

Sports

Page 1B // The Brunswick News // Friday, September 30, 2022

BRUNSWICK 56
GROVETOWN 39

BHS wins
shootout vs.
Grovetown

By DERRICK DAVIS
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Brussels High lit up the scoreboard for the third straight week, but it wasn't all smooth sailing for the Pirates in their first game outside Glynn County this season.

Hitting the road just five days following an emotional victory in the City Championship game, Brussels (6-0, 2-0) added another Region 2-6A win to its ledger in a wild 56-39 contest against Grovetown (3-3, 0-2) on Wednesday at the War Zone.

The Pirates led 42-18 at halftime, but a handful of turnovers and miscues allowed the Warriors to close to within 49-33 of their new region rival with more than a quarter left to play.

Ultimately, Brussels made the timely plays down the stretch to extend its regular-season winning streak to 18 games.

"Hats off to our guys for making the trip up here on short notice, two days of practice, just for coming out," said BHS head coach Garrett Grady. "We had to keep playing through a lot of adversity. I think they did a great job, but we definitely got some things we have to address come Sunday."

Please see BHS, 2B

MCINTOSH 20

ATKINSON CO. 8

MCA rolls to
victory over
Atkinson Co.

THE BRUNSWICK NEWS

Having a short turnaround following their win over Bradwell Institute, the No. 10 ranked McIntosh County Buccaneers closed out their non-region play with a convincing win over Atkinson County 20-8.

Like most southeast schools, the Buccaneers had two days to prepare and MCA head coach Bradley Warren saw his team struggle to contain the football, turning the ball over four times.

"I think the short week played a lot into our focus," Warren said. "It was very difficult to prepare on two days worth of work, usually you get four. It was very difficult to prepare, it was a short trip and it was rushed with the hurricane that everyone is worried about. I thought, all in all, we did well with it but we did make some mistakes."

The first turnover was scooped and scored by Tyquavious Williams for the lone touchdown of the game for the Rebels.

Down 8-0 early in the first quarter, the Buccaneers' mind-set flipped after the early deficit.

MCA tied the game midway through the second quarter and quickly took advantage of a

Please see MCA, 2B



**YOUR
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EFFINGHAM COUNTY 31 **GLYNN ACADEMY 14**



Sebastian Emanuel/The Brunswick News

Glynn Academy's Tyler Devlin runs for a touchdown against Effingham County on Wednesday at Glynn County Stadium.

**Glynn falls in battle
vs. Effingham County**

By SEBASTIAN EMANUEL
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On the game's opening drive, the Terrors marched down the field with a six-play 67-yard drive that resulted in a quarterback keeper by Tyler Devlin for the 11-yard score.

Leading 7-0, the Terrors had a lead that was short-lived as the Rebels used their two offensive stars to tie the game up on their first play from scrimmage.

Quarterback Nathan Hayes connected with wide receiver Keion Wallace on a deep ball for an 80-yard catch and ran to tie the game. Wallace broke two tackles on the way to the end zone, highlighting a long

Coming off the emotional loss in the City Championship to Brussels High last week, Glynn Academy came into Wednesday's game with a chip on its shoulder to not only snap a three-game losing streak but to earn its first region win of the season

Please see GLYNN, 2B

TATTNALL SQUARE 42 **FREDERICA ACADEMY 18**

PUTTING IN THE WORK



Derrick Davis/The Brunswick News

Frederica Academy's Jordan Triplett carries the ball against Tattnall Square on Wednesday.

Frederica Academy fights tough, falls to Tattnall Square



Derrick Davis/The Brunswick News

By DERRICK DAVIS
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A gauntlet run continued for Frederica Academy on Wednesday as Tattnall Square traveled to St. Simons on a shortened week and handed the Knights a 42-18 defeat.

It's been one powerhouse after another for Frederica over the past three weeks, beginning with a road contest against three-time reigning GIAA state champion John Milledge, continuing on with eight-time GHSA state champion Clinch County, and finally concluding with a midweek matchup against a Tattnall Square program that's done its fair share of winning in both leagues.

This year the Warriors returned

to the GIAA, where the program won back-to-back Class 3A titles in 2006-07, but the GHSA is no stranger to Tattnall Square, which has won nine more championships in the public sector since 1988, the most recent coming in 2011.

