

It's 'Cat vs 'Cat In AAA Grid Duel

BY TIMES STAFF WRITER

It will be Wildcats going against Wildcats when Valdosta and Laney of Augusta meet here on Friday night in a duel for the South Georgia Class AAA high school football title.

Also at stake in the match-up between coach Wright Bazemore's homestanding VHS-'Cats and coach David Dupree's LHS-'Cats from Augusta will be a berth in the state "AAA" finals next week.

Valdosta will carry a perfect 11-0 record into the game after winning the Region 1-AAA crown and licking Warner Robins, 35-6, in a first round game

of the playoffs last week.

Laney will come here with a 10-1 mark after claiming the 4-AAA crown and beating Groves (Garner City), 20-6, in first round playoff action last week.

Meanwhile, Forest Park (9-1-1) and Avondale (10-1-1) will battle it out for the North Georgia championship. The south and north victors will play next week for the state title, with the southern delegate as the host.

While rolling to 10 straight regular season victories Valdosta beat Thomasville (49-0), Dougherty (47-7), Crisp County (49-7), Bainbridge (28-0), Al-

bany (41-8), Moultrie (42-21), Monroe (75-22), Westover (47-6), Tift County (60-28) and Lowndes (40-0).

There are just four teams in Region 4-AAA and Laney met all of its league foes twice during the regular season. In regular season play it scored triumphs over Josey (Augusta), 27-12; Washington County (Warrenton), 22-6; Beach (Savannah), 36-14; Richmond Academy (Augusta), 13-7; Butler (Augusta), 7-0; Baldwin (Milledgeville), 33-0; Butler, 7-0, and Baldwin, 27-7. The defeat came by a 14-12 margin in a second meeting with Richmond.

Valdosta's Wildcats know all about Richmond. It was the Musketeers who trimmed 'Dosta, 18-14, in the South Georgia title game last season at Augusta and knocked Bazemore's charges out of the state title picture.

And Groves, the team Laney measured by a 20-6 margin in the first round last week, played Warner Robins to a 14-14 tie during the regular season. Robins was VHS' first round foe.

"This is the first time we've ever gone against Laney on the football field," Bazemore said. "Since Augusta is pretty far off, perhaps some of our fans haven't been hearing too much about them.

"But they have a good football team, a really good one. Their running game is very strong and they can also hurt you with the pass. Their defense is extremely tough. They're big and they're fast.

"We found out about Region 4-AAA the hard way last season when Richmond beat us. Well, Laney is the team we knocked Richmond out of time. Just add it all up yourself. We're going to have our work cut out for us Friday night."

PREP FOOTBALL

Playoffs Hit Semifinal Stage

By DAVID DAVIDSON

Atlanta Journal Prep Editor

After this Friday night, only one undefeated team will remain in the Class AA state prep football playoffs.

North Fulton, a 47-0 winner over Turner in a quarterfinal match at Lakewood Stadium last Friday, entertains West Rome, a 14-7 winner over Gainesville last Friday.

North Fulton has an 11-0 record, and in the most recent Journal Top Ten Poll was ranked No. 2, while West Rome is 12-0 and ranked No. 1 in AA.

The game either will be played at Lakewood Stadium or Grady Stadium in Atlanta. Officials of both schools were to meet at 1 p.m. Sunday to decide which.

It was expected West Rome might have some reservations about playing at Lakewood, since that stadium is equipped with AstroTurf.

"I hope we can persuade them to play at Lakewood," said North Fulton coach Dickie



David Davidson

Bean. "I think the artificial surface speeds up a game. Of course, West Rome would have every opportunity to practice on it to become accustomed to the feel."

In the other AA semifinal game, surprising Westminster goes to Fitzgerald. Westminster emerged from a rough regular season schedule, coming out of perhaps the most balanced of any region of any classification in the state, with a hard-earned 6-3-1 record.

There was one midseason stretch, during which the Wildcats were minus several key players because of injuries, when Westminster lost three of four games. But a peculiar chain of events allowed Westminster to win the South half of Region 4-AA, the Wildcats beat Marist (for a second time) 16-7 in the region championship game, then upset previously unbeaten Lakeshore, 7-6, last Friday in a quarterfinal playoff match.

There were other shockers last Friday. Laney (10-1) defeated a powerful Groves team, 20-6, in one AAA quarterfinal; Roswell (which had a 6-4 regular season record) defeated Jefferson, 23-7, in a Class A quarterfinal; and St. Joseph (also 6-4

during the regular season) demolished Oconee County, 39-0 in a Class B quarterfinal.

In other AAA playoff games, No. 1 ranked Valdosta won an astoundingly easy victory over No. 2 ranked Warner Robins, 35-6, Forest Park upended South Cobb, 38-7, and Avondale used a late 38-yard field goal to nip Henderson, 10-8.

In the other Class A playoff game, Vidalia whipped Putnam County, 26-13. This week, Vidalia meets Turner County (11-0) in one semifinal, while Roswell faces No. 1 ranked Carrollton (10-1).

In Class B, Macon County faces Southeast Bulloch, (11-0) and St. Joseph visits Bowdon (9-11).

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

CLASS AAA

Semifinals

Valdosta (11-0) vs. Laney (10-1) at Cleveland Field in Valdosta; Forest Park (9-1-1) vs. Avondale (10-1-1) at Targa Stadium in Jonesboro.

CLASS AA

Semifinals

Fitzgerald (11-1) vs. Westminster (8-3-1) at Fitzgerald High Stadium; North Fulton (11-0) vs. West Rome (12-0) at either Lakewood or Grady Stadium in Atlanta.

CLASS A

Semifinals

Turner County (11-0) vs. Vidalia (9-1) at Vidalia High Stadium; Carrollton (10-1) vs. Roswell (8-4) at Roswell High Stadium.

CLASS B

Semifinals

Macon County (10-1) vs. Southeast Bulloch at Macon Co. High Stadium in Milledgeville, Friday, 8 p.m.; Bowdon (9-1-1) vs. St. Joseph (7-4) at Bowdon High Stadium.

WILDCATS, 35-6

Valdosta Romps By Warner Robins

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Okay, the rumors are out again.

They say Wright Bazemore, Georgia's most famous and winningest high school football coach, is about to retire.

He probably is.

That is, if Valdosta again wins the Class AAA state high school football championship.

Friday night, Valdosta moved a step closer to reaching that goal again.

The powerful and unbeaten Wildcats trounced Warner Robins, 35-6, Friday night in the opening round of the AAA state playoffs.

A coach had quipped last week that Warner Robins had played itself into a position of having to face the "University of Valdosta" and he wasn't far from wrong.

Quarterback Stanley Bounds struck for 193 yards and two touchdowns via the pass and ran for three other scores as Valdosta left little doubt as to its AAA aims.

Stanford Rome, Valdosta's

6-4 sophomore end, grabbed eight of Bounds' passes for 117 yards and a touchdown.

Jerome Durham was most of the show for Warner Robins, gaining 93 yards in 16 tries, but Warner Robins did not manage a touchdown until late in the game.

'Cats Face Imps Here Saturday

BY TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta's Wildcats and Avondale's Blue Devils are to meet here this coming Saturday night with the 1971 state Class AAA high school football championship riding on the line.

Coach Wright Bazemore's Wildcats, who now have a 12-0 record, nailed down their title game berth with a 52-20 victory over Laney of Augusta here this past Friday night in the South Georgia playoff.

Coach Crawford Kennedy's Blue Devils, who now have an 11-1-1 mark, copped the North Georgia crown and moved into the state finals with a 19-10 victory over Forest Park's Panthers this past Saturday night.

Avondale and Forest Park were originally supposed to play on Friday, but their game was delayed a day because of bad weather in the Atlanta area.

A conference between VHS and Avondale officials resulted in the state championship match being scheduled for this coming Saturday night.

Valdosta asked that the game be played on Friday, but since Avondale declined to agree, that then a Georgia High School Association rule was applied and the contest will be played Saturday.

GHSA regulations say the "AAA" state championship bout is to be played on Saturday, Nov. 11, unless both teams, by mutual agreement,

elect to play it on Friday, Nov. 10.

The Wildcats claimed the Region 1-AAA championship then knocked off 2-AAA titleholder Warner Robins, 35-6, before clipping Laney in the semi-finals.

The Blue Devils copped the 7-AAA championship, then licked Henderson, 10-8, before disposing of Forest Park in the semi-finals in the northern half of the state.

