



Wright Bazemore

By BOB PRICE
Times-Union Sports Writer
VALDOSTA, Ga. — As explosive an offense as has been seen on a high school football field fashioned a fitting climax Saturday night to the 30-year Valdosta coaching career of Wright Bazemore.

Bazemore is retiring.

Whether it be today or not is still a question. Some school board members and some officers in the Valdosta Quarterback Club say today is the day.

BUT BAZEMORE is still

that silent guy who has rolled up 277 wins en route to 15 state championships. His Wildcats during the past 30 years have lost only 43.

"It could be Monday, or later," said Bazemore. "I have got to talk to the superintendent and the school board, so just when I announce isn't really certain," said Bazemore.

One school board member, just feet away from Bazemore and a football field of well-wishers, said Saturday night, "Don't quote me, but

we'll meet Monday night to name his successor. It's absolutely definite he's quitting.

"Wright's only 55 and I wish we could get him to stay on in some capacity so he could qualify for a school pension. You see, it doesn't matter how long you've been around, if you retire before 60, you lose the pension."

So, it's highly possible that those talks Bazemore is planning with school officials will actually be the school people trying to talk him into accepting another post for at least

five years.

"YOU BET I'm going to rest. I've got a lot of hunting and fishing to catch up with," smiled Bazemore, who is scheduled to be in Jacksonville this week for a physical check-up.

Saturday night, Bazemore didn't want to talk about himself. He was full of his boys and he gripped the game ball with such care that his actions said, "I'm keeping you forever."

While Bazemore was singing the praises of all his Wild-

cats, and especially of Stanley Bounds, Stanford Rome, Steve Stanaland, Roger Roundtree and Clifford Bradley, young Bounds was telling a television audience, "Coach Bazemore is the greatest. He's something you never want to turn loose. To think this is the last time I'll play for him makes it a sad night despite such a great victory."

Rome and Stanaland echoed Bounds' feeling for their coach, "He's the fairest man I've ever known. He makes you toe the line, but it's that same line he'd make his own son toe," said Rome.

"WE never have personal problems by ourselves," said Stanaland. "If anything bothers one of us Wildcats, it bothers Coach Bazemore too. Sometimes you wonder how a man can know what's going on so well. There'll never be another like him."

Saturday night Valdosta ripped Avondale, 62-12, as the Wildcats collected 331 yards on the ground and another 288 in the air for an offensive total of 619 yards.

But the Wildcat offense had to be great as the defense, which had been chided off and on during the season for giving up points (125), limited Avondale's famous Wishbone T to just 35 yards rushing and 131 passing.

BOUNDS HAD a hand in five of Valdosta's touchdowns. He ran for a 10-yard score in the third period and passed to Rome on TDs of nine and 47 yards; passed to Paul Demersseman for 15 on a tackle eligible maneuver and he combined with Rome and Bradley for a nine-yard peapicker scoring

play.

Robert McCaskill was the Wildcats' No. 1 rusher with 115 yards in seven carries, including touchdown gallops of nine and 31 yards.

Pat O'Neal furnished the other six-pointer from seven yards out while Dick Parker didn't miss one of his nine PAT efforts. In fact, Dick kicked 10. One was nullified because of a penalty and he just moved back five yards and kicked again.

When the school board meets tonight, Charles Greene is expected to get the task of filling Bazemore's shoes. But Greene should be a happy one especially if he remembers (and he will) that the likes of Rome, Roundtree, O'Neal,

James Savage, Ronald Daniels, Arthur Massey and a host of others who played important roles in this 13-0 season, will be back.

Greene began playing football at the Valdosta Boys Club, and continued his career through VHS. He won the loyalty award for not missing a single practice in four years, which ended with the Wildcats winning the 1956-57 championships.

An era has come to an end, but its bundle of pleasant memories will stick to Valdosta the rest of the way. And the gentleman who was largely responsible for such memories will live forever in the hearts of his boys, whom he made men.

'NOTHING DECIDED'

Bazemore Mum on Plans

By STEVE CLARK

Wright Bazemore, the crafty old Valdosta emperor whose 15th state football championship trophy is now tucked safely away in the showcase, said Sunday night he doesn't know when he's going to retire.

And the Georgia coach of coaches just wishes the newspapers and radio and TV stations wouldn't make such a fuss about it anyway. He said he's called no press conference to announce anything.

"There ought to be some way you could sue the papers and the TV folks for writing and saying all those things," said Bazemore over the phone from his Valdosta home.

