

## **BEECHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

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KHSAA Hall of Fame Nominations

November 1, 2008

Dear Committee:

When you think of sports Hall of Fame certain things come to mind such as team accomplishments and individual ones.....

Pro Football...	1972 Miami Dolphins perfect season
Pro Basketball...	Michael Jordan's numerous MVPs and 6 World Titles
Pro Baseball...	New York Yankees, Jackie Robinson, and the Big Red Machine
College Basketball...	UK Basketball & Adolf Rupp or Lew Alcindor and the UCLA Bruins
College Football...	Archie Griffith's two Heisman trophies

When you mention the Dawahares Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame and the topic turns to football, you can be sure that the Beechwood Tiger Football program is going to be mentioned. During the nineties, Beechwood won seven state football championships. I cannot think of two players who deserve to be nominated for this honor more than Brandon Berger and Greg Hergott. Two standouts, they excelled to the highest level in football, other sports, and in the classroom. Perhaps most importantly, these two men have gone on to become productive citizens in the community, as well as role models to our current student athletes in their role as assistant coaches at Beechwood.

I have attached both completed forms and included just a small sample of the numerous press clippings. I can share many more if you desire.

In my short time at Beechwood, the stories I have heard about their playing days, in addition to what I have witnessed first-hand as they work with our current football program, I can assure you these guys possess a level of personal integrity and a competitive spirit that few people across the state can match. These two were great in high school, and they continue to use their expertise to make others great now!

Long time assistant coach Jim Procaccino who has been involved in all ten state championships summed it up best by saying the following comment about each.....

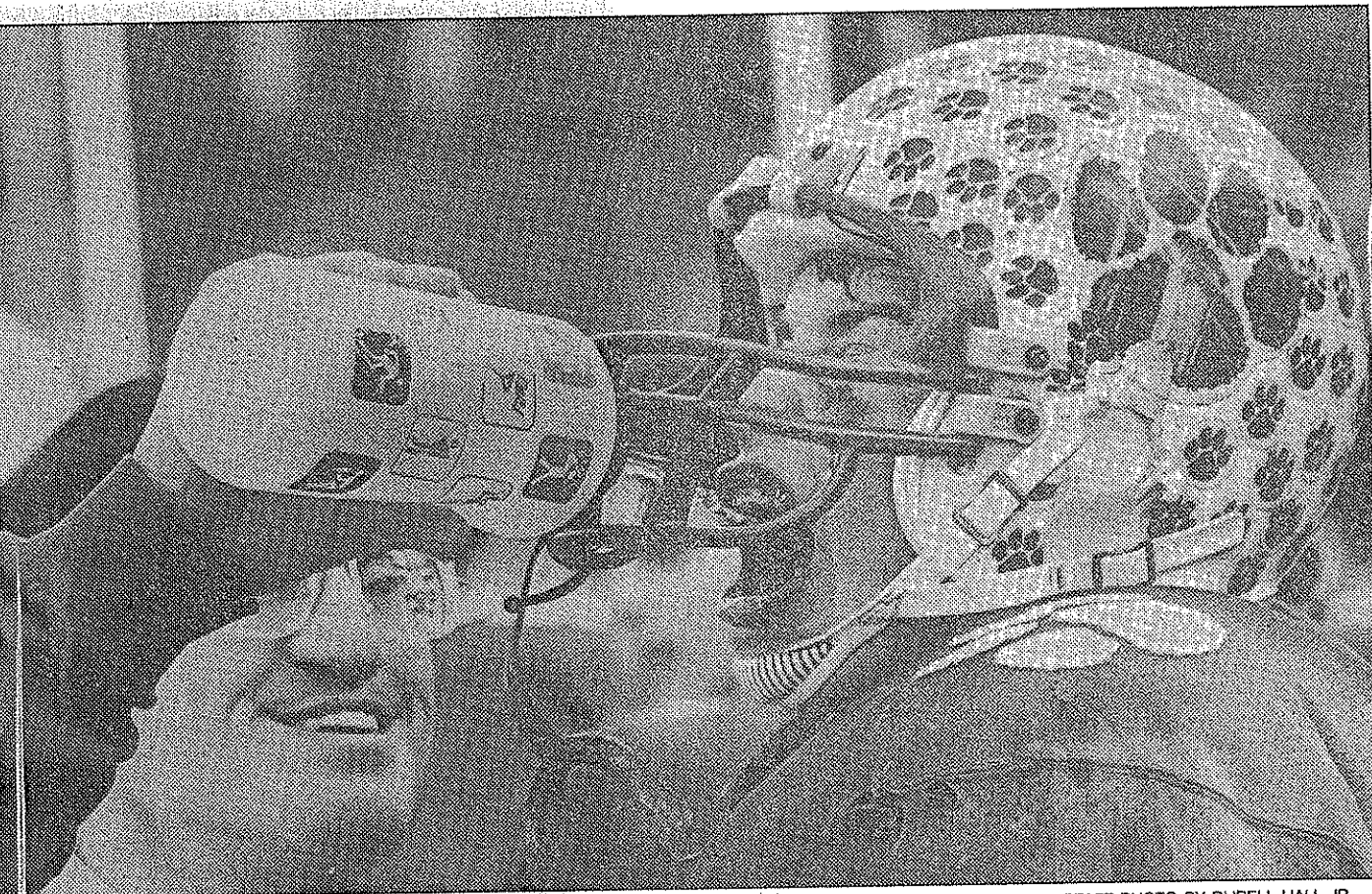
*"When we loaded the bus we made sure that Brandon was on it because the rest just follow his lead. The opposing coaches felt the same way. He was the most respected player that has ever come through here in all of my thirty years."*