Valdosta and Avondale will be meeting for the second time in a state Class AAA championship outing. The 'Cats trimmed the Blue Devils, 20-14, in a game here to cop the 1960 crown.

The Wildcats have won 14 state football championships since Bazemore joined the VHS coaching in 1940. Seven of those titles have been earned since 1958 when the 'Cats moved up to Class AAA.

Valdosta's "AAA" crowns came

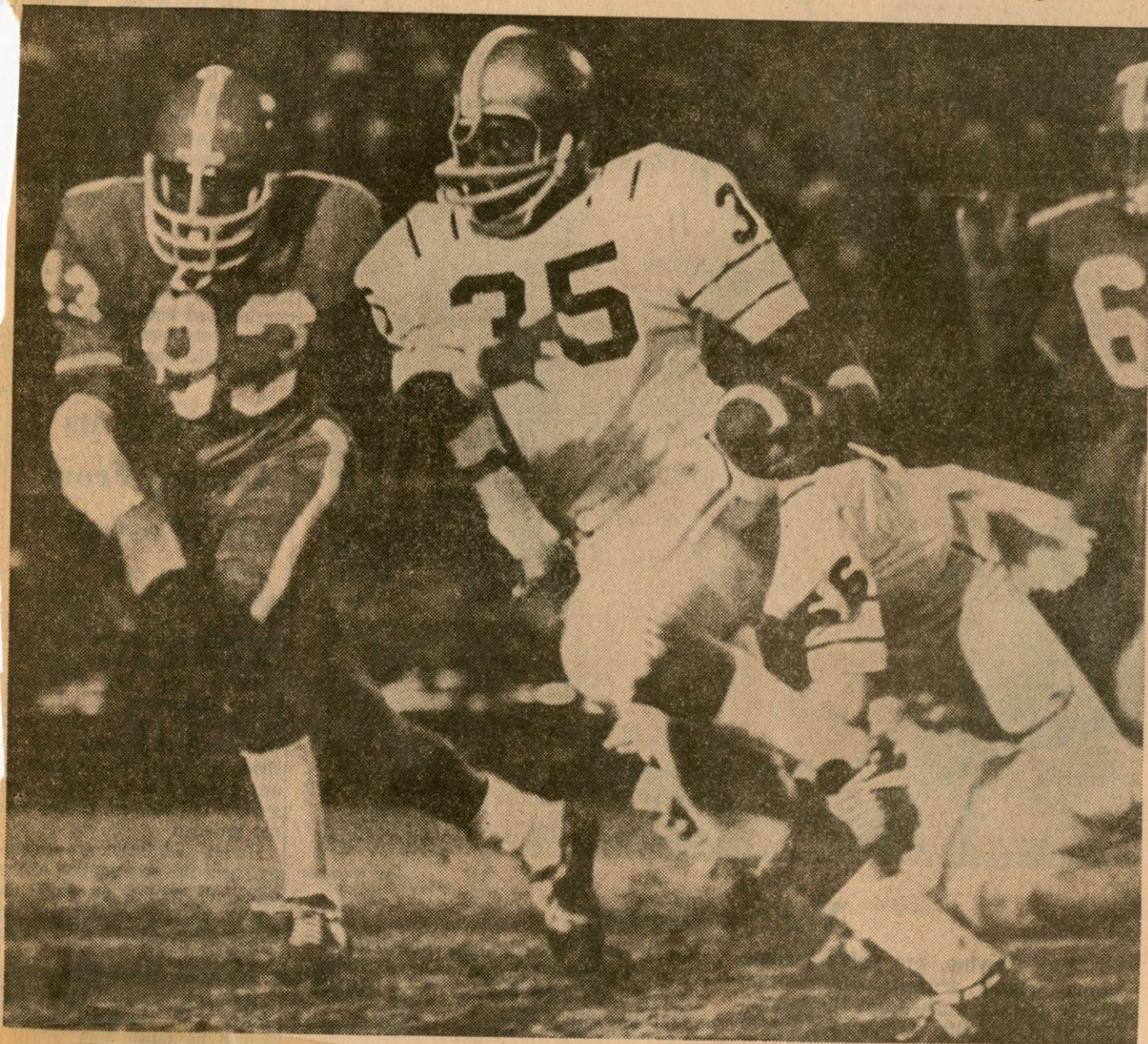
in 1960, 1961, 1962, 1965, 1966, 1968 and 1969. The 'Cats shared the '69 title as a co-champion after Valdosta and Athens battled to a 26-26 tie in the finals.

Avondale and Forest Park battled in the rain and mud on Saturday night. The Blue Devils compiled 206 yards rushing and 38 passing while holding Forest Park to 81 yards along the ground and 91 through the air.

Fullback Bucky Sherman scored two of Avondale's touchdowns and halfback David Maher got the other. All came on short runs.

In other prep playoffs Saturday Turner County defeated Vidalia, 21-0, to cop the South Georgia "A" crown; North Fulton blanked West Rome, 21-0, in the North Georgia "AA" duel and Southeast Bullock edged Macon County (Montezuma), 27-26, in the South Georgia "B" test.

Valdosta Rolls Past Laney



—Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III

Valdosta's Robert McCaskill (35) Starts 21-Yard Run Which Produced VHS' First Touchdown

Standing Room Tickets Are Out

BY TIMES STAFF WRITER

There won't be any standing room only tickets sold Friday night at Cleveland Field.

Those who want to see the second round of the state AAA football championship between Valdosta High School and Laney High of Augusta will have to purchase reserved seats or general admission tickets which also guarantee a seat, said city school Supt. Foster Goolsby.

He said that about 20 to 25 ticket stubs were sold as standing room only passes at last Friday night's game between VHS and Warner Robins High School here.

"We found out about it shortly after it started and stopped it. It will not occur again," said Goolsby.

He said the tickets were sold by a couple of Jaycees at \$2 a ticket stub.

"There was no problem and only one incident occurred about that even though the people who bought the stubs were told it was for standing room only.

"The game had started and the Jaycees saw some room for people to stand after several people asked if they could come in to see the game. It was a spur of the moment decision but it won't happen again," said Goolsby.

He said local school officials had gone to a lot of trouble to prevent any one standing to see the game and keep traffic to a minimum.

Goolsby said the board met in special session Sunday night to talk about the ticket stub situation with the Jaycees.

The Jaycees handle the ticket sales for the school board.

"We met with the Jaycees over what we have accepted as a misunderstanding on their

part on the selling of standing room only tickets. The incident involved one or two Jaycees who were not in the central meetings to talk about ticket sales said the superintendent.

Goolsby said that the Jaycees explained that they felt sorry for the people who did not purchase a ticket in time for the game.

"They hated to turn people away who had driven such a long distance to see the ball game," he said.

Earlier this year the board agreed that the number of tickets printed and sold would not exceed the number of seats in the stadium.

Board finance director said the Jaycees also owe the board's Athletic Association account about \$600.

The deficit occurred in the first home football game of the season.

"We've got records of how many tickets were signed out to them and how many tickets they signed back in for," said Kent.

He said the Jaycees realized the error when they began tallying up the Monday following the game.

"They called me and we haven't been able to find out what happened. It was just an oversight and we've asked them to make it up," said Kent.



—Times Staff Photo

Valdosta Quarterback Stanley Bounds (15) Aims And Fires Over Charging Demons Terry Crumpton (87) and Tim Davis (74)

Wildcats Clip Robins

(Continued from page 1)

The other two were made by Steve Stanaland and Gary Rowe, and both set up Valdosta touchdowns. The pass thefts were made by Jim Clarkston and Ronald Daniels.

Rowe was 'Dosta's leading tackler with eight, followed by Stanaland, seven; Ronald Daniels, six; Dick Parker, five, and David Berrien, Gary Irby, Freddy Wilbon, Clarkston and Payton, with four apiece. Parker booted all five of the Wildcats' extra points.

Fullback Jerome Durham, with 93 yards on 16 carries, was the Demons' ground attack leader. Warner's lone score came with just 1:46 left in the game on a 37-yard pass from quarterback Joe Sumrall Jr. to tight end Kyle Byrd.

Here's the way things went:

FIRST PERIOD — The Demons threatened twice during the early going. After taking the opening kickoff they moved from their own 32 to the VHS seven, where a fumble recovery by Payton stopped them. They got the ball at close range again on a pass interception, but the 'Dosta defenders dug in, forced the Robins to give up the pigskin on downs at the nine.