"Honestly, I don't know anything about retiring yet. I'm gonna talk to the principal about it. But nothing has been decided."

Bazemore then turned to this year's Valdosta bulldozer which buried Avondale, 62-12, in the Class AAA championship game Saturday night in Valdosta.

"I'm real proud of the boys," said Bazemore, who would not call this Wildcat edition "the greatest ever" because he has refused to stick those kind of labels on any of his teams in 31 years.

"Stanley Bounds (the sensational senior quarterback) had a great game," continued Bazemore. "But I wasn't sur-

prised. He didn't have a bad game in two years for us."

Bounds spent Sunday evening dining out with recruiters from the University of Georgia.

"We've had so many recruiters around here," said Bazemore. "Bounds ate dinner at his own home Friday night for the first time in six weeks. I swear I don't see how the boy was able to keep his feet on the field with all that pressure."

But the red-headed quarterback did keep his feet on the field, completing 13-of-15 passes for 313 yards and five touchdown passes.

In Atlanta, Avondale Coach Crawford Kennedy tossed a

verbal barb at Bazemore because Kennedy thought Bounds' feet stayed on the field too long.

Kennedy charged that Bazemore didn't call off the dogs soon enough, saying, "I wasn't too happy about it. I don't want this to sound like sour grapes, but I simply see no sense in a 60-year-old man trying to embarrass a bunch of kids . . . I feel like a coach shouldn't leave his best people in there when the game is out of reach."

Bazemore shrugged off Kennedy's remarks by saying: "What he didn't realize is that we played 55 boys before the first half. And we played all 81 before the game ended.

Bazemore Quits; Greene Chosen

By CAREY CAMERON

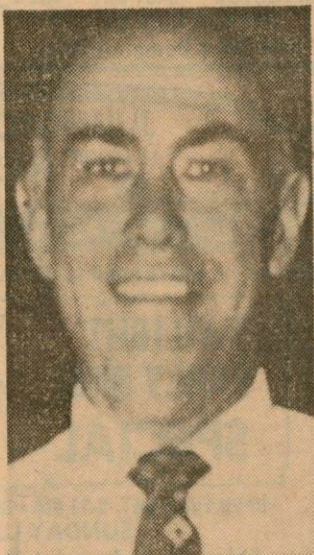
Times-Union Correspondent

VALDOSTA, Ga. — An era in Georgia high school football ended at 8:01 p.m. Tuesday when the Valdosta City School Board accepted the resignation of Coach Wright Bazemore.

Bazemore gave two of his assistant coaches, Charles Greene and Joe Wilson, an equal recommendation and it took the school board another 1½ hours in executive session to name Greene as head football coach and Wilson as head boys' basketball coach without any football responsibility.

BAZEMORE, who retains the position of athletic director, retires after 30 years as head football coach plus a year as assistant coach with a record of 15 state championships, including Saturday night's 62-12 pasting of Avondale.

The soft-spoken Bazemore stood humbly in front of a board which had to move into larger quarters due to an audience which had gathered to hear his decision, and said, "I



Wright Bazemore

came here in 1940. After the first year I told you this was my home and I would never leave. I have never been tempted to leave. I taught five classes, coached five sports, including girls basketball and won championships in everything except girls basketball and track.

"It's been enjoyable but it's now time to hang it up. You know I wanted to quit last year when Curt (his son)

graduated. Thanks to Mr. Mims (new Valdosta High Principal Lloyd Mims) and other principals we have a fine school.

"They have one spirit that's all together and after Saturday night there is no need to worry about the team."

BAZEMORE said he felt that all seven members of his staff could do the job but that he felt Greene and Wilson were a little more deserving than the others. He said that he had coached both of them in grade and high school and that they have called as good plays on Friday night as Bazemore himself.

"Anything I know, they know. I don't think there is any coach around the state in high school that can even come close to these two," Bazemore said.

Valdosta's Bazemore Decides to Step Down

(From Tuesday's late editions)

By BILL SKUTT

Constitution Press Editor

The legendary Wright Bazemore called it quits Monday night, telling the Valdosta School Board "it's time to hang it up."

Bazemore, one of the nation's all-time successful high school football coaches, left Valdosta High after 29 years at the school, compiling a 290-43-7 record, including 15 state championships.

His most recent championship came last Saturday night, 62-12 over Avondale High. Bazemore coached 31 years in all, two at Waycross.

The 55-year-old coach asked to be retained as athletic director and while no action was immediately taken school board chairman Reuben Yancey told him, "There will always be a place for you."

