

VHS In Action Today For Crown Of Columbus' Famous Peanut Bowl

Both Teams Undefeated During Year

By VIC DUNAWAY
Times Sports Editor

COLUMBUS—Valdosta's Wildcats, Georgia's only undefeated high school football team, took the field against a husky bunch of West Springfield, Mass., Terriers in the Peanut Bowl game here this afternoon, in quest of their 18th consecutive victory. Kickoff time was set at 2:30 p. m.

An estimated 800 Valdostans were in the stands to cheer Wildcat efforts to turn back the Yankee invaders.

Offensively, the two undefeated teams — West Springfield won eight straight in the regular season—promised a slam bang battle pitting Valdosta's T-formation attack generated by all-state quarterback Sammy Hardin, against the split-T as conducted by Les "Porky" Plumb, a unanimous all-Western Massachusetts choice. Both field leaders are deceptive ball-handlers, swift runners and adept passers.

Noel George and Bobby Renfro, Valdosta's hard-running halfbacks were to match strides with giant 210-pound Al Klein and 185-pound Ernie LaBranche. George, an all-Southern selection and Back-of-the-Year, added his punting and place-kicking to the Wildcat offense. Valdosta's Red Fleming and West Springfield's George Rolandini filled fullback slots.

The Northerners held a weight advantage of 15 pounds per man in the backfield.

Up front, Valdosta boasted the weight-edge, but the difference was slight. Wildcat linemen averaged 183 pounds to 180 for the Terrier forwards.

Coach Wright Bazemore depended heavily on such solid defenders as all-state tackle James Warren, all-state center Herman Parramore and all-state end Jimmy Walker to shackle the Terrier attack. Other solid defensive performers such as guard-linebacker Ray Moore, linebackers Lee Greer and Larry Massey, safetyman Earl Gober, tackle Paul McNeal, end Ron Wetherington, and guard Floyd Rogers figure strongly in the outcome.

The Yankees went into the game as solid favorites, principally on the record of past Peanut Bowl games, and because many observers regard them as Massachusetts' strongest entry in the prep classic to date. Pre game opinion seemed to tag Valdosta as two-touchdown underdogs.

THE RECORDS

VALDOSTA	28	Baxley	0
"	47	Adel	0
"	39	Fitzgerald	6
"	55	Douglas	0
"	50	Tifton	6
"	33	Moultrie	0
"	34	Thomasville	7
"	48	Jeff Davis	6
"	26	Jesup	0
"	33	Waycross	0
"	59	Americus	7
"	26	College Park	0
"	30	LaGrange	0
W. Springfield	7	Springfield C.	6
"	26	Northampton	14
"	41	Westfield	6
"	44	Southbridge	14
"	34	Athol	6
"	6	Chitopee	0
"	33	Sp'field Cath.	7
"	13	Agawam	7



ONWARD TO COLUMBUS AND PEANUT BOWL
Mayor John Bray Giddens Heads Valdosta Contingent

The Valdosta Times
Jan. 1.

The Columbus Ledger
Jan. 1

Valdosta Holds Slight Margin Over Terriers

By RAY ANTHONY
Enquirer Sports Writer

Valdosta High, the pride of Georgia, and West Springfield, Mass., High School will clash head-on this afternoon at Memorial Stadium in the seventh annual New Year's Day Peanut Bowl prep football classic.

The game, sponsored by the Exchange Club, is scheduled to get under way at 2:30, and experts are favoring the state Class A champion Wildcats by six to 12 points in the tussle.

Massachusetts fans and observ-

Probable Lineups

W. SPRINGFIELD	Pos.	VALDOSTA
Blanchard (185)	LE	Walker (155)
Harlow (200)	LT	Warren (206)
Pernice (170)	LG	Moore (175)
Laboranti (182)	C	Parramore (170)
Kindig (160)	RG	Rogers (165)
Chandler (230)	RT	McNeal (215)
Mattoon (175)	RE	W'rng'ton (170)
Plumb (165)	QB	Hardin, S. (170)
Harrington (185)	LH	George (170)
Klein (207)	RH	Renfroe (170)
Rolandini (195)	FB	Flemming (170)

ers, however, are confident that the Terriers will come out on top. West Springfield has shown an excellent running and passing game and may surprise the experts.

The game will be broadcast over WPNX starting at 2:30 p.m.

Coach Wright Bazemore's squad is said to have the best chance of returning the Peanut Bowl trophy to the state of Georgia. Both squads are undefeated and untied, but Valdosta rolled over 10 opponents during the regular season and then beat three playoff foes in its match to the crown.

Beat Former Victors

West Springfield downed eight opponents but rolled up 204 points while holding its foes to 60. Included in the Terrier's list of victims were two former Peanut Bowl victors.

They stopped Westfield, which walked off with two Peanut Bowl triumphs, by a lopsided 41-6 score and in the final fray, eked out a 13-7 victory over last year's Peanut Bowl winner, Agawam High.

Massachusetts players said the game with Chicopee High was the toughest, but the Terriers won 6 to 0.

The Wildcats romped over Baxley, Cook High of Adel, Fitzgerald, Douglas, Tifton, Class AA Moultrie, Thomasville, Jeff Davis, Jesup, and Waycross. They then beat Americus, College Park, and LaGrange in the playoffs.

Valdosta High's squad arrived here yesterday afternoon and Bazemore had the boys working out as soon as they could change into pads. The workout was held near Memorial Stadium and the Wildcat coach also inspected the scene of the forthcoming battle.

After strolling over the soggy

Weather, Family Reunions Highlight Valdosta Arrival

By PAUL HOGAN

Weather and family reunions highlighted the talk as Valdosta State Class AA champion Wildcats climbed off their chartered bus at Memorial Stadium yesterday where they will meet West Springfield, Mass., this afternoon in the seventh annual Peanut Bowl classic.

The Wildcats, 40 strong rolled into Columbus after their 190 - mile bus trip at 4 o'clock. A police escort led the bus and a group of Bowl committee officials and sportswriters and photographers through the city and back to Memorial Stadium.

Coach Wright Bazemore, a graduate of Mercer University in Macon, immediately sent the Wildcats into the dressing room and tested the Stadium turf.

He found a soggy field that did not please him too much, but in his joking manner, he appraised it:

"If I had any halfbacks that could sidestep they would probably slip down, but we didn't bring any of those backs with us."