SECOND PERIOD — Valdosta got on the scoreboard early in the stanza with a 10-play drive which covered 61 yards. Bounds got the TD on a one-yard run. The big gainers were a 10-yard sprint by Daniels and a nine-yard pass from Bounds to Rome. Rountree and O'Neal also chipped in with important runs.

After Stanaland recovered a fumble at the Demons' 30 the Wildcats raced the clock and went in to score again just 40 seconds before the first half ended. Bounds tallied from three yards out, after getting loose for runs of 10, 6 and 5 yards and hitting Rome with a 19-yard pass. Twice during this short march VHS was set back by penalties.

THIRD PERIOD — On their second offensive series of the second half the Wildcats wheeled 63 yards in 11 plays to tally for the third time. The big-gainers were a run of nine yards by Daniels and passes of 14 and 21 yards from Bounds to Rome. The quarterback scored from three yards out.

Before the stanza was over VHS had its fourth TD. The 'Cats moved 50 yards in two plays. Bounds connected with Rountree on a 41-yard aerial

and then flipped one nine yards to Griffin in the end zone.

FOURTH PERIOD — VHS' fifth TD was also a swiftie. After Rowe recovered a fumble at the Demons' 11, the 'Cats moved to paydirt in four plays. The payoff was a five-yard pass from Bounds to Rome.

With the Valdosta reserves now in the game, Robins finally reached paydirt. The Demons marched 71 yards and scored on a 37-yard air strike from Sumrall to Byrd.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Valdosta — Bounds 13-63, O'Neal 9-34, Rountree 5-20, McCaskill 3-16, Daniels 10-48, Bradley 2-15, Morrison 4-11; Warner Robins — Hall 5-0, Howard 8-18, Joiner 3-15, J. Durham 16-92.

Passing: Valdosta — Bounds 14-24-193; Warner Robins — Hall 4-14-16, Sumrall 1-2-37.

Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Rome 8-117, Daniels 1-6, Bradley 2-10, Griffin 2-22, Rountree 1-31; Warner Robins — Howard 3-16, Durham 1-0, Byrd 1-37.

Kickoff Returns: Warner Robins — Howard 5-121, Davis 1-11.

Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Rowe 8, Stanaland 7, Ron Daniels 6, Parker 5, G. Rountree 4, D. Berrien 4, Irby 4, Wilbon 4, Clarkston 4, Payton 4, Griffin 2, Pompey 2, Savage 2; Warner Robins — Jenkins 7, B. Durham 7, Tharpe 6, Coleman 5, Washington 4, Crumpton 4, Davis 4, J. Durham 3, Sipp 3.

LINEUPS

Valdosta
Ends: Griffin, James Berrien, David Berrien, Clarkston, Rountree.
Tackles: Stanaland, Johnson, Brantley, Irby, Mitchell, Demersseman, Cutchens, Swinton, Griffith.
Guards: Ronald Daniels, Nijem Register, Massey, Earnest, Joseph, Lester, Wilbon, Sullivan, Christian.
Centers: Lore, Scruggs.

Backs: Rome, Parker, Bounds, Daniels, Lane, Netter, Rowe, Payton, O'Neal, Pompey, McCaskill, Savage, Robert Daniels, Morrison, Goodin, Manuel, Hille, Bea, Sheffield, Cooper, King, Neal, Richardson, Roger Rountree, Peterso, Whitfield, Griner.

Warner Robins

Ends: Roles, Johnson, Sease, Dale, Byrd, Crumpton, Davis, Green.
Tackles: Holman, Collins, Childs, Mahinauskas.
Guards: Jenkins, Washington, Lambert, Tharpe.
Centers: Gray, Smith.
Backs: Hall, Sumrall, Joiner, Howard, Sipp, Davis, Jerome Durham, Bill Dur.
Score by Quarters:
Valdosta 0 14 14 7-35
Robins 0 0 0 6-6
Scoring: Valdosta — TDs — Bounds 3 (1, 3, 1 yd. runs), Griffin (9 yd. pass from Bounds), Rome (5 yd. pass from Bounds); PATs — Parker 5 (placements). Warner Robins — TD — Byrd (37 yd. pass from Sumrall).

State Playoff Opponents Have Winning Traditions

BY TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta's Wildcats and Avondale's Blue Devils are to meet here Saturday night in a duel for the state's 1971 Class AAA high school football championship and both will come into the battle with sparkling records and proud gridiron traditions.

Coach Wright Bazemore's Wildcats own a 12-0 record and rule as the top team in the "AAA" ranks in South Georgia. Coach Crawford Kennedy's Blue Devils from Avondale Estate are 11-1-1 and own the North Georgia "AAA" crown.

They are the two survivors of an original field of 81 Class AAA teams which began the race for the 1971 state crown back in early September.

This marks the eighth time the Wildcats have made the state finals since they moved up to Class AAA in 1958. They've won the "AAA" diadem outright six times, in 1960, 1961, 1962, 1965, 1966, and 1968, and came away as the co-champ in 1969 after a 26-26 tie with Athens.

In all 'Dosta has won 14 state championships in classes ranging from "B" to "AAA" since Bazemore joined the VHS coaching staff back in 1940.

This marks the fourth time Avondale has gone for state "AAA" championship honors. Their first appearance in the finals was in 1960 and the Imps dropped a 20-14 decision to Valdosta that time. Avondale was a 40-0 victor over Moultrie in the 1963 title match and bowed to Glynn Academy (Brunswick) 1-18, in the state test in 1964.

Crawford is in only his second year as the head coach at Avondale. Before that he had a successful six-campaign reign as grid boss at Druid Hills.

While clicking off 12 straight wins this year the Wildcats have scored 567 points, an average of 47.2 per outing, while allowing 125, an average of 10.4.

Avondale, in 13 starts, has scored 302 points, an average of 23.2 per start, and has allowed 133, an average of 10.2.

The 'Cats and Devils, how-

ever, have gone against an entirely different set of opponents.

Valdosta racked up regular season triumphs over Thomasville (49-0), Dougherty (47-7), Crisp County (49-7), Bainbridge (28-0), Albany (41-8), Moultrie (42-21), Monroe (75-22), Westover (47-6), Tift County (60-28) and Lowndes (40-0).

In two playoff outings the 'Cats, who are from Region 1-AAA, have licked 2-AAA king Warner Robins, 35-6, and 4-AAA

titleholder Laney of Augusta, 54-20.

Avondale, which is a member of 7-AAA, went 8-1-1 in regular season play. It's lone loss was by a 24-8 margin on opening night to Huntsville, Ala.

After that it beat Marietta (10-0), Clarkston (17-14), Murphy (41-12), Towers (25-0), Gordon (38-12), Howard (41-12), Decatur (37-12) and Walker (38-12). The Blue Devils and Columbia played to a 3-3 tie and wound up in a tie for fifth place

in the 7-AAA race. In a special playoff, Avondale triumphed, 15-14.

In state playoff competition the Imps have licked 8-AAA king Henderson, 10-8, and 6-AAA titleholder Forest Park, 19-10.

Coaches Present Variety

By JULIAN MILLER
Times Sports Writer

When the Valdosta Wildcats and Avondale Blue Devils take to Cleveland Field here Saturday night for their state Class AAA high school football title game it'll be the experienced vet of playoffs against a newcomer to the championship contest ranks.

Wildcat coach Wright Bazemore is certainly familiar with playoffs of this type. He's been in lots of them since he joined the VHS coaching staff in 1940.

But Avondale's Crawford Kennedy is a newcomer to such doings. In just his second year as head coach at Avondale he's facing his first trip to the title match, but he's been holding his own.

So far this year the Blue Devils have won 11 games, lost only one, to an out-of-state team, and tied one with Columbia, a team the Imps later defeated for the Region 8-AAA crown.

The 35-year-old University of Georgia graduate seems anything but cocky about his chance against the Wildcats Saturday.

Kennedy had very little to say about his Blue Devils and a lot of praise for Bazemore's Wildcats.

"We're basically a running ball club," he admitted. "We haven't thrown that much. We



WRIGHT BAZEMORE
Many Titles

know what we read in the papers about Valdosta, and we saw them against Laney. They're tough."

Kennedy played football for Brown High of Atlanta in his prep days and then went to the University of Miami where he played two years before transferring to Georgia.

He didn't play for the Bulldogs, but took up football again upon graduation when he assumed the head coaching position at Druid Hills High of At-



CRAWFORD KENNEDY
First Playoff

lanta. After his teams posted a 29-27-4 record in six years, Kennedy took an assistant's position at Avondale in 1969 when the Blue Devils went 11-1, losing to Athens in the first round of the state playoffs, 21-10. Athens went on to tie Valdosta in the state title game, 26-26, that year.

