inning when he faced a bases loaded situation with two out. However Bill Parson's came up with a fielding gem to end the inning and save the shutout.

District 25 play opens today at Shorter College in Rome, Georgia. The Blazers will face either Georgia Southern Piedmont, or Berry. The tournament is double elimination. Columbus and Shorter are the other teams participating.

Besides having the lowest ERA (0.90) on the BLAZER staff, RICK BOWERS also has the most relation. Girl cousin's of RICK lived in Carrollton; Marietta; Columbus; Americus; Macon; Augusta; Lakeland, Fla.; St. Louis, Mo.; and, Springfield, Ill. Most of RICK's girl cousins, however, seem to reside in Valdosta.

# Blazers Clinch First SAC Title

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

AUGUSTA, Ga. - The Valdosta State College Blazers relied on two freshman pitchers to take a pair of wins from the Augusta College Jaguars here Saturday, and clinch the first South Atlantic Conference baseball crown ever.

Steve McDiffitt, now 5-0, shutout the Jaguars 6-0 in the first game, and lefthander Bill Petty eked out a 1-0 win in the nightcap despite a no-hitter by the Jaguars' Bob Brown.

The back-to-back triumphs set the Blazers' season record at 35-10, the best in the history of Valdosta State. The VSC diamond crew ended its SAC campaign with a league-leading 16-2 mark.

Although the victories ended another in a long line of outstanding regular seasons for the Blazers, head coach Tommy Thomas was anything but happy.

"If we don't step out of our hitting slump, we won't last in any tournament," Thomas said.

"I was pleased with the pitching today, and also with the way Sam Bowen hit the ball. But he was the only one."

Bowen reached base on an error and Gene Felts cracked a safety to load the bases. Augusta hurler Tom Fitzgerald walked Darrell Branam and Jeff Greenhalgh to force Darden and Bowen to the plate.

VSC racked up four more markers in the fifth frame when Bowen led off the inning with 330' shot over the left field fence.

Felts reached base on an error, and Register was plunked by a pitch to put two men on with no outs.

scoring hopes. The nightcap was a pitchers' duel all the way with Petty scattering four hits and raising his season worksheet to 10-1.

Petty's only tense moment came in the second frame when he loaded the bases with two out. A great play by shortstop Bill Parsons saved his shutout.

Parsons also scored the only run in the game in the sixth inning when he walked,

went to second on Darden's sacrifice, and crossed the plate on Randy Thompson's throwing error.

Valdosta State has been invited to the District 25 NAIA tournament scheduled to start at Rome, Ga. on Wednesday.

However the Blazers may be invited to the NCAA Division II baseball tourney. Assistant coach Dave Waples said VSC should receive a decision on the NCAA bid Monday.

## Blazer Box Scores

FIRST GAME										SECOND GAME														
VSC					AC					VSC					AC									
ab	r	h	b	bi	ab	r	h	b	bi	ab	r	h	b	bi	ab	r	h	b	bi					
Darden dh	4	1	1		Jones dh	2	0	0		Darden dh	2	0	0		Russell 2b	4	0	1	0					
Bowen cf	4	2	2		Russell 2b	3	0	0		Bowen cf	3	0	0		Lewis cf	0	0	0						
Felts lf	4	1	1		Tilman c	2	0	0		Felts lf	3	0	0		Tilman dh	3	0	1	0					
Registr rf	2	1	0		Ford rf	3	0	0		Registr rf	1	0	0		Ford rf	3	0	1	0					
Staring rf	1	0	0		Crawford lb	3	0	1		Branam c	1	0	0		Crawford c	3	0	0						
Branam c	3	1	2		Smith lf	3	0	0		Gunlah lb	3	0	0		Smith lf	3	0	0						
Gunlah lb	2	0	0		Lewis cf	3	0	1		Bishop 3b	2	0	0		Ataway lb	3	0	1	0					
Dennis lb	1	0	0		Jenkins 3b	3	0	0		Musashe 2b	2	0	0		Thompson ss	2	0	0						
Reeves ss	3	0	1		Thompson ss	1	0	0		Parsons ss	1	1	0		Redd 3b	2	0	0						
Allard 2b	3	0	0		Fitzgerald p	0	0	0		Parsons ss	1	1	0		Redd 3b	2	0	0						
Sumner 3b	3	0	1		Belcher p	0	0	0		Petty p	0	0	0		Brown p	0	0	0						
McDiffitt p	3	0	0																					
Totals	30	6	8	4	Totals	23	0	2	0	Totals	16	1	0	0	Totals	26	0	4	0					
VSC					AC					VSC					AC									
AC					VSC					AC					VSC									
2. LOB - VSC 6, AC 5, 2B - Bowen.																								
DP - Thompson to Russell to Crawford																								
E - Reeves, Tillman, Thompson 3																								
HR - Bowen.																								
McDiffitt (W, 5-0)	ip	h	r	er	bbs	7	2	0	0	3	4	Petty (W, 10-1)	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	7	4	0	0	2	5
Fitzgerald (L, 0-5)	4	1	3	7	6	3	2	2	2	2	2	Brown (L, 3-4)	7	0	1	0	5	5						
Belcher	2	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	5															
HBP - Register by Fitzgerald, Balk																								
- McDiffitt, WP - McDiffitt, Belcher,																								
Fitzgerald, PB - Tillman																								

**BILL PETTY led both the BLAZERS and the South Atlantic Conference in shut-outs, with 3.**

Branam then scratched out the first of his two hits on the day to send Felts flying to the plate. Augusta catcher Mike Tillman was waiting for the 6'2" leftfielder with the ball, but the collision jarred the horseshoe from his glove.

Greenhalgh struck out on a wild pitch which scored Register and dependable Pete Reeves lined a single to score Branam.

Augusta threatened in the top of the seventh, but Bowen rifled a runner out at the plate to end any Jaguar

# VSC Seeded First In District Play

BY TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta State College's Blazers are headed for Rome and what is billed as an eventual showdown with the team they started out against to decide who represents the 25th district in National Athletics play.

Coach Tommy Thomas said his Blazers have been invited to the District 25 playoffs to defend their title as the number one seeded team at the Shorter College diamond Wednesday.

Shorter's Hawks, now 32-7 overall and the Georgia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Champions, are seeded second with Columbus College's Cougars, 23-21, seeded third.

The fourth team in the four-team double-elimination tournament is still to be decided and is a tossup between Berry College, Piedmont and Georgia Southwestern College. It could be decided as late as Monday, officials said.

The Blazers, who placed third in the NAIA national tournament in Phenix, Ariz. last season, are scheduled to open play Wednesday at 1 p.m. against the fourth seeded team.

Shorter and Columbus are to square off at 4 p.m.

The two losers battle for existence Thursday at 11 a.m., according to the schedule, while

the winners play at 2 p.m. with a third game at 5 p.m.

Friday's schedule has the first championship game at 1 p.m. with the second, if needed, at 4 p.m.

The Blazers posted a 33-10 record so far this season and capturing the first South Atlantic Conference championship. They are scheduled to wind up the season Saturday with a doubleheader against SAC foe Augusta College in Augusta.

VSC opened its season against the Hawks, taking 9-4 and 7-4 victories in the twin-bill.

# Blazers Accept First NCAA Tournament Bid

By JULIAN MILLER

Bypassing the NAIA, which has led to such success in the past, the Valdosta State College Blazers have accepted a bid to participate in the NCAA Regional Tournament to begin next Friday.

Tommy Thomas announced Monday night he has withdrawn his Blazers from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics District 25 tournament

to begin Wednesday in Rome after learning of the National Collegiate Athletic Association offer Monday afternoon.

The Blazers, at 35-10 in their best season ever, are the defending District 25 champs and went all the way to third place in the NAIA national tournament last season.

But Thomas not only views the NCAA as a step above the younger, less prestigious NAIA, but it puts his Blazers one step

closer to the national tournament, all in their first year ever campaigning in the NCAA.

"It's not only more prestigious," Thomas said of the NCAA bid, "we feel like we didn't have a choice. We had to accept the bid and frankly it's something I've been looking forward to."

"What it means is we're one of four teams out of a possible 100 schools from Virginia through Florida, the largest region in NCAA Division II, to

be selected. And I don't feel we are shunning the NAIA anyway. They're first class too. But in this case the NCAA can't be outdone."

The Blazers, the only non-Florida team participating, are scheduled to take on Rollins College's Tars from Winter Park Fla. (28-18) at noon Friday to start the double-elimination tournament. Host Florida Southern (23-13) meets Eckard College (27-10) at 3

Lakeland, Fla., was selected as the site for the second year because the tournament actually showed a profit from gate receipts last season.

"There are a lot of schools in this division," Thomas offered, "and the fact that three Florida schools were selected just goes as a credit to the type baseball they play down there. And being the only out-of-state team selected makes it even more prestigious for us."

"Some of the boys were disappointed. They know what the NAIA tournament is and want to give it another try. But I think after this one, win or lose, they'll realize they've made a great step forward."

"I feel more eyes will be upon us in this tournament than on the way up to the NAIA national tournament and since we'll be playing in Florida there will be more pro scouts there than we've ever seen before."

Thomas said he has already

been impressed by the professionalism and finesse the NCAA puts into handling its tournament.

"I've already been questioned by the selection committee on player eligibility and we're supposed to send in literature to the same effect this week."

Whereas the District 25 tournament would have qualified VSC for the NAIA Area V tournament, a stepping stone to the National tournament, the NCAA tournament

in Florida automatically earns a berth in the NCAA national in Springfield, Ill. the following week.

He sees no hard feeling coming from the NAIA on dropping out of the tournament they had already accepted.

"It was met with mixed emotions, I'm sure," Thomas explained. "Some of the players, especially from Shorter wanted to play us again. But they understood that if we got this bid we'd have to take it."

## In Area Tourney

# VSC Tackles NCAA's Best

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

It's out of the proverbial frying pan and into the fire for Valdosta State College's Blazers this weekend.

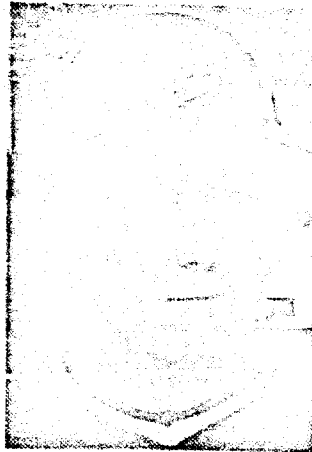
But Coach Tommy Thomas' highly successful but unrated South Atlantic Conference champions still hope for the best when they tackle three of the top six rated teams in the country in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's South Atlantic Area baseball tournament.

The Blazers, who turned down a bid to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics District 25 tournament, where their outstanding 35-10 record had them seeded first, are scheduled to meet Rollins College's Tars to open the tournament in Lakeland, Fla., at noon Friday.

At 3:30 p.m. the defending champion Florida Southern Mocs, the host team, and seeded second in the National NCAA standings, meet the sixth rated Echard College Tritons from St. Petersburg, Fla.

The Mocs have to be considered a hands down favorite with four championships and a second place in the tournament in the last five years. In 1973 they went on to the National NCAA Division II tournament to be edged out by Ithica, N.Y. 4-1 in the finals.

But the Blazers, although in



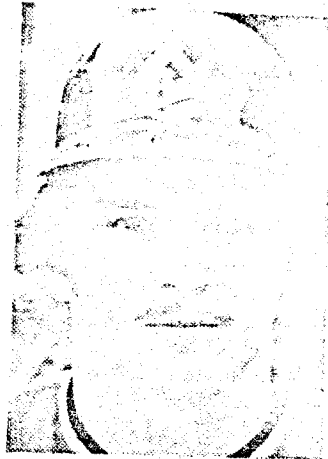
**STEVE McDIFFITT**  
First Start

their first year of the more prestigious NCAA competition, have had a taste of national tournaments through the NAIA, in which they finished third nationally last year. And they want to go back.

The VSC nine winds up a tough week of grueling practices today to prepare for their trip to Lakeland Thursday. But a look at the competition shows they have a tough row to hoe.

Southern comes into the tournament with a 23-13 records, led by the hitting of shotstop Mark Hopper and centerfielder Chuck Smith and pitching of Don Fisher.

Hopper has to be one of



**BILL PETTY**  
May Start Next

the most consistent hitters in collegiate baseball with 56 hits in 159 times at bat for a .352 average. Fifty-three of his 56 hits were singles. He also had 19 RBI's, seven stolen bases and was struck out only twice this season with a .964 fielding average.

Smith isn't far behind at .350, with one home run, RBI's 22 and 53 hits on 151 trips.

Fisher, a southpaw, brings a 5-4 record with a 1.49 ERA into the tournament while Southern's next two pitchers, both also lefthanders, Rick Tomlin and Mark Daly come into the meet with 6-2 record and 2.40 ERA and 4-3 record and 2.09 ERA.

Rollins College is the team the Blazers meet first and their stats don't look any more encouraging to the VSC team. Leading the 28-18 Tars from Winter Park are John Castino in batting and Lorenze in pitching.

Lorenz has been in 14 games with a 9-5 record and a 1.49 ERA. The number two starter is Jerry Gaffney, 5-3, with a 2.70 ERA. Castino, who plays either right or left field, is moving along at a .350 clip and is prone to hit the long ball. He has so far this season hit six doubles, eight triples and nine homers with 45 RBI's. Needless to say, he has started all 46 games for the Tars.

Behind him are Woody Keys and Frank Smith with .337 and .327 records respectively.

The sixth ranked Tritons are led by the batting of Billy Evers, and Mike Dennis and the pitching of Stan Saleski and Chaibs Gordon.

Evers led the Tritons to their 27-10 record with a .374 batting average while Dennis finished the regular season with a .368 average.

Saleski, 7-2 overall, had a 1.4 ERA. With 33 walks and 68 strike outs, Gordon was 10-3 with a 3.23 ERA while a third pitcher, Joe Sipriano, was 4-2 with a 3.96 average.

The Blazers are to go with stalwart freshman Steve McDiffitt, 7-2 on the season with a 2.20 ERA in the first game with another freshman, 10-1 Bill Petty, who carries a 1.99 ERA tentatively slated to start the second game in the double elimination affair.

Three games are scheduled Saturday with the championship game beginning Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in Marchant Stadium with a second game immediately following if necessary to determine the winner.

# YER-OUT!

Blazer pitcher **BILL PETTY** kept hearing the umpires yell this, everytime he would bat.



# 'Two-Faced' Blazers Worry Coach

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going into the first National Collegiate Athletic Association post season tournament ever for a Valdosta State College team, Tommy Thomas has a feeling of confidence his team can win the four team baseball tournament beginning Thursday in Lakeland, Fla.

He also knows they could end up back in Valdosta after only two games.

The reason for the highly successful VSC coach's fluctuating sentiments is the fluctuating play of his team.

Although the Blazers posted a 35-10 record, the best ever for the Valdosta school, they have shown quite a bit of difference between their best and their worst. But they have managed to win at both.

At their best, Thomas feels the Blazers could win the tournament in a breeze, even though they are going up against the second, fifth and sixth-ranked teams in the NCAA Division II.

But at their worst, Thomas knows it will be a short trip to Lakeland and he's keeping his fingers crossed for the other alternative.

"I feel confident we can win," Thomas said of the tournament against defending champion Florida Southern, Rollins College and Eckard College.

"But there's no guarantee we will win, at that level."

Thomas' feelings his team can take the tournament, although they've never faced this competition before, stems from the sporadic success they've had against even higher rated major college teams.

The Blazers bombed Georgia Southern for 6-3 and 5-4 victories when the Eagles were rated fourth in the nation, and blasted tough Florida State University 15-1 on the Seminoles own home field.

"But in the last 10 games

we haven't been able to hit Molley Pott," Thomas countered. "Our hitting has been at a low level. In fact, it has been a lot lower than it ought to be to win. But somehow we've managed to do it.

"To be honest, our competition during this late slump has not been the best this year. But we can't play like this against the competition we're going to find in Florida and hope to win."

Florida Southern is rated second in the NCAA college Division, which is supposed to be more prestigious than the

NAIA (National Association Of Intercollegiate Athletics) league we've been playing in. Rollins was fifth and Eckard sixth so there are three teams in the top six we have to play. We were rated 21st in the NAIA.

"But we've beaten major colleges ranked as high and I know we can do it. But if we hit like we have been I don't think we'll survive the first two games.

"I think we're good, but we're not consistently good. We can really jump on the top notch pitchers. We've shown we can. We play extraordinarily good or extraordinarily bad.

"We'll just have to wait and find out which face we're going to show in Lakeland."

The Winner of the area tournament earns a berth in the NCAA nationals in Springfield, Ill. next week.



HAHN



DARDEN



BISHOP



GREENHALGH



REEVES

## Blazers At A Glance

### VALDOSTA STATE FINAL STATISTICS

	Regular Season Won 35-Lost 10									
	G	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.	2B	3B	HR	SB
Dan Darden	33	86	17	30	5	.349	4	0	0	6
Sam Bowen	43	131	26	44	25	.336	7	3	1	9
Jerome Register	44	134	46	44	26	.328	10	3	6	18
Pete Reeves	32	75	13	24	4	.320	2	0	0	3
Darrell Branam	42	109	22	33	28	.303	6	0	3	2
Gene Felts	45	159	35	47	27	.296	10	3	0	13
Steve Sumner	31	83	11	24	14	.289	3	1	0	3
Marty Bishop	28	80	9	22	13	.275	4	1	0	2
Dan Alford	37	107	15	20	14	.187	1	2	1	12
Jeff Greenhalgh	34	92	14	17	14	.185	1	1	1	1
Bill Parsons	23	44	12	7	4	.159	1	0	0	3
Others		179	31	45	29	.251	5	0	2	8
VSC Totals	45	1279	251	357	203	.279	54	14	14	80
Opponents Totals	45	1263	139	282	103	.222	33	4	13	32
	C	IP	H	R	ER	BB-K	W-L	ERA		
Rick Bowers	8	48.1	34	9	4	24-25	6-0	0.74		
Bill Petty	12	63.1	48	19	14	20-26	10-1	1.99		
Dan Darden	12	69.2	48	32	17	40-56	7-2	2.20		
Steve McDiffitt	7	69.2	48	32	17	40-56	7-2	2.20		
Danny Chadwick	8	53	45	19	15	24-20	3-2	2.55		
Marty LeFiles	13	33.1	31	18	15	15-14	1-2	4.05		
Others	12	38.2	45	29	18	23-28	3-3	4.19		
VSC Totals	45	346	282	139	94	160-186	35-10	2.45		
Opponents Totals	45	325	355	251	182	203-186	10-35	5.04		



FORAN



SUMNER



BRANAM



McDIFFITT



MUSASHE



PARSONS

# Thomas, McDiffitt Hoping For Offensive Eruption

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

LAKELAND, Fla.—Valdosta State College Blazer baseball coach Tommy Thomas and starting pitcher Steve McDiffitt each hope for the same things when the Blazers take on Rollins College's Tars Friday—hits.

McDiffitt, a freshman righthander from New Martinsville, W. Va., has been tabbed for the noon game to kick off the South Atlantic Area National Collegiate Athletics

Association baseball playoffs.

At 3 p.m. host Florida Southern Mocs are to meet the Eckerd College Tritans in the second opener at Lakeland's Marchant Stadium.

Both Thomas and McDiffitt have confidence in the young freshman's pitching, but the team batting has been known to fluctuate.

The hitting has gone to two extremes, from the 15-hit, 15-run performance the Blazers

turned out to defeat Florida State University to a 10-game hitting slump that closed the regular season at 35-10 with that many narrow margin wins.

Both look to the Florida State game because it not only showed the Blazers have the ability to hit any pitcher at any time (the homestanding Seminoles used five pitchers that night), but it shows VSC at its best.

At their best, Thomas believes

the Blazers can take the area playoff and win the berth in the National NCAA tournament in Springfield, Ill. At their worst, he knows it will be a quick trip to Lakeland.

"I just hope we get some hits," agreed McDiffitt. "I hope it's like Florida State. If we can hit like that we'll be all right."

The young starter picked up one of his three big wins over the Seminoles that night. Others

came over Georgia Southern, rated fourth in the nation in major universities division of NCAA, 6-3, and Lewis College, 6-5. He carries a 5-0 record.

"I don't know quite how we managed to win those last 10 games in that hitting slump," Thomas admitted. "But to be honest, our competition during that time wasn't our best of the season."

It's just the opposite situation in Lakeland, however. The

Mocassins of Florida Southern are the defending champions for four of the past five years and finished second in the National NCAA Division II tournament last year. They are rated second again this season. Rollins College is ranked fifth and Eckerd sixth.

This is VSC's first year of NCAA competition and their first NCAA tournament. Last season they won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics District 25 and Area V

tournaments en route to their third place national finish in the National NAIA tournament.

The Blazers were scheduled to arrive here today and begin preparing for their tournament opener.

Three games are scheduled Saturday in the double elimination tournament with either one or two games Sunday to determine the championship.

In case of a rainout the championship games are to be held Monday.

50c



# NCAA COLLEGE DIVISION

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL

## Baseball Tournament

**MAY 24-26, 1974 - MERCHANT STADIUM**

LAKELAND, FLORIDA

NCAA Host School: Florida Southern College



By Jack Slayton  
Tampa Tribune Sports Writer

You don't break up a winning combination!!

Officials of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's South Atlantic Division II region apparently decided to go with the old adage for this year's South Atlantic Regional tourney here at Joker Marchant Stadium.

Three of the 4-team field are returning for the second straight year---host and defending tourney champion Florida Southern College, Rollins College of Winter Park and Eckerd College of St. Petersburg.

The fourth team---Valdosta State---brings an impressive 35-10 record with them---a vast improvement over last year's fourth team---the 15-6 University of Baltimore.

Last year's regional here was the first to finish in the black. The combined Marchant Stadium-Tigertown complex is an ideal spot for tourney play. While one game is in progress at Marchant Stadium, the two teams for the next game can be taking batting and fielding drills on the diamonds at nearby Tigertown. The stadium is the spring home of the Detroit Tigers---a big league facility in every way.

It's six straight regional tourney appearances for the host Florida Southern College Mocs---a record for a South Atlantic regional school and only topped by a few teams in the entire nation. But the Mocs' record in the regionals is untied---FSC has won four of their previous five tourneys including the last three and back-to-back national titles in '71 and '72. No team has ever repeated as national champion except the Mocs.

FSC coach Hal Smeltzly will have quite a few newcomers this year including the team's top hitter, shortstop Mark Hopper (.352). Another newcomer, Frank Cacciatore, emerged as the power hitter of the team with seven doubles, three homers and a .306 average.

Returnee Chuck Smith hit an impressive .350 and continued his fine play in center field along with Dave Lampley at first base (.314); catcher Mike Coombs (.311); outfielder Jim Nicholson (.297), second baseman Dick Brink (.288), designated hitter Mickey Dearstone (.269) and Hal Tyus (.357) and Steve Nichols (.306) sharing third base.

The Mocs' pitching staff is heavy on the southpaw side. Top lefthanders include Don Fisher (5-4 and 1.49 ERA), Rick Tomlin (6-2 and 2.40), Mark Daly (4-3 and 2.09) and Mike Gerlosky (3-0 and 2.00). Righthanders include Larry Walker (2-1 and 3.76), John Chapman (2-2 and 2.90) and Jim Gerken (1-1 and 1.96).

FSC's opening opponent is Eckerd College Tritons. The two met twice in the regular season and FSC won both, 4-2 and 8-6. But Eckerd beat Rollins, 1-0 and 10-6, while losing 15-4. And Rollins swept four from FSC, 6-4, 2-1, 4-3 and 1-0, pointing up the torrid competition within the state. Both Rollins and FSC split with Division I tourney bound Miami while Valdosta took two from Georgia Southern, also headed for the Division I tourney.

Bill Livesey has brought the Tritons from the baseball doldrums to a small college power. Two freshmen led the way this season--Chuck Gordon (10-3) and Stan Saleski (7-2). Joe Cipriano is back from last year with a 4-2 mark and aided by Phil Johnson (3-2). Relievers Tony Gallo, Jerry Cioffi and Al Marshall all finished with 1-0 records.

Sporting a .317 team average the Tritons set a school record with 27 wins against only ten losses. Leading the attack was sophomore Bill Evers at .379--setting a school mark with 37 runs driven home. Wayne Politelli at third base hit .376 followed by second baseman Mark Dennis (.368), Andy Westervelt (.330), Bob Gillis (.324) and all-South Atlantic outfielder Rob Outwater at .305 and tops on defense.

Bill Livesey will have 25 of the 26-man roster back in '75.

Coach Boyd Coffie brings his Rollins Tars into the tourney with a 28-18 record, including many games against Division I foes. Like the Mocs the Tars have a bevy of newcomers. Top pitchers are Blake Lorenz (9-5 and 1.49) and Gerry Gaffney (5-3 and 2.70). Holdover hurlers include Scott Trethaway (4-1 and 3.12) and reliever Bill Miller (4-4 and 4.26).

Coffie landed a brilliant freshman in John Castino of Kenilworth, Ill. The outfielder had a .350 average and his two great catches led to back-to-back wins over FSC last month. Newcomer Woody Keys hit .337 while holdovers Jack Goetz (.321), Dan Kirkwood (.286), Frank Smith (.327), Larry Hart (.247) all aided the Tars. Dave Merullo slipped from last season's fine average but still played well in the infield.

A year ago the Tars bowed twice to FSC in the tourney while beating Eckerd two times.

The Blazers of Valdosta under coach Tommy Thomas finished third in the NAIA World Series last season and had a 43-14 mark before joining Division II of the NCAA this season.

The Blazers' team average was .279. Dan Darden, who divided this mound duties with that of designated hitter, topped the team at .349. Outfielder Jerome Register led the regulars with a .336 mark and at one time in the season was 8-for-8. Other top hitters included outfielder Sam Bowen (.328), second baseman Pete Reeves (.320), catcher Darrell Branam (.303), infielder Gene Felts (.296), infielder Steve Sumner (.289) and third baseman Marty Bishop (.275).

The pitching records are enough to shake the Blazers' foes. Freshman Bill Petty hurled in over 63 innings with a 10-1 mark and 1.99 ERA while Darden was 7-2 and 2.20. Two hurlers have yet to lose: Rick Bowers (6-0 and 0.74) and Steve McDiffitt (5-0 and 2.50). Reliever Marty LeFiles was in 13 games with a 1-2 mark and 4.05.

The four teams in the field are truly indicative of the class of baseball in the region. Not only do they all have impressive records against Division II foes, they have more than held their own against Division I teams, including two bound for Division I regional affairs.

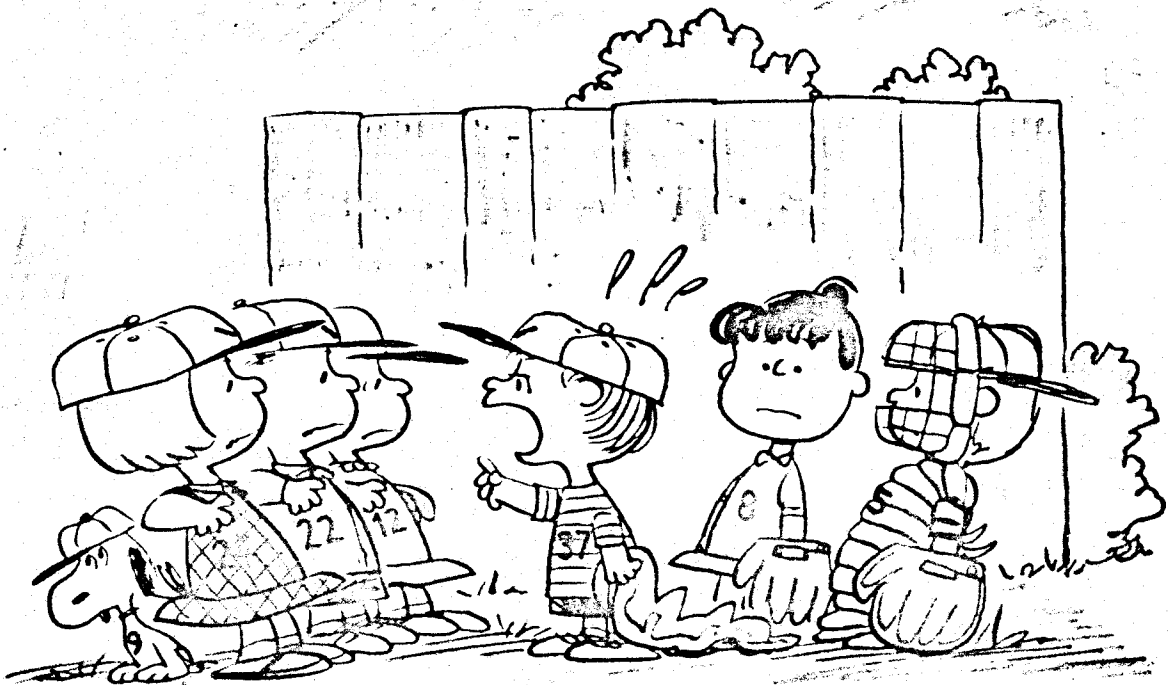
Whoever wins here and advances to next week's nationals at Springfield, Ill., should more than hold its own.

All indications point to a great tourney.



Photo By Paul Johnson

**THREE COACHES AND TOURNEY DIRECTOR BUD MATHENY GET TOGETHER**  
... coaches are (L to R) Hal Smeltzly, Matheny, Bill Livesey, Tommy Thomas.



In his calm, self-controlled manner, COACH WAPLES attempts to motivate the Blazers onto greater heights.

# Rollins Starts Tourney Against Valdosta State

By **PATRICK ZIER**  
Ledger Sports Editor

Rollins College will try and shake the effects of a late-season slump which saw the Tars drop their last six games when it opens the South Atlantic regional baseball tournament here Friday at noon.

The Tars, 28-18 and ranked seventh nationally among small college teams, meet unranked Valdosta State at Marchant Stadium. Valdosta finished its season 35-10.

Rollins will throw Blake Lorenz, 9-5 for the year, against Valdosta's unbeaten Steve McDiffitt, 5-0. Valdosta will be the home team and bat last.

"It's awful hard to tell what kind of effect that will

have on us," Rollins Coach Boyd Coffie said. "I would say it won't affect us much, but we haven't played any outside competition since the season ended so I really don't know."

Valdosta State is a relative unknown going into the tournament, since none of the other three teams have played it this year.

"We know Valdosta's tough," Coffie said. But at the same time, he didn't think Florida Southern, generally considered to be a co-favorite with Rollins in the tourney, got the easier draw.

"I really don't think there's an easy team to beat in it this year," Coffie said. "Eckerd beat us and they can be tough.

"I'll tell you this. Whoever loses those first games better have some kind of deep staff if he expects to win it.

"With four games in two days (Saturday and Sunday), you'll need at least four star-



STARLING

## STARTING LINEUPS

**ROLLINS:** Jim Liakos, 1b; Larry Hart, rf; Bill Walczak, dh; John Castino, lf; Jack Goetz, c; Dave Merullo, 3b; Frank Smith, ss; Russ Ricciardelli, 2b; Dan Kirkwood, cf. Pitcher — Blake Lorenz.

**VALDOSTA STATE:** Dan Darden, dh; Sam Bowen, cf; Gene Felts, lf; Jerome Register, rf; Darrell Branam, c; Pete Reeves, ss; Dan Alford, 2b; Jeff Greenhalgh, 1b; Steve Sumner, 3b. Pitcher — Steve McDiffitt.

## Rollins

Continued From 1B  
three innings, you generally know."

Like Florida Southern, Valdosta State is a veteran tournament team, but until

this year, it has competed in the NAIA meet.

Last year, it was third in the national finals, and the school turned down a bid in NAIA competition this year

to compete in the NCAA regional here.

Valdosta State is led by power hitting centerfielder Sam Bowen, who Thomas said "is sought by many pro clubs." Bowen hit .328 with six home runs and 18 stolen bases during the regular season.

Two-time NAIA All-American Gene Felts, who Thomas said "had an off year this season," is another strong hitter. He hit .296 and had 13 stolen bases.

Rightfielder Jerome Register, .336; and designated hitter Dan Darden, also a pitcher, wield other top bats. Darden hit .349.

For Rollins, leftfielder John Castino hit .350 with nine homers and 45 runs batted in. Shortstop Frank Smith hit .327; second baseman Russ Ricciardelli .325; and catcher Jack Goetz .321 for the Tars.

Coffie characterized Valdosta State as "a big inning club. We don't go for the big inning. We play for the runs when we can get them," he added.

ters if you lose Friday," Coffie said.

Valdosta State's Tommy Thomas said he "would have liked to know something about the teams we're playing," but the coach added he didn't think it gave anyone a big advantage.

"It's just mainly for mental relief," he said. "You know who can run, what kind of catcher you're up against, little things like that.

"We'll just have to wait a while to find out. After about

See **ROLLINS, 3B**

**VALDOSTA STATE (35-10)**  
Valdosta 9, Shorter 4  
Valdosta 7, Shorter 4  
Vandy 8, Valdosta 4  
Vandy 8, Valdosta 5  
Valdosta 4, Morris Harvey 3  
Valdosta 10, Morris Harvey 0  
Morris Harvey 7, Valdosta 2  
Valdosta 3, Bowling Green 2  
Georgia 3, Valdosta 1  
Valdosta 7, Ashland 2  
Ohio U. 7, Valdosta 0  
Valdosta 5, Ohio U. 3  
Valdosta 1, Mercer (All.) 0  
Valdosta 7, Mercer (All.) 1  
Valdosta 8, Georgia SW 1  
FSU 6, Valdosta 3  
Valdosta 4, Erskine 1  
Valdosta 3, Mercer 0  
Valdosta 5, South. Tech 3  
Valdosta 8, South. Tech 0  
Valdosta 6, Armstrong St. 1  
Armstrong St. 6, Valdosta 5  
Valdosta 6, Lewis 5  
Lewis 7, Valdosta 6  
Valdosta 11, Columbus 6  
Valdosta 6, Columbus 3  
Valdosta 6, Ga. Southern 3  
Valdosta 5, Ga. Southern 4  
Valdosta 3, Augusta 0  
Valdosta 4, Augusta 0  
Valdosta 8, Armstrong St. 0  
Valdosta 12, Armstrong St. 4  
Valdosta 15, FSU 1  
Valdosta 18, South. Tech 2  
Valdosta 6, South. Tech 5  
Columbus 7, Valdosta 3  
Valdosta 5, Columbus 4  
Valdosta 10, Georgia SW 7  
Mercer 2, Valdosta 1  
Valdosta 4, W. Georgia 3  
Valdosta 2, W. Georgia 1  
Valdosta 2, Albany St. 1  
Valdosta 4, Albany St. 3  
Valdosta 6, Augusta 0  
Valdosta 1, Augusta 0

**ROLLINS (28-18)**  
Rollins 6, FSC 4  
Rollins 2, FSC 1  
Rollins 6, Richmond 5  
Rollins 7, Miami 1  
Miami 4, Rollins 3  
Connecticut 8, Rollins 3  
Rollins 9, Temple 7  
No. Carolina 10, Rollins 8  
Rollins 8, Columbia 2  
No. Carolina 3, Rollins 2  
Rollins 15, Columbia 6  
Rollins 10, Columbia 4  
David Lipscomb 4, Rollins 2  
Rollins 4, David Lipscomb 2  
Rollins 12, Tennessee 8  
Tennessee 5, Rollins 2  
Cincinnati 2, Rollins 1  
Rollins 8, Cincinnati 7  
Rollins 3, Army 0  
Rollins 10, Air Force 4  
LIU 6, Rollins 5  
Rollins 5, Army 0  
Rollins 4, Air Force 1  
Rollins 8, LIU 0  
Rollins 5, Tampa 4  
Rollins 11, St. Leo 3  
Rollins 17, St. Leo 2  
Rollins 5, St. Leo 1  
Rollins 16, South Florida 2  
Jacksonville 7, Rollins 6  
Miami 9, Rollins 6  
Rollins 6, South Florida 1  
Rollins 4, FSC 3  
Rollins 1, FSC 0  
FTU 3, Rollins 2  
Rollins 15, Eckerd 4  
Stetson 9, Rollins 6  
Rollins 5, Jacksonville 3  
Rollins 10, FTU 2  
Tampa 11, Rollins 4  
Eckerd 1, Rollins 0  
Eckerd 10, Rollins 6  
Stetson 10, Rollins 3  
Florida 3, Rollins 0  
Florida 6, Rollins 3



LEFILES

# VSC Faces Rollins In High Noon Game

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

LAKELAND, Fla.—The big freshman Steve McDiffitt was to face some of the toughest competition of his career here today as he led Valdosta State National Collegiate Athletic Association post season baseball tournament.

McDiffitt, of New Martinsville, W. Va., was to take a 7-2 pitching record into the game at noon today against Rollins College of Winter Park in the first game of the South Atlantic (Area II) Division playoffs.

At 3 p.m. the host Florida Southern Moccasins were to take on the Echard College Tritans from St. Petersburg in the night cap of the opening round.

VSC takes a 35-10 record, the best in its history, into the match against the 28-18 Tars. They are the only team in the tournament which hasn't been here before.

Florida Southern has not only dominated the tournament for the past five years, winning the championship and its subsequent berth in the NCAA national tournament four of those years but finished second in the National NCAA College Division standings last season.

Losers in the double elimination tournament are to square off Saturday at 1:30 p.m. while the two winners battle it out at 5:30 p.m. in Lakeland's Marchant Stadium.

Winners from the first two Saturday games are to meet at 8:30 p.m. Saturday to battle for the losers bracket berth in the championship game. That game

is scheduled at 1:30 p.m. Sunday with a second game immediately following if necessary to determine the champion.

Bill Petty, another freshman and the backbone of the VSC bullpen is scheduled to pitch the second game for VSC, according to head coach Tommy Thomas.

Petty carries a 10-1 record into the fray.

