

Reeves family divided for a night by rivalry

By IRA SCHOFFEL
Times-Enterprise

The Thomasville High-Thomas County Central rivalry often splits apart families for one — or two — nights of the year. But rarely does a family get this involved.

Chris Reeves, who is in his third year as a defensive assistant coach at TCCHS, is the son of THS assistant Gale Reeves. And for the first time in their careers, the father and son coached against each other Friday night.

The younger Reeves said the week leading up to the game was noticeably different.

"Usually during the week, he'll call and we'll talk about what they're playing and who we're playing," Chris Reeves said. "This week, we didn't have none of that."

The Yellow Jackets are ranked No. 1 in Class 3A, while Cairo should move up from its present spot at No. 7. Both teams are 6-0, 3-0 in Region 1-3A.

Reese's big night

Charles Reese may have solidified himself as the best receiver in the region Friday night. Not only did he catch four passes for 137 yards — he also intercepted two of Thomasville's passes.

'Ugly' but effective

TCCHS coach Ed Pilcher wasn't thrilled with his offense — but he was satisfied.

"It's like Coach (Bill) Shaver said — it was a dang ugly 45 points," Pilcher said. "We didn't do what I thought we would do running the football. But we still got some yards."

Five days and counting

Central's win, coupled with Cairo's 11-10 overtime victory over Worth County, sets up a huge game Friday in Cairo.



TCCHS assistant coach Chris Reeves (left) and his father, Gale Reeves, talk after Friday's game. Gale Reeves is a THS assistant coach. (Dayton P. Strickland/Staff)

THS	7
TCCHS	45

THS	0	0	7	0	7
TCCHS	3	21	21	0	45

TCCHS — Nathan Armstrong 32 field goal
TCCHS — Joe Burns 10 run (Armstrong kick)
TCCHS — Burns 33 run (Armstrong kick)
TCCHS — Charles Reese 41 pass from Paul Guyton (Armstrong kick)
TCCHS — Burns 3 run (Armstrong kick)
THS — Melvin Clark 70 pass from Michael Johnson (Stephen Pothill kick)
TCCHS — Jerome Simpson 49 kick return (Armstrong kick)
TCCHS — Reese 68 pass from Guyton (Armstrong kick)

THS	TCCHS
8	37
26-60	36-230
4-20-2	7-20-0
86	197
146	427
4-2	1-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING: THS — LaMichael Doss 9-65, Johnny Davis 4-13, Richard Tillman 3-6, Michael Johnson 10-12; **TCCHS** — Joe Burns 12-118, Jabar Dunbar 6-65, Paul Guyton 8-5, Leonard Guyton 7-25, Melvin Thomas 1-18, Anthony Johnson 1-1, Lemont Burkes 1-0.
PASSING: THS — Johnson 4-20-28; **TCCHS** — P. Guyton 7-18-0; L. Guyton 0-2-0.
RECEIVING: THS — Melvin Clark 2-70, Kenya Davis 1-13, Tillman 1-4; **TCCHS** — Charles Reese 4-137, Calvin Moore 1-35, Channon Wyche 1-16, Burns 1-8.

TCCHS: Jackets' defense roared, while Thomasville's struggled

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Thomasville's strategy. Although they were stopped at or behind the line of scrimmage several times, they also broke some long runs.

On one drive in the third quarter, Burns and Dunbar had back-to-back runs of 54 and 31 yards, respectively.

"We were running up the gut on 'em," Burns said. "There wasn't nothing outside, so we had to go up the middle."

Central's defense again was outstanding. Except for one third-quarter play — a 70-yard scoring pass from Michael Johnson to Melvin Clark — the Bulldogs could mount little offensive success.

The Yellow Jackets sacked Johnson four times and forced him to throw incompletions on 16 of his 20 pass attempts. He was intercepted twice.

"Our defense played one whale of a game tonight," Pilcher said. "They're getting better. ... Ricky (Dean) had a real good game pass-rushing. Jerome Simpson had a good game. Otis (Stewart) had a good game with the pass rush. Hey, Michael was under pressure a bunch."

While winning against a rival is big, Pilcher said winning a region game is even bigger.

"The good thing about it is we're a step closer to a playoff spot," Pilcher said. "And that's the key."

Gamble: Dunbar, Guyton made the Bulldogs pay

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But the Yellow Jackets' strength is their running game, and it didn't disappoint. The trio of Guyton, Jabar Dunbar and sophomore Joe Burns racked up over 200 yards on the ground, including two touchdown runs. Both scores were courtesy of Burns.

