

And Now Ayden-State Class A Champs

By Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

At the beginning of the season—before the Bulldogs realized they would rank as high as third in the state and take their first conference crown—the scheduling of Ayden, state Class A champions promised to be the season's highlight. The players knew that a win over the biggest name in class A football would mean much to their team and the school's football program.

As Louisburg has gone through seven games, winning six and losing

one by a single point, the date with Ayden has not diminished in its importance. To the Bulldogs, the big one comes Friday night.

The Tornadoes have been state champs more years than most other teams want to remember. They have been so powerful that in order to gain membership in the Tidewater Conference they had to agree that they would go to the playoffs only if they beat all other conference teams.

A year ago, on October 12, Ayden took a 45 game win streak—stretching over four years and five playoff games—onto the field against 2-A power-

house Farmville. The streak ended and the Tornadoes are having their problems this year.

But before any tears are shed over the Ayden plight, it must be pointed out that they have lost four of their five games by a total of nine points. The only real loss was a 28-6 beating at the hands of Farmville. They beat 2-A Greene Central, 18-13 and two of their losses have been to 2-A schools. Six of their seven games have been played against teams rated high in the state, such as Weldon, No. 1 in the state. The Chargers managed a slim two-point win last week.

The Tornadoes have been unsuccessful in making the two-point conversions this season and this accounts for four of their losses. Six attempted point after passes have failed and twice Ayden failed on runs. A lone kick by Ken Cleaton accounts for all but one PAT conversion. In the Grifton game, lost by Ayden, 13-12, quarterback Alan Wilson slipped and allowed his knee to touch on the one yard line trying for the two-pointer which would have won the game.

They beat Greene Central in the final minute of play on a 50-yard TD drive and in losing to Swansboro, 23-19 outplayed their opponents by gaining 445 total yards while giving up only 215. Ayden lost the Grifton game when they attempted a "trash" play—that is, lining up only the center and quarterback with the remainder of the team in a semi-huddle 15 yards away. The "trash" backfired and Grifton grabbed the football and raced to the one yard line and scored on the next play. Ayden scored its first TD on a double reverse when Wilson passed to Dale Griffin for the score.

Excluding the Weldon game, the Tornadoes have scored 12 touchdowns. Three of these have come from

the 1 or 2 yard line; four have been on the ground after sustained drives; four have been Wilson passes—the longest a fifty-yarder against Swansboro and one was scored on a pass interception against Greene Central. The Tornadoes have allowed a 70-yard TD run by Greene; a 59-yard runback of a punt and two intercepted pass returns for TD's.

Ayden has given up 18 touchdowns while scoring 15 and allowed opponents to make 113 points to their 93—the difference coming at the hands of Farmville. Ayden has an overall 2-5 record that is very misleading.

The Bulldogs, after seeing a 26-6 lead dwindle to their first loss last Friday night, will face their toughest test Friday when the Tornadoes arrive for the first meeting of the two squads in history.

The Bulldogs will play without the services of their starting center, Jack Versteeg who will miss the game due to an injury. A capacity crowd is expected to witness the game which gets underway at 8 P.M.

TOP TEN

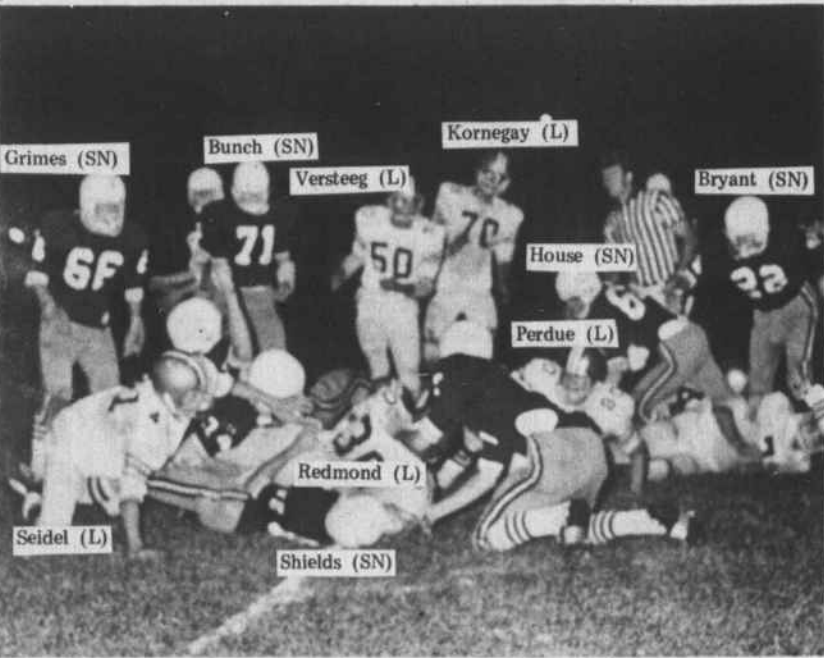
Greensboro Daily News

	W	L	T
1. Weldon	6	1	0
2. Robbinville	6	2	0
3. Mars Hill	7	2	0
4. Red Springs	6	1	0
5. LOUISBURG	6	1	0
6. Oxford Orph.	5	2	0
7. Manteo	6	1	0
8. North Duplin	6	1	1
9. St. Pauls	6	0	0
10. Lillington	5	1	1

