

See the story and picture at the top of the page about the Apopka Blue Darters' 49-21 loss to the undefeated Lake Mary Rams. The Blue Darters were tied up with

the Rams halfway through the second quarter, but Lake Mary pulled away by halftime due to scoring 14 more points than Apopka in the second quarter.



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Blue Darters fail to interrupt Lake Mary's undefeated season

By: Marshall Tempest
Apopka Chief Staff

In what started out as a close contest, the game against the Lake Mary Rams quickly turned into a loss for the Apopka Blue Darters on Friday, October 23, after the Rams' offense found its rhythm. Apopka

got one of its star defenders, Malachi Davey, back healthy and in the lineup last week and just in time for some big plays.

The teams were tied up halfway through the second quarter with the Apopka offense and defense looking to rise to the occasion of beating the undefeated Rams. But two scor-

ing drives for Lake Mary before half would be the momentum shift from which Apopka couldn't come back.

It was another night of switching between the single wing offense and Tyson Davison at quarterback. Davison couldn't find his footing with the pass game early on leading Apopka to stick to the ground game.

The Rams had an explosive night on the ground and through the air balancing their offense just right to keep Apopka on their heels. Lake Mary tallied 492 yards all-purpose yards and seven touchdowns. Noah Grubbs, Lake Mary's quarterback, had a golden arm against the Blue Darters going 21-for-31 through the air for 367 yards, grabbing four touchdowns but threw one interception.

Apopka started off the game with the ball after returning the kickoff to their 24-yard line. Apopka was shut down on their first three plays and had to punt.

The Rams offense got right to work with quick passes for five or seven yards and converting through the ground game. Lake Mary was moving the sticks with purpose in their first drive finding the weak spots and probing Apopka's pass defense.

After marching deep into the Blue Darters' side of the field with quick slants and passes to the sideline, the Rams found themselves on Apopka's four-yard line. They went with a run up the middle from Isaiah Thomas who pushed through the blue wall for Lake Mary's first

points of the game. The extra point was good, putting the Rams up 7-0 with 7:07 left in the first quarter.

Apopka returned the kick to their 36-yard line with plans to score on this drive. Apopka immediately grabbed three back-to-back penalties, one holding penalty, and two false start penalties. Apopka faced second and 27 from behind their 20-yard line. The Blue Darters handed the ball off to Nate Jenkins who was met at the line giving Apopka a third and 27. Apopka grabbed a few yards off the quick pass but not enough to move the chains leaving them with punting as their only option.

The Rams recovered possession at their 40-yard line. Apopka shutdown the Rams offense not allowing them to convert the downs. After their run attempts were met at the line, plus an incomplection, the Rams sent out their punt team.

Apopka recovered the punt at their 22-yard line. The first play results in a fumble which the Rams recovered giving them an immediate opportunity at points on Apopka's 22-yard line.

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On Friday, October 20, Apopka's Marcus Grant pushes a Lake Mary defender out of the way with a stiff arm during a kick return.

Apopka High School Bowling win District 8 Championship

By Neal Fisher
Apopka Chief

Different personality, different strategic tactics, different coaching approach...

Same result for the Apopka Blue Darters though.

Held at Apopka Bowlero Lanes on Tuesday, October 24, the Blue Darters positioned itself as the team to beat during the District 8 championship meet from the start. Then conviction of being the team to beat only grew throughout the meet as Apopka executed a never-renting workmanlike performance.

The underlying strength from start to finish was functioning with an unequalled efficient adeptness when

needing to meet the challenge of the present situation.

This district championship is the ninth claimed by the Blue Darters over the last 11 seasons.

More importantly, every district champion also earns a berth into the state championship meet. Apopka will be attempting to claim a seventh state championship in total and second consecutive. Boardwalk and Bowl (10749 East Colonial Drive) will host the meet on Tuesday, October 31-Thursday November 2.

"Everyone on the team and coaching staff is obviously pleased and proud of the outcome," Blue Darters coach Doug Campbell said. "The area and all of Apopka should be proud of this

team's achievements and as a representative too."

The 2023 berth into the state championship meet is perhaps Campbell's finest job as coach. Only one regular starter from last season's state championship team and only two members returned. Three bowlers in the line-up had no experience competing at the varsity level.

The team needing most of the regular season to reach the championship level of play was in particular a test for Campbell.

"We looked good today," Campbell said. "That wasn't the case as recently as just a couple of weeks and about five practices ago. The turnaround doesn't al-

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Coach Doug Campbell, Isiah Jackson, Nathan White, Logan Licavoli, (back), Chase Robbins (trophy), JP Cruz, Bradyn Sowers (back), Kolton Evans, and Angelo Mullica.

