

PREP e-XTRA!

ALCOA TORNAADOES

2024 SEASON REWIND



MARCUS FITZSIMMONS | THE DAILY TIMES

The Alcoa Tornadoes gather to hoist the Class 3A state football championship trophy on Dec. 6 following a 40-21 win over Westview at Finley Stadium in Chattanooga.



The Empty Pantry Fund distributes food baskets to needy Blount County residents at Christmas.

Please consider making an [online donation](https://www.emptypantryfund.org) in lieu of payment for this special season Rewind section.

www.emptypantryfund.org



MARCUS FITZSIMMONS | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's seven seniors served as the captains Friday. Rhyn McCourt (58), Isaiah Emert (63) and Eli Graf (12) head to midfield for the coin toss against ravenwood while Eli Owens (44), J. T. Turner (52), Brett Akers (50) and Riley Spoden (16) stand on the sideline.

Raptors overpower Alcoa

Ravenwood wins a bit of revenge on 3A Tornadoes

MARCUS FITZSIMMONS
marcusf@thedailytimes.com

Ravenwood remembered the pain of last year's loss to Alcoa. And it showed. The loss hurt quarterback Maverick Chance more than most. The quarterback broke his jaw as the Tornadoes big-played 6A Ravenwood into an opening loss. It was the junior's chance to return the favor Friday and he had a flock of Raptors in support. Ravenwood filled the sidelines with 111 players, not one of them a freshman, and listed a two deep line-up with no sophomores and few players listed as playing both ways.

Jamir Dean returned a fumble 65 yards for a score, the Alcoa special teams forced another fumble on the ensuing kickoff return but Ravenwood overpowered a young Alcoa squad for a 27-17 victory on Goddard Field in Alcoa's Bill Bailey Stadium.

"Last year, that was not fun. And so, it feels really good to kind of get payback, kind of," Chance said. "We're coming here now, so it's their place. It means a lot because we're a team now, we're a better team, and we're all working together."

Ravenwood (1-0) alternated Chance with fellow junior Femi Babalola at quarterback by design. Babalola went 4-of-7 for 172 yards and a touchdown in the air while Chance carried 15 times for 55 yards and three rushing scores. The Raptors scored on their first three drives of the second half to build a 27-9 lead early in the fourth quarter after capitalizing on Alcoa's special teams miscues and a rash of holding flags that kept the Tornadoes bottled up on short possessions.

"We made a few too many mistakes against a really good team, and it's not just a talented team, it's a disciplined team," Alcoa coach Brian Nix said. "They have guys that work one way all day long. They got twice as much time to teach half as much, and you cannot replace that where you got really good coaches and they've got really good coaches."

Alcoa (0-1) answered with its best drive of the game, marching 80 yards on 11 plays. Eli Graf alternated keeper carries



MARCUS FITZSIMMONS | THE DAILY TIMES

The Alcoa Tornadoes run out of the aluminum helmet and on to Goddard Field prior to Friday's game against Ravenwood.

with sophomore Micah Jones at tailback. Jones took a mostly clean carry over the right side to cut the deficit to 12. Graf looked off the secondary and came back to Dean circling out of the right corner of the end zone for a 2-point conversion that made it a two score game with 4:52 remaining.

The Tornadoes stopped Ravenwood on fourth-and-1 to give themselves a shot. Graf found Eli Owens for the biggest of the tight end's six receptions as the Michigan commit picked up 33 of his 108 receiving yards on the throw. The rally magic ended there with an incompletion and interception.

"There's no moral victories here. We're coming out here to win every game," Nix said. "But I told our guys at 27-9, I said, 'I don't know if we can win or lose this game. Either way, fight every snap we've got and you can make your season.'"

Dean broke Ravenwood's wing with a timely second quarter takeaway. The Raptors were mounting a drive into Alcoa territory with Chance rumbling towards converting a third-and-13. The defense stood the running quarterback up with a solid hit. Dean reached in, ripped the ball free and headed the other way for a 65-yard score that was the longest fast break of the sophomore's career.

The Tornadoes took their first lead after a big Ravenwood kick return took an aluminum turn. Ben Hubbard was a

step away from going the distance on the kick, breaking two arm tackles on his way up the visiting sideline, but the last stab tripped the senior up and the ball squirted free where Alcoa recovered.

Graf found Owens on a delay pass that picked up 7. The signal caller kept the next snap, split two linebackers and spun his way forward for a first down at Ravenwood's 42.

JaColby Cooper made a diving grab coming back to the ball and into the first down marker to put the Tornadoes in business at the 15. Ravenwood's defense stiffened with its back to the goal and Kyrin Tyson hit the 24-yard field goal just before the break.

The Raptors opened the game with a six-minute scoring drive powered by Chance, who ran for 34 yards on six keepers. The junior completed a crucial 18-yard pass to Max Kimple on third-and-10 to keep the Raptors moving after their two opening snaps failed to net a gain.

RINGS: Alcoa honored the 2023-24 boys basketball team during pregame ceremonies for their state championship season. The players received the back-to-back title rings earlier this week.

GIVE HIM 100: Alcoa Middle School student Russell Chambers made his second kick attempt from the goal line during halftime to win the CBBC Kick for Cash Contest's \$100 prize.

UP NEXT

ALCOA: The Tornadoes get another 6A opponent looking for payback in a rematch in Week 2 as Alcoa visits Bearden, which is playing Knox West on Saturday for its opener.

RAVENWOOD RAPTORS 27, ALCOA TORNADES 17

R	6	0	14	7	—27
A	0	9	0	8	—17

FIRST QUARTER

R 5:56 — Maverick Chance 1 run (kick fail)
14 plays | 80 yards | 6:04 | R 6-0

SECOND QUARTER

A 9:40 — Jamir Dean 65 fumble return (kick fail)
0 plays | 65 yds | 0:00 | 6-6

A 0:28 — Kyrin Tyson 24 field goal
13 plays | 59 yds | 8:57 | A 9-6

THIRD QUARTER

R 8:09 — Chance 2 run (Drew Crabtree kick)
4 plays | 10 yds | 2:02 | R 13-9

R 2:44 — Max Kimpel 55 pass from Femi Babalola (Crabtree kick)
6 plays | 69 yds | 2:20 | R, 20-9

FOURTH QUARTER

R 9:31 — Chance 1 run (Crabtree kick) 3 plays | 49 yds | 1:33 | R 27-9

A 4:52 — Micah Jones 3 run (Tyson kick) 11 plays | 80 yds | 4:39 | R 27-17

Stats	R	A
First Downs	12	15
Rush-Yds	34-144	36-178
Passing	190	144
Cmp-Att-Int	5-10-0	11-17-1
Tot plays-yds	44-334	53-322

Stats: Courtesy of Too Hype Sports
Invocation: Bella Daugherty

REGION 2, CLASS 3A

Team	Reg	All	PF	PA
Kingston	0-0	0-1	28	33
Alcoa	0-0	0-1	17	27
Austin-East	0-0	0-1	12	36
Scott	0-0	0-1	14	38
Union	0-0	0-1	8	37

WEEK 1

Ravenwood 27, Alcoa 17
William Blount 36, Austin-East 12
Harriman 33, Kingston 28
Gibbs 37, Union County 8
Cumberland County 38, Scott 14

WEEK 2

Alcoa at Bearden
Austin-East at Carter
Oliver Springs at Kingston
Claiborne at Union
Scott at Eagleton

SCHEDULE

08.23 Ravenwood L, 17-27
08.30 at Bearden
09.06 open
09.12 Greenville
09.20 Austin-East •
09.27 Union County •
10.04 Knox West •
10.11 bye
10.18 at Scott •
10.25 at Maryville
11.01 at Kingston •

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

'We made a few too many mistakes against a really good team ...'

Brian Nix,
Alcoa head coach



Ask us about Air Purifiers for your home

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAMS - HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

WE STAND BEHIND IT. SO IT STANDS UP TO ANYTHING.

24/7 service - For all your heating and cooling needs...

Roger L. Newman Co.
Heating & Cooling



BUILT TO A HIGHER STANDARD

American Standard

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

865-982-5446

www.RogerLNewmanCompany.com





MARCUS FITZSIMMONS | THE DAILY TIMES

An Alcoa ballboy watches Kyrin Tyson's field goal attempt go through the uprights Friday at Bearden.

Tyson drills game winner

MARCUS FITZSIMMONS
marcusf@thedailytimes.com

KNOXVILLE — The Tornadoes never bowed their heads until Eli Graf told them to. By the time the senior led Alcoa in its postgame prayer, the adversity inflicted by Bearden had all been washed away by the game-winning kick of Kyrin Tyson.

Tyson drilled a 40-yard field goal as time expired, Graf returned a Bearden kickoff 38 yards, Condis Cherry and JaColby Cooper pulled off the perfect hook-and-ladder play for a Tornado touchdown and Alcoa overcame a Bulldog two-point conversion to take the lead with 18 seconds remaining in a thrilling 24-22 victory on Bill Young Field in John H. Burnette Stadium.

Down to its last chance, Bearden (1-1) put together a 15-play drive as the Bulldogs marched from their 20. After three stops, Bearden's Torian Riggins converted a fourth-and-2 up the middle to cut Alcoa's lead to 21-20. After a three-over-time win six days ago against Knox West, the Bulldogs opted to avoid anymore free football and sent Drew Parrott racing to the left pylon for a two-point conversion attempt. The senior just got the ball to the pylon to give Bearden the 22-21 lead.

Trailing with 18 seconds left, the Tornadoes never dropped their heads.

A 15-yard celebration penalty pushed Bearden's kickoff team back to its own 20-yard line. Graf settled under the high, short kick at his 35, started right, found a seam with a convoy of Tornadoes to his left and cut up the visiting sideline before being wrestled out-of-bounds at the 23.

"I knew if they kicked it to me, I had to put us in field goal position," Graf told The Daily Times. "I saw that ball and I was like, 'they done messed up because we're going to get that ball inside the 40 or 30. Our kickoff return team did a great job blocking for me, just a huge shout out to those guys.'"

With three seconds remaining, Tyson lined up for the 40-yard attempt before Bearden predictably called a timeout in an effort to let the junior's nerves got to work. It didn't work. Tyson calmly split the uprights with plenty of leg to spare as the buzzer sounded and Tornadoes flooded the field.

"I just took a breath and I was just like, 'well, they gave me a second to shake the



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's JaColby Cooper runs the ball as Eli Owens blocks Heritage's Jeremiah Lee during the jamboree on Aug. 16.

jitters and then I'm going to hop back in there and make the game winning kick," Tyson said. "Then I kicked it. I watched it go and thought 'oh, yeah that's going in.' It was good and high and it was right through the post. I was just like, 'thank you, Lord.'"

The Tornadoes (1-1) blocked a Bearden field goal attempt to end the second half opening drive. Alcoa (1-1) went methodically the other way using nearly seven minutes and 15 plays, converting time and again in key situations. Jamir Dean's 14-yard grab converted a second-and-11 before the sophomore receiver made a six-yard catch on third-and-4. Condis Cherry ripped off 15 yards going across midfield and Graf bulled forward on a four-yard run on fourth-and-2. Facing another fourth down, Micah Jones ran for six to get six on the scoreboard.

"It's going to get hard in these games, but it's how you respond to it," Graf said. "Coach Nix's favorite quote is 'It's not how hard you hit. It's how hard you get hit and keep moving forward. We live by that.'"

Alcoa took its first lead late in the second quarter after stopping the Bulldogs at midfield and starting back at its own 24. Successive flags had the Tornadoes facing first-and-Gallaher View. Graf nearly fell before rolling to his right to buy time and spotting JaColby Cooper. Graf connected with a bullet pass to the junior for 37 yards to reach midfield. Alcoa fed the

Bulldogs a rather unhealthy diet of Jones runs inside mixed with Graf runs outside before opening up the vintage Tornado bag of tricks. Graf threw a quick pass to Cooper at the 5 and the receiver pitched it back to Cherry coming around the out-side and the sophomore jetted in for the score on the hook-and-ladder.

"I don't know how many times we've won games off hook-and-ladders, but I'm going to give a call when I got out off here to an old dude in Chattanooga with a mustache and give him some love on it," Alcoa coach Brian Nix said, referencing former coach Gary Rankin and his love for that trick play.

The Bulldogs tempered Alcoa's excitement, answering in three quick plays to knot it at 14 just before break. DJ Hunter completed all three passes on the drive, the last a 55 pass to Terry Beaufort, who got behind the secondary and went untouched on scoring the equalizer.

After coming close on the opening drive, the Tornadoes found the end zone as the first quarter became the second. Cherry did the banging work on the ground that set up two play-action passes to Dean. The first went for 23 yards, the second went for only five yards, but counted for six points as the sophomore had a step on a pair of Bulldog defenders trailing the sophomore across the end zone.

UP NEXT

ALCOA: The Tornadoes go into an open week on their nine-game schedule and return to action on Thursday, Sept. 12, hosting Greeneville for a Rivalry Thursday game on MyVLT. Bearden travels to Anderson County in Week 3 before taking its bye week in Week 4.

ALCOA TORNADES 24, BEARDEN BULLDOGS 22

A	0	14	7	3	—24
B	7	7	0	8	—22

FIRST QUARTER

B 1:34 — Jayzon Thompson 5 run (William Pendergrass kick)
10 plays | 55 yards | 4:48 | B 7-0

SECOND QUARTER

A 9:34 — Jamir Dean 13 pass from Eli Graf (Kyrin Tyson kick)
9 plays | 52 yards | 3:49 | 7-7

A 1:30 — Condis Cherry 5 run from JaColby Cooper on 3 pass from Graf (Tyson kick)
11 plays | 76 yards | 4:15 | A 14-7

B 0:55 — Terry Beaufort 55 pass from DJ Hunter (Pendergrass kick)
3 plays | 78 yards | 0:28 | 14-14

THIRD QUARTER

A 0:52 — Micah Jones 6 run (Tyson kick)
15 plays | 82 yards | 6:57 | A 21-14

FOURTH QUARTER

B 0:18 — Torian Riggins 2 run (Drew Parrott run)
15 plays | 80 yards | 5:42 | B 22-21

A 0:00 — Tyson 40 field goal | A 24-22

Stats	A	B
First Downs	16	21
Rush-Yds	38-144	32-127
Passing	185	165
Cmp-Att-Int	16-22-1	13-18-0
Tot plays-yds	60-329	50-292

STATS: Courtesy Too Hype Sports

ANTHEM: Bearden Band (1:39)

REGION 2, CLASS 3A

Team	Reg	All	PF	PA
Kingston	0-0	1-1	56	54
Alcoa	0-0	1-1	41	49
Austin-East	0-0	0-2	12	83
Scott	0-0	0-2	24	62
Union	0-0	0-2	24	60

WEEK 1

Ravenwood 27, Alcoa 17
William Blount 36, Austin-East 12
Harriman 33, Kingston 28
Gibbs 37, Union County 8
Cumberland County 38, Scott 14

WEEK 2

Eagleton 24, Scott 10
Alcoa 24, Bearden 22
Carter 47, Austin-East 0
Kingston 28, Oliver Springs 21
Claiborne 23, Union 16

WEEK 3

South-Doyle at Austin-East
Kingston at Meigs County
Union at Cosby
Scott at Clinton
BYE: Alcoa

SCHEDULE

08.23 Ravenwood L, 17-27
08.30 at Bearden W, 24-22
09.06 open
09.12 Greeneville
09.20 Austin-East •
09.27 Union County •
10.04 Knox West •
10.11 bye
10.18 at Scott •
10.25 at Maryville
11.01 at Kingston •

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAMS - HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

WE STAND BEHIND IT. SO IT STANDS UP TO ANYTHING.

24/7 service - For all your heating and cooling needs...

Roger L. Newman Co. Heating & Cooling



BUILT TO A HIGHER STANDARD
American Standard
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING



Ask us about Air Purifiers for your home

865-982-5446
www.RogerLNewmanCompany.com



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Condys Cherry runs through the attempted arm tackle of Greenville's Jhervius Moore on Thursday at Goddard Field.

With thunder, lightning

Alcoa pulls away from Greenville with dominant second half drives

MARCUS FITZSIMMONS
marcusf@thedailytimes.com

In the rematch of a game left tied and incomplete by weather a year ago, the Tornadoes brought the storm.

Alcoa turned the night with a pair of lightning strikes on either side of the half, decided it under the rolling thunder of two clock-devouring scoring drives that ate most of a drizzly second half, and the Tornadoes took a 31-13 victory over a stout and determined Greenville team Thursday in Bill Bailey Stadium.

"It feels great, especially because last year we didn't get to finish the game and we just got to finally finish this game," Alcoa senior Eli Graf said. "I heard they were talking about rain. I was like, no way it's going to rain us out again. I would have been so mad. I'm just glad we got the win."

Graf ran for three touchdowns, threw for another and delivered a game-turning kickoff return to outduel Greenville's similarly double-threat signal-caller Caden Baugh. Baugh ran for a score and at times proved just as elusive and hard to bring down as Graf as he ran for 87 yards before the break, finishing with a net of 91.

