

Sports

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THE TIDEWATER NEWS **B1**



Junior Craig Hill, of Southampton High School, looks to score over the outstretched hand of Franklin High School senior forward Solomon Moody.



Franklin High School junior guard Ariana Picot gets a shot off while under pressure from the defense of visiting Southampton High School.

Franklin hoops teams dominate in 'Backyard Brawl'

BY FRANK A. DAVIS

The Peggy H. Wilkins Gymnasium at Franklin High School was packed Monday, Jan. 9, for the annual Backyard Brawl on the Hardcourts, and the varsity boys and girls games left the home crowd with plenty to cheer about.

This rivalry showdown between Southampton High School and Franklin High School is the continuation of the bragging rights of sports for the Franklin area.

BOYS BASKETBALL

In the boys game, the home team was up 18-0 before the Indians were able to score their first basket. By halftime the Broncos had pushed their lead to 39-14. After the game went to a running clock in the fourth quarter, the Broncos ultimately won with a score of 68-26.

Franklin (11-1) was led in scoring by senior point guard Derrick Perry with 29 points followed by junior center Chaevon Torrance with 16 points and junior shooting guard Kaden Bailey with 15 points.

For the Indians (0-9), freshman Adin Brown was the leading scorer with 10

points.

In remarks after the game, Broncos Head Coach Robby Cutchins said, "It was just a great overall team effort all the way around. We are coming off of a really big game this past Saturday (when) we defeated Nansemond River in a big classic down in Chesapeake and Western Branch."

Nansemond River High School, a Virginia High School League Class 5 school, entered the Saturday, Jan. 7, game with a 7-1 overall record but ended up falling 60-53 to the VHSL Class 1 Broncos.

"I thought the boys turned right around after getting a good day's rest on Sunday and came back today and answered the call," Cutchins said Monday. "You know when Franklin and Southampton get on the floor, I have always said, 'You can kinda throw everything out the window.' I thought the boys responded good. They came out the gate ready to play, therefore we could get everybody on the floor."

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Franklin Lady Broncos had no problems Monday against the Southampton Lady Indians, as the



Southampton High School sophomore Israel Key releases a jump shot against host Franklin High School on Monday, Jan. 9.

home team won with a score of 41-13.

Lady Broncos Head

Coach Dennis Sumblin said afterward, "We had a good game. We came out

and executed well and kept the pressure on them the whole ballgame and

never let up. We are improving with every game. We are practicing hard to be able to defeat every team that had previously defeated us. We are shooting and rebounding well."

Junior guard Ariana Picot led Franklin (7-5) in scoring with 18 points. For the Lady Indians (1-6), junior guard Nic'Kylah Young led in scoring with four points.

The Lady Broncos entered the game Monday fresh off a dominant victory Friday, Jan. 6, at Central Lunenburg High School. Franklin won that game 53-27.

Statistical leaders for the Lady Broncos on Friday included Picot, who recorded her third double-double of the season. She had 25 points, 10 rebounds, five steals, three assists and one blocked shot.

Senior guard Arbani Wiggins had 13 points, two boards, four steals and two assists. Junior forward/center Roshanda Hoskie contributed nine points, 11 rebounds, two steals and three blocks, while sophomore forward/center Mykira Barrett added four points, 12 rebounds, four steals, five assists and three blocks.



Franklin High School junior center Chaevon Torrance draws a foul on this drive to the hoop during the Broncos' 68-26 home win over Southampton High School on Monday, Jan. 9.



Junior Roshanda Hoskie, a forward/center with Franklin High School, eyes the hoop for a shot as visiting Southampton High School applies defensive pressure.



Franklin High School senior point guard Derrick Perry lays up a shot as Southampton High School junior Christopher Blue defends Monday, Jan. 9, in Franklin.

Sports



TITUS MOHLER | THE TIDEWATER NEWS

Members of the 1995 Windsor High School varsity football team join in the middle of the school's football field during halftime of the Dukes game Thursday night, Aug. 31, to receive recognition — via a listing of accomplishments and a commemorative No. 1 Windsor jersey — as being the most successful varsity football team in school history. Joining the team members are cheerleaders, student-athletes, administration, faculty and staff members who were with WHS in 1995.

**BY TITUS MOHLER
STAFF WRITER**

The Windsor High School varsity football team's home opener on Thursday evening, Aug. 31, yielded tears of joy for a variety of reasons.

The game was the setting for a reunion and celebration of the most successful varsity football team in the school's history — the 1995 Dukes.

The game was also the setting for the sweetest taste of success that the school's modern varsity football program has experienced in years.

A JOY-INSPIRING VICTORY

The 2023 Dukes held a 20-14 lead at halftime against visiting King and Queen Central High School on Thursday and then pulled away in the second half for a 41-14 blowout victory — the varsity program's first win since 2019, according to MaxPreps.com.