Wekiva falls to Jones Tigers 68-47 Apopka travel to Evans for district game

By Neal Fisher
Apopka Chief

From the Wekiva Mustangs' perspective, the 68-47 loss to the Jones Tigers was an opportunity to take a significant step towards securing a Class 3M playoff berth that was not seized.

Held on Friday, October 20, "all three phases of the game were won by Jones," Wekiva co-head coach Lamarus Jackson said. "Even 47 points was not good enough to defeat the Tigers when comparing offenses. We scored a lot of points, but still not as many as Jones. The play of special teams weren't just poor. How often do special teams give up



Wekiva's Ty'Ray Davis drops back for a pass while reading the Jones defense on Friday, October 20.

three touchdowns during one contest?"

Records are now 4-5 for the Mustangs and 4-3

for the Tigers.

Four district champi-

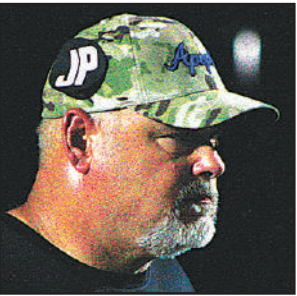
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By: Marshall Tempest
Apopka Chief Staff

After falling to the Lake Mary Rams at home last week, the Apopka Blue Darters now sit at 5-3 on the season and 1-2 in 4M District 2. Apopka is set to travel to Orlando on Friday, October 27, to face off with the Evans Trojans in the Blue Darters' last 4M District 2 game of the regular season. The game is slated for a 7 p.m. kickoff at Evans High School Football Stadium.

Apopka sits right atop Evans on the district ladder at third place right under Lake Mary and Seminole respectively. The Trojans are 4-4 on the season, and 1-2 in District games, as are the Darters.

Apopka and Evans are as evenly matched as any



Apopka head football coach Jeff Rolson.

team Apopka has played so far this season. The Trojans are a rush-heavy team like Apopka but still throw the ball methodically. The highlights of their offense come from quick plays whether from behind the line with a run or over the top through the air.

Evans is a very balanced team on both sides of the ball but tend, like most high school football programs, to lead toward the run. Evans has three run-

ning backs averaging over 100 yards a game, combining for an average of 338.6 rushing yards a game: Chris Peterson with 121.9 yards a game, Jermaine Hardy with 114.4 yards a game, and Lidarius Pryor with 100.1 yards a game.

Apopka is as run-heavy as a team can be, choosing to push forward on the ground more than 80 percent of the time. Even with the plethora of rushing attempts, Apopka sits at an average of 148.5 rushing yards a game. One thing to keep in mind is the strength of the schedule for Evans and Apopka. Apopka has had a much tougher schedule facing some of the best programs in the state (Seminole, Lake Mary, and Edgewater). Evans' strength of

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Apopka drop to 5-3 after losing to Rams, preparing for Evans

By: Marshall Tempest
Apopka Chief Staff

Last week the Apopka Blue Darters hosted the undefeated Lake Mary Rams and lost 49-21. The bad news is that we obviously lost. The good news is we lost to the best team in 4M District 2 and put up the second most points on them anyone has all season, first being Dr. Phillips in their matchup with the Rams where they lost 76-60.

The game started with Apopka not being able to convert on their first drive. Three plays and a punt. Nine plays and four first downs later the Rams would score their first touchdown. The extra point was good, and Lake Mary was already in the driver's seat of this game early in the first quarter.

After the score we got to see the first of Lake Mary's alternative kick-off strategies. They started with a squib kick to just about the Darter 15-yard line that was recovered and brought to the Darter 36-yard line. Lake Mary consistently aimed for inside of the 30 away from Apopka's speedy return men. On more than one occasion Lorenzo Payne was the target for the return, a much bigger and slower target

for the Rams' kickoff team to hone in on.

The first quarter was a close one with both sides battling for scoring opportunities. The second quarter started with Apopka and Lake Mary tied 7-7 after a 98-yard pick six was brought in by Malachi Davey on a fourth and one on Apopka's two-yard line.

The second quarter started off with the same energy as the first with both teams scrapping on the field for first downs and big plays. The Rams were the first to score in the second quarter of a 16-yard run from Isaiah Thomas who would go on to record 108 rushing yards, 37 receiving yards, four touchdowns, and an average of 6.8 yards a carry against Apopka's defense by the end of the night.

Apopka followed suit on their next drive. In three plays Apopka was in the endzone thanks to a 54-yard touchdown run from Marcus Grant. Yet again Apopka was tied up with the Rams and itching to stay in the game.

The Apopka defense could not consistently halt the Rams' offense from moving the chains or punish them on third and fourth downs. The Rams collected 20 first down compared to Apopka's

nine, and they converted three of seven third down conversions, and two of three fourth down conversions.

After Apopka's will to win put them into the endzone from their own 46-yard line the Rams began the onslaught.