The next season he took over as head coach and his Imps posted an 8-1 record in '70 and are now 11-1-1.

Bazemore's record is the most impressive in Georgia High School football history. Since he took over the helm of the Wildcats in 1941, he has led VHS to 13 state championships, seven of them at the "AAA" level.

A Fitzgerald native, Baze was a standout athlete for the Purple Hurricanes in high school, winning a total of 16 sports letters. He scored 250 points in one season, including two games when he tallied 10 touchdowns in each against Montezuma and Waycross.

After high school he attended Mercer University and Georgia Peabody College, earning AB and MA degrees. His first coaching assignment was as an assistant in Waycross, where the Bulldogs went 9-1 in 1938 and 9-2 in '39.

He joined the VHS staff under the late Bobby Hooks as assistant coach in 1940. He took over the Wildcat helm in 1941, but served three years in the Navy in 1943-45 before returning as head coach. He's been here every since.

In his 31 years of coaching, his football teams have posted a 289-43-5 record.

In 1960 he became the first active coach ever voted into Georgia's High School Hall of Fame. In 1969 he was chosen as the National High School Football Coach of the Year.

A Surprise and a Habit Go for Georgia Titles

There could be two Wildcats in Georgia's championship football family after Saturday night, one a surprise, the other a habit.

The habit is Valdosta, which will seek its 14th state championship when Avondale visits Cleveland Field for a Saturday night showdown in AAA competition.

The surprise is Class AA Westminster of Atlanta. This gang of Wildcats stood 3-3-1 after midseason in perhaps the toughest AA region in the state, and had 17 injured players on the sidelines.

They overcame the injuries, however, and won the last three to capture a subregional title.

The Westminster Wildcats are not riding a six-game win streak, having dumped Marist, Marist, 16-7, for the region championship, edged unbeaten Lakeshore in quarterfinal action and whipped Fitzgerald, 14-3, in the semifinals last week.

NEIGHBORING Fulton County will be Westminster's foe tonight in Atlanta and Fulton brings an undefeated, untied mark of 13-0 into the title affair.

After two postponements, top ranked Carrollton finally met and conquered the Class A defending state champion — Roswell — 14-0 Monday night.

Running back Jackie Crowder scored on touchdown runs of 61 and 34 yards in the second half to lead the Trojans to victory.

Carrollton will host tonight's championship game and the



BOB PRICE

T-U Sports Writer

invader will be undefeated Turner County.

Unbeaten Southeast Bulloch scrambled to a 27-26 win over Macon County at Montezuma last Friday while their title opponent Bowdon was crushing St. Joseph, 33-0. Tonight's Class B championship affair is ticketed for Brooklet.

VALDOSTA'S Saturday night opposition will be another team which chose the tough road to the finals. The Blue Devils of Avondale dropped their opener to Butler High of Huntsville, Ala., and then survived several narrow victories, stopping favored Forest Park, 19-10 in the semifinals.

"A team with the mettle to get by in close ones, is a team to watch," says Valdosta's Wright Bazemore, who'll be winding up his 30th year as coach at VHS. There's been speculation that this could be Bazemore's final year, but the wily mentor who is the only active high school coach in Georgia's football hall of fame says, "I'll let everyone know when I make a decision, and that everyone includes me."

Former Wildcats In Playoffs Too

By now it's common knowledge Valdosta's Wildcats are getting ready to enter the playoffs for the state Class AAA high school football crown, but this bunch of 'Cats isn't the only one facing the challenge.

Two former Wildcats, Dale Williams, now head coach of the Baker High Lions at Columbus, and Frank King, head coach of the Early County Bobcats from Blakely, are facing playoff foes too.



JULIAN MILLER

Williams, who graduated from Valdosta High in 1958, takes his Lions against Warner Robins in a duel for the Region 2-AAA crown in Columbus Friday night.

The winner earns a trip to Valdosta the following Friday to meet the Wildcats.

Meanwhile, King, who played under Valdosta coach Wright Bazemore, is at the helm of the Region 1-AA (West) champion Bobcats, and takes them against Baze's hometown team of Fitzgerald at Albany in the Region 1-AA title clash Friday.

Williams would like to talk about meeting Valdosta on Cleveland Field, but he has more to think about right

now. Before he does anything he has to figure out some way to stop the Warner Robins Demons' fantastic running attack.

Leading the ground assault for the Demons are the top two ball carriers in 2-AAA, Jerome Durham and Melvin Howard.

Durham, a 180-pound senior, has already picked up 1,125 yards in rushing, while Howard, a 170-pound senior, has collected 1,072.

At quarterback for the Demons is 170-pound junior Joe Sumrall, Jr., son of former Thomasville Bulldog head coach Joe Sumrall, who is now principal at Warner Robins.

Demons Are Tough

"We've seen Robins play and watched films," Williams said, "and they are tough. They have two of the finest running backs in the state and have a good all-round football team."

"We're a well-balanced club, and we've had a strong defense all year. Our secondary is our strong point there. We have three experienced boys playing."

"Our offense has been another of our strong points. We are pretty good at running the ball ourselves and have been doing a pretty good job passing."

When asked about the possibility of returning to Cleveland Field against his alma mater he mused. "That would be great. It's always a challenge to play Valdosta and it would be great to get that far."

"I've been in that position once before (when Baker and Valdosta both played in Region 1-AAA) and it really gives you a strange feeling."

Over in Blakely, King, who coached alongside Williams in Eastman in 1965, is preparing to meet some pretty big odds.

Bobcats Are Small

Fitzgerald's Hurricanes have the edge over the Bobcats in several ways. First — size: Early County has only one man over 165 pounds. He's Jeff Jennings (180-pound tackle).

Then depth: Early's squad, including the "B" team, has 35 members. Only 22 are actually varsity players, and only 15 start. Then number one quarterback Robert Newberry, a two-year veteran, is out with an injury.

"We feel like we're going up against the finest Class AA football team in the state Friday night," King admitted.

"Their quarterback, Eddie Luke, took 'em to the state finals as a sophomore. He's tough this year."

"But we've got a scrappy bunch of boys," he said. "We have impressive defensive stats with our ball control. We've average 252 yards per game on the ground, and we play fair defense at times. I don't think we'll get run over."

When told his team has been compared, play-wise, to Valdosta, the 1960 graduate of VHS just laughed.

"No, we may run a couple of plays that look like Valdosta, but we don't have the material to really look like them," he said.

King doesn't even let it enter his mind that he's playing against a team from Bazemore's home town. "Nope, I consider him a Valdostan. And he's the finest football coach in America. I'm glad I got the opportunity to play under him."

Wildcats Claw Demons, 35-6

By SAMMY GLASSMAN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High's Wildcats combined a balanced attack with an alert and stingy defense to score a solid 35-6 football victory over the Warner Robins Demons here Friday night.

An overflow crowd of approximately 11,000 was on hand at Cleveland Field as coach Wright Bazemore's 'Cats rolled to a convincing triumph over Frank Orgel's Demons in a first round game of the state Class AAA playoffs.

With the win the 'Cats, who are the champs of Region 1-AAA, boosted their record to 11-0 and earned the right to meet Laney of Augusta here next Friday night in a battle for the South Georgia "AAA" title. Laney advanced in the playoffs with a 20-6 triumph over Groves (Garden City) in a game at Savannah last night. The 4-AAA champs from Augusta will come here next week with a 10-1 record.

As for the Demons from 2-AAA, the defeat was their first after nine wins and a pair of ties and knocked them out of

★

STATISTICS		
	Valdosta	Robins
First Downs	19	10
Yards Rushing	205	125
Yards Passing	193	54
Passes	14-24	5-17
Passes Int. by	2	1
Fumbles Lost	1	3
Punting	5-34.2	5-34
Penalties	16-130	6-38

★

the state championship picture.

Before the game Bazemore had told the 'Cats that a "good team effort" would be the key to success against Warner Robins. The VHS gridders gave their coach just exactly what he asked for.

The Valdosta attack, led by senior quarterback Stanley Bounds, racked up five touchdowns, three along the ground and two through the air, and piled up 398 yards in total offense. The 'Cats ran for 205 yards and passed for 193.

