

# Sports



“Football is like life – it requires perseverance, self-denial, hard work, sacrifice, dedication and respect for authority.”

– Vince Lombardi

## Tyler Handles S. Harrison

Hands former state No. 1 team first loss of 2015 season

By ED PARSONS  
Staff Writer

MIDDLEBOURNE – South Harrison took the opening kickoff and quickly marched down field for the first score of the game, capped off by a 35-yard run off left tackle by Ian Riggleman. The extra point kick was good and with 9:46 left to play in the first the visitors held a 7-0 lead.

But that's the only score the Hawks (6-1) could muster in their first loss, 13-7, on Friday night at the hands of Tyler Consolidated (4-3).

Tyler Consolidated couldn't seem to get much going in the first half and found itself on the defensive side of the ball for the most part. South Harrison moved the ball well the remainder of the half but the Silver Knights came up with some big stops deep in their own territory to keep the game close at the half.

The Knights seemed to come out fired up and ready to play as Tyler Anderson took the second-half kickoff, broke a couple tackles and went 62 yards down the sideline to give the Knights great field position at the 9-yard line.

On the next play they were called for a false start setting them back to the 14. From there Jordan Baker dashed up the middle and went in for the score at the 11:17 mark of the third. Fede Perez, who missed a few games with a sprained leg, came on to kick the extra point and the score stood even at 7-7.

That is where the Silver Knights made another great defensive stand as the Hawks quickly moved deep into their territory only to come up wide right on a 34-yard field goal try.



Photo by Maggie Fisher

Tyler Consolidated's Jordan Baker (30) tries to avoid a tackle by South Harrison defender Colby Lash (35).

The Silver Knights got the ball back and moved down the field on some power running by Jace Reed and Hogan Wells. Anderson caught a 22-yard pass from Baker that gave the Knights good position but the drive stalled and they had to punt.

The Hawks continued to move the ball well but each time the Silver Knights defense tightened to make the big play.

“Special teams stepped up when we got the opportunity there in the second half ... Tyler Anderson did a nice job there on the kick return and that was huge,” Tyler Consolidated coach Ryan Walton said. “Hats off to the backs and the offensive line, they did a nice job opening up holes and the backs ran hard. It was a total team effort all the way from the players to the coaches.”

“Jordan Baker did a nice job controlling everything out on the field and that's what he's out there for. That's a third-year quarterback.”

As the fourth quarter got under way the

momentum starting turning the Knights' way and they moved the ball well with controlled running. Wells had a couple hard runs up the middle and Reed also broke a couple for ist downs.

The Knights started controlling the line of scrimmage and moved the ball deep into South Harrison territory.

With 5:40 remaining in the game Anderson broke through the middle of the Hawks defense for 2 yards to give the Silver Knights a 13-7 edge. Perez came on to try the extra point but was set back 5 yards on a motion penalty. The kick was then blocked.

South Harrison took the ensuing kick and started a nice drive that ended with a good defensive stop by the Knights. From there it was all ball control by Tyler Consolidated.

The Hawks got one last shot with two minutes to play but the Tyler defense again rose up strong and took over on downs to run out the clock and come away with the big win.

Ed Parsons



The Press Box

Every team has that saying. Whether it's “Silver Knight Pride” or “Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat,” “Go Mountaineers” ... you get the point. Nearly every sports team uses one or more of these phrases. And when you hear one team or a fan use it, you usually roll your eyes because everyone says that about their program. You hear it in the local restaurants, at the pub, in the grocery store, at the local carry out and just about everywhere you go, especially when your team is winning.

As cliché as these sayings are, we still use them. Because when we're part of a team, we understand the traditions and culture that outsiders do not. We walk the halls of these high schools and we see the trophy cases filled with reminders of the glory days. We enter the gymnasiums and see the banners hanging from the rafters, memories of championship teams. The tradition, culture and support these former athletes passed down from their playing days says a lot about how our teams compete today.

It's the younger kids looking up to the great ones who played before them that makes them want to play the same role for the same school. They want their championship. They grew up wanting to be on the same court or field someday.

Athletes want to be remembered for that historic home run, that game-winning shot or that pass which won the game as time was running out. Tyler County is filled with memorable titles, historic runs and legendary games.