"I've said all along, Dunbar is good, but Burns is probably the most underrated football player they've got, and he's only a sophomore," Johnson said. "What people in this region don't realize is Central's going to be pretty good the next couple of years, too."

While the score doesn't indicate it, Johnson said his team did have its moments. Thomasville scored on a 70-yard bomb from Michael

Johnson to Melvin Clark in the third quarter. But mistakes haunted the 'Dogs from the outset.

Only six seconds after the Bulldogs' lone score, Yellow Jackets lineman Jerome Simpson returned the onside kick 49 yards, which proved to be the killing blow for THS.

"I saw some things tonight that I don't ever recall seeing," Johnson said. "An onside kick bounces up perfect to the kid and we run right by him. Then on fourth down and no time on the clock, they throw a pass over the middle and the kid goes 40 or 50 yards. You just don't see things like that. Our kids played hard, but we would have had to play a perfect game to beat them. Our touchdown pass didn't even slow them down."



Thomasville High tailback LaMichael Doss was the Bulldogs' only consistent offensive threat Friday. (Dayton P. Strickland/Staff)

Cairo: Syrupmakers win with overtime penetration

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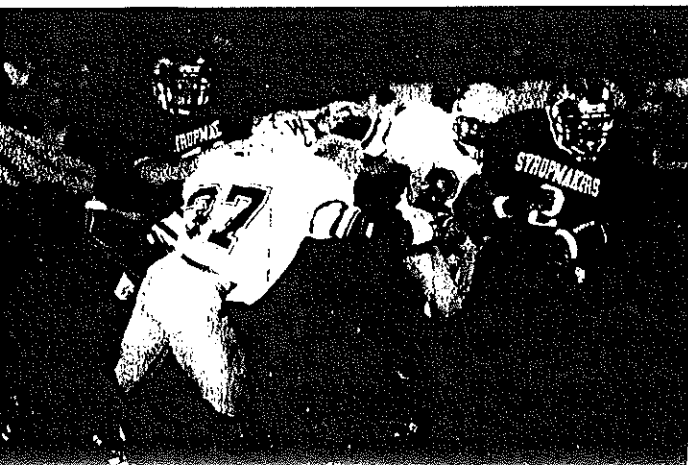
skin of our teeth. "They've got a great team and our kids just hung in there and found a way to win. It was like a heavyweight bout, punch-counter-punch. We were fortunate, in the end, to get the penetration and win the game."

Worth County head coach Brent Brock said the contest was just as he expected.

"You've got two good traditional football teams going after each other," Brock said. "They are playing well and we've been playing well. I thought we played well in spurts, but we couldn't put the ballgame away in the red zone."

The game started out with both teams trying to run the clock. Cairo took the opening kickoff 77 yards for a touchdown. The 13-play drive ate up 7:34 off the clock.

Kelverrick Green was the standout for the 'Makers on the drive. He rushed for 43 yards on five carries and scored from 3 yards out to give



Highlights from around the state

STATESBORO, Ga. — In a game full of twists, Levi Scott led Effingham County with 148 yards on 21 carries, including the game's only touchdown in a 7-3 upset win over Class AAAA No. 4 Statesboro Friday night.

Scott has "been bothered by a dislocated shoulder and all he does is come back and win the football game for us," said Effingham County coach Bob Griffith.

Levi Scott's cousin, Ralph Scott, was Statesboro's leading rusher going into the game, but twisted his ankle after a 7-yard gain in the second quarter and had to be helped off the field. He did not return.

"Parkview 28, Brookwood 7 — Brett Milliken rushed for 150 yards, and two touchdowns

Worth Co.	10
Cairo	11

Worth	0	10	0	0	0	10
CHS	7	0	3	0	1	11

CHS — Kelverrick Green 3 run (LaMichael Williams kick)
 WCHS — Cale Roberts 26 field goal
 WCHS — Natarsha James 11 pass from Tim Gaint (Roberts kick)
 CHS — Ja. Williams 23 field goal
 CHS — OT penetration

WCHS	CHS
12	12
32-50	44-170
11-22-1	2-12-1
148	40
198	218
2-1	4-3
3-31	4-37

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING: WCHS — Leroy Dyd 13-57, Curron Morris 1-0, Charles Simon 1-4-3, Tim Gaint 17-4-1; **CHS** — Kelverrick Green 15-95, Eric Hunter 14-63, Jax