

# Vikings Strike Early, Storm Past Strife In 33-0 Runaway



By MIKE CHASON  
Never one for quiet introductions, Steve Wilson paraded Lowndes High School's Vikings into the 1978 football season with a picturebook pass play, pulled tight out of the silver-silvered magician's hat.

Albany's Indians never recovered from the shock.

When the final horn sounded, Lowndes had chalked up victory number 17.

YARDAGE

First Down	10	10
Yards Gained	34	18
Passes Completed	10	13
Passes Attempted	17	21
Yards Per Pass	3.4	1.2
Interceptions	1	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Penalties	4	11

one via a 33-0 walloping of an Albany squad which never crossed the midfield stripe on offense.

We had been working on it for about two weeks," Wilson said of the 64-yard highlight pass from Eric Thomas to Chuck Jones which initiated Black scoring on the first play of the game.

"It wasn't all that tricky. We had the field position, so we used it."

On the play, Viking quarterback Chuck DeVane slipped the ball to Thomas who found Jones wide open down the home sideline in Hugh Mills Stadium here.

The senior tight end never broke stride as he danced into the end zone.

Jeff Stokes kicked the extra point and with the season only 36 seconds old, the marching Vikings struck up "That Good Old Mountain Dew" for the first of many times on the night.

"Any time you win the first game of the season on the road to Albany on Saturday night, you've got to be pleased," Wilson said. "We made a lot of mistakes, not as many as Albany did, but we've got to get the quarterback to quit losing yardage."

DeVane wound up losing 56 yards to about a hole in the Vikings' rushing total, which featured 72 yards by fullback Steve Thomas to the 100-yard line.

The senior bulldozer was never taken down by just one defender.

"We weren't keeping them honest," Wilson said in explanation of the sacks suffered.

ferred by DeVane. "We were going for the home run too much. But all three of our quarterbacks threw a touch-down pass."

"We've all got a lot of work to do. But it was their first game under the lights in front of this many people."

Over half the 8,000 fans present, on the muggy evening were Viking supporters. They cheered long, loud and often.

"I was real nervous that first half," DeVane, who turned 19 on Friday, said. "I think we got settled down after halftime. We made a lot of mistakes, but I think we'll learn from them."

DeVane hit on nine of 19 passes for 122 yards. He had one interception and three touchdown passes of 15 and 53 yards to sophomore flanker Steve Player.

Player also caught a 24-yard scoring pass from sophomore quarterback Kevin Stephenson in the final period.

Robin McElroy added an eight-yard touchdown run about Steve Player," Wilson said.

Player, who didn't look said, "That was my first high school game. I think we looked fine. We'll make a few more mistakes."

Player caught eight passes for 146 yards to top all receivers in the game. He picked up over half all of the offense. He had 12 yards passing and 46 yards rushing.

The offense had 11 first downs, 10 on rushing and 1 on passing. The Indians never threatened to put together an offensive drive.

"We had five individual tackles for the Vikes, who also featured a sack by defensive end guard Adam Reese and linebacker Ronnie Adkins."

For the Indians, linebacker John Kirksey had eight individual tackles. The offense was outstanding," Wilson said. They didn't even get a first down. They hung in there, though."

"I wanted to play a few more minutes, but we didn't get very well," DeVane said. LHS defensive coordinator



Lowndes' Steve Thomas (38) churns upfield for yardage

Brad Almon echoed Wilson's sentiments.

"We played pretty good," he said. "I know they ran away from them. I know they ran away from them. I know they ran away from them."

Albany coach Cardon Dalley was not pleased at all with his team's performance.

"We gave up the cheap touchdown," Dalley said. "Our secondary did okay. We got a lot of work to do. This is next week, and they are at it."

Lowndes, rated fifth in the class AAAA pool last week, travels to Moultrie to meet Colquitt County Friday.

The game is the first South subregion affair for the Vikings.

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Lowndes Score by Quarter

1st	14	14	32	32
2nd	0	0	0	0
3rd	0	0	0	0
4th	0	0	0	0
Total	14	14	32	32

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Watch The Birdie: Ray Rayfield keeps Eye on Ball

## Oliver Ties Coay For Lead At JOI

By Times Staff Writer  
Seven-time runner-up Jack Oliver plunged into the thick of things once again Saturday, carding a 73 to grab a share of the second round lead at the Jack Oliver Invitational Golf tournament here.

Oliver, whose grandfather lent his name to the annual affair at the Valdosta Country Club course, has seen victory slip from his grasp seven times in the tournament since 1960.

His Saturday round of 73, coupled with a 71 he racked up Friday, gave him a two-day score of 144, tying him with Ray Coay, who recorded a 74 Saturday after blistering the course with a 70 on Friday.

Oliver and Coay will get a chance to break their tie, and the remainder of the field in the championship flight's "A" division.

Jim Roundtree, Fred Steedley and Al Armstrong were in second place at 148.

Tom Allen held a narrow lead in the championship flight's "B" division with a score of 74-154 while Tim McCall, Terry Hiers and Ansel Clark were close behind.

Joe Griffin, Bobby Steele, Bruce Dixon and Jim Arnold were in a tight fight for first place in the "C" division with scores of 157, while Rusty Trancylanger strung together two rounds of 81 to lead the "D" division by a single stroke with a score of 162.

The huge field was divided into 11 flights by tournament officials.

The first through tenth flights have played only one round thus far.

