

COBB FOOTBALL FRIDAY

Whitefield uses bye week to get back to basics

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The Whitefield Academy defense will try to force a few more turnovers and continue its good play tonight when it takes on St. Francis. The Wolfpack will be trying for their third straight win and to move over .500 for the season. Marty Resnick

Whitefield Academy is on a two-game winning streak and is gaining confidence.

Considering there are still five region games left to play, thoughts of making the postseason are not being discussed — yet.

The Wolfpack (2-2) are only focused on tonight's game at St. Francis with hopes of coming away with a victory and entering the latter half of the regular season with a winning record.

Whitefield is coming off a bye week following wins over King's Ridge and Calvary Christian. The Wolfpack used that extra week to recharge and go back to the basics.

“We were taking it back to the very beginning,” Whitefield coach John Hunter said. “For us, we have to maximize those conditions. We have to be as good tacklers and good blockers as we can be.”

Other areas they addressed during the bye were penalties.

Despite winning 31-7 over Calvary Christian two weeks ago, the Wolfpack had costly penalties called against them, particularly on one drive in the second quarter when they were flagged three times for holding.

What we’ve done was re-establish our focus,” Hunter said. “Our focus was doing the right things and not hurting ourselves. We talked about it the other day.”

Defensive back Kaleb Brooks helped Whitefield bail out of 14 penalties with three interceptions and the Wolfpack set the tone by taking a 24-7 lead at the half.

Quarterback Luke Persons completed 10-of-15 passes for 135 yards and two touchdowns. He also capped the scoring in the fourth quarter with an 8-yard run. Running back K.J. Cainion rushed for 216 yards on 22 carries and a touchdown from 38 yards out.

“Obviously we’re 2-2 right now,” Hunter said. “We’re not done yet. There are a lot of things this group wants to accomplish. The biggest thing we talk about is honoring God when we step on the field. We also like to make our community proud of what we do. That’s a big deal to us.”

The Wolfpack will be facing a St. Francis team that went away from the triple option and now running a spread, Hunter said. The Knights have been in games during the first half this season only to struggle after the break.

“For us, it’s a matter of having to do things that slow them down and not hurt ourselves,” Hunter said. “They are a good team. Offensively, we need to take advantage of some situational plays and understand what they give you.”