asant surprise ves. 22 Jan. change of plan in. Heed your cr's advice will rack. (Jan. 20 Feb. calls or meet-singly effective idea could tant agreement. 19-March 20) shical talks with stance broaden cultural or eduiks you to com-

LDREN will say
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(Jan. 20-Feb. fence is for the decision-maker

19-March 20): sive purchases, alist before going afternoon party to enterlain the

CHILDREN e Sagittarians deer and wiser is, they remain quick-witted and can always be times of crisis, is their metler.



FORD ERCURY NCOLN

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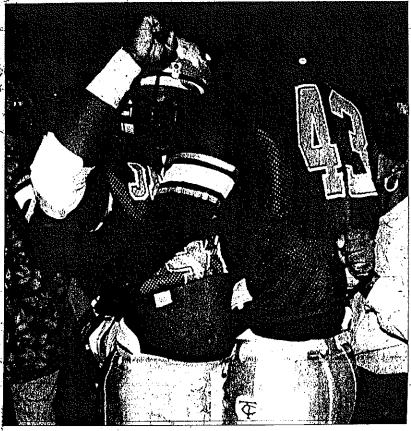


BLE OVEN



Scoreboard / Page 3C

Same play, same result



. Thomas County Central's Bobby Brooks (No. 43) and Leon Stephens hug after winning their second straight Class AAA state football championship. (Mike Tanner/Staff)

## Jackets stop 'Dogs in fourth quarter

By RON EVANS Times-Enterprise

Corey Clark knew it was his

Corey Clark knew it was his game to win, or ...
Faced with a topping the crossiown rival Thomasville Buildogs on a fourth-and-one at the 1, the senior cornerback and his Thomas County Central High Yellow Jackets knew the alate Class AAA football champtonship weighed in the balance. They hold, they win; they don't ...
They held.
For the second time in as many seasons the unheralded and overachteving Yellow Jackets will the side champtonship 14-12 Saturday possible 14-12 Saturday possible the state crown in the state crown in dramatic fashion, much like last season.

'I thought last year was hard.'

season.

"I thought last year was hard-sald a Jubilant, yet composed Jacket head coach Ed Pilcher, but, this is really hard. Winning it the second time is definitely harder."

it the second time is idefinitely harder.

Irony roled in this game played on high emotion before a partisan partisan crowd.

It was ironic that the game read of the second down to one play as marging the two principle characters in this unfolding drains were tearnmates not too fora gao.

Corey Clark said after the Dulldogs called timeout following Josh Lewis and J.T. Fuller's etop of Nie Davis on a third-and-two inches (at the most), the fulldogs were coming.

were coming.

"Conclitold us to watch for the option. When they lined up I knew they were coming my way because the light end fined up on

because the tight end lined up on my side. They always run to the strong side, said Clark. Pilcher, too, knew what the play was. We told them (during the timeout). make them pitch. They had to go wide and we wanted them to pitch, he said. As the play unfolded. As the play unfolded cane hard upfield almost eatching quarterback Kevin Thompson, but he settled

CHAMPIONSHIP Thomas Co. Central 14 Thomasville 12

Booring Summary
First Quarter
Tills Kess Thompun 37 FG, 7:22
Even 4 Guarter
TCC-Johnny Cookey 2 run Klarte
Roberts Mal, 8:42
TCC-Rickey Slacey 16 run Höderts
hkhl, 1:32
Fourth On-

THS-Thompson 2 can (thompson kick), 1045
THS-Stately fackle by Suthard
Tillman), 07

Thirman), 07		
Thomasville	Thomas Co	. Central
13	fint downs	12
41-142	Rusbes-Yards	30-140
38	Passing yards	92
6-13-0	Comp Att Int	7-16 0
3 · C	Fumbles Lost	1.1
3-38.3	Publing	4-33,7
a 25	Pensilles	6.43
Thomassile	3	0.09-12

Thomastille 3 009-13 Thomas County Central 0 14 0 0-1

Individual Statistics
Rashing-BiS, Thompson 5-(-)15-1
H, Reth Williams 5-3, Nr. Davis 16-50
Donry, Jacob 14-108, Team 1-(-)10
1CCHS, Statry 5-77-1-111, Coobery 1227-111, Coory Clark 11-32, Centidual Sey
24-120-120-120

Instead for the pitch man, senior running back Danny Jones, throwing him for a 4-yard loss. Jones was the leading rusher last season for the Jackets through six games before an injury forced an end to his Jacket career. He utbinstely opted for the rival school where he centributed greatly. Including a game-high 100 yards on 14 carries in the championship game.

The Jackets had made yet another outstanding defensive stand, proving once and for all

## Victory was only an inch away for THS

By DAVID ZANARDI

As his players, caked in mudand sweat, slowly made their
and sweat the school of their
and their should be stared down at his hand. He
had spread his forefinger and
thumb an inch apart. That inch
was all that kept him and his
players from celebrating a AAA
state championship.

