

SPORTS



Tiger defense shines against Hancock; W-W wins 28-6

Finally into the Region 7A schedule, the Washington-Wilkes Tigers started off right with a strong 28-6 win over the Hancock Central Bulldogs last Friday night. The game was effectively a shutout as Hancock's only score came on a W-W fumble that the Bulldogs scooped up and ran in to the end zone.

Otherwise, as is becoming a pattern, the Tiger Defense was stalwart, holding Hancock not only scoreless but to a mere 64 yards of total offense.

"Our defense hasn't been scored on in nine quarters and we played outstanding defense on Friday night," W-W Head Coach Lee Hutto said. "Hancock had 10 possessions and out of those 10 possessions we had eight three-and-outs. That's not bad at all." The coach said he was "really, really pleased" with the way the Tigers played defense and

pointed out that his players did a good job of recognizing Hancock's multiple formations and being in the right coverage. "Our kids played real hard and I was proud of those guys," he said.

"They scored early when they picked up a fumble and ran it in for a touchdown," Hutto said, noting that it was not the defense that allowed the score. "But that was the only way they were able to put points on the board."

Once, in the third quarter when Hancock recovered a bad Tiger snap, the Bulldogs threatened with great field position beginning at the W-W eight-yard line. But the Tiger defense dropped them for a loss on the first play and allowed no more before forcing the punt. Otherwise, Hancock was never threatening.

"If we can keep playing that kind of defense, we're going to be okay,"

Tigers vs. Hancock

| | W-W | HC |
|---------------------|--------|--------|
| First Downs | 17 | 6 |
| First Downs Rushing | 17 | 5 |
| Yards Rushing | 361 | 40 |
| Yards Passing | 49 | 24 |
| Passes | 7-11-0 | 4-16-1 |
| Total Yards | 410 | 64 |
| Punts/avg. | 2/32.5 | 5/40.2 |
| No. Penalties | 5 | 5 |
| Yds. Penalized | 40 | 35 |
| Fumbles/lost | 2/1 | 1/0 |

| Score by quarters | | | | |
|-------------------|---|----|---|--------|
| Tigers | 7 | 14 | 7 | 0 - 28 |
| Bulldogs | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 - 6 |

Hutto said.

On the other side of the ball, the Tigers amassed 410 yards of their own and actually began to balance the attack with a little passing yardage. While mainly Eric Scott and T.J. Mickens stacked up the ground game with 189 and 130 yards, respectively, Teverrius Jones threw a pair of touchdown passes to Desmond Jackson and ultimately completed seven of 10 attempts. Freshman backup QB Brian Hardigree also had a completion while he was taking a few snaps in the second half.

"We've been really working hard on our passing game in practice and I think it's starting to pay off for us," Hutto said. "I was proud to see that we had some different kids catching passes and our pass protection was very good. We had plenty of time to throw the football."

"I always tell my guys, 'I want us to throw it when we want to.' When it's third-and-10 everybody knows you're throwing it," the coach continued. "We don't want to be in those situations where we have to throw it - we want to throw it when we want to. And we were able to do that Friday night," he said.

Issuing a reminder that the 2009 Tigers are still a very young team, Hutto said he had several sophomores who are big contributors and playing well for W-W. "One of them is Javon Jenkins who played very well Friday night," he began, and enumerated others. "David Martin is starting on our offensive line. T.J. Mickens rushed for over 100 yards. Daquan Heard caught a pass for us. We're still a young football team and we're playing a lot of sophomores and those guys are really playing well," he commented.

With six games down and four to go, the Tigers have earned a week's rest and will take this Friday off for an open date. All of the remaining four games are region contests and are critical in the race for preferred playoff berths. Lincoln County (October 16) and Wilkinson County (October 23) have already been ranked in the state's top ten this season and are currently steady at No. 3 and No. 8 in Georgia Class A. So, for the Tigers, wins are necessary from now until the end of the season, if they want to host a playoff game and if they hope to make it deep into the post-season.

For now, though, it's time to heal up and get ready to host the Red Devils just over a week from now.

