

Sports

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

JV Falcons top Bears in finale

BY THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

AHOSKIE – The sophomores on Bertie High School's junior varsity football team went out in style.

The Falcons blanked archrival Hertford County 20-0 last Thursday, earning Northeastern Coastal Conference win number three, and finishing 4-5 overall.

It didn't take the Falcons long to strike first.

Marcus Jenkins took the opening kickoff 74 yards to paydirt for the early 6-0 lead for the Falcons, with only 15 ticks gone from the first quarter clock.

Hertford County managed to move the football nearly 50 yards on its first drive, but were forced to punt the pigskin away near midfield.

The Falcons responded with a drive that,

while not producing a score, at least changed field position. Bertie's jayvee team drove from its own 37-yard line to the Hertford County 30.

The Bears couldn't do the same as they were forced into a three-and-out and putting situation, but a bad snap left the punter scrambling and he was stopped at the HCHS 30.

The Bertie drive stalled, but again left the Bears with bad field position which quickly came back to haunt the home team.

Three plays into the drive, Bertie's Jerome Gaynor stepped in front of an HCHS aerial, and returned it 25 yards for a touchdown. Shyclif Cargill added the conversion and Bertie led 14-0 with 2:26 to play in the first half.

Both teams were content to head into the locker room with the

score as it was, and the Falcons therefore led by two scores at the intermission.

After stopping the Bears and forcing a punt, Bertie set up shop at the HCHS 41-yard line midway through the third quarter.

Jenkins picked up 17 yards on the first three carries before Cargill added a 7-yard gain of his own. Back-to-back carries by Jenkins, and a Cargill run, gave Bertie the ball in the red zone.

The Falcons didn't waste the opportunity as freshman quarterback Braeden Hair connected with Gaynor on a 12-yard touchdown pass. The conversion failed, but Bertie had a commanding 20-0 lead with just 22.9 seconds left in the third quarter.

Hertford County's next possession ended when the Falcons put



ANDRE ALFRED / 2nd Chance Productions

Bertie junior varsity runner Marcus Jenkins (No. 10) battles for yardage against Hertford County.

the kibosh on a fake punt at midfield.

Bertie couldn't pick up a first down, and was forced to punt, but

Trenton Alston ended any HCHS comeback hopes with an interception that all but sealed the victory.

The win left Brian Dail's team with a winning record in the league (3-2).

Fourth

From B1

Well by now we know what has happened, at least through the first half of the NFL season.

McVay brought in defensive guru Wade Phillips, and the defense has gone from allowing almost 25 points per game (PPG) in 2016 to just 19 PPG thus far in 2017. They went from 22nd in the league to ninth.

It's the Rams' offense, McVay's specialty, that has made the largest improvement.

In a way that would make even Drake proud, they started from the bottom, now they here.

The Rams averaged 14 PPG last season, good for last place in the league. They are currently first in the NFL, averaging almost 33 PPG and seem to be improving with every game.

The Rams put up 51 points this past Sun-

day against the Giants, their third game of 40 or more.

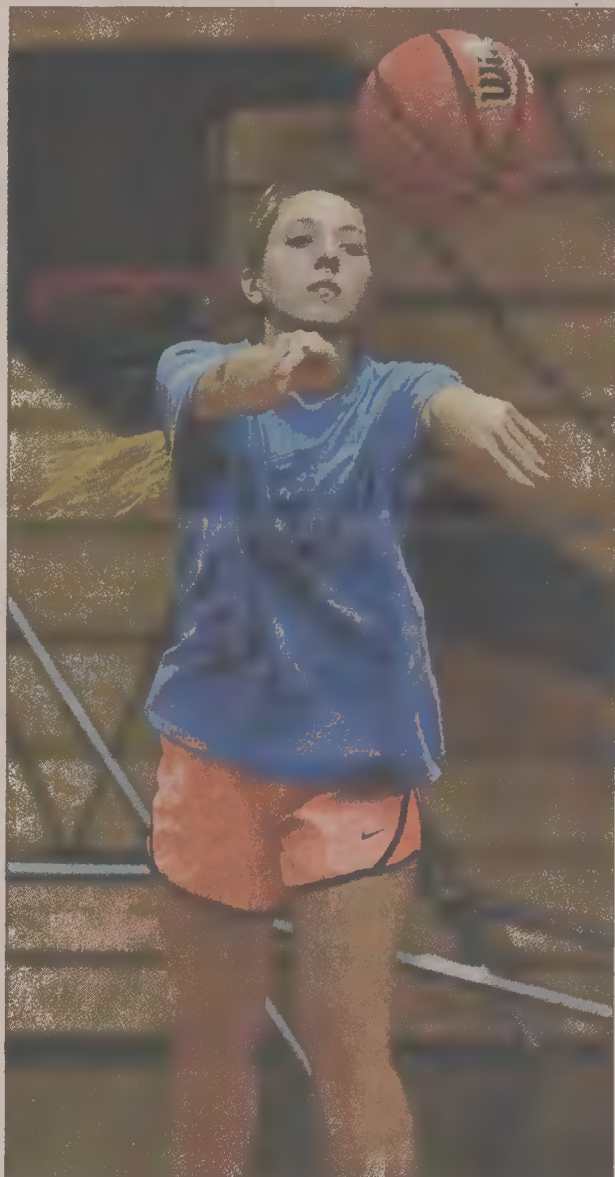
We are halfway through the season and they have already scored almost 40 more points than they did all of last year.