The board later named Charlie Green, a nine-year assistant under Bazemore, to replace his mentor.

Bazemore, a native of Fitzgerald, Ga., told the school board, "The pressure has become unbearable."

His retirement was not unexpected. The Atlanta Constitution reported Nov. 26 that Bazemore would step down at the end of this season.

Though Bazemore never confirmed he would retire this year he never said he wouldn't. Monday night he did.

"I'll have to check with my principal and my school board before I make any announce-

ments," Bazemore said Monday morning before the rumored announcement.

"There are some things that have to be ironed out. I'll have to see what they want to do. They may want to fire me.

"I can't say the idea hasn't been discussed," he said.

'Cats, Vikes Eye Big Games

BY TIMES STAFF WRITER

Wildcats take on former Wildcats, and current Vikings engage in a free-for-all Friday night, as Valdosta and Lowndes High Schools break from the practice field long enough for their traditional spring football games.

Though each school has moved their contests up a week this spring due to oncoming jamborees, VHS's Has Been-Will Be game and the LHS spring game have lost none of their color.

Featuring the graduating seniors of the 1971 squad pitted against the hordes of underclassmen, the Has Been-Will Be tilt features enough talent to set Cleveland Field on its ear.

Taking the field for the seniors, coached by Billy Grant, Bobby Greene, and Bob Bolton, should be All-American quarterback Stanley Bounds, All-Everything lineman Steve Stanaland, and more than a dozen standouts who helped the 1971 'Cats on their way to the AAA crown and a top-ranking nationally.

Rookie Wildcat head coach Charles Green isn't giving an inch, though, when it comes to his current edition of 'Cats. "We've been working real hard," he said. "The boys have looked good."

Heavy action is slated for a duo of quarterbacks in Green's search for a '72 signal caller to replace the graduating Bounds. Bruce Hilton (160, jr.) and David Demersseman (170, jr.) have been praised by Green for their spring performances, but the



TD Fish Fry Set Tonight

BY TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta's Touchdown Club is scheduled to open its 1972 season with its annual fish fry here tonight, in preparation for the Has Been-Will Be football game Friday.

Newly elected president George Smith announced the annual dinner meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p. m. in the S. L. Mason school cafeteria.

Charles Green, head coach of the Valdosta High Wildcats, and Billy Grant, Bob Bolton and Bobby Greene, coaches of this year's Has Beens are scheduled to report on the progress of their teams.

Smith said all past and prospective members are invited to the fish fry. Anyone wishing to pay their \$10 dues may do so tonight but he added it was not necessary.

field boss says they still need "lots of work."

Tickets for the 8 p.m. contest are currently being sold by senior and underclass football players, coaches, touchdown club members, and the school itself.

Ticket prices quoted Tuesday for the Has Been-Will Be tilt were incorrect, according to City Athletic Director Wright Bazemore.

Admission costs for the game are to be \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for students.

The prices quoted, \$2.50 for advance reserved seats, \$2 for advance general admission,

and \$1 for advance student tickets, are to be in effect for the March 31 jamboree at Cleveland Field involving Valdosta, Lowndes and Thomasville.

Meanwhile, over at Martin Stadium, head Lowndes coach Noel George will be watching his rising Vikings as they attempt to annihilate each other.

The 8 p.m. tilt should see primarily "the offense against the defense," George said, "but they'll be divided up pretty even."

Foremost in the field boss' mind will be the replacement of an entire backfield lost to

graduation. Gone are Willie Linahan, Jim Williams, Harry Henry, Scott Metts, Stanley Cowart, and Sammy Harris.

George has a couple of junior quarterbacks, however, and he's not trading them for anybody. "Both William Howard (145, jr.) and Harris Patrick (180, jr.) have looked good at times," George lauded, "but they need a world of experience."

The Viking coach said he still hasn't decided whether or not to allow punts in the admission-free tilt or to use an automatic starting point for the offenses.

Bazemore Reign Over

Continued From Page 1-E

sion late Monday afternoon, his home phone has been ringing constantly.

"It's kind of sad," Bazemore said. "I get these calls from people whose kids are just being born and they want me to hang around so they can play for me. It's sad in a way."

The calls have been coming from all over the country, and the news hasn't even been spread good yet. But then, Valdosta football has followers all over the country, people who keep track of the Wildcats from Los Angeles to Chicago to New York to Miami.

