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## Chiefland wins homecoming defensive battle over Branford



**Jordan Strong (#7) rumbles around right end for a first down.**

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**Story and Photos By Terry Witt, Senior Reporter © Sept. 17, 2016 @ 9:47 a.m.**

**CHIEFLAND** -- A defensive stand in overtime followed by a 6-yard touchdown run by Lonnie Hinote lifted Chiefland to a 6-0 homecoming victory Friday night (Sept. 16) over the Branford Buccaneers.

Chiefland Coach Aaron Richardson said he underestimated the Buccaneers and didn't have an adequate game plan in place for his team, but he said the Indians battled and refused to quit.

"The thing that never left us was the fight," Richardson told the team afterward. "If that stays in your body, special things can happen."



The game was boring to some fans watching from a distance, but it was anything but humdrum in the trenches, where the big men on both teams fought for dominance in a defensive football game.

**Jamarion Bowers (#6) finds running room scarce as Buccaneer defenders prepare to greet him.**

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Neither team gave ground in regulation play.

The game was tied at 0-0 as regulation expired. The game went to overtime. Branford won the coin toss. The Buccaneers got the ball at the 10-yardline with Chiefland on defense.

The Buccaneers used a running and passing offense to push the ball to the Chiefland 2-yardline before a pair of penalties for delay of game and a false start pushed them back to the 11.

Chiefland's defenders called to each other as they lined up for the final showdown. Branford failed to get a first down. Chiefland players ran to sidelines to plot an offensive strategy with their coach. Branford players and coaches plotted defense on their sidelines.

For many who had watched the two defenses dominate the game, it came as something of a surprise when Hinote suddenly found a big gap around the left end and ran for a relatively uncontested score.



Game over.

Bedlam broke out as Hinote's teammates swarmed over him in the end zone to celebrate his touchdown.

Later, after things settled down bit, and Coach Richardson was able to address the team, he lavished them with praise for their determination to win the homecoming game.

## **Chiefland Coach Aaron Richardson congratulates his team on a hard-fought homecoming victory.**

"I'm as proud as I've ever been of a football team for the way you battled," Richardson said. "The defense played lights out all night. The guy that needs to work hard till next week is me."

Richardson said the reason Chiefland found it difficult to run the ball on Branford, aside from the Buccaneers' physical style of

play, was the Indians' lack of a passing game. He said the Buccaneers were able to move 10 defenders close to the line on nearly every Chiefland offensive play to stop the run. They had no fear of passing.

Richardson said he will add more passing plays to the offense next week to give his quarterback room to operate in the backfield. An effective passing game can open up the run.

Despite the lack of a passing game, Chiefland's Jordan Strong ran for 101 yards, Wyatt Hammond for 44 yards, Lonnie Hinote for 20 yards and the winning overtime touchdown, Brian Norris for 6 yards and Jamarion Bowers for 6 yards.

The lack of a passing game allowed the Buccaneers to nearly choke off any outside runs and bottle up Chiefland runners when they tried to blast through the center of the line.

Chiefland had watched game films of the Buccaneers and knew they had several players who

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liked to play physical ball on defense. The Indians knew it wouldn't be easy. And it wasn't.

But Chiefland didn't back down. Neither did Branford for that matter. Football fans that enjoy watching good defense got their money's worth on Friday night.

It came down to overtime and who would break the scoring drought.

Richardson grew a few more gray hairs in the process.

Chiefland prevailed. The Indians are 1-0 in district play.

## Chiefland Wins



Former Coach C. Doyle McCall, 88, a legend in Chiefland coaching, gets a gentle hug from one of his former players, Ted Key, on the sidelines of Friday's (Sept. 16) game. Key was an All American running back on the 1965-66 Chiefland Indians team that went undefeated and untied in the regular season -- the only team in Chiefland history to do so. Also in the photo is Kary Colson, a friend of Coach McCall's, nearest to the camera. The field at Chiefland High School -- C. Doyle McCall Field -- is named in honor of Coach McCall. The stadium is named in recognition of the late Wayne Pridgeon. For the whole story about the homecoming victory for Chiefland and more photos, please visit the [LEISURE PAGE](#).

*Photo by Terry Witt, Senior Reporter, © Sept. 17, 2016 @ 9:57 a.m.*