Five unanswered touchdowns, four through the air, one through the ground. Apopka wouldn't score again until late in the fourth quarter. Lake Mary would go into half up 28-14 after scoring two more touchdowns in the second quarter right over top of the Apopka secondary. Slants right up the middle and coverage breaking plays like the flea flicker touchdown pass to Thomas right before half.

So many times, throughout the game the Rams receivers were steps ahead of the Apopka secondary catching uncontested throws in stride. Another thing I saw was the lack of pressure inside the pocket from Apopka which is uncharacteristic for the Blue Darters. Even against a team with a great passing offense, like Olympia, the Blue Darters were able to consistently find themselves inside the pocket and pressuring the quarterback to make a decision, and hopefully the wrong

one.

The Rams' offensive line was strong and kept quarterback Noah Grubbs safe giving him time to read the field, the defense, and his options on any given snap.

The third quarter was no better for Apopka as Grubbs let it fly every chance he could. The Rams came out on their first drive, and in three plays, were in the endzone again thanks to a 66-yard touchdown pass to Carson Friedman who blew right past his man on a slant. The Rams lead the Blue Darters 35-14.

The Rams would go on to shutout Apopka in the third quarter and position themselves far ahead by the start of the fourth due to two more touchdowns that put them up 49-14 going into the final period.

The Blue Darters refused to lay down and accept defeat and willed their way into shutting out the Rams in fourth quarter and scoring a touchdown putting them 49-21.

"What we did with the single wing (in the fourth quarter) is what we would like to be able to do all night, keep them (Lake Mary's defense) on the field. With the turnovers we had, with the kick

we dropped, it just put the game out of reach," coach Jeff Rolson said after the game.

Lake Mary changed their offense about halfway through the second quarter from quick passes to the sideline focused on securing first downs and pushing down the field methodically, to a deep-ball-break-coverage type of offense. The Apopka secondary couldn't keep up with Lake Mary's receivers deep down field, and the Rams exploited that on multiple occasions.

"We gotta get a lot better, football is a fundamental game. We gotta be able to attack on defense, we gotta be able to complete passes, we gotta be in shape, we gotta be physical, but that's a good football team. We gotta get healthy and get better," coach Rolson said after the game in regard to what the team would be taking from the loss.

Apopka at Evans

Like Apopka, the Trojans' last match up was the Lake Mary Rams, and they, too, took home a loss. Evans lost 36-6 only able to score one touchdown coming from the ground. On the other hand, Apopka while losing 49-21, still scored three touchdowns on one of Florida's best

defenses, and one of them came from a pick six.

The Trojans have been able to be more volatile than Apopka on offense, scoring a total of 194 points this season compared to Apopka's 110. Defensively though, Apopka stands tall. Apopka has only allowed 148 points this season right next to FHSAA number eight ranked Lake Mary's 139 points allowed. Evans has allowed 189 points, over 40 more points than the Blue Darters.

Evans does have good pressure in the pocket and in the backfield, even better than Lake Mary. Evans has 35 tackles for loss on the season, and 11 sacks. Lake Mary has 28 tackles for loss on the season, and eight sacks. So Apopka's offensive line should be in for a battle to protect their quarterback and the running game.

Apopka has the obvious historical advantage having won every matchup with Evans since 2003. Now while history can and has a way of repeating itself Apopka must stay steady on it's course. I think Apopka will bounce back from the loss to Lake Mary with a focus on discipline and consistency on both sides of the ball.

Apopka by 13.

Mustangs: 34 points in fourth wasn't enough

Continued from page 1C

ons and four wild cards earn berths in each region.

The seventh position in the FHSAA's Class 3M power rankings was held by Wekiva entering the contest against Jones. Help is most likely needed even if the crosstown rival Apopka Blue Darters are defeated in the season finale. The Tigers will maintain the number six position at the minimum.

"As said all season, top-tier teams turn the smallest mistakes, into advantages and quality of execution into points," Jackson said. "Playing good isn't enough to defeat Jones. The quality of play needed didn't improve to the level at which the Tigers were executing. Jones' play was at a level worthy of making a deep run into the playoffs. In comparison, our play was, over-

all, a level below, which is the point of competing in the first place.

"The Tigers deserve credit for understanding and adjusting to every situation. In particular, Jones' speed was used well, and again, in comparison to us, at a much higher level. Every time the moment to strike presented itself, the Tigers capitalized."

The outcome of the contest was decided early on, despite the 115 combined points and 540 passing yards gained by Ty'Ray Davis. Both are new records for Wekiva. Total yards were also in the Mustangs' favor at 571-364. However, the three touchdowns scored on special teams was the reason for failure.

