

SPORTS BRIEFS

Brookwood falls to Sherwood

The Brookwood Warriors lost another heartbreaker, 14-7, Friday at Sherwood Christian in Albany.

The Warriors scored in the second quarter on a 6-yard run by Trey Oiba. The point-after attempt by Josh Goodshore was also good.

But Sherwood rallied for touchdowns in the third and fourth quarters, putting the game away.

Moaning about the game was the number of penalties on both sides. Sherwood Christian had 135 yards called back, while Brookwood had a whopping 108.

Next week Brookwood goes on the road again to take on Deerfield.

Ware County erases Lowndes, 56-37

Ware County's coach had called it "the biggest game in Ware history" coming into the game. His players played like it.

Ware knocked off Lowndes 56-37, giving a performance that probably would have beaten any high school team in the state.

Pelham Wildlife Festival 5K/10K Run

Today the Pelham Chamber of Commerce and Mitchell County Hospital will sponsor the 10th annual Pelham Wildlife Festival 5K and 10K Run.

The 5K will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will be followed by the 10K at 9:15. Participants will be given T-shirts while they last.

The pre-registration fee for the run is \$10. The fee for the day of the race is \$12. Registering for the 10K Run will cost \$8.

YMCA girls keeps registration

The Thomasville YMCA is holding registration for youth girls basketball through today. Registration for the league costs \$25 with financial assistance available to qualifying individuals. League play is set to begin Oct. 14. For information, call the YMCA at 226-3446.

Brookwood to host state running meet

Brookwood School will be hosting the GISA state cross country meet on Oct. 21. The meet will be held at Susina Plantation on Meridian Road. The first of three races will begin at 10 a.m. More than 800 runners from schools across Georgia plan to compete for both individual and team championships. The public is invited to attend.

LOCAL SLATE

SATURDAY, OCT. 7

- Prep Cross Country @ 10 a.m. -- Brookwood at Titus
- TOCHS at Wessover Invitational
- College Women's Soccer @ 2 p.m. -- Thomas University vs. Spring Hill College
- College Men's Soccer @ 4 p.m. -- Thomas University vs. Spring Hill College

ON THE WEB

Keep up with prep sports teams from across South Georgia by logging on to our web site at the link at www.spaonline.com

CONTACT US

Sports writer David Ching would like to hear your comments about the Thomasville sports section. He also welcomes your story ideas. Call David at 226-3446, ext. 225, or e-mail him at david.ching@spaonline.com

Syrupmakers whip Monroe, 45-8

By David Ching
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ALBANY — If there were any questions whether the No. 3 Catro Syrupmakers were ready to enter region play, Catro put them to rest Friday with a 45-8 stomping of Monroe.

"It was a good win," said Catro head coach Warren Field. "Our defense stayed sound, and I'm glad we could finally put some points on the board."

Monroe entered the game with the leading rusher and second-leading passer in Region 1-AAAA in William Johnson, but the Makers never allowed him to be a factor in the game. Johnson completed two of 17 passes in the first half for 13 yards and an interception.

He had nine first-half rushing attempts for minus-30 yards.

Johnson and the Tornados of New came out trying to throw the ball, but were able to muster exactly one yard of total offense in the first half.

"This was the first time we've really been tested by a team trying to throw the ball," Field said. "Our kids did a good job of preparing for their shotgun package. You can't ask for a whole lot more than only giving up one yard at the half."

In fact, the Monroe offense was only able to mount one significant drive the entire game. The Tornados finished the game with only 85 yards of offense.

Meanwhile, the Catro defense turned in perhaps its best performance of the season. The

Makers rolled up 311 yards on offense, including 148 yards passing on a very sharp effort from quarterback Blake Field.

In his debut as Catro's starting quarterback, the freshman completed seven of 16 passes, including touchdowns of 39 yards to Aileen Brooks and 24 yards to Marcus Butler.

"I had confidence in him, and the football team had confidence in him. He just needed an opportunity," said the Catro coach of his son's performance as the team's signal-caller. "He made some good throws, and our receivers made some good catches."

"Of course, we had some drops, but just like always, when one of our kids makes a mistake, they're able to come

back, and that's what makes them winners."