"Shout out to those guys, they were a great football team," Graf told The Daily Times. "I think they're going to go a long way. They had a quarterback that could run it and a running back that was good. It was hard for our end to know to squeeze on the running back and make it tight in the backfield or stay at the quarterback. Those guys just kept with it, and they got off a few big plays, but our defense just kept with it the whole game."

Greenville (2-2) took a 13-7 lead with 1:59 remaining in the second quarter on a 17-yard run from Baugh. The Tornadoes answered. Graf found Michigan-commit Eli Owens on a quick out for eight, then Jamir Dean out in the right flat for eight more before breaking loose on a 32-yard



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Jamir Dean(0) tries to make the touchdown catch as Greenville's Jhervius Moore gets his hands up to defend Thursday at Goddard Field.

keeper down the left side with 13 seconds remaining. Coming out of a Greene Devil timeout, the senior put a laser down the hash marks to find Dean on the L in the Alcoa end zone to knot the score and set the stage for Kyrin Tyson's PAT kick to put Alcoa (2-1) in front 14-13 going into the break.

"It was just so much momentum going into half with a one-point lead like that," Graf said. "Coach always talks about PAT blocks and kickoff returns are the biggest momentum changers. We had a PAT block on their first score and I had a good kickoff return coming out of half, so we just got all the momentum going."

Alcoa capitalized on a 58-yard return of the second half opening from Graf that set the Tornadoes up on the 41. Another out route pass to Owens set up a pair of runs from Micah Jones. Graf then followed a monster block from Marlee Watts to get past the line and beat everyone to the pylon as Alcoa flipped a one-score deficit into an eight-point lead in three game minutes.

"Our guys finally took a deep breath at halftime and I said, 'look, we got to come out,'" Alcoa head coach Brian Nix said. "We talked about being the most physical team out here. They answered that

physicality in the second quarter. I was like, 'Now, can you take that next step and exceed that physicality?'"

The Tornadoes followed up by forcing consecutive three-and-outs from Greenville. Owens knocked Carson Quillen for a loss on third-and-1 to end one possession and Darius Sudderth corralled Baugh short of the first down marker to end another. Alcoa followed up both stops with methodical marches that limited the Greene Devils to just those six snaps in the third quarter. Greenville netted 30 yards in the second half.

"I was really proud of our kids," Nix said. "Once again matching physicality because that's a big offensive line. We are not big on defense this year. So if you're not going to be big, you better be aggressive and we were."

Alcoa's offensive line gradually took over to allow a grinding ground game to go to work. Graf directed a 13-play drive that consumed 6:32 and was punctuated by a 29-yard run by Condys Cherry, before Tyson booted home a 20-yard field goal. A three-and-out later, the Tornadoes opened and nearly closed the fourth quarter with a 16-play drive capped by Graf's third scoring run nearly nine minutes after it started.

UP NEXT

ALCOA: The Tornadoes host Austin-East in Week 5 to open Region 2-3A play. The Roadrunners dropped a 24-6 decision at Gatlinburg-Pittman on Friday. Greenville treks to Morristown-West on Sept. 20 before returning to its region play in Week 6 hosting Volunteer.

ALCOA TORNADES 31, GREENEVILLE 13

G	0	13	0	0	-13
A	0	14	14	7	-31

SECOND QUARTER

A 9:58 — Eli Graf 13 run (Kyrin Tyson kick)

4 plays | 55 yards | 1:54 | A 7-0

G 6:05 — Carson Quillen 37 run (kick fail)

7 plays | 75 yards | 3:36 | A 7-6

G 1:59 — Caden Baugh 17 run (Samuel Gourley kick)

5 plays | 35 yards | 2:30 | G 13-7

A 0:07 — Jamir Dean 15 pass from Graf (Tyson kick)

6 plays | 65 yards | 1:52 | A 14-13

THIRD QUARTER

A 10:42 — Graf 24 run (Tyson kick)

5 plays | 41 yards | 1:09 | A 21-13

A 2:00 — Tyson 30 field goal

13 plays | 91 yards | 6:32 | A 24-13

FOURTH QUARTER

A 4:29 — Graf 5 run (Tyson kick)

16 plays | 89 yards | 8:31 | A 31-13

STATS	G	A
First Downs	12	19
Rush-Yds	35-167	39-260
Passing	12	79
Cmp-Att-Int	4-7-1	10-14-0
Tot plays-yds	42-179	53-339

STATS: Courtesy of Too Hype Sports

ANTHEM: Alcoa Marching Band (1:05)

INVOCATION: Sophi Carnes

REGION 2, CLASS 3A

Team	Reg	All	PF	PA
Kingston	1-0	2-2	110	114
Alcoa	0-0	2-1	72	62
Scott	0-0	0-4	43	134
Austin-East	0-0	0-4	30	127
Union	0-1	0-4	56	127

WEEK 4

Alcoa 31, Greenville 13
G-P 24, Austin-East 6
Kingston 41, Union 12
Knox Central, Ky. 24, Scott 6

WEEK 5

Austin-East at Alcoa
Scott at Kingston
South Greene at Union

TORNADES (2-1, 0-0)

08.23 Ravenwood L, 17-27
08.30 at Bearden W, 24-22
09.12 Greenville W, 31-13
09.20 Austin-East •
09.27 Union County •
10.04 Knox West •
10.11 bye
10.18 at Scott •
10.25 at Maryville
11.01 at Kingston •

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

'Shout out to those guys, they were a great football team.'

Eli Graf, Alcoa quarterback, on Greenville



Ask us about Air Purifiers for your home

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAMS - HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

WE STAND BEHIND IT. SO IT STANDS UP TO ANYTHING.

24/7 service - For all your heating and cooling needs...

Roger L. Newman Co. Heating & Cooling



BUILT TO A HIGHER STANDARD
American Standard
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

865-982-5446
www.RogerLNewmanCompany.com



ALCOA

ALCOA TORNADES 43, A-E ROADRUNNERS 7



Alcoa's Jamir Dean breaks into the open field chased by Greenville's Quentin Humphrey on Sept. 12.

TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

UP NEXT

ALCOA: The Tornadoes continue region play hosting Union County in Week 6. Knox West visits Alcoa in Week 7 to conclude the four-game homestand. The Tornadoes take an open date for fall break on Oct. 11 and are on the road the final three weeks of the season. A-E visits Pigeon Forge on Sept. 27.

ALCOA TORNADES 43, AUSTIN-EAST ROADRUNNERS 7

A-E	0	0	0	7	-7
Alc	15	21	7	0	-43

FIRST QUARTER

Alc 9:32- Micah Jones 1 run (kick fail)

Alc 7:11- Team safety

Alc 4:22- Jamir Dean 5 pass from Eli Graf (Kyryn Tyson kick)

SECOND QUARTER

Alc 11:54- Dean 22 pass from Graf (Tyson kick)

Alc 4:43- Eli Owens 51 pass from Graf (Tyson kick)

Alc 1:10- Jacolby Cooper punt return (Tyson kick)

THIRD QUARTER

Alc 3:40- Thomas Manu 18 run (Tyson kick)

FOURTH QUARTER

A-E 1:39- Terrance Brown 5 run (JeJuan Towns kick)

STATS	A-E	Alc
Firsts	5	16
Rush-Yds	37-78	16-101
Passing	0	196
Cmp-Att-Int	0-2-1	11-15-1
Tot Ply-Yds	39-78	31-297

STATS: Courtesy Too Hype Sports

Taking care of business

Alcoa opens region play with win over A-E

MARCUS FITZSIMMONS

marcusf@thedailytimes.com

Alcoa took care of business in its region opener.

Eli Graf threw for three touchdowns, Eli Owens caught the 51-yarder, Jamir Dean grabbed two scores, and a multitude of backs got carries Friday as Alcoa substituted freely in a 43-7 mercy-rule win over Austin-East on homecoming night at Bill Bailey Stadium

"We got to play a few people, which was good," Alcoa offensive coordinator Brian Gossett said. "Coach (Brian) Nix says all the time, 'it's hard to win the state championship if you don't win the region.' We got the first region game done."

The Tornadoes (3-1, 1-0 Region 2-3A) scored on the opening drive and never trailed after Micah Jones bulled in from the 1-yard line through a wide hole and shared a bit of a celebratory jig from Marlee Watts, Sam Garland and Isaiah Emert. Alcoa's extra point attempt never got off but the the Tornadoes got a safety from A-E on the ensuing drive as a punt snap went over the punter's head and into the end zone for an 8-0 Alcoa lead.

Dean capped the next two Alcoa drives with a 5-yard reception in the first quarter and a second-quarter opening grab of a Graf pass for a 21-yard score.

The night wasn't perfect for the Tornadoes. A fumble after the catch killed one drive in the second quarter. The defense forced a three-and-out by the Roadrunners but the punt went over Graf's head and gave A-E a first-and-goal at the 9. The Tornadoes turned away the threat as Condis Cherry came away with an interception of Nymire Jackson in the end zone



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Condis Cherry breaks into the open field in Alcoa's win over Greenville on Sept. 12 at Goddard Field.

with a leaping theft along the back line as he got in front of intended receiver and outjumped him for the ball.

"We made a couple of mistakes, made a mistake in the kicking game, didn't field the punt. A couple of little mistakes that we don't need to make. But other than that we came out pretty healthy and got some kids in the game," Gossett told The Daily Times.

The Tornadoes took the turnover and marched back out to midfield, helped in part by the Roadrunners tearing the helmet off of Cherry's head on a first down carry by the sophomore transfer from A-E. Graf went to the outside to find Demauri Dubose that put the ball on the Alcoa 49 after a penalty was tacked on. It was all Elis from there. Graf went down

the middle to find Owens at the 27. The Michigan commit juked a defender with a hip shake and went the distance for the senior's first touchdown of the season and a 30-0 lead.

"It's always a good night when you got those two guys on your team. Eli Owens was good on defense and offense. Owens had a couple of big catches and Graf threw the ball really well, ran the ball well," Gossett said. "We've still got a long way to go. We've still got a lot of areas where we have to improve on both sides of the ball."

JaColby Cooper picked up an A-E punt at the 27 just before break and the junior headed to his left, darted out of some traffic and picked up a convoy from Cherry and Elijah Sadler as headed back towards the Alcoa sideline and finished off the 73-yard return.

With the mercy rule clock running, Thomas Manu led Alcoa's third quarter scoring drive and the backup quarterback kept on an 18-yard run that capped the Alcoa scoring with the transfer sophomore's first touchdown as a Tornado. Graf finished 10-of-12 for 181 yards with two carries netting 29. Manu was 1-of-2 for 15 yards.

"Nobody got hurt, so that's a good thing. It was good to get a few kids there in the second half," Gossett said. "We still have a lot of work to do to get to a place where we feel like we know how to win at the end. We still feel like we got a lot of improvements to make, in a lot of areas where we need to get better. But it's always good to win on homecoming, always good to win a region opener."

"We need to make sure we keep moving on because we've got some got some tough games coming down the road."

REGION 2, CLASS 3A

Team	Reg	All	PF	PA
Kingston	2-0	3-2	161	135
Alcoa	1-0	3-1	115	69
Scott	0-1	0-5	64	185
Union	0-1	0-5	62	173
Austin-East	0-1	0-5	37	170

WEEK 4

Alcoa 31, Greenville 13
G-P 24, Austin-East 6
Kingston 41, Union 12
Knox Central, Ky, 24, Scott 6

WEEK 5

Alcoa 43, Austin-East 7
Kingston 51, Scott 21
South Greene 43, Union 6

WEEK 6

Union at Alcoa
Austin-East at Pigeon Forge
Rockwood at Kingston
BYE: Scott

TORNADES (3-1, 1-0)

08.23 Ravenwood L, 17-27
08.30 at Bearden W, 24-22
09.06 open
09.12 Greenville W, 31-13
09.20 Austin-East W, 43-7
09.27 Union County •
10.04 Knox West •
10.11 bye
10.18 at Scott •
10.25 at Maryville
11.01 at Kingston •



Ask us about Air Purifiers for your home

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAMS - HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

WE STAND BEHIND IT. SO IT STANDS UP TO ANYTHING.

24/7 service - For all your heating and cooling needs...

Roger L. Newman Co. Heating & Cooling



BUILT TO A HIGHER STANDARD

American Standard

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

865-982-5446

www.RogerLNewmanCompany.com





TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa quarterback Eli Graf looks to pass with running back Micah Jones in front for some protection Friday against Knox West.

UP NEXT

ALCOA: The Tornadoes go into their bye week to coincide with fall break on the win. They return to action in Week 9 with an Oct. 18 region game at Scott before a busy Week 10 that starts with an Oct. 25 game against rival Maryville and concludes with a Monday, Oct. 28, home game against region foe Union County in a make-up of the Week 7 game postponed by Hurricane Helene. Knox West continues its aggressive schedule at Anderson County in Week 9 for a Rivalry Thursday contest, then closes with regional road games at Halls and Powell.

ALCOA TORNADES 28, KNOX WEST REBELS 10

KW	7	3	0	0	-10
Alc	7	7	7	7	-28

FIRST QUARTER

A 7:00- JaColby Cooper 21 pass from Eli Graf (Kyrin Tyson kick)
11 plays | 80yds | 5:00 | A 7-0

W 1:14- Jack Keith 20 interception return (Pete Rogers kick) 7-7

SECOND QUARTER

W 5:33- Rogers 43 field goal
10 plays | 61yds | 4:50 | W 10-7

A 2:01- Micah Jones 4 run (Tyson kick) 6 plays | 48yds | 3:25 | A 14-10

THIRD QUARTER

A 1:35- Jones 3 run (Tyson kick)
12 plays | 84yds | 6:18 | A 21-10

FOURTH QUARTER

A 5:09- Graf 42 run (Tyson kick)
3 plays | 65yds | 1:46 | A 28-10

STATS	KW	Alc
Firsts	14	15
Rush-Yds	31-88	28-174
Passing	137	109
Cmp-Att-Int	10-17-1	8-13-1
Tot Plays-yds	48-225	41-283

REGION 2, CLASS 3A

Team	Reg	All	PF	PA
Kingston	2-0	4-3	185	183
Alcoa	1-0	4-1	143	79
Union	0-1	0-6	77	231
Austin-East	0-1	0-6	37	220
Scott	0-1	0-6	96	241

WEEK 7

Alcoa 28, Knox West 10
Grace Christian 49, Austin-East 0
Loudon 35, Kingston 3
William Blount 62, Union 15
Whitley (Ky.) 56, Scott 25

WEEK 8

Kingston at Austin-East
Scott at Union
BYE: Alcoa

WEEK 9

Alcoa at Scott
McMinn Central at Kingston
Austin-East at Pigeon Forge
BYE: Union County

TORNADES (4-1, 1-0)

08.23	.....	Ravenwood	.....	L, 17-27
08.30	.....	at Bearden	.....	W, 24-22
09.06	.....	open		
09.12	.....	Greeneville	.....	W, 31-13
09.20	.....	Austin-East	.....	W, 43-7
10.04	.....	Knox West	.....	W, 28-10
10.11	.....	bye		
10.18	.....	at Scott		
10.25	.....	at Maryville		
10.28	.....	Union County		
11.01	.....	at Kingston		

Alcoa makes the breaks

Tornadoes win the battle of defending state champions

MARCUS FITZSIMMONS

marcusf@thedailytimes.com

The Bill Bailey Stadium jumbotron issued fair warning prior to the clash of defending state champions, but Knox West players hadn't yet returned to the field and thus didn't hear the video of Alcoa head coach Brian Nix stating the Tornadoes' mantra, "They'll break before we do."

Alcoa took control in a decisive third quarter where the defense refused to yield, Micah Jones ran for his second touchdown and the Tornadoes pulled away for a 28-10 victory over visiting West that was decided in the smallest of moments.

Class 5A Knox West (4-3) suffered its first loss to anyone but a Class 6A school, after falling to Bearden and Maryville, and its offense was shut out for the first time. The Rebels trailed 14-10 at the half, but started the third quarter with a renewed energy, driving into the red zone on seven plays behind a mixture of perimeter screens to Troit Patterson and gashing runs from Messiah Wren. Back to the wall at their own 19, the Class 3A Tornadoes (4-1) didn't bend to the West momentum. A second down screen to Patterson was blown up by three defenders for a 1-yard gain. Wren's third down carry was a yard short and when the Rebels rolled the dice on a fourth-down try, Alcoa stood Wren up and brought him down inches short of the marker to end the threat at the 16 and take control of the game.

"It was just being physical. Not that West isn't tough, it's extremely tough," Nix said after the postgame huddle. "But we say it all the time. It's the mantra of our



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Thomas Manu leaps up to break up the pass to Knox West receiver Troit Patterson on Friday at Goddard Field in Alcoa.

program. They'll break before we do.

"I think it's just our kids believing in the things that we teach them, how we work. You have to earn confidence. You can't just show up on Friday and be confident if you don't earn it through all the practices."

The Tornadoes marched the other direction as quarterback Eli Graf continued to torment West for a second time, with his ability to run or pass from the same look. The senior picked up gains of nine and 12 yards, then rolled right and put a little dink pass over the closing defenders to JaColby Cooper for 12 more.

"I feel like it's been a little personal for me since two years ago when I threw that interception," Graf told The Daily Times. "This has always been one I look forward to and I never want to come into this game unprepared."