BAZEMORE'S amazing career with athletics began in another small South Georgia town. Fitzgerald. And, he started out just like he ended up.

While a student at Fitzgerald High, he earned the maximum number of letters in four sports, but his forte was football. On two occasions he scored 10 touchdowns in a single game, a record that still stands in Georgia prep sports.

He also earned a place in Ripley's Believe It or Not syndicated column.

Bazemore went on to college at Mercer, which at the time was playing football on a par with Georgia Tech, Georgia, Alabama and Auburn. He began coaching at Waycross after he graduated; stayed there two years, then went on to Valdosta.

Bazemore's first year at Valdosta was the school's first state championship. The

dynasty was on its way.

HE COACHED basketball for 15 years and went to the state finals six times. He coached tennis and his players brought home enough trophies to fill several cases. Finally, he settled down to just football, to the delight of basketball coaches and to the dismay of football coaches.

Bazemore has won every possible award a coach can win, at the state and national level. He is the only person ever selected to the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, both as a player and as a coach, and his teams have finished No. 1 in the country four times.

And now, 31 years, 15 state championships, two state runners-up and hundreds of college players later, it's over.

"The fish and birds down here had better watch out," said Mrs. Bazemore, who met the coach and married him in 1949. Bazemore is also a top-notch hunter and fisherman.

"**IT'S GOING** to be interesting to have him in the stands with me," Mrs. Bazemore continued. "I've never known him except as a coach. We've never seen a game together. He may squelch my style though."

"Somebody asked him if he had his ticket yet, and Bazemore told him he'd be like the old school janitor and just walk on in," she added.

Now, the responsibility for keeping up the reputation is on Bazemore's former player and assistant coach Greene.

WRIGHT BAZEMORE

31-Year Dynasty Is Ended

By JOE LITSCH

The king has abdicated. And there is no crown prince.

Wright Bazemore has resigned as head football coach at Valdosta High School. The 54-year-old coach who made a South Georgia town a national legend is stepping down, and it'll be quite a while before his 290-43-7 record is touched.



Wright Bazemore

Charlie Greene, Bazemore's assistant, was immediately named to follow Bazemore. His duties begin Tuesday and Bazemore moves up to athletic director.

"I wanted to quit last year, but circumstances just didn't work out," Bazemore said.

LAST YEAR would have been the ideal ending to Bazemore's coaching career. It was his 30th year as head coach at Valdosta; it would have been his 15th state championship; it was his son Curt's last year in high school; and he was named National Prep Coach of the Year.

"But, we had some problems down here, and we had just graduated too many boys for me to see some coach come in here and take over and not know how to handle it," Bazemore said. "I just couldn't leave it like that.

"Now, I think our athletic program is on a sound basis, and we're back like we used to be," he went on.

Sound basis? A 62-12 whipping of Avondale in the AAA state championship game last Saturday night is proof enough for anybody that Valdosta athletics are sound. "I wasn't sure that this team would do," Bazemore said.

Bazemore's decision was also dictated by his doctor.

"**THEY FOUND** a hernia where the esophagus connects to the stomach, but that's under control now," said Mrs. Bazemore. "But, his cardiograms don't look like they ought to.

"He hasn't been able to play tennis, or cut the grass, or do much exercising at all," she added.

Since Bazemore announced his deci-

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FINAL PREP POLL

State Champions Reign Supreme

By DAVID DAVIDSON

Atlanta Journal Prep Editor

To no one's surprise, all five of Georgia's high school football playoff winners received unanimous support as the No. 1 team in their respective polls in the final Journal rating of the year.

Valdosta, of course, merely proved what everyone knew already — that it was vastly superior to any other prep team in the state by crushing the No. 1 team from North Georgia, Avondale, 62-12, in the state championship game Saturday.

Warner Robins, which was Valdosta's first playoff victim, finished No. 2 in the Journal poll, the same position it held before the playoffs began. Avondale was third, despite its second-place finish in the state playoffs, Macon Central fourth, Moultrie jumped all the way to fifth with an 8-2 record, primarily because of its show of strength against Valdosta during their regular season game. Henderson finished sixth, Forest Park, the No. 2 team in North Georgia, was seventh, and Laney, Lakeside and Baker rounded out the top ten.

In Class AA, Westminster was No. 1, followed by surprising North Fulton, which won 12 straight games before falling before Westminster, 13-0, in the state championship. West Rome barely edged Lakeshore, 114-112, for third place. First place votes in The Journal Poll carry 20 points, second place 18, third, 16, etc.