Catro built a 20-0 halftime lead behind two touchdowns from Derek Mobley, a 4-yard plunge from Roger James and the touchdown pass to Brooks. Monroe was able to put together its only successful drive of the night in the third quarter when Johnson was able to pass for 44 yards and broke a 50-yard run to put the Tornados in position to score. He completed a 7-yard strike to Lemario Mack for a touchdown and then hit Mack again for a two-point pass to bring the score to 31-8 late in the third quarter.

However, Catro never allowed the Tornados back in the game. Clifford Hammonds took the exciting kickoff back

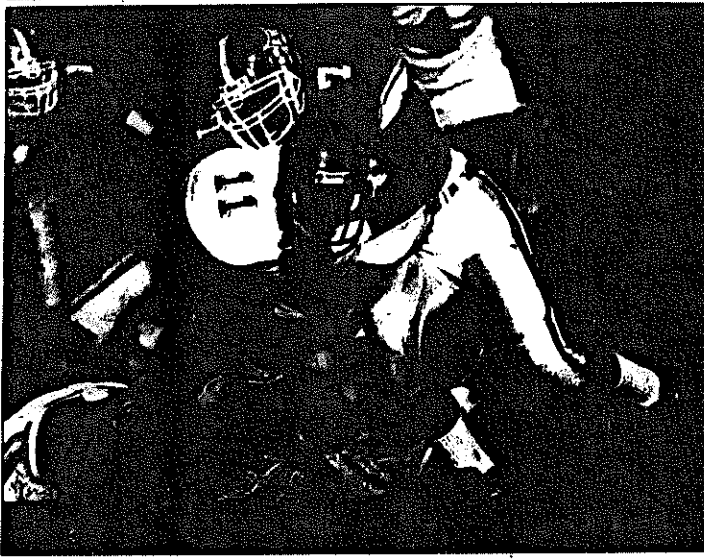
39 yards to the Catro 46, where, shortly thereafter, Field's touchdown pass to Butler extended the Makers lead.

Late in the game, with freshman Mark Ostrous directing the offense, Ahmad Ellison completed the Catro scoring assault on a 6-yard reverse touchdown run on fourth-and-goal.

The win improves Catro's record to 4-1 and 1-0 in region play. Monroe drops to 3-3 and 0-1 in the region.

The Makers will travel to Thomasville next week in face of Thomas County Central in a game that could determine the region champion.

To contact sports writer David Ching, call 226-3446, ext. 225.



CRUSHING BLOW: Thomasville linebacker Alex Lorejy takes down West Laurens fullback Alex Williams during the first half Friday. THIS held the Raiders to 97 total yards of offense.

Dawgs roll to 4-1

Thomasville shuts out West Laurens, 21-0

By the Staff
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THOMASVILLE — The Thomasville Bulldogs' running game came to life Friday night, and the Bulldogs' defense put West Laurens to sleep.

The result was a 21-0 victory that lifted the Bulldogs to 4-1 on the season and 2-0 in Region 1-A. West Laurens falls to 1-4, 0-2 in the region.

In their first year under head coach Tommy Welch, the seventh-ranked Bulldogs have now outscored their last four opponents by a margin of 88-17.

It was Thomasville's second shutout of the season.

"Our defense, if they keep playing like that... well, they've been playing like that all year," Welch said. "We're just tickled with the way they're playing over there."

It would be safe to say that West Laurens wasn't tickled by anything that happened Friday night at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

The Bulldogs limited the Raiders to 97 total yards of offense and threw first downs on the night. West Laurens only completed one of nine passes — and that play resulted in a 13-yard loss.

In fact, 10 of the Raiders' 40 offensive plays went for negative yardage.

Thomasville's offense, while not perfect by any means, did manage to move the ball on the ground better than it has all

season. Led by the tandem of sophomore tailback Kenny Burkes and senior fullback Chris Clark, the Bulldogs ran for 183 yards on 41 carries.

Burkes had the biggest night, finishing with 102 yards on 18 carries and a 2-yard touchdown run. Clark had 61 yards on 11 carries and a 6-yard score.

Not bad for a rushing of fence that came into the night dead last in Region 1-A.

"I thought the backs ran tough," Welch said. "Burkes ran tough, and so did Clark."