Meanwhile, VHS' defensive unit turned in its top performance of the season while holding Warner Robins' potent attack to just 179 yards, 125 rushing and 54 passing. The Demons got 71 of those yards and their only touchdown in the final stanza

against the 'Dosta reserves.

Bounds had a direct hand in the scoring of all five of Valdosta's TDs. He tallied three times himself on runs of 1, 3 and 1 yards, and unleashed a pair of touchdown aeriels. One for nine yards went to tight and Scott Griffin and another for five yards went to split end Stanford Rome.

For the night Bounds picked up 63 yards rushing on 13 carries and hit on 14 of 24 tosses for 193 yards. Rome, who was being double and triple - teamed by the Robins defenders, still made eight pass receptions for 117 yards.

Other VHS rushing leaders included halfback Robert Daniels, with 48 yards on 10 carries, and fullback Pat O'Neal, who legged it for 34 yards on nine tries.

The Wildcats' alert stop'em crew members recovered three Demon fumbles and intercepted a pair of Warner Robins passes.

A fumble recovery by Alvin Payton stopped Robins at the VHS seven yard line in the opening minutes of the game.

See Wildcats — Page 12

Robins Playoff Foe For 'Dosta

BY TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta High's football Wildcats will be meeting Warner Robins Demons here next Friday in a first round game of the state Class AAA playoffs.

Coach Wright Bazemore's 'Cats, with a perfect 10-0 record, got into the playoffs by winning the Region 1-AAA crown for the fourth year in a row.

Coach Frank Orgel's Demons nailed down the Region 2-AAA championship and earned the right to meet 'Dosta by licking coach Dale Williams' Baker Lions, 20-7, in a game played Friday night at Columbus.

Warner Robins and Baker were sub-division champs in 2-AAA and decided the overall title issue of that region with their game last night. With their latest triumph, the Demons now have an 9-0-2 mark.

The last time Valdosta and Warner Robins met on the gridiron was in a regular season game in 1963 when both belong to Region 1-AAA.

Tickets for next Friday's playoff game here are go on sale at 9 a. m. Monday at the ticket booth located at the southeast corner of Cleveland Field. The booth will be open until 9 p. m. Monday and will also be open between 4 p. m. and 6 p. m. on Tuesday and Wednesday.

VHS fans who had season reserved seats will have three days in which they may purchase the same number of reserved seat tickets for the playoff game. Student tickets are to go on sale Monday at Valdosta High and at the VHS-Pinevale Campus.

In the game at Columbus last night Baker scored first. The Lions recovered a fumble in the opening period at mid-field and drove in for a tally. The TD came on an eight-yard pass from John Morin to Larry Lavinder.

From there on the Demons were in command. Robins got its first touchdown in the second period. Demon Rickey Jenkins recovered a fumble at the Baker seven and three play later Steve Hall tallied on

two - yard run.

Warner Robins scored again in the third stanza on a 63-yard drive. Joe Joiner got the TD on a five - yard run. Key plays were passes of 17 and 23 yards tossed by Hall to Melvin Howard and Kyle Byrd.

The Demons' final score came in the fourth period. Howard returned a punt 53 yards to the Baker 22 and nine plays later Hall sneaked the football across the goal line from one yard out.

Robins made 10 first downs,

rushed for 102 yards and passed for 53. Baker managed just five first downs, picked up only 73 yards along the ground and 13 through the air.

In another Class AAA outing last night at Jesup, Groves (Garden City) claimed the Region 3-AAA title by licking home-standing Wayne County 26-6.

Groves is to go against 4-AAA Laney (Augusta) next Friday in another first round game of the state Class AAA playoffs in the southern half of the state.

Valdosta, Robins Face Showdown

By SAMMY GLASSMAN

Times Sports Editor

Valdosta's Wildcats and Warner Robins' Demons are to lock horns here Friday night in a crucial high school football playoff game and everyone expects the encounter to produce plenty of offensive fireworks.

Coach Wright Bazemore's 'Cats and coach Frank Orgel's Demons are to clash at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field in a first round game of the state "AAA" playoffs.

Valdosta, with a 10-0 record, is the Region 1-AAA champ and Warner Robins, with a 9-0-2 mark, owns the Region 2-AAA crown. The winner will advance into the state playoff semi-finals, while the loser will be eliminated from the Class AAA title picture.

While clicking off 10 straight

wins Valdosta averaged 418.9 yards per game in total offense and tallied 478 points. While producing nine wins and a pair of ties Robins averaged 361 yards per outing in total offense and accounted for 333 points.

Valdosta's attack is led by senior quarterback Stanley Bounds. He has hit on 99 of 192 passes for 1,978 yards and 19 TDs. As a runner he's picked up 350 yards on 64 carries and has tallied 17 touchdowns himself. For the second year in a row Bounds broke Region 1-AAA records for passing and total offense.

His favorite receiver is sophomore wide end Stanford Rome, who established another 1-AAA mark by making 50 catches for 1,184 yards and 15 TDs.

The Wildcats' two leading rushers are sophomore halfback Robert Daniels, with 425 yards

on 61 carries, and junior fullback Pat O'Neal, who has picked up 395 yards on 57 tries.

Warner Robins' swift ground game is led by fullback Jerome Durham and halfback Melvin Howard, a pair of seniors. Durham is Region 2-AAA's leading rusher with 1,125 yards on 159 carries.

As for Howard, you name it and he can do it. As a runner he has picked up 1,072 yards on 181 carries and scored 22 touchdowns. As a pass receiver he has made 19 catches for 224 yards. As a kick returner, he's galloped a total of 478 yards while lugging back 26 punts and kickoffs. He also plays as a linebacker on the Demons' highly regarded defensive unit.

"In Durham and Howard, Warner Robins has two backs who are capable of scoring anytime they put their hands on the football," VHS coach Bazemore said. "Their work behind a veteran line which is both big and fast."

"Whatever (Valdosta) will need is a superior team effort if we're going to have a chance. But then team effort is the name of the game. Our players certainly know that."

Probable starters follow:

VALDOSTA

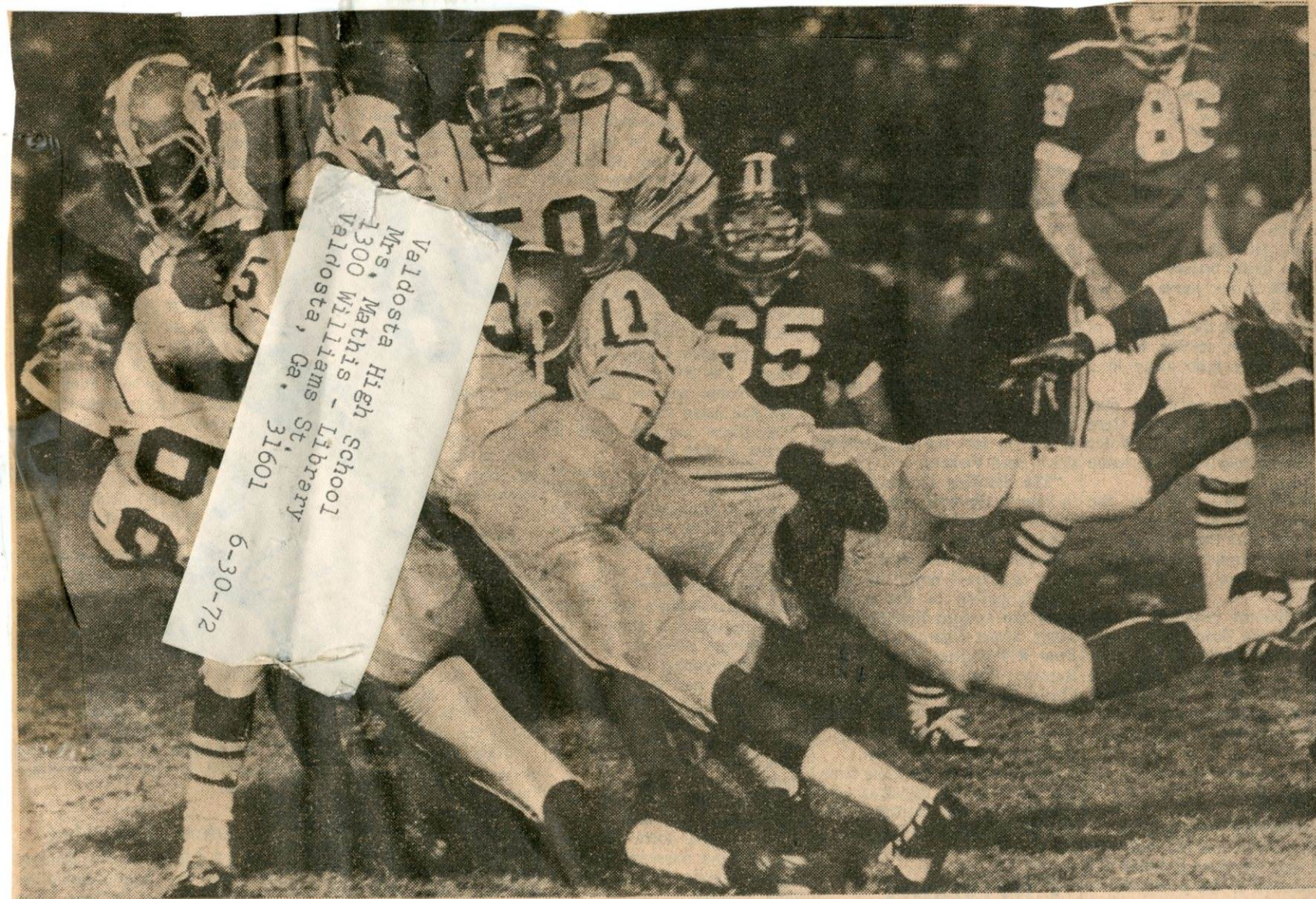
Offense — ends Stanford Rome (190, soph.) and Scott Griffin (155, sr.), tackles Paul Demersseman (210, sr.) and Wade Johnson (200, jr.), guards Sidney Earnest (190, sr.) or Calvin Lester (175, sr.) and David Register (200, jr.) or Robert Joseph (175, sr.), center Paul Lore (175, sr.), quarterback Stanley Bounds (175, sr.), halfbacks Robert Daniels (190, soph.) and George Rountree (175, jr.) or James Savage (175, jr.) and fullback Pat O'Neal (185, jr.).

