

Hancock Trips

By Robin Wyatt
Sports Editor

Disappointment reigned at the dedication of the new George Walton Academy football field as the Bulldogs dropped an error-marred game to John Hancock, 8-0.

Penalties and rain sank the 'Dogs in their first home game in their history. However, if there is to be consolation in a loss, there was in this one. John Hancock came into the game expecting a repeat of last year's 27-6 score and should have gone home a loser.

With 11 seniors and a lot of beef on the line and in the backfield, Hancock is thinking championship this year. Friday night, though, the Rebels only penetrated into GWA's half twice. GWA had a pair of scoring runs called back and failed to convert on three other scoring opportunities deep in Rebel territory.

Relying on its air game for 42 yards, John Hancock made its first drive late in the first half. After moving from their own 30 to the GWA 19, Hancock was introduced to a future star. In the first two plays of the series, they lost two yards back to the 21, on third down defensive end Don Holder broke through the power sweep and dropped the Rebel runner for a loss. On the fourth down attempt, the rangy ninth grader dropped 200 lb. Terry Callaway for another two yard loss. This outstanding play allowed the Bulldogs to hang onto their scoreless tie and head back to the dressing room for the half.

It wasn't to last however. Just before the second half kickoff, the rain began to fall. On their opening series the Bulldogs fumbled, giving John Hancock the ball on the GWA 40. Utilizing several personal foul penalties on the 'Dogs, the Rebels were soon in scoring position on the 10. From there senior running back Rickey Wolfe, the Rebel's main threat, rumbled in through the downpour to score the game's only touchdown. On the two point

pressured quarterback Ronnie Ferrell but tight end Mike Simmons broke free of the coverage and made a one-handed grab of the slippery ball to give John Hancock an 8-0 lead.

The Bulldogs' first chance to score came early in the game as the opportunistic defense forced the first of many Rebel fumbles. Cornerback Huie McMichael, a newcomer, came up and tackled the receiver behind the line forcing a fumble. He recovered the loose ball on the Hancock 37. Hard running by Tony Groves and Jim Evans moved the ball to the eight where the Bulldogs had first and goal. They managed to move to the five but the stiffened Hancock defense would budge no further.

Late in the third quarter, Bulldog standout David McKissick separated a Rebel runner from the ball and claimed the ball for GWA on the Hancock 26. A delay of game penalty moved the Bulldogs back to the 31 but the next play would have nullified that. Quarterback Brad Bradley engineered a perfectly executed sweep play which scored Jim Evans, except for one thing. A yellow flag was lying on the ground. The touchdown was called back for illegal procedure. Hancock forced an interception to regain possession.

On the very next play, GWA was back in business. Don Holder recovered a fumble on the Hancock 30. The offense could only punch out five yards, though, before turning it back to the Rebels.

At the outset of the fourth quarter, the Bulldogs assembled their first real drive of the game. Starting from their own 45 the Bulldogs began to move. Bradley rolled around the end for 13 yards to get the drive started. He then ran for eight yards followed by Evans tough run for another six. A pass completion to Scott Bryant moved the ball to the 26 where a pass interference call took the ball to the 13. Trouble came on second

GWA In Opener

back to the 25. Third down found Holder wide open with room to run but the Hancock defense wouldn't let Bradley set. He overthrew the receiver. Another penalty moved the ball back five more yards. On fourth down Bradley whipped the ball to Groves who rifled a perfect pass downfield to Holder all alone in the endzone, but another flag had been dropped. Offsides nullified that score.

GWA got the ball back on their own 23 but only three minutes were left. Coach Ronald Bradley resorted again to his bag of tricks and almost pulled something out. With 1:31 left and fourth and 13, the Bulldogs went into a shotgun formation Bradley laid the ball into Groves outstretched arms for a first down but the quick back wasn't through. He eluded most of the Hancock team and was racing for the goal when the strain of playing every down caught up to him.

Hearing footsteps behind him he cut back in and gained another five yards to the 20 before he was dragged down. The play covered 60 yards. A personal foul on the Rebels moved it to the 10. Fate struck again as the next pass was intercepted killing the George Walton hopes.