The defense is giving the offense better field position and the offense, by scoring on almost half of their possessions this season and thusly kicking off, is giving the defense more field to work with, more room for error and more freedom to be aggressive.

I'm not saying the Rams are Super Bowl bound. What I am saying is that Sean McVay and the L.A. Rams are for real.

David Friedman is a long time sports writer and columnist. A Bertie High School graduate, he and his family currently reside in Wilmington. David can be reached

WARRIORS BASKETBALL AROUND THE CORNER



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Basketball season is almost here. Teams from Lawrence Academy have been preparing for the 2017-18 season with practices that began in late October/early November. Pictured here are key Warrior returners Savannah Stevens (left) and Lindsay Smith as they work their way through passing and dribbling drills, respectively. Lawrence opens its season Nov. 14 at home against Halifax Academy and will host a two-day, round-robin tournament for boys and girls Nov. 17-18.

 Thadd White Editor BLA	1. NE 2. Princeton 3. SCHS 4. SWE 5. Northside 6. MSU 7. Georgia 8. TCU	 Abby Parker Photographer BLA	1. NE 2. Princeton 3. SE Halifax 4. SWE 5. Southside 6. Ohio St. 7. Georgia 8. Oklahoma	 David Friedman Columnist BLA	1. NE 2. Riverside 3. SE Halifax 4. HCHS 5. Southside 6. Ohio St. 7. Georgia 8. Oklahoma
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 Barry McGlone Retired AD Bertie High	1. Bertie 2. Riverside 3. SE Halifax 4. HCHS 5. Southside 6. MSU 7. Auburn 8. Oklahoma	 Willie Roberson Retired Coach Bertie High	1. NE 2. Princeton 3. SCHS 4. SWE 5. Southside 6. Ohio St. 7. Georgia 8. Oklahoma	 Marshall Cherry Chief Op. Officer Roanoke Electric	1. Bertie 2. Riverside 3. SE Halifax 4. SWE 5. Southside 6. MSU 7. Georgia 8. Oklahoma
 Lewis Hoggard Ex.ec. Director W/B Chamber	1. NE 2. Riverside 3. SCHS 4. SWE 5. Southside 6. Ohio St. 7. Auburn 8. Oklahoma	 Todd Lane Police Chief Windsor	1. NE 2. Riverside 3. SCHS 4. HCHS 5. Southside 6. Ohio St. 7. Georgia 8. Oklahoma	 Gene Motley Sports Editor RCNH	1. NE 2. Princeton 3. SE Halifax 4. SWE 5. Northside 6. Ohio St. 7. Georgia 8. Oklahoma

PIGSKIN PICK'EM

GAMES OF THE WEEK

1. Bertie at Northeastern
2. Princeton at Riverside
3. South Creek at SE Halifax
4. SW Edgecombe at Hertford Co.
5. Northside at Southside
6. Michigan St. at Ohio St.
7. Georgia at Auburn
8. TCU at Oklahoma

OUR "GUARANTEED" WINNERS

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Thadd - SCHS (8-4) | Abby - NE (10-2) | David - SE Halifax (9-3) |
| Jim - NE (8-4) | Travis - NE (9-3) | Leslie - OK (8-4) |
| Barry - Oklahoma (11-1) | Willie - NE (10-2) | Marshall SWE - (10-2) |
| Lewis - SWE (10-2) | Todd - Southside (9-3) | Gene - NE (12-0) |

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

1. Gene (7-1)
- Jim (7-1)
- Abby (6-2)
- Barry (6-2)
- Marshall (6-2)
- Todd (6-2)
- David (5-3)
- Travis (5-3)
- Leslie (5-3)
- Willie (5-3)
- Lewis (5-3)
12. Thadd (4-4)

2017 STANDINGS

1. David (68-28)
2. Travis (67-29)
3. Marshall (66-30)
4. Lewis (64-32)
- Todd (64-32)
6. Thadd (63-33)
- Willie (63-33)
8. Abby (62-34)
- Gene (62-34)
10. Leslie (61-35)
11. Jim (57-39)
12. Barry (53-43)