*"Greg was a football 'phenom'.....playing both middle LB and QB says it all. It can only happen at Beechwood and he was Beechwood for four years!"*

I nominate them without reservation and with strong conviction to be part of the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Ben A. Zimmerman Jr.



STAFF PHOTO BY DURELL HALL JR.

**DRINK AND BE MERRY:** Beechwood High School's Brandon Berger got some water after one of his three long touchdown runs during yesterday's Class A championship game at Cardinal Stadium. The junior tailback ran for 271 yards as Beechwood completed a 15-0 season by overwhelming Pikeville 34-6. Story, Page 3.

## Statistics

### Beechwood 34, Pikeville 6

PIKEVILLE	0	0	0	6	—	6
BEECHWOOD	6	14	14	0	—	34

#### Scoring summary

- B—Johnson 1 run (kick failed)
  - B—Berger 74 run (kick failed)
  - B—Wilmhoff 1 run (Berger run)
  - B—Berger 68 run (Berger pass from Wilmhoff)
  - B—Berger 64 run (kick failed)
  - P—Ratliff 6 run (run failed)
- Attendance—3,725

#### Team

	PIK	BEE
First downs	16	13
Rushes-yards	41-393	41-393
Passing yards	89	0
Passes	2-23-2	0-3-0
Punts	5-34	1-31
Punt returns-yds	0-0	2-18
KO returns-yds	6-125	0-0
Fumbles-lost	3-2	1-1
Penalties-yards	1-5	3-15
Time of possession	27:10	20:50

### Individual

#### Pikeville

RUSHING						
NAME	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	LG	TD	
Ratliff	11	96	8.7	32	1	
Lockhart	6	41	6.8	28	0	
Bailey	7	24	3.4	21	0	
Evangelista	2	15	7.5	11	0	
Helvey	2	9	4.5	5	0	
McCoy	2	7	3.5	7	0	
Estep	3	5	1.7	3	0	

Garvin	1	-10	-10	-10	0
Blair	7	-12	-1.7	8	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1</b>

PASSING						
NAME	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	TD	LG	Int.
Blair	23	7	89	0	22	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>

RECEIVING						
NAME	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	LG	TD	
Garvin	3	58	19.3	20	0	
Evangelista	1	11	5.5	6	0	
Lockhart	1	22	22.0	22	0	
Helvey	1	-2	-2	-2	0	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	

PUNTING				
NAME	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	LG
Allara	5	172	34.4	41
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>41</b>

#### Beechwood

RUSHING						
NAME	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	LG	TD	
Berger	14	271	19.4	74	3	
Johnson	9	73	8.1	21	1	
Wulfreck	7	38	5.4	24	0	
Redfield	1	10	10	10	0	
Brockhoft	1	2	2	2	0	
Wilmhoff	9	-1	-1	8	1	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>5</b>	

PASSING						
NAME	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	TD	LG	Int.
Wilmhoff	1	0	0	0	0	1
Procaccino	1	0	0	0	0	0
Berger	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

PUNTING				
NAME	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	LG
Wulfreck	1	31	31	31
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>

## Beechwood wins state title

Beechwood High School left no doubt Friday afternoon that it was the best Class A football team in Kentucky.

In the Class A championship at Louisville's Cardinal Stadium, the Tigers rolled over Pikeville High School, 34-6, to win their first state title since 1984.

"It wasn't supposed to be that easy," said Beechwood running back Brandon Berger, who ran for 271 yards and scored three touchdowns.

■ Details/D-1.

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# \*EXTRA\* EXTRA\*EXTRA\*

## FALL FOOTBALL SEASON REVIEW

The players, the cheerleaders... SEE P. 3-6



# BEECHBARK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF BEECHWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

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## Beechwood Football Team Wins State Championship

BY TONY PROCACCINO

As the Beechwood Tigers entered Louisville Cardinal Stadium there were feelings of nervousness and excitement, but when the clock hit zero, and the game was over, the Tigers were the undefeated 1991 State Champions!

The first half was all Beechwood. The Tigers got the ball and marched down field for a Joey Johnson touchdown putting them ahead 6-0. Then came the first of three Brandon Berger's highlight films runs. Brandon Berger ran a 74 yard touchdown. Wilmhoff also scored in the first half. The Tigers went in at the half. The Tigers went in at the half with a 20-0 lead.

