

# The 1980 All-State football team

## Class AAAA

### Lowndes' Wilson and Jones, Griffin's Vaughn best of stars



Robert Vaughn  
AAAA lineman of year



Codric Jones  
AAAA back of year

By STEVE FIGUEROA  
Constitution Staff Writer

This year's Lowndes high football team would have been pretty good without tailback Codric Jones, as evidenced by the fact three other Vikings made the Class AAAA all-state team. But with Jones, Lowndes went 14-1 and won the AAAA state championship.

"Codric was the difference in their team," said Valdosta coach Nick Ryder, whose Wildcats were the only team to defeat Lowndes this season, splitting two meetings with the talented Vikings. "Without Codric, Lowndes was an average football team. Jones is the best offensive player in Region I-AAAA since William Andrews was at Thomasville. I said that before the season, and I think it's very apparent now."

Jones, The Journal-Constitution's Class AAAA Back of the Year, accounted for over 3,000 yards total offense and scored 38 touchdowns this season. The 5-foot-11, 186-pound speedster rushed for 2,054 yards on 251 carries, caught 28 passes for 604 yards, completed seven passes for 237 yards and returned four punts for touchdowns.

Jones, who has run a 9.45 100-yard dash, finished his three-year career with 3,254 on 400 carries — an average of 8.1 yards carry — and scored 64 touchdowns.

"He's the best I've seen in 22 years of coaching," said Lowndes coach Joe Wilson. "He's a great natural athlete with plenty of speed and strength. He's a great athlete. Wilson is the AAAA Coach of the Year after guiding Lowndes to its first region and state titles in the same year. Along the way, his Vikings also got their first win at Valdosta's Cleveland Field, defeating the Wildcats 6-3 in the Region I-AAAA championship game after dropping a 17-regular-season decision, also at Cleveland Field.

In five seasons, Wilson has turned a chronic losing program into state champions. And he won the title this season despite the pressure of being the pressman pick.

The AAAA Lineman of the Year is senior nose guard Robert Vaughn of state runnerup Griffin. Only 5-4, Vaughn packs 330 pounds on his stocky frame and was one of the few Griffin players ever to start as a freshman.

In four years, Vaughn — better known around Griffin as "The Secretary of Defense" — started 53 games for the Bears and recorded 373 first hits.

"That's an incredible number of tackles for a down lineman," said Griffin coach Lloyd Bohannon. "Robert has made it so people just don't run up the middle on us. Most of them

don't even try anymore. I don't know if we're going to be able to run the same defense from next year without Robert. We may have to change because nobody else can do what we were asking Robert to do."

A nagging ankle injury slowed Vaughn early in the season, but he recovered to get credit for 97 first hits, 17 pass rushes and three quarterback sacks.

Vaughn is joined on the team by tailback Stacey Driver — the only junior on the squad — and wide receiver Kerry St. Clair. Driver gained 1,843 yards on 247 carries and scored 25 touchdowns, while St. Clair caught 38 passes for 730 yards and five touchdowns, despite the fact Griffin preferred to keep the ball on the ground.

Jones is joined by Lowndes teammates Eric Thomas at quarterback, Steve Player at wide receiver and Wayne Wright at tackle.

Thomas passed for 2,101 yards and 27 touchdowns this season, while Player caught 47 passes for 942 yards and 14 touchdowns. In their careers, Thomas completed 216-of-449 passes for 3,903 yards and 55 touchdowns, while Player caught 149 passes for 2,694 yards and 41 touchdowns.

Wright, 6-4 and 225 pounds, anchored the Lowndes defense from his tackle position.

