

Lowndes Can't Stop Bulldogs

By ANTHONY DASHNER
Times Sports Writer

THOMASVILLE — After the first two series of plays between Lowndes High and host Thomasville here Friday night, one may have gotten the impression he was at the gunfight at the OK Corral.

Unfortunately for the Vikings, after taking the opening kickoff in for the first six points of the game, coach Joe Wilson's squad suddenly ran out of ammunition as the Bulldogs, the third ranked team in Class AAA, waltzed to a 35-6 win.

"We didn't block, we didn't tackle, we just didn't play good football," said Wilson. "They just moved the ball on us as will."

Behind a crushing wishbone attack, Thomasville piled up 286 yards on the ground in 40 attempts.

"We just didn't play worth a damn. We didn't tackle at all like we should," said defensive coordinator Brad Alman. "We just need to start over at practice this week."

Against Thomasville, the Vikings managed just 42 yards rushing, 27 of which came on one run by running back P. J. Burns early in the game.

Thomasville won the opening toss but deferred to the second half, giving the Vikings the ball to begin the game. At first it appeared to be a bad move on Hodges' part.

Behind quarterback Chris Overman, the Vikings came out throwing the ball on their opening drive and took just 3:07 to drive 77 yards for the first score of the game.

On the third play of the game from the Thomasville 28, Overman hooked up with Jason Orr on a 3rd-and-five situation for 16 yards before running back Burns ripped off a 27-yard run up the middle giving the Vikings a 1st-and-10 on the Bulldog 31.

Three plays later, Overman hooked up with Jeffrey Thomas with a 10-yard pass and the Vikings held a 6-0 lead. The extra-point attempt was blocked.

Overman finished the night 10-of-27 throwing the ball for 98 yards. Thomas was the leading receiver with four catches for 35 yards.

But the Vikings weren't ready to give up the ball quite yet as Wilson

had his team go for an inside kick. However, the ball only went seven of the required 10 yards and Thomasville had the ball on its own 47.

From there the Bulldog wishbone shifted into night gear.

Two straight runs picked up 29 yards before fullback James Williams scooted 27 yards on an inside trap all the way down to the Viking 3-yard line. Quarterback Charles Bostic did the rest as he swept left for three yards and the 53-yard drive to culminate a five play touchdown that took only 2:19.

The Vikings gave the ball right back when the ball was fumbled after a 14-yard pickup by Burns.

But at first it appeared as the Viking defense had held as Thomasville's offense bogged down setting up a 4th down and-10.

However, the fun for the Bulldogs had just begun. On the fourth down play, the Bulldogs went back to punt but the ball was snapped back to Shawn Austin who raced unopposed down the left sideline 38 yards for a 14-0 lead as the first quarter neared its end.

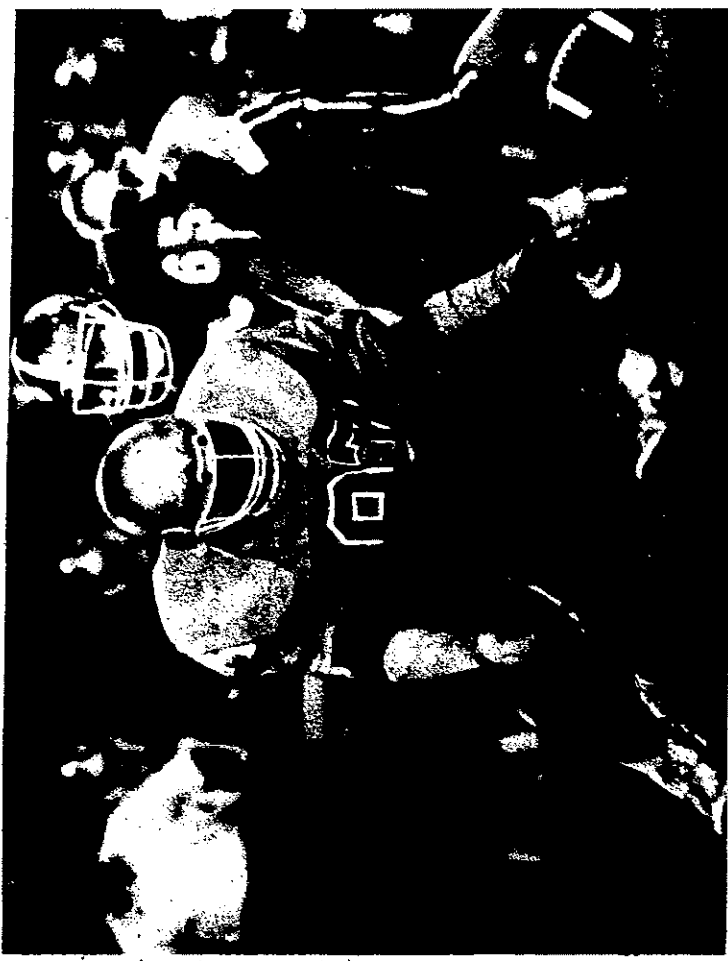
"I just felt like it was the perfect time to try it," said Hodges. "We were already on the 38 and we really didn't have anything to lose."

A partially blocked punt by Thomasville set the stage for the Bulldogs' third score.

Bostic capped the seven-play drive when he dashed in from eight yards out on an option keeper and Thomasville led 21-8 at the half.

VSC has defeated Fort Valley State in their last two openers. Cavan said he expects another physical contest with the Wildcats Saturday night.

"You just never know how your team will play on opening day. We



Viking Defensive Lineman Casper Vinson Moves Toward Loose Ball During Friday Night Evert's Withdrawal Puts Graf In F

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chris Evert pulled out of her U.S. Open semifinal against Steffi Graf Friday because of a stomach virus, moving Graf to within one victory of the Grand Slam.

"My body feels like it's been through a war," Evert said in a statement released by the Women's International Tennis Association.

"Every muscle and joint aches. Physically, I couldn't go out and play. I don't have any energy."

Graf, who is trying to become the first Grand Slam winner in 18 years, will play her doubles partner, Gabriela Sabatini, in Saturday's women's final.

Sabatini, the fifth seed, beat No. 11 Zina Garrison 6-4, 7-5 in the semifinals Friday.

But the match was overshadowed by the withdrawals of Evert and

Rick Leach, who was forced to pull out of the men's doubles final because of a similar virus. Leach and Jim Pugh had to default their match against Sergio Casal and Emilio Sanchez of Spain.

Graf who had beaten Evert six straight times, said she was disappointed by the walkover.

"I was really looking forward to playing Steffi and being part of her Grand Slam bid. I could have gone out there with no pressure, hit out and really have given it a shot against Steffi. It's the first time in 18 years of Grand Slams that I've had to default."

"It was the first time that a man or woman had withdrawn from a singles semifinal or final at the U.S. Open since the abolition of the Navratilov challenge round, which allowed defending champions to automatically advance to the final. The last men's challenge round was played in 1911, while the final

played in 1911. The last men's challenge round was played in 1911, while the final

ready for its first challenge. "I hope we just have 11 fanatical players on defense," Cavan said. "We have to play aggressive and be enthusiastic and get after them from the very start. I'm confident that our coaching staff will have our

Christian-all-graduated from Glyn Academy. "This game gives some of our players the opportunity to go home and the whole team is excited about going to Brunswick. We're glad that

win the final

VSC Blazers Excited About Tonight's Opener

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta State College will kick off its seventh year of collegiate football tonight as the Blazers travel

to win last year's contest at Cleveland Field. Cavan said his offense must use a balanced attack to be successful against the Wildcats' always-tough defense.

"We know that they will be formidable defensively. They are

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