

Story ideas?

Contact
Eric Jackson
 or **Kayla Lokeinsky**
 754-0420
 754-0421
 ejackson@lakecityreporter.com
 klokeinsky@lakecityreporter.com

Thursday, December 1, 2016

www.lakecityreporter.com

Section B

Chiles 2, Columbia 1

WOLVES EDGE TIGERS

Columbia girls soccer team falls to district rival Chiles Wednesday.



BRENY KUYKENDALL/Special to the Reporter

Columbia's Lauren Hutcherson fights for a loose ball against Chiles Wednesday night. The Lady Tigers' two-game winning streak was snapped by the district rival Lady Timberwolves.

By **KAYLA LOKEINSKY**
 klokeinsky@lakecityreporter.com

The Lady Tigers lost a hard-fought battle to district rival Chiles on Wednesday night. Columbia's offense charged down the field, maintaining possession of the ball for the majority of the first half, while its defense fought the Timberwolves off, trying to keep them out of scoring range. However, Chiles

edged out a 2-1 win over the Lady Tigers. Although no coach likes to see their team lose, Columbia head coach Lindsay Beach was still impressed with her team's performance. "As far as level of play, especially in the first half, that was by far the best game we've played," Beach said. "We possessed the ball, we controlled the game, it's just now a matter of putting in that factor of what we

call being 'goal-hungry.'" The Lady Tigers (4-6) maintained control of the ball for the majority of the first half, but weren't able to put the ball in the back of the net. While the offense played hard, it was Columbia's defense that proved itself in the first half, making stop after stop and constantly moving the ball up the field. Columbia's main defenders, SK Lewis, Camryn Nix, Savannah

Amparo and Samantha Jackson, held the Timberwolves (6-3-1) off for most of the game. "A lot of goal-scoring opportunities, they stopped them," Beach said. "I was super pleased with them. They're playing well and not just clearing the ball. They're finding feet, which that's where it begins. Movement down the field has to start

TIGERS continued on 6B

GATOR FOOTBALL

McElwain makes history in the SEC

Coach reaches championship for second time.

By **MARK LONG**
 Associated Press

GAINESVILLE — Florida's Jim McElwain made Southeastern Conference history by becoming the first coach to reach the league's championship game in his first two seasons.

He's 13-3 in SEC play, has swept rival Georgia and pushed the Gators to start

making strides to improve their football facilities. It is hardly enough, at least not in Gainesville. As the 15th-ranked Gators (8-3) head to Atlanta to face top-ranked Alabama (12-0) for the second straight year, McElwain is getting more criticism than acclaim. Florida looked overmatched in a 31-13 loss at Florida State last Saturday, failing to score an offensive touchdown for the second time in as many years in the series. And McElwain, hired to

GATORS continued on 6B



PAUL BUCHANAN/Special to the Reporter

Lady Tigers dominate Suwannee

Columbia's Renne Clines drives to the hoop during Tuesday's game against Suwannee. The Lady Tigers defeated the Lady Bulldogs 65-17 (More photos on 6B).

Breakfast With Santa

8 - 11 a.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 17
 Children 3-12: \$5⁹⁵
 Adults: \$10⁹⁵

Holiday Inn & Suites
Lake City
 213 SW Commerce Drive
 386-754-1441 x106

Sponsored by
Ria Patel & Esha Patel
 All Proceeds Benefit:



United Way of Suwannee Valley

PROMOTIONAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY:






FLORIDA GATEWAY COLLEGE & FGC ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT

