

COBB FOOTBALL FRIDAY

Whitefield Academy blanks Darlington

- By Lanie Angel MDJ Sports Writer
- Nov 4, 2017



Whitefield's Austin Sumter (right) catches a pass for a touchdown over defender Casey Gunn in the third quarter of Whitefield Academy's 6-0 win over Darlington on Friday, Nov. 3, 2017. JON-MICHAEL SULLIVAN/SPECIAL

- Jon-Michael Sullivan

MABLETON — Heading into the 2017 season, Whitefield Academy had not earned a trip to the playoffs since 2009, and had not won as many seven games in a season since 2008.

The Wolfpack (7-3) continued its resurgence Friday by accomplishing both with a 6-0 victory over Darlington.

Whitefield will not have to wait until the Class A private school power ratings are set, but there is a good chance it will open the playoffs at home next week.

“It’s been a long time and it’s huge for these kids, and they earned it,” Whitefield Academy coach John Hunter said. “The seniors have done a great job this year as far as making this thing happen. The fact that we have the opportunity to be in the playoffs is incredible. If you would have told me in August that we would have been at this point, I wouldn’t have believed you.”

The Wolfpack earned the only score of the game in the third quarter on Luke Persons’ 80-yard touchdown pass to Austin Sumpter. Persons finished the night with 113 yards passing.

The Tigers worked their way down the field with 1:45 left in the fourth quarter.

Griffin Brewster’s 30-yard run put Darlington on the Whitefield 4-yard line with 48 seconds to play. On second down, the ball was handed off to Kolin Rogers who was stripped of the ball by the Whitefield defense. The Wolfpack recovered the ball on the 9-yard line with 46 seconds to go and then ran out the clock.

“Anytime that you shut a team out, then you have played well,” Hunter said. “That is a phenomenal football team we played and they were missing their key player. Our kids played hard and when we got down to the final drives, we told them that they knew what to do because they have been here before. They knew they had to keep fighting the whole game. They gave it their all tonight and I am super proud with the outcome.”

Rogers led Darlington with 133 yards rushing.