

RIVALRY RENEWED

Rockets race past Bulldogs in battle of North and South

By Chris Siers
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CORNERSVILLE — All last year, the Cornersville Bulldogs had bragging rights after downing the Forrest Rockets for the first time in 25 years.

Although the Bulldogs (0-2) played an inspired second half, the Forrest Rockets (2-0) had a little too much in the tank for the Bulldogs to corral and Forrest bounced back in the win column against its rival to the south on Friday night with a 23-6 win over Cornersville.

“It’s an in-county rival. They had bragging rights all last year and it feels good to bring it back home to us,” Rocket coach Eli Stephenson said.

The Rockets took home bragging rights, largely in part to the efforts of Gavin Grissom, who connected on field goals of 30, 26 and 40 yards to help the Rockets put away Cornersville.

While the first Forrest drive of the night ended with a punt, and took barely 1:45 off the clock, Forrest took full advantage of its second drive of the night after holding the Bulldogs to a three-and-out.

After taking possession on their own 38-yard line, a steady mix of Chris Davis and Tayton Swift pushed the Rockets into the red zone before Davis capped the drive on a six-yard run with 4:31 left in the quarter to put Forrest up, 7-0, after Grissom’s successful



Tayton Swift breaks through the line and scrambles forward for a short gain for the Rockets. Swift finished with 100 yards on 14 carries for Forrest.

kick after.

The Bulldogs responded and move the ball well into Rocket territory before the drive stalled near the 28-yard line and Cornersville turned the ball over on downs following an incomplete fourth-down pass.

Forrest played the clock control game on its next possession and milked nearly seven minutes of the second quarter off the clock.

While the Bulldog defense kept the Rockets out of the end zone, Grissom hit his first of three field goals on the night, coming on a 30-yard boot with 5:06.

After the score, the Rocket defense held the Bulldogs to their second three-and-out of the night, giving Forrest the ball back with just under four minutes left to pad their lead.

They did just that as Grissom split the uprights on a 26-yard field goal as time expired,

giving Forrest a 13-0 lead at the half.

While the Bulldogs struggled to get the chains moving in the first half, mustering up just 52 first-half yards, Cornersville took full advantage of a Rocket turnover in the third quarter and bruising junior running back Ben Franklin cashed in on the opportunity.

With the Rockets driving into Bulldog territory, the Rockets coughed the ball up on the 15-yard line with 6:33 left in the third.

The first play following the turnover, Franklin bounced to the outside and raced 85 yards to the end zone to put the Bulldogs on the board.

Following Franklin’s jaunt, Cornersville got exactly what it needed and forced a Rocket punt with 3:42 left in the third, but fumbled the ball back to the Rockets on the first play after the punt.

Taking over on the Bulldog 30-yard line, Forrest needed just four plays to cash in on the turnover when Liam Bell punched it in the end zone from six yards out with just over a minute to go in the third.

While Cornersville played an inspired brand of defense in the second half, the Rockets added to their lead in the fourth quarter, coming on Grissom’s 40-yard field goal with 6:28 left in the game.

Even though it went down as a loss, Bulldog head coach Shelby Waddell was pleased with his team’s effort in the four-quarter battle.

“Our kids are a group of fighters. They’re tough kids. I knew we would come out and play inspired in the second half. I thought our defense played their tails off tonight. It was a lot of the same kids going both ways and special teams. They’re playing



Gavin Grissom connects on a 40-yard field goal in the fourth quarter. Grissom hit three field goals from 40, 26 and 30 yards against the Bulldogs.



Bulldog junior Ben Franklin keeps his eyes downfield and finds a crease. Franklin recorded the longest play from scrimmage on Friday night, rushing 88 yards to the house for Cornersville’s only touchdown of the night.

iron man football. We dressed 27 kids tonight. I can’t say enough about

the effort of our kids tonight,” he said.

▶ See **Rivalry**, Page B6

Kincaid joins Tribune sports’ staff

Tribune Staff Report

Kacy Kincaid knows local sports in the greater Chapel Hill area as well as anyone.

A native of Chapel Hill, Kincaid has joined the sports staff of the Marshall County Tribune and will be covering Forrest sports, both capturing photos, as well as writing stories from the sidelines.