The second half started with the Brandon Berger show. Brandon had touchdown runs of 64 and 68 yards. At the end of the day Brandon had 271 yards rushing and played strong defense.

The Tigers' defense was a main reason for the overpowering and dominating victory over Pikeville. The defense

only allowed Pikeville 89 yards passing and 172 rushing. Pikeville didn't score until the fourth quarter and by then the game was out of reach.

If you didn't go down to see the game, you may have heard it on the radio. On the radio you probably heard names like Berger, Johnson, or Wilmhoff, but much credit also goes to the linemen. Guards Mike Siegrist, Ian Angel, and Chris Fedor, tackles Ronnie Bucklen, Matt Hope, and Shannon Huth, sledbreaker Ed Stites, and center Bill Crouse are the men who helped give us this 15-0 season.

Here's how it happened:

BEECHWOOD	6	14	14	0
PIKEVILLE	0	0	0	6

B - Johnson 1 run (kick failed)  
 B - Berger 74 run (Berger run)  
 B - Wilmhoff 1 run (kick failed)  
 B - Berger 64 run (Berger pass from Wilmhoff)  
 B - Berger 68 run (kick failed)  
 P - Allara 6 run (kick failed)



Junior tailback Brandon Berger, who rushed for 271 yards and three touchdowns holds the State Championship trophy. As Coach Yeagle stated, "I'm glad I wasn't out there trying to stop him."

# Berger's 4 TDs lift Beechwood

## Tigers hammer Lloyd, 49-23

By Brian Ballman  
Kentucky Post contributor

It was one of those nights for Brandon Berger. As he has done to so many other opponents, Berger ran right over Lloyd Friday night.

The senior running back ran for 123 yards and three touchdowns and returned an interception 70 yards for a score as Beechwood beat the Juggernauts, 49-23.

"It just seemed like everything went my way," said Berger, who has now scored seven touchdowns in his last two games.

Beechwood showed it is both good and lucky early in the game. On the Tigers' first drive, quarterback Greg Hergott fumbled the ball scrambling on a third-and-long play. But the ball bounced right into the hands of running back Brad Wulfeck, who ran 40 yards for a touchdown.

With Beechwood ahead 14-7 in the second quarter, the Tigers got another break when Lloyd's Mike Hetteberg fumbled on the Juggernaut's eight-yard line.

Berger scored his second touchdown three plays later, and the rout was on.

"One thing our kids do is hustle to the ball," Beechwood coach Mike Yeagle said after the game. "But I think we won this football game tonight without the luck. I thought we played well."

One thing the Tigers did was stay with the play that was working. Berger ran for 18 yards on his first carry and finished the first half with 109 yards on 10 carries.

"At any crucial situation the ball is going to be in his hands,

### Friday's results

Ashland 55, Harrison County 7  
Beechwood 49, Lloyd 23  
Boone County 30, Lafayette 6  
Campbell County 16, Bryan Station 13  
Carroll County 37, Owen County 27  
Fleming County 41, Mason County 6  
Highlands 54, Dixie Heights 0  
Ludlow 7, Bellevue 0  
Newport 30, Conner 20  
Newport Catholic 55, Dayton 0  
Nicholas County 34, Grant County 0  
Simon Kenton 41, Scott 20

and you've seen why," Yeagle said of Berger. "If they're not stopping him, I'm going to continue giving it to him."

Beechwood took a 23-7 half-time lead when Wulfeck nailed a 47-yard field goal with 36 seconds left in the half.

After a pair of Berger touchdowns in the third quarter, Lloyd's Ronnie Holmes cut Beechwood's lead to three touchdowns with a 15-yard TD run on the first play of the fourth quarter. But Wulfeck answered with a 47-yard touchdown run to put the Tigers up 43-15.

Lloyd's duo of freshman quarterback Randy Lee and junior running back Holmes were impressive on offense. Holmes scored a pair of touchdowns and Lee showed good poise for a freshman, completing seven of 12 passes. The Juggernauts played minus four starters who were out with injuries.

Beechwood's victory gives the Tigers a 3-0 mark in district play and all but assures them of their 11th consecutive district title.

