

# Top-ranked Valdosta Shuts Out BC, 23-0

STATISTICS		
	BC	Val
First Downs	8	12
Yards Gaining	121	182
YARDS PASSING	10	79
Passes	24-0	8-11-0
Fumbles lost	3	0
AVERAGE	5.9	4.38
Yards Penalized	50	40

By BILLY RAUERS  
Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — Top-ranked Valdosta's substitute quarterback John Bond scored three touchdowns and the Wildcats came away with a 23-0 victory over Benedictine here Friday night in the South Georgia AAAA Division.

Benedictine ends the season 11-2. Valdosta, 14-0, will meet Griffin, an 18-14 winner over Lakeside, for the state championship next Saturday night in Valdosta.

BC opened things up with a brief drive as Bubba Lowenthal picked up

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15 yards on a pitch, but quarterback Denny Dotson lost 14 on a sack and the drive stalled.

After a 43-yard punt by Jay Von Waldner, Valdosta's Troy Thorns got 32 yards on the return, and the Wildcats were in business at BC's 58.

Eight plays later, Bond scored from the three-yard line. David Reeves kicked the point after, and

Valdosta led 7-0.

The Cadets came storming back, going 47 yards on eight plays, but a fumble killed the drive at the Valdosta 32.

That was to be the story all night long as fumbles killed three Benedictine drives.

Bond hit Frederick Blair on a 14-yard pass for a first down, and as the clock ticked down to 0:00, the junior quarterback went 50 yards for a Valdosta touchdown. The point after made it 14-0.

BC again moved the ball on the ensuing possession as Dotson and Chris McCarthy got seven yards each. Dotson got seven more, but on a third-and-one, McCarthy fumbled.

Later in the period, Valdosta's Rodney Gordon placed a 45-yard punt on the BC three. Two plays later McCarthy was caught in the end zone for a safety and the half ended 16-0, Valdosta.

BC failed to move on its first second possession, but the Cadets moved 56 yards on their next try, with Mario De La Guardia picking up 21 yards and McCarthy accounting for 22. But again the Cadets tumbled.

Valdosta took over at their own 40-yard line, and halfback Ernest King went 53 yards on the first play.

Bond scored two plays later from the one.

Valdosta again threatened in the fourth quarter, but the drive stalled and Reeves tried a 40-yard field goal. Safety Wayne Robinson blocked the kick, but couldn't pick it up to advance it, and the Cadets could get no further than the 40-yard line.

"Fumbles really killed us," said BC Coach Jim Walsh. "We had two tackles hurt, but they've got a heck of a ball club."

"I feel like we were really pretty lucky," said Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder. "Their defense ranks with some of the best we've seen. They'd really get after you. Fumbles really killed them, but when we dropped that punt inside the five just before the half, that really changed our whole strategy."

Valdosta's depth proved to be a decisive factor in the game. Injuries to some key BC players and a 40-man performance by the Wildcats kept BC in check.

Benedictine ran the draw play particularly well with De La Guardia picking up key yardage. McCarthy's slashing runs also sparked the Cadets, but Valdosta's punishing defense turned the ball over.

"They've got two tremendous running backs," said Hyder. "De La Guardia and McCarthy both ran the ball well, but McCarthy really impressed me. He's a very determined kid, and I told him so after the game. He's as good as any back we've seen this year."

Benedictine	0	0	0	0	0
Valdosta	14	7	23	23	23

V — Bond, 1 run; Reeves kick.  
V — Bond, 50 pass; Reeves kick.  
V — Safety, McCarthy blocked in end zone.  
V — Bond, 1 run; Reeves kick.

## Middleton Paces Johnson, 73-47

Football star Frank Middleton does quite well with a basketball as he paced the Johnson to a 73-47 win over Effingham County Friday night.

Middleton, an all-area running back in the fall, had 20 points for the winners and Leon Curry added 19 as Johnson took its opener. Wayne Wimberly was the leading rebounder for Johnson with nine.

The Johnson girls also fared well as they dumped Effingham 52-40 behind Anette Frazier's 23 points.

Mullen J., Watson G., Hayes A., Parrish B., Howard G., Hooks J., Johnson G.  
BIBLE (M) Bessley W., Brower A., Shavers J., Hayes B., Parrish L., Howard A., Hooks J., Johnson L.

### Raiders Triumph

RIDGEVILLE, S.C. — Larry Brobst tallied 13 points as Savannah Christian won its opener, topping Thomas Heyward 51-44 Friday night.

The Raiders also took the girls' contest, this time by a 29-24 score as Stacy Misroom had 13 points.

SAVANNAH CHRISTIAN (S) Brobst 13, McCarthy E., Barnard S., Ouel E., Adams H., Harlin A., Colquhoun J.  
THOMAS HEYWARD (M) Hammar A.

EFFINGHAM (W) Curdock B., Gray B., Bowman B., Wilson S., Maynor S., Harris.  
JOHNSON (W) Curry 19, Middleton 20, Wimberly 9, Reddick J., Lambert J., Ellington L., Hunter J., Harris C.