Carrollton, a 31-21 winner over Turner Co. in the Class A state title game, maintained its No. 1 ranking, while Turner Co. was a unanimous second place choice on each of the nine panelists' votes.

The 1970 Class A champion,

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Prep Polls

The Atlanta Journal's final Top Ten (Top Three in Class C) prep football polls, with 20 points awarded for first place vote, 18 for second, 16 for third, etc., the team's record, and the number of first place votes in parenthesis:

CLASS AAA

1. Valdosta 13-0 (9)	180
2. Warner Robins 9-1-2	150
3. Avondale 11-2-1	126
4. Macon Central 9-1	110
5. Moultrie 8-2	74
6. Henderson 9-2	70
7. Forest Park 9-2-1	66
8. Laney 10-2	60
9. Lakeside 9-1	56
10. Baker 9-2	40

Other teams receiving votes, with record and number of points received in parenthesis: Benedictine (9-1, 36), Groves (9-2-1, 16), Clarke Central (8-2, 4), Wayne Co. (9-2, 2).

CLASS AA

1. Westminster 10-3-1 (9)	180
2. North Fulton 12-1	158
3. West Rome 12-1	114
4. Lakeshore 10-1-1	112
5. Fitzgerald 11-2	92
6. Gainesville 9-2-1	78
7. Russell 9-1	64
8. Thomson 9-3	54
9. Statesboro (9-1)	44
10. Stephens Co. 9-2	38

Other teams receiving votes, with record and number of points received in parenthesis: Marist (7-3-1, 16), St. Pius (6-2-2, 12), Turner (8-3-1, 12), East Rome (9-1, 10), Dykes (8-2, 8), Mary Persons (8-2-1, 8).

CLASS A

1. Carrollton 12-1 (9)	180
2. Turner Co. 12-1	162
3. Roswell 7-5	110
4. Rockmart 10-1	102
5. Westwood 10-0	98
6. Vidalia 9-2	96
7. Jefferson 9-3	88
8. Putnam Co. 9-3	56
9. Metter 7-2	50
10. Manchester 9-1	46

Other teams receiving votes, with record and number of points received in parenthesis: Bradwell Institute (6-3, 10), Claxton (4-5, 10), Reidsville (2-7, 6), (Murray Co. (7-4, 6), Warren Co. (5-5, 4), Irwin Co. (7-3, 2).

CLASS B

1. Bowdon 11-1-1 (9)	180
2. Southeast Bulloch 12-1	162
3. Lovett 8-1	116
4. Montgomery Co. 8-2-1	94
5. Macon Co. 10-2	92
6. Glennville 8-2	74
7. Duluth 9-2	62
8. St. Joseph 7-5	48
9. Oconee Co. 9-2	46
10. Liberty Co. 7-2	30

Other teams receiving votes, with records and number of points received in parenthesis: Savannah Central-Car-

roll (7-3-1, 14),
all to



VHS Coaches Old, New: Bazemore Clutches His Last Championship Game Football, Talks with Successor Greene

—Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III



Wildcat Defenders Have Avondale Quarterback Doug Elstad Cornered And They Plow Him Under

A Football Night ... Valdosta Style

BY TIMES STAFF WRITER

There was no doubt from the beginning of the action to the last note blown out by a horn in the Marchin' 'Cats band that Valdosta was the winner in every respect.

Take nothing away from Avondale. Their fans came down strong, ready to back their team all the way and the traditional "We're Number One!" battle was on.

Each time Valdosta's Wildcats crossed the goal line, the home stands, urged on by the VHS cheerleaders, seemed to yell the praise just a little louder and meet just a little less retaliation from the Avondale side.

In the fourth quarter, when the 'Cats were leading 62-6, the Valdosta student section yelled it again and met no response from the north side of the stadium. The Imps had finally conceded.

It had been nine years since the 'Cats had actually won a state championship on their own Cleveland Field. All the other title games since 1962 were played away with the exception of the 26-26 tie with Athens here in 1969. Die-hard Valdosta fans weren't going to miss this big triumph.

This was characterized by a Valdosta woman who fell and injured her leg before the game and refused all offers of aid until the football game was over and the fans were going home.

Only then would she allow herself to be loaded into an

ambulance and be taken to South Georgia Medical Center for treatment.

"The thing that impressed me so much was the Valdosta band," exclaimed one Valdosta fan. "That had to be the best half time show they've ever put on at a football game. And believe me, that's saying a lot."

