

Bulldogs smother Yellow Jackets, 21-3

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times-Enterprise Sports Editor

It was a game which was decided in the manner a coach prefers — not on a tipped pass or a blocked kick or a referee's flag. It was decided at the line of scrimmage.

The Thomasville Bulldogs broke from a slim 7-3 lead at halftime to dominate their cross-town rivals in the second half and defeat the Central Yellow Jackets by a 21-3 score in the opening round of the Region I-AAA playoffs.

Thomasville, now 11-0, plays host to the Albany Indians next Friday night in Thomasville to determine the Region I-AAA champion. Central finished the season with a 6-5 overall record.

The Bulldogs ran 36 plays in the second half to only seven for Central. They gained 228 yards to just 10 for the Yellow Jackets in the final two periods, and the Bulldogs held the ball for 20 minutes, 32 seconds of a possible 24 minutes in the half.

Thomasville took the second half kickoff and drove 76 yards in eight plays with fullback James Williams bursting up the middle from 16 yards out for the score. The big gainer on the drive was a 33-yard halfback option pass from Shawn Austin to Anthony Hayes.

After forcing Central to punt, the Bulldogs drove 64 yards in 10 plays before entering a field goal.

However, Mike Jones' diving interception quickly gave Thomasville the ball back at the Yellow Jacket 38-yard line. It was Jones' third time with the halfback pass which he completed on the next play to Jerome Williams at the one-yard line. Austin punched it over on the following play to make the score 21-3 in favor of Thomasville with just under-10 minutes to play.

Mark Futch intercepted a pass on Central's first play following the ensuing kickoff, and the Bulldogs used its blistering ground game to simply run out the rest of the clock.

"We did a pretty good job moving the football all night long, but in the first half we had such poor field position," Thomasville coach Mike Hodges stated. "We were able to do what we like to do in the second half which is run the wishbone and the triple-option play. Our offense sustained some good drives in the second half and ate some time off the clock."

"I'm real proud of our kids. They settled in this week and worked hard and got serious about this game. So we came in confident that if we could play our game plan we would be tough."

Another key to Thomasville's second half success was the turnover which the Bulldogs caused. On Central's last three possessions, Thomasville intercepted on the first play twice and forced a fumble on the sec-

ond play of Central's final possession.

"Our defense was opportunistic and gave us good field position particularly late in the game," Hodges allowed.

Central coach Charlie Greene also

noted the stellar play of the Thomasville defense.

"Thomasville's real advantage on defense is their quickness. We knew they were quick coming into the game. They knew you to make mistakes on offense, and then they capitalize on them."

Central came out and seemed to have devised a game plan to successfully combat the Bulldogs' quickness early in the game. After receiving the opening kickoff, the Yellow Jackets lined up with an unbalanced line to the left side. They faked the fullback left and pitched in tailback Steve Fleming back to the right on a counter. He flashed around right end and up the side for 52 yards before being run out of bounds.

A 14-yard option keeper by quarterback Brett Manning moved Central close enough for Andy Baker in a 20-yard field goal for a 3-0 Yellow Jacket lead.

A Mike Jones interception gave Thomasville the ball on its own 1-yard line on the final play of the first quarter. From there the Bulldogs drove 99 yards in eight plays for a touchdown to give them a 7-3 lead.

Charles Hostick's 30-yard pass to Jerome Williams got Thomasville out of trouble. He later hit Williams again

for 15 yards down to the 17 from where James Williams followed blocks by Ernest Bryant and Greg Fortson up the middle for the touchdown. Mark Futch then kicked the first of his three extra points.

On Central's next possession, the Jackets blasted down to a 4th and 7 situation at the Thomasville 30-yard line. As Central receivers left the line of scrimmage on their pass routes they were bumped by blocking defenders and contact was continued for 2-3 seconds. During that contact, Manning threw to Joe Christopher in the right flat for 10 yards and a first down. However, the referees flagged Central for offensive pass interference.

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Not only did the penalty nullify a 10-yard gain for a first down, but it backed them up 15 yards, and the penalty also carries a loss of down with it so that instead of Central having a first down at the Thomasville 20-yard line, the Bulldogs got the ball out near midfield.

