

Awesome Display of Power Gains Third Straight Win

If there are any doubts that Valdosta Coach Wright Bazemore intends to lead his Wildcats to their second consecutive state championship, they are not harbored by the men who wear the purple and gold of the Fitzgerald High School football team.

While winning their third game of the season without a defeat in Cleveland Field last night, the Wildcats piled up 39 points to run their season total to 114.

But the visitors managed, in the third quarter, to do what a pair of previous opponents had failed to accomplish. Halfback Max Eaton, the nearest thing Fitzgerald had to an offensive threat, broke through the line, scooped up a fumble by reserve quarterback Wiley Webb, and scampered 15 yards to become the first rival player to cross the Valdosta goal this campaign.

The Fitzgerald score shaved Valdosta's lead to 33-6, but Bobby Renfro on a four-yard buck in the last period, regained the Wildcats their five-touchdown edge and ended the night's scoring at 39-6.

Early workouts in preparation for last night's game indicated that Bazemore was somewhat concerned about his defense. He should worry about taxes.

The Wildcat line was in the Hurricane backfield on almost every play. When the results were tallied, Fitzgerald gains and losses managed to even out, leaving the visitors with an exact zero in yardage gained rushing.

Fitzgerald passes fared little better. Charlie Walker heaved 10 times and completed four, but managed to pick up only five yards through the air.

It would be difficult to pick defensive standouts for the hometowners. Middleman Herman Parramore and tackle Paul McNeil were stalwarts. Ray Moore, Lee Greer and Fred Massey played a bruising game at the linebacker slots. Ronald Wetherington and Jimmy Walker sparkled at ends.

Valdosta's defensive secondary had little to do, being called upon now and then to knock down or intercept a pass. Larry Massey stole two aeriels and Bobby Renfro one.

RUNNING CLICKS

With the running game taken almost entirely by halfback Noel George and Renfro, Valdosta's ground game clicked for 278 yards. George accounted for 117 yards in 11 carries, while Renfro made 57 in ten tries. Other Wildcats carried the ball infrequently, but effectively. Red Fleming romped 22 yards to paydirt with the second Valdosta score. On a single center-keep play, Parramore rambled 20 yards to set up the fourth touchdown.

Although hopelessly outmanned up front, Fitzgerald played a spirited game, led by the sharp defensive play of 165-pound end Tommy Kimball. With more effective blocking, backs Eaton, Walker and McDowell could have turned in some fancy running.

SCORE EARLY

Eaton took George's opening kickoff on the 10 and hauled it back to his own 31. Two plays later Eaton clicked off nine yards and a first down, but the attack mired and Sowell dropped back to punt.

Lee Greer broke through and blocked Sowell's boot, and Red Fleming found the ball at his feet with an open road ahead. He gathered it in and trotted across for the first tally. George booted his first of three straight conversions.

After the kickoff, Fitzgerald ran only two plays before punting again. The Wildcats took over at midfield and required only four plays to count again. George and Renfro ate up a sizeable chunk of distance on one carry each, then Fleming sauntered 22 yards

for his second score. Again George's kick was good and Valdosta led 14-0.

Late in the second period, Massey intercepted one of Walker's passes on the Fitzgerald 20. With Renfro doing the ball-toting the third Wildcat score was racked up four plays later. Between the second and third scores, Fitzgerald had possession of the ball three times—one on the kickoff, once on a fumble, and once on downs—but Sowell punted twice after the Hurricane attack failed.

Again Valdosta kicked off and again the visitors were forced to punt. Hardin hit George on a 31-yard pass play, and the Wildcats were just three yards out when the half ended.

HARDIN SHINES

The completed aerial in the first half was the first of seven consecutive completions by Sammy Hardin that netted 98 yards. One of his throws—to Jimmy Walker, was good for a six-pointer early in the second half.

Only incomplete toss by Hardin was the first he tried—and it was dropped. In addition, the slick quarterback gave a display of ball-handling chicanery that had the visitors baffled all night.

The score was extended to 33-0 just before the end of the third period when Renfro intercepted a pass and returned to the 12. Two plays later, Renfro kicked over from the seven.