BEECHWOOD	7	16	13	13-49
LLOYD	7	0	0	16-23

B—Wulfeck 40 run (Wulfeck kick)  
L—Holmes 6 run (Engel kick)  
B—Berger 38 run (Wulfeck kick)  
B—Berger 2 run (kick failed)  
B—Wulfeck 47 FG  
B—Berger 1 run (Wulfeck kick)  
B—Berger 70 interception return (kick failed)  
L—Holmes 15 run (Holmes pass from Lee)  
B—Wulfeck 47 run (Wulfeck kick)  
L—Fehrman 1 run (Line conversion)  
B—Lubreck 58 run (kick failed)  
RECORDS: Beechwood 7-1; Lloyd 6-2



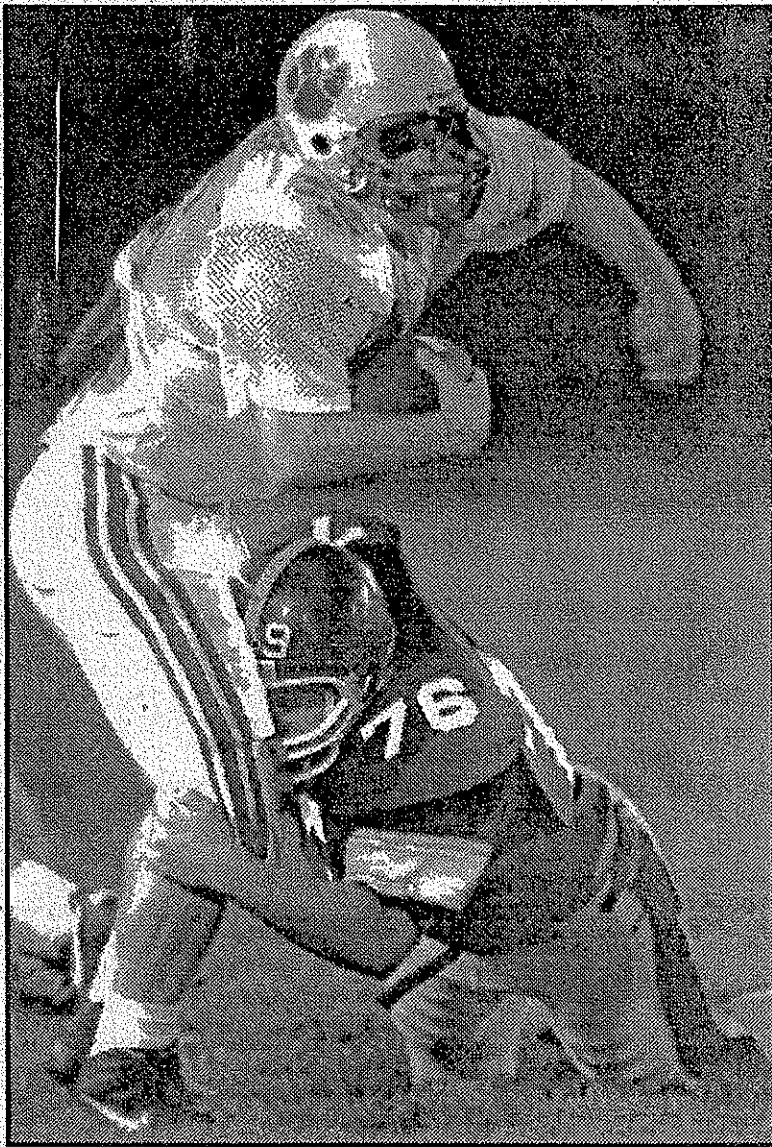


Photo by Eric Krosnes  
**Brandon Berger struggles to shake off Lloyd defender Brandon Exeler, No. 76, in Beechwood's 49-23 victory. Berger rushed for 175 yards and four touchdowns in just 17 carries to take the Northern Kentucky TD scoring lead.**

## District football playoff races

**Class 4A, Region IV, District I**

Team	Overall	District
Bryan Station	6-2	4-1
BCHS	6-2	4-1
CCHS	4-4	3-1
Lafayette	3-5	2-2
Paul Dunbar	3-5	2-3
*Tates Creek	3-5	1-3
Henry Clay	0-8	0-5

\* Defending district champion.

**Class 3A, Region III, District I**

Team	Overall	District
* CovCath	8-0	5-0
Highlands	7-1	4-1
Holmes	4-4	3-2
Newport	4-4	3-2
Comer	4-4	2-3
Dixie Heights	2-6	2-3
Simon Kenton	3-5	1-4
Scott	0-8	0-5

\* Defending district champion.

**Class A, Region III, District I**

Team	Overall	District
* Beechwood	6-1	3-0
NewCath	6-2	2-1
Lloyd Memorial	6-2	2-1
Bellevue	4-4	1-2
Dayton	2-6	1-2
Luxlow	3-5	0-3

\* Defending state champion.

# Beechwood runs its district

Kentucky Post staff report

Senior fullback Brandon Berger scored on a 45-yard interception return, a 25-yard run and a 20-yard pass play as Beechwood defeated visiting Bellevue, 48-6 Friday night, giving the Tigers their 11th consecutive Class A district title.



**Brandon Berger**

Sophomore quarterback Greg Hergott threw for 133 yards and two touchdowns for Beechwood, which is 4-0 in Class A, Region III, District 1.

