

# Brodie Field Classics

The Tift County Touchdown Club would like to thank the following sponsors in making the Brodie Field Classics possible. Through individuals such as these, the pride of the Devils continues to thrive and gain strength with every passing year as more memories are created on Friday nights under the lights at our stadium, "Brodie Field".

**1966 sponsor – Hugh Gordon. Hugh received back of the week from the Atlanta Touchdown Club for his performance in this game.**

**1979 sponsor – Eddie Moore. Eddie played in this game and has a life long lasting memory of this exciting game.**

**1983 sponsor – Brian Massingill. Brian was the quarterback for the Blue Devils as they survived a close one on their way to the State Championship that year.**

**1997 sponsor – Emmett Bowers. Emmett's son, Worth, was the quarterback that year. This victory propelled the Blue Devils to their only trip to the Georgia Dome and an appearance in the State Championship.**

**2004 sponsor – Al Caquelard. Al's son, Lee, was a wide receiver for the Blue Devils. Lee had several big catches that night, especially a 68 yd. touchdown reception.**

**Please thank these individuals for bringing these exciting memories back to life.**

If you're reading this article, more likely than not you are seated in The Tift County High School Stadium and looking down on Brodie Field. Known affectionately as the Devils' Den, it is one of the premier high school football stadiums in the state of Georgia if not the country.

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the TCHS Stadium, and what follows is a series of articles commemorating its celebrated history.

In an effort to mark this historic anniversary, the editors of *The Blue Book* have chosen one game from each of the five decades during which the Blue Devils have occupied their Den and reprinted newspaper articles covering each game.

The first game ever played in the stadium was on September 16, 1966, and the home team was the Tifton Blue Devils. In that game, the No.1 ranked Moultrie Packers fell to Tifton, and that game was the easiest choice for inclusion into following pages.

While dozens of games played in the Stadium could have been selected, the editors have done their best to pick games exemplary of the determination and traditions which mean so much to so many former players and alumni of Tifton High and Tift County High.

The articles in this program were reprinted with the help of *The Tifton Gazette* and *The Moultrie Observer*. We could not have done it without their help, so thank those good folks when you see them.

As you read the next few pages in this program, relive the excitement that is Blue Devil football.

# 1966 - Tift County vs #1 Ranked Moultrie

By Tommy Desselle

The Moultrie Packers suffered their first defeat of the 1966 season at the hands of the fired-up Tifton Blue Devils, 19-14, last night in the dedication game of the new Tift County stadium before 9,000 frenzied fans. The loss gives the Golden Heard a 2-1 record in region play.

Moultrie took a slim 7-6 lead into the dressing room, and based on play the last two weeks most people thought the Packers would run Tifton off the field in the second half, but the show was on the other foot.

Tift hit on two long bombs and stopped a Moultrie drive on their 20 to win their first victory in Region 1-AAA over a Packer 11 that had been ranked No.1 power in the state.

The Packers defensive unit that had looked real sharp in the first two games was unable to contain Tifton and they ran up 135 yards on the ground and added 111 more through the air ways.

Moultrie went into the game ranked as the top rushing team in the region and they held this title by pounding out 269 yards on the ground but could add only 42 passing yards.

