



HOOVER (15-0) VS OPELIKA (10-5)

Dec. 7, 2012 - 7 p.m.

6A Championship - Hoover 31, Opelika 0

POSTGAME NOTES

-Captains for Hoover: senior WR Michael Powers, senior CB Devon Earl and senior QB Connor Short

-Captains for Opelika: senior RB Calvin Bryant, junior TE Jakell Mitchell, senior LB Cartavious Washington and senior DL Martin Scott

-Opelika won the coin toss and deferred to the second half

-Hoover leads all schools with 11 appearances in the Super 6. The Bucs are now 7-5 all-time in the Super 6 6A Championship Game

-Opelika made the first appearance in school history in the Super 6 6A Championship game

-Hoover has now won nine state championships (1977, 1982, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2009 and 2012)

-Hoover recorded the first shut-out in the 6A Championship game since Prattville shut-out Spain Park 14-0 in 2007 and just the fourth shut-out since Class 6A was formed in 1984.

-Hoover running back Calen Campbell had a record setting game, breaking two Super 6 6A individual records with 30 carries for 191 yards, breaking the previous records held by Jamarcus Murray of Tuscaloosa County in 1997, who finished with 29 carries for 179 yards. His three touchdowns also tied the Super 6 6A record shared with three other players.

-Hoover MVP: Calen Campbell

POSTGAME QUOTES

Hoover head coach Josh Niblett

"I have been up here at this table the past two years, but we were never first, which means we lost. I think that you understand what we went to the last two years. These guys made no bones about it in January. The number one goal is to win championships. Then we wanted to do something beyond that. Let's go for greatness. Let's be as great as we can be. Let's do stuff that we haven't done before. Brush your teeth better. Make your beds better. Take the trash out better. To anybody else, that may not mean anything, but it means a lot to our program. It's about the little things. It separates the great ones from the good ones. Then we talked about climbing greatness. That is what we have been able to do. I'm proud of our guys. Not just the guys that are up here, who are leaders on our team, but all those guys that are going into our locker room right now and our coaches and our community. Tonight was one of those games where I thought defensively we played about as well as we could play. I felt they had a couple of plays that got on us a few times. They hit us with a couple of seam balls. They hit one down the sideline. Then I thought offensively we were moving the ball, but we kept shooting ourselves in the foot. Against that team, you can't be in third and long. The first time we played them we struggled inside the 10-yard line and we struggled inside the 10-yard line tonight. We were able to do when we had to do it. But the main thing tonight is that we went 1-0, because our motto all year has been 1-plus. That is what we wanted to do. I am excited for these kids and these seniors.

Calen Campbell, RB

On if this win is everything he thought it would be...

"We just came in January and committed ourselves to greatness. We lost two state championships. It feels great to seal the deal."

Connor Short, QB

On if this win is everything he thought it would be...

"Absolutely. I can't even describe how I feel. I think I speak for all of these guys. We worked so hard to get to this point. After everything we've been through, it finally feels good."

Landry Tullo, LB

On if this win is everything he thought it would be...

"Going off the two championship losses, they have been a little monkey on our back. They said that the class of 2013 couldn't get down so it is nice to come out here and dominate. It was a great feeling.

Opelika head coach Brian Blackmon

First let me say this. This is a tough day. It would be tough guys if we had to walk in at the end of the first round or at the end of the State Championship game. It's never easy when you see a group of seniors who are playing their last football game, and there is a large part of those guys who may never get another opportunity to play this game again, and that is what hurts. But, at the same time, I couldn't be more proud of a group of young men. This group of young men has proved to everybody, especially everybody in our community that if you never give up, you've always got a chance to be successful. What they've done and the ride they've taken us on through these playoffs is absolutely amazing. The pride that I have for my guys and these are my guys, every one of them. I wouldn't want to coach anybody else. They are an amazing group of young men, and I am just thankful to be their football coach."

(On the Opelika crowd at the game that was approximately 20,000 of the 30,000 in attendance)

"We live in a small town in Alabama, a town of about 25,000 and there are probably about 20 or 30 of them left over there. When we came through that Dog Walk, that was amazing and walking through that and seeing the smiles on the people's faces and that is what I told our team. I don't think right now they realize it because the hurt is still there, but they re-energized an entire city. Boy, what they did is unbelievable. This game is always bigger than us. It's always bigger than any one person. What we proved tonight and what this group proved throughout this playoff run, it's really bigger than even a team. It's about a city, especially when you play in small town Alabama. There are towns all over this place and Hoover is the same way ... that the hub of those towns are their schools and the greatest asset that anybody has is their children. It's not their houses and their cars, it's their children. They will do anything for their children, and what we saw tonight was that. We saw living proof of that, that the folks in Opelika absolutely love their kids. They love the game of football. They got an opportunity to display that love for these young men tonight, and I was just taken back when I walked out of that tunnel. I set there speechless because I have been at every Super 6 since it started. This is the first one that I've been on the field for and to see that crowd that energized about a group of 15-18 year old young men was absolutely incredible."