Penalties and the three turnovers killed the Bulldogs in this first game but time should take care of these errors. The team made a superior effort on defense, especially McMichael, Holder, McKissick, Evans and Keith Henderson. McKissick led the team with 20 tackles. McMichael and Holder are both new to the GWA varsity and their presence has improved the team immediately. The offense provided a lot of fireworks and fans coming out this Friday night can expect to see more of those big plays. The bulldogs play Gordon-Ivey, expected to be the toughest opponent this year.



(PHOTO BY CHARLES STRICKLAND)

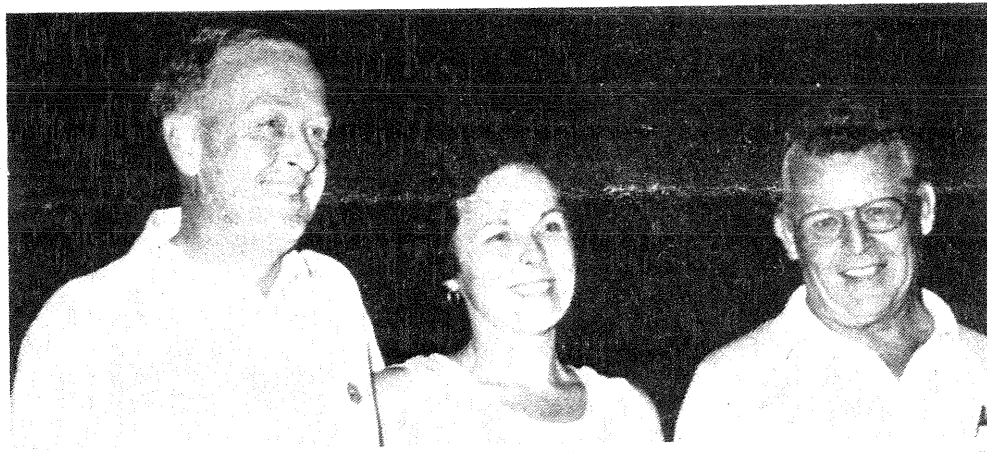
GWA'S JIM EVANS sets off on a jaunt against the John Hancock Rebels. The Bulldogs dropped the game, 8-0 in a game marred by rain, turnovers, and excessive penalties. The going was rough for Evans and anyone else coming out of the backfield. Evans,

the team's leading rusher last year, also had an outstanding game on defense. He had 15 tackles from his linebacker position. Don Holder had 14 and Keith Henderson had 13. David McKissick led the team with 20 tackles.

The Walton Tribune

Robln Wyatt **SPO RTS**





(PHOTO BY CHARLES STRICKLAND)

Trio Honored

AT CEREMONIES during halftime, George Walton Academy commended several people who were instrumental in the construction of the new athletic

Chairman Gibson Gray and Mae and J. W. Henderson were presented plaques in honor of their efforts by Chairman of the Board George J. Hearn, III.

Evans-Bradley lead

GWA win

00-16
18-2

The George Walton Bulldogs, showing improvement with each game, won their third game in four starts last Friday night. The 38-0 victory over Rutledge

Academy was the Bulldogs' best effort of the season.

GWA forced the Raiders to punt in their first series of the game, and the 'Dogs were in business on their own 40 yardline. Eight plays later the Bulldogs were in the end zone on a beautiful 37 yard run by junior Jim Evans. The 2-point conversion was added by Evans and GWA was off to an 8-0 lead.

On the first play of the second quarter senior Brad Bradley ran 5 yards to pay dirt. Tony Groves ran for the 2-pointer to give the home lads a 16-0 lead. In the third quarter Jim Evans added another TD on a 17 yard run. Evans scored the 2 point PAT for a 24-0 lead.

Later in the same quarter Brad Bradley, running the option play like a real Bulldog, scampered 13

yards to the endzone. Groves added the two-pointer to give the Dogs a 32-0 lead at the end of three quarters.

Early in the 4th quarter, Brad Bradley scored his third touchdown of the game on a six yard run.

Many GWA Bullpups saw action and this helped hold the score to the final margin.

The GWA offense rolled up 370 yards rushing. Jim Evans had 147 yards on 18 carries, Brad Bradley gained 120 yards on 16 attempts, and Tony Groves had 105 yards in 16 carries.