Graf then did his best Patrick Mahomes imitation, as his pass was batted into the air, the quarterback grabbed the deflection and rumbled 15 yards for a first down at the 32.

"I've definitely seen that play, but that

was the first time it's ever happened to me like that," Graf said. "Honestly, I was thinking about batting it down so no one intercepted it. But then I was like, 'no one's around me.' So I just caught it and started running."

Jones began churning forward as the sophomore back picked up gains of 6, 12 and 4 before capping the 12-play drive with a 3-yard run off the left side for a two score lead with 1:35 left in the quarter.

"All the running was up inside and we've got a couple of little backs, but Micah's our one inside back," Nix said. "I think it's nice to see a sophomore, who when he was young was just best player and could run around, and now he's having to dig deep and find that toughness."

West put together one last effort to close the deficit and put itself in a position for another overtime thriller with the Tornadoes, but the Alcoa secondary shut it down. West was flagged for offensive interference that negated a 38-yard touchdown and Jamir Dean intercepted Parker Dubon two plays later with a leaping grab in front of intended receiver David Drata.

Jones truly began to show his power, picking his way through the heart of the West defense for consecutive first down runs. The Rebels pulled in for third down and Graf went to the outside, side stepped a defender on the edge and was off to the races with a 42-yard scoring dash toward the end zone concession stand.

After West opted to defer on the coin toss, Alcoa took the opening drive down the field on 11 plays, as Graf deftly hid the ball on play action and connected with Cooper in the right corner of the end zone from 21 yards out to put the Tornadoes on the board.

The Rebels' attempt to answer ended in a blocked field goal, which has become a staple play in the series during the last four meetings. Jack Keith evened it up by cutting in front of Graf's screen pass for a 20-yard Pick 6 interception and Pete Rogers gave the Rebels a brief 10-7 lead as the junior connected on a 43-yard field goal. Alcoa retook the lead just before half as Jones found his way into the end zone for the first time.



Ask us about Air Purifiers for your home

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAMS - HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

WE STAND BEHIND IT. SO IT STANDS UP TO ANYTHING.

24/7 service - For all your heating and cooling needs...

Roger L. Newman Co. Heating & Cooling



BUILT TO A HIGHER STANDARD

American Standard

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

865-982-5446

www.RogerLNewmanCompany.com





Alcoa's Eli Graf passes downfield in Alcoa's win over West on Oct. 4

TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

UP NEXT

ALCOA: The Tornadoes prepare for the Pistol Creek rivalry at Maryville on Friday, Oct. 25. Maryville rallied to win 24-21 in 2023. Three days after the visit to Maryville, Alcoa hosts Union County at home on Monday, Oct. 28, to make up game that was rescheduled due to Hurricane Helene.

ALCOA TORNADES 56, SCOTT HIGHLANDERS 14

S	0	0	7	7	-14
A	21	28	7	0	-56

FIRST QUARTER

A 7:46 — Eli Owens 7 pass from Eli Graf (Kyryn Tyson kick)
9 plays, 68 yards, 4:13

A 4:45 — Jamir Dean 47 pass from Graf (Tyson kick)
2 plays, 52 yards, 0:57

A 1:26 — Micah Jones 3 run (Tyson kick) 4 plays, 48 yards, 1:28

SECOND QUARTER

A 8:40 — Owens 12 pass from Graf (Tyson kick) 7 plays, 64 yards, 3:11

A 5:51 — Tysen Dorsey 5 pass from Graf (Tyson kick)
5 plays, 68 yards, 1:34

A 3:04 — Dean 14 run (Tyson kick)
2 plays, 33 yards, 0:46

A 0:22 — Joseph Carter 94 interception return (Tyson kick)

THIRD QUARTER

S 8:10 — Dawson Spradlin 21 run (Houston Stanley kick)
6 plays, 57 yards, 3:50

A 0:00 — Lucah Daugherty (Tyson kick) 13 plays, 60 yards, 8:04

FOURTH QUARTER

S 7:46 — Spradlin 12 pass from Gage Privett (Stanley kick)
9 plays, 68 yards, 4:13

Stats	S	A
First Downs	7	25
C-A-I	9-18-2	16-21-1
Passing	72	222
Rushes-Yards	24-37	25-199
Tot Plays-Yds	42-109	46-421

REGION 2, CLASS 3A

Team	Reg	All	PF	PA
Kingston	3-0	5-4	251	274
Alcoa	2-0	5-1	199	93
Union County	1-1	1-6	107	260
Austin-East	0-2	1-7	86	282
Scott	0-3	0-8	139	327

WEEK 9

Alcoa 56, Scott 14
McMinn Central 41, Kingston 17
Austin-East 14, Pigeon Forge 13
BYE: Union County

WEEK 10

Alcoa at Maryville
Union County at Austin-East
Pickett County at Scott
BYE: Kingston

WEEK 11

Mon- Union County at Alcoa

TORNADES (5-1, 2-0)

08.23	.....	Ravenwood	.....	L, 17-27
08.30	.....	at Bearden	.....	W, 24-22
09.06	.....	open		
09.12	.....	Greeneville	.....	W, 31-13
09.20	.....	Austin-East	.....	W, 43-7
10.04	.....	Knox	.....	W, 28-10
10.11	.....	bye		
10.18	.....	at Scott	.....	W, 56-14
10.25	.....	at Maryville		
10.28	.....	Union County	.....
11.01	.....	at Kingston	.....

Keeping up intensity

Alcoa takes down Highlanders for a regional win

JUSTIN BRADEN
sports@thedailytimes.com

HUNTSVILLE — The Alcoa Tornadoes continued their regional winning streak, in a 56-14 victory over the Scott Highlanders on Friday.

Eli Graf went to work quickly for Alcoa (5-1, 2-0 in Region 2-3A). The senior quarterback found tight end Eli Owens, who made space in the Scott defense, and turned just in time to haul in the touchdown.

"I thought we executed well. We had a week off for fall break, and you want to make sure that against a regional opponent on a long road trip, you look clean and execute on both sides of the ball. We threw it well," said Alcoa head coach Brian Nix.

On the ensuing drive, the Alcoa defense stopped Scott (0-8, 0-3) on three quick plays and forced a punt. The Tornadoes would not allow a touchdown in the first half.

"We're trying to become more physical on defense. These are the things that we've been trying to address for the last few weeks. You know sometimes you worry about, coming off a big win, being able to match the intensity," said Nix.

Alcoa's offense continued the intensity on its next possession. On the second play of the drive, Graf connected with the Tornadoes' emerging talent at wide receiver, sophomore Jamir Dean, on a 47-yard touchdown.

Graf continued his offensive tear. Owens rolled out of the backfield and covertly caught his second touchdown of the day, turning with perfect timing to haul in the 12-yard catch.

The Highlanders were threatening to score after a late first-half turnover, but Alcoa defensive back Joseph Carter had other plans. The senior jumped the pass



Alcoa receiver Jamir Dean carries the Greenville defenders with him into the Goddard Field end zone on Sept. 12 as he completes the 15-yard touchdown toss from Eli Graf.

TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

and ran 94 yards down the Scott home sideline to cap off an explosive first-half performance for the Tornadoes.

The 49-0 halftime lead allowed the Tornadoes to get some quality playing time against an opponent they will continue to see in the coming seasons, but Nix challenged his team after they gave up a touchdown on what he described as an unenthusiastic drive.

"We're not going to leave our starters in. We're not trying to run up the score. We've had a lot of young guys, a lot of backups in tonight, so it's a good thing when you get a big lead in a situation like this," Nix said.

"Against a region opponent, against a 3A opponent, we want to give our young guys a lot of chances to go in. We do not have enough players so there's some freshman and sophomores that we felt are on the verge of playing."

Freshman Lucah Daugherty also made the most of his chance on offense for Alcoa. The quarterback broke through

the Scott defensive line on a one-yard touchdown run as time expired in the third quarter.

Alcoa made the most of its learning opportunities in the second half, and Nix saw his message to his younger players pay off late against the Highlanders.

"I want to see you flash. Not turn on the film tonight. I want to see you flash. We've got a freshman, Dante Harris. He was in there at nose, playing physical, playing aggressive, that shows me, maybe he's ready to get a little more action," said Nix.

Alcoa has young talent emerging. Sophomore Jamir Dean found the end zone late in the second quarter on a 14-yard run where he cut left out of the backfield, before cutting back inside at the last second for the score.

"If you want to be in that first rotation, you're going to show me. I'm going to play the best ones. And as soon as you show me that you're ready to feed blockers and tackle ball carriers, I'm ready to find a spot for you," Nix said.



Ask us about Air Purifiers for your home

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAMS - HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

WE STAND BEHIND IT. SO IT STANDS UP TO ANYTHING.

24/7 service - For all your heating and cooling needs...

Roger L. Newman Co. Heating & Cooling



BUILT TO A HIGHER STANDARD
American Standard
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

865-982-5446
www.RogerLNewmanCompany.com





TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's J.T. Turner celebrates after the Tornadoes recovered a Maryville fumble Friday at Shields Stadium.

Getting the job done

Alcoa makes it two straight over Rebels at Maryville

JOSH LANE
josh.lane@thedailytimes.com

Alcoa might build a south campus inside Shields Stadium. It's been kinder than its home turf lately against Maryville.

For a second consecutive meeting at Maryville's home field, Alcoa had the last laugh. For Tornado seniors like Eli Graf, who scored the go-ahead touchdown in a 24-17 win in the 96th Battle of Pistol Creek, and Eli Owens, who made a game-sealing tackle on third-and-goal with his back against Alcoa's own end zone, it marked the second time in their prep careers that they beat the Rebels at Maryville.

Graf, who finished with over 200 yards of total offense and three touchdowns, reclaimed Jim Renfroe Field for the Tornadoes, as he and his teammates posed for a photo on the red "M" logo at the 50-yard line postgame.

"I guess we've got good luck here or something," Graf said. "But even if it was at home, we had so much confidence in ourselves coming into this game. We were just dogs and we got the job done."

Alcoa (6-1) had not won two consecutive games at Maryville since the Tornadoes won four straight in the series from 1988-91. Graf and the Tornadoes exacted revenge after last season's loss at Alcoa and handed Maryville (8-1) its first loss.

A Will Jones fumble, recovered by Alcoa's Micah Jones, gave the Tornadoes the football back at their own 39-yard line midway through the fourth, trailing 17-16. A breakaway first-down run by Micah Jones kept the momentum flowing for the Tornadoes. Graf moved the chains again with a 12-yard pass to Jamir Dean into the red zone. Facing a third-and-3 at the 8, Graf kept a busted RPO alive by escaping the rushing Rebels and sneaking through the second level for the go-ahead score.

Alcoa elected to try the two-point conversion to make it a seven-point lead, and Graf again showed his mettle, bouncing off a pair of Maryville tacklers as he gave Alcoa a 24-17 advantage.



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Eli Graf runs through the Maryville defense during Alcoa's 24-17 win in the Battle of Pistol Creek on Friday at Maryville.

"Eli Graf is the most underrated football player in the state of Tennessee," Owens told The Daily Times. "He's willing to do hard stuff. He's willing to get his fingers dirty because that's what it takes to win. He's a winner."

Along with an opening-drive touchdown in the first quarter, where he converted from 13 yards out on third down inside the red zone, Graf finished with 91 rushing yards and a pair of scores. He also threw for 112 yards on a 7-for-12 effort with a touchdown — a 57-yarder to JaColby Cooper.

The Cooper touchdown came after Alcoa had blocked a third-quarter Maryville field goal attempt. Senior lineman J.T. Turner was the Tornado that broke through and got a hand on Hudson Jamerson's kick. A 23-yard Graf run erased a first-down sack, and on the third play of the drive, the senior quarterback connected downfield with the Cooper. The junior weaved his way through the secondary for the touchdown to go up 16-14.

"I told our guys, you have to bang for four quarters," Alcoa head coach Brian Nix said. "Keep your composure and you'll win this game. But that's what most people can't do against (Maryville), because they're going to be bang back. You bang and you just keep banging."

Maryville still threatened on its final drive. The Rebels strung together a 10-play drive, which chewed four minutes of the

clock, into the red zone needing a touchdown to tie. The Rebels fed Price Davis for three yards on first down and a yard on second before Owens made the biggest stop of the night. The Michigan commit stuffed Davis for no gain to set up a fourth-and-goal scenario for the Rebels.

The Rebels had already scored on a fourth-and-goal, when Will Jones completed a pass to Jamerson on play action. With the game on the line in the fourth, the Tornadoes forced an incompleting — Jones' check-down throw to Davis went high.

"It's special because all of our fans — it means a lot to me and our staff to be the guys that can give them bragging rights," Nix said. "To give that to them, we know all the support that they give us coming over here and packing these stands. They can walk around with their head held high."

Maryville leaped-frogged back in front with a successful Jamerson field goal, 17-16 at the 1:04 mark in the third. Alcoa did not score on its next drive, as Graf was tackled for a loss on 4th & 2, but Micah Jones' fumble recovery set the Tornadoes up for their 27th all-time win against Maryville. Jones was also Alcoa's leading rusher, with 14 carries for 98 yards.

After scoring first, Alcoa trailed 7-6 when Will Jones threw a dart to Casey Cobble in the second quarter. The Maryville receiver bobbled the football but held on for a 43-yard score.

UP NEXT

ALCOA: The Tornadoes have two days to close the book on Maryville and prepare for a makeup game with Union County on Monday, Oct. 28. The Region 2-3A contest was originally scheduled for Week 5 but was postponed due to inclement weather. After Union, Alcoa will travel to Kingston for its regularly-scheduled Nov. 1 game. Maryville travels to Farragut in Week 11.

ALCOA TORNADOES 24, MARYVILLE REBELS 17

A	6	3	7	8	—24
M	0	14	3	0	—17

FIRST QUARTER

A 6:35 — Eli Graf 13 run (Kyrin Tyson kick blocked) 6 plays, 63 yards, 3:01

SECOND QUARTER

M 11:06 — Casey Cobble 43 pass from Will Jones (Hudson Jamerson kick) 3 plays, 43 yards, 1:40

A 5:32 — Tyson 33 field goal 13 plays, 64 yards, 5:34

M 0:59 — Jamerson 6 pass from Jones (Jamerson kick) 4 plays, 15 yards, 0:51

THIRD QUARTER

A 4:25 — JaColby Cooper 57 pass from Graf (Tyson kick) 3 plays, 69 yards, 1:05

M 1:04 — Jamerson 30 field goal 8 plays, 70 yards, 3:21

FOURTH QUARTER

A 4:30 — Graf 8 run (Graf run good) 7 plays, 61 yards, 3:15

Stats	M	A
First Downs	12	18
Rush-Yds	27-118	44-229
Passing	162	112
Cmp-Att-Int	8-18-0	7-12-0
Tot plays-yds	45-280	56-341
Turnovers	1	1

REGION 2, CLASS 3A

Team	Reg	All	PF	PA
Kingston	3-0	5-4	251	274
Alcoa	2-0	6-1	223	110
Austin-East	1-2	2-7	135	296
Union County	1-2	1-7	121	309
Scott	0-3	1-8	181	335

WEEK 10

Alcoa 24, Maryville 17
Austin-East 49, Union 14
Scott 42, Pickett County 8
BYE: Kingston

WEEK 11

Mon- Union at Alcoa
Fri- Alcoa at Kingston
Austin-East at Scott
Union at Cherokee

TORNADOES (6-1, 2-0)

08.23	..... Ravenwood	L, 17-27
08.30	..... at Bearden	W, 24-22
09.12	..... Greenville	W, 31-13
09.20	..... Austin-East	W, 43-7
10.04	..... Knox West	W, 28-10
10.18	..... at Scott	W, 56-14
10.25	..... at Maryville	W, 24-17
10.28	..... Union County ..	
11.01	..... at Kingston ..	

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

'Eli Graf is the most underrated football player in the state of Tennessee.'

ELI OWENS, Alcoa



Ask us about Air Purifiers for your home

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAMS - HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

WE STAND BEHIND IT. SO IT STANDS UP TO ANYTHING.

24/7 service - For all your heating and cooling needs...

Roger L. Newman Co. Heating & Cooling



BUILT TO A HIGHER STANDARD
American Standard
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

865-982-5446
www.RogerLNewmanCompany.com





TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Eli Owens runs through the tackle of Union County's Kyle Olszewski during Alcoa's win Monday night at Bill Bailey Stadium.

UP NEXT

ALCOA: The Tornadoes have four days to get set for another region contest on Friday. Alcoa visits Kingston with the winner claiming the Region 2-3A championship and No. 1 seed for the playoffs.