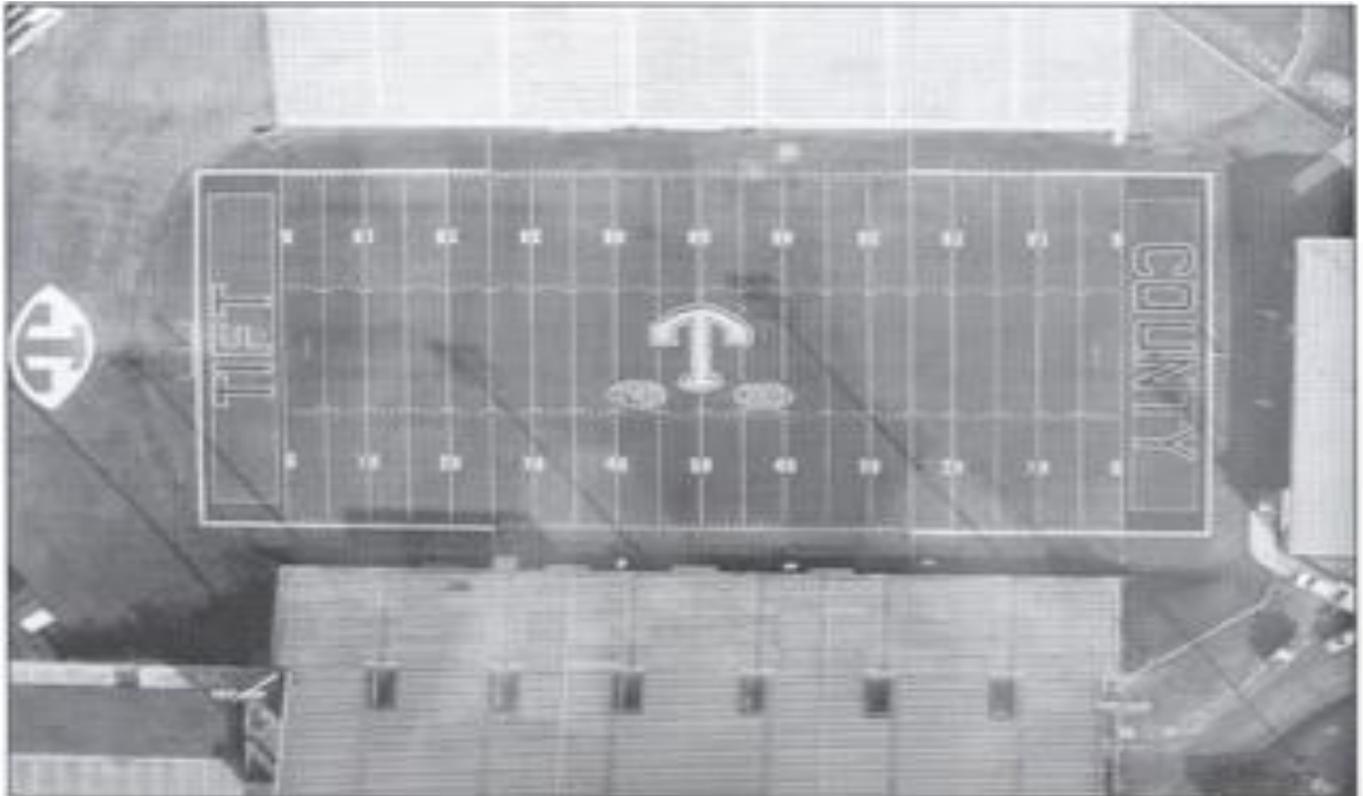
Gary Pyle was the outstanding offensive player for the Golden Heard. He carried 17 times for 138 yards, scored on touchdown, and set up the other one. Quarterback Jack Montgomery had an off night, gaining only eight yards in five carries and could hit but 3 of 9 passes for 42 yards.

The Packers' main trouble was in the defensive secondary and they allowed the two touchdown passes that permitted the Blue evils to take the victory.

## Scoring Plays

Jack Montgomery put Moultrie ahead on the first play in the second quarter and added the point and Moultrie was off and running, 7-0. Only 2:06 remained in the second quarter when Hugh Gordon threw a 16-yard scoring pass to Chuck Cantrell for the first Tifton score. The PAT hit the crossbar and Moultrie was ahead by a shaky 7-6 score at the half.

Don Hand ran 73 yards early in the third quarter and Tifton lead Moultrie 13-7. Gary Pyle scored on a 39-yard TD romp in the third quarter and Montgomery kicked the point to put the Packers ahead 14-13, but Gordon hit Jerry Connor with a 56-yard scoring strike and the No.1 team was down for the 10 count 19-14.



# 1979 – Tift County vs. Valdosta

By Herbie Benson

Minutes before the final whistle here Friday night, the huge blue and white banner appeared in the stands on the home side of Tift County stadium.

The sign read WINNERSVILLE, USA - HOME OF THE DEVILS - TIFTON, GA.

For the Tift County spectators, it signified the end of a long drought. For Tift County High School's head coach Gene Brodie and the rest of his staff, it signified another goal realized. And, for the key figures in the drama, the Blue Devils, it signified a year of hard work, 48 minutes of torturous combat, and success.

The 1979 edition of the Tift County Blue Devils accomplished Friday night what no other Tift squad had been able to in this century. They had beaten the mighty Valdosta Wildcats twice in the same year.

Tift slipped by Valdosta 13-12 in the seventh game of the year to assure it of top honors in the Region 1-AAAA North subregion. The second game was played for even bigger stakes ... the region crown. The Blue Devils, as they have done so many times already this year, rose to the occasion once again and captured the region title with a stunning 24-6 victory over the Wildcats.

