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Vipers seeking revenge vs. Cats

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By REGGIE BENSON

Times Sports Staff reggie.benson@htimes.com

South Georgia still sore reminder for 2008 af2 champs

South Georgia was the last team to beat Tennessee Valley last season before the Vipers made their improbable run to the Arena Cup championship.

The Wildcats scored on the final play of the game last July 26 to claim a 54-50 victory at the Von Braun Center. The loss denied the Vipers the South Division title.

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"We owe those guys," Tennessee Valley defensive end Eric Scott said. "We should have hung two banners instead of one."

The Vipers (1-1) visit the Wildcats (2-1) tonight at the Albany Civic Center.

South Georgia won two of three meetings last season in games. Vipers coach Dean Cokinos doesn't expect anything less tonight.

"South Georgia is a very solid team," he said. "They're good in all three phases of the game. They've got veteran players and they're well-coached."

South Georgia is coming off of a 66-58 loss at Oklahoma City, while Tennessee Valley embarrassed Quad City 74-20.

Vipers quarterback Kevin Eakin threw six touchdown passes and backup quarterback Tony Colston threw two more in the romp. The Vipers also returned a kickoff return for a touchdown and recovered a fumble for a touchdown.

Receivers Bradly Chavez and Chris Bocage accounted for four touchdowns apiece.

""If we do what we do better than they do what they do, we're going to win," Bocage said.

The Vipers limited Quad City to 174 yards.

"We made plays," Scott said. "Our secondary is unbelievable right now."

Desmond Foster, Demetrius Derico and Travis Blanchard did a number against Quad City wide receiver Jesse Schmidt and company. Blanchard left the game with cramps and Eric Crosby replaced him and had one of his better games in a Tennessee Valley uniform, accounting for a team-high six tackles, one tackle for loss, a pass breakup and a forced fumble.

Tonight is a homecoming for Crosby, who played his college ball at Albany State.

"I'm excited about going home," said Crosby, who has been inundated with ticket requests. "I just want to get better and help my team win."

Eakin has thrown for 471 yards and eight touchdowns in two games. Meanwhile, Darnell Kennedy, a former star at Alabama State, has thrown for 616 yards and 14 touchdowns for South Georgia. He also has five rushing touchdowns.

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