As the fourth quarter opened, Sowell punted to the Valdosta 33. A clipping penalty set the Wildcats back 15 yards, and on the first play from scrimmage, Eaton scooped up Webb's fumble and romped to the only Fitzgerald score.

A sustained march of 70 yards regained the touchdown quickly. As George and Greer clipped off big hunks of yardage, with Hardin, Renfro and Massey helping. Renfro carried over from four yards out, but fumbled in the end zone, with Floyd Rogers diving on the ball for the last score.

STATISTICS

Valdosta	Fitzgerald	
12	First Downs	4
278	Yards Rushing	0
8	Passes Attempted	10
7	Passes Completed	4
98	Yards Passing	5
3	Opp. Passes Intercepted	0
1	Opp. Fumbles Recovered	3
50	Yards Penalized	35

Starting Lineups

Valdosta		Fitzgerald
Walker	LE	Sowell
Warren	LT	Hall
Moore	LG	Archer
Parramore	C	Deaver
Rogers	RG	Anglon
McNeil	RT	Merritt
Wetherington	RE	Kimball
Hardin	QB	Walker
George	LH	Eaton
Renfro	HH	Herring
Fleming	FB	McDowell

Scoring touchdowns—Valdosta: Fleming 2, Renfro 2, Walker (pass from Hardin), Rogers. PAT: George 3.

Scoring touchdown—Fitzgerald: Eaton.

George, Hardin Spark Wildcats To Touchdown In Each Quarter

By JACK TURNER

BAXLEY — The Baxley Athletic Field, a raked-over baseball park, has little to offer by modern standards, but last night the ancient and battle-scarred acre did have hot and cold running football players—the Valdosta Wildcats.

The defending State A champs opened their 10-game 1952 season here and followed the pre-season form chart almost to the letter, as far as the one-sided 28-0 victory score was involved. In other respects, the Wildcats fell short of their expectations to such extent that Coach Wright Bazemore left the field muttering, "Frankly, I'm dissatisfied."

It was sheer power, implemented by sporadic showings of crispness, that enabled the Valdosta huskies to bulldoze their way to a touchdown in each quarter over the inspired, but hopelessly outclassed Baxley eleven.

"Adel will run us off the field if we play like that next week," growled the darkhaired Mercer

Larry Massey, Fomby Hardin, Guber and Fleming had led the defensive against the Pirates, held them to a standstill.

Renfro tried the left side from the 15, after George had returned the kick for nine yards, and picked up two yards, which Valdosta promptly lost in penalties.

George went around left end from the 20, found his way clear before him and went all the way. Another penalty nullified the score.

Back on the 25, the Wildcats moved forward when Parramore kept the ball and went through the middle to the 17.

George tried the left side for eight and Renfro hit the middle to the five-yard line. George took Hardin's hand - off on a quick opener and sliced over right tackle for the score. George kicked the point.

In the second quarter, Hardin, who handled the ball like a shell game operator, shot a pass over center to Wetherington who picked up 15 yards to the Baxley 48.

Renfro hit the right side for a first down and Hoover Hughes carried for four to the 28. A 15-yard penalty set the Cats back to the Baxley 40, and Parramore ripped through for a first down at the 20. George hit the left-side for no gain before Hardin whipped a pass to Wetherington, who carried over from the eight for the Wildcats' second tally. George kicked good again.

Working the quick-openers to advantage in the third period, the Wildcats began to move from the Baxley 38 after Warren and Floyd Rogers had recovered a Pirate fumble.

George, Fleming and Renfro took the ball to the Baxley 10, Hughes broke through to the two-yard stripe and Renfro plowed over. George made his third PAT attempt good.

After an exchange of kicks, Valdosta launched its fourth scoring drive that saw them on the Baxley 12-yard marker as the final quarter got underway.