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JOI CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

Ray Coay	71-73-144
Jack Oliver	73-71-144
Tom Allen	74-74-148
Jim Roundtree	74-74-148
Fred Steedley	74-74-148
Al Armstrong	74-74-148
Joe Griffin	75-73-148
Bobby Steele	75-73-148
Bruce Dixon	75-73-148
Jim Arnold	75-73-148
Tim McCall	76-72-148
Terry Hiers	76-72-148
Ansel Clark	76-72-148
Joe Griffin	77-71-148
Bobby Steele	77-71-148
Bruce Dixon	77-71-148
Jim Arnold	77-71-148
Tim McCall	78-70-148
Terry Hiers	78-70-148
Ansel Clark	78-70-148
Joe Griffin	79-69-148
Bobby Steele	79-69-148
Bruce Dixon	79-69-148
Jim Arnold	79-69-148
Tim McCall	80-68-148
Terry Hiers	80-68-148
Ansel Clark	80-68-148
Joe Griffin	81-67-148
Bobby Steele	81-67-148
Bruce Dixon	81-67-148
Jim Arnold	81-67-148
Tim McCall	82-66-148
Terry Hiers	82-66-148
Ansel Clark	82-66-148
Joe Griffin	83-65-148
Bobby Steele	83-65-148
Bruce Dixon	83-65-148
Jim Arnold	83-65-148
Tim McCall	84-64-148
Terry Hiers	84-64-148
Ansel Clark	84-64-148
Joe Griffin	85-63-148
Bobby Steele	85-63-148
Bruce Dixon	85-63-148
Jim Arnold	85-63-148
Tim McCall	86-62-148
Terry Hiers	86-62-148
Ansel Clark	86-62-148
Joe Griffin	87-61-148
Bobby Steele	87-61-148
Bruce Dixon	87-61-148
Jim Arnold	87-61-148
Tim McCall	88-60-148
Terry Hiers	88-60-148
Ansel Clark	88-60-148
Joe Griffin	89-59-148
Bobby Steele	89-59-148
Bruce Dixon	89-59-148
Jim Arnold	89-59-148
Tim McCall	90-58-148
Terry Hiers	90-58-148
Ansel Clark	90-58-148
Joe Griffin	91-57-148
Bobby Steele	91-57-148
Bruce Dixon	91-57-148
Jim Arnold	91-57-148
Tim McCall	92-56-148
Terry Hiers	92-56-148
Ansel Clark	92-56-148
Joe Griffin	93-55-148
Bobby Steele	93-55-148
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Ansel Clark	94-54-148
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Terry Hiers	98-50-148
Ansel Clark	98-50-148
Joe Griffin	99-49-148
Bobby Steele	99-49-148
Bruce Dixon	99-49-148
Jim Arnold	99-49-148
Tim McCall	100-48-148
Terry Hiers	100-48-148
Ansel Clark	100-48-148
Joe Griffin	101-47-148
Bobby Steele	101-47-148
Bruce Dixon	101-47-148
Jim Arnold	101-47-148
Tim McCall	102-46-148
Terry Hiers	102-46-148
Ansel Clark	102-46-148
Joe Griffin	103-45-148
Bobby Steele	103-45-148
Bruce Dixon	103-45-148
Jim Arnold	103-45-148
Tim McCall	104-44-148
Terry Hiers	104-44-148
Ansel Clark	104-44-148
Joe Griffin	105-43-148
Bobby Steele	105-43-148
Bruce Dixon	105-43-148
Jim Arnold	105-43-148
Tim McCall	106-42-148
Terry Hiers	106-42-148
Ansel Clark	106-42-148
Joe Griffin	107-41-148
Bobby Steele	107-41-148
Bruce Dixon	107-41-148
Jim Arnold	107-41-148
Tim McCall	108-40-148
Terry Hiers	108-40-148
Ansel Clark	108-40-148
Joe Griffin	109-39-148
Bobby Steele	109-39-148
Bruce Dixon	109-39-148
Jim Arnold	109-39-148
Tim McCall	110-38-148
Terry Hiers	110-38-148
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Joe Griffin	111-37-148
Bobby Steele	111-37-148
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Jim Arnold	111-37-148
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Joe Griffin	113-35-148
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Jim Arnold	113-35-148
Tim McCall	114-34-148
Terry Hiers	114-34-148
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Joe Griffin	115-33-148
Bobby Steele	115-33-148
Bruce Dixon	115-33-148
Jim Arnold	115-33-148
Tim McCall	116-32-148
Terry Hiers	116-32-148
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Joe Griffin	117-31-148
Bobby Steele	117-31-148
Bruce Dixon	117-31-148
Jim Arnold	117-31-148
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Bruce Dixon	123-25-148
Jim Arnold	123-25-148
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Terry Hiers	124-24-148
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Joe Griffin	125-23-148
Bobby Steele	125-23-148
Bruce Dixon	125-23-148
Jim Arnold	125-23-148
Tim McCall	126-22-148
Terry Hiers	126-22-148
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Joe Griffin	127-21-148
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Jim Arnold	127-21-148
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Joe Griffin	129-19-148
Bobby Steele	129-19-148
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Jim Arnold	129-19-148
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Terry Hiers	130-18-148
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Joe Griffin	131-17-148
Bobby Steele	131-17-148
Bruce Dixon	131-17-148
Jim Arnold	131-17-148
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Bobby Steele	145-3-148
Bruce Dixon	145-3-148
Jim Arnold	145-3-148
Tim McCall	146-2-148
Terry Hiers	146-2-148
Ansel Clark	146-2-148
Joe Griffin	147-1-148
Bobby Steele	147-1-148
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