Benjamin DuBois, who is in his first year as head coach of the Dukes after



Torrance Saunders carries the Windsor Dukes banner as he helps lead fellow members of the historic 1995 Windsor High School varsity football team onto the field Thursday evening, Aug. 31, during the 2023 Dukes' home opener.

servicing as offensive coordinator last season, acknowledged that his team started a little slow on Thursday, something they are trying to fix.

But he noted that his players' spirits were bol-

stered by the greats from the 1995 team cheering them on from the sidelines, along with all the fans in the stands.

"With us being so young, nerves are a big deal for us, so once they settled in,

I just felt like they played a great game," DuBois said.

"I was so proud of them, I had to walk away last night. I kind of started tearing up a little bit."

And he said he wasn't the only one.

"Most of these kids have been in the program since they were eighth-graders, so they've gone four years without a win, and now, for them to get one, it got to a couple of them too," he said.

DuBois participated in a halftime presentation to the members of the 1995 team, and then he re-joined his team as halftime continued.

He shared what he told his players to help them go on to score 21 unanswered points in the second half.

"I said, 'Look, y'all see it works. It's worked for two weeks,'" he said, alluding to the Week 1 game in which the Dukes lost but managed to produce 36 points. "I said, 'We've just got to hunker down and stick with what we planned and do it the way we worked on it all week.' I said, 'And if you do those things, no penalties and no turnovers,' I said, 'We'll be fine.' I said, 'The only way they got back in the game was a turnover.' I said, 'If we don't do that,' I said, 'we'll be fine.' And

they bought into it."

He said he had to back them off in the fourth quarter because they were still running full speed with the game clearly in hand.

"I'm so proud of them," he said. "One of the things I felt last year was when times got tough, they kind of gave up. And this year, they're not giving up for anything."

A JOY-INSPIRING TEAM

The 1995 Dukes became the first 10-win varsity football team in the school's history, finishing 10-3 overall.

The '95 Dukes were the first football team in school history to win a regional championship, defeating Surry County High School in the Virginia High School League Region A final, 20-13.

The Windsor squad was also the school's first football team to reach the VHSL state playoffs.

The team's head coach,

SEE WINDSOR, B3



The Windsor High School Marching Dukes stand at the ready in the moments leading up to the Windsor varsity football team's home opener on Thursday, Aug. 31.



Windsor High School sophomore Gavin Marshall runs forward to execute the kickoff shortly after the Dukes had taken a 14-7 lead in their home opener Thursday, Aug. 31, against King and Queen Central High School.



At left, members of the historic 1995 Windsor High School varsity football team — from left, David Bickley, Wayne Briggs and Steven Harold — serve as honorary captains during the coin flip for the 2023 Dukes' home opener on Thursday, Aug. 31. The 2023 Dukes captains include, from left, senior Criss Mosley, senior Zachary Gilmore, sophomore Jeremy King and senior Jamari King.



Defending King and Queen Central High School wideout on Thursday, Aug. 31, is Windsor High School sophomore safety Hudson Williams.

Sports

IWA 29	LOCAL SCOREBOARD QTR 4 TIME 00:00	MIDDLESEX 00
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TITUS MOHLER | THE TIDEWATER NEWS
Isle of Wight Academy's offensive front is ready for action Friday, Oct. 20, against visiting Middlesex High School.

IWA out-charges Middlesex for first win



Isle of Wight Academy junior wide receiver Jaiden Wilson communicates with the side judge Friday night, Oct. 20, during the IWA Chargers' homecoming game.



Isle of Wight Academy junior quarterback Jason Chapman, No. 2, conveys the play to the Chargers offense Friday, Oct. 20, during the first half of IWA's 29-0 homecoming win.

**BY TITUS MOHLER
STAFF WRITER**

Isle of Wight Academy's varsity football team added an exciting highlight to the school's homecoming night Friday, Oct. 20, by shutting out visiting Middlesex High School to earn its first win of the season.

Playing before a tremendous crowd at Hooper Field, the IWA Chargers led the Middlesex Chargers 7-0 at halftime but pulled away in the second half for a definitive 29-0 victory.

IWA (1-5) will look to keep this momentum going when it visits St. Anne's-Belfield School (5-2) in Charlottesville on Friday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m.



Defending against a Middlesex High School wideout on Friday, Oct. 20, is Isle of Wight Academy senior defensive back Tyler Craun.



Isle of Wight Academy junior quarterback Jason Chapman launches the ball toward a target Friday night, Oct. 20, during the Chargers' 29-0 homecoming victory over visiting Middlesex High School.



Isle of Wight Academy senior running back Luke Dunlap sprints forward for a big gain during the Chargers' 29-0 homecoming victory over visiting Middlesex High School on Friday, Oct. 20.



The defense of Middlesex High School works high and middle to try to bring down Isle of Wight Academy junior running back Jack Baker on Friday night, Oct. 20, in Isle of Wight.