

# SPORTS



Times-Mirror/Bill Vocke

Tuscarora junior receiver Dawson Pough elevates between two John Champe defenders to haul in a 22-yard reception for the go-ahead touchdown with 40 seconds left in the Class 4, Region C football championship game on Nov. 24 in Leesburg.

## TICKETS PUNCHED FOR STATES

Regional champs Stone Bridge, Tuscarora advance to state playoffs



Times-Mirror/Chuck Moore

Junior quarterback Brandon Pena passed for two touchdowns to help lead Stone Bridge to a 29-6 victory over Briar Woods in the Class 5, Region D football championship game on Nov. 24 in Ashburn.

BY CARL LUKAT  
clukat@loudountimes.com

The Stone Bridge Bulldogs and the Tuscarora Huskies each won a regional football championship on Nov. 24 to punch their tickets to play in the state semifinals of their respective Virginia High School League classification.

Stone Bridge will compete in the Virginia Class 5 semifinals and Tuscarora will play in the Virginia Class 4 semifinals. VHSL state semifinal games are scheduled for a 2 p.m. kickoff on Dec. 2.

### STONE BRIDGE 29, BRIAR WOODS 6

A challenging non-district schedule that included games against powerhouse teams from Maryland and West Virginia left the Stone Bridge Bulldogs in a 1-4 hole midway through the 2023 varsity football season.

The Bulldogs spent the last two months digging out of that hole in emphatic fashion — winning seven consecutive games to earn a return trip to the Virginia Class 5 state semifinals.

Top seed Stone Bridge (8-4) treated its home fans to a 29-6 win over No. 2 seed Briar Woods (8-4) in the Class 5, Region D championship game on Nov. 24 in Ashburn.

Coach Mickey Thompson guided the Bulldogs to their 16th regional championship in the program's 24th overall season. Stone Bridge also won the Potomac District title during the regular season.

The Bulldogs will next aim to earn a spot in the state final for the 12th time since 2005. Stone Bridge will host Mataoca in the Virginia Class 5 semifinals on Dec. 2.

Mataoca (10-3) defeated William Fleming 42-3 in the Region 5C championship game. Region 5B champion Maury