The Bulldog defense held the Raiders to 73 yards rushing and 48 yards passing. The defense, as usual, was led by linebacker David McKissick with 16 tackles. The tough senior is averaging 20

(Please turn to page 4D)

tackles a game. Freshman end Don Holder had 14 tackles and is fast becoming a man for the opponents to avoid.

The Dogs will host the unbeaten Barnesville Academy Warriors next Friday night. As an added attraction for the game, the famed Monroe Drum and Bugle Corps will perform at halftime. Game time is 8 p.m.

Award Winners of the week

Offensive Player of the Week -
Jim Evans - receives free steak
dinner at Covington Bonanza.

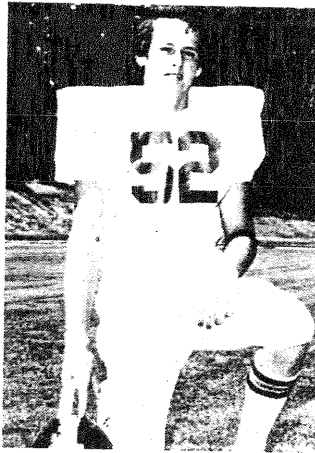
Defensive Player of the Week -
Don Holder - receives free steak
dinner at Covington Bonanza

Player of the week - Brad
Bradley - receives game ball.

Juniors
**Meet The
Bulldogs**



RICKY BRYAN is a defensive end specialist for the Bulldogs and has played some offense at the end position. He is in his fourth year of football at George Walton and also participates in softball and baseball. He plans to go into farming after graduation and his parents are Mr. and Mrs. Milton Bryan of Rt. 1, Loganville.



CONNOR "Moody" GRAY is the Bulldog's exceptional center. He was recently named the team's player of the week for his centering capabilities. On defense he is a tackle. He has been playing football four years, all at George Walton. Six feet tall, he uses his height on the school's basketball squad. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Gibson Gray of Gabriel Way, Social Circle.



JIM EVANS hails from Covington and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Evans. He is a stellar runningback for George Walton's Bulldogs and is a key man in the secondary. His football participation began 10 years ago in the youth football program in Covington and he hopes to possibly continue it in college. He also enjoys tennis.



KEITH HENDERSON started his football career in a youth football program eight years ago and is now in his third year of varsity football. He is a guard and would like to play football in college. Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Henderson are his parents and they reside on Rt. 3, Loganville.

PHOTOS COURTESY S & S STUDIO

GWA tames Flint River 48-0

Oct. 1976

The George Walton Academy Bulldogs crushed Flint River Academy 48-0 Friday night. The mismatch was the fifth win in their last six games for the home-standing Bulldogs.

GWA only needed five plays to score on their first possession. It was a 50 yard drive with Tony Groves scoring on a 27-yard run.

On their second possession GWA scored when Tony Groves passed 16 yards to freshman Don Holder.

David McKissick added the third touchdown of the quarter on a 21-yard run after picking up a Wildcat fumble. Jim Evans added the 2 point PAT to give the Dogs a 20-0 lead at the end of the quarter.

Early in the second quarter, Evans scored on a 1-yard plunge, and Groves added the 2 point PAT. With a 28-0 lead, the George Walton reserves played most of the second quarter.

The Bulldog starting offense

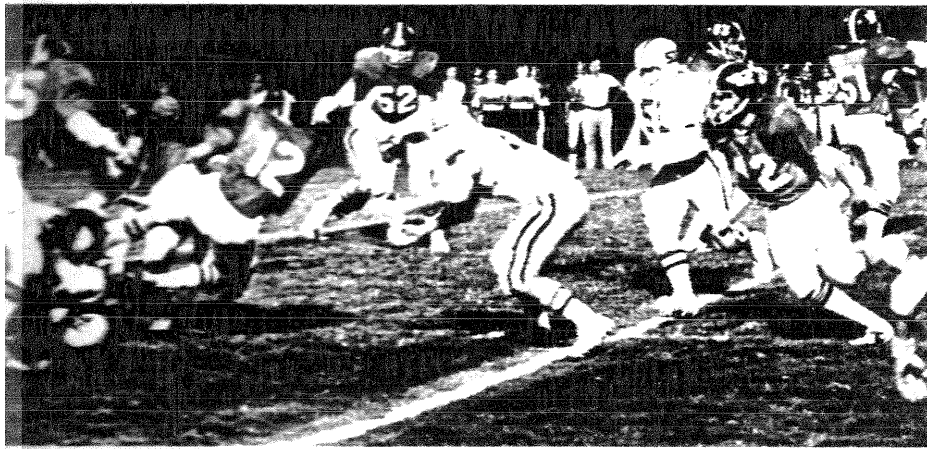
only saw action on two plays in the second quarter. The two plays were good for 60 yards as senior Brad Bradley ran 23 yards and Jim Evans finished the quick drive with a 37-yard run to paydirt.