VALDOSTA'S DEFENDING CLASS A STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS—(Front Row, Left to Right) Jimmy Walker, Lee Greer, Bobby Renfro, Paul McNeill, Noel George, Ray Moore, Larry Massey, Sammy Hardin, Herman Parramore, Willie Webb. (Second Row, Left to Right) Coach Wright Bazemore, Larry Tatum, James Warren, Fomby Hardin, Billy Hardin, Robert Hughes, John Robert O'Neal, Robert Taylor, Red Fleming, Ronnie Wetherington. (Third Row, Left to Right) Coach Herschell Hamill, Gene Guess, Harry Lindstrom, Eddie Laws, Johnny Harris, Sonny Schroer, Earl Guber, Maxwell Taylor, Herbert Hardy, Floyd Rogers, Coach Al Clark. (Fourth Row, Left to Right) Don Puckett, Billy Warlick, Wayne Hardy, Walton Lineberger, P. H. Partin, Sonny Boone, J. H. Starling, David Webb, O'Neal Grant, Bobby Warlick, Jimmy Dowling, Marcus Smith.

THE YARDSTICK		
Valdosta		Baxley
238 Yds. Gained Rushing	112	
18 First Downs	5	
7 Passes Attp.	10	
3 Passes Comp.	1	
45 Yds. Gained Passing	7	
105 Penalties	25	
2 Fumb. Recov.	1	
1 Pass Intercept.	0	

alum. Bazemore was pleased with some individual performances, but generally he felt the overall team effectiveness was far below its capabilities.

Noel George, who oddly enough was not even listed on the program, was the shining light among the occasional sparklers in the Valdosta backfield.

The Senior halfback, a hard runner with an elusive gait, capped off a 25-yard touchdown march in the initial quarter with an off-tackle slant from the five-yard line that gave the Wildcats their first TD of the year.

George toed the point and made good on three others that came when Sammy Hardin passed to Ronnie Wetherington for 20 yards and a marker in the second quarter. Bobby Renfro plowed over from the two in the third period and Hardin wound up with a 10-yard heave to Jimmy Walker in the final chap-

September 13. 11
opening game.

28-0

This was in
the Atlanta
Journal. →
Sept. 13.

Jimmy Walker in the final chapter.

The Valdosta defense, named by outstanding Lee Greer, Ray Moore, Red Fleming and Earl Gober, among the best, held the Baxley offenders to just 112 yards. In yardage gained by penalties, the Pirates had the decided advantage with 105 yards

Playing on a

been limed earlier in the day, then washed down by late afternoon rains, the Wildcats had two touchdowns called back when they had failed to lineup properly according to the obliterated line markers.

In the first quarter, shortly before George snaked across for the score that counted, he had broken through from the Baxley 20 to go all the way.

Again, in the final period, Hardin faked a handoff, kept and skirted the right side to close the gap from the 25. Both times, the linesman's red hankie dropped.

There was virtually no threat put forth by Coach Wes Thomas' Baxley boys. Crippled by injuries and immobilized by frequent crushing tackles from the Valdosta defenders, the Pirates were stopped for 60 yards gain in the first half and a meager 52 in the second half.

* * *

Larry Tatum personally prevented any chance for a runback of the kickoff. Five times, George booted, and five times Tatum was down with the kick to make the tackle.

Baxley's passing attack, which had appeared before the game to be the Pirates' most potent weapon, failed to materialize. The Pirates completed only one aerial, for seven yards, in nine attempts. One pass, from halfback Donnie Sikes, was intercepted by Hardin.

All-State candidate Herman Parramore, a tower of defense, proved quite an offensive stalwart with his center-carry play that took the Pirates completely by surprise.

Scoring Summary:

James Warren recovered a Baxley fumble on the Pirate 25 midway in the first quarter after

the Baxley 12-yard marker as the final quarter got underway. George drove through the mid-

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	Chicopee	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.

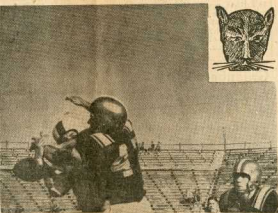
The two teams are quartered at Fort Benning, in adjoining barracks. Both teams will also leave tomorrow, West Springfield boarding a train at 3 o'clock that afternoon.