## VALDOSTA STATE

NAME	Pitching										
	G	GS	W	L	IP	H	R	ER	ERA	W	SO
Bowers	8	7	6	0	48.1	34	9	4	0.74	24	25
Chadwick	8	6	3	2	53.0	45	19	15	2.55	24	20
Darden	12	11	7	2	69.2	49	32	17	2.20	40	56
LeFites	13	0	2	33.1	31	18	15	4.05	15	14	
McDuffitt	7	5	5	0	39.2	31	13	11	2.50	14	17
Petty	12	10	10	1	63.1	48	19	14	1.99	20	26
Others	12	6	3	3	38.2	45	29	18	4.19	23	28

NAME	Hitting									
	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	R	RBI	W	SB	BA
Alfred	107	20	1	2	1	15	14	5	12	.187
Bishop	80	22	4	1	0	9	13	7	2	.275
Bowen	134	44	10	3	6	46	26	33	18	.328
Branam	109	33	6	0	3	22	28	25	2	.303
Darden	86	30	4	0	0	17	5	9	6	.349
Fells	159	47	10	3	0	35	27	15	13	.296
Greenhaigh	92	17	1	1	1	14	14	10	1	.185
Parsons	44	7	1	0	0	12	4	9	3	.159
Rieves	75	24	2	0	0	13	4	15	3	.320
Register	131	44	7	3	1	26	25	15	9	.336
Summer	23	24	3	1	0	11	14	19	3	.289
Others	179	45	5	0	2	31	29	31	8	.231

## ROLLINS

NAME	Pitching										
	G	GS	W	L	IP	H	R	ER	ERA	W	SO
Anderson	7	1	1	1	9.6	13	5	5	4.68	6	1
Benson	6	0	1	1	13	14	8	6	3.57	9	4
Gaffney	9	9	5	3	56.6	47	26	17	2.70	28	24
Kirkwood	6	0	1	0	18.3	20	12	9	4.43	8	3
Lorenz	14	14	9	5	121	93	29	20	1.49	38	41
Matrkevich	2	0	1	0	2.3	4	6	4	15.38	4	1
Miller	13	7	4	4	74	75	48	35	4.26	44	25
Poropatich	6	5	2	2	40.6	37	25	17	3.77	26	17
Trethaway	8	5	4	1	51.6	53	23	20	3.12	29	8

NAME	Hitting									
	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	R	RBI	W	SB	BA
Carney	22	3	1	0	0	3	4	1	0	.136
Castino	173	62	6	8	9	37	45	14	1	.350
Goetz	159	51	8	1	1	28	19	20	8	.321
Hart	154	38	2	6	0	30	25	13	6	.247
Keys	89	30	2	0	0	24	11	23	10	.337
Kirkwood	112	32	3	2	0	24	14	14	9	.286
Llajos	147	35	7	0	0	20	19	23	5	.238
Lorenz	72	14	3	0	0	7	10	9	2	.194
Merullo	95	19	2	0	0	16	15	18	3	.200
O'Connor	65	19	2	2	3	17	14	19	1	.292
Ricciardelli	117	38	4	0	0	23	19	14	1	.325
Smith	156	51	7	4	3	31	30	17	7	.327
Waiczak	79	20	4	1	2	16	12	9	1	.253
Wilson	52	9	2	0	0	7	6	6	1	.173
Yakopec	13	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	.077



Jim Roquemore

"We're probably like most clubs," Thomas said. "We hope for the big inning, but that's dictated a lot by who you're playing."

While most of the teams on Valdosta State's schedule are unfamiliar to Florida college baseball fans, Thomas called it "a tough enough schedule."

"I'd say it's pretty comparable to most of the others, although Florida Southern probably played a tougher one than we did," Thomas said.

"But some of these teams are pretty good. Everybody knows about Georgia Southern (which Valdosta State beat twice) and Florida State (with whom Valdosta State was 1-1), but our kids felt Ohio U. and Lewis College were as good as anybody," Thomas said.

As to how good Valdosta State is, well, a lot more will be known about that late Friday afternoon.



DENNIS



ALFORD



PETTY

# FSC Meets Eckerd In NCAA Regionals

By PATRICK ZIER

Ledger Sports Editor

Defending champion Florida Southern, seeking a fourth straight trip to the NCAA college division national finals, meets Eckerd College here Friday at 3 p.m. in an opening round game of the South Atlantic regionals.

The Mocs, 23-13 for the season and ranked second nationally among college division teams, will throw Don Fisher against the Tritons.

Opening on the mound for Eckerd will be Stan Saleski. Eckerd finished the season 27-10 and was ranked sixth nationally. The Tritons will be the "home" team for this game at Marchant Stadium, meaning they will bat last.

Eckerd and Florida Southern met twice in regular season play, with the Mocs winning both times, 4-2 and 8-6.

But Florida Southern Coach Hal Smeltzly said his team would not be looking past the Tritons. "Anybody who was involved in those two games knows they were both tough," Smeltzly said. "Our kids won't be looking ahead."

Smeltzly said he decided to go with Fisher, 5-4 during the regular season, rather than

Rick Tomlin because "I think with the kind of hitters they are, Fisher will do better."

"And with the kind of hitters Rollins and Valdosta State have, I think Tomlin can do better against them. Both Rollins and Valdosta State hit the long ball and Tomlin handles those kind of guys well," Smeltzly said.

Tomlin, 6-2, started both games against Eckerd and won one of them.

Eckerd Coach Bill Livesey said his team was "anxious" to get started.

He also said he didn't mind meeting Florida Southern in the first game. "We ought to find if we're capable of winning this thing early," Livesey said.

Livesey dismissed the two earlier losses to the Mocs.

"I don't believe that will have any affect on us in the tournament," he said. "Florida Southern's a good team, and if we had felt we'd played well and lost to them, maybe it would affect us."

"But we didn't play well against them," Livesey added. "I think it's a real challenge (meeting the Mocs in the tourney)."

"I think we can beat them if we play as well as we can play."

Saleski is one of two strong freshmen hurlers on the young Triton team. The other is Chuck Gordon. With 25 of the 26-man squad returning next year, Eckerd figures to be strong for quite a while.

Top hitters for the Tritons are first baseman Bill Evers, who batted .379 and had a school record 37 runs batted in; third baseman Wayne

## STARTING LINEUPS

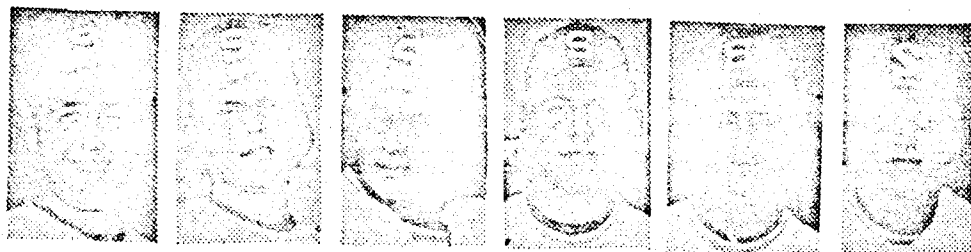
**F L O R I D A S O U T H E R N:** Mark Hopper, ss; Chuck Smith, cf; Dave Lampley, 1b; Jim Nicholson, rf; Frank Cacciatore, lf; Mickey Dearstone, dh; Mike Coombs, c; Hal Tyus, 3b; Dick Brink, 2b. Pitcher — Don Fisher.

**ECKERD:** Mark Dennis, 2b; Andy Westervelt, rf; Wayne Politelli, 3b; Bill Evers, 1b; Rob Outwater, cf; Tim Coen, dh; Bob Gillis, lf; Jim DiNobile, c; Jack Misenti, ss. Pitcher — Stan Saleski.

Politelli, .376; and second baseman Mark Dennis, .368.

Third baseman Hal Tyus, .357; shortstop Mark Hopper, .352; right fielder Jim

See SOUTHERN, 3B



TOMLIN

FISHER

TYUS

NICHOLSON

HOPPER

LAMPLEY



# Southern

Continued From 1B  
Nicholson, .297 and 32 runs batted in; and first baseman Dave Lampley, .314 and 35 runs batted in, paced Florida Southern.

Both coaches stressed the importance of winning the first game in the double elimination tournament.

But Smeltzly added "we are better equipped this year than last time if we should get in the losers' bracket. Last year we had Jay Smith and Steve Baumiller and that

was about it.

"This year, we've got five or six guys who can start for us. We're much deeper," the Moc coach said.

In addition to Fisher and Tomlin, that includes Mark Daly, John Chapman, Larry Walker and Jim Gerken. Smeltzly also said Mike Gerlosky has been effective in relief.

"The first game is very important," Livesey said. "The route to the top is a lot shorter if you win than if you

lose. You have to claw and scratch if you get beat."

By Friday night, one of them — Eckerd or Florida Southern — will be preparing to do just that.

Name	ECKERD Pitching												
	G	GS	W	L	IP	H	R	ER	ERA	W	SO		
Cioffi	6	0	1	0	15	14	9	8	4.44	16	21		
Cipriano	10	7	4	2	52.2	61	31	26	3.96	24	43		
Croteau	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.00	1	3		
Gallo	2	2	1	0	9	9	5	5	5.00	7	4		
Gordon	14	12	10	3	77.2	74	37	28	3.23	52	92		
Johnson	7	6	3	2	43.2	48	28	24	5.00	22	30		
Marshall	7	0	1	0	15.1	8	7	6	3.60	8	8		
Saleski	12	10	7	2	85	56	23	14	1.48	31	68		

Name	Hitting												
	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	R	RBI	W	SB	BA			
Cardozo	40	10	1	0	0	7	7	9	1	.250			
Crutiaccio	4	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	.250			
Coen	115	33	10	0	0	24	16	17	0	.286			
Dennis	114	42	2	2	0	28	15	24	12	.368			
DiNobile	63	16	3	0	0	10	17	15	1	.254			
Evers	124	47	14	4	1	26	37	39	1	.379			
Gher	14	6	1	0	0	1	4	3	0	.428			
Gillis	104	32	2	0	2	19	14	16	1	.324			
McGreavy	8	1	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	.125			
Misenti	91	25	2	2	0	15	11	14	4	.286			
Outwater	151	46	8	4	0	22	24	12	6	.305			
Pollitelli	141	53	15	2	2	31	29	18	2	.376			
Sidlerski	43	6	0	0	1	6	4	13	0	.139			
Venditto	5	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	.400			
D. Watterson	11	3	1	0	1	6	4	5	1	.278			
K. Watterson	91	29	2	2	0	14	15	11	5	.319			
Westervelt	118	39	8	0	0	38	12	43	2	.330			

Name	FLORIDA SOUTHERN Pitching												
	G	GS	W	L	IP	H	R	ER	ERA	W	SO		
Chapman	7	5	2	2	40.1	31	18	13	2.90	20	34		
Daly	9	7	4	3	64.1	41	20	15	2.09	41	59		
Fisher	11	10	5	4	84.1	54	20	14	1.49	42	68		
Gerken	6	1	1	1	18.1	14	11	4	1.96	16	10		
Gerlosky	4	1	3	0	18	12	5	4	2.00	9	14		
Tomlin	13	8	6	2	71	52	21	19	2.40	39	38		
Walker	5	4	2	1	26.1	29	14	11	3.76	12	11		

Name	Hitting												
	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	R	RBI	W	SB	BA			
Bates	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	.000			
Brink	111	32	4	2	0	22	16	18	5	.288			
Cacciatore	124	38	7	0	3	26	22	28	2	.306			
Coomb	93	29	2	0	0	18	10	17	0	.311			
Dearstone	130	35	6	2	1	19	20	29	2	.269			
Hopper	159	56	1	1	0	32	19	13	7	.352			
Jackson	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000			
Lampley	156	49	5	0	1	22	35	5	1	.314			
Nichols	88	27	4	1	1	13	13	6	1	.306			
Nicholson	128	38	2	1	2	26	32	29	2	.297			
Rankin	28	4	1	0	3	1	4	0	0	.141			
Smith	151	53	6	1	1	39	22	23	3	.350			
Tyus	56	20	1	0	0	5	12	5	0	.357			

## ECKERD (27-10)

- Florida 7, Eckerd 2
- Belmont 6, Eckerd 4
- Eckerd 10, LaSalle 2
- Eckerd 7, Penn State 2
- Eckerd 5, No. Illinois 1
- Eckerd 5, St. Leo 4
- No. Illinois 7, Eckerd 5
- Eckerd 11, Campbell 1
- Eckerd 5, Campbell 1
- Geo. Washington 8, Eckerd 7
- Eckerd 4, Wheaton 2
- Eckerd 22, Wheaton 2
- Catholic U. 7, Eckerd 6
- Eckerd 5, Catholic U. 1
- Eckerd 15, So. Illinois 5
- Eckerd 4, So. Illinois 1
- So. Illinois 5, Eckerd 4
- Eckerd 22, Lowell St. 0
- Eckerd 4, Glassboro 3
- Eckerd 3, MIT 2
- Eckerd 8, Biscayne 6
- Eckerd 13, Biscayne 3
- Eckerd 10, Rider 9
- Eckerd 3, St. Leo 2
- FSC 4, Eckerd 2
- Eckerd 14, Fla. Tech 2
- FSC 8, Eckerd 6
- Eckerd 2, South Florida 0
- St. Leo 6, Eckerd 0
- South Florida 6, Eckerd 5
- Rollins 15, Eckerd 4
- Eckerd 7, FTU 2
- Eckerd 11, Tampa 7
- Eckerd 1, Rollins 0
- Eckerd 10, Rollins 6
- Eckerd 1, Tampa 0
- Eckerd 4, FTU 3

## FSC (23-13)

- Rollins 6, FSC 4
- Rollins 2, FSC 1
- FSC 7, Richmond 2
- Richmond 3, FSC 2
- Michigan 3, FSC 1
- FSC 1, Miami 0
- Miami 3, FSC 2
- No. Carolina 7, FSC 2
- FSC 13, No. Illinois 2
- FSC 15, Lynchburg 4
- FSC 9, Columbia 1
- FSC 5, Columbia 4
- FSU 9, FSC 7
- FSC 6, Clemson 5
- Clemson 5, FSC 2
- FSC 5, Hillsdale 1
- FSC 6, Hillsdale 0
- FSC 8, Hillsdale 1
- FSC 29, McMurray 1
- FSC 20, Lowell St. 3
- FSC 5, St. Leo 3
- Florida 4, FSC 4
- FSC 5, South Florida 4
- FSC 2, Florida Tech 0
- FSC 12, Florida Tech 10
- FSC 4, Eckerd 2
- FSC 8, St. Leo 2
- South Florida 4, FSC 2
- FSC 17, Westminster 1
- FSC 8, Eckerd 6
- FSC 1, Florida 0
- Rollins 4, FSC 3
- Rollins 1, FSC 0
- FSC 4, FSU 2
- Stetson 4, FSC 3
- FSC 5, Stetson 1

# Mocs Defend Division Title Today

By JACK SLAYTON  
Tribune Sports Writer

LAKELAND — Florida Southern College will be hard pressed to win its fourth straight Atlantic Coast Division II baseball crown here today when the four-team,

double-elimination tourney opens at noon at Joker Marchant Stadium.

In the first game the Rollins Tars of Winter Park will face tough Valdosta State Blazers. The host Mocs will play the Eckerd College Tritons of St.

Petersburg in a 3 p.m. contest. Afternoon games were necessary today because of prior stadium commitments.

LOSERS TODAY will play tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. At 5:30

p.m. the winners will be paired. Winner of the 1:30 p.m. game and the loser of the 5:30 affair will come back at 8:30 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m. Sunday will be the first game of the finals. If a second is necessary, it will

be shortly afterwards. Winner here advances to the Nationals of Division II beginning next Friday at Springfield, Ill.

Coach Hal Smeltzly's Mocs won three straight regionals — a Division II record — and

won back-to-back national titles in '71 and '72, also a record. In all the Mocs have been the most successful team since the College Division held tourneys of its own.

Please See Page 3, Col. 8

## Mocs

### ● From Page 1

Prior to that the smaller schools had to compete with major ones in post-season play.

THE MOCS will send southpaw Don Fisher against the Tritons of coach Bill Livesey. He will counter with one of his two freshman hurling stars, Chuck Gordon or Stan Saleski.

Mike Coombs will catch for the Mocs with the infield: Dave Lampley, 1b; Dick Brink, 2b; Mark Hopper, ss; Hal Tyus, 3b. Outfielders will be Chuck Smith, Frank Caciatore and Jim Nicholson.

Eckerd sports Al-South Atlantic region outfielder Rob Outwater along with catcher Bill Evers, outfielders Gillis and Andy Westervelt and infielders Mayne Politelli, Mark Dennis and Jack Misenti.

THE MOCS finished with 23-13 and Eckerd set a school mark at 27-10. During the regular season the Mocs beat Eckerd twice, 4-2 and 8-6.

Rollins played the most games and finished with a 28-18 mark. Coach Boyd Coffie will probably open with Blake Lorenz on the mound. The Tars have Jim Liakos at first; Russ Ricciardelli, 2b; Frank Smith, ss; Dave Merullo, 3b. Jack Goetz catches and also plays outfield. Tops is freshman John Castino of Kenilworth, Ill., and directly responsible for three of the four wins over the Mocs during the regular season.

Coach Tommy Thomas of Valdosta State has an impressive pitching staff. It could be Bill Petty (10-1) Dan Darden (7-2), Rick Bowers (6-0) or Steve McDiffitt (5-0) against the Tars.

Darden, who serves as a designated hitter too, Jerome Register, Sam Bowen, Pete Reeves, Darrell Branam, Gene Felts and Steve Sumner furnished the Blazer power that finished with a team batting average of .279 along with 14 homers.

Last year Rollins, Eckerd and FSC all competed in the tourney. Valdosta was in the NAIA and finished third in the nationals. The Blazers were 35-10 this season.

# Booming VSC Bats Bury

## Rollins In Opener

By STEVE ROBERTS

LAKELAND, Fla.—Valdosta State College, which ended the regular season in a critical hitting slump, exploded for 16 hits and two six-run innings here Friday to bury the hard-hitting Rollins College Tars, 13-6, in the opening game of the NCAA South Atlantic Region tournament.

The booming bats of Jerome Register, Darrell Branam, Dan Darden, Jeff Greenhalgh, and Dan Alford, brought home 10 of the Blazers' 13 runs and brought VSC out of the recent skid at the plate.

And the big hitting day could not have come at a better time because the Tars would not give up, rapping out 12 hits of their own and

cutting an early 7-0 VSC lead to 7-6 in the fifth inning.

The victim of the Rollins rally was freshman righthander Steve McDiffitt, who couldn't stand prosperity and gave up four runs in the third.

He jumped back into trouble in the fourth and head coach Tommy Thomas called on ace reliever Marty LeFiles to shut down the rallying Tars.

LeFiles responded in the fourth, getting out of a bases-loaded situation, but gave up two unearned runs in the fifth when left fielder Gene Felts mis-played a ground ball and the Blazer's lead had been reduced to one run.

The Valdosta State bats, which shelled Rollins' starter Blake Lorenz for eight hits and seven runs in the first two innings, were silenced by

Tar reliever Brad Benson until the seventh.

But Benson ran out of gas in the seventh frame, and the Blazers routed him and two other relievers for five hits that produced six runs and finally put the tourney opener on ice.

Except for the fifth, LeFiles was brilliant in relief. He scattered five hits, walked one, and fanned two to pick up his second win of the year.

LeFiles' supporting cast was equally brilliant. Register, Branam and Darden ripped three hits each and drove in six runs among them. Alford's bases-loaded double drove in runs eight and nine to highlight the big seventh and Greenhalgh knocked in a pair of runs with two hits.

Except for Felts' boot in the

fifth, the Blazers were tough defensively.

Centerfield Sam Bowen made a great running catch in the fourth, and third baseman Steve Sumner prevented the tying run from scoring with a super play in the seventh, flagging down a sharply hit ground ball and turning it into the third out.

The Blazers started out on a positive note in the first inning when Darden scored on Register's wind-blown double.

VSC increased the lead to 7-0 and chased Lorenz in the second, and it looked like an easy afternoon for McDiffitt and the Blazers in this, their first trip ever to an NCAA event.

Pete Reeves, Sumner, Darden, Bowen, Register and Branam all had hits in the inning wrapped around

Alford's sacrifice, Greenhalgh's sacrifice fly and a walk to Felts.

But the afternoon soon became tense again when McDiffitt allowed four straight hits, the big blow being John Castino's three-run homer in the fourth.

The tenseness remained until the big VSC seventh, which destroyed any Rollins comeback hopes.

Thomas was both pleased and relieved following the exciting, wide-open contest and was full of superlatives for the entire team.

"It's just great to win. The first game of a double elimination tournament is very important and this puts us in good shape.

"Obviously, I am pleased to see us hit the ball the way we did. Nobody down here

knew what to expect from us and to be honest neither did I.

"We have been a Jekyll and Hyde team as far as our hitting is concerned. I just hope we didn't use it all up."

Thomas was also beaming about the relief job turned in by LeFiles.

"What else can we say about the guy? He just comes in and does the job. He was super, just super."

Thomas was very much impressed with the hitting Rollins showed and said that made LeFiles' effort even more fantastic.

"They were billed as the best hitting team in the tournament, he said. "And they lived up to that billing. They hit it well, but fortunately so did we. Now we've got to see if we can keep

it up."

In the tourney's second game Friday, Eckerd College's Tritans banged out 14 hits to upset host Florida Southern, 8-5.

Thomas gave the nod to southpaw Bill Petty, 10-1 to start today's game against Eckerd, which is to begin at 5:30 p.m. in Marchant Stadium here.

A win today will put the Blazers in the tourney finals, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Sunday. A loss sends them into a do-or-die battle at 8:30 p.m. today against the winner of the Rollins-Florida Southern game, which started at 1:30 p.m.

The tournament winner represents the South Atlantic Region in the NCAA Finals (Division II) in Springfield Ill. next week.

### Blazers' Box

		VSC			
	ab r h rbi	ab r h rbi			
Luukos 1b	5 1 2 0	Darden dh	5 3 3 1		
Hart rf	5 1 0 0	Bowen cf	4 1 1 0		
Callinan dh	3 2 2 1	Felts lf	3 1 0 1		
Castino lf	5 2 3 3	Register rf	4 1 3 3		
Goetz c	5 0 2 0	Branam c	4 1 3 2		
Merullo 3b	4 0 1 0	Reeves ss	4 2 1 0		
Smith ss	4 0 0 0	Alford 2b	4 2 1 2		
Beardel 2b	4 0 1 0	Sumner 3b	5 1 2 1		
Kirkwood cf	3 0 0 0	Greenhalgh 1b	4 1 2 2		
Lorenz p	0 0 0 0	McDiff p	0 0 0 0		
Benson p	0 0 0 0	LeFiles p	0 0 0 0		
Andrsn p	0 0 0 0				
Proptch p	0 0 0 0	Totals	37 13 16 12		

Totals	38	6	1	2	4		
Rollins						004	020
VSC						160	000
E - Merullo, Ricciardelli, Lorenz, Reeves, Felts						DP - Alford	
Greenhalgh, Greenhalgh to Branam, LOR - Rollins, VSC - B. 2B - Ricciardelli, Callinan, Register, Alford, HR - Castino, SR - Goetz, Greenhalgh, Darden, SAC - Reeves, Alford, SF - Greenhalgh.							
	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	
Lorenz (1-9-6)	1	1	3	8	7	5	1
Benson	4	2	3	5	3	2	1
Anderson	1	3	3	3	1	1	0
Poropatich	1	2	3	0	0	0	2
McDiffitt	3	1	3	7	4	4	1
LeFiles (w-2)	5	2	3	5	2	0	1
BPB - Kirkwood-McDiffitt, WP - LeFiles, PB - Goetz.							

# Marty Gets Blazer SOS

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

LAKELAND, Fla.—Valdosta State pitcher Steve McDiffitt had earned the nickname of "giant killer" for his record against highly ranked teams this season.

But the "giant killer" couldn't stop the powerful batting attack of the Rollins College Tars here Friday, and Blazer Coach Tommy Thomas sent out an SOS to his bullpen in the fourth inning.

The emergency call was answered by ace reliever Marty LeFiles, who thrives on getting his team out of sticky situations.

LeFiles, who is completing his last year of eligibility, inherited one of those typical sticky situations Friday. Rollins had trimmed a seven-run VSC lead to three and had runners on second and third with one out.

The bullpen ace gave up an infield hit to load the bases, then got Rollins' catcher Jack Goetz to ground into an infield ending double play.

Shakey Blazer defense gave the Tars two runs in the fifth and suddenly LeFiles was protecting a slim one-run lead.

As he has done countless numbers of times in the past, the Valdosta native held the opponent at bay until his teammates could go to work offensively.

His teammates, who had exploded for six runs in the second inning, broke lose for six more in the seventh to win going away.

The 13-6 win not only got VSC off on the right foot in the four team NCAA South Atlantic Region tournament, it also evened LeFiles' record at 2-2.

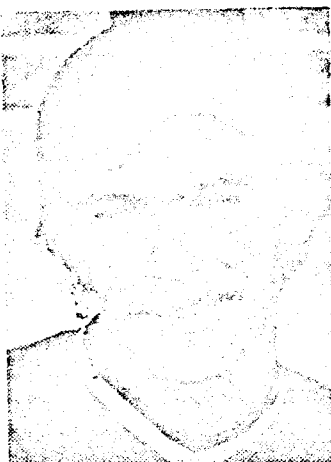
Relaxing in motel room Friday night, Marty talked about the game and his part in it.

"Several things ran through my mind while I was warming up, but the only thing I was thinking about when I came in was getting us out of trouble.

"After that, I began concentrating on keeping the ball low and away. When they got to within one run, I knew any mistake...any bad pitch...would hurt us.

"I was fortunate enough to get them out, and we had the big inning to make it easy at the end."

LeFiles worked over five innings, scattered five hits, allowed two unearned runs, walked one, and struck out two. A typical performance.



MARTY LEFILES  
Gets Second Win

Like the rest of his teammates, Marty is confident the Blazers can win the tournament and go on the national finals next week in Springfield Illinois.

"I think if we hit like we did today, we'll win it. I am just glad I got a chance to be a part of today's win. It makes it a lot more satisfying to do well in a tournament. I'm glad I got the chance."

LeFiles said his arm feels good and thinks he can pitch some more in the tourney if needed, and Thomas won't hesitate to call on him.

"He will definitely be a candidate for relief Saturday," Thomas said. "It depends on the situation. He did a great job today and I have complete confidence in him. He simply gets the job done."

Enough said.

Steve Roberts, an award winning sports journalist, serves the dual role of Valdosta State Sports Information Director and Sunday Editor of the Valdosta Daily Times. The 1965 graduate of the University of Georgia recently won the Thomson Newspapers national award for a sports-related story about a local golf tournament.



Roberts worked for four years in the sports department of the Savannah Morning News before assuming his positions with VSC and The Times respectively.



Blazer Coaches Dave Waples and Tommy Thomas

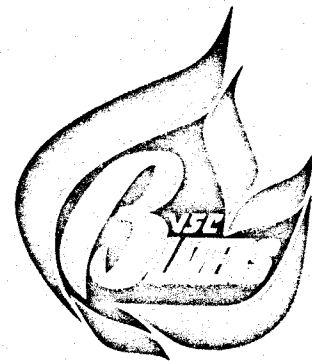
## Blazers Bats Explode

By Billy Tyler

Valdosta State behind an awesome offense of 16 basehits, and the clutch relief pitching of fireman Marty LeFiles took the opener of the South Atlantic NCAA College Division Tournament 13-6 down in Lakeland, Fla. Friday afternoon. Blazer

doubts in their sputtering offense were quickly ended as they jumped on Rollins starter Blake Lorenz for seven runs in the first two innings. Pete Reeves, Steve Sumner, Dan Darden, Sam Bowen, Jerome Register and Darrell Branam all rapped out hits in the second to set the score at 7-0 after Register's double had scored Dardeon in the first. Blazer starter Steve McDiffitt could not stand prosperity however as the Tars pulled to within three 7-4 on the strength of left

# Valdosta State



fielder John Castino's 3-run homer in the fourth. Thomas then pulled his young right hander in favor of LeFiles who worked out of a bases loaded situation and went on to scatter five hits while allowing but two unearned runs in the fifth. With teh score set at 7-6 and the outcome of the game hanging in doubt the Blazers exploded for six seventh innings runs to wrap it up. Jumping on Tar reliever Brad Benson, the Blazer bats banged out five hits highlighted by Dan Alford's bases loaded double. The victory sets Valdosta's record at 36-10 and puts them on step closer to their first NCAA championship.

# Upsets

## Continued From 1B

So the attempted sacrifice scored Jim DiNoble and put Misenti on first and Bob Gillis on third. Both eventually scored, and when the inning was over, Eckerd had a 5-2 lead.

Southern closed the gap to 5-4 in the fifth before Misenti stirred up trouble again.

With runners on first and third, he put down another bunt and was thrown out at first, but Tim Coen scored on the play and Eckerd was up, 6-4.

Again FSC closed the gap, adding a run in the seventh when Tyus, who had driven in Frank Cacciatore in the fifth, hit a sacrifice fly to score Jim Nicholson.

And again, Misenti responded for Eckerd. With runners on first and second, he hit another ball up the middle, this time through Southern's Mike Gerlosky.

Brink moved quickly to field it, but it hit second base and bounced away, allowing DiNoble to score again and making the count 7-5. Eckerd.

"That's the way we have to score," Eckerd Coach Bill Livesey remarked after the game, "Misenti knows what he's in there for — to move runners around."

That he did, and so did a number of people for Valdosta State.

The rather unheralded Blazers stunned Rollins ace Blake Lorenz for eight hits and seven runs in just over an inning, then pounded three more Tar pitchers for another eight hits and six more runs.

"When a team's hitting like that, you can't beat them," Rollins Coach Boyd Coffie said afterwards.

The defeat, Rollins' seventh straight, brought on a toomb-like atmosphere in the Tars' dressing room.

Rollins is expected to come back with Bill Miller today against the Mocs.

The Blazers broke the game open with a six-run second, in which they sandwiched some hits around a pair of Rollins errors and grabbed a 7-0 advantage.

But the story of the game was pretty much forecast in the

opening inning, when Valdosta's Dan Darden scored one of the wierdest runs ever at Marchant Stadium.

Darden had singled, and was standing on first when Sam Bowen walked. Or rather thought he walked. Bowen trotted liesurely to first and Darden trotted liesurely to second, and when they both got there, it was discovered that Bowen had only taken three balls, not four.

So he went back to the plate, where he struck out, but Darden remained at second, where he was credited with a stolen base.

Then with two out Valdosta's Jerome Register hit a pop to left which Rollins' John Castino circled under, but completely misjudged. When it came down he was no where near it, so Register had a double and Valdosta a run.

Register, Darden and Darrell Branam paced the winners' attack, collecting three hits each. Register also had three runs batted in.

Despite the bad start, the Tars got back in the game at 7-6 in the fifth. Castino socked a three-run homer to left in a four-run third, then scored Rollins' sixth in the fifth when Gene Felts misplayed Jack Goetz' single.

But another six-run inning, in the seventh, finished the Tars for good.

Or rather, finished them until today. Anymore six-run innings are likely to finish them for good though.

Valdosta State				Rollins				Southern				Eckerd			
AB	R	H		AB	R	H		AB	R	H		AB	R	H	
Darden,dh	5	3	3	Liakos,1b	5	1	2	Hopper,ss	6	0	1	Donis,2b	5	1	2
Bowen,lf	4	1	1	Hart,rf	5	1	1	Smith,cf	4	0	1	West,nt rf	4	1	2
Felts,lf	3	1	0	C'linan,dh	3	2	2	Lam'ly,1b	2	2	0	Pittell,3b	4	0	0
R'ister,rf	4	1	3	Cac'lra,lf	5	2	3	Cac'lra,lf	4	1	1	Evers,1b	5	0	2
Branam,c	4	1	3	Goetz,l	5	0	2	Destne,dh	4	0	2	Coen,dh	3	2	3
Rieves,ss	4	2	1	M'rillo,3b	4	0	1	Combs,c	2	0	0	D,Nble,c	4	2	1
Afford,2b	4	2	2	Smith,ss	4	0	0	Tyus,3b	4	0	3	Gillis,lf	1	1	1
Sumner,3b	5	1	2	R'dell,2b	4	0	1	Bates,pr	0	0	0	Siklowsk,lf	0	0	0
G'haigh,1b	4	1	2	K'wood,cf	3	0	0	Brink,2b	4	0	0	Misenti,ss	3	1	3
TOTALS	37	13	16	TOTALS	38	6	12	TOTALS	33	5	9	TOTALS	34	8	14

Rollins				Valdosta State				Florida Southern				Eckerd			
IP	H	R	ER	IP	H	R	ER	IP	H	R	ER	IP	H	R	ER
1.1	8	7	5	1.1	8	7	5	1.1	8	7	5	1.1	8	7	5
4.2	5	2	2	4.2	5	2	2	4.2	5	2	2	4.2	5	2	2
0.1	3	3	1	0.1	3	3	1	0.1	3	3	1	0.1	3	3	1
2.2	0	0	2	2.2	0	0	2	2.2	0	0	2	2.2	0	0	2
3.1	7	4	4	3.1	7	4	4	3.1	7	4	4	3.1	7	4	4
5.2	4	2	1	5.2	4	2	1	5.2	4	2	1	5.2	4	2	1

E — Lorenz, Castino, Ricciardelli, Felts, Reeves 2; DP — Valdosta State 2; LOB — Rollins 8, Valdosta State 8, 2B — Ricciardelli, Callinan, Register, Afford; HR — Castino; SB — Goetz, Darden, Greenhaigh; RBI — Callinan, Castino 3, Darden, Felts, Register 3, Branam 2, Afford 2, Sumner, Greenhaigh 2; Sac — Afford, Reeves; SF — Greenhaigh.  
 Lorenz(L) 1.1 8 7 5 1 2  
 Benson 4.2 5 2 2 1 0  
 Anderson 0.1 3 3 1 2 0  
 Poropatich 2.2 0 0 0 2 1  
 McDiffitt 3.1 7 4 4 1 0  
 LeFiles(W) 5.2 4 2 1 1 1  
 HBP — McDiffitt (Kirkwood); WP — LeFiles; T — 2:25.

Score By Innings  
 Florida Southern 200 020 100 5  
 Eckerd 140 010 10X 8  
 E — Brink, Tyus  
 LOB — Florida Southern 14, Eckerd 110  
 2B — Nicholson, Tyus, Coen  
 RBI — Cacciatore, Dearstone, Coombs, Tyus 2; Dennis Westervelt, Outwater, Gillis — Miscali 3.  
 SB — Coen, Dennis.  
 SH — Brink, D. Noble, Misenti, Lampley, Pollitell  
 SF — Tyus  
 Fisher (L) 3 8 5 4 2 1  
 Gerlosky 6 6 3 3 3 1  
 Gorken 2 3 0 0 1 0  
 Saleski(w) 9 9 5 5 10 4  
 PB — D. Noble (3)  
 U — Batts, Turner, Stanary  
 T — 2:45

Beginning his second season as Blazer baseball assistant is 32-year-old Dave Waples, a native of Columbus, Ohio. Before coming to the sunny South, Waples coached West Liberty State (W. Va.) to the 1969 West Virginia Conference and NAIA District 28 championships with a 20-8 mark, after having guided his team to a 23-5 record in 1968. He served as the assistant at West Virginia University in 1971.

Waples received the BA degree from West Liberty State in 1963, the MEd degree from Temple University in 1964, and the EdD degree from West Virginia in 1972. He also took graduate work at the University of New Mexico, where he was an assistant football coach.



# ★ Mistake Costly To Tars

By BOB McCLURE  
Ledger Sports Writer

Baseball is the type of game you can't afford to be caught off guard in. If you are, you'll pay.

Such was the case Friday in Game No. 1 of the NCAA Division II South Atlantic Regionals at Marchant Stadium. The victim was Rollins College, a 13-6 loser to Valdosta State.

State's Dan Darden had just singled in the first inning and the Blazers' Sam Bowen was at the plate facing Tars pitcher Blake Lorenz advancing the count to three balls and two strikes. But Bowen skipped down to first base as if it was ball four.

