

Sports

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ALSO INSIDE: Scoreboard 3B

CAMDEN 40

MARIETTA 17

Camden
suffers loss
on road

By SEBASTIAN EMANUEL
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The Camden County Wildcats suffered their first defeat of the season at the hands of the Marietta Blue Devils, 40-17 Friday night.

Going into the game, the Wildcats (3-1) had been an offensive machine. They progressively scored more points in the three weeks of play.

However, it wasn't showcased at the Northcutt Stadium.

Marietta (2-1) delivered the first punch of the night on a 3rd-and-3 from the Wildcats 41-yard line. Quarterback Tyler Hughes rolled to the right sideline and delivered a beautiful ball to Kamryn Perry who ran right into the end zone untouched.

It was the first time the Wildcats trailed all season and the perfect wake-up call for head coach Jeff Herron's team.

Camden would respond on its second drive of the game. Running back Jamie Felix scored on the hand-off as he walked into the end zone and the Wildcats tied the ball game at 7.

They weren't done yet as Felix scored again, this time from 6-yards out on a motion run. Camden would gain the lead 14-7 with 2:30 to play in the half.

The Blue Devils responded

Please see CAMDEN, 2B

Georgia
pumped for
big crowd

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

ATHENS — Despite a surge in COVID-19 cases and an outbreak within its own program, No. 2 Georgia is thrilled to be playing between the hedges before more than 90,000 red-clad fans.

"It'll be the first time we have a home atmosphere like we expect," coach Kirby Smart said.

Well, at least since the world became engulfed in a pandemic that has claimed more than 600,000 American lives.

Last season, Georgia limited crowds to around 20,000 at sprawling Sanford Stadium. But school officials are returning to business as usual this season, not even requiring masks, vaccinations or negative COVID-19 tests to attend games.

Coming off a huge win over Clemson in the season opener, Georgia's hopes for a bit of normalcy were rocked by Smart's revelations that five players and staff members had tested positive for the virus — even though the Bulldogs have one of the highest vaccination rates in the Southeastern Conference.

No one has been identified other than Ron Courson, the athletic department's longtime medical director. He was unable

Please see UGA, 2B

BRUNSWICK HIGH 52 NEW HAMPTON 24

FALLEN PHOENIX



Derrick Davis/The Brunswick News

Brunswick High players and fans celebrate a victory over New Hampton on Friday at Glynn County Stadium.

BHS crushes New Hampton, improves to 3-0 for first time since 1999

By DERRICK DAVIS
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Offense, defense, special teams — Brunswick High did it all as it built a 21-point lead over New Hampton just seven into the matchup between top 10 teams Friday at Glynn County Stadium.

As it turned out, a contest between the ninth-ranked programs in Class 6A and Class 4A was no contest as the Pirates rolled 52-

24, securing Brunswick's best start since 1999.

"I'm proud of the way we responded," said Pirates head coach Sean Pender. "We knew this was going to be a fight. This team has been putting up 50 points in their last two games, and they get after it. It's a good football team. They have a tremendous quarterback, they've got good receivers, and we knew we had to step up and make plays..."

"Overall, I'm proud of the way

we played. I think every position was pretty solid."

Brunswick (3-0) got major contributions from all three phases throughout the evening as it handily disposed of a New Hampton program ranked for the first time in program history. The Phoenix (3-1) entered the contest unbeaten, having outscored its opponents 142-18.

The Pirates were unfazed.

A 78-yard kick return by Terry Mitchell to open the game set up

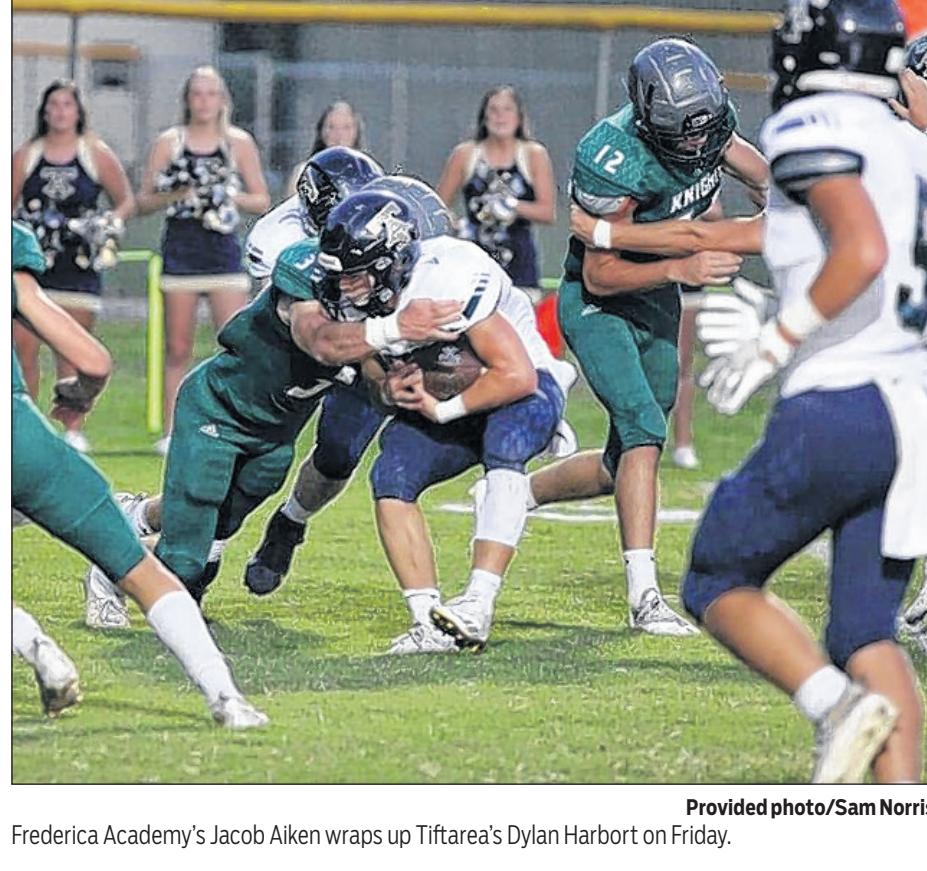
a 4-yard touchdown run for Ree Simmons on BHS' first play from scrimmage and began an avalanche that buried New Hampton from the jump.