## Class AAAA All-State team

Player	School	HT	WT	Pos.	Class	Area
Eric Taylor	Waynesboro	6-1	215	QB	SR	CB
Robert Vaughn	Griffin	5-4	330	LG	SR	CB
Stacey Driver	Griffin	5-7	185	TB	JR	CB
Wayne Wright	Lowndes	6-4	225	T	SR	CB
Codric Jones	Lowndes	5-11	186	RB	SR	CB
Steve Player	Griffin	5-8	185	WR	SR	CB
Robert Vaughn	Griffin	5-4	330	LG	SR	CB
Stacey Driver	Griffin	5-7	185	TB	JR	CB
Wayne Wright	Lowndes	6-4	225	T	SR	CB
Codric Jones	Lowndes	5-11	186	RB	SR	CB
Steve Player	Griffin	5-8	185	WR	SR	CB
Robert Vaughn	Griffin	5-4	330	LG	SR	CB
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Codric Jones	Lowndes	5-11	186	RB	SR	CB
Steve Player	Griffin	5-8	185	WR	SR	CB
Robert Vaughn	Griffin	5-4	330	LG	SR	CB

## Class AAAA All-State team

Player, School	Ht. Pos.	Pos. Ht.	Class Wt.	Avg. Cls.
Eric Thomas, Lowndes.....	QB	6-0	195	Sr
Quinton Lewis, Bradwell Inst.	QB	6-2	185	Sr.
Roper Hall, Berkmar.....	QB	6-0	186	Sr.
Cedric Jones, Lowndes.....	RB	5-11	186	Sr.
Stacey Driver, Griffin.....	RB	5-9	175	Sr.
Buddy Arnold, Fayette County.	RB	5-8	175	Sr.
Calvin Jones, Wills.....	RB	6-3	195	Sr.
Darryl Moore, Clarke Central..	RB	5-11	160	Sr.
Dwayne Thompson, Hardaway..	RB	5-8	170	Sr.
Todd Roper, South Gwinnett....	LB	6-3	210	Sr.
Paul Stokes, Valdosta.....	LB	6-2	190	Sr.
Jimmy Bone, Hardaway.....	LB	6-2	190	Sr.
Robert Vaughn, Griffin.....	L	5-8	230	Sr.
Wayne Wright, Lowndes.....	L	6-4	225	Sr.
Harry South, Benedictine.....	L	6-2	215	Sr.
Andy Cheatham, Pebblebrook..	L	6-4	228	Sr.
Spencer Nelms, Lakeside.....	L	6-4	225	Sr.
Ricky Holt, Tift County.....	L	6-5	230	Sr.
Kerry St. Clair, Griffin.....	L	6-1	175	Sr.
Steve Player, Lowndes.....	L	6-2	185	Sr.
Terry Ward, Evans.....	DB	5-10	165	Sr.
Tyrone Kesler, Douglass.....	DB	6-2	195	Sr.

**Honorable Mention (Limited to 22):** Ken Hobby, QB, Tift County; Mike Ashley, QB, Fayette County; Jeff Anderson, QB, Peachtree; Billy Daugherty, RB, Peachtree; Mike Vinson, L, Morrow; Jon Aldrich, L, Henderson; Kevin Butler, K, Redan; Kelly Quinn, L, Stone Mountain; Mark Aston, L, Hardaway; Carey Griffin, RB, Griffin; Mark Rasmeyer, LB, Hardaway; Jon Tedder, L, Tucker; Chip Tardy, L, Clarke Central; Todd Harris, LB, Douglass; Dante Jones, DB, Valdosta; Donald Chumley, L, Groves; William Ivory, RB, Northside of Warner Robins; Jeff Tipps, LB, Marietta; Billy Barnhill, L, Campbell of Smyrna; Judson Luke, L, Evans; Herman Williams, LB, Lowndes; Ken Carney, DB, Sprayberry.