BELLEVUE	0	0	0	6-6
BEECHWOOD	21	14	7	6-48

- BEC—Brockhoett 65 pass from Hergott (Wulfeck kick)
- BEC—Brockhoett 42 punt return (Wulfeck kick)
- BEC—Berger 45 interception return (Wulfeck kick)
- BEC—Wulfeck 3 run (Wulfeck kick)
- BEC—Berger 25 run (Wulfeck kick)
- BEC—Berger 20 pass from Hergott (Wulfeck kick)
- BEL—Playman 11 pass from Hissong (run failed)
- BEC—Lubrecht 6 run (kick failed)

**Beechwood 48, Bell. 6**  
**FORT MITCHELL** — Brandon Berger scored three TDs to boost his Northern Kentucky-leading total to 18. Berger scored on a 25-yard run, caught a 20-yard TD pass and scored on a 45-yard interception return against Bellevue.

## title streak to 11

### The Famous Stars of the week

A Second Decade Of Honoring Our Outstanding Student/Athletes

#### Student/Athlete of the week

Brandon Berger is a senior at Beechwood. He was nominated by football coach Mike Yeagle and athletic director Bob Burnette for his three touchdown performance in a win over Lloyd. Berger excelled as both a receiver and rushing in an impressive 49-23 win over District rival Lloyd. He is an excellent student.



#### Student/Athlete of the week

Jody Klare is a senior at Newport Central Catholic High School. She was nominated by volleyball coach Jenny Mertle and athletic director Bob Schneider for her outstanding week for the Thoroughbreds. She recorded 14 kills and 4 blocks. Jody leads the region in kills as N.C.C. recorded a 22-6 regular season record. She is a superb student.



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# Berger has it his way

By Glynn Holt  
Recorder Contributor

**FORT MITCHELL** — Beechwood running sensation Brandon Berger ran over Paintsville last Friday for 168 yards on eight carries with four touchdowns in a 45-8 Class A playoff victory for the Tigers.

Berger eclipsed Scott Tackett's school rushing record in the process. He's now gained 4,106 yards in his career to top Tackett's total of 4,005 yards carries.

"This meant a lot to me," Berger said. "I followed Scott Tackett and his great years here when I was in the fifth and sixth grades. He's been my idol at Beechwood."

Coach Mike Yeagle said it was almost inevitable that Berger would claim the record.

"This is his senior year and when it's your senior season, and you're a great athlete like Brandon, you're going to do great things."

Berger punctured the Paintsville defense for a 23-yard run in the second quarter to claim the Tackett record. He sparked Beechwood with a 55-yard TD run with 9:50 left in the first quarter to open scoring.

Paintsville, aided by Beechwood penalties, then drove to the Tiger

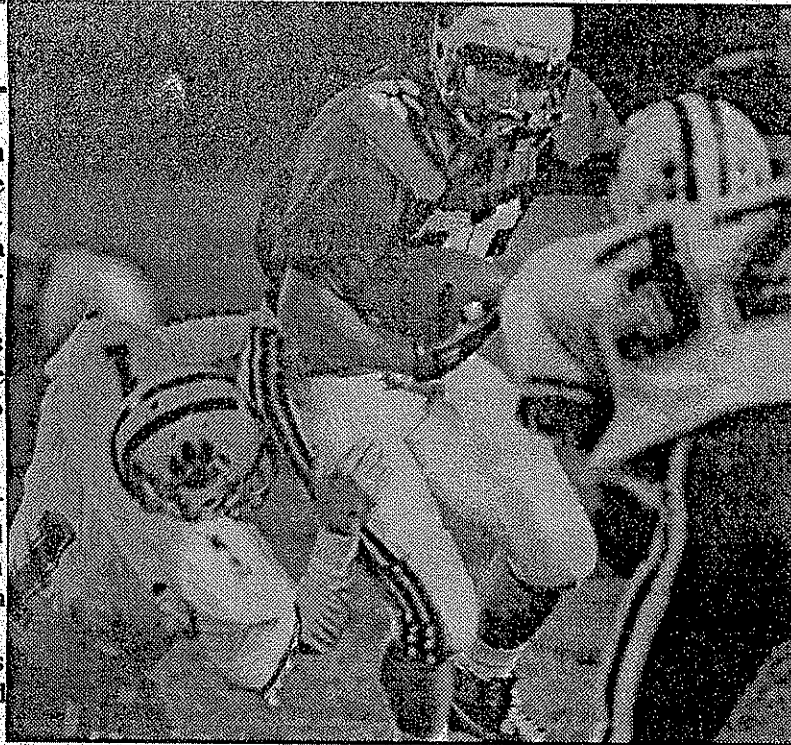


Photo by Eric Kros

Brandon Berger pounds 23 yards in the second quarter to break Scott Tackett's Beechwood High School rushing record. Berger now has 4,106 rushing yards compared to 4,005 for Tackett, who graduated in 1984.

10-yard line. On fourth-and-one, Beechwood swarmed Jon Holbrook and dropped him for a loss to end their only scoring threat of the half.

linebacker and Brad Wulfeck fr defensive back to defensive e The moves were initiated halfv through the season to reduce pounding Yeagle's prize bac endured from playing both ways.

