

# One win from title

## Unbeaten Saints advance to conference championship

**DUANE SHERRILL**  
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In a classic conflict of styles, ground and pound won out over run and shoot as the DeKalb Middle School Saints beat Avery Trace Thursday night on a soggy field to advance to the conference championship this Saturday with a 40-22 win.

The Saints remained perfect on the season with the hard-fought win which ended up being a much higher scoring rematch of their season opener that DeKalb Middle won on the Avery Trace field, 16-14. The storyline remained the same as the Raiders ended up getting a heavy dose of Saints runningbacks Josh May and Colby Barnes while DeKalb battled to keep up with Avery's speedy receivers on the slick field.

The scoring got underway early when Josh May romped into the endzone from five yards out at the 4:18 mark of the first quarter, capping the opening drive of the night. The conversion made it 8-0. However, celebration was short-lived as Avery Trace returned the resulting kickoff for a touchdown. The conversion failed making it 8-6.

The Saints then embarked on a 17-play drive, eating most of the first half clock be-

fore Barnes bulldozed his way to pay dirt. A May conversion gave them a 16-6 lead at the 3:56 mark of the second quarter.

The Raiders returned to their air game but were intercepted on the third play of their drive. The turnover was capitalized on five plays later with a 10 yard run by Barnes. A May conversion made it 24-6.

The Raiders went back to their air game, turning the tables with a 70-yard bomb to make the score 24-14, which was the halftime score.

Avery Trace made their last bid for a contest by mounting a drive on their first series of the second half. They scored with 2:27 left in the third to make it 24-22.

The Saints then mounted a five-play drive that culminated with a two-yard dive by May on the first play of the fourth. The score was 32-22 at that point.

A last gasp by the Raiders failed when they were stopped on downs. The Saints salted away the win with an eight-play drive that ended with another Barnes touchdown with just 45 second left in the game.

The Saints will play in the conference championship on Oct. 6 in Baxter. Their opponent is to be determined as is the game time.



Duane Sherrill photo  
**Colby Barnes lunges for the end zone during one of his three touchdowns in DeKalb Middle's 40-22 win over Avery Trace in the first round of the conference playoffs.**



Duane Sherrill photo  
**Tiger runningback David Bradford returned to action after missing a couple of weeks due to injury. The Tigers were able to mount a pair of long drives but came up short against their region foes.**

# Unhappy homecoming

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Two early turnovers led to two Livingston Academy touchdowns, the Tigers digging themselves an early hole they couldn't claw their way out of as the Wildcats spoiled homecoming with a 27 to 6 win.

Their win came despite the DeKalb County offense coming alive, mounting two long, time-consuming drives, one using up most of the second quarter, the other eating up most of the third. However, the Tigers came up empty both times, unable to cut into the early lead they spotted the Wildcats.

"We were able to get a couple of good drives going but we weren't able to convert when we got in the red zone," said Coach Steve Trapp of the near-misses the Tigers had Friday night. "The final score wasn't indicative of how close it was. But the bottom line is we have to convert

when we get opportunities. We aren't going to win a lot of games where we score just once."

It was the Wildcats who did the best with their early opportunities. Livingston Academy first capitalized on an errant Axel Aldino pass, leaving them a short field in the waning moments of the first quarter after the teams had traded possessions, the earlier Livingston drive ending in a missed field goal. Wildcat runningback Mitchell Ayers capped the 30-yard drive with a three-yard burst on the first play of the second quarter, making the Tigers pay for the miscue.

The Tigers again gave the ball away on their next drive as runningback David Bradford fumbled after bulldozing a pair of Wildcats, one of the defenders picking up the pigskin and running it to the Tiger 14. The Wildcats would score on a Will McDonald pass play making the count 14-0 at the 10:40 mark of the second.

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# Lady Saints' season comes to soggy end

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Their season ended in a monsoon by a penalty kick coming following a questionable call at the end of the game, the DeKalb Middle School Lady Saints can still boast their most successful season in team history after bowing out in the first round of the district tournament.

"I'd say there are some teams still in the tournament who were glad to see us put out," said DMS Head Coach Justin Nokes following his team's 2-1 loss to Prescott here Tuesday played during a deluge. "We were competitive with even the top teams in the region. We lost just 1-0 to Algood, who is the top of the conference."

The Lady Saints took an early lead against Prescott last Tuesday afternoon on the flooded middle school field. However, midway in the second half the rains came, washing away the Lady Saints' hopes of making it to the second round of the tourney. A soggy shot past the goalie and a penalty kick at the end concluded their season.

"There wasn't one complaint from either team about the conditions. They just played on," Nokes said of the large puddles on the field and torrential downpours that turned the home pitch into a mosh pit. "I'm proud of how they played."

While losing, the Lady Saints amassed their best record in team history going 5-2-2 and finishing fourth in the district, that finish good enough to host a tournament game against the fifth-seeded Prescott team, who DMS had beaten 2-1 earlier in the season.

With the completion of the season, Nokes said he will be losing 12 eighth graders, nine of whom had seen considerable playing time.

"We have some seventh graders coming up who were able to get some experience this season," Nokes said of rebuilding next season.

However, before that Nokes has another task to complete – coaching the DMS Saints boys team. Tryouts for the boys team will be held today and Friday (Oct. 3 and Oct. 5) at the practice field on DCHS campus next to the girls softball field.



Duane Sherrill photo  
**Darrah Ramsey slishes through the muck as a Prescott player splashes into a puddle during a deluge in the first round of the district tournament.**