On the ensuing possession, a pass by Phoenix quarterback Paul Seeley was batted into the air and picked off by Staffon Stanley inside opposing territory. Following a 25-yard catch-and-run by Kevin Thomas, Brunswick

Please see BHS, 2B

TIFFAREA ACADEMY 29 FREDERICA ACADEMY 7

Frederica drops second straight in loss to Tiftarea



Provided photo/Sam Norris

Frederica Academy's Jacob Aiken wraps up Tiftarea's Dylan Harbort on Friday.

By SEBASTIAN EMANUEL
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From start to finish, the Tiftarea Academy Panthers had their way with the Frederica Academy Knights by a score of 29-7.

Tiftarea's (2-1) dual-threat quarterback Dylan Harbort had himself a night on both sides of the ball.

Harbort went 10-for-14 for 155 yards, two touchdowns, and one interception. On the ground, he rushed for 145 and two scores.

Going into the matchup, Frederica's head coach Brandon Derrick knew how much of a focal point Harbort would be for the Panthers in the game.

"He's an athlete," Derrick said postgame. "He bought some time when they scored their third touchdown. We lost him in coverage back there."

On Harbort's two passing touchdowns, the defen-

sive coverage broke down during the play, as there were miscommunications about who was covering the open receivers.

"We had a blown coverage there, we switched off on it wrong," Derrick said. "One guy thought he had him and one guy didn't. We had a blown coverage on that one. He's a great athlete and they are well-coached."

It wasn't Frederica's night as the Knights (1-2) struggled to get the Panther's offense off the field and failed to march down the field efficiently.

In the first half alone, the Knights had 36 total yards of offense and failed to cross the 50-yard line for more than one play.

The bright play in the first-half struggle was Bryce Reilly's interception on Harbort's last-second pass. Reilly ran it back into

Please see FA, 2B

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Sports

Big 12 expands to welcome BYU, UCF, Cincinnati and Houston

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

BYU, UCF, Cincinnati and Houston joined the Big 12 Conference on Friday and the league said it has not ruled out further expansion in the future as it prepares for the departures of Oklahoma and Texas.

The eight continuing members of the Big 12 unanimously approved applications from the four schools that sought membership after the league learned the Sooners and Longhorns will leave for the Southeastern Conference no later than July 2025.

Within hours after the Big 12 vote, all four schools had

formally accepted the invitations. BYU said all its sports will begin Big 12 schedules in the 2023-24 athletic season. BYU is an independent in football, but competes in the West Coast Conference for basketball and so-called Olympic sports like track and swimming.

Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said current American Athletic Conference teams UCF, Cincinnati and Houston will join no later than July 1, 2024, but he "certainly wouldn't foreclose" on the possibility of them coming in a year earlier with BYU.

The AAC requires members to give 27 months' notice if they plan to leave the league, though there could be negotiations between the schools

and that league to reduce that time. AAC Commissioner Mike Aresco said the league expected Houston, Cincinnati and UCF to "abide by the conference bylaws to ensure an amicable and orderly transition" as the league considers its options.

"Today's news confirms what we have said all along regarding our status as a power conference," Aresco said. "The irony that three of our schools are being asked to take the place of the two marquee schools which are leaving the Big 12 is not lost on us. Our conference was targeted for exceeding expectations in a system that wasn't designed to accommodate our success."

After identifying its primary expansion targets last week, the Big

12 moved quickly to make it happen. The four schools were among 11 interviewed by the league in 2016 when it considered expansion before staying at 10 teams.

Bowlsby described that process five years ago as "a voyage of exploration," but said the decision by Texas and Oklahoma to leave prompted renewed consideration of available options. He also said the league could someday be open to further expansion.

BYU President Kevin Worthen said the Big 12's expansion study five years ago made the process much faster and easier this time. Cougars athletic director Tom Holmoe said that failed attempt to get into the Big 12 turned out to be

a "launching point."