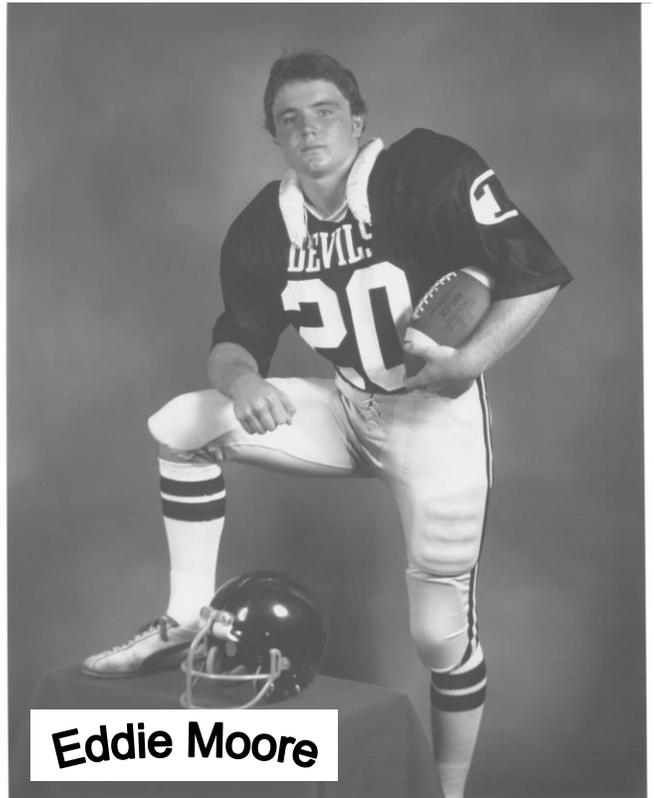
"Beautiful. Just beautiful," was how Brodie described the game afterwards.

Tift's victory marked the first region title for Tift County since it moved into Region 1-AAAA (formerly Region 1-AAA). The Wildcats were seeking their third straight crown and 13<sup>th</sup> overall.

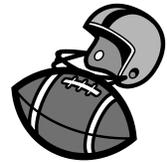
The two teams had met each other twice in the same year on only one other occasion, 1950. The 1949 squad finished second in the state with an 11-1 mark and knocked off Valdosta 33-13 the following year during the regular season battle. But Valdosta gained revenge that year in the playoffs and advanced into the state competition with a slim 21-20 win over Tift. This year the story was reversed.

"I feel numb, completely numb all over," remarked Brodie amidst a score of congratulations from excited fans.

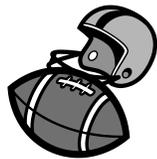
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**GOOD LUCK**

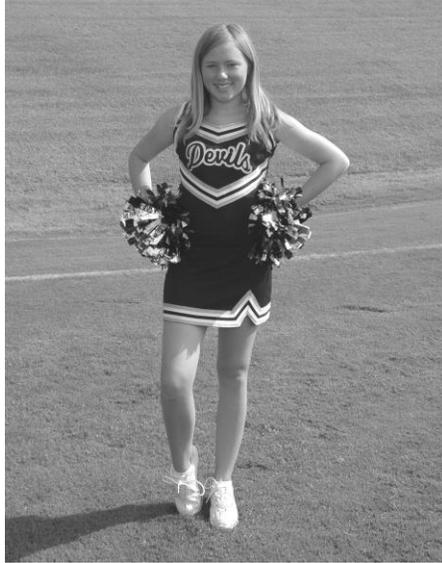


To the 2006 Blue Devils



John D. Crosby, Judge Superior Court, Retired

# HAVE A FUN YEAR!



**Brooke Lamb**  
**Eighth Street Middle School**

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Brodie and his staff seemed to have a knack for setting achievable goals for the season. In his first two seasons at Tift, the head coach said that he wanted a winning season. Tift finished both years with 6-4 records. Last year, he said that his goal was to make it to the playoffs. Tift finished second in the northern subregion but was downed by Thomasville 28-16 in the first round of the playoffs. This year the goal was to make it out of the region playoffs and into the state competition. Friday's win accomplished that.

Tift County will take to the road next Friday night to battle Westside of Augusta at Butler Stadium. Westside, which is 11-0 on the year, has already clinched the 4-AAAA title. Tift is now 11-1 on the year.

"Everyone did a super job," praised Brodie. "Barry Whitehead had an outstanding game. Our tight ends, Ricky Holt and Landy Ewing did a super job. And our offensive line was unstoppable. It was a real team effort."

