

UF FOOTBALL

SEC works to avoid repeat of UF-LSU fiasco

Officials hope to prevent similar situations.

By **BRETT MARTEL**
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Florida's visit to LSU this weekend — for what was supposed to be a Gators home game — is the result of an acrimonious stalemate last month over what to do about an impending natural disaster.

Southeastern Conference officials hope to avoid having the rescheduling or relocation of future league games handled the way LSU and Florida did it during Hurricane Matthew — not just because of the logistical headaches and divisiveness it caused, but also because it has become an unwanted story line in the SEC East Division title race.

No. 21 Florida, which needs a victory to clinch the East, was supposed to host LSU Oct. 8. Instead, the Gators must now travel to Death Valley for 16th-ranked LSU's "Senior Day."

SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said Wednesday

that discussions are expected to begin during the next conference athletic directors meetings in December about how to refine the process of rescheduling games that need to be delayed or moved, with the aim of producing recommendations which will be forwarded to university presidents for approval. Currently the conference commissioner lacks authority to unilaterally make a scheduling change. League rules dictate that rescheduling must be agreed upon by both schools, forcing Sankey to serve as a mediator.

"The presidents have made clear to me their intention to address our regulations and bylaws in order to establish a clear path to a decision-making process that gives the commissioner's office authority to resolve scheduling issues in a fair and timely manner," Sankey said in an email to The Associated Press. "We will use the Hurricane Matthew experience to analyze our processes and to provide clarity to our regulations and bylaws in order to address

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FSU BASKETBALL

'Noles have six score in double figures vs. Iona

Florida State slides past Iona with 99-78 win.

By **JOE REEDY**
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Since the start of preseason practices, Florida State coach Leonard Hamilton has been selling his team's depth as their biggest advantage. On Tuesday night, the Seminoles put that on full display.

Six players scored in double figures as the Seminoles cruised to a 99-78 victory over Iona. It is the first time since the 2014-15 opener against Manhattan that they have

had that many players in double figures.

"Overall I was pleased with the direction," Hamilton said. "The biggest challenge for us is to utilize the quality of the depth. We're trying to explain that we have to understand that each night it is going to be different guys that are going to step up. We're a team that is going to win by committee."

Freshman Jonathan Isaac led the way with 20 points as the 2-0 Seminoles shot 58 percent from the floor (34 of 59) and were 30 of 42 when not shooting 3-pointers. Phil Cofer had 13 points and six rebounds while Terrance Mann (12),

'NOLES continued on 2B



BRETT KUYKENDALL/Special to the Reporter

Morrison Mojo

Columbia's Trent Morrison takes a shot against Chiles Wednesday. Morrison's goal in stoppage time lifted the Tigers to a 3-2 win. See more photos on 6B.

CHS FOOTBALL



ERIC JACKSON/Lake City Reporter

Columbia receiver T.J. Jones (right) stiff-arms a teammate during practice Wednesday night. The Tigers remain undefeated since Jones' return from injury in September.

Ready for rematch

Columbia prepared for second meeting vs. Robert E. Lee Friday.

By **ERIC JACKSON**
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The final whistle broke the eery silence inside the stadium. While the home crowd was at a loss for words, the small contingent of visiting Robert E. Lee fans erupted.

The Generals rushed the field, triumphantly waving their team flag in the breeze.

A difficult sight for Columbia to swallow after a demoralizing district loss.

The Tigers though have gallantly responded — since that sobering September night — winning six straight, including last week's quarterfinal overtime win over Lincoln.

Their next opponent is a familiar one. The team the Tigers finished runners-up too.

Columbia needs no extra motivation when it heads to Jacksonville to

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BRETT KUYKENDALL/Special to the Reporter

Lee's Jercoby Groover tackles Columbia's Taurean Hill during the last meeting between schools on Sept. 16 at Columbia.

FWHS FOOTBALL



KAYLA LOKEINSKY/Lake City Reporter

Fort White running back Kalin Timmons (left) laughs with quarterback DJ Jackson during Wednesday's practice. The seniors on Fort White plan to keep their energy levels up throughout the postseason.

Indians' energy propels them through playoffs

Fort White gets pumped before facing Madison.

By **KAYLA LOKEINSKY**
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FORT WHITE — The playoffs can be the most exciting and the most grueling part of any football season. While teams are hungry for a shot at a state championship, many struggle to keep their energy levels high after playing game after game, week after week.

