

Nobody asked me, but ...



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Time is ticking at CHS

Being raised in an only-child household like anything else has its pros and cons, I myself, certainly have experienced both ends of that wide spectrum.

Anyway, growing up my dear mother, who found any excuse to challenge me, would regularly spill these old-timey phrases. At least once a day, she would utter one of those folksy expressions — ones that you legally can't say without being over 40 years or older.

But there's one I hardly can forget, one she told me every time I was in jeopardy.

"This is where the rubber meets the road," she always said.

At nine years old, I didn't know what that meant. Heck, I still was trying to figure what it meant when I was 17.

But that ol' saying is timeless — a phrase anyone with their back against the wall can understand. The Columbia Tigers can totally relate.

Thursday night's collapse was one they won't forget, and for all the wrong reasons.

Columbia suffered a second-straight regular season loss for the first time since 2011. The Tigers relinquished their longtime win-streak over Buchholz.

Columbia's offense had its moments against the Bobcats, yet remains unconvincing entering the fourth week of the season.

An unsettling feeling for Tiger fans as Columbia kicks off district play next week. This is where the rubber meets the road for the hometown Tigers.

Do or die.
Columbia hosts Robert E. Lee — the toast of Jacksonville this year — in a highly-anticipated district matchup Friday night.

This is a must win for the Tigers, no doubt about it.

Columbia coach Brian Allen has never fallen three times in a row in his career. If his team does take another defeat this week, it will be trouble for Columbia as they're likely to be in an uphill battle throughout the rest of district play.

The Tigers must come prepared against an extremely hungry Lee team. And I am sure Columbia will be. Losing to Buchholz in the final seconds caused double the heartache than being routed by Trinity Christian last weekend.

The Tigers' head coach also saw a different attitude following Thursday night's loss.

"Absolutely," Allen said. "I saw something completely different than what I saw [last] Saturday. This thing actually meant something. Guys who played their tails off, who are hurt, invested in their efforts put forth in this contest. You saw that

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Florida 45, Kentucky 7

Gators crush Kentucky

Florida gets first SEC win of the season.

By KAYLA LOKEINSKY
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GAINESVILLE — There were a lot of firsts in the Gators' game against Kentucky.

On Saturday night at The Swamp, three Gators scored the first touchdowns of their careers with the University of Florida.

Starting quarterback Luke Del Rio threw for 320 yards, marking the first time a Gator quarterback racked up over 300 passing yards in a game since 2013, when Tyler Murphy had 305 against Vanderbilt.

Kicker and new fan-favorite Eddy Pineiro kicked his first 54-yard field goal, a career high for the rookie.

With stats like these, it looks like the Gator offense finally caught up to their defense.

Florida walked away with a 45-7 win against the Wildcats.

However, this was not a first-time win for the Gators (2-0) against fellow Southeastern Conference opponent Kentucky (0-2). Florida defeated the Wildcats for the 30th consecutive time, a streak that is the longest for one FBS program against another. The Gators last lost to the Wildcats in 1986.

For the Gators, Del Rio went 19 for 32 with four touchdowns and one interception.

While Del Rio and company had a stellar offensive performance, it was once again Florida's defense that shined. The Gator defense held Kentucky to a total of 94 rushing yards and 55 receiving yards.

The Gators were able to grind Kentucky's starting quarterback Drew Barker down to a halt, allowing no touchdowns during his two and a half quarters of play. In all, Barker had three interceptions, was sacked four times, and went 2 for 10 with a total of only 10 passing yards.

The Gators earned their way onto the scoreboard late in the first quarter thanks to a three-yard touchdown run by running back Mark Thompson. The touchdown was his



COURTESY

Florida running back Mark Thompson celebrates after scoring a touchdown in Saturday's game against Kentucky. Thompson racked up the first touchdown of the game for the Gators off a three-yard run. The red-shirt junior had a total of 59 rushing yards in Saturday's victory over the Wildcats.

first as a Florida Gator.

Later in the first quarter, Wildcat quarterback Barker had a pass intercepted by Florida cornerback Quincy Wilson, giving the Gators possession of the ball. On the next play, Del Rio threw a 78-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Antonio Callaway. With the extra point, Florida was up 14-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Callaway had a total of 129 receiving yards on five receptions, nearly three times more than any other Gator in this game.

The second quarter is when Pineiro showed off his golden toe with a 54-yard field goal. The stadium rocked with chants of "Eddy! Eddy!" as his teammates surrounded him to celebrate his career-long

GATORS continued on 4B



COURTESY

Florida quarterback Luke Del Rio looks to pass in Saturday's game. Del Rio was 19 for 32 with four touchdowns and 320 passing yards.

Fort White 48, Hamilton County 0

Indians shut out Trojans

Fort White gets second win of the week.

By ERIC JACKSON
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FORT WHITE — JacQuez Pelham was in midseason form.

