

Rise of The Champions

The Dogs Defy The Polls

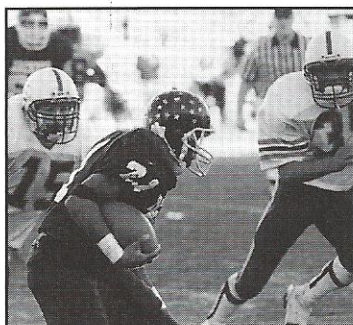
Through the long summer and fall practices, the thrill of 13 victories, and the disappointment of two losses, the Bulldogs proved that they truly were champions.

"According to the polls we weren't even supposed to win the conference championship — let alone get the chance to play for the state title," said senior blocker William Singleton. "It just goes to show that what's on paper does not always predict the outcome. I am proud of our team and our accomplishments."

The Dogs won 10 of the 11 regular season games by totally shutting out Ruffin, Burke, Wando, Stratford, and Georgetown.

The beat Beaufort, Hilton Head, Orangeburg-Wilkinson, and Goose Creek in four games of absolute action. The fans were definitely enthusiastic as the Dogs agged the names of those teams to their victories.

"Winning against Berkeley had a special meaning unto itself," said Ryan Stephens, a junior wide receiver and defensive back. "They were state champs last



Headed Nowhere. Fullback/linebackers Ian Padgett and Kenneth Chisolm surround Union player #21.

year."

"Although we lost to Summerville, we weren't affected too badly," said tailback Dazzell Russell. "The loss just motivated us to go after the State title a little more."

The first play-off game held on the Dog's home turf, Bulldog stadium, saw a victory over Airport 27 to 9.

Lower Richland and Westside proved to be tough opponents but

not ones that couldn't be overcome. Before taking control of the score, the Dogs allowed them 7 points each.

"We were playing to decide the state championship — the game was exhilarating," said offensive guard Jamaal Hudson. "I think we played great and should be proud of ourselves. This was the first time in twelve years that a team from Walterboro has made it this far."

One reason for the Dog's success this year was attributed to the unity of the team built up on and off the field.

"We went beyond being just teammates. We were friends," said Victor Wiggins, a defensive back. "That's why we worked together so effectively."

"We set goals for ourselves and worked hard to achieve them," agreed tailback Clarence Fishburne. "The unity we developed was all the more reason we did well in both the conference and the play-offs."

— Tina Shider



Players: C. Fishburne, B. Loper, T. Shider, T. Dent, M. Creech, D. Russell, L. Penfield, A. Nesmith, I. Padgett, T. Preston, D. Cunningham, C. Sweat, D. Salley, V. Wiggins, G. Wright, R. Stephens, P. Green, L. Deal, B. McDonald, G. Brown, D. Bass, F. Jenkins, W. Caison, J. Garden, K. Chisolm, J. Robinson, C. Teasdale, K. Whetsell, R. Brown, A. Montjoy, D. Brown, J. Dais, A. Brown, J. Hudson, A. Wright, T. Pinckney, J. Adams, R. Brown, J. Lingard, C. Bowman, J. Greene, A. Berry, B. Altman, J. Shephard, C. Martin, L. Nettles, D. Youmans, W. Singleton, J. Cohen, J. Toa, D. Lucas, O. Adams, B. Payne, B. Benjamin, M. Kirkland, K. Ferguson, E. Memminger, C. Bishop, J. Martin, M. Allen, D. Horn. **Coaches:** L. Riley, D. Akers, R. Adams, B. Strickland, G. Kinsey, C. Patterson, W. Craven, D. Cromer, J. Steiglitz, D. Loper

Bug Off. While a yellow jacket player clings to his back, Brandon Loper leaps into the air to intercept the ball. Brandon earned All-Region recognition for his efforts.