

D *esire*

Dedication and Sacrifice

The Bulldogs did not end the season with their stunning blowout of Summerville. The win merely marked the beginning of a new "season" — the state playoffs. Inspired by Coach Riley's pre-season promise to shave his head if the team could make the playoffs, the Dogs were dedicated to the hard work necessary to achieve these goals. This dedication paid off with the team's first playoff bid since 1985.

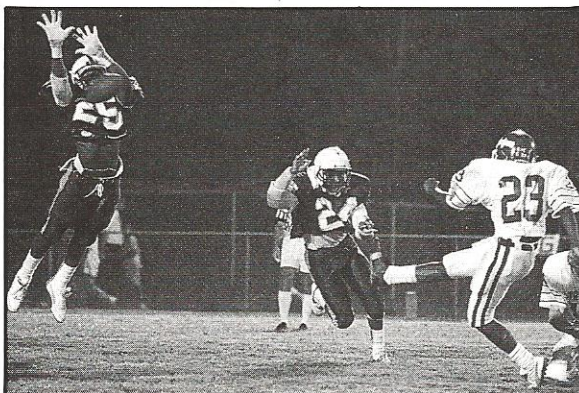
The Dogs hosted the two-time defending State Champion Hartsville Red Foxes in the opening round of the playoffs. A packed Bulldog stadium witnessed the Dogs' dispatch of this great team with relative ease.

The next game would not be nearly so easy because the Bulldogs were forced to go on the road to face the number one seed Dillon Wildcats, who boasted a defense that had not been scored upon in eight games. The biggest surprise of the game was not the Dogs' victory but rather the support of the Walterboro fans. Nearly 3,000 of the Bulldog faithful made the three-hour trip to support the team on to the Lower State Championship game. Senior Jeff Hickman, one of the team's captains, stated, "The crowd definitely made a difference in our performance. It felt really good knowing that everyone was supporting us and that the community was getting so involved with the team."

The Dogs played their final game at home against Lower Richland. Again, one of the largest crowds ever to view Bulldog football was on hand for support. The Diamonds and three early turnovers deep in their own territory proved to be a little too much for the Dogs as their "Cinderella" season came to an end.

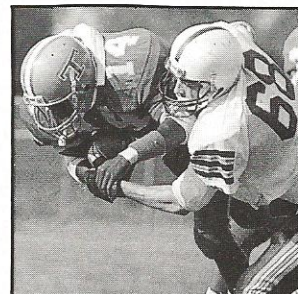
How did the seniors feel about their season? Scott Stone commented, "Walterboro needed a season like we had to bring a sense of pride and respect back to the program. I was proud to be part of the team that did it." Steven Williams added, "It was tough season, but because it was my last, it was very special. It's going to be hard to leave."

— Jason Dandridge



CHILLING OUT for a moment are Juniors Hallie Mills and Jason McMillan. Mills played well all season while McMillan was sidelined after the second game with a severe knee injury.

STRETCHING OUT in attempt to block the field goal is junior safety Jay Davis. Davis was known to sacrifice his body for the big play.



SENIOR LINEBACKER HUNTER HIERS wraps up this James Island back for no gain. Hiers proved to be an asset to the defense this season.