

Sports

Page 1B // The Brunswick News // Saturday, November 6, 2021

ALSO INSIDE: College Football 3B / Scoreboard 3B

FREDERICA 42
TRINITY 17

Knights earn 1st round bye for playoffs

By SEBASTIAN EMANUEL
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Frederica Academy used a second-half surge to power the Knights to a 42-17 win over Trinity Christian.

Coming into the game, the Knights were playing for a chance to not only finish the regular season .500 but earn a much needed bye week for the first round of the playoffs.

Sitting at 1-4 midway through the season, the players had every right to hang up on the season. Instead, they completely flipped the script on the doubters and marched to a 5-5 record.

Against Trinity, Frederica jumped out to a quick 6-0 lead with quarterback Thomas Veal found receiver Bryce Reilly for a 64-yard touchdown. Inside of the first minute, the Knights were leaving their mark on the field.

Sophomore running back Jordan Triplett added his first of five touchdowns on the night, with a 40-yard run to extend the lead to 12-0.

The Crusaders kept the game close for the entirety of the first half and midway through the third quarter with a 12-9 deficit.

With the Knights getting the ball back and only being up three points, the team turned to Triplett to take over and bring home the win. His 8-yard touchdown was followed by a two-point conversion for Triplett from Veal.

Trinity tried to get back into the game but were pinned deep inside their own half. Trinity's quarterback made an errant pass, right into the hands of Triplett who made his way into the end zone for a 15-yard pick six.

"We took over the game," said Frederica Academy head coach Brandon Derrick about the pick-six that gave the Knights a 28-9 lead.

"The offensive line took over and we started beating them up front a little bit, running the ball. We dictated the game in the second half."

Triplett would score two more times over the course of the five minutes of play and secure a 42-17 victory.

"He played really well, and I thought our guys overall collectively (did)," Derrick said. "I thought our defense settled down in the second half after that one drive where they had one long run, I thought it settled down and took over the game and made a big stop before the half at the goal line...I thought our guys handled adversity pretty well..."



Sebastian Emanuel/The Brunswick News

Glynn Academy's Greg Peacock makes his way down the sideline before being tackled just short of the end zone.

BRUNSWICK HIGH 21 **EFFINGHAM COUNTY 18**

NO SHARING THIS TITLE



Derrick Davis/The Brunswick News

Brunswick High head coach Sean Pender holds up the Region 2-6A championship trophy after the team's win over Effingham County on Friday in Springfield.

Brunswick's defense makes second-half stand to give Pirates the region title

By DERRICK DAVIS
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SPRINGFIELD

The Pirates won their first outright region championship in 12 years Friday in Springfield.

Brunswick High (10-0, 6-0 Region 2-6A) just had to overcome their worst half of football this season to do so, surviving a 21-18 slugfest against Effingham County (7-3, 4-2).

"With it not being shared, it feels really good," said Pirates head coach Sean Pender. "It definitely feels good to get a No. 1 seed also. It's an awesome feeling."

A year ago, a single region loss dropped Brunswick into a three-way share for the region lead, and by virtue of tiebreaker, the Pirates were forced to travel as the third seed.

Brunswick was guaranteed a home playoff game regardless of the outcome in its finale, but winning each week and a region title have been goals for the team all season, and it needed a win over Effingham to accomplish both.

The Rebels developed into a legitimate contender for the region in the first year under head coach John Ford, and they were poised to knock off the Pirates with a second-half surge.

Brunswick allowed an Effingham field goal on the opening drive — the 3-0 deficit was the first time the Pirates have trailed all season — but it looked to find life offensively on its first possession of the second quarter.

Following a Rebel three-and-out and a shanked punt that went for just 9 yards, the Pirates took over on the opponent's 25-yard line. Five runs later, Chuckobe Hill burst into the end zone to put BHS in front 7-3.

After another Effingham three-and-out on the ensuing drive, Brunswick extended its advantage when a 53-yard run by Hill set up an 8-yard touchdown run by Jayden Drayton.

It looked as if the Pirates would run up another big win when after yet another Rebel punt, Brunswick scored on a 51-yard touchdown pass from Jeffery Waye to Terry Mitchell that pushed the lead to 21-3 with 1:21 until



Derrick Davis/The Brunswick News

Brunswick High's KaShawn Thomas and Devin Smith swarm the Effingham County quarterback Friday in Springfield.

halftime.

But that would be the last time the Pirates had momentum on the night.

Brunswick got the ball to open the second half, and after a quick three-and-out, shanked its own 9-yard punt.

Effingham couldn't capitalize on the miscue, turning the ball over on downs, but Brunswick gave up more opportunities.

A second straight Pirates three-and-out concluded in a 4-yard punt. This time, the Rebels moved 48 yards down field to get into the end zone on a 10-yard touchdown run on 4th-and-1.

Still up by 11 points with 5:16 in the third quarter, Brunswick fumbled the ensuing

kickoff back to Effingham at its own 15-yard line. But the Pirates were able to hold the Rebels to a 32-yard field goal attempt, which drifted wide left.

When it got the ball back, Brunswick picked up a couple first downs but was ultimately forced to punt again, and this time the kick was blocked.

Again, Effingham clawed its way into scoring position, and a few minutes into the fourth quarter, the Rebels scored on 4th-and-goal to draw to within three points with more than nine minutes remaining.

Two plays later, Brunswick threw an

Please see BHS, 2B

GLYNN ACADEMY 34 **STATESBORO 7**

Terrors clinch 14th straight playoff berth

By SEBASTIAN EMANUEL
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The Glynn Academy Terrors clinched a spot in the Class 6A state playoffs Friday with an emphatic 34-7 team win over the Statesboro Blue Devils at Glynn County Stadium.

Coming into the game, the Terrors (4-5-1, 3-3) and Blue Devils (5-5, 3-3) were two teams battling for one playoff spot. Brunswick High, Statesboro and Richmond Hill had locked up the first three spots.

The weather was cold and dreary with rain that blew in sideways, leaving fans, players, and coaches bundled up

for an all-important game.

The gravity of the game didn't seem to faze Glynn Academy as they stayed energized and alert throughout the contest.

Kicking things off, the Terrors fed freshman running back Greg Peacock the football but were unable to make the most of the ground game, turning over the ball on downs.

Statesboro's Kam and Jalin Mikell tried to be the playmakers that would be the difference-makers in the game. However, penalties would hurt the Blue Devils on several occasions, starting with their first drive. On the second play, Kam sprinted to the sidelines and

upfield, making his way deep into Terror's territory. This looked like the start of a long night for Glynn's defense but a flag for holding negated the big run, ultimately flattening the drive of any harm.

The Terrors, with no harm done to them, took control of the game. Quarterback Tyler Devlin quickly connected with Zech Ellis for a 36-yard catch and run. Slowly but surely the Terrors offense was coming back into midseason form. Peacock, Ellis and Devlin would trade-off carries as they marched down the field. Ellis would be the one to get Glynn on the board first with a 4-yard

Please see TERRORS, 2B