In the third quarter tackle McKissick saw action as a running back. McKissick scored on a 1-yard plunge after setting up the touchdown with a 39-yard run. Freshman Bill Bradley passed to Holder for the 2 pointer to make the score 42-0.

Sophomore Huie McMichael scored on a 3-yard run to make the final score 48-0.

Linebacker David McKissick had 25 tackles to spearhead the Bulldog defense. It was the Bulldogs' third shutout in a row.

The 'Dogs will celebrate their 1976 homecoming next Friday night as they host Samuel Elbert Academy. It will be the final home game for the seniors Brad Bradley, David McKissick, George Ridgway, Tony Groves and Tom Brooks.



TONY GROVES, 12, lunges ahead for yardage Friday night against Flint River. He and his teammates shutout the

opponent 48-0 and now claim a 5-3 record having won the last 5 out of 6.

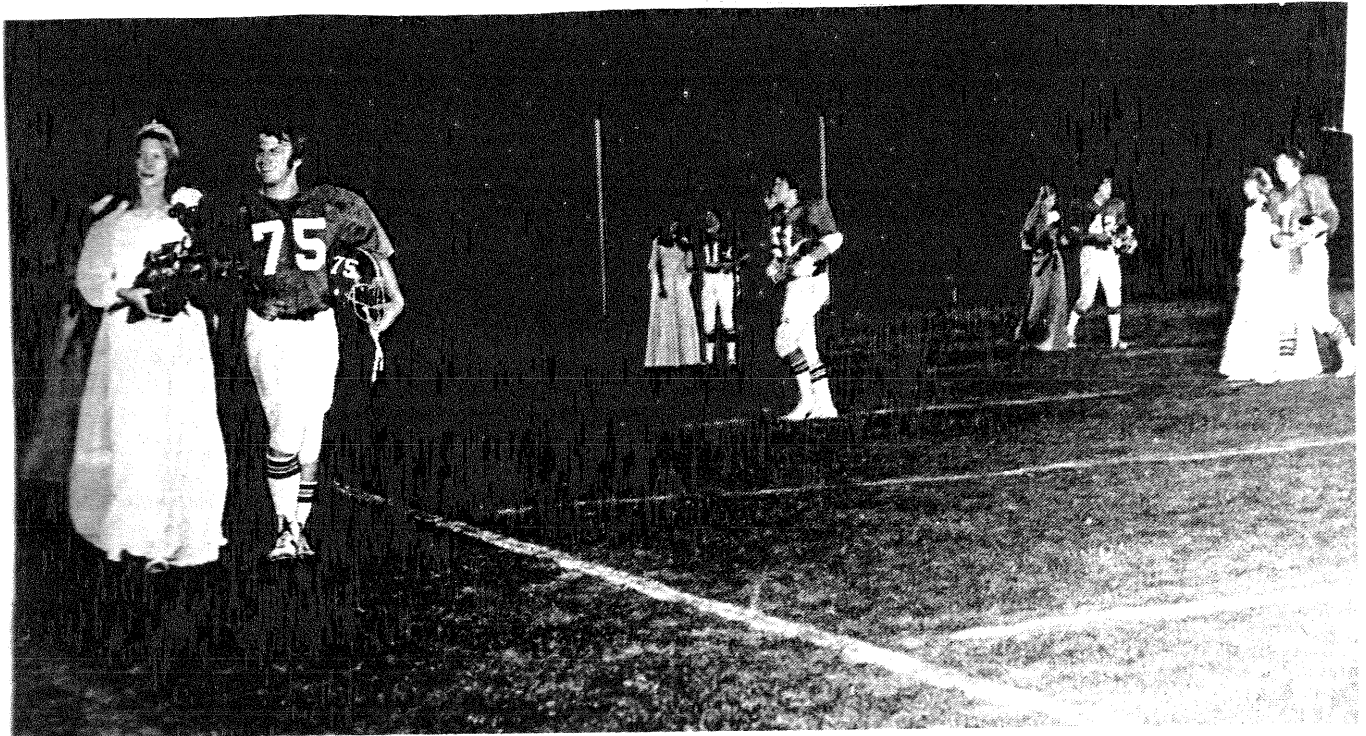
Oct. 1976



NUMBER 12 JIM EVANS drags a Flint River defender behind him as center Con-Gray, 52, blocks. Recognizable players in the photo are, from left, 76

Alan (Zelmo) Peters, 87 George Ridgway, 12 Tony Groves, Evans, 75 David McKissick, and Gray.

Homecoming Victory For Bulldog Seniors



Oct
1976

GWA FOOTBALL players escorted the homecoming contestants on and off the field during halftime festivities. Parents of the three senior cheerleaders and five senior football players were introduced before the game. At left is Homecoming Queen Miss Mary Huff, escorted by David McKissick.