Quarterback Sammy Hardin, who has already signed a grant-in-aid Auburn, was greeted by his grandparents who reside in Phenix City. Sammy, who has two brothers, linemen Billy and Fomby, on the team, also found their mother waiting on them here.

Bazemore sent the group through a 45-minute workout on the Lions Club Municipal golf course's 18th fairway, but the practice was designed only to limber up the winners of 13 games already this year.

He reported that none of his crew were injured seriously enough to hamper their play, but several members of the starting lineup will be bruised slightly.

Meanwhile, the West Springfield gridders worked out yesterday morning, and attended the tea party yesterday afternoon at the Teen Tavern where the Bowl queen was selected. Of course, neither team attended the Peanut Bowl Ball at the Ralston Hotel last night.

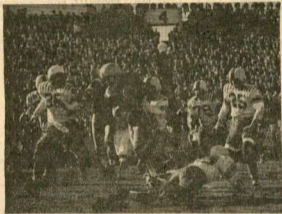
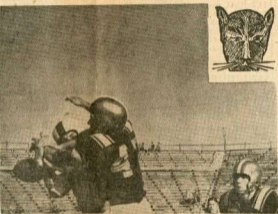
The two teams are quartered at Fort Benning, in adjoining barracks. Both teams will also leave tomorrow, West Springfield boarding a train at 3 o'clock that afternoon.

Should Valdosta open the game kicking off today, the three Hardin brothers from Phenix City will be in the starting lineup for the Georgia champs. All three are on the kick off team.

Ken Stambaugh, who has covered 17 bowl games with his motion picture camera, will make it 18 when he shoots color movies of the pre-game parade, the actual game, and the halftime ceremonies.

George Theeringer, Columbus own sterling radio sportscaster, will narrate the movie which is to be shown in Valdosta's Ritz Theater Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. The Ritz is a member of the Martin Theaters chain.

CATS COP PEANUT BOWL 28-26



ACTION HIGHLIGHTS OF THE '58 PEANUT BOWL—These pictures show a few of the exciting moments in Columbus' Memorial Stadium on New Year's Day as the Valdosta Wildcats brought the Peanut Bowl trophy back to Georgia by downing West Springfield, Mass., 28-26. The contest will go down as probably the most thrilling in

Peanut Bowl history. Left photo shows Valdosta end Jimmy Walker smacking into Terrier halfback Joe Harrington in the middle of an attempted lateral from West Springfield quarterback Les Plumb. Bobby Renfroe (at right) recovered the ensuing fumble a moment later. Look at the far right picture to see what happened. Renfroe is

shown crossing the goal line for Valdosta's second touchdown a moment after picking up the fumble on the seven yard line. Picture second from left shows Valdosta's Noel George digging for yardage over the left side of the Terrier line. Wildcat player left background is Ron Wetherington. The West Springfield players are Al Klein (35), Howard

Chandler (78) and Ken Mattoon (83). In the picture third from left, Wildcat end Wetherington is shown after snagging a pass from Sammy Hardin that gave the Cats 32 yards in the opening period. Number 22 is Terrier defensive back Ray Roberge. (This picture layout courtesy of the Associated Press and Columbus papers.)

Les's 'Plumb' Good, But Hardin's Better

Valdostan Outduels Springfield Ace
As Wildcats Take Peanut Bowl, 28-26

By DUDLEY MARTIN

Journal Staff Writer

COLUMBUS, Ga., Jan. 2—West Springfield (Mass.) High's split-T operator Les (Porky) Plumb lived up to his advance press notices in Columbus' seventh annual Peanut Bowl Thursday, but quite a few of the more than 2,000 people on hand went away convinced that he was only the second best quarterback on the field.

Valdosta's slick Sammy Hardin got the nod from the experts as the top slot man and he had one big factor on his side — success. The Valdostans won, 28-26, marking the third time in seven tries that a Georgia team has won the title.

Hardin, a ball-handling wizard, who is Auburn-bound, called a heady game and kept the defense crossed up with his adroit hand-offs. He also had another big advantage over his Massachusetts counterpart—he could call on Noel George.

The West Springfield aggregation did not have a running back to equal all-Southern choice George, the 5-8, 170-pound battering ram, ticketed for the University of Alabama. When the going



Martin

YARDSTICK

WEST SPRINGFIELD	VALDOSTA
8	17
83	219
197	64
18	8
10	4
1	1
3	2
38.8	11.5
3	3
84	55

got rough and those extra yards were needed to keep a drive going, it was George who got the call.

George scored twice and boot-ed four extra points to run his scoring total for 13 games plus the Peanut Bowl to 202.

The game started out like all Valdosta contests this past season as the Wildcats rolled up 21 first-half points before the opposition ever tallied. By halftime it was 21-6 and the Valdostans were screaming for a rout.

But this was not to be. The visiting Terriers struck back for two touchdowns in the third quarter to make a game of it.

Valdosta got a break on the first play of the game when Ernie LaBranche fumbled and Jimmy Walker recovered on the enemy 21. But on the second play, George returned the favor by fumbling back to the Yankees. In five plays featuring Plumb's 13-yard gain on the keep play the Terriers moved to their own 42 where fullback George Rolandini fumbled and alert linebacker Lee Greer pounced on it.

Then without further ado, Hardin directed the Wildcats to a touchdown—41 yards in 10 plays, with George carrying five times

SUMMARY

WEST SPRINGFIELD

E—N. Blanchard, F. Blanchard, Mattoon, Morrissey.
T—Chandler, Harlow, Schweizer.
G—Murphy, Collins, Kindig.
C—Labovant.
B—Plumb, Klein, Harrington, Labranch, Leighner, Malley, Rose, Roberts, Rolandini, Shields.

VALDOSTA

E—Walker, Wetherington.
T—Warren, McNeil, F. Hardin, Shrover.
G—Moore, Rogers, Warlick, Harris.
C—Parramore.
B—S. Hardin, Renfro, Fleming, George, Greer, Massey, W. Webb, Hughes, Gober, O'Neal, Taylor.

Score by quarters:

West Springfield.....0 6 13 7—26
Valdosta.....14 7 0 7—28

Scoring TDs: Valdosta—George (2), Renfro, Wetherington. Points after TDs: George (4).

Scoring TDs: West Springfield—N. Blanchard (2), Mattoon, Klein. Points after TD: N. Blanchard, Klein.

for 12, two, five, five and one for the TD.

The next score came in a hurry. George's kickoff was returned to the Terriers' 10. On the first play, Plumb on the keep play was hit hard by Walker as he attempted to pitchout at the last second, the pitchout went awry and halfback Bobby Renfro scooped it up and high-tailed it into the end zone.

