

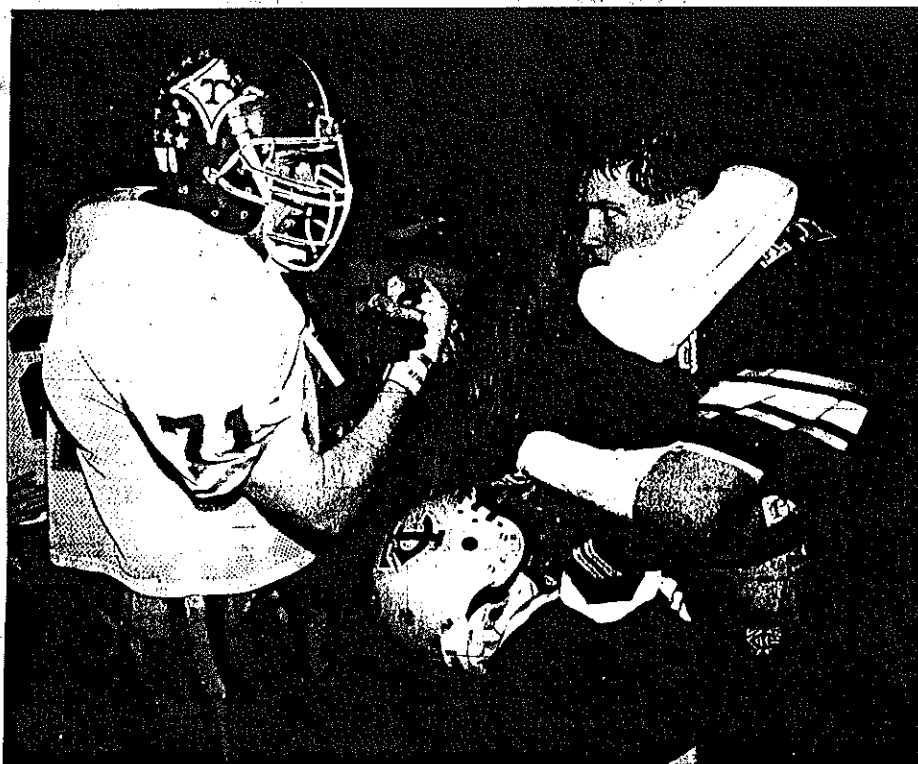
# 'War of the Roses' lived up to its billing



Thomasville's Danny Jones (right) is tackled by Central's Paul Miranda (10) and team-mate Spud Wilson.



Thomasville defenders celebrate after recovering a third quarter Yellow Jacket fumbled punt return.



Thomasville's Adrian Davis (71) and Thomas County Central's Josh Lewis (17) congratulate one another after Saturday night's Class AAA game that fielded cross-town rivals and friends.



Thomas County Central's Ricky Stacey finds and later completes a pass to an open receiver.

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of the chance two plays later when he scrambled 64 yards to the Thomasville one-yard-line. A few plays later tailback Johnny Cooksey scored Thomas County Central's first TD.

"It came down to mistakes," Bobo said. "We just made a few mistakes." The mistakes kept coming in the first half, as the running holes for Davis and Jones closed and the Bulldogs looked nervous and hesitant to their coach.

"We were a little nervous in the first half," Bobo said. "Our quarterback was a little nervous."

As halftime came, Thomasville found themselves marching silently to the locker room with a 14-0 deficit staring them in the face. Then they did the thing that made their coach most proud. They came back.

After the Yellow Jackets' Paul Miranda fumbled a punt return, the Bulldog offense came to life. Thompson looked more sure of himself, dodging would-be tacklers and sailing passes as Davis and Jones once again found room to run. With 10:45 left in the game, Thompson squirmed through Thomas County Central's defense from six yards out to close the gap to 14-6. His extra-point sailed true and the lead stood at just four points.

"We saw the middle was open and we used that to our advantage," Bobo said. "We were able to do it since our running game was going so well."

Just one inch, that was hard for Bobo to take.

"I feel sorry for our kids," he said. "We played well enough to win; we just didn't. We have been underdogs all year long and we kept fighting and fighting. I am proud of the way our kids fought back after being down 14-0. I am just sorry we came up short."



Thomas County Central's offensive line coach Bill Wilhelm (right) and head coach Ed Pilcher count down the play clock on their last possession before calling a timeout.

Photos by  
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