"We've got a week off and we'll give the team Friday off from practice so our coaching staff can have a chance to get out and scout a little bit," Hutto said. "We're going to use this week to start preparing for Lincoln County and to kind of get our legs back up under us."

"We're not going to go out and bang on each other a lot at practice," Hutto continued. "We're going to do a lot of special teams work, do a lot of fundamental stuff, and just fine tune some things," he explained.

The Tigers hope to use the off



Photo by MERCER HARRIS

Desmond Jackson sprints ahead for a big gain after a pass reception in the Hancock Central game last Friday night.

week to help get some injured players back on the playing field. Robert McGill and Brandon Dill have both been out since the Blessed Trinity game with shoulder injuries, and Whit Winfrey has been sidelined since the Banks County game with a knee injury.

"If we can get those guys back, we'll be 100 percent going into the Lincoln County game - which we need to be," Hutto said.

Middle school Tigers beat Glascock 31-6 at Tiger Stadium

The young Tigers of Washington-Wilkes Middle School added another victory to their 2009 season when they beat Glascock County 31-6 last Wednesday at Tiger Stadium.

Touchdowns were scored by Tamaricus Young who ran 99 yards from scrimmage for the second time this year, Javaris Grant who returned a kickoff, Jalen Turner who scored and also threw a touchdown pass to Devon Lewis.

On defense, head coach Don Keiser reported that Deverrius Smith had a pass interception and Hunter Newsome has a solo tackle "that was great - it was just him and the other guy."

Region 7-A SCHEDULES and SCORES

| W-WILKES 4-2 | GMC 0-5 |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 34 Banks Co. 20 | 6 Taylor Co. 27 |
| 7 Thomson 28 | 7 Wheeler Co. 21 |
| 29 Social Circle 14 | 13 Athens Chr. 33 |
| 6 B. Trinity 16 | 0 Aquinas 14 |
| 47 Cal. Falls 7 | 7 Mt. Paran 20 |
| 28 Hancock 6 | 10/9 Mont. Co. |
| 10/16 Lincoln Co | 10/16 @ Towns Co |
| 10/23 Wilkinson | 10/23 @ Glascock |
| 10/30 @ Warren Co | 10/30 @ Hebron |
| 11/6 @ Aquinas | 11/6 @ Paulding |
| GLASCOCK 1-5 | HANCOCK 0-5 |
| 12 Warren Co. 42 | 0 Putnam Co. 31 |
| 16 SW Atl. Chr. 48 | 6 Twigg Co. 62 |
| 24 PA Christian 38 | 8 Greene Co. 44 |
| 13 Athens Chr. 49 | 6 Monticello 21 |
| 19 Aquinas 55 | 6 W-Wilkes 28 |
| 48 N Cobb Chr. 7 | 10/9 @ Glascock |
| 10/9 Hancock | 10/16 Warren Co |
| 10/16 @ Mt. Paran | 10/23 Lincoln Co |
| 10/23 GMC | 10/30 Aquinas |
| 11/6 Towns Co. | 11/6 @ Wilkinson |
| LINCOLN 5-1 | WARREN 2-3 |
| 14 Greene Co. 7 | 42 Glascock Co. 12 |
| 28 McCormick 6 | 20 Landmark 13 |
| 22 Hephzibah 16 | 26 Eagles Land 49 |
| 0 Abbeville 21 | 8 Dooley Co. 12 |
| 20 Commerce 12 | 18 N. Paulding 19 |
| 37 Aquinas 0 | 10/9 Wilkinson |
| 10/16 @ W-Wilkes | 10/16 @ Hancock |
| 10/23 @ Hancock | 10/23 Aquinas |
| 10/30 @ Wilkinson | 10/30 W-Wilkes |
| 11/6 Warren Co. | 11/6 @ Lincoln Co. |
| WILKINSON 4-1 | AQUINAS 2-3 |
| 16 Twigg Co. 6 | 7 Truettlen 27 |
| 40 Bacon Co. 2 | 9 Westside 14 |
| 25 Wilcox Co. 21 | 14 GMC 0 |
| 22 Sav. C. Day 29 | 55 Glascock 19 |
| 39 Rand-Clay 8 | 0 Lincoln Co. 37 |
| 10/9 @ Warren Co | 10/9 @ N. Paulding |
| 10/16 @ Aquinas | 10/16 Wilkinson |
| 10/23 @ W-Wilkes | 10/23 @ Warren Co |
| 10/30 Lincoln Co | 10/30 @ Hancock |
| 11/6 Hancock | 11/6 W-Wilkes |