A West Springfield gamble set up Valdosta's third TD in the second quarter. On fourth down, Newt Blanchard dropped back into punt-formation at the Terrier 30. Instead he passed to Plumb, who dropped the ball in the open field. Six plays later it was Valdosta 21, West Springfield 6. George went 11, Red Flemming got nine then three, Renfro picked up two more to the Springfield five. Then, with the Terriers' defense looking for George, Hardin faked a handoff, then whirled and passed to end Ronald Wetherington in the end zone. He was all alone.

The Yankees got their first score with the barest of seconds remaining in the half. Plumb intercepted a Hardin pass at the Springfield 45 and went all the way to the Wildcat 28. Plumb passed to halfback Al Klein for 14 then went five himself on the keep to the Valdosta four. Here the Wildcat line stiffened. Plumb got two, then was smothered for no gain. On fourth down he jump-passed to Blanchard in the end zone.

Springfield scored the first two times it got the ball in the third period to narrow the margin. After Valdosta had failed to go any place with the second-half kickoff, George punted out of bounds on the Terriers' 12. In 10 plays, the 88-yard distance had been covered with Plumb passing to end Ken Mattoon for 10 and 42 yards and then to Blanchard for eight and the touchdown. Blanchard ran the EP over.

Hardin fumbled on the next series of downs and the Northerners gobbled it up at the Wildcat 33. Plumb passed to Klein for 25 yards, then Klein went the final three on a running play. After a missed EP, the score was 21-19 and the Wildcats woke up to the fact that they were still in a ball game.

On the ensuing kickoff, Valdosta marched 63 yards for their game-winning TD. The drive ate up 15 running plays—10 by George—with George scoring from the one.

Hardin intercepted a Plumb pass to stop the next Terrier thrust and Valdosta marched to the Springfield nine before Renfro fumbled. Blanchard recovered and after Plumb had gone 15 yards to a first down at the 26, the split-T quarterback passed. The ball fell in the midst of three Valdosta defenders who batted it into the arms of Springfield's Mattoon, who streaked the remaining 35 yards to the end zone.

Walker returned the kickoff to the Wildcat 47 and three running plays by George failed to net a first down. On fourth down, Mattoon broke through and blocked George's punt and the Terriers were in business on the Wildcat 47. Plumb ran to the Wildcat 35. Before he could get off another play, the game ended.

'53 Peanut Bowl Tilt Rated as Best Ever'

Editor's Note: The following item is reprinted from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution of Sunday, Jan. 4.

By DUDLEY MARTIN

From the crowning of the queen at the Peanut Ball New Year's Eve to the presentation of the trophy to Valdosta Coach Wright Bazemore after the game this seventh annual Peanut Bowl was one of the best in the history of the event.

The largest crowd (better than 8,000, all of whom paid), the biggest parade, and one of the most exciting games all contributed to the success of the affair.

And representing Georgia as the host team was one of the finest prep grid aggregations to come out of the state in many years. Not since the old heyday of Boys High and Tech High has a team stood so predominantly above the rest as did this Valdosta eleven which clawed its way to a 28-26 victory over West Springfield (Mass.) High in Columbus' Memorial stadium Jan. 1.

Both offensively and defensively the Wildcats fielded a well-balanced club which steamrollered over all its state opposition.

* * *

In Sammy Hardin, Bazemore has one of the really fine quarterbacks to come out of state high school ranks. Hardin can handle the ball as well as any prep T-operator and calls a smart game. He is the fastest man on the team and is an accurate passer. The Valdosta running game was so potent this fall that Hardin did not have to pass much, but when occasion arose, he could pinpoint a receiver.

All-Southern back Noel George was the workhorse of the Wildcat victory. He carried the ball 25 times in the Peanut Bowl for 115 yards—an average of 4.6 per carry—against the best high school team from western Massachusetts.

That Wildcat line was fearsome to behold, too. West Springfield learned early in the game that it was not going anywhere on the ground. It effectively bottled up

the touted split-T offense directed by all-Western Massachusetts quarterback Les (Porky) Plumb. Plumb was consistently thrown for losses on his favorite keep play by end Jimmy Walker, Paul McNeil and James Warren—Bazemore's 215-pound tackle duo, and guard Ray Moore.

Only weakness evidenced was in pass defense as Plumb hit 10 of 18 for 197 yards.

The Peanut Bowl showing justified Valdosta's placing six men on the all-state squad and Bazemore's pick as coach of the year. The Wildcats ended on a note of glory—and so did the seventh annual Peanut Bowl.

Times Jan. 5.

Peanut Bowl Number Seven Turns Out To Be Thriller

By PAUL HOGAN

Seven may be just a lucky number, but the seventh annual Peanut Bowl football battle yesterday afternoon at Memorial Stadium turned out to be the thriller of the series and sent some 9,000 fans home happy after Valdosta brought the title back to Georgia, whipping West Springfield, Mass., 28-26.

It was all that could be asked. Valdosta scored its last two touchdowns with straight power drives, and didn't take to the air a time during the whole second half.

West Springfield put on a pair of drives of their own in the third quarter, and picked up some spectacular scores to narrow the gap on the scoreboard.

The game certainly produced its share of individual stars:

Noel George, who picked up 120 yards in 26 carries for the winners kept shooting his stocky 175 pounds at the husky West Springfield line, and after the game remarked that the Terriers were the biggest and hardest hitting team he'd faced all year.

Sammy Hardin, who really showed the home folks some sleight-of-hand tricks with the ball and stole the show from West Side's heralded Porky Plumb as a field general.

Al Klein, the 205-pound Terrier halfback-linebacker who held the defense together and carried a handkerchief in his belt because of a terrible sinus condition that would have kept any other man off the field. He took repeated trips to the sidelines to breathe from the oxygen tank. They carried him off the field after he scored the losers' last extra point through the line, but he turned down a stretcher.

Porky Plumb, although he could be accused of making some errors in the huddle, passed successfully 10 times in 17 tries for 197 yards and bossed the great comeback the Terriers made in the third quarter. They took him out in favor of Ken Mattoon to score the first W. S. touchdown with only two seconds left in the half. That was only after Plumb had intercepted a pass and ran it back to the Valdosta 28, and passed and bulled his way down to the three. He had not been out of the game, and was a pretty tired boy then.

