

Sports

Knights

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and on the first play of the drive, Thomas Veal connected with Reilly for a 65-yard touchdown pass to make it 7-7. The Knights gained some much-needed momentum, and the defense took over.

Veal finished the game 6-of-11 for 153 yards and one touchdown.

“He made some really good throws at times,” Derrick said. “I thought he did a good job just trying to execute. We missed a couple passes. If you catch a few of those and make a few plays, it might have been a little bit different story — I wouldn’t be dying of a heart attack here at the end of this thing.”

While Tiftarea’s offense found ways to make plays and keep drives alive, Frederica’s defense found ways to get them off the field. Meadows had multiple tackles for loss, and Harbort had a difficult time finding room to run.

“We have leaned on that group all year, and that group always seems to rise to the occasion,” Derrick said. “It’s funny because about seven out of the 11 of them all play offense too, but that defense — they feel comfortable in what we do. They play hard, do a good job, and always rise to the occasion — they always make the play when it has to be made.

“It might not look pretty, but they make it. We’ve batted a ball down over there, and we got a guy — we run him out of bounds, and we do some things, and we have good coverage all the sudden. For 60 yards, we can’t cover anybody, and in the last 15, we cover everybody and do a good job. When it’s time to put on the line, that bunch does a really good job.”

As the defense gaining confidence, the Knights offense was also able to find a little momentum. Veal connected with Mason McGraw a few times, getting the Knights to the 1-yard line. Then Triplett scored Frederica’s final touchdown from two yards out with 7:51 to go in the third quarter.

Even though Frederica made some mistakes throughout the game, they never gave up, and as their mantra goes, it’s heart over talent. Regardless of what class the player was, they had each other’s back and flat out wanted it more than Tiftarea. That perseverance elevated the Knights over the Panthers and allowed them to earn first downs when they needed to and score enough to get the win.

After the game, Derrick was filled with emotions and even teared up a bit when talking about his team.

“That group of kids right there never gives up. When we fumbled the ball, giving them great field position — one of the seniors said, ‘coach, we got this, don’t worry.’ I thought, ‘oh my lord, okay,’ and they did,” Derrick said. “That group never wavers — they just play. We’re not the most talented team, but we play with a lot of heart.

“I tell them that all the time, heart over talent. Right now, we’re playing with an extreme amount of heart, and I tell you, they bout made me have a heart attack. But man, they play hard. Tiftarea is a really good football team, their kids play hard, and they’re well coached. Coach Soliday does a great job with those guys. I’m just happy to be going to play for another state championship.”

Frederica Academy will make its second state championship appearance in three years as the Knights will take on John Milledge Academy next Friday in Macon for the GISA 3A title.

PGA

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a long iron well to the right into the trees for a lost ball. That led to bogey, and he dropped another shot on the 17th that led to a 1-over 72. The cut would not be made until Saturday, though Fowler looked certain to miss by one shot.

With no events left this year, Fowler is likely to fall out of the top 50 in the world for the first time since 2010, his first full year on the PGA Tour. He still is not eligible

for the Masters next April, though he would have three months at the start of next year to either win or get into the top 50 by the end of March.

Koepka, coming off a pair of top 10s in the Houston Open and the Masters, had another 71 and finished at even-par 142. He was in reasonable shape until three-putting from about 8 feet on the par-5 fifth hole for a bogey, his 14th of the round. He made birdie on the par-3 eighth, but will miss by one shot.

Among those still on the course was former U.S.

Amateur champion Andy Ogletree, who turned pro after finishing low amateur at the Masters. Ogletree was at 7 under with three holes remaining.

Grillo made five birdies on the front nine to catch Finau and Hoge, who played in the morning. After a bogey at No. 10, the Argentine hit his stride with his great iron play and ran off three straight birdies.

As it began to get dark, Grillo stuffed a wedge into about 4 feet on the 17th for his ninth birdie of the round, and he elected to finish the 18th after the horn sounded to stop

play because of darkness.

Russell Knox, who had the 18-hole lead after a 65, shot a 69 and was alone in fourth at 8-under 134. The group one shot further back included Kyle Stanley and Joel Dahmen, each with a 67, and Aaron Wise (68).

Finau has been among the top 20 in the world dating to August 2018, even though his lone victory on the PGA Tour remains the Puerto Rico Open in 2016.

“I learned this game doesn’t owe you anything. You’ve got to earn everything you have, earn all your wins,” Finau said.



Derrick Davis/The Brunswick News
Glynn Academy's D'Marion Hayes defends a pass against Langston Hughes during the second round of the playoffs Friday at Glynn County Stadium.

Glynn

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appearance.

Just two plays into the game, Langston Hughes struck on a double pass that went for a big gain to set up a touchdown run little more than a minute and a half into the first quarter. The Panthers’ ensuing possession was littered with flags — eight total penalties were accepted on the drive between both teams — but it ended the same way: in the end zone.

Meanwhile, Glynn Academy had its chances, but it just couldn’t make them count.

The Terrors sputtered out on their

first offensive possession and turned the ball over on downs just outside the red zone, and they were forced to punt near midfield on the next drive.

But Glynn Academy received a spark soon after. Just when it looked as if Hughes would march down to score its third touchdown on as many drives, Tyler Devin jumped in front of a pass to record an interception at the goal line.

Finally with some momentum, the Terrors moved the ball 79 yards on 10 straight run plays until it lost a fumble just at the doorstep of the red zone. After forcing a three-and-out, Glynn Academy had one more chance to get points before halftime, but a pass sailed over the head of an open receiver near the goal line to squander the best opportunity.

Still, the second half appeared poised to be a gritty, hard-fought affair. In lieu of that, Hughes secured its first trip to the quarterfinals in the program’s 11-year history.

It’s back to the drawing board for a Glynn Academy program looking to return to the form that saw the Terrors advance past the second round for four straight seasons from 2014-17.

“I’ve got mommies telling their kid they can’t play tonight because they’ve got sniffles, then moms pulling them out because they’ve got bruised hands,” Hidalgo said. “We deal with enough stuff around here with the kids that want to be here and play here. Culturally, we’ve got a lot of issues to deal with, not just with our kids, but our parents too.”

WHEN IT COMES TO **STROKE**

BE FAST CALL 911

Any one of these sudden **SIGNS** could mean **STROKE**

BALANCE

Watch for sudden loss of balance

EYES

Check for vision loss

FACE

Look for an uneven smile

ARM

Check if one arm is weak

SPEECH

Listen for slurred speech

TIME

Call **911** right away

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