

Robert E. Lee 43, Columbia 7

# Generals blow away Tigers

Columbia loses semifinal game to Lee on Friday.

By **ERIC JACKSON**  
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JACKSONVILLE — The Tigers spent last week vigorously prepping for the Generals star quarterback. Even the in-game adjustments made wouldn't make a difference.

Robert E. Lee quarterback Derrick Jones anchored his team in a stellar semifinal rematch performance. The senior scrambler slipped through the teeth of Columbia's defense consistently, tallying 152 of his total 325 yards on the ground.

"I tip my hat to him," Columbia nose tackle Robbie Moon admitted. "He's a really good quarter-

back."

Jones' third touchdown of the night gave the District 2 champs a comfortable lead after halftime, and Lee wouldn't looked back, stifling the Tigers down the stretch.

Lee running back Allan Bass added two touchdowns on two carries in the fourth quarter as the Generals booted the Tigers out of the postseason 43-7 Friday night.

"I think we took the preparation too lightly," wide receiver Nate Maxwell said. "At least on my part. I think we overlooked these guys, and started thinking too far ahead."

Columbia's offensive woes from earlier in the season suddenly resurfaced against Lee. The Generals' pressure was too much to bear as the Tigers struggled to move

the chains. Columbia quarterback Davin Schuck was held to 127 passing yards.

In his final career game, Schuck was sacked six times including a safety midway through the second quarter that put the district rival Generals ahead 9-0.

Lee dominated on the defensive line throughout the contest, shifting the offense away from its normal identity and holding the unit to one score, like the last meeting.

Despite the safety, hope still wasn't lost on the Columbia sideline. The Tigers regained some momentum in the Backyard on their ensuing drive.

Columbia senior running back Kamario Bell wouldn't be denied a touchdown in his final outing. Bell's

**TIGERS** continued on 6B



BRENT KUYKENDALL/Special to the Reporter

Lee quarterback Derrick Jones (5) fires a pass over Columbia linebacker S.L. McCall during Friday's regional semifinal in Jacksonville. The Tigers lost 43-7.

Madison County 21, Fort White 17



KAYLA LOKEINSKY/Lake City Reporter

Fort White lineman Matt DiMauro (left) comforts teammate Kalin Timmons after the Indians 21-17 loss to Madison County on Friday night.

## Indians fall to Madison County

Fort White loses despite early 17-point lead.

By **KAYLA LOKEINSKY**  
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FORT WHITE — Going into the fourth quarter Friday night, it looked like the Indians would avenge last year's loss to Madison County make it to the state semifinals.

With a 10-point lead and the home crowd feeding their adrenalin, the Indians looked to have all the tools they needed to win their

regional final matchup against the Cowboys. But a fourth-quarter comeback by Madison secured the No. 1 ranked 1-A team in Florida the 21-17 win, and the chance to move on in the postseason.

The district-champion Indians (9-3, 4-0) saw their season come to an end.

"I just feel so bad for our coaches and players who have put so much into it and sacrificed the world to make this a reality," Fort White head coach Demetric Jackson said. "To have it slip out of our hands like that is devastating."

After securing a 17-0 lead early in the second half, the Indians slowly began to see their lead and the game move out of reach.

A seemingly-revived Cowboy (11-0) offense plowed down the field to score three touchdowns, while the Madison defense left the Indians scoreless, racking up two interceptions.

After the Cowboys scored 21 unanswered points, the Indians saw a glimmer of hope, when senior C.J. McCoy recovered a Madison County

**INDIANS** continued on 6B

Florida 16, LSU 10

## Gators clinch SEC East

Florida gets a tense win over No. 16 LSU.

By **BRETT MARTEL**  
 Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Florida's defense stuffed LSU's Derrius Guice on a do-or-die run from the 1-yard line in the final seconds and the No. 21 Gators held on for a tension-filled 16-10 victory that clinched the Southeastern Conference

East Division.

The stop capped a defensive struggle in which No. 16 LSU converted a fourth-and-10 play on its final drive, only to get stopped on back-to-back runs from the 1 to end the game. Fullback J.D. Moore came up short on third down.

Florida quarterback Austin Appleby completed only seven passes on 17 attempts, but one of his connections went for a pivotal 98-yard touchdown to Tyrie Cleveland. Eddy Piniero scored the rest of

Florida's points on field goals of 36, 24 and 34 yards.