**See Thursday's
Edition For
More Photos**

**By Janice Rowe
Sports Editor**

Junior Jim Evans, sophomore Huey McMichael and freshman Don Holder helped their teammates to a 36-6 Homecoming victory Friday night over the Samuel Elbert Commodores.

For five seniors, it was not only an important win because it was Homecoming, but because it was also their very last game at the new George Walton Academy field. The team will end their successful season Friday night, traveling to Rutledge Academy.

Evans led the Bulldogs on the ground. He picked up 199 yards with his patented slanting, rolling and twisting. He made one touchdown, two two-point conversions, five tackles and also had a 55 yard touchdown punt return nullified by a clipping penalty.

His touchdown was his team's third of the night. Taking the handoff 25 yards out, he made one of his awing third-effort runs up the middle, then turned left and scatted to the end zone.

Don Holder performed

more like a veteran than the freshman that he is, snagging two passes for TDs. The first was the first of the game, a 16 yard toss from halfback Huey McMichael. McMichael also had 39 yards rushing.

Holder stole the ball from many surrounding defenders for his second score. It was a 27 yarder from QB Brad Bradley.

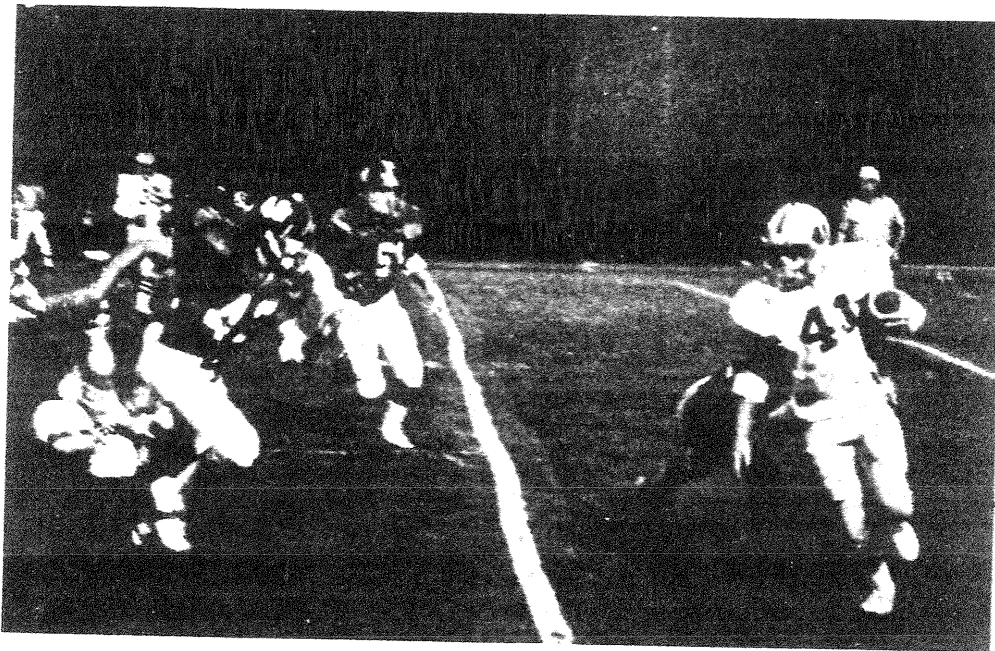
Bradley scored six points on a one yard run and two up the middle on a PAT.