However, the Indians do not show any signs of losing their momentum as they head into Friday's regional final against Madison County. In fact, as they continue to progress in the postseason, the team's energy level seems to have only gone up.

"There's a lot of juice flowing," Fort White head coach Demetric Jackson said. "There's a lot of energy, a lot of attention, a lot of what you need for football."

At practice, the players keep their game-mentality throughout, celebrating the big hits while running plays, and boosting each other up when they make mistakes. In between plays, the tribe of Indians laughs together and hypes each other up.

"We want to keep the energy going and keep our guys feeling good," senior quarterback DJ Jackson said.

The starting quarterback and his fellow seniors are trying to maintain high-energy levels throughout practice in order to lead their team-

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face Lee in a rematch duel Friday night. A chance to get even and advance to the regional finals.

"Everybody expecting us to lose," linebacker Jaylen Brown said. "If we play Columbia football, we'll take care of them. Our offense wasn't really clicking the first time we played them, but now we're scoring at least 28 points a game."

Columbia's offense has indeed surged since its loss to Lee, routing each of its following regular season opponents – averaging 37 points a game.

Lee last year sparked a similar turnaround to its season after being shutout 56-0 by Columbia at home. The Generals won their next five of six games to reach the post-season for the first time since 2008.

Lee has been as good as advertised sitting at 8-1 this season, answering the preseason hype which surrounded the team after its overachieving finish in 2015.

The Generals though are playing in their first regional semifinal game in over a

decade while the Tigers try to return to the Elite Eight for the second straight year.

Columbia hopes an advantage of experience plays a factor in the rematch Friday.

"Those kind of factors have to have some sort of impact on the outcome," Columbia coach Brian Allen said. "I've definitely thought about that. You take a group that hasn't been there in so long [against] a group that consistently has been there. It should have a factor, but at the end of the day the team that wants it more will win."

Columbia is feeling confident despite entering as underdogs. Local media outlets have projected a Tigers' loss this week – extra motivation for the overlooked group.

While Lee coasted through the regular season, Columbia had to fight from behind to return to the playoffs for a sixth straight year. The Tigers have earned the chance – once and for all – to prove to everyone who the best team is in District 2.

The opportunity awaits and the Tigers couldn't be more ready to seize it.

CHS SOCCER

Tigers defeat district rival T-Wolves



Photos by BRENT KUYKENDALL/Special to the Reporter

Columbia's Jodice Shankin dribbles downfield past a defender against Chiles. The Tigers defeated the Timberwolves for their second district win of the season.



ERIC JACKSON/Lake City Reporter

Columbia's Davin Schuck (above) makes adjustments at the line during practice Wednesday. Lee's Darrick Jones (below) tosses a pass against CHS last meeting.



BRENT KUYKENDALL/Lake City Reporter



Columbia's Spencer Robinson (below) looks to pass to a teammate. Columbia's Cameron Widergren (above) dribbles on Wednesday.



Columbia's Darren Brock speeds past a defender during Wednesday's game. Brock has now scored goals in back to back games.

INDIANS

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mates by example.

"We know energy is going to be key because in the past years we kind of lost energy and lost senior leadership and as seniors we're trying to not let that happen this year," DJ Jackson said.

The Indians know that they are in for a tough battle against undefeated Madison County, who beat Fort White 28-19 in last year's regional finals. According to Jackson, this year his team's combination of skill and chemistry both on and off the field will play a major role in coming out with a win this time around.

"Last year's team was loaded with talent but honestly I think this team has talent and chemistry," Coach Jackson said. "That's something rare. You have some teams that don't have talent and have chemistry, and you have teams with talent with no chemistry. Here, this unit here, has some talent and they really enjoy being around each other and they really like each other and I think that's one of the keys to us being suc-



KAYLA LOKEINSKY/Lake City Reporter

Fort White sophomore JaQuan Robinson laughs during Wednesday's practice. The Indians have maintained their positive energy throughout the postseason.

cessful."

The momentum from a seven-game winning streak is pushing the Indians through the tail end of the season, when most teams struggle to keep their players attention.

"Even last year you get to this time of the season and you're going to have one or two guys who come up with excuses," Coach Jackson said. "These guys are locked in. I just feel that great potential for us to have a long playoff

run because they've done everything we've asked of them. They've prepared well, they're focused well. We just have to not make as many mistakes as the other team and have that energy we showed today and we'll be OK."



KAYLA LOKEINSKY/Lake City Reporter

Fort White seniors Shannon Showers (left) and Kalin Timmons high-five each other after Showers made a good play during Wednesday's practice.