## Class AAA All-State team

Player, School	Ht.	Pos.	Class	Avg.
Player, School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
Robert Hill, Central Gwinnett...	QB	6-1	175	Sr.
John Dewberry, Milton.....	QB	6-1	185	Sr.
Cedric Bradley, Smith.....	QB	5-10	195	Sr.
Mike Coveny, Marist.....	RB	5-9	170	Sr.
Phillip Ripoy, Chamblee.....	RB	5-8	175	Sr.
Darrell Norton, Therrell.....	RB	5-8	160	Sr.
Terry Rainge, Early Co.....	RB	5-7	145	Sr.
Melvin Dean, Crisp Co.....	RB	5-10	170	Sr.
Darry Evans, Chattooga.....	RB	5-11	175	Sr.
Bill Mayo, Dalton.....	L	6-4	260	Sr.
Rory Graves, Columbia.....	L	6-6	265	Sr.
Ron O'Neal, Walker.....	L	5-11	240	Sr.
Gerald Browner, Woodward Acad.....	L	6-4	300	Jr.
Ralph Jackson, SW Atlanta.....	L	6-5	220	Sr.
Kip Ruark, Central Gwinnett..	L	5-10	170	Sr.
John McIntosh, Dalton.....	L	6-2	240	Sr.
Michael Phillips, Therrell.....	L	6-2	245	Sr.
Verdis Boone, Cedartown.....	LB	6-2	210	Jr.
Thomas Cooper, Woodward Acad.....	LB	5-11	186	Sr.
Jerry May, Washington Co.....	LB	6-1	190	Sr.
Antonio Render, Columbia.....	DB	6-3	195	Sr.
Douglas Smith, Fulton.....	DB	6-1	180	Sr.

Honorable Mention (Limited to 22): Tracy Ashley, QB, Dodge Co.; Chris Sheffield, QB, Cairo; Barron Poole, RB, Norcross; Marco Warren, RB, Hart Co.; Vincent Elder, RB, Towers; Stanley Rogers, RB, Winder-Barrow; Robert Griffith, RB, Monroe Area; Ralph Jackson, L, SW Atlanta; Jerome Rossetti, 6-0, 195, Woodward Acad., Sr.; Rob Owen, L, Riverwood; Owen Stephens, L, Therrell; Steve McGill, L, Chattooga; Spencer Teal, L, Cairo; Steve Oxford, L, Milton; Kelly Arthur, L, Gainesville; Ricky Phillips, L, Crisp Co.; Michael Harvey, L, Crisp Co.; Alan McCoy, L, Early Co.; Rick Barnes, LB, Americus; Nicky Paige, LB, Cairo; Berdis Boone, LB, Cedartown; Stan Cole, LB, Lithonia.

## Class AA All-State team

Player, School	Ht. Pos.	Pos. Ht.	Class Wt.	Avg. Clk.
Rob Allen, Blackshear	QB	6-4	185	Sr.
Cedric Brown, Greene County	QB	6-1	172	Sr.
John Pruett, R.E. Lee	QB	6-0	160	Sr.
Alvin Toles, Mary Persons	RB	6-1	207	Sr.
Robert Lavette, Cartersville	RB	6-0	178	Sr.
Curtis Guinyard, Westwood	RB	6-0	213	Sr.
Casey Neel, Ridgeview	RB	5-11	195	Sr.
Ronald Watson, Jefferson	RB	5-10	175	Sr.
Roger Kingdom, Vienna	RB	6-2	185	Sr.
Ken Volkmer, College Park	LB	5-11	193	Sr.
Knox Culpepper, Lovett	LB	6-1	205	Sr.
Ric Davis, SE Bulloch	LB	6-1	217	Sr.
George Davenport, Briarwood	L	6-3	270	Sr.
Bobby Hodge, Vidalia	L	6-5	300	Sr.
Ben Thomas, Turner County	L	6-3	245	Sr.
Eugene Williams, Morgan County	L	6-1	232	Sr.
Greg Hillmeyer, Duluth	L	6-3	220	Sr.
Ralph Smith, Cedar Grove	L	6-2	205	Sr.
Wade Britt, Blackshear	L	5-10	165	Sr.
Craig Traylor, R.E. Lee	L	6-3	175	Sr.
Freddie King, Mitchell County	DB	5-7	148	Sr.
Tony Hiles, Duluth	DB	5-11	200	Sr.

