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## Effort impresses Panthers' new head coach in first scrimmage against Trenton

By Randy Cavin  
Sports Editor

First-year head coach Kyle Pack unveiled his version of Martin Middle School football in his first scrimmage against Trenton on Tuesday.

His version looked similar to some of former head coach John Lifsey's teams — tough with big play-making ability.

The run-game looked solid after losing its explosive weapon from last year in Marquis Taylor. He has taken his highlight ability over to Westview as a freshman.

In steps eighth-grade running back Javion Goins to fill the spot. Goins showed what he can with a pair of long touchdowns in Martin's first offensive set. He broke through the line and went 50 yards on the first one and followed that up a couple of plays later with a 40-yard scoring run.

"He really motored it up tonight," Pack said. "He had some big gains for us, that is for sure."

It was not only his long runs that were impressive; he also kept his legs moving forward for an extra yard or two when Trenton was able to wrap him up.

Dearea Nicholson joined Goins in the backfield and

he also had some good gains.

There were some problems with the offense. The one that stood out the most and more worrisome for Pack than anything is some bad snaps from the center.

"If we can just get a good snap from the center I think we will be alright," Pack said. "We have to do a better job at protecting the football. We did put it on the ground a couple of times."

The Panthers have an experienced quarterback in Ty Simpson and he instinctively knew what to do with the bad snaps. He either fell on the loose ball or picked it and turned a potential bad play into a positive one.

One particular play that stood out happened on the final play of Martin's second offensive set. It was another busted play on a bad snap. Simpson bought some time by scrambling with ball and found an open receiver in the back of the end zone for a 20-yard touchdown.

Simpson also connected with Luke Brown for a 40-yard score in the first offensive set. The Panthers scored three times in their first set and once in the second.

Pack was okay with the offense, considering he has



**FINDS A GAP** — Martin Middle grade running back Javion Goins missed tackle to pick up a first down against Trenton on Tuesday as quarterback Ty Simpson watches the action. Goins was impressive

only had a few practices with it.

"With all things considered, I think we did pretty well," the head coach said. "I was proud of them. Ty bailed us out on some busted plays with the bad snaps. The offensive line looked pretty good for the most part. Our kids ran hard with the ball and we completed a few passes to help us be

a little. I was the effort main t at."

The was ed defense scoring the ball forced Trenton Pack



### BACK TO WORK

**ABOVE** — Dresden's Hudson Nanney and Isaac Davidson both make the tackle on the Gibson County ball carrier, while Ricco Taylor picks up the loose ball after the hit. The Lions had their first taste of action since winning the Class A state championship in a three-way scrimmage with Gibson County and Ripley on Friday at Hardy Graham Stadium.

**RIGHT** — Senior running back Ricco Taylor sees the hole senior offensive lineman Jack Cantrell made for him with a well-timed block in Dresden's first scrimmage of the preseason. Taylor will be the featured running back this season for the Lions and is expected to be a key player on defense in the secondary. The Lions have one more scrimmage against Camden on Friday before they play in a jamboree at Henry County on the 11th.



**EYES FOCUSED** — Martin sixth-grader Emma Simpson is set to attempt to steal second while focused on Ridgmont's pitcher in Monday's season opener. Simpson was the first base runner of the season

for the Lady Panthers and later scored the first run in a 15-0 win. Simpson collected three RBIs and an inside-the-park home run in Martin's 14-2 win over Lake Road on Tuesday.

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