Nobody noticed until Darden was nearly all the way

See VALDOSTA, 3B

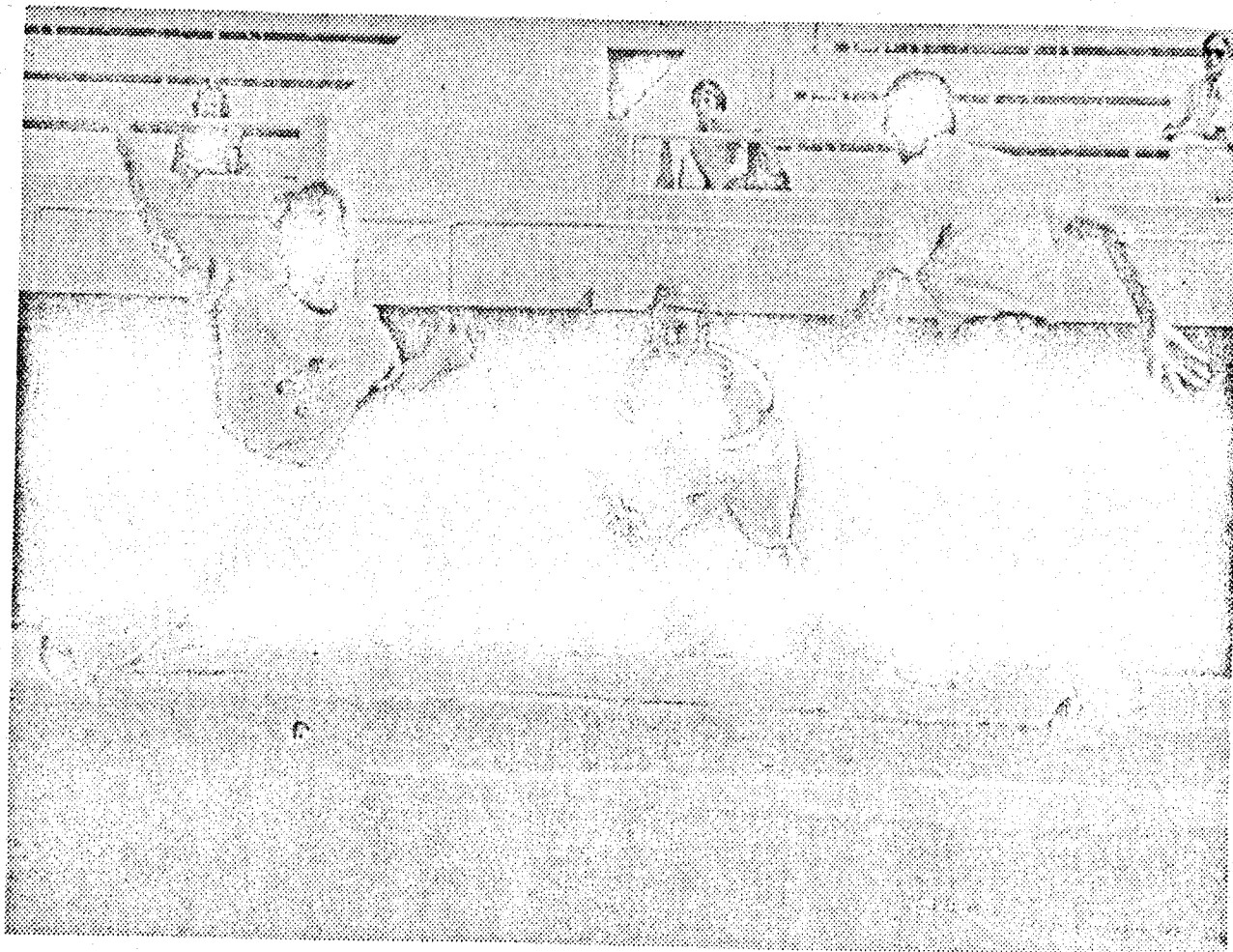


Photo By Tony Coleman

FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE CATCHER MIKE COOMBS IN RACE WITH RUNNER  
... Eckerd's Mark Dennis was beat to the plate and tagged out in second inning.

# ★ Tritons 'Break' Mocs

By BOB McCLURE  
Ledger Sports Writer

Hal Smeltzly says the breaks went Eckerd's way.

Triton coach Bill Livesey says that's not so.

What the two coaches were referring to were the little things that happened to Florida Southern Friday in game two of the NCAA South Atlantic Regionals at Marchant Stadium. Those little things were part of the reason the Mocs dropped an 8-5 decision.

"They played well," said Smeltzly. "But to say they were fortunate would be an understatement.

"The breaks went their way."

"It wasn't luck, it was a good play by that kid,"

See TRITONS, 3B



Photo By Paul Johnson

**VALDOSTA STATE RIGHT FIELDER JEROME REGISTER CALLED OUT AT HOME PLATE**  
... Rollins catcher Jack Goetz holds ball in hand looking for umpire's call.

## Tritons

Continued From 1B

remarked Livesey after the satisfying win.

"Our whole game," he continued, "is predicated around advancing the runners. We try to push the ball right past our opponents."

The kid Livesey was referring to is Rick Miscenti who bunted in the first inning over Moc pitcher Don Fisher's head, scoring James DiNobile. Then in the seventh he hit a grounder that would have been a routine play for FSC second baseman Dick Brink but the ball bounced off second base allowing another run to score. Those were the kind of problems the Mocs were facing throughout the day.

"We played well," said Smeltzly. "We made no errors but we were out-hit and out-pitched."

"It was a very difficult day to pitch and a very easy day

to hit," said Livesey in regard to the hot humid conditions Friday.

"We didn't hit the long ball but we did make contact."

The Tritons were a .317 team during the regular season.

The win was an exciting win for Eckerd and its entire baseball program. The young Tritons have come from rags to riches. It meant a lot to the players too.

"I think we had a bit of an inferiority complex," commented Livesey.

"We're non-scholarship and these guys (Eckerd) have wanted to prove that they're just as good. They know now what they can do against scholarship players."



## Valdosta

### Continued From 1B

down to second base and then it was too late to catch him.

Darden was awarded the base theft but Bowen returned to the plate and struck out.

The stolen base was both bizarre and humorous.

"It was nothing but a mental lapse," commented Valdosta State head coach Tommy Thomas.

"Bowen thought the count was 3-2 and Darden asked the umpire at first base what it was. The ump told him 3-2 so he went on the next pitch.

"I looked at the scoreboard just prior to the pitch and it was right. It said 2-2.

"It was just a mental lapse on the part of everyone."

Darden ended up coming around to score the game's first run.

But it wasn't until the second inning that the powerful Blazer lineup came to light. A six-run second gave the Georgians a commanding 7-0 lead.

"We're not really a big inning ball club," Thomas emphasized. "We just chip away. Sometimes we have to come from behind.

"We can't be stereotyped into a big-inning team.

"But it's fun when it happens!"

Valdosta State was in an interesting situation coming into the tournament. It had no idea of what to expect from its three Florida opponents involved. There were no scouting reports.

"The whole idea of scouting is somewhat overrated I think," said the Blazer coach.

"Sure, I'd like to know something about these teams but I'm not at a disadvantage. You have to remember they don't know anything about us."

Maybe they didn't yesterday but they do today.

The Blazers will find out possibly today when they take on Eckerd College in a winners bracket game at 5:30 p.m.

Bill Petty, a 10-1 performer during the regular season will start on the mound. He has a 1.99 earned run average and Thomas calls him a "real steady pitcher."

Valdosta State starting pitcher Steve McDiffitt got into problems in the fourth and was pulled by Thomas. That was the inning Rollins erupted for four runs, three of which came on a John Castino home run over the 375-foot sign in left field.

McDiffitt, a freshman, seemed to lose his special touch on the ball but that wasn't so.

"No it wasn't a matter of him losing his stuff," said Thomas referring to the four-run fourth, "he just threw a lot of fat pitches.

"Rollins has some real fine

hitters. It's hard to get past that.

"And his control was off just a little when it came to hitting the fine parts of the plate.

"I think if he had used his curve a little more he might have been better off. He wasn't as sharp today as he should have been but he learned a lot."

"We made a lot of mental errors today, we gave up six runs, but our hitting came through."

The Blazers were charged with three errors, two of which were made by infielder Pete Reeves.

"He was just over aggressive," Thomas remarked. "In fact the whole team was nervous.

"Heck, I've got guys on this club that can eat nine hotdogs for breakfast and when they're not doing that, you know something is wrong."

One of the bright spots for Rollins, as far as hitting went, was designated hitter Kevin Callahan, a freshman that was starting in his first game.

He ended the game with a double, and a single in three trips to plate. Also sandwiched in there were two walks.

Not bad for a freshman. A big game and lots of pressure and he comes off the bench to accomplish that.

"I don't mind coming off

the bench and into the game like that," he said. "It's just as easy to play that way as it would be after playing in the field.

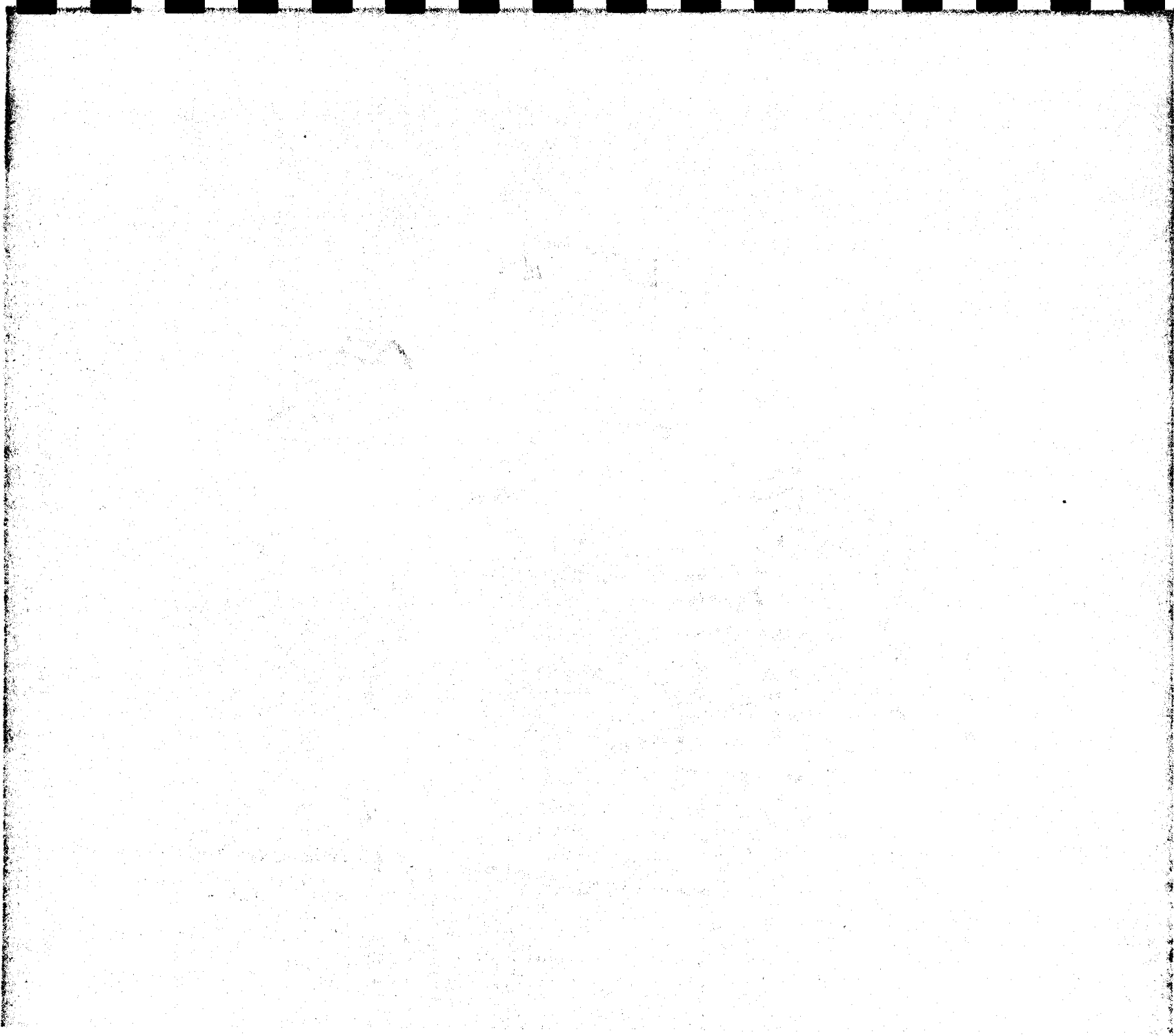
"The only time it gets tough is when it's about 30 degrees outside."

Callahan was a last minute replacement in the tournament and prior to Friday's game saw action in 'B' games only this year for the Tars.

"A few of our regular players had bad grades and weren't eligible," he said, "so the DH spot was open and I got the job."

And he got the job done.

Rollins meets Florida Southern today at 1:30 p.m.



(Sentinel Star Photo by Tom Kennedy)

**VALDOSTA STATE'S STEVE SUMNER DISCONSOLATE:** Reason? He was out stealing in fifth inning of victory over Rollins

## Face Ousting In Southern Regionals

# Mocs Waylaid By Eckerd

By CHRIS POLKOWSKI

Sentinel Star Staff

LAKELAND — "I figured we'd end up meeting Rollins again," Hal Smeltzly reasoned. "But not under THESE circumstances."

Smeltzly, the veteran Florida Southern coach, was analyzing an unfamiliar situation Friday. His Moccasins, a perennial national tournament participant, had just been waylaid by Eckert in the opening round of the NCAA Southern Regional here and now face possible elimination today at Marchant Stadium.

Southern's 8-5 defeat coupled with Valdosta State's devastating 13-6 triumph over Rollins forced the two Central Florida rivals into the loser's bracket and dog-eat-dog matchup today at 1:30. It will be the fifth time the Moccasins and Tars have met this spring and Southern has yet to come out a winner.

Both teams suffered from unexpected poor pitching. Southern, feeling the sting of Eckert's bunt-and-run tactics managed to strand 14 base runners and blow numerous scoring opportunities.

**ROLLINS HAD** plenty of offense — 12 hits worth — but Tar pitchers allowed 16 hits themselves and Valdosta broke open a close contest by scoring six times in a decisive seventh inning.

"Even though we were out-hit and out-pitched, we should have won," Smeltzly said. "We had many scoring opportunities."

Smeltzly's team had won four of the last five regional tournaments and two national tournaments, so losing in the opening round was a new experience.

"But we were in a much worse position one year and battled back," the greying mentor related. "In

SOUTHERN		ECKERD	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h b
Hopper ss	6 0 1 0	Dennis 2b	5 1 2 1
C. Smith cf	4 0 1 0	Westervelt rf	4 1 2 0
Lampley 1b	2 2 0 0	Polirelli 3b	4 0 0 0
Nicholson lf	3 2 1 0	Evers 1b	5 0 2 0
Caccialore rf	4 1 1 0	Outwater cf	5 0 0 1
Dearstope dh	4 0 2 1	Coen dh	3 2 3 0
Coombis c	2 0 0 1	DiNobile c	4 2 1 0
Tyus 3b	4 0 3 2	Gillis lf	1 1 1 1
Bates pr	0 0 0 0	Miscuti ss	3 1 3 3
Brink 2b	4 0 0 0		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33 5 9 5</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>34 8 14 6</b>

Southern 200 020 100—5  
Eckerd 140 010 10x—8  
E—Brink, Tyus; LOB—Southern 14, Eckerd 10;  
2B—Nicholson, Tyus, Coen; SB—Coen, Dennis;  
S—Brink, DiNobile, Miscuti, Lampley; SF—Tyus

	IP	H	R	ER	SS	SO
Fisher (L 5-5)	2-2-3	8	5	3	2	1
Gerlosky	4-2-3	6	3	2	3	1
Gerken	2-3	0	0	0	0	0
Saleski (W 8-2)	9	9	5	5	10	4
PB—DiNobile 2						

ROLLINS		VALDOSTA	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
Liahes 1b	5 1 2 0	Draden dh	5 3 3 1
Hart rf	5 1 1 0	Bowen cf	4 1 1 1
Callihan dh	3 2 2 1	Fellis lf	3 1 0 0
Castino lf	5 2 3 3	Register rf	4 1 3 4
Goetz c	5 0 2 1	Branam c	4 1 3 2
Merullo 3b	4 0 1 0	Reeves ss	5 2 1 0
F. Smith ss	4 0 0 0	Alford 2b	5 2 1 2
Ricciardelli 2b	4 0 1 0	Summer 3b	5 1 2 1
Kirkwood cf	3 0 0 0	Greenbaugh 1b	4 1 2 1
Lorenz p	0 0 0 0	McDuffitt p	0 0 0 0
Benson p	0 0 0 0	LeFiles p	0 0 0 0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38 6 12 5</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>39 13 16 12</b>

Rollins 004 020 000—6  
Valdosta 160 000 60x—13  
E—Castine, Lorenz, Ricciardelli, Reeves (2);  
Felts; DP—Valdosta (2); LOB—Rollins 8, Valdosta 8;  
2B—Callihan, Ricciardelli, Register, Alford;  
HR—Castino; SB—Goetz, Darden; S—Reeves; SF—Greenhalgh.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Lorenz (L 9-6)	8-1-3	8	7	6	1	2
Benson	4-2-3	5	3	3	1	0
T. Anderson	1-3	3	3	3	1	1
Poropatich	1-3	0	0	0	0	0
McDuffitt	3-1-3	7	3	3	1	0
LeFiles (W, 8-2)	5-2-3	5	3	1	1	2
LBP—Ricciardelli (by McDuffitt); PB—Goetz.						

12971, we were leading San Diego State 3-2 going into the ninth in the opening game of the national tournament. We lost the game, 4-3, but we still battled out of the loser's bracket and won the whole thing."

Eckert, pecking away at the fine art of manufacturing runs, got three key RBI hits from No. 9 batter Rich Misenti. Two were well-placed squeeze bunts and the third a routine bouncer over the middle that deflected off second base and helped break open a 5-4 game.

"A lot of those hits were clinkers," Smeltzly said. "But I've got to hand it to them. They played good baseball... they didn't make any

errors."

THE MOCS managed nine hits and 10 walks off Eckert's Stan Saleski, who struggled through a 164-pitch performance, but went the distance.

Southern's Bing Tyus collected three of the nine safeties and drove in a pair of runs. Rollins, after falling behind, 7-0, made a game of it with Valdosta but Tar pitching just couldn't silence the big Blkazer bats.

Tar Coach Boyd Coffie tried four pitchers, and only freshman righthander Jim Poropatich, who finished up, escaped unharmed.

Starter Blake Lorenz was knocked out of the box in the second inning, marking the first time this year the freshman rightly failed to go the route.

Valdosta, with Jerome Register and Darrell Branam doing most of the damage, tallied six times in the second inning and that was it for Lorenz.

Coffie brought in another freshman, Brad Benson, and the little-used rightly responded — with a little help from his friends. Five innings later the Tars had drawn to within 7-6, thanks to John Castino's three-run, 400-foot homer and key hits by Kevin Callihan and Jack Goetyz.

"WHEN WE clocked it to 7-6, I thought we had them... we had the momentum," Coffie said. "But they hit the baseball better than any college team I have ever seen."

Benson, after four scoreless innings, tired in the seventh. The Blazers loaded the bases with none out and Coffie called on sophomore Tom Anderson. Dan Alford greeted Anderson with a two-run double and Jeff Greenhalgh and Dan Darden added RBI singles to out the game out of reach.

# Valdosta, Eckerd Battle For Title

By **PATRICK ZIER**  
Ledger Sports Editor

Eckerd and Valdosta State advanced to the finals of the NCAA South Atlantic Coast regional baseball tournament here Saturday, Valdosta State by winning and Eckerd by not losing.

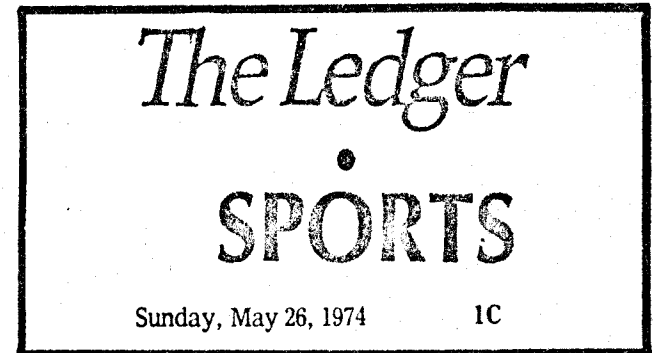
Or rather it should be Eckerd by not losing two.

Valdosta advanced by winning its second straight, 11-4, over Eckerd in the second game at Marchant Stadium. But Eckerd then came back in the nightcap to defeat Rollins, 8-3, to get a second chance at the Blazers today.

The championship game will begin at 1:30 p.m. with a second to follow should Eckerd win.

Rollins eliminated Florida Southern in extra innings, 8-7, to advance to Saturday's third game against Eckerd.

Eckerd got its second route-going performance of the tournament from Phil Johnson, who had a no-hitter until the seventh inning.



At that point, Rollins closed the gap to 4-2 by virtue of a pair of doubles by Jim Liakos and Jack Goetz. Goetz' hit drove in Liakos with the Tars' second run, after they had gotten to Eckerd initially in the opening inning.

Frank Smith walked, stole second and scored on an error by Mark Dennis to put Rollins on the board first.

But Eckerd came right back with three runs off Jerry Gaffney, who gave up a two-run triple to Wayne Politelli.

Politelli drove in three runs

during the course of the game.

Eckerd added to its margin in the second when Dennis tripled and scored on Andy Westervelt's single, and then the Tritons put the game away with a four-run barrage that killed Gaffney in the seventh inning.

Three straight singles by Rob Outwater, Tim Coen and Bob Gillis sent Gaffney to the showers, and Rick Misenti's two-run triple finished Rollins for good.

See NCAA, 5C



**SOUTHERN'S CHUCK SMITH ARGUES AFTER BEING CALLED OUT AT SECOND**

... Rollins' Frank Smith (10) makes the tag on Southern outfielder.

Photo by Bill Tinsley

F Southern				Rollins				ECKERD				VALDOSTA			
AB	R	H	Rollins	AB	R	H	ECKERD	AB	R	H	VALDOSTA	AB	R	H	
Hopper,ss	5	1	0	Smith,ss	6	1	4	Dennis,2b	3	1	0	Darden,ph	4	3	3
Smith,cf	4	0	1	Liekos,1b	5	1	2	W'velt,rf-lf	5	0	1	Bowen,cf	5	1	2
Lamply,1b	6	1	2	Col'ns,dh	5	1	3	P'telli,3b	4	1	3	Felts,lf	4	1	3
N'son,rf	5	1	1	C'tino,cf	5	0	1	Evers,1b-c	4	1	1	R'gster,rf	3	0	1
Cac'l're,lf	4	0	0	Goetz,c	6	2	3	O'water,cf-rt	3	1	2	B'nam,c	4	0	0
De'stn,dh	4	1	0	Merullo,3b	6	0	3	Coen,dh-1b	4	0	1	Reeves,ss	4	0	0
Tyus,3b	5	1	2	Hart,rf	4	1	0	D.Noble,c	3	0	2	Alford,2b	5	2	1
Coombs,c	5	1	3	R'delli,2b	5	0	0	C'ozo,pr-cf	0	0	0	Sumner,3b	2	2	0
Brink,2b	4	1	1	O'Conr,lf	2	2	0	Gillis,lf	2	0	0	G'halgh,1b	4	2	2
Totals	42	7	10	Totals	44	8	16	Gher,ph	1	0	0	TOTALS	35	11	12
								Misenti,ss	3	0	0				
								W'trsn,ph	1	0	0				
								TOTALS	33	4	10				

Florida Southern	000	006	010	00-7
Rollins	112	100	020	01-8

DP — Florida Southern 3, LOB — Florida Southern 9, Rollins 12. 2B — F. Smith, Callinan, Nicholson, Cacclatore, Tyus, Coombs, F. Smith, Callinan 2, Castino, Goetz, Merullo 3.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Tomlin	3	7	5	5	2	3
Chapman	6	7	2	2	4	2
Gerken-W	1	2	1	1	0	0
Miller	5	2	3	3	4	5
Kirkwood	1	2	3	3	1	0
Lorenzo	5	6	1	1	2	1

HBP — By Tomlin (Hart). U — Batts, Alexander, Stangry. T — 3:00 A — 6:00.

and after false starts in that inning and the sixth, it detonated prematurely in the seventh and exploded in the eighth to wipe out Eckerd.

Gordon gave up a run in the third and another in the sixth when a ball got through Rick Misenti, and watched his lead evaporate behind a poor defense in the seventh before he left in favor of Joe Cipriano.

With one out, he gave up a single to Dan Alford, and Wayne Politelli's bobble moved Alford to second and put Steve Sumner on first.

After a brilliant, leaping catch against the wall in right and by Andy Westervelt, Dan Darden singled sharply to center and the ball got through Rob Outwater, allowing Alford and Sumner to score and putting Darden at third.

With the game now tied, 4-4, Gordon left and Cipriano gave up a single to Saw Bowen, putting Valdosta ahead to stay.

But the Blazers weren't through yet.

They combined five hits, two walks and an error to add six more runs to their total in the eighth, making the final 11-4.

Bowen's long, two-run triple to deep center was the big hit for the winners.

The winner over Florida Southern Friday, Eckerd, fared no better than the Mocs in Saturday's second game.

The Tritons started fast behind Chuck Gordon, who was given a four-run lead in the first.

But the Blazer time bomb began ticking in the third,

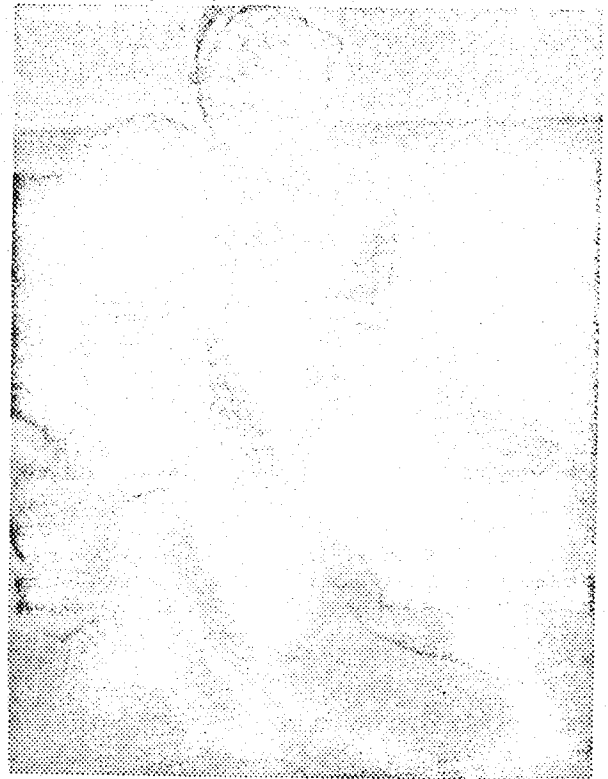
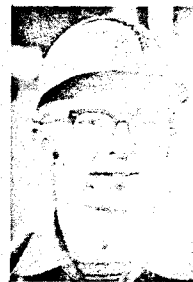


Photo by Bill Tinsley

**ECKERD CATCHER BILL EVERS LATE . . . Valdosta's Dan Alford beats tag.**

One of the Southeast's most successful coaches, 33-year-old Tommy Thomas begins his seventh year as the head mentor of Valdosta State's baseball fortunes. A former VSC horsehide star himself, Thomas led his alma mater in hitting three consecutive years (1960-1962).



During his six years (1968-1973), the Blazers have compiled an overall 162-82 mark for an outstanding .664 percentage against top-grade college competition. Last season Thomas led his charges to their fifth consecutive NAIA District 25 title and finally made it to the NAIA World Series, coming in third with a 43-14 chart.

Thomas leads Valdosta State into the new South Atlantic Conference, after having won four consecutive (VSC was an independent last season) Georgia Conference crowns, and having been named NAIA District 25 Coach-of-the-Year twice.

The Valdosta native received the BS degree in 1962 from Valdosta State, the BS in education from Georgia Southern in 1965, and his MS degree from Georgia Southern in 1967. He has also taken additional graduate work at the University of Georgia.

# Rollins Breaks String . . . Valdosta Starts Blazing

## Southern Will Stay Home

By MIKE COBB  
Ledger Sports Writer

Rollins' 8-7 11-inning win over Florida Southern not only kept them alive in the tournament, it broke a seven game losing streak.

And that's probably what pleased Tars coach Boyd Coffie most. "That's the nice part of the win," said Coffie. "We were on an extended losing streak, I think seven in a row. But it couldn't have come at a better time."

While the win did good things to Rollins' string, it stopped one the Mocs had going for them. Southern has been involved in the NCAA Division II Baseball World Series the last three years, but this time around it will be going nowhere.

Dave Merullo delivered the winning hit

off of Jim Gerken in the 11th on a curve ball with a 1-2 count scoring Jack Goetz from third.

"I was looking for the curve," said Merullo. "He'd thrown it a couple of times before, so I figured he'd come back with it again."

Southern coach Hal Smeltzly said, "He (Gerken) just threw it too good. We would've taken the walk. In fact that's what we were going to do. I told him not to throw anything good."

Gerken came in in the 10th inning for John Chapman who had thrown six innings in relief of starter Rick Tomlin. If Smeltzly had it to do over again, he would've taken Chapman out in the eighth. That's when Rollins tied it at 7-7.

See MOCS, 5C

## Rips Eckerd By 11-4 Score

By MIKE COBB  
Ledger Sports Writer

Valdosta State came into the South Atlantic baseball regionals in a slump, but you wouldn't believe it by seeing its first two games of the tourney.

The Blazers have pounded out 28 hits and 24 runs in two games. Eleven of the runs and 12 of the hits were against Eckerd Saturday in their 11-4 win to vault them into the championship.

However, the Blazers did hit a slump in the tourney. Fortunately for them, though, it only lasted five innings. They came back from a 4-1 deficit after five scoring one in the sixth, three in the seventh, and six in the eighth.

"I'm not really surprised though," said Blazer coach Tommy Thomas. "We've been doing things like that all year. But one thing

is that we're not used to making six run innings."

Actually the six runs were just icing for Valdosta State. The real damage was done by Dan Darden and Sam Bowen in the seventh.

Darden's single to center in the seventh tied the game. Bowen's single right after that put them in the lead.

"I was looking for a slider on the pitch," said Darden. "But he threw a fastball. I just swung through it though and hit it good."

Bowen went to the plate with a different perspective. "I'm not a guess hitter. I just swing. I had been doing bad all day but everyone said just keep swinging, and I did. I think I hit a curve."

Bill Petty went the distance for Valdosta

See VALDOSTA, 5C

## Valdosta

Continued From 1C

State turning in probably the most steady pitching performance of the tournament. After the four run first inning, Petty held the Triton's scoreless.

"I don't know what happened in the first," Petty said. "I was loose, but it was just so hot down here. I'm not used to the heat. I'm from the north."

"I was nervous before the game, though. More than usual. That could've had something to do with it. But I've had trouble in the first inning all year."

Eckerd did jump on Petty in the first, but after that the Tritons couldn't score.

"We had them, then we let them back in with defensive lapses," said Eckerd coach Bill Livesey. "A team like that you just can't give them anything. You can't be a championship team if you just open doors for people."

Up until the seventh, Eckerd's Chuck Gordon had held the Blazers to two runs and

three hits. Then everything happened.

"I got a little tired and started setting a few pitches up," said Gordon. "I made a few mistakes. I came in with a few pitches that were too good on the first pitch and they're a first-pitch-hitting team. Also I'd been in better shape if I'd kept them off the bases so much."

Gordon left in the seventh and was replaced by the Triton's ace Joe Cipriano. But he couldn't do much better. He only lasted until the eighth.

"I was loose, and the pitches were pretty good. But they just hit them," said Cipriano. "We knew they were a first-pitch-hitting team and they showed it today. They hit the first pitch a lot."

"When that happens, you have to do something to break the momentum. You have to walk someone, brush a guy back or something, and I wasn't doing that."

Cipriano summed it all up by saying, "They just hit the ball."

That they did for sure.

# On To Finals

## VSC Rallies To Bury Eckerd, 11-4

By STEVE ROBERTS

LAKE LAND, Fla. — Valdosta State College, a team feared here for its brutal hitting attack, exploded in the seventh and eighth innings for nine runs Saturday and shelled the Eckerd College Tritans, 11-1, to enter the championship game of the South Atlantic region NCAA baseball tournament.

The Blazers came off the floor to overtake an early 4-0 Eckerd lead with the late inning fireworks and become the only unbeaten team in the double elimination tourney.

Host Florida Southern College was the meet's first casualty, dropping an exciting 8-7 decision in 11 innings to Rollins College in Saturday's first game.

Eckerd later defeated Rollins College 3-3 and faces VSC today at 1:30 p.m. for the region crown and the right to go on to the national finals beginning June 2 in Springfield, Ill.

Eckerd must beat the Blazers twice today to win the tournament. VSC needs only one more win to nail down the title of their first NCAA post season event.

Freshman lefthander Bill Petty started Saturday's game and immediately found himself in trouble.

The Grove City, Ohio

native, who has had a history of early inning problems this year, gave up four runs in the opening frame as a result of four hits, a walk, and a sacrifice fly.

After the troublesome first, Petty settled down and blanked the Tritans the rest of the way while waiting for the Blazer bats to do the job.

Except for Jeff Greenhalgh's line drive home run leading off the third, Eckerd starter Charles Gordon held the VSC bats in check until the sixth, when the Blazers began making comeback noises.

In the sixth, Dan Darden, who has six hits in the two games, drew a walk, went to second on Gene Felt's single and scored on a single to left by Jerome Register, cutting the Tritan lead to 4-2.

The seventh frame proved

the charm for the second straight day as the Blazers scored three times to take a 5-4 lead. It was a six-run burst in the seventh Friday that sewed up VSC's win over Rollins.

Dan Alford started the one-out rally with a single and went to second when Steve Sumner reached on an error. Alford and Sumner scored on Darden's single which was misplayed in centerfield, and Darden ended up at third. Darden crossed with the go-ahead run on Sam Bowen's single to left off Tritan reliever Joe Cipriano.

In the eighth, VSC put the game away with six runs, highlighted by Bowen's two-run triple. Greenhalgh, Darden and Felts also knocked in runs and for the first time the Blazers could relax.

Although Petty pitched well

the last eight innings, he was backed by sparkling defensive play. Shortstop Pete Reeves saved a run in the seventh by fielding a ground ball to his left and throwing out the runner.

In the eighth, Bowen made a great running catch and doubled a runner off first base with a perfect strike to Greenhalgh to end the inning.

Petty picked up his 11th win of the year against a single loss.

Coach Tommy Thomas was naturally pleased following the comeback victory.

"It's just a great feeling. I'm real proud of the boys for the way they continued to come from behind and win.

"It was just like it has been all year. Although we have struggled, I think this team truly deserves all the good things that have happened so far.

"I certainly want to commend Petty for coming back from what was a jolting first inning. This was his biggest game, and to hold a team as good as Eckerd to no runs for the last eight innings is outstanding.

"Now we've just got to do it one more time and get ready for the national tournament. It's not over yet but we are in good shape."

Thomas has picked senior right hander Rick Bowers, 6-0, against Eckerd in today's game. If a second game is needed he looks to Bowen, who is 1-1 on the year.

ECKERD		ab r h bi VSC		ab r h bi	
Dennis, 2b	3 1 0 0	Darden, dh	4 3 3 2		
Westitt, rf	5 0 1 0	Bowen, lf	5 1 3 3		
Poltelt, 3b	4 1 3 1	Felts, lf	4 1 3 1		
Evers, lb	4 1 1 0	Register, rf	3 0 2 1		
Ourway, cf	3 1 2 1	Branam, c	4 0 0 0		
Coen, dh	4 0 1 1	Reeves, ss	4 0 0 0		
Dinoble, c	3 0 2 1	Alford, 2b	5 2 1 0		
Gillis, lf	2 0 0 0	Sumner, 3b	2 2 0 0		
Gier, ph	1 0 0 0	Greenhalgh, lb	4 2 2 2		
Miscotti, ss	3 0 0 0	Petty, p	0 0 0 0		
Watson, ph	1 0 0 0				
Gordon, p	0 0 0 0				
Zirino, p	0 0 0 0				
Marshall, p	0 0 0 0				
Totals	33 4 10 4	Totals	35 11 13 9		
Eckerd	4 0 0 0 0 0 0 4 10 2				
VSC	0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 11 13 1				
E — Poltelt, Ourway, Petty, IP					
Gordon to Evers; Evers to Miscotti					
to Evers; Bowen to Greenhalgh; Petty					
to Greenhalgh; LOR — Eckerd 7; VSC					
8 3b — Bowen; HR — Greenhalgh;					
SB — Westerdelt; Evers, S — Gillis;					
SP — Dinoble.					
		ip h r er bi so			
Gordon (L, 10-4)		4 2 3 6 5 3			
Zirino		2 3 3 5 5 3 1			
Marshall		2 3 2 1 0 0 0			
Petty (W, 11-1)		9 10 4 4 3 1			
PB — Dinoble					

# Petty Ties Blazer Record For Wins

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

LAKELAND, Fla. — Bill Petty admittedly has a problem.

It comes up in the first inning of many games he pitches. He can't get three outs before he has allowed some runs.

Saturday against Eckerd, the first was worse than usual. He gave up four hits and four runs. After finally getting out of the inning, he settled down, blanking the hard-hitting Tritans the rest of the way while scattering six hits.

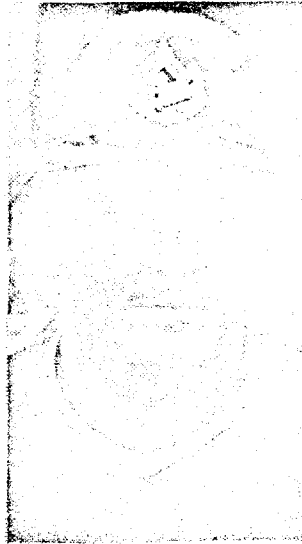
His teammates exploded late in the game for nine runs to win 11-4 and give Petty his 11th win of the year, tying a Valdosta State record for most wins in a season by a pitcher.

Petty is well aware of his problem, but he doesn't understand it.

"I've never had a problem like this first inning thing before. Today when I got in trouble, I began pressing a little and just served up fat pitches. And they hit everything I threw up there," he said.

Referring to his success the remainder of the game, Petty said his curve ball was his best pitch.

"The curve ball worked better today than it has since the beginning of the year. When I began getting them out, I was praying our bats would come around. After we



**BILL PETTY**  
Defeats 'Problem

scored two runs I thought we were coming back but I was still worried until we finally got ahead," he said.

"The way we're hitting down here, I didn't think anybody could hold us to four runs."

Coach Tommy Thomas commended the once-defeated Petty for his outstanding performance and was pleased the freshman lefthander tied the record for most wins.

"I certainly want to add my congratulations to Bill for tying the record. He certainly deserves it."