LSU (6-4, 4-3 SEC, No. 16 CFP) controlled most of the game and held considerable statistical advantages, outgaining Florida (8-2, 6-2, No. 23 CFP) 423 yards to 270 and holding possession for 34:02. But on three occasions, the Tigers failed to score after driving inside Florida's 10 — the first time because of Guice's fumble in the first half and the second

**GATORS** continued on 2B



ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Seminoles crush Syracuse 45-14

FSU running back Dalvin Cook takes the ball up the field during Saturday's game. Cook scored four touchdowns against Syracuse (Story on 2B).

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## TIGERS

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11-yard score trimmed the Generals' lead before halftime.

But Lee wiped their smiles off quick as Cameron Wakefield came down in the end zone with Jones' 22-yard lob as time expired in the first half.

Trailing by only a score after halftime, the Tigers couldn't make up the deficit.

Hunter Houston's missed 37-yard field goal on the first drive of the second half was one of several lost opportunities by Columbia Friday night.

While the Tigers' offense

failed to find a rhythm, Lee's offense, led by Jones, continued to move the chains.

The Generals (9-1) scored four unanswered touchdowns after halftime against the Tigers (7-4) en route to their first regional final berth since 1996.

It was a rough ending to a memorable season for the Tigers, who won six straight games after their September loss to the Generals.

"At the end of the day, we have to come together as a team," linebacker S.L. McCall said. "At practice we play against the toughest offense and the toughest defense. The game should have been easy."



BRENT KUYKENDALL/Special to the Reporter

Columbia wide receiver T.J. Jones fights for extra yardage against Lee in the Backyard on Friday.



Photos by BRENT KUYKENDALL/Special to the Reporter

Columbia quarterback Davin Schuck (33) scrambles out of the pocket on Friday in Jacksonville. Columbia running back Kamario Bell (34) runs upfield during last week's game at Lee. Bell had an 11-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.



## CHS FOOTBALL

# Senior legacies live on

## Graduating Tigers reflect on senior season.

By ERIC JACKSON

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The clock struck midnight on the Tigers' season in the Backyard Friday night.

Fireworks and cannonballs, Columbia couldn't escape the hostile environment.

Despite the disappointing rout — ending a roller-coaster season — the legacy of the seniors is forever cemented. Columbia has the difficult task of replacing this group.

"Man, it's tough," Columbia head coach Brian Allen said. "It's like your kids. You never have a favorite and you love them all the same. These guys are special to me. I've spent a whole bunch of time with these guys, not only within the program but also outside

of it too. It's like watching your kids leave away from home."

From Kamario Bell's destructive force to Davin Schuck's precision to Alec Norton's explosive power, every one of the seniors will be missed.

The seniors will miss it too — all the unforgettable Friday nights, battling on the gridiron alongside their teammates, or brothers as they say.

"I'm going to miss it so much," Moon said. "This is everything to me."

Columbia's seniors knew they'd eventually depart from one another. They just didn't think it would come so soon, and on such a disappointing note.

"I don't have the words to describe it," Schuck said. "I have no words."

A couple months ago, during the midst of a losing streak, the seniors' leadership was being questioned. The fourth-

year players rose to the challenge and anchored the rest of the team to six straight wins, returning the Tigers to the playoffs.

The seniors helped lift the Tigers from the bottom of the standings to the top.

Together they a climbed mountain and Friday night they returned to reality.

As Columbia's seniors hang up their cleats, the rest of the young team moves forward into the offseason. The Tigers will carry passed-on knowledge into the new year. Every coach and player agrees, the next guys up have big shoes to fill.

"They're leaving the nest at this point," Allen said. "We'll have him through weightlifting season. But this part of us being together all time and everything, it's definitely tough to see them take this next step of their lives."

## FWHS FOOTBALL

# Indians heartbroken after final game

## Players, coaches in tears after loss to Cowboys.

By KAYLA LOKEINSKY

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FORT WHITE — After the Indians' 21-17 loss to Madison County in Friday night's regional final game, there wasn't a dry eye at Arrowhead Stadium.

Fort White football players cried in the arms of their teammates and parents. Coaches struggled to hold back their emotions. Cheerleaders embraced one another, while fans shook their heads, trying to grasp what had just happened.

After the game, Fort

White head coach Demetric Jackson gathered his teammates in a circle, with parents, students and fans surrounding the squad. It's the same scene after every game, except this time, it was different.

The entire Fort White football family experienced its toughest loss of the season. With a 17-point lead and the skill and drive to take it home, the Indians fell short against the Cowboys, who with a second-half comeback took the win and the chance to move on to the state semifinals.