The Longhorns and Sooners have said they will honor their current contracts with the Big 12 and do not plan to join the SEC until 2025, when the conference's current television rights contracts with ESPN and Fox run out.

If they stay, the Big 12 could have up to 14 members for at least a season or two.

"We are living in a very fast-changing athletic environment and we will be at 14 for a while," Bowlsby said. "We'll drop back to 12, and as there are targets of opportunity or as there are situations that dictate that we would change composition, we'll be prepared to do those things."

BHS

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extended the advantage to 14-0 on a 3-yard scoring run by Chuckobe Hill.

Once New Hampstead got the ball back, it promptly went three-and-out, and the subsequent punt was blocked by Nick Gray — who also forced and recovered a fumble. Brunswick took over at its 9-yard line after the block, and on the first play, Hill found the end zone once more.

Hill finished the game with 87 rushing yards and three touchdowns on just 11 carries. He also recorded a 28-yard catch. As a team, the Pirates rushed for 252 yards and racked up 391 yards of total offense to 305 yards for the Phoenix.

Trailing by three scores early, New Hampstead turned to Seeley, who entered the game as the Class 4A passing leader with 660 yards, to get the team back into the contest. The Phoenix drove 81 yards in 11 plays to score a touchdown and cut the deficit to 21-8 with 2:27 remaining in the opening quarter.

But New Hampstead just never could slow Brunswick long enough to claw its way back into the game.

It took just eight plays for the Pirates to hit paydirt again when Simmons' second touchdown of the half pushed the lead back to 28-8 with 11:21 in the second quarter. After a New Hampstead three-and-out, Brunswick tacked on a field goal.

The closest the Phoenix got to making it a one-score game came early in the third quarter. A 46-yard touchdown pass on a wheel route got New Hampstead to within 31-16 with 38 seconds until halftime, and upon getting the ball to open the second half, the Phoenix drove to just outside of the red zone with an opportunity to trim the deficit to a touchdown.

But despite three penalties on the Pirates, including a pair of defensive pass interference calls, the Phoenix turned the ball over on downs at its 28-yard line.

Already ranked for the first time since 2017, Brunswick crossed another milestone Friday by getting off to a 3-0 start for the first time since 1999, when the Pirates advanced all the way to the state championship game.

"You keep up with the statistics — I'm just going to do one game at a time," Pender said. "I'm going to enjoy the win tonight; it was a win against a very good football team. I think New Hampstead is a tough team. I think they're going to do very well, but coming here in this environment, we've got a good environment here. We had a great student body. They were fired up. We played well, and we played physical. We were able to capitalize on that physical play, and we executed. It was a good night for us."

passing yards.

"They both deserve opportunities," Pender said of his signal callers. "They both work hard. Neither one real separates themselves in practice, so I'm still giving both opportunities."

"It's worked for us all summer, and it's working for us now. I'm not going to fix what's not broken."

The Pirates are rolling a month into the season, now with two victories over top 10 programs under their belts through three games.

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Camden

Continued from page 1B

right before the end of the half as Hughes found Jeremiah Frederick, who shed two tackles and made his way into the end zone for the 31-yard score.

The teams were tied at 14 heading into the locker room.

Camden would start the

second half off with a 34-yard field goal made by Ian Pederson and regain the lead.

The Blue Devils would respond and show off their high octane offense as they would go on a 26-0 run.

Hughes would scramble out of the pocket and for the five-yard score and give the Blue Devils the lead again.

Marietta's next drive would see Hughes connecting with Perry again for the

27-yard score. The Blue Devils would convert the two-point conversion and give Marietta a lead they would never look back on.

The Blue Devils would tac on a few more scores to increase their lead and give themselves a big 7A victory over the Wildcats.

Camden County will look to bounce back after its first loss of the season next week when they take on Oakleaf (FL) at home.

UGA

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to attend the opening game after testing positive.

"I'm as concerned as I've ever been," Smart said. "People are talking about vaccination. These are people who are vaccinated. We're talking about breakthroughs."

Smart downplayed the situation later in the week, saying his comments were "blown way, way out of proportion."

UAB coach Bill Clark shrugged off the COVID-19 news coming out of Athens, saying it would have

no impact on his team's preparation.

"From a game standpoint, it really doesn't mean a lot to us," he said. "We do not know who that is. It could be non-starters. We will not know that until game time. It is kind of like an injury situation — unless you know a guy is out, it does not affect what we do."

Georgia, which moved up three spots in The Associated Press rankings and now trails only defending national champion Alabama, hasn't lost to a non-Power Five school since 2011.

The Bulldogs (1-0) were a 25 1/2-point favorite over the Blazers (1-0).

"You know, everybody's

been talking about Clemson the past week, but we've been focused on UAB," Georgia offensive lineman Warren McClelland said. "They have a good team."

Some things to watch for Saturday when the Bulldogs host UAB:

STOUT DEFENSE

Even with only four returning starters, Georgia's defense looks like it might be the best in the nation.

The Bulldogs totally shut down Clemson in a 10-3 victory, limiting the Tigers to 180 yards and coming away with seven sacks. Georgia's D even scored the game's only TD on Christopher Smith's 74-yard interception return.

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