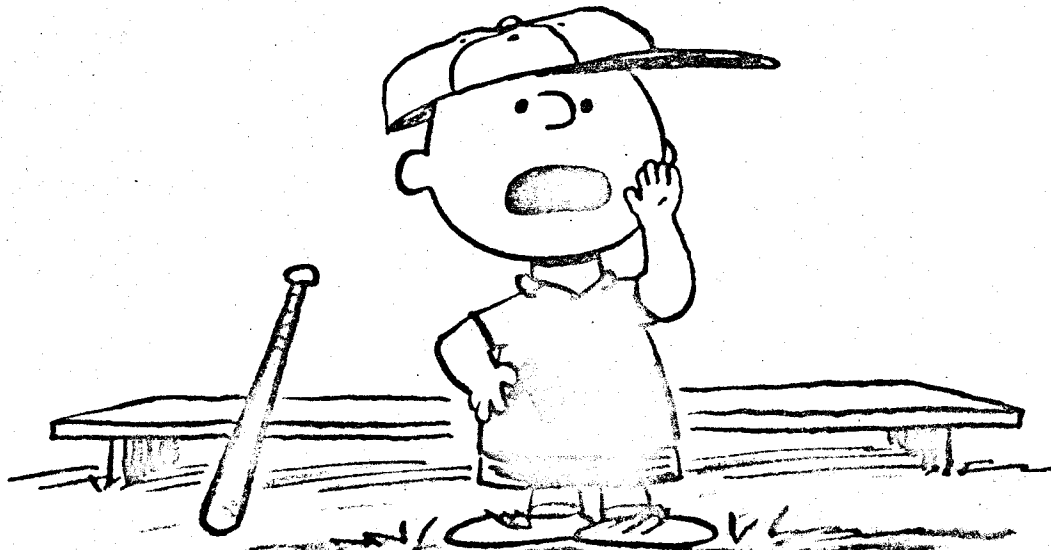
Petty, a native of Grove

City, Ohio, is anxious for the Blazers to win Sunday and earn the trip to the NCAA Division II finals in nearby Springfield, Ill. which begins June 2.

"I need a free plane ride home, and a trip to the national finals will be just the ticket," he said.

And if he gets that trip, he'll also get the chance to set a new Valdosta State record for most pitching wins in a season.

**COACH THOMAS** calls for the "popular" pre-practice lecture.





# Valdosta State Crushes Eckerd

By JACK SLAYTON  
Tribune Sports Writer

LAKELAND — Valdosta State rallied to crush Eckerd, 11-4, here yesterday while Rollins knocked out defending champion Florida Southern 8-7, in 11 innings at Joker Marchant Stadium in South Atlantic Regional Division II College baseball games.

The Blazers thus moved into today's 1:30 p.m. finale last night's Eckerd-Rollins and will face the winner of game. If Valdosta State should lose, another game would be played immediately afterwards. Tourney winner will compete in Springfield, Ill., beginning Saturday in the Nationals.

Dave Merullo's single in the 11th for Rollins gave them their fifth straight win over the Mocs and eliminated FSC. It also snapped a 7-game Rollins loss string.

VALDOSTA spotted the Eckerd Tritons a 4-run first inning and Bill Petty then blanked them the rest of the way although in trouble most of the way. He was the first starter to go the route in the tourney.

Eckerd tallied four times on a walk and four singles.

The Blazers got a 350-foot homer by Jeff Greenhalgh in the third, another run on a

Triton miscue in the sixth and then went ahead to stay in the seventh on hits by Dan Alford, Dan Darden, Sam Bowen and Gene Felts and two Eckerd errors.

The Blazers iced the game in the eighth with six runs — their third 6-run inning of the game. They had six hits, including Bowen's 2-run triple in the frame.

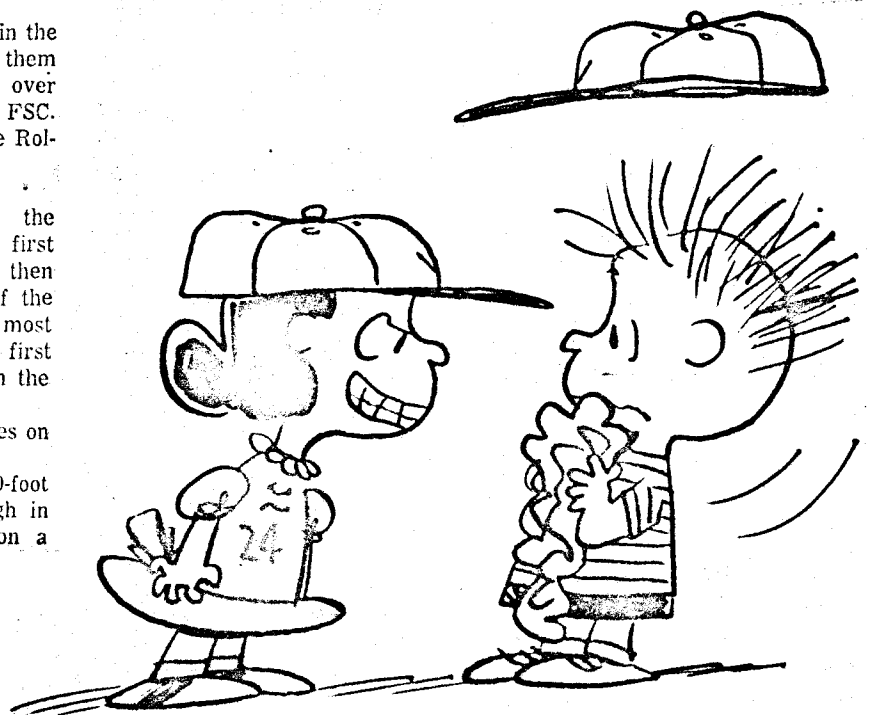
The Tars jumped on the

Mocs for a 5-0 lead and with Bill Miller pitching 1-hit ball seemed to have it all wrapped up until the Mocs broke loose for six in the sixth, added a run in the eighth but saw the Tars tie the score on Kevin Callinan's 2-run single — his fifth hit of the series.

Rollins got a run in the first on a double by Frank

Please See Page 2, Col. 1

Blazer "spirit-award" winner MARTY LeFILES (left), casually asks a team-mate to cheer "slightly" louder.



# Blazers Top

# Tritons

• From Page 1

Smith and Jack Goetz' hit. A hit batter, long fly and Smith's single added a run on the second and they added two more in the fourth on a double by Callinan, a single by Goetz and Merullo's single. A fifth run came in the fourth on a walk, two hits and another walk to force home a run.

BUT THE Mocs roared back in the sixth. Mike Coombs opened with a single and Dick Brink walked. Two more walks forced home a run and a force play added another. Jim Nicholson doubled home a run and another scored on an infield out.

A walk followed by Hal Tyus's single tied the score and Coombs up for the second time, sent the Mocs ahead with a single to left.

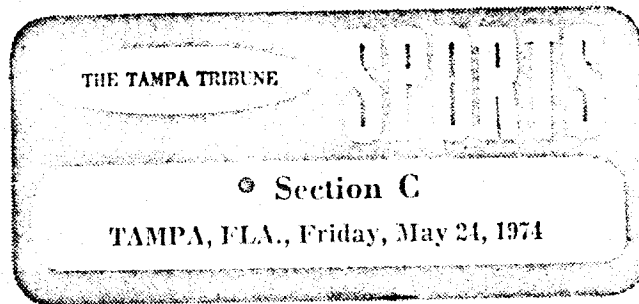
An infield hit by Tyus and Coombs's double to left center accounted for the final Moc run in the eighth.

In the Tars' eighth with two out a walk and singles by Smith and Jim Liakos loaded the bases and Callinan sliced a single to right to tie the score.

Rollins loaded the bases with one out in the tenth but Dick Brink made a nice play and turn it into a double play.

Florida Southern: 000 006 010 00—7 10 0  
 Rollins: 112 100 000 01—3 16 0  
 Tomlin, Chapman, (1) Gerken (10) and Coombs; Miller, Kirkwood (6), Lorenz (6), and Goetz; 2B—Smith (10), Callinan (8), Nicholson (F), Coombs (F); 3B—Goetz (8).

Eckerd: 400 000 000—4 10—4  
 Valdosta: 001 001 300—11 12 1  
 Gordon, Cipriano (7), Marshall (8) and Dinoble, Evers (8); Petty and Branham; 3B—Bowen (V), Home Run—Greenhalgh (V).

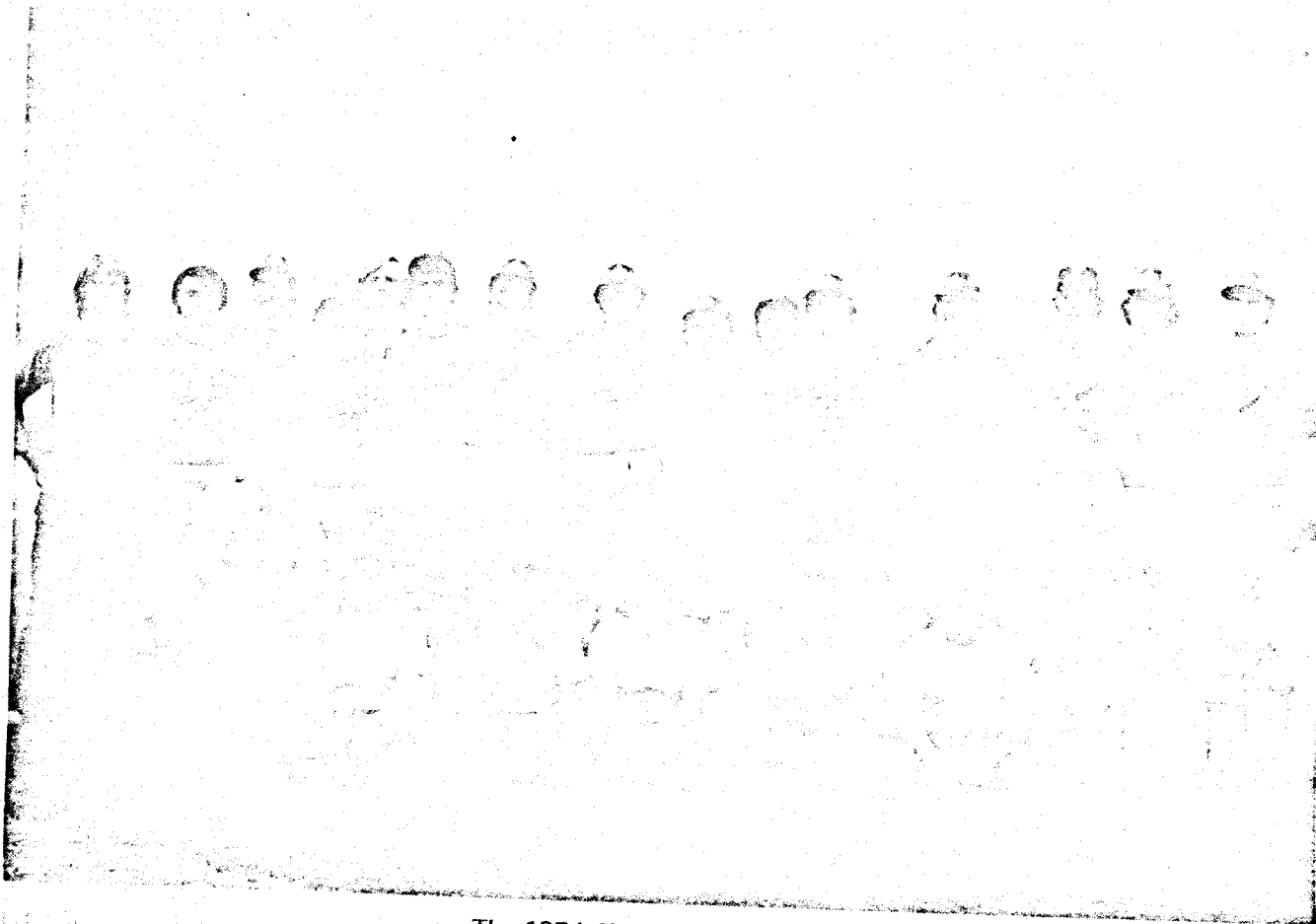


Southern		Rollins	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
Hopper ss	5 1 0 0	E. Smith ss	4 1 4 1
C. Smith cf	4 0 1 1	Lianos 1b	5 1 2 0
Lampy 1b	6 1 2 1	Callin dh	5 1 3 2
Nicholson rf	5 1 1 1	Castino cf	5 0 1 1
Ccistre lf	4 0 0 1	Goetz c	6 2 3 1
Dearste dh	4 1 0 0	Merullo 3b	6 0 3 3
Tyus 3b	5 1 2 1	Hart rf	4 1 0 0
Coombs c	5 1 3 2	Ricci 2b	2 2 0 0
Brink 2b	4 1 1 0	O'Conor lf	0 0 0 0
Tomlin p	0 0 0 0	Miller p	0 0 0 0
Chapman p	0 0 0 0	Kirwol p	0 0 0 0
		Lorcuz p	0 0 0 0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42 7 10 7</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>44 8 16 8</b>

Southern	000	006	010	00	—7	
Rollins	112	100	020	01	—8	
E-None	DP-Fla.	Southern (3):	LOB-Rollins	14,		
Southern	11	2B-Nicholson,	Coombs,	F. Smith,		
Callinan	3B-Goetz					
Tomlin	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Chapman	3 1-3	7	2	5	2	3
Gerken (L, 1-2)	1	2	1	1	0	0
Miller	5	2	3	3	4	5
Kirkwood	2-3	2	3	3	1	0
Lorenz (W, 10-6)	5 1-3	6	1	1	1	0

ECKERD		VALDOSTA	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
Dennis 2b	3 1 0 0	Darden dh	4 3 3 2
Westervelt rf	4 0 1 0	Bowen cf	4 1 3 1
Politek 3b	4 1 3 1	Feltz lf	3 0 1 0
Evers 1b	4 1 1 0	Benister rf	3 0 1 0
Outwater cf	3 1 2 1	Branam c	4 0 0 0
Coen dh	4 0 1 1	Reeves ss	4 0 0 0
DiNoble c	3 0 2 1	Alford 2b	5 2 0 0
Cardozo cf	0 0 0 0	Summer 3b	4 2 2 2
Gillis lf	2 0 0 0	Greenhalgh 1b	0 0 0 0
Gher ph	1 0 0 0	Petty p	0 0 0 0
Cipriano p	0 0 0 0		
Misuti ss	3 0 0 0		
Walterson ph	1 0 0 0		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33 4 10 4</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>35 11 12 8</b>

Eckerd	400	000	000	—4		
Valdosta	001	001	300	—11		
E—Miscuti, Outwater, Politek (2), Petty; DP—E-						
ckerd; Valdosta: 2; LOB—Valdosta 8, Eckerd 7;						
3B—Bowen; HR—Greenhalgh; SB—Westerell, Evers;						
S—Caiter; SF—DiNoble.						
Gordon (L 10-4)	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Cipriano	4 2-3	5	5	5	3	1
Marshall	2-3	2	1	0	0	0
Petty (W, 9-3)	9	10	4	4	3	1



The 1974 Championship Blazers

## Petty Proves Himself Again

By Billy Tyler

Bill Petty survived a shaky first inning and Valdosta State exploded for nine runs in the final two frames to gain their second tournament win and send the Tritons of Eckerd College reeling to an 11-4 defeat. The win left the Blazers the only undefeated team in the tourney and definitely in the drivers seat.

Petty who has had his share of early inning problems this season, came back to throw shutout ball after the first walking three while fanning

one. The win tied Petty for the school record for most victories in a single season (11).

The Blazers erupted for three seventh inning runs to take the lead 5-4, after Jeff Greenhalgh had drilled a solo homer in the third to put Valdosta on the scoreboard. With one out in the seventh, Dan Alford singled. After Steve Sumner had reached on an error, Dan Darden lined a shot into centerfield. Darden wound up on thrid after the

ball was misplayed, while Alford and Sumner crosses homeplate to knot the game at 4 all. Sam Bowen then lined a single to bring home Darden with the go ahead run. The Blazers put it out of reach in the eighth striking for six runs highlighted by Sam Bowen's two run triple. Alford started the inning with a fielder's choice followed by Sumner's walk. Greenhalgh then lined a single to score the first run of the inning. Darden then drilled a double

scoring Sumner. Bowen followed with his triple to make the score 9-4. Gene Felts then singled home Bowen and then scored when Pete Reeves grounder was bobbled. The Blazers who have ripped for 24 runs and 28 hits in two games thus far set their rank at 37-10. Florida Southern and Rollins were eliminated, so Valdosta was to face Eckerd again Sunday. A Blazer victory would sew up the tournament. The Tritons must win twice.

## Enter National Finals

# Blazers Bomb Way To NCAA Title

By STEVE ROBERTS

LAKE LAND, Fla.— Pitching, which had not played a key role in the South Atlantic Region tournament, finally proved to be the difference here late Sunday afternoon.

The Valdosta State College Blazers had an ace in the hole, the Eckerd College Tritans didn't, and the result was a lopsided 15-3 Blazer victory for the National Collegiate Athletic Association South Atlantic Region championship.

Eckerd forced a second game Sunday with a comeback 8-5 win over Valdosta State in the double elimination event, but the Tritans exhausted their pitching staff in the process.

The Blazers, who could have ended the tourney early with a win in the opener, used five pitchers in an effort to stop the rallying Eckerd express. But it was to no avail.

Being forced into a second game for all the marbles, VSC coach Tommy Thomas played his ace and got winning results.

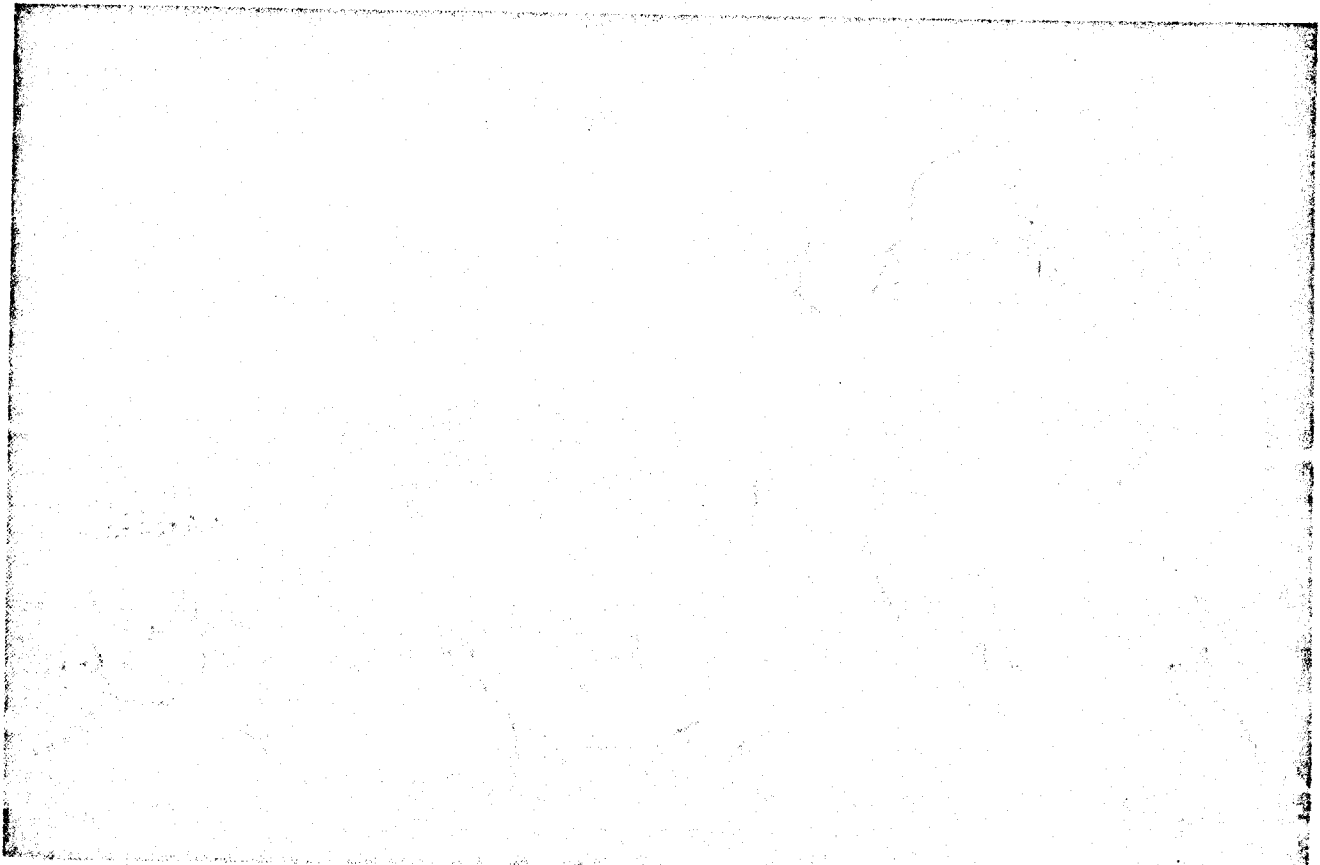
Sam Bowen, a centerfielder by trade but a pitcher on occasion by necessity, was called on to pitch the championship game, and the Brunswick senior responded with an outstanding effort.

The stocky righthander went the distance, scattering nine hits, walking seven and striking out eleven. He helped himself with the bat, slamming a two-run homer in the first inning to shake the Blazers to an early 2-0 lead. Bowen also had a triple and a stolen base, and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

The easy second game triumph Sunday earned Valdosta State a trip to the NCAA Division II finals in Springfield, Ill., which begin Sunday. The national meet is a six-team, double elimination affair.

The Blazers looked for awhile Sunday like they would end the tournament by mid-afternoon. After reliever Marty LeFiles bailed VSC starter Rick Bowers out of trouble in the second, Valdosta State built a 5-2 lead and LeFiles was sailing along.

He sailed into the seventh with the three-run cushion only to see it quickly vanish. After a leadoff single, the Blazers failed to turn a double



Blazers' Jeff Greenhalgh Takes A Swipe At Eckerd's Bob Outwater In First Game Action Sunday

play and the mistake was costly. With one out Wayne Poinelli doubled for one run, Bill Evers tripled for another and LeFiles was through for the afternoon.

Dan Darden, who had a great tournament as the Blazers' designated hitter, came in to pitch but had no success. His wild pitch allowed the tying run to score, and two walks and a hit batsman later he was replaced by Danny Chadwick.

Chadwick did a good job, getting out of a bases loaded jam to keep the score knotted at five. But Eckerd would not be denied.

In the eighth Evers delivered a clutch two-out single to center that scored the go-ahead run and Bob Outwater followed with a single to right, scoring two more runs, icing the win and forcing the second game.

Charles Gordon, who relieved Joe Cipriano in the third inning, picked up the win, holding the big Blazer bats to five hits while striking out six.

The comeback victory was all for naught, however, as the Blazers bombed four Eckerd pitchers for 16 hits which produced the 15 runs in the title match.

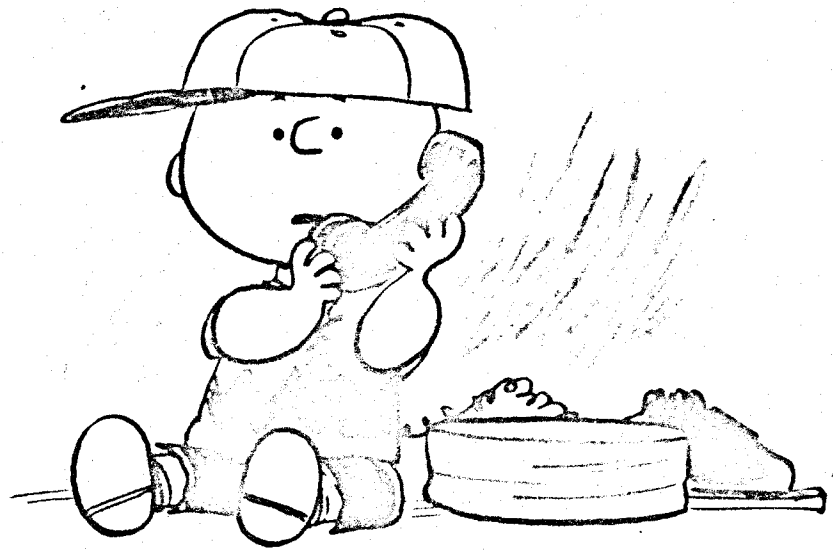
The Tritans had already used all their front line hurlers and the exhausted pitching staff simply could not go the last mile.

The Blazers, on the other hand, had Bowen. And he was more than enough.

After Bowen started the offense with his 335-foot blast in the first that also scored Pete Reeves, the VSC bats went to work in earnest in the third. Marty Bishop's two-run double keyed four-run explosion and the Blazers were off and running.

Valdosta State picked up an unearned run in the fifth, then struck for four more markers in the seventh, which included back-to-back triples by Bowen and Gene Felts and a two-run single by Jeff Greenhalgh.

The Blazers continued the merry-go-round in the seventh and eighth frames, picking up two runs in each inning. Consecutive doubles by Darrell Branam and Greenhalgh did the damage in the seventh while a bases loaded walk to Bowen and an infield out scored the two eighth inning runs.



Most people, in some facet of their childhood, have experienced some form of cultural deprivation. In the case of Valdosta State head baseball coach, TOMMY THOMAS, this misfortune concerned the telephone. COACH THOMAS' parents didn't permit young TOMMY the use of the phone because he kept trying to hang his pet cat with the cord.

If you have ever visited COACH THOMAS' home or office, you have visually noticed his total pre-occupation with his newly acquired freedom to use the phone!

Bowen allowed two harmless runs in the ninth, and when second baseman Vince Musashe grabbed a soft fly ball for the third out a wild celebration erupted.

Thomas, who had saved Bowen for the emergency that arose Sunday, was one of the happiest people here following the clinching victory.

"It's just great to win this thing on our first trip to an NCAA tournament," he said. "Right now, I can't single out a lot of individuals. The entire team did it, and the entire team deserves credit for it."

"I definitely think we were the best team here. Our hitting was better than anybody's, and it was a hitters' tournament. These young men certainly deserve this championship."

Four Blazers were named to the all-tournament team. Bowen made it as a pitcher and as the tourney's centerfielder, as well as winning the MVP award. Freshman

pitcher Bill Petty, who fired a 10-hitter to win Saturday's game against Eckerd 11-4, was selected as was first baseman Greenhalgh and

designated hitter Darden.

Greenhalgh was 8 for 16 in the tourney with nine runs batted in while Darden had 8 hits in 11 trips.

## Blazer Boxes

ECKERD		VSC		ECKERD		VSC	
ab	r	h	rb	ab	r	h	rb
Darden dh	3	1	2	Dennis 2b	3	1	2
Chadwick p	0	0	0	Westcott rf	4	1	1
Parsons p	1	0	0	Poinelli 2b	4	2	2
Bowen cf	5	1	1	Evers 1b	5	2	2
Felts lf	3	0	0	Outwater cf	4	0	2
Register rf	3	1	0	Coen dh	2	0	0
Branam c	2	1	1	Gilbs lf	2	1	0
Reeves ss	4	0	1	Chapman c	4	0	0
Alford 2b	4	0	1	Mason ss	4	1	1
Sutton 2b	4	1	2	Cornano p	0	0	0
Greenhalgh 1b	3	0	1	Gordon p	0	0	0
LeFiles p	0	0	0				
LeFiles p	0	0	0				
TOTALS	32	5	9	TOTALS	32	8	10
VSC	004	001	000	-5-9-4			
Eckerd	110	0	0	328	8	10	4
E. DeNoble, Sumner 2, Alford, VSC							
Register, DP-Miscanti to Dennis to Evers, Poinelli to Evers, DP - Felts to Alford; Reeves Dennis to Evers; 1-0B VSC 8, Eckerd 1b - 2B-Poinelli, Evers, 2B-Evers, 1B VSC - 12, 2B - Dennis, Branam, Sp. Outwater, S. Darden, Greenhalgh, Greenhalgh, Bishop, Alford, Starting 3b Dennis, SF-Dennis.							
1 5 1 er bh so							
Bowen 1 2 3 2 1 3 0							
LeFiles 4 2 3 5 3 3 1 1							
Darden 0 0 0 0 0 2 0							
Chadwick (1-3-3) 1 1 2 2 3 2 1 5							
Parsons 1 3 0 0 0 0 0 0							
Cornano 2 2 3 4 4 4 3 0							
Gordon (W, 11-4) 6 1 3 5 1 1 1 4							
HBP - Gilbs by Darden, WP - Gordon, HBP - Innobile by Bowen							

# VSC Blazers Cop Southeastern NCAA

By Billy Tyler

Scoring an amazing 47 runs on 52 hits in four games, the VSC Blazers captured the crown in the NCAA Division II Southeastern Regional Baseball tournament at Lakeland, Fla. this past weekend.

Going into the tournament unranked Blazers overcame opposition from nationally ranked Florida Southern, fifth ranked Rollins, and sixth ranked Eckerd College to clinch the title.

The fourth and deciding game of the tournament played Saturday afternoon found VSC victorious by a

score of 15-3 over Eckerd College Tritons of St. Petersburg. The fierce offensive attack was backed by the superb ten strikeout pitching effort of Sam Bowen.

After striking out two men in the top of the first, Bowen slapped a two run homer in the bottom of the inning. Valdosta drew first blood and was never headed.

In the second frame, Eckerd cut the Blazer lead in half but the VSC bats were soon to explode.

In the third, Greenhalgh

ripped a two run single--later he added two more hits and drove in a total of five runs. Also in the third, Marty Bishop punched a two run double to put the score at 6-1.

The Balzers scored four more in the sixth on the strength of back to back triples by Bowen and Felts, and another two run one base shot by Greenhalgh.

VSC added two more in the seventh and two in the eighth to put the game unquestionably on ice.

Bowen was brilliant, but the whole performed almost

perfectly. While Bowen was fanning batters his centerfield replacement Ralph Starling proved a worthy addition by slamming a triple to right field.

The Blazers leave Valdosta tomorrow for Springfield, Ill. and a shot at the national crown. The nations six best NCAA small college teams (including VSC) will compete in the double elimination tournament which begins on June 1.

The Blazers season record now stands at 38 wins and only 11 losses.

# Bowen Named MVP

Sam Bowen was named "Most Valuable Player" in the NCAA South Atlantic Region Tournament in Lakeland, Fla. this past weekend.

The Blazer centerfielder played a brilliant tournament batting an unofficial .347, which included a two run homer and a stand up triple off the left center wall.

The 5'10" senior was called on for pitching duties in the final and deciding game of the tourney. He performed brilliantly giving up only three runs.

Consequently Bowen was named to the tournament All star team in the centerfielding and pitching positions.

Other Blazers named to the All Star Team included Jeff Greenhalgh for his outstanding play at first base. Greenhalgh had a tournament batting average of .570. He had one home run and nine RBI's.

Bill Petty was named one of the Allstar pitchers after his



Sam Bowen: MVP

Saturday afternoon performance against Eckerd College. The win tied Petty for a Blazer record: most games won in one season (11).

The Allstar designated hitter spot went to VSC's Dan Darden who batted a remarkable .667 in the

tournament. Darden scored seven runs and was the booster for a number of Blazer rallies.

The Blazers left the tournament victorious with four men in five positions on the Allstar team.

Now only Springfield, Ill. is left.

Julian

*Miller*

Times Sports Editor

## Thomas' 200th Win Nearly Unnoticed

Somehow, in all the excitement of the National Collegiate Athletic Association District tournament last week in Lakeland, Fla., Tommy Thomas failed to notice he had reached a plateau most coaches look forward to from their first game.



MILLER

ers they have gone 290-93. But even that isn't the important part to him.

What is important to him are the various championships the team mounts up under the head coach and the most important one is in front of them now.

Saturday, the Blazers begin play in the National NCAA College Division II baseball tournament in Springfield, Ill., the most prestigious event the Blazers have ever been in.

That's what Thomas wants now. And strangely enough, when the season began, he didn't even hope to get close to it.

That 15-3 decision over Eckerd College, the one that gave the Valdosta State College Blazers the District championship and the berth in the NCAA national tournament beginning Saturday, was his 200th college win.

But even after finding out he had reached the plateau, the VSC head baseball coach couldn't find the emotional feelings most coaches do.

"I had no idea," Thomas said upon learning he had passed the plateau. "It makes me feel good to know that. But what's more important is to be really satisfied with the record."

In that Thomas should be satisfied. Since taking over as head coach of the Blaz-

### *Didn't Seem Possible*

"I didn't think we'd be able to get an NCAA bid," Thomas said of his thoughts before the season began. "There were two reasons, since this was our first year in NCAA I thought we could be on sort of a 'probation period', and I really thought this district would be too outstanding for us to be considered."

Thomas was correct in one respect. The district was outstanding. But the most outstanding record was the 35-10 mark his Blazers posted in the regular season.

... But even that didn't assure Thomas of the district championship. He wasn't assured of anything until the last out in that 15-3 victory over Eckerd.

His team, you see, has been in one of their biggest hitting slumps ever for the 10 games before the tournament and Thomas knew they wouldn't last long in Lakeland without hits.

And they didn't. The Blazers started hitting like wild men from the first game. When the dust had settled after their fourth game, the Valdosta team had 54 hits—their best tournament series ever.

### *One More Goal*

But Thomas is one of those coaches who is hard to please. That's how he got those 200 collegiate wins behind him. While the hitting reached its pinnacle, the pitching was less than Thomas expected. Now he wants improvement in that area.

"I was a little disappointed in our pitching," Thomas confessed. "I thought we could have done a better job in the way of fewer walks. We just didn't throw with the control I know we're capable of, although the hitting in that tournament as probably as good as we've seen all year."

Thomas never had any doubts whether he would accept the NCAA bid or stick with the NAIA. But some of his players had other ideas.

The native Valdosta coach knew they'd appreciate the NCAA more after they got to Lakeland ...and he was right. Now they're headed to Springfield, hoping to put their best hitting performance and pitching performance together.

If they can do that, there should be another tournament victory in store for the Blazers and then you'll see a satisfied smile on Thomas' face. At least until next year.



## 38-11 BLAZERS MEET LSU-NEW ORLEANS SATURDAY

# Valdosta State boasts explosive attack

By Jim Wildrick

Coach Tommy Thomas says the 38-11 Valdosta (Ga.) State University baseball team he brings to Springfield this week for the National Collegiate Athletic Association College Division World Series "has already surpassed every goal I hoped it would achieve."

So if the coach didn't figure the Blazers, who tangle with Louisiana State at New Orleans Saturday at 5 p.m. at Lanphier Park, were going to be this good, maybe they're a fluke, right? Hardly.

"I try to look at things objectively," said Thomas, "but I have to say we have a very explosive type team. We can hit anybody on any given day. We averaged about 11 runs and 14 hits per game in the (South) regional at Lakeland, Fla., and there were a couple of coaches quoted as saying they had never seen such devastating hitting by a college team. These coaches doing the talking were people who played teams like Miami, South Carolina, Florida State and Florida Southern, and they were saying we were



Dan Darden

the best hitting team they had seen. So I took it as quite a compliment."

Central Illinois Collegiate League fans will recall the Springfield Caps having a pretty fair pitcher by the name of Tom Brennan last year. Brennan pitches for

Lewis College and probably would just as soon forget about his experience with Valdosta.

"We hit him for five runs and 10 hits in three innings," said Thomas, "and people from Lewis told me they had never seen him hit so hard."

Still, Thomas knows the coin has two sides.

"We had one horrendous slump near the end of the season where we got about 50 hits in 10 games," he said. "In fact, we won our last regular season game, 1-0, even though a guy from a so-so team (Augusta College) threw a no-hitter at us. So you see, despite all our good hitters, I wouldn't be that surprised to come up to your town and see a bunch of 1-0 games. You never know."

The Blazers' front five hitters — Dan Darden, Sam Bowen, Gene Felts, Jerome Register and Darrell Branam — are hitting over .300. Darden leads the team with "about a .360 average," according to the coach. Bowen is at "about .350" and Felts is "around .300. He has had an off-year so far after being a two-time National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics first team All-American," said Thomas of his left fielder

by the pros."

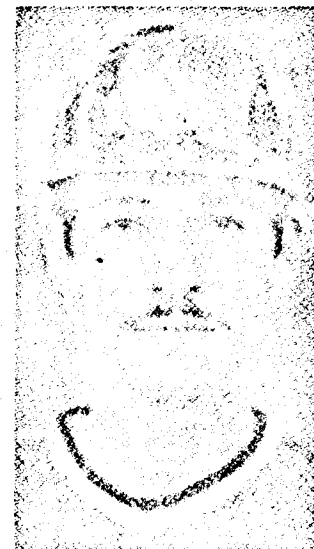
Bowen also is one of the Blazers' top pitchers, although he has started only two games and has a 2-1 record.

"He plays center field and we don't pitch him unless we absolutely need him," said Thomas, whose seven-year coaching record at Valdosta is 200-90. "Sam is our ace in the hole. He has a blazing fastball and a great curve, but we found out early in the year that his arm always bothers him for about a week after he pitches. His hitting kind of goes to pot, too, so we use him only in the case of absolute necessity."

The Blazers' "most outstanding" tourney hurler was reliever Marty LeFiles. "He doesn't throw hard enough to break a pane of glass," admitted Thomas, "but that rascal has the knack of getting us out of trouble. He has a very awkward delivery, but he really has been phenomenal in getting us out of tough spots."

Saturday's start may go to

"Bowen is probably our most gifted hitter as far as power goes. I believe he has about six homers. He has been drafted several times, and he is much sought-after



Gene Felts

freshman Bill Petty, who boasts an 11-1 record. "Petty is a left-hander, and he's been a great surprise," said Thomas. "He was the winning pitcher in our second regional game (an 11-4 victory over Eckerd). Our pitching still is a question mark on the whole. We're hoping it comes around in Springfield.

Thomas admits he knows

ILLINOIS STATE REGISTER

# Sports

Larry Harnly, Sports Editor

"next to nothing" about the Series teams, with the exception of defending champion University of California at Irvine. "Of course, I know they won it last year and are very strong again this year, but other than that I don't know a thing," he said.

The Anteaters rate as touney favorites in view of their No. 1 ranking by Collegiate Baseball, but being an underdog is nothing new to the Blazers.

"We were regarded as the outsider in our regional," said Thomas. "The three Florida teams (Rollins, Eckerd and 1971-72 champion Florida Southern) all have a tremendous rivalry, and I don't think we were given a shot at winning by many people."

Things started jelling for Valdosta, a school with about a 4,000 enrollment, about mid-season, says Thomas.