Art Pernice, the all-Western Massachusetts guard and Terrier co-captain who blocked and tackled in a way that showed why he was an all-star selection, even aft-

er going through deep pain when he suffered a slight dis-location of the knee. He didn't even leave the game after it was returned to its rightful spot.

Jimmy Walker, the little 155-pound Valdosta end who was right on top of every play all the way through and recovered at least one vital fumble in the uncertain first period.

And there were many more, (Herman Parramore, Valdosta center; James Warren, 200-pound Wildcat tackle; Ken Mattoon and Newt Blanchard, a pair of great Massachusetts ends, and Ray Moore, the small Valdosta guard.

It was a big day for the Hardin clan. Sammy, who is bound for Auburn, and his two brothers, lineman Fomby and Billy, were all in

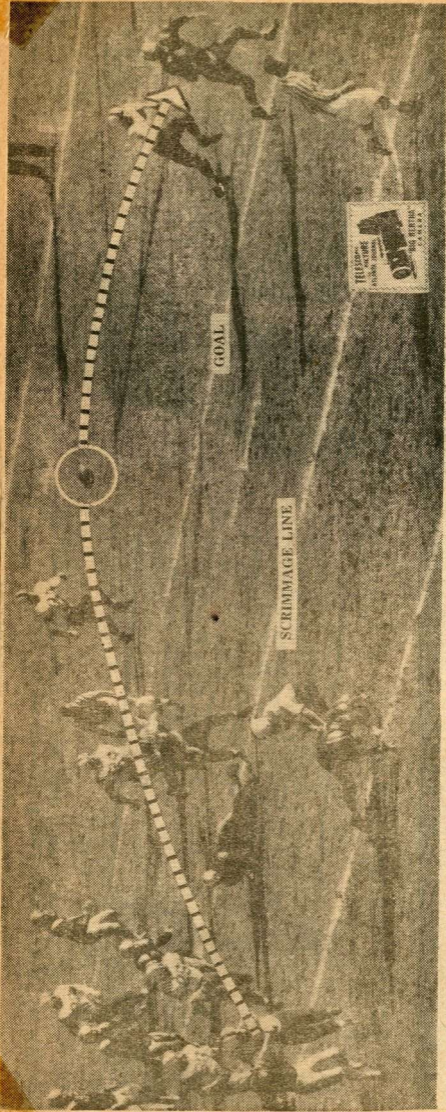
the starting lineup. The younger boys are on the Valdosta kickoff team.

It was Sammy's first game in his home town, as well as for the other boys. They are originally from Phenix City, and their grandparents still reside in the Alabama city.

Auburn line coach Gene Lorenzo, a former Georgia great, was well pleased with Sammy's exhibition, and said that the force at the Plains had high hopes for him.

Two West Springfield fans who made a profitable trip to Georgia will be right back when the winter semester opens at the University in Athens. Al Bishop, 1951 grid captain at West Springfield, and tackle Joe Salanio both signed scholarships with the Bulldogs' assistant coach Quinton Lumpkin, who also scouted the current West Springfield team.

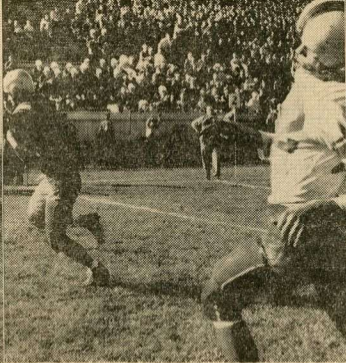
Bishop is a 190-pound halfback. Salanio weighs 232. Both are now enrolled at Cheshire Academy in Cheshire, Mass. Salanio attended Meriden High in Mass.



WILDCAT QUARTERBACK SAMMY HARDIN' (22) GETS AWAY QUICK SCORING PASS TO END RONALD WETHERINGTON (32)
Five-Yard Play Produced Third Valdosta Tally In Second Quarter at Peanut Bowl.—Staff Photo, Floyd Jillson



SMILES OF VICTORY—Valdosta halfback Noel George, left, and Wildcat quarterback Sammy Hardin grin in the dressing room at Memorial Stadium yesterday following their 28-26 victory over West Springfield in the seventh annual Peanut Bowl. George, bound for Alabama, kicked all four PAT's for the winner for the decision, and Hardin generaled the attack like a master. He will attend Auburn on a grant-in-aid.—Enquirer photo by Spencer Awbrey.



VALDOSTA NIPS WEST SPRINGFIELD IN PEANUT BOWL—In the picture at left, Noel George, Valdosta star, plows over from the one for the first score in the annual Peanut Bowl football classic against West Springfield, Mass., High. (Center Herman Parramore (31) watches. The next shot shows Les (Porky) Plumb, Terrier quarterback, (left) coming in fast to intercept a Sammy Hardin pass intended for

end Jimmy Walker while an unidentified West Springfield man comes up fast. The interception set up the first score for the visitors as Plumb ran it back from the 40 to the 28 in the second quarter. The third picture shows Ron Wetherington crossing into the endzone after taking a scoring pass from Hardin in the second period as a Terrier player gives chase. At far right, George is tackled by West Spring-

field's Joe Harrington and Plumb after the Wildcat star picked up a first down to set up a Valdosta touchdown. The Georgia Class A champions eased past the Massachusetts squad, 28-26, in a hard fought contest before an estimated 9,000 fans. Enquirer Sports Photos by Spencer Awbrey and M. H. McCrutchen.



VALDOSTA ARRIVES FOR PEANUT BOWL TUSSLE—Valdosta High's football squad, who arrived for the seventh annual Peanut Bowl gridiron classic yesterday as they get into Columbus. At left Coach Wright Bazemore (far right) watches his squad disembark from the chartered bus. Members are (left to right)

Ronald Wetherington, Red Flemming, Paul McNeal, Maxwell Taylor and one of the Wildcat managers. In the top right picture, Harry Linstrom gets off a long punt in drills yesterday after arrival here while a large part of the squad waits in the background to go down under the ball. In the bottom right photo, Sammy Hardin hands off

to Bobby Renfro after taking the snap from center Herman Parra-more. Backs Red Flemming and Noel George fake to the side. Valdosta meets West Springfield, Mass., for the Peanut Bowl title this afternoon at 2:30.—Enquirer Sports Photos by M. H. McCutchen.