Following the threat, Beechw quickly put Paintsville away in j two plays.

Sophomore quarterback G Hergott tossed a 42-yard TD pass Wulfeck to make it 14-0. Berg intercepted Holbrook's next p and returned it 30 yards to mak 21-0 with 11:13 left in the half.

Berger added a 1-yard TD plur and sophomore Brett Brockhc zipped 70 yards to push the mar to 33-0 at halftime.

Beechwood frustrated Paintsv throughout the game by snatch five turnovers and outgaining traveling Tigers 504-1.

Brockhoeft joined Berger in rush for more than 100 yards collecting 127 on just six carries

Paintsville Coach Walter Bru finished the season with 267 can wins, just four short of the all-ti Kentucky prep record set by Gar Martin.

The stand spotlighth Beechwood, 9-1, will play hos Beechwood's defensive realignmen 8-3 Lloyd at 7:30 p.m. this Frid — Berger from defensive back to The Tigers defeated the Juggerna 49-23 four weeks ago in Erlangei



# Beechwood, Boone step closer to state title



Beechwood's Brandon Berger runs for some of his 250 yards in the Tigers' 38-13 victory over Newport Central Catholic in the Class A playoffs.

RICHARD PRIDEMORE/The Kentucky Post



# Tigers to meet Pikeville in semifinals

By Brian Ballman  
Kentucky Post contributor

Newport Central Catholic's football team had nightmares for seven weeks following its first loss to Beechwood in which the Thoroughbreds fumbled the ball three times inside the Tigers' 10-yard line.

NewCath will now have those same nightmares until preseason practice starts next July.

The Thoroughbreds fumbled six times in the first half of Friday night's rematch with Beechwood and lost three of them. Beechwood won, 38-13, to claim its second straight regional championship.

The Tigers showed just how good of a team they really are against NewCath. They had won 25 of their last 26 games entering Friday night's game, yet they still didn't feel like they were getting the respect they deserved.

"We definitely had something to prove," Beechwood running back Brandon Berger said after the game. "We concentrated all week long. We were ready to play and we showed them to night that we're a pretty good football team."

Berger was unstoppable on offense. The 6-foot senior rushed for more than 250 yards, 130 of those coming in the first half.

"He's (Berger) as good a football player as I've seen in Northern Kentucky in a lot of time," said NewCath coach Bob Schneider. "When you've got a guy like that that can score from all over the field it makes it awful tough."

It didn't take Berger long to make an impact Friday night. After the Thoroughbreds' Aren Enderle fumbled on the second play of the game, Berger ran 17 yards on two plays for a 7-0 Beechwood lead.

Berger added a 68-yard touchdown run two possessions later, and then a fumble would again haunt NewCath.

Quarterback Scott Wigegins lost the ball on a handoff and Beechwood's other star, Brad Wulfek, scooped it up and ran 50 yards for the touchdown as time expired in the first quarter.

NewCath was forced to pass the ball and the Thoroughbreds managed to cut into the Beechwood lead midway through the second quarter. Rob Sandfoss' 1-yard TD run cut the margin to 21-7 with 6:08 to play in the first half.

But Beechwood responded with a 12-play touchdown drive, and NewCath fumbled for the third time in the half on the ensuing kickoff. Wulfek kicked a 25-yard field goal with one second to go in the half, and Beechwood led 31-7.

Schneider had no explanation for the NewCath turnovers.

"How do you explain turnovers," asked Schneider at a loss for an answer himself. "You don't do it."

"You get all keyed up, you're going to try to have a big ballgame and you make mistakes. I guess that's what makes them a better team than us."

NewCath scored on its first possession of the second half when Brandon Hager dove over the line for a 1-yard touchdown plunge to make the score 31-13.

But the downside to the Thoroughbreds' touchdown drive was that it took 15 plays and left only 1:33 to play in the third quarter.

Then Berger added another play to his personal highlight film. He raced 62 yards down the sidelines for his third touchdown of the game to close the book on NewCath at 38-13.

Beechwood coach Mike Yeagle called the victory a total

team effort.

"I give credit to my coaches," Yeagle said. "We prepared ... and we knew if we came out on fire in the first half we'd beat them. And we definitely came out on fire."

Beechwood will play Pikeville in the semifinals of the state playoffs next week at Pikeville.

"Pikeville's beaten us so many times I don't think we'll ever get even with them," Yeagle said.

But Berger is looking forward to the matchup. "We've had some success against Pikeville the last two years," Berger said. "The past two years against Pikeville I've had some of my better games. I'd like to play them one more time and have another good game."

Beechwood beat Pikeville 34-6 in the Class A state finals last season behind Berger's 271 yards rushing and three TDs.

NEWPORT CATHOLIC	0	7	6	0-13
B—Berger 3 run (Wulfek kick)	21	10	7	0-38
B—Berger 68 run (pass failed)				
B—Wulfek 50 fumble return (Berger run)				
NCC—Sandfoss 1 run (Wulfek kick)				
B—Hager 4 run (Wulfek kick)				
B—Wulfek 25 field goal				
NCC—Hager 1 run (pass failed)				
B—Berger 62 run (Wulfek kick)				

RECORDS: Beechwood 11-1; Newport Central Catholic 10-3.

