Wildcat Passing Airs Out Monroe

By ANDY KANENGISER
Herald Staff Writer

If Monroe Coach Winfred Benson had any doubt about who is No. 1 in the state, he doesn't anymore as the top-ranked Valdosta Wildcats tore up his Tornadoes 41-0 at Hugh Mills Stadium Friday night.

THE YARDSTICK

VALDOSTA		MONROE
15	FIRST DOWNS	5
125	YARDS RUSHING	6
231	YARDS PASSING	47
12-25	COMP.-ATTEMPTS	6-9
0	INTERCEPTED BY	1
0	FUMBLES LOST	2
3-28.3	PUNTS	8-33.1
8-50	PENALTIES	4-47

"From what I've seen they have a balanced attack — both passing and running. I think they will go all the way," Benson said after the powerful Wildcats put 27 points on the board in the second half.

Valdosta, held scoreless in the first period, was leading by only a 14-0 count early in the third quarter when senior quarterback John Lastinger unleashed a 47-yard pass play to halfback Irven Rowe for the touchdown that broke the backs of the scrappy Tornadoes.

"It looks like we didn't do anything after that," Benson said recalling the touchdown that made it 20 to 0 with 10:42 left in the third period. "And they took advantage of our mistakes."

Lastinger's bomb for six points was preceded by successful completions to Rowe and senior Robert Smith, as the Wildcats, the pre-season picks to win region 1-Quad A according to press poll, scored on their first possession after receiving the second half kickoff.

Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said his ballclub now 8-0, displayed "one of our better efforts in Albany ... our kids try hard. They have a great attitude."

He said Monroe employed a "good strategy" in the first half, slowing things down. "And we got impatient throwing instead of running ... patience is a great virtue," the 'Cats coach added.

The hometown fans were plenty patient with the efforts of the underdog Tornadoes, now 2-6, as the Monroe defense held Valdosta scoreless until there was 8:16 left to play in the first half.

The 'Cats finally got untracked as Lastinger, who completed nine of 19 for 138 yards, scored from the two on a keeper, the culmination of a sustained ground attack after the visitors received a Monroe punt late in the first quarter.

Roe, Lastinger, fullback William Gaskins, and halfback Robert Smith did the bulk of the running in the drive and senior David Reaves kicked the extra point giving the 'Cats a lead they never surrendered.

And 7-0 was the way it appeared the first half would end as the Monroe High Band was getting ready to move onto the field for its halftime show.

But with just over two minutes to play in the half, a Monroe drive stalled, forcing the Tornadoes to punt.

After a defensive pass interference call against Monroe moved the ball to Valdosta's own 40-yard stripe, Lastinger injected a little razzle-dazzle into the offense, pitching to Rowe, also listed as a quarterback, who then tossed a 50-yard bomb to 155-lb. end Frederick Blair. He was nailed at the 10 yard line.

The Tornadoes seemed to be in shock from that play with less than a minute to go. And Lastinger, on the next play, threw a 10-yarder to end John Bond, who is also a reserve quarterback, for a second touchdown with 46 seconds showing on the clock. Reaves again made good on the extra point, giving the visitors from Lowndes County a 14-0 cushion at halftime.

In the third period, after Lastinger's long bomb to Rowe made it 20-0, the 'Cats kicked off, putting the ball deep in Monroe territory. A holding penalty against the home team shoved the ball back to the Monroe 10 yard-line. Quarterback Marvin Hall then pitched to fullback James Hollis, who lost control of the ball, and Valdosta defender James Harris scooped the loose pigskin up for another Wildcats' touchdown.

Reaves again booted the extra point, with the clock showing 9:00 left in the third period, and the score a hopeless 27-0 tally with Monroe, for all practical purposes, out of the ballgame.

The offensive machine of the Wildcats, which had rung up 246 points coming into this game to only 21 for the opposition was not done for the night, however.

After a Monroe drive went nowhere early in the fourth period, the Wildcats took the punt in Monroe territory and drove down to the five-yard line on a pass from reserve quarterback Bond to junior halfback Roe. Bond moved the ball to the one on a keeper before Gaskins bulled his way over the goal line with 8:37 left in the game. Reaves put his foot to good use, making it 34-0.