"Georgia Southern was ranked fourth when we played them in a double-header at mid-year and beat them twice. They had a 33-2

record going into the games, so I don't have to tell you how that helped us build some confidence. Then we played a strong Florida State team and beat them soundly, 15-1. Any claim to fame we have now can be traced back to those games."

One thing the Blazers have going for them is past World Series experience — even though that experience didn't come in NCAA play.

"We're in the process of changing from the NAIA to NCAA, and we're actually competing in both this year," said Thomas. "Last year we finished tied for third in the NAIA series in Phoenix. They decided last year to let two teams which had the same record tie for third, so that's where the tie comes from."

"When we started this season, my main goal was to get back into the NAIA Series field. I never dreamed we could get in the NCAA field. But I'll tell you something. These guys have made believers out of me."



### BLAZER BOMBERS

Returning to form of the 1974 Blazer baseball team are outfielders Jerome Register, left, Sam Bowen and Gene Felts, right. Felts, who was named first team NAIA All-American the last two years, led last year's team with a .368 average. Bowen, who plays center field and pitches, led the team with seven homers and 36 RBIs. Register, who plays right field, drove in 34 runs and hit for a .305 average.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat

## Salukis fourth, Cougars eighth in final poll

TUCSON, ARIZ. (AP) — Miami of Florida and the University of Texas are co-champions in the final rankings of the season by Collegiate Baseball newspaper.

The Salukis of SIU-Carbondale were fourth, while the SIU-Edwardsville Cougars were 8th in the college division.

Miami and Texas each team received 489 of a possible 500 points Monday, displacing the University of Arizona for the first time this season.

UNIVERSITY DIVISION	
1. (Tie) Miami	489
2. Texas	489
3. Oklahoma	488
4. Southern Illinois-Carbondale	486
5. Southern California	484
6. Northern Colorado	480
7. Arizona	476
8. Seton Hall	470
9. South Carolina	469
10. Harvard	465
SECOND 10: Georgia South, Cal State-Los Angeles, Louisiana Tech, Vanderbilt, Pan American, Minnesota, Iowa, Miami of Ohio, Arizona State, Santa Clara.	
COLLEGE DIVISION	
1. California-Irvine	485
2. Valdosta State	480
3. Ohio Northern	477
4. New Haven	476
5. New Orleans	473
6. Central Missouri	470
7. Puget Sound	469
8. Southern Illinois-Edwardsville	465
9. Florida Southern	464
10. Cal State-Fullerton	460
SECOND 10: Eckerd, Rollins, Western Illinois, Delta State, Eastern Illinois, Ithaca, Cal State-Northridge, Montclair State, Union State, C.W. Post.	

### COLUMBUS (OHIO) DISPATCH

## ON Puts Mark On Line Against Central Missouri

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio — Ohio Conference champion Ohio Northern puts its 23-7 record on the line Saturday against Central Missouri State (29-12) in one of three opening games of the NCAA College Division baseball championships.

Defending champion California-Irvine (44-7) goes against New Haven (24-6), and Valdosta, Ga. (33-11) meets New Orleans (30-12) in Saturday's other games.

The six-team, double-elimination touney continues through Wednesday.

The NCAA did not begin a College Division World Series until 1968. Since that time, five different teams have been champions.

1968	.....	Chapman (Calif.)
1969	.....	Illinois State
1970	.....	Northridge State (Calif.)
1971	.....	Florida Southern
1972	.....	Florida Southern
1973	.....	UC-Irvine
1974	.....	UC-Irvine

VALDOSTA STATE COLLEGE 1974 BASEBALL

# The NCAA

## Valdosta State Eyes First National Championship

By JULIAN MILLER

Tommy Thomas' Blazers have a lot of nerve.

In their first year ever in National Collegiate Athletic Association play, they have the nerve to think they can win the Division II tournament.

So does Tommy Thomas.

"I see no reason why we can't win this tournament," Thomas said of the NCAA Division II nationals to begin Saturday in Springfield, Ill.

"If we hit the way we did in Lakeland (Fla.) last week nobody is going to beat us. We'll have to be a winner."

Thomas was referring to the NCAA South Atlantic District tournament in Lakeland, Fla.,

last week, in which his Blazers chalked up 54 hits in four games to clinch the divisional title and the national bid for the first year ever in NCAA play.

Last year they campaigned in the smaller National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and finished in a two-way tie for third place in the national tournament.

"The boys, I feel, are really anxious to go to this tournament from the point of view of playing baseball, Thomas said. "And they feel it's not past reality to set their goals to be the national champions.

"I think the same way as the boys. We can definitely win it,

but all must go well. We're going to have to hit like we did in Lakeland and get a little better performance from our pitchers to do it."

Ironically, before the Lakeland tournament, Thomas had to warn his Blazers, who had already compiled their best regular season record ever in Blazer History (35-10), under stiff competition, that they would have to come out of a hitting slump to stay alive in the district play. For the 10 games prior to the tournament, VSC had chalked up only 17 hits, but had managed to win every time.

The tournament, however, was a different ball game and

the Valdostans played it as such. The booming bats of VSC set a Blazer precedent for hits and more than backed up the troubled pitching efforts of the team.

"The pitchers should give a better performance," Thomas admitted. "I don't think we performed as well as we could in the district.

"We've got better pitchers than what we showed. There's no sense getting hit or walking everyone around like we did."

Thomas plans to go with freshman Steve McDiffitt (7-2 in their 5 p.m. (6 p.m. ESDT) clash with University of New Orleans (Formally Louisiana State University at New

Orleans) at 5 p.m. Saturday.

University of California at Irvine, the defending national champions, start things off with a 2 p.m. game against New Haven College in the double-elimination, five-day tournament.

Western Missouri State and Ohio Northern follow at 8 p.m.

For the second game, Thomas plans on going with his second freshman, the team ace, left-hander Bill Petty (11-1) following the same rotation system used in the district tournament.

The Blazers are scheduled to leave the VSC gym at 7 a.m. Friday to catch a 9:30 p.m. flight from Tallahassee, Fla. to Springfield, Thomas said.

# McDiffitt To Open Tourney For VSC

By MIKE CHASON

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—Although his coaches have been pounding into him all week that the NCAA national college baseball tournament is nothing to be afraid of, freshman pitcher Steve McDiffitt refuses to think of today's first round contest as "just another game".

McDiffitt, 5-0 on the year, is scheduled to hurl Valdosta State College's opening game against the University of New Orleans' Privateers in a 6 p.m. (EDT) outing.

"I'm trying not to get too nervous, but it's kinda' hard to think about it as just a regular game," McDiffitt said.

"Those guys (Rollins College) hit me all over the place down in Lakeland, Fla. (site of the NCAA South Atlantic Region tourney last weekend) and I just hope I can do better of the NCAA South Atlantic Region tourney ter."

McDiffitt lasted only three and one-third innings in the Blazers' first round game in the Lakeland tourney as he was rocked for four hits and four runs including a three-run homer.

"I'm glad marty (LeFiles) was able to come in and do the job on them," McDiffitt said. "He's just a great pitcher."

LeFiles came off the bench as he has done many times this season to quench a Rollins rally and hold the fort until the Blazer bats started booming to secure a 13-6 VSC victory.

Valdosta State went on to win the tour-

namment and consequently earn the trip to the national finals.

McDiffitt, a New Martinsville, W. Va. native, is slated to face some mighty tough opposition in the form of the Privateers' ace hurler, Terry Kieffer.

Kieffer is a southpaw who has compiled an amazing 13-0 record this year coupled with a 1.88 ERA.

"He (Kieffer) must be a tough pitcher," McDiffitt admitted, "but he can't be any better than (Tom) Brennen. (Lewis College pitching star who beat VSC earlier in the year.)

"I don't feel any extra pressure just because I'm a freshman. I just feel pressure about pitching in the National Tournament."

It's no small wonder that McDiffitt has gotten over the usual rookie fears since he has faced and beaten several outstanding teams this year including national powers Georgia Southern and Florida State University.

"I think if we get our hitting and pitching together like we did down in Lakeland, we'll win this thing," McDiffitt predicted. "We'll just have to wait and see who gets the breaks."

The Blazers, 38-11, and the Privateers, 30-12, are both making their first appearance in the five-day double-elimination tournament.

Radio station WGAF is scheduled to broadcast a live play-by-play account of the game beginning at 5:55 p.m. EDT.

## Hospitals

<b>SOUTH GEORGIA MEDICAL CENTER</b>	
VISITING HOURS	
Morning: 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon	
<b>FAMILY ONLY</b>	
No AM Visiting on Maternity	
Afternoons: 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM	
Maternity: 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM	
Evenings: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	
Pendleton Park	242-3450
Emergency Ambulance	244-4000

South Ga Medical Center Pendleton Dr -----244-4000

When JERRY DENNIS isn't playing  
baseball, he spends a lot of  
his time here.

# VSC CAPSULE

Jean Holland, editor

VALDOSTA  
STATE COLLEGE  
Valdosta, Georgia 31601

Vol. 8, No. 32

ISSUED BY THE COLLEGE RELATIONS OFFICE

5/31/74

## BASEBALL AND GOLF BLAZERS HEAD FOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

The VSC Baseball Blazers and Golf Blazers are heading out in two directions for national tournaments this weekend.

Thanks to their NCAA Division II South Atlantic Region Tournament win at Lakeland, Fla., May 24-26, COACH TOMMY THOMAS' VSC baseball team is to play in the NCAA Division II National Tournament at Springfield, Ill., June 1-5.

They pulled out of the VSC gym parking lot this morning (May 31) in a Valdosta State bus bound for Tallahassee, where they were to take a plane for Springfield.

PRESIDENT S. WALTER MARTIN made a brief, "good luck" send-off speech and COACH THOMAS offered a prayer for a safe trip, while assistant coach DR. DAVE WAPLES sent one of the players for a teammate who was sleeping peacefully in his room in Patterson Hall at departure time, 7 a.m. Even so, the bus left at 7:15, with sleepy late-comer on board.

A less eventful departure is wished COACH BILLY GRANT and his Blazers golf team, who leave Valdosta Municipal Airport Saturday at 3 p.m. for Aberdeen, S.D., where they are to compete in the NAIA National Golf Tournament.

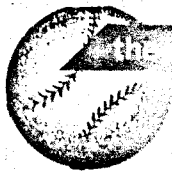
\* \* \*

Although VALDOSTA STATE was beaten 13-9 by New Orleans, in the first round of the NCAA World Series, the BLAZERS did set both a World Series and team record. Their 5 double-plays helped off-set 9 walks, 2 hit batters and 14 hits.

VALDOSTA STATE's very first official baseball game was in 1955, when VSC blasted Piedmont 19-1. The then, Rebels ended the season 6-5.

## Final SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

	WON	LOST
Valdosta State .....	16	2
Columbus .....	14	6
Armstrong State ...	12	8
Augusta .....	8	12
West Georgia .....	4	14
Southern Tech .....	4	16



# COLLEGIATE BASEBALL

Friday, June 7, 1974

## TEAM RECORDS

### DISTRICT 1

American Int 9-11  
 Castleton 4-10  
 Coast Guard 11-5  
 Connecticut 12-9  
 Hartford 8-4  
 Harvard 28-9  
 Maine-Farm 7-6  
 Maine-Orono 15-5  
 Massachusetts 6-14  
 MIT 15-7  
 New Hampshire 11-4

### DISTRICT 2

Adelphi 20-4  
 American 8-9  
 Brockport St 18-7  
 Brown 14-16  
 Bucknell 3-19  
 Buffalo St 2-6  
 City Coll NY 2-18  
 Clarion 9-7  
 Cornell 13-19  
 Cortland 6-5  
 Delaware 25-8  
 Drew 8-7  
 Drexel 3-15  
 E Connecticut 31-5  
 Fairl Dick 22-9  
 Fordham 12-12  
 Frank & Marsh 15-12  
 Fredonia 4-7  
 Geneseo 3-11  
 Glassboro St 16-10  
 Grove City 8-10  
 Hobart 10-9  
 Indiana Pa 12-11  
 Iona 10-13  
 Ithaca 18-7  
 Jersey City St 8-11  
 Juniata 10-10  
 Kean 10-8  
 Lafayette 18-6  
 LeMoyne-Owen 10-12

### DISTRICT 3

Alabama 37-16  
 Alabama St 20-13  
 Alcorn 19-11  
 Belhaven 19-8  
 Berry 17-9

Birm Southern 41-10  
 Bridgewater 11-10  
 Campbell 27-10  
 Carson-Newman 23-10  
 Columbus 25-22

Davidson 10-15  
 E Carolina 17-11  
 Elon 22-7  
 Ferris St 22-16  
 Florence St 22-10  
 Florida 21-17  
 Francis Marion 18-12  
 Frostburg St 25-12  
 Furman 14-20  
 Georgia 9-18  
 Georgia So 45-12  
 Georgia Tech 20-17  
 Grambling 22-8  
 High Point 32-8  
 Jackson St 26-9  
 Jacksonville St 38-17  
 Livingston 18-23  
 Maryville 22-10  
 Memphis St 24-22  
 Miami 48-9  
 Miss Coll 13-18

### DISTRICT 3

Murray St 36-14  
 Navy 16-6  
 Nicholls St 31-20  
 NW La St 23-20  
 Rollins 28-18  
 So Alabama 30-8  
 So Carolina 44-6  
 SE Louisiana 16-18  
 So Miss 16-12  
 Southern 28-16  
 Spring Hill 21-11  
 Stetson 30-13  
 Stillman 18-8  
 Troy St 22-13  
 Union U Tenn 18-24  
 Valdosta 35-10  
 Vanderbilt 36-20  
 Wake Forest 7-21  
 Wash & Lee 7-10  
 W Carolina 11-14

### DISTRICT 4

Anderson 15-13  
 Aquinas 17-6  
 Asbland 16-9  
 Aurora 15-10  
 Ball St 13-12  
 Bethel 17-1  
 Buena Vista 23-10  
 Butler 24-10  
 Cedarville 15-8  
 Centr Mich 22-9  
 Cincinnati 29-14  
 Cleveland St 12-20  
 Concordia 4-12  
 DePauw 6-23  
 E Illinois 22-14  
 E Mich 31-19  
 Evansville 26-17  
 Franklin 11-9  
 Illinois 27-11  
 Ill Bn 22-11  
 Ill-Chic Circle 14-22  
 Illinois St 20-14  
 Indiana 19-21  
 Indiana Centr 13-23  
 Iowa 27-13  
 Luther 7-16  
 Miami O 30-18  
 Michigan 18-16

Michigan St 23-16  
 Minnesota 24-11  
 North Park 8-16  
 Northwestern 21-15  
 Ohio 26-12  
 Ohio North 20-6  
 Ohio St 15-23  
 Otterbein 11-6  
 Purdue 14-18  
 Ripon 7-6  
 St. Cloud St 13-10  
 St Josephs 15-13  
 St Mary's 14-11  
 So Ill Carb 40-8  
 So Ill Edw 25-10  
 SW Minn St 21-14  
 Toledo 22-17  
 Upper Iowa 12-9  
 Valparaiso 16-8  
 Wabash 15-17  
 Wayne St 20-20  
 W Illinois 28-10  
 W Michigan 22-19  
 Wisconsin 15-21  
 Wise Eau Claire 8-8  
 Wise Oshkosh 24-9  
 Wise Whitewater 14-8

### DISTRICT 5

Cameron 24-15  
 Cent Mo St 26-11  
 Chadron 6-29  
 Harris Teach 26-12  
 Kansas 17-22  
 Kearney St 27-15  
 Mankato St 22-13  
 Mo Southern 33-19  
 Mo Western 37-19  
 Nebraska 13-27  
 Neb Omaha 18-12  
 Neb Wesleyan 14-11  
 NE Missouri 23-14  
 Northwestern 14-13

NW Missouri 27-13  
 Oklahoma 40-6  
 Okla Baptist 16-18  
 Okla Christian 27-10  
 Oklahoma St 24-17  
 Oral Roberts 24-22  
 Phillips 25-13  
 St Louis 10-24  
 Southeastern St 38-12  
 SE Missouri St 17-13  
 Southwestern St 18-10  
 SW Missouri 21-11  
 Tarkio 7-17  
 Wm Jewell 23-8

### DISTRICT 6

Dallas Bapt 27-22  
 Henderson St 24-10  
 Jarvis 19-9  
 Lubbock Chr 41-17  
 N Mex Highlands 24-16

Southwestern 32-20  
 Tex Lutheran 19-18  
 Tex Sou 20-9  
 Tex Wesleyan 34-15

### DISTRICT 7

Air Force 18-14  
 Arizona 58-4  
 ASU 39-24  
 Boise St 19-18  
 Brigham Young 29-15  
 Colorado St 14-26  
 Ft Hays St 23-15  
 Gonzaga 42-11  
 Grand Canyon 37-16

Idaho 18-19  
 Idaho St 13-16  
 New Mexico 28-23  
 So Colo St 15-21  
 So Utah St 7-18  
 Texas El Paso 24-27  
 Utah 18-25  
 Weber St 20-24  
 Wyoming 28-28

### DISTRICT 8

Azusa Pac 29-17  
 Cal Irvine 44-7  
 Cal Northridge 24-24  
 Cal St LA 34-16  
 Cal Stanislaus 24-22  
 Cal Poly Pom 24-26  
 Cal Poly SLO 32-23  
 Cal Santa Barb 17-23  
 Centr Wash 22-10  
 Claremont-Mudd 23-14  
 Fresno St 38-20  
 Idaho, Coll of 11-18  
 LaVerne 34-7  
 Lewis-Clark 11-15  
 Linfield 18-11  
 Loyola LA 19-32

Occidental 17-13  
 Pacific 11-18  
 Pac Lutheran 8-20  
 Pepperdine 37-10  
 Pomona-Pitzer 11-15  
 Redlands 15-16  
 San Diego St 37-24  
 San Diego U 27-15  
 San Jose St 24-26  
 Santa Clara 38-17  
 So Calif 43-18  
 Stanford 24-23  
 W Wash St 2-17  
 Whitman 8-19  
 Willamette 10-16

## UCal-Irvine May Repeat As Champion

JACKSONVILLE, Ill. — University of California at Irvine, with 29 straight victories over a two-month period, went into the NCAA Division II (College) tournament a strong favorite.

The tourney, just getting underway as "Collegiate Baseball" went to press, saw New Haven, 20-5, clashing with the Californians in one featured game; strong Valdosta State, 35-10, playing New Orleans U., 26-11; and Northern Ohio, 20-5 clashing with Central Missouri, 23-10.

Finalists in regional play included C.W. Post, 19-6; MIT, 15-7; Ithaca, 18-7; Adelphi, 20-4 and Montclair, 23-12, in the Northeast; Eckerd, 27-10; Florida Southern, 23-13; Rollins, 28-18, in the South Atlantic.

Western Illinois, 27-10; Southern Illinois of Edwardsville, 25-10; and Valparaiso, 15-7, in the Mideast; Maryville, Tenn, 22-10; Alabama State, 22-9; Nicholls State, 31-20, in the South; Mankato State, 21-11, and Nebraska Wesleyan, 23-12, in the Midwest; and Puget Sound, 21-4 and California State, Fullerton, 37-15 in the West.

# Texas, Miami Share Lead In Final Poll Of Season

**By COLLEGIATE BASEBALL**  
The final college baseball poll of the season was scrambled as one major upset featured NCAA district play.

The University of Arizona, No. 1 rated team all season, was upset by Northern Colorado in the District 7 playoffs in two straight games, thus tumbled to the No. 7 spot while Miami of Florida and Texas University shared the top spot in a rare tie.

Miami owns a 48-9 record while co-leader Texas ended with 52-5.

The latest poll was put together just prior to the start of play in the College Division and NAIA national championships. The poll rated University of California of Irvine No. 1 in the college division and another California team, La-

Verne, on top in the NAIA division.

UCal Irvine was 44-7 on the season and hasn't been defeated in two months of play while winning 29 straight. LaVerne was 34-6 going into the NAIA championships with strong pitching as its most potent weapon.

Behind the top two frontrunners in the University Division ratings were Oklahoma, 40-6, which made a shambles of the Big 8 race with a squad that showed strength in all phases of the game; and the District 4 aspirants for the national championship, S. Illinois, 47-10.

Rounding out the top 10 were: 5 — USC, 43-18; 6 — Northern Colorado, 31-11; 7 — Arizona, 58-6; 8 — Seton Hall, 30-8; 9 — South Carolina, 44-6; 10 — Harvard, 28-9.

Final power index ratings for the 1974 season:  
UNIVERSITY DIVISION

1. (tie) Miami, Fla.	489
2. Texas U.	489
3. Oklahoma	488
4. Southern Illinois	486
5. USC	484
6. Northern Colorado	480
7. Arizona	476
8. Seton Hall	470
9. South Carolina	469
10. Harvard	465

SECOND TEN

11. Georgia Southern; 12. Calif. State, L.A.; 13. Louisiana Tech.; 14. Vanderbilt; 15. Pan American; 16. Minnesota; 17. Iowa; 18. Miami, O.; 19. Arizona
--

State; 20. Santa Clara.

THIRD TEN

21. Texas A&M; 22. Texas Christian; 23. Tulsa; 24. Pepperdine; 25. Eastern Carolina; 26. St. John's (N.Y.); 27. Penn State; 28. Murray State; 29. Oregon; 30. Gonzaga.
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CONTENDERS — Brigham Young, Butler, Buffalo (NY) State, Central Michigan, Cincinnati, Delaware, The Citadel, Fairleigh Dickinson, Florida State, Idaho State, Illinois, Lafayette, Maine, Michigan State, Missouri, Navy, New Hampshire, North Carolina State, Ohio U., Princeton, Providence, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, St. Joseph's, San Diego State, South Alabama, Stetson, Tennessee, Tulane, Washington State, Wisconsin.

COLLEGE DIVISION

1. UCal, Irvine	485
2. Valdosta State	480
3. Ohio Northern	477
4. New Haven	476
5. New Orleans U.	473
6. Central Missouri	470
7. Puget Sound	469
8. Southern Illinois-Ed.	465
9. Florida Southern	464
10. Calif. State, Fullerton	460

SECOND TEN

11. Eckerd; 12. Rollins; 13. Western Illinois; 14. Delta State; 15. Eastern Illinois; 16. Ithaca; 17. Calif. State, Northridge; 18. Montclair St.; 19. Oneonta St.; 20. C.W. Post.
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NAIA DIVISION

1. La Verne	480
2. Lewis	476
3. Sam Houston State	475
4. David Lipscomb	474
5. High Point	470
6. Wisconsin-Oshkosh	464
7. Ft. Hays State	460
8. Ferris State	459
9. Linfield	456
10. Point Park	451

SECOND TEN

11. Claremont-Mudd; 12. Birmingham-Southern; 13. Frostburg St.; 14. East. Conn.; 15. Pfeiffer; 16. Mo. Western; 17. Lubbock Christian; 18. Grand Canyon; 19. Southeastern Okla.; 20. Jackson State.
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This year's finish as number TWO in the nation, was the highest ever for a VALDOSTA STATE team.

Before their were separate polls for the NCAA and NAIA (this being the first year), VALDOSTA STATE ended EIGHTH in 1969, and TENTH in 1973. The BLAZERS have been listed among the contenders in 1965, 1970 and 1972.

EDDIE FISHER was the leading ERA pitcher in the nation in 1966, when he finished at 0.85. GENE FELTS led the nation in hits during 1973 with 78.

# UNO Aims Undefeated Ace At Blazers

By JULIAN MILLER

University of New Orleans' Privateers are pulling out all stops when they meet Valdosta State College's Blazers in their first game in the NCAA National baseball Playoffs Saturday.

The Privateers have tabbed their number one weapon, a left-handed pitcher named Terry Kieffer to take on the Blazers in the opening game of the "Small College World Series" and he's out to make VSC his 14th straight victim.

In his 14 victories so far this season, the Lake City, Minn. junior, one of three transfer students from Indian Hills Junior College in

Indiana, has struckout 78 batters, walked 51, in 109 2-3 innings with a blistering 1.88 ERA.

But the Privateers have also shown they can put the pressure on in other ways with a 30-12 record and the help of other pitchers Don Kunge (5-1) and Jeff Stokes (4-3).

The Privateers of UNO, formerly Louisiana State University at New Orleans, are just one of the four teams VSC hopes to out duel in the five-day double elimination tournament in Springfield, Ill.

Like UNC, VSC is making its first trip to the NCAA finals in its initial season in National Collegiate Athletic Association competition.

Coach Tommy Thomas' Blazers put their

33-11 record on the line against the Privateers in the second game of the NCAA finals. They clash at 5 p.m. (6 p.m. EDST).

Thomas plans to start freshman ace Steve McDiffitt (7-2).

In the first game the University of California at Irvine, the defending champions, meet the University of New Haven at 2 p.m.

Ohio Northern University meets Missouri Western College in the nightcap at 8 p.m. (9 p.m. EDST).

The UCI Anteaters have a little more experience. This is their second trip and they've got the national title, along with a blistering 44-7 record and 29-game win streak to support.

The Chargers of the University of New

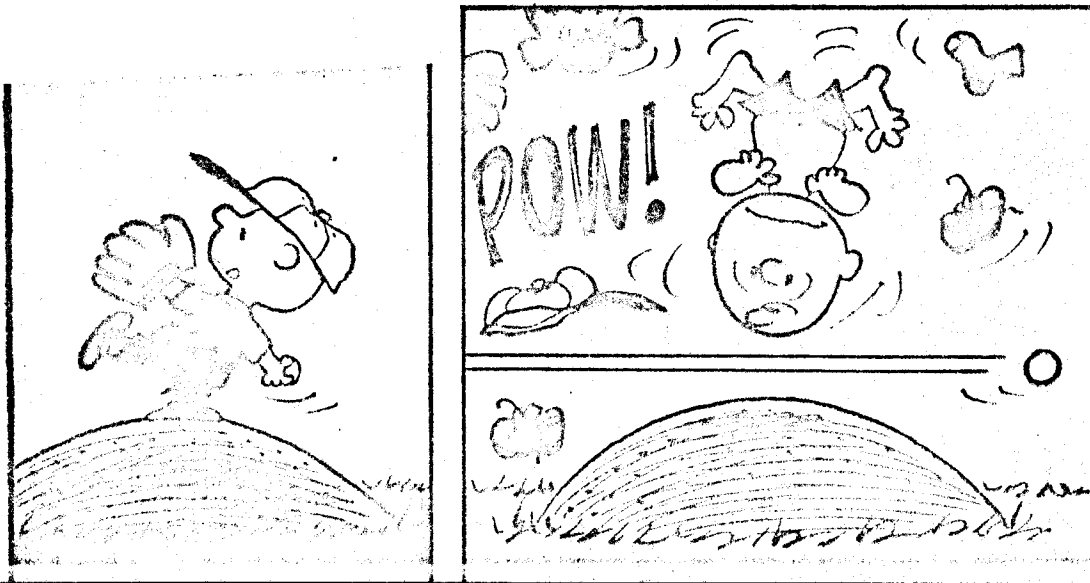
Haven (Conn.) are in their 12th consecutive season of post-season play but making their first trip to the NCAA finals.

And along with their 24-6 record, they bring the number one pitcher in the nationals judged by ERA, John Pulit.

The senior right hander has pitched seven games, winning six of them, with a 0.60 ERA. In relief, he has the undefeated Bob Mitchell (5-0) and powerful Bobby Powers (7-2) behind him.

In contrast, the Ohio Northern Polar Bears are making their first recent post-season trip and have gained the NCAA berth with a 23-7 record.

They'll be putting that up against Missouri Western College from St. Joseph.



COACH THOMAS delivers the "fatal pitch" to "Little 'D'" in Springfield!!!!



# Irvine Opens College Title Defense Today

By JIM WILDRICK

Can anyone take the National Collegiate Athletic Association College Division World Series crown from the defending champion University of California at Irvine?

Can any of the Series teams accomplish what no other team has been able to in over two months by winning a game from Irvine? Can the Anteaters' 29-game winning streak be snapped?

The pieces of those jigsaw-puzzle questions will begin fitting into place today when the seventh annual six-team, double-elimination Series gets under way at 2 p.m. at Lanphier Park. Irvine (44-7 record) faces New Haven (24-5) in the opener. Valdosta (Ga.) State tangles with New Orleans in a 5 p.m. matchup, while Central Missouri State and Ohio Northern collide at 8.

Irvine Coach Gary Adams says he hasn't determined his starting pitcher, but he has a number of hurlers

with impressive credentials to choose from. Heading the list is right-hander Gary Wheelock, who sports a 15-2 record and a 1.80 earned run average. Wheelock, who serves as designated hitter and has eight homers, 41 runs batted in and a .318

## TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS TODAY

Game 1, 2 p.m. — California-Irvine (44-11) vs. New Haven (24-5)  
Game 2, 5 — Valdosta State (38-11) vs. New Orleans (50-12)  
Game 3, 8 — Central Missouri State (26-11) vs. Ohio Northern (26-7)

## SUNDAY

Game 4, 2 p.m. — Loser 1 and 2  
Game 5, 5 — Winner 1 vs. Loser 3  
Game 6, 8 — Winners 2 and 3

## MONDAY

Game 7, 5 p.m. — Winner 4 vs. Loser 6  
Game 8, 8 — Winners 5 and 6  
Rest of pairings will be determined later.

average on the offensive side, won one Series game last year, as did returnees Ray Humphries and Jerry Maras. Humphries is 11-2 with a 3.65 ERA, while Maras, who stands 6 feet 6 and led the Anteater cage team in scoring this season with a 17.5 average, is 7-0 with a 2.25 ERA. Adams says he might start lefty Russ Johnson, who is 3-1 despite a 4.00 ERA. Johnson, a freshman, was Los Angeles prep player of the year last season.

The Anteaters have a batting average of .327, led by first baseman Jeff Malinoff. A two-time All-American, Malinoff recently had a 31-game hitting streak stopped but still sports a .369 average. Catcher Terry Stupy, voted the outstanding player in last year's tournament, also returns. He leads the team in hits with 74 and RBIs with 54.

Ron Maestri, the coach of New Orleans who formerly served in that capacity at Bradley and who handles the reigns of the Central Illinois Collegiate League's Peoria Pacers, plans to start junior left-hander Terry Kieffer against Valdosta. Kieffer has accounted for 13 of the Privateers' 30 victories and none of their 12 losses. "He throws a good curveball, slider and fastball and he's a great competitor," said Maestri.

Maestri says the Privateers' hitting has been their strong suit, and one of the

leaders is Tom Rima, who played for Peoria a year ago. Rima batted over .300 for the regular season and led the team in home runs (five) and RBIs (37). Another big stick is leftfielder Tom Fittsimones, who hit .351 in the regular season. Designated hitter Rick Pygmon chipped in with a .350 mark.

Valdosta has a 38-11 record, and Coach Tommy Thomas (whose seven-year coaching record at Valdosta is 200-90) says the Blazers are "an explosive type team."

It's not hard to see why Valdosta averaged 11 runs and 14 hits per game in winning the South Regional. And its top five hitters — Dan Darden, Sam Bowen, Gene Felts, Jerome Register and Darrell Branam — are hitting over .300. Darden leads the way with a .360 average.

Thomas has not designated his starting pitcher, but it could be lefty Bill Petty, whom Thomas called "a great surprise." Petty boasts an 11-1 record.

Central Missouri State, the first team to wrest a Series berth, has a 26-11 record and a .292 batting average. Coach Bob Tompkins says his Fighting Mules "like to put pressure on the other team. We're not a big power club, but we make pretty good contact."

Second baseman Bobby

New Haven Coach Frank Vieira, whose 12-year career record is 276-61, will counter offensively with first baseman Len Paglialonga, who carries a .388 batting average. Another top hitter is shortstop Joe Small, whose regular-season batting average was .333. Paglialonga and Rich Montoni led the Chargers in regular-season homers with three each.

Vieira plans to send left-hander Dave Schuler to the mound in the opener. Schuler, a 6-4, 265-pound junior, has a 5-1 record. Waiting in the wings is junior right-hander John Pulit, whose 0.60 ERA is the nation's best among Division II teams. Pulit is 6-1 with one save.

## College Series —

Continued From Page 10

Tuttle, whom Tompkins says "may well be a first-string All-American this year," leads the way with a .395 average. He also fields his position quite well, as evidenced by his sparkling .987 fielding percentage. Steve Luebbert, the team's designated hitter, who missed some games with a broken arm, sports a .368 average.

The Mules have some pitching, too, with Jim Crane and Ron Wissel leading the way. The staff has combined for seven shutouts, and Tompkins has tabbed Crane as the likely first-game starter. Crane is 6-2 with a 2.20 ERA, while Wissel is 5-2 with a 1.95 ERA.

Ohio Northern enters with a 26-7 mark and is coached by Herb Strayer, who indicated today's starting assignment might go to Ed Miklavcic. A sophomore right-hander, Miklavcic is 8-1 with an ERA under 2.00. "He's a fine fundamental pitcher," said Strayer, "and he throws smoke only when necessary."

First baseman Al Donhoff, who leads the team in hitting with a .339 average, also doubles as a pitcher. He has not allowed an earned run in "about 10 innings," according to Strayer. Speedster Steve Sharp has 31 of the Polar Bears' near-80 stolen bases and is hitting "about .300," according to Strayer. Sharp is a freshman center fielder.

Who's going to win the tournament? No one will know until at least Tuesday. But one thing is for sure. With a combined record of 188-54 (a 77.6 per cent winning edge), there will be plenty of good baseball on display.

Julian

*Miller*

Times Sports Editor

## Thomas Answers Field Criticism

Eight years ago, Tommy Thomas came to work for Valdosta State College as head baseball coach, inheriting a mediocre team and a less-than-glamorous baseball park.



MILLER

Today both are championship caliber. And both have taken quite a bit of work to get that way.

Somehow, without the aid of a big expense account most of his opponents have, the Valdosta native turned the VSC Blazers (then the VSC Rebels) into one of the top small college teams in the country.

The VSC park is now one of the best fields for baseball in South Georgia. And it took more than a few of his summer vacations to get it that way.

With that in mind, it is easy to see how Thomas could feel a little "disappointed" to bring his team back from their first NCAA

tournament ever with the championship trophy in tow, only to find allegations have been made during their absence to the effect that he is stingy with his field.

Tommy is the quiet type who doesn't like to stir up controversies, and he repeated that more than once when questioned about the allegations by a Valdosta councilman that the public is never allowed to use the VSC diamond.

But even he had to admit the comment deserves some rebuttal. And I've got to agree with the coach.

Too many times have I watched the Valdosta Red Sox, other colleges, area high school teams, American Legion, pony and midget league, and even city softball teams play and practice on the VSC diamond, each with Thomas' and the school's permission.

The Valdosta councilman reportedly objected to being met by a security officer every time someone approached the diamond without permission.

## No Harm Meant

Sounds like a compliment to the security force to me. After all, more than just a little work has gone into getting that field into shape, a field the team, school and town can be proud of.

Now some people, admittedly most people, probably had no intention of hurting the field when they went out there to play baseball.

But then the golfer Thomas caught, standing on the carpet-green infield, taking divot marks (60 of them at last count) had no intentions of hurting it either.

And the group that used the field, taking the bases out from under the dugout bench and placing them in the middle of the infield for shorter base paths, then leaving them there during a rain storm, didn't intend to hurt anything either.

And the thieves, who four times in recent years broke into a storage shed there to remove valuable equipment, didn't mean to hurt the field either. Obviously, they only wanted the equipment.

## Not Vindictive

"I'm not vindictive," Thomas emphasized. "I would just like to defend our record of cooperation in the county in regard to the Blazer baseball field.

"I've no desire to get into a political issue. But I have never refused permission to any group in Valdosta to use that field where there was no conflict with a VSC game or practice.

"I think common sense will dictate it can not be an open field for use."

Thomas was "disappointed" to find the article waiting for him when he returned from Lakeland, Fla.

"My program was put on trial and I would like to defend it. I can't speak in great knowledge, but I know of some community groups who have used the gym, too."

The gym and VSC tennis courts were also charged by the councilman as being unavailable for public use. But the most recent city tennis tournament was held on the VSC courts.