Originally from Chapel Hill, Kincaid is no stranger to the close-knit sports community in Chapel Hill.

“I am originally from Chapel Hill. I transferred from Forrest to Page at the end of my sophomore year, so that’s where I graduated from in 2004. I graduated from MTSU in 2010 with my bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and went on to get my masters in psychology from University of Phoenix in 2012. I built my house in Chapel Hill in early 2017, so that’s when I returned to my hometown,” Kincaid said.

Kincaid is as familiar as anyone to sports in the greater Chapel Hill area, having played softball and basketball for a big portion of her life.

“I played softball starting at five-years-old and basketball starting at eight-years-old, although I didn’t play basketball while at Page,” she said.

Returning to her hometown roots, Kincaid built a photography business, but has felt herself being pulled back into the local sports realm.

Stretching back to her earliest memories of playing youth-league sports in Chapel Hill, Kincaid

has been associated with Marshall County sports for the bulk of her life.

“My favorite memory is playing softball in the Marshall County Little League and winning two state championships (1998 and 2000). This was before travel ball was so popular and not every weekend tournament was a “state tournament.” So, traveling to different cities across the state to play was a big deal,” she said.

“We even played in Georgia in 2000 at the southeast region tournament. People probably remember us standing under the stop lights in Chapel Hill or on the Lewisburg square asking for donations so we could go play, buy rings, etc. WAXO would let us come into the studio and spend the day, too, so we could get the word out. Those were some really good times. I am grateful for the coaches that poured into us and the bonds that were built among teammates.”

Her love of sports didn’t stop with the teams she played on. Kincaid has been a big fan of Tennessee sports for the majority of her life.

“My favorite sports to watch are college basketball, football, softball, and the Titans. I don’t claim a college team, but I am an avid Lady Vols basketball fan. I have watched them since I was little and I was so intrigued by Pat Summitt and the program she built. I am happy to see that program in the capable hands of Kellie Jolly Harper, a former Lady Vol that I remember watching on



Kacy Kincaid has joined the sports staff of the Marshall County Tribune, with a focus on covering Forrest High School sports.

TV when I was in middle school,” she said.

While her playing career has come and gone, Kincaid has transitioned from creating memories on the field to capturing them through a lens.

In addition to snapping frames from the sidelines, Kincaid has her own photography business, which stems back to her high school years.

“I learned that I love capturing memories my senior year of high school. I had a little Sony point-and-shoot camera that I took everywhere with me (iPhones didn’t exist then). I started learning photography on my own and bought my first DSLR in 2007. It was another seven years in 2014 before I started Kacy K. Photography,”

she said.

While her path has led her through many various stops, Kincaid is glad to be back in her hometown, closer than ever to where she got her start around local sports.

“I never envisioned myself being back at Forrest covering sports, but I’m glad life panned out this way. I love these kids, and it brings me joy to see how excited they are when they see action shots or a story written about them. They work really hard, and I respect that, so I’m excited to continue giving back to the community that gave so much to me as an athlete,” she said.

Kincaid joins the staff of the Tribune, which aims at continuing to ▶ See **Kincaid**, Page B6

Jones, O’Neal’s big night carries Tigers past Shelbyville

By Chris Siers
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SHELBYVILLE — Last week in the Marshall County Tigers’ season opener, head coach Thomas Osteen was pleased with his team’s win, but knew his offense was capable of more effectively pushing the ball downfield via the pass game.

In Week 2 against Shelbyville Central (0-2), that was a key focus of the offensive scheme and the Tigers (2-0) showcased just what they’re capable of in a 36-14 win over the Golden’ Eagles.

“It was definitely in the game plan. They pretty much keep seven

in the box the majority of the time. They’re going to give you problems and have some guys you can’t block from time to time. So, we knew we had to take some shots. We knew we weren’t going to hit all of them, but I was happy with the ones we did,” Osteen said.

Junior quarterback Silas Teat completed 13-of-19 pass attempts for 215 yards and four touchdowns, completing passes to four different receivers.

Aja Jones was the top target of the night, hauling in six catches for 142 yards and a pair of scores.

▶ See **Tigers**, Page B6



Tiger quarterback Silas Teat points out his blockers as he’s flushed from the pocket on the game’s opening drive on Thursday night.