"We fell behind by 20 points after the first four possessions," Jackson said. "Turning the smallest differences in mistakes, advantages and quality of execu-

tion into points usually goes hand-in-hand with keeping leads. Giving up leads is rare among top-tier teams.

"Capable of trading-touchdowns was proven. However, trading touchdowns during the second half and after falling behind by three isn't nearly enough to win against Jones."

The contest began with Jones marching 57 yards and ended with a successful 30-yard field goal attempt from Johnley David capping off the possession. A 49-yard Dereon Coleman to Jacques Varner pass completion set up the field goal attempt.

The next play of big impact covered 58 yards as Sean Murphy hauled in a Trever Jackson pass. From four yards out, Jackson then scored on a four-yard rush. The Tigers needed to keep scoring during the second half, but never re-

linquished the lead after Murphy scored the rushing touchdown.

Other points were scored by Jones during the first half on a successful 33-yard field goal attempt from David, a 47-yard punt return from Vernell Brown and a 10-yard pass completion from Coleman to Varner. At halftime, the score was 27-7

The Tigers scored on 11 of their 12 possessions. The other possession ended with a lost fumble. Six of the touches began on Wekiva's side of the field. During each of the touches, the Tigers gained at least 20 yards on one play to set up the scores. Wekiva began possessions on Jones' side of the field only twice.

Some impact of the 540 yards gained by Davis via the air was minimized due to two inter-

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Bowling: Elizabeth Marshall, playoff berth

Continued from page 1C

ways take a steady pace and reaches the end result after a period of time. In our case, the turnaround was a when-the-light-bulb-turns-on moment."

Team and individual champions for men and women are contested at the state championship meet.

Elizabeth Marshall also advanced to the state championship meet as an individual competition entry. All individuals who are part of a team advancing also qualify for the individual competition. The two highest scoring entries who are members of non-advancing teams in each district also earn a berth.

"Elizabeth worked hard and deserves the berth because of the commitment made," Campbell said. "Earning a berth into the state championship meet has been the goal since the summer. All the work needed for improving to the level of state championship meet

qualifier were participated in, starting with competing in summer leagues."

Two components are used to determine district and state champions, a preliminary, 10-pin (traditional format for bowling) and then a head-to-head, double-elimination tournament. Games thrown during the 10-pin component increases from three to four between the district and state championship meets.

Outcome of each match during the tournament is determined using Baker Rules and best of five game formats. Similar to an offensive line-up in baseball, each bowler throws one frame. The first bowler throws the first frame, second bowler throws second frame and so on.

Teams and individuals advancing to the tournament, also increases between district and state championship meets, from four to 16 highest scores.

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Police Beat

If a law enforcement agency charges you with a crime and this paper reports that information, please notify us within 90 days if the charge is dropped, or if you are found not guilty by the court. After verifying the information, we will be happy to publish it. Please send notification to *The Apopka Chief*, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, 32704-0880.

In the period from October 15-21, the Apopka Police Department received 1,538 calls for service, responded to 34 crashes, issued 18 citations, and made 18 arrests. Juveniles were charged with burglary-unoccupied conveyance unarmed; damage property-criminal mischief \$200 and under; larceny other theft; other agency warrant; battery-touch or strike; damage property-criminal mischief \$1,000 or more; resist officer obstruction without violence; vehicle theft-grand theft of motor vehicle.

The following adults were arrested and charged:

Jose Alvarado, 38, transient, Apopka, trespassing-occupied structure or conveyance.

Jose Maria Benavides, 28, 638 O Leary Ct., Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Adin Adrian Davis, 22, confidential, Apopka, aggravated assault-with deadly weapon without intent to kill.

Daniel Abraham Davis, 18, 620 Mason Ave., Apopka, other agency warrant.

Christopher Michael Diluigi, 50, 524 Bison Cir., Apopka, drugs-possession of controlled substance without

prescription.

Ceniyah Shacorra Da'Na Dixon, 19, 1291 Dunbridge St., Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Tyrone Anthony Gallon, 64, 1743 W. Walnut St. Apt B, Tampa, fraud-utter false bank bill/note/check/draft.

Devonta Harley, 25, confidential, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Terry Terrell Ivey, 25, confidential, Apopka, aggravated battery on pregnant victim; battery on specified personnel; resist officer with violence,

Martin Jaimes, 33, 1831 Central Park Ave., Orlando, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription.

Oscar Alejandro Parra, 18, 24 E. Skylark St., Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Christine Marie Pluchinsky, 58, confidential, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Rudolf Stewart Porras-Giron, 44, 1332 Apopka Blvd., Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Efren George Ramos, 48, confidential, Altamonte Springs, battery on specified personnel; battery-touch or strike; resist officer obstruction without violence; resist officer with violence.