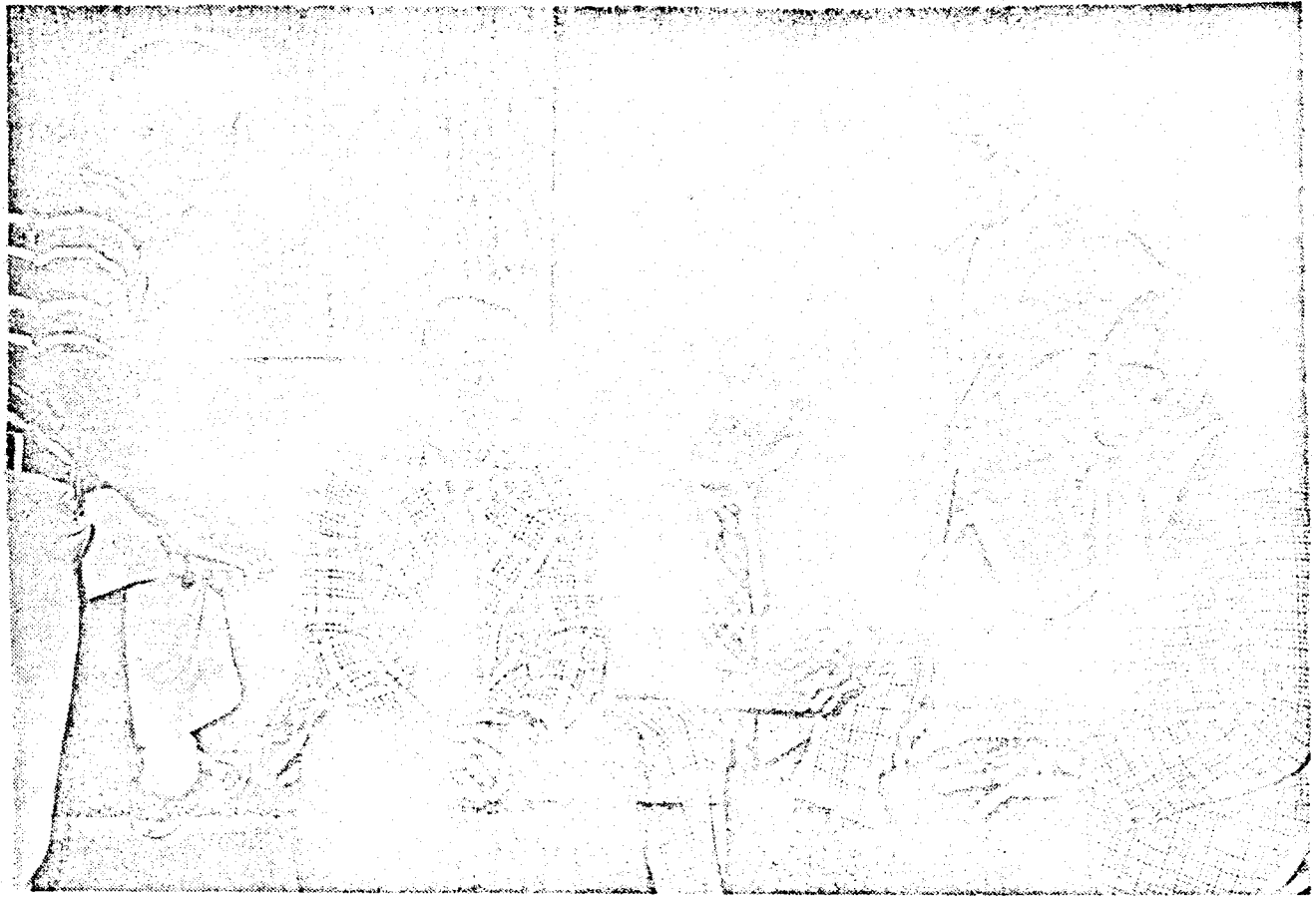
"The article (about the council discussion) indicated a lack of cooperation by the college baseball program I would like to correct. We've had four big thefts out there plus a lot of damage.

"We've just got to know who's out there and that they'll be responsible for the field when they use it."

*The State Journal-Register*

# Sports

10 Springfield, Saturday, June 1, 1974

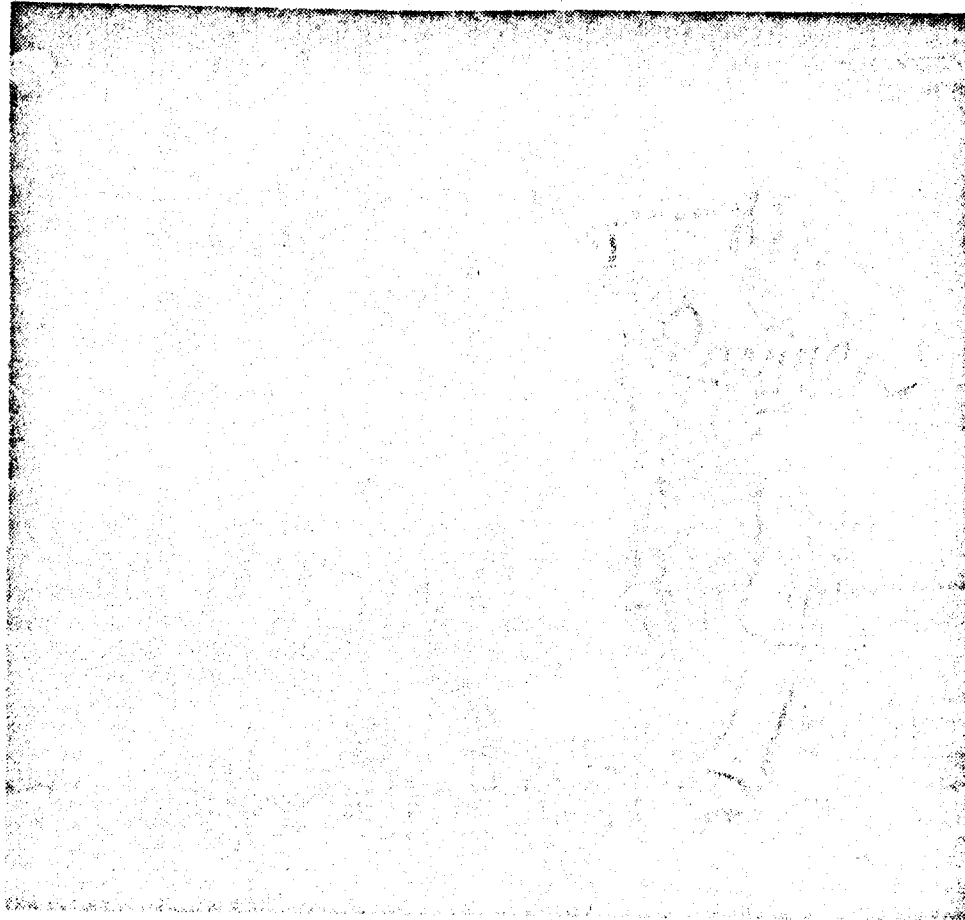


Five of the six coaches of teams in the National Collegiate Athletic Association College Division World Series got together for a chat before the tournament banquet at the Teamsters Union Hall Friday evening. They are, from left, Gary Adams of California-Irvine;

Ron Maestri of New Orleans; Herb Strayer of Ohio Northern; Frank Vieira of New Haven; and Tommy Thomas of Valdosta State. Bob Thompkins of Central Missouri State was unable to attend. — Staff Photo by Bill Hagen.

# Illinois State Journal

Oldest Newspaper In The State Of Illinois  
 SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



**FIRST GAME**

New Haven (2)		Irvine (6)	
	abr h		abr h
Small, ss	5 0 0	Bridges, cf	4 3 3
Pikor, rf	4 1 2	Belasco, rf	3 1 1
Montoni, dh	4 0 1	Stuy, c	2 1 0
Parl'oa, 1b	4 0 1	Malineff, 1b	4 1 2
Basso, cf	4 0 0	Spence, lf	3 0 0
Menswar, c	3 0 2	Whit'ad, ss	4 0 0
Keating, 3b	4 0 0	Anderson, 2b	3 0 2
Cipol'ni, 2b	3 0 0	Wheelock, p	3 0 0
a-Malma'st	1 0 1	Lyons, 3b	3 0 0
Renzulli, lf	3 1 1		
b-Savles	1 0 1		
c-Brown	0 0 0		

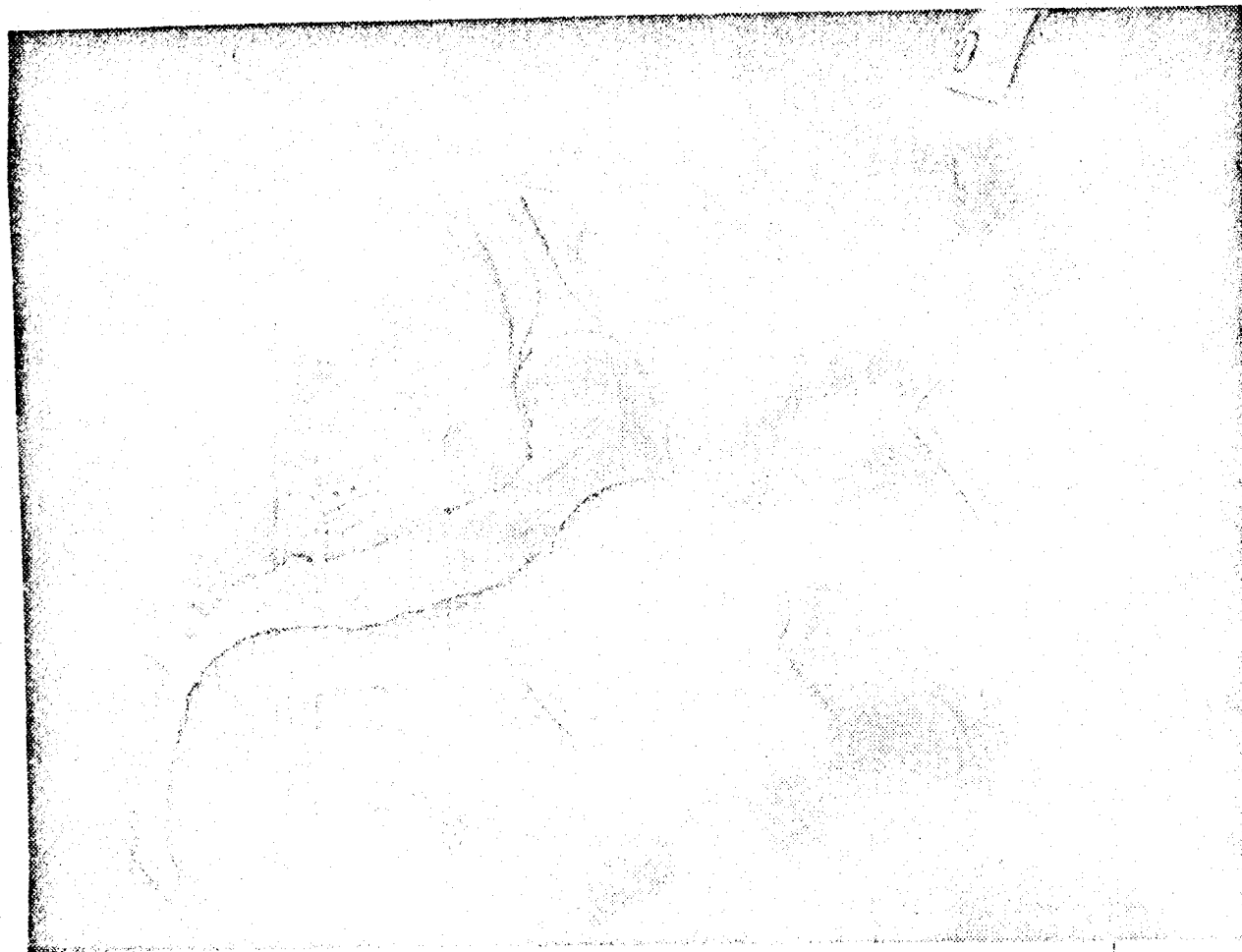
Totals 36 2 9 Totals 29 6 8  
 a-singled for Cipol'ni in 9th  
 b-singled for Renzulli in 9th  
 c-ran for Savles in 9th

New Haven 601 600 010-2  
 Irvine 100 001 04x-6  
 RBI — Bridges, Malineff 4, Parl'oa, Spence, E — Anderson, Small.  
 POA — N.H. 24 6, Irvine 27-10. DP —  
 Wheelock, Whitehead and Malineff.  
 LOB — New Haven 8, Irvine 3. 7B —  
 Pikor 2, HR — Bridges, SB — Bridges,  
 2, Renzulli, Malineff. SH — Belasco,  
 Stuy. SF — Spence.

ip h r er bb so  
 Schuler (L) 8 5 6 4 1 7  
 Wheelock (W) 9 9 2 1 0 6  
 HBP — By Wheelock (Menswar). U  
 — Jones, Fisher, Frank, T. C. 4

University of California at Irvine hurler Gary Wheelock delivers a pitch during opening-game action in the National Collegiate Athletic Association College World Series Saturday at Lanphier Park. Defending-champion Irvine beat New Haven, 6-2, with a four-run explosion in the bottom of the eighth inning. Wheelock, 16-2, went the distance, fanning seven and walking none. — Staff Photo by Barry Locher.

# UNO Bats Boom Valdosta Into Submission, 13-9



SITTING . . . BUT, PRETTY—Third baseman Chris Bareus of the University of New Orleans was sent spinning to the ground with a thud in a collision with Valdosta's Sam Bowen

—AP Wirephoto.  
Saturday in the opening round of the NCAA College Division World Series. Bareus held on to the ball, and Bowen was out on the throw from shortstop Bert Bereczky. NO won 13-9.

## Mound Ace Kieffer Uncommonly Wild

### But Bottom of Privateer Lineup Comes Through in Clutch

By TOM GAGE

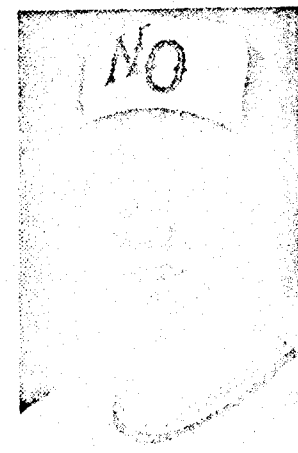
(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—Faced with the dilemma of having their ace Terry Kieffer, wild beyond recognition, the University of New Orleans responded with booming bats here Saturday to get by Valdosta State, 13-9, in the opening round of the College Division World Series.

While Kieffer never did find his rhythm on the mound, the Privateer hitters immediately found theirs at the plate, plastering four Blazer hurlers for 15 hits.

Tom Fitsimones had a home run and four runs batted in, Chris Bareus had three hits, but the biggest help came from the bottom of the lineup where two players who weren't even supposed to start contributed four hits and six RBI.

Catcher Randy Miller and shortstop Bert Dereczky were in the lineup only because regulars, Dennis Strode and Rudy Hardouin, were injured.



RANDY MILLER  
. . . gave NO punch

# The Times-Picayune

## NEW ORLEANS

Both replacements came up with probably their best game of the year.

Miller especially.

Randy came up with three hits and four RBI from the ninth position in the lineup. Boczky had a key double in the seventh.

And all the runs, all the hits, were needed as Valdosta was getting a break from Kieffer's unusual wildness.

Terry walked five in the first two innings and paid the price as Valdosta's superb center-fielder Sam Bowen cleared the bases in the second with a three-run triple.

The results that came in on that hit were the result of walks.

"I just never found my rhythm," Kieffer said after the game. "My slider wasn't working, neither was the curve.

"My arm wasn't bothering me at all. It isn't sore. While I was warming up before the game, I was really lipping it. I was throwing hard and the fastball was really moving.

"This is the worst control I've had all year."

So Kieffer went to his fastball, the only pitch he could depend on, it seemed, and consequently by the eighth inning he was tired.

"I must have thrown at one point 30 fastballs in a row."

Coach Ron Maestri took him out in the eighth in favor of Gil Mills.

"It was probably the first time this year I've had to pull him from a ball game," Maestri said.

"Any other guy I probably would have pulled earlier but Terry is such a great competitor. His pitches were moving but with the layoff since the regional, he had lost his rhythm."

But there were all those hitters who came to the rescue.

The Privaters got off to a 3-0 lead in the first with Rick Pygman driving in two with single. The Blazers tied it up in the second on Bowen's triple.

Fitsimones hit a three-run home run in the fourth as the Privateers were rallying for five.

Using a lighter bat, Fitsi-

Continued on Page 8

## UNO Is Ranked Fifth

University of New Orleans was ranked fifth in the Associated Press College Division poll released Monday.

The Privateers, currently playing in the College World Series in Springfield, Ill., trailed top-ranked California-Irvine, Valdosta State, which they beat, 13-9, Saturday, Ohio Northern and New Haven.

**NO lost to the No. 1 rated Anteaters in the winners' bracket game Monday night, 12-6.**

In the University Division, Texas and Miami (Fla.) were named co-champions.

Each team received 489 of a possible 500 points, displacing the University of Arizona for the first time this season.

Arizona tumbled to seventh place after a weekend loss in the NCAA District 7 playoffs to Northern Colorado.

The rankings:  
**University Division**  
1. (Tie) Miami Fla. 489  
2. Texas 489  
3. Oklahoma 488  
4. Southern Illinois 476  
5. Southern Cal 484  
6. Northern Colorado 480  
7. Arizona 476  
8. Seton Hall 470  
9. South Carolina 469  
10. Harvard 465  
Second 10: Georgia Southern, Cal State-Los Angeles, Louisiana Tech, Vanderbilt, Pan American, Minnesota, Iowa, Miami of Ohio, Arizona State, Santa Clara.

**College Division**  
1. California-Irvine 485  
2. Valdosta State 480  
3. Ohio Northern 477  
4. New Haven 476  
5. New Orleans 473  
6. Central Missouri 470  
7. West Coast 469  
8. Southern Ill-Edwardsville 465  
9. Florida Southern 464  
10. Cal State-Fullerton 460  
Second 10: Eckerd, Rollins, Western Illinois, Delta State, Eastern Illinois, Illinois, Cal State-Northridge, Montclair State, Union State, C.W. Post, State, Union State, C.W. Post.



—AP Wirephoto.

**CLOSE TO HIS HEART**—Steve McDiffit of Valdosta puts the tag on UNO's Tom Rima in Saturday's opening round game of College Division World Series. Rima was

trapped between second and third on a ground out by NO's Joe Roussel and was tagged out. NO won the slugfest, 13-9.

## Hot-Hitting UNO Saves Wild Kieffer

Continued from Page 1

mones said he hit a slider "the count several times an inning. hardest I've hit a ball all year."

Valdosta's Jack Greenhalgh came right back with a three-run shot of his own in the top of the fifth. The Blazers rallied for four runs at that time with Greenhalgh's the key hit. From there on, the game really depended on the bats of Miller and Bereczky.

Miller's triple in the fifth drove in two and both players drove in a run apiece in the eighth as the Privateers lengthened their lead to 13-3. The Blazers got to Kieffer in the eighth, though, and Maestri decided to go to Mills.

Mills did the job, getting the last four outs without incident. Kieffer, in all, walked seven hitters but was going to the full

Valdosta hurriers were even more generous, giving up eight free passes.

The Privateers Sunday will meet at 8 p.m. Central Missouri, which defeated Ohio Northern 2-0 Saturday night.

Earlier games will match Valdosta State and New Haven at 2 p.m. and Ohio Northern and California-Irvine at 5 p.m.

In the first game of the day defending champion California Irvine got off to a quick start ripping New Haven 6-2 in Game No. 1.

Jeff Malinoff's bases loaded double in the bottom of the eighth was the big hit for California-Irvine. It cleared the bases and gave the Anteaters a commanding 5-2 lead.

Malinoff, Cal's leading hitter on the season, earlier had driven in a run with a single and had four RBIs on the day.

Keith Bridges sent UCI into an early 1-0 lead, leading off in the bottom of the first with a belt over the left field fence.

New Haven had tied the game in their half of the eighth before succumbing to Malinoff's big hit.

The weatherman indeed came through for the opening day of the series with sunny skies and cool temperatures after a full week of rain. Despite the rain which ended Friday, Lanphier Park here was in excellent condition.

**VALDOSTA STATE**  
(ab-r-h) Dargatz, dh 4-1-0; Bowen, cf 4-0-3; Felts, cf 4-1-0; Register, rf 4-1-2; Branam, c 5-1-1; Greenhalgh, lb 5-1-1; Sumner, ss 3-1-0; Alford, 2b, 3-0-0; Musashe, dh 1-1-1; Reeves, ss 2-1-0; Bishop, dh 0-1-0; McDiffit, 0 0-0-0; Chadwick, p 0-0-0; Totals 30-9-8.

**NEW ORLEANS**  
(ab-r-h) Fitsimons, lf 3-2-1; Barcus, 3b 5-0-3; Rima, cf 4-1-2; Roussel, lb 3-1-0; Koc, rf 3-2-2; Pyeman, dh 2-1-1; Strode, ph 1-0-0; Gomes, pr 0-0-0; Bennett, 2b 1-1-0; Owen, ph 2-2-2; Bereczky, ss 5-2-1; Miller, c 4-1-3; Kieffer, p 0-0-0; Totals 33-12-15. Score by Innings:  
Valdosta State ..... 030 040 020 — 9  
New Orleans ..... 300 520 30x —13

RBI—Bowen 4, Branam 1, Greenhalgh 1. Fitsimons 4, Rima 1, Pyeman 1, Bereczky 2, Miller 4, E. Alford, DP — Valdosta 5; Left—Valdosta 3, New Orleans 7. 2B — Bereczky, Bowen 3B — Miller, Bowen, HR — Fitsimons, Greenhalgh 5B — Bowen, SF — Fitsimons.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
McDiffit	3	4	3	3	3	2
LeFites	7-3-2	4	4	1	0	0
Pursons	1-1-3	2	2	2	0	1
Chadwick	3-1-3-5	3	3	3	3	1
Kieffer	7 1/2	8	9	9	7	7
Mills	1	2-3	0	0	0	0

WINNER — Kieffer LOSER — McDiffit.  
WP — McDiffit, Mills, HBP — By McDiffit (Rima), Pyeman) D — Fisher, Jones, Piariski. T—2:50.

**—NEW HAVEN**  
ab-r-h Small ss 5-0-0; Piker rf 4-1-2; Montoni dh 4-0-1; Paolalunga lb 4-0-1; Basco cf 4-0-0; Menswar c 3-0-2; Keating 2b 4-0-0; Crabbell 12 3-0-0; Malinoff ph 1-0-1; Renzulli lf 3-1-1; Sayles ph 1-0-1; Brown pr 0-0-0. TOTALS 36-2-9.

**—IRVINE**  
ab-r-h Bridges cf 4-3-3; Belusco rf 3-1-1; Stupny c 2-1-0; Malinoff lf 4-1-2; Spence lf 3-0-0; Whitehead ss 4-0-0; Anderson 2b 3-0-2; Wheelock p 3-0-0; Lyons 3b 3-0-0; TOTALS 27-6-8.

Score by Innings:  
New Haven ..... 001 000 010—2  
U. C. IRVINE ..... 100 001 04x—6  
E-Anderson, Small, DP-Wheelock, Whitehead and Malinoff, LE-New Haven 8, Irvine 3, 2B-Piker 2, HR-Bridges 5B-Bridges 2, Renzulli, Malinoff, 5H-Belusco, Stupny, SF-Spence.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Schuler (L)	8	8	4	4	1	7
Wheelock	9	9	2	1	0	6

Winner-Wheelock, Loser-Schuler, HBP-By Wheelock (Menswar) U-Jones, Piariski, Fisher. T-2:31.

# Bombs Away!

## Privateers Outscore Blazers, 13-9

By STEVE ROBERTS

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The hitting was there, but the pitching wasn't and for Valdosta State College the result was a 13-9 loss to the New Orleans University Privateers in the first round of the NCAA Division II national baseball tournament here Saturday.

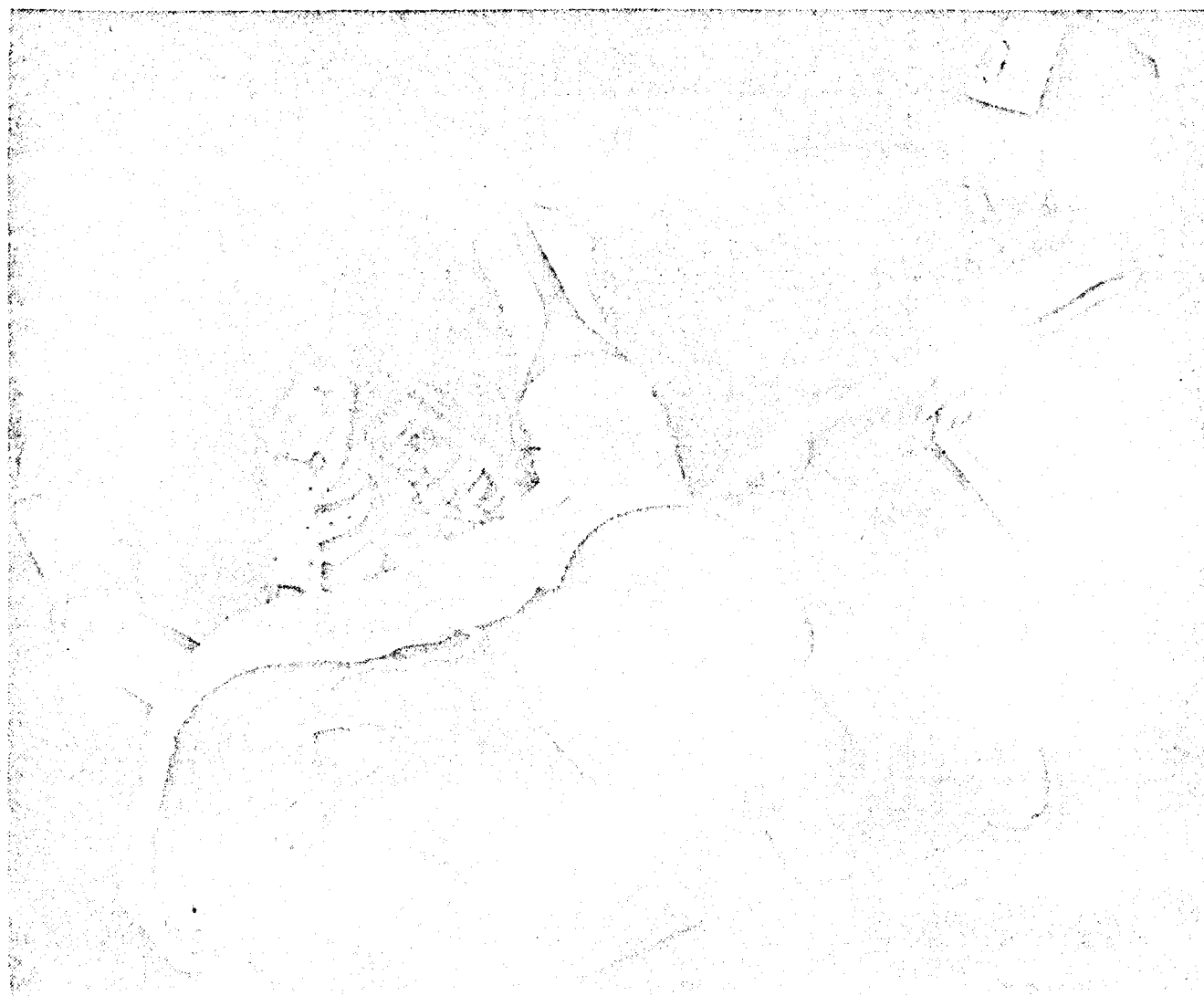
Coach Tommy Thomas' Blazers could not overcome an early five-run deficit in the wide open slugfest and fell into the loser's bracket of this six-team double elimination tourney.

VSC is to meet the New Haven College Chargers today at 3 p.m. EDT in a game it must win to keep alive any tournament championship hopes.

New Haven dropped a 6-2 decision to defending national champion Irvine (Calif.) in the tourney opener Saturday afternoon.

Thomas used four pitchers Saturday in an attempt to slow down the torrid Privateer hitting attack but never found a stopper.

Starter Steve McDiffitt was shelled early and departed in the fourth inning in favor of relief specialist Marty LeFiles. McDiffitt was touched for five runs in his brief stint, and LeFiles entered with two men on base and no outs.



## Pitching Worries Thomas

By MIKE CHASON

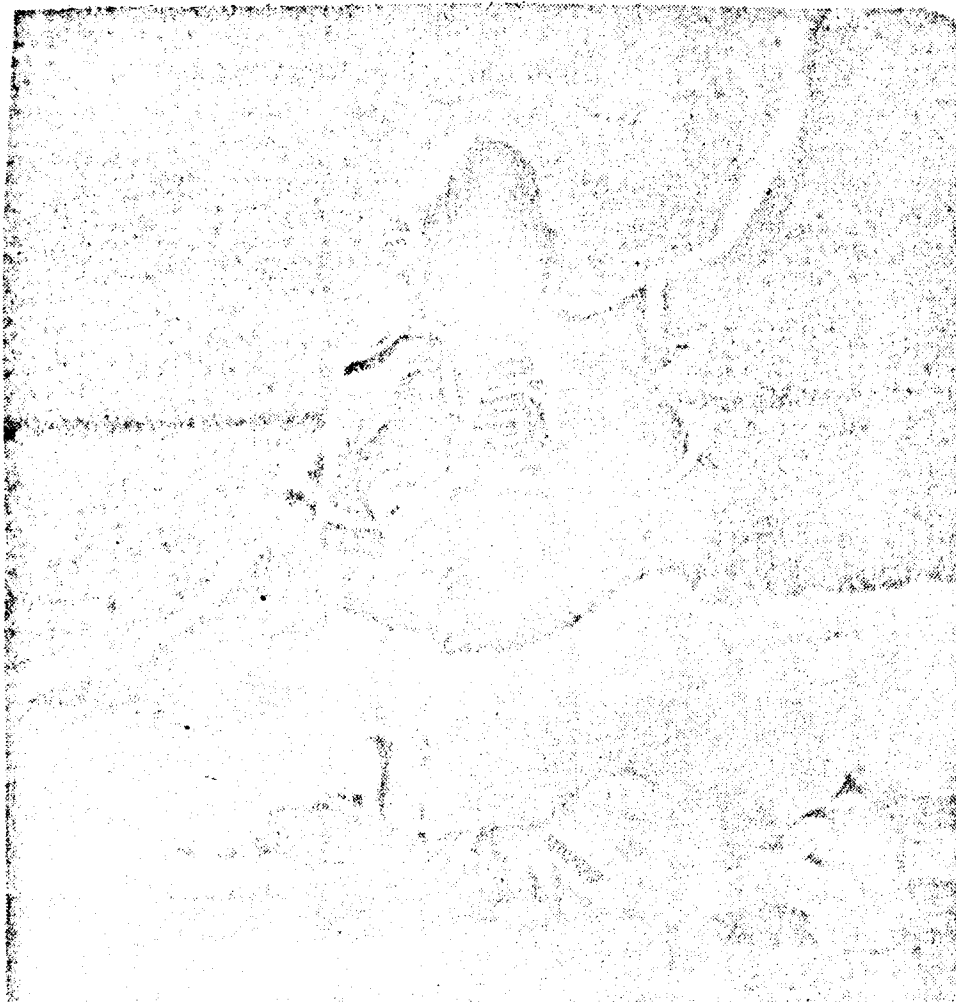
SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — What can you say as a coach when your team scores nine runs and loses? Well, if you're Valdosta State College's Tommy Thomas, you credit the New Orleans University hitting attack and look ahead to tomorrow.

"I was definitely disappointed in our pitching today," Thomas said after his Blazer nine had dropped a 13-9 decision to the Privateers in the opening round of the NCAA Division II national baseball tournament here.

"Their hitters (New Orleans) just did the job for them today. They got some big hits after we had made some pretty good defensive plays which I thought might hold them.

"But I haven't given up hope at all. We've lost the first game in a tournament before, and came back to do well."





Valdosta State catcher Darrel Branam puts the tag on New Orleans University's Chris Barcus in first inning action Saturday at Lanphier Park in the second game of the National Collegiate Athletic Association College Division World Series. The play evolved when Barcus singled, went to second on Tom Rima's single and moved to third on a wild pitch. The Privateers then loaded the bases, but Mike Kee grounded to first baseman Jeff Greenhalgh and he stepped on first and then threw home as Branam put the tag on Barcus for the out. Valdosta didn't do that enough, though, as New Orleans pounded out 15 hits on its way to a 13-9 victory. — Staff Photo by Barry Locher.

# New Orleans Triumphs In 13-9 NCAA Slugfest

By LLOYD HERBERG

A pitcher's duel it wasn't. But if you're one who enjoys high-scoring slugfests then Saturday's University of New Orleans-Valdosta State National Collegiate Athletic Association College Division World Series game at Lanphier Park was your cup of tea.

A total of 23 hits, two hit batsmen and 17 bases on balls were produced — with two homers, two triples and two doubles — and New Orleans collected 15 of those hits for a 13-9 victory.

New Orleans set the stage for what to expect when it opened with three runs in the first inning — two on Richard Pygman's two-out single. Valdosta came back to tie the score in the second when Sam Bowen cleared the bases with a bases-loaded triple, but New Orleans bounced right back with five in the fourth — three on Tom Fitsimones' home run over the leftfield fence at the 340-foot sign.

Valdosta, though, was not about to let the Privateers have all the fun. It came back with its biggest scoring explosion, getting four in the fifth — three on Jeff Greenhalgh's home run over the rightfield fence.

After New Orleans scored two in the bottom of the fifth, the Privateers finally

put the game out of reach when they came up with three more in the seventh on four hits, including Mike Kee's run-scoring double.

The Blazers' last effort came in the eighth when they scored twice, knocking out starting pitcher Terry Kieffer, as Bowen again had the big hit, a run-scoring double. Bowen finished the day three-for-four with four runs batted in, while Fitsimones and teammate Randy Miller had four RBIs apiece.

The victory was New Orleans' 31st against 12 defeats, while it dropped Valdosta to 38-12 in the double-elimination tournament.

Despite giving up eight hits, seven walks and nine runs — all earned — Kieffer was the winning pitcher, picking up his 14th decision against no defeats. Valdosta starter Steve McDiffitt was the loser, going three innings and giving up four runs. Hardest hit for the Blazers was reliever Marty LeFiles as he could only go one-third of an inning while giving up four runs.

"We've hit the ball all year," New Orleans Coach Ron Maestri said. "This is no excuse for Terry, either, but he hadn't thrown all week and he just didn't have his rhythm. The kid's a competitor, though, and with him we know what kind of

game he'll give.

"We've got to go with him as long as we can. My only concern with him was in him getting his work in. Anybody else we would have had him out of there earlier.

"It just finally got to the point, though, that he was tired and was just huffing and puffing out there."

There was no doubt that

Continued On Page 53

## SECOND GAME

Valdosta (9)		New Orleans (13)	
ab	r h	ab	r h
Darden	4 1 0	Fitsimones II	3 2 1
Bowen cf	4 0 3	Barcus 7b	5 0 3
Fitsif	4 1 0	Rima cf	4 1 2
Register cf	4 1 2	Greenhalgh 1b	3 1 0
Branam c	5 1 1	Kee 1b	3 2 2
Greenhalgh 1b	5 1 1	Pygman dh	2 1 1
Summer 3b	3 1 0	d Strode	1 0 0
Alford 7b	3 0 0	e Jones	0 0 0
b Murash 2b	1 1 1	LeFiles lf	1 1 0
Reeves ss	2 1 0	a-Owen 2b	2 2 2
c-Bishop 3b	0 1 0	Berezckivis	5 2 1
		Miller c	4 1 3

Totals 35 9 8 Totals 33 13 15

a Singled for Bennett in 5th

b Singled for Alford in 8th

c Walked for Reeves in 8th

d Force out for Pygman in 8th

e Ran for Strode in 8th

Valdosta 020 040 020—9

New Orleans 300 520 39x—13

RBI — Rima, Pygman, Bowen 4;

Berezcky 2; Miller 4; Fitsimones 4;

Branam, Greenhalgh, E — Alford, PO

A — Valdosta 14, N.O. 27. DP —

Greenhalgh and Branam; McDiffitt,

Greenhalgh, Summer and Reeves;

Bowen and Branam; Alford, Reeves

and Greenhalgh; Chadwick, Branham

and Greenhalgh. LOB — Valdosta 3;

New Orleans 7. 2b — Berezcky, Bow-

en. 3b — Bowen, Miller, HR — Fitsi-

mones, Greenhalgh. SB — Bowen, SF

— Fitsimones.

IP H R ER BBSO

McDiffitt (L) 3 4 4 3 3 2

LeFiles 1/3 2 4 4 1 0

Parsons 1 1/3 4 2 2 2 0

Chadwick 3 1/3 5 3 3 3 1

Kieffer (W) 7 1 3 8 9 9 7

Miller 1 2 3 1 0 0 0 1

HBP — By McDiffitt (Rima, Pyg-

man, WP — McDiffitt, Miller.

U — Fisher, Piariski and Jones.

T — 2:55

# New Orleans —

Continued From Page 51

Kieffer got all the work he could handle. In the 7 1/3 innings that he pitched he threw 161 pitches.

"I didn't think it would be that kind of scoring game," Valdosta Coach Tommy Thomas said, "but you've got to give the New Orleans hitters credit. I was just a little disappointed with our hitting in the clutch.

"We've also had better pitching than we showed," he added. "We have had spot trouble, although sometimes we can't seem to get anybody out."

It was that way Saturday.

"New Orleans just came through in the clutch," Thomas continued. "A couple times there were two outs and they got the big hit. When you've got good hitters and they're hitting it there's not much you can do, but when you hit players and walk them, though, those are things you shouldn't do."

That was the trouble. Valdosta's pitchers gave up nine walks while hitting two batters. Add to that the 15 Privateer hits and you get a good idea how they scored 13 times.

"We've come back in a lot of games this year," Thomas said, "and when you do that you know you can do it again. It sort of gives you hope. I was a little disappointed, but not unhappy. Anything can happen in this tournament."

"Today, they just hit our pitching better than we hit theirs."

That was the game in a nutshell.

## College Baseball

### NCAA DIVISION I PLAYOFFS

#### District VIII

Pepperdine 4, Southern California 2  
District VII

Northern Colorado 6, Arizona 2  
(championship)

#### NAIA TOURNAMENT

Point Park (Pa.) 2, High Point (N.C.) 1

San Houston State 5, Fort Hays (Kan.) State 0

### THIRD GAME

New Orleans (6)		Central Mo. (2)	
abr	h	abr	h
Fittes, lf	5 1 1	Ruth, cf	3 1 0
Barcus, 3b	5 1 1	Tuttle, 2b	4 1 1
Fyfe, dh	4 1 2	Brocker, ss	4 0 2
Kinsella, cf	3 1 0	Stanton, 1b	4 0 2
Keusl, 1b	3 0 2	Kinsella, 3b	4 0 0
Keiser, rf	3 0 0	Luebbert, dh	4 0 2
Bennett, 2b	2 0 0	Parks, rf	3 0 0
Owen, 2b	0 0 0	Wierhoff, lf	1 0 0
Miller, c	4 0 0	Wierhoff, lf	3 0 1
Lenky, ss	4 2 1	Chapman, c	0 0 0
		d-Michaud	0 0 0
		Ludwig, c	0 0 0
		c-Brown, lf	1 0 0

Totals 33 6 7 Totals 31 2 8

a-sacrificed for Bennett in 6th.  
b-rolled out for Parks in 7th.  
c-walked for Wierhoff in 9th.  
d-ran for Kinsella in 9th.  
e-rolled out for Ludwig in 9th.

