

# Inspiration pushes Wilson to big game

*Kind, Brockington, Burson also recognized by Touchdown Club*

## **By Dennis Brunson**

Call it motivation, inspiration or what you will, but Torrance Wilson and his Lake City High School teammates had a little bit more pep in their steps when they took on Georgetown on Friday.

“We got a lot of good news concerning Coach,” Wilson said.

“Coach” is Panthers head coach Ronnie Baker, who has been hospitalized with serious injuries since the school bus he was driving was hit by a semi-truck in July. After weeks of taking small steps in his recovery, Baker had a week where he was able to move all of his extremities, understand what was being said to him and recognize people. One of those was South Carolina State head coach Buddy Pough. Baker and some of his players were returning from a camp at the Orangeburg school when the wreck occurred.

“Those were huge strides in the right direction,” said acting Panthers head coach Jamison Estep.

Lake City went out and shut down Georgetown in a 33-3 victory to improve to 2-3 on the season. Wilson was the leader of the defense from his middle linebacker spot with 11 tackles.

Because of that, the junior has been selected as the SAFE Defensive Player of the Week for the Sumter Touchdown Club presented by FTC. The other three selections for the SAFE Players of the Week are Scott’s Branch quarterback Jordan Kind as Offensive Player of the Week, Kingtree left guard James Brockington as the Lineman of the Week, and Laurence Manning Academy’s Josiah Burson as Special Teams Player of the Week.

The foursome will be honored at the club’s weekly breakfast meeting on Friday at the Sumter County Recreation and Park’s Jasmine Hall located at 155 Haynsworth Street. Breakfast will start at 7 a.m. with the program at 7:30. The guest speaker will be Erskine College head coach Shap Boyd.

## **DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

**TORRANCE WILSON**

**LAKE CITY**

**MIDDLE LINEBACKER**

**JUNIOR**

Not only was Wilson in on almost a dozen tackles, but he was also making big plays as well. He had four tackles for loss and one quarterback sack. With the regular season already at the halfway point, Wilson said it was time for him to demonstrate what he can do.

“It’s getting closer to region time and I needed to show that I could step up,” said Wilson, whose team travels to Camden on Friday for its Region 6-AAA opener. “It’s time to play now, for me to show that I’m a player who could step up for the team.”

Estep said Wilson is an integral part of the Lake City defense.

“For us to continue to be successful, Torrance has got to be that guy in the middle,” he said. “He was a little disappointed with his play in the first couple of games. I think he played close to his full potential. This was a coming out party for him. He had a lot of key stops in key situations.”

## **OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

**JORDAN KIND**

**SCOTT’S BRANCH**

**QUARTERBACK**

**SENIOR**

Kind had 13 carries for 118 yards and two touchdowns, completed 7 of 8 passes for 70 yards and two more scores and caught an 80-yard TD pass in the Eagles' 38-32 triple-overtime loss to St. John's.

Kind played wide receiver the entire first half. He caught the touchdown pass, but Scott's Branch trailed 20-6 at intermission. Eagle head coach Randall State decided to put the senior behind center in the second half and that move helped jumpstart the offense.

State said he and his staff have been trying to figure out a way to replace the trio of Randy Gibson, Ernie Calloway and Tyler Kind, Jordan's brother, who provided the bulk of the offense for the Eagles last season. Jordan saw his first action at quarterback in the third game, a 54-6 loss to Cross, in which Scott's Branch scored its first points of the season.

"Jordan had the most experience from last year in our returning players," State said. "We've just been trying to figure out ways to get him out there to make plays. He's really stepped it up in the last two games.

"He's made a lot of other players better. He gave a lot of other players confidence that will help us down the line. They were able to make some plays with him."

Kind believes behind center is where he needs to be.

"I felt good and I think every game I should be back there," said Kind, who threw a pair of touchdown passes to Quintin Jackson. "I want to help my team win. I told them boys every day when we would come to practice to keep working hard and be patient. When region starts, all we need is to win two games, and we're in the (Class A) state playoffs. We weren't grown up yet. We've got to go out and be ready to play."

### **SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

**JOSIAH BURSON**

**LAURENCE MANNING**

**KICK RETURNER**

**SENIOR**

Burson returned the opening kickoff 78 yards for a touchdown in the Swampcats' 48-12 victory over Camden Military. It was his first kickoff return of the season as injuries forced him into the role. He didn't get the chance to return anymore against Camden Military.

"My teammates did a really good job blocking for me," Burson said. "I saw the hole, I hit the hole and I took it."

"It was a big play," said LMA head coach Will Furse, whose team improved to 3-2. "It's always good when special teams can help you like that. Josiah has been a playmaker for us."

Burson also had three catches for 75 yards and also drew a defensive pass interference penalty. When he asked if Burson will continue to return kickoffs, Furse responded, "I anticipate he will."

"Whatever they need, I'll play," Burson said.

### **LINEMAN OF THE WEEK**

**JAMES BROCKINGTON**

**KINGSTREE**

**LEFT GUARD**

**SENIOR**

Brockington graded out at 92 percent and had one knockdown block in helping the Blazers run for 329 yards in their 54-0 victory over Hemingway.

"He was his normal self, pushing guys off the ball, making big holes for our guys to run through," Kingstree head coach Brian Smith said. "He graded out highest for us. He set the tone up front for us in being able to get a lot of easy yards."

Brockington said hand placement was the main reason he was so successful.

"I could latch on to the shoulder pads and drive my feet," he said. "My (physical) strength along with my feet is what makes me successful."

