

Story ideas?

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www.lakecityreporter.com

Section B

Fleming Island 4, Columbia 0

Eagles claw their way to victory



BRENT KUYKENDALL/Special to the Reporter

Fleming Island forward Reed Davis (13) fights off Columbia defenders Wednesday night. Davis recorded a hat trick in the Golden Eagles' victory over Columbia. The Tigers received their first loss of the season.

Tigers drop first game of the year to Fleming Island.

By **ERIC JACKSON**
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This season Columbia has deeply wanted to prove its one of the state's best. The Tigers though missed a prime opportunity to legitimize themselves Wednesday.

Columbia had no answer for the pesky Fleming Island Golden Eagles in a highly-anticipated regional matchup between the top two teams in Class 4A.

Eagles junior forward Reed Davis was relentless, notching a hat trick, lifting Fleming Island to a resounding 4-0 shutout win over Columbia at Tiger Stadium.

"Their whole team is very good and they rotate well," Columbia head coach Shayne Edge said of undefeated Fleming

Island. "They play a different defensive style than we've seen. We made some adjustments and played better in the second half....They're just very good. They were better than us."

Columbia held the 2012 state champions scoreless for fifty minutes, but it wouldn't make a difference as the Eagles' early trifecta of goals were enough to seal the win.

The Tigers had their chances, placing shots on-goal in the opening minutes. But Columbia's offensive woes worsened as the game unraveled in the Eagles' favor.

"They just know how to get two or three people to step to the ball," Columbia forward Darren Brock said of the Eagles' stout defense. "Even four actually, they had four people [converging] a couple times."

Brock – along with

SOCCER continued on 6B

Buchholz 43, Columbia 33

Tigers slammed by Bobcats

Columbia loses first dual meet to Buchholz.

By **KAYLA LOKEINSKY**
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Columbia won more matches than rival Buchholz in Wednesday night's meet, but despite having won six duals while their opponents won five, the Tigers still came up short.

After having to forfeit three weight classes with no wrestlers to fill those spots, the Tigers lost their first dual meet of the season to the Bobcats 43-33.

"If it weren't for those forfeits we would have won the meet," Columbia head coach Pete Whittington said.

Since Columbia didn't have wrestlers to compete in the 113, 220 or heavy-weight classes, Buchholz got the wins due to for-

feits. If it weren't for the 18 points earned in those matches, Columbia would have won 33-25.

"Dual-meet wise we're constantly going to struggle throughout the year just because we're going to give up a few weight classes," Whittington said.

For Columbia, wrestlers Chace Curtis (126), Matt Ross (132), Matt Raulerson (145), Bryar Burnham (160), Zion James (170)

TIGERS continued on 6B



KAYLA LOKEINSKY/Lake City Reporter

Columbia wrestler Connor Davidson gets slammed to the ground by Buchholz's Armando Acosta during Wednesday's wrestling meet. Acosta won the match.

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Trent Morrison and Jodice Shanklin – couldn't work their usual magic against the formidable visitors. All three of Columbia's top

goalscorers were contained en route to the Tigers' first loss of the season, snapping an 11-game win streak.

"They know how to shut the 1v1's down," Brock said.

Fleming Island (11-0-2) goalkeeper Omar Zermeno

had a stellar performance against Columbia (11-1) Wednesday. Zermeno's eight saves helped the Eagles maintain a comfortable lead after Trevor Broadbridge's goal in the 17th minute.