No George Walton Academy write-up would be complete without praising senior tackle David McKissick. David not only made nine tackles, he also scored the last touchdown. In the closing seconds, he was transferred from his line position to runningback. He first carried 16 yards on a good pulling run to the two yard marker, one more on the next snap, and then the final one to the goal line.

David and his defensive teammates held the Commodores to eight yards rushing and 17 passing.

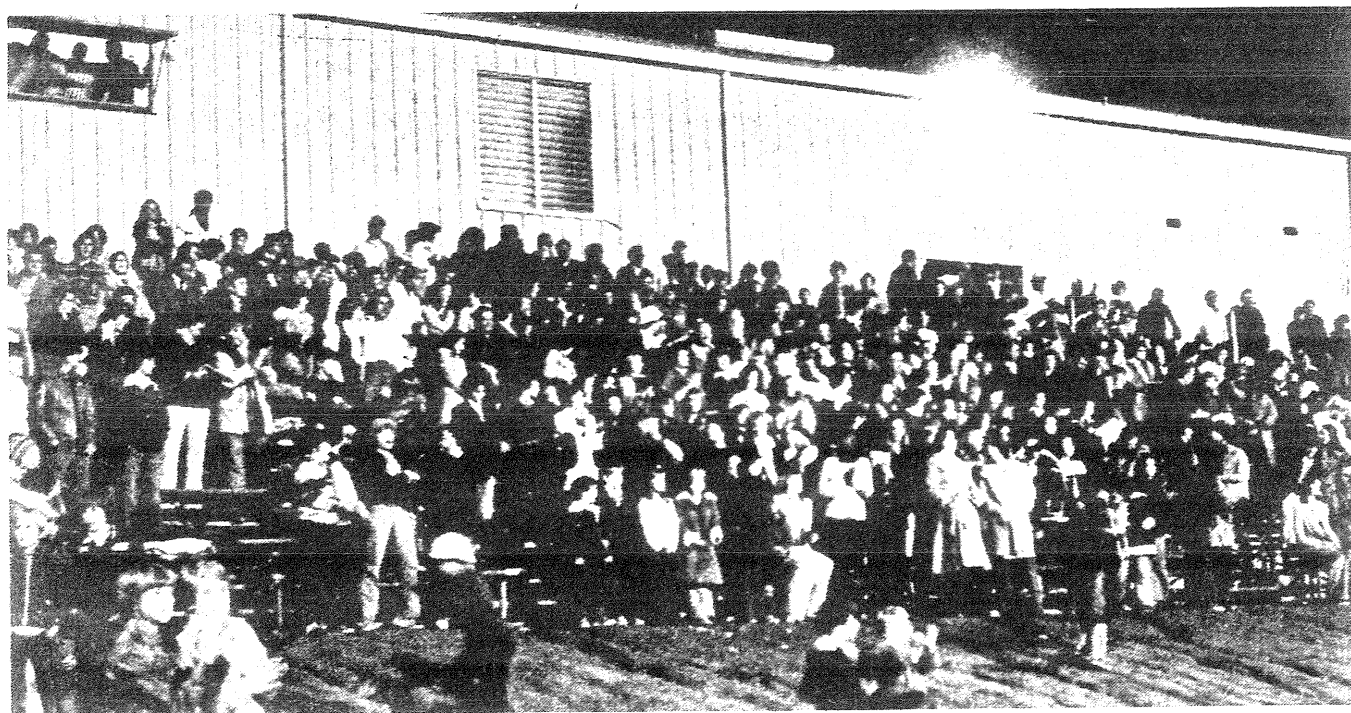
The Bulldogs now sport a 6-3 record and have won the last 6 out of 7.

Bulldogs Name Stand-Outs



JIM EVANS, number 42 in dark jersey, was named last Friday night's best offensive player for his team by George Walton Academy coach, Ron Bradley. He rushed 199 yards and scored one touchdown in a 34-6 victory.