For a half, the game was dead even statistically.

Tift managed nine first downs in the first half while rolling up 157 yards in offense. Valdosta had ten first downs and 160 total yards. Valdosta had one penalty, Tifton none.

But the second half was a different story as the Blue Devils completely shut down the Wildcat attack.

Tift outdistanced Valdosta in first downs 10-3, while chalking up 147 yards on the ground and 50 in the air. Valdosta's offense sputtered, managing only 23 yards on the ground and 11 in the air.

The contest was a battle between two of the premier quarterbacks in the region. Tift's Ken Hobby and Valdosta's John Bond. Hobby, like Tift, won the battle as he hit on 10 of 19 passes for 128 yards, while Bond connected on six of 16 for 54. Hobby had 85 yards on the ground, while Bond picked up 64.

Both teams wasted little time in getting on the scoreboard after the opening kickoff.

Valdosta, which won the toss, elected to kick to Tift in hopes of stopping the Devils deep in their own territory and taking over the ball on the exchange in good field position. The tactic backfired, however, as Tift's James Green gathered in the kickoff on the one and returned it to the 26. From there, it took the Blue Devils eight plays to move to Valdosta's 27-yard line. Tift culminated the drive when Carlos Tenorio hit a 42-yard field goal to give Tift a 3-0 lead with less than five minutes gone in the game.

The Wildcats took the ensuing kickoff and promptly answered Tift's attack with one of its own, driving from its 20-yard line to Tift's five in 10 plays before the Blue Devils defense stiffened. Keith Samson split the uprights on a 21-yard field goal of his own and the game was tied at 3-3.

On its next drive, following Sampson's field goal, the Blue Devils took over possession on their own 16-yard line and rapidly moved to the 48 before stalling. Facing a third and 10 on the 48, Hobby went across the field to Whitehead, who was immediately tackled for a loss of eight yards.

Hobby's punt moved the Wildcats back to their own 27, but three consecutive running plays had them on their own 48 and a 14-yard pass from Bond to Edward Robinson had Valdosta in Tift's territory on the 31.

Valdosta continued to drive to just inside Tift's 10. Two passes and a one yard run by Irvin Roe left Valdosta four yards shy and the 'Cats were turned away with only a 21 yard field goal by Sampson. Valdosta had its final lead of the game with 6:22 left in the first half.

"They moved the ball well on us at first," concedes Brodie. "But, our defense tightened when it had to and shut them off. Like the Thomasville game, it took character to rise to the occasion like that. I'm just glad we got everything straightened out at the half."

But, Brodie and his staff didn't have to wait until the half to do all of the "straightening out." With just over a minute left to go in the half, Tift's cornerback Jeff Johnson leaped high into the air and hauled in a Bond pass on the Blue Devils' 48-yard line.

Facing a fourth down with five yards left for a first, Tift elected to go for the first down rather than the field goal to tie the game. The gamble paid off as Hobby teamed with Whitehead once again on a 15-yard pass to move the ball to the 19-yard line.

"We didn't feel like the game was that close to go for the field goal," explained Brodie afterwards. "We had all of the field goals that we wanted. We figured that this game would be very similar to last week's game between Valdosta and Lowndes, a regular shootout, so we didn't need three points. We needed seven."

Like the popular car commercial, Tift asked for it and they got it. On the second play following the pickup of the first down, Hobby dropped back and found Curtis Ewings open in the end zone with 11 seconds left in the first half. Tenorio's extra point gave Tift a 10-6 lead going into the dressing room.

"That may have been the turning point in the game," admitted Brodie. "It was the shot in the arm that we needed."

Valdosta's decision to kick off to open the contest appeared to have been a wise one during the

third quarter as Tift found itself backed up deep in its own end of the field on its first two possessions.

The second time Tift touched the ball in the quarter, the Devils found themselves on their own nine-yard line. But the Blue Devils set to work and marched in for the score, combining the running game with a well-executed passing attack. It took the Blue Devils 13 plays to get into Valdosta's end zone. With 1:10 left in the period, Whitehead, fighting off defender Nathaniel Caesar in the corner, hauled in Hobby's pass for a ten-yard scoring play. Once again, Tenorio added the PAT.