William Santiago, 41, 1076 Timberlane Trl., Casselberry, burglary-unoccupied conveyance unarmed; drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription (methamphetamine); resist officer obstruction without violence.

Lee Noel Saucedo, 19, 3518 Rachel St., Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Michael Devon Small, 63, transient, Apopka, trespassing-failure to leave property on order of owner.

Stan Antonia Thomas, 53, 1644 Clara Ward Ave., Apopka other agency warrant.

Full moon will help the specks to bite

Hello Folks,

It's a great time to be in Florida where the fishin' is gonna' be good this fall. The fishin' isn't too bad right now but the specks are due to start bitin' on the full moon this month. We have a full moon this weekend and if the wind lays down a little you should be able to get out there and try and catch a few specks.

Kyle over at Bitter's B&T reports that the folks in his area are getting' a few minners and gettin' on the water and tryin' to locate some schools of specks. These folks are catchin' a few but it seems the specks are few and far between. Hey, you know what they say, a bad day on the water is still better than a good day at work.

Kyle also reports that the bass fishin' is doin'



Jim Keck
Goin' Fishin'

pretty good in most of the lakes in our area. The bass fishin' on the Butler Chain has been pretty good for numbers of bass. There isn't a lot of big bass bein' caught right now but you can go out there and catch some bass. Just about all the lakes are good right now if you fish with swim-baits, chatter-baits, or plastic worms or slow sinkin' Senko type baits. Just don't be in a hurry to catch'em', durin' the transition, it

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Darters: Lake Mary pull away from Blue Darters in second quarter

Continued from page 1C

The Rams went with a rush that grabbed a first down. After a quick pass to the flats and another rush for a small gain, Lake Mary was third and four on Apopka's five-yard line. Another quick pass puts the Rams on Apopka's two-yard line.

Fourth and goal and the Rams went with a pass. Davey made the biggest play of the night on his first night back in the depth chart, jumping an arrow route to the sideline and taking it to the house on a 98-yard pick-six. The extra point was good from Apopka's Hayden Kosicki, and Apopka was tied up with Lake Mary 7-7 with momentum on their side as the clock ran out in the first quarter.

Lake Mary started the second quarter with the ball and this was where the Rams proved their offensive prowess, scoring three touchdowns to Apopka's one. Their second touch-

down came from a 16-yard run from Thomas again after weaving through the middle of the Apopka defense.

Apopka would return the favor on their next drive with a 54-yard rushing touchdown out of the single wing coming from Marcus Grant up and through the middle of the Lake Mary defense. The extra point from Kosicki was good, and Apopka was tied up 14-14 Lake Mary with 6:10 left in the second quarter after a 1:15 touchdown drive. The Blue Darters were seemingly matching up well both offensively and defensively with the Rams.

Lake Mary would go on to score five unanswered touchdowns after that, and Apopka wouldn't score again until the fourth quarter. On the Rams' next drive Apopka couldn't stop them from moving the chains. Lake Mary bounced between the run and pass game, both with significant gains on the

Blue Darters' defense.

Lake Mary's second touchdown of the second quarter came from Thomas again off a 13-yard run, putting the Rams up 21-14 with 2:18 left in the first half.

The next play was the kick to the gut Apopka's momentum couldn't recover from. On the kick-off from the Rams, Apopka dropped the ball which was recovered by the Rams on Apopka's 37-yard line. The Rams went with a sneaky flea flicker play and hit Thomas again, this time for a touchdown through the air right up the middle of the field. The Rams led the Blue Darters 28-14 with 2:04 left in the second half, scoring another seven points in just 14 seconds.

The Blue Darters had a valiant attempt at trying to score again before half. Davison went right up the middle on a quarterback draw that brought Apopka from their 24-yard line to Lake Mary's 33-yard

line. Apopka stuck with the ground game after that but were stuffed after some small gains and faced with a third and long and went with the pass. The pass was incomplete leading to a fourth and eight for Apopka. The Blue Darters go with the single wing to try and grab the first, but Jenkins is stopped at the line giving the Rams the ball on their 27-yard line with 1:08 left in the first half.

Lake Mary ran out the clock when they got the ball and went into the locker room up 28-14.

The third quarter was the Blue Darters' darkest hour. Lake Mary scored three more touchdowns all through the passing game, all over 40 yards. The Rams came out of halftime with meaningful offensive and defensive adjustments, and Apopka's adjustments didn't go as planned. Lake Mary's first touchdown of the second half was a 66-yard touchdown pass to Carson Friedman on a

deep slant.

Coach Jeff Rolson said after the game, "When we came out in the second half, if we would've gotten a stop there, we would've went single wing; then we feel like we could've gotten within seven (points) and then were right there. But we went down 2,1 and we felt like we had to give the offense a chance to throw the football a little bit. We went out two series in a row and couldn't get it done. Unfortunately for us, they scored a whole bunch."