Scott Bryant was named best defensive man and Ricky Bryan was selected best all-round player and received the game ball. Evans and Bryant received a free steak supper.



A LARGE GATHERING was on hand for George Walton Academy's first football homecoming Friday night.

GWA sails over SEA

Oct. 1976

George Walton Academy had its 1976 Homecoming football game Friday night. The opponents were the Commodores of Samuel Elbert Academy. The final score was 36-6 in favor of the George Walton Bulldogs coached by Ron Bradley. The win was the Bulldogs' sixth in their last seven games.

Five minutes into the game, freshman end Don Holder scored on a 17-yard pass from halfback Huie McMichael. Jim Evans rushed for the 2-point conversion.

In the second quarter, 14 points were scored by the Bulldogs. Brad Bradley scored on a 1-yard plunge (PAT missed) and Don Holder scored his second TD of the evening, this time on a 28-yard pass from Quarterback Brad Bradley. Bradley also rushed for the two-point conversion. The score at half-time saw the Bulldogs out front 22-0.

The third quarter was even as the Bulldog defense allowed a touchdown for the first time in 15 quarters. The Commodores scored on a sustained drive, but failed on the conversion. Jim Evans scored for the Bulldogs on a beautiful 25-yard run, and the score at the end of the 3rd

quarter was 28-6 in favor of GWA.

David McKissick scored the final touchdown for the Bulldogs in the fourth quarter on a 1-yard plunge. David's touchdown was a thrill for all Bulldog fans as he normally plays offensive tackle and is a terrific linebacker for the Bulldogs on defense.

Offensively for the Bulldogs, Jim Evans had an outstanding game, rushing for 199 yards in 30 attempts. Defensively David McKissick, Connor Gray and

Ricky Bryan had nine tackles each.

The Bulldogs' tenacious defense held the Commodores of Elberton to eight yards rushing and 17 yards passing for a total of 25 yards total offense.

At half-time senior Mary Huff was crowned queen of the homecoming festivities.

The final game of the year for the Bulldogs will be at Rutledge Academy Friday night as they try to add another victory to their record of 6 wins and 3 losses.

Roho's Ramblings

By Janice "Roho" Rowe

I wish everyone would have gone to a George Walton game and watched (in amazement as I did) Jim Evans slant, roll, twist, turn and give each run a fourth and fifth effort. I would rather watch him than any professional. David McKissick would also leave you in awe with his eery ability to know where the ball is going on every play. He's really unbelievable.

And I'm sure there are players for Loganville that try just as hard.

I salute any athlete who gives 100%, win or lose.

Going to local football games has renewed my faith in high school football. It's nice to go back to the times when the place to go on Friday night was the high school gridiron.

Watching the local football teams has even broken my habit of waiting for the instant replay!

Awards



DAVID McKISSICK, center, was named George Walton Academy's Most Valuable Player. Head Coach Ron Bradley, left, holds David's All Region Trophy and, at right is Assistant Coach Jay Milligan. The selection was based on David's phenomenal ability on the offensive and defensive line. From his tackle position he totaled 189 tackles, 32 individuals and 157 assists for an 18.9 average per game. He also recovered three fumbles and ran one back 21 yards for a touchdown. His offensive tackle capabilities was one of the reasons GWA finished with an outstanding 7-3 record.

1976

Second Annual Football Fans Appreciation Banquet



HUIE McMICHAEL, left, accepts Golden Helmet Award from Mrs. Charles Strickland. The award is presented to the football player with the highest academic average.

The George Walton Academy Booster Club sponsored the second annual Football Fans Appreciation Banquet, Dec. 2 in the school's cafeteria.

Booster Club President Bob Holder presided at the awards ceremony and dinner that preceded the awards.