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
83	17
197	249
18	64
10	4
1	1
35.8	11.5
3	3
64	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—Candler, Harlow, Schweitzer.
G—Murphy, Collins, Kindig.
C—Laboranti.
B—Plumb, Klein, Harrington, Labranche, Leighner, Malley, Rose, Roberge, 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 0. 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

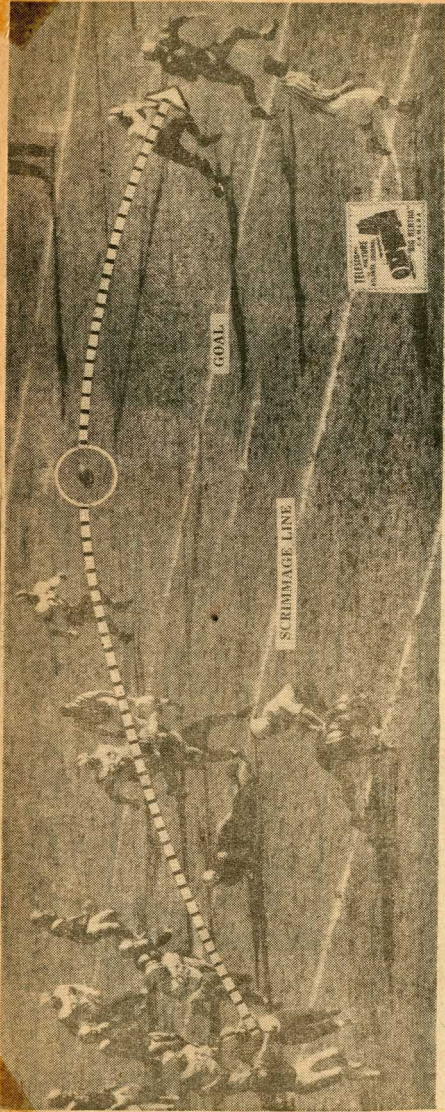
the starting lineup. The younger boys are on the Valdosta kickoff team.

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.

Downfield Blocking May Be Key in Tilt At Cleveland Field

By JACK TURNER

A strongly favored Valdosta High gridiron machine breaks the seal on its home schedule tonight, 8 o'clock at Cleveland Field when Coach Wright Bazemore's hefty State A Champs charge forth to battle a pony team from Cook County High of Adel.

For the most part, tonight's contest is expected only to be a warm-up before the Wildcats get on, after an open date next weekend, to the real tests of the season—Fitzgerald, then Douglas, Tifton and Moultrie. And, before they can count be a warm-up before the again, Thomasville, Jeff Davis, Jesup and Waycross, not to mention the playoffs.

Showing a vast improvement even over the style which enabled them to humble Baxley, 28-0, in the season's opener last Friday, the Wildcats practice

Probable starting lineups for tonight's Valdosta-Adel football contest, 8 o'clock at Cleveland Field:

VALDOSTA		ADEL	
Weth'ton, 170	RE	Dau'trey, 155	
McNeil, 215	RT	Jones, 163	
Rogers, 165	RG	Gaskins, 150	
Parramore, 170	C	Flowers, 140	
Moore, 175	LG	Hall, 150	
Warren, 206	LT	Hansford, 163	
Walker, 160	LE	Bennett, 150	
Hardin, 170	QB	Allen, 123	
George, 170	LH	Purvs, 145	
Renfroe, 165	RH	Lindsey, 133	
Fleming, 170	FB	Marshall, 135	

performances this week have led their mentor to observe once again, as he did before the Baxley tilt, "We're as ready as we'll ever be. And if the boys will just show the kind of aggressiveness tonight, downfield blocking particularly, that they've shown this week, everything should be fine."

The VHS eleven, working from the "T", will likely display to the large crowd anticipated at Cleveland tonight, a lot of faces and many tricks from Bazemore's well-stocked repertoire, including the spread formation and Herman Parramore's sneaky center-carry.

And with two glue-fingered ends such as Ronnie Wetherington and Jimmy Walker on their receiving end, quarterback Sammy Hardin may be expected to take to the air frequently.