Lake Mary's next two drives would result in seven each. Lake Mary was up 49-14 going into the fourth quarter.

Apopka didn't quit even in the face of defeat and kept pushing and playing their hardest. Apopka marched down the field past the fifty with haste through the ground with help from Jenkins, Grant, and Reggie McBride. First down after first down through the single wing,

Apopka moved the chains with ease in the fourth. After another first down from Grant, Apopka had the ball on the Rams' 12-yard line.

The Rams pinched the line and met Apopka's rushes at the line, or right after, for a short gain. Apopka grabbed the first down through the middle and got a new set of downs on Lake Mary's two-yard line. Offensive lineman Ethan Korkes was hurt on the next play and walked off the field with help. McBride brought in the final score of the game on a one-yard touchdown run through the middle of the Rams' defensive line.

The extra point from Kosicki was good and set Apopka at 49-21 with 3:05 left in the game.

The game wasn't over as the Darters had one more chance to score. Lake Mary dropped the kick return which was recovered by Apopka on the Rams' 35-yard line. With

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Blue Darters fall to undefeated Lake Mary Rams 49-21, fall to 5-3



On Friday, October 13, Apopka’s captains, (LtR) Matthew Campbell, Marcus Grant, Reggie McBride, and Camaran Barnes walk to the center of Roger Williams Field to meet with Lake Mary’s captains.



Apopka’s quarterback, Tyson Davison, cocks back for a pass in the pocket.



The Apopka defense picks up and tackles Lake Mary’s Isaiah Thomas during their loss to the Rams.



Apopka defenders tackle a Lake Mary player during a kickoff return on Friday, October 13.



Nate Jenkins attempts a run behind blocker Reggie McBride.



Apopka’s Kingston Shaw makes a huge hit leading with his helmet on a Lake Mary receiver resulting in a 15-yard penalty from the point of the hit.



Myles Fieldings tackles a Lake Mary receiver in the endzone.



Apopka’s Marcus Grant is tackled while pushing through the Rams’ defense on October 13.



Coach Matt Anderson talks to punter Michael Wells on the sideline after a punt.



On Friday, Apopka defenders tackle Lake Mary’s Isaiah Thomas during their 49-21 loss.



Apopka’s Marcus Grant attempts to wrap up and tackle a Rams’ receiver out of bounds.



Apopka’s Akemi Caraballo (7) and Trey Muldrow (9) tackle Isaiah Thomas after he breaks past the Blue Darter defensive line.

Wekiva fall to Jones 68-47 on the road, Mustangs drop to 4-5



A Wekiva Mustang lunges to reach a Jones ball carrier during Friday night's 68-41 loss.



On Friday, October 20, Ty'Ray Davis scrambles to elude a rushing Jones defense during Wekiva's loss to the Jones Tigers.



Wekiva running back, Anthony Gay, attempts to outrun Jones' Tariq Hollinger as they race for the endzone.



Anthony Gay, Mustangs' running back, follows the block of Jabari Smith as he carries the ball for Wekiva.



Wekiva's Xavier Stephens (50), blocks Jones' D'antre Robinson, giving quarterback Ty'Ray Davis time to get rid of the ball on Friday night.



Jeremy Smith sprints around a wall of blockers as he carries the ball for the Mustangs on Friday, October 20, against Jones.



Quarterback, Ty'Ray Davis, releases a pass before he is drugged to the turf during the October 20, game against Jones.



The WHS band, dressed as Minions, performs from the stands to support the Mustangs' football team.

APK: Evans, Apopka have similar offense

Continued from page 1C

schedule on FHSAA is at 5:27 as compared to Apopka's 7:98.

We have seen the Blue Darter offense come alive, and what it is capable of these past weeks, that will need to continue to put away the Trojans, and then hometown rivals Wekiva the week after.

The defense has been good all season, but over the past few weeks, with the increase in the level of competition, the Blue Darter defense has given up quite a few points more than during the beginning of the season.

In the first four games of the season against Ocoee, West Orange, Dr. Phillips, and Edgewater, Apopka's defense gave up only 48 points. In the last four games against Seminole, Olympia, Lake Brant-

ley, and Lake Mary, Apopka has given up 100 points. Now, in the past four games, three of them (Lake Mary, Olympia, and Seminole) are offensive juggernauts who score an average of 45.9, 36.8, and 29.2 points a game, respectively. So Apopka needs to be better than the average defense and knock down the number of scoring opportunities their opponents get to two or three. You also have to take into consideration the number of players hurt and on the sidelines for Apopka, most of them key defensive guys like Antwone Robinson and Kevin Roberts.