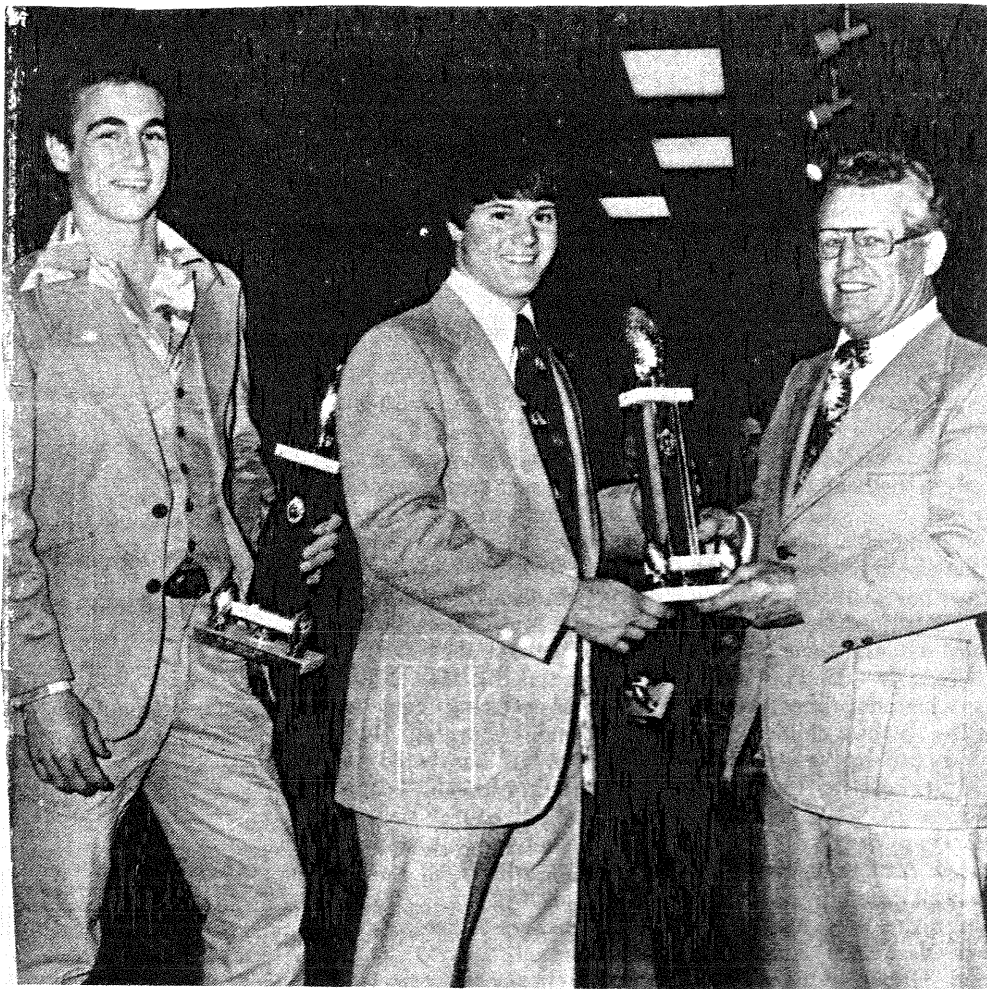
David McKissick, one of five seniors, welcomed the large groups assembled after which Head Coach Ron

Bradley offered complimentary remarks on the team's success this season.

Next on the agenda was cheerleader sponsor Carolyn Neely who gave charms and long stem red roses to each of the cheerleaders.

Bradley then awarded all team members with either a letter, bar, jacket or plaque.

After all awards had been passed out, Tony Groves closed the occasion with the benediction.



JAKE HENDERSON, right, presents Best Effort Award to Alan "Zelmo"

Peters, center, and the Most Improved Award to Don Holder.



GWA HEADMASTER David F. Wills, right, presents special All Re-

gion trophies to Brad Bradley, left, and David McKissick.



OFFENSIVE AWARDS were designated by Judson Caldwell, right. The Lineman Award went to Connor

Gray, center, and Outstanding Back was Jim Evans.



A *STEREO COMPONENT SYSTEM* was given to Head Coach Ron Bradley, right, by the team members, managers

and statisticians. Seniors David McKissick, left, and Brad Bradley made the presentation.



WINNING THE DEFENSIVE awards were Keith Henderson, left, lineman, and Brad Bradley, back.

Assistant Coach Jeff Sargent, right, offered the honors.



TONY GROVES was selected as the football player exhibiting the most sportsmanship. Presenting the trophy is Mrs. Gib Gray.