ALCOA TORNADES 56 UNION COUNTY PATRIOTS 8

UC	0	0	0	8	-8
Alc	29	13	7	7	-56

FIRST QUARTER

A 10:46 — Jamerius Abuhania 26 pass from Eli Graf (Kyrin Tyson kick) 3 plays, 45 yards, 0:58

A 7:57 — Eli Owens 2 pass from Graf (Tyson kick) 5 plays, 67 yards, 1:01

A 5:13 — Graf 36 run (Tyson kick) 2 plays, 55 yards, 0:45

A 2:47 — JaColby Cooper 38 pass from Graf (Tyson 2-point good) 1 play, 38 yards, 0:17

SECOND QUARTER

A 11:46 — Jaylen Penson 30 pass from Thomas Manu (Tyson kick) 3 plays, 53 yards, 1:10

A 1:47 — Jermon Bishop 10 run (Chase Lawrence kick) 4 plays, 60 yards, 2:43

THIRD QUARTER

A 1:22 — Justin Lindsey 1 run (Levi Yanez-Cato kick) 10 plays, 67 yards, 7:08

FOURTH QUARTER

U 8:55 — Nate Hansard 1 run (Hansard 2-point good) 4 plays, 80 yards, 4:56

A 3:28 — Riley Spoden 6 pass from Lucah Daugherty (Yanez-Cato kick) 5 plays, 56 yards, 4:02

Stats	U	A
First Downs	5	19
Rush-Yds	18-69	18-212
Passing	71	241
Cmp-Att-Int	3-11-0	12-14-0
Tot plays-yds	29-140	32-453
Turnovers	0	0
Penalties-yds	0-0	3-25

Game Stats: Courtesy of Too Hype Sports

REGION 2, CLASS 3A

Team	Reg	All	PF	PA
Alcoa	3-0	7-1	279	118
Kingston	3-0	5-4	251	274
Austin-East	1-2	2-7	135	296
Union County 1-3	1-8	129	365	
Scott	0-3	1-8	181	335

WEEK 10

Alcoa 24, Maryville 17
Austin-East 49, Union 14
Scott 42, Pickett County 8
BYE: Kingston

WEEK 11

Mon- Alcoa 56, Union County 8
Fri- Alcoa at Kingston
Austin-East at Scott
Union at Cherokee

TORNADES (7-1, 3-0)

08.23	.....	Ravenwood	.....	L, 17-27
08.30	.....	at Bearden	.....	W, 24-22
09.06	.....	open		
09.12	.....	Greeneville	.....	W, 31-13
09.20	.....	Austin-East	.....	W, 43-7
10.04	.....	KnoxWest	.....	W, 28-10
10.11	.....	bye		
10.18	.....	at Scott	.....	W, 56-14
10.25	.....	at Maryville	.....	W, 24-17
10.28	.....	Union County	.....	W, 56-8
11.01	.....	at Kingston		

Come Helene or high water

Alcoa handles business in makeup on Monday Night Football

JOSH LANE

josh.lane@thedailytimes.com

It's not often that a program of Alcoa's caliber, with its 22 state championships, gets to experience a first.

When the Tornadoes took to Goddard Field to play Union County in a make-up game, it marked their first Monday night varsity game — a new experience even for head coach Brian Nix, who has coached at Alcoa for 21 years.

What the Tornadoes are familiar with is taking care of business, especially within the region. Alcoa handled a short week and the novelty of Monday Night Football without an issue, as the starters led the way, the bench never backed off and the Tornadoes beat Union County, 56-8, at Bill Bailey Stadium.

The game, originally scheduled for Sept. 27, was postponed due to the impact of Hurricane Helene. The Patriots (1-8, 1-3 Region 2-3A) agreed to their commitment to play the game and were even willing to make it up on a Monday.

"I really respect the heck out of Union County for honoring this game," Nix told The Daily Times. "They could have easily opted out of it, not played it. Just forfeited to come down here on a Monday and honor this home game. We got a chance to play a ton of our younger guys to get this game under our belt, so just really appreciate them."

The Tornadoes (7-1, 3-0) had every incentive to play the make-up with Union County. With their third region win of the season, they are in position to clinch the Region 2-3A title in four days, needing a victory on Friday at Kingston.

Alcoa scored a touchdown on all eight drives Monday. Their starters struck early with four first-quarter scores, then the bench polished off a seventh consecutive win with four more touchdowns. The running clock started at the 11:46 mark in the second, when backup quarterback connected with Jaylen Penson on a 30-yard touchdown. The whole proceedings were finished in time to catch



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Jannaris Henry (34), Corey Manuel (35) and Elijah Sadler combine to make the tackle on Union County's Bryton Beeler on Monday.

the start of the second quarter of ESPN's Monday Night Football game.

Alcoa's starters did not mess around playing under a strict snap-count. Condis Cherry returned Union's opening kick 39 yards, Eli Graf (6-for-7, 153 yards, 4 touchdowns) hit Eli Owens on a slant for a first down on the first play from scrimmage. Two plays later, Graf found Jamerius Abuhania for a 26-yard touchdown strike. The three-play scoring drive took less than a minute. After Union punted, the Tornadoes added on with another fast score.

A Cherry run and a deep ball to Jamir Dean set the Tornadoes up at the Union two-yard line. Graf passed to Owens on first-and-goal, but he was ruled to have caught the football out of bounds. On second down, Graf again dialed one up for Owens. The senior tight end went in motion before the snap and was wide open for a catch and walk-in touchdown.

Alcoa scored in two plays on its third drive. Another Graf-Owens connection went for 19 yards, thanks to Owens' yards-after-the-catch abilities, before Graf kept it on the ground a play later, running a keeper back up the middle at Union's front. Once Graf emerged from the pile, he had open turf in front of him, and stayed on his feet and in bounds for a 36-yard touchdown. Alcoa took one more snap with its offensive starters, and it went for their fourth score of the opening period.

JaColby Cooper caught Graf's screen pass behind the line of scrimmage. Cooper evaded his first tackler, spun past the second and juiced to the right of his third to complete a 38-yard touchdown reception.

Alcoa's first-string defense was equally as dominant. The Patriots moved the chain only once in the first on an Alcoa face-mask penalty and punted four times. Linemen J.T. Henry and Darius Sudderth each made three tackles in their limited action, including Henry sacking UC quarterback Nate Hansard for a loss of seven.

"I like our attitude in games like this," Nix said. "We don't think we're better than anybody. We're not trying to rub anybody's nose in it. We want to be as dominating as we can, but also respectful of our opponents. So it was a good night."

Sophomore backup Thomas Manu entered at quarterback for the Tornadoes' final possession of the first quarter. As the clock ticked over into the second quarter, Manu passed to the junior Penson for a 30-yard score and the rout continued.

Jermon Bishop (44 yards) and Justin Lindsey (73 yards) kept Alcoa's offense moving — Bishop barreled his way to a 10-yard touchdown in the second quarter while Lindsey converted a goal line carry in the third. Third-string quarterback Lucah Daugherty was also efficient, completing 4-of-5 passes for 36 yards and a score. Daugherty capped the night with a big man touchdown, as 6-foot-1, 240-pound Riley Spoden hauled in a six-yard score. Backup receivers Penson, Luke Disney, Landon Love and Lincoln Smith all made catches of 10-or-more yards.

"Lucah Daugherty's a young guy that has really come on as a quarterback," Nix said. "Elijah Sadler, Delle Hughes played really well. Delle and Elijah are both sophomores who have rotated in and out, and both those guys played really well when they had their opportunities in there. So just definitely proud of all them. Luke Disney had a couple of nice catches. He's a freshman not a lot of people probably know about, but he's going to end up being a real good player for us."



Ask us about Air Purifiers for your home

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAMS - HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

WE STAND BEHIND IT. SO IT STANDS UP TO ANYTHING.

24/7 service - For all your heating and cooling needs...

Roger L. Newman Co. Heating & Cooling



BUILT TO A HIGHER STANDARD

American Standard

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

865-982-5446

www.RogerLNewmanCompany.com





TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's JaColby Cooper breaks into the open field chased by Union County's Kyle Olszewski on Monday at Goddard Field.

Another good lesson

Alcoa downs Kingston for 13th consecutive region championship

MARCUS FITZSIMMONS
marcusf@thedailytimes.com

KINGSTON — If the Yellow Jackets were hoping for a third game in eight days let down from Alcoa, they got it — for an entire 66 seconds.

The Tornadoes gave up their longest play of the season on the game's second snap, then blew Kingston out of the way with seven unanswered touchdowns to finish a span of three games in eight days with wins over Maryville, Union County and the Yellow Jackets.

Jamerius Abuhania made two timely touchdown grabs, Eli Owens blocked a punt to highlight a Tornado defense inspired by the opening gaff, and Alcoa laid claim to its 13th consecutive region championship with a 49-7 victory Friday at Dr. Nat Sugarman Field.

Carcel Whitehead broke loose from a bunched Alcoa defense, slipped one tackle and was running down the home sideline in race that ended 70 yards later, with a Kingston touchdown for the lead. That one run accounted for nearly half of Kingston's 159 yards of offense.

"We can't think that we're so good that we don't have to do all the little things to be successful. That's not a bad football team right there. If we think that we're just so good that we can just show up and play, well, that's what happens," Alcoa head coach Brian Nix said. "We had four people not do their job, and that's what happens. It's a good lesson for us moving forward."

The Tornadoes (8-1, 4-0 Region 2-3A) answered with an emphatic scoring statement, striking fast — their longest drive of the half lasting 90 seconds — and striking hard — six of their 14 plays being chunk covering 15-or-more yards.

Alcoa knotted the game at 7 as Eli Graf found Jamir Dean for 12 yards then hit Eli Owens for 16 more. Graf evaded a tackle in the backfield and swung out to the left side for 14-yard gain that set up first-and-5. Micah Jones capped it going over the left side untouched for the score.

The Tornadoes forced a three-and-out



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Eli Owens (44) and Kenny Harris (48) make the tackle on Union County's Gary Clark on Monday at Goddard Field.

after knocking Kingston backwards on consecutive plays and went right back to work. Condis Cherry jetted around the right side on a 35-yard gain that set up Graf for a sweet over-the-shoulder throw to hit Abuhania in stride at the four for the scoring strike and the lead it would never relinquish. Graf went 6-of-6 for 123 yards and two touchdowns while rushing for 14 as the senior eclipsed 2,000 all-purpose yards on the season.

"That's what you want out of these type of games. You want to be as close to perfect as you can be, so it can prepare you for the next five weeks of the playoffs," Graf said. "We came out here and executed."

Jones added a second scoring run to finish a four-play drive that took 80 seconds off the clock. Cade Stinnett ended the Yellow Jackets ensuing drive, popping the ball off his hands then grabbing it out the air for an interception. Graf went to JaColby Cooper on a rolling toss down the sideline for 16, then came back to find Owens on an inside slip screen for an 11-yard touchdown as the Michigan commit bowled through defenders on his way to the end zone. Kingston's ensuing drive went backwards on penalties and an Owens tackle for loss. The senior swooped in on the punt from the end zone with a diving block that Jones recovered for the touchdown and 28-point lead to start the second quarter.

The Tornadoes continued to slip in the second string and gave Graf the rest of the night off, as Thomas Manu took over under center. The sophomore needed one snap to get the margin to 35, rolling right and connecting with Abuhania on a go route down the visiting sideline. Justin Lindsey carried Alcoa's second-line offense down the field to start the third quarter. The freshman picked up 45 of the drive's 65 yards before clearing the path for Manu on a 3-yard keeper that closed out the night's scoring.

"That's what you want to get. If you're a backup, then that means you're a sprung ankle away from being a starter," Nix told The Daily Times. "We expect you to be able to come in. In practice, we give a ton of people a ton of reps. We work a lot of guys. We expect you to be able to come in in these situations."

"We're always trying to develop depth. We're always looking for players. I'm looking for somebody to push people on special teams. I'm looking for somebody to start playing on defense and say, 'Coach, you better move that guy to another position because I'm ready to play.' I think that's how you avoid complacency. But through the playoffs, you better have some depth because you're going to have some adversity, if you play another five weeks you're going to lose at least one starter."

UP NEXT

ALCOA: The Tornadoes claim the No. 1 seed along with the region title and will host the Region 1 No. 4 seed. The final playoff spot from the opposite region was determined Friday, as Pigeon Forge (5-4, 1-3) defeated Claiborne (4-5, 1-3), 55-14. Kingston takes the No. 2 seed from Region 2 and will host the Region 1 No. 3 seed, Gatlinburg-Pittman.

ALCOA TORNADES 49, KINGSTON YELLOW JACKETS 7

A	28	14	7	0	—49
K	7	0	0	0	—7

FIRST QUARTER

K 10:54- Carcel Whitehead 70 run (Isaac Abbott kick)
2 plays | 78yds | 1:06 | K 7-0

A 9:24- Micah Jones 5 run (Kyrin Tyson kick)
5 plays | 52yds | 1:30 | 7-7

A 7:07- Jamerius Abuhania 27 pass from Eli Graf (Tyson kick)
3 plays | 57yds | 0:16 | A 14-7

A 3:09- Jones 15 run (Tyson kick)
4 plays | 67yds | 1:20 | A 21-7

A 1:51- Eli Owens 11 pass from Graf (Tyson kick)
2 plays | 27yds | 0:16 | A 28-7

SECOND QUARTER

A 11:53- Jones blocked punt recovery in end zone (Tyson kick)

A 10:26- Abuhania 35 pass from Thomas Manu (Tyson kick)
1 plays | 35yds | 0:10 | A 42-7

THIRD QUARTER

A 4:34- Manu 3 run (Chase Lawrence kick) 12 plays | 65yds | 7:26 | A 49-7

STATS	A	K
Firsts	16	7
Rush-Yds	22-222	25-133
Passing	171	26
Cmp-Att-Int	8-9-0	2-6-2
Tot plys-yds	31-393	31-159

REGION 2, CLASS 3A

Team	Reg	All	PF	PA
Alcoa	4-0	8-1	328	125
Kingston	3-1	5-5	258	323
Austin-East	2-2	3-7	165	303
Union County	1-3	1-9	137	403
Scott	0-4	1-9	188	365

WEEK 11

Mon- Alcoa 56, Union County 8
Fri- Alcoa 49, Kingston 7
Austin-East 30, Scott 7
Cherokee 38, Union 8

PLAYOFFS

Pigeon Forge at Alcoa
Gatlinburg-Pittman at Kingston
Austin-East at Johnson County
Union County at Unicoi County

TORNADES (8-1, 4-0)

08.23	..... Ravenwood	..... L, 17-27
08.30	..... at Bearden	..... W, 24-22
09.12	..... Greenville	..... W, 31-13
09.20	..... Austin-East	..... W, 43-7
10.04	..... Knox West	..... W, 28-10
10.18	..... at Scott	..... W, 56-14
10.25	..... at Maryville	..... W, 24-17
10.28	..... Union County	..... W, 56-8
11.01	..... at Kingston	..... W, 49-7

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

'You want to be as close to perfect as you can be'

Eli Graf, Alcoa quarterback



Ask us about Air Purifiers for your home

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAMS - HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

WE STAND BEHIND IT. SO IT STANDS UP TO ANYTHING.

24/7 service - For all your heating and cooling needs...

Roger L. Newman Co. Heating & Cooling



BUILT TO A HIGHER STANDARD
American Standard
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

865-982-5446
www.RogerLNewmanCompany.com





TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Jamir Dean runs downfield with Thomas Manu leading to block in Alcoa's win Friday over Pigeon Forge in the first round of the Class 3A playoffs at Goddard Field.

Moving one step closer

Alcoa routs Pigeon Forge, advances to second round

TREVOR MCGEE
sports@thedailytimes.com

For the 22nd consecutive season, Alcoa is moving on to the second round of the TSSAA Class 3A state football playoffs.

The Tornadoes needed six plays to build a 21-point lead in the first quarter, and they never trailed en route to a 56-21 win over Pigeon Forge on Friday at Bill Bailey Stadium.

"It's the goal of this program is always for these guys," Alcoa head coach Brian Nix said. "Our seniors are always our priority, and you want to send them out as a winner. And these guys, you always ask them, 'What are your goals? What do you want?' They always, they say, every year they want to beat Maryville and win a state championship. But the state championship game is a month away, so we want to work."

"We value every snap, we value every rep in practice. We want to execute. We want to be clean. We expect when we put the second string in, they should be able to execute our base defense."

Eli Grafled the way with a 6-of-7 day through the air for 85 yards, adding two rushes for 75 yards and a pair of touchdowns despite playing only a portion of the first half. Thomas Manu took over in the second quarter, commanding 71 yards and two touchdowns on 2-of-2 passing.

Alcoa accounted for 493 yards of offense with an additional 202 yards on special teams. On the other side, Pigeon Forge mustered 270 yards of offense mainly in the second half against the Tornado reserves.

"Thomas could be starting at probably any school in the state of Tennessee if he's not behind Eli Graf," Nix told The Daily Times. "He starts in the secondary. He's came in, he's learned, he's developed, he's matured. He's going to be a great quarterback here ... We wouldn't hesitate at all with Thomas in there. I mean he's a sophomore. He's got a great future here."



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Eli Graf races down the sideline on his way to a touchdown against Pigeon Forge on Friday during the first round of the Class 3A playoffs at Goddard Field.

The game was decided on the opening drive. After taking the kick to the 48-yard line, Alcoa manufactured a four-play scoring drive. Micah Jones capped it with a 48-yard scamper for the opening lead.

When Alcoa got the ball back, Pigeon Forge showed fight. Condis Cherry took a screen pass for 48 yards before coughing up the football. The Tigers jumped on the loose ball to end the threat, but the ensuing drive ended in a three-and-out. Alcoa made sure to let Pigeon Forge that it missed the opportunity to make it a game. Starting at their 30, Graf made an athletic play with his legs by taking the first snap 70 yards to the end zone for the score.