Greene would not comment on the call and chose to say only positive things about the Thomasville team after the game and commend them on their victory.

"We've won the region the past two years, and now Thomasville has the chance to play for the region title, and I hope they win. I'd like to see the region championship stay in Thomasville."

Pelham stings Sumter Co., 28-7

From Staff Reports
PELHAM — Pelham's Hornets exploded for 28 second-half points, overcoming a 7-0 halftime deficit to beat the Sumter County Rams 28-7 in Region I-A action here Friday night.

Bernard Burroughs got the Hornets on the board with a dazzling 90-yard kickoff return to start the second half and even the score with Joey Melton's first of four PATs. John Mims pounced on a Ram fumble at the Sumter 24 to set the Hornets up with excellent field position for the next scoring opportunity.

Six plays later, Burroughs pranced in from three yards to give the Hornets the lead they would never relinquish.

With 7:15 remaining in the game, Reginald Alexander scored on a four-yard scamper to extend the lead to 21-7. Alexander was the leading ball carrier with 121 yards on 29 carries

Yardstick

Sumter County 7 0 0 0 0-7
Pelham 28 7 0 0 14-28

SCORING PLAYS

Sumter—Chris Jones 42 pass from Kyrstiff (Denmark kick)

Pelham—Bernard Burroughs 88 kickoff return (Joey Melton kick)

Pelham—Burroughs 3 run (Melton kick)

Pelham—Reginald Alexander 4 run (Melton kick)

Pelham—Alexander 5 run (Melton kick)

First downs 8 12

Passing yards 17 190

Rushing yards 105 9

Penalties 7-14 1-1

Fumbles-lost 3-0 2-2

Punt/Pass-yards 7-50 7-45

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Rushing—Pelham, Reginald Alexander 20-121, Bernard Burroughs 11-64

to pace the Hornets.

Alexander capped a 40-yard drive with a five-yard sprint to close out the scoring for the night. Alexander had the big play in the drive with a 30-yard jaunt.

With the win, Pelham advances to the Region I-A championship next Friday night.

Valdosta gets past Carver, 16-12

By MIKE GRUBBS
Times-Enterprise Sports Writer

VALDOSTA — Tailback Isaac Caesar scored two second half touchdowns on runs of five and six yards as the No. 1 ranked Class AAAA Valdosta Wildcats rallied from a 6-2 half time deficit to escape with a hard-fought 16-12 win against the 6-4 Carver-Columbus Tigers in the first round of the Region I-AAAA playoffs.

Caesar, aided by a roughing the kicker penalty, got on the scoreboard first. Tiger quarterback Timothy Walton connected with split-end Anthony McHenry for a 22-yard touchdown pass to put the Tigers on top 6-0. Valdosta finally got in the scoring column at the 2:53 mark of the first quarter, when noseguard Robert Pinnore blocked a Tiger punt out of the end zone to narrow the gap to 6-2 in favor of Carver.

The Wildcat offense finally got on track at the end of the third quarter, driving 64 yards in four plays with Caesar, who had 87 yards on the night, being the catalyst. Caesar cut to give Valdosta their first lead of the game at 9-6. The big play of the drive was a 53-yard run by fullback James Roberts, who gained 120 yards on the night, to the Carver six.

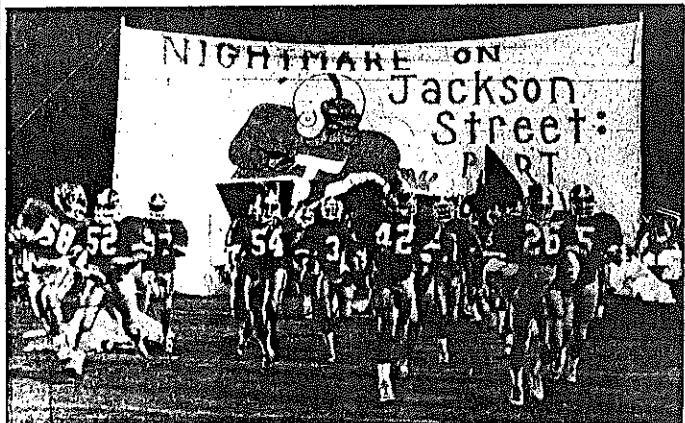
The lead, however, was short-lived, as Carver tailback Kevin Tisdale returned the ensuing kickoff 85 yards to paydirt as Carver jumped back on top 12-9.