Though Frederica put forth a strong effort, especially in the second half, Tattnall Square was too much for a Knights team still battling youth and inexperience at a number of positions.

"I think for us, it's a learning curve," said Frederica head coach Brandon Derrick. "We've got a lot of young kids, got a lot of guys playing different positions on defense — you can definitely tell it at times."

Please see FA, 2B

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Sports

Glynn

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night it would be to contain Effingham's offense.

Obtaining a short field after a squib kick to their 42-yard line, Glynn's offense went two steps forward and one step back. After three straight keepers on option reads by Devlin for 19 yards, the offense had a rough snap that resulted in a loss of 8 yards. On the ensuing play, Devlin connected with David Prince over the middle for a 25-yard catch to put Glynn just outside the red zone.

Unfortunately, two plays later, Devlin threw his first of three interceptions on the night as he overthrew running back Greg Peacock in the end zone.

After both sides punted, Effingham's offense executed a 12-play drive from their own 22 with Hayes converting a big third down with his arm and eventually splitting the defense for an 8-yard touchdown run to put his team up 14-7.

Effingham extended its lead with another long drive to drain the Terrors' defense into poor tackling. Although the touchdown was negated for a holding

penalty, Ashley Thompson caught a short pass in the middle of the field and broke several tackles as he made his way down to the end zone. With their heads hung low, head coach Rocky Hidalgo ran onto the field to pump life into his team to show the play was negated and they are still in the game.

"The idea about keeping mindsets happy that's not what we are trying to do, we are trying to coach them," Hidalgo said after the loss. "The kids played really hard tonight, we just got to improve on a lot of stuff. We have a lot of kids that haven't done this at all. It is a reality so you don't just plug people in there. This is a learning process for a lot of really young kids and a lot of kids who never played football before in high school. It just is what it is. It's unfortunate. I think our kids are playing hard, we just have to do a better job of coaching."

On the following play, Hayes used his strong arm to find Noah Reese in single coverage for a 40-yard catch to put the team in Glynn's half of the field. Using his feet once again, Hayes kept the read option and made his way through the defense before cutting back to the left side of the



Sebastian Emanuel/The Brunswick News

Glynn's David Prince comes down with the touchdown catch in the teams 31-14 loss to Effingham.

field at an angle towards the pylon for the 28-yard rushing touchdown.

Down 21-7, Glynn returned to the field with a few positive plays. After being sacked for an 11-yard loss, Devlin connected with Prince for a 54-yard catch on a seam route. Two plays later, the two connected yet again for a 20-yard screen play before Prince fumbled at the 3-yard line. A roughing the passer call negated the turnover, but

two plays later the Rebels defense took advantage of a no-call. Dropping back to pass, Devlin found Prince in single coverage and hand fighting with Reese in the end zone, the ball bounced off Prince's chest as he was falling to the ground. Reese picked off the ball and ran it back to Glynn's 34 with less than two minutes to play before the half.

Glynn's defense stood tall in the final minutes with Da'Vontae Lang picking up

a sack with three seconds left to force Effingham to attempt a 47-yard field goal as the clock expired. Shanking his kick right of the goal post, Glynn had hope down 21-7.

Starting the second half on the defensive side of the ball, the Terrors' defense put Peacock in at cornerback to use his explosive abilities to keep Wallace in bay in the second half.

Forcing a three-and-out, Glynn's offense opened its second half with Peacock taking a pitch from the left side of the field and cutting back to the right with Prince throwing in a key block to give Peacock space to run down the sideline for a 63-yard carry, before being pushed out of bounds at the three-yard line.

Only needing 3 yards to get into the end zone, it took four plays and two penalties before a fourth-and-goal touchdown was scored. With the ball on the 8-yard line, Devlin lobbed up a ball to the back of the end zone for Prince in single coverage. Using his 6-foot-5 frame, Prince came down with the touchdown to cut the Terrors' deficit to 21-14.

Always having an answer, Effingham pushed its lead back to a two-score game after an 8-play

drive resulted in a chip shot field goal from Jonah Strickland. Glynn's defense held firm after allowing a 48-yard rush by Hayes to put the Rebels in the red zone before stopping three straight running plays to give up the field goal to be down 24-14.