The Wildcats recovered a fumble by Monroe halfback Gary Seay with 1:10 to go, giving them the ball at the Tornadoes' 40 yard line.

During a quick drive, Bond, a 179-lb. junior, hit junior halfback Carl Wilcox with a pass to the 3-yard line. Bond, on the next play, then ran it in for the score with 16 seconds showing on the clock. Reaves kicked the point after attempt, as the score ballooned to 41-0.

It was a far cry from last year where the Tornadoes put up a tough fight here before coming out on the short end of a 13-7 game with the Wildcats.

"The caliber of our players last year was a bit better," Benson said.

About the lopsided defeat here last night, he said "Naturally we're disappointed ... we'll just forget about it and come back Monday and do a better job."

But that won't be easy, considering that Monroe will face another top-rated team — Thomasville — next Friday night.

For Valdosta, contests with Bainbridge, at home and Dougherty High here round out the schedule.

Coach Hyder, savoring the victory here Friday night, had praise for Monroe's junior fullback Gregory Pratt, who rushed for 30 yards on 12 carries.

Pratt "could play for anybody in the region," Hyder said. And he called senior noseguard Donald Tumblin" a fine football player."

About his own team, Hyder praised the effort by the defense, and said Bond "had a good night." He completed 2 of 5 for 43 yards, and caught two others for 19 yards.

Rowe carried the ball 13 times for 65 yards and caught 3 passes for 81 yards, to spearhead the Valdosta offense in what proved to be a night to forget for Monroe fans.

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Valdosta 0 14 13 14 — 41
Monroe 0 0 0 0 — 0
V — Lastinger 2 run (Reaves kick)
V — Bond 30 pass from Lastinger (Reaves kick)
V — Howe 47 pass from Lastinger (kick failed)
V — Harris, fumble recovery in end zone (Reaves kick)
V — Lastinger 1 run (Reaves kick)
V — Bond 1 run (Reaves kick)

MONROE'S MARVIN HALL IS DRAGGED DOWN BY MARLIN BEAUFORT
Valdosta Passing Attack Was Key To Wildcats' 41-0 Victory Over Tornadoes
(Herald Staff Photo, Larry Lott)

Pelham Wins

Herald Sports Writer

DAWSON, Ga. — Pelham's Hornets rallied in the second half to pull out a 21-12 win over Terrell County's Green Wave Friday night in a 1-AA South tilt.

THE YARDSTICK

PELHAM		TERRELL CO.
9	FIRST DOWNS	12
208	YARDS RUSHING	149
51	YARDS PASSING	33
5-12	COMP.-ATTEMPTS	4-9
1	INTERCEPTED BY	1
2	FUMBLES LOST	2
2-33	PUNTS	3-29
4-40	PENALTIES	4-50

Terrell led 12-0 at the half after scoring twice in the opening period on a four-yard run by Isiah Johnson and a 28-yard dash by John Johnson. The first capped a 37-yard march and the second a 69-yard trek highlighted by Curtis Carter's 29-yard run.

Pelham finally got on the scoreboard with 5:23 left in the third period when Ray Layton plunged a yard to end a 54-yard march.

Jerry Carter, who had a 31-yard run in that drive, raced the same distance for the next Hornet score. Layton's 23-yard fourth down pass to Gary Stephens kept the 65-yard drive alive. Layton passed to Stephens for two points and a 14-12 lead with 4:26 to go in the game.

Carter, who ran 24 times for 160 yards, added an insurance TD on a 37-yard run with 50 seconds to play. Johnny Hudson added 51 yards on 11 trips for the winners while Ricky Pollock led the defense with 10 tackles. Ted Simpson and Willie D. Smith had eight each.

Pelham, now 6-2, visits Calhoun County next week. Terrell, 3-4-1, hosts Mitchell next week.

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Pelham 0 0 6 15 — 21
Terrell Co. 12 0 0 0 — 12
T — J. Johnson 4 run (kick failed)
T — J. Johnson 28 run (pass failed)
P — Layton 1 run (pass failed)
P — Carter 31 run (Stephens pass from Layton)
P — Carter 37 run (Stephens kick)

Westwood Waltzes

Herald Sports Writer

Doyle Singleton, who [illegible] ended the PAT ended a 69-