

Valdosta's James Conway (85) Grabs Pass From Crisp Quarterback Skeebo Muslewhite (11) And Carries It Into The End Zone To The TD Sign Of Lynn Roe (96)

# Wildcat Aerial Game Wipes Out Crisp, 35-7

By MIKE CHASON  
**COLELE**—It was a historic moment. For the first time in the nine-year history of their rivalry, Crisp County led Valdosta in a high school football game.

But it didn't last long. No, it didn't last long at all.

With his team trailing 7-0 in the first quarter, Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder gave the green light to a Wildcat passing attack which was kept under wraps in a 40-0 season-opening victory over Central of Thomasville last week.

But the secret is out. Wheeling and dealing behind the deadly accurate throwing arm of John Lastinger and the pine tar fingers of pass-catcher Blair, Valdosta clobbered the hometown Cougars 35-7 here Friday night.

"When we got behind, that did open it up more," Hyder said. "But we planned to throw more than we did last

week. "That was a good defense we faced out there. He (Crisp Coach Ferrell Henry) has got six or seven boys anybody in the region would like to have. He's got some good football players."

Henry didn't stop with just a few players when he talked about the number one-rated Wildcats.

"Let's face it," Henry said. "Valdosta got just a great football team. Coach Hyder's game plan was excellent. Here we were practicing all week against the run, then they come up here and throw it. But I tell you, Valdosta's going to beat a lot of people."

Henry, who was beaten 40-14 by last year's state runner-up Valdosta team, went one step further. He thinks this edition of black-and-gold football might be better than the last one.

"I don't want to hurt anybody's feelings or anything," Henry said. "But he's got more skill people than we. I don't know who their receivers were last year but I don't remember them making all these splendid catches against us." Blair wasn't a major factor

in last season's 12-2 team but he and Lastinger were the trigger men in the Region I-AAAA (North) matchup Friday night.

With Lastinger getting all the protection he needed from what might be the best offensive line in the league, Blair found gaping holes in the Crisp secondary.

For the night, Lastinger hit on the 10 of 13 passes for 207 yards. He had one interception on a tipped pass and three touchdown tosses of 40 yards to John Bond and 12 yards to Robert Smith.

Blair caught seven passes for 130 yards.

"I didn't think I was throwing it all that good," Lastinger called "a great one" by Hyder, said. "The receivers just caught everything I threw."

"The offensive line did a real good job. I only got tackled one time."

## The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

Usually a team which forces the other guy to make mistakes, Valdosta had the tables turned on it by the blue-and-gold clad Cougars. The Wildcats lost two fumbles and had two passes intercepted.

Nowsgard Wayne Nixon leaped on a fumbled pitch in the first quarter when Valdosta's Irwin Roe couldn't find the handle.

Nine yards and three plays later, Crisp's Eddie Ford plunged to paydirt from two yards away to put the Cougars up in ligha. Alton Harvey kicked the extra point.

Valdosta roared back with a tantalizing 80-yard march which culminated with a fourth down gamble. On fourth and three at the 8-yard-line, Roe redeemed

himself with a burst of speed and power right up the middle for six points.

David Reeves, who was perfect on all five extra point kicks, tied the score with 1:16 to play in the opening period.

"I thought our placekicker did an excellent job, both on extra points and kicking off," Hyder said.

VHS middle guard James Conway took advantage of a rare opportunity on the first play of the second quarter when Crisp quarterback Skeebo Muslewhite hit him right in the chest with a hastily thrown pass.

Conway caught the ball and lugged it 15 yards for a touchdown.

Two minutes later, Lastinger spotted Bond down the Vikings' sideline for the fourth bomb. Bond, who is

Lastinger's backup as well as a pass-catcher, was covered perfectly by Anthony Murray but simply plucked the pigskin of Murray's fingertips.

"I made up my mind I was going to get it," Bond said. "John just hid it up there nice and pretty."

For Valdosta's third touchdown in the second quarter, Lastinger shifted to the shotgun formation with impressive results. He carried the Cats 89 yards in 10 plays and behind the blocking of center Tony Blasetti and the rest of his trench crew, the senior quarterback zipped the ball to Smith for the 12-yard score.

Ernest King, who lost Valdosta's other fumble, plowed three yards for the first touchdown with 6:12 left in the third period. Troy Thomas' 29-yard punt return to the Crisp 27-yard-line set up the 3-play scoring drive.

Playing cornerback with an intensity which has become characteristic of him, Thomas also led the defense with nine individual tackles. Linebacker Lynn Roberts and Conway added five

apiece. Thomas, Roberts and end James Harris each recorded a sack of Muslewhite, who featured dual gold awarded passes on each writ.

"They were tough in the beginning," Roberts said. "We were a little slow, but we'll be ready. Next week, we've got Thomsville, and they're going to be a lot tougher. But all of them are tough."

Crisp managed only 10 yards passing but did pick up 116 rushing. However, much of that total came on a 45-yard run by Ford against the VHS reserves in the fourth period. Ford had 83 yards in 24 carries.

Henry seemed to take the loss in stride. In fact, he seemed almost as concerned over the theft of some of the personal belongings of the Valdosta players as he did losing the game.

The veteran head coach looked on with a grim face, even when one Wildcat reported his underwear had been stolen.

going for a 3-point conversion late in the game.

"I felt like he was fair tonight," Henry said. "He played a lot of people. But my opinion of Coach Hyder has never really changed; he's always been a gentleman."

