

Fort White 34, Union County 12



CHRISTINA FEAGIN/Special to the Reporter

Fort White linebacker Dylan Cason (9) intercepts a pass at Union County Friday.

Run, Hit, Repeat

Fort White captures back-to-back district titles.

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

LAKE BUTLER — Fort White clinched its spot as Class 1A District 6 champions with a 34-12 win over Union County Friday night.

Although the game was played on the Tigers' home field, after the Indians win it was covered in red and white, with players, coaches and fans celebrating back-to-back district championships.

"This atmosphere was like a playoff game," junior playmaker Jacquez Pelham said after the game.

Head coach Demetric Jackson could hardly contain his excitement after the win.

"You come out and now you're the dis-

trict champ, man it feels good," Jackson said. "I'm loving my boys. They came out here and played and they finished the game up."

Jackson and the other Fort White coaches had worked their team hard to get to this moment.

"It feels great to win," Fort White cornerback Shannon Showers said. "The coaches were on us very, very hard this week. They wanted a back-to-back district championship and we did it."

The stakes were high going into Friday night's game. Fort White was playing for a district championship, while Union County needed a win to keep themselves in the running. Early in the first quarter, it

CHAMPS continued on 6B

Florida 40, Missouri 14

Gators way too much for Tigers

UF grabs top-spot in SEC East.

By **MARK LONG**
 Associated Press

GAINESVILLE — Jalen Tabor and Quincy Wilson returned interceptions for touchdowns, helping No. 18 Florida beat Missouri 40-14 on Saturday and move into first place in the Southeastern Conference's Eastern Division.

The cornerback tandem provided nearly as many highlights as either offense and seemingly saved the Gators (5-1, 3-1 Southeastern Conference) from a fourth homecoming loss in the last seven years.

Tabor, widely considered a first-round pick in the 2017 NFL draft, squatted on a short pass by Drew Lock and went untouched for a 39-yard score in the second quarter. It was Tabor's second Pick Six in as many years against the Tigers (2-4, 0-3). Not to be outdone, Wilson stepped in front of Sean Culkin on the ensuing possession, picked off Lock's pass and went 78 yards the other way for his first career touchdown.

Florida, at least early, looked like it might need both of them on a rainy

GATORS continued on 2B

Columbia 56, Atlantic Coast 0



SARAH DICKS/Special to the Reporter

Columbia receiver Taurean Hill (32) dodges a tackle during the first half against Atlantic Coast Friday night. The Tigers recorded their first conference win of the season, and first shutout since last September.

Feast for the Beasts

Columbia routs its way to first district victory.

By **ERIC JACKSON**
 ejackson@lakecityreporter.com

JACKSONVILLE — After a disheartening three-game losing streak, the Tigers never folded, and have responded brilliantly — rolling over each opponent since.

Columbia isn't the same squad from the season's early going. The resilient Tigers demonstrated their growth and maturity with a 56-0 drubbing of district foe Atlantic Coast Friday night.

"I saw these guys hungry," Columbia head coach Brian Allen said. "Again we're starting to find our mojo of what this group is. And a little adversity early on helps build character for later in the season. If that's the trade-off we have to have, with the adversity we've faced, to have us playing well here toward the end — we'll take it."

Columbia's locomotive offense smoked Atlantic Coast's defense from the beginning. Quarterback Davin Schuck — on the



SARAH DICKS/Special to the Reporter

Columbia receiver Nate Maxwell (1) looks on while his teammates celebrate a touchdown Friday night.

game's first play, in fact — drilled receiver Taurean Hill for one of their two touchdown connections on the night.

Schuck finished with a season-high 231 passing yards and his longest run coming on a 31-yard touchdown in the second quarter.

The senior slinger tied his career-high five touchdowns in a prolific

performance that secured Columbia's first district victory of the season.

Schuck wouldn't accept all the glory though.

"My offensive line is doing good," Schuck said. "We have a protection that we're sound with [and] I have time to get through my reads. Receivers are running routes hard. Running back Kamario [Bell] is doing his job."

Teon [Dollard], Lorinza [Jelks], Stanley [Maxwell] — they're all doing good."

Columbia racked up gaudy numbers on offense, but it was the Tigers' defense that denied the Stingrays time and time again Friday night.

Atlantic Coast (1-6, 0-3) suffered its first shutout since 2013 as Columbia (3-3, 1-1) caused havoc upfront throughout the night. The Tigers swarmed the Stingrays, holding the home team to just 102 total yards.

Columbia's defensive unit forced four turnovers en route to a second-straight win.

"We are proving to other teams who we are," nose tackle Robbie Moon said. "Just because we got those couple of losses early in the season, we are still a good team. We're still the Columbia powerhouse we always have been."

Schuck tossed a pair of touchdowns to Hill and receiver T.J. Jones.