The Tornado pieced together scoring drives of different sorts en route to six first-half touchdowns. Jamir Dean got in on the action with a 52-yard punt return for a score, while Manu's first touchdown was a 37-yard pass to Jamerius Abuhania.

The Tigers first reply came in the final two minutes of the half, as Pigeon Forge picked up a first down and reached Tornado territory for the first time. The Tigers put together a four-play scoring drive that accounted for 59 of their 70 net yards in half and was capped off by a 43-yard run by Wyatt Howard. Alcoa went to the break with a 42-7 lead behind 373 yards of offense.

With Tornado starters coaching and

encouraging from the sideline, the Tigers marched the field in four plays and Andrew Lewis finished it off with a 45-yard touchdown run to start the third.

Alcoa looked for vengeance on its next drive, pushing the ball to the Pigeon Forge 10-yard line before a fumble. Pigeon Forge need two plays to return to the end zone with Lewis taking the hand-off 88-yards and cutting the Tornado lead to 21.

"We were playing some young guys, and we don't just throw them out there and say, 'Well, these are backups,'" Nix said. "We expect them to make plays. We expect them to know what to do. We expect them to give great effort, to play hard. And some of them always say, show me you're ready to play."

Nix decided it was time for a change. Alcoa had shuffled the rotation of backups, with Lucah Daugherty in at quarterback, but the Tornadoes went back to Manu for a few more drives as Pigeon Forge rallied.

After the scare, Alcoa cruised back to its winning ways. Two more touchdowns sealed the fate for Pigeon Forge. It was likely the final game for former Tornado head coach Scott Meadows. The Pigeon Forge coach, who led Alcoa to its 2000 state championship, announced his retirement in August.

UP NEXT

ALCOA: The Tornadoes now shift sights to the second round, where they will host Austin-East for a second round rematch. Alcoa defeated A-E in Week 5 during a Region 2-3A contest. The Roadrunners upset No. 2 seed Johnson County, 25-13, in Mountain City on Friday.

No. 1 ALCOA TORNADES 56, No. 4 PIGEON FORGE TIGERS 21

Alc	21	21	0	14	—56
PF	0	7	14	0	—21

FIRST QUARTER

A 10:50 — Micah Jones 40 run (Kyrin Tyson Kick)

Four plays, 52 yards, 1:10

A 6:28 — Eli Graf 70 run (Tyson kick)

One play, 70 yards, :17

A 3:52 — Jamir Dean 52 punt return (Tyson kick)

One play, 52 yards, :10

SECOND QUARTER

A 11:28 — Graf 5 run (Tyson kick)

Five plays, 60 yards, 2:14

A 8:54 — Thomas Manu 37 pass Jamerius Abuhania (Tyson kick)

One play, 37 yards, :06

A 2:35 — Manu 34 pass Jacolby Cooper (Levi Yanez-Coto kick)

Five plays, 67 yards, 3:18

PF 1:03 — Wyatt Howard 43 run (Jackson Vasquez kick)

Four plays, 59 yards, 1:23

THIRD QUARTER

PF 7:48 — Andrew Lewis 45 run (Vasquez kick)

Four plays, 80 yards, 4:12

PF 2:30 — Lewis 88 run (Vasquez kick)

Two plays, 90 yards, 1:19

FOURTH QUARTER

A 10:39 — Manu 2 run (Yanez-Coto kick)

Five plays, 52 yards, 3:32

A 2:00 — Justin Lindsey 2 run (Yanez-Coto kick)

Five plays, 59 yards, 4:37

Stats	Alc	PF
First Downs	18	4
Rush-Yds	25-310	..27-266
Passing	183	4
Cmp-Att-Int	10-12-0	1-5-0
Tot plays-yds	37-493	32-270
Turnovers	2	0

CLASS 3A, QUAD 1

FIRST ROUND

R1 No. 1 Unicoi County 56,

R2 No. 4 Union County 16

R1 No. 3 Gatlinburg-Pittman 24,

R2 No. 2 Kingston 17

R2 No. 3 Austin-East 25,

R1 No. 2 Johnson County 13

R2 No. 1 Alcoa 56,

R1 No. 4 Pigeon Forge 21

SECOND ROUND

Gm201: R1 No. 3 G-P (8-3) at

R1 No. 1 Unicoi County (10-1)

Gm202: R2 No. 3 Austin-East (4-7) at

R2 No. 1 Alcoa (9-1)

QUARTERFINALS

Gm301: Gm201 win vs Gm202 win

TORNADES (9-1)

08.23 Ravenwood L, 17-27

08.30 at Bearden W, 24-22

09.12 Greenville W, 31-13

09.20 Austin-East W, 43-7

10.04 Knox West W, 28-10

10.18 at Scott W, 56-14

10.25 at Maryville W, 24-17

10.28 Union County W, 56-8

11.01 at Kingston W, 49-7

11.08 Pigeon Forge W, 56-21



Ask us about Air Purifiers for your home

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAMS - HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

WE STAND BEHIND IT. SO IT STANDS UP TO ANYTHING.

24/7 service - For all your heating and cooling needs...

Roger L. Newman Co. Heating & Cooling



BUILT TO A HIGHER STANDARD

American Standard

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

865-982-5446

www.RogerLNewmanCompany.com





Alcoa's JaColby Cooper makes the tackle on Austin-East's Michael Gladney during a Class 3A second round playoff game at Bill Bailey Stadium.

Kings of Chaos reign

Tornadoes knock off Austin-East to reach the state quarterfinals

MARCUS FITZSIMMONS
marcusf@thedailytimes.com

Alcoa's throne reserved for the King of Chaos was a hot seat Friday night. Condis Cherry got the first turn with his pair of interceptions and Tysen Dorsey got the last for a fumble recovery on a punt return, but there were host of options available.

The Tornadoes recorded four interceptions, forced a fumble, blocked a kick, and sacked Austin-East quarterback Nymire Jackson three times while the offense churned away for nearly 400 yards as No. 1 seed Alcoa took a 48-6 win over No. 3 A-E in a second round game of the Class 3A state playoffs at Bill Bailey Stadium.

Micah Jones got the turnover party rocking early, picking off Jackson's third pass attempt at the 36 and taking it the other way for the Pick 6. Cherry made his first theft five snaps later at the 22 and nearly broke another return touchdown before being hauled down by his former teammates at the 29, but setting up a Tornado touchdown drive. The transfer sophomore struck again in the second quarter as he came away with a ball intended for A-E's Dikyeis Towns. Demauri Dubose got in on the fun, stopping A-E's second half opening drive with his aerial version of grand theft lotto that set up Alcoa's final scoring drive against the running mercy rule clock.

"Micah Jones had that first interception, Dubose played great. Condis Cherry has great ball skills. As he learns and develops learns to practice hard. I mean he's just skimming the surface of his ability," Alcoa head coach Brian Nix said. "It's what you have to do, if people are going to throw the ball up, you've got to make them pay for it. Really happy with how they played tonight. Our coaches do a great job with the coverage, With coach Hubert Robertson Rogers and coach Chris Collett, I've got two of the best in the business and they really do a good job."

Jackson, listed at 5-foot-5 inches and 130 pounds, struggled against the Alcoa coverage and pass rush. The freshman finished 5-of-16 for 26 yards and lost 26 yards on the ground due to sacks and being forced to smother a bad snap



Alcoa's Demauri Dubose looks for blockers as he runs the ball against Austin-East during a Class 3A second round playoff game at Bill Bailey Stadium.

exchange. Austin-East (4-8) found most of its success on the ground with Mike Gladney accounting for 129 yards and a

'Our kids just came out executing well overall, there was no complacency, that's what you want as a coach and the way you should be playing right now.'

Brian Nix, Alcoa head coach

touchdown on 18 carries, with a third of those coming on his 47-yard run against the reserves to get the Roadrunners on the scoreboard to start the fourth quarter.

The Tornadoes (10-1) started fast, needing 43 seconds to drive a fast field as Eli Graf went up the middle to catch Jamir Dean spring down the hashes at the 20. The sophomore receiver drug a defender to the 1-yard line to set up Jones' short scoring run. Dubose highlighted the second drive with 22 yards on a jet sweep to get the Tornadoes to the A-E 22.

A Graf keeper covered the final yards for the 14-0 lead with less than four minutes gone from the clock. Graf finished 7-of-9 for 147 yards and a touchdown against one pick and the senior ran three times for three touchdowns covering 63 yards.

"Whether it's running, whether it's throwing, or it's managing the offense, I don't know that we've leaned on a kid to do so much in a long time with just all the things that we asked him to do, but it couldn't happen to a better human being," Nix told The Daily Times.

Graf completed throws to four different receivers, the prettiest a 28-yard toss that went right over the shoulder to the waiting hands of fellow senior Eli Owens, a score that built the lead to 25 in the second quarter. The Tornadoes spread the ball in the backfield as well while averaging nearly 10 yards a carry, amassing 217 yards on 23 totes.

"We're developing some depth we're developing more balance on offense. I'm really, really happy with it," Nix said. "Our kids just came out executing well overall, there was no complacency, that's what you want as a coach and the way you should be playing right now."

UP NEXT

ALCOA: The Tornadoes will host Region 1's No. 3 seed Gatlinburg-Pittman for the state quarterfinals on Nov. 22. G-P upset region champ Unicoi County, 35-13, in a second round rematch in Erwin. It will be a repeat of last year's quarterfinal, except that this time it will be played at Bill Bailey Stadium.

ALCOA TORNADES 48 AUSTIN-EAST ROADRUNNERS 6

A-E	0	0	0	6	-6
Alc	28	14	6	0	-48

FIRST QUARTER

Alc 11:17- Micah Jones 1 rin (Kyrin Tyson kick)
2 plays | 42yds | 0:43 | A7-0

Alc 8:37- Eli Graf 13 run (Tyson kick)
5 plays | 59yds | 1:34 | A14-0

Alc 6:56- Jones 36 interception return (Tyson kick)

Alc 3:46- Graf 5 run (Tyson kick)
6 plays | 49yds | 1:39 | A28-0

SECOND QUARTER

Alc 7:38- Eli Owens 28 pass from Graf (Tyson kick)
4 plays | 72yds | 2:00 | A35-0

Alc 0:42- Graf 45 run (Tyson kick)
5 plays | 70yds | 2:00 | A42-0

THIRD QUARTER

Alc 3:14- Demauri Dubose 11 pass from Thomas Manu (kick fail)
7 plays | 47yds | 5:32 | A48-0

FOURTH QUARTER

A-E 11:37- Mike Gladney 47 run (kick fail) 4 plays | 69yds | 3:37 | A48-6

STATS	A-E	Alc
Firsts	7	12
Rush-Yds	26-112	23-217
Passing	26	158
Cmp-Att-Int	5-16-4	8-10-1
Tot plays-yds	36-138	33-375

CLASS 3A: QUAD 1

FIRST ROUND

R1 No. 1 Unicoi County 56, R2 No. 4 Unicoi County 16
R1 No. 3 Gatlinburg-Pittman 24, R2 No. 2 Kingston 17
R2 No. 3 Austin-East 25, R1 No. 2 Johnson County 13

R2 No. 1 Alcoa 56, R1 No. 4 Pigeon Forge 21

SECOND ROUND

R1 No. 3 Gatlinburg-Pittman 35, R1 No. 1 Unicoi County 13
R2 No. 1 Alcoa 48, R2 No. 3 Austin-East 6

QUARTERFINALS

Gm301: R1 No. 3 Gatlinburg-Pittman (9-3) at R2 No. 1 Alcoa (10-1)

CLASS 3A: QUAD 2

FIRST ROUND

R3 No. 1 Meigs County 49, R4 No. 4 Grundy County 12
R4 No. 2 Giles County 42, R3 No. 3 Tyner 7
No. R3 No. 2 Chatt Central 47, R4 No. 3 Watertown 35
R4 No. 1 Sequatchie County 49, R3 No. 4 McMinn Central 6

SECOND ROUND

R3 No. 1 Meigs County 24, R4 No. 2 Giles County 21
R4 No. 1 Sequatchie County 42, R3 No. 2 Chatt Central 26

QUARTERFINALS

Gm302: R3 No. 1 Meigs County (9-3) at R4 No. 1 Sequatchie County (11-1)

SEMIFINALS

Gm401: Gm 301 win vs Gm302 win

TORNADES (10-1)

08.23 Ravenwood L, 17-27
08.30 at Bearden W, 24-22
09.12 Greeneville W, 31-13
09.20 Austin-East W, 43-7
10.04 Knox West W, 28-10
10.18 at Scott W, 56-14
10.25 at Maryville W, 24-17
10.28 Union County W, 56-8
11.01 at Kingston W, 49-7
11.08 Pigeon Forge W, 56-21
11.15 Austin-East W, 48-6



Alcoa linebacker Jennaris Henry sacks Gatlinburg-Pittman quarterback John Keohane during a Class 3A state quarterfinal on Friday at Bill Bailey Stadium.

UP NEXT

ALCOA: The Tornadoes will travel in the semifinals as the even year means the even quads will host. Alcoa will head to Sequatchie County for the Class 3A state semifinals on Black Friday, Nov. 29. The Indians defeated Meigs County, 35-27, on Friday. East Nashville takes on Westview in the other semifinal.

ALCOA TORNADES 52, G-P HIGHLANDERS 7

G-P	0	0	0	7	-7
Alc	7	31	7	7	-52

FIRST QUARTER

Alc 8:26- Jamir Dean 20 pass from Eli Graf (Kyrin Tyson kick)
7 plays | 72yds | 3:34 | A7-0

SECOND QUARTER

Alc 11:44- Dean 70 pass from Graf (Tyson kick)
3 plays | 85yds | 1:16 | A14-0

Alc 9:47- Jermon Bishop 3 run (Tyson kick)
2 plays | 6yds | 0:46 | A21-0

Alc 4:38- Graf 4 run (Tyson kick)
3 plays | 41yds | 1:22 | A28-0

Alc 1:40- Eli Owens 6 pass from Graf (Tyson kick)
5 plays | 46yds | 1:19 | A35-0

Alc 0:04- Tyson 39 field goal
4 plays | 18yds | 0:34 | A38-0

THIRD QUARTER

Alc 9:33- Demauri Dubose 10 run (Tyson kick)
2 plays | 16yds | 1:12 | A45-0

FOURTH QUARTER

Alc 10:05- Thomas Manu 30 run (Tyson kick)
1 play | 30yds | 0:45 | A52-0

G-P 4:52- John Keohane 10 run (Brody Cravens kick)
7 plays | 76yds | 5:13 | A52-7

STATS	G-P	Alc
Firsts	10	14
Rush-yds	34-109	25-225
Passing	46	144
Cmp-Att-Int	8-14-0	8-13-0
Tot ply-yds	48-155	38-369

STATS: Courtesy Too Hype Sports

CLASS 3A

QUAD 1

FIRST ROUND

- R1 No. 1 Unicoi County 56,
- R2 No. 4 Union County 16
- R1 No. 3 Gatlinburg-Pittman 24,
- R2 No. 2 Kingston 17
- R2 No. 3 Austin-East 25,
- R1 No. 2 Johnson County 13
- R2 No. 1 Alcoa 56,
- R1 No. 4 Pigeon Forge 21

SECOND ROUND

- R1 No. 3 Gatlinburg-Pittman 35,
- R1 No. 1 Unicoi County 13
- R2 No. 1 Alcoa 48,
- R2 No. 3 Austin-East 6

QUARTERFINALS

- R2 No. 1 Alcoa 52,
- R1 No. 3 Gatlinburg-Pittman 7

SEMIFINALS

- R2 No. 1 Alcoa (11-1)
- at R4 No. 1 Sequatchie County (12-1)
- R5 No. 1 East Nashville (11-2)
- at R7 No. 1 Westview (13-0)

CHAMPIONSHIP

11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 6

TORNADES (11-1)

08.23	..... Ravenwood	L, 17-27
08.30	..... at Bearden	W, 24-22
09.12	..... Greeneville	W, 31-13
09.20	..... Austin-East •	W, 43-7
10.04	..... Knox West	W, 28-10
10.18	..... at Scott •	W, 56-14
10.25	..... at Maryville	W, 24-17
10.28	..... Union County •	W, 56-8
11.01	..... at Kingston •	W, 49-7
11.08	..... Pigeon Forge	W, 48-21
11.15	..... Austin-East	W, 56-6
11.22	..... Gat-Pittman	W, 52-7
11.29	..... at Sequatchie County	

'Blessed to do it'

Elis lead Alcoa to quarterfinal win over Highlanders in last home game

MARCUS FITZSIMMONS
marcusf@thedailytimes.com

The final chapters in the Book of Elis are still to be written, but the Alcoa seniors made sure the last stanzas mentioning Goddard Field were going to be memorable.

Eli Owens was a menace on defense and Eli Graf rang up 210 yards of offense while accounting for four touchdowns in the Elis' final game played in the Aluminum City to lead the Tornadoes to a 52-7 victory over Gatlinburg-Pittman on Friday and advance to the semifinals of the Class 3A state playoffs for the 12th consecutive season.