"I hate it that those boys had some of their stuff stolen. That just makes losing even more sour."

Valdosta	Crisp
First Downs	17
Yards Passing	112
Yards Rushing	116
Passes Comp. by	10
Attempts	13
Interceptions	3
Fumbles	2

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# D-E-F-E-N-S-E

## LHS Rips Colquitt, 28-0; DeVane Keys Air Game

By MARTIN REGISTER  
**MOULTREE**—Every dog may have his day, but the night belonged almost entirely to Lowndes Vikings here Friday night.

Lowndes quarterback Chuck DeVane unleashed a potent air attack and running back Steve Thomas punished the clinging Packers defense for 95 rushing yards as Coach Joe Wilson's Lowndes team mauled Colquitt County 28-0 in a Region I-AAA (South) high school football clash.

Wilson had warned the Packers, under first-year coach Bob Griffith, would pose a viable threat to the Vikes, ranked fifth in the state in the latest poll by the Associated Press.

Wilson's bloodthirsty mood proved to be unfounded, however, as a smothering Lowndes defense choked off everything the outlasted Pack tried to get cranked up.

In the end, Lowndes had run its record to 2-0, won its first subregion test of the year, and left the Packers looking as like a litter of whipped pups.

"Every dog has his day," said Griffith, who came here from a highly successful program at Appling County (Baxley). "Some day, we'll have ours."

"The Lowndes program is four or five years old. Ours is only an months old. We couldn't expect to compete with them. We knew that."

DeVane, the Vikings' junior signal-caller, picked apart the Colquitt defense, completing 12 of 20 passes for 215 yards and scoring twice himself, both in the first half on runs from near the goal line.

"That was practically the extent of the Packer offense on a hot, sultry night, when a brilliant, 400-yard-plus Viking offensive effort was almost overshadowed by the awesome Lowndes defensive machine."

Coach Brad Almon's defensive unit, for the second consecutive week, almost completely shut down its opponent.

Last week, Lowndes capped off its season with a 33-0 victory over the Cougars. Colquitt's highly-touted senior running back, to just 33 yards rushing on ten carries. Ronnie Adkins, Cooper and Keith Hitchcock cracked up

seven tackles apiece, while Addie Reese brought down the ballcarrier six times.

Moultree's Tracy Billings, however, led all tacklers with nine.

Meanwhile, the Vikings moved almost all well against the Pack. The Valdosta team had piled up almost 250 yards in offense by halftime.

Thomas, who time and again simply ran over the Colquitt defenders, scored the third Lowndes touchdown, from one yard out with 45 seconds left in the first half.

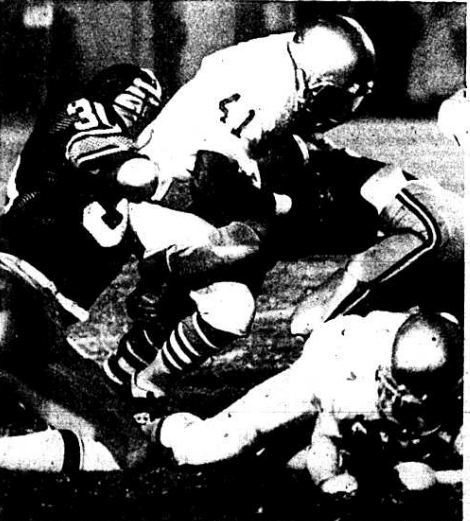
Steve Player played a large part in that penetration when he gathered in a pass from DeVane and charged 51 yards upfield to the Packer four-yard line.

Things didn't go so smoothly for the Vikings in the second half.

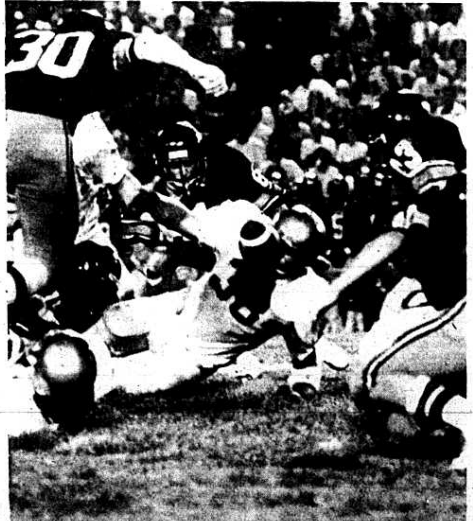
Mistakes, in the form of pass interceptions, penalties and quarterback sacks, reared their heads to harass Lowndes after halftime.

Wilson admitted his team had "cranked up well early," but was less than totally pleased with what he considered a relaxed attitude by the Vikes as the game wore on.

"They brought it to me," he said. "I had expected



Lowndes' Cedric Jones (41) Gets Stopped By The Packers, Left, While Steve Thomas (38) Draws Attention From Ball And Colquitt



them to play us closer than this."

"The defense played well," he said, in a terrific understatement. "When it was where it was supposed to be. We let them have too many third down plays."

Stokes drilled all four PAT attempts through the uprights.

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"Everyone on offense did a good job. And I believe our defense is invincible."

"We executed better than we did last week," he added, agreeing with some of his teammates, who cited improvement over their season opener in Albany last Saturday night.

Colquitt, in the first year of consolidation of the Moultrie, Norman Park, and Dorcum school systems, fell to 1-1 on the year.

The Packers' outgun Monroe (Albany) last week 31-7.

"We had a good team effort," said DeVane.

Lowndes' defense

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