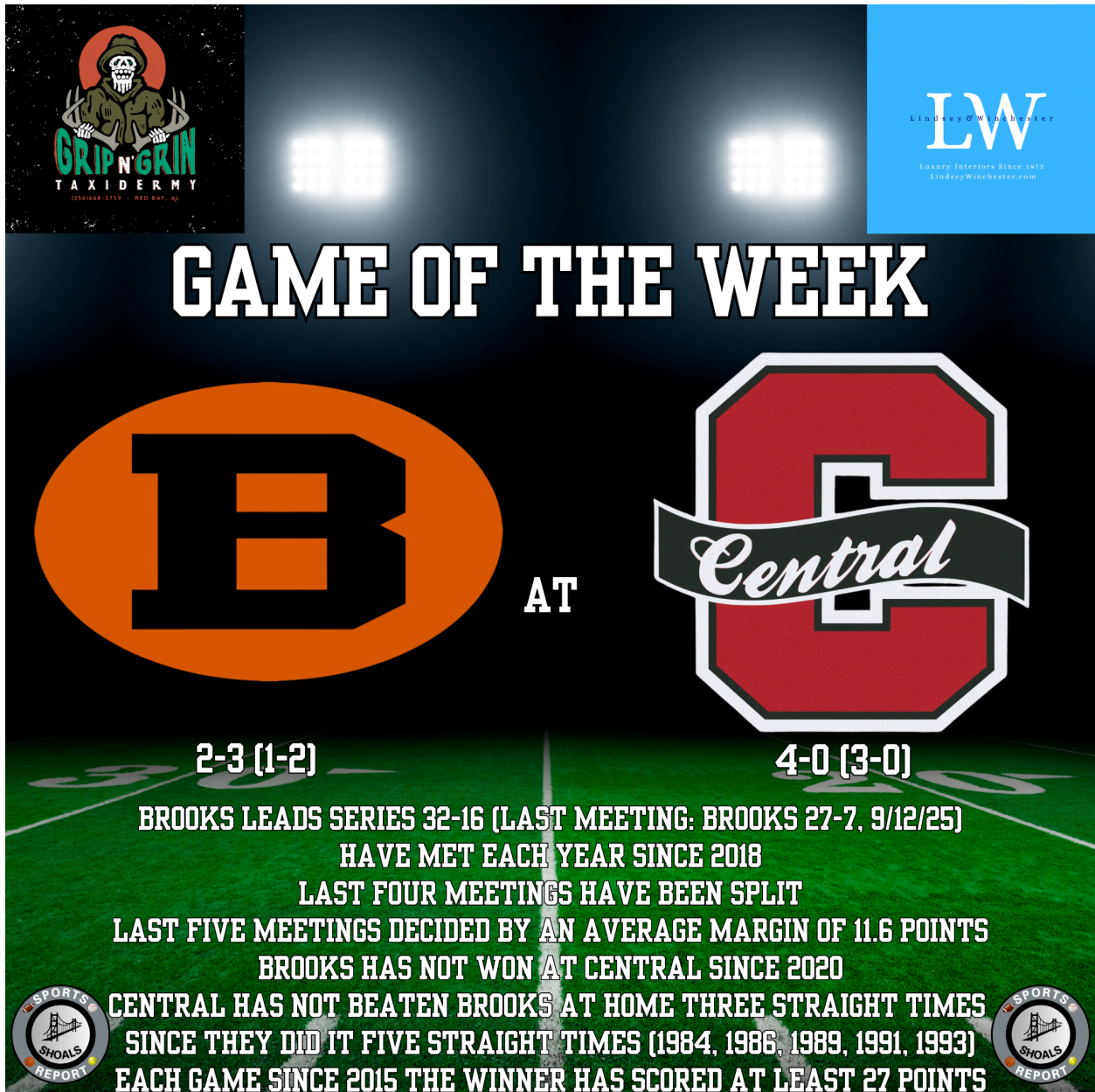


Week 6 Brooks at Central Preview



The graphic features a dark background with stadium lights. In the top left is the 'GRIP N' GRIN TAXIDERM Y' logo. In the top right is the 'LW' logo for Lindsey Winchester, with the text 'Luxury Interiors Since 1972' and 'LindseyWinchester.com'. The main title 'GAME OF THE WEEK' is in large white letters. Below it, the Brooks 'B' logo (orange oval with a black 'B') is on the left, and the Central 'C' logo (red octagon with a white 'C' and a banner reading 'Central') is on the right. Between them is the word 'AT'. Below the Brooks logo is the record '2-3 (1-2)' and below the Central logo is '4-0 (3-0)'. A central text block contains the following statistics: 'BROOKS LEADS SERIES 32-16 (LAST MEETING: BROOKS 27-7, 9/12/25)', 'HAVE MET EACH YEAR SINCE 2018', 'LAST FOUR MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SPLIT', 'LAST FIVE MEETINGS DECIDED BY AN AVERAGE MARGIN OF 11.6 POINTS', 'BROOKS HAS NOT WON AT CENTRAL SINCE 2020', 'CENTRAL HAS NOT BEATEN BROOKS AT HOME THREE STRAIGHT TIMES SINCE THEY DID IT FIVE STRAIGHT TIMES (1984, 1986, 1989, 1991, 1993)', and 'EACH GAME SINCE 2015 THE WINNER HAS SCORED AT LEAST 27 POINTS'. At the bottom left and right are 'SPORTS SHOALS REPORT' logos.