Yet, despite that, despite the tears and the disappointment, the Indians were surrounded by their

Tiwahe, their family, after the game. Together on the field of Arrowhead Stadium for the last time, they prayed, they hugged, they said goodbye.

The meaning of the word Tiwahe had never been more prominent. "I felt it all season," head coach Demetric Jackson said. "The way our guys performed and played, the way they just practiced and gave us everything they had, I felt the love for each other."

Jackson, who could not hold back tears himself after Friday night's game, had an additional reason for feeling the blow of the loss. Friday night was the last time he would coach his son, senior quarter-

back DJ Jackson.

"I didn't even think about that," Jackson said. "I don't want to think about that."

As members of the Fort White football team left Arrowhead Stadium for the last time this season, 16 seniors left for the last time as high school football players. For the ones coming back next year, they vowed to never let this type of loss happen again.

"I'll put everything that I learned here, from losing this game, all into next year," junior Jacquez Pelham said. "Work hard and make sure it won't happen again. It definitely won't happen again. Two times in a row, it definitely won't."

## INDIANS

Continued From 1B

fumble at midfield with less than two minutes to go in the game, giving his team one more chance to take back the lead.

However, the hope for a comeback quickly vanished, when on the first play of possession, quarterback DJ Jackson's pass to running back Kalin Timmons bounced off his hands and into the hands of Madison's Travis Jay, giving the Cowboys the ball, and the win.

"I'm basically hurt, seeing a game in our hands just slip away," junior playmaker Jacquez Pelham said.

Pelham was a driving force for the Indians, and led his team with 131 rushing yards. Pelham was the first to put points on the board for Fort White, with

an early second quarter touchdown.

Jackson scored his team's only other touchdown of the game also in the second quarter when he ran the ball one yard into the end zone. The senior quarterback completed 16 of 25 passes for 126 yards.

Fort White kicker Brandon Shrum's 28-yard field goal at the start of the second half gave the Indians their 17-0 lead. After that, the Cowboys took over.

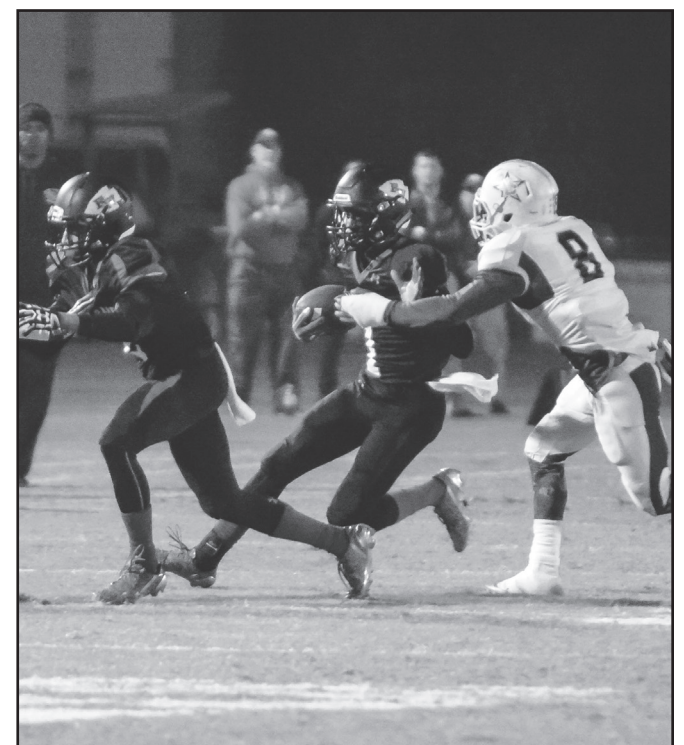
Touchdowns from Madison County's Teryon Henderson, Derrick Staten Jr. and quarterback Keyshawn Mcquay put the Cowboys on top. Despite a last-ditch effort to take back the lead, the Indians walked away from Arrowhead Stadium with the loss, their first and last at home this season.

"It's hard to imagine," Coach Jackson said. "We were the better team, we just didn't finish the game."



KAYLA LOKEINSKY/Lake City Reporter

Fort White head coach Demetric Jackson speaks to his team, coaches and fans after Friday night's loss to Madison County. The Indians were surrounded by their families, friends and spectators after the game.



CHRISTINA FEAGIN/Special to the Reporter

Fort White senior Shannon Showers (1) attempts to dodge a Madison County defender in Friday night's game while Kalin Timmons (5) assists with a block.