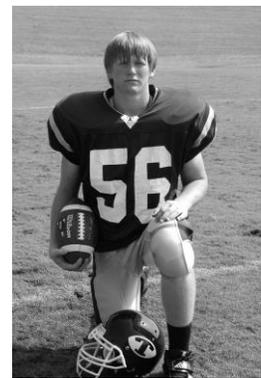
Tift got another opportunity quickly as Welton Frazier gathered in Tenorio's kickoff at his own five and raced back 30 yards before losing control of the football and watching a Tift defender pounce on it at the 36.

It took the Blue Devils 10 plays to take advantage of the turnover with Mark Hand going in from four yards out with 8:36 left in the game.

The Wildcats had one other opportunity to put points on the scoreboard before the final whistle as James Horton picked off a Hobby pass on his own 25-yard line and raced 59 yards to Tift's 16 before being pulled down by Hobby.

Valdosta managed to move to Tift's five-yard line but was pushed back to the 10 with a penalty. Bond was thrown for a loss of four yards as time ran out and the Blue Devils' exploded with joy over the victory.

**GO  
BIG  
BLUE!**



**#56 Justin Hasty**

**WE LOVE YOU!**

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KINSEY & KELLY**

# Shiver's Big Plays Save Tift Victory

By CARLTON FLETCHER  
Gazette Sports Editor

Every winning football team needs its big-play athlete, someone to rise above the ordinary in tough situations. For the Tift County High Blue Devils Friday night, that athlete was Stan Shiver.

In what was the most extraordinary performance in his football career at Tift High, Shiver made the big plays on offense and defense as the Blue Devils eked out a 7-6 victory over a scrappy Benedictine High team in the quarterfinals of the AAAA state playoffs.

All Shiver did was catch the lone touchdown in the game, make several crunching tackles from his free safety position, and intercept three Cadet passes, one of which saved a sure Benedictine touchdown and another in the closing minute of the game that iced the Tift win.

"There's no doubt about it," Tift head coach Gene Brodie said after his team earned a berth in next week's South Georgia championship game. "Stan Shiver was the difference tonight. He was our big-play man when we needed it most. He's done it for us all year, but tonight he was unbelievable."

It turned out that all of Shiver's defensive heroics were needed in the game as Benedictine thwarted the Blue Devils at almost every turn. Twice the Cadets killed Tift drives inside the Benedictine 20-yard line by forcing fumbles, and once more the gritty underdogs held the Devils on downs inside the 10-yard line.

"I don't think we had the emotional intensity we needed for a playoff game," Brodie said, "but you have to give Benedictine a lot of credit. They came down here ready to play, and they hit as hard as anybody we played this year.

"Had their linebacker, number 71 (senior John Mell), not gotten hurt and had to leave the game in the second half, it might have been even tougher on us."

Both teams had moderately successful drives on their first possessions, Tift driving to its 44 and Benedictine marching as far as the Blue Devil 38. Both drives resulted in punts, however.

On its second possession, Tift drove to within striking distance, but the first of two Michael Turner fumbles halted the threat.

Turner, who rushed for 107 yards on 17 carries in the game, broke a 32-yard run on a trap play to start the drive, and Tift quarterback Brian Massingill passed 18 yards to Darrien Teals to put the Devils in business.

However, on a fourth-and-one play from the Benedictine 26, Turner ran off right tackle for four yards before being hit. The lick caused the senior running back to lose the ball and Cadet cornerback Leo Sheehan recovered at his 29.

Benedictine got nowhere on its ensuing possession, and the Blue Devils took over at their 43 after a 31-yard Larry O'Hayer punt.

Fullback Terry Revels, who added 84 tough yards rushing to the Tift attack, ran twice for 11 yards, Massingill passed 13 yards to Teals, and Turner carries twice for 15.

Three plays later, Shiver got between two defenders, and Massingill threw a perfect strike for a 20-yard touchdown, Sophomore placekicker Stan McKellar, who has been near perfect over the last half of the season, booted the extra point that would turn out to be the deciding one in the contest.

In the slow-paced contest, neither team threatened again before the halftime break. Benedictine quarterback Richard Lutz was intercepted on both of his teams final series in the half, once by Shiver and once by cornerback Sam Burns.

Massingill and Teals came within inches of teaming up on a scoring bomb after Burns' interception. With only 12 seconds on the clock, Teals got behind two defenders and was running full stride when Massingill threw a pass some 55 yards in the air. The pass seemed destined to hit Teals' hands as the fleet receiver ran full stride, but safety Chris Knight knocked the ball away at the last instant.

The Cadets wasted no time getting back into the contest as the second half got under way.

After a facemask penalty on the kickoff moved the ball out to the Benedictine 39, the Cadets used only three plays to get into the end zone.