Valdosta, behind the running of Caesar and Roberts, showed why they are one of the top-ranked teams in the state. The Wildcats marched 68 yards with their next possession to take the lead for good as Caesar powered in from five yards out to give the Cats a 16-12 win.

Valdosta will play host to the 8-3 Kendrick Cherokee next Friday night for the Region I-AAAA championship. Valdosta advanced to the region finals by defeating Jim Hughes' Colquitt County Packers 24-21 in Columbus.



- Michigan at Ohio State
13 noon (WTVL)
- Penn State at Notre Dame
13 noon (WTVL)
- Yale at Harvard
12:30 p.m. (WTVL)
- Southern Cal at UCLA
3:30 p.m. (WTVL)
- Kentucky vs. Duke



Thomasville Bulldogs come out of the lockerroom fired up and ready to play

Hurricanes furnish Tiger Stadium road show

By The Associated Press
Third-ranked Miami of Florida, one of college football's best road shows, appears before one of college football's most dreaded audiences Saturday night when the Hurricanes visit 11th-ranked Louisiana State in a nationally televised game.

The Hurricanes have logged a 23-2 record on the road in the five years Jimmy Johnson has been at the helm, but this trip is to Tiger Stadium, voted by Division I-A coaches last year as the most dreaded spot for visitors in the nation.

The game will be televised on cable (ESPN), with a sellout crowd of 80,140 expected in Tiger Stadium for the 9:15 p.m. EST kickoff.

Despite the site, Miami, 7-1, is a 7-point favorite over the Bengals, 7-2, who already have clinched at least a share of the Southeastern Conference football championship — their second in three years.

Like Auburn, the nation's No. 8 power, can gain a share of the SEC title if it beats Alabama in Birmingham next Friday.

Only four other games are scheduled in the Southeast on Saturday — Kentucky at Tennessee, Mississippi State at Tulane, Vanderbilt at Memphis State and Arkansas State at Southwestern Louisiana.

Mitchell-Baker smashes Brooks County, 43-6

CAMILLA — The Mitchell-Baker Eagles pounded the Brooks County Trojans to the tune of a 43-6 victory here Friday night to advance to the Region I-AA championship match.

The Eagles will face Early County next Friday night in Camilla for the region crown.

Yardstick

Brooks County 6 0 0 0 0-6
Mitchell-Baker 43 6 0 0 21-6

SCORING PLAYS

Mitchell-Baker—Baker 30-yard kick

Besides Auburn, No. 18 Alabama, Florida, No. 20 Georgia and Mississippi are SEC teams with open dates, along with independent Florida State, the No. 5 team in the country. Independence Bowl-bound Southern Mississippi, 9-2, and Louisville, 8-3, have completed their regular seasons.

Coach Mike Archer of LSU says Miami, winner of 39 of its last 40 regular season games, will be the best team to visit Tiger Stadium in about a dozen years.

"Auburn was a great team," Archer said of the SEC rival his Tigers edged 7-6 last month. "This is a better team. They don't make mistakes. You don't win national championships unless you're good."

Miami will be the 16th defending national champion LSU has faced, and the Bengals have yet to win one.

Alabama beat the Tigers four times the year after claiming the national crown and Tennessee once.

"We're going to take chances in every phase because our attitude is we've got nothing to lose," Archer said. "Nobody gives us a chance to win and that's our attitude. We are the definite underdog."

Both teams will be in bowl games — Miami to the Orange to face the Big Eight Conference champion and LSU to either the Sugar Bowl or Hall of Fame Bowl.

"Our team has been able to overcome some hostile situations on the road," Johnson said. "They've been able to play well in those situations. I expect they'll play well again this week against LSU."

The defending national champion Hurricanes feature the passing of Steve Walsh, who has thrown 20

touchdown passes in his last five outings and shares the school record of 26 scoring passes in a season, set by Vinny Testaverde in 1986.