MOST POPULAR WILDCAT—Left halfback Noel George receives the Martin Theatres trophy as most popular player on the Valdosta High School football team from C. L. Patrick, Martin Theatres general manager. George was elected by popular vote. Left to right: Sammy Hardin and Herman Parramore, Wildcat co-captains, George, Patrick, Coach Wright Bazemore, and VHS principal Howell Martin.

'MOST POPULAR PLAYER' TROPHY TO NOEL GEORGE

Noel George, the flashiest football player to perform for Valdosta High school in half a decade, last night added the Martin Theatres trophy as the most popular Wildcat player to his long list of gridiron honors.

The Valdosta left halfback had previously been named back-of-the-week by the Atlanta Touch-down club and later back-of-the-year by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. George also was selected to the all-region, all-South Georgia, all-state and all-Southern teams.

Awarded annually by the Martin Theatres, Inc., the trophy does not necessarily go to the best football player on the team, but rather to the performer who has most nearly captured the hearts of the fans.

As was pointed out by Harold Gulliver, VHS student who announced George as the winner, all great performers do not have the intangible quality called "color" which snares the fancy of sports fans.

After the announcement, the beautiful trophy was presented to George by C. L. Patrick, general manager of the Martin Theatres.

Noah Langdale Jr., master of

ceremonies, spoke briefly on the purpose of the trophy and introduced Coaches Wright Bazemore, Hershell Hamill and Al Clarke to the capacity Ritz Theatre crowd. Langdale also introduced VHS principal Howell Martin and team co-captains Sammy Hardin and Herman Parramore. Mayor pro-tem Carl Minchew represented the city at the ceremony.

A portion of the VHS glee club

entertained with two popular songs and closed the ceremony by singing the Alma Mater.

In a short talk, Coach Bazemore praised his assistants, Clarke and Hamill, for their job with the team this year.

"It's every coaches dream," Bazemore said, "to have an undefeated and untied team. I certainly couldn't have had one without Clarke and Hamill. They deserve most of the coaching credit. But most of the praise should go to the boys, who worked with greater spirit than I have even seen before."

Valdosta High Receives Impressive

Individual Awards Presented To Grid, Cage Team Members

The Peanut Bowl trophy, emblem of victory in Georgia's top high school football game, will rest in the Valdosta High showcase for one year. Principal Howell Martin accepted the trophy on behalf of the school in a ceremony this morning.

At the same exercises, Martin also accepted a trophy for the state class A grid championship, and one for victory in the Hahira Invitation basketball tournament held during the holidays.

Head basketball coach Herschell Hamill presented gold basketballs to each cager who participated in the tournament. Receiving awards were Willie Webb, Cliff Laubs, Robert Hughes, Earl Gober, Sammy Hardin, Maxwell Taylor, Ron Wetherington, Noel George, Leo Helms, Ray Moore, Larry Massey and David Webb.

Continuing individual awards, football coach Wright Bazemore presented medals for selection to the all-region team to Jimmy Walker, James Warren, Paul McNeil, Sammy Hardin, Noel George, Bobby Renfro, Ray Moore and Herman Parramore.

Each member of the football squad received a gold football for their state championship, and an Elgin wristwatch for their victory in the Peanut Bowl. Those who received the awards were: Red Fleming, Hardin, George, Renfro, Warren, McNeil, Moore, Gober, Walker, Parramore, Lee Greer, Larry Massey, Billy and Fomby Hardin, Jimmy Dowling, Wayne Hardy, Robert Hughes, Walton Lineberger, John Robert O'Neal, Larry Tatum, Maxwell Taylor, Willie Webb, Bobby Warlick, Jimmy Walker, Ron Wetherington, Don Puckett, David Webb, Robert Taylor, Marcus Smith, P. H. Partin, Herbert Hardy.

Sammy Boone, John Harris, Eddie Laws, Sonny Shroyer, J. H. Sterling, Jacob Malham, Billy Warlick, Norman Bennett, O'Neal Grant, Gene Guess and Harry Lindstrom.

Bazemore, who was reluctant to deal lavish praise to his squad during the season, finally turned to back-slapping.

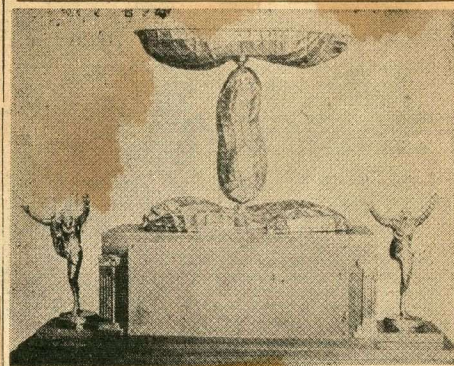
"I've never said it before," Bazemore stated, "but I'll say now that we had a great team this year, and also that I've never coached a team with greater spirit or greater determination."

In referring to the Hahira Basketball trophy, Bazemore said he believes VHS has the material for one of its finest basketball teams

in history and urged students to give the cagers the same support they gave the football team.

The coach referred only briefly to the Peanut Bowl game which Valdosta won 28-26. His chief observations were on the size of the West Springfield team and the way in which his smaller boys dealt with them so efficiently.

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THE PEANUT BOWL TROPHY

Valdosta Saddled With Favorite Role

Bazemore Eleven Is Labeled Superior to '50, '51 Champs

By BILL McGROTHA
Constitution Sports Writer

VALDOSTA, Sept. 11—They are saying Valdosta High's Wildcats will win their third straight South Georgia Class A football championship, their second state title in a row, and Wright Bazemore shudders and stutters trying to talk his way out from under.

Any way you figure it, Valdosta should field a better eleven than its last two champions.

Except Bazemore's way. "Listen, man," now he mutters, "what they trying to do to us? Everybody on that schedule is laying for us. This kind of talk could wreck us."

He turned to the scrimmage that was going on: "Look at that blocking! We'll be lucky to score once a game with blocking like that."

Indeed, the interference was having trouble paving the way. But the defense was enough to give most any prep body-tosser an inferiority complex.

This line is solid-plus with such individuals as all-state tackle James Warren (205) and running-mate Paul McNeil (215); rough, aggressive guards Ray Moore, Floyd Rogers, Billy Warlick and twins Billy and Fomby Hardin; ends Jimmy Walker and Ronnie Wetherington, whom Bazemore acknowledges are two of the best terminal men he has had lately, and all-state-candidate center Herman Parramore.)

Reserves are solid and there is brawn enough. Bazemore likes to see to it that there is no surplus poundage.