In the updated FHSAA football rankings, Apopka moved from 51 to 68 overall after the loss to Lake Mary, and sits at eighth in the Class 4M rankings. Evans sits at 168 overall and 24 in Class 4M.

If Apopka can play on both sides of the ball as they did in that first quarter and last quarter against the Lake Mary Rams, this game should be just another win on their journey for the playoffs. The offensive line needs to create time for quarterback Tyson Davison and create holes for the backfield to slip through.

Overall, Apopka's offense needs to be more consistent and disciplined, and the same could be said about the defense. Penalties and errors hinder Apopka's play as they give away opportunities to opponents, like first downs due to penalties, and punish themselves and create harder possessions for themselves. Heading into the playoffs, especially, Apopka can't afford to make it to the red-zone and not convert those scoring opportunities into points.

Bowling: Cohesive team energy

Continued from page 2C

Double elimination tournaments are made up of a winners and an elimination bracket. Teams winning all matches competed in or that have not suffered a loss remain in the winners bracket. Once a loss is suffered though, the team falls into the elimination bracket. Thus, another loss is the second and elimination. Eventually only one team is left in both brackets.

"Performances during the regular season were not as good as some of the others," Campbell said. "However, sometimes in any sport, a team has to find ways to win when not putting in the best performance possible. This team learned how to still score pins when not at its best. We went through a "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger," and learned from the failures and the process. Rarely comfortable, but there is also no substitute for experience, and, in particular, experiences with negative consequences."

"The first and foremost change is a much more team-oriented atmosphere now. I am most proud and happy about the bowlers understanding the importance and place of the team comes first. Energy and focus are so much higher in a "team first" atmosphere than individual."

Scores of 966, 954, and 899 for a total of 2819 were posted by the Blue Darters during the 10-pin component. Average scores were 940 as a team per game pins and 188 per bowler. Apopka advanced to the tournament as the second seed.

The other seedings

were the Edgewater Eagles (2,933), Lake Wales Highlanders (2764), and George Jenkins Eagles (2684), respectively.

As if waiting for the moment of the weightiest stage to arrive, the Blue Darters then upped the average to 212 pins per game during the tournament. Each bowler's average per game also increased by at least 12 pins. Apopka needed only three series and 10 games in total to complete the run to the district championship. Eight of the 10 scores were at least 205 pins. Marks were tallied during 92 percent of the frames, or 98 out of 109.

The run to the state championship also began and ended with the two highest scores posted by the Blue Darters.

By scores of 232-194, 179-159 and 196-181 Lake Highland fell during the first round. The Eagles were defeated with scores of 246-196, 227-173 and 189-162 during the winners (second) round.

Then the strongest challenge to district supremacy was faced by Apopka. The championship or final round began with the Eagles beating the Blue Darters by a score of 232-208. After four frames of the second game, Edgewater also held an 89-69 lead.

However, optimism for a competitive championship round created by the Eagles' victory was removed just as quickly. Edgewater left only one frame open during the second game. Outcome was decided in the Blue Darters' favor by the open sixth frame, though. Pins weren't carried over from the spare thrown in the fifth frame.

In the meantime, Apopka carried over the maximum number of pins during the fifth, sixth, and seventh frames as strikes were thrown. The Eagles' lead was cut to 105-99 during the fifth frame. After the sixth frame, a 127-114 lead had been taken by Apopka. Marks were traded the rest of the way as the Blue Darters won by a score of 207-194.

The eighth and ninth frames were left open during the third game while Apopka knocked down strikes. A 19-point deficit (156-137) became a lead of one (166-165) between the seventh and eighth frames. The Blue Darters took victory by a 203-189 score.

The run to the district championship was completed with a score of 236-161.

Apopka's scores remained consistent with the highest during the last game of the tournament, but Edgewater's steadily dropped.

"During 10 pin competition, we did what was needed to position ourselves to advance to the tournament and then secure the second seed," Campbell said. "Opportunities to score pins on the frames after marks were not always converted. When the competition ended though, we scored more pins than the opponents. We recognized and executed scoring those extra pins to the situation when needed. A strong start was important. Life is a lot easier to manage when being chased as opposed to chasing."

Information about the state championship meet can be found at FHSAA.com. Click the sport link under the banner and then bowling.

Mustangs: Wekiva collected 18 penalties for 137 yards

Continued from page 2C

ceptions. A fumble was also lost 45 seconds before halftime near the goal line. The lead would have been cut to 27-14 with the touchdown and the Mustangs then receiving the second half kickoff. Instead, deficit remained at 27-7 when the second half began.

Onside kickoffs facilitated the high number of possessions starting on Wekiva's side of the field. The Tigers recovered all five attempts on the Mustangs' side of the field.

Self-inflicted damage continued with 18 penalties accounting for 137 yards.