GRIP N' GRIN TAXIDERM Y
1250 HARBOR - 3759 - RED BAY, AL

LW
Lindsey Winchester
Luxury Interiors Since 1972
LindseyWinchester.com

GAME OF THE WEEK

B **AT** **C**
Central

2-3 (1-2) **4-0 (3-0)**

BROOKS LEADS SERIES 32-16 (LAST MEETING: BROOKS 27-7, 9/12/25)
HAVE MET EACH YEAR SINCE 2018
LAST FOUR MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SPLIT
LAST FIVE MEETINGS DECIDED BY AN AVERAGE MARGIN OF 11.6 POINTS
BROOKS HAS NOT WON AT CENTRAL SINCE 2020
CENTRAL HAS NOT BEATEN BROOKS AT HOME THREE STRAIGHT TIMES
SINCE THEY DID IT FIVE STRAIGHT TIMES (1984, 1986, 1989, 1991, 1993)
EACH GAME SINCE 2015 THE WINNER HAS SCORED AT LEAST 27 POINTS

SPORTS SHOALS REPORT

Lauderdale County school system has seven high schools that play football. Six of them are similar in size, which puts four of them in one region. This creates fun rivalries over time and some interesting stories when you look at coaches and how the schools evolve over time. Brooks and Central have met 48 times and will meet for the 49th time this Friday. However, this will be the first non-region game since 2003, when Central was last 3A before the current alignment.

We mentioned interesting stories with coaches and history. Current Lauderdale County Schools Superintendent Jerry Hill played football at Brooks in the 1970s he then coached at Central from 1989-1993, then made a stop at Coffee High School (1994-2001) before spending

11 years coaching at Brooks (2004-2014). Then another fun tidbit is that Brooks Head Coach Mike Horton is the son of Gary Horton, who coached at Bradshaw High School from 1995-2003; he would then go on to be the Principal of Wilson High School before making his way to the board of Lauderdale County Schools, where he now serves as the Director of Instructional Operations. This is why intracounty games are still fun in the current world of athletics because you get fun matchups where there is history on both sides.

Now let's dive into the game that will be played on the field Friday night. We'll start with the visiting team, Brooks Lions. Brooks is 2-3 through five games for the first time since 2020, when they finished 6-5 and lost in the first round of the playoffs. Now, one bright side to 2020 is that it was the last time Brooks won at Central. Brooks has only had one game decided by one possession, and that was week one at Hatton, losing 27-20. It has aged well, as Hatton is 5-0 and has not had a game decided by less than 30 points since. Brooks then got off the mat in week two, beating Lauderdale County 43-14. Brooks led 16-14 at halftime, then ran away with it in the second half. They have alternated win/loss so far, so based on the trend, Brooks may be able to get a win Friday, but games are played on the field, not on paper. Brooks is scoring 30.4 points per game and allowing 35.2 points per game. Brooks has not finished with a negative scoring margin since 2014, when they scored 26.2 points per game and allowed 26.6 points per game.

Now let's talk about Central, who is off to their second 4-0 start in three years. They have done it convincingly as well. Only one game decided by one possession and another decided by two scores. The other two wins were by an average margin of 41 points. They have let some teams hang around later into the game the last few weeks. Wilson was able to test Central in a 20-6 Central win, and it was a one-possession game late into the fourth quarter. Lauderdale County then led 14-7 at halftime. Central went ahead 21-14 early in the fourth quarter. Lauderdale County chipped away and made it a 21-20 game before Central would manage the clock for a 21-20 win. Then came Elkmont, who Central led 27-13 at halftime before rattling off 33 second-half points to win 60-13. It was the first time they had scored 60+ since beating Hamilton 70-14 in the First Round of Playoffs in 2024. Central is scoring 37.3 points per game and allowing 13.2 points per game.

This may be one of the stranger games in the Shoals area when you look at the numbers and trends. The first one that jumps off the paper is the coaching matchup. Coach Heath Wood (Central) is in his 16th season (longest tenured Shoals area) versus Coach Mike Horton (Brooks) is in his first season as a head coach. The last four meetings have been won by the home team. Central has not beaten Brooks in three straight meetings at Central since the 1980s-1990s. The winner of each matchup since 2015 has scored at least 27 points. The last seven meetings have been decided by an average margin of 13.4 points. Three of the last seven were decided by one score or less. Will any of this change Friday, whether it be the streaks or the margins?

Zack Pounders,

Shoals Sports Report