New Orleans 000 005 001—6  
Central Mo. 002 000 000—2

RBI—Stanton 2, Fitzmones 2, Keusl, Kee, Owen, Barcus, E—Beroczky, Brocker 2, Keusl, FC—A—N.O. 27-12, Central 27-12, LF—Bennett and Keusl, LOB—New Orleans 7, Central Missouri 6, HR—Fitzmones, SB—Fyfe, dh, 2B—Ludwig, Owen, Keusl.

ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Kunde (W, 6-1)	9	8	2	0	3
Wise (L, 5-3)	5	13	4	3	1
Oglesby	0	1	1	0	2
Baysinger	3	2	2	1	1

HBP—By Baysinger (Kinsella), WP—Wise, U—Gantt, Ellis, Gallaher, A—1,49.

### SECOND GAME

Irvine (12)		New Orleans (6)	
abr	h	abr	h
Bridges, cf	6 1 2	Fittes, lf	4 2 0
Bel'co, rf	6 3 4	Barcus, 3b	2 0 0
Stubv, c	5 3 2	Couret, p	2 2 2
Malin'f, 1b	6 2 4	Rima, cf	5 1 2
Spence, lf	4 0 2	Keusl, 1b	5 0 1
Wh'ck, dh	5 2 2	Kee, rf	4 1 4
d-Peterzell	0 0 0	Py'n, dh, 3b	5 0 0
And'n, 2b	4 1 0	Bennett, 2b	2 0 0
Whit'ad, ss	4 0 1	Owen, 2b	2 0 0
Hughes, ss	0 0 0	Miller, c	2 0 0
Lyons, 3b	5 0 0	b-Gomes	0 0 0
		Strode, c	0 0 0
		Ber'zky, ss	2 0 0
		c-Hard'n, ss	2 0 0

Totals 45 12 17 Totals 37 6 9

a-rolled out for Bennett in 7th.  
b-ran for Miller in 7th.  
c-popped out for Beroczky in 7th.  
d-walked for Wheelock in 9th.

Irvine 000 002 440—12

New Orleans 000 000 033—6

RBI—Mallinoff 2, Whitehead, Wheelock 2, Anderson, Belasco, Bridges 2, Couret 2, Strode, Rima, Kee, E—Bennett, Miller, Hardouin, Lyons, Rima, Malinoff, PO—A—Irvine 27-9, N.O. 23-8, DP—Anderson, Hughes and Malinoff, LOB—Irvine 12, New Orleans 11, 2B—Stubv, Kee, Belasco, HR—Couret, SB—Bridges, SH—Spence.

ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Davis (W, 6-2)	7	2	3	1	2
Johnson	1	1	3	2	1
Jones (L, 4-4)	6	1	3	10	5
Mills	2	3	4	5	3
Couret	2	3	2	0	3

HBP—By Davis (Miller, Strode) PB—Strode, U—Ellis, Favero, Gallaher, T—2:31, A—1,750.

### OHIO N. (8) Central Mo. (2)

abr	h	abr	h
Sharp, cf	3 0 0	Ruth, cf	4 0 2
King, 1b	4 0 0	Tuttle, 2b	3 1 1
Lann, c	3 0 1	Brocker, ss	4 0 0
Mikalvck, p	3 0 0	Stanton, 1b	4 0 1
Pressler, lf	4 0 2	Kinsella, 3b	3 1 1
Thomas, 3b	4 0 0	Luebbert, dh	3 0 1
Roberts, rf	3 0 0	Parks, rf	3 0 0
Donoff, 1b	3 0 0	Wierhoff, lf	3 0 0
Buckley, ss	3 0 0	Ludwig, c	0 0 0
		Crane, p	0 0 0

Totals 30 0 3 Totals 30 2 6

Ohio Northern 070 000 000—0

Central Mo. 009 200 000—2

RBI—Kinsella, Luebbert, E—Buckley, King, PO—A—Ohio N. 24-10, Central 27-0, LOB—Ohio Northern 5, Central Mo. 5, 2B—Luebbert, SB—Sharp, Ruth, SH—Thomas.

ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Mikalvck (L)	8	6	2	0	1
Crane (W)	9	3	0	0	2

U—Gantt, Ellis, Gallaher, T—2:15.

### FIRST GAME

Central Mo. (6)		New Haven (4)	
abr	h	abr	h
Brocker, ss	4 0 0	Small, ss	3 1 1
Tuttle, 2b	3 0 0	Pikot, rf	3 0 1
Stanton, 1b	4 0 2	Montoni, dh	4 0 0
Luebbert, dh	4 0 1	Palinaga, 1b	3 0 1
Kinsella, 3b	3 0 0	Menswar, c	3 0 1
Kinkeade, lf	3 0 1	Basso, cf	3 0 1
a-Wierhoff	0 0 0	Keating, 3b	4 1 1
c-Michaud, cf	1 0 0	Cipollini, 2b	2 1 0
Parks, rf	3 0 1	Almaust, lf	1 0 0
d-Brownbrgr	1 0 0	Renzulli, cf	0 0 0
Ruth, cf	3 0 1	b-Brown, lf	1 1 1
Ludwig, c	3 0 0		

Totals 32 0 6 Totals 27 4 7

a-Ran for Kinkeade in 7th.  
b-Singled for Renzulli in 7th.  
c-Rolled out for Wierhoff in 9th.  
d-Rolled out for Parks in 9th.

Central Mo. 000 000 000—0

New Haven 000 000 40x—4

RBI—Small, Pikot 2, E—Small, Stack, PO—A—Central 24-12, N.H. 27-11, DP—Tuttle, Brocker and Stanton; Keating, Menswar and Small; Stack, Ludwig and Stanton; Kinsella, Tuttle and Stanton, LOB—Central, Mo. 8, New Haven 7, 2B—Kinkeade, Small, SH—Pikot.

ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Stack (L, 4-2)	6	6	4	3	5
Oglesby	2	1	0	0	1
Powers	6	1	3	0	2
Mitchell (W, 6-0) 2/3	1	0	0	1	2

HBP—By Oglesby (Basso), WP—Stack, Balks—Stack 2, U—Gallaher, Favero, Gantt, T—1:46.

## World Series Data

### STANDINGS

Team	W	L	Pct.
California-Irvine	3	0	1.000
New Orleans	2	1	.667
New Haven	2	1	.667
x-Central Missouri	1	2	.333
x-Ohio Northern	0	2	.000
x-Valdosta State	0	2	.000

x-eliminated from tournament

### MONDAY'S RESULTS

New Haven 4, Central Missouri 0

California-Irvine 12, New Orleans 6

### TODAY'S GAMES

5 p.m. — New Haven vs. New Orleans

8 p.m. — California-Irvine vs. winner game 1

# New Haven Stays Alive, Ousts Valdosta State

By JIM WILDRICK

Not so long ago, the three Rs used to be the big thing around educational institutions.

But the bet here is that all they're talking about at the University of New Haven (Conn.) today are the three Ps — Paglialunga, Pulit and Powers. First baseman Len Paglialunga, starting pitcher John Pulit and reliever Bobby Powers were the three heroes Sunday at Lanphier Park as Coach Frank Vieira's Chargers eliminated Valdosta (Ga.) State from the National Collegiate Division World Series. New Haven, with its back to the wall after losing Saturday, made Valdosta the Series' first casualty by handing the Blazers a 1-0 defeat. It was only the second time Valdosta, which bowed out at 38-13, had been shut out this year.

But the heroes had to get an assist from the law of averages in posting their 25th victory against seven losses.

Just as a New Haven error paved the way for a run to California-Irvine Saturday, so a Valdosta error was one of the key factors in sending the Blazers packing Sunday.

Joe Small, the man who made the error that opened the gates to a four-run Irvine inning Saturday, learned Sunday how it feels to be on the other side of the fence. He opened the bottom of the sixth inning by lacing a grounder off Blazer pitcher Bill Petty's ankle. The ball caromed over to near the third base line before Petty could retrieve it and, when he did, he tossed wildly down the right-field line in a futile attempt to throw out Small. Small ended up at third.

Petty then got Ed Pikor to ground out and was able to glove Rich Montoni's hot smash back to the box. But Paglialunga, a .398 hitter coming into the tournament,

drilled a single to left to score the only run New Haven needed.

But don't get the idea it was smooth sailing for New Haven, which became the

fourth "home" team to win in four games. Far from it.

Pulit, who lowered his earned run average from 0.60 to 0.54 (the nation's best among Division II teams) was in hot water in the eighth before Powers came on to earn the save.

Gene Felts singled, but was retired at second as Jerome Register reached on a fielder's choice. Catcher Darrell Branam then bloomed a single down the left-field line, sending Register to third. Pulit worked the count to 1-1 on left-handed hitter Jeff Greenhalgh, but Vieira went to the mound and singled for Powers.

The junior right-hander made good use of his slider, getting Greenhalgh to fly out

Continued On Page 9

FIRST GAME					
Valdosta (0)			New Haven (1)		
	ab	rh		ab	rh
Darden, dh	4	0	Small, ss	4	1
Bowen, cf	4	0	Pikor, rf	4	0
Frits, lf	4	0	Montoni, dh	3	0
Register, rf	3	0	Paglialunga, 1b	3	0
Branam, c	3	0	Allen, c	3	0
Grub, 1b	4	0	Basso, cf	3	0
Bishop, 3b	2	0	Capolino, 2b	3	0
a Sun ner	1	0	Keating, 3b	3	0
Musale, 2b	4	0	Ren'li, lf	3	0
Reeves, ss	3	0			
b-Alford	1	0			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>
a-rolled out for Bishop in 9th.					
b-rolled out for Reeves in 9th.					
Valdosta	000 000 000-0				
New Haven	000 001 00x-1				
RFI—Paglialunga. E—Pikor, Petty.					
PGA—Valdosta 24-15. N.H. 27-20. LOB					
—Valdosta 9. New Haven 5. SB—Paglialunga. SH—Bishop.					
	ip		h	r	er
Petty (L)	8		1	0	1
Pulit (W)	7 2/3		8	0	0
Powers	1 1/3		0	0	0
HEP—By Pulit (Branam). U—Jones, Fisher, Plarski. T—1:38. A—40.					

Illinois State Journal

## Sports

8 Springfield, Monday, June 3, 1974

to right. Powers set down the side in order in the ninth on three ground balls to preserve the victory.

"He (Pulit) is my roommate and my best friend and I hadn't saved one for him all year, so I'm really happy with the way things turned out," said Powers. "I was here Saturday night when Greenhalgh hit his homer, so I threw him all sliders and tried to keep the ball away from him. The one he hit was an outside slider. He tried to pull it and ended up not getting real good wood on it. I wasn't that concerned about walking him cause they had a righthander coming up after him, so I shot a little more for the corners.

"I'll tell you, I've owed him (Pulit) one for awhile now. I relieved him in a game where we were down, 3-1, against Quinnipiac. I gave up a run and we ended up losing by one and that's the only loss he's had this year."

Pulit, 7-1, admitted he was tiring.

"It was probably the best thing that could have happened," Pulit said of Vieira's decision. "I was having some trouble with my curveball not breaking. I was a little tight when the game started, but, once we got going, I figured we were the better team. Our defense did it. They've been great all year. We wouldn't be here without our defense."

"When I go to the mound, they know they're gone," said the self-described "crazy man." "I saw the home run he (Greenhalgh) hit Saturday and, when I saw him hit that long foul off John, I

made up my mind. John did a good job. He went over seven innings and that's all we wanted from him. Sure, he was on the ropes awhile, but he's been on the ropes before and he's a kid who never loses his cool. He just doesn't get shook up out there. If he's not an All-American, I don't know who is. I just thank God for a guy like John Pulit."

Paghalunga said he hit a fastball for the game's only run batted in.

"The pitching here is better than what we've seen all year," he admitted. "I just wanted to make contact with the ball. They're not just throwing the ball over here, they're aiming for the corners."

### College Baseball

NCAA DIVISION I PLAYOFFS  
District 8  
Southern California 4-12, Pepperdine 1-1 (championship)  
NAIA TOURNAMENT  
Lewis (Ill.) 8, LaVerne (Calif.) 7  
Wisconsin-Oshkosh 11, Fort Hays (Kan.) 3

# UNO Advances in NCAA Series

If it was any consolation for the Polar Bears, they weren't the only team out of it early.

Valdosta State was the first team to be eliminated in the series when it lost the first game Sunday, 1-0, to New Haven.

The Blazers, who had dropped their opener to UNO, lost their second game in opposite fashion. Instead of slugging it out the way they did with the Privateers, they were involved in a pitchers' battle.

New Haven was having its problems with Bill Petty, who was on the mound for Valdosta. In all the Chargers rapped out only six hits.

But in the bottom of the sixth, Joe Small hit a shot off Petty's leg. Small had the throw beat but Petty heaved it anyway.

It sailed directly into the right field corner. Small raced to third.

Valdosta almost got out of the inning with a grounder to second and another line drive out to the mound.

But first baseman Len Paghalunga singled to center to drive in Small and New Haven had all the runs it needed. Pitchers John Pulit and Bob Powers made it stand up.

Valdosta got the hits but couldn't get the men around. The Blazers outhit New Haven, 8-6, but as coach Tommy Thomas said after the Privateer game, nobody could hit with two out. And that's why Valdosta is going Monday.

## Good Grief,

The WORLD SERIES, briefly explained!

VALDOSTA STATE  
(ab-r-h) Darden, dh 4-0-1; Bowen, cf 4-0-2; Felts, lf 4-0-1; Reister, rf 3-0-1; Branam, c 3-0-1; Greenhalgh, 1b 4-0-1; Bishop, 3b 2-0-0; Sumner, dh 1-0-0; Musashe, 2b 4-0-1; Reeves, 2f 3-0-0; Alford, ph 1-0-0; Petty, p 0-0-0; Totals 33-0-8.

NEW HAVEN  
(ab-r-h) Small, ss 4-1-2; Piker, rf 4-0-1; Montoni, dh 3-0-0; Paghalunga, 1b 3-0-1; Menswar, c 3-0-0; Basso, cf 3-0-0; Cioppini, 2b 3-0-0; Keetina, 3b 3-0-2; Renzulli, lf 3-0-0; Pulit, p 0-0-0; Totals 29-1-6.

Score by innings:  
Valdosta St. .... 1. 000 000 000 — 0  
New Haven ..... 000 001 00x — 1

RBI Paghalunga 1, E — Piker, Petty  
LEFT — Valdosta State 7, New Haven 5,  
SB — Paghalunga 5H — Bishop WIN-  
NER — Pulit LOSER — Petty HBP —  
Bu Pulit (Branam) U — Pierski, Fisher,  
Jones T — 1:38.1P H R ER BB SO  
Bill Petty ..... 8 4 1 0 1 3  
John Pulit ..... 7-2:38 0 0 1 3  
Bob Powers ..... 1-1:30 0 0 0 0

NEW HAVEN HURLERS COMBINE TO BLANK VALDOSTA

# I owed Pulit one, says relief star Powers

By Jim Wildrick

Not so long ago, the three Rs used to be the big thing around educational institutions.

But the bet here is that all they're talking about at the University of New Haven (Conn.) today are the three Ps — Paglialunga, Pulit and Powers. First baseman Len Paglialunga, starting pitcher John Pulit and reliever Bobby Powers were the three heroes Sunday at Lanphier Park as Coach Frank Vieira's Chargers eliminated Valdosta (Ga.) State from the National Collegiate Division World Series. New Haven, with its back to the wall after losing Saturday, made Valdosta the Series' first casualty by handing the Blazers a 1-0 defeat. It was

only the second time Valdosta, which bowed out at 33-13, had been shut out this year.

But the heroes had to get an assist from the law of averages in posting their 25th victory against seven losses.

Just as a New Haven error paved the way for a loss to California-Irvine Saturday, so a Valdosta error was one of the key factors in sending the Blazers packing Sunday.

Joe Small, the man who made the error that opened the gates to a four-run Irvine inning Saturday, learned Sunday how it feels to be on the other side of the fence. He opened the bottom of the sixth inning by lacing a grounder off Blazer pitcher Bill Petty's ankle. The ball caromed over to near the third base line before Petty could retrieve it and when he did, he tossed wildly down the right-field line in a futile attempt to throw out Small. Small ended up at third.

Petty then got Ed Pikor to ground out and was able to glove Rich Montoni's hot smash back to the box. But Paglialunga, a .398 hitter coming into the tournament, drilled a single to left to score the only run New Haven needed.

But don't get the idea it

was smooth sailing for New Haven, which became the fourth "home" team to win in four games. Far from it.

Pulit, who lowered his earned run average from 0.60 to 0.54 (the nation's best among Division II teams) was in hot water in the eighth before Powers came

on to earn the save.

Gene Felts singled, but was retired at second as Jerome Register reached on a fielder's choice. Catcher Darrell Branam then blooped a single down the left-field line, sending Register to third, with two out. Pulit worked the count to 1-1 on left-handed hitter Jeff Greenhalgh, but Vieira went to the mound and singled for Powers.

The junior right-hander made good use of his slider, getting Greenhalgh to fly out to right. Powers set down the side in order in the ninth on three ground balls to preserve the victory.

"He (Pulit) is my roommate and my best friend and I hadn't saved one for him all year, so I'm really happy with the way things turned out," said Powers. "I was here Saturday night when Greenhalgh hit his homer, so I threw him all sliders and tried to keep the ball away from him. The one he hit was an outside slider. He tried to pull it and ended up not getting real good wood on it. I wasn't that concerned about walking him cause they had a right-hander coming up after him, so I shot a little more for the corners.

"I'll tell you, I've owed him (Pulit) one for awhile now. I relieved him in a game where we were down

3-1, against Quinnipiac. I gave up a run and we ended up losing by one and that's the only loss he's had this year."

Pulit, 7-1, admitted he was tiring.

"It was probably the best thing that could have happened," Pulit said of Vieira's decision. "I was having some trouble with my curveball not breaking. I was a little tight when the game started. But, once we got going, I figured we were the better team. Our defense did it. They've been great all year. We wouldn't be here without our defense."

Vieira went to the mound with a definite purpose.

"When I go to the mound, they know they're gone," said the self-described "crazy man." "I saw the home run he (Greenhalgh) hit Saturday and, when I saw him hit that long foul off John, I made up my mind. John did a good job. He went over seven innings and that's all we wanted from him. Sure, he was on the ropes awhile, but he's been on the ropes before and he's a kid who never loses his cool. He just doesn't get shook up out there. If he's not an All-American, I don't know who is. I just thank God for a guy like John Pulit."

Paglialunga said he hit a fastball for the game's only run batted in.

"The pitching here is better than what we've seen all year," he admitted. "I just wanted to make contact with the ball. They're not just throwing the ball over here, they're aiming for the corners."

FIRST GAME		New Haven (1)	
Valdosta (0)	abr h	abr h	abr h
Darden, dh	4 0 1	Small, ss	4 1 2
Bowen, cf	4 0 2	Pikor, rf	4 0 1
Felts, lf	4 0 1	Montoni, dh	3 0 0
Register, rf	3 0 1	Paglialunga, 1b	3 0 1
Branam, c	3 0 1	Montoni, c	3 0 0
Grub, 1b	4 0 1	Basso, cf	3 0 0
Bishop, 3b	2 0 0	Cipolletti, 2b	3 0 0
a-Sunmer	1 0 0	Keating, 3b	3 0 2
Musale, 2b	4 0 1	Renfrew, lf	3 0 0
Reeves, ss	3 0 0		
b-Alford	1 0 0		

Totals 33 0 8 Totals 29 1 6

a-rolled out for Bishop in 9th  
b-rolled out for Reeves in 9th

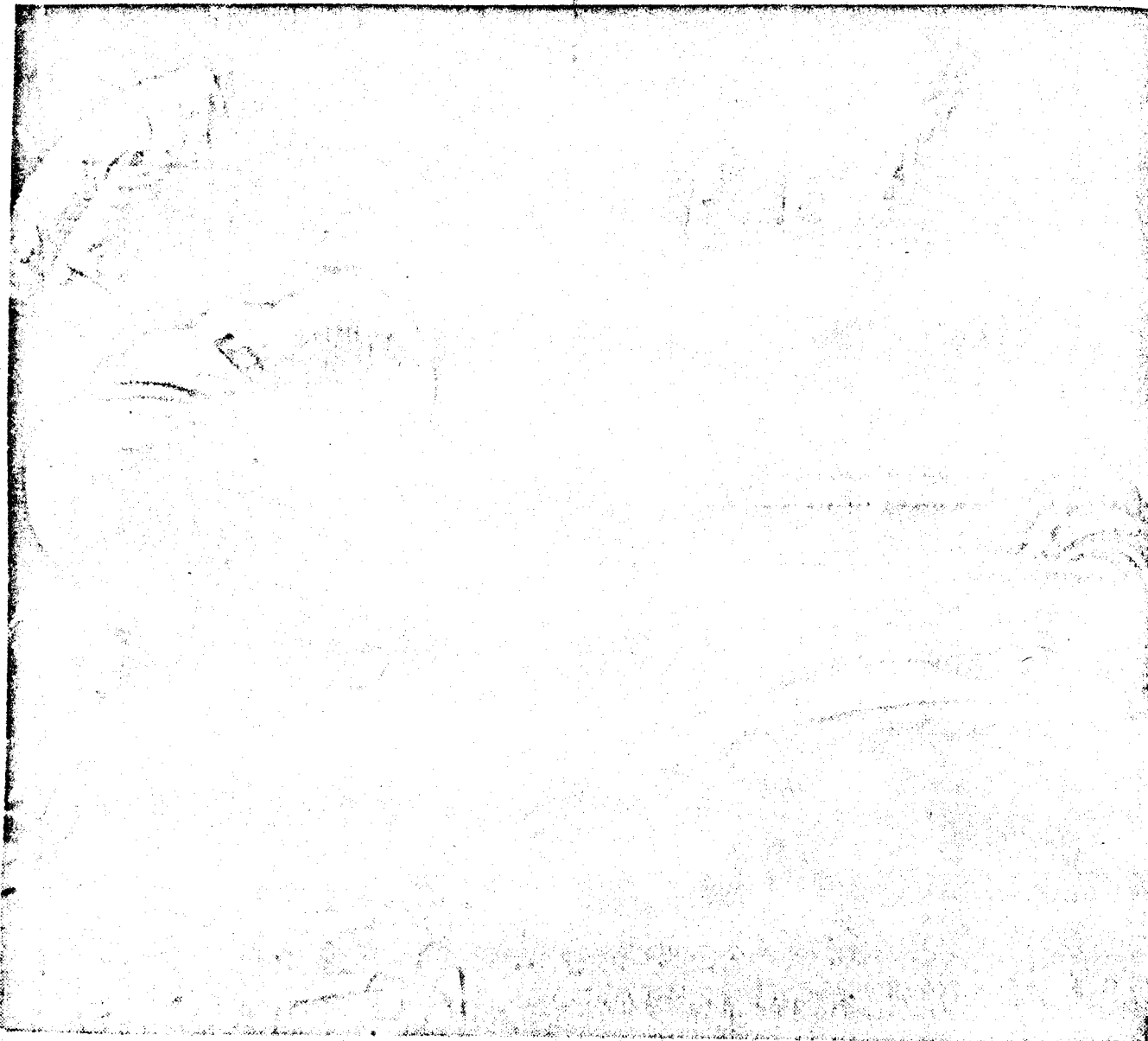
Valdosta 000 000 000-0  
New Haven 000 001 00x-1

RBI- Paglialunga E- Pikor, Petty.  
PCA- Valdosta 24 15, N.H. 27 20. LOB  
- Valdosta 9, New Haven 5. SB- Paglialunga. SH- Bishop.

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Petty (L)	8	8	1	0	1	3
Pulit (W)	7 2/3	8	0	0	1	3
Powers	1 1/3	0	0	0	0	0

HEP- By Pulit (Branam.) U- Jones, Fisher, Plarski. T- 1:38. A- 400.

# New Haven Ends VSC's NCAA Title Hopes



-AP Wirephoto

Disputed Play: VSC's Jeff Greenhalgh Slides Into New Haven's Don Menswer At Home

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Bill Petty found himself playing the roles of hero and goat when the dust settled in Valdosta State College's do-or-die second round game with the University of New Haven Chargers here Sunday.

Petty "died," to the tune of a 1-0 defeat at the hands of the Chargers in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Small College World Series, and the Blazers earned the first trip home from the national baseball tournament.

While Petty, a freshman left-hander from Grove City, Ohio pitched a beautiful game for the Blazers, scattering six hits and the one unearned run while striking out three and walking only one, he also made the only error of the game for VSC, a very costly one.

It was in the sixth inning the now 11-2 freshman chased down leadoff batter Joe Small's hit down the first base line and threw to Jeff Greenhalgh at first base.

But the throw went wide, over Greenhalgh's outstretched hands and into right field, to turn the hit into a two-base error and set up the only score of the ballgame.

After Ed Pikor, the Charger right fielder, and Rich Morton, the designated hitter, went down on short popups to pull the VSC outfielders in, first baseman Lynn Pagliarunga stepped to the plate and swatted a long single to center field to bring Small in from third for the winning run.

"We had the opportunities," Thomas admitted. "It was just one of those things. Sometimes things go good for us and sometimes they don't. We couldn't get anything to go our way in the national tournament.

"But it was good experience to be here and we're certainly looking forward to trying to get back here again next year. The competition here is tremendous."

Thomas had words of praise for the two teams that beat him, New Haven and University of New Orleans, which won the opener 13-9.

"I'd like to commend UNO and UNH for having teams good enough to beat us," Thomas said. "They were both first class all the way."

The trip to the NCAA finals came in VSC's first year in NCAA competition. They had won the berth by taking the South Atlantic District tournament title in Lakeland, Fla. last week.

The game lasted a total of 1:33, the same time at VSC's shortest game last year in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national tournament in which the Blazers set the national record for game time.

With the victory, UNH earned the right to play Central Missouri State, a 6-2 loser to New Orleans Sunday in another do-or-die situation. The University of California at Irvine now the proud holders of a 31-game win streak, takes on New Orleans today after eliminating Ohio Northern, 21 Sunday.

"He (Petty) could have beaten Small to first," said an understandably disappointed head coach Tommy Thomas after his Blazers found themselves on the sidelines.

"But it went into right field and set up the only run. We got two outs on them and thought we had saved ourselves. But then the first baseman hit that a shot to center and that was all it took."

It was a new situation for the Blazers, who usually find their hitting or their pitching lagging, but it was also a familiar one.

"Petty pitched a great game," Thomas said, "He did a beautiful job." And the Blazers outhit the Chargers 8-6 to lead in that department.

The problem this time, was the Blazers couldn't get a hit when it counted. Nine of their number reached base with at least seven in scoring position, once with a bases-loaded situation. But they couldn't bring any home.

The Blazers had the chance to tie it up in the seventh when Greenhalgh raced home from third on a hit-and-run by Pete Reeves and slid under catcher Don Menswar at home. But officials ruled Greenhalgh out and a short discussion followed.

It was only one of the many chances the Valdostans blew. In the fourth inning, with the bases loaded, Greenhalgh hit a line shot between first and second. But the Haven second baseman turned out a brilliant play, somehow knocking the ball down and picking it up in time to end the inning.

One other time catcher Daryl Branam went down on a called third strike with two men in scoring position, and in another trip Greenhalgh flew out with two men on.



**LARRY RENEW "retires" as head Blazer manager, during the last team meeting in Springfield.**

## Flight Problems

# Blazers Can't Come Home

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—Getting it together on the ball field wasn't the only problem Valdosta State College's Blazers had in the National NCAA baseball tournament here this weekend.

They couldn't get it together elsewhere either and they still won't have it together when they come home.

Head coach Tommy Thomas, whose Blazers lost their second game in the double-elimination tournament to the University of New Haven, Conn., 1-0 Sunday, said officials were unable to arrange flight accommodations to get the group back to Valdosta intact.

"Ten of us will get back (to Valdosta) Tuesday and the other 18 will come the next day," Thomas said.

The head coach explained airline officials couldn't find a flight to get all 28 members of the VSC party on one flight.

It was just another in a series of events which plagued the Blazers during their stay.

Thomas explained the NCAA was to foot the bill on lodging for the teams in the national tournament and arrangements had been made to stay in a seminary near Springfield.

"But where we got there we

found no blankets, no heating, no locks on the door and no food arrangements," Thomas said. "We moved into a hotel and we're paying for it ourselves."

Thomas estimated the extra day will cost the school another \$100 for rooms alone. Food bills are extra.

NAIA

MAY 31

Point Park (Pa.) 010 000 000-1 6 3  
 La Verne (Calif.) 002 200 00x-4 10 1  
 Jim Ney (L, 3-1) and Bill Meyer; John Verhoeven (W, 13-1) and Don Snyder.

Lewis Univ. (Ill.) 001 000 030-4 4 1  
 High Point (NC) 000 001 000-1 5 3  
 Tom Brennan (W, 10-1) and Rick Baranak; Burke Suter (L, 7-3) and Chuck Sharp.

JUNE 1

High Point (NC) 000 001 000-1 3 3  
 Point Park (Pa.) 000 100 10x-2 7 1  
 Billy Sorrell (L, 8-4) and Chuck Sharp; Rick Mise (W, 7-0), Jeff Weyels (9) and Bill Mayer.

S. Houston St. (Tex) 302 000 000-5 9 0  
 Ft. Hays St. (Kan.) 000 000 000-0 2 2  
 Jim Miller (W, 11-2) and David Woolley; Ray Dolezal (L, 6-5) and Steve Rohr.

David Lipscomb 011 000 040-6 9 1  
 Wisconsin-Oshkosh 000 000 000-0 2 1  
 Bo McLaughlin (W, 13-4) and Steve Burton; Dorian Boyland (L, 6-2), Phil Klismith (8) and Lee Wyngaard.

JUNE 2

Wisconsin-Oshkosh 040 012 310-11 13 3  
 Ft. Hays St. (Kan.) 003 000 000-3 3 5  
 Dan Olson (W, 9-1) and Lee Wyngaard; Ray Coupal (L, 10-6), Rick Zimmerman (7), Ken Ubelaker (9) and Steve Rohr.

La Verne (Calif.) 100 000 204-7 12 4  
 Lewis Univ. (Ill.) 000 043 001-8 11 2  
 Rob Mayhew, Tim Kelley (6, L, 1-1) and Don Snyder, Jim Sherman (6), Don Markelz, Jerry Quigley (9) and Rick Baranak.  
 HR - Mike Alonso, LaVerne, 7th, 1 on.  
 Rick Baranak, Lewis, 6th, 2 on.

S. Houston St. (Tex) 000 040 000-4 5 1  
 David Lipscomb 000 060 000-0 2 3  
 Ron Kainer (W, 11-2) and David Woolley; Steve Thornton (L, 10-2), Steve Fletcher (8) and Steve Burton.

JUNE 3

Point Park (Pa.) 100 001 003-5 12 1  
 David Lipscomb 100 060 000-1 5 1  
 Tim Ganch (W, 5-2), Jeff Weyels (8), Jim Ney (9) and Bill Mayer, Greg Birko (8); Brent Williams, Tony Mancher (2) and Mike Dennis.  
 HR - Lou Abel, Point Park, 6th, none on.

La Verne (Calif.) 020 003 201-8 9 3  
 Wisconsin-Oshkosh 000 000 002-2 5 4  
 Dan Quisenberry (W, 12-2) and Jim Sherman, Don Snyder (8); Tim Fenn (L, 4-3), Dennis Pieper (7) and Lee Wyngaard.  
 HR - Hank Merenda, LaVerne, 7th, none on.

Lewis Univ. (Ill.) 001 000 000-1 5 6  
 S. Houston St. (Tex) 002 000 13x-6 7 3  
 Bob Dybala (L, 4-1), Jerry Quigley (7), Dick Fick (9) and Rich Baranak; Rick Matula (W, 6-4) and David Woolley.

JUNE 4

Lewis Univ. (Ill.) 100 001 301-6 10 3  
 Point Park (Pa.) 300 000 000-3 5 1  
 Tom Brennan (W, 11-1) and Rich Baranak; Rick Muse (L, 7-1), Jim Ney (7) and Bill Meyer, Greg Birko (8).  
 HR - Ray Crowley, Lewis Univ., 9th, none on.

S. Houston St. (Tex) 000 000 110-2 6 4  
 La Verne (Calif.) 001 300 00x-4 5 0  
 Joe Roche (L, 4-1), Fred Warren (5) and David Woolley; John Verhoeven (W, 14-1) and Don Snyder.

JUNE 5

La Vern (Calif.) 000 001 110 01-4 15 5  
 S. Houston St. (Tex) 000 002 001 02-5 10 2  
 Tim Kelley, Dan Quisenberry (6), Robb Mayhew (7) (L, 9-4) and Don Snyder; Jim Miller, Ray Burgess (6), Rick Matula (11, W, 7-4) and David Woolley.

JUNE 7

S. Houston St. (Tex) 200 000 000-2 3 1  
 Lewis Univ. (Ill.) 000 101 001-3 5 1  
 Ron Kainer (L, 11-3) and David Woolley; Don Markelz, Tom Brennan (9) (W, 12-1) and Rick Baranak, Mike DeGallo (8).



COLLEGIATE BASEBALL

NCAA College Division II

LINESCORES

New Haven 001 000 010-2 9 1  
 UC Irvine 100 001 04x-6 8 1  
 Schuler and Menswar; Wheelock and Stupy.  
 HR-Bridges, UCI.

Valdosta State 030 040 020-9 8 1  
 New Orleans 300 520 30x-13 15 0  
 McDiffit, LeFiles (4), Parsons (4), Chadwick (6) and Branam; Kieffer, Mills (8) and Miller. HR-Fitsimons, No; Greenhalgh, VS.

Ohio Northern 000 000 000-0 3 2  
 Central Missouri 000 200 00x-2 6 0  
 Miklavcic and Lang; Crane and Ludwig.

Valdosta State 000 000 000-0 8 1  
 New Haven 000 001 00x-1 6 1  
 Petty and Branam; Pulit, Powers (8) and Menswar.

UC Irvine 300 140 000-8 11 2  
 Ohio Northern 000 000 001-1 6 3  
 Humphries, Hickman (8) and Stupy; Bowersock, Goldsmith (5) and Lang. HR-Spence (UCI).

New Orleans 000 005 001-6 7 2  
 Central Missouri 002 000 000-2 8 2  
 Kunds and Miller; Wissel, Oglesby (6), Baysinger (6) and Ludwig. HR-Fitsimones (NO).

Central Missouri 000 000 000-0 6 1  
 New Haven 000 000 40x-4 7 1  
 Stack, Oglesby (7) and Ludwig; Powers, Mitchell (7) and Menswar.

UC Irvine 000 002 460-12 17 2  
 New Orleans 000 000 033-6 9 4  
 Davis, Johnson (8) and Stupy; Jones, Mills (7), Couret (8) and Miller, HR-Couret (NO).

New Haven 000 100 001-2 7 3  
 New Orleans 160 101 00x-9 13 3  
 Mitchell, Pulit (2), Powers (2), Schuler (5) and Menswar; Kieffer, Mills (8) and Miller; HR-Berezky (NO); Malmquist (NH).

New Orleans 022 003 000-7 11 5  
 UC Irvine 001 201 110-6 11 2  
 Kunde and Miller; Maras, Humphries (2), Johnson (7) and Stupy. HR-Wheelock, Whithead (UCI).

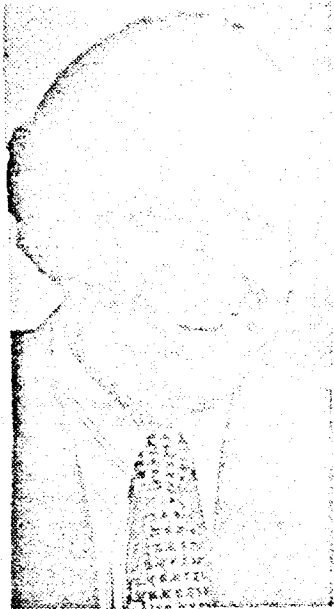
New Orleans 100 000 000-6 5 5  
 UC Irvine 610 600 01x-14 15 1  
 Jones, Couret (4) and Miller; Wheelock and Stupy.  
 HR-Bridges (UCI).



# NCAA Organization

## Not So Impressive

Valdosta State College's Blazers headed to Springfield, Ill. last week, expecting to compete in the highly organized National Collegiate Athletic Association baseball finals.



MILLER

observers was the NCAA's organization of the national tournament. It was hard to find.

In fact, the NCAA seemed to have left the entire organization of the tournament up to a group of Springfield baseball enthusiasts. And along with the responsibility, these hard-working men seemed to have taken over the financial responsibilities too.

It showed. After competing in the supposedly less prestigious National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national tournament last season and the NCAA nationals this year, the Blazers were in a good position to judge both. And the NCAA for once, didn't come up smelling like a rose.

### *'Living In Austerity'*

It was obvious from the first time the Valdostans stepped on Illinois soil and found where they were to stay. The NCAA was to pick up the tab for the rooms, but they were to be housed at an old dorm on the campus of a nearby seminary. The beds were there, but not the blankets, heaters, door locks, or even one communal television for the Blazers to gather around.

More important, not the first preparation had been made for food for the VSC party.

"It was almost like living in austerity," Thomas admitted.

It didn't take long for the Valdostans to catch on to what the five other tournament teams had evidently already learned. They moved into a motel, at their own expense, for the comforts they had expected from the NCAA. Only it was to cost the already overdrawn VSC baseball budget at least \$100 per day for room rent alone.

Wait. There's more. . . or maybe less.

Last year the NAIA tournament held a huge coat-and-tie pre-tournament banquet, introducing every member of every team. The NCAA "banquet" was little more than a cook out. The practice fields in Springfield were terrible, and the general tournament preparation were obviously poor for the tournament.