Touchdowns were traded during third quarter. Then another record for points scored during an individual quarter was set. Both teams added 34 points as a blitzkrieg of offensive prowess took center stage.

"The importance of a

strong start is understood by Jones, though, and again, in comparison to us," Jackson said. "Life is much easier when playing with the lead. Life is much easier for a longer period of time, the sooner the lead is taken. In this case though, the lead was taken as soon as possible.

"Add three turnovers and 18 penalties, the margin of three touchdowns is understandable. Jones deserves credit for playing well, but winning was a lot easier with so much self-inflicted damage once again."

Wekiva has had time to rest this week and prepare for the next week's bout against the Apopka Blue Darters due to a late season by-week.

Wekiva has won two of the last four matchups against Apopka, dating back to head coach Jeff Rolsons first year taking over the Blue Darters in 2019.

	Jones	Wekiva
First downs	16	25
Rushes-yds	27-159	15-30
Passing yds	205	541
Com-Att-Int	12-17-0	35-50-2
Fumbles-lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties-yds	10-92	18-137
Jones	10 17 07 34	- 68
Wekiva	07 00 06 34	- 47

1st J: David 30 field goal (7:07); J: Jackson 4 run (David kick): 4:31; W: Benjamin 39 pass from Davis (Fritchley kick); 2:33. 2nd J: David 33 field goal; 11:20; J: Brown 47 punt return (David kick); 9:13; J: Varner 10 pass from Coleman 1 run (David kick); 4:46. 3rd J: Jackson 1 TD (David kick); 3:14; W: Gay 17 pass from Davis (pass failed); :36.7. 4th J: Parker 7 run (David kick); 11:56; W: Bennett 32 pass from Davis (run failed); 10:57; J: Brown 39 pass from Coleman (David kick); 10:00; W: Bennett 6 pass from Davis (pass failed); 7:42; J: Coleman 35 run (David kick); 6:58; W: Bennett 29 pass from Davis (Blackmon run); 4:44; J: McConico 75 kickoff return (David kick); 4:32; W: Gay 6 pass from Davis (Bennett pass from Davis); 1:48; J: Wallace 58 run (pass failed); 1:31; W: Benjamin 60 pass from Davis (No PAT attempt); :00.

Rushing: W: Filius 6-22; Davis 8-6; Gay 1-2. J: Jackson 7-64 2 TD; Wallace 3-61 TD; Parker 13-41 TD; Varner 1-0; Coleman 3(-7). Passing: W: Davis 35-50-2-7-541. J: Coleman 11-16-0-2-147; Jackson 1-10-1-58. Receiving: W: Bennett 13-188 3 TD; Benjamin 9-209 2 TD; Gay 9-112 2 TD; Filius 3-25; Ja. Smith 1-7. J: Varner 5-65 TD; Brown 4-63 2 TD; Murphy 1-58; Ambroise 1-14; Robbins

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Fishin': TrophyCatch Hall of Fame Ceremony

Continued from page 2C

will take some coaxin' to get'em to bite. This is where your patience pays off.

They were catchin' some nice bass in West Lake Toho this past week on shiners. You can catch some nice bass on artificials but you need to keep movin' around the lake until you find'em.

Some folks are fishin' the edge of the hydrilla mats, lily pads, or some movin' water if you can find some.

It seems like the bass are hangin' around the off-shore hydrilla beds too. Plastic worms, speed worms, and slow sinkin'

Senko type baits have been workin' the best.

The bass fishin' on the Harris Chain is still fishin' strong. Most of the anglers are fishin' off-shore eel-grass and hydrilla beds throughout the chain. Big Lake Harris, Lake Eustis, and Lake Griffin have been producin' some nice stringers of bass.

We have some wind blowin' this week, so it might change things on the chain a little but keep fishin' until you locate a good school of 'em.

The bass will start their wintertime movement as the weather gets cooler and the water starts to cool down as well.

It will be really nice

to go fishin' and not have to sweat to death, while you are on the water. It just makes for a good day on the water and your fishin' partner isn't complainin' about how hot it is, the fish ain't bitin', so on and so forth.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Bass Pro Shops invite you to the TrophyCatch program's annual Hall of Fame Ceremony. This event will recognize the anglers who documented and submitted catches of bass 13 pounds or heavier, that were approved during the 11th season of TrophyCatch, which completed September 30, 2023.

The ceremony will be held at Bass Pro Shops in Daytona Beach, FL, on November 11, 2023 at 5 p.m. You have to remember that not too many people get a chance to catch a 13 lb. bass and then release it to be caught another day. So, make plans now to attend the event and get a chance to see what a 13 lb. bass looks like, and hear the stories behind catchin' these big bass. I'm sure you will have a good time.

I hope y'all have a good week and I hope to see you on the water, real soon.

Tip of the week: Full Moon
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