Defense — ends David Berrien (170, jr.) and Alvin Payton (170, sr.), tackles Steve Stanaland (220, sr.) and Gary Irby (200, jr.), middle guard, Freddie Wilbin (250, jr.), outside linebackers Edwin Pompey (185, sr.) and Dick Parker (175, sr.), inside linebackers Jim Clarkston (180, sr.) and Ronald Daniels (190, jr.), deep backs Gary Rowe (185, jr.) and D. D. Netter (170, sr.).

WARNER ROBINS

Offense — ends Doug Johnson (170, jr.) and Kyle Byrd (200, sr.), tackles Richard Gray (215, sr.) and Robert Malina (200, sr.), guards George Collins (190, soph.) and Eulard Lamert (250, sr.), center Sid Miller (185, sr.), quarterback Joe Sumrall (170, jr.), or Steve Hall (175, sr.), halfbacks Melvin Howard (170, sr.) and Don Joiner (170, jr.) and fullback Jerome Durham (180, sr.).

Defense — ends Terry Compton (175, sr.) and Lyn Holman (185, jr.), tackles Euddy Childs (180, jr.) and Abe Washington (175, sr.), middle guard Ronnie Tharpe (175, sr.), linebackers Jim Davis (180, sr.), Howard, Ricky Jenkins (175, jr.) and Gary Dale (175, soph.) and deep backs Bill Durham (180, sr.) and Charles Sapp (170, jr.).



Valdosta High School
Mrs. Mathis -
1300 Williams St.
Valdosta, Ga. 31601

6-30-72

—Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III

Welcome To Death Valley: Demon Jerome Durham Greeted by 'Cats Alvin Payton, David Berrian, Gary Irby, Stanford Rome, Steve Stanaland

Afford To Relax

During his long and successful coaching career Wright Bazemore has said many times that when it comes to football, "Team effort is the name of the game."

Before his Valdosta High Wildcats went against the Warner Robins Demons here this past Friday night, Baze allowed that the 'Cats' changes in the game would hinge on "team effort."



GLASSMAN

viously fired up Demons inside Valdosta's 10 yard line. And that's what they mean when they talk about a team coming through in the clutch.

Neither the Wildcats' offensive or defensive efforts were made any easier by the 16 penalties which cost Valdosta a total of 130 yards. But the 'Cats took the shower of penalty flags in stride, kept their poise and continued about the business racking up the Demons.

Laney Is Next

Yes indeed, Bazemore is right. Team effort is the name of the game.

The 'Cats licked Warner Robins, and boosted their record to 11-0. It would be nice if they could relax, but they can't.

This coming Friday they will put it all on the line again when they go against another set of Wildcats, these from Laney High of Augusta, in a duel here for the South Georgia "AAA" crown. Laney, the 4-AAA king, has a 10-1 mark after licking Groves (Garden City), 20-6, in another first round game this past weekend at Savannah.

The 'Cats met Richmond Academy, another 4-AAA entry, in the playoff semi-finals last year at Augusta and dropped an 18-14 decision. Laney is the team which knocked Richmond out of the running this season.

Just Four Left

While Valdosta and Laney are meeting here, the North Georgia issue will be settled in a contest between Forest Park, a 6-AAA delegate with an 9-1-1 record, and Avondale, a Region 7-AAA member with a 10-1-1 chart.

In semi-final round action Forest Park spanked South Cobb, 38-6, and Avondale clipped Henderson (Chamblee), 10-8.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, the South Georgia survivor is to go against the North Georgia victor with the 1971 state crown up for grabs. The host team will be the southern delegate.

Out of an original starting field of 81 Class AAA teams in Georgia only four are left in the race. The pressure, well, it continues to build by the minute.

The 'Cats gave a fine effort and it earned for them a victory over Warner Robins. What they must do now is guard against a let down. Bazemore, I'm sure, has already reminded them of this.

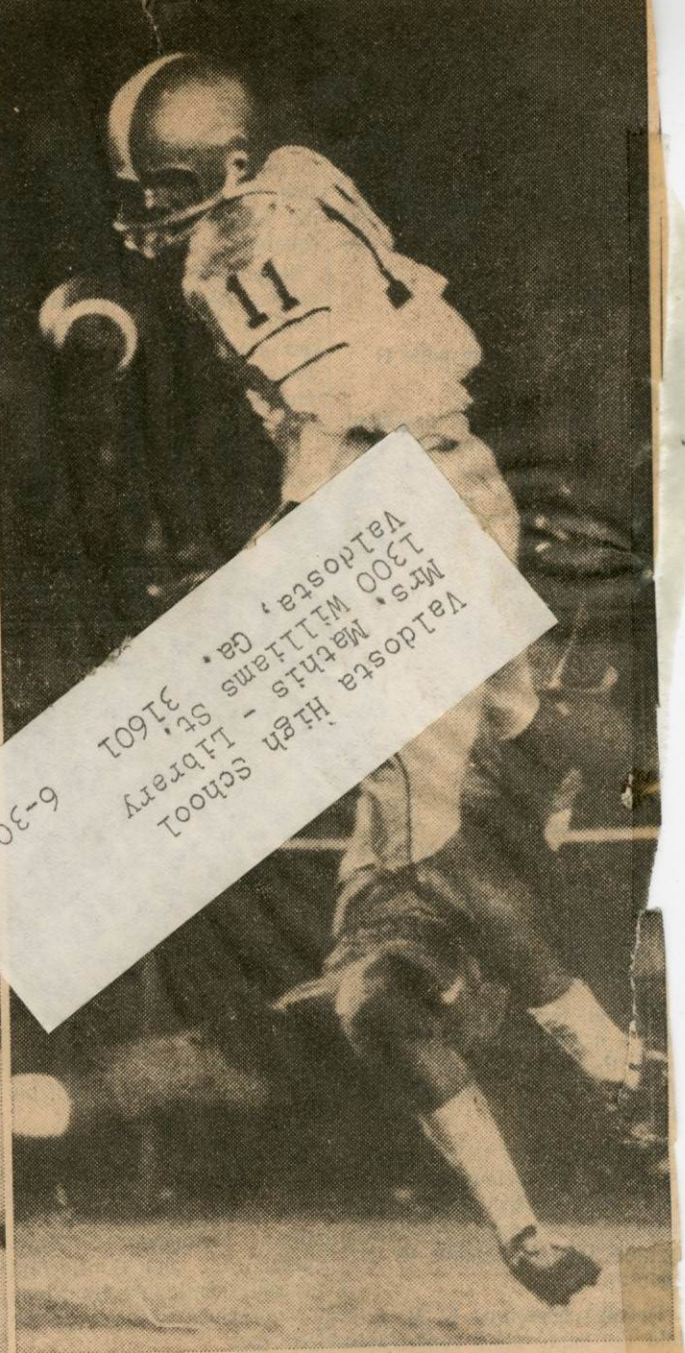
What Bazemore asked for his players delivered, in sparkling fashion, as VHS thumped Robins, 35-6, in a first round game in the state Class AAA playoffs.