Honorable Mention (Limited to 22): Jeff Neighbors, LB, R.E. Lee; Steve Taylor, L, West Rome; Ronnie Cleveland, LB, Lincoln County; Marcus Sprattin, QB, Lincoln County; Emary Bacon, DB, Reidsville; Eric Elijah, RB, Seminole County; Calvin English, RB, Brooks County; Trevon Daniels, RB, Claxton; Bobby Lamb, QB, Commerce; Keith Glanton, RB, Villa Rica; John Dolan, RB, Westminster; Doug Joiner, L, Manchester; Dale Holmes, RB, Manchester; Mark Channell, L, Greene County; Jay Cravey, L, Vidalia; Bobby Howell, RB, Duluth; Toby Washinger, L, Mary Persons; Charles Raulerson, LB, Blackshear; Chris Lockhart, RB, Upson; Chris Wade, L, Oconee County; Alan Jordan, L, Model; Michael Gaines, LB, Mitchell County.

## Class A All-State team

Player, School	Ht. Pos.	Pos. Ht.	Class Wt.	AVG. Cl.
Randy Stamper, Buford.....	QB	5-10	175	Sr.
Kevin Hendrix, Hogansville.....	QB	6-0	160	Sr.
Jaron Guess, Clinch Co.....	QB	5-11	185	Jr.
Darryl Opletree, Greenville.....	RB	5-6	145	Sr.
Vic Beasley, Adairsville.....	RB	6-0	180	Sr.
Mitch Smith, Buford.....	RB	5-10	175	Sr.
Bo Slaughter, Athens Acad.....	RB	5-10	185	Sr.
Alexander Lakes, Greenville.....	RB	5-11	175	Sr.
Barry Nix, Armuchee.....	RB	6-1	185	Sr.
Tyrone Sorrells, Buford.....	L	6-4	190	Jr.
Mark Kitchens, Greenville.....	L	5-10½	205	Sr.
John Heard, Hogansville.....	L	6-2½	220	Sr.
Walter Kendrick, Warren Co....	L	6-1	270	Sr.
Robert Cavitt, Sav. Country Day.....	L	6-3½	205	Sr.
Tommy Butler, Buford.....	L	5-11	190	Sr.
Aubrey Frazier, East Coweta..	L	6-2	215	Sr.
Tab Godfrey, Clinch Co.....	LB	5-9	185	Sr.
Bubba Tye, Clinch Co.....	LB	5-10	180	Jr.
Danny Ponder, Greenville.....	LB	6-4	185	Sr.
Arthur Mitchell, Charlton Co....	LB	6-0	175	Sr.
Frank Nelson, Warren Co.....	DB	5-10	175	Sr.
Mike Chaney, Trion.....	DB	5-10	175	Sr.

Honorable Mention (Limited to 22): Jeff Stargell, QB, East Coweta; Sandy Ramey, RB, Decula; Greg Amick, RB, Sav. Country Day; Ricky Thomas, RB, Junior Mincey, RB, Patterson; Clinch Co.; Charles Huff, RB, Portal; Eldridge Milton, RB, Charlton Co.; Scott Lynn, LB, East Coweta; Danny Hughes, LB, Armuchee; Jack Sims, L, Palmetto; Drew Prentice, L, Adairsville; Howard Ayers, L, Hogansville; Michael Chambliss, L, Sav. Country Day; Mike Webb, L, Sav. Country Day; Calvin Tolbert, L, Clinch Co.; Melvin Robertson, L, Greenville; Monte Davis, DB, Adairsville; Michael Hawkins, DB, Miller Co.; Winston Glenn, L, Heard Co.; Scott Daniel, L, G.M.C.; Stoney Lester, L, Headville; Mike Sitten, L, Wilcox Co.