Peter Brennan ran for 14 yards and a first down on the second play of the drive, the Lutz found wide receiver Brian Watson behind Burns and tossed him a pass that he turned into a 44-yard scoring play. However, on the extra point try, the center's snap was high throwing kicker Scott Dold's

timing off. His attempt sailed wide right, leaving the Devils with a 1-point margin.

The Tift offense answered with an impressive march of its own, moving again inside the Cadet 20 before a second Turner fumble gave the ball back to Benedictine.

In the drive, Turner ran for 35 yards on three carries, and Revels carried twice for 19 yards before the turnover at the 11.

Benedictine could not move and was forced to punt, and the ever-present Shiver came up with another dazzling play. Shiver gathered in O'Hayer's punt at midfield, stepped by on would-be-tackler and followed a wall of blockers 39 yards to the Cadet 11.

A clipping penalty wiped out the return, and the momentum in the contest made a drastic shift.

Benedictine forced a punt, and Massingill got off a rare poor kick that traveled only 21 yards to the Cadet 33.

Lutz then brought his team marching down the field. Twice converting on third-down plays, both times on passes to Watson, Benedictine marched to the Blue Devils 23, where it faced a third-and-five.

Watson, who had been running shore sideline routs throughout the second half, made an outside move as Lutz waited behind good protection, then cut back to the middle of the field, apparently wide open in the end zone.

Lutz, seeing his man in the clear, lofted a pass rather than throwing it with any zip on it, and that was all Shiver needed. He ran in front of Watson, tipped the ball in the air, juggled it and finally brought it down for an interception. Shiver then returned the ball to the Tift 19.

"He had to make it look good and do little acrobatics," Brodie joked. "That was tremendous play, because the receiver was open. If the pass had been thrown harder, it would have been a sure touchdown, but this is a game of ifs."

The turnover came with 11:51 left in the game, and Brodie would say afterward, "We didn't want to let them get the ball back. We felt that we need to do something with the ball to keep it away from them."

That the Devils did. Using some 10 minutes and 12 seconds of the remaining time on the clock, Tift ran off 20 plays before giving out of downs at the Cadet seven and, in effect, icing the victory.

The Devils stayed on the ground, running seven consecutive plays to the Benedictine 45.

However, a third-down pass attempt was incomplete, leaving Tift with a fourth-and-five.

The Blue Devil offense lined up as if to run a play, but Massingill shifted back into punt formation. The movement caused a defensive lineman to jump offside, though setting up a fourth-and-half-a-yard at the 40, which Massingill got on a sneak to keep the drive alive.

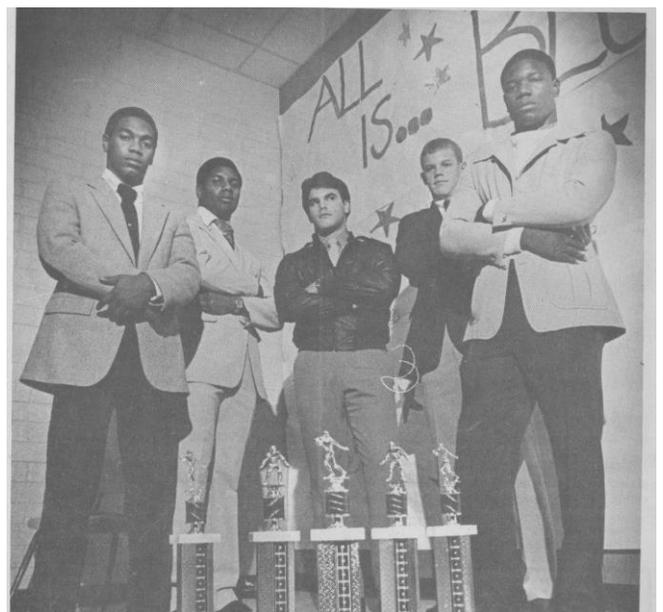
Ironically, Benedictine had used a similar play on its previous drive, getting a first down on a roughing-the-kicker penalty.

"That's a play we've had all along," Brodie would say, "but we hadn't used it all year. We just felt that that was a good time to go with it. It worked. And that turned out to be a big play for us."

The play came with 7:33 on the clock, and Tift's offense ran off 12 more plays before giving the ball up on downs at the Cadet seven after a fourth-down pass play was two yards short of needed first-down yardage.