In the main, however, the Valdosta offensive will rely on the churning power generated by a stable of thick calved horses, who include fullback Red Fleming, halfbacks Noel George, Bobby Renfroe, John Robert O'Neal and Larry Massey, who alternates at both positions.

As potent as these ball luggers may be, they are only as good

turnees from last year's outfit. Those four, are co-captains Bobbie Allen, back, and Lindell Jones, tackle; and back Campbell Giddens and tackle Steve Hansford.

The light Adel line-up—which averages approximately 145-pounds—runs from the "T" and will rely on speed and fight with an occasional pass from Allen to

Season's tickets for Valdosta High school's five home games are on sale at Hall's Children's Shop and all local drug stores.

The tickets, handled by the Valdosta Jaycees, offering a savings of \$1.25 over the season on all adult tickets and assure the holder of a reserve seat. Single game admission is \$1.35

High school and college student season's tickets offer a savings of 50 cents, while the season book is available for \$2.

Grammar and junior high students may purchase their five-game tickets for \$1.

ends Earl Bennett or Frank Daughtrey.

On the injured list are fullback Wayne Taylor, out with a strep throat and a football injury; end Jerry McCrane, at 170 the biggest man on the Hornet squad, out because of a bone fracture in his right leg.

For all but the four returning lettermen, the Jeff Davis fracas was the first taste of high school football competition.

September 19.

at both positions.
* * *
As potent as these ball luggers may be, they are only as good as the line in front of them. In which case, they will be hard to stop.

Bazemore indicated that he wanted to see more of the same type of downfield blocking which has been evident in the pre-game prepping sessions, more of the contesting which has been opposite sides of the offensive line race down to clear a path for the play.

And already promising to produce in the desired manner is the Wildcat forward wall, built around Wetherington and Walker at ends, two gigantic tackles in rugged, hustling Paul McNeal and all-state James Warren, a brace of razor-sharp guards Ray Moore and Floyd Rogers, and pivotman Parramore.

* * *

The Wildcats will go into the clash tonight at top strength. Except for the usual bruises and abrasions from a hard week of scrimmaging, the Valdosta squad has lost no huskies to injuries.

Coach Frank Reiff, former University of Pennsylvania now in his second year at Adel, will bring a "young and inexperienced" ball club into Cleveland Field tonight, one that has been further hampered by the loss of three stalwarts to injuries.

The Hornets, losers in last week's opener to Jeff Davis by a 26-0 tally, have only four re-

Bazemore Pleased With Early Results; Steps Up Tempo of Wildcat Grid Camp

Coach Wright Bazemore was scheduled to send his Valdosta High Wildcats into their second heavy scrimmage of the week this afternoon as the Touchdown Club's annual pre-season football camp moved into high gear.

"We've got the makings of a pretty fair team again this year," the coach of the 1951 Class A Champions admitted.

"But with only three weeks of practice before we open our season with Baxley, we need all the work we can get.

Bazemore and his aides, Herschel Hamill, Al Clark and Bill Davis, launched the two-week camping session last Monday, sending the fully suited gridders through light signal and "loosening up" drills at the rate of three a day.

Bazemore, obviously pleased with the results shown so far, said after yesterday's head knocking session said "We got down to the heavy stuff even faster than I'd hoped. The boys, generally, came to camp this year in good shape.

"The spirit is good. The boys must really want to play because they were ready to go the first day. Of course," Bazemore said, "they're a little sore and they've still got some kinks to work out. But the overall condition of the squad has kept us from losing

any boys to sickness or injuries."

After watching the 40-man squad run through its paces, Bazemore observed "We're going to miss Wayne Shaw's break away ability and Joe Wilson's know how, but I'd say that as a whole, we'll have a better balanced backfield than last year."

"Noel George has been clicking off consistent gains. He's a hard runner and a shifty one and he's going to give us a lot of help this year. Sammy Hardin is a seasoned veteran by now and he should really hit his stride this season.

"Larry Massey looks like our chief passer at present, as well as a serious running threat. Bobby Renfro and John Robert O'Neal, our scabbacks, are coming along nicely and Red Fleming, who will do a good bit of our kicking, is showing well."