THE DIXIE DOZEN

The top 12 teams in the South this week area:

1. Florida
2. Alabama
3. Virginia Tech
4. Miami
5. LSU
6. Auburn
7. Ole Miss
8. Georgia Tech
9. South Florida
10. South Carolina
11. Georgia
12. Wake Forest



Nikki Freeman heads home to score for the W-W Tiger girls softball team. She hit her third homerun of the year at Jefferson County last week.

Lady Tigers now 4-0 in region; playing for championship Wed.

As of the date of this newspaper, the Washington-Wilkes Lady Tiger softball team's seeding in the post-season has already been determined. But as of this writing, the deciding game is yet to be played and some readers may still be able to see the region championship game being played on Wednesday, October 7, at Ashley Park beginning at 5 p.m.

In a dead heat for the region crown, the Tigers and the GMC Lady Bulldogs will face off in a one-game winner-take-all championship game for all the marbles. The winner will enjoy a No. 1 seed in the first round of the state playoffs and the loser will get the No. 2 spot. However, the good news is that win or lose, the Tigers will be hosting their first post-season game at Ashley Park on Tuesday, October 13.

The state playoff format will be a best 2-out-of-3 series with doubleheaders played on the first day of competition and a deciding game, if necessary, played the following day. Round two of the playoffs will begin on Friday, October 16.

The Lady Tigers spent the past week on the road and remained undefeated in region play with a 6-2 win over Lincoln County last Wednesday, September 30. Only AAA Franklin County was able to best the Tigers, handing them their third loss of the season. W-W beat Jefferson County in the first game of the week.

At Franklin County, the ladies suffered a 1-9 loss but avoided a shutout with a single run in the first inning. Yakira Banks was hit by a pitch. Then, a two-out double by Ashley West drove Banks in for the Tigers' only score of the game. After that, W-W left six runners in scoring position and were unable to get anything more going on offense.

Lauren Chafin absorbed the loss for the Tigers. Hitters were Gabby Lavender (1-3), Alaina Weber (1-2, 2b), and West (1-3, 2b).

At Lincoln County, the Tigers came away with a 6-2 win. The ladies jumped out to a 5-2 lead after three innings of play and collected a single run in the sixth to cap off the win.

Hitters for the Tigers were Nikki Freeman (2-4, 2b), Hannah Ward (1-3), Banks (2-4), and Lavender (1-4). Cayla Gilland picked up the win on the mound for the Tigers.

On Tuesday, September 29, the Tigers traveled to Jefferson County and beat the Warriors 14-1. W-W collected seven extra-base hits including a homerun from Nikki Freeman, her third of the year.

Other hitters for the Tigers were Lauren Harrison (1-3, 2b), Hanna McTier (1-1, 2b), Alaina Weber (1-2), Banks (2-4, 2b), Lavender (1-4, 3b), Freeman (3-4, 2x2b, hr), West (1-3), and Chafin (2-3). Cayla Gilland picked up the win for the Tigers.

SOUTHERN STYLE FOOTBALL

with CLAUDE CLEATS

As we approach mid-season let's see what was happening on Southern gridirons 50 years ago this week.

A LOOK BACK

Reigning National Champion LSU opened the season ranked No. One. Although Syracuse, led by the great Ernie Davis, would eventually overtake the Bengal Tigers for the AP National title, LSU held on to the top spot until November 2 when Tennessee scored a 14-13 upset. The week before saw one of the greatest games in college football history. LSU's eventual Heisman Trophy winner Billy Cannon fielded an Ole Miss punt at his own 11-yard line early in the fourth quarter. Breaking three tackles, Cannon raced 89 yards for the game's only touchdown. Tiger Stadium went berserk as LSU held on to win 7-3.