Bell added a rushing touchdown as well. The Tigers never looked back after leading 35-0 at halftime. Reserve quarter-

TIGERS continued on 7B



COURTESY

Florida's Jarrad Davis (40) sacks Missouri's Drew Lock (3) during the first half of Saturday's SEC matchup.

Florida State 17, Wake Forest 6

Rudolph has 238 yards as Noles hold off Deacons

FSU's top receiver has career game.

By **JOE REEDY**
 Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Travis Rudolph had a career-high 13 receptions for 238 yards as No. 14 Florida State overcame three turnovers to defeat Wake Forest 17-6 on Saturday.

Rudolph, a junior, was expected to be the Seminoles' top receiver at the beginning of the season. He had a strong start with 13 receptions for 179 yards and three touchdowns in wins over Mississippi and Charleston Southern but had been held to six catches for 80 yards in the past four.

Rudolph's performance — which is the fourth-best receiving game in Florida State history — offset an ugly game as both teams combined for seven turnovers.

FSU continued on 7B

SEC

Stunner between the hedges: Vandy upsets UGA

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Vanderbilt claimed its first Southeastern Conference road win in Derek Mason's three seasons as coach, stunning Georgia 17-16 on Khari Blasingame's 2-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter and a huge fourth-down stop late in the game Saturday.

The Bulldogs (4-3, 2-3 SEC) held a commanding lead in total yards, 421-171, but special teams blunders doomed the home team and left rookie coach Kirby Smart facing plenty of questions heading into an off week.

"Sickening," Smart said.

For Vanderbilt (3-4, 1-3), it was only the third win over Georgia in the last 22 meetings between the SEC East rivals. Mason had dropped his first nine league road games before the upset between the hedges.

"I told our young men this morning that if we wanted to do something epic, we needed to make sure we took the fight to them," Mason said. "That's exactly what I thought our kids did. I thought our kids played 60 minutes, four quarters, every play. It wasn't always pretty, but that's part of who we are. We work to be relentless, we work to be tough, we work to be intelligent."

Georgia finally went ahead for the first time early in the third quarter on Jacob Eason's 17-yard touchdown pass to Isaac Nauta. The Bulldogs added their third field goal, stretching the lead to 16-10 with just under 14 minutes remaining.

But Vanderbilt responded with its only extended drive of the game, going 75 yards on eight plays to reclaim the lead when Blasingame powered over with 9:43 to go. The big play was a screen pass on third-and-12 that Ralph Webb took for a 37-yard gain to the Bulldogs 11.

Georgia's final drive was extended by Eason's 23-yard pass to Terry Godwin on fourth-and-13, but the Bulldogs couldn't

convert when facing fourth-and-1 at the Vandy 41. In a puzzling move, the Bulldogs didn't go with either of their star runners — Nick Chubb and Sony Michel — and instead pitched the ball to receiver Isaiah McKenzie after he dropped back into the tailback position.

McKenzie was thrown down about a foot shy of the first-down marker by Vandy linebacker Zach Cunningham, who finished with a staggering 19 tackles.

"We felt good about the play," McKenzie said. "Even though they called the timeout and made some adjustments, we still felt good about it. A guy came from the blind side and tackled me. He made a good play."

CHAMPS

Continued From 1B

looked like the Tigers had a shot after an early score by running back and FSU commit Charles Strong gave Union County the lead.

The Indians quickly answered back with their own touchdown though after quarterback DJ Jackson threw a 32-yard pass to Showers for the score.

In the second quarter, Pelham put the Indians on the board again with another touchdown. However, a second touchdown by Strong put the score at 14-12 going into halftime, with the Indians up by two.

For the Tigers, those points would be the last they scored all game.

"We talked about when you face adversity and how you fight through it," Jackson said. "We were facing adversity in the first half. We had some things we felt we could've done better. We kind of got some penalties from behind the chain but we overcame it in

the second half."

With two back-to-back rushing touchdowns by DJ Jackson in the third quarter, and then a 15-yard receiving touchdown by senior Bryson Brady in the fourth, the Indians led 34-12.

While making a last-stitch effort to score, Union County's quarterback was sacked twice at the end of the fourth quarter, once by Pelham and once by sophomore Corey Dryden. The Indians took the game and the district championship 34-12.

DJ Jackson went 12 for 18 with 180 passing yards. Pelham led the Indians offense with 96 rushing yards, followed by Jackson with 67 and senior Dedrick Vanover with 48.

The Indians have a short week this week as they face Eastside on Wednesday in Gainesville. Until then, Fort White is going to soak up their latest victory.

"We're going to enjoy this," Coach Jackson said. "We'll see how it goes next week and just enjoy this win."