In addition, the Wildcats have a ready backfield reserve in Lee Greer, Larry Tatum, Robert Hughes, Willie Webb, Maxwell Taylor, Walt Lineberger, Jimmy Dowling Bob Warlick and Don Puckett.

The Valdosta forward wall bears promise of another great year with the returning Paul McNeil and James Warren at tackles, backed by Sonny Shroyer and Johnny Harris. Ray Moore and Floyd Rogers and the bruising Hardin twins, Fomby and Billy, loom large at the guards and Herman Parramore and Harry Lindstrom return to the center post.

On the flanks, which may show a lack of experience in reserve, will be glue fingered Jimmy Walker and Ronnie Wetherington with Earl Gober ready to step in as an offensive performer. On defense, Gober will probably remain in the safetyman slot.

"Our line positions are pretty

well defined," Bazemore said, "but the backfield assignments will remain open right up until game time and even then there may be some changes. One thing is certain. All our backs will be able to alternate positions."

The Wildcats will wind up the week's work on Friday and after spending the weekend at home, will return to the solitude of the camp on Monday for the second week of preparation.

Following is the VHS team's 40-man roster by positions, with the year and approximate weight of each man.

GUARDS:

Ray Moore, senior, 175.
Floyd Rogers, senior, 165.
Billy Warlick, junior, 165.
Billy Hardin, freshman, 190.
Fomby Hardin, freshman, 190.
Jake Malham, soph., 150.
Ray Rockwell, soph., 150.

TACKLES:

Paul McNeil, junior, 215.
James Warren, senior, 206.
Sonny Schorcyer, senior, 180.
Johnny Harris, senior, 180.
Sonny Boone, sophomore, 160.
Eddie Laws, senior, 165.

CENTERS:

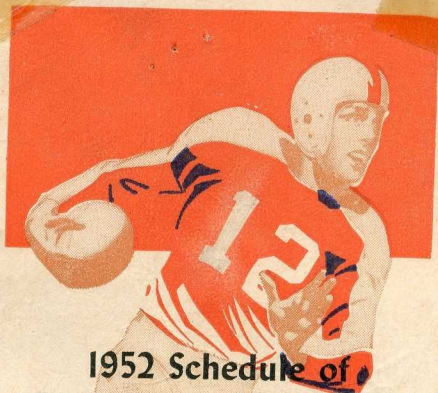
Herman Parramore, senior, 170.
Harry Lindstrom, senior, 160.
Gene Guess, junior, 160.
O'Neal Grant, soph., 145.

ENDS:

Jimmy Walker, senior, 155.
Ronnie Wetherington, junior, 170.
Earl Gober, senior, 175.
Herbert Hardy, soph., 160.
Marcus Smith, freshman, 170.
P. H. Partin, Freshman, 145.
DaDa Webb, junior, 160.
Robert Taylor, soph., 140.

BACKS:

Noel George, senior, 170.
Red Fleming, junior, 170.
Bobby Renfro, senior, 170.
Sammy Hardin, senior, 170.
Larry Massey, senior, 170.
Lee Greer, senior, 155.
Larry Tatum, junior, 155.
Robert Hughes, freshman, 150.
John Robert O'Neal, soph., 160.
Willie Webb, junior, 145.
Maxwell Taylor, junior, 145.
Walt Lineberger, junior, 145.



1952 Schedule of Valdosta Wildcats

SEPT. 12	. . .	BAXLEY	. . .	THERE
SEPT. 19	. . .	ADEL	. . .	HERE
OCT. 3	. . .	FITZGERALD	. . .	HERE
OCT. 10	. . .	DOUGLAS	. . .	HERE
OCT. 17	. . .	TIFTON	. . .	THERE
OCT. 24	. . .	MOULTRIE	. . .	THERE
OCT. 31	. . .	THOMASVILLE	. . .	HERE
NOV. 7	. . .	HAZELHURST	. . .	THERE
NOV. 14	. . .	JESUP	. . .	HERE
NOV. 21	. . .	WAYCROSS	. . .	THERE