Valdosta's spread-T attack is generalised by Sammy Hardin, senior brother of freshman guard twins Billy and Fomby. An adequate passer, near-perfect leader, Hardin is perhaps the swiftest runner in a backfield of 170-pounders. As an all-round quarterback, he figures one of the best in state preps.

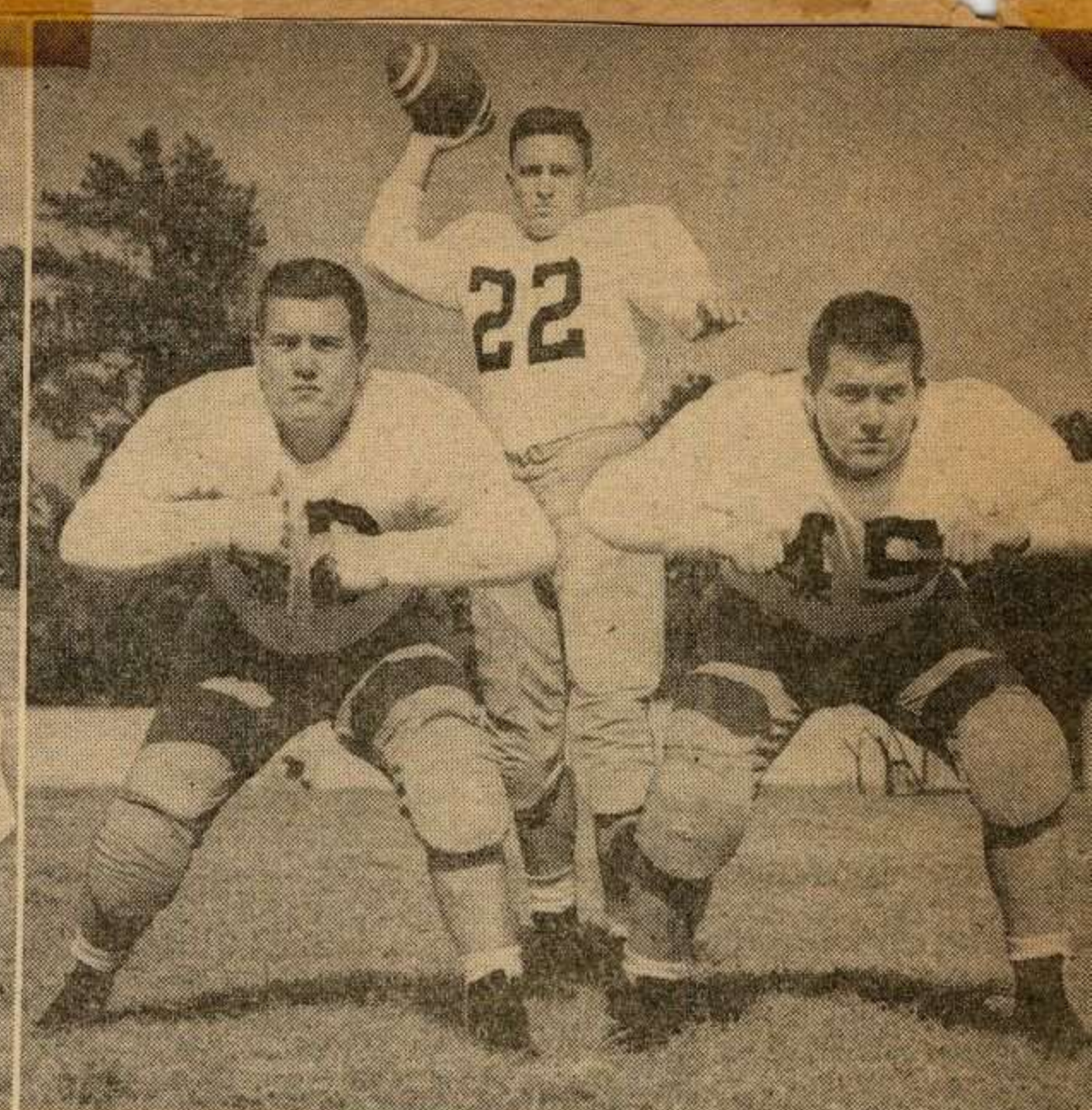
Powerful low-slung lefthalf Noel George, tough fullback Red Fleming and elusive righthalf Bobby Renfroe will carry most of the running load, with senior George the boy to watch. Fleming and Renfroe are juniors.

Top backfield reserves: Larry Massey, 175-pound senior, who plays all backfield roles well; Robert Hughes, sparkling 145-pound freshman; John Robert O'Neal, sophomore speedster, and Earl Gober, basketball star, who doubles as offensive end and safetyman.

1952 VALDOSTA HIGH ROSTER
GUARDS—Ray Moore (175), Floyd Rogers (165), Billy Warlick (165), Billy Hardin (190), Fomby Hardin (190), Jake Malham (150), Ray Rockwell (150).
TACKLES—Paul McNeil (215), James Warren (206), Sonny Schocoryer (180), Johnny Harris (180), Sonny Boone (160), Eddie Laws (165).
CENTERS—Herman Parramore (170), Harry Linstrom (160), Gene Guess (160).



BACKS EARL GOBER (L), LARRY MASSEY TAKE OFF FOR 'CATS
Over Line Standouts (L to R) Floyd Rogers, Herman Parramore, Ray Moore



BROTHER ACT PLANS ROUGH CURTAINS FOR VALDOSTA FO
The Hardin Boys: Quarterback Sammy, Twin Guards Billy (L) and Fomby

Grid Captains Tell Exchange Club of Game

Members of the Exchange Club in their meeting this week heard two leaders of the Valdosta High School football team discuss the coming game with Adel Friday night and gave attention to other matters.

The high school athletes appearing on the program were Sammy Hardin and Herman Parramore, co-captains of the local team. They were introduced by Connie Ferrell, program chairman.

Frank Bird Jr. discussed the coming campaign to collect blood to be used in Korea from Lowndes county donors and urged the Exchangites to cooperate in the movement.

Among the guests at the meeting were Eiichi Komari, Japanese Red Cross worker who is in this country studying American Red Cross procedure; Henry Kenning, field safety worker for the Red Cross; Jack Dawson, safety man for the Georgia Power and Light Company here; ~~Samuel Taylor~~, J. L. Fleming and Bill Tapp.