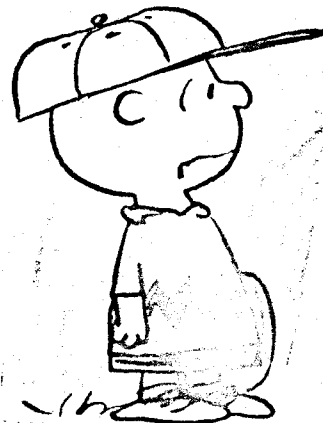
They're coming home now, disappointed, in more ways than one.

Coach Tommy Thomas is first of all disappointed that his Blazers didn't put up any better showing than they did. They lost the first two games they played in, 13-9 to the University of New Orleans and 1-0 to the University of New Haven.

But that didn't upset Thomas so much. After all, the tournament was a tournament of champions. Each team had won it's division to earn a berth in the national tournament and each team played like it.

It was no disgrace to lose to teams like UNO and UNC.

More upsetting to some



### *It Needs Some Cash*

Don't get us wrong. Thomas and his men were glad they came and proud to have gotten as far as they did. They had nothing but praise for their competition and the Springfield baseball enthusiasts who were responsible for setting it up. Those men did everything from drive the buses to sponsor the tournament.

And it certainly wasn't Springfield's fault the money was not there. These enthusiasts, according to talk around town, had gone into debt last year and the NCAA, instead of helping out with funds, has put pressure on the men to pay it off.

"The caliber of baseball up here was great. There are some fine teams up here," Thomas said. "And we've gained valuable experience by just being here. I'm really looking forward to next season. We want to try to make it back here."

But when they do, it wouldn't be wrong for the Blazers to hope to find a little more pomp and circumstance to the tournament. After all, the national tournament couldn't begin to compare with the district tournament in Lakeland, Fla. in preliminary formalities.

The NCAA seems to feel it's number one and doesn't have to try harder. But for a national tournament like this one, it couldn't hurt the NCAA to cough up a little bread to help some overworked baseball enthusiasts to put on their tournament.

**THOMAS DRAZDOWSKI realizes that "he" is now shouldered with some work responsibility, after RENEW's retirement.**

# Bowen Goes

## Blazer Centerfielder Drafted By Boston

By MIKE CHASON

The old saying has it "the third time is the charm" but for Valdosta State College's Sam Bowen it's the fifth time he has been selected in the major league baseball free agent draft. And this time he's ready to go.

Bowen, a Brunswick, Ga. native, was a seventh round pick of the American League's Boston Red Sox in Wednesday's first day of drafting which saw some 523 players tabbed in 23 rounds. Only 15 of the rounds were released however.

Contacted at his aunt's home in Brunswick, Wednesday night, Bowen nearly went berserk when he heard

the news.

"This is really neat. I am excited. I didn't expect anything today," Bowen said in one long excited gasp.

"I had no idea that I would go this high. I thought I might go somewhere in the secondary phase, but never this high. I tell you what, I'm ready to go right now."

Pausing only a second to catch his breath and think about what had really transpired in the last few minutes, Bowen's next concern was his teammates, specifically Jerome Register and Gene Felts.

After finding out that neither had been drafted yet, he expressed his hope that they would at least "get a chance."

Bowen, the starting centerfielder for the Blazers for the past two years, had his finest year ever this time out as he led VSC to the NCAA Division II national tournament in the school's first year of NCAA affiliation.

The 5'11" senior batted a cool .345 on the season with seven home runs and 34 runs batted in.

Bowen's greatest moment of glory came when the Blazers captured the NCAA South

See other draft stories on page 20.

Region tourney in Lakeland, Fla. In the four-game series, his six hits included a home run, triple, and two doubles.

Trading his outfield slot for

the pitcher's mound, Sam hurled the championship game of the tourney, and then carried home the Most Valuable Player trophy for his efforts.

Although Bowen was surprised at his relatively early selection, head coach Tommy Thomas was not.

"I really wouldn't have been surprised if he had gone higher than that," Thomas said. "I knew a lot of teams were interested in him.

"I think what impressed the scouts the most was his ability to do just about everything well. Sam can do all the things the pros are looking for — hit, hit with power, run, and throw.

"I would say that his most impressive thing was the way

he swings the bat," Thomas surmised.

Most of the scouts Bowen has talked to so far believe he would be best suited for the infield. And Sam is more than happy to comply with their wishes.

"I know I'll have to concentrate a little more in the infield," Bowen said, "but I don't really care where they put me. I just want to play."

Bowen has previously been drafted by Cleveland, Montreal, Atlanta, and California, but turned them all down for a college education.

"I was kinda' worried because I hadn't accepted those others. I knew this was my last chance," Bowen said. "I'm just anxious to see if I'm really good enough."



SAM BOWEN  
Going This Time

# Register, Felts Join The Pros

## *Life-Long Wishes Finally Come*

## *Through For Two More Blazers*



**JEROME REGISTER**

Credits Thomas

By MIKE CHASON

Jerome Register and Gene Felts are two guys who have dreamed of being major league baseball players since their introduction to the game as boys growing up in the world of Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris.

And now they're going to get the opportunity to show just how much they have learned in those long years of dedication to the great American game.

The two Valdosta State College outfielders were selected in the second phase of the pro draft which concluded in New York Thursday.

Register was an 18th round pick of the Boston Red Sox, the same club that selected the other one-third of the 1974 Blazer outfield, Sam Bowen, on Wednesday in the seventh round.

Felts got the nod from last year's National League champion New York Mets in round 33 of the 41 round two-day draft.

"I had a little bit of an idea that I would

be drafted," Register said. "I talked to some scouts at the national tournament, and I knew they were looking at me.

"I always wanted to play pro baseball, and I'm just glad I'm going to get this opportunity."

Register is a home grown product who attended high school at Lowndes County High and then went on to play baseball at Middle Georgia Junior College in Cochran, Ga.

Register came to VSC as a junior and promptly captured the hearts of Blazer fans with his dazzling speed on the basepaths and clutch hitting performances.

The talented rightfielder swung the bat at a .305 clip during his junior year and improved that mark to .347 this time out.

Fielding will be his main area of concentration in the minors Register feels and also his throwing could use a little work.

"Now that I've got the opportunity, I'm going to have a positive attitude about it," Register said. "I know I can make it."

Felts, a Lakeland, Ga. native, had mixed

emotions about being drafted, but seemed happy to be going to the Mets.

"I'm happy and sad about it," the 5'2" centerfielder said. "I'm glad to get drafted, but I thought I might go higher.

"The Mets were one of the teams I was hoping would draft me if I did get picked though. They need some outfielders."

Although a whole army of players were named before him, Felts cited the case of Dan Driessen, the starting third baseman for the Cincinnati Reds who was a 29th round pick.

"I know I had a kinda' off year this year, so I guess they went a lot on that," Felts said. "I can't really give a reason for it, but I guess it could be that I was pitched to a lot differently this year.

"I didn't see any fastballs. What I did see was a lot of 'junk' pitches. I guess I'm not a junk-ball hitter."

Felts' "bad" year was bad only in comparison with his sophomore and junior years when he put on spectacular performances

# Braves Pick 10 Pitchers

ATLANTA AP) — The Atlanta Braves selected 10 pitchers in baseball's two-day free agent draft that saw 20 Georgians chosen by major league clubs in both the American and National leagues....

The Braves picked eight pitchers on the first day of the draft, then announced the selection of two more Thursday. Atlanta chose William Taylor, a young Atlanta pitcher, in round 17, and picked up Scott McGlamory of Gulf Coast Junior College in Dallas, Tex., in the secondary phase of the draft.

Jerome Register, an outfielder for Valdosta State College, was drafted in the 18th round by the Boston Red Sox, and teammate and fellow outfielder Gene Felts was chosen in the 33rd round by the New York Mets. The selection of Register and Felts meant that all three starting members of this season's Valdosta State outfield have possible major league careers in front of them.

Others from Georgia chosen in the draft were Rick Camp, a pitcher from West Georgia taken in the seventh round by the Braves, Marshall Justice, a pitcher from Douglas, drafted by the Braves in the 14th round, and Robert Edmondson of Ft. Oglethorpe, who was drafted in the second round by the Kansas City Royals.

Other drafted Georgians included: John Henderson, catcher, of Macon, by the Chicago Cubs, third round; Jim Morrison, third baseman, Georgia Southern, fifth round, Philadelphia Phillies; Kevin Drury, shortstop, Brunswick, fifth round, Chicago Cubs; Sam Bowen, second baseman, Brunswick, seventh round, Boston Red Sox, and Joe Isaac, pitcher, Dublin, eighth round, Pittsburgh Pirates.

Andy Johnson of the University of Georgia was drafted in the sixth round by

the Baltimore Orioles, John Gibson of Georgia Southern was picked by the Phillies in round 11, Keathel Chauncey of Georgia Southern was drafted by Texas in the 15th round, and Claude Smith, a Mercer University pitcher, was taken in the same round by the Pirates.

in the field and at bat to gain himself first team NAIA All-America honors both seasons.

Felts swatted the horsehide for a .363 average in his sophomore year, .368 as a junior, and fell to .290 this campaign.

"I think my fielding is all right, but I have got some hitting flaws," Felts judged, "All I ever wanted was a chance and now I've got it."

Neither Register nor Felts have received notice as to when and where to report, but Bowen got word Thursday that he is being sent to Elmira in the New York-Pennsylvania Class A league.

All three players expressed pleasure in having the entire outfield drafted.

"This is great isn't it," Register beamed. "This puts our school on the map one more time. It's one more achievement. Give it all to Coach (Tommy) Thomas."

The Blazers finished the season with a 38-13 record and ranked second in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II final standings.



**GENE FELTS**  
Mixed Feelings

# Sam Named First Team All-America

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

For the third year in a row, representative on a first team All-America baseball squad.

Sam Bowen, the super-talented centerfielder for the Blazers this season, has been named a College Division first team All-America. He was a member of the outfield on the ten-man squad.

VSC leftfielder Gene Felts, drafted and signed by the New York Mets, was named to the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) first team All-America squad in 1972 and 1973.

The University of California at Irvine, who won the Division II title for the second straight year, dominated the AA team by placing three players on the first team including Terry Stupa, catcher; Jeff Malanion, first base; and Gary Whelock, pitcher.

Other first team members were Robert Suffle, Central Mo. State second base, Robert Taylor, Nicholls State, shortstop, Bain Tolland, Colby College, third base, Pat Curran, Chapman College (Calif.), outfield, Robert Blakelay, Southwest Mo. State, outfield, and Terry Kieffer, pitcher, New Orleans University.

Bowen, a Brunswick, Ga. native, was a workhorse for VSC this season, hitting the ball at a .344 clip and leading the squad with seven home runs.

Bowen also led the Blazers in runs batted in, 37 runs scored, 52; hits, 55; doubles, 11; triples, 6; and stolen bases, 20.

In fact, Bowen led in every category except batting average (Dan Darden, .368) and at bats. (Gene Felts, 163).

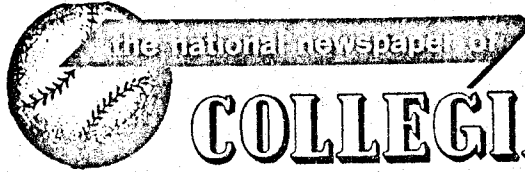
The Boston Red Sox recognized Bowen's talent and signed him to a pro baseball contract Monday after picking him in the seventh round of the player draft last week.

"I've been drafted before," Bowen said, "but I've never made an All-America team. It's a great feeling."

Bowen was scheduled to leave for El Mira, N. Y. today along with another VSC product and Red Sox draftee, Jerome

Register. El Mira is the home base for Boston's franchise in the New-York Pennsylvania league.

The Blazers participated in NCAA post season play for the first time this season, and Bowen shined in both the South Fla. and the national tournament in Springfield, Ill. He was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player in Lakeland, but didn't get much of a chance to show himself in Springfield where the Blazers dropped two straight games.



# COLLEGIATE BASEBALL

## — 1974 All-Americans —

### NCAA Division I (University)

(See page 5 for Worth  
All-American Squads)



Orlando Gonzalez  
IF-Miami, Fla.



Jim Hacker  
IF-Texas A&M



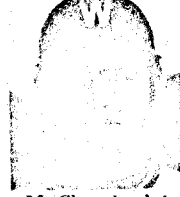
Bill Almon  
IF-Brown



Rich Dauer  
IF-U.S.C.



Lee Iorg  
OF-BYU



M. Chamberlain  
OF-Wash. St.



Earl Bass  
P-So. Carolina



Geze Delyon  
DH-Santa Clara

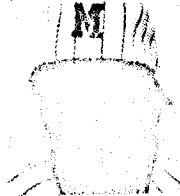
### Division II NCAA



Terry Stupy  
C-UC Irvine



Jeff Malinoff  
IF-UC Irvine



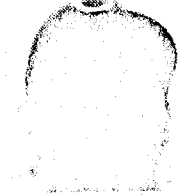
Robert Tuttle  
IF-Cent. Mo. St.



Robert Taylor  
IF-Nicholls St.



Bain Pollard  
IF-Colby



Pat Curran  
OF Chapman



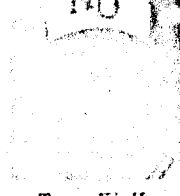
Sam Eowen  
OF-Valdosta St.



Robert Blakley  
OF-SW Mo. St.



Gary Wheelock  
P-UC Irvine

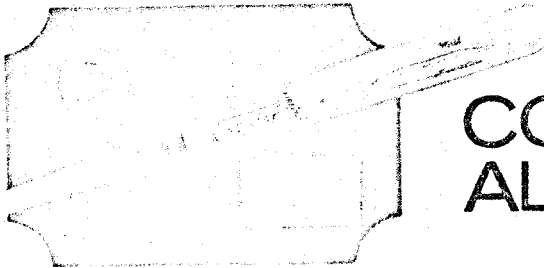


Terry Kieffer  
P-New Orleans

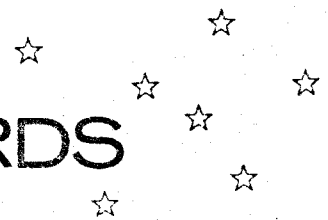
#### DISTRICT 3

1B-Steve Cohill, Loyola University; 2B-David Marion, George Mason University; SS-Mark Hopper, Florida Southern; 3B-Wayne Politelli, Eckerd College; OF-John Castino, Rollins College; OF-Sam Eowen, Valdosta State; OF-John Hart, Rollins College; C-Jack Goetz, Rollins College; P-Ken Massimini, Baltimore; P-Carl Goodiel, George Mason University.

# WORTH



# COLLEGIATE ALL-AMERICA AWARDS



	NCAA Division I (11-Man Roster)	NCAA Division II (10-Man Roster)	NAIA (15-Man Roster)	Junior College (14-Man Roster)	High School (11-Man Roster)	
IF	<b>ORLANDO GONZALEZ</b> Miami, Fla.	<b>JEFF MALINOFF</b> UC-Irvine	<b>DAVE HUMMELL</b> Oregon Tech	<b>EDDIE BEAM</b> Mitchell, N.C.	<b>DEL VECCHIO</b> Warde HS, Fairfield, Conn.	IF
IF	<b>JIM HACKER</b> Texas A&M	<b>ROBERT TUTTLE</b> Central Missouri St.	<b>RAY CROWLEY</b> Lewis U.	<b>EDDIE OLIVEROS</b> Miami-Dade North, Fla.	<b>LANCE PARRISH</b> Walnut HS, Walnut, Calif.	IF
IF	<b>WILLIAM ALMON</b> Brown	<b>ROBERT TAYLOR</b> Nicholls State	<b>JACKIE HEARD</b> Sam Houston St.	<b>BILL MORGAN</b> Merced, Calif.	<b>RON SOREY</b> Dayton HS, Dayton, O.	IF
IF	<b>RICH DAUER</b> U.S.C.	<b>BAIN POLLARD</b> Colby College	<b>DAN BATTISTA</b> Grand Canyon	<b>KEN PHELPS</b> Mesa, Ariz.	<b>RICK SUTCLIFFE</b> Van Horne HS, Kansas City, Mo.	IF
IF			<b>GLENN SMITH</b> David Lipscomb	<b>MARK MILAUC</b> St. Clair, Mich.		IF
OF	<b>LEE IORG</b> Brigham Young	<b>PAT CURRAN</b> Chapman	<b>CHUCK VAN SCHDYCH</b> Azusa Pacific	<b>LONNIE HARRIS</b> Kingsborough, N.Y.	<b>LONNIE SMITH</b> Centennial HS, Compton, Calif.	OF
OF	<b>MARV CHAMBERLAIN</b> Washington State	<b>SAM BOWEN</b> Valdosta State	<b>JESSE BENAVIDEZ</b> Lubbock Christian	<b>RONNIE LAIR</b> Temple, Tex.	<b>KEVIN DRAKE</b> Cabrillo HS, Lompoc, Calif.	OF
OF	<b>STEVE BOWLING</b> Tulsa	<b>ROBERT BLAKLEY</b> Southwest Missouri	<b>TOM O'BRIEN</b> Missouri Western	<b>KARL PAGEL</b> Glendale, Ariz.	<b>WILLIE WILSON</b> Summit HS, Summit, N.J.	OF
OF			<b>LOU ABEL</b> Point Park	<b>DON CARDOZA</b> College of Sequoias, Calif.		OF
C	<b>KEN ST. PIERRE</b> Indiana	<b>TERRY STUPY</b> UC-Irvine	<b>DAVID WOOLLEY</b> Sam Houston St.	<b>WAYNE MEARS</b> Chipola, Fla.	<b>DALE MURPHY</b> Wilson HS, Portland, Ore.	C
C			<b>TERRY KIRKPATRICK</b> Ferris State			C
P	<b>JIM GIDEON</b> Texas	<b>GARY WHEELOCK</b> UC-Irvine	<b>TOM BRENNAN</b> Lewis U.	<b>DAN BOONE</b> Cerritos, Calif.	<b>LARRY MONROE</b> Forest View, HS, Ft. Wayne, Ind.	P
P	<b>EARL BASS</b> South Carolina	<b>TERRY KIEFFER</b> New Orleans U.	<b>JOHN VERHOEVEN</b> LaVerne	<b>CHARLES SCHLOTTMAN</b> Clackamas, Ore.	<b>STEVE REID</b> Wayne HS, Ft. Wayne, Ind.	P
P			<b>JIM MILLER</b> Sam Houston St.	<b>BOB DOWNS</b> Johnson, Kan.	<b>TOM BOGGS</b> Lanier HS, Austin, Tex.	P
P				<b>JOHN HANNON</b> Gulf Coast, Fla.		P
DH	<b>GENE DELYON</b> Santa Clara		<b>KURT FREDERICKSON</b> Northern St.			DH

the fifth time.

**Julian**

**Miller**

**Times Sports Editor**

## Register's Dream Becoming Reality

Ever since he was five years old and clobbered a friend with his first baseball bat, Jerome Register has wanted to be like Roy Campanella. He takes a giant step in that direction today.



MILLER

er gave him his first ball and bat.

"My step-father was a head cook for the Dodger Organization and we had gone down to Vero Beach (Fla.) for summer camp." Register recalls. "I was just a kid and I hung around and watched them practice. That's when he gave me the ball and bat."

Like most five-year-olds, young Jerome didn't understand exactly what the bat was for. The ball he could understand. It was rubber and bounced back when he threw it. The bat went to his mother after he clobbered a playmate, and it stayed with her for a while.

But Register's interest had been directed at Campanella, the black catcher who showed an interest in him. He was an idol of sorts to Register. Jerome wanted to be like him and now he's getting his first real chance.

Register, who came up through the Lowndes County school system and starred for the Valdosta State College Blazers for the past two years is going to Elmira, N.Y., today to begin his career with the Boston Red Sox.

Even though he still has another year of college eligibility left, his 21-year-old age made him eligible for the draft, enabling him to join outfield teammates Sam Bowen and Gene Felts in the Annual Summer draft last week.

Jerome could hang around another year. But 17 years is long enough to wait for a dream. That's how long it's been since Roy Campanella, the Brooklyn Dodger catch-

### No Hard Feelings

"I didn't know what coach (Tommy) Thomas would think about me leaving a year early," Register said. "But he seemed about as proud of the chance I'm getting as I was.

"I'm sure he had mixed emotions about us, Sam, Gene and me leaving at the same time. But then I believe he's proud to have three players drafted at one time.

"He went with me last night (Sunday) when I signed and he seemed real enthused. I don't think there are any hard feelings. After all, how many people in our area get an opportunity to go? He knew how I felt."

Thomas and Register, the only black player to ever have played for the VSC baseball team, built a rapport few coaches and players have.

"I was cut from the team my sophomore year at Middle Georgia (Junior College), but it wasn't anything to do with baseball," he said. "That coach was good but he expected everybody to be real close to him. I couldn't get that close and he had plenty of other players so he cut me. But he did help me get on at VSC.

"Coach Thomas and me hit it off pretty good. I don't think I've ever been that close to a coach."

### Another Honor

Ironically, Register at first couldn't get a baseball scholarship so he went to Middle Georgia to play basketball. When he failed to make the team, he tried baseball on his own for his freshman year.

Register was only partially optimistic about being drafted. But being chosen by the same team as Bowen helped him prepare for the early exit from Valdosta.

"Sam had been drafted before and he told me they usually want you to come out immediately and start playing."

Register said he was pleased with the bonus money the Red Sox offered him to sign.

"It was substantial," he said. "Not great but okay." The big right fielder sees the draft of three VSC players as a giant step for the school.

"It's great," he said. "Another honor for Valdosta State. Give all the credit to coach Thomas."



**Julian**

**Miller**  
Times Sports Editor

# Bowen Now Ready To Play Baseball

The formalities are over, the discussions have ended, the contracts have been signed and Sam Bowen is ready to play baseball.

Bowen, Valdosta State College's All-America centerfielder, signed a contract with Boston Red Sox scout George Digby to play baseball with the Sox here Monday and prepared to head to Elmira, N.Y.



**MILLER**

Bowen should be an expert on such discussions by now. This made the fifth time he was drafted, and he feels it would have been his last.

"This would have been it as far as drafting," he admitted. "I might have been able to sign as a free agent. But then free agents don't get any bonus money."

It was bonus money that kept Sam out of the pros before now. And it was bonus money that put him in this time.

"Nobody ever offered that bonus money before," Bowen revealed. "Cleveland offered me \$10,000 when I graduated from high school but I didn't think that was enough to keep me from furthering my education."

Bowen and a teammate, Jerome Register, also signed by Digby after being drafted in the 17th round by the Red Sox last week, headed to the Class A league in Elmira Tuesday.

The centerfielder went in the seventh round of the draft and never dreamed he would have done so.

## "Been A Thrill"

"I thought I would go in the secondary phase," he said, "This has really been a thrill. The whole thing has been a thrill. I guarantee you."

When it comes to baseball, Bowen wants to play. And he's not particular as to where.

"I'm just going to play," he said. He (Bigby) seemed to think I had the tools to play outfield or infield, but I don't know. Coach (Donnie) Veal seems to think I have about average hitting power for an outfielder but for an infielder I have good power. I've played both and like them both.

"I think I'd like to play a little of each to see what I'm best suited for."

Bowen, however, who has also had high success as a pitcher, would rather not go that route.

## In The Attitude

"I'll leave that for Coach Thomas," he laughed. "No, it's fun to pitch. But it's not fun having a sore arm all the time."

The blond outfielder surprised even himself with his batting power this season and he credits college coaches Tommy Thomas and Dave Waples.

"They pounded it into me to have a good attitude about it," Bowen said. "Not to get down on myself for not doing as good as I want to do."

But four years of college ball had its drawbacks too.

"In pro ball they're grooming you the way they want you to play," he contrasted. "In college you're playing under a different system. You have to watch your grades too so you really can't concentrate as much on your game."

"And our competition here was tough. We played a lot of schools that really have good ball clubs. But in the pros you won't be going up against any weak pitchers. They'll all be good."

Julian

*Miller*

Times Sports Editor

## Felts Gets Last Chance To Shine

Gene Felts figured he should have gone higher in the annual major league summer draft last week, and this week he's out to prove it to the New York Mets.



MILLER

The Valdosta State College outfielder, a two time All-America college baseball player, ended up going to the New York Mets in the 33rd round and signing for very little bonus money.

One who spent most of his 21 years hoping to get the chance to play pro baseball, the congenial Lakeland, Ga. native couldn't help but feel disappointed at the way he entered the pros.

And that just might make him that much more determined to succeed.

Felts gets his chance this week. He left Valdosta Wednesday, headed for St. Petersburg, Fla., where the Mets hold their placement camp.

From there he is scheduled to report to Batavia, N.Y., to begin his career in the Class A rookie league. But he can do better, according to Met Scout Julian Morgan, who signed him.

Felts can do well enough in the St. Petersburg camp to earn a trip past the rookie leagues to one of four further advanced leagues, including the Western Carolina or the California league, considered the finest in the class.

That's what Felts is after and that's what he's working on now in Florida.

"He did sound encouraging about that," Felts said after signing with the Mets for the disappointing bonus money. "He (Morgan) seems to think I could make it to Vasalia, Calif. or Anderson, S. C. I think that would be very good. But if I don't make it there, I'll end up in Batavia."

The only good aspect of landing in New York is he'll be in the same league as two VSC teammates, Sam Bowen and Jerome Register, who are to be playing with the Boston Red Sox team in Elmira, N.Y. But then those two players went higher in the draft, seventh and 18th rounds respectively, and take wholesome bonus amounts with them to camp.

"I'm willing to give it two or three years as long as I seem to be making progress," Felts explained. "But let's face it. The minors are nothing to make a living out of. My main objective is to make it to the majors."

Part of Felts' impatience comes from the fact that for two years, his sophomore and junior seasons at VSC, during which he made the All-America ranks. Felts was on top of the world, shattering VSC records and captivating the scouts.

But 1974 was nowhere as successful and although he didn't have a bad year by layman's standards, it was atrocious to Felts.

"I can't pin-point my troubles right now," he said, "But I didn't do as well as I wanted to do."

"But I can help make up for going that low in the draft by doing good in St. Petersburg and making it to a higher league. They play very good ball in California and South Carolina. I'll have roughly four to five days in Florida to show them. That's what I've got to do."

Bowen feels the scouts goofed when they chose Felts as far back as the 33rd. "He's a lot better player than that," his former teammate said.

Both Morgan and VSC coach Tommy Thomas know the Lakeland man can make it in the pros. But now it is all up to Felts to make it all come true.

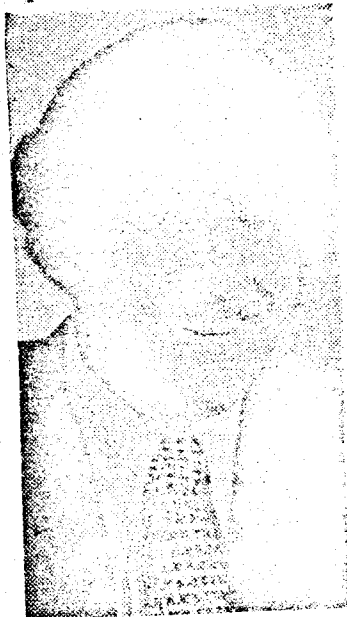
**Julian**

# Miller

**Times Sports Editor**

## Baseball Is Still A Game For Kids

Dave Waples came to Valdosta looking for southern sunshine, a winning baseball team, an administration that realized the importance of intercollegiate athletics and a place where he could be a kid again.



And the Grove City, Ohio native found it all as physical education teacher and assistant baseball coach for Valdosta State College.

Waples is the guy you seldom saw and frequently heard at the Valdosta State College baseball games for the past two seasons. It was his booming voice that belted "Jee—sus Christ, ump get in the game!"

The 32-year-old Dr. Waples is a marked difference to head baseball coach Tommy Thomas, who seldom raises his voice. And maybe that's one reason the two coaches have hit it off so well.

Their teams have hit it off even better. For the past

**MILLER**  
two years the Blazers finished third in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and second in the National Collegiate Athletics Association Division II.

"Tommy is a great coach to work with," Waples said. "We are so opposite, we just get along beautifully. He's a hell of a man."

Thomas' story has been told again and again. But few know Waples, or that the baseball-loving transplanted yankee is also used to being connected with winning teams.

An apparent loser through high school and his first two years of college at West Liberty State College in West Virginia, Waples' career took a turn for the better when, as a shortstop, he helped West Liberty to a 16-10 record and second place in the conference.

It was the school's first stab at baseball success. "Two years later, when I was out, they won the national championship," Waples said, "showed how much they needed me."

## Not Bad As McGuire

Waples' coaching career started in 1965 as a football graduate assistant at the University of New Mexico. He spent a year coaching baseball and as an assistant football coach in Columbus, Ohio, before returning to West Liberty to coach the baseball team there to 23-5 and 29-3 records before going on to West Virginia University and Jacksonville State in Alabama to complete his doctorate.

The colorful coach came to Valdosta looking for southern sunshine and a chance to coach baseball. He got both, as a physical education instructor and the school's first full-time baseball assistant coach.

But duties, some of them self appointed, go a lot farther. A ham for stats, ("I get a kick out of them.") he is the official statistician for the South Atlantic Conference, is the first cross country coach ever at VSC and announces all the basketball games at the VSC gymnasium, a building he has renamed, the "field house."

Perhaps Waples' most colorful moments are in the dugout when he boldly argues with the umpires, sometimes on plays that were no where that close.

"I like to win an awful lot," he said when asked about his philosophy. "But I don't know. I could expose some idealistic philosophy to you, but I think I'm just like everybody else. You put 9 or 11 kids on the field and when one makes a mistake it upsets you."

"A coach personifies himself in his players. And then a player expects you to back him up. I don't think I'm as bad as Al McGuire. But there are times when you have to show you are 100 per cent behind your players."

One of Waples' jobs is recruiting, which is a little harder at VSC than at most schools because of the money situation. VSC would never be accused of offering illegal money. The Blazers don't even have enough to offer full scholarships.

## Battles Full Rides

"VSC has only offered three players with full rides and none of them have been for four years," Waples said. "We lost one player we were trying to get to the University of North Carolina for a full ride. Another player, a catcher, went to a mid-western school for a full ride."

"When a player is offered a full ride by one of these larger schools and a partial ride by someone like us, he's almost obligated to take the full ride."

Still Waples did end up with two blue chippers, Bill Petty and Steve McDiffitt, the two outstanding freshman pitchers who helped VSC to its best record ever this season.

Petty, a lefthander, was recommended by Waples' old High School coach in Grove City. McDiffitt had played under one of Waples' former students. Petty accepted a partial scholarship. McDiffitt chanced paying his own way south hoping to get the scholarship he has since been offered.

Waples' wife, the former Jody Goetschius, is also a P.E. teacher, at Southeast Elementary School, and a big help in Waples' athletics endeavors.

"She really backs us up," Waples said. "She likes to win too. Supper...sometimes we don't even have any supper when we lose."

The smiling redhead isn't sure of his future goals. But he knows they somehow have to be around athletics.

"I've heard it said baseball is a game for little kids played by men," he said. "I don't go along with that. Baseball is a game of little kids played by little kids. And I want it to stay that way."

# Thomas Tells Of Blazer Success

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Old jokes have overplayed the thought—"If we get the hitting, pitching and defense, we should have a pretty fair baseball team this year."

But when Tommy Thomas looks for a reason for his Valdosta State College Blazers' super success, that's what he has to turn to.

"We got the hitting, the pitching and pretty fair defense," Thomas said of his Blazers, rated the number two small college team in the nation in the National Collegiate Athletic Association final poll.

Thomas was skeptical of the hitting when the season started but mid-way the year the Blazers went up against Tom Brennan, the fourth player to be drafted in the recent Major League draft, and Lewis College and the super successful coach saw his Blazers knock the big hurler out of the park.

"It carried on from there to the major part of the year," Thomas analyzed. "We proved we were capable of hitting any player in college. Things went into a big slump at the end of the year but we had already seen enough to know the capabilities were there."

The Blazers reached their peak in the NCAA district tournament in Lakeland, Fla., when they chalked up 54 hits in four games to win the thing and the berth in the national tournament. But things didn't go that well in the NCAA nationals.

"We didn't go into a big slump," Thomas explained. "We just didn't have the outstanding attack we'd had

in Lakeland. But I'd have to say our success this year was a combination of being able to hit every pitcher we've faced and our getting a lot of consistent pitching from a lot of boys and an adequate defense."

As far as hitters go, pitcher Dan Darden was the surprising player. He ended up as the team leader and the designated hitter when he was not pitching. Catcher Darrell Branam also brought on some pleasant surprises with his improvement and consistency.

The outfielders, Gene Felts, Sam Bowen and Jerome Register, all three of whom have since been drafted, came through with the power hitting Thomas had expected and first-sacker Jeff Greenhalgh, who seemed almost a failure in the regular season with a stick, turned into a super man at the district tournament.

"We also got some pretty good pitching from some people we weren't so sure about," Thomas said. He named infielders Pete Reeves, Steve Sumner, and Marty Bishop and Vince Musashe, who seldom started, but won a game or two when he did.

As far as pitching goes, Thomas has to hand it to Bill Petty, a freshman lefthander from Grove City, Ohio, who surprised the entire team by matching a VSC record of 11 wins against only two losses, with one coming in the national tournament in his first season.

"He was definitely the most consistent pitcher throughout the year," Thomas said. "No. We didn't expect him to have the year he had and we can't expect him to win 11 games

for us next season. But we do expect him to be a winner for us again."

Another freshman, righthander Steve McDiffitt, wasn't tabbed as a pitcher this season. But when the Blazers had nobody else, he took to the mound and beat such teams as Lewis, Georgia Southern and Florida State University in Tallahassee.

"He was a big surprise for

us. He only pitched because we had nobody else and he proved he deserved to start. He should come back next year with maturity and experience."

Senior righthander Rick Bowers was consistently getting in trouble, but consistently got out of it too, to emerge from his last season undefeated with an 0.90 earned run average.

Two other pitchers developed arm trouble. Darden, expected to be the horse this season, stuck it out and continued pitching, but the pains showed in his game. Foster Foran was switched to catcher, first baseman and designated hitter and finally sidelined for good after breaking his ankle against Georgia Southern. Both are expected to be stalwarts next season.

Sam Bowen, only brought in two decisions, but they were the big ones. The biggest was the win in the District tournament in Lakeland. Danny Chadwick, another senior kept things moving for the Blazers.

But the hardest to replace will probably be Marty LeFiles, the Valdosta produce who came on in relief, sometimes on as many as three consecutive days.

"He was not as good as he was last year (8-0)," Thomas said. "But he made his presence known. I don't know if we'll be able to find someone to come on in relief like he did."

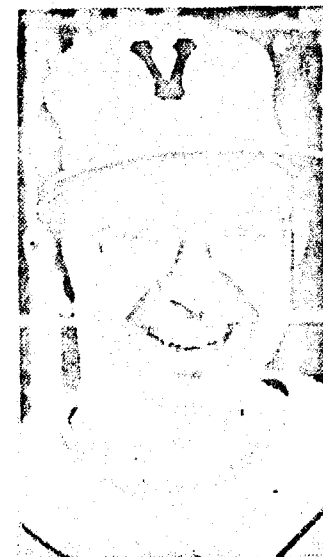
As far as defense, Thomas has a lot of work to do in the outfield. Felts and Bowen were two of the best outfielders around. Register scared him but had a knack for getting the job done.

Almost the entire infield showed up stronger than Thomas had hoped and Branam made up for his apparent lack of power with his quick moves and fast release. "But Darrell's best feature was his durability," Thomas said. "He caught nearly every game for us."

## Blazers At A Glance

### 1974 Final Baseball Statistics

	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.	2B	3B	HR	SB
Foster Foran, dh	42	12	17	18	.405	3	0	2	1
Dan Darden, dh	106	25	39	8	.368	4	0	0	7
Jerome Register, rf	150	32	52	29	.347	8	3	1	10
Sam Bowen, cf	160	52	55	37	.344	11	6	7	20
Darrell Branam, c	132	28	43	34	.326	7	0	3	2
Gene Felts, lf	183	39	53	30	.290	10	4	0	14
Steve Sumner, 3b	98	16	28	15	.286	3	1	0	3
Vince Musashe, 2b	32	6	9	3	.281	0	0	0	1
Pete Reeves, ss	96	17	26	4	.271	3	0	0	3
Marty Bishop, 3b	85	9	23	15	.271	5	1	0	2
Ralph Starling, of	24	3	6	1	.250	1	0	0	0
Jeff Greenhalgh, lb	117	20	27	26	.231	2	1	3	2
Dan Alford, 2b	127	19	24	18	.189	3	2	1	12
Bill Parsons, ss	46	12	8	4	.174	1	0	0	3
Jerry Dennis, lb	44	3	7	3	.159	1	0	0	1
Bill Petty, dh	29	7	3	1	.103	1	0	0	4
Others	20	4	7	4	—	0	0	0	0
<b>VSC TOTALS</b>	<b>1491</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>.286</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>OPPONENTS</b>	<b>1468</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>.234</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>38</b>
	<b>G</b>	<b>IP</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>ER</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>W-L</b>	<b>ERA</b>
Rick Bowers	9	50	36	11	5	27	25	6-0	0.90
Bill Petty	13	80.1	64	24	18	24	30	11-2	2.02
Dan Darden	13	69.2	48	32	17	42	56	7-2	2.70
Dan Chadwick	10	57.2	53	25	20	28	21	3-3	3.12
Steve McDiffitt	9	46	42	21	18	18	19	5-1	3.52
Foster Foran	5	27.1	30	21	12	15	16	2-2	3.95
Marty LeFiles	16	44	43	27	22	18	17	2-2	4.50
Others	10	22	28	13	11	19	23	2-1	—
<b>VSC TOTALS</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>38-13</b>	<b>2.79</b>
<b>OPPONENTS</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>13-38</b>	<b>5.39</b>



**TOMMY THOMAS**  
Another Success

Moving from third in the NAIA to second in the more prestigious NCAA, Thomas has his work cut out to keep the trend moving the way it has. But that's all next year's problems. Right now he's content to give a well-done nod to the '74 Blazers.