EASTERN CLASS 1-A

The News and Observer

1. Weldon (6-1)
2. St. Pauls (6-0)
3. Red Springs (6-1)
4. Manteo (6-1)
5. LOUISBURG (6-1)
6. North Duplin (6-1-1)
7. Oxford Orphanage (5-2)
8. Robersonville (4-3)
9. Rowland (5-1)
10. FRANKLINTON (5-2)
11. Eastern Wayne (4-3-1)
12. Union (3-1-4)
13. Grifton (5-2)
14. Ayden (2-5)
15. Vanceboro (4-3)
16. Belhaven (5-2)
17. Warrenton (3-3)



Redmond Scores Against Scotland Neck

SPORTS In Our Opinion

By CLINT FULLER

The fallacy in newspaper picks of outstanding players has shown its ugly head again this week. Last week Tommy Woodard of Scotland Neck scored two touchdowns against Louisburg and did most of gaining in setting up a quarterback sneak for the TD allowing the deciding PAT kick. He has spearheaded the Scots attack all year and by anybody's standards is a fine player.

Through some sort of error, the Raleigh newspaper reported that a boy named Mark Smith headed Scotland Neck's comeback win over Louisburg. The Greensboro paper then placed Smith on the All State Check List for his performance. The catch is—in case you haven't guessed—that there is no such boy as Mark Smith on the Scotland Neck roster.

A similar incident occurred when the Durham paper made a Louisburg end Linesman of the Week for recovering a key fumble in the Oxford game when it was guard Ed Pergerson. This never was corrected although Pergerson made Linesman of the Week the following week.

Another unexplainable note this week, Greensboro placed Ayden's Alan Wilson—a fine quarterback—on the All State List for passing for three touchdowns against Weldon last week. Not on the list is Weldon's fine quarterback—Mike Edwards—who also threw for three TD's. Weldon won, Ayden lost. How does this figure?

Louisburg's loss to Scotland Neck last week has dropped the Bulldogs to number five position in the state and the same in the East. Franklinton's win over Elm City jumped the Rams from 15th place last week to No. 10 today. First time ever that both county teams have been in the top ten in the East.

The Class A playoff pairings have been posted and Louisburg will meet Weldon, Roanoke Conference Champ on November 14. The game will be played on a neutral site, probably Henderson or Rocky Mount High School fields. The Louisburg-Weldon winner will meet the winner of the game between the champs of the Tidewater Conference (Manteo probably) and the Tobacco Belt Conference (probably Robersonville, maybe Grifton).

The Cape Fear Conference (St. Pauls or Red Springs) will play the champs of the Tri-County Conference (North Duplin) in the November 14 game. Winner here will meet winner of the Mid-Carolina Conference (probably Lillington, maybe Angier) and the winner of an elimination game between the Smokey Mountain Conference and the Appalachian Conference.

Semi-finals will be played on November 21 with the state championship decided on November 28.

When the Southwood College Rams take the floor in this year's basketball wars, three Franklin players will be on the squad. E. J. Wilder, Youngsville ace will be back for his second year and his former teammate Jesse Preddy will be joining him as a freshman. Gold Sand star Jimmy Bowers is also joining the Rams as a first-year student. Southwood brings the Franklin boys to Louisburg College on November 22 and again for the Thanksgiving Journey.

Rams Play At Norlina

The Franklinton Rams will hold the favorite's role Friday night as they travel to Norlina for a non-conference tilt. The red hot Rams have won 5 and lost only two while the Blue Waves are still looking their first win of the season.

Norlina has lost seven games. The Waves fell to Louisburg, 50-0 but the Rams lost to the Bulldogs by a lone touchdown. Norlina lost to Littleton, 14-6. The Rams defeated Littleton, 31-0. Gaston beat Norlina 20-0. Franklinton downed Gaston, 12-6.

Since 1958, the Rams have won only once from the Waves. In 1962 Franklinton ended on top of a 24-13

score. Last year, Norlina won, 13-0.

Simmons, Kearney, Williams and Company are rated No. 10 today in Eastern Carolina football. Jumping from 15th place last week, the Rams moved ahead of such

powers as Ayden, Union, Eastern Wayne and Grifton. Norlina is not rated.

The Rams travel to Weldon next week, then return home on November 7 for the season final against Oak Ridge.

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