

Second Half Surge Sends LHS Past Central

BY MIKE CHASON
THOMASVILLE—“No mercy was the slogan. That’s the way it turned out but it wasn’t easy. High School’s multiple offense started

The Valdosta Daily Times

SPORTS

For the past two seasons, Central’s Yellow Jackets have been the only football team to prove absolutely dominant over the Joe Wilson-coached Vikes from Valdosta, scoring 27-5 and 42-8 wins.

The Vikings stormed to the Central 19-yard line with two minutes to go in the second quarter only to be stopped when Thomas coughed up a rare fumble. By game time, Wilson had shuffled in junior quarterback Chuck DeVane in 1977 and sophomore signal-caller Kevin Stephenson. Stephenson started the game because of DeVane’s sore left ankle. But Wilson went to DeVane during the second series and alternated the two boys the rest of the half.

“I just wanted to wait and see how Chuck’s ankle was,” Wilson said. “Kevin did a good job. It’s good to have more than one quarterback.”

Not A Bad Night For LHS Runner

By Times Staff Writer
 THOMASVILLE—Steve Thomas made it clear how he was motivated to score four touchdowns and pick up 119 yards rushing in Lowndes’ 49-0 victory over Central of Thomasville here Friday night.

“I felt like they couldn’t bring me down,” Thomas, LHS’s senior fullback, said. “I fell strong. Coach (Joe) Wilson told me it ought to take more than one man to bring me down. I just felt like they couldn’t tackle me.” Thomas clinched the Central defense of his feelings.

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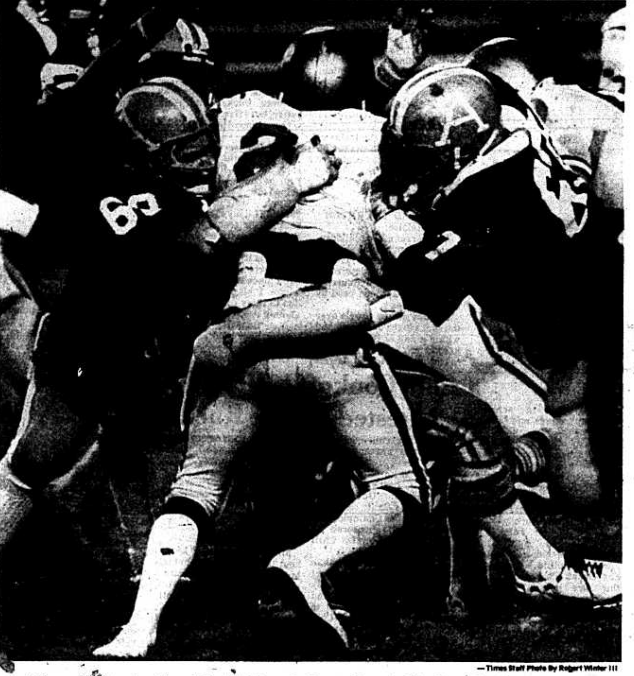
Central's Greg York (40) Brings Down Viking Fullback Steve Thomas After Short Gains

Thomas trotted into the end zone standing up. After Keith Hitchcock intercepted a pass, Lowndes scored again on a 46-yard drive keyed by a 15-yard DeVane to Chuck Jones pass and a 15-yard Stephenson to Player loss.

“We were a little tight at the start. The players were tight, and the coaches were tight. I didn’t even know my name six or seven hours ago. The pressure is unreal.”

“I let these people (Lowndes fans) down to a degree last week in an 18-7 loss to Tift County. If it happened again, I don’t know if I could have lived with myself.”

Lowndes hosts Dougherty (Albany), Friday. Central travels to Cordele to meet Crisp County.



Albany Defenders Stack Up Valdosta's Irvin Roe At The Line Of Scrimmage

Valdosta Bombards Albany High, 49-0

By MIKE HAGOOD
 The event much as expected as Valdosta High School’s Wildcatters routed hapless Albany High School 49-0 in a football game here Friday night at Cleveland Field.

“Any time you hold the other team scoreless, you’ve got to be happy,” Rudolph said. “We need to work on the second team’s consistency, to develop the pride to stop the other team on the first series of downs and not wait until they get down around the goal line.”

“We are approaching the meat of the game and need more than eleven guys ready to play,” said Rudolph.

Valdosta’s first score came on its first possession, when Lastinger scored on a 6-yard run, set up by a 20-yard pass to Robert Smith.

Dougherty Knocks Off Crisp Co., 20-14

By The Associated Press
 Running back Lionel James carried 24 times, gained 244 yards and scored three touchdowns to lead Dougherty County 20-14 victory over Crisp County in Region 1AAAA Georgia high school football Friday.

James scored first on a 22-yard pass and again on a 73-yard run but Dougherty nevertheless trailed 14-12 at halftime after 11 and 48 TD runs by Crisp’s Eddie Ford.

Worth County managed to stay with Class AAA No. 1-ranked Waycross most of the game, trailing only 7-0 at the end of three quarters. But the Bulldogs went wild in the fourth quarter, finally winning 24-0.

First Waycross drove 72 yards in eight plays. Roscoe Jones scored play from the seven. Then Johnny Plowden returned a punt 40 yards for another touchdown, and finally David Bethea snatched up a Worth County fumble and ran eight yards

for another TD. In west Georgia, the Troup Tigers scored an early touchdown against Manchester on a 91-yard drive. Then both teams settled into trench warfare, neither penetrating the other’s 20-yard line in a defensive struggle that gave Troup a 7-0 win.

Griffin stole a heart-stopping victory from the Savannah Country Day blanked Emanuel County Institute 13-0 to defend its place at the top of the heap in the AP’s Class A standings.

Chadlets rolled up 363 rushing yards and held a 14-0 halftime lead. Two third-period touchdowns capped the scoring as Benedictine upped its record to 3-0.

In large private school action, quarterback Jeff Batcher stroled over the goal line three times, and Durward Benson kicked the PAT to give the Stratford

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