In a desperate situation, Lutz was forced to try and go deep, but Shiver capped his evening with his third interception, and all that was left was for Massingill to run out the clock.

The win, which improved Tift's record to 12-1, set up next week's semifinal battle with Westside High of Augusta, which beat Baldwin High 24-21 in overtime Friday.



Left to Right: Darrien Teals, Sam Haggins, Brian Massingill, Stan Shiver & Leonard Roberson

## 1997 – Tift County vs. Northside Warner Robins

By Kevin Taylor

It was defense that got them there, and it was defense that sent them to the Georgia Dome.

Tift County's defense was put to the challenge as Northside Warner Robins elected to play power football and shoved the game down the Devils' throat.

Instead, the Eagles coughed up two big kicking errors that resulted in two touchdowns, which were enough to beat Northside, 14-6 in the Class AAAA quarterfinals in the Devils' Den Friday night.

"We're going to the Dome!" exclaimed Tift County senior defensive end Brian Brown after the game. "We are looking to play another week and we are. Now, we're looking to play another week."

Indeed the Blue Devils made their reservations for a semifinal berth in the Georgia Dome in front of at least 10,000 spectators. Tift will face the undefeated Class AAAA champions Brookwood, Saturday at 9:00 p.m. The Broncos advanced to the semifinals with a 33-15 win over Chattahoochee.

Leading 7-6 at the half, the Eagles (9-4) looked to shift the game's momentum to open the second half, but they only saw that go down in flames thanks to a blocked punt.

Northside could not solve Tift County's defense on its second possession and was forced to punt with its back to the end zone.

On what looked to be a routine punt, Blue Devil defensive back Freddie Ingram found a lane to the punter and blocked the kick.

Instead of falling on the kick, Eagle punter Chad Parker kicked the loose pigskin through the end zone for an apparent safety with 1:03 left in the third period.

After discussion, the referees disallowed the safety and penalized Northside for illegal batting to give the Devils first-and-goal at the Eagle 1.

Tift County (11-2) only needed two plays for quarterback Worth Bowers to sneak into the end zone from a yard out for the insurance score.

"The defense turned it up tonight," said Devils' coach Charles Winslette. "I'm mighty proud of the guys. It's a goal everyone in the state sets to go to the playoffs in the Dome. And I'm mighty thankful to be heading there Saturday."

There only needed to be a point difference to decide the winner of this game, and Tift County got

the needed extra-point attempt by senior Josh Gourley to lift the Devils to the 7-6 lead at intermission.

A game marred by opportunities, Northside took advantage of one of Bowers' two interceptions in the half to jump out to a 6-0 lead to stun and silence the Tift County partisans.

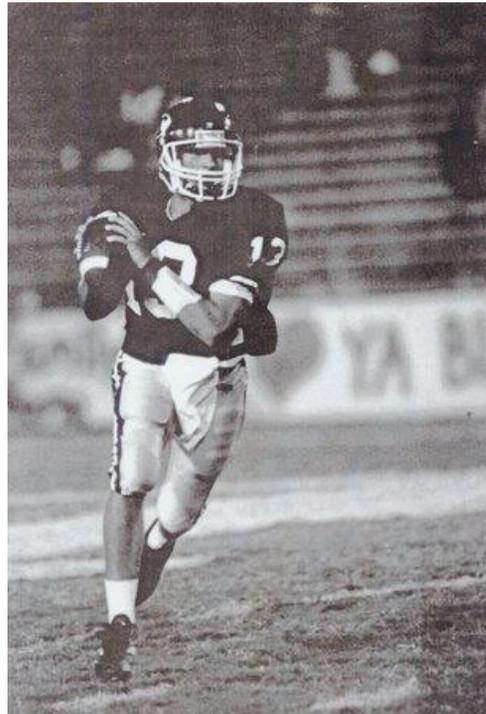
After an A.J. Grane pick at the Devils' 30, the Eagles marched the rest of the way in eight plays with Hogan, who rushed for 84 yards on 28 carries, scoring his only touchdown on a 2-yard dive.

With the momentum looking as though it was winging toward Northside, the Devils responded with the playmaker of the half, Dee Andrews. After forcing the Eagles to punt for the first time on the night, Andrews found the seam to the left side of the field and raced down Northside's sideline 42 yards to give the Devils their best field position of the half at the Eagle 28.

And just when the potential scoring drive looked to be stymied by Northside, Andrews stepped up again with a 15-yard catch from Bowers to keep the drive alive on 3-and-12.

