

# CALL NEWS SPORTS

The High School Sports Leader



**BLOUNT DROPS  
HEARTBREAKER  
TO TOROS/2B**



Photo by Jeremy Sellers/Call News

**Leroy's Jakobi Jackson (2)** takes the handoff from quarterback Avery Malone (10) and races for a first down Friday night during the Bears' win over Lanett.

## Malone produces 4 TDs as Leroy topples Lanett

BY JEREMY SELLERS  
Call News Correspondent

Leroy quarterback Avery Malone threw three touchdowns passes and ran for a fourth to lead Leroy over Lanett 28-21 in a Class 2A quarterfinals showdown Friday night.

Malone connected with Caleb Moore for two long touchdown passes, and it was the second one — a 35-yard strike — that provided the winning margin for the Bears in the fourth quarter.

By defeating Geneva County in the second round

of the playoffs, Leroy earned the quarterfinals matchup with Lanett at Palmer Stadium in Leroy. The game was a rematch of the 2017 state championship in Tuscaloosa where Lanett came out on top to claim the state title, but there will be no title in 2020 for Lanett as the Bears earned a wave of revenge by knocking off the defending 1A state champions.

Going into the game most were looking for the

See **LEROY**, 3B



Photo by Brad McPherson/Call News

**St. Paul's back Javonte Graves-Billips** takes off on a long gain against Central-Clay County.

## Saints top Clay for Mask's 200th win

*It was his 100th win at St. Paul's*

BY ROBERT LADNIER  
Call News Correspondent

Second-ranked St. Paul's used a stingy defense that forced three turnovers combined with a balanced offensive attack that played mistake-free football for a 27-13 victory over visiting Central-Clay County in the AHSAA Class 5A quarterfinals at E.E. Delaney Stadium in Mobile on Friday night.

"I think the kids came out focused and set the tone by playing fast and physical," St. Paul's coach Steve Mask said. "I am proud of the kids."

The undefeated Saints improved to 13-0 and will play host to Region 1 rival Faith Academy in the state semifinals this Friday, with a trip to Tuscaloosa and the Super Seven championship game at stake. The No. 4-ranked Volunteers closed out the season at 11-2 overall.

"It says a lot about the quality of football here in Mobile

See **SAINTS**, 3B

# Explosive Spartans rip Opelika, 46-27

*Saraland travels to Spanish Fort for showdown*

BY ROBERT LADNIER  
Call News Correspondent

**SARALAND** — Fifth-ranked Saraland was not going to be denied. The Spartans built an early lead and finished strong to knock off visiting No. 4-ranked Opelika 46-27 in the AHSAA Class 6A quarterfinals at Spartan Field on a chilly Friday night.

"We got off to a good start with the opening drive, our defense had some good stops early and a turnover right before the half," Saraland coach Jeff Kelly said. "Every time they seemed like they were going to crawl back into it, our offense answered. The O-line did a great job. We found a way to win."

The Spartans, now 3-0 all-time versus the Bulldogs and 4-0 in state quarterfinal games, improved to 11-2 overall and will travel to Region 1 nemesis Spanish Fort in the semifinals this Friday night. It is the fifth time in 10 seasons that Kelly has led his team to double-digits in the win column.

See **SARALAND**, 3B

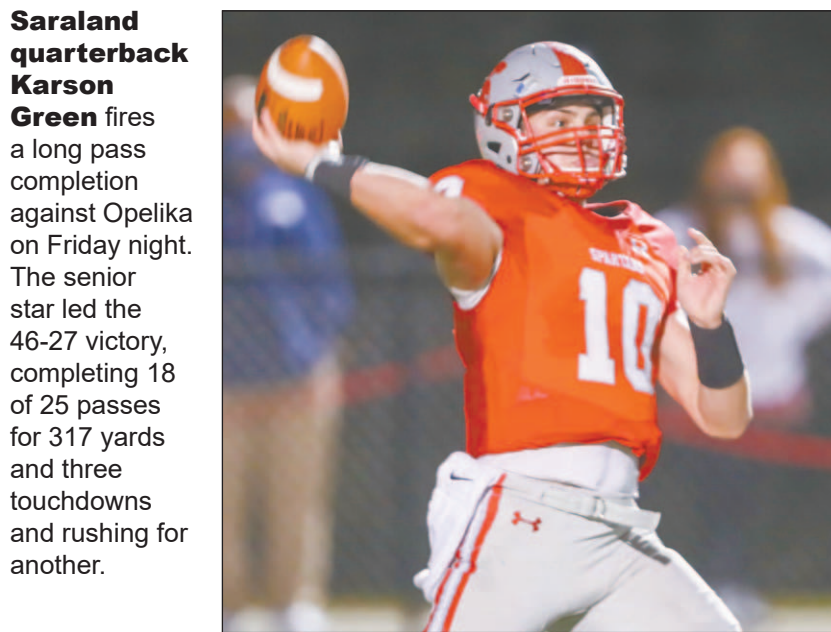


Photo by Todd Stacey/Call News



Photo by John O'Dell/Call News

**Faith Academy's Christian Burnette** cuts loose for a 28-yard touchdown run near the end of the 37-16 victory over UMS-Wright on Friday night. The TD scamper put an exclamation point on a three-touchdown surge in the fourth quarter.

## Faith surges past UMS

*Now Rams travel to rival St. Paul's in semifinals*

BY ARTHUR L. MACK  
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**MOBILE** — Having come off a thrilling win over previously undefeated Pike Road the week before, UMS-Wright was hoping to maintain that momentum against Faith Academy in the third round of the Class 5A playoffs at Ram Field last Friday night. This time, there would be no fourth-quarter magic for UMS-Wright.

The Rams had some momentum

of their own, as three fourth-quarter touchdowns by Colton Wood, Dorian Smith and Christian Burnette helped Faith Academy to a resounding 37-16 win over the Bulldogs and an opportunity to move on to the semifinals at St. Paul's, which remained unbeaten with a 27-13 win over defending state champion Central-Clay County in the quarterfinals.

The Rams are in the semifinals for the first time since they joined the Ala-

bama High School Athletic Association in 2008.

Faith's three fourth-quarter touchdowns, which came in a six and a half-minute span, came on a 1-yard run by Wood, Smith's 31-yard reception and Burnette's 28-yard run. Burnette's touchdown, which came with 1:32 left in the game, was set up by an interception by linebacker John McGarrity.

See **FAITH**, 3B

## Satsuma softball stars sign scholarships

BY ARTHUR L. MACK  
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**SATSUMA** — Five Satsuma High School student-athletes signed softball scholarships with four different colleges during ceremonies held in Satsuma's library on Nov. 20.

The Lady Gators who will be moving on to compete at the next level include Bre McDonald (Coastal Alabama-Monroeville), Sophie Page (University of Alabama-Birmingham), Madelyn Sheffield and Ashlyn Stewart (University of Mobile), and Katelyn Booker (University of West Florida). When questioned about the opportunity that has been given to them, each of the players expressed their excitement about play-



Photo by Bonita Roberts/Call News

**Satsuma softball players**, from left, Bre McDonald, Sophie Page, Ashlyn Stewart, Katelyn Booker and Madilyn Sheffield gather for a picture after signing scholarships Nov. 20.

See **SATSUMA**, 2B