The final polls were taken at the conclusion of the regular season before the bowl games in those days. Ole Miss would gain revenge by upsetting LSU 21-0 in the Sugar Bowl on New Years Day, 1960.

We are getting ahead of ourselves, however. What happened in Southern Football on October 3, 1959?

South Carolina 30 - Georgia 14 - Warren Giese's Gamecocks held the vaunted Georgia passing attack of QBs Fran Tarkenton and Charley Britt to only one yard in the first half. The Dawgs rallied to score twice through the air in the second half, but four turnovers doomed Georgia to its only defeat in 1959. Carolina FB Phil Lavoie scored 3 TDs and a two point conversion. The final AP poll of December 7 ranked Georgia at No. 5. The Dawgs beat 18th-ranked Missouri 14-0 in the Orange Bowl. There were only seven bowl games then. A good S.C. team (6-4) stayed home for the holidays.

Georgia Tech 16 - Clemson 6 - Ranked seventh at the time, the Yellow Jackets coached by Bobby Dodd defeated Frank Howard's Tigers in Atlanta after a flu epidemic swept through the Clemson team. Manchester, Georgia, native Bill Mathis shook off flu symptoms to run back a kickoff 99 yards for Clemson's only score. The Tech defense led by All-American LB Maxie Baughn stopped Tiger drives at the Jackets' three- and five-yard lines. Clemson finished the regular season at 8-2 and defeated seventh-ranked TCU in the inaugural Bluebonnet Bowl 23-7. The Tigers were No. 11 in the final regular season poll. Georgia Tech stumbled after the Clemson win finishing the season 6-5 including a 14-7 loss to Arkansas in the Gator Bowl.

Vanderbilt 7 - Alabama 7 - The game between these SEC rivals ended in a tie for the third consecutive year. Bear Bryant's second Bama team finished the season 7-2-2 with a loss to Penn State in the first-ever Liberty Bowl. Vandy finished unranked at 5-3-2 while the Crimson Tide became Bryant's first Top Ten team at No. 10.

Other scores on October 3, 1959, in Dixie were:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Auburn 35 | | Hardin-Simmons 12 |
| Florida 55 | | Virginia 10 |
| Duke 24 | | Rice 7 |
| Miami 7 | | FSU 6 |
| LSU 22 | | Baylor 0 |
| Ole Miss 43 | | Memphis 0 |
| North Carolina 20 | | N.C. State 12 |
| Texas A&M 7 | | Southern Miss 3 |
| Tennessee 22 | | Miss State 6 |

In 1959 players played both offense and defense. The South boasted 3 of the eleven consensus All-Americans: C/LB Maxie Baughn (Georgia Tech), FB/DB Charlie Flowers (Ole Miss), and Heisman Trophy winner HB/DB Billy Cannon (LSU).

Five of the first picks in the pro football draft were also from the South: Cannon and HB/DB Johnny Robinson (LSU), OT/DT Lou Cordileone (Clemson), HB/DB Tom Moore (Vandy), and C/LB Jackie Burkett (Auburn).

Four wire services actually picked once-beaten Ole Miss as National Champion over Syracuse, but the AP poll taken before the bowl games was generally recognized as the final word in 1959.

Now lets get back to the present and see who Claude picks to win the grudge matches in Dixie this week.

A LOOK FORWARD

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Florida over LSU by 12 | Georgia over Tennessee by 9 |
| S.C. over Kentucky by 8 | Vandy over Army by 27 |
| Alabama over Ole Miss by 6 | Auburn over Arkansas by 3 |
| Houston over Miss State by 5 | Georgia Tech over FSU by 10 |
| Va. Tech over Boston Col. by 8 | N.C. State over Duke by 9 |
| Wake Forest over Md. by 13 | Miami over Fla. A&M by 27 |
| N.C. over Ga. Southern by 10 | Virginia over Indiana by 4 |
| S. Miss over Louisville by 10 | Tulane over Marshall by 2 |
| East Carolina over SMU by 5 | |