Three plays later, Bowers dug his way through the heart of the Eagles' defense for the touchdown with 6:49 left in the half.

As Northside used a steady ground attack, it also managed to out gain the devils offensively with 141 yards to Tift County's 132.



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## 2004 – Tift County vs. Valdosta

### Devils shock Valdosta with 34-2 victory

Steve Carter<A  
HREF="mailto:steve.carter@gafnews.com">stev  
e.carter@gafnews.com</A>  
Tifton Gazette

TIFTON -- Tift County Blue Devil head football coach Tommy Seward said all week long that it would take a complete team game for his squad to have a chance against the No. 10-ranked Valdosta Wildcats. He got that and then some as his Devils defeated Valdosta 34-2 Friday night in Tifton.

The victory marks the first time that Tift County beat Valdosta at home since the Region 1-AAAA championship game in 1979. It also marks the first time the Devils defeated the Wildcats since 1993, an 8-7 overtime victory at Valdosta's Bazemore-Hyder Stadium.

Fans were so excited after the contest that they tore the goal post down in the north end zone of Brodie Field.

"Everyone played a good game tonight. The coaches had a good game plan on both sides of the ball and the players played it out to perfection," Seward said after the game.

Quarterback/cornerback Donnell Cullins had a huge game for the Devils. Offensively, the senior rushed for 77 yards on 11 carries and two touchdowns. He was also 6-for-11 passing for 161 yards and two more scores. On defense, Cullins had two fumble recoveries and an interception, all three of the turnovers set up Tift County scores.

The score was 14-2 at the half and both defenses dominated the third quarter as the two teams combined for only 44 yards of offense.

Going into the fourth quarter, Cullins recovered a Jamal Scott fumble on the Valdosta 25. Three plays later, the Tift signal-caller hit Lee Caquelard on a 68-yard touchdown pass down the middle of the field. Caquelard stumbled but got his balance and ran away from the Valdosta defenders for the score. The point after was no good and Tift was up 20-2 with 8:44 left in the game.

"That was a great catch by Caquelard. It probably broke the game open for us," Seward said.

After Tift was called for offsides on the next kickoff, Charlie Edwards kicked the ball away again. Valdosta's Matt Ansley caught the ball, but was stripped by Tift's Sumner Ellis, who also recovered the ball on the Wildcat 31. The first play saw Cullins hit Israel Troupe on a 29-yard pass play to the two and two plays later Cullins crashed in for the touchdown. Edwards' point after made the score 27-2 with 7:42 left in the game.

Tift forced a Valdosta punt on the next Wildcat series. The ball went past the Valdosta punter and Ellis recovered in the endzone for a touchdown. After Edwards' kick, the score was 34-2 with 2:33 left.

Valdosta ran down the field against Tift's defense as the game wound down. It was the only time Valdosta moved the ball in the second half as the Wildcats picked up 55 of their 86 total second half yards on that drive. However, Tift held the Wildcats out of the endzone at the end as the field was mobbed with Devil fans.

That same crowd had plenty to yell about early as Cullins intercepted a Michael Turner pass on Valdosta's third play from scrimmage.

Two plays later, Cullins raced up the middle 59 yards for a touchdown. The point after by Edwards was good and Tift was up 7-0 with 10:12 left in the first quarter. Cullins' two plays got a packed Tift County crowd into the game early. The crowd stayed loud throughout the contest.

"The fans contributed a lot to this victory. They were behind us all the way with their yelling and screaming," Seward said after the game. "We all appreciate the support they showed us tonight."

Late in the first quarter, Valdosta pinned Tift on the Devils' two yard line after a punt. The first play saw a wave of Valdosta defenders tackle Tift's Emmanuel Nelson in the endzone for a safety. That made the score 7-2 with 2:12 left in the first.

The score remained 7-2 until late in the second quarter when Cullins recovered a Victor Harrell fumble on the Wildcat 48. Three plays later, Cullins hit a wide-open Kelvin Burns on a 32-yard screen pass for a touchdown. Edwards' kick made the score 14-2 going into the half.

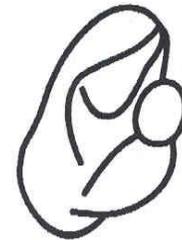
Tift had 280 total yards in the game, while Valdosta had 174.

With the victory, the Devils go to 1-0 in Region 1-A AAAA and 5-1 overall on the year. Tift will be on the road next week in Douglas to take on the Coffee High Trojans.

# HAVE A GREAT YEAR!

**Payton Wallace**

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