LEE GREENWOOD

CHRISTMAS SHOW

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 17TH
7:30 P.M.
 HOWARD CENTER AT
 FLORIDA GATEWAY COLLEGE



BUY YOUR TICKETS AT
FGCENTERTAINMENT.COM
386-754-4340

TITLE SPONSORS




White Springs NORTH FLORIDA REGIONAL HEALTHCARE

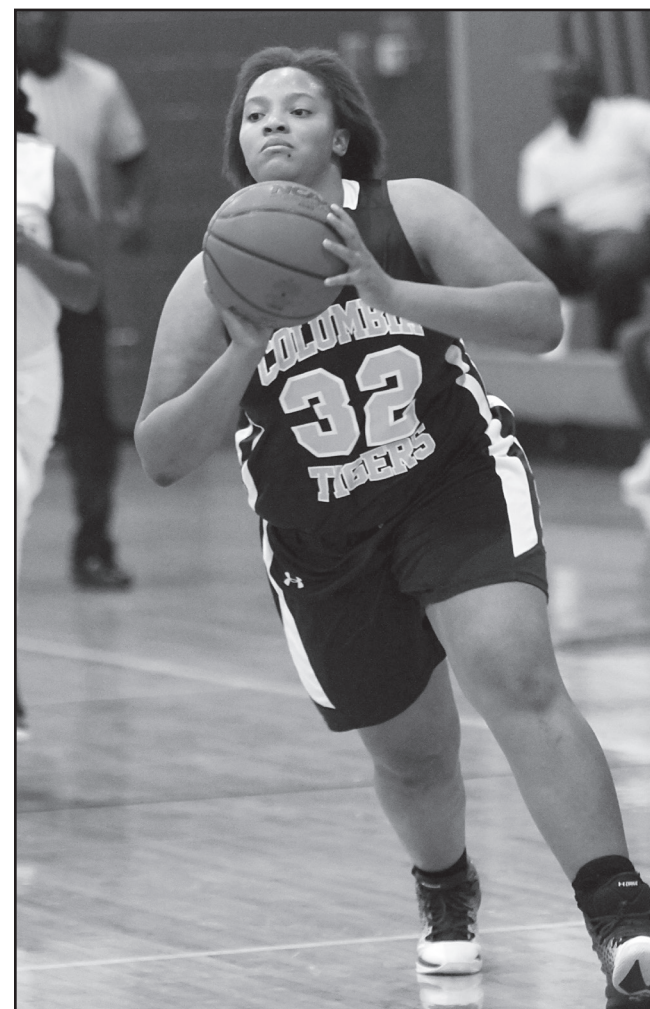
FLORIDA GATEWAY COLLEGE
 COMPASS SUITES
 O'NEAL ROOFING
 LAKE CITY REPORTER
 CURRENTS Magazine • lakecityreporter.com






CHS BASKETBALL

Lady Tigers take down Lady Bulldogs 65-17



Photos by PAUL BUCHANAN/Special to the Reporter

Columbia basketball player Autiona Williams (4) dribbles the ball up the court against Suwannee. A swarm of Lady Tigers (middle) steals the ball away from Suwannee during Tuesday's game. Columbia senior Myra Wintons (32) looks to pass against the Lady Bulldogs. The Lady Tigers' next game will be on Friday at Lake Weir.



Columbia's Zipporah Williams (2) holds off Suwannee's Ciandra Smith while looking for a rebound in Tuesday's game. Renne Clines (20) avoids Lady Bulldogs' defender Jasmine Jones in Live Oak. The Lady Tigers defeated the Lady Bulldogs 65-17 in Tuesday's non-district matchup. The Lady Tigers are now 2-3 this season.

GATORS

Continued From 1B

fix Florida's floundering offense, has come up well short and offered nothing more than a glimpse of anything resembling Steve Spurrier's "Fun 'n' Gun" that dominated the league throughout most of the 1990s.

The Gators currently rank 114th in the nation in total offense, down two spots from 2015 while averaging a meager 352.7 yards a game. And they easily could drop after facing the Tide's top-ranked defense Saturday.

"I don't look at it as a mismatch at all," McElwain said Monday. "I look at it as a great opportunity, and you know that's part of the chess match. ... I know this: We're playing in this game and we're going to give ourselves every opportunity to be successful."

Florida was somewhat competitive in last year's title game.

The Gators returned a punt for a touchdown early and trailed 12-7 at halftime before Alabama pulled away and won 29-15. Florida finished with 180 yards, the fewest of McElwain's tenure. Quarterback Treon Harris got the brunt of the blame for that stinker as well as Florida's late-season slide.

There haven't been nearly as many excuses this year.

McElwain started two transfer quarterbacks (Luke Del Rio and Austin Appleby) over two freshmen he recruited (Feleipe Franks and Kyle Trask). It seemed justifiable before the season, but looked

highly questionable once it became clear Del Rio and Appleby have flaws.

The Gators have thrown for fewer than 150 yards in four of their last seven games, and haven't topped 230 yards passing in more than two months.

"I think we've done it throughout the season in glimpses and spurts," Appleby said. "The key for us is going to be to the consistency. We can't shoot ourselves in the foot. We can't have negative plays. We've got to stay on schedule and keep working. ... We know we can do it."

"Now it's just about doing it time and time again, and that's that mental endurance thing. That's playing for each other, trusting in the plan, not making stuff up, and just executing the plan."