"It's bittersweet for sure," Graf, a Hardin commit, said. "We're moving on in the playoffs, but it's just so hard to say goodbye to this place. The fans we have while I've been here four years, it's just been a great experience."

Graf completed 8-of-12 passes for 144 yards and three touchdowns while running six times for 76 yards and another score.

"It feels great, just being able to spend four years on the best field with the best coaches with the best people, it's something I will cherish," said Owens, who is expected to sign with Michigan in the coming days, and led a defensive effort that held G-P to 155 yards, 76 of which came on the final Highlander drive against the Alcoa reserves.

G-P (9-4) stopped the Tornadoes second drive and used a deliberate, plodding pace between snaps that burned up most of the first quarter, but Alcoa (11-1) exploded for 31 points in the second to take firm control. Graf connected with Jamir Dean on the Tornadoes' game-opening drive on a 20-yard strike. The Mr. Football semifinalist went back to Dean on Alcoa's third drive and let him shine. The sophomore reached up to bring down Graf's toss off a scramble at the 45, outran the Highlanders to the 20 and picked up a convoy led by Condis Cherry that kept the path into the end zone open for the 70-yard touchdown.

"Dean made me look good on that one," Graf said. "I just flipped it out to him and he took off."

The Tornadoes took off as well. Thomas Manu blocked a G-P punt that set up a six-yard drive, capped by a Jermon Bishop



Alcoa's Condis Cherry breaks through the Gatlinburg-Pittman defense for a 24-yard run on Friday during a Class 3A state quarterfinal game.

scoring run. Owens and Cade Stinnett combined to bring down Brayden Maples short of the line on fourth-and-2 at the 41. Graf dropped a dime to Owens for a 24-yard chunk gain, kept on a 13-yard run then followed Cherry into the smoke from the concession stand grill to complete a three-play, 41-yard drive for a 28-point lead.

"It's a broken record but this program revolves around our seniors, that's how we never become complacent. It's all about sending these seniors out meeting their goals," Alcoa head coach Brian Nix said. "Every year the seniors say two goals, beat Maryville and win a state championship. We've done one of those and we're one step closer to the other."

G-P was looking to escape the half outside the 30-point mercy rule but Alcoa's defense forced back-to-back three-and-out possessions in the final three minutes. Cherry ripped off 24 yards and Dean took a screen 13 yards to set up a scoring toss to Owens in between the stops. The Tornadoes went into overdrive the final 38 seconds to set up Kyrin Tyson for a 39-yard field goal that extended the lead to 38 at the break.

Alcoa added two second-half scores as Darius Sudderth recovered a G-P fumble on the first play of the third quarter and Demauri Dubose took the payoff run on a 10-yard jet sweep. Manu broke off a late scoring run before G-P got on the board

in the fourth. Maples, who has an offer from Kentucky, accounted for 129 yards rushing on 21 carries. G-P lost 20 yards on its other 13 carries.

"Being able to leave your home field for the last time as a winner is awesome," Nix told The Daily Times. "I think people can take a lot of things for granted in this program but leaving your home field a winner, most players don't get to do that. ... We're blessed to do it for sure."

INTO THE FIRE: Senior J.T. Turner dawned the Alcoa Fire helmet post-game as the Tornadoes' man leading the way. Sudderth took his seat on the silver thrown as a King of Chaos for his fumble recovery.

BY THE NUMBERS: Alcoa is 19-0 in its series against G-P. ... The Tornadoes' largest win in the series came 19 years ago in the playoffs when Alcoa won 91-7 in a first-round game. G-P and Alcoa have met in the playoffs for six straight seasons in the second round or quarterfinals. The Tornadoes have gone on to claim a state championship after the previous five meetings. ... Nix is now 38-3 as head coach at Alcoa, one game ahead of Gary Rankin in the first 41 games. Rankin, the state's all-time winningest coach, was 37-4 after 41 games at Alcoa. After his fourth loss, to Maryville in his 32nd game, Rankin's Tornadoes went 44 straight games without a loss (2008 to 2011).

TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa quarterback Eli Graf runs past Sequatchie County's Kason Hicks on Friday during a Class 3A state semifinal in Dunlap.

Going to the 'ship

Alcoa downs Sequatchie to win 12th straight state semifinal

MARCUS FITZSIMMONS
marcusf@thedailytimes.com

DUNLAP — Alcoa drove far enough that it was almost to the Chattanooga home of the BlueCross Bowls with its semifinal trek to Dunlap. The Tornadoes delivered a win like they were already there.

Eli Graf accounted for five touchdowns and 287 yards of offense in his first game since being named a Tennessee Titans Mr. Football finalist, Jermon Bishop stepped into the backfield with a 112-yard effort and the Alcoa defense delivered another haymaker effort as the Tornadoes took a 38-3 win over Sequatchie County on Friday night in the Home of the Indians to secure a 12th straight appearance in the state championship game.

"The kids played great and this never gets old," Alcoa head coach Brian Nix said. "How do you get complacent? It never gets old."

The Tornadoes will face Westview at 11 a.m. Friday at W. Max Finley Stadium in Chattanooga to kickoff the second day of state championships with the Class 3A BlueCross Bowl.

Alcoa (12-1) didn't have its cleanest outing with execution as field temps dipped to 27 degrees by kickoff, but delivered all the effort required for a convincing win in the state semifinals. A pair of first-quarter fumbles were the only things slowing the Tornadoes as they scored on six of their first eight drives and never punted against Sequatchie (12-2). The Indians were limited to 42 yards on the ground and leading rusher Kason Hicks was held to 5 yards on 13 carries, but Sequatchie was able to gain some traction rolling quarterback Sam Evitts out to the edges and letting Hicks serve as a defensive distraction.

"I think our offensive effort was great but just can't turn the ball over three times and win next week," Nix told The Daily Times. "I don't care who you play, or what the situation is, you can't do that. On defense, we let too many guys get behind us, two pass interference penalties, where we got our eyes in the backfield. We lost containment on an athletic quarterback,



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa running back Jermon Bishop runs through the Sequatchie County defensive line during a Class 3A state semifinal on Friday at Dunlap.

who is a really good player. There are just some fundamental things that we got to clean up for next week."

In between the two first-quarter turnovers, Graf kicked off Alcoa's scoring effort with a pair of dynamic runs. The senior rolled right measuring the defense, cut back left into a crease, spun through an arm tackle at the 20 and galloped 23 yards to put the Tornadoes on the board.

Evitts tried to answer, slipping a tackle in the backfield and escaping out the left side for a 20-yard gain to start the second quarter. Hicks was stopped for short gains before the Indians sent out their 6-foot-2, 288-pound kicker, William Machado, who booted home a 35-yard field goal for Sequatchie's first and only score.

Graf went back to work and Alcoa held on to the cold football its next five drives, ending each to the changing of the lights on the scoreboard. Graf carried 11 times to account for 136 yards and two scores while going 7-of-12 for 151 yards and three touchdowns. A 1-yard carry put the Tornadoes up by two scores and Jamir Dean reeled in touchdown tosses covering 12 and 44 yards to settle out any sense of foreboding.

"It's the same story with Eli, if there's a better football player at this level, I'd like to see them. Offense, defense, special teams, anything we ask him to do, he

makes it happen," Nix said. "He's such a great leader. ... You live life like he does and you work like he does and good things are going to happen."

A Sequatchie fumble was ruled to have been recovered out-of-bounds by Alcoa, but two snaps later Condis Cherry negated that call with a leaping interception at midfield. Graf hit Dean on an inside slant at the 30 and the big sophomore sprinted his way to the home corner pylon for his second score and a 28-3 lead with two minutes remaining until half.

Alcoa burned a timeout while forcing a three-and-out on the ensuing Indian drive and got the ball back with 1:03 to play in the second. Graf then Bishop carried to move the chains and Alcoa called time with 31 seconds left. Graf rolled but had to tuck and run against the coverage slipping out of bounds to allow time for one more play.

The senior connected with Jamerius Abuhania on a 23-yard pickup then spiked the ball so Alcoa could get the field goal unit set up, and Kyrin Tyson put his 37-yard attempt right down the middle as the horn sounded to send the Tornadoes to the break with a 31-3 lead.

JaColby Cooper's 14-yard reception of a Graf pass into the corner of the end zone capped the second half opening drive and fired up the mercy rule clock.

UP NEXT

ALCOA: The Tornadoes will play in their 12th consecutive BlueCross Bowl on Friday morning, though the opponent will be different. Westview prevailed in a shootout with East Nashville, 50-36, preventing a fourth installment of that state championship rivalry. It will be Westview's first appearance in the BlueCross Bowl since moving up from 2A following its 2021 state championship win over Hampton.

ALCOA TORNADES 38, SEQUATCHIE INDIANS 3

Alc	7	24	7	0	38
SC	0	3	0	0	3

FIRST QUARTER

Alc 5:51- Eli Graf 23 run (Kyrin Tyson kick) 5 plays | 56yds | 1:54 | A7-0

SECOND QUARTER

SC 10:11- William Machado 35 field goal 8 plays | 43yds | 3:26 | A7-3

Alc 6:34- Graf 1 run (Tyson kick) 9 plays | 71yds | 3:37 | A14-3

Alc 3:34- Jamier Dean 12 pass from Graf (Tyson kick) 4 plays | 50yds | 1:05 | A 21-3

Alc 2:00- Dean 44 pass from Graf (Tyson kick) 2 plays | 56yds | 0:17 | A28-3

Alc 0:00- Tyson 37 field goal 5 plays | 39yds | 1:03 | A31-3

THIRD QUARTER

Alc 8:18- JaColby Cooper 14 pass from Graf (Tyson kick) 8 plays | 68yds | 3:42 | A38-3

STATS	Alc	SC
Firsts	18	9
Rush-yds	31-270	23-42
Passing	151	110
Cmp-Att-Int	7-12-1	13-24-2
Tot ply-yds	43-421	47-152
Turnovers	3	2

CLASS 3A PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

- R1 No. 1 Unicoi County 56, R2 No. 4 Union County 16
- R1 No. 3 Gatlinburg-Pittman 24, R2 No. 2 Kingston 17
- R2 No. 3 Austin-East 25, R1 No. 2 Johnson County 13
- R2 No. 1 Alcoa 56, R1 No. 4 Pigeon Forge 21

SECOND ROUND

- R1 No. 3 Gatlinburg-Pittman 35, R1 No. 1 Unicoi County 13
- R2 No. 1 Alcoa 48, R2 No. 3 Austin-East 6
- QUARTERFINALS
- R2 No. 1 Alcoa 52, R1 No. 3 Gatlinburg-Pittman 7
- SEMIFINALS
- R2 No. 1 Alcoa 38, R4 No. 1 Sequatchie County 3
- R7 No. 1 Westview 50, R5 No. 1 East Nashville 36

CHAMPIONSHIP

- 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 6
- R2 No. 1 Alcoa (12-1) vs. R7 No. 1 Westview (14-0)

TORNADES (12-1)

08.23	..... Ravenwood	..... L, 17-27
08.30	..... at Bearden	..... W, 24-22
09.12	..... Greenville	..... W, 31-13
09.20	..... Austin-East	..... W, 43-7
10.04	..... Knox West	..... W, 28-10
10.18	..... at Scott	..... W, 56-14
10.25	..... at Maryville	..... W, 24-17
10.28	..... Union County	..... W, 56-8
11.01	..... at Kingston	..... W, 49-7
11.08	..... Pigeon Forge	..... W, 56-21
11.15	..... Austin-East	..... W, 48-6
11.22	..... Gat-Pittman	..... W, 52-7
11.29	..... at Sequatchie	..... W, 38-3
12.06	..... vs Westview	..... 11 a.m.

BLUECROSS BOWL

PARKING

Parking will be \$15 per day, cash only. Parking attendants will be stationed at each entrance of the North Lot (between Main St. and the stadium). Parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

TICKETS

Day of Cash Sales: \$20 per day
All spectators school-age and older must have a ticket. TACA Cards will be honored when presented with a matching photo ID.
TSSAA ID Cards and TMSAA ID Cards will NOT be accepted for admission.
Gates will open one hour prior to game.

STADIUM POLICIES

The Clear Bag Policy, bag searches and individual metal detection can be expected at all ticketed events at Finley Stadium upon entry.
The following items are strictly prohibited from entry:
Folding chairs
No Weapons of any kind

Anything that would obstruct another patron's view, or cause a disruption (noisemakers, selfie sticks, fireworks, speakers)
Professional Cameras with detachable lenses
No animals, except those performing a service
Bags larger than 4.5" by 6.5"
Outside food or drinks
Stadium chairs with armrests/pockets
Full Umbrellas

GAMEDAY

2024 CLASS 3A BLUECROSS BOWL



**ALCOA
TORNADOES**
(12-1)

**WESTVIEW
CHARGERS**
(14-0)

11 a.m. Today, Dec. 6 ——— W. Max Finley Stadium ——— Chattanooga

ONTV: WATE (ABC)

ALCOA STREAM: Too Hype Sports
PxP Heath Dunkel and Analyst Scott Dunkel
via Pod Beam

SERIES: First meeting

Title Game Record: Alcoa 22-2 | Westview 1-1
Playoff Record: Alcoa 139-15 | Westview 39-27

LAST TIME: While the two programs are meeting for the first time in the postseason, they came very close in 2001. Goodpasture defeated Alcoa, 17-13, in the Class 2A state semifinals before defeating Westview, 14-0, in the title game.

TITLE GAME RECORDS TO WATCH

ALCOA: Richeon Bell (Alcoa '04) has the longest punt return in BlueCross history at 84 yards, Jamir Dean is a threat.
WESTVIEW: Graham Simpson is a threat to CAK QB Charlie High's records for passing TDs (7) and passing yards (476) set in 2011.

THE EDGE FUND

OFFENSE

WESTVIEW: It's a close call but the Chargers one dimension is a great dimension. Football's changed since Charlie High threw it all over the field for CAK but the principle is the same for freshman Graham Simpson, who has SEC QB bloodlines, D1 offers of his own and an arm that has backed that up with 56 touchdowns against one pick. Alcoa's more versatile with Mr. Football finalist Eli Graf and that could be a plus if the temps don't rise on Friday.

DEFENSE

ALCOA: Westview has better numbers but Alcoa's stats come against some of the state's best opposition with Maryville, Knox West and Bearden struggling against the Tornado stoppers. 6A semifinalist Ravenwood was the only team to crack 300 yards and that was in the opener.

INTANGIBLES

ALCOA: Youthful bliss gets trumped by experience but that can be trumped with new tricks.



ALCOA

TORNADOES SCHEDULE

08.23	Ravenwood	L	17-27
08.30	at Bearden	W	24-22
09.12	Greeneville	W	31-13
09.20	Austin-East*	W	43-7
10.04	Knox West	W	28-10
10.18	at Scott*	W	56-14
10.25	at Maryville	W	24-17
10.28	Union County*	W	56-8
11.01	at Kingston*	W	49-7
Playoffs			
11.08	Pigeon Forge	W	56-21
11.15	Austin-East	W	48-6
11.22	Gatlinburg-Pitt	W	52-7
11.29	at Sequatchie	W	38-3
12.06	vs Westview	11 a.m. Friday	

TORNADO TEAM STATISTICS

Category	Alcoa
Scoring Offense.....	40.2
Total Offense.....	373.5
Rushing Offense.....	212.2
Passing Offense.....	161.3
Scoring Defense.....	12.5
Total Defense.....	193.1
Rushing Defense.....	114.6
Passing Defense.....	78.5
Sacks.....	17
Fumbles Rec-lost.....	6-9
Interceptions-lost.....	13-7
Turnover Margin.....	+3
Kickoff Ret. Avg.....	22.3
Punt Ret. Avg.....	20.5

Source: Too Hype Sports

BLUECROSS BOWLS

PARKING

Parking is \$15 per day, cash only. Parking attendants will be stationed at each entrance of the North Lot (between Main St. and the stadium). Parking is first-come, first-served.

UP NEXT

3 p.m.-1A: South Pitt vs. MASE
7 p.m.-5A: Sevier County vs. Page

BY THE NUMBERS

0

Westview has been the home team for all four of its playoff games this postseason and will be the home team on the scoreboard Friday.

4000

Westview quarterback Graham Simpson needs 130 passing yards to cross the 4,000 yard plateau for the season. The freshman averages just under 300 yards passing per game, averaging 275 each outing.

10

The Tornadoes can extend their own state record for consecutive state football championships to 10 and extend their postseason win streak to 40 straight. The Tornadoes are 22-2 in state championship games.



