

T

ough Road To Hold

Though the record from last year's team would have been a virtually impossible feat to match, the intensity and dedication exceeded that of their predecessors. The Dogs reward for their intensity and perseverance was realized in their reaching the Lower State finals after a 1-4 regular season start.

"Many people did not feel that we would have much success because we lost twenty-three seniors last year," said Shrine Bowl senior Shawn Lyons. "But we knew that we could do well if we did not lose our heads."

The lack of experience led to little success in the early part of the season. However, as the team gained more experience, the wins began to multiply. With the wins came an increase in confidence.

"As the year went on, we got more confident because we were beating other teams or coming close to doing it," said senior Leblanc Wingfield.

The Bulldogs won four of the last six games but lost the last regular season game to the Greenwave of Summerville. Many fans of Bulldog football consider the game against Summerville the most important game of the entire season. The team does not feel that way, though.

"Any other game is just as important as the Summerville game," said senior Larry Lightsey. "They all count the same."

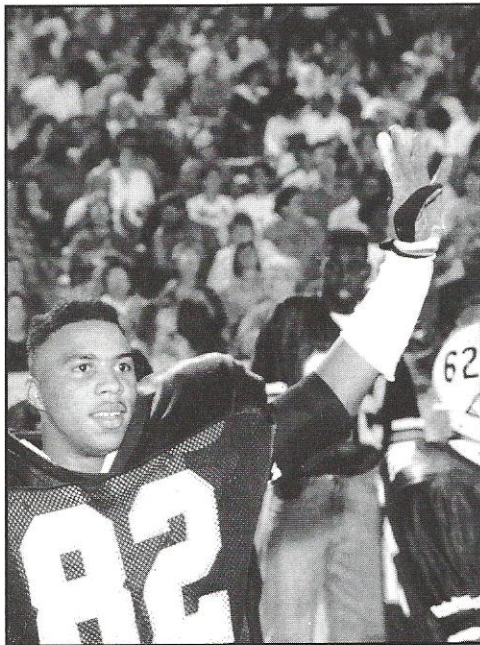
Playing the 9-2 South Florence team in the first round of the playoffs was a challenge for the players because they wanted to show everyone that they were

a good football team despite the lack of experience. The Dogs, playing one of the best first halves of the season, led 14-0. They held off a late charge by the Bruins to win 14-12.

The next game pitted the Dogs against the Hartsville red Foxes. The Dogs had a hard time getting settled and were down 19-0 in the third quarter. The fans of the Red Foxes began celebrating the win because they knew the game was over. Unfortunately for them, they didn't tell this to the Dogs. The Dogs woke up, scored one touchdown, another touchdown, and yet another touchdown with only eighteen seconds left in the game to win 20-19. The "Sea of Blue" erupted in the stands and washed away the hopes of a Red Fox win. The Dogs were on their way to the Lower State finals.

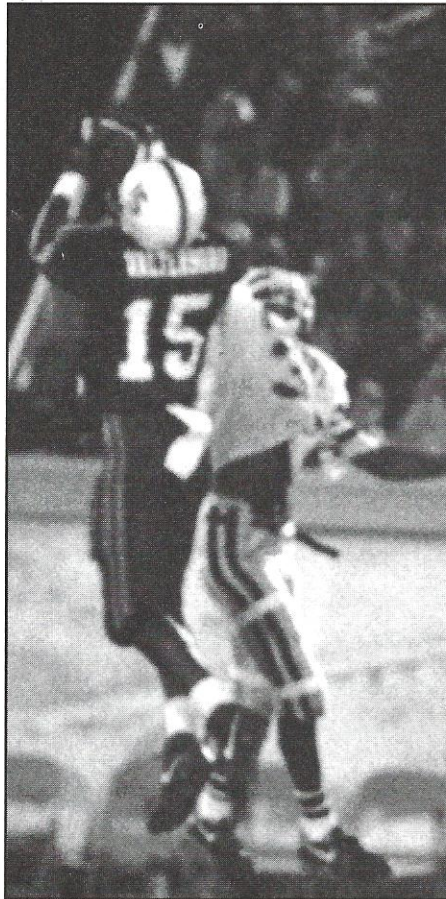
The Dogs faced the Lower Richland Diamonds, the long-time nemesis that spoiled their hopes of a Lower State Championship in 1989. Even though the average lineman was 6'4", 280 lbs., the Dogs led the game 7-0 and 14-0. The size of the Diamonds soon wore down the Dogs, and the team that had not been expected to get past the first round of the playoffs lost 29-14.

—Michael Verner



Senior Troy Allen holds up four fingers signifying the team's fourth win. The Dogs crushed the Gators of Goose Creek with a 22-0 win.

Senior Frederick Williams snatches the ball from the air as a Beaufort player tries to stop him. Frederick was a two-year member of the varsity team.



Dodging his Summerville attackers, senior Reggie Green attempts to get a first down. The Dogs played Summerville twice, in the Sertoma Football Classic and in the final regular season game.

