

OCS Eagles meet Southern Lab in quarterfinals

By Jimmy Touchet
The Citizen

The two-time defending state champion Ouachita Christian Eagles took their first step toward a three-peat with last week's 40-7 win over the Sacred Heart – Ville Platte Trojans.

OCS will host the Southern Lab Kittens (5-7) in the quarterfinals of the Division IV playoffs Friday night at OCS's Eagle Stadium. The game is a rematch of the 2012 Class 1A quarterfinal playoff game at OCS, which saw the Eagles defeat the Kittens, 44-8.

"It is a re-match of last year's quarterfinal game for us," OCS head coach Steven Fitzhugh said. "Like last year's game, we are hoping to pack the house and see two great teams going at it for the right to play in the semifinals."

Southern Lab earned their trip to the quarterfinals with a 34-16 win over the Delhi Charter Gators last Friday night at Louisiana Leadership Institute's Doug Williams Stadium.

After opening the season with six straight losses against six larger schools that all made the playoffs, the Kittens have won five of the past six games in entering this Friday's contest on a roll.

Of the seven Southern Lab losses, six of the teams that defeated the Kittens are still playing in the quarterfinal round, which showcases the difficulty of the Southern Lab schedule.

Southern Lab runs a spread offense with sophomore quarterback Bladrick Veal (6'5", 200 pounds) under center leading the Kittens' offensive attack with sophomores Charrod Brumfield (6'2", 175 pounds) and Justin Wade (6'2", 185 pounds) adding depth at the quarterback position.

This season, Veal has passed for over 2,000 yards with over 20 touchdown passes.

"Their quarterback (Veal) is pretty impressive," Fitzhugh said. "I know that LSU offensive coordinator Cam Cameron was at one of their games earlier this year to get a good look at him."

Williams is the leading receiver for Southern Lab with over 40 receptions for over 1,000 yards.

"Williams and Pate are big time play makers," Fitzhugh said. "They (Southern Lab) are a true spread offense who like to hide their small back (Lang) behind their big offensive line."

In last week's regional

playoff victory over Delhi Charter, Robinson returned an interception 92 yards for a touchdown. Even though the Kittens defeated the Gators 34-16, Southern Lab were outgained in total yardage 321 to 217 including 300 yards rushing against Delhi Charter.

Bell is the Kittens' kick-off return specialist. Bell had a 79-yard kickoff return for a touchdown earlier this season against University Lab.

This Friday's contest will mark the third time that Southern Lab and OCS have met. In the previous two meetings, OCS defeated Southern Lab 46-22 in the semifinal round of the 1985 Class 1A playoffs and last season's 44-8 Class 1A quarterfinal win at home.

Sacred Heart – Ville Platte at OCS Recap
Last week, the Eagles

jumped out to a 40-0 third quarter lead over Sacred Heart.

With 7:58 remaining in the first quarter, OCS's Jake Slaughter broke loose on a 70-yard touchdown run. Whit Chapman added the extra point kick and the Eagles took the early lead, 7-0.

The Eagles sophomore running back Josh Pennebaker scored on 13-yard touchdown run with 3:21 remaining in the first quarter. Unfortunately for the Eagles, OCS failed to convert the extra point kick so the score remained 13-0 in favor of OCS at the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, Pennebaker found the end zone twice by scoring on a 23-yard and 3-yard touchdown runs. Chapman converted both extra-point kicks to give OCS a 27-0 halftime lead.

With 4:00 minutes remaining in the third quarter, OCS senior running back Ahkeem Henderson scored on a 1-yard touchdown run. Chapman's extra point kick was blocked so the score stood 33-0 in favor of the Eagles.

Pennebaker added his third touchdown on the night this time on a 2-yard touchdown run. Chapman successfully converted the point after kick to extend the OCS lead to 40-0 with 26 seconds remaining in the third quarter.

Sacred Heart scored the final points of the contest on a 25-yard touchdown run by Willis Parrot with 3:00 remaining in the game. Trojan kicker Johnathan Fontenot converted the extra point kick to make the final score 40-7 in favor of the home standing OCS Eagles.

Sharing first hunting experience with Bayou Woman



RENE HATTEN
STORIES FROM
THE OUTDOORS

It was an honor and a privilege to share my way of living here in northeast Louisiana when I took Wendy Billiot, renowned author and wetlands guide, on her first hunt recently.

Captain Wendy Billiot and I met this year at the Louisiana Outdoors Writers' Association Conference in Lafayette, and we were instantly drawn

to each other's experiences and way of life.

We visited for hours about her chartering fishing and wetlands tours, and the writing of her adventures and radio show hosting in Houma, and I told her about the stories of deer hunting with my family and friends and the processing and canning of meats.

When she told me, she

had never had the chance to deer hunt, my heart jumped at what a great loss, for an outdoor experience.

I extended an invitation immediately and she responded with the reply of excitement and anticipation. Last week she traveled the five-hour trip to our camp in Jackson Parish, (only to have her GPS send her down a dirt road five miles out of Sikes). We had the opportunity to enrich a great outdoor enthusiast with a deer hunt. Wendy wrote of her adventure with us and her full story can be found at <http://bayouwoman.com/>.

Before I take anyone out on a hunt, I need to know his or her skill level. Do they have a general knowledge of the gun and the safety operations in the field? I feel like every person should know the tools they are working with on their jobs and so it should be before they go on a hunt.

I also want gun safety to be the first thing on everyone's mind. I had Wendy shoot my Browning 270 and all three of her shots were dead center of the target.

She had the skills I was looking for, now did she have the stamina? First thing in the morning, we were climbing the 16-foot quad-pod overlooking



Photo by Rene Hatten
RENE HATTEN joined Wendy Billiot in her first deer hunting experience, sharing her knowledge and love of the outdoors with the Bayou Woman.

two shooting lanes with two feeders. We were amazed at the unfolding of events with a bobcat sneaking up on two squirrels playing in the corn.

His stealthy approach was victorious and quite the show, as he pounced and retrieved the squirrels. I reminded Wendy that the cover scent of fox urine we used that morning was the only way, with the wind blowing three different directions, that the bobcat did not know we were there.

Bobcats have an acute sense of smell and that is why they are rarely seen in the wild. I showed her how to use the bleat can and buck grunt calls and we talked about the right

and wrong times to use them.

We hunted until ninthirty and then headed to the camp. Sammy took Wendy to check the hog trap and later another day they moved it to another location.

Wendy really was excited about the possibility of catching a hog because she had never done that either and was wanting the full hunting experience that northeast Louisiana had to offer. She hunted hard and only saw about four deer that all managed to make themselves unavailable for a good clean shot.

Disappointed but not discouraged she has vowed to return to the woods to hunt again. My son-in-law shot a small deer to send home with Wendy and she watched the skinning process, quartering, and the filleting of the back strap. She left excited to go home and process her own deer meat, a true outdoorswoman.

I am so happy to be able to extend this experience to Wendy, to encourage her growth in the outdoors. I hope if you are a vivid hunter that you too will extend an invitation to someone to get out there in the great outdoors.

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