## High school football

# Beechwood KOs Pikeville 34-0

## Berger strikes again by starring on offense, defense

By Mike Fields

Herald-Leader staff writer

PIKEVILLE — Beechwood, using the same hammer that pounded Pikeville in the state finals last year, smashed the host Panthers 34-0 in the Class A semifinals last night before a full house at W.C. Hambley Athletic Complex.

Brandon Berger, who rushed for 271 yards in Beechwood's 34-6 victory over Pikeville in the 1991 title game, powered the Tigers to another rout last night. The 6-foot, 205-pound senior ran 24 times for 132 yards and two touchdowns. He also anchored the Tigers' defense at

Beechwood ..... 10 0 17 7-34  
Pikeville ..... 0 0 0 0-0

B—Pikeville punter Richard Keichie tackled in end zone for safety. B—Brandon Berger 4 run (Berger run). B—Berger 2 run (run failed). B—Brett Brockhoff 33 run (Brad Wulfeck run). B—Wulfeck 27 field goal. B—Wulfeck 3 run (Wulfeck run).

linebacker.

Beechwood (12-1) will go looking for its second straight title and third in nine years when it takes on Bardstown in the Class A finals at Louisville's Cardinal Stadium.

"We're hungrier than we were last year," Berger said. "This group of seniors wanted to get back to

But it turned out to be a mismatch as the Panthers were shut out in the playoffs for the first time since 1979.

"We knew this could happen," Allara said. "Beechwood is a strong, physical team. And Berger is a heck of a player."

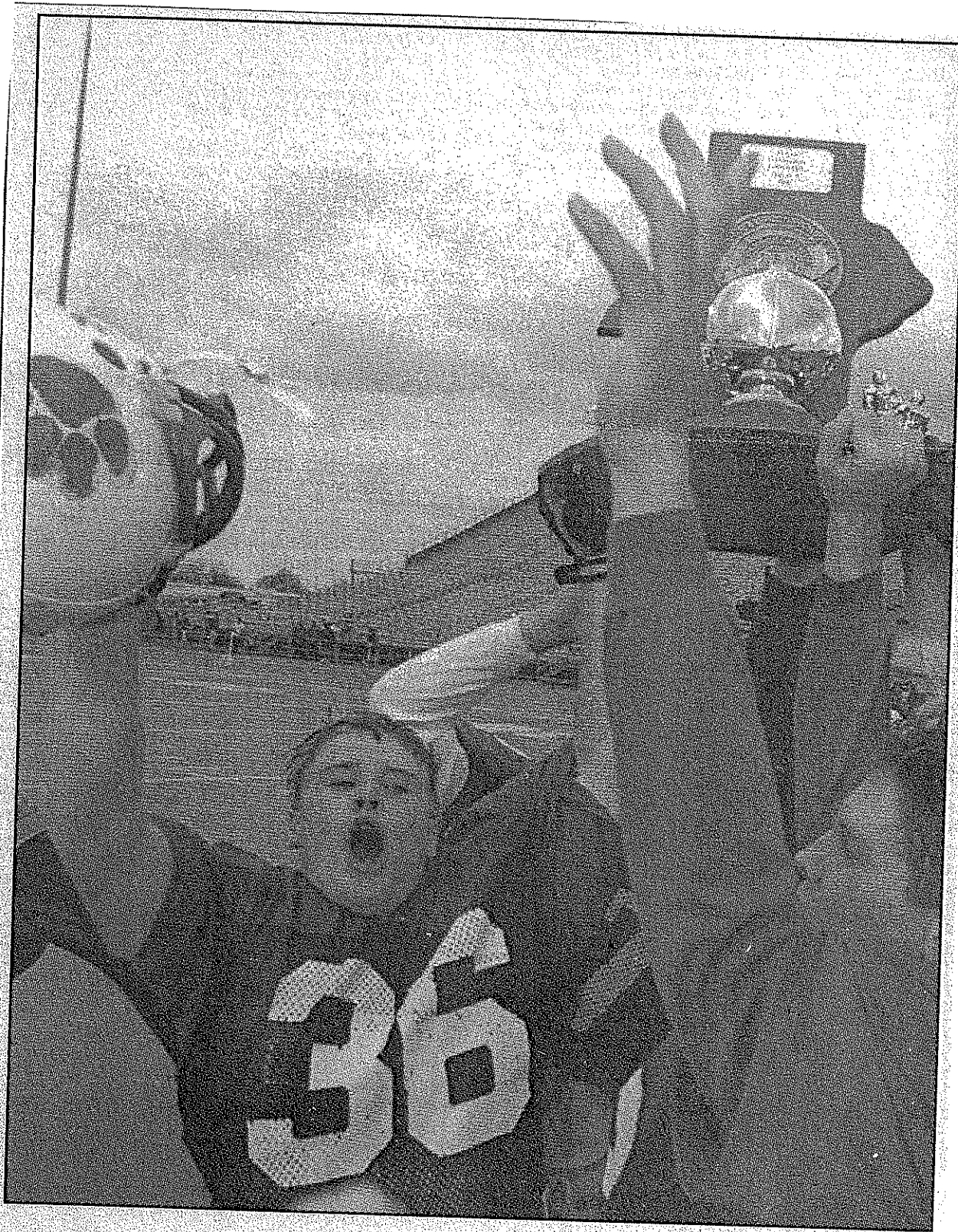
Yeagle agreed. "We feel Brandon is the best player in the state of Kentucky," he said.