The offensive unit generated five touchdowns and almost 400 yards in total offense, with a good balance between rushing and passing.

Valdosta's defensive unit, turning in its best effort of the season, limited the Demons' potent attack to 179 yards. Robins' lone TD came with only 1:46 left to play in the contest against the VHS reserves.

Twice in the early stages of the game the 'Dosta stop'em crew halted the ob-

stop'em crew halted the ob-



Valdosta High School
Mrs. Mathis - Library
1300 Williams St.,
Valdosta, Ga. 31601
6-30-72

-Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III

Bounds to Rome Rambles On: Wildcat Quarterback, Left, Passed for 355 Yards, Five TDs; End Caught Eight for 168 Yards, Three TDs

VHS Wins Berth In Finals

Real 'Cats Stood Up: 54-20

By SAMMY GLASSMAN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High's football Wildcats struck for touchdowns on their first two offensive series and then went on from there to a 54-20 triumph over another set of Wildcats, those from Laney High of Augusta, here Friday night.

With the victory coach Wright Bazemore's 'Dosta Wildcats boosted their record to 12-0, they nailed down the South Georgia Class AAA champion-

ship and earned a berth in next week's state title match, which will be played here next Saturday night unless the two teams involved come to a mutual agreement to stage it on Friday.

The setback left coach David Dupree's Laney Wildcats with a 10 - 2 record and eliminated them from the playoffs.

Valdosta will be meeting the North Georgia victor in the state title contest next week. The northern issue is to be settled tonight in a game between

Forest Park (9-1-1) and Avondale (10-1-1). They were supposed to clash last night, but delayed their game one day because of bad weather in the Atlanta area.

Final arrangements for the state championship game, including whether it will be played on Friday or Saturday, are to be made later this week-end. VHS will be going for its 15th state crown, the eighth at the Class AAA level, since Bazemore joined the Valdosta coaching staff in 1940.

As for last night's outing, Valdosta sparkled on both offense and defense before a crowd of approximately 9,000. The field had been soaked by two days of rain and the temperature dipped down into the 30s. But neither the mud or the cold seemed to bother the VHS gridders one bit.

The home-standing Wildcats jumped off to a quick 13-point lead, VHS was ahead 20-6 at the end of the first stanza and had the game wrapped up. See Valdosta - Page 11

'All-Valdosta' Play Delivers Revenge

By JULIAN MILLER
Times Sports Writer

Portable heaters set up on Cleveland Field did little to prepare the "turf" for the South Georgia Class AAA championship football game — and the few banners posted were unmistakably one-sided — all Valdosta.

But "All-Valdosta" was a perfect description for the game that followed as coach Wright

Bazemore's Wildcats rolled to a 54-20 victory over Laney's Wildcats from Augusta to claim the South Georgia title, and earn their "revenge" and the right to host the state championship game next week.

The lop-sided victory over the Region 4-AAA champions avenged the 18-14 loss to Augusta's Richmond Academy, from the same league, which ended Valdosta's hopes in 1970.

And in the process the 'Cats earned the right to host the winner of tonight's Avondale-Forrest Park game for the state crown.

Laney head coach David Dupree glanced up at a large burlap banner posted across the front of the press box welcoming him to Valdosta's "Death Valley" and admitted, "Valdosta's got a real fine club."

"Our first half was just so-so," Dupree said, "and I thought we did better in the second half, but we never did too much on defense."

"Valdosta's got a fine passing attack. We stopped their running game, but they got us through the air. They beat us through."

The Laney coach said he didn't think his Wildcats played as well as they did last week when they beat Groves of Garden City, 20-6.

The Valdosta side was a lot happier.

"Why did you let them score so much?" a grinning bystander asked Bazemore.

"Well, I'm dogged if they do, and then I'm dogged if they don't," he replied, "I guess I'm just a dog either way."

"I was real proud of our team again. Our offensive line and defensive line played really good except, for a couple of defensive plays."

"Yep," he agreed. "They adjusted to the cold wave pretty good."

Asked if he thought his grid-ders played as well as they did last week when they trimmed Warner Robins, 35-6, in the first round he answered, "You can't judge 'em like that."

"Those are two different types of ball games. I thought they played a real good ball game, with the bruises they got last week."

A quick look down the final statistics showed only 108 yards rushing and 335 passing.

"We were throwing the ball," he explained, "and I guess the running got lost in throwing it. I was proud we could move the ball at all. Normally on a field as wet as that you can't."

"I thought Laney had a fine team. They were well-coached and worked hard. But we just got a few quick breaks and cashed in on them."

Fitz Falls

In 'AA'

Grid Duel

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Valdosta's lightning aerial attack bombed Laney of Augusta out of the state Class AAA playoffs Friday night, 54-20, as senior quarterback Stan Bounds completed 16 of 27 passes for 335 yards and six touchdowns.

The Wildcats, the only undefeated AAA team in the state, will play for the state title next week against the winner of the Avondale-Forest Park contest, which was one of five semifinal games postponed from Friday night until today due to harsh weather.

Surprising Westminster, an Atlanta team with an 8-3-1 record, fought back with two second-half touchdowns to dump Fitzgerald 14-8 for the South Georgia Class AA football championship.

Westminster now will meet the winner of the North Fulton-West Rome game, another contest that was rescheduled in Atlanta for today.

In the one other semifinal game Friday night, Bowdon blanked St. Joseph of Atlanta 33-0 and will play next week for the state title against the winner of the Southeast Bulloch-Macon County game, which was rescheduled for today.

Both scheduled Class A semifinal games were postponed Friday night. Turner County faces Vidalia tonight, and the winner will play for the state championship against the victor in tonight's match between Carrollton and Roswell.

Relays Paced

By Iowa State

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Iowa State won the first final of the Sixth Annual Big Eight Swimming Relays Friday.

In the one-meter diving competition, Iowa-State swimmers Steve Spikes and Rick McAnally took first place with seven points.

Missouri followed with five; Kansas, four; Nebraska, three; Oklahoma State, two, and Colorado, one. Kansas State does not have an intercollegiate swimming team.

Hank Egan is the new basketball coach at the Air Force Academy.

(Continued from page 1)

with a 41-6 bulge at half time.

Valdosta piled up 443 yards in total offense, 335 of it through the air, while racking up eight touchdowns. Laney got just 170 yards in total offense, and two of its TDs came late in the game after the issue had been settled.

Quarterback Stanley Bounds accounted for all of VHS' aerial yardage as he hit on 15 of

STATISTICS

	Valdosta	Laney
First Downs	18	12
Yards Rushing	108	113
Yards Passing	335	67
Passes	16-29	8-12
Passes Intc. by	2	0
Fumbles Lost	3	0
Punting	1-52	7-21.5
Penalties	9-47	6-46

27 tosses, including five which went for TDs.

Splint end Stanford Rome was on the receiving end of three scoring aerals, which covered 29, 8 and 67 yards. Two others, each good for 30 yards, went to halfbacks Clifford Bradley and George Rountree. Bounds scored twice himself on runs of 8 and 1 yards and fullback Robert McCaskill got VHS's first touchdown of the night on a 21-yard gallop.

Rome hauled in a total of eight passes for 186 yards and Bradley made three catches for 96 yards. McCaskill, with 54 yards on eight carries, was Valdosta's rushing leader.

From start to finish Valdosta's offensive line, with sharp blocking, gave Bounds all the time he needed to make the 'Cats' passing game click.

Linebacker Ronald Daniels was Valdosta's leading tackler with eight, followed by Jim Clarkston and Gary Rowe, each with seven; Dick Parker and Steve Stanaland, each with six, and Freddie Wilbon and Alvin Payton, each with five.

Clarkston and O. D. Netter intercepted passes and tackle Bobby Brantley blocked a Laney punt. All three led either directly or indirectly to touchdowns.

Laney's touchdowns came on a 48 - yard run by halfback Harry Smith, a one - yard run by Terry Jones and a 12-yard pass from Derrick Neely to B. W. Hill.