Fort White's Kalin Timmons (5) stiff arms an Union County defender during Friday night's district matchup. The Indians captured their second-straight district title by defeating the Fightin' Tigers. DONNY JOINER/Special to the Reporter

FWHS FOOTBALL



Fort White linebackers CJ McCoy (6) and Daniel D'Antonio (22) tackle Union County running back Charles Strong (2) during the game Friday night. DONNY JOINER/Special to the Reporter

Stopping Mr. Strong

By KAYLA LOKEINSKY
kloekinsky@lakecityreporter.com

In Fort White's 34-12 victory over Union County on Friday, the Indians' defense had one important goal when they walked onto the field: stop Charles Strong.

The Tigers' star running back and FSU commit rushes for an average of 130 yards per game, more than double the total of any of his teammates.

However, the Indians held Strong to under 100 yards in the district game, which played a major role in securing the win. In total, the Tigers rushed for a team total of 122 yards.

"We knew we had a good defense," Fort White head coach Demetric Jackson said. "Charles is a good running back. You know Florida State offered him for a reason. But we have a good running back too, so we kind of put a challenge on Jacquez and said, 'Hey, show them what you can do tonight.' He came out and he did a great job."

Indians' running back and defensive lineman Jacquez Pelham went one-on-one against Strong whenever he went on defense.

"I was focused on him," Pelham said. "I

told myself, 'Stop him, stop him, wrap his legs, wrap him up. Do whatever you need to do to stop him.'"

Early in the first half it looked like Fort White was going to have a hard time containing Strong after he came out the gate early in the first quarter and rushed 19 yards for the first touchdown of the game, giving the Tigers an early lead.

Union County relied heavily on Strong in Friday's game, frequently handing off the ball to the junior running back and having him barrel down the middle of the field. However, after his second touchdown in the second quarter, Strong did not score another point all game.

"Our defense, they swung to the ball and hit on Charles Strong pretty good," Jackson said.

Fort White's defense not only held off the Tigers' running backs, put also ground down Union County's passing game. Tigers' starting quarterback Tyrus Cook went 2 for 11 with one interception by Indians' linebacker Dylan Cason.

Although the Indians performed well on both ends of the field, it was their defense that won this game.

PREP SPORTS

School apologizes for 'Hitler' play

Associated Press

GREENWICH, Conn. — The headmaster of a Connecticut high school has apologized after its football team named one of its plays "Hitler."

Chris Winters, of Greenwich High School, issued the apology Friday. He called the designation inappropriate and offensive and said the practice has been stopped.

A mother from the town of Trumbull told the Connecticut Post (<http://bit.ly/2denmBG>) her son's freshman football team was playing Greenwich on Thursday when the players charged onto the field shouting "Hitler." The newspaper reported the signal for the play was an index finger laid across

the upper lip.

Debbie Levison told the newspaper her son was angry when he came off the field and told her why. When she asked the coach, he confirmed that they use a play named "Hitler."

"My grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins perished at the hands of Hitler," Levison said Friday. "My father and mother suffered unspeakable atrocities during the Holocaust. So yes, I'm outraged."

The newspaper reported the play had been in use for years. Levison said she could not understand how other adults had never intervened.

The football team and coaches met Friday with

the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League to make sure they understand why it was offensive. Steve Ginsburg, executive director of the group, said he viewed it as a time when education was needed.

"There was a lack of understanding. This is not a situation where there was any intent to intimidate, or anti-Semitism or anything like that," he said.

Levison said the principal and athletic director personally called her to apologize, and they seemed sincere.

"I think this is symptomatic of the general blurring of lines in our country of what is right and what is wrong," she said.

Coach gunned down at practice

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE — A volunteer youth-football league coach was gunned down just moments after he had brought cookies and Gatorade to his team after a practice at a Fort Lauderdale park.

The Sun Sentinel of South Florida reports that 43-year-old Dave Williams died from multiple gunshot wounds.

Hundreds of athletes, parents, cheerleaders and coaches were at the park at the time of the fatal shooting Thursday night. No one else was injured.

Jamaal Gaines, president of the Fort Lauderdale Hurricanes youth football club, said he doesn't know why

Williams appeared to be targeted.

Fort Lauderdale police officers were asking for the public's help in identifying the gunman. Police officers said Williams was approached by several men before the shooting, and they were seen running away.

"It's a sad day," Gaines said. "I feel so bad that it happened around what we were trying to do for the children in our city."

"We're doing a great job for the community," Gaines added. "I pray this doesn't impact the program."

The Hurricanes are in the process of planning events to remember Williams, said Martin Maultsby, president

of the Florida Youth Football League. The League canceled the all the Hurricanes' games against the Miami Gardens Chiefs that were scheduled to be played this weekend.

"Everything just happened so rapidly, and it's not a norm or common. It's an anomaly," Maultsby said. "This is not the place for this kind of violence. I've been in (youth football) for over 20 years, and this is the first one."

Williams told a group of children to run when he saw men with guns walking towards him at Mills Pond Park in Fort Lauderdale on Thursday night, local network WPLG-TV reported.