Berger, who has rushed for 1,700 yards and scored 31 touchdowns this season, was only part of Pikeville's problem. His sidekick, Brad Wulfeck, carried 10 times for

Please see **TIGERS**, D19

## Playoffs

St. Xavier 17	CLASS 4A	Christian Co. 3
Boone Co. 23		Ballard 0
St. Xavier (13-1)	Next week	Boone Co. (11-3)
Highlands 21	CLASS 3A	
	Thursday's game	
	Today's game	
Paducah Tighman (10-3) vs. South Oldham (10-3), 7:30 p.m., at Cardinal Stadium		
Highlands (13-1) vs. Tighman-S. Oldham winner	Next week	
Danville 37	CLASS 2A	Prestonsburg 6
Mayfield 40		Elizabethtown 6
Danville (14-0) vs. Mayfield (14-0)	Next week	
Bardstown 29	CLASS A	
Beechwood 34		Russellville 7
		Pikeville 0
Bardstown (12-2) vs. Beechwood (12-1)	Next week	



JIM OSBORN/The Kentucky Post

Star fullback Brandon Berger lets out a whoop as he and teammates hold up Beechwood's championship trophy. The Tigers claimed their second consecutive Class A state football title Friday by beating Bardstown, 21-14.



# Berger cheers on Wulfeck

By Terry Boehmker  
Kentucky Post sports reporter

LOUISVILLE — No one was happier to see Beechwood senior running back Brad Wulfeck score the Tigers' winning touchdown in the Class A state championship game against Bardstown than his teammate Brandon Berger.

"I sometimes overshadow him, but Brad Wulfeck is a very good running back," said Berger.

"If I wasn't here, he'd probably have 2,000 yards rushing this season. I'd just as soon throw a block and let him run the ball."

Berger carried the ball 26 times for 199 yards and one touchdown in the championship game. His performance will make him a serious contender for the Mr. Kentucky Football Award.

Wulfeck's rushing statistics weren't nearly as impressive. He had 12 carries for 67 yards, but he got the job done on the winning touchdown drive late in the fourth quarter that lifted Beechwood to the 21-14 victory.

During that drive, Wulfeck picked up 22 yards on his first carry, got a crucial first down on another and then went up the middle on a 10-yard touchdown run with 3:52 left to play.

"They were keying on Brandon the whole game and I guess they didn't expect me to get the ball," Wulfeck said of his winning TD run. "When I got it, I was wide open and with no one around I was able to score."

Wulfeck contributed to the Beechwood's victory in several other ways. He kicked three extra points and punted four times for an average of 41.7 yards to keep Bardstown from getting good field position.

He also made a touchdown-saving tackle on a Bardstown kickoff return during the second quarter.

But, as usual, reporters flocked to interview Berger after the game.

"That doesn't really bother me," Wulfeck said. "I'm not in it for individual honors. It's a team sport to me and our team did what we wanted to do."

**ANGEL INJURED** — Beechwood senior guard Ian Angel injured his right knee on the Tigers' first offensive play of the state championship game and spent the rest of the afternoon on crutches.

"We used a lot of different people in there for him," Yeagle said. "But every time we tried to

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## Wulfeck

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pull the guard on that side we got in trouble."

The line also had some major problems with pass protection. Sophomore quarterback Greg Hergott was sacked three times for a total of loss of 38 yards.

"That's why I say we had to fight through some tough breaks to win this game," Yeagle said.

**CHANGES AHEAD** — Kentucky High School Athletic Association officials discussed making changes in the football playoffs during a meeting in Louisville on Friday.

The KHSAA wants to change the rule that allows host teams to set the day, time and place for

playoff games. The rule became an issue when Bell County scheduled its Class AAA semifinal game against Highlands on Thanksgiving Day last week.

"I think we've seen our last game on Thanksgiving," said Stan Steidel, the local representative on the KHSAA Board of Control.

"We're still trying to get the proper wording together, but it's going to be acted on during the January meeting."

The KHSAA will also survey schools about cutting the number of playoff qualifiers in each district from four teams to two teams.

This season, 27 of the 32 fourth-place teams lost in the first round by an average margin of 29.1 points.