Turning the ball over on downs deep inside their half, Glynn caught a break with Strickland missing his second field goal of the game to start the fourth quarter.

Returning to the field, Glynn's offense turned the ball over for the fourth time as Wallace jumped the wheel route intended for Peacock.

Having a short field once again, the Rebels' offense took advantage of turnovers as Jayden Evans barreled his way in for an 11-yard touchdown to push the Rebels' lead to 31-14.

Glynn's offense tried to get back into the game but missed blocks and negative plays hurt the chances of a comeback.

With schools closed for the rest of the week, Coach Hidalgo kept it short with his team telling them to be ready for Monday's afternoon practice unless they hear otherwise from him.

"We got to go back to practice and keep working," Hidalgo said.

FA

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Tattnall Square fielded a short opening kickoff and returned it for the score, and it was an early look at the athletic advantage the Warriors possessed. Frederica managed to move down field on the ensuing possession, capping the eight-play, 74-yard drive on Jordan Triplett's 2-yard touchdown run to draw back to within 7-6 after the failed 2-point conversion, but the Knights just couldn't come up with enough stops over the first two quarters.

A 42-yard touchdown run by 5-foot-10, 205-pound Cameron Person on Tattnall's first offensive possession extended its lead to 14-6 with 8:05 remaining in the first quarter before the Warriors closed the period with another score on the tail of a 57-yard run down inside the 5.

Again, Frederica responded with another eight-play drive producing a Triplett touchdown run, but Tattnall would ultimately take a 35-12 advantage into the locker room for halftime.

"The learning curve is a challenge right now, especially when you've got freshmen playing places

and sophomores playing in different places," Derrick said. "We had to move guys around that are juniors that have been playing D-line or playing linebackers, safeties, all the other stuff. We put in a new defense Monday this week, and I thought we were in those spots a lot, but we're not used to playing in those spots."

Despite the inexperience, injuries and fatigue that comes with playing their third game against a premier program in 13 days, the Knights dug deep and put forth a strong fight in the second half.

Upon taking the kickoff to open the third quarter, Frederica pinned Tattnall Square at its own 10-yard line, and a few plays later, Burns McKeown picked off a pass to give the Knights possession in plus territory.

Frederica soon found itself facing 4th-and-long though, that is, until Sutton Ellis connected with Hayes Carter on a 17-yard pass down to the 2-yard line, where Triplett punched in his third score of the game on the ensuing play.

Now trailing 35-18, the Knights sent Mary Ford Fitzjurls onto the field to execute a perfectly placed onside kick against an unsuspecting Tattnall Square.

The ball bounced just past the 10-yard mark where Frederica was set up for the recovery.

With the ball at midfield and a chance to put some pressure on Tattnall Square down the stretch, Frederica Academy picked up a first down on three straight runs by Triplett before three consecutive negative plays forced the Knights to punt from their side of the field.

A few plays later, Person broke off a 50-yard touchdown run with 1:10 remaining in the third quarter to effectively salt away the game for the Warriors.

Frederica embarked on another long drive that came to an end on a turnover, and then turned Tattnall Square over again on a fumble recovery by Esai Hernandez as both teams went scoreless in the fourth quarter.

Although the scoreboard may not entirely reflect it, the Knights were content with the progress made in the second half of the contest.

"We went in down 35-12, and we ended up getting beat 42-18," Derrick said. "It was 7-6 to the second half, and we literally let (Person) score twice on two traps where we had him tackled both times in the backfield, and then we gave up a kickoff return. If you're

able to take away those 21 points, and when you look back at, you can take those away and make them do something else.

"That's a really good football team. They're really good, they've got a really good program. I thought their kids battled hard."

It's been a tough road for Frederica on its current four-game slide, but there have been some encouraging signs as well.

Derrick believes his team is close to a turnaround as it continues to string together good quarters and halves into full games. With a few extra days to rest up and recover before closing out non-region play next week against Robert Toombs, Frederica can make a run similar to a year ago when the program started 1-4 before winning three of its final four to qualify for the postseason.

"Our goals are still intact," Derrick said. "We can still win the region if we do what we're supposed to do, and play the way we're capable of playing. I hope that's what we're able to do."

