

COBB FOOTBALL FRIDAY

Walker, Whitefield renew rivalry with shot to jump in power ratings

- Oct 26, 2017



Luke Persons and the Whitefield Academy offense will face a stern test tonight when they face off with Walker. The game could have a big impact on the Class A power ratings.
Jon-Michael Sullivan

Walker and Whitefield Academy have traditionally had their annual game circled on the calendar.

With second-year coach John Hunter at the helm, Whitefield Academy is in position to qualify for the Class A state playoffs after winning just three games last season. Walker is seeking its second straight playoff berth and first winning record under fourth-year coach Matt Casper.

Both teams are tied for third in Region 6A (B).

“At the end of the season, you are in playoff-mode,” Hunter said. “You have to treat each game as its own entity. It is such a big deal right now. All these games really matter a lot for everybody. We have to pay attention and get yourself in the best position that you can.

“Walker has a lot of experienced kids who have been around,” Hunter said. “They are smart players with great size and are not one-dimensional. Their defense is physical and aggressive up front.”

Hunter said the key to winning is to be solid in all phases of the game and having quarterback Luke Persons back from an ankle injury sustained three weeks ago has boded well for the Wolfpack. He threw for 129 yards and a touchdown in Whitefield’s 25-7 win over Pinecrest Academy.

Whitefield will also continue to establish the run behind K.J. Canion and Kaleb Brooks.

Walker bounced back from its loss to Mount Paran with a 42-7 win over King’s Ridge last week. The Wolverines set the tone early by taking a three-touchdown lead at the half. Quarterback Joseph Vose, who has carried Walker offensively during region play, had 100 all-purpose yards and a throwing and rushing touchdown.