WESTVIEW

CHARGERS SCHEDULE

08.22	Dresden	W	64-0
08.30	at Obion County	W	78-0
09.06	at Scotts Hill*	W	70-7
09.13	Liberty*	W	65-6
09.20	Dyer County*	W	47-14
09.27	Ripley*	W	49-0
10.04	at Dyersburg*	W	58-22
10.11	at Bolivar Central*	W	48-6
10.25	McNairy Central*	W	56-14
11.01	Covington*	W	59-54
Playoffs			
11.08	Wooddale	W	53-0
11.15	Dyersburg	W	42-22
11.22	Covington	W	28-14
11.29	East Nashville	W	50-36

CHARGER TEAM STATISTICS

Category	Westview
Scoring Offense.....	54.7
Total Offense.....	412.9
Rushing Offense.....	133.4
Passing Offense.....	279.5
Scoring Defense.....	13.9
Sacks.....	20
Fumbles Rec-lost.....	12-na
Interceptions-lost.....	18-2

Source: Westview via TSSAA

STADIUM ADMISSION

POLICIES

The Clear Bag Policy, bag searches and individual metal detection can be expected at all ticketed events at Finley Stadium upon entry. The following items for strictly prohibited from entry: Anything that would obstruct another patron's view, or cause a disruption (noisemakers, selfie sticks, fireworks, speakers)

WHEN ALCOA HAS THE BALL

QB Eli Graf
Thomas Manu
HB Eli Owens
Tysen Dorsey
RB Micah Jones
Condis Cherry

X Jamir Dean
Elijah Sadler

W Finn Snider
Tyler Dunphy

CB Cooper Spaulding
Cayden Davis

F Asa Barnes
Grayson Williams

M Nolan Pritchett
Mixon McDaniel
R Cody Meeks
Tyler Belew

D Jaxon Cupples
Jamaal Barnett
N Tylan Scott
Will Borgens
T Drake Hickman
Malik Smith
E Malik Smith
Alex Evans

LT Marlee Watts
Rhylin McCourt
LG Isaiah Emert
Sam Garland
C Colton Moore
Elijah Williams
RG Rhylin McCourt
Lane Ferguson
RT Jacob Crowe
Jamir Turner

Y Jamerius Abuhania
Jaylen Penson
Z JaColby Cooper
Demauri Dubose

T Christopher Damron
Dontez Joy

CB Miles Brown
Malik Lawson

WHEN WESTVIEW HAS THE BALL

QB Graham Simpson
Jack Hays Allen

X Dontez Joy
Tyler Belew
Y Malik Smith
Grayson Williams

CB Demauri Dubose
Jamir Dean

F Miles Brown
Christopher Damron

S Micah Jones
Elijah Sadler
S Jamerius Abuhania
Delle Hughes

LT Alex Evans
Drake Hickman
LG Will Borgens
Harry Freeman
C Josh Frensley
Barrett Belew
RG Cade Totten
Karson Lifsey
RT Jamaal Barnett
McKinley Fortner
T Asa Barnes
Cody Meeks
Z Malik Lawson

DE Carter Cowart
Kenny Harris
NG Jamir Turner
Elijah Carter
DE Blair Gooden
Jaylen Penson

LB Eli Owens
Jennarius Henrys
LB Darius Sudderth
Tysen Dorsey
LB Cade Stinnett
Malach McCloud
NB Condis Cherry
Eli Graf

CB Thomas Manu
JaColby Cooper

GRAPHICS | MARCUS FITZSIMMONS | THE DAILY TIMES

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

ALCOA

RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Yds/G
Eli Graf	102	921	9.0	15	70.8
Micah Jones	106	643	6.1	10	58.5
Jermon Bishop	47	377	9.2	2	29.0
Condis Cherry	39	306	7.8	1	23.5
Justin Lindsey	39	291	7.5	2	22.4

PASSING

	Cmp-Att.	Pct.	Yds.	Td-Int
Eli Graf	116-162	71.6	1,814	24-5
Thomas Manu	9-12	75.0	212	5-1
Lucah Dougherty	7-10	70.0	71	1-1

RECEIVING

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Yds./G
Jamir Dean	34	710	20.9	9	54.6
Eli Owens	33	426	12.9	7	32.8
JaColby Cooper	24	407	16.9	5	31.3
Jamerius Abuhania	9	190	21.1	4	14.6
Condis Cherry	6	109	18.2	1	8.4

WESTVIEW

RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Yds/G
Asa Barnes	82	756	9.2	17	54.0
Cody Meeks	79	504	6.3	10	36.0
Dontez Joy	23	162	7.0	4	11.5
Cayden Davis	14	116	8.3	1	8.3
Keyshawn Frame	22	101	4.4	0	7.7

PASSING

	Cmp-Att.	Pct.	Yds.	Td-Int
Graham Simpson	221-290	76.2	3,870	56-1
Jack Hayes Allen	6-15	40.0	43	0-1

RECEIVING

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Yds./G
Dontez Joy	59	945	16.1	17	67.5
Miles Brown	46	821	17.8	15	58.6
Cooper Spaulding	23	577	25.0	8	44.3
CD Damron	37	488	13.1	6	44.3
Tyler Belew	17	302	17.7	4	21.5
Cody Meeks	12	254	21.1	2	18.1
Asa Barnes	14	221	15.7	2	15.7
Malik Smith	13	128	9.8	2	9.8

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

★★ Saturday, December 14, 2024 ★★

Grandview Cemetery, Maryville

Come help Grandview Cemetery honor our local heroes! Sponsor a wreath to be placed on a Veteran's grave at Grandview Cemetery this December.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

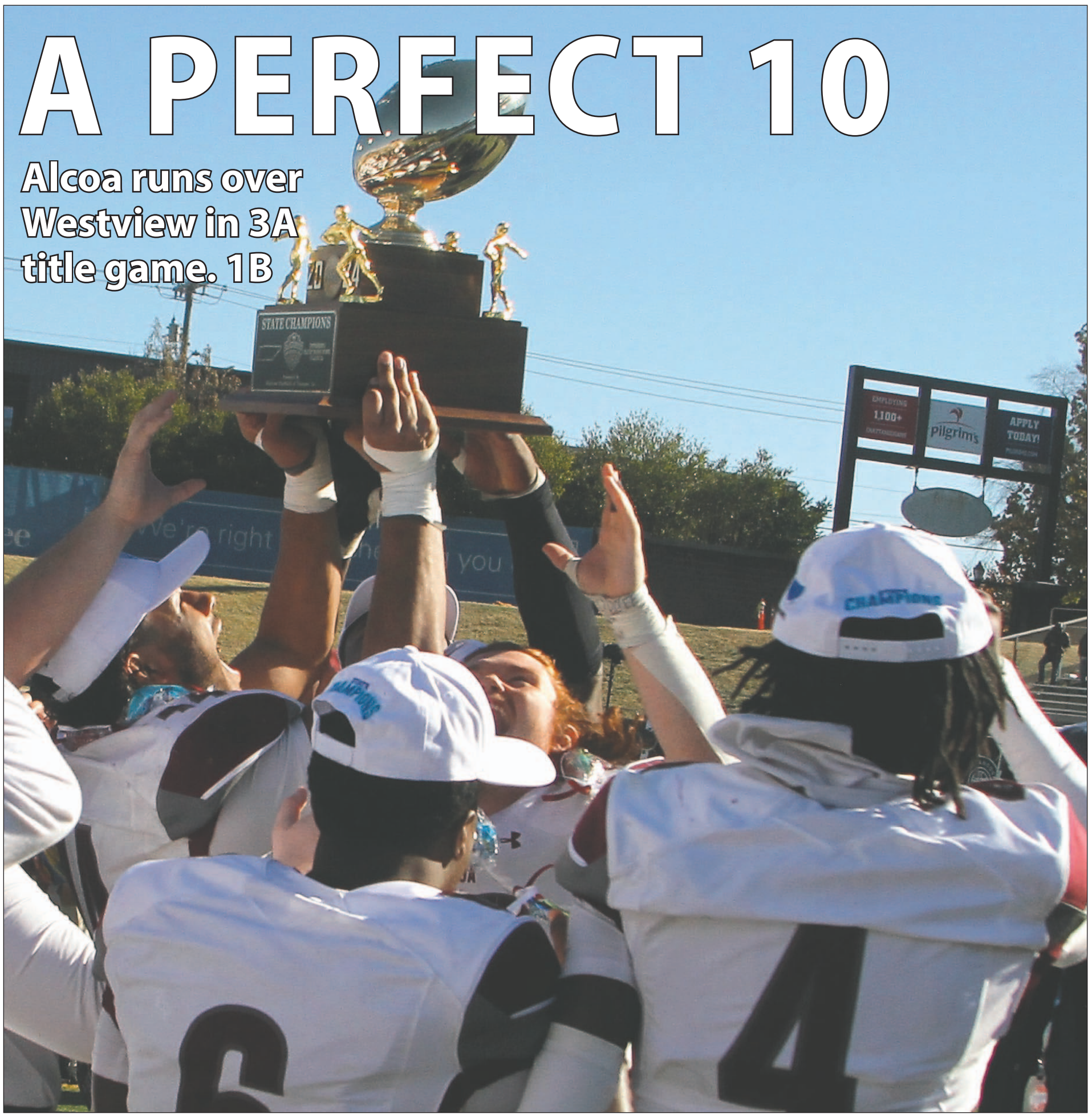
To learn more about Grandview Cemetery Call (865) 982-3730 Visit www.GrandviewCemetery.com Scan the QR code

COUNTY GETTING INTO HOLIDAY SPIRIT. 6A

TEMBLOR PROMPTS CONFUSION, TSUNAMI WARNING. 4A

THE DAILY TIMES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024 **SERVING BLOUNT COUNTY** www.thedailytimes.com **YOUR LIFE. YOUR TIMES.** **\$2.00**



A PERFECT 10

Alcoa runs over Westview in 3A title game. 1B

TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa players lift the Class 3A state championship trophy after defeating Westview, 40-21, in the BlueCross Bowl to claim their tenth straight TSSAA state football championship on Friday at Finley Stadium in Chattanooga.

Pearl Harbor Tree marks day in history 83 years ago

MELANIE TUCKER
melt@thedailytimes.com

Bernard Myers, now 88, remembers being a 5-year-old resident of Cades Cove. He especially remembers Dec. 7, 1941, and not because Christmas was days away. His father, Golman Myers, always kept up with world news through a batter-operated radio and was listening intently that day. "I think there are six time zones between

here and Honolulu," Bernard said. "My dad heard the news that day, while it was happening." President Franklin D. Roosevelt made the announcement that Pearl Harbor had been attacked by Japan. Bernard said his dad instantly knew what that meant for this country, but also his own family. For Golman had two sons who had just graduated high school, Theodore and Cleo, who were working for Aluminum Company of

America at the time. "He knew then that his two sons would be drafted and they were," Bernard said. Golman walked to the woods behind his farm in Cades Cove, dug up a sweet gum sapling and took it to the front yard, where he then transplanted it to mark the day in history. "We will remember this forever," Golman said as he put the tree in the ground. Theodore and Cleo Myers, the oldest sons of Bernard and Viola

(Burchfield) Myers were drafted into the Army. Theodore served in India while Cleo was sent to the Philippines. Both valiantly served their country and returned to Blount County. Golman, however, lived only a few years after planting that tree in his front yard. He died of a heart attack in April 1945 at the age of 51. This patriarch never would have expected



PHOTO BY REANNA MYERS FRANKLIN

This tree in Cades Cove was planted by Golman Myers on Dec. 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was bombed. It is referred to as the Pearl Harbor Tree. Visitors leave flags to show their respect and patriotism.

See **HISTORY, 10A**



Blount Records.....5A	Crossword.....9B	Money.....7A	Sudoku.....9B
Bridge.....5C	Dear Abby.....5C	Nation & World.....9A	Weather.....9B
Classified.....6B	Deaths.....4A	Opinion.....11A	Weekend Comics.....1C
Comics.....8B	Horoscope.....9B	Sports.....1B	Weekend Puzzles.....6C

Mostly sunny and warmer
High 52 | Low 36



Get The Daily Times sent to your email box every day with a digital subscription at www.thedailytimes.com.





GET THE SCORES.
Find all the latest news
in our e-edition.
thedailytimes.com/eedition



No place like title town

Seniors lead Alcoa to a 23rd state title

MARCUS FITZSIMMONS
marcusf@thedailytimes.com

CHATTANOOGA — Eli Graf started it with his first run, Eli Owens ended it with his final catch and the Alcoa seniors hoisted the state championship trophy

CLASS 3A BLUECROSS BOWL

ALCOA TORNADES 40,
Westview Chargers 21

on Friday afternoon as the Tornados took a 40-21 victory over Westview in the Class 3A BlueCross Bowl at Finley Stadium.

“Our entire community; our school, to school board, to city council, they pour everything they can into these kids. This success cannot be replicated,” Alcoa head coach Brian Nix said. “When people ask me, how do you do it? I say, ‘it only takes an entire community behind the students. That’s why (Alcoa) is just a unique place, there’s no place like it.’”

Westview (14-1) never went away, with quarterback Graham Simpson keeping the fast-paced Chargers within conceivable striking distance of Alcoa. Not until Owens made a textbook touchdown reception from Graf with 2:07 remaining did Alcoa’s 23rd state football championship feel secure. Though it touched off an exchange of quick strike touchdowns, the three-score advantage was enough for the Tornados to begin to appreciate that a 10th consecutive Golden Ball was headed back to the Aluminum City.

“That team had a ton of fight. If we were up 50 points, it wouldn’t have mattered, they wouldn’t have quit fighting and they were ultra competitive,” Nix told The Daily Times. “They they got a jolt of energy at some point and we kind of tapered off a little bit. I definitely wish we could have just put the hammer down and finished it but they weren’t going away.”

Alcoa (13-1) scored on all four first-half possessions, but the Chargers managed a key stop in the third and again in the fourth quarter. The Tornados came up short on fourth down at the Westview 23 as the incompleteness ended

See **ALCOA, 3B**



Alcoa senior lineman Isaiah Emert holds aloft the Class 3A state championship trophy as he leads a charge of Tornados back towards the visiting stands to present the Alcoa faithful with a view of the trophy on Friday at Finley Stadium in Chattanooga.

MARCUS FITZSIMMONS | THE DAILY TIMES

Tornados’ Graf repeats as MVP in win over Westview

JOSH LANE

josh.lane@thedailytimes.com

CHATTANOOGA — Alcoa football made it a decade of dominance.

The Tornados extended their own TSSAA record, defeating Westview, 40-21, to claim their 10th consecutive BlueCross Bowl championship Friday at Finley Stadium.

Seniors Eli Graf and Eli Owens went out as champions, Alcoa’s defense held a red-hot Westview (14-1) to a season-low in points, and the Tornados (13-1) dominated on the ground for their 12th overall Class 3A championship before they make the jump to 4A next season.

Here are three takeaways from Alcoa’s 10th straight state title.

GRAF REPEATS AS MVP

A season ago, in Alcoa’s ninth title win, Graf earned BlueCross Bowl MVP honors on the strength of three passing touchdowns. A year later, Graf repeated as the game’s MVP, the first Tornado since Caden Buckles (2020-21) to accomplish the feat. Graf led Alcoa’s attack on the ground, running for 225 yards and two touchdowns. He averaged over 10 yards a carry, and his longest run was a 49-yard score in the final minute, which put the icing on the cake in his final Alcoa football game.

“It does feel good to win it again, but the best thing is that gold ball,” Graf told The Daily Times, “seeing all of our guys so excited to win 10 in a row and go out on top.”

Graf runs were the build of Alcoa’s first-half offense, though sophomore Micah Jones received the goal-line carries and ran three touchdowns. Graf’s signature move, the fake-pitch to Jones and cutback, fooled the Chargers multiple times, and he scored for the first time on a two-yard rush to begin the second. Alcoa only attempted 10 passes — Graf completed six for 39 yards — and he successfully converted on a fake punt, nearly housing the run from midfield.

Graf’s success starts with his unmatched effort in the weight room, his discipline

See **TORNADES, 3B**



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Eagleton’s Nathan Clemmer drives around Greenback’s Aiden Grindle Thursday night.

Undefeated Royals roll past Cherokees

NATE TOSADO

nate.tosado@thedailytimes.com

The Royals have found their groove early in the season.

Eagleton hosted the Greenback Cherokees for the second time in the early goings of 2024-25, but the results were the same as their first confrontation. The Royals jumped out to an early lead and kept their foot on the gas until the final whistle.

Eagleton played suffocating defense and relentlessly attacked Greenback’s rim in

PREP BOYS

EAGLETON 71, Greenback 32

the opening half en route to a comfortable 71-32 victory at home.

While a big win for the still-undefeated Eagleton squad, the lessons learned in the lopsided victory will ultimately help them later down the line.

“We were intense in the first half, and then we got a big lead, but we got to learn how to continue it,” Eagleton

boys coach Scott West told The Daily Times. “Because next week that gets tougher and not just tougher, it gets downright scary when you got Alcoa and you got Gatlinburg-Pittman and Pigeon Forge. These (games) are good to get us there, but we got to understand, we got to play harder than we played in that second half.”

The Royals (5-0) started off the night with a bang, burying the 9-man roster of

See **ROYALS, 4B**



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Kyrin Tyson kicks off to Westview Friday following an Alcoa touchdown in the Class 3A state championship game at Finley Stadium in Chattanooga.



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Micah Jones looks for an opening in the Westview defensive line on Friday during the Class 3A BlueCross Bowl in Chattanooga.

Sticking perfect ten



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Justin Lindsey runs up the middle as Marlee Watts blocks Westview's Cody Meeks (2) and Jaxon Cupples (19) in the Class 3A state championship game on Friday in Chattanooga.



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Micah Jones (9) and Thomas Manu (18) combine for the tackle on Westview's Cooper Spaulding on Friday during the Class 3A BlueCross Bowl in Chattanooga.