The junior ballcarrier gained chunks of yardage time and time again versus a depleted Hamilton County defense. Fort White's bruising running back led the charge, recording a season-high 143 rushing yards on 11 carries Friday night.

"It's a good and exciting feeling knowing we're entering a bye week with

a win," Pelham said. "I think we're still building into a playoff team. There are still little things we could fix before we think about going to state."

Pelham tallied three touchdowns and

anchored Fort White's near-perfect first half. The Indians never looked back after half-time, cruising to a 48-0 rout over non-conference

INDIANS continued on 4B



CHRISTINA FEAGIN/Special to the Reporter

Fort White running back JacQuez Pelham sheds a tackle against Hamilton County Friday night.



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reflect at the end of the game and we're going to build from that."

If getting obliterated by reigning state champs isn't motivating, losing to

Buchholz — a team the Tigers could've finished off by halftime — should be.

The Lee Generals are ready for a fight. The Tigers need to find their mojo quick.

Time is running out. Tick. Tock.



Columbia cornerback Taurean Hill (32) makes a move on a kickoff return against the Bobcats. Buchholz defeated Columbia Thursday.



Columbia safety Alec Norton (11) celebrated with teammates after an interception. The Tiger's defense tallied six interceptions in a losing effort against the Bobcats.

Photos by BRENT KUTKENDALL/Special to the Reporter



Buchholz running back Torrey Richardson Jr. (1) is tackled by a pack of Tigers Thursday night.



Columbia wide receiver Noah Ruise (83) sheds a tackle during the first half. Buchholz defeated Columbia for the first time since 2007 Thursday night.

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foe Hamilton County at Arrowhead Stadium.

Fort White recorded its largest margin of victory since Demetric Jackson took over as head coach a decade ago. The lopsided win capped an impressive week for the Indians, which began with a comeback victory over Suwannee Monday night.

"It feels good to get two wins in one week," Jackson said. "The guys practiced well and took a professional approach to this game. They didn't get a big head after beating Suwannee. They came out humble, worked hard and I am proud of them."

Hamilton County had no answer for Fort White's offense Friday night. The Indians (2-1) scored on each of their seven possessions en route to their second-straight win over the Trojans (0-2). It was Fort White's biggest win over Hamilton since 2012.

"I think it was our guys' mindset to stay focused and come out aggressive," Jackson said of his offense. "I give credit to the players for staying focused and executing the game plan."

Fort White quarterback DJ Jackson threw for 114 yards including a nine-yard touchdown completion to wide receiver Shannon Showers. But it was the Indians' run game that wore the Trojans' down, extending their 34-0 lead after halftime.

While Pelham got some rest during garbage time, speedster running back Corey Dryden picked up where Pelham left off.

Dryden, who made his season debut, rushed for 58 yards and two touchdowns.

The backup running back's five-yard score early

in the fourth — the lone touchdown of the final quarter — put the contest further out of reach.

"We're going to enjoy this win and not take it for granted," the sophomore said. "We're going to go back to practice, work on some stuff and get right."

Back-to-back wins have the Indians feeling confident heading into their bye week. Fort White looks to iron out a few more wrinkles before traveling to Jacksonville to face University Christian (1-1) on Sept. 23.

"We need to get some things tightened up," nose tackle Jabari Rivers said.

University Christian beat Fort White 35-13 at Arrowhead Stadium last season.

"We got to get ready for them," Showers said. "Hamilton County played us tough, but we know what University Christian brings to the table. We'll be ready."



Fort White quarterback DJ Jackson looks downfield against the Trojans. Jackson finished with 114 passing yards and a touchdown.

CHRISTINA FEAGIN/Special to the Reporter



Indians wide receiver Bryson Brady (16) catches a pass during the first half on Friday's game. Fort White defeated Hamilton County 48-0.

CHRISTINA FEAGIN/Special to the Reporter

GATORS

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kick.

Also in the second quarter, Del Rio threw a five-yard pass to wide receiver Brandon Powell for another Gator touchdown, leaving Kentucky scoreless and Florida up 24-0 going into halftime.

Freshman wide receiver Freddie Swain got his first touchdown of his career early in the third quarter, thanks to a 26-yard pass from Del Rio. Also in the third, running back Jordan Scarlett racked up another touchdown for the Gators off of a four-yard run, putting them up by 38 going into the final quarter.

In the fourth quarter,

another freshman, running back Lamical Perine, scored his first career touchdown for the Gators off a 28-yard pass from Del Rio. Perine had 105 rushing yards and 28 receiving yards in his SEC opener.

After Del Rio recorded his 320th passing yard, backup quarterback Austin Appleby came in to finish out the game.

With less than five minutes left to play, it looked like it was going to be a shutout. Then, with just under four minutes to go, Kentucky running back Jojo Kemp carried the ball two yards into the end zone for the Wildcat's first score of the game.

The Gators take on North Texas next Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.



Florida wide receiver Antonio Callaway runs down the field after catching a pass from quarterback Luke Del Rio in Saturday's game.

COURTESY