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Bears beat Buccaneers 53-16 at Dixie County's homecoming



Dixie County 2016 Homecoming Queen Bailee Osteen and King Kyle Chesser share a moment after the game.

Story and Photos By Terry Witt © Oct. 16, 2016 @ 8:07 a.m.
Senior Staff Writer

CROSS CITY -- The Dixie County Bears cruised to a 53-16 homecoming win over Branford Friday night (Oct. 14) with a mix of passing and running that kept the Buccaneer defense guessing as they visited Cross City.

Bears quarterback Kyle Chesser had the luxury of handing off or throwing passes to

quick running backs Jamal Chapman, Clifford Jackson, James Smith and Carlos Williams Jr., all of whom made tacklers miss.



2016 DCHS Homecoming Queen Bailee Osteen (left) is crowned by 2015 DCHS Homecoming Queen Katie Jones.

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The home team's defense kept the Buccaneers contained for most of the night, but Branford running back Ryan Edington broke two 7- yard touchdown runs to prevent the Bears' win from becoming a blowout.

Bears Head Varsity Football Coach Brent Wilkerson said the key was the team functioning as a family and working together as a team on the field. When the team met after the game they said "Family!" as they broke the huddle.

"Team play; Team play," Coach Wilkerson said. "I think we ran the ball well. We threw the ball well, and defensively we tried to get a lot of guys to the football."

Asked if they played lights out defense?

"I wouldn't say 'lights out,' but they played pretty well," the head coach said.

Dixie County is scheduled to face Newberry in Cross City next week.



Running back Clifford Jackson follows lead blocker Dustin Bennett for a big gain around left end.

Coach Wilkerson said Newberry is a tough football team and if the Bears want to be in the playoffs they need to beat Newberry.

The Bears left no doubt early on they could score on big plays.

Chapman ran 65 yards for a touchdown on a first quarter kickoff return, but the score was called back on a personal foul call. When the Bears got the ball back they quickly scored on a 30-yard touchdown pass from Chesser to Kevin Hardin.

The Bears were just seconds from another score.

On the kickoff, the Buccaneers fumbled the ball at their own 5-yard-line. Williams ran for a touchdown two plays later from 3 yards out. The Bears led 13-0 with 4:49 left

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in the first quarter.

The Bears extended their lead with 58 seconds left in the first quarter when Chesser threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Dustin Bennett. The extra point pushed the score to 20-0.

The Buccaneers refused to quit. Edington ran for the first touchdown of his two 70-yard touchdowns with 7:23 left in the second quarter. The two-point conversion was good for the Buccaneers.



Jamal Chapman jukes as tackler as he begins a 65-yard kickoff return for a touchdown that was called back. James Smith is also shown in back.

Late in the second quarter, the Bears marched almost the full length of the field to score on a 3-yard run by Chapman. The extra point gave Dixie County a 27-8 lead going into halftime.

The Bears came roaring back after the half with an interception by Britton Rollison that set up Dixie County's next score, a 5-yard run by Joey Grimm. Everyone on the team was getting a piece of the action. The extra point increased Dixie County's lead to 34-8.

The Buccaneers went three and out on their next series, and Dixie County capitalized, scoring on a 25-yard pass to James Smith with 3:21 left in the third period. The extra point was good and the Dixie County lead swelled to 41-8.

Dixie County substituted with some of its reserves late in the game and it worked to the team's advantage. The team scored on a 69-yard run.

Branford continued to fight back.

Edington ran for his second 70-yard score with 5:31 left in the fourth quarter. The two point conversion was good.

Dixie County ran for its final score, a 42-yard ramble, to end the game.



Carlos Williams Jr. blasts through a gap in the Buccaneer defense for an 8-yard gain.

Parade Prep



A huge Dixie County High School Homecoming Parade on Thursday afternoon (Oct. 13) included candidates for various offices. There was the marching band for the high school, floats and more. Among the candidate entrants in the parade is this group seen here. They are (from left) Lawson Davis, the candidate's nephew, Jon Micah Davis, a candidate for Dixie County Commission District 1, his wife Mindy Davis and their son Colton Davis.

Photo by Jeff M. Hardison © Oct. 16, 2016 @ 8:27 a.m.