Special Constitution Phot

TERMINAL DYNAMOS IN VALDOSTA HIGH'S POWERHOUSE

Ronnie Wetherington (L) and Jimmy Walker Top Flankmen



Special Constitution Photo

HERE'S A PORTION OF WHAT VALDOSTA PEOPLE CONSIDER THE FINEST FOOTBALL TEAM IN STATE PREPS THIS YEAR

(L to R) Linemen—Sonny Schroyer, Billy Warlick, Floyd Rogers, Herman Parramore, Ray Moore, Johnny Harris. Backs—Lee Greer, Earl Gobert, John Robert O'Neal, Larry Massey

Valdosta Due Here Today for Bowl Date

Valdosta's Class A prep football champions are due here today for the Peanut Bowl and what they hope will be their 18th consecutive victory.

The Wildcats also hold four straight regional championships, three straight South Georgia championships and two consecutive Class A titles. Still they are ranked underdogs to West Springfield, Mass., High, believed to be the strongest Yankee outfit to appear in the Jan. 1 game.

Coach Wright Bazemore is moaning the loss of end Jimmy Walker who is out with a bad ankle. But he is happy over the fact that the ten varsity gridiron players who are also on the Wildcat basketball squad suffered no injuries.

The football-basketball athletes include all-Southern halfback Noel George, quarterback Sammy Hardin, guard Ray Moore, end Roland Wetherington, safetyman Earl Gopher and lineback Larry Massey—all first stringers. Reserves Willie Webb, Robert Hughes, Maxwell Taylor and DaDa Webb round out the group playing double roles.

The Peanut Bowl game will be the 15th engagement this year for Bazemore's Wildcats and said he: "That's too many for anybody to

play in one season—high school or college."

The Wildcats were slated to arrive around 4 o'clock.

West Springfield will also enter the engagement with a perfect record. The Terriers ran through an eight-game schedule unscathed, the final and Peanut Bowl bid-clinch-

ing triumph coming over Agawam, last year's winner here, 13-7.

Valdosta will be carrying the hopes of home state enthusiasts of improving the record of Georgia teams against the outsiders. Only in 1947 and 1951 have host teams managed to win. They were Tech high in the first Peanut Bowl game Jan. 1, 1947, over Benton high of St. Joseph, Mo., 34-0, and Rockmart over Holyoke, Mass., 19-14, New Year's Day, 1951.

Kickoff time for tomorrow's seventh annual affair is 2:30 p.m.

Special entertainment has been arranged for halftime. Three bands—Jordan's National Championship outfit, Columbus high and Valdosta—will perform and the Robert E. Lee Institute drill team from Thomaston will stage a special exhibition.

The Massachusetts school, meanwhile, was forced inside by rain throughout the day. West Springfield took over the floor at Fort Benning's Briant Wells Field House yesterday afternoon after Mentor Eddie Mason cancelled morning drills entirely.

Both teams appear at near top physical condition for the game as both Massachusetts players injured in early drills are back in uniform. Tackle Harry Schweizer and back Ronnie Malley took part in the session yesterday, but the starting lineman is still limping badly and may not be able to play.

Coach Mason said the day of rain would hurt the team, and that he may run the squad through a long drill today. He had originally scheduled a long scrimmage yesterday afternoon before showers ran the squad inside.

West Springfield, without athletic equipment to work in the post gym, had to run at half speed yesterday. Coach Mason drilled the team on defense most of the time during the short practice.

Members of the press and radio were feted at a banquet last night at the 8:30 Supper Club. The dinner was sponsored by the Peanut Bowl Association.

Sports writers of the Enquirer, and the two Springfield, (Mass.) newspapers, radiocasters from WGBA, WRBL, and WDAK in Columbus and WPNX of Phenix City along with PIO members of Fort Benning and Peanut Bowl officials were present.

BOWL BROADCASTS

WGBA (1460 K.C.)

1:30 p.m.—Bobby Dodd Reports (AM and FM).

1:45 p.m.—Sugar Bowl, New Orleans (Georgia Tech vs. Mississippi) on AM only.

1:45 p.m.—Gator Bowl, Jacksonville (Florida vs. Tulsa) on FM only.

WDAK (1340 K.C.)

1:45 p.m.—Cotton Bowl, Dallas (Tennessee vs. Texas) on AM only.

4:45 p.m.—Rose Bowl, Pasadena, Calif. (Wisconsin vs. Southern California) on AM only.

WRBL (1420 K.C.)

1:45 p.m.—Orange Bowl, Miami (Alabama vs. Syracuse) on AM and FM.

Peanut Bowl Looks For Largest Crowd

Valdosta Meets West Springfield Today in Outstanding Contest

By DUDLEY MARTIN

Journal-Constitution Staff Writer

COLUMBUS, Dec. 31—One of the largest crowds in the history of the affair is expected to be on hand in Memorial Stadium Thursday when Valdosta High, Georgia's Class A grid champions, plays host to West Springfield (Mass.) High in the annual Peanut Bowl game.

Atlanta Journal
Dec. 31

Peanut Bowl committeemen report a large advance ticket sale and one optimistically predicted that a gathering of 20,000 would be on hand when the kickoff whistle sounds at 2:30 p. m.

Matching two prep teams with standout records, the Columbus bowl promises to be as exciting as any of the college bowls.

Valdosta goes into the contest with a record of having scored 508 points in 13 games, with a stout defense which has limited the same number of foes to a measly 31 points. Of those 31 points, only six were scored against the Wildcats' first-string defense. Jimmy Usry of Americus turned the trick with a sparkling long run even though his squad was beaten 59-6 in the regional championship game. The remainder of the points was tallied against reserves.

The Valdosta offense features Noel George, Alabama-bound all-state and all-Southern choice, who personally accounted for more than 150 points to lead the state in that department. Quarterback Sammy Hardin, and backs Bobby Renfro and Red Flemming comprise the starting Wildcat backfield which has found easy pickings among the state's Class A defenses. The Valdostans run from the straight T-formation.