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Jamerius Abuhania and Westview's Christopher Damron battle for a pass on Eli Graf in the end zone Friday at Finley Stadium in Chattanooga.

ON THE SCHEDULE

- PREP BASKETBALL**
 6 p.m. Campbell County at William Blount
- PREP FOOTBALL: BLUE CROSS BOWLS**
 11 a.m. Class 4A: Macon County vs Melrose WKNX(Ch4/7)
 3 p.m. Class 2A: Marion County vs Milan WKNX(Ch4/7)
 7 p.m. Class 6A: Oakland vs Houston WKNX(Ch4/7)
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**
Shark Beauty Women's Champions Classic
 7 p.m. Iowa vs Tennessee

Get the latest sports scores in our e-edition's National section thedailytimes.com

ON THE AIR

- MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**
 11:30 a.m. Kansas St. at St John's FOX
 Noon Boston College at Wake Forest ACC
 Noon Nebraska at Michigan St. BTN
 Noon Providence at Rhode Island CBSN
 Noon Syracuse at Notre Dame CW
 Noon Clemson at Miami ESPN2
 Noon Rutgers at Ohio St. FS1
 12:30 p.m. South Florida at Loyola of Chicago USA
 1:30 p.m. Wisconsin at Marquette FOX
 2 p.m. Georgia Tech at North Carolina ACC
 2 p.m. S. Utah at Arizona CBSN
 2 p.m. Pittsburgh at Virginia Tech ESPN2
 2 p.m. Iowa at Michigan FS1
 2:15 p.m. Virginia at SMU CW
 4 p.m. Stanford at California ACC
 4 p.m. Washington St. vs. Boise St. CBS
 4 p.m. Florida St. at NC State ESPN2
 4 p.m. UNLV at Creighton FS1
 5:30 p.m. ESPN2 — Butler at Houston
 6 p.m. Southern Cal at Washington BTN
 10 p.m. Kentucky vs. Gonzaga ESPN2

- WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**
 4 p.m. Southern Cal at Oregon BTN
 7 p.m. Tennessee vs. Iowa FOX
 9 p.m. Louisville vs. UConn FOX

- COLLEGE FOOTBALL**
 Noon Big 12 Champ: Iowa St. vs. Arizona St. ABC
 Noon MEAC Champ: Ohio vs. Miami (Ohio) ESPN
 2 p.m. SWAC Champ: Southern U. at Jackson St. ESPN2
 4 p.m. SEC Champ: Georgia vs. Texas ABC
 4 p.m. SEC Champ: Georgia vs. Texas (Field Pass) ESPN
 4 p.m. SEC Champ: Georgia vs. Texas (SkyCast) SECN
 7:30 p.m. Sun Belt Champ: Marshall at La-Lafayette ESPN
 8 p.m. ACC Champ: Clemson vs. SMU ABC
 8 p.m. Big Ten Champ: Penn St. vs. Oregon CBS

- MEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY**
 8 p.m. Michigan St. at Wisconsin BTN

- AUTO RACING**
 5:30 a.m. F1: Practice, UAE ESPN2
 9 a.m. F1: Qualifying, UAE ESPN2

- BOXING**
 10:30 p.m. Top Rank: Navarrete vs. Valdez (Feather) ESPN

- GOLF**
 4 a.m. DP: Nedbank Golf Challenge, Third Rd. TGC
 Noon PGA: Hero World Challenge, Third Rd. TGC
 2:30 p.m. PGA: Hero World Challenge, Third Rd. NBC
 4 a.m. DP: Nedbank Golf Challenge, Final Rd. TGC

- NHL**
 1 p.m. Philadelphia at Boston NHL
 7 p.m. Toronto at Pittsburgh NHL

- HORSE RACING**
 11:30 a.m. NYRA: America's Day at the Races FS2

- MIXED MARTIAL ARTS**
 7:30 p.m. UFC 310 Early Prelims ESPN2
 8 p.m. UFC 310 Undercard Bouts ESPN2
 8 p.m. UFC 310 Undercard Bouts FX

- SKIING**
 5 p.m. FIS: Alpine Ski World Cup NBC

- MEN'S SOCCER**
 7:30 a.m. Premier: Liverpool at Everton USA
 9 a.m. Serie A: Torino at Genoa CBSN
 10 a.m. Premier: Newcastle United at Brentford USA
 Noon Serie A: Bologna at Juventus CBS
 12:30 p.m. Premier: Nottingham Forest at Manchester United NBC
 4 p.m. MLS Cup: N.Y. Red Bulls at L.A. Galaxy FOX

- SWIMMING**
 Noon U.S. Open: Championships CNBC

- TENNIS**
 8 a.m. Ultimate Tennis Showdown TEN
 1 p.m. Ultimate Tennis Showdown TEN

- NFL SUNDAY**
 1 p.m. Jacksonville at Tennessee WVLT(CBS)
 1 p.m. Atlanta at Minnesota WTNZ(FOX)
 1 p.m. Jets at Miami, Cleve at Pitts, Las Vegas at Tampa Bay/CBS
 1 p.m. New Orleans at Giants, Carolina at Philadelphia FOX
 4 p.m. Seattle at Arizona CBS
 4:25 p.m. Buffalo at Rams WTNZ(FOX)
 4:25 p.m. Regional: Chicago at San Francisco FOX
 8:20 p.m. Chargers at Kansas City NBC

No Bevo? SEC tells Texas there's no room in the inn

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Southeastern Conference championship game will not feature another mascot showdown. The league said there wasn't enough space on the sideline at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta for No. 2 Texas to bring along its 1,700-pound longhorn Bevo XV. The Longhorns are facing No. 5 Georgia in the title game Saturday. The teams have two of college football's most famous mascots. There should be enough sideline space for Georgia's pure white English bulldog, the much-smaller Uga XI.

THE GOTEZ sports page
 THE LONGEST RUNNING SPORTS SHOW IN TENNESSEE
 92.5 FM 10 a.m. Saturday

ON TODAY'S LINEUP CARD
UT REPORT & SEC NOTEBOOK: Mike Edwards is ready to let it rip. The Greenfield Gunner leads the discussion on UT football and basketball.
MANDY B. STREET REALTY'S MARC IT DOWN AND PREP HEADLINES: We'll review prep scores with Donnie Moore and then Marc it Down with a look at the BlueCross Bowls in Chattanooga.

ANDERSON LUMBER PLAYER OF THE WEEK: Winners from Friday night basketball will join the show.
 Live on 92.5 FM at 10 a.m. Saturdays with hosts **Mike Edwards, Donnie Moore and Marcus Fitzsimmons.**
FACEBOOK: @thesportspagetn
YOUTUBE: @thesportspage2578
STREAM: www.wkeradio.com

ALCOA TORNADES 40, WESTVIEW CHARGERS 21

W. Max Finley Stadium, Chattanooga

Alcoa	13	14	0	13	— 40
Westview	0	7	7	7	— 21

FIRST QUARTER

A 5:59 — Micah Jones 7 run (Kyrin Tyson kick)
8 plays, 68 yds, 4:39

The Tornadoes kept it on the ground, alternating Jones and Eli Graf carries to march down the field. Graf ripped off runs of 10 and 17 before Jones stiff-armed his way to a 12-yard gain to get Alcoa into the red zone. Graf read the defender and faked a pitch, cut inside the defense to convert third-and-3 with an 8-yard run that gave the Tornadoes first-and-goal, and set up Jones' score on the next snap. | ALCOA, 7-0

A 2:19 — Jones 5 run (kick fail)
5 plays, 44 yds, 2:33

The Tornado defense stopped the Chargers on fourth-and-1 to set up a short field. Jermon Bishop battered forward on three straight carries picking up 7, 5 and 9 yds. Graf's attempt to find Eli Owens in the end zone drew a pass interference flag to move Alcoa to the 13. Graf kept for 8 before Jones went in for his second score of the quarter. | ALCOA, 13-0

SECOND QUARTER

A 6:19 — Graf 2 run (Tyson kick)
11 plays, 40 yds, 6:08

With two penalties tossed in, it took 13 snaps and half the second quarter for Alcoa to cover 40 yds. The Graf and Jones rolling roller derby continued to carry the Tornadoes to the red zone. Consecutive passes were flagged for ineligible man down field to bring up a second-and-19 at the 28. Graf darted a pass down the left flat to Owens for 18 and Jones picked up five when Alcoa needed one to set up first-and-goal. The Chargers clogged the middle with bodies on two Jones runs, so Graf kept to the outside on third down for a three-score Tornado lead. | ALCOA, 20-0

W 3:02 — Asa Barnes 4 run (Jayce Cook kick)
9 plays, 71 yds, 3:06

Graham Simpson started throwing even faster and Westview got moving behind some athletic catches and pinpoint accuracy. Donteze Joy started it with a 28-yard grab to put Westview in Tornado territory. A pair of Cody Meeks runs netted four before Owens batted down a Simpson pass in the backfield to force fourth down. Simpson found Miles Brown in double coverage to get the first, then went back to the sophomore on an ill-advised flip under pressure that got three yds instead of costing six points. The Chargers pushed Barnes into the end zone to get on the board. | ALCOA, 20-7

A 0:20 — Jones 4 run (Tyson kick)
7 plays, 57 yds, 2:35

Bishop got the drive started with some tough yds on the ground. Graf nearly hooked up with Jamir Dean in the end zone on third down but saw the ball pulled away at the last second. Graf ran his first fake punt in 15 games successfully to pick up 32 yds and only a toe on the sideline prevented the touchdown. Jones ran for 5, then 4 more for the score. | ALCOA, 27-7

THIRD QUARTER

W 5:01 — Barnes 1 run (Cook kick)
12 plays, 77 yds, 3:39

After stopping Alcoa at the 24, the Chargers picked their way the other direction with Simpson completing six passes and having a seventh negated by penalty. Simpson scrambled to convert a fourth, then Joy slipped a tackle on a screen and scooted 23 yds to set up the score. | ALCOA, 27-14

FOURTH QUARTER

A 2:07 — Owens 6 pass from Graf (Tyson kick)
7 plays, 24 yds, 3:31

The Tornadoes got the ball back off a Simpson fumble and burned up the rally time window with five running plays. Graf looked to be in the end zone but Owens was flagged for an illegal assist on the play. The seniors made it stand two snaps later, as Graf found Owens on the outside edge of the end zone. The Michigan signee made the clean grab and celebration in one smooth gesture before handing the ball to the referee following the game sealer. | ALCOA, 34-14

W 1:28 — Brown 64 pass from Simpson (Cook kick)
2 plays, 81 yds, 0:28

The Chargers weren't done and picked on the Tornado secondary after Jones was helped to the sideline on the first play. Brown caught the ball at midfield and sped off for the score with a minute remaining. | ALCOA, 34-21

A 1:17 — Graf 49 run (run fail)
1 play, 49 yds, 0:11

Graf immediately replied. The MVP jumped on the expected inside-kick as part of the hands unit. Under center, he made one shake left, popped free and was off to the races across the field for the visiting-side pylon. | ALCOA, 40-21

TEAM STATISTICS

Stat	Alc	Wv
First Downs	23	13
Rushes-Yards	51-345	25-51
Passing	39	265
Comp-Att-Int	6-10-0	18-24-0
Total Net Yards	61-384	49-316
Kick Returns-Yards	3-61	5-77
Punts-Avg	0-0	2-19.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	4-20	10-66
Time of Possession	30:00	18:00
Third Down	5-9	3-10
Fourth Down	1-3	3-4
Red Zone	5-7	2-2

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING
ALCOA: Eli Graf 21-225, Micah Jones 21-76, Jermon Bishop 6-32, Justin Lindsey 4-12.
W: Asa Barnes 12-56, Cody Meeks 5-13, Graham Simpson 8(-18).

PASSING
ALCOA: Eli Graf 6-10-0 for 39yds and TD
W: Graham Simpson 18-24-0 for 265yds and TD

RECEIVING
ALCOA: Jamir Dean 3-13, Eli Owens 2-24, Demauri Dubose 1-2.
W: Miles Brown 7-153, Joy Donteze 5-70, Cooper Spaulding 2-26, Asa Barnes 2(-6), Tyler Belew 1-15, Malik Smith 1-7.

— Marcus Fitzsimmons



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Jamir Dean cuts back behind blocker Eli Graf during Alcoa's win over Westview on Friday in the BlueCross Bowl at Chattanooga.



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Eli Graf runs between Westview defenders to score a touchdown Friday during the Class 3A state championship game in Chattanooga.

Tornadoes From 1B

— Alcoa head coach Brian Nix said Graf boasts a 4.0 GPA and suspects that he hasn't had one disciplinary infraction in his high school career — and the drive to cement himself among Alcoa football's legends.

"We talk to our kids about the choices you make," Nix said. "Eli Graf came to us a pretty good player. He made himself a great."

DEFENSIVE LINE WREAKS HAVOC

Eli Owens was tired of hearing the narrative about Westview's electric offense. Sure, the Chargers had an impressive resume in its 14 straight wins entering the championship game, where they were averaging 54.8 points a contest, but Westview had yet to be tested against higher competition the same way Alcoa had.

The Tornadoes kept pressure on freshman quarterback Graham Simpson all game, sacking him six times — Jamir Turner led the way with two sacks — and totaled five hurries. Alcoa held Simpson, a Mr. Football finalist, under his season average passing with 265 yards, limited him to one first-half touchdown, and kept Westview to a season-low 21 points.

"I'm not going to lie to you, we were pissed," Owens said. "We were fed up with this propaganda of how good their offense was. That is not a shot on Westview. Not at all. They are a great team. They have a great offense. They scored 20 points on us, which is something some teams couldn't do."

"With the competition we play, it sets us up for games like this when things get tough. Usually



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's Jermon Bishop carries two Westview defenders along for the ride on a run up the middle Friday in the Class 3A BlueCross Bowl in Chattanooga.

we'll prevail."

Owens, who finished tied for the team-lead with eight tackles, recorded a pair of tackles for loss on Westview's opening drive which forced a punt. Sophomore linebacker Dee Sudderth made the stop on a fourth-and-1 Westview run on its second drive, then Owens and Turner teamed up to sack Simpson to end the first quarter. Alcoa scored on a Graf run to go up 20-0 before Westview got on the board for the first time.

Westview outscored Alcoa 7-0 in the third and added a garbage-time score in the fourth, but the Tornado defense sealed the game when Sudderth stripped the football from Simpson on a sack and sophomore Carter Cowart recovered in plus field position.

Alcoa capitalized on the turnover with a Graf touchdown pass to Owens to go up 34-14 in the final two minutes.

TORNADES DOMINATE ON THE GROUND

Alcoa held the size advantage over Westview and imposed its will rushing in the first half. Two Charger lineman on the roster were listed over 230 pounds, while the rest of the team hovered around the athletic 6-foot, 180-190 pound range. The Tornadoes' line, with seniors Rhyin McCourt and Isaiah Emert, and Owens blocking, paved the way for a combo rushing attack of Graf, Jones, and when they needed a breather, the freight train Jermon Bishop. Alcoa didn't attempt a pass play on its opening drive, running eight straight times right at the Chargers. Jones was the beneficiary of goal-line carries and totaled three touchdowns.

Alcoa did not complete a pass until the second quarter, but it didn't matter, as 345 of its 384 total yards came on the ground. Alcoa averaged just under seven yards a carry.

Alcoa From 1B

the second half opening drive. The Chargers cut the lead to 13 and stopped Alcoa on fourth-and-goal at the 1, but couldn't cut the margin any closer. Dee Sudderth forced a fumble from Simpson that Carter Cowart recovered to set up the clinching score.

"We wanted to come out and get the lead, then control the clock. Don't know that our offensive milked a ton of time in the third quarter. I was really proud of how we were able to run the ball. We just couldn't quite stick it in the end zone a couple times," Nix said of a game plan that included a recognition that the best place for Simpson was watching Alcoa's backs run from the Westview sideline.

The Tornadoes ran for 345 yards on 51 carries as a counter to Westview's quick-snap offense. Simpson went 18-of-24 for 265 yards, as the freshman finished near his season averages while breaking the 4,000-yard mark for the year. Alcoa sacked the freshman six times, hurried him five more and produced the crucial turnover.

"You could see on film that kid just throw it off the screen and their sideline would celebrate," Nix said. "We're all asking, 'how in heck did he complete that pass?' Today our defensive line forced him out of that pocket,



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

Alcoa's JT Turner (52) and Carter Cowart (30) stop Westview quarterback Graham Simpson behind the line of scrimmage Friday during the Class 3A BlueCross Bowl in Chattanooga.

where he couldn't step up and make those down-the-field throws, and really helped out our secondary."

Graf was 6-of-10 including his touchdown pass to Owens, but won his second BlueCross Bowl MVP with everything else he did. The senior carried 21 times for 225 yards with one only negative play, covered an inside kick, executed a fake punt and put the final score on the board

with a 49-yard scamper. From the moment Graf started his day with a keeper that he spun into a 10-yard gain and first down on Alcoa's first snap, the Chargers had reason to worry.

The Tornadoes ran 27 more times in the first half following Graf's tone setter and ended each of their four drives in the end zone while building a 27-7 lead behind three scoring runs from Micah Jones.