The band, directed by Frank Butenschon, had the fans on both sides of the field standing, cheering, clapping and shouting. Like the grid 'Cats, the Marchin' 'Cats performed in championship style.

When a large black-and-gold Number 1, was launched with a dozen black and gold balloons during the half-time show, the fans gave a standing ovation to the 'Cats.

And in the dressing room, the Wildcats were holding their victory celebration with a few difficulties. Throwing VHS principal Lloyd Mims into the shower was easy, but when someone sneaked a bottle of champagne into the shower, not to drink but to pour over everyone's head, they had to ask for help.

"I had to open the bottle for 'em," said Valdosta Touch-



Photos on this special page and others on the game appearing on page 1 and page 17 were taken by Times staff photographers Robert Winter III and Jimmy Brooks.

down Club president Bobby Greene. "They didn't know you had to remove the wire first. And when I finally got the cork off, they had shaken it up so much champagne went everywhere.

"And when a few of the seniors came up with some gold cigars to light up, I had to help them there too. They didn't know how to light them."

Many of the fans left surprised that the traditional tribute to the winning coaches wasn't held after the game as usual. But Greene promises they won't go unnoticed.

"We decided to hold off and pick a night to honor the coaches and do it up right," Greene said.

He added that the Touch-down club meeting, usually held the Monday night after the game has been changed to Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Mathis City Auditorium. The ladies and team members are invited.

So the 1971 football season has drawn to a close and now the majority of coaches and players can sit back and take it easy.

Head coach Wright Baze-more has already issued a warning to the fish and game birds in the area because he's on his way.

But for some of the players, and coaches Joe Wilson and Joe Mercer, there's no rest in sight. They begin their 1971-72 basketball season Tuesday night and it's all starting over.

What Next for Valdosta?

By DAVID DAVIDSON
Atlanta Journal Prep Editor

One thing was clear this football season in regard to Class AAA football in Georgia:

Teams such as Warner Robins, Avondale, Laney, Moultrie and others were good football teams. Make no mistake about it. They were all good. Very good.

And that brings up the question of where to categorize Valdosta.

The AAA state championship game was a farce. It was the most one-sided victory in the history of AAA football, a 62-12 victory for Valdosta, the most one-sided win since Avondale beat Moultrie in 1963, 40-6.

"That Wright Bazemore" said one disgusted Avondale fan. "He left his first team in the game until almost the end of the game before he finally called off his dogs."

WRONG.

Bazemore used 55 players in the first half, and before the game was over all 81 members of Valdosta's bulging roster had seen action, although the first team backfield (and split end Stanford Rome) did see more action than the first-team linemen.

"People in Atlanta are going to learn one of these days that this is a tough region down here," Bazemore said after the game. "We beat a team like Moultrie, then Moultrie loses to a strong team like Thomasville and it drops out of your top ten ratings."

"I'll tell you what,"



Staff Photo—Noel Davis

VALDOSTA'S INCOMPARABLE WRIGHT BAZEMORE Wildcats Win 15th State Championship, Easily

Bazemore continued. "I had lot rather play Warner Robins any time than Moultrie again."

RETIREMENT:

Rumors are running rampant Bazemore is about to step down. One rumor said his personal

physician had advised him to quit.

But to hear Bazemore talk Saturday night, it didn't sound at all like he was ready to turn his job loose.

"We've got some great athletes on this team," he said. "And we have some

great athletes coming back to play next year."

Bazemore noted that sophomore quarterback Bruce Hilton, a 160-pound sophomore, is being groomed to fill the hole to be left when prep all-American Stan Bounds, who completed 13 of 15 passes for 313 yards and five touchdowns with one interception against Avondale, graduates this spring.

"HE LOOKS about the same as Bounds did when he was a sophomore," Bazemore said of Hilton. "He's a good basketball and baseball player. He has the same kind of athletic potential I saw in Bounds as a sophomore. All Hilton needs is some work and some game experience."

In other prep championship games last weekend, Westminster coach Charlie Brake loaded his offensive lineup with eight interior linemen (even at the ends and slotback positions) to get his best blockers on the field and ran over North Fulton, 13-0.

IN CLASS A, Carl... on's Darnell Powell, the slowest member of a fleet backfield, scored all four touchdowns and rushed for 11 yards in a 31-21 victory over Turner County, which had shut out 10 of 12 previous opponents.

Southeast Bulloch's try for a two-point conversion with nine seconds was foiled and Bowdon preserved a 20-19 victory for the Class B state title.