It hasn't been that long ago when other teams dreaded coming to Paden City, or Sistersville, or old Tyler High. Those were the days when you had a hard time finding a place to park and the stands were full and the crowds were intense. Everyone waited all week for the big game. And that's the true beauty of high school sports.

All the players we are watching play today learned the game from watching the players before them, and those players learned from the ones before them, and on it goes. They longed to be on a team from watching high school games and their favorite players. And now when they have the stage, younger eyes are watching them and how they play, so they to can one day excite the fans.

There were certainly tremendous athletes before my high school days and I remember most of them. I also idolized them and looked to them as role models. The current athletes at our local schools are now in that spot of role models for the younger kids.

I can't tell you all the traditions for the local schools, but what I can tell you is, they have been passed down from athlete to athlete. I know a lot of former athletes and there's no better level to talk sports tradition than talking to ex-athletes, which always brings one back to who wore that uniform before you. After talking to a few people about this past week's game, I knew the team was fired up and so were the fans. Take a good look around, most everyone is showing signs of support.

This is a good team and if they had been healthy all year there would have been some more W's in the book. This coming week is the real test, Magnolia comes in undefeated at 8-0 and again the Silver Knights face a number one team. Lets all get behind the Knights this week and fill the stands at Knights Stadium. Lets show them what Silver Knight pride is really all about. I want an upset, 21-20.

While you're at it, don't forget TCHS volleyball as action is really heating up and the team has come together well. They are going to be hard to beat throughout the sectionals and regionals. Let's hope for another trip down south.

## Paden City's Hizer Runs Past Hannan

By BRUCE CRAWFORD  
Staff Writer

HANNAN – Paden City quarterback Hayden Hizer rushed for four scores and passed for another to lead the Wildcats to a 54-12 victory over Hannan Oct. 16 in Hannan.

Hizer scored his first touchdown in the opening frame on a three-yard scramble, while running in the conversion attempt to give the 'Cats a quick 8-0 lead.

Hizer hooked up with Luke Cooper on a 10-yard strike, while Aaron Heasley tossed another one to Cooper from nine yards out. Cooper knocked in the second of two PAT attempts to give the visit-

ing Wildcats a 21-0 lead after one period of play.

Hannan scored on a 24-yard run to open the second half, but Hizer answered with three touchdown runs and Devin Price added another to take a 48-6 halftime advantage after three Cooper PATs.

Neither team scored in the third period, but Paden City's Marcus Allen tallied his first touchdown of the season on a five-yard scamper to build the 'Cats lead to 54-6.

Hannan scored a late touchdown on a 55-yard pitch and catch for the final tally of the game.

“We only dressed 15 kids and each one played well,” said Paden City Head Coach Brent Croasmun.

“We did what we wanted in the first half. Our execution was good offensively, and defensively we were very aggressive. It was a total team victory.”

Hizer paced Paden City with 113 yards and four touchdowns on the ground, while Price added 71 yards for four carries and a touchdown. Zach Yeater carried six times for 24 yards, while Michael Shreves added 25 yards on five carries. In addition, Allen netted 18 yards and a touchdown, while Rander Amos tacked on 14 yards on four carries.

Hizer completed 7-of-9 passes for 127 yards and a touchdown and one interception, while Heasley was 4-6 for 44 yards and a touchdown

and one interception.

Cooper caught five passes for 49 yards and a pair of touchdowns, while Price hauled in a pair of receptions for 63 yards. Hizer, Heasley, Yeater and Wesley Smith each caught one pass.

Defensively, Daulton Schultheis recorded 10 tackles, including one for loss of yardage, while Amos dropped nine, including a quarterback sack. In addition, E.J. Weber made six tackles, while Cooper and Heasley each made five tackles. Cooper added a sack, while Price made two interceptions and Yeater one.

The Wildcats will host Clay-Battelle Friday at 7:30 p.m.

## Tyler's Fish, Fletcher Lead Squad to Wins

BY ED PARSONS  
Staff Writer

The Tyler Consolidated girls' volleyball team took to the court on Thursday, Oct. 15, in a tri-match with Doddridge County and Paden City on the home floor.

