



## Kaleb Brooks helps Wolfpack overcome penalties, run past Knights for win

- Kirkland Carter
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COLUMBUS — Kaleb Brooks stole the show Friday night, nabbing three interceptions and helping Whitefield Academy overcome 14 penalties to beat Calvary Christian 31-7.

Wolfpack coach John Hunter was proud of the work Brooks has put in since last season.

“He had a very good year last year for us,” Hunter said. “I think he had five picks last year. He’s really worked hard.”

Brooks had two tips as well and seemed to be around the ball whenever it was in the air. Hunter said it was the fruits of Brooks’ work with the defensive back coaches.

“He’s tried to put himself in position to be that kind of player,” Hunter said. “He believes he can be that kind of a player. He comes to work every day. We’re blessed to have some very good coaches to work with him. They put him in the right position.”

Brooks’ performance was only rivalled by that of K.J. Cainion, who had 22 carries for the Wolfpack.

“He was a workhorse,” Hunter said. “We have to run the ball well when we get into region play, and I think he did a good job. To see him break out and have some good speed and some good runs and see some good vision is great.”

Luke Persons completed his first six passes, including a 5-yard swing pass for a touchdown to receiver Austin Sumter. The next drive, he found Sumter again, this time for 18 yards.

Whitefield (2-2) was its own worst enemy at times with penalties, particularly in the second quarter. Its first drive was marred by five penalties on four plays, three of which were holding penalties in the second level, effectively keeping Cainion's hard runs from making the drive a breeze.

Hunter spoke about how he addressed his team at halftime about the penalties.

"The officials don't dictate what we do," he said he told his team. "We just have to keep playing. We don't worry about what they do. As long as we understand that it's not about (the officials), it's not about the other team. It's about what we do."

Hunter added that he was proud of his team's response.

"They kept fighting," he said. "They kept playing."

Whitefield will have a bye week before hitting the road again to resume Region 6A play at St. Francis.