Smith made his gallop in the second period, after VHS had gone 13 points ahead. Jones scored from a yard out to climax a 40 - yard march by Laney late in the third period. The Neely - to - Hill scoring pass came on the final play of the game, after the visitors from Augusta had driven 63 yards.

Valdosta began sending subs into the game in the second period and before the contest was over VHS had cleared its bench.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Valdosta — Bounds 4-10, O'Neal 5-13, McCaskill 8-54, Robt. Daniels 3-5, Rountree 4-20, Bradley 1-8, Parker 1 minus 11; Morrison 3-9; Laney — Oatman 3-2, Lynn 15-33, Smith 7-46, B. Hill 4-4, T Jones 8-26, Kimmerlin 3-9, Neely 1 minus 7.

Passing: Valdosta — Bounds 15-27-335; Parker 1-2 minus 2; Laney — Oatman 4-14-19, Neely 4-7-48.

Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Rome 8-186, Bradley 3-96, Griffin 1-4, Rountree 3-37; Laney — G. Jones 4-49, Odom 1-13, B. Hill 3-35.

Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — Bradley 2-42, Daniels 1-20; Laney — B. Hill 3-1, Lynn 2-27, J. Hill 3-46.

Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Ron Daniels 8, Clarkston 7, Rowe 6, Stanaland 6, Wilbon 5, Payton 5, Pompey 4, D. Berrien 4, Massey Lane 2, Brantley 2, Griffin 2, Irby Mitchell 2, G. Rountree 2; Laney — er 11, Makerson 7, Golden 6, Perry Brown 5, Hollenman 4, Lynn 4, Hill Neely 4.

'Dosta And Laney Tangle With A Lot On The Line

BY TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta and Laney, a pair of high school football powers which are both nicknamed Wildcats, are to tangle here Friday night with the South Georgia title and a berth in the state finals on the line.

The duel between coach Wright Bazemore's Valdosta Wildcats and coach David Dupree's Laney Wildcats from Augusta is slated for 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field.

Valdosta, a region 1-AAA delegate, will carry an 11-0 mark into the game. Laney, which is from Region 4-AAA, has a 10-1 chart.

The winner will earn the right to meet the victor of a North Georgia duel between Avondale and Forest Park in the state championship game next week. The VHS-Laney survivor will host the Georgia "AAA" title match.

This marks the fourth year in a row and the ninth time in the last 12 years Valdosta has made it this far in the playoffs. Last fall 'Dosta dropped an 18-14 decision in the semi-finals. It was Laney which knocked Richmond out of the 4-AA title picture this time out.

Both sets of Wildcats have impressive football credentials.

In 11 starts Valdosta has scored an average of 46.6 points per game while allowing 9.5. Bazemore's charges have been averaging 417 yards per tilt in total offense while allowing 204.

Laney, in 10 starts, has averaged 19.4 points per game and

given up just 6.7. Dupree's charges have averaged 319.6 yards per outing in total offense (250 along the ground) and given up just 131.6.

In a first round playoff game last week Laney, while licking Groves 20-6, yielded only 58 yards rushing and 55 passing.

Valdosta's attack is paced by quarterback Stanley Bounds, who has hit on 113 and 216 passes for 2,171 yards. He's also picked up 413 yards rushing for a total offense mark of 2,581. Bounds has passed for 21 TDs and scored 20 himself.

VHS' top receiver is split end Stanford Rome, with 58 catches for 1,301 yards and 16 touchdowns. 'Dosta's ground attack leader is halfback Robert Daniels, with 473 yards and 71 carries,

followed by fullback Pat O'Neal, 63-429.

Laney's offensive leaders include quarterback Bryan Oatman, a talented runner and passer, and swift running backs Richard Lynn, B. W. Hill, Larry Pollard and Terry Jones. The Augusta team's line is anchored by 221-pound senior tackle William Hobbs, a standout two-way performer.

"Laney is big, experienced and extremely fast," Bazemore said. "They can really move the football along the ground. At the same time they can hurt you with the pass. As for their defense it is very, very tough.

"We're going to have our problems, lots of them, on both offense and defense. It's going to

take a very good team effort for us to have a chance."

Probable starters follow:

VALDOSTA

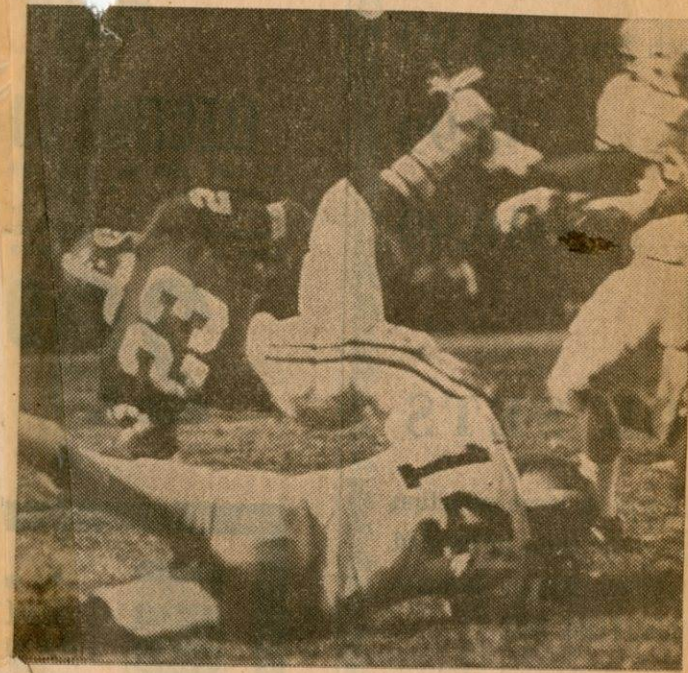
Offense — ends Stanford Rome (190, soph.) and Scott Griffin (185, sr.), tackles Paul Demersseman (210, sr.) and Wade Johnson (200, jr.), guards Calvin Lester (175, sr.) or Sidney Earnest (190, sr.) and Robert Joseph (175, sr.) or David Register (200, jr.), center Paul Lore (175, sr.), quarterback Stanley Bounds (175, sr.), halfbacks Robert Daniels (190, soph.) and George Rountree (175, jr.) or James Savage (175, jr.) and fullback Pat O'Neal (185, jr.) or Robert McCaskill (185, sr.).

Defense — ends David Berrien (170, jr.) and Alvin Payton (170, sr.), tackles Steve Stanaland (220, sr.) and Gary Kirby (200, jr.), middle guard Freddie Wilby (250, jr.), linebackers Edwin Pompey (185, sr.), Dick Parker (175, sr.), Jim Clarkston (180, sr.) and Ronald Daniels (190, jr.) and deep backs Gary Rowe (185, jr.) and O. D. Netter (170, sr.).

LANEY

Offense — ends William Odum (180, sr.) and Ronnie Bonner (160, jr.), tackles William Hobbs (221, sr.) and Calvin Jones (215, sr.), guards Willie Wells (185, jr.) and Gerald Stewart (161, jr.), center Willie Clark (193, sr.), quarterback Bryan Oatman (174, sr.), halfbacks Richard Lynn (165, jr.) and B. W. Hill (150, jr.) and fullback Larry Pollard (165, sr.) and Terry Jones (190, sr.).

Defense — ends Herman Golden (199, sr.) and A. (161, jr.), tackles Paul Brown (206, jr.) and Hobbs; guards George Jones (170, jr.) and Stanley Holoman (190, jr.), linebackers Richard Markerson (150, sr.), Steve Boler (188, jr.) and T. Jones; deep backs Darrick Neely (165, jr.) and William Boardwater (152, sr.).



Dick Parker, number 14 for the Wildcats, makes big tackle at Cleveland Field!

City Pep Rally Slated

BY TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Valdosta Touchdown Club has scheduled a city-wide pep rally for the Valdosta Wildcats at the Brookwood Plaza Shopping Center parking lot — weather permitting.

TD Club president Bobby Greene said the rally for the 'Cats who are to host Laney's Wildcats from Augusta for the South Georgia Class AAA crown here Friday night will be held in the VHS gym if rain presents a problem.

Otherwise it will begin at 8 p.m. in the shopping center

parking lot.

On the program for the rally are head coach Wright Bazemore, the captains for the Valdosta gridgers, and the VHS band.

"The spirit doesn't seem to be as high this week as it was last week," said Greene. "We need to get these boys up."

Valdosta defeated Warner Robins, 35-6, here this past Friday in a first round game of the state Class AAA playoffs. Laney, in its first round outing last week, zipped past Groves of Garden City, 20-6.