In the first match against Doddridge, the Knights controlled the first set with a 25-7 win and came back to capture the win with a 25-13 victory in set two.

Ariel Fish had a good match for the winners with three kills, three blocks, two digs and seven points along with an ace.

Madison West chipped in 10 points and seven digs, with one ace. Macy Long had 11 assists, four digs and four points while Jordala Rice added six kills and three points. Abbie Fletcher played a solid floor game and pitched in with three kills, four blocks and one point.

In the second match against Paden City, the Silver Knights' Abbie Fletcher had a great match as she pounded down 14 kills, added three blocks, five digs and nine service points to lead the Lady Knights to a two-set victory against a good Wildcat team, 25-14 and 25-16.

Josey Jones had 12 points and five digs to back up Fletcher and Hannah Casteel had 11 digs. West also did well with nine digs. Fish played a solid match with four kills, one block, 10 digs and three points.

Macy Long continued her fine play as the setter, recording 25 assists to go along with three blocks, two digs and three points.

The Silver Knights are now 28-13 on the season and looking to make a run in post season play.



Photo by Ed Parsons

Ariel Fish goes for the kill during a match with Doddridge County on Thursday, Oct. 15.

Richard Summers

## The NET Product: Just be the wind

One of my favorite gospel songs is “You Raise Me Up.” I find it inspiring for the obvious reasons but I also often hear the lyrics and think of my volleyball team. Over 16 years there have been so many instances where they have helped pick me up, whether it has been a really bad time or just a cloudy day in general. Another great song is Bette Midler's “You are the Wind Beneath my Wings” which sounds as though she is singing from her heart. To our 14 wonderful ladies: you act as the wind under our wings more than you know.

Now I know that it may seem odd to some how I can continue to associate with these young ladies. And I certainly understand that. Truth be known, I should be planning my next trip Branson, Mo., where I doubt there are many teenagers. Yet, people often tend to forget that admiration has no age limits and that respect in another can be earned if

one is 8 or 80. The Knights volleyball team/family has certainly earned the admiration and respect from their coaches. You see, these young people with titles like hitters, setters, liberos, and defensive specialists have already conquered many hurdles in their young lives. They transitioned from middle school to high school and have met the academic challenges. Many are 4.0 students. They have had to endure the taunts and teasings of high school classmates who laugh at their rigorous training/practice schedule that makes no time for cigarettes, alcohol, or drugs, yet makes plenty of time for hour after hour of completing drills, running hills, or playing volleyball matches. Yet they have hurdled all obstacles and overcome all roadblocks to achieve what few people in this country have been able to do: that is to earn a high school uniform and represent their community in a very positive manner.

These young ladies understand that life is full of challenges and to the Knights Volleyball Players life will make no exceptions. There are more than two hurdles or three hurdles in a 100 meter race. There are more than two or three hurdles in life. Several have been crossed, many others await. I have no clue if these girls are going to have any success in the post-season. But I do know that our girls are going to succeed in life because they won't have to go it alone. They have wonderful parents, teachers, relatives, and certainly coaches who will be willing to lend a sympathetic ear if it will help. These same people will also be willing to give a pat on the back, a friendly push in the right direction or yes, even a swift kick in the rear ... whichever is needed.

Ladies, enjoy the rest of your season. You have much to be proud of and you have earned it! Work hard the next few weeks and give yourself

a chance for success in the post-season. Continue to work hard in the classroom and reap the rewards that come from that. Be proud to be a Knights volleyball player.

And finally a thanks to our volleyball girls for a week in which we got to rekindle some of the emotions associated with being young. I'm not sure that volleyball girls running in football helmets makes sense, but who knows? It may help. It does tie into watching highlights from Coach Bill Stewart's Fiesta Bowl win at WVU. And I don't know if a young lady living in 2015 can gain anything from watching a scene from the 1983 movie Flashdance, but it's worth a shot. Maybe watching the WVU girls play volleyball is the key to making it to Charleston. I guess the point is that we will try anything. Oh, and if taking a volleyball team to “Fright Farm” (very scary) does the trick, then I guess we will go back next year.