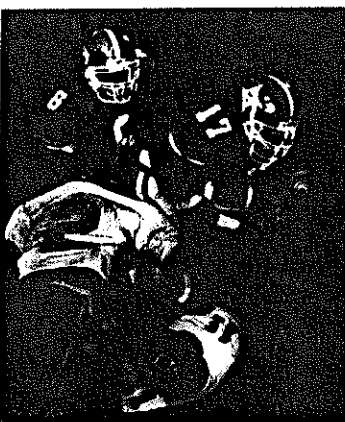
But the big-play man for Thomasville again in senior receiver Raphael Mitchell. He caught three passes for 47 yards, but his greatest contribution came on special teams.

When Thomasville leading 14-0 in the fourth quarter, Mitchell led the game with a 44-yard punt return for a touchdown. Alex Peinberg's extra-point kick gave the Bulldogs their 21-point margin.

(Mitchell) had a real good ballgame returning the ball," Welch said.

But it was Thomasville's defense that really stole the show. The Bulldogs actually opened the scoring on defense when they scooped a safety on West Laurens' second possession.

After a 46-yard Peinberg punt and great special-teams tackle by Terry Jones pinned the Raiders inside their own 6-yard line, West Laurens' Raphael Harvard was called for inter-



FORWARD PROGRESS: Thomasville fullback Chris Clark helped power a resurgent Bulldogs running game. He finished with 61 yards on 11 carries.

tical grounding inside his end zone. By rule, Thomasville was awarded two points.

Though thrilled with the win, the Bulldogs were disappointed about a number of missed opportunities. THIS had two touchdowns called back on penalties, and the Bulldogs were stopped at the West Laurens goal line early in the fourth quarter.

"We had two touchdowns called back," Welch said. "We just can't do that..."

"I'm not real pleased with our offensive execution. But we've got to give them (the Raiders) some of the credit for that."

Marcus Jones led the Raiders offensively with 44 yards on 13 carries.

Thomasville quarterback Hayden Moore completed five of 12 passes for 74 yards.

To contact managing editor David Ching, call 226-3446, ext. 225.

Fulmer worried despite 8 wins over UGA

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) — Phillip Fulmer has never lost to Georgia. Eight games, eight wins. So why should the Tennessee coach be concerned?

First of all, the No. 21 Vols have already dug themselves a hole in the Southeastern Conference, going 0-2 after dropping a 26-31 overtime decision to Louisiana State last week.

The Vols haven't lost their first three SEC games since the 1988 season when they went 0-4.

Then, there's Georgia. The No. 19 Bulldogs (5-1, 1-1 SEC) are coming off their best game in several seasons, a 35-7 blowout of their unbeaten Arkansas, to end the Razorbacks' 18-game home winning streak.

And, the odds-makers have made the Bulldogs a slight favorite against the 12-3 Vols in the Saturday night contest in Athens despite the fact that they have lost nine in a row to Tennessee. Georgia's last win over them was in 1998, a 28-17 win at home.

"We knew coming in (to the season) that every week would be a challenge. I would expect our team to bounce back and be ready for a tough Georgia ball team," said Fulmer, who took over the Vols in 1992 and has a 78-18 overall record, including 8-0 against the Bulldogs.

Georgia hasn't changed. They are a great challenge for us. They are a very outstanding football team," he said.

"They're fast and physical on defense and have played very well. On offense, they have play makers all over the field and a stable of running backs. We'll have to try to find a way to win the game," said Fulmer.

Tennessee won last season's game 37-20 in Knoxville.

Georgia Coach Jim Donnan, who hasn't beaten Tennessee since taking over the Bulldogs in 1993 (0-4), isn't expecting anything but trouble from the Vols.

"They've had a good season from a standpoint of playing extremely hard, but they've been disappointed with two losses (LSU) and 27-23 loss to No. 16 Florida," he said.

"But considering all the people Tennessee lost from last year, I know they know they were going to have to overcome some youth and inexperience," said Donnan.

"I watched tape of the Florida game and they did every thing necessary to win except punt the ball in the end zone. Then against LSU, they caught a three-up team, 8-0 behind 34-0 and showed what kind of circle they have in the program. They were able to bounce back and tie the game," he said.

After the Arkansas game, Donnan said the Tennessee game would be the most important game of his career.

"That's all I think about. That's all I ever think about," he said.

But earlier this week, he downplayed the comment.