

Sports

News from the Sidelines...

Stephen Crews
Geneva Newspapers

While I enjoy the college game a lot, some of my favorite memories have taken place on the football fields in Geneva County. For some reason, two Geneva Panther games stick out in my mind more so than ever from 10 years ago in 1996.

Don't get me wrong. With Lance Rials, Omar Sanders and Harris Kennedy on the field for Geneva County and Wade Rials, Jeremiah Reynolds and Doug Landingham on the field for Samson, their battle was a good one. But thinking back, two games really come to mind for me. Here are those games.

Geneva vs. Geneva County (1996) - This was the first game for Geneva under the direction of Leavy Boutwell. Hartford scored on their first possession of the game when Harris Kennedy found Omar Sanders open on a 40-yard pass play. Kennedy found Lance Rials open on a pass play for the two-point conversion to give the Bulldogs an 8-0 lead.

The nail in the coffin came on the very next play of the game when Geneva County Head Coach Larry Lee made the decision to kick an onside kick. The Bulldogs recovered the football, Sanders found the endzone again followed by a Kennedy two-point conversion to give the Dawgs a 16-0 lead. Geneva did score on an Eric Minnifield 1-yard run in the second quarter to cut the lead to 16-6 but Geneva County never felt threatened.

This was the last time that Geneva County whipped Geneva all over the field. I don't think Geneva County had seen rain in weeks but before kickoff the clouds opened and it likely was another big factor in the game.

Geneva vs. Slocomb (1996) - This was one of the most exciting finishes of any high school game I have ever witnessed.

Geneva enter the game with a 1-1 record after knocking off Rehobeth 14-13 the week before.

Shantee Threats started the scoring with a 1-yard run in the first quarter. Slocomb answered in the second quarter with a Darren Gilley 1-yard run.

The Red Tops added a 6-yard score from Travis Parks followed by a two-point conversion in the third quarter and appeared to be on their way to a win when Tip Mobley scored on a 14-yard run later in the third.

Geneva rallied when Shantee Threat scored on a 47-yard late in the fourth. Mike Brown added a two-point conversion attempt to cut the Red Top lead to 20-14.

The most exciting moment of game came when John Simmons found Eric Minnifield open on a 48-yard pass. The PAT by Threat was good giving Geneva a 21-20 lead with 17 seconds to play in the game.

Geneva kicked I don't know how many kickoffs after the go ahead score that ended up going out of bounds and resulting in the Red Tops asking for another kick. Geneva won the game to give Boutwell his 100th win as a head coach.

Geneva and Samson met up that year as well after the "Pea River Rock" had been painted. Samson won the game but to me it didn't have the energy that the other two did. Next week I will take you back down the road of some of the biggest games of all time. Ohh...and don't forget my picks for the upcoming season too!

Volleyball Kicks off Around the County this Week

Stephen Crews
Geneva Newspapers

Volleyball season will officially kick off this week when Geneva and Samson both take to the courts. Both teams have one common goal for the season, a shot at winning a state championship.

Samson will be under the direction of second year coaches Suzanne Elmore and Tiffany Johnson. The Lady Tigers will host Opp on August 24 in a JV match beginning at 4:00 p.m. followed by a varsity match.

The Geneva Lady Panthers will once again be under the direction of Susan Moore who begins her tenth season at Geneva. The Lady Panthers open the season on August 24 as well with a tri-match featuring Elba and Enterprise. The matches are set to begin at 4:00 p.m.

Samson and Geneva will meet on August 28 in Samson at 4:00 p.m. A complete look at each team will be in next week's paper.



Senior Volleyball Players Excited About Upcoming Season

Senior Volleyball players at Samson High are Amanda Harrison, Annie Newman, Allison McCollough, and Chelsie Chancellor. The Lady Tiger Volleyball team begins their season Thursday August the 24 at home against the Opp Lady Bobcats. The JV match starts at 4:00 with the Varsity to follow. Come out and support the Lady Tigers. A special look at the volleyball teams in Geneva County will be in next week's paper.

Sports Briefs



"Tee Off for Kids"

Seven silver sponsors have joined Movie Gallery to present the Twelfth Annual "Tee Off for Kids" Golf Tournament to benefit the Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center (CAC). Last year, the CAC provided counseling and support services to over 1000 children who were victims of sexual or severe physical abuse in the Wiregrass area. Golfers in the Wiregrass area, who have a heart for children and want to help bring healing to child victims of sexual and severe physical abuse, can make a difference in the life of a child by joining Movie Gallery and the CAC at Highland Oaks Golf Course on Thursday, September 21. Each year more people become aware of the benefits of CAC services for abused children and how important the golf tournament is to the financial support of the center. In conjunction with the CAC's "Tee Off for Kids" Golf Tournament, Mike Schmitz Automotive Group is sponsoring this area's first ever "Charity Helicopter Golf Ball Drop." We hope to see you on September 21 at Highland Oaks. For more information on the "Tee Off for Kids" Golf Tournament or the "Charity Helicopter Golf Ball Drop", please call the Center at 671-1779. Pictured: Ashley Helms, Dale-Geneva County District Attorney's Office; Dr. Sarah Germanson, Southeastern Pediatrics Association, PA; Barbara Whiddon, SunSouth Bank; Sheryl Walker, Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center; Ralph Smith, Lewis-Smith Supply Corporation; District Attorney Douglas A. Valeska, Henry-Houston County District Attorney's Office; Mike Martin, Herndon Shell Food Mart/Checkers; Pete Lassiter, Herndon Shell Food Mart/Checkers; Gary Maxwell, Henry-Houston County District Attorney's Office; Joey Katz, Barlovento, LLC.

Hartford Athletic Club Fundraising Drives Underway

The Hartford Athletic Club has started and is looking for new members who are interested in the total Athletic program for Geneva County High School. Season tickets have already begun. Please call Sue Fondren at First National Bank and reserve your tickets now. Remember a ticket will get you in all of the Athletic events to include football, basketball, baseball and softball. The tickets may not apply to play-off games in either sport. The following are some of the actions the athletic club members will be involved in:

1. You will soon be able to buy "all sports shirts" for \$15.00.
2. Athletic club members can also buy a shirt for \$10.00. This will be used for special activities sponsored by the Athletic Club.
3. Efforts are under way to provide caps at a reasonable cost.
4. The Athletic Club will be feeding the football team, cheerleaders, managers and

the parents of the football and cheerleaders, both senior and junior teams are invited. This will be held at the Geneva County Lunchroom on August 28, 2006.

5. The Athletic Club will have concessions during the first football game against Kinston September 1 and the Homecoming game which is Houston County on October 6.

Remember, you can join and be a part of the total athletic program at GCHS. Individual memberships are \$10.00 and family memberships are \$15.00. We would like for you to join us on Monday Night at 6:30 p.m.

Golf Classic

The 12th Annual Golf Classic sponsored by Log-A-Load for Kids will be held at Tartan Pines in Enterprise on Wednesday, September 13. Shotgun start at 9:00 a.m.

Registration fee is \$100 to play in this 27-hole tournament. Format is 2-person scramble and different format after each nine holes. Calcutta after first nine holes. Early dinner provided

by Outback Steakhouse.

For more information, please call 334-678-9039 or 251-331-5348.

Softball Tournament

The Samson Sports Boosters Mens Softball Tournament will be held Saturday, August 26th at Samson Rec. Fields. Cost will be \$125.00 per team. ASA Rules. 44 Core ball, each team furnish ball.

For more info, please call Alcus Johnson at 334-898-2803; Mitch Rushing at 334-898-1274; or Ray Mock at 334-898-7247.