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Layton's 161 yards paces Wildcats to victory

*By Cameron Kiszla Special to The Tuscaloosa News
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NORTHPORT | Willie Layton ran for 161 yards and three scores on 33 rushes to lead Tuscaloosa County High School to a 29-6 win over Minor in a Class 6A, Region 5 matchup on Friday.

"We came and did what we had to do," Layton said. "They brought it to us, but we did what it took."

Three plays into the game, Trent Lesley picked off a Minor pass. Eight plays later, Layton scored on a 2-yard run.

After a series of stalled drives by both teams, Layton scored again 23 seconds into the second quarter. After Minor's defense blocked the ensuing point-after kick attempt, the Tenacious Tigers' offense began to pick up steam, but could not get into the end zone.

Tuscaloosa County, however, scored again within a minute of halftime on a 27-yard field goal by Alexander Albaradei after driving 72 yards.

Minor started the second half off strong. After recovering a Wildcat fumble on the Tuscaloosa County 26, Minor scored on a 2-yard run by Joshua Dotson.

Tuscaloosa County answered back five minutes later on a 15-yard run by Layton.

In the fourth quarter, Minor's offense was largely shut down, earning only one first down. Tuscaloosa County, however, scored again with 3:38 left after Markeldon Washington caught a pass in the end zone that had been tipped by Wildcat wide receiver DeAndre Dixon.

"We finally put it all together. We had yet to put together a complete game," Tuscaloosa County coach Lee Gibson said. "They knew home field in the playoffs was on the line, and they came out focused and ready to play."

Tuscaloosa County improved to 7-2, with a region record of 6-1. The Wilcats travel to Oxford High School next week to close the regular season.



*Tuscaloosa News | Michelle Lepianka
Carter*

Tuscaloosa County's Willie Layton (4) carries the ball as Minor defender Terrance Slaughter (4) tries to stop him. Layton rushed for 161 yards to lead the Wildcats.

"Tuscaloosa County whipped us on the offensive side and defensive side of the ball," Minor coach Randy Clark said. "They were ready to play."

Minor fell to 5-4, with a region record of 4-3. The Tigers play at Florence High School next week.

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