We should have gotten in
when we were on the one-inch
line, Bobo said, still looking at
the space between his fingers.
We should have won, but we
didn't.

We should have won, outdidn't.

Just moments ago, the Buildogs had made their way to Thomas County Central's one-yard-line as the clock dwindled down to just 2:35 left in the game with the score 14-10 yellow Jackets. It was second down and Bobo called the number of Buildog fullhack Nic

Davis. Jan. 20 H. Soo fins drew silent, Davis took the handoff from quarterback Kevin Thompson and plunged into a sea of Thomas County Central players. He pushed and stretchied against the weight of the Yellow Jacket defense. Then the officials blew their whetles. The play had ended with the ball one-inch from a go-ahead touchdown.

one-inch from a go-atican touchdown.
On third down, the Jackeis were ready for another assault to Davis and stacked the line. This time Davis didn't get as close. On fourth down, an option pitch from Thompson to tailback Danny Jones was amothered at the five-yard-line.

As a roar crupted from the

Yellow Jacket side of the field, it

Yellow Jacket side of the field, it became clear an inch was going to be the difference on a clear Pecember right in Thomasville. A Buildog saftey would follow to make the final margin 14-12 Thomas County Central. This wasn't how it was supposed to make the final margin 14-12 Thomas County Central. This wasn't how it was supposed to the final property of the wasn't how it was supposed to his wasn't how it was a classic story how the final going of the wasn't how the his wasn't how to home wasn't how the his wasn't how to have the his wasn't how his wasn't how his wasn't how his wasn't how his wasn't his

another chance.

Thomas County Central quarterback Rickey Stacey look

Please see THS, page 20

## TCCHS joined hands to secure a win

By RACHEL FREY Times-Enterprise

The 12-2 Thomas County Central High School football team stood separate and scared along the stdeline with 2:30 remaining in the Class AAA state

remaining in the Class AAA state cha mp to n sh h g and thomastile was down 14-10 and had the bail on the TCCtts Way and line with four plays to go.

Offensive line coach Blill with four blays to go.

Offensive line coach Blill with four blays to go.

Offensive line coach Blill with the coach Blill with the line of the coach Blill with the line of the

ing to get the crowd into the game.

But on fourth down, he did something different. Instead of having the players stand alone and praying to themselves, he drew them together. Exeryone, grab a hand, Wilhelm yelled. Hands across the sidelline, thomas County Central style, was pulling the players back into it cam, Wilh 2:031 fit in the game the Yellow Jackets' defense held at the one-yard line, and kept their four-point lead.

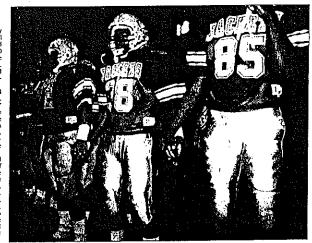
"We did that last year at the Stevens County game ... we got exceptionly up there to do it. I'm a big believer in positive reinforcement and it worked." Wilhelm said.

Head coach Ed Pilcher said if

Head coach Ed Pileher said if there was a better defensive stand in the school's history, he

stand in the school's bistory, he missed it.

TCCHS went into the half with a 14-3 lead, but the Buildags' Kevin Thompson scored a two-yard touchdown with 10-45 left in the third quarter, bringing Thomaswille within four points. The confluend sounds of coaches' yelling plays in came to a halt as



Thomas County Central leammales Islah Myrick (No. 38) and Amos Perry (No. 85) join hands in the final seconds of their Class AAA state championship victory over Thomasville 14-12 Salurday night. (Mike Tanner/Staff)

they saw Thumpson run right on the keeper. There he goes, was the last sentence a coach said before quiet spread down the

withelm saw the need to get the team's spirits back into the game and went through the side-lines yelling, 'think positive, think positive.' 'Although the Yellow Jacket offense did not some again, they still had a four-point buffer which was secred by a two-yard

Johnny Cookacy run and a 16-yard likecy Starcy keeper.

\*\*\*After the defensive sland, the next job on the coaches' mind was to run the clock down.
Coaches timed the plays on their watches; unfortunately for the Yellow Jacketa the referece did not use the same watch. TCCHS was called for delay of game, pushing thens back to their five-yard line on a second down.
Players on the sideline softly said, "tick, tick, tick."

But another penalty was called on TCCHS, pushing them to the three-yard line. Coaches then wanted to control when and if the safety would occur. They did not want it to happen too soon, and allow the Buildogs the proporticity to seep. So once soon, and allow the Bulloogs the opportunity to serie. So, once again the watches popped-up, hoping in put time on their side. Then on a fourth and 11 with 12 seconds left, the Yellow Jackets took the safety, giving them a kickoff instead of a punt.