Ahead by two goals early, Davis found the net for the

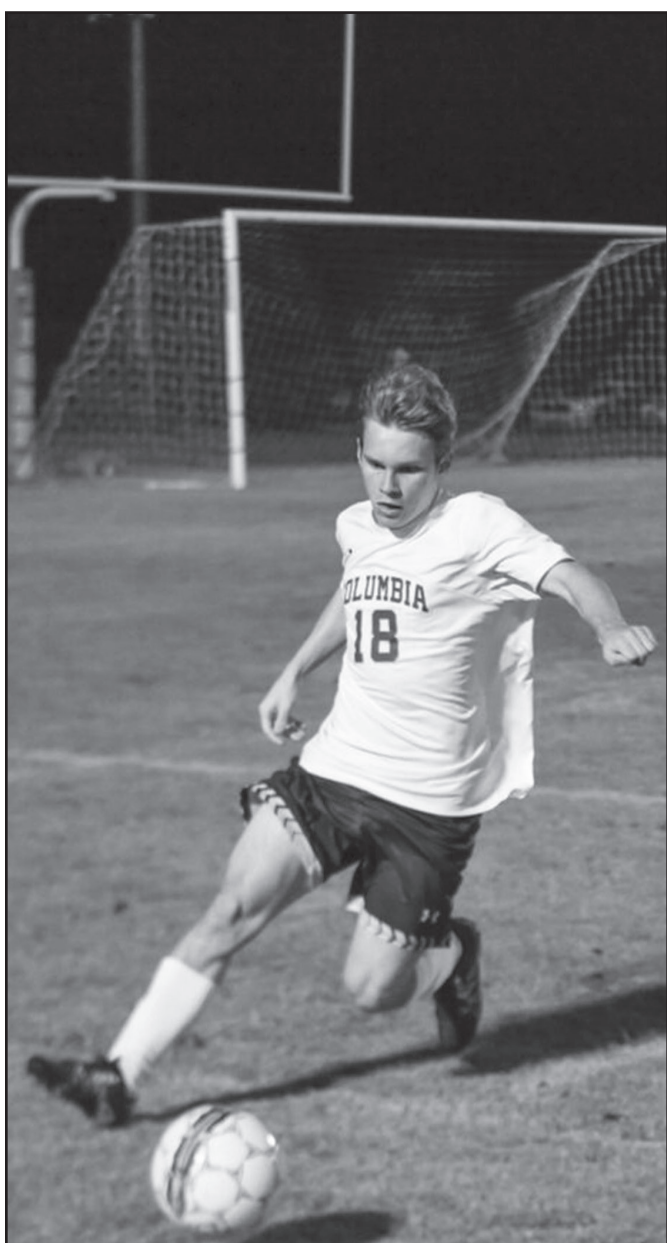
second time on a through ball from Marcus Murphy in the 20th minute. Davis completed his hat trick with a final score in the 70th minute to secure his team's second straight shutout against the Tigers following Columbia's 7-0 loss at Fleming island last season.

"I think we know what to do next time if we see them again," Brock added.

Columbia tries to shake off the loss, moving ahead to its next district game versus Gainesville at home on Friday. The Tigers hope to build on Wednesday's humbling loss entering the

final stretch of the season.

"You never as good as you think you are," Edge said. "And you're never as bad as you think you are. If we can come out Friday night, and do our jobs then everything will be okay. It will set everything back to how it should be."



Columbia's Tyler Pierce tracks down a loose ball against the Golden Eagles Wednesday night. The Tigers suffered their first loss of the season.



Photos by BRENT KUYKENDALL/Special to the Reporter

Columbia's Brock Edge (above) fights for a loose ball against Fleming Island. The Tigers suffered a second-straight shutout to the Golden Eagles.



Columbia goalkeeper Joe Beach (left) makes a save in the second half of the regional match. Columbia forward Darren Brock (right) tries to dribble past a Fleming Island defender. The Tigers try to bounce back for Friday's district game against Gainesville.

TIGERS

Continued From 1B

and Chad Sapp (182) won their matches. For Buchholz, Bryan Perkins (106), Billy Green-Church (120), Grant Moore (138), Mike Rollins (152) and Armando Acosta (195) earned victories.

For the Tigers, Coach Whittington isn't too worried about having to forfeit a few matches in the regular season, because the postseason is where the results will matter most.

"Really the regular season, all this, is just to prepare us for districts, because everyone has the

chance to wrestle at districts and from there it's just an individual sport," Whittington said.

Although those spots on the team aren't filled yet, the Tigers have high hopes for the young team's future. Made up mostly of underclassman, there is no doubt that the team will eventually fill those weight classes.

"We're a young team," Whittington said. "We don't have any seniors on our team. We're freshman loaded. I think we have four juniors, two sophomores and the rest are freshman. And the way my JV looked tonight I'm pretty encouraged about where our program is headed."



Photos by KAYLA LOKEINSKY/Lake City Reporter

Columbia wrestling captain Chace Curtis (left) brings down Buchholz's Brandon Thomas during the 126-pound weight class match on Wednesday. Curtis won the match after pinning Thomas.



Columbia's Bryar Burnham tries to get out of a hold by Buchholz's Jordan Mobley during Wednesday night's dual meet against the Bobcats. Burnham, who was struggling to take the lead during the match, won after he pinned Mobley.



Columbia's Mitchell Gregory (above) tries to maintain control of Buchholz's Mike Rollins during Wednesday's match. Gregory lost the match after he was pinned by Rollins. Columbia's Chad Sapp (below) overtakes his opponent, Dylan Lewis, during the meet against the Bobcats. Sapp later pinned Lewis to win the match.