Walsh, who has a 1-0 record as a starter in his career, has completed 164 of 275 passes for 2,297 yards this year.

LSU's offense features two-time All-SEC quarterback Tom Hodson, who has connected on 119 of 231 passes for 1,616 yards and 11 touchdowns this year.

Kentucky and Tennessee will be meeting for the 84th time, with a sellout crowd of 91,110 expected at Neyland Stadium for the 1 p.m. EST kickoff.

Tennessee leads the series 51-23-9, including victories in 19 of the last 23 meetings, and is a slight favorite this year. The Vols, 3-6 over-

all and 1-4 in the SEC, have won 15 November games in a row since losing in Kentucky 17-12 four years ago. Kentucky is 5-5 and 2-4.

"Kentucky has played outstanding football against some of the strongest teams in the nation," Vols coach Johnny Majors said. "This should be a good, old-fashioned backyard brawl."

Tulane, 4-5, is a 3-point pick over Mississippi State, 1-8, in their 4 p.m. EST clash in the Louisiana Superdome. Tulane leads the series 23-22-2 and Mississippi State is mired in an eight game losing streak this year.

Memphis State, 5-5, needs a victory over Vandy, 3-6, to post a winning season and the Tigers are slight favorites to do so in the 2:30 p.m. EST

Raiders to face up-and-down Falcons

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Raiders, who have won three straight games to put themselves in playoff contention, face the up-and-down Atlanta Falcons Sunday in only their second home game since Oct. 9.

Raiders coach Mike Shanahan expects to see the much tougher version of the Falcons rather than the ones who were beaten early this season by Detroit and Dallas and blanked 33-0 by the Los Angeles Rams in a home game.

The Lions and Cowboys have 2-0 records, tied with Pittsburgh and Green Bay for the worst marks in the NFL. The Falcons are 3-8, but as Shanahan pointed out, they've looked like a much better team than that at times.

The Los Angeles San Francisco (Sept. 18) and beat the 49ers 34-17. Shanahan said, "They go into Philadelphia (Oct. 30) and beat the Eagles 27-24. They have the Giants on the

ropes (Oct. 23), it takes an unbelievable fourth-quarter surge for the Giants to win (23-16)."

"They've won two of their last three games, they're really playing well and seem to have confidence in themselves."

Kickoff time Sunday is 1 p.m. PST. A crowd of about 45,000 is expected. The Raiders were listed as 8½-point favorites.

The Falcons are coming off a 10-7 loss to San Diego after beating the Eagles and Green Bay Packers 20-0 in their previous two games.

In beating Kansas City, San Diego and San Francisco the last three weeks, the Raiders have allowed only 16 points. They haven't given up a touchdown in more than 10 quarters — since the Chiefs got one in the second period of a 17-10 Los Angeles victory on Oct. 30.

The three weeks boosted the Raiders' record to 6-5. They're tied for first place in the AFC West with Seat-

le and Denver.

Both the Falcons and Raiders employ second-year quarterbacks on their starters.

For Atlanta, it's Chris Miller, who has completed 118 of 226 passes for 1,528 yards and 10 touchdowns with nine interceptions.

"I really liked Chris coming out of college," Shanahan said. "He had a good touch, the ability to escape the rush. When he's in there, you can see the confidence they have around him. I have seen him make great strides."

Miller missed three games earlier this season because of a sprained ankle, and the Falcons lost all three, including the shutout to the Bears.

The starting quarterback for the Raiders is Steve Beyerlein, who is 80 of 188 for 1,372 yards and seven touchdowns with five interceptions. Beyerlein has started six games this season, the first three and the most

recent three. Jay Schroeder started the other five.

In their three-game winning streak, the Raiders have scored only 39 points and have scored for field goals in several instances where they had a chance to score touchdowns.

The Falcons have had a horrible time against AFC opponents in recent years, losing their last seven games and 16 of their last 17 against AFC teams.

Standout Atlanta running back Gerald Riggins, who suffered a knee injury on Sept. 25 and hasn't played since, may see some action against the Raiders.

Bulls edge Hawks, 115-112

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan scored 34 points, including five three-pointers and a basket in the final 1:51 of overtime Friday night, lifting the Bulls to a 115-112 victory over the Hawks.