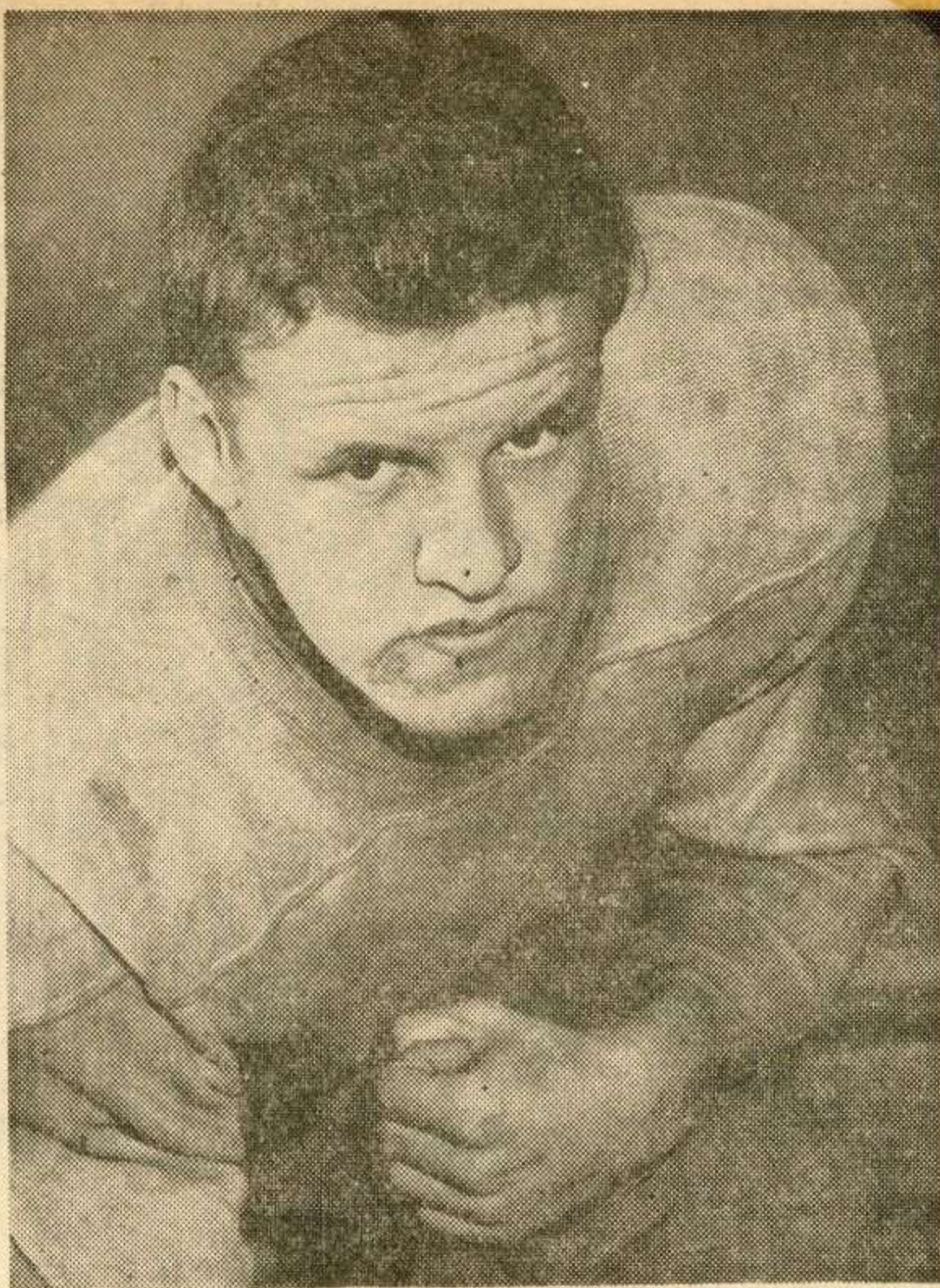
West Springfield, employing the split-T, tallied 204 points in eight games while limiting opponents to 54 and won the Western Massachusetts championship.

The Northerners' starting backfield will consist of standout Les (Porky) Plumb at quarterback, Ernie LaBranche and Al Klein at halfbacks and George (Chubby) Rolanding at fullback.

With the accent on versatility, West Springfield employs a first-string end, Ken Mattoon, as second-string quarterback to relieve Plumb.

Valdosta's line features tackles James Warren and Paul McNeil, end Jimmy Walker and (center Herman Parramore,) who has scored often this year on the center keep play. Walker, who sprained an ankle in drills, is a doubtful starter.

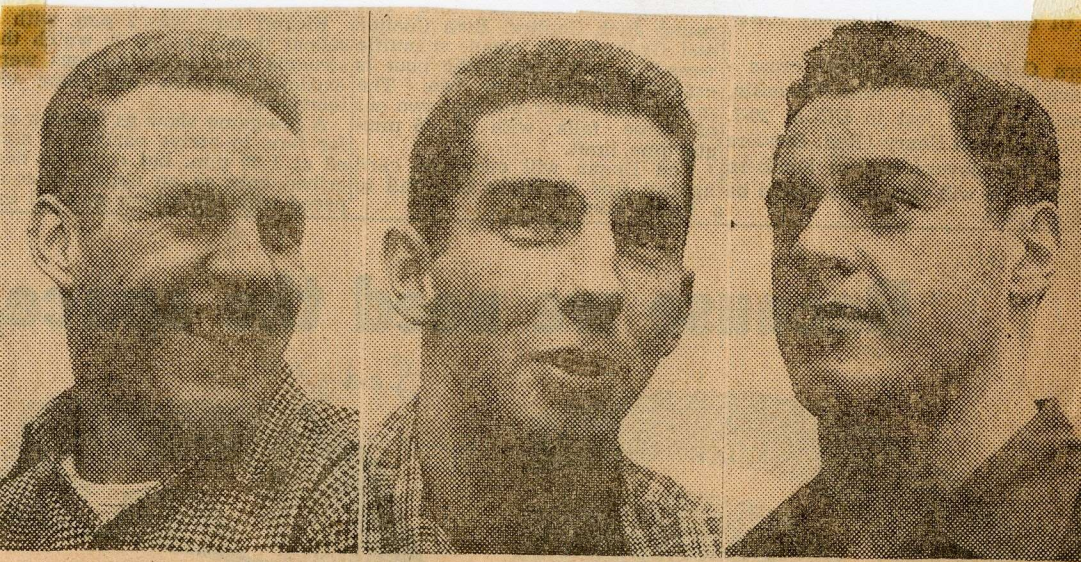
Proceeds from the game will be used to create a fund to build a recreational center for the handicapped children of Columbus and Muscogee County. Because of this, no free passes have been issued.



WEST SPRINGFIELD'S DOUBLE-DUTY MAN

Ken Mattoon Plays First-String End, Second-String Fullback

The Columbus Ledger



THREE OF STARTERS FOR WEST SPRINGFIELD AGAINST VALDOSTA
End Ken Mattoon, Back Joe Harrington, Guard Art Pernice