"We're going to go to work, and we're going to try to reach our goal of winning a region championship and putting ourselves in the playoffs."

BHS

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The Pirates entered the contest having scored 104 points over the previous two games, and a short week caused by Hurricane Ian did nothing to slow the offense.

Though quarterback J.R. Elkins tossed three interceptions in the contest, he also passed for 218 yards and five touchdowns, four going to Terry Mitchell as Brunswick built its large first-half lead.

Mitchell finished with five receptions for 143 yards, and Jayden Drayton hauled in a pair of passes that went for 60 yards and a score. Four Brunswick ball carriers combined to run for 208 yards as well, as the Pirates racked up 426 yards of total offense.

"Offensively, we were rolling," Grady said. "Terry had four touchdowns in the first half. Our pass game was really coming along. Offensive line was playing well; we broke a few runs on them. It was just a good mix of everything we were executing."

But for the offensive highs, the Pirates too often hurt themselves with four turnovers that provided life for the Warriors.

Tied for the second-lowest scoring defense in Class 6A at 9.4 points allowed per game entering the contest, Brunswick allowed Grovetown to nearly match the 47 total points it had allowed over the first five games.

"There were a lot of missed tackles and stuff we've got to clean up on special teams, just effort stuff that we've got to handle," Grady said. "I don't think our guys aren't trying, but it was really a

wakeup call for us. We've got to come ready to practice Monday."

The Black Flag still made plays when it needed to though.

Linebacker J'Shawn Towns made a couple more big plays amid his breakout sophomore season, including his first career interception, which he returned 56 yards for a score just before half.

"J'Shawn Towns had a big interception, a pick-6," Grady said. "He ran it about 50-60 yards or something. He was moving. He had a big hit on the quarterback tonight too that kind of put him out right before the half, and then forced the guy who came in to throw a pick-6. That was a really good effort on his part."

Even as Grovetown made its final desperate push, clawing back to within 16 points in the third quarter, Brunswick's defense was able to close out the contest.

Following an interception near the end zone that gave the Warriors the ball at the 1-yard line, the Black Flag stripped the Grovetown quarterback in the end zone, and linebacker Devin Smith corralled the loose ball for a touchdown for Brunswick's final score of the night.

It wasn't the prettiest victory in the Pirates' current run, but it was one the team can learn from as it pursues its next goal: a region title.

"I take full responsibility for that one," Grady said. "Even though we only had two days prep, you've got to be ready to go. Our guys have got to realize that at any opportunity that we have to play a game, because this might not be the last time this happens to us, you've got to be ready to go on any given night."

MCA

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fumble recovery with two minutes to go before the half.

On the ensuing drive, McIntosh's DeMonte' Stokes continued his stretch of explosive plays for touchdowns as he scored from 41-yard out to give the team a 14-8 lead.

After missing a few

games with an injury, McIntosh's senior captain and running back JaReese Campbell returned to the field and picked up right where he left off. Campbell finished the game rushing for 123 yards and the game's final touchdown.

Having his plethora of offensive options on the offensive side of the ball, Coach Warren said the team overall played pretty well, with the defense highlighting a tremendous road victory in the team's final non-region contest.

McIntosh County will make its return to The Ship well rested and in preparations to open its Class A, Division II against Jenkins County.

"I think we need to rest," Warren said as region play rolls around the corner. "We played on a Friday and a Wednesday, that is a short turnaround. I think the rest for us right now is important and we will get back to work on Monday."

Yankees star Judge ties Maris' AL mark with 61st homer

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A look at Aaron Judge of the New York Yankees as he approaches major home run milestones:

Season HR Total: 61

Wednesday's Game:

Went 1 for 4 with a walk, hitting a tiebreaking two-run homer off Tim Mayza in the seventh inning of the Yankees' 8-3 win at Toronto. Judge continues to lead the American League in batting average (.313), RBIs (130) and home runs in his bid to win the Triple Crown.

Today's Matchup: The Yankees open a three-game series in the Bronx against the Baltimore Orioles.



Nathan Denette/AP

New York Yankees' Aaron Judge and manager Aaron Boone embrace after Judge's 61st home run of the season against the Toronto Blue Jays on Wednesday in Toronto.

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