Consistency hasn't been Florida's offensive forte under McElwain. Consider this: The Gators have been held below 275 yards of offense in 10 of their last 17 games. And it's not like they're playing some of the nation's top defense every week. In fact, eight of Florida's 11 opponents have defenses that rank 63rd or worse.

So it would surprise no one to see McElwain make wholesale offensive changes after the bowl game, including firing coordinator Doug Nussmeier, line coach Mike Summers and maybe others.

In the meantime, the Gators can celebrate another SEC East title, with no mention that it's widely considered the worst division in the Power Five conferences. The East is 11-33 against the West over the last three years.

TIGERS

Continued From 1B

from back there."

The game was scoreless until right before halftime, when Chiles senior Isabelle Bevan-Thomas kicked the ball into the lower-right corner of the goal for the

first score of the game.

In the second half, the Timberwolves took a 2-0 lead when sophomore Bailey Jordan scored off a cross-pass from senior Alesha Kostrzewa.

Those were the only two goals to get past freshman goalie Emily Lamoreaux, who had nine saves for the Lady Tigers.

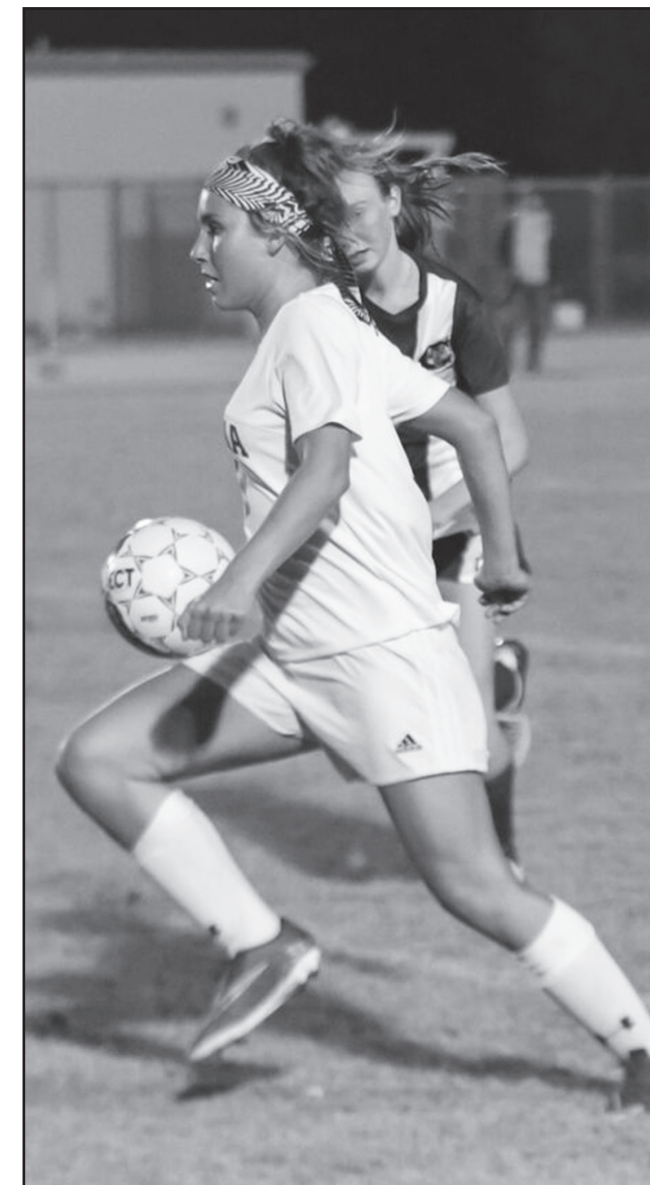
With 19 minutes left to go in the game, Columbia sophomore Brooke Cousineau scored the Lady Tigers' first and only goal of the game, knocking in the ball off a throw-in by Lewis.

When Columbia faced Chiles just a few weeks ago, they lost 5-2. Coach Beach says that from

then to now the Lady Tigers have improved significantly.

"Obviously I'm disappointed but at the same time I'm super impressed with the girls who were out on the field and how hard they worked," Beach said.

The Lady Tigers will hit the road on Friday to face Fletcher.



Photos by BRENT KUYKENDALL/Special to the Reporter

Columbia sophomore Tori Napolitano (15) fights off a Chiles defender during Wednesday's game. Lady Tigers junior SK